

Staying

Connected

Parent / Carer Bulletin



ROOKS HEATH SCHOOL
Strive to be your best

May 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the half term break, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been another busy and successful period at Rooks Heath School.

We remain committed to offering our students a rich and diverse extra-curricular programme. This continues to play a vital role in enriching their school experience, broadening horizons, and developing confidence beyond the classroom. You will see highlights in this edition, including the highly successful trip to France, and we are already looking ahead with excitement to our upcoming trip to China next half term.

Our examination season has also begun very positively. Students in both Year 11 and Year 13 have made an excellent start, approaching their exams with maturity and determination. It has been particularly heartening to hear students already expressing their gratitude to their teachers for the support and commitment shown to them throughout their courses.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to you, our parents and carers. You are the third pillar of every child's success. By upholding our shared values and continuing to support your children at home, you play an essential role in enabling them to achieve their very best. They now have this important opportunity, and we are confident they will reap the rewards of their hard work, setting themselves up strongly for the future.

Year 13 hold a very special place in my heart. They were my first Year 7 cohort when I joined the school, and it has been a privilege to see them grow and develop over their seven-year journey with us. As they reach the end of their time at Rooks Heath, I will miss them dearly. This is the same cohort that achieved the best results the school has ever seen at GCSE, and we look forward with great anticipation to their continued success at the end of Key Stage 5. Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term. Please keep safe and well.

Mrs Manderson



Bertha Earth news!

Ms P. Samms

In celebration of Earth Day on the 22nd April, our dedicated Year 7 Bertha Earth Ambassadors hosted their Project Passion Love (PPL).

The event welcomed parents, staff, and students from across the school for a morning filled with warmth, passion, and immense pride. The library was transformed into a hub of inspiration as guests listened to the ambassadors' PPL ideas. The atmosphere was a testament to the students' commitment to environmental awareness through storytelling and focusing on their passion and hobbies. Events like this are a true team effort.



We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who attended to support our students and to the team who worked behind the scenes to prepare the library space. A particular shout-out to Mrs Nnyanzi and Ms Kilroy for their incredible efforts in preparing the delicious cakes!



Year 7 Students Showcase Their Shortbread Skills

Ms I. Abdi

Year 7 recently worked on their dough-making and shaping skills while making shortbread in recent lessons.

We had some excellent shortbread makers: Mia (7I), Nikodem (7G), Leo (7B), and Saad (7G).



Chinese Bridge Final Competition

Miss Y. Sun

Rooks Heath School proudly showcased its excellence on Thursday 30th April at the Final Chinese Bridge Mandarin Speaking Competition for Schools in UK, held at SOAS, University of London.

This prestigious national event brought together participants from over 70 outstanding schools across the UK. Our pupils made a remarkable impact, performing exceptionally well and standing shoulder to shoulder with some of the country's top schools once again. This year, we were proud to have twelve talented pupils represent Rooks Heath. An outstanding achievement saw four of our students progress to the finals — a testament to their dedication, confidence, and linguistic ability.

While we did not secure awards in the final round due to the exceptionally high level of competition, reaching this stage in such a nationally competitive event is a significant accomplishment in itself. We are incredibly proud of all our participants for their hard work, courage, and commitment to excellence.



Mandarin Taster Lessons in Primary Schools

Miss Y. Sun

Miss Sun and Ms Lamb recently visited primary schools for Mandarin taster lessons. Our Year 8 students talked about their Mandarin learning experience at Rooks Heath. Fantastic engagement, great questions, and lots of enthusiasm for the Chinese language and culture!



Bonjour, Paris! Years 8–11 discover the magic of Paris!

The French Department, along with honorary members Mr Pitchforth and Mr Liberty, was thrilled to take a group of students from Years 8 – 11 on an unforgettable adventure to Paris at the end of the Spring Term. Over four action-packed days, students immersed themselves in the sights, sounds, and culture of the French capital — and we certainly made every moment count! Here is what two of our students had to say.

