



Prep School Newsletter



What a term! It always feels like a sprint, but I hope this newsletter gives you an opportunity to reflect on the many excitements that have filled our days since the Half Term break. As always, the Prep School continues to evolve, and it is wonderful to see so much hard work taking place - in the classrooms, in auditoriums, on sports pitches and in sports halls all round Madrid, and even on the slopes in Sierra Nevada and in Italy. Equally exciting is the progress made on the Prep School building, and I am looking forward to being able to show pupils around it next term. I hope all Runnymede families enjoy a well-deserved break and a Happy Easter, and I look forward to seeing everyone back, with a big smile, on Monday 8th April.

| Mr Bailey

As we move into the Summer Term, we will be taking the next steps forward in our Digital Action Plan by introducing curfews on our school devices. This will allow pupils to take school iPads home to work with, but ensure that all pupils are able to switch off from their screens and maintain a healthy balance between work and home. You will receive more information on this next term.

| Ms Howe



— IAPS

I was delighted that Runnymede College Prep School has been invited to be a member of IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools). The IAPS is an elite group of Prep Schools with excellence as its hallmark, and I feel that it is only right, and fully deserved, that we have been invited to be members. Runnymede will reap many benefits from this, but invitations for competition sport in many different forms will create new opportunities for our pupils, and I plan for us to take full advantage of this where possible.



Runnymede's first foray into IAPS sport came when the Prep School entered a team into the IAPS Ski Championships which took place in Ponte di Legno, in Italy. A team comprised of 16 pupils from Years 3 to 8 set off for a week, hosted by the Bulferetti family. Two fantastic Italian instructors, Nicole and Luca, joined our team alongside Manuel Powell, Javi Abril, Alfredo Samperio and me. We all skied our socks off and hit the pillow exhausted every evening, and in the end, we came away as team champions of Under 9 boys, Under 9 girls, and Under 11 girls. Sara Rico (Under 9 girls) and Alicia Lopez Catalan (Under 11 girls) won individual gold medals for their categories. Runnymede has definitely made a first big splash!

Prep School Table Tennis Competition —

This term we launched a whole Prep School table tennis tournament, and more than 140 competitors signed up. Orange table tennis balls have been flying around the campus ever since, and the torch has been lit for this latest craze. The final of the Yr 4 and Yr 5 boys tournament was played in front of the entire school, in the Julia Powell, by 2 Yr 4 boys, with Alvaro G just overcoming Manuel V in a very tense and close match. Loud music, raucous support and great sportsmanship were on full display throughout, and we are now looking forward to the next two finals - watch this space!



Year 4 Trip to the Science Museum —

The school trip to the MUNCYT science museum was like stepping into the first day of spring, warm and sunny, our children filled with renewed energy and excitement. The museum boasted an array of captivating exhibits that sparked curiosity and wonder among the students. Guided by a friendly and knowledgeable staff, the children were well behaved and respectful throughout the visit. Our workshop was great fun! The children used giant foam bricks to build various structures, requiring teamwork, communication, and organisation to succeed. Through collaborative efforts, they learned to prioritise tasks effectively, enhancing their problem-solving skills and fostering a sense of accomplishment. Overall, it was a day brimming with learning, laughter, and unforgettable experiences.

| Mr Cotter



— International Women's Day —

To commemorate International Women's Day, Ms. Howe and I led an assembly dedicated to celebrating the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of women worldwide. It was an opportunity for students to reflect on the strides made towards gender equality while acknowledging the ongoing efforts required. Throughout the assembly, we shared inspiring anecdotes of female pioneers from various fields, highlighting their unwavering resilience and determination in overcoming obstacles. Additionally, our school adorned its hallways with colourful posters showcasing influential women from diverse backgrounds, symbolising the rich tapestry of strength and diversity within our community. These endeavours aimed to foster a culture of inclusivity and deep appreciation for the invaluable role women play in shaping our society. Together, we celebrated the achievements of the past and looked forward to a future where every woman's potential is recognised and celebrated.



| Ms Griffiths

AUDREY HEPBURN

Audrey Hepburn was born on the fourth of May of 1929 and died on the twentieth of January of 1993. She was an actress, a model, a ballerina and a British activist from the golden age of Hollywood.



How many children did Audrey Hepburn have?
 How did Audrey Hepburn change the world?
 Could Audrey Hepburn speak Spanish?

How many awards did Audrey Hepburn win?
 How did Audrey Hepburn become an actress?
 What type of person was Audrey Hepburn?

Mrs Mguni

All about Mrs. Mguni
 Mrs Mguni was born in Zimbabwe, Africa on the 23rd of May, 1983. She has a daughter called Anna and her favourite colour is turquoise. Her hobbies are art and poetry.



