

# Staying

# Connected

Parent / Carer Bulletin



April 2025



ROOKS HEATH SCHOOL  
Strive to be your best



Spring is finally here, and Rooks Heath has had a term that has certainly seen everyone bloom, not just the blossom!

We are immensely proud to have the highest progress score for A Level / BTEC results at KS5 across all secondary schools in Harrow. Congratulations to our 6th form cohort of 2024 for the exceptional progress which has placed us in this position. Do please congratulate your children.

Adolescence! Am I talking about the phase of those we are working and living with every day? Not entirely. I am specifically referring to the Netflix programme that everyone is talking about. Even the Local Authority was inspired by the programme which provoked them to write a piece in their bulletin entitled 'Tender'.

To be honest, I hesitated to watch the programme, however, as educationalists, there is probably not very much that we have not encountered or could suspect and so I succumbed. It did give food for thought indeed. For our parents and carers, I want you to remember that this is a drama and not a documentary. However, it does well to open the eyes of parents and carers to the dangers that can spur out of online communication and even gives you an insight into language you can now decode. This is a very important aspect even if the dramatization can seem embellished at times.

The Local Authority also recommended what they called "a really fantastic panel conversation" that the CEO of Tender had with four notable male figures, titled "How to Be a Boy" Conversations with Men" : <https://youtu.be/ZOP13pyaTSk?si=6r2v4Lgxqv9Sg5iq> with the consideration that parts of this conversation and the questions asked might be useful to show/ask/discuss with young men. A key consideration is how parents can keep up-to-date with their child's use of digital technology and the language used. This is where partnership with school staff works to keep everyone safe. Parents and carers may find the article linked here useful, where you can find an explanation of the emojis referred to in the series <https://smoothwall.com/resources/the-hidden-meanings-behind-emojis>

This newsletter is just a snapshot of the many activities we do, from science to geography, careers and work experience opportunities. Please enjoy the read.

Finally, another word of encouragement to our exam students—don't give in or up, you have got this! Continue with the excellent revision over the Easter break! I wish all our families a restful and enjoyable break and we look forward to welcoming your children again for the final term of the year.

*Mrs Manderson*

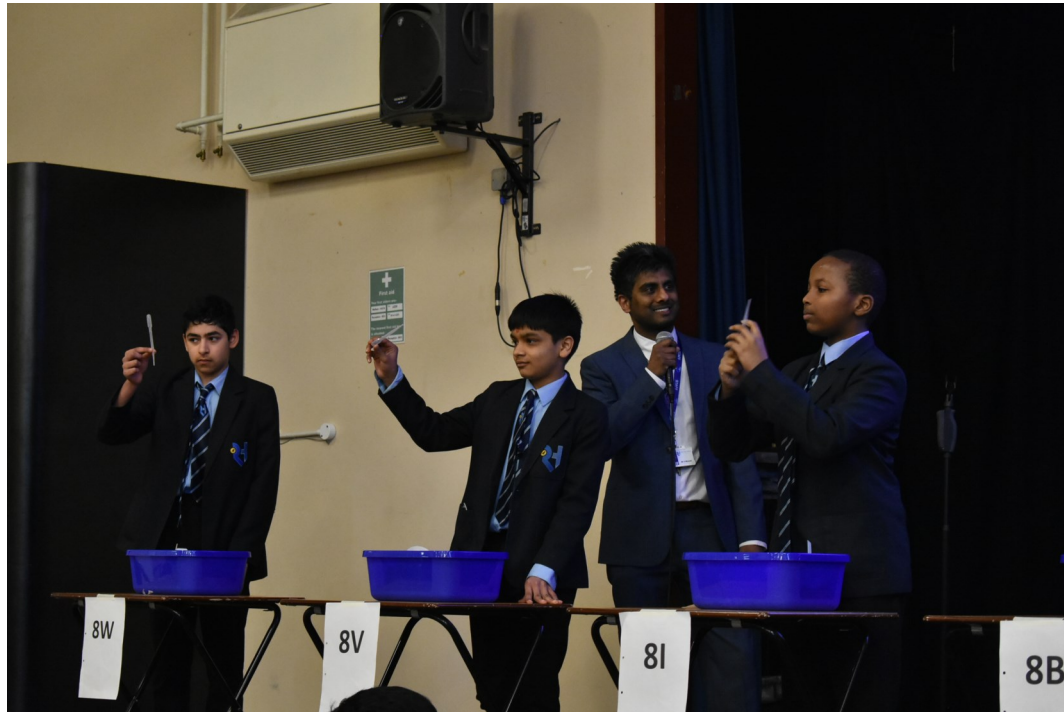


# ScientastiQuiz 2025

**Mr A. Miranda**

It was the British Science Week two weeks ago, and the Science department hosted in the hall “The Annual ScientastiQuiz 2025” for the fourth year in a row! This has now become our legacy.

