



**MARK RUTHERFORD  
SCHOOL**

# The Rutherford Review

## Headlines

As I write this, I can't quite believe another term has passed by. As with the Autumn term, the Spring term has been busy and successful both in relation to teaching and learning as well as the extra-curricular activities students have had the opportunity to engage in.

The building of our new STEM facility continues to progress well and remains on target to be completed in July. Students have managed the demands of room changes and restricted access impeccably. Our new 3G pitch has also been a very valued asset to our school with students using this facility during lesson and extra-curricular time; it is well used outside of school hours too by Bedford Park Rangers.

I would like to thank the staff, students, parents/carers and governors involved in our recent two day Ofsted inspection. The report will be published via the Ofsted website shortly and we will communicate with you when this is available. Staff have worked hard to support our school improvement journey to ensure we are providing the best education possible for all of our students.

During our current school closure we are thinking of all our families and hope you stay safe in such unprecedented times. We particularly recognise that it is a particularly uncertain time for our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have been focusing on preparing for what would have been the summer exams. The government have published some initial information about how they intend to issue examination results and we are expecting more detailed guidance imminently. Of course, we will ensure we communicate this to you as soon as we can. In the meantime we ask those students in Year 11 and Year 13 to follow the specific guidance given by their teachers.

There are many good news stories in this edition of our newsletter. However, it only captures a small amount of the excellent work that goes on, on a daily basis, at our school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support in making Mark Rutherford School the fantastic community it is.

I hope you enjoy reading this term's newsletter and stay safe over the coming weeks.

**Mrs K Foster, Acting Headteacher**

### Sports Traider makes Mother's Day!

We would like to say a very big thank you to the charity, Sports Traider and their sponsors.

They have supported the Young Carers at Mark Rutherford School who help to care for their mums by providing a gift bag for Mother's Day.

We are very fortunate to have benefited from this partnership and are so grateful they reached out to Mark Rutherford School.

**Miss Luck**



### COVID-19

We are currently in unprecedented times and as a school are doing our best to manage the school closure enforced by the government.

Work is being set by teachers (excluding the calendared Easter holidays) via our e-learning platforms of epraise and itslearning. This will be reviewed post Easter when the government has reviewed the current lockdown.

We are doing our best to keep you updated on our provision and therefore kindly ask that you monitor our website and social media platforms regularly. In addition, some messages may come from our InTouch service direct to your email address.

In the event that you need to make contact with the school during our closure then please email [schoolclosures@mrus.co.uk](mailto:schoolclosures@mrus.co.uk) – this account is being accessed by a number of key staff.

### GCSE and A Levels

Following the decision to close schools the government have also said that there will be no external examinations for GCSE and A Levels. We understand that this brings about some uncertainty for students and their parents/carers.

We are still awaiting exact details and guidance as to how and when examination results will be published and will communicate this with you as soon as we can. In the meantime the government have published some information – please see the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

### Mark Rutherford School receives prestigious Artsmark Award

Students and staff at Mark Rutherford School are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Artsmark Award. Artsmark is Arts Council England's award for schools and education. It celebrates settings that embrace the arts across the curriculum, bringing them to life for children and young people.

Mark Rutherford has maximised creative partnership opportunities that have unlocked financial investment for creative and cultural projects including two 'Aspire Higher' Creative Careers conferences that have been delivered in collaboration with National Portfolio Organisation Bedford Creative Arts and the National Collaborative Outreach Programme's consortia, Aspire Higher, which is based at the University of Bedfordshire. The school has collaborated with the University of Bedfordshire on 'Aspire Higher' exploring how creativity and the arts can support employment prospects and self-esteem.

The national average of students taking an Arts GCSE is 44% compared to Mark Rutherford's above national average of 65%. The school offers a range and variety of GCSE, BTEC and A Level courses in dance, music, drama, art, media and photography, and some courses have been changed to tailor the offer to areas of particular student interest.

Mark Rutherford School was supported by Royal Opera House Bridge in planning and developing their initial objectives. Royal Opera House Bridge worked alongside the school at various stages to support their Artsmark Award achievement.

