

Staying Connected

Parent / Carer Bulletin



January 2025



Mrs Manderson

We had a busy Autumn term and have started the Spring term well. I would like you to take a moment to reflect on the many successes of Rooks Heath. Last term we saw an incredible amount of excellent student work. As I walk the corridors and drop into lessons, I am continually blown away by the quality of teaching and learning taking place. During our Learning Walk week last term, I had the pleasure of being allocated lessons by two historians—sessions that can only be described as inspirational. If this is the daily “diet” our students are receiving, then hats off to just a few of our teachers, Mr Matthews, Ms McGinnes and Mr Liberty. Of course, there are many more I could name, but the list would be endless! Please do take a look at the lovely examples of Year 7 work featured in this newsletter.

Our Year 7 students have settled in brilliantly, already leading assemblies with confidence and maturity. This is exactly what we strive for at Rooks Heath—providing opportunities that build self belief and resilience. It has been wonderful to see them grow in assurance and begin to make their mark on our school community.

Meanwhile, Year 11 have worked productively through their mock exams, showing determination and focus in their revision. Their efforts will stand them in good stead as they prepare for the challenges ahead.

Beyond the classroom, last term was filled with a plethora of activity including:

- Annual Winter concert showcasing student talent.
- Royal Institute of Science visit inspiring curiosity.
- Anti-Bullying Week reinforcing kindness and respect.
- Rookery team inspection success: 99.5%.
- New firesafe doors installed across the school.
- Black History Month competition winner, receiving a signed copy of the Headteacher’s book.
- Sixth Form Open Evening with record numbers from other schools.
- Battle of the Bands bringing energy and creativity.



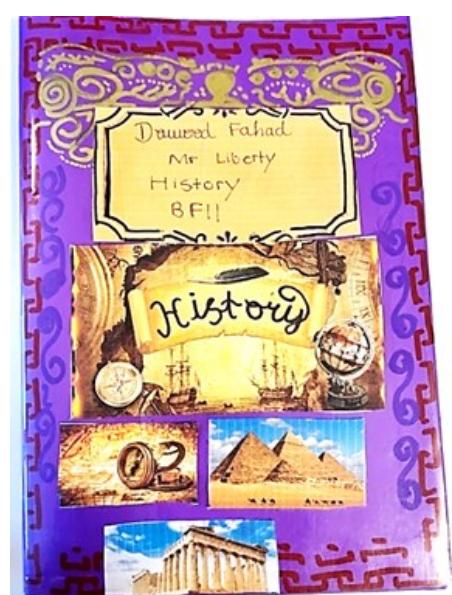
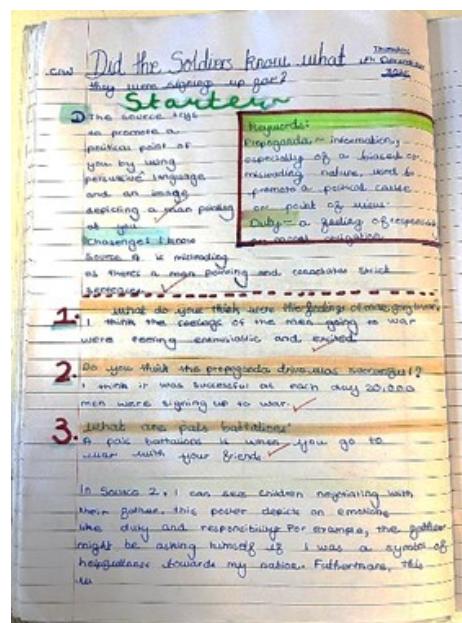
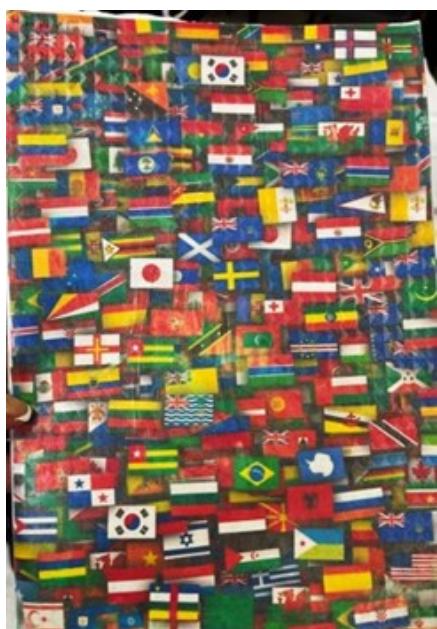
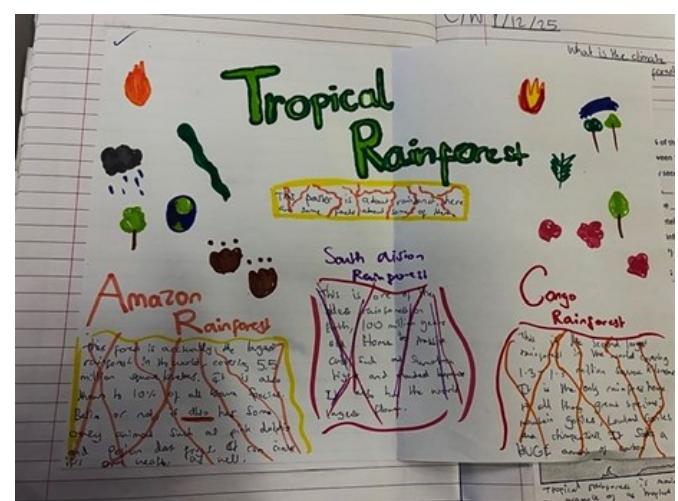


