

# Staying

# Connected

Parent / Carer Bulletin



March 2026



ROOKS HEATH SCHOOL  
Strive to be your best



*Mrs Manderson*

As we come to the end of the Spring Term, I am delighted to reflect on what has been an incredibly full and productive few months at Rooks Heath. There has been so much happening both in and beyond the classroom, and our students have risen to every opportunity with determination, curiosity, and hard work.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to all parents and carers for your continued cooperation and support as we have raised expectations around behaviour and conduct. These efforts have made our school community safer and more focused, including the important reminder for students to leave the site promptly at the end of the day. This has been especially timely given the recent events involving young people in London, which many of you will have seen in the news and on social media.

Life at Rooks Heath has been vibrant and inspiring. In this edition, you can enjoy reading about our Careers Fair, the public speaking opportunities students have embraced, and the motivational assemblies delivered by high-profile visitors. You will also see how we continue to raise aspirations through university trips and how we are strengthening our identity as a reading-focused school. After all, readers become leaders.

A particular highlight this term was our school production. Moments like these remind us that within our community we are nurturing the next generation of actors, authors, gardeners, innovators—and perhaps even future politicians who will shape our world for the better. At its heart, isn't that what education is truly about?

We have also raised a few pennies for ourselves and charity. £776 was raised for Children in Need. £396 was raised at the PTFA Quiz night, organised by Ms Grover. It was great fun for all who attended. £3300 was awarded to Rooks Heath from The English Hub following a successful audit thanks to Mr Hutchinson who invited them in to conduct the literacy audit. This will go towards further improving our reading strategy.

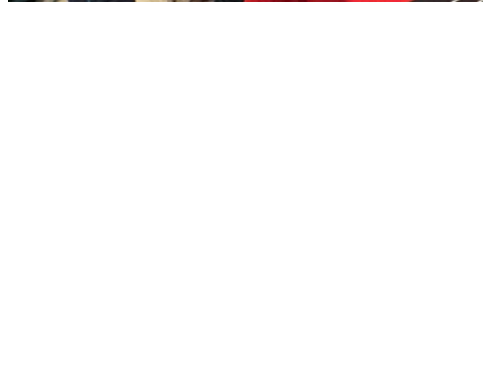
I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and wish you all a restful and happy Easter break. We look forward to welcoming students back for the summer term on **Monday 13th April**.

# Careers Fair 2026

**Mrs S. Subra**

On the 22nd January, we were delighted to host the annual careers fair in conjunction with our local MP Gareth Thomas. There were representatives from universities and businesses, as well as the NHS, the Metropolitan Police, Heathrow Airport, and the Armed Forces, who were all extremely keen to speak to our students about possible careers and study paths after leaving school. We even had some ex-students who had returned to represent their organisations at the fair. Students found the day extremely informative and were able to gain lots of knowledge on their possible next steps. Thank you to everyone who took time out to make the day such a success, and we look forward to next year!





# Model United Nations Club

Mr M. Hutchinson



Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January saw Rooks Heath Model United Nations Club return to the prestigious St. Paul's Model UN Conference. This time our students represented Russia, preparing and debating resolutions on a wide range of critical issues from nuclear proliferation to the resettlement of climate refugees. All of the group - Aarav, Dhaniel, Blinart, Mark, and Abbas - acquitted themselves brilliantly, displaying meticulous research and superb oratorical skill. A special congratulations to Mark, who won the 'Most Accurate Delegate' award for his work on the Security Council. We all look forward to more Model UN events in the future!



# Dwain Chambers Inspires Students with Powerful Message of Resilience

Mrs J. Chambers

Earlier this year, students in Years 10–12 had the exceptional opportunity to hear from renowned British sprinter **Dwain Chambers**, whose visit left a lasting impact on both students and staff.