Tina Gray-Rampello from Royal Opera House Bridge said, "As an Artsmark school, Mark Rutherford School gained access to exceptional networks and resources from some of the most treasured cultural organisations in the country, which helped to strengthen and deliver their arts provision. Through Artsmark, Mark Rutherford School will continue to incorporate art and culture into every pupil's life, learning, knowledge and understanding, helping them to build skills, resilience, confidence and character."

On receiving the award, Acting Headteacher Mrs Foster said: "We're extremely proud of achieving our Artsmark Gold Award. We are committed to delivering a high quality arts and cultural education and we look forward to continue to grow with Artsmark".

Darren Henley, Chief Executive of Arts Council England, said "I would like to congratulate Mark Rutherford School on their Artsmark Award. As an Artsmark school, Mark Rutherford School exemplifies how the Award can help schools to achieve a broad and balanced curriculum, ensuring that each of its students is given the opportunity to explore and build a love of the arts that will remain with them as they go through adult life".

**Ms Saunders**



## Mark Rutherford School and The Harpur Trust join forces to support the mental wellbeing of students



The Harpur Trust recognises Mark Rutherford School's effective whole school approach to the wellbeing of students at our school. The charity has provided financial support for one year's Relate Counselling Service for the young people who do not always get the help that they need as quickly as they should.

Acting Headteacher Mrs Foster said: "Good emotional health is characterised by a person's aptitude to learn, the ability to feel, express and manage a range of positive emotions and encourages

good relationships with others. At Mark Rutherford we believe that wellbeing is an integral part of our young people's development and we are delighted with the financial support from the Harpur Trust".

The Harpur Trust's Community Programmes Director Lucy Bardner said: "We are pleased to be able help Mark Rutherford School provide much needed help to pupils experiencing mental ill health. There is increasing pressure on statutory child and adolescent mental health services, and so services like this can play an important role in enabling children to stay in school and make the most of their education".

Mrs Garner

## Raphael Bouju Secures Silver Medal at Dutch Nationals

Raphael (Year 13) competed in the Dutch National Indoor Athletics Championships on Sunday 23rd February. Aged just 17, he achieved second place in the 60m with a personal best time of 6.70 seconds! As a result of this and other outstanding performances, Raphael has been selected to train with the Dutch Senior Relay teams. On Saturday 4th April Raphael, along with five other male and six female sprinters, was due to travel to Florida and complete three weeks of warm weather training.



Raphael was also due to compete in the U20 National Championships in Bedford as well as travelling to Kenya in July for the World Junior Championships. He was very hopeful of selection for the Dutch Senior Squad for the 4x100m relay at the European Championships in Paris in August. These games were due to be televised live on Eurosport.

Mr Snowdon

## Bedford Festival 2020

Rutherford Voices and Nova Voce both entered Bedford Festival in the choral classes and were delighted to receive some excellent feedback from adjudicator Jane Wilkinson. Our evident passion for singing together and the high level of performance were noted during 'Livin' on a Prayer' and the close harmonies and difficult level of music sung by Nova Voce was praised in Class 15 where students were in competition with adult choirs.

Mrs Jones, Head of Music said: "The students conducted themselves beautifully and the singing was outstanding, every individual gave everything they could and there was a fantastic and very exciting sense of team. I was incredibly proud to be conducting such a wonderful group of performers".

Year 12 student Nicole Howard added, "Music is really important to me and I was excited to be part of the performance which brought together singers from around Bedford in sharing our passion".

We were absolutely delighted to be awarded a trophy for a 'commended' performance by Rutherford Strings, who played three pieces in the festival conducted by Mrs Waters. The group were congratulated on their tuning and sense of ensemble and their overall performance which the adjudicator felt was technically and artistically convincing.

Kai Taylor (pictured) is first violin in the group and said: "It was a very memorable moment for all of us; everyone played really well together and we were delighted with our feedback. I am extremely proud of everyone and especially Mrs Waters who conducted us in performance. Thank you Mrs Waters!"

Congratulations to Rutherford Strings for bringing home a trophy on your first foray into competition!

Our Spring Concert has been postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak however we hope to be performing our programme of 'An Evening of Music from the Movies' on Wednesday 1st July in the Drama Hall and hope to see many of you there to support our fantastic musicians.

