

The Scholar Ship

"Nothing will work unless you do." - Maya Angelou

A 'VISIT' FROM A SCHOLAR

Fresh from a successful 3-night run of the school production, *The Visit*, Toby Chavasse (Year 10) explains how he balances work with play...



I am going to write a little bit about striking a balance between academic work and extracurricular activities such as the school play. As many of you know the school play, 'The Visit', was on 3 nights from 7pm-9pm last week. What you may not have known is that during that week there were rehearsals from 4:30pm until 9pm every day (even on Sunday) and numerous other rehearsals at lunch and after school earlier in the term. Despite being time consuming, I cannot stress how brilliant being a part of something like the school play is. Every day at RHS you hear about how important it is to take advantage of the extracurricular opportunities here because it will help with "soft skills" and "university applications". Whilst this may be true, it is not at all the reason that I do activities such as this. I take part in activities because I love to get to know people. Over the course of doing the play I got to know someone who is extremely similar to me. We got on like a house on fire despite a two-year age gap and we had the best time together. We had fun.

Don't do extracurricular things for UCAS points or status; do them to have fun. I set out to write about how I balance other commitments with academic work and the simple (and only) answer is time management. To me, it is not so much a balancing act, but a case of tipping the scales to the side of fun and enjoyment; the side of new horizons and lasting memories. When I am 25, I may not remember that I got 20 out of 20 in a routine Latin vocab test, but I will remember dancing with a corrupt priest after murdering a man for money. It's time to tip those scales.

Upcoming Events

de Leybourne Christmas Debate
10th December
1830



*This House would ban the
mention of Christmas before the
1st of December*

PSHE Pupils of the Month

Rachael Ilori

Zara Spendiff

HEADMASTER'S DISTINCTIONS

Flora Fletcher
Michael Van Haren
Sophie Durrant
Ben Jackson
Aoife Rew
Tobiloba Dada
Eleanor Neill
Jacqueline Rodrigo
Alex Coplestone-Crow
Xanthe Jones
Toby Chavasse
Savannah Collis
Annabel Malyon
Izzy Botley
Jaime Bernier Bermudez
Elias Krom
Jacob Legge
Georgina Lilley
Eve Clifton-Thompson
Max Puckey
Rob Wand
Immy Pearson

BRITISH PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

Henry Alabone
Dimas Valls Quiros

MUN AWARD

Jason Sims

STEMFEST

On the 21st of November, led by STEM co-ordinator Mrs Maloney, RHS hosted its first ever STEMFEST. The opportunity for pupils from RHS and neighbouring schools to explore the world of science, technology and engineering was grasped with both hands - budding engineer Lily Hargraves (Year 9), reports on the event and its significance for her...

On Thursday 21st November, RHS hosted its first ever BIG BANG @ School event 'STEMFEST'. The afternoon, supported by The Royal Academy of Engineering Connecting STEM Teachers Programme, brought together 21 leading organisations in STEM alongside some spectacular and explosive Royal Institution Science Shows, Army Careers Talks and Rapid Electronics Education Team delivering coding sessions to Year 5 and 6 using Codey Rocky Robots. Thirteen schools from across Essex and Suffolk with pupils ranging from Year 5 through to Year 13 came along to engage with the day and RHS saw over 1,100 students through its doors on what was a phenomenal event.

"I enjoy STEM because of the extensive opportunities that it can provide; I particularly enjoy the engineering aspect and the stand at the festival allowed me to explore this further" said Lily. "Engineering is fun and helps to improve your decision making skills. STEMFEST was a great way to learn about what STEM has to offer."

The day finished with a keynote lecture from Tom Pratt, an RHS alumnus (St Vincent, 1998), who is Google's Chrome Operating Lead in the UK, who spoke about the evolution of technology and demands for the future with STEM



technology (in ALL aspects in life) that may not even exist yet! As well as the array of stickers and freebies, students of all ages came away from the event with a real buzz for STEM ambition and what it could offer them. The engagement from the exhibitors provided them with an interactive exposure that fired imaginations.

The Royal Institution Science Shows across the afternoon saw Dan Plane sizzle some gherkins, electrify Barbie and test the strengths of magnets in a superb delivery on 'Feel the Power'. The Codey Rocky workshops equally impressed the youthful minds of our younger students, testing out their games with Chris Calver from Rapid Electronics Education team. The event was "simply awesome" and "just WOW" and "spectacular" according to some of the students. A fantastic opportunity for all here at RHS.

Final thoughts from Lily? "I encourage you to take up a part in STEM because there are so many different parts to it and it's a great way to improve your logical thinking and critical analysis."

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

12 weeks have flown by but the amount of skills I have developed within this time has been amazing. I feel that the independent prep projects have taught me loads of skills - from time management to lateral thinking - whether this is producing an iMovie on the history of RHS, or creating a collection of autumn-inspired sketches. I have had to research lots of information for every one of these subject projects to broaden my knowledge. I hope to keep building on these skills after the Christmas break and I'm really happy with how much I've learned so far.



Megan, Year 7