# **Rushden Academy Newsletter**

# Aspire, Explore, Succeed

### 08/12/2023

Message From the Principal

#### In this newsletter:

- Message From the Principal
- Numeracy Problem of the Week
- Literacy Challenge of the Week
- Exam Timetables
- Rushden
  Academy SAS
- Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime Tickets on Sale
- Ethos Christmas
  Coffee Morning
- Library Christmas Cracker
- Rushden Academy Newspaper Team
- Performing Arts Update
- Stay Connected
  Newsletter
- Christmas Jumper Day



#### Team Rushden - United we stand, divided we fall

Dear Parent / Carer

The antepenultimate week of school was thankfully a lot milder in terms of the weather but was equally a wet one in terms of the amount of rain we had. However, this did little to dampen the spirits as we enter the festive season.



Mr Bocking led a fascinating assembly which reviewed many significant events that occurred over the course of the year. To name just some of the events, Mr Bocking encouraged students to reflect on the catastrophic earthquakes which struck Turkey and Syria; Finland officially joining NATO; SpaceX's starship explosion; the tragic events surrounding the implosion of Ocean Gate's Titan submersible; the war between Israel and Hamas; and Storm Ciarán. He finished the assembly with the 'Pale Blue Dot' which comes off the back of Nasa's Voyager spacecraft leaving our solar system and taking a final picture of earth which appeared as a pale blue dot; truly mind-blowing.

Some of you would have attended our Year 13 parents' evening on Thursday to get an update on how your son or daughter is progressing in their studies as we enter the final stages of their Key Stage 5 education. Meanwhile, our Year 12 students visited Nottingham Trent University for a taster day which gave them a good insight into what university life is like.

As Christmas approaches, our entire Social Action Squad assembled in the hall on Wednesday period 4 where they made Christmas hampers to take to the care home and day centre. In addition to the hampers, they commenced work on a community mural for a local church and still found time to write Christmas cards to members of staff sharing festive sentiments. The hampers were delivered by members of the squad during period 5 spreading some yuletide joy to our community.

It was Christmas jumper day on Thursday and it was great to see staff and students alike embracing the opportunity to wear their festive knitwear! Next week, students can look forward to our Christmas cracker event which takes place from 3:15pm - 6:00pm on Thursday and is hosted by the library. Parents and carers can look forward to our movie night which is being hosted by the Ethos Team in our lecture theatre on Tuesday evening.

Continues on the next page...

# Message From the Principal Continued...

As we reach the end of the term we appreciate that everyone is tired and to recognise students who have 100% attendance in the final few weeks we will be entering their names into a raffle to win prizes in the final rewards assembly a week on Wednesday. Thank you for your continued support with ensuring that your children's absence level remains as low as possible.

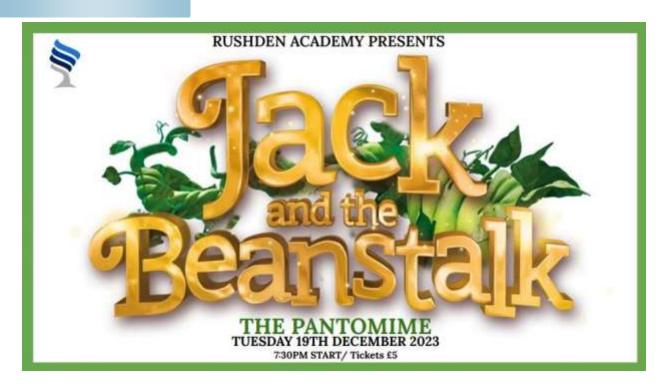
Finally, on Tuesday the 19th it is our Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime and tickets are selling fast; it would be great to see as many of you there as possible supporting our extremely talented students.

Have a long and restful weekend,

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Baines Principal





Tickets now on sale for our Christmas Pantomime - Jack and The Beanstalk.