Aarav – 11V

Thursday 26th March:

We left school at around 3:45am for our LONG trip to France. We spent the majority of the first day on the coach to our hotel. The ferry ride to Dunkirk was rather smooth, although there were some rough parts. Although we made a stop at a beautiful town called Arras where we walked around and had a look at the local shops and bakeries. We reached our hotel after dinner, where we rested up for the night ready for the busy day after, although we did play a few games of table tennis and pool before going back to our rooms.

Friday 27th March:

We woke up quite early and were extremely excited for our day at Disneyland Paris. We arrived at Disneyland around opening time and had almost the entire day there. It was an amazing place, where we all went around in our little groups to enjoy the incredible activities there. My group mostly went on the thrill rides there - which were brilliant! However, what we really enjoyed there were the parades, where we got to watch and wave to iconic Disney characters as they walk past. Many of them waved back at us! We also enjoyed meeting the characters in person, where I met Pluto and Baloo. We also spent quite a bit of our time in the gift shops (which were

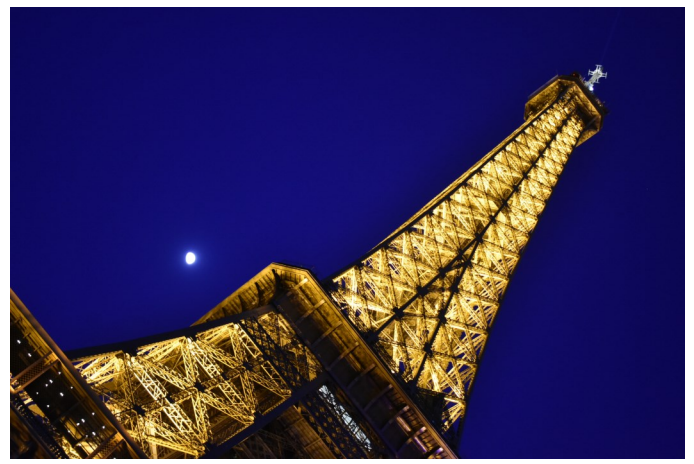


quite expensive!), and where we bought souvenirs as well as little shoulder pets that were themed as iconic Disney characters, like Mike Wazowski, Stitch and one of the aliens from Toy Story (which Mr Liberty got). We left quite late from Disneyland, as we stopped to watch another parade - as well as getting a little lost in the park on our way out, which really increased our step count for the day! After we went back to our hotel, we relaxed for a bit before lights out, ready for another busy day.

Saturday 28th March:

We woke up at a similar time and got ready for a busy day of walking around and exploring. It was our exploration of Paris! We first went to the Sacré Cœur cathedral, which was a perfect place for some photos of the Parisian skyline. We then went

to a market where we got cheap souvenirs (much cheaper than Disneyland), and where we had our lunches. After lunch, we went back on the coach to get to the Bateaux Mouches, which are the iconic Paris river boats, from where you see a clear view of famous sites like the Notre Dame cathedral, the Louvre museum and the most iconic of them all, the Eiffel Tower. This was an amazing place for photos! Right after that, we went to see the outside of the Louvre pyramid for some more photos and to have some free time in the neighbouring shopping centre, which was a nice place to see some art and have a quick drink before continuing on. We then next went to the most chaotic roundabout, the Arc d'Triomphe, which was another amazing photo spot. We got there just when the sun began to set, giving us amazing lighting. We then had dinner at a nearby restaurant, before making our way on the coach to the Eiffel Tower.



We got to see the beauty of the Eiffel Tower at night, which was amazing, and the sparkling lights also came on right when we finished our security, which was a perfect time to take a few videos before we went up to get a view of the night in Paris, although it was quite cold and windy. After our visit to the Eiffel Tower, we went back to the hotel, where we went straight to sleep after packing, as the next day was our last in France.