Dwain delivered a series of brutally honest and deeply inspiring talks, openly sharing the challenges he faced early in his athletic career, including the consequences of performance-enhancing drug use. His willingness to confront his mistakes and speak candidly about their impact resonated strongly with students. Through his story, he demonstrated remarkable resilience and the power of taking accountability—core principles that clearly reflected our **TRACK values**.

Throughout each session, students listened intently and engaged thoughtfully, finishing with a range of insightful and challenging questions. Staff, too, commented on how impactful and motivating his speech was, with many describing him as one of the most inspiring speakers we have welcomed in recent years.

## Student Reflections

### Trishla, Year 11

*“His speech was very inspirational. I applaud his bravery and selflessness for sharing difficult situations with us for the sake of our awareness. The talk was interactive and not boring at all—we had great opportunities to ask interesting questions.”*

### Sasen, Year 11

*“I really enjoyed the Dwain Chambers speech. It was very inspiring, and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. He taught us about the dangers of drugs, how they can affect your reputation and career, and the importance of not giving up even when you have failed.”*

### Zeeshan, Year 11

*“You really inspired me on what it takes to become a true champion—the discipline and determination needed, no matter what hardships come your way. You can always find a way to become stronger.”*

### Abbas, Year 11

*“I was really motivated by his speech, especially his resilience in overcoming obstacles and taking accountability for his mistakes. He showed how brave he was to keep fighting to be the best sprinter he could be.”*



# Intermediate Maths Challenge

Ms S. Sritharan

We are delighted to share that a total of 51 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 participated in this year's Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, with **28** students achieving awards. The breakdown of awards is as follows:

**4 - Gold Awards**

**13- Silver Awards**

**11 – Bronze Awards**

In addition, Aditya and Rehaan have been selected for the **Pink Kangaroo Follow-on round** - a fantastic achievement.

Congratulations to all students for their hard work and dedication!



Student	Certificate	Year
Hamas	Silver	10
Raul	Silver	10
Anureet	Bronze	10
Vinush	Silver	10
Rakshiya	Bronze	10
Jay	Bronze	10
Leshika	Silver	10
Rian	SilverBiY	10
Robert	Bronze	10
Syed Fahad	Silver	10
Reuben	Bronze	10
Azzam	Silver	10
Thushan	SilverBiY	9

Student	Certificate	Year
Shayan-Rion	Silver	11
Yash	Silver	11
Aarav	Bronze	11
Aleezay	Bronze	11
Siddeeq	Silver	11
Arwin	Silver	11
Kavya	Gold	11
Romil	Bronze	11
Sana	Bronze	11
Samdarshi	Gold	11
Aditya	Gold	11
Mikayla	Bronze	11
Rayyan	Silver	11
Yusuf	Bronze	11
Rehaan	Gold	11

**B B C**  
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IN NEED**

# THANK YOU

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for raising a fantastic  
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# RHS Book Club — The Love Issue

Ms P. Samms

## All you need is love..." — The Beatles

February was officially the Month of Love, and at the RHS Book Club, we celebrated the many forms it takes—from sweeping romances to the enduring bonds of friendship and family.

## Special Guest Spotlight: Danya

We were delighted to welcome from the sixth form student Danya as our guest speaker.

Danya shared her passion for a true modern classic: "Noughts and Crosses" by Malorie Blackman. It is a particularly special year for this gripping tale of star-crossed lovers, as January 2026 marked its 25th anniversary! Danya's insights reminded us why this story of forbidden love and social justice remains as powerful today as it was 25 years ago.

Looking for your next great read? Here is a sample of our featured titles from February:

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Letters to the Lost by Brigid Kemmerer

The Fault in our stars by John Green

All the Bad Apples by Moira Fowley-Doyle

Alice Austen Lived Here by Alex Gino



The February read at Book Club was 'A Month with April-May' by Edyth Bulbring

**Happy Month of Love and Reading!**

RHS Book Club

# Paired Reading

Mrs J. Lamb

Once again, Year 8 students really enjoyed visiting Earlsmead Primary School as part of the Paired Reading programme. They enjoyed listening to the children read and encouraged them to try even if they were worried about doing so. Our students showed a real maturity throughout the six weeks and look forward to continuing in the future.