Book now to avoid disappointment

https://www.trybooking.com/uk/CXQT

# School Attendance Forum

Has your child experienced school attendance difficulties? Help us understand the challenges faced by children & young people

This workshop is to enable parents and carers to have their voices heard in developing how agencies support children and young people who are experiencing difficulties in attending school.

Your voice is crucial in helping us understand the challenges faced by children and young people and will be an opportunity to meet with other parents and find solutions together.

Date: Wednesday 14th December 2023

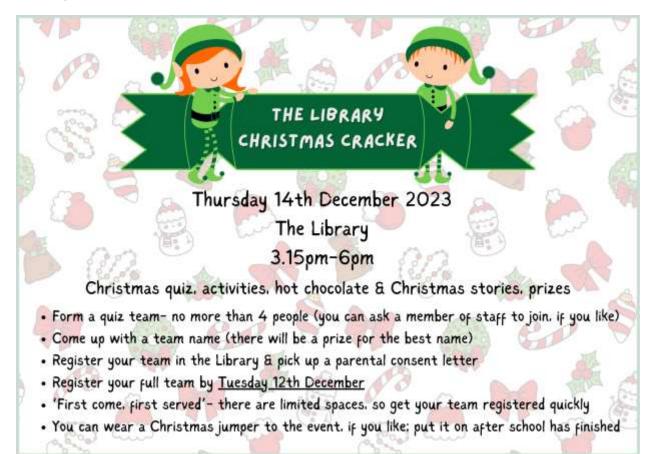
Venue: The Council Chamber, Towcester Forum, Towcester NN12 6AD

Time: 10:30am - 12 noon

Shaping the Future of School Attendance Support Tickets, Thu 14 Dec 2023 at 10:30 | Eventbrite

## **Library News**

#### Library Christmas Cracker



#### **Twelve days of Christmas**

Celebrate the festive season in these last few weeks of term by taking part in the *12 Days of Christmas* competition running in the Library. Each day a student will be asked to open one of the 'doors', which will reveal a Christmas book and a sweet surprise. Alongside that, there will be a different question posed during the twelve days, which students will need to find out the answer to. They will need to come in everyday to see the new questions. Entry forms are there for them to take away and all correct forms must be given to Ms Raven or Mrs Quantrill by January 5th. All correct entries will be placed in a hat and one overall winner will be drawn and will receive a prize.



For any more information, students can pop into the Library and ask the staff there.

## Rushden Academy Newspaper Team

Since the end of September a small group of students have been meeting in the Library, every Wednesday, after school. These students are forming the base of the very first Rushden Academy Newspaper. As the year goes on we plan to create a termly paper which include feature pieces, whether local or further afield, headline stories, reviews (of films, books, music, TV programmes). The students will do a variety of writing, reporting/ interviewing, photography and editing, reviewing, illustration and lots more.

As a practice run, the students looked through some national and local stories and all of them picked up on a local, environmental story about the reintroduction of beavers to Rushden Lakes. They decided to do some research on this and we discovered a contact at the local Wildlife Trust (based at the Lakes), Katie King. She generously offered to let the students go down to the visitor centre and interview her. All of the students worked together to compile some questions and then came on the trip to the Lakes to meet and interview Katie.

The students did a fantastic job and all of them not only asked the prepared questions but also asked spontaneous ones based on what Katie was telling them. They all took some photos and then contributed to the write-up.



Saanvi, Wiktoria, Katie (Wildlife Trust), William, Ben.

Jade was unable to join us on the trip but was invaluable during the photo editing process.

After the Christmas holiday, each student will start to work on a specific area of the newspaper. We would like the team to grow and so, if any students are interested in joining, please advise them to drop in to the Library and talk to Ms. Raven.

Please read and enjoy the article the team have worked hard on. We will be looking to revisit the story next Autumn, when the beavers have arrived.