Sadly, we also said farewell last term to Ms Walwyn, a longstanding member of staff whose support during absences has ensured continuity of teaching and learning without reliance on ad hoc supply. Her contribution has been invaluable, and she will be greatly missed.

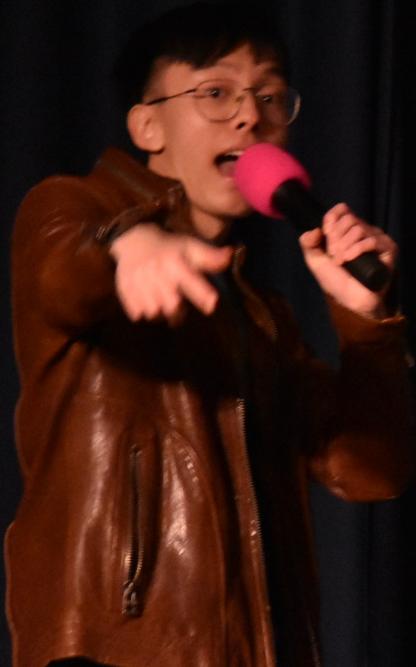
We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Mr Rosario, a former colleague remembered fondly by many older students. We send our heartfelt condolences to his family.

It is clear that it was a term full of achievement, growth, and community spirit. We have enjoyed welcoming everyone back in January 2026, ready to embrace the opportunities the new year brings, with renewed energy and determination.

I want to thank all staff, students, governors and families for their continued commitment and support. This newsletter will give you that usual snapshot that I hope you will enjoy reading about. My introduction is simply that – a chance to reflect on the experiences that have shaped this academic year, so far.



Winter Concert



What an outstanding performance from all our talented Rooks Heath performers! It was truly a brilliant evening – the quality of the acts seems to get better every year. Our students did themselves proud as we swayed, clapped, and nodded along to the beats, cheered with enthusiasm, and smiled with joy throughout the show. The variety was incredible, with musical acts complemented by captivating dance performances.

A huge thank you to Mr Turner, Miss Triff, Mr Sharp, and Mr Pitchforth for their creative vision.



Chinese Embassy Visit

Ms Y. Sun

Following the Year 9 Mandarin Excellence Programme trip to China in July, I received an email from the trip organising team in UCL, inviting me to bring four students along to the Chinese Embassy to represent schools that visited China in Summer 2025, to celebrate the huge success of the trip.

'Why our school?' I wondered, but really it wasn't much of a surprise, given the Year 10s impressive contributions during their trip, delivering speeches and performing at the opening and closing ceremonies of our stay at Liaoning Normal University, talking to Chinese peers and interacting with locals at bubble tea shops or night markets. We teachers (Mrs Subra, Mr Parkinson and I) were always telling them that they were fantastic (behaviour, engagement, attitude, the way they dressed themselves) and this entire group always exceeded expectations.



I took Neyha (10W), Dhanial (10W), Rian (10I) and Anureet (10I), to London on Wednesday, 15th of October for a visit to the Chinese embassy. They had behaved excellently and got the most out of their time during their visit to China, and so got first choice on the embassy visit. Rian and Anureet did RHS proud with their bilingual speech about their trip to Dalian to diplomats and ministers about their adventure in China. Another ten schools who visited other Chinese cities for their MEP trip were also at the event to share their experiences. Despite many of these being selective grammar schools, our students' confidence, poise, language level, as well as warmth, really shone through and impressed the dignitaries at the event. The embassy even requested a copy

of their speech to include in their own press release!