# Brunel Trip

**Mrs R. Gill**

Our recent trip for Year 11 Pupil Premium students to Brunel University was a brilliant success. The students had the chance to learn about the different courses on offer, from science and engineering to creative subjects, and found it really helpful to understand what university study is actually like. The sessions were brilliant and were jointly led by one of our former teachers, Ms Acharya, who the students were excited to recognise. Students also got a full tour of the campus, including the accommodation, which helped them picture themselves living and studying there in the future.

The university staff were complimentary about our students, praising their enthusiasm and the thoughtful questions they asked throughout the day.

Most importantly, the trip has inspired many of them to think seriously about university as a real option. It was a fantastic experience and one that has definitely raised aspirations.

# Performing Shakespeare Event

**Mr M. Hutchinson**

On Tuesday 17th March, three of our talented performers took to the stage at William Perkin School for the second round of the English Speaking Union's Performing Shakespeare competition. Bethany and Sophie from Year 8 captivated the audience with a duologue between Sylvia and Julia from Act 4, Scene 4 of *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, while Malak from Year 9 delivered a spine-tingling *Macbeth*, poised on the edge of madness in the iconic "Is this a dagger I see before me?" speech.

The high standard of all performances on the evening made the judges' decision extremely difficult, and unfortunately our students were not selected to progress this year. However, the judges were full of praise for their skill and courage—and, as Bethany put it, "there's always next year!"



# Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Ms J. Green

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March the Regional Final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge took place at Bentley Wood where two Year 10 students—Sanjana and Zahraa represented Rooks Heath perfectly - delivering their speeches with poise and eloquence.

The journey to this final began in January when they and three other Year 10s were selected at the end of our annual Speakers Trust Workshop in which all students showed enthusiasm, gained confidence and successfully delivered a speech. Those five students then took part in the Year 10 Speakers Assembly in February, all contributing to an excellent competition, judged by Mrs Manderson, Mrs Abbott and a previous contestant from Year 11, Andreea.

Sanjana and Zahraa greatly enjoyed the finals evening, fully engaging in the pre-event workshop and with fellow contestants, and then in the excitement and nerves of getting up on stage and presenting their speeches. The topics this year were wide ranging and inspiring. The standard was very high and we congratulate the three winners from The Sacred Heart College and Whitefriars. However, Sanjana and Zahraa can be extremely proud of the time and work they put into delivering their thoughts and ideas so well and representing Rooks Heath.



# Macbeth, Bollywood Style

Ms D.Turner

As a new member of staff, I was overwhelmed by the support from staff, students and parents who attended the performance of Macbeth, Bollywood Style in February. They were a very vocal audience and made all the hard work the cast and crew had gone to totally worthwhile. The students involved in the production were from Years 7-11 and they ran the show as a team. They worked professionally and produced an energetic and dynamic show. Special mention goes to the lighting and sound team who were all in Year 7. The help I received from site staff and other members of staff reflected on the true culture of Rooks Heath which has been welcoming and extremely supportive. What impressed me most was witnessing a group of diverse students with a range of ages becoming friends through the shared experience. A production they can be truly proud of. My colleague Ms Lewis is now on maternity leave and I want to personally thank her for all her support this last term with the production and with the department.





# KPMG Offices—Sixth Form Trip

Ms C. McCutcheon

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February, we took a group of 48 Year 12 and 13 students on a trip to the KPMG offices facilitated by the Talent Foundry. KPMG is one of the 'big four' auditing and accountancy firms in the UK. We are lucky enough to have built relationships in some capacity with three of the big four over the past couple of years, to enrich our sixth form students' learning and to provide them with the best possible opportunities and insight to prepare them for post-18.