How I got to know her
 I got to know her because she was my form teacher in year five. At first I didn't know Mrs. Mguni, but after a month or so I knew that she is a teacher who has endless patience in her heart and is always fair to everyone.

How she inspired me
 Mrs. Mguni really inspired by always being perfect and always keeping the room very neat. Everything was in its place and there were lots of posters to cheer you up. She is always so organised, patient and supportive. She would always be there to help you or lend you a hand. Mrs. Mguni really changed my life because in year four I was this really shy girl, I wasn't confident at all and I didn't know what I was good at. But once I met her, she was like a candle in the dark guiding me to the right path, holding my hand when I needed her, and just within that year, I became super independent and super confident. The reason of that is because:
 She helped me face my fear of going on stage and playing piano by encouraging me

2 She inspired me to love reading by reading books to our class and recommending me books that she likes a lot
 3 She loves art so we share what we like about a drawing and recommend each other how to improve next time, but always kindly
 4 Because there is a year five musical, Mrs. Mguni realised my talent at performing and acting so she chose me as the main role, Dorothy
 5 At the end of the year, it was time to give out the awards, however I had no idea I would get a cois award
 As far as I know, Mrs. Mguni never ever shouted at my class and even if she was angry she would talk calmly and patiently. Now that I am in Spain, we still write letters to each other and make bookmarks for each other with poems we make up written on the back. Mrs. Mguni is a really important person in my life, I love her

CAROLINA HERRERA

INTERNATIONAL WOMANS DAY 2024

WHO IS SHE?
 QUOTES
 SUCCESSFUL BRAND
 WOMEN

Queen Elizabeth

Queen Elizabeth was born in April 21, 1926 London. And she died September 8, 2022.

Accomplishments
 • First monarch to appear on TV
 • She also demanded for both genders to have equal pay (The Equal Pay Act)
 • She also helped a lot of people during WW2.

Facts
 At 18 years old she was betrothed in the Act that was 1947.

Gender equality
 Queen Elizabeth was a great leader.

She was known for being strong and resilient and she had to overcome through a series of challenges.

Autism spectrum science
 I can do a lot of things if people supported me.
 I have to be seen to be believed.

Grief is the price we pay for love.

YAYOI KUSAMA

WHY DOES SHE REMAIN?
 EARLY LIFE
 FAME NOW
 LATE MENTION

She began to receive recognition at the post school, in 1955 and 1956.

Yayoi Kusama was a pioneer of the Japanese avant-garde movement.

Malala Yousafzai.

HER STORY

Once there was a girl who was 15 years old and who loved school. Her name was Malala. Malala lived in a peaceful valley in Pakistan. One day a group of armed men called the Taliban took control of the valley. They frightened people with their guns.

The Taliban forbade girls from going to school. Many people disagreed but they thought it would be safer to keep their girls at home.

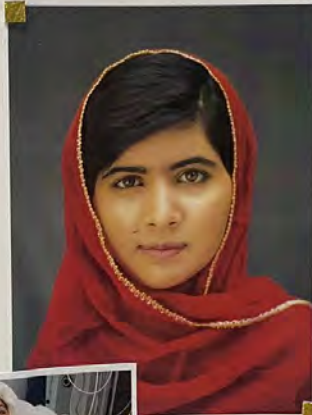
Malala thought this was unfair, and wrote about it online. She loved school very much - so one day, she said on TV, "Education is power for women. The Taliban are closing girls schools because they don't want women to be powerful."

A few days later, Malala got onto her school bus as usual. Suddenly, two Taliban men stopped the bus and shouted, "Which one of you is Malala?"

When her friends looked at her, the men fired their guns hitting her in the head.

Malala was rushed to hospital, and she did not die. Thousands of children sent her get well cards, and she recovered faster than anyone could have imagined.

"They thought bullets would silence us, but they failed", she said. "Let us pick up our books and our pens. They are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."



Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist, student, and UN Messenger of Peace, and is the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Malala Yousafzai's journey has inspired me a lot. I learned these valuable lessons about courage, commitment, leading by example, and turning adversity (a difficult situation) into strength.

SPEAK UP

"We realise the importance of our voices only when we are silenced."
Malala demonstrated extraordinary courage and resilience. Despite threats and the risk to her life, she stood up for what she believed in and continued to fight for education. We should remember to stand up and speak up for what we believe in. We have to raise our voice to bring change.

BE DETERMINED

Malala's commitment for education for all girls is truly inspiring. She dedicated herself to promoting education rights and never gave up. We should remember to always follow our dreams and never give up. Never let anything stop you.

BE KNOWLEDGEABLE

Malala leads by example. She demonstrates the importance of personal integrity, authenticity, and living one's values. We should always remember to share our knowledge, and remember that our actions and behavior can inspire and influence others.

