Staying Connected

Parent / Carer Bulletin

ROOKS HEATH SCHOOL
Strive to be your best

Autumn 2026



Welcome Back!

Welcome to a new academic year at Rooks Heath School.

It has been a genuine pleasure to welcome all our students back after the summer break, and in particular our new Year 7 students as they begin their journey with us. They have made an exceptional start and look incredibly smart in their new uniforms. Starting secondary school is a significant milestone, and we would like to thank all parents and carers for the vital role you have played in ensuring such a positive beginning. Your support, encouragement and preparation make an enormous difference.

One of the highlights of our first few weeks was seeing a room packed with parents and carers eager to hear about school life and to contribute to creating our vibrant PTFA. The enthusiasm, ideas and commitment on display were fantastic. We are keen to build on this momentum and encourage even more parents to get involved. We want to sustain the very best aspects of the primary school PTFA experience: fundraising, fun events, community spirit and active engagement with school life. When families and schools work together, it truly makes all the difference.

This year, our School Improvement Plan is centred around three simple but powerful words:
Learn. Belong. Lead.

These three words capture the core business of what we are striving to achieve at Rooks Heath School. We want every student to learn, developing the knowledge, skills and character needed for future success. We want every member of our community to feel a genuine sense of belonging, knowing that they are valued, supported and included. And we want everyone, students and staff alike, to lead: to take ownership of their education, their professional development and ultimately their own destiny.

These principles will help us secure the success we want for all our students, year after year. A key focus to ensure learning happens this year, will be homework. We know that purposeful practice beyond the classroom has a significant impact on achievement, and we will be working closely with students and families to ensure homework becomes an even stronger driver of success.

However, school life is about much more than academic achievement alone. We want students to enjoy their time at school, discover new interests and build lasting friendships. As I write this article, I have just come from watching over 50 students participating in basketball trials, while another 25 students were taking part in our new Fundamentals of Muay Thai programme. Both activities are led by expert coaches and have generated tremendous enthusiasm. Clubs, teams, performances, trips and enrichment opportunities are an essential part of school life. They help students develop confidence, resilience and, perhaps most importantly, a sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves.

As you read this newsletter, we hope you enjoy celebrating the many achievements, opportunities and

continued overleaf...

experiences that make our school such a special place. More than that, we hope it strengthens the connection between school and home, bringing school life into your homes and helping every family feel part of our community.
Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a successful and exciting year ahead.
Enjoy this newsletter and, above all, enjoy being part of the Rooks Heath School community.

Mrs Manderson
Headteacher

Mandarin Outreach Visit

Miss Sun



As part of our Mandarin outreach Programme, Ms Sun and Ms Liu took a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students to the Alec Reed Academy to support their sixth formers in preparing for their upcoming educational trips to China, joined by Harlington School.
Our students shared their experiences, key takeaways, and personal highlights from previous visits to China, offering valuable advice on what to expect and how to prepare.
They spoke about Chinese culture, daily life, travel tips, language skills, and the importance of being open-minded and adaptable when experiencing a new environment. Their presentations were informative, engaging, and well received by the audience, helping to build excitement and confidence among students who will be travelling to China in the near future.

Celebrating a Brilliant Launch for Bertha Earth!

Miss Samms

We are thrilled to announce the successful launch of the third year of our Bertha Earth programme!
Our new Year 7 students kicked off the journey by learning what it truly means to be the next generation of changemakers. Through inspiring storytelling, powerful connection activities, and invaluable testimonials from our Year 8 Alumni of 2025/2026, our newest students are already geared up to protect our planet.

Calling All Future Changemakers!

We are now looking for 30 passionate Ambassadors from this year's Year 7 cohort to step forward and help lead the charge in making real changes for our planet.



A Huge Thank You!