The day started off chaotically with an extremely slow walk to the station and delays to the Metropolitan Line. However, upon arriving, the rest of the day was seamless!

KPMG had arranged lanyards and personalised ID Badges and students were captivated by the scale of the offices. Students were taken to a presentation suite where they had arranged KPMG mentors from differing areas of the business to meet us; from directors to consultants of varying areas, such as contract performance and technology. Students sat in groups and



got to have a Q&A with the mentors, which developed their insight into the vast array of roles across the company and not just typical auditing or accounting as they had expected. The staff had arranged a task for our students to consider the impact of AI on the launch of a product, students worked together in teams to collectively establish key ideas and presented these to the room.

Students engaged well throughout and were particularly impressive with the fantastic ideas they came up with and the way they presented. Here are some reviews from students about the impact of the day:

### **Tishan, Year 12**

*“A trip to a Big 4 firm is a big deal - especially when hearing straight from experts it changes viewpoints on the number of roles you can have in corporate and what skills you need”.*

### **Mariyum, Year 12**

*“Going to KPMG was a really great experience and I really enjoyed it. Everyone was extremely friendly and easily approachable. People from different teams were very welcoming. Everyone’s job roles were interesting in its own way and it was fun to work out/guess what their role was. As the activity was based on a real life KPMG situation, it was amazing to have the opportunity to use skills such as problem solving, teamwork and leadership skills to work and solve a real-life example. It was fun to work as a team. I would love to have this opportunity again, in offices like Royal London Asset Management”.*

### **Dhruva, Year 12**

*“The Year 12 and 13 students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit KPMG, where we took part in an engaging and thought - provoking experience, focused on innovation and artificial intelligence in marketing.*

*During the visit, we worked in teams to develop and pitch our own ideas on how AI could be used to enhance marketing strategies. The interactive nature of the session encouraged creativity, critical thinking, teamwork and collaboration. A key highlight was the opportunity to work closely with KPMG mentors, where we learned about different job roles within the organisation and gained valuable insight into career pathways we may not have previously considered.*



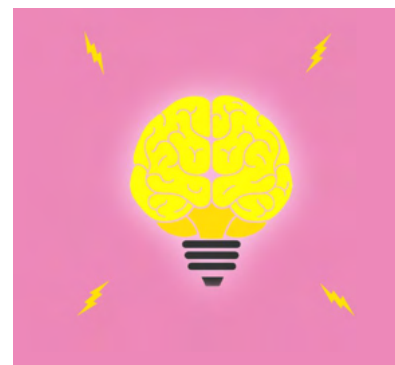
# PTFA Quiz Night

**Ms H. Grover**

South Harrow's best brains were in fine form for the PTFA Quiz Night just before half-term. The event had a fantastic turn-out, and with plenty of pizza available to fuel the grey cells, it was a full-on competition!

There were raffle prizes galore, and we are hugely grateful to our local businesses for their generous donations - Fireaway Pizza North Harrow, Sri's Cakes, Milley's Nails and Beauty, Angels and M&M School Wear.

The winners were a group of seasoned quizzers who beat one of the Rooks Heath's staff teams by just two points! We thank everyone who made the effort to attend and support the event, and are delighted to say that just under £400 was raised, which will go towards supporting the school.



## Rooks Heath shines at the 2026 Chinese Bridge Mandarin Competition

**Ms Y. Sun**

Last week, twelve students from Rooks Heath — five competing individually and seven in the group category — proudly represented our school in the 2026 Chinese Bridge Mandarin Speaking Competition for UK Schools.

