

The Scholar Ship

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a flame to be kindled" - Plutarch

A SUMMER OF LEARNING!

As another school year draws to an end, we look forward to once again seeing the fantastic independent projects completed by our pupils over the summer months. Mr Johnson explains the - slightly different - approach to previous years that this year's projects will follow...

Some of the most interesting questions in life do not have a quick solution to them. Normal lessons seldom have the time to answer questions like "What's the most important scientific discovery?" or "Are written sources or material culture more useful to aiding our understanding of the past?"

This is why the Summer Projects are such a valuable thing; they allow you the opportunity to explore questions like these and encounter new ideas and ways of looking at the world which just can't be covered in the curriculum. To that end, the Summer Projects are changing slightly this year to focus more on open-ended questions which you can then explore in whatever way takes your fancy.

Each department has set two broad projects which can be attempted by pupils in any year group. Details of these projects will be emailed to pupils and parents at the end of term as well as found on the Summer Projects SharePoint page.

We hope that you will take some time this summer to try one or more of these projects and engage with the interesting and challenging questions your teachers have set.



Certificates for Academic Endeavour

Kathryn Young (Platinum)
Jaz Skingle (Platinum)
Daisy Clabburn (Platinum)
Jemima Mayes (Platinum)
Maya Govindasamy (Platinum)

HEADMASTER'S DISTINCTIONS

Alex Gray	Fergus Wootton
Arabella Doe	Harry Law
Ben Haywood	Honor Bisset (2)
Charlie Lewis-Booth	Jemima Mayes
Devon Lane	Joel Sheldon
Emma Colston	Kate Mandrychenko
Estelle Lewis	Ivan Lee
Femi Seyi-Adelaja	Katie Suckling
Nico Dormant	Lily Hargraves
Poppy Macmillan	Lily Ironmonger
Rachael Ilori	Louisa Cuddihy
Rosy Fitch	Lucia Delgado Barter
Tallulah Ironmonger (2)	Lucy Toms
Toby Smith	Dora Pun
Alfie Carr	Macenzie Frew
Amelia Greenwood	Maisy Hunter
Amelie Kuehn	Mariana Rocha Avila
Bella Prestney	Tilly Jordan
Carrie Butler	Maya Govindasamy
Charlie Butcher	Mia Maguire
Charlie Cotterill (2)	Mia-Hope Radley
Charlotte Allen (2)	Michelle Fadeyibi
Daniel Parsons	Molly Nichols
David Adeyemo	Nanayaa Zuta (2)
Edward Wilson	Nina Obazee
Eoin Ledwidge	Oliver Goodwin-Day
Erin Eales	Daniel Obasan
Freddie Cosser	Poppy Liston
Grace Gardiner	Rose Dixon (2)
Hannah Akinlosotu (2)	Sam Saville-Green
Harrison Smith	Sean Eales (2)
Henrietta Stenning	Temitayo Onakoya
Henry Shadrack	Toby Chavasse (2)
Jacob Wharbmy	Toby Pearson
Jamie Pickering	Zara Graham
Jason Sims	Joe Allison
Jaspar Dawson	Jessamy Lloyd
Jazmin Wright	

THIS HOUSE WOULD MAKE SCHOOL 100% ONLINE...

Lockdown could not prevent the traditional Common Room vs Nelson debate from ending the academic year in what was, as usual, a fiercely contested motion. Outgoing De Leybourne Committee members Giles Lennox and Alex Jackson (Year 13) and #PartofRHS stalwart Mr Battman report...

[Mr B]: Martin Luther King's '*I Have A Dream*', Winston Churchill's '*We Shall Fight on the Beaches*' and Emmeline Pankhurst's '*Freedom or Death*' are among the most powerful and potent speeches of all time. But we can now add to those Mr Gould's '*I Love My Subject*', Mr Battman's '*Those Who Want To Learn*' and Mr Johnson's '*Job We Love, Children We Loathe*'. How did the staff not prevail in this annual battle of wits?!