Mrs Jones



## Independent State School Partnership (ISSP)

Our Independent State School Partnership (ISSP) has been in full flow with Year 12 Computer Science students from Mark Rutherford and Bedford School meeting to plan out a world record attempt that involves some quite complex coding and creativity. Watch this space!



Ms Samosa

## British Science Week at Mark Rutherford School



The highly anticipated British Science Week is sadly over; this has been a huge success, with a week full of activities for both our students and students from local schools.

The Mark Rutherford School and Harpur Trust Planetarium was the focal point at this year's BedPop Science Festival event in Bedford town centre on Saturday 7th March. Over the course of the day, over 250 people were lucky enough to watch a show in the Planetarium. The general consensus seemed to be that the Planetarium was "awesome".

For the first time ever on Monday 9th March, the amazing opportunity of a lecture by a BBC Trust Me, I'm a Doctor and BBC Horizon presenter was offered to students, staff and the local community. Dr Giles Yeo is a geneticist with over 20 years of experience studying obesity and the brain control of food intake. His current research focuses on understanding how pathways in the brain that control food intake differ between lean and obese people, and the influence of our genes on our eating habits. An interesting yet highly entertaining lecture was followed by a meet-and-greet session for our Sixth Form STEM Scholars – this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many involved, and gave students the chance to not only ask him questions but share all the amazing things they are doing within school alongside their studies. We are very grateful that Dr Yeo gave up his time to come and talk to our students and hope he will come back again in the future!

Once again, our annual Primary Science Event, which took place on Wednesday 11th March, was a huge success. Sixth Form STEM Scholars James and Sydney organised and ran the event for 71 Year 5 students from Renhold Primary School, Sheerhatch Primary School and Brickhill Primary School.

This year the event had a theme of 'forensic science'; the young students put their detective hats on and completed a variety of tasks on rotation to solve the mystery of 'Who Killed Mr Bunsen?'. Activities included testing chemical samples, extracting and analysing DNA from a banana, analysis on fingerprints, shoeprints and cloth fibres, and cracking codes using ultraviolet pens and light. James and Sydney were supported by a group of our STEM Scholars, our recently trained Year 9 STEM Ambassadors and two students from the University of Bedfordshire.

We are very grateful to the British Science Association for providing us with a very generous grant which meant that this week was such a huge success. Everyone, whether this be students, staff or guests, had a great week and we can wait to begin planning next year's British Science Week!



Miss Perry

## Qufaro CyberEPQ Students face the Deloitte Crypto-Challenge



It's not often you get to see the Deloitte's Cyber Intelligence Centre

(CIC) in Reading, so this was an eagerly anticipated event with all the places being snapped up within an hour! Fortunately one of our Cyber EPQ students, James, did get a place and was fortunate to speak with Amanda Scantlebury, the Cyber Security Operations Manager and Gijs Reusken, a Consultant, who specialises in the evolving data privacy landscape.

Analysts Cameron and Saj, explained the hands-on approach that their cyber training provided and how Deloitte invested in them and welcomed an inquisitive mind. Both explained how their broad training in different areas had given them greater insight into cyber and had helped them to develop their cyber passions.

Cornelia Calugar-Pop, Lead Technical Media and Telecommunications Predictions Researcher, gave a fascinating perspective and hints as to what we could expect from tech in the future including how 5G will allow the greater use of automated robots whilst picking and packing customers' goods.

Then... The Crypto Challenge... designed and delivered by Alex Parsons, Senior Manager for Cyber Security for the Life Sciences and Healthcare. He set the scene of a fictitious company client that had been acting suspiciously. Our teams were given half an hour to use codebreaking

skills to find out what had really been happening on the client's open laptop. Each group anxiously searched for clues and broke codes to unlock the encrypted information.

Well done to James' team who came second in The Crypto Challenge.

Ms Samosa



## Wakeboarding Winner!

Callum Smith entered the UK Nationals Wakeboarding competition in July 2019, achieving 2nd place. This success has opened many doors for Callum and he was approached by Team GB to ride in the European and African Championships at Twincables Beckum, Germany where he competed against 158 athletes from 20 nations. It was an amazing experience for Callum and he made it to LCQs (last chance qualifiers). Callum, as part of Team GB, achieved Bronze overall.