BE BRAVE

Malala's story is a message to overcoming obstacles and turning adversity into strength. She did not let the Taliban stop her from her mission; instead, she used it as motivation for further action. We should always remember to be brave, persevere and be resilient.

OLD
WYNMEDIAN

ESTEFANIA LINARES

by
Xime
Márquez
Prado

MD

Who is Estefanía Linares?

Estefanía Linares is a world known surgeon who works at the prestigious hospital of La Paz and in the famous hospital Ruber Internacional. She studied at Rynnymede College and later she moved on to study at Autónoma University in Madrid for 6 years and later spent some time in the US to gather experience using Med Tech.



"Don't let anybody ruin your hopes and dreams"

What challenges did she face?

Although she had been an outstanding student at Rynnymede, bad luck struck when she applied to different Universities and got rejected. She had to make her way back to the Spanish System and got extraordinary results. Many people tried to discourage her from ^{becoming} a doctor but she proved everyone wrong.

Why did she decide to become a surgeon?

When she was 12 years old Estefanía lived in Mexico. While traveling with her mother Estefanía saw many poor kids wandering around with bad health and felt the need she should help and do something about it. From that day, a feeling of helping other people grew inside her and, this feeling made her to study medicine and become a doctor.

Why did Estefanía inspire me?

Estefanía inspires me because, even though she faced many challenges, she still pushed herself and worked hard to become a doctor and help people with a very difficult health condition. She has mastered the use of the Da Vinci Robot. I would also like to become a surgeon myself.

Victorian Day... Year 5

On Friday 15th March, Year 5 transported themselves back in time to the Victorian era. After studying the time period in history, the children experienced a day at school might have felt like during the reign of Queen Victoria.

The children, and teachers, dressed up in the clothes of the period and started the day with "drill" followed by "inspection" on the playground. They then all went into one classroom (Victorian classrooms were very busy, cramped places!) for the 3 Rs - reading, writing and arithmetic. The tasks were dull and the discipline extremely strict with little room for freedom or creativity. A few children fell foul of the strict Victorian punishment system, but everyone had an enjoyable learning experience.

| Mr Cook



— Literacy Week —

The first week of March was our annual Literacy week, when we have a focus across the whole week on literate skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. This year, a number of exciting events happened in Prep School. Year 4 had a visitor Gitty Daneshvari, an author, who spoke to the class about writing books and shared her love of literature. In classes, all sorts of games and challenges were taking place, there were special assemblies celebrating the joy of reading, and on the Friday morning we enjoyed another wonderful Choral poetry event when a class from each year performed a poem, including Spanish poems, a rap and an incredible poem written by Michael Yi from 6P. The Spanish department organised a short story competition, and the winning stories can be read in the upstairs corridor of the Prep School building. The week also included the following events.

| **Mr Moore**

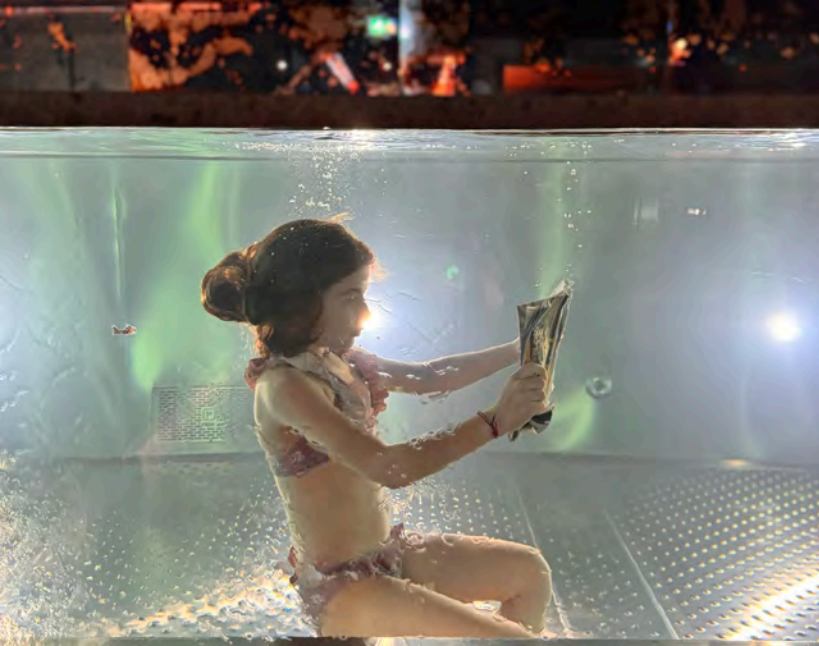
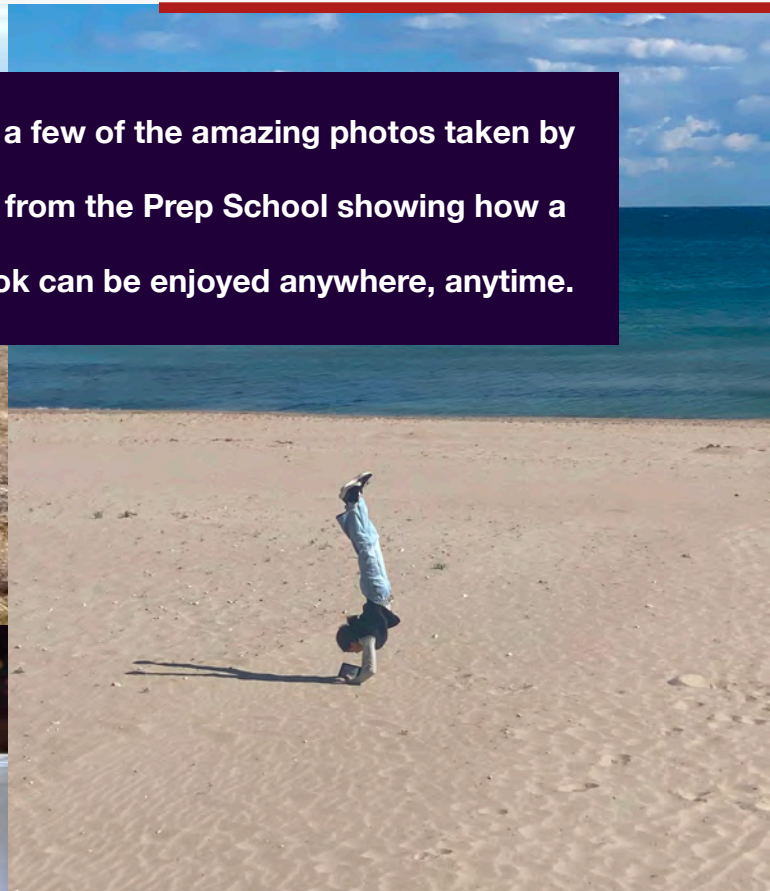