Treated with a Chinese buffet by the embassy, our students were very pleased on their way back home, with a panda mug in hand as an award from the Chinese embassy.

A huge well done to Neyha, Dhanial, Rian and Anureet who served as excellent ambassadors for Rooks Heath!

The Mandarin Excellence Programme is an intensive language study programme where students have 8-hour timetabled Mandarin lessons every fortnight from Year 7. Each summer, students in Year 9 get the opportunity to participate in a part-funded, 12-day trip to China, organised centrally by the Department for Education, British Council, and Chinese Confucius Institute. In July 2025, over 60 schools participated in the trip, with over 1,100 students travelling to China. We are very proud to be part of the national Mandarin Excellence Programme at Rooks Heath School!

IN FOCUS

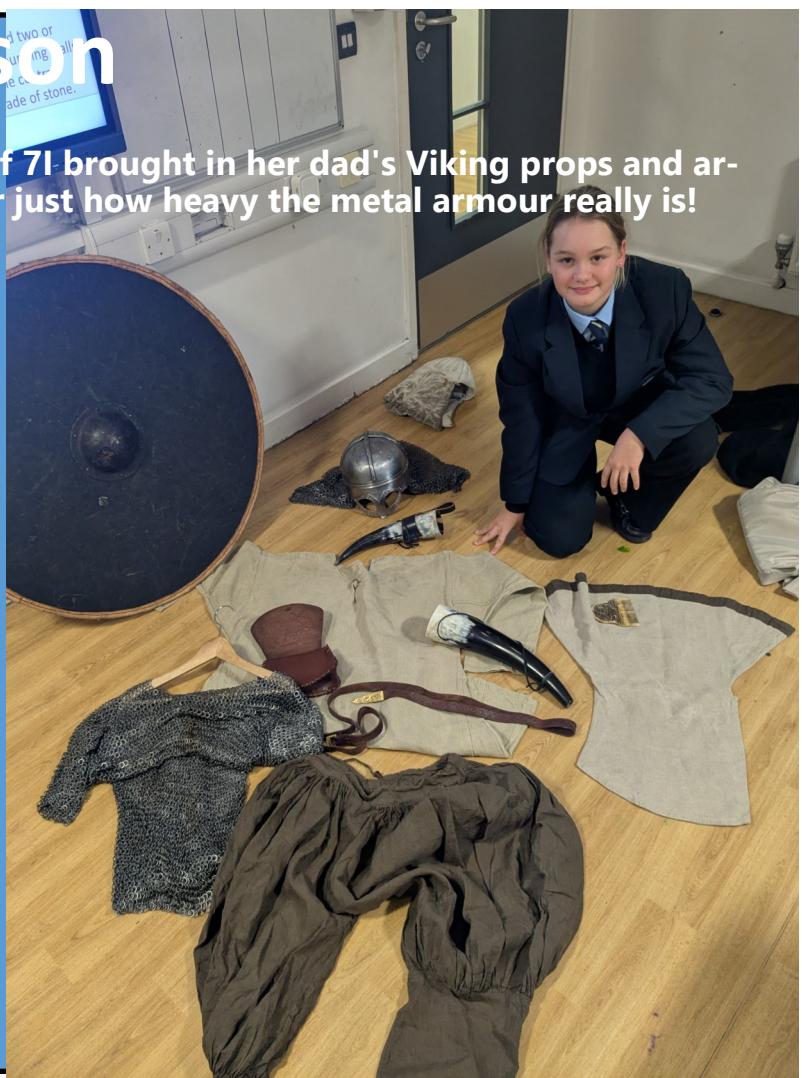
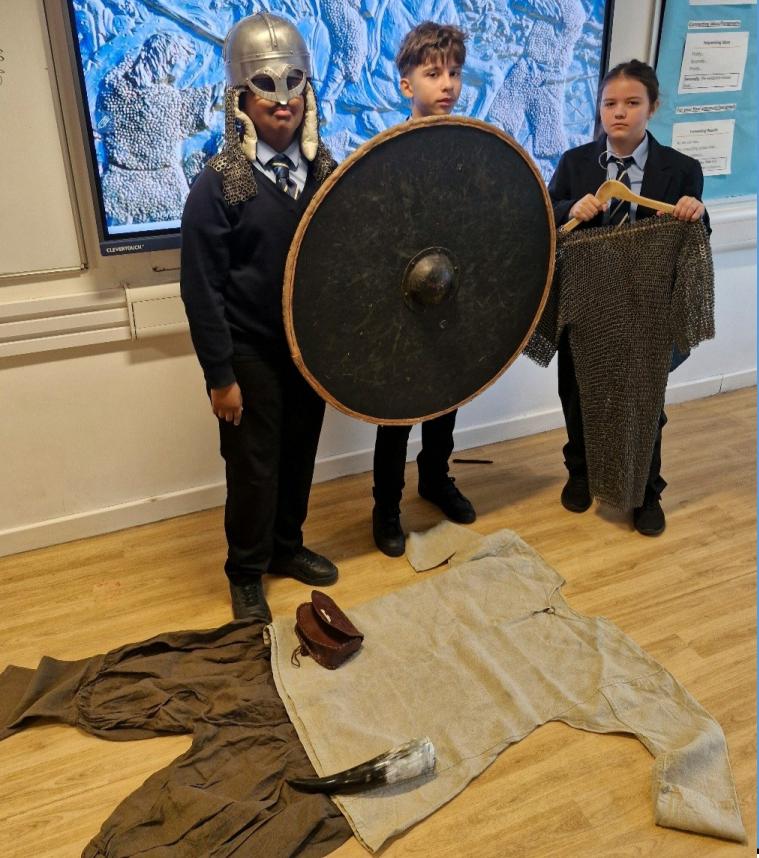
In Miss Salameh's RS lesson with 8G, Oleksandr holds the Torah to show to members of his class what this holy scroll looks like up close.



