

Staying

Connected

Parent / Carer Bulletin



July 2026



ROOKS HEATH SCHOOL
Strive to be your best

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, I am delighted to share with you this edition of our Summer Newsletter, which celebrates the many achievements, experiences and successes of our students and staff over the past term.

As you read through these pages, I hope you will be as proud as I am of everything our young people have accomplished. Whether excelling in the classroom, representing the school at awards evenings, taking part in educational visits, leading environmental initiatives, supporting charitable causes or embracing enrichment opportunities, our students have continued to demonstrate the values that lie at the heart of our school community. This newsletter paints a wonderful picture of the breadth of opportunities and achievements across the school; from academic excellence in Science, History and English, to enrichment through Jamie's Farm, celebration evenings, reading, environmental projects, student leadership, celebrating the Windrush generation and community engagement.

This year has truly been one in which our **TRACK** values: **Teamwork, Resilience, Achievement, Creativity and Kindness**, have shone through in everything we do. These values are evident in the determination of our students to achieve their best, the care they show towards one another, the creativity they bring to their learning, and the resilience they demonstrate when facing new challenges. They continue to make me incredibly proud to be Headteacher of Rooks Heath School.

Our newsletter captures only a snapshot of school life. Behind every article is the dedication of our talented staff, who work tirelessly to provide high-quality learning experiences and opportunities beyond the classroom, and the unwavering support of our parents, carers and governors, whose partnership is invaluable. Thank you for everything you do to support your children and our school community.

I would also like to congratulate our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they complete this important stage of their education. We wish them every success as they await their examination results and prepare for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. We look forward to celebrating with them in August.

Finally, I would like to thank every member of the Rooks Heath community for making this another memorable and successful year. I hope you enjoy reading about the many highlights featured in this newsletter and seeing first-hand the remarkable achievements of our students.

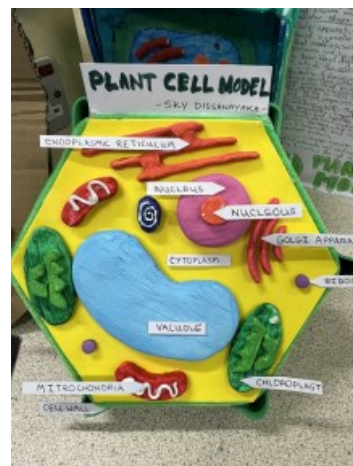
On behalf of all the staff at Rooks Heath School, I wish you and your family a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break. If the hot weather continues, well, embrace and enjoy it. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning, opportunity and success.

Mrs Miriam Manderson
Headteacher

Modelling in Science

Mrs S. Rahman

Science students at Rooks Heath love modelling to help visualise and understand complex ideas in a hands-on and engaging way. Our Year 7 students have demonstrated this brilliantly by creating a wonderful range of model cells, showcasing both their creativity and their scientific knowledge and skills.



Did you know Post 16 Science students also model quite complex things too?

Year 12 BTEC Applied Scientists are learning about kidney function and diseases through model making. They constructed a model of a kidney which has millions of nephrons that filter out waste such as toxins, water, salts etc to keep us healthy. Kidneys make proteins that regulate blood pressure, erythropoietin to stimulate production of red blood cells to enable the body to undertake metabolic activities. In the model made, the learner carefully selected the thickness of the medulla to reflect human kidney function to compare with a kangaroo rat whose medulla is seven times thicker to survive dry desert conditions.



Year 12 Biology students created models of the phospholipid bilayer which surrounds every one of our body cells! Did you know that the phospholipid bilayer is self-healing. If a small tear forms in the membrane, the phospholipids will automatically rearrange themselves so that their water-repelling (hydrophobic) tails stay hidden from water, effectively sealing the gap without any external help. This property is essential for keeping cells intact and functioning properly, even when they experience minor damage.



Making Aspirin!

Mrs S. Rahman

Did you know that our BTEC Applied Science and A Level Chemistry students actually make aspirin from scratch as part of their course?

The whole process from start to finish can take over five hours and involves techniques such as reflux, filtration under reduced pressure and recrystallisation to produce the purest aspirin possible. Students then test how pure their final product is using techniques such as TLC (Thin Layer Chromatography) and also by measuring its melting point and comparing it to known data on aspirin. Aspirin's discovery is one of medicine's most fascinating evolutions. Starting from a natural willow bark remedy into a mass produced painkiller, and eventually into a life-saving cardiovascular and anti-cancer wonder drug.