### **Individual competition**

Alesha Year 10, Abduraheem Year 9 , Sana Year 11, Nischal Year 9, Glabik Year 7

### **Group competition**

Intermediate group: Sanjana, Misha, Sienna, Jaathura (Year 10)

Beginner group: Dhian, Naveen, Ishan (Year 8)

This prestigious national event saw over 70 schools and more than 300 students take part across various language abilities and performance sessions. Many of the competitors come from independent and grammar schools, where access to regular Mandarin tuition or additional language support is far more common. Some children even have Chinese nannies at home from a very young age. The children of the well-known British actress Rosamund Pike have previously taken part and have won top prizes. As you can gather, the calibre of participants is always very high! Against this backdrop, our students chose to challenge themselves, stepping beyond their comfort zones and putting in significant effort to prepare for the competition. Their hard work, courage, and enthusiasm truly stood out!

We also wanted to share this light-hearted moment:

Our wonderful student Nischal practised his Mandarin speech so diligently at home that his sister, Nikkita, eventually had to ask him to *please lower his voice* after hearing the script for the hundredth time! Moments like this remind us of the dedication — and humour — behind every achievement.

Competition results will be announced towards the end of March, and we are excited to hear the outcome. However, regardless of the results, these students have already made Rooks Heath immensely proud through their commitment, bravery, and willingness to go the extra mile. Let's hear how students found participating in this competition:

*I have been so thankful for this opportunity to participate in the Mandarin Bridging Competition to show off my Mandarin speaking skills. Throughout the weeks in preparation to this day, I spent my time planning my speech, which was to be on Chinese ethnic groups. With the help of my Chinese teacher, I created a speech including the Han and Hui ethnic groups. I practised this speech by repeating it to myself multiple times, until I was familiar with it. On the day of the competition, I successfully managed to present my speech to the judges, and I also got an insight into other students' speeches and Mandarin skills. This competition has inspired me to push myself even further in my language learning journey and has encouraged me to explore different cultures and ethnicities of China. **Alesha, Year 10***

*I felt so delighted and proud to represent my Year Group and school at the 2026 Chinese Bridge Speaking Competition. This competition significantly increased my confidence with speaking in Mandarin, and I enjoyed every second of it. The environment was very new to me as I have not done something like this before, however now it makes me keen to sign up for more events similar to this. No matter what place I get awarded, this competition definitely increased my Mandarin speaking ability and helped me work harder. A huge Thank you to Ms Sun and Ms Liu for giving me this out of this world opportunity. **Sana, Year 11***

*In my opinion, the competition was a great experience to practise Mandarin and work as a group. This is my first time doing a Mandarin competition but I really enjoyed it as I got to spend time with my friends in the process. The competition helped me work harder in Mandarin by pushing me to learn words out of the vocabulary I have learnt in school. The competition helped me move out of my comfort zone and record a video that I usually wouldn't do. Overall, it was an amazing experience. **Misha, Year 10***

*Taking part in the Chinese Bridge speaking competition was both exciting and challenging and it pushed me out of my comfort zone in the best way. At first, I was a bit nervous about performing as part of a group, especially knowing we had to rely on each other, but as we practised together, that nervousness turned into confidence. Working as a team was actually one of the best parts, we shared ideas, supported each other and made the whole experience more enjoyable. Creating the video recording was also a really interesting process; it wasn't just about speaking well, but also thinking about how we presented ourselves. Editing the video took time and patience, but it felt rewarding to see everything come together in the end. Overall, I felt proud of what we achieved as a group and it made me realise how much stronger and more creative you can be when you work collaboratively. **Sanjana, Year 10***

# Year 9 Workshop

**Mr P. Parkinson**

On Wednesday 18th March, Year 9 took part in a brilliant workshop hosted by the charismatic, energetic, and always relevant Chris Preddie OBE. For those who may not be familiar with him, he is a prominent youth worker, motivational speaker, and poet, known for his work in supporting young people and providing alternatives to gang culture. In 2012, at the age of 24, he became the youngest Black male to receive an OBE (Order of the British Empire) for his contributions to the community.