# Bringing Back the Beaver

Recently, our Rushden Academy Newspaper team took a trip to Rushden Lakes to meet Katie King, the communities and education manager for the Nene Wetlands Visitor Centre. We have discovered that Beavers will be reintroduced into our environment in 2024 around autumn time. Due to our interest in this we created some questions which Katie kindly answered. We have written up the answers to those questions here.



Beaver-originally native to the UK

As it will be a massive change for the beavers, since they will be imported from Scotland, they will be quarantined for some time so they can get used to the environment and then the other animals. This won't be a problem for the environment as the beavers will take down the invasive willow trees naturally instead of the wildlife staff having to use chainsaws. They will place barriers around the older trees that they don't want to be taken down.



Rushden Lakes area map

To ensure safety of the beavers there will be metal fences placed around the associated area. Not only will it protect them from natural predators it will also protect them from any poachers. Even though Katie doesn't expect there to be many poachers or predators, it is always a good idea to be careful and it will keep them enclosed.

If something does happen to the beavers and one of them dies, they would think of introducing them to another partner. However, if everything goes well and no incidents occur the beavers will be able to breed. If this is successful and they

happen to have a runt, it wouldn't be such a problem as they have enough resources for it to be independent and won't have to rely on anyone. But if the beavers do not breed naturally it also would not be an issue as they wouldn't have to relocate the pair to a bigger area.

Aside from that, the beavers will be well taken care of and cameras will be placed around the fenced out area to make sure they are happy and kept safe.

They are currently fundraising for live cameras. For more information contact the Wildlife Trust at Rushden Lakes.

#### -Rushden Academy Newspaper Team



Delta Pit-the area where they hope to house the beavers

# Stay Connected Newsletter

Have a look at the latest newsletter from Northamptonshire Children's Trust to see what is happening in our area.

https://sway.office.com/EZxl6KdU6wBYJNx3?ref=Link



# Rushden Academy SAS

The SAS had a busy day on Wednesday. All members met up and helped spread Christmas cheer by making Christmas Cards for the residents and service users they have met at the Beeches Care Home and Serve Day Centre as well as for Rushden Academy staff members.







Some of our SAS members helped paint Christmas murals that will soon be on display locally.





Students also helped decorate and pack hampers that Squad Fizzy Baguette delivered to the Beeches Care Home and Serve Day Centre. These hampers included Christmas treats as well as games and colouring activities for the residents and service users to enjoy.





# 6th Form UCAS Update

This is the term when Year 13 students are beginning to plan their post 18 pathways and applying to university.

Each week we will give you an update on who has completed their application alongside any offers or interviews they have received.

# THE EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COLLEGE HUXLOW • RUSHDEN

Name	Date sent	First Choice	Course	Offer/interview?	
Lucy	25.09.23	Imperial College, London	Medicine	Interview	
Cody	3.10.23	University of Lincoln	Law for Business	conditional offers	
Jay	9.10.23	Nottingham Trent University	Primary Education	conditional offers	
Ruby	12.10.23	Sheffield Hallam University	Fine Art	conditional offers	
Andreea	16.10.23	De Montfort University	Pharmacy	Interview	
Jakub	19.10.13	University of Bath	Maths & Physics	Conditional offers	
Laura	2.11.23	De Montfort University	Psychology	Conditional offers	
Sam	6.11.23	University of Southampton	Biomedical engineering with integrated masters	Conditional offer	
Tilly	8.11.23	De Montfort University	Forensic science	Unconditional offer	
Alicia	16.11.23	University of Bedfordshire	Early years education	conditional offer	
Josh	16.11.23	De Montfort University	Pharmacy	conditional offer	
Jorja	16.11.23	De Montfort University	Interior Design	conditional offer	
Leyla	30.11.23	Northampton University	Dental Nursing	Conditional offers	
Holly	1.12.23	University of East Anglia	English	Unconditional offers	
Amy-Kay	1.12.23	University of Lincoln	Law	Conditional offers	
Malachi	1.12.23	University of Derby	Theatre Arts	Conditional offers	
Kit	7.12.23	Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama	Technical theatre and stage management		

# Performing Arts Update

#### Drama:



Year 10 have been working on more physical theatre techniques this week and building blocks using Frantic Assembly's *Things I Know To Be True*. They will be exploring this performance for their Component 1 exam. They

have been studying how we use our physicality to create performance and the importance of movement. There has been some excellent work created over the past few weeks and we look forward to continuing this.