People stared at him. They were puzzled.
What did he come here? What did he want? What should they do?
Some of them suggested it would be best to put the man straight back
on the boat and send him away without delay.
But he wouldn't like it here, so far away from his own land.

But the fishermen
were afraid of the
death of him
that on my conscience
"We have to take

— Extreme Reading —

Here are a few of the amazing photos taken by children from the Prep School showing how a good book can be enjoyed anywhere, anytime.



— World Book Day —

WORLD BOOK DAY[®]

Once again, we were blown away by the variety and creativity of the costumes worn, as children and staff alike took on the appearance of their favourite characters from children's books. The day was full of fun events, games and challenges to celebrate the joy of reading.

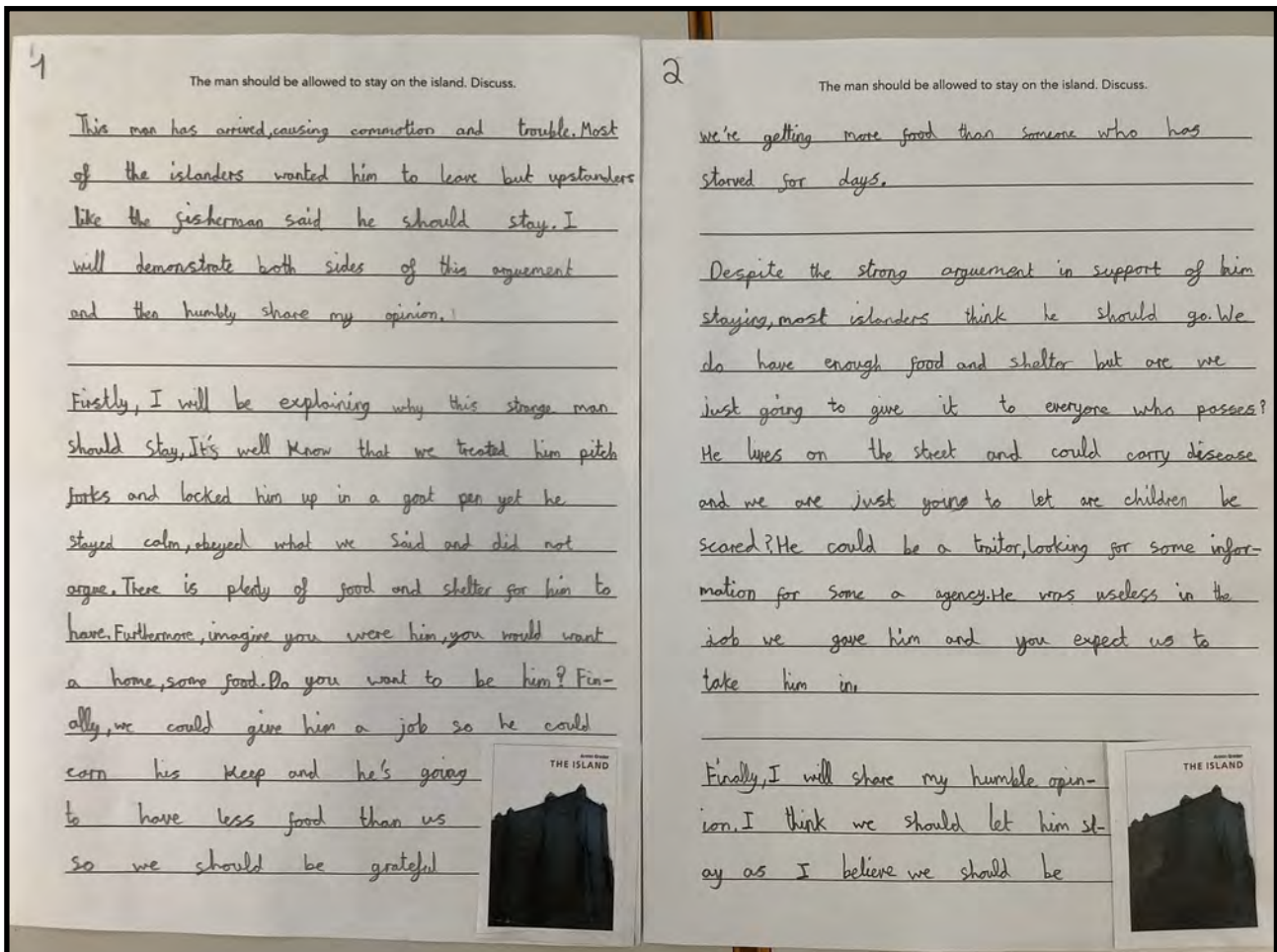
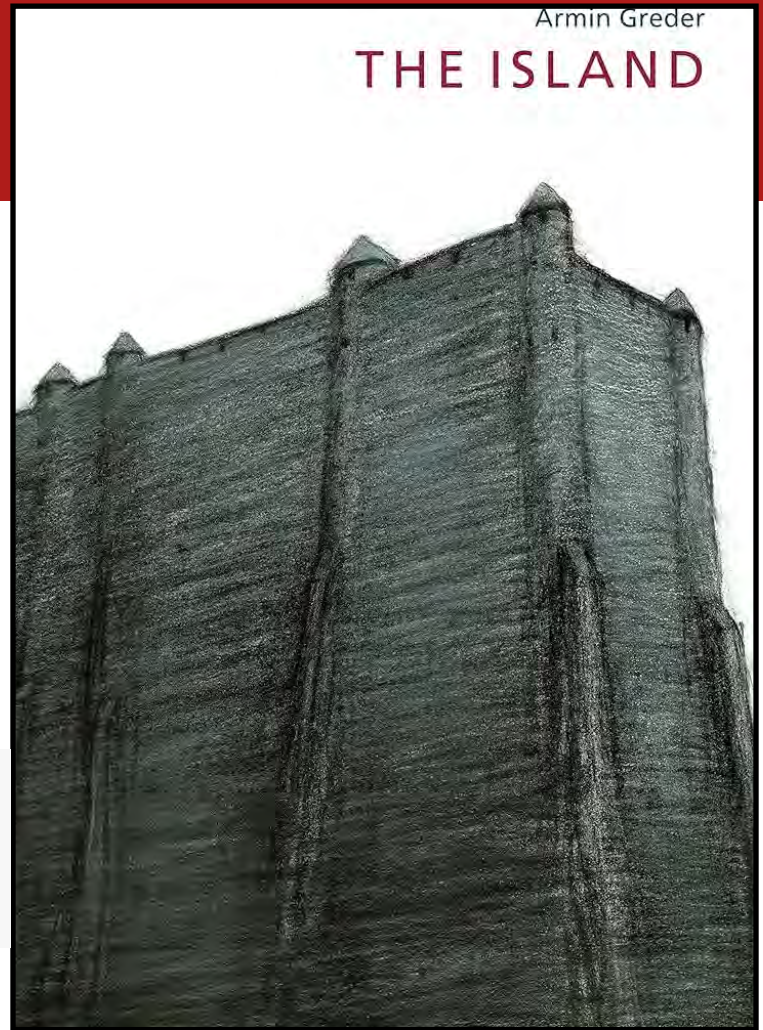


— The Big Write —

Each year, during Literacy Week, all classes across the whole school study the same book, and then produce a piece of writing in response to what they have read. This year, we all read the picture book *The Island* by Armin Greder, which looks at how a stranger was treated when he was washed ashore on a distant island by its inhabitants. As always, each year group produced a different type of writing.

— Year 4 —

Year 4 wrote a balanced argument, looking at whether the stranger should be welcomed to the island or whether he should be sent back out to sea. Here is an example written by Anaahi.