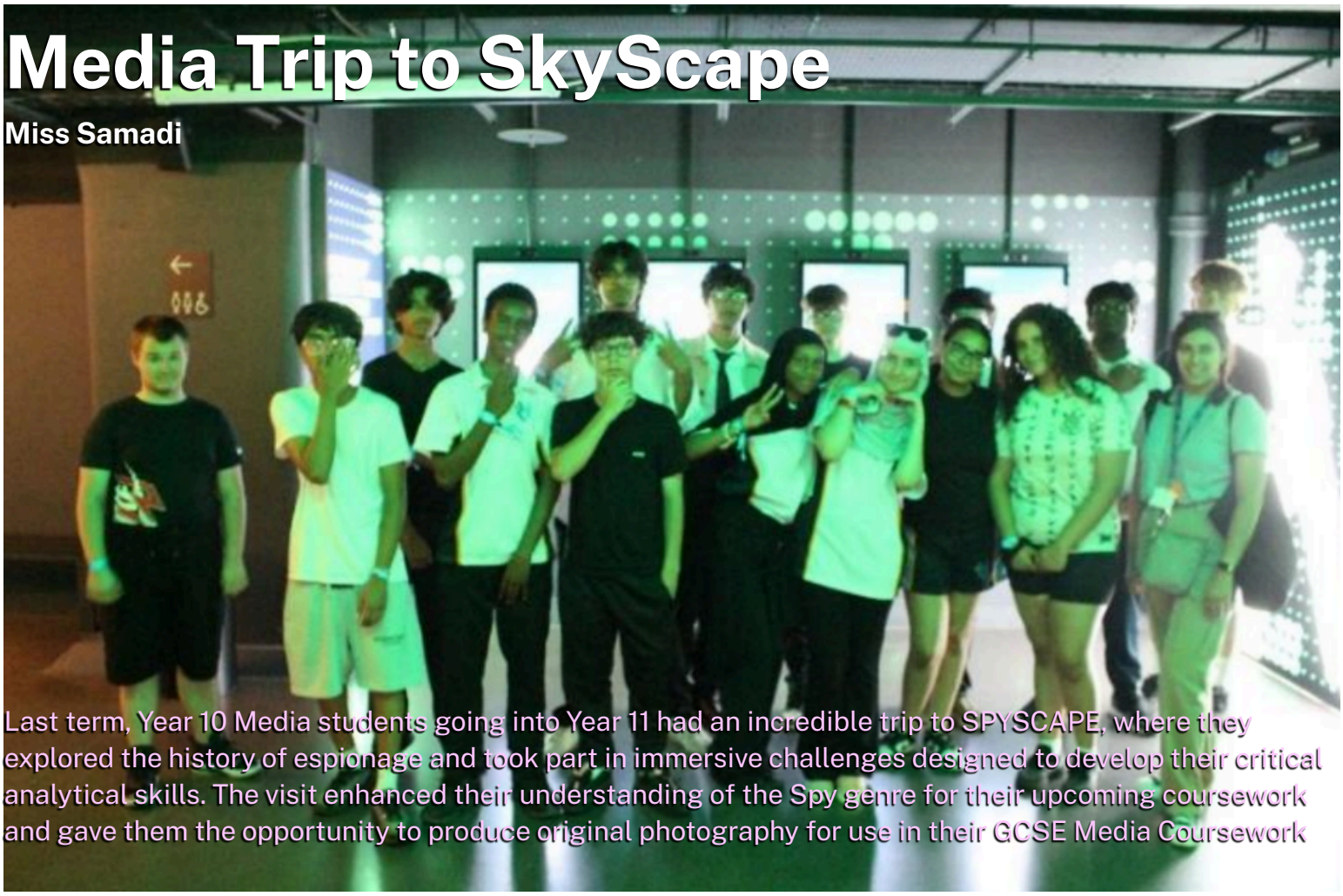
Events like this don't happen without incredible teamwork.
We would like to extend a special shout-out to the following staff:

- Mrs Leonard, Mrs Valcheva and Mr Dix for their guidance and support.
- Mr Tripathi for expertly troubleshooting all ICT glitches on the fly.
- Mrs Kilroy for keeping everything running smoothly, making sure everyone was in the right place at the right time.
- All of our wonderful staff whose helpfulness made this launch possible!

Thank you all!

Media Trip to SkyScape

Miss Samadi



Last term, Year 10 Media students going into Year 11 had an incredible trip to SPYSCAPE, where they explored the history of espionage and took part in immersive challenges designed to develop their critical analytical skills. The visit enhanced their understanding of the Spy genre for their upcoming coursework and gave them the opportunity to produce original photography for use in their GCSE Media Coursework

Year 10 Media Studies: Creativity in the Studio

Miss Samadi

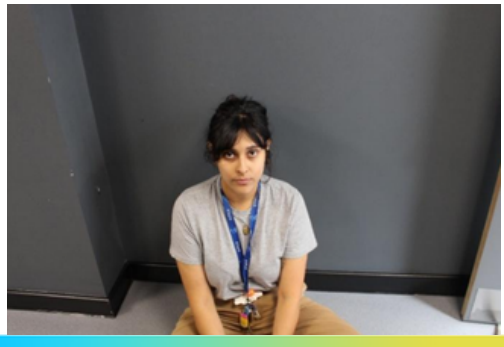
Our Year 10 Media Studies students recently took part in a highly engaging practical lesson in the studio, working collaboratively in teams to demonstrate their understanding of camera angles by experimenting with high-angle, low-angle and close-up shots, discussing how these techniques can create different meanings and shape audience perceptions.