#### Dance:

Congratulations to the Year 11 dancers who successfully completed their Component 2 performances this week. Students were required to perform a piece of repertoire in the styles of Contemporary or Hip Hop dance demonstrating their level of physical and interpretive skills. All students were nervous but managed to perform with style and confidence.

#### **Music:**

Year 10 have been working on their mock exam for music, following a brief to compose work around the theme of discovery. They are definitely thriving on being able to have the creative freedom and ownership of their creations and we wish them all the best as they approach their hand in date.

As we approach the end of term, our KS3 groups are combining all the skills they have learnt across the two terms, to produce great final performances in Djembe drumming and film music.

#### **High School Musical: School Edition**

This week's rehearsal was run by our year 13 assistant director. The group focussed on the opening of the play and how to creatively transition from dance number, to dialogue, back to dance number. The dance they have been learning is complex and there has been a high amount of effort put in to really nail the choreography. Rehearsals continue next week and we are excited to see what's in store. Go Wildcats.

#### Jack And The Beanstalk:

With just one week until the tech run, rehearsal pressure has been ramped up and the entirety cast are bringing it! The show has many recognisable numbers and some brilliantly written characters. Production, costume and crew have been working tirelessly sourcing props, costumes and making programmes for the event.

Will Jack sell his cow? Will the Giant make it down the beanstalk? Will Silly Billy always be so Silly? You will have to buy a ticket to find out!

Tickets are on sale via the Instagram page and by clicking here.

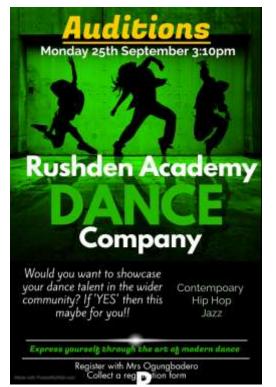
We hope to see as many of you there as possible!



# Performing Arts Update









# FRIDAY 3:10pm-4:00pm Main Hall



FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT

c.pilgrim@rushden-academy.net

# Christmas Jumper Day at Rushden Academy

Christmas came to Rushden Academy on Thursday, when staff and students sported their Christmas jumpers and raised money for Save The Children. Jet also joined in with his Christmas Jumper.







Click the link below to book your spot on our coffee morning.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/coffee-morning-drop-in-tickets-749886981147? aff=oddtdtcreator

We look forward to seeing you

## How to Sleep

There's so much information available about what you should and shouldn't do when it comes to sleep, and most of it is great, but sometimes it's easier to go back to basics - so it's time we ask ourselves, how do we get to sleep? It's important to remember that different ways work for different people but sticking to these tips will make falling asleep easier for us all.

**Keep regular hours**. Going to bed and getting up at roughly the same time, all the time, will programme your body to sleep better. Choose a time when you are most likely to feel sleepy.

**Create a restful sleeping environment**. Your bedroom should be kept for rest and sleep and it should be neither too hot, nor too cold; and as quiet and dark as possible.

**Make sure your bed is comfortable**. The surface we sleep on plays a key factor in getting a good night's kip. It's difficult to get deep, restful sleep on an old, uncomfortable bed. A bed with the correct support, comfort and space will ensure you wake less, move about less, are less disturbed by your partner and are less likely to wake up feeling tired or aching.

**Take more exercise**. Regular, moderate exercise such as swimming or walking can help relieve the day's stresses and strains. But not too close to bedtime or it may keep you awake.