Weighing the reactants



Reflux



Cooling allows the aspirin crystals to form



Filtrating



Final Product



Testing purity using a melting point machine



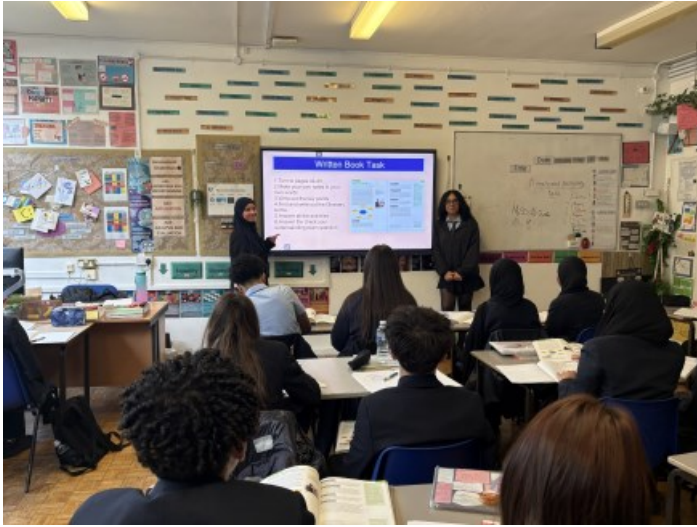
Year 7 Pinhole Camera Making

Ms M. Falcon Santana

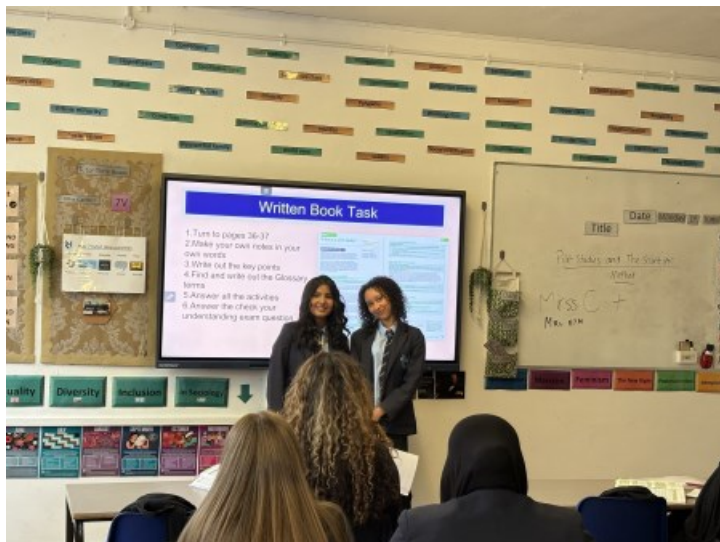
Year 7 students made models of a pin-hole camera which is a simple, yet powerful model used to explain how the human eye processes light to form images.

Sociology Research Methods

Ms S. Gardezi



Our Year 10 Sociology students have been exploring research methods through microteaching. Taking turns to act as teachers, they have co-taught lessons to their classmates, showing excellent engagement, creativity, and collaboration while reinforcing their own understanding of the topic.



Code Breaking History!

Mr C. Liberty

While learning about the code breaking and enigma machine during World War 2, Year 8s were able to use a real morse code machine, with Riley from 8V correctly sending his name via morse code (after a few attempts)!



Clink Museum History Trip

Mr C. Liberty



Year 10 History students enjoyed an educational and fun trip to the Clink Prison Museum in London. They were guided on a tour by our medieval jailer and learned about the usual and often brutal methods of punishment used throughout history.

Afterwards, students saw the sights of London, crossing Tower Bridge and observing landmarks such as HMS Belfast and the Tower of London.



Year 7 Are Taking Charge of Our Planet!

Ms P. Samms

We had a fantastic assembly earlier this term, in collaboration with 'Refillabell'!

A huge thank you to our guest speaker Sameer for showing us the power of reusing plastic and how small changes make a massive impact.