Sunday 29th March:

We woke up and made sure everything was packed before heading out to breakfast where we had to hand over our room keys. We put all our belongings on the coach for the last time and got on the coach headed to the Vimy Ridge Memorial. Vimy Ridge is a Canadian Memorial dedicated to the battle of Vimy Ridge, where the Canadian forces in World War I recaptured a key viewpoint from the Germans, which paved the way for the Allied victory. We had a very informative talk about the battle from our very own Mr Liberty who explained the history and the gruesome reality of war - where about 11 thousand Canadian soldiers died in France whose bodies were not found or identified, where their names are etched on the beautiful monument, which made us reflect on how lucky we are to not be fighting in war at our age. We then got back on our coach to Calais where we completed immigration before heading onto our ferry back home, which was a sad trip home where we reminisced on what we had done and our funny moments. The journey home was quite bumpy as

well, and we were greeted to England with a dark and rainy weather which was different to the bright and sunny climate back in Paris.

In the end, we had such a fun trip in France where we got to practise our French and learn about their local culture and attractions.

A massive thank you for the staff who organised the trip and accompanied us: Ms Caullet, Ms Grover, Mr Liberty, and Mr Pitchforth.



Romil—100

Our four-day trip to France was an experience that was truly exceptional and filled with unforgettable moments. From the very beginning, the journey felt extraordinary. We travelled by coach to Dover and crossed the English Channel by ferry, watching the famous white cliffs gradually fade behind us. The gentle movement of the ferry and the vast stretch of sea ahead created a sense of anticipation, as though we were slowly approaching a new and exciting chapter. Arrival at Dunkerque {Fre.} (/Dunkirk), was great because as our coach drove onto French land and made its way ahead, I was so excited and thankful, and could not believe what an incredible place it was.

Upon arriving in Paris, I was immediately struck by the city's elegance and vibrant atmosphere. Paris felt alive — every street seemed to hold its own charm, with grand architecture, bustling cafés, and a unique sense of culture. Staying in a hotel added to the experience, allowing us to fully immerse ourselves in the city's character from morning until night.

One of the most remarkable highlights of the trip was visiting the Eiffel Tower. Seeing it in person was far more impressive than any photograph or video could ever capture. Its towering structure, intricate ironwork, and sheer scale were breathtaking. We ascended to the second floor, where the panoramic view of Paris was truly spectacular. From that height, we could see the River Seine



winding through the city, the symmetrical streets stretching into the distance, and many of the city's most iconic landmarks. It was a moment of awe and appreciation that I will always remember.

cent, revealing the entire city spread out beneath us. L'Arc de Triomphe was another extraordinary sight, standing proudly at the end of the Champs Élysées. Its detailed carvings and grand design made it clear why it is such an important symbol of French history.

Disneyland Paris added a completely different kind of excitement to the trip. The park was vibrant, colourful, and full of energy. The music, parades, and attractions created a magical atmosphere that made the entire experience feel joyful and uplifting. Each area of the park had its own theme and charm, and it was impossible not to be swept up in the sense of wonder. This Disneyland trip was the most epic visit I have made ever in my life and, we even met all the Disney characters!

The trip was excellent in every way. Travelling by ferry and coach, staying in a hotel, exploring Paris, and visiting so many iconic locations made it both educational and thoroughly enjoyable. It is a journey I will treasure for a very long time, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to experience such an extraordinary adventure. Going to France was not just for fun and enjoyment, it was also about exploring Paris's history, WW1 history, and to try out our French speaking skills, which was the best thing, speaking French with French people was also amazing! This trip felt like a fantastic French dream!



Our visit to Sacré Cœur was equally memorable. Perched high on the hill of Montmartre, the basilica offered a peaceful and reflective atmosphere. The view from the top was magnifi-



Mrs R. Gill

As part of their BTEC National Diploma in Health and Social Care, our 6th Form students were required to complete 100 hours of work experience within a variety of health and social care settings. They had the opportunity to undertake placements in care homes, schools for children with special educational needs, pharmacies, and day centres for the elderly.

As part of the course, I visited each student during their placement and was really pleased to see how well they interacted with the different types of service users. The feedback from each setting was extremely positive, with staff commenting on the professionalism, ethics, and caring attitudes demonstrated by our students. Several placements also expressed an interest in welcoming students back in the future should the opportunity arise. The students were a real credit to our school, and these experiences have further reinforced their ambitions to pursue careers within the health and social care sector.