**Cut down on stimulants such as caffeine in tea, coffee and energy drinks– especially in the evening**. Caffeine is a stimulant and its effect on sleep is well known – it interferes with falling asleep and prevent deep sleep. Try and avoid it 4-5 hours before bedtime; have a hot milky drink or a herbal tea instead.

**Study Space.** Make sure to have a separate space to revise and work, doing this in bed can damage your ability to sleep stress-free. Try using a desk or a completely different room is even better!

**Don't over-indulge**. Too much food, especially late at night, just before bedtime, can play havoc with sleep patterns.

**Try to relax before going to bed**. Have a warm bath and listen to some quiet music – all help to relax both the mind and body.

**Turn off gadgets before bed!** Blue light can affect the production of melatonin (the hormone that helps you sleep), so avoid screen time at least an hour before bed.

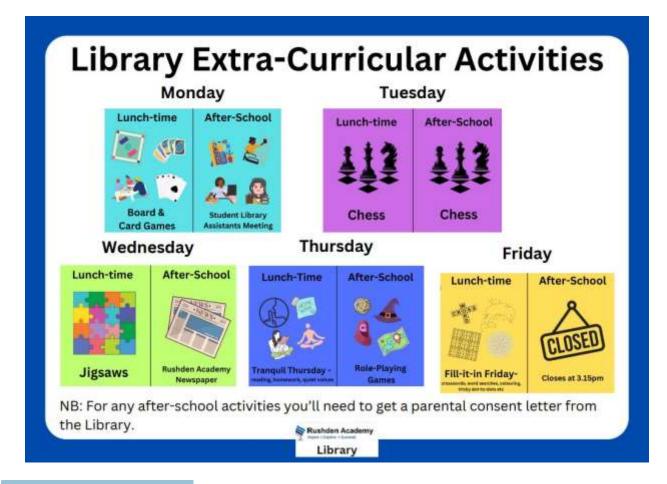
Deal **with worries.** If the minute your head hits the pillow you start thinking about your 'to do' list or worrying about something, write it down. It clears the mind making it easier to concentrate on getting a good night's sleep.

**Keep a sleep diary**. Why not keep a sleep diary If you find dropping off hard, it may be interesting to see what you've been doing, what you've eaten and where you've slept on the days you sleep and don't sleep well. It could help in finding the answers to some of your questions.

**Still struggling to sleep?** If you still can't sleep, don't lie there worrying about it. Get up and do something you find relaxing, like reading a book, until you feel sleepy again – then go back to bed. If you find that your sleep issues continue to be a problem, call our <u>National Sleep</u> <u>Helpline</u> on **03303 530 541** for direct support.

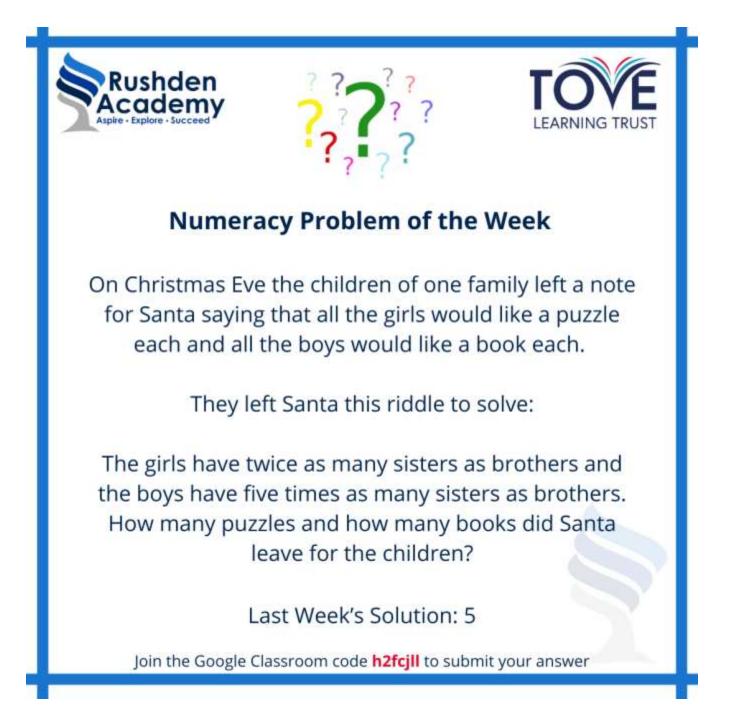
# After School Clubs Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Netball (Year Groups will Train Separately)	Basketball (Year Groups will Play Separately)	Fitness Suite	Football (Year Groups will Train Separately)
everyone is welco	os are for boys and ome! Clubs are free e changing rooms o t involved!	e and all you need	