7 Yellow are so inspired that they have officially launched a **Battery Recycling Competition for Year 7s!**



Stay tuned for more details on how you can get involved and help your class win. Let's start collecting!

Year 7 Jamie's Farm Retreat: 1st June – 5th June 2026

Ms P. Samms

Days 1 & 2: Settling In & Farm Life

We arrived safely at Jamie's Farm in Shockerwick near Bath, and the adventure was officially underway the minute we stepped off the bus! The British weather gave us a classic welcome - a bit of rain but that did not dampen our spirits in the slightest. We tackled a full tour of the farm, enjoyed a long walk, and wrapped up the night with some brilliant team games.

After a great night's sleep, everyone woke up refreshed and ready to jump straight into morning activities.



Our fantastic Ambassadors were incredibly busy! In the kitchen, one team cooked up a storm for breakfast, while others were out feeding the animals and making sure they were cozy and comfortable.

The rest of our early days on the farm included:

- **Gardening & Log chopping**
- **Sheep shearing**
- **Cooking delicious lunches and dinners**

Days 3 & 4: Challenges, Hikes & Celebrations

After a long, rewarding walk - or a "hike," as our Ambassadors proudly called it - we arrived back at the farm to enjoy great food and finish up our Movie Night film.

All that fresh air certainly prepared us for a lovely, peaceful night's sleep!

The following morning, everyone jumped right back into their usual chores. Later, we hosted a special celebration evening filled with fantastic food and entertainment, all led by our incredible Ambassadors.

As part of the Bertha Earth program, we were deeply focused on five of the "10 Cs" throughout the week. Here is a look at what we explored:

- **Monday (Connection):** Connecting with each other and with nature.
- **Tuesday (Collaboration):** Learning how we work together as a team.
- **Wednesday (Challenge):** Watching each Ambassador challenge themselves and support one another.
- **Thursday (Celebration):** A chance for the Ambassadors to celebrate themselves, each other, and our natural planet.
- **Friday (Change):** Reflecting on how this journey has changed us.

The aftermath of our big walk - followed by the perfect opportunity to run and scream in the beautiful countryside - can be seen in our photos!

Day 5: The Final Reflection & Looking Forward

Our incredible adventure at Jamie's Farm officially came to an end, and what a truly unforgettable week it was!



We could not be prouder of our Ambassadors. The Jamie's Farm staff showered our group with praise, commenting on their fantastic behaviour, their enthusiasm, and their willingness to dive head first into farm life. From early morning chores to tackling tough new tasks, they constantly challenged themselves and grew as individuals.

On our final evening together, we celebrated in style. The highlights included:

- A delicious celebration meal, proudly prepared by our very own Ambassadors.
- Wonderful, heartfelt performances from the group.
- An exciting murder mystery game and a scavenger hunt!

During our final reflection, the group celebrated one another. Every single Ambassador highlighted how much the week had meant to them, with new friendships, challenges, and skills being the standout themes of the night. Each Ambassador was recognised with positivity by the Jamie's Farm staff, who highlighted their wonderful achievements - it was a deeply impressive and emotional moment for them all.

As we packed up our bags on Friday, our focus shifted to the final "C": **Change**. Before leaving, we spent time reflecting on how our experience has changed the Ambassadors, and what positive changes we could make moving forward -both for ourselves and for our environment.

To our parents, carers, and staff: thank you for allowing our Ambassadors to participate in this wonderful adventure. It was an absolute privilege to watch them grow, and we truly hope this experience makes a lasting, positive difference in their lives.



RHS Book Club

Ms P. Samms

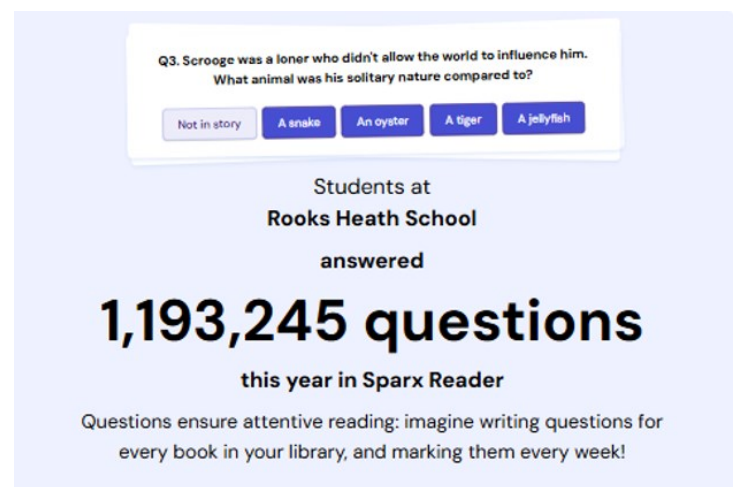
RHS Book Club celebrated PRIDE in June!