This year has the potential to be incredibly exciting for Callum as his category has changed and he is now very hopeful of being ranked as number 1 in the UK for Boys. From this he could be invited to go to Thailand to represent team GB at the World Championships!

There are hopes that Wakeboarding will become an Olympic sport in time for the 2024 Paris games so watch this space...

Miss Smith



## World Book Day Winners

To celebrate World Book Day, students in Year 7 and 8 participated in a competition which took place in their library lessons. The students were required to produce an illustration based on a book that they have enjoyed, which could include a character, setting or front cover. We received some fantastic entries, from which a number of winners and runners up were selected. Successful entries are currently on display in Piccadilly and in the English Department.

We would like to thank and congratulate the students for all of their hard work and we are pleased to announce the winners of the competition as follows:

### Boy Winners

- 1st place – Louis Fitzgerald
- 2nd place – Warren Green
- 3rd place – Ben Cole

### Girl Winners

- 1st place – Grace Boiko-Stapleton
- 2nd place – Alaia Walton-Kale
- 3rd place – Olivia Burry

Miss Moran



## RSC's Macbeth LIVE (kind of!) at Mark Rutherford!

On the Thursday 5th March Mark Rutherford's Year 11 students were fortunate to watch a live streaming of the Royal Shakespeare Company's performance of Macbeth. This was viewed by all 187 Year 11 students in the Drama Hall, as they were off timetable for the event.

Not only was this a fantastic opportunity for our cohort to embed their knowledge of the text, which is important for their GCSE Literature exam, but also to bring the theatre to Mark Rutherford School.

Students conducted themselves brilliantly and engaged in an academic Q&A session post-performance. This allows for future events to be held at the school as Macbeth was received with positivity and interest. There have already been some interesting discussions in lessons about the director's choices, and we hope that Year 11 students will be able to draw on ideas from the performance in their Summer exam!

Mr Johnson

## Take your child to work day

We had a good turnout at the initial parents' meeting in February to share plans for the Year 8 'Take your child to work day' initiative.

A reminder that forms need to be in BEFORE Friday 22nd May.

There are more details on the school website.

Mrs Unwin



## Year 7 Careers Event

Year 7 students met up with some local employers who spoke to them about their jobs and careers. The visitors also brought in a mystery object for them as a clue... so the event was a puzzle, as well as providing information!

Mrs Unwin



## English Speaking Union

On Thursday 27th February the History Department was fortunate enough to be able to take a number of Year 12 and 13 History students to the Sharnbrook Hotel to attend a lecture organised by the English Speaking Union and given by Professor Gary Gerstle, Professor of American History at Cambridge University.

Professor Gerstle is a world expert in his field. Primarily an historian of 20th century America with particular expertise in immigration and race issues, he has lectured worldwide and is frequently consulted for his views on contemporary questions in the USA. In his lecture he gave a broad survey of current trends in American society – race relations, immigration, economic policies, relations with Europe, Russia, China, cultural changes and the impact of President Trump. He discussed the question of whether we should be optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the USA.

It was a fascinating lecture and we are grateful to the English Speaking Union for the opportunity to hear Professor Gerstle share his expertise, and for the welcome we were given.

Mr Margetts

## Cyber EPQ

James Duxbury, who is studying for a Cyber EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) that is looking into the effects on Ransomware on businesses, attended the British Computer Society Cybercrime Forensics SG, ARU Cyber Security & Networking Research Group & OWASP Cambridge's 'Aspects of Digital Forensics' Workshop on Wednesday 19th February at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge.



It was a very useful day and especially the talk by Alex Holland, Malware Analyst, Bromium, 'A Look inside Buran Ransomware as a Service'. James was very lucky to be able to get a follow up interview with Alex to support his studies. James would like to thank Alex for giving up his time and also to Richard Fuller MP for North East Bedfordshire who also gave up his time to support James' project.

Ms Samosa

## Speakers' Session

Since the last newsletter we have had a busy period with a range of talks covering topics from the law and careers as a barrister, through to Brexit, the Panacea Society and The Harpur Trust. In November Araba Taylor spoke about her role as a barrister and ways to enter the legal profession. Generously she offered our students to contact her for further guidance.