His interactive talk was delivered through Impressionable Minds, a specialist education and early-intervention charity that provides engaging, evidence-based workshops on substance misuse, decision-making, and personal wellbeing. Chris guided Year 9 students from understanding the risks and consequences of alcohol and drug misuse, through exploring peer pressure and decision-making, and concluded by helping them build the confidence to make safer choices and know where and how to seek support.

Several students took part in on-stage role plays, re-enacting realistic social situations. Activities such as Chinese Whispers were used effectively to demonstrate how misinformation can escalate situations. Chris also shared powerful and personal anecdotes about the challenges he has overcome to reach where he is today.

Overall, the workshop was engaging, informative, and highly relevant—at times joyful and at others deeply moving—and it resonated strongly with our students.





# The Annual ScientastiQuiz 2026

Mr A. Miranda

After British Science week, the Science department hosted in the hall "The Annual ScientastiQuiz 2026" for the fifth year in a row! This has now become our legacy. This year's theme was 'Curiosity'.



There was fantastic participation from the Year 7 and Year 8 students that truly reflected Rooks Heath's TRACK values. The competition was very tight and after a gruelling seven rounds of science, careers, numeracy, curriculum and creativity, the emerged winners, by the tightest of margins, were 7 Red and 8 Yellow. Congratulations!!! It was lovely to see the engagement and teamwork that flourished from all participants, which particularly impressed our judging panel, the science technicians' team and Year 12 and Year 13 ambassadors. Onwards and upwards to next year's "ScientastiQuiz 2027".

*"Science is fun. Science is curiosity. We all have natural curiosity. Science is a process of investigating. It's posing questions and coming up with a method. It's delving in."* – **Sally Ride, American Astronaut.**





# From Bulbs to Blooms: Our Bertha Earth

## Ambassadors Transform Hyde Park

**Ms P. Samms**

Back in October, thirty of our dedicated Year 7 students visited Hyde Park as part of their Bertha Earth programme. Their mission? To plant 400 daffodil bulbs along Serpentine Road. During the visit, our students earned high praise from the public for their environmental commitment and hard work.

Towards the end of February, we were thrilled to receive a wonderful update from The Royal Parks team. The bulbs were coming up, looking incredibly healthy and strong! It was truly special to see the 'blooming' results of the students' efforts beginning to transform the area.

The timing could not have been more perfect—the daffodils were expected to bloom just in time for St David's Day on 1st March. As the national flower of Wales, it feels particularly fitting that our students' hard work has left its mark.



# Bertha Earth Design Success!

Ms P. Samms

We are incredibly proud to announce that one of our wonderful Bertha Earth Ambassadors, Nysha in Year 7, has been named a national runner-up in the Bertha Earth "Design a Badge" competition!

Her creative design was selected from a competitive pool of entries from across the country. While the overall winning badge will be produced for the new September 2026 cohort of Bertha Earth Ambassadors, Nysha's artistic and creative contribution stood out to the judges, earning her a £50 Etsy voucher as a runner-up prize.

We also want to recognise our fellow nominees, Harshiv and Lucy also in Year 7, whose hard work and passion for the environment continue to inspire and bring joy to our school community.

Well done to all our Ambassadors for representing our school with such incredible creativity!



## Important dates for your Calendar

Monday 13th April	First day of Summer Term—Students return at 8.45am
Tuesday 14th — Friday 17th April	Year 13 Mock Exams
Wednesday 22nd April	Year 7 Online Parent Evening 4.30pm - 7.30pm
Friday 1st May	Year 11 Leavers Breakfast
Monday 4th May	School Closed—Bank holiday
Tuesday 5th May	Main Public Exam Season Begins
Tuesday 12th May	Year 9 Strive To Be Your Best Evening 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Monday 18th — Friday 22nd May	Year 12 end of Year Exams Begin
Tuesday 19th May	Year 8 Strive to Be Your Best Evening 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Friday 22nd May	Last Day before Half Term
Monday 25th - Friday 29th May	Half Term
Monday 1st June	First Day of School - Students return at 8.45am

