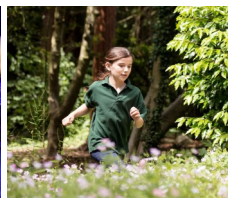




RYDES HILL

PREPARATORY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWSLETTER: Tues 21st December 2021



Dear Alumni

We would like to start by wishing all our Alumni a relaxing, blessed, and merry Christmas. We hope that you have a happy and healthy 2022. This is our first Alumni newsletter and we hope this will give you a little insight into what is happening at Rydes Hill and what some of our Alumni are up to now! We plan to make this a termly publication, so if you have any exciting news to share (marriages, births etc) or anything else that you think would be of interest, please email sophie.canning@rydeshill.com

These past few years have been challenging for all schools. As you know, Rydes Hill is a small community, and our size has contributed significantly to our successes during the pandemic. Our case numbers throughout the pandemic have been incredibly low, helped in no small part by our lovely large classrooms and big windows. Whilst it has been a chilly winter with the windows open all the time, this has enabled us to stay healthy!

During the lockdowns we switched all our lessons onto Zoom, with children learning all their subjects (including PE!) through their computer screen. This was a sharp learning curve for everyone, most especially the teachers. We were able to make our extended day provision available to children of key workers who were not able to be accommodated in their own schools during lockdown. We were recently recognised by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Surrey for our contribution to the local community during the pandemic. It was wonderful to welcome Lady Toulson, whose children were at Rydes Hill, into School to give us the certificate.



We were very pleased to return to School after the lockdown and get back to a more normal way of learning. Unlike the National trends, our analysis at the end of the Summer term showed that all children were at or above where we would expect them to be academically. Numbers in the School are growing, especially in Nursery where our popular All Year Round provision, that started in 2019m had outgrown the space it had been given.

Over the Summer holidays we transformed the Lodge and adjoining space into a two classroom Nursery complete with wonderful outdoor play space. The Lodge now houses Acorns class (rising 3s) and the new modular classroom is home to Oaks (rising 4s). The children are all still very much part of Rydes Hill, taking part in forest school, music, dance and PE lessons across the week.



The vacated Nursery rooms have been transformed into a Performing Arts Centre with a music room, music practise room and drama studio. We have been very grateful to receive generous donations from some of our Alumni in recent years and their family names have been chosen for two of the rooms in the Performing Arts Centre. We have the Li room and the Malik room. The Mundy room was the name for the music room in the Lodge and we have kept this name to remember Mr and Mrs Mundy.

We were very disappointed to have to postpone our 75th anniversary celebrations in 2020. However, the opportunity to open our doors and invite our Alumni in at the start of the Autumn term was warmly embraced by everyone. It was wonderful to see so many of you join us. The atmosphere in School was truly wonderful and it was fantastic to hear some of the memories that you all shared. It would be lovely to have some of these sent in for future newsletters!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Alumni Open Day. We hope, as life returns to normal, to have more of these in the future.

Have a relaxing Christmas Break, hopefully spent with family and friends. We hope to welcome you back to Rydes Hill in the near future.

Warm regards

Sarah Norville

ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Lakita Taylor** (2012-2020) who was successful in her recent trial for the Surrey Netball Training Academy. Her sister, **Priya** (2010-2018), is coaching netball for the Cardinals so there are certainly strong netball genes in the family!

Laila Malik: After leaving Rydes Hill in 2017 Laila continued to enjoy musical theatre, performing with British Youth Music Theatre and MX Masterclass at various venues including the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Court Theatre and Charing Cross Theatre. Laila credits Rydes Hill with nurturing her singing, acting and dancing and the tea party concerts with developing her confidence! Recently she has turned her focus to rock/pop and folk singing, and this summer she was delighted to achieve a Distinction in Grade 7 RSL Rock/Pop Singing. In the last few months she has started writing her own songs on guitar and resumed live performance. In August she was lucky enough to be invited to perform her original songs at The Basement Door in Richmond. Laila attends Frensham Heights School where she will be taking GCSEs next year. She is hoping to study Physics, Maths and Chemistry in Sixth Form.

Sarah and Kath Morris: Mrs Morris is our wonderful Computing / Forest School / Swimming teacher. Her daughters both attended Rydes Hill.

Sarah (31) went to Farnborough Hill after Rydes Hill, she got the Sports Scholarship and went on to study Sports Science at Swansea University, graduating with 1st class Honours. Sarah then went on to do a Master's in Business Management and Finance. Sarah now works as a Business Unit Director for Clear Box Retail, a retail intelligence solutions provider. Sarah claims that she got through University because of Karen Boyle.

(The truth is that each year and teacher gave her something different, equipping her for her academic and sporting success. The family cannot thank Rydes Hill enough! She still plays Hockey for Wimbledon, runs and enjoys a variety of sports).



Kath or Kathryn (28) loved her time at Rydes Hill and fondly remembers the School as a place that nurtured her love for sports, art, music, drama, and study. She is an all-rounder and is thankful the School gave her the opportunity to discover and nurture this. She particularly loved taking part in gym displays! She later went to Farnborough Hill, then Royal Holloway to read Drama and English; after graduating she worked as a Youth Worker in Guildford before training in Theology, Mission and Ministry at Trinity College Bristol. Kathryn was ordained Priest in Guildford Cathedral this summer and is now Curate at St Saviours Church, Guildford.

FUNDRAISERS

Fundraising is something that Rydes Hill Alumni know a great deal about; helping others is a huge part of the ethos and culture of Rydes Hill, and it is wonderful when we see this carrying on! Please do support our Alumni in their fundraising efforts.

Josh Garman: Josh is an old boy of Rydes Hill and his Mother, Anna (herself a Rydes Hill Alumni) is still at the School, teaching ballet every Wednesday. Josh has recently completed the herculean task of cycling 5000 miles around the coast of Britain to raise money for the 'Help for Hasti' charity. His fundraising total currently stands at £35,700. If you would like to help him get to his £40,000 total, his fundraising page is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/coast5000>

Alumni **Francesca Lamont** (née Wightman) completed a 100 mile walk along the Jurassic Coast in just 4 days to raise money for the Samson Centre, a wonderful place which supports people with Multiple Sclerosis in and around West Surrey. To date she has raised £2,374 and her Just Giving page can be found here: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/francescaandmonikaforsamsoncentre?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=francescaandmonikaforsamsoncentre&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=269c792f3dc043d58e33c32fe2d55031



Alumni Event on Sunday 19th September