Below are a few summaries of their experiences:

Gabrielle

As part of my BTEC Health and Social Care course, I completed three weeks of work experience at Woodlands School, a setting for children with special educational needs and severe disabilities. During my placement, I supported non-verbal students who used wheelchairs by helping them participate in classroom activities, communicating through gestures and communication boards, and ensuring they were comfortable throughout the day. I also assisted staff during group activities and helped escort students to their designated buses at the end of the day. This experience gave me valuable insight into working with children with additional needs and helped develop my communication, patience, and teamwork skills. Overall, I found the placement highly rewarding, and it strengthened my interest in pursuing a future career within the health and social care sector. I would also love the opportunity to return one day as a volunteer, as it was incredibly rewarding to help make a positive difference in children's lives.

Avichcha

My work experience for Health and Social Care was at the Milman's Resource Centre in Pinner. The centre cares and provides support for elderly individuals with range of conditions such as those with disabilities and dementia. The work experience has had a positive impact on my future career choices and has supported me to gain an insight of the health and social care sector. One of the main responsibilities I had during my placement was to engage and interact with residents during activities such as bingo, dominoes, and jigsaw puzzles. This helped me to enhance my communication and teamwork skills. I was lucky enough to shadowed professionals and understand what their role was. I really enjoyed my time at the placement, and I hope to use this experience to further my career in the health and social care sector.

Nicholas

My work experience was at Poplars Care Home, where I worked as a care assistant. One of my responsibilities involved helping to entertain the residents by organising activities such as bingo and karaoke sessions, encouraging them to participate and socialise. I also had the opportunity to assist with meal preparation and support residents during mealtimes, including helping with feeding where required.

Many of the residents had hearing or visual impairments, so I needed to adapt my communication methods to meet their individual needs. The different communication techniques I learned during my studies helped me to interact effectively and build positive relationships with the residents. Through this experience, I developed a range of valuable care and interpersonal skills, including communication, empathy, patience, and teamwork, all of which are essential qualities for a future paramedic. I thoroughly enjoyed my placement, and it was especially rewarding that my elderly grandmother was able to visit and see me in action. This experience confirmed my passion for working in the healthcare sector and strengthened my ambition to pursue a career as a paramedic.



Years 11 & 13 celebrate at their formal events .



We wish them every success in their exams!





Rookery Team 5-Star Rating

We are delighted to congratulate our Rookery Service team, ably led by our Catering Manager, Anca Cojocariu. The team which includes; Chitradevi, Ann, Fitore, Eden, Vasugi, Nagalogini, Nagulesary, Simona, Deeqa, Nikita and Jeeva, delivers an excellent service to our students every day, providing nutritious meals in line with statutory guidance and rigorous health and safety standards. With a varied menu, a willingness to listen to feedback, and a genuine commitment to student wellbeing, it is no surprise that on Thursday 16th April, following an unannounced environmental health inspection, the team was awarded a 5 star food hygiene rating. We can all feel confident that our students are being exceptionally well cared for, nutritionally and hygienically.



Apollo 11

Mr C. Liberty

While learning about the space race in the Cold War, history students were able to handle authentic pieces of the Apollo 11 spacecraft that ventured to the moon, as well as trying real astronaut food - freeze dried ice cream and strawberries.

Dates	
Monday 1st June	Year 11 on Study Leave
Monday 1st June—Friday 5th June	Year 7 Bertha Earth residential
Monday 8th June — Friday 19th June	Year 7– 9 End of Year Exams
Monday 22nd June— Wednesday 1st July	Year 10 Mock Exams
Wednesday 24th June	Year 13 Leavers' trip
Thursday 25th June	Year 11 prom and Year 13 Leavers' evening event
Wednesday 8th July	Half day for students—dismissal at 12.35pm
Monday 13th July—Friday 17th July	Activities Week
Friday 17th July	Last Day of Term. Students off site from 12:30pm