Year 5 wrote an alternative version of the picture book, showing how they would have treated the stranger if they had been living on the island.

They are currently working on illustrations and we hope to finally publish their book. Meanwhile, here is some of the text, written by Year 5.

"Hey, look at that poor soul, he must be spent and distraught!" yelled the gardener while he was planting some roses. This message got around the island. Due to this, all the islanders went to the beach.

"Welcome welcome!" mentioned the king as he was getting closer to Arthur. "You can feel welcome to the amazing Island of Cyprus!" Arthur couldn't believe his eyes, he was for once welcomed.

"Should we give him a house?" asked the baker.

"Nah, he is unlike us, I'm not feeding that man." argued the fisherman. This was the negative side of the conversation.

Whoosh!

Finally, the ramshackle raft washed up onto the island. The man who had no control over where he landed, cautiously stepped onto land with a sigh of relief. Although he was delighted to be safe, he was worried because he didn't know where he was and his recent experience had made him nervous about other people. With no clothes on his back, no hope in his heart and no smile on his face the man wandered apprehensively up the beach.

The man, who had been expelled from the island, was washed onto a beach hundreds of miles away. Amazed, he looked around and saw nothing, and said, "Where am I?" He walked around the island, thinking, if there were any people living there?

The beach, which had watery sand, was filled with broken wooden rafts. Looking surprised, the man thought to make a house. After that, when he was picking up sticks, he saw an enormous shiny tower in the distance.

Watching him with a telescope were two men. The men were half-human and half-electric robots. One of them said "Why don't we bring them in?"

The other robot said "True, why don't we bring them inside the tower?"

With their arms outstretched, they walked towards the stranger to welcome him.

Later that day, the robot men and women were deciding to keep him.

One of them said "If we keep him, we need to feed him." Still they had not decided to keep them on or not. So, they finally decided to keep him. "We need to feed him all the food that he wants. That's what we have to do." said one of the electric-human robots. "Who volunteers to take him into the leader?" asked one of the robots. "I will!" shouted the captain robot.

Cheering happily, they carried him inside. But the man, who was scared, asked, "Who are you?" The robot leader said "We are the robot Islanders of the most powerful island in the world!"

Very surprised, the man trusted him. He zoomed quickly to the kitchen. With a huge hungry roar, he ate almost all the food in the kitchen!

Amazed by everything he had seen, the man wandered back to the beach. The two electric-robot men who had welcome him to the island were running towards the man. They had come to show him all the brilliant things in the island. First, they showed him all the shops, the houses (which you need to live in) and how to surf too! Next the robots in charge of the room to clean it made sure it was very very clean and tidy. After that, one man and one woman robot who were taking him into his room saw that he loved it. The man fell asleep that night in a cosy blanket on the bed, and thought, just once for a moment "Is this a dream?"

1st May 2039

by Sara

2, New Street
Main Town
The island

Dear Editor,

I am writing to complain about your article, "Foreigner Spread Fear in Town!", which was on the frontcover of your newspaper from just this morning.

Firstly, your newspaper is not true, it is not the foreigner that spreads fear in town, as your headline said. The ones spreading fear is people such as YOU, the teachers, the innkeeper, and parents, especially mothers. Part of this fear is also caused by rumors. If you don't get accurate or true information, (or an interview of the man), then simply leave the topic. Which I'd say is the best option.

Secondly, usually, your newspaper should be making our island a healthier and better place and by you writing that report you just made the island by far a worse and toxic place. Is that what your honestly trying to achieve? Do you want it to be a horrible place where people are frightened to death and dread to live there? Because if that's the case, then you should be fired and sailed on a raft far away from the island. Because your newspaper needs to be making the island a better place, and what your doing now is the complete opposite.

Thirdly, what the newspaper should be writing about is about the stranger, how he is, where did he come from, why he is here, did he come on purpose, does he have any remaining family members, etc. But to achieve that, you and your crew should

interview the man and try to ^{Sara}annotate all the details about him, and then, we would judge whether his good or bad. Maybe like that we wouldn't make fake assumptions about him or think that he was a monster that gobbles up children like mothers said, or that he was an incredibly dangerous criminal which one day he will murder us all just like that. So that's why I think an interview would be the perfect option for his sakes and our sakes.

In conclusion, I say we do him a complete interview so we get to know him better and shortly afterwards you could write an autobiography about him and then we'd have the correct and TRUE idea about him.

Sincerely,

Sara .T GM

— Year 6 —

Year 6 wrote letters of complaint to the island's newspaper, complaining about a biased headline which incited fear of the stranger. Here is an example written by Sara.