Tuesday 9th January Y		and the second s				2011111202
	Yr 13 Applied Science Chemistry	Unit 1C	resits	40 mins	Homeschool	9.00 am
Tuesday 9th January	Yr 13 Applied Science Physics	Unit 1P	resits	40 mins	Homeschool	1.30 pm
Wednesday 10th January	Yr 13 PA	Unit 1	all	3 hours	Homeschool	9.00 am
Wednesday 10th January	Yr 13 Health & Social Care	Unit 4	dbl/trp	3 hours	Homeschool	9.00 am
Wednesday 10th January	Yr 13 Sport	Unit 2	all	2.5 hrs	Homeschool	9.00 am
Wednesday 10th January	Yr 13 Applied Science Biology	Unit 1B	resits	40 mins	Homeschool	1.30 pm
Wednesday 10th January	Yr 13 Business	Unit 2A	all	2 hours	Ferrers	1.30 pm
Thursday 11th January	Yr 13 Business	Unit 2B	all	3 hours	Ferrers	9.00 am
Thursday 11th January	Yr 12 CPLD	Unit 1	all	1.75 hrs	Homeschool	9.00 am
Friday 12th January	Yr 12 Sport	Unit 1	all	1.5 hrs	Homeschool	9.00 am
Friday 12th January	Yr 13 ICT	Unit 1	resits	2hrs	Homeschool	9.00 am
Friday 12th January	Yr 12 Health & Social Care	Unit 1	all	1.5 hrs	Homeschool	1.30 pm
Monday 15th January	Yr 13 Health & Social Care	Unit 2	all	1.5 hrs	Homeschool	9.00 am
Monday 15th January	Yr 13 Business	Unit 3	resits	2hrs	Homeschool	9.00 am
Monday 15th January	Yr 12 & 13 Sport	Unit 22	dbl/trp	3 hours	Homeschool	9.00 am
Tuesday 16th January	Year 13 ICT	Unit 2	all	3 hours	Ferrers	1.30 pm
Tuesday 16th January	Year 12 ICT	Unit 2	all	3 hours	Huxlow	1.30 pm
Thursday 18th January	Yr 13 Sport	Unit 19	trp	2.5 hrs	Homeschool	9.00 am
Friday 19thJanuary	Yr 13 Applied Science	Unit 3	all	2.25 hrs	Homeschool	9.00 am
Monday 22nd January	Yr 13 Applied Science Chemistry	Unit 5C	dbl	50 mins	Homeschool	1.30 pm
Tuesday 23rd January	Yr 13 Applied Science Physics	Unit SP	ldbl	50 mins	Homeschool	9.00 am
Tuesday 23rd January	Yr 13 Applied Science Biology	Unit 5B	ldb	50 mins	50 mins Homeschool	1.30 pm

# January TENC BTEC Exam Timetable

# Year 13 Assessment Week - January 2024

Students will sit their exams in homebase schools unless indicated otherwise

Where students have clashes, the rescheduled time for the exam is shown, with their initials in brackets