The next speaker was Claire Pope from the University of Hertfordshire who spoke about the opportunities of higher education and the processes involved in applying. This was followed up with a session led by Mr Nicholls. Professor Nellis of Cranfield University provided an in depth assessment of the impact of leaving the EU which had the added benefit of allowing students to gain an awareness of the study of economics.

Our next speakers spoke about local charities. Vicky Manners captivated the audience with the story of the Panacea Society whilst David Steadman of the Harpur Trust spoke about his career and the work of his organisation. He also gave an appreciation of Bedford. Our thanks go to all our visitors and especially the Harpur Trust for its ongoing support.

Mr Nicholls

## Cyber Challenge

After our success with the Year 7 (first place Octavia) and Year 9 (second place Robert) British Computer Society Coding (Bedford Branch) competition, we would like to announce that this year's competition is now taking place for Years 5 to 10.

For more information visit:  
<https://beds.bcs.org/competition.php>

Participating in the Cyber Challenge is a positive way to fulfil the STEM Gatsby benchmarks, linking curriculum learning to careers, encounters with employers and employees, encounters with further and higher education.

Ms Samosa



## Ready, Steady, Cook!

Year 10 catering students faced a Ready Steady Cook activity from the Royal Navy Catering Outreach team. They learnt about flexibility, working under pressure and food presentation skills.

Feedback from the students was very positive: "they definitely broadened our knowledge with different cooking techniques"; "it was good to practise team work"; "I feel like I know how to present my dish more like a restaurant"; "it boosted my confidence in cooking"; and "I've learnt how to try new things regardless of the situation". The Navy chefs were impressed with students' creative cookery, and we are sure we have some budding chefs in the making!

Mrs Unwin





## Careers

Year 11 and 13 students visited the National Apprenticeship Show in Milton Keynes in March. Students were able to talk to a wide range of both National and local businesses and training providers about opportunities in their sector.

Students commented "there were so many different stands that really open up your eyes to the availability" and "there were some really useful stalls that gave me more advice on what my next steps are; it's a good opportunity to speak face to face with employers".



Mrs Unwin

## DigiGirlz

We won... at the Microsoft Headquarters in Cambridge! Our Year 8 DigiGirlz had to come up with a sustainability project using artificial intelligence and then code it on a Micro:bit. They then had to pitch it to five judges to include the CEO of Microsoft UK, Cindy Rose. We had two teams; both of whom were brilliant. The Digiwatch which provides educational support for struggling students, a device that cleverly, but secretly, informs the teacher when a student doesn't get it, won the Impact Award.



Well done Poppy, Amie, Octavia and Alicia for your award. The CEO is in the picture with the girls.



Ms Samosa



## Val Ball Fundraising

Sixth Formers have been fundraising for the Valedictory Ball. Pictured are Santa and his helper off to deliver 'sweet treats' and take a selfie with Santa.

For Valentine's Day Sixth Formers organised a card delivery service and the sale of chocolates.

Mr Nicholls



## Legally Blonde

Between the 11th-13th December a wide range of students from all year groups took to the stage to perform 'Legally Blonde', a musical performance where we watch the life of Elle Woods find what she really wants; is it love or is it law?

After starting the show in September the students rehearsed non-stop every day after school to put the performance together, with all the help from the Performing Arts Department. From only three months of rehearsing the show was ready and we were lucky enough to secure a huge audience each night, made up from students and staff from across the school and friends and family also. The feedback received each night was fantastic and the show was loved by all, making each night go from strength to strength.

This is a fantastic extra-curricular opportunity for all the students and another aspect of the school which really makes all the students shine. Massive 'congratulations' to all the students involved.

Mrs Farnsworth



## Harry Potter Studios

Students in Year 8 had the opportunity to further their studies on Harry Potter with a visit to the Harry Potter Studios at Leavesden after studying this in Drama. Along with coming face to face with a ginormous dragon, students had a fantastic workshop on pitching a film idea in less than 25 words which is a lot harder than it sounds. Everyone then got to discover how the magic was made visiting the various sets including the great hall, forbidden forest, Gringotts and Platform 9 ¾, and even got to try some butterbeer and ride a broomstick.

Mrs Farnsworth