By the end of the lesson, students were fully immersed in the activity. A particular highlight was Leilah's commitment to achieving the perfect low-angle shot, lying flat on the ground to present Renee as a powerful and domineering figure. Ashraf impressed with his range of facial expressions during close-up photography.

We were especially proud of Gabriel, who participated in his own way, he worked alongside me to create a series of high-angle and low-angle shots, demonstrating his understanding of the techniques and their effects. It was fantastic to see students applying theory in a practical context, developing both their technical skills and their understanding of how media representations are constructed. Well done, Year 10!







PE Fixture Games Reports

Year 9 Football - Rooks Heath V Park High (2-1 Win)



Mr Dix

A fantastic recent performance from the Year 9 football team, securing a hard-fought 2-1 victory for Rooks Heath. The boys showed tremendous resilience after going 1-0 down, battling their way back into the game and eventually securing the win, with Ky and Able both finding the back of the net.

The game was competitive throughout, with the boys also having to overcome a challenging atmosphere from the opposition supporters. Their ability to stay focused and composed under pressure was a real credit to them. This victory was particularly special as it marked Rooks Heath's first 11-a-side football win in three years. A fantastic achievement and a brilliant example of the resilience, determination and team spirit shown by the team.

Year 8 Basketball - Tournament - (2nd Place finish)

A fantastic showing from our Year 8 basketball team at the tournament. The boys played some excellent basketball throughout the day, securing three impressive wins and suffering just two defeats.

Their teamwork, energy and determination were clear to see, and finishing in 2nd place overall represents a fantastic achievement for the Year 8 ballers. They should be extremely proud of the way they competed and represented Rooks Heath. Well done, team!



Year 9 Football - Rooks Heath V Whitmore (4-4 draw)

An entertaining and highly competitive game earlier this term saw our Year 9 football team battle to a 4-4 draw. The match was back and forth from start to finish, with both sides displaying plenty of fantastic talent and producing an exciting contest. Although the boys were disappointed not to come away with the victory, there were plenty of positives to take from the performance. Once again, they showed great resilience, fighting back after going 4-3 down to score the equaliser and secure a well-earned draw. A strong performance from the boys and another example of their determination to keep battling right until the final whistle.

METROPOLITAN POLICE

MORE TRUST | LESS CRIME | HIGH STANDARDS

MET ENGAGE

Community crime-fighting



Welcome to Met Engage

We're transforming the Met to become a service that truly delivers for you.

Through our new platform Met Engage you can get to know your local officers, help shape how we police your local area and have direct access to key information and advice.

This isn't just a platform for us to tell you what we're doing in your area, it's an opportunity for you to tell us what's concerning you most so we can take action on the things that truly matter to you.

SIGN UP NOW to tell us what matters most to YOU **metengage.co.uk**

Celebrating Black History Month at RHS Book Club!

Miss Samms



Our Black History Month celebrations for the RHS Book Club got off to an incredible at the start of October!

In alignment with the national BHM 2026 theme - 'Honouring Our Communities' we were thrilled to welcome our special guest speaker, Mrs Manderson. She delivered a truly inspiring session honouring a Book Club favourite author: Candace Brathwaite and her brilliant book, Sista Sister. Sista Sister is a powerful collection of essays written directly to young girls, exploring



vital topics like friendship, hair, family, and self-love. To bring the themes of the book to life, Mrs Manderson treated our bookish group to an interactive experience:

• Personal "relics": Students got to see and touch meaningful historical and personal relics from Mrs Manderson's own past, discovering how deeply they connected to the essays in the book.

• Patois Challenge: our bookish attendees dived into Jamaican patois, testing their skills with an engaging game to guess the meanings of various words and phrases.

What an extraordinary, hands-on way to kick off October's Black History Month!

A massive thank you to Mrs Manderson for such a memorable session. Stay tuned for more Book Club updates as our BHM celebrations continue!