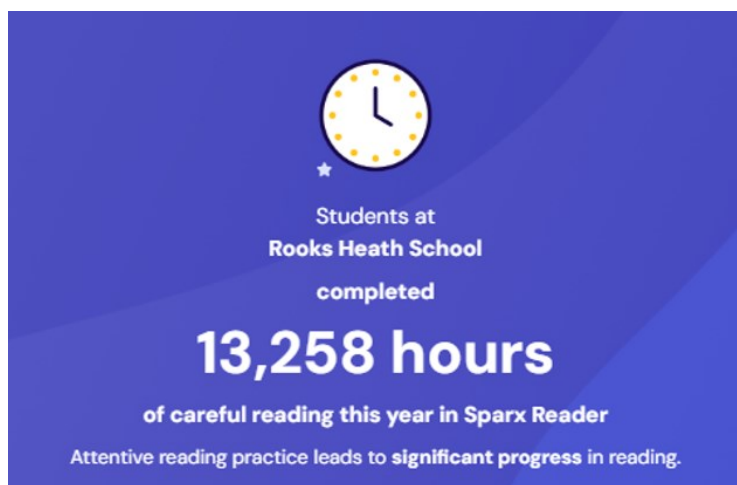
Join us for Book Club! Week One Monday in the library from 12.40pm.

Sparx Reader Achievements

Ms K. Clark



So far, Rooks Heath students have managed to read over one hundred million words and answer over a million questions on the Sparx Reader platform. What an amazing achievement!



Mark Evison Foundation: Baking Competition at RHS and Bake Sale at Earlsmead

Ms C. McCutcheon



We are excited to share that one of our 6th Form student groups has successfully been awarded funding from The Mark Evison Foundation. The Foundation was established in memory of Margaret's son; Mark Evison who was part of the British Army and sadly lost his life. Mark was known for his adventurous spirit, and the Foundation's mission is to support young people in taking on new challenges and experiences that help develop lifelong skills, confidence and resilience.

One of our student groups embraced this opportunity by organising a 'Great British Bake Off'-style competition. Their project involved baking three delicious treats

and competing against one another to create the best baked goods within a three-hour challenge. The entire experience was filmed and will be edited into a short series to showcase their journey.

In addition to the baking challenge, the students independently liaised with Earlsmead School and organised a bake sale to raise further funds. As part of the Foundation's ethos, students are expected to take ownership of their projects with minimal adult involvement, making their achievement even more impressive. After using our Food Tech facilities to prepare their bakes, they successfully hosted the sale at Earlsmead, by transporting the goods over and demonstrated excellent teamwork, communication, organisation and problem-solving skills throughout.



So far, they have managed to raise £120 in cash and £46 via their JustGiving campaign! Please join us in congratulating them on their efforts and commitment; Bableen, Sneha, Jahnavi, Imani, Neha and Moon. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Food Department for accommodating the students and supporting them on the day, and to Ms Samadi for assisting with the filming and generously loaning equipment. Thank you also to Mrs Wright for taking time out of her day to help us transport the goods to Earlsmead in the mini bus!

Our students are trying to raise as much funds as possible to be in with a chance of getting a gold award! If you are willing and able, please visit their donation page to make a contribution:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/neha-suresh-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



Scan to donate



Year 9 Immerse Themselves in the Drama of Macbeth

Ms N. Cohen

Recently, we welcomed Splat's Panto Circus Shakespeare to Rooks Heath where they showcased a performance of Macbeth for our Year 9 students. Three actors took on all the roles in the play and, through costume changes, conveyed the different characters brilliantly for the students.