In Year 7, Mr Sowden's group wrote their own biased newspaper articles trying to create mistrust in the stranger, Miss Tupper and Miss Wintle's groups wrote letters trying to persuade the islanders to release him from captivity, while Mr Moore's group wrote persuasive speeches to persuade the islanders to treat him more humanely. Here are some examples by Aya and Victoria.

Dear neighbours,

by Aya

I know you work hard for the safety of the Island ~~but~~ and always make sure your ready to protect it from any danger. I also know that we are getting worried and ~~oficial~~ about the arrival of the stranger but this needs to stop. We are scaring our selfs and make everyone around us scared ~~too~~. We need to listen to him and understand him. ✓

First of all, the stranger is no danger to us. He came to this Island and has done nothing but follow what we said. When we told him to stay in the uninhabited part of the Island, he did. When we told him to eat the scraps, he did. He didn't complain ~~at~~ either. His is a small, unged, weak person against a town of big, healthy, strong people. Do you really think ^{he's} going to murder us? or is it just something you've heard or read? If we accept that he is no danger maybe we could find a person worth knowing and have a Island without fear.

My next point is that we should try to understand him. He is going to be in this Island for the rest of his life and maybe he has something useful to ~~add on~~. We ~~nowent~~ given him a chance to prove him self. ~~He~~ who knows maybe ^{maybe} he is a great cook, a amazing fisherman or a fantastic builder. We need to see what he can do because ^{maybe} we are wasting a valuable life that might make a huge difference to the future of the Island and its people. This is why I'm asking that we learn more about him and try to understand him.

My last point, is that he is only human. He is ~~a~~ just like us, maybe abit different but underneath the same. I think we need to step back and think things over. He needs to be treated with respect and bi-

ndness. We arnt bad people but I think we've gotten too wrapped up in our worries and fears. This has been going on for too long and it needs to stop. He is a human not a animal! We need to respect him and give him a nice home.

I think we need to welcome him into our community. We shuld start by giving him a home and also real food. We need to stop giving him the scraps like a pig. We also could start talking to him and ~~try~~ to include him in the Islands decisions. We should also let him try to work because maybe he could help the Island for future generations.

In conclusion, I urge you to welcome the stranger into the community and let him become one of us. This could hugley improve the Island and ~~it's~~. Together, let's create a Island free of fear, of injustice and full of equality and kindness.



Everyday* Island

Foreigner Spreads FEAR in town

A man has landed on our shores—a wild foreigner. Islanders brought him to the abandoned goat pen and offered him food. But now, this greedy stranger has come to our town to disturb our life continuously.

Our newspaper reports what people are saying in interviews with reporters: "He eats with his hands," says the innkeeper, "He eats bones!"

A policeman interviewed insists that "I am sure he will murder us all if he could!"

The unknown foreigner: a Wild Beast

"The children are scared of him," said a school teacher.

The newspaper warns its readers and offers suggestions about what to do in the future: 'If you see him in town, please immediately report to the police station or the local government.'

by Vicky

— Choral Poetry —

In each Year group, one or two classes delivered a poem of their choice in choral poetry. It was a wonderful event and filled the room with joy! Michael in 6P wrote a poem which 6P delivered - a personal highlight. Well done to all involved.



The Windrush Poem

*Those who are hopeful,
Those who seek success.
The sea hurled its fury,
The spirits dampen.*

*The rhythm of the ocean,
Carries them to the place.
Flowers of mangoes and golden
mountains slowly wash away.*

*The heart is where the home is,
But 'walk good', says Grandma.
'Be brave, be proud,
The sun will pierce through the rain.'*

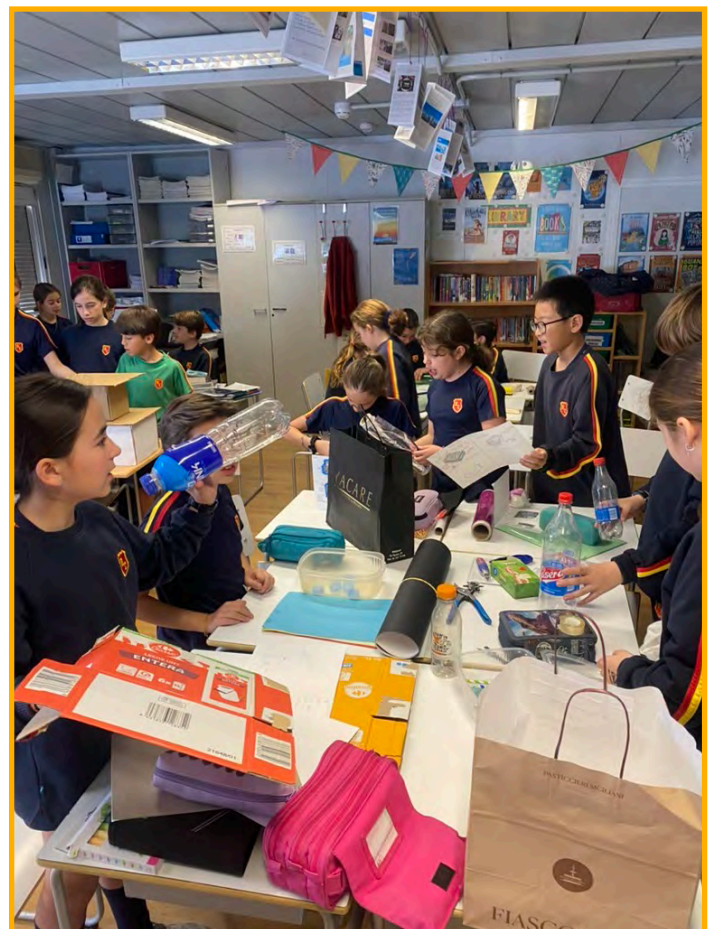
*Even if cold eyes follow you,
Even if the fog thickens,
The special words in your mind
Will be the shining light.*