From Tanks to Teamwork:
A Fantastic Day at the Imperial War Museum

Dawood, 9V

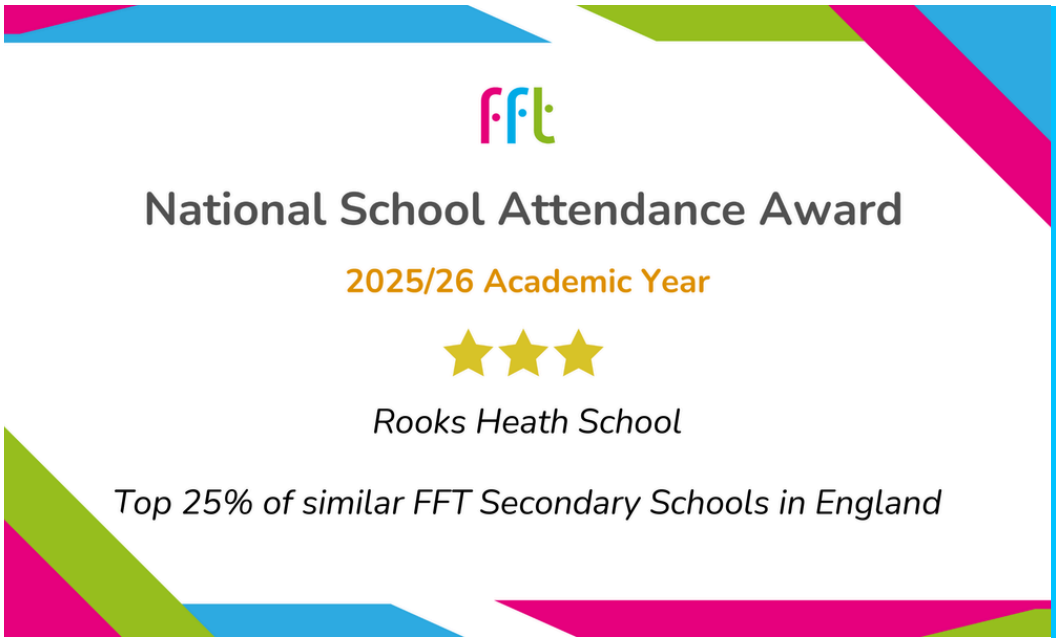
On Monday 12th October, the Year 9 Most Able group visited the Imperial War Museum, thanks to the 'Inspire' programme. During the first half of the trip, we collaborated in groups of three and created short documentaries, showcasing different historical artifacts in the World War Two exhibition. It was a wonderful activity, as we not only practised our teamwork skills but also our presentation skills which we had been developing in our Most Able sessions already. It was different to anything I had done before! For the second half of the trip, we explored the whole museum; a particular highlight of my exploration was the Rolls Royce engine which was used in the war and the massive tanks. In essence, my trip to the Imperial War Museum was amazing and I highly recommend this activity to other Inspire schools. It was fascinating to see genuine wartime artefacts up close and gain a deeper understanding of the people, technology and events that shaped World Wars One and Two.

Choices for Change



Mr Parkinson

Six Year 10 students are currently taking part in Choices for Change, a 12-week targeted mentoring programme delivered in partnership with Watford FC CSE Trust. The programme aims to build students' confidence, resilience and essential life skills through six weeks of social action, followed by six weeks working towards a recognised qualification in Sports Leadership. Students will develop valuable leadership, teamwork and communication skills, helping them make a positive contribution to their school and wider community while gaining a qualification to support their future pathways.



Rooks Heath has won an FFT National Attendance Award! The Fischer Family Trust recognises schools with particularly strong pupil attendance. Congratulations and thank you to all our staff, pupils, parents, and carers who have worked together to achieve this - good attendance takes work from everyone, and this award recognises it.

Dates for your Diary	
Monday 19th - Friday 30th October	Half Term Holiday
Monday 9th - Friday 27th November	Year 11 Mock Exams
Thursday 12th November	6th Form Open Evening for Year 12
Wednesday 25th November	Year 7 Settling in Evening
Thursday 26th November	Winter Music Concert
Monday 30th November - Friday 4th December	6th Form Mock Exams
Tuesday 1st December	PTFA Meeting (via Teams)
Wednesday 9th December	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Friday 18th December	End of Autumn Term (early finish)

FFT National Attendance Award 2025/26