A select number of Year 9s were treated to a question-and-answer session afterwards and found the whole experience an exciting and unique look into the world of Shakespeare and Macbeth!



Refugee Week 15th - 21st June 2026

Ms P. Samms

During Refugee Week, we celebrated the resilience, creativity, and incredible contributions of refugees in our communities.

Home is not just a place - it is the safety, hope, and connection we build together.



Celebrating Success at the DVS Foundation Annual Awards 2026

Ms C. McCutcheon



On Thursday 25th June, we were incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of ten outstanding Year 12 students at the DVS Foundation Annual Awards Ceremony, held at The Manor, Elstree.

The DVS Awards were established to recognise and reward Year 12 students who consistently demonstrate exceptional character, values and contributions throughout the academic year. The programme celebrates students who embody qualities such as leadership, kindness, resilience, ambition, integrity, teamwork and community impact, acknowledging not only academic success but the personal qualities that make a lasting difference within our school and wider community. The awards also provide students with an invaluable opportunity to celebrate their achievements alongside peers from schools across the region while gaining inspiration from industry professionals and community leaders.

We are delighted to announce our award winners:

Leadership: Danya

Ambition: Kashish

Resilience: Azza

Personal Growth: Imani

Teamwork and Collaboration: Bableen

Innovative Thinking: Abdikadir

Community Impact: Neha

Environmental Stewardship: Maryam

Integrity and Respect: Dhavan

Kindness: Anamika



Windrush Day 2026: Celebrating a Legacy That Shaped Modern Britain

Ms P. Samms

On Monday 22nd June, communities across the UK came together to celebrate Windrush Day 2026. This year marks the 78th anniversary of a defining chapter in British history: the arrival of the *HMT Empire Windrush* at Tilbury Docks in 1948.

Following the devastation of the Second World War, Britain faced a massive labour shortage. The British government put out a call to the Commonwealth for help to rebuild the nation. Hundreds of Caribbean men, women, and children answered that call, stepping off the Windrush to build new lives here.

The Windrush Generation did far more than provide vital skills and labour to transport systems, manufacturing, and our newly formed National Health Service (NHS). They brought with them a rich tapestry of culture, resilience, and creativity.

From the introduction of Caribbean cuisine and vibrant music genres like reggae and calypso, which directly paved the way for events like the Notting Hill Carnival, Reggae Festival - creating an unstoppable community spirit, they radically transformed and enriched British society.

The diverse, dynamic Britain we live in today was fundamentally shaped by their contributions.

Did You Know?

The *HMT Empire Windrush* carried 1,027 passengers on that historic 1948 voyage. Among them were over 800 passengers from the Caribbean, including wartime RAF veterans, cricket fans, musicians, and families looking for new opportunities.

What an opportunity to talk about heritage, the journeys that shape families, and what makes our diverse school community so special!



RHS Book Club Celebrating the Vibrant Voices of Caribbean Literature

Ms P. Samms

In June, RHS Book Club turned our bookshelves and our hearts toward the rich, dynamic literary landscape of the Caribbean.

Here are some incredible books to add to your reading list this month:

Jamaica - Queenie by Candice Carty-Williams

Dominican Republic - The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo

Barbados/Jamaica - Face by Benjamin Zephaniah

Jamaica - The Mercy Step by Marcia Hutchinson

Dominican Republic - Clap when you Land by Elizabeth Acevedo

Barbados - Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman

Barbados/Jamaica - Cuts both ways by Candice Brathwaite

Greece/Jamaica - Black Flamingo by Dean Atta

Grenada - Trace of Sun by Pam Williams

Jamaica - The Unbelonging by Joan Riley

Jamaica - The Future Telling by James Berry

Guyana/India - Rat by Patrice Lawrence

India - Homegirl by Alex Wheatle

Happy Reading!



Prom Night:Year 11 Celebrate in Style!

Ms H. Grover

The Year 11s marked the end of their exams — and for many, their time at Rooks Heath — by celebrating in true style at the Year 11 Prom on the 25th of June.

This year's venue, The Fairway Pavilion in Greenford, was a beautiful setting for a memorable evening. Despite the heat, students and staff enjoyed the music, food, and drinks, and the hugely popular 360 photo booth! We also paused to award raffle prizes and announce the Prom King and Queen, adding to the excitement of the night. It was a wonderful send-off for our students, and we wish them all the very best for the future.