That's right, I am of course referring to yearly 'competition' that is the CR vs NL debate, where once again the staff were robbed of a deserved victory by a huge majority, the likes of which had not been seen since the 1997 general election. Perhaps 1997 is an apt place to start, as Tony Blair announced his three priorities: "education, education and education". Here in 2020 three staff members (educated under that government) battled for the next improvement to schooling. The debate (if you can call it such a thing, when decisions on whom to vote for had been made before a bang of the gavel had even happened) went through three stages with the first being the "appearances" round. While Xanthe's formal attire might have looked more impressive, it actually helped to prove even more that teaching should be done remotely as Mr Gould's customary Schoffel and checked shirt look showed how comfortable online teaching (or strolling around the Suffolk Show) can be. Second came the "entertainment" round; or at least that's what I was told. While I'm sure some people appreciated Alex's words, did she make a coffee during her speech...? Enough said - 2-0 staff! Finally, and seemingly customary from the final speakers in the CR vs NL contest, came the "mudslinging" round whereupon Mr Johnson's experience and the fact he is "well aware of what his job is" left Giles with nowhere else to go and concluded surely a 3-0 victory for the staff. Unfortunately the audience did not see it this way...!



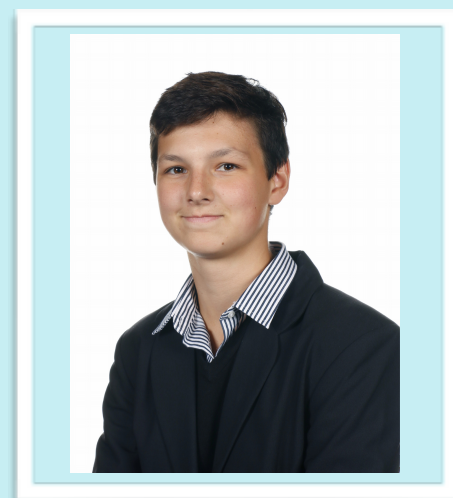
[Giles/Alex]: Given the current climate, this was a very relevant topic; the teachers took the approach of suggesting the logistical benefits of the change but also the way that it would have a positive impact on the way in which school could monitor bullying. In contrast, Nelson made the point that school is far more than just learning, but also the experiences and 'character building' that this motion would eliminate. Both sides made convincing arguments and after a floor debate that swayed heavily against the prop, Nelson - unsurprisingly - were voted as the winners. If you are interested on watching the staff being systematically unpicked, the recording is on the ESU YouTube channel.

As for the future of debating and public speaking at RHS, we both feel it looks incredibly positive. The de Leybourne committee will be led by driven, committed students whom we know will continue to put on interesting and fun debates for the school to enjoy. Inter-house will inevitably be a competitive aspect of co-curricular life where students from all age groups are able to verbally battle it out over a range of current affairs. The Todd and Beaton declamations always deliver, with students choosing to speak in front of their peers, uninterrupted, for 7 minutes straight. We have both noted often how the most unlikely people get involved and, saving Finn Corcoran's rant on how Finland does not exist, often are extremely convincing. RHS has always been competitive in a range of inter-school competitions. The ESU team this year reached the national final, and we were informed that RHS (over the last 4 years) has been the most successful school in the competition. Knowing the team we have next year, we are confident that they will match, if not top, this achievement.

So, whilst Alex and I are gutted that debating and public speaking were brought to such an abrupt halt this year, we are confident that it will return with the same excitement and engagement as before. We encourage anyone to get involved in whatever way they can because of the opportunities, experiences, and skills you gain from it. This, however, is in no way a 'goodbye' as we look forward to receiving an invitation to the debating dinner next year from Mr Johnson to embarrass you all in the backwards debate!

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

After a year as head scholar and 7 years at RHS, I have come to the end. However, that's not what I want to talk about. In my mind, learning is not about endings, but new beginnings. Scholarship is less about where you end up, and is more importantly about how you get there; it is all about what you learn, and the mistakes you make along the way. In fact, to me, a large part of scholarship is learning from your mistakes; whether that's mixing up *cos* and *sin* in a maths class, or accidentally burning the garlic because your pan is too hot. Potentially, making mistakes is the most important part of your learning: as long as you learn from it. So take every opportunity to learn from your mistakes; take the opportunity to learn from everything you can, and your horizons will be broader for it. Your future will be full of opportunities to learn, both academically and not, and I urge you all to seize every opportunity you get. Who knows, you might learn something, big or small, that will offer you a new beginning. It's easy to think that learning is for school, but, in reality, learning is for life. You've all heard the phrase 'you learn something new every day', and I urge you all to make sure of that. Don't wait for somebody to teach you that new thing, actively search for new things to learn, be that how to cook something new, the art of juggling, or just some cool facts. Seize your learning with both hands, and see where it takes you. There is only one 'don't' of learning, and it's this: don't let it end.



Xanthe (Year 13)
Head Scholar 2019-20