Viking History Lesson

Mr C. Liberty

On Wednesday 12th November Mia Glabik of 7I brought in her dad's Viking props and armour! The students were amazed to discover just how heavy the metal armour really is!



The Royal Institution 'Where Science Lives'

Mrs M. Kilroy and Mrs S. Rahman



We had a wonderful visit from The Royal Institution, "where science lives." They delivered two exciting Fuelling the Future shows to our Year 8 and Year 9 students, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for science. In the evening, they returned to host a fantastic show for our wider school community, rounding off an inspiring and engaging day for everyone involved.

Winter Wonderland

Ms. S. Owen-Culverhouse



On Wednesday 19th November we were lucky enough to get free tickets to Winter Wonderland for our SEND students. It was an amazing experience for them; they went on a lot of rides, including the ice slide, bumper cars

and the haunted house. Everyone also got hot chocolate with their entry which the students enjoyed. Thank you to everyone who came on the trip to make this happen and thank you to Ms Capper for driving us to the station!



WE NEED YOU!

Join Harrow's SEND Youth Voice Board

Your voice matters – help shape Harrow's future.

WHY JOIN?

- ✓ Share your ideas and make a difference
- ✓ Meet new friends and share what matters to you
- ✓ Help design the Youth Voice Board
- ✓ Build confidence and leadership skills

WHO CAN APPLY?

- ✓ Young people aged 16-25
- ✓ With SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) or an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan)
- ✓ Including care leavers, youth justice service users, NEET (Not in education, employment or training)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- ✓ Attend friendly meetings (online & in-person)
- ✓ Work in groups and share what matters to you
- ✓ Take part in creative workshops



APPLY NOW!

Use QR code or email
youthvoice@harrow.gov.uk

We are Kinship

The leading kinship care charity in England and Wales. We're here for kinship carers – friends or family who step up to raise a child when their parents aren't able to.

Let's commit to change for kinship families.

Get support and advice

[LINK](#)



It's Behind You!



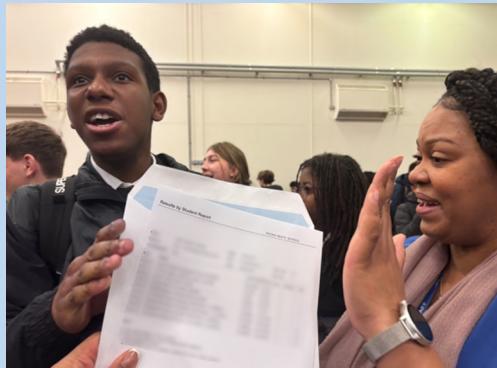
Mr M. Pitchforth

Another long Winter term came to a close with celebrations across the school. The last day was celebrated with Christmas Jumper Day where the students helped to raise money for Children in Need. Our well-being committee made sure each Tutor Group had goodie bags to mark the last day of term with tutor time celebrations. Also let's not forget our Sixth Form Pantomime troupe who entertained the school with three performances of our bespoke panto for the 17th year running. Well done everyone!