*Year 11 Prom Thursday 25th June 2026
The Fairway Pavilion Greenford*



*Year 11 Prom Thursday 25th June 2026
The Fairway Pavilion Greenford*



Year 9 and 10 Celebration Evening

Mr P.Todd & Mr P. Parkinson

Our Year 9 & 10 Celebration Evening was a fantastic occasion, recognising and rewarding the outstanding academic achievements, commitment and determination of our students throughout the academic year.

In front of proud parents, carers and staff, students were presented with awards celebrating not only exceptional attainment, but also the resilience, perseverance and dedication they have shown in their learning. The evening was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the hard work that often takes place behind the scenes and to celebrate the success of so many deserving young people.

The atmosphere was one of pride and celebration, with families sharing in the achievements of their children and applauding the accomplishments of their peers. It was a reminder that academic success is built on consistent effort, positive attitudes and a willingness to strive for excellence.

Congratulations to every student who received an award. We are incredibly proud of all that you have achieved this year and look forward to seeing you continue to flourish in the year ahead.



Year 7 and 8 Celebration Evening

Ms H. Capper & Mr S. Sharp

What a truly wonderful and memorable celebration it was. Despite the exceptionally warm and challenging conditions, students, parents, carers, siblings, and friends attended in impressive numbers to celebrate the many outstanding achievements of our Year 7 and Year 8 students.

It was incredibly heartening to see the hall filled to capacity with proud supporters, all gathered to recognise and applaud the hard work, dedication, resilience, and success demonstrated by our students throughout the year.

The atmosphere was one of pride, joy, and achievement as students were recognised for their accomplishments across every aspect of school life. From academic excellence and exceptional effort to contributions in sport, the arts and the wider school community, the ceremony provided a fitting opportunity to celebrate the diverse talents and achievements of our young people.



Year 9 Students Embrace Chinese Culture!

Ms Y. Sun

Our Year 9 Mandarin Excellence Programme students have been enjoying their enriching and memorable exchange visit in China, which began with an opening ceremony and ice-breaker activities that helped them build friendships with their Chinese peers.

Throughout the first week, students immersed themselves in Chinese culture through hands-on experiences, including Tea Baixi tea art, kung fu, Wuqinxi exercises, dragon dance, Hanfu traditions, Chinese painting, and Peking Opera mask painting. They also explored modern innovations by taking part in AI and 3D printing activities alongside creative tie-dye and acrylic painting workshops at a local middle school.

The group also visited the Hubei Provincial Museum to learn about ancient Chinese history and music, including a live performance of bronze chime bells, and enjoyed a scenic evening cruise on the Yangtze River. The programme provided a unique blend of cultural discovery, learning, creativity, and friendship, leaving students with lasting memories and a deeper appreciation of China's rich heritage.





Year 10 Food Practical Preparation Success

Ms I.Abdi

A huge well done to Year 10 — they were fantastic in their practical exam! From pasta dough to choux pastry, students demonstrated impressive technical skills and real confidence in the kitchen. This was brilliant preparation for their Year 11 food exams and gave them a strong understanding of what to expect in their GCSE Non-Exam Assessments.

Huge congratulations to our mock exam stars: Omar, Klara, Maja, and Krish— outstanding work!





Art & DT Exhibition Success

Ms N. Kara

On Monday 6th July, the Art and DT Departments proudly hosted the annual Art & DT Exhibition, showcasing an outstanding collection of work produced by our KS3 and KS4 students throughout the year. The exhibition was a great success, with students and staff enjoying the opportunity to celebrate the creativity, talent and hard work of our young artists and designers. We received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback, and we would like to thank everyone who visited and supported the exhibition, helping to make it such a memorable event.



Disability Pride Month

Ms P. Samms

July is Disability Pride Month, and we're celebrating the best way we know how: through incredible stories!

This month, RHS Book Club's reading is centred on disabled joy and authentic lived experiences - not just trauma or inspiration tropes.



YOUR TEXTILES DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOU!

Ms K. Kaur

We are collecting donations of fabric (no satin/ lycra / stretchy fabric please), stuffing, threads, buttons, sequins, buttons, fabric pens and other textile supplies. If you have any unwanted materials at home, please consider donating them to help inspire the next generation of designers and makers.

