

# The Scholar Ship

"Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection" - Winston Churchill

## RHS has voted...

Mirroring the real-life general election, the votes have been counted and RHS has spoken.

After a gruelling election campaign and a record turnout from the school community, RHS awoke this morning to the results of its general election. Set to the backdrop of the nation's real-life general election, this was an opportunity for pupils to build on work done in Compass (through study of Parliament) and through tutor meeting discussions, to foster engagement with the country's political process. Hoping to woo voters across the RHS community, from Year 7 pupils to staff were Harvey, Esme, Alex, Rupert and Josie, representing the main five parties (Conservative, Labour, Lib Dem, Green and Brexit). Following a series of hustings and debates, the school went to the polls. After tallying up the results, it can be announced



*The candidates are put through their paces at the final debate...*

that the winning candidate was Alex Jackson, representing the Conservative Party.

Reflecting on their victory, Alex commented: "Thank you to those who voted; this couldn't be done without your votes. Well done to the other parties who ran brilliant campaigns, and Mr Johnson and Mr Watson-Davis for organising the event. Please do explore politics and find out what it means to you, because it is such an important part of our lives outside of school. Understanding it and having a say in it is invaluable. Thank you again."

A thank you also to the candidates who were willing to put themselves forward for public scrutiny, and for providing pupils with an opportunity to develop their political literacy, many of whom will be eligible to vote in the next national general election.

## Headmaster's Distinctions

Tallulah Ironmonger  
Zion Ateba  
Charlie Gillam  
Sherry Lu  
Jessamy Lloyd  
Alys Cope

## UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

### Silver

Dimas Valls Quiros  
Will Chapman  
Sylvain Shen  
Gen Pringle  
Crystal Xu  
Aoife Rew  
Sarah Stubbs

### Bronze

Sam Banks  
Basson Du Toit  
Xanthe Jones  
Holman Zhang  
Alice Zhang  
Olly Young  
Charlie Gardiner  
Olly Preece  
Ed Chapman

## Coming Next Term



January 13th, 1415  
BRH  
Elevate Sessions for  
Years 11 and 13



January 14th, 1700  
Library  
Riddle Society  
Classical STEM



January 17th, 1830  
Library  
Inter-House Debating  
Semi Final #1

## The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year... But Is It Too Early?

The final De Leybourne debate of the year was held on the 10th of December, debating the motion "This house would ban all mention of Christmas before December the 1st". Resident Scrooge Jessie Jordan (Year 12) reports...

On Tuesday 10th December, the De Leybourne debating society debated the very festive motion of "This house would ban all mention of Christmas before December 1st", with both Mr and Mrs Routledge showing off their very contrasting views on Christmas.

The debate was proposed by Ben Jackson, Mr Routledge and Jaz Skingle, and was opposed by Ellie Hewes, Mrs Routledge and Frankie Stenning. The opposition stunned the floor with their seasonal jumpers and decorations of tinsel and Christmas lights, whereas the proposition very fittingly kept their table devoid of all decorations associated with Christmas.

Points made included the religious importance of Christmas, and how it could be diminished by extending the Christmas period into October and November. It was also argued that in a society that is increasingly multi-faith (and with a lack of faith), to have Christmas as a feature of the year for so long would not reflect British society.

Similarly, it was argued that the economic effects of sales and pressure-buying were not helpful, fuelled by the extended Christmas period, not to mention the effect



that mention of an early Christmas has on pupils and their school work...

The opposition, though, not to be outdone, looked at the need for certain jobs and industries to make mention of Christmas, as well as the importance of family and community at this time of year. This was enough to sway it for the audience after a lively floor debate, and the motion was rejected by an overwhelming majority, ensuring that mention of Christmas remains unrestricted (for now....).

Overall, it was very humorous to see Mr and Mrs Routledge openly debate each other's points of view, with Mrs Routledge embracing the Christmas spirit a little more openly than Mr Routledge. All speakers spoke incredibly well, and it was great to see so many people getting involved in the floor debate, albeit with some grinchers being present within the audience. All pupils are encouraged to come to De Leybourne debating events and to get involved - it is a great way to build confidence and public speaking skills for the future.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

### "THE LAST WORD", WITH THIS EDITION'S SCHOLAR...

I think that I started this year without the right motivation to learn, and I think that my teachers might have picked up on this. I wasn't putting in as much effort in the classroom as I should have been. This has changed, though, when one of my teachers reminded me that all of our lessons, prep and clubs were for my benefit, and would prepare me for life after RHS. It made me think about how lucky we are that we have a school which works for my benefit. My message for other pupils at the end of this term is that we should always be grateful for what the school and the teachers do for you.



Jamie (Year 8)