Year 11 unveil their mock results!

Ms H. Grover

After an intensive three week assessment period across November and December, Year 11 students finally discovered how they had performed in their mock examinations. On Wednesday 17th December, students gathered in the hall to receive their results envelopes, prompting a wide range of reactions—from delight and relief to surprise and, for some, frustration. Their next experience of receiving results in this formal manner will come in August. We are confident that students will use the insights gained from their mock examinations to reflect, refine their approach, and continue developing the skills needed for success in the summer.



R o o k s H e a t h S c h o o l
(part of the Tithe Academy Trust)

proudly presents



F r i d a y 6 t h F e b r u a r y • M a i n H a l l

A r r i v a l & f o o d : 6 : 3 0 p m

Q u i z s t a r t s : 7 p m

E n d : 9 : 3 0 p m

T i c k e t p r i c e £ 8 p e r p e r s o n

Teams: Over 18s only. Between 6 - 8 per table. Come as a team or join others!

Included: Quiz entry, pizza and soft drinks.

You are also welcome to bring your own drinks and snacks.

Prizes: Bring some £1 coins to take part in the raffle and in the half-time games.

Attendance & Payment: Please email the names of those who will be attending to Ms Grover - grover@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk.

Payment can be via bank transfer or in cash upon arrival.

Bank details will be sent upon receipt of your email.

Important! Please let us know by Friday 30th January who will be attending, so that we can plan accordingly.

Taking Health and Social Care Beyond the Classroom

Mrs R. Gill

Studying Health and Social Care inspired Nicholas in Year 13 to undertake a one-week work experience placement to gain first-hand experience of working in a hospital. By studying Health and Social Care, it has increased his interest in caring professions and motivated him to see how skills like communication, teamwork, and compassion are used in a real healthcare setting. Below is his own first-hand account of the experience.

Day 1 was Induction Day. I was introduced to a range of policies that I was expected to follow while undertaking my placement.

Between days 2-4, most of my work experience was observing ways physiotherapists interact with service users with different care needs.

I also observed ways physiotherapists and other healthcare professionals such as nurses, healthcare assistants conform to teamwork skills, and how they make sure that after a patient has undertaken surgery, they feel comfortable and confident to be cared from service providers.

It was such a rewarding and eye-opening experience for me. I've learnt and gained skills and attributes including communication skills, empathy and teamwork which are crucial elements when working in the NHS. Most importantly, I've learnt to be more compassionate and empathetic to others during upsetting moments by actively listening and validating their emotions which is also important in this field. I was also able make use of my subject knowledge during my experience which helped me understand how the services run.



Sociology Success

Ms S. Gardezi

Students spreading awareness of social Issues



The 'Wall of Success' board in Room BG10 - Celebrating students' Academic Achievements

R O O K S H E A T H S C H O O L



MACBETH

(BOLLYWOOD STYLE)

Thursday 12th February • 7pm
Main Hall

Tickets £3 • Available on Bromcom

Mark Evison Foundation Fundraising

Miss. C. McCutcheon



Three of our Year 13 students undertook a project with the Mark Evison Foundation. The Foundation awards funding to group projects that set and plan a significantly challenging project. Jaedon, Perez, and Christian made an excellent pitch to the founder! They were awarded the funding to create a mixtape which focussed on raising awareness about the dangers and consequences of knife-crime. They channelled their passion for music and the cause into creating a collection of inspiring music tracks.



They are trying to raise money back for the Foundation and anything more than this, will go directly to a knife crime charity.

If you are willing and able to donate, please follow the link:

<https://gofund.me/1a589bc82>

To listen to the tracks they have created, please follow via the link to support:

<https://on.soundcloud.com/ahQaoVGEyC3NvSbsWf>

Important dates for your Calendar

Tuesday 27th January	PTFA Meeting (in school) 6pm - 7pm
Wednesday 28th January	Sixth Form Parents' Consultation Evening (online)
Friday 30th January	RHS Sixth Form Application Deadline for Year 11
Wednesday 4th February	Year 8 PP Coffee Morning
Wednesday 4th February	Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening (in person)
Friday 6th February	PTFA Quiz Night
Thursday 12th February	Drama Production of Macbeth (Bollywood Style)
Monday 16th—20th February	Half Term Holiday