We are also looking for any working sewing machines that you may wish to donate to us too!

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Open Evening — Save The Date!

Rooks Heath School warmly invites
you and your child to attend our

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday
9th September
5.00pm

"Pupils are happy and safe" at this school.

Ofsted 2024

Rooks Heath School, Eastcote Lane, South Harrow, HA2 9AH

ROOKS HEATH SCHOOL
Strive to be your best



Tel: 020 8422 4675

www.rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk

Year 12 Health & Social Care Students Launch Powerful Awareness Campaigns

Mrs R. Gill

As part of their Health and Social Care coursework, Year 12 students recently planned and delivered awareness campaigns focusing on two important topics: smoking and vaping and mental health.

Working in groups, students researched their chosen topic before designing informative and engaging presentations aimed at younger students. They presented their campaigns to several Year 8 tutor groups, using interactive activities to encourage participation and discussion. Alongside their presentations, the students produced informative brochures to reinforce the key messages and provide useful information for their audience to take away.

At the end of each session, the Year 8 students were invited to complete feedback sheets, allowing the Year 12s to evaluate the effectiveness of their campaigns. The feedback, together with evidence of the planning and organisation involved in the event, will form an important part of their coursework assessment.

The Year 12 students represented themselves exceptionally well throughout the project. They presented with confidence, professionalism and enthusiasm, creating a welcoming environment where Year 8s felt comfortable engaging with the topics and asking questions. Their hard work, creativity and commitment to raising awareness of these important health issues made the campaigns both informative and impactful.



Goodbye Mrs S Ul-Haq

Mrs S. Rahman

After an extraordinary 43-year career in teaching, we bid a fond farewell to Science teacher Mrs Ul-Haq as she begins her well-deserved retirement.

Mrs Ul-Haq has been a valued member of our Rooks Heath family for 38 years, inspiring generations of students through her passion, dedication, and expertise in Science and specialism A Level Biology.

As Head of Science for nine years, she led the department with vision, commitment, and unwavering support for both staff and students. An exceptional teacher, colleague, and mentor, she has made a lasting impact on countless young people, encouraging them to develop a love of science and achieve their full potential.

Mrs Ul-Haq's warmth, enthusiasm, and professionalism have made her greatly respected and deeply loved by all who have had the privilege of working with her. She will be missed enormously, and we thank her for her outstanding contribution to our school. We wish her every happiness, good health, and success in this exciting new chapter of her life.



Goodbye! Farewell!

Rooks Heath says thank you and farewell to the following members of staff:

Mr Osei-Bonsu

Ms Owen-Culverhouse

Ms McGinnes

Ms Hussain

Mr Wilson

Ms Schmahl

Mrs Ul-Haq

Welcome! Welcome!

Rooks Heath is delighted to welcome a number of new staff to the school who are sure to contribute to what makes Rooks Heath a special place to work and learn.

We also have two new heads of department: Mr Dix is now Head of PE and Mr Liberty is now Head of History.

We also have two new Heads of Year: Ms Abbott will be the Head of Year 7, and Ms Majid will be the interim Head of Year 8.

The Rooks Heath community would like to wish Ms Capper all the very best as she embarks on her maternity leave. May she enjoy this wonderful new chapter with her family.





FIELD DAY 2026



Attendance Award Triumph!



National School Attendance Award

2025/26 Spring Term



Rooks Heath School

Top 25% of similar FFT Secondary Schools in England

Dates	
Friday 17th July 2026	Last Day of Term — students dismissed at 12:30pm
Thursday 13th August 2026	A Level Results Day
Thursday 20th August 2026	GCSE Results Day
Thursday 3rd September 2026	Half-day for Year 7 and Year 12 — Induction Day
Friday 4th September 2026	All Year Groups in from 11:35am Tutor Time
Wednesday 9th September 2026	Open Evening—Early finish for students 12:35pm
Wednesday 9th September 2026	Open Evening (5pm—7:30pm) for New Year 7 students 2027
Thursday 10th September 2026	Late start for students—9:45am
Friday 16th October 2026	Last day before half-term (normal finish time)
Monday 20th October –Friday 31st October 2026	Two-week half-term