Date	Am		Pm	
Mon 22nd Jan	13 Psychology Paper 1	2hrs	13 Biology Paper 1	2hrs
	13 Business	2hrs	13 Media Paper 1	2hrs
	13 German	1hr45		
Tue 23rd Jan	13 Chemistry Paper 1	1hr30	13 Core Maths Paper 1	1hr30
	13 Comp Science	2hr30	13 Eng Lit/Lang Paper 1 (KK)	1hr
	13 Eng Lit/Lang Paper 1	1hr	13 Physics Paper 1	2hrs
	13 Eng Lit Paper 1	2hr30	13 Sociology	2hrs
	13 Graphics	2h30		
Wed 24th Jan	13 Eng Lit/Lang Paper 2	1hr	13 Core Maths Paper 2	1hr30
	13 Geography	1hr30	13 Eng Lit/Lang Paper 3	1hr
	13 Photography (Rushden)	4hrs	13 Further Maths Paper 1	1hr30
	13 Physics Paper 2	2hrs	13 Maths Paper 1	2hrs
			13 Photography (Rushden)	1hr
Thu 25th Jan	13 Core Maths Paper 1 (KP)	1hr30	13 Biology Paper 2 (RW)	1hr15
	13 Further Maths Paper 2	1hr30	13 Media Paper 2 (CC, IF)	2hrs
	13 History	2hr15	13 Psychology Paper 2	2hrs
	13 Maths Paper 2	2hrs		
	13 Media Paper 2	2hrs		
Fri 26th Jan	13 Art <b>(H/R)</b>	4hrs	13 Art <b>(H/R)</b>	1hr
	13 Chemistry Paper 2	1hr30	13 Biology Paper 2	1hr15
	13 Eng Lit Paper 2	2hr30		

# Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following students for achieving star of the week.







# Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following students for achieving star of the week.



# Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following students for achieving star of the week.



# How to Access Go4Schools

Go4Schools is the online system that Rushden Academy uses to track student attendance, student progress and student behaviour.

Students and parents can access this at home to keep up to date, by checking timetables and behaviour events. Student progress reports will be published through Go4Schools 3 times a year.

Please follow the instructions below to access Go4Schools.

#### Student access to Go4Schools

- Go to the Go4Schools student access page (on the top right of the Go4Schools home page)
- Type in your school email address in the first time user box (your computer login in followed by @Rushden-academy.net)

#### First-time User?

If you haven't logged on to GO 4 Students before, type your email address and click the "please send me a password" button.

Email address:

Please note, if you are having problems with your password please contact your school. For Data Protection reasons we are unable to divulge or set passwords for students ourselves.

Please send me a password

- This will send you an email link with your password
- Login with your new password

#### Parental access to Go4Schools

- Go to the Go4Schools parent access page
- Enter your email address (the one Rushden Academy contacts you on) in the first time user box
- This will send you an email link with your password
- Login with your new password

If you haven't received an email in 5 minutes, please double check you have your email typed in correctly and ask them to send the password again. If you have any problems accessing Go4Schools do not hesitate to contact the academy.

You also have access to the Go4Schools app that can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play.

Mr P Bocking Assistant Principal

# Are you looking for a career change? Are you interested in training to teach?

Rushden Academy has a proven track record in successfully supporting trainee teachers on programmes leading to QTS. Many of our staff, past and present, have been trained at the school and an even larger number have completed main placements and second placements here before securing teaching jobs elsewhere.



As a school with a strong and successful

record for training new teachers to the profession, Rushden Academy works closely with School Centered Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) providers to provide fully supported and mentored school placements on a variety of routes.

If you are interested in a new career or are looking for more information about routes into teaching, then please contact Gail Brainwood, Assistant Principal on 01933 350391 or by email: <u>g.brainwood@Rushden-academy.net</u>

# Are You Eligible for Free School Meals?

If you are in receipt of any of the following, your child may be eligible for free school meals.

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, with no element of Working Tax Credit, and a household income below £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs)
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit income dependant

You can check your eligibility and apply for free school meals through Northampton County Council by clicking <u>here</u>.