Michael Yi, 6P

— Year 6 Renewable Energy Project —

In Y6 we have been learning about climate change. We have been talking about how certain human activities are contributing to climate change, such as over use of resources, burning fossil fuels and deforestation. We have contributed in class discussions regarding ideas to reduce our carbon footprint. Some ideas have included ensuring we recycle materials and reuse them where possible, trying to eat foods in season and planting trees. We are motivated to make our wonderful planet cleaner, and so want to do more in the future to live more sustainably. We know about the importance of using solar panels, wind and water power. In order to demonstrate the importance of these renewable energies, we are making some model appliances. We are making some very imaginative models such as a cardboard car with CD wheels that is powered by water, an oven lined with aluminium foil to demonstrate a solar panel and a train powered by air blown into a balloon. We had great fun planning these projects and working in a team!

| Ms Graham



— Interschools Sports Competition —

The Inter-Schools Cross Country is among our most significant annual sporting events, organised by Runnymede College. Nine schools from Madrid sent their top six athletes from the Benjamin to Juvenil categories. This year's competition once again showcased a high level of talent, making it challenging to secure a top position. Thankfully, our students demonstrated exceptional skills, courage, and determination. Out of 57 participants, 45 scored points for Runnymede College, securing us a commendable 3rd position, closely trailing the 1st and 2nd positions and comfortably distancing ourselves from the 4th position. We extend our thanks to all our students for their incredible effort and dedication.

On Wednesday, February 28th, our girls participated in the Inter-School Tag Rugby Tournament at the British Council, marking their first appearance since the pandemic. This presented a significant challenge as they were still acquainting themselves with the rules and tactics of the game. However, they exhibited remarkable spirit and adaptability, demonstrating a willingness to learn and grow throughout the tournament. It provided an excellent opportunity for teamwork development, fostering new friendships, all while enjoying themselves immensely.

| **Mr Rodríguez**

— Year 7 Rewards Assembly —

We are delighted to share some fantastic celebrations from our Year 7 Rewards Assembly, marking the culmination of an exciting Term 2. Our students have embraced learning and growth, making the most of every opportunity.

Highlights of the term included vibrant festivities for World Book Day and an enriching day trip to Sierra de Guadarrama in Navafra.

We extend our congratulations to our deserving awardees: Helena Bru (7T) for Miss Sands Star of the Term, Diego Fernández (7P) for Most Improved Attitude to Learning, and our outstanding tutees of this term Álvaro Gayoso (7H), Nico Agag (7P), and Bobby Hack (7T). Moreover, our Values Awards recipients exemplify the essence of our school ethos, with special mention to Lucas Roldán Sancho, Sacha Bonte, Javier Medem, Cayetana Ramos, Rafael Lovera Carrasco, Adriana García Lozano, and Javier Velasquez. Well done to all our winners, and here's to a rejuvenating holiday ahead!

| **Ms Sands**



— Year 7 Trip —

On the 21st of February, Year 7 embarked on an exhilarating hike through the breathtaking Sierra de Guadarrama. For three memorable hours, our journey unfolded amidst stunning vistas, offering us a glimpse of nature's splendour. As we trekked along the winding paths, laughter filled the crisp air, providing the perfect backdrop for bonding and forging new friendships. Amidst the awe-inspiring scenery, we found time to craft mini snowmen and engage in a spirited snowball fight, which added further fun to our adventure. With spirits high, we concluded our hike with a lively display of students showcasing their fielding skills, with Mr Bailey at the centre, further strengthening our sense of camaraderie. Through streams, mud, and beneath the stunning pines, we enjoyed the beauty of the outdoors on this refreshing winter's day.

| **Mr Hazlehurst**



**Have a wonderful break! We will see
you fresh and ready to learn on
Monday the 8th of April!**



EST. 1967

RUNNYMEDE COLLEGE