This year’s theme was on “Change and Adapt”. There was a fantastic participation from the Year 7 and Year 8 students that truly reflected Rooks Heath 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 Yellow and 8 Red. Congratulations!!! It was lovely to see the engagement and teamwork that flourished from all participants, which particularly impressed the science technicians’ team and Year 12 and 13 monitors. Onwards and upwards to next year’s “ScientastiQuiz 2026”.





## Year 12 Trip to Alexandra School

### Narjis Al-Azawi, 13Y

My experience at Alexandra School interested me as to how each student works and how they understand things in their own way.

First, we had met the Co-Headteacher, she had given the class a small talk on how things work in the school and how communication is done with the children. As I sat in the room, I realised that there were objects on the table and floor like toys and blankets. The Headteacher had told us that these are the things that help the children as they are known as sensory items, designed to stimulate one or more of the senses. I also realised that the chair I had been sitting on was a rocking chair and the Headteacher had stated that

this helps the child to relax and refocus as some students aren't able to keep still. When it comes to communication the Headteacher had specifically spoken about the three ways teachers build the child's understanding and communication by using techniques made to help the children such as concrete, pictorial and abstract. Emotional support is very important in Alexandra School as it makes a student feel so much safer as they do not feel forced to do something if they do not want to do it. Teachers recognise and address individual learning and emotional needs; they also promote inclusivity and respect among students. The Headteacher also said that the classes are much smaller than a mainstream school, there are around 7 to 10 students in each class as if it is a sixth form class with little people. I believe that this is done so the children are not overwhelmed by others if they were to be in a larger class.

In a SEN (Special Educational Needs) school things are much calmer for the students as they have more time and much more freedom, unlike in a mainstream school things are much more difficult for the students as they do not have the same patience given to the students in the SEN school. Seeing the students in the classroom I was in, the teacher had pointed out that they all are different ages from one another. I had thought about this when she had told me because a person would think that same ages should be in same classes because of the brain would work the same when someone is the same age. However, in a SEN school, people who are heavily autistic would need to be in the year group they belong depending on how the child works or acts, this is so the child does not feel over pressured by doing something that does not reach their standards. I had also recognised that they keep cameras in their rooms, I hadn't asked about it but I had done my research and learned that it is so the kids are monitored to enhance student and staff safety, deter anti-social behaviour, and provide evidence in case of incidents or disputes, while also ensuring compliance with regulations. These schools are also lucky as their playground was a literal park, which you can't find in a mainstream school. Overall, my experience at Alexandra School was lovely, everyone was very welcoming, and the students were extremely friendly.



# Year 12 Careers Day at Snapchat HQ

**Zunera Naaz, I2O:**

On Thursday, 13th March 2025, I had the incredible opportunity to visit Snapchat HQ during Empathy Week, alongside students from various schools across London. Upon arrival, we were given coloured stickers, which later determined our groups for activities throughout the day. This setup encouraged networking and collaboration with new people. We began with an introduction to Empathy Week, learning about its significance and gaining insight into Snapchat's achievements. Following this, we participated in a Council session with Snapchat employees, where we practised key skills such as compassion, vulnerability, active listening, and empathy.

Next, we had the chance to hear directly from Snapchat employees about their roles, daily responsibilities, and career journeys. They shared valuable insights and advice, helping us understand industry trends and essential skills for success.

Later, we took part in a business challenge workshop within our assigned groups, working with students from other schools to tackle real-world business problems. Guided through a structured process, we developed a four-minute pitch to present to judges from the communications team. Each group was supported by a Snapchat employee, who ensured we stayed on track and met deadlines. Despite the nerves of presenting in front of a crowd, every team delivered their proposal.

Overall, this experience allowed me to step out of my comfort zone multiple times, building both confidence and a deeper understanding of the workplace. I also learned about the various opportunities Snapchat offers to young professionals, making this an invaluable and inspiring visit.



**Miss N. Henderson**

I was impressed by the resilience and professionalism all of our students showed throughout the day, despite some nerves they rose to the challenges set. As the judges convened to deliberate, the atmosphere was tense – had they done enough, had another group's idea been better.... "Let's Talk" a feature designed to encourage wellbeing check-ins and better safeguarding of children's mental health won – MASSIVE congratulations to Christian Kayamba, David Olteanu, and Perez Sintayehu for their contributions to the win. All the students walked away with a sense of achievement and a new appreciation for what they are capable of when they push themselves out of their comfort zone.

## Speak Out Challenge Regional Finals

**Miss J. Green**

The Regional Final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge took place in March at Nower Hill High School where twenty Year 10 students from across Harrow competed, giving voice to their interests and concerns with passion and humour. It was an excellent evening and although not placed, Andreea and Afnan did Rooks Heath School proud, presenting their speeches with skill and enthusiasm.





# Key Stage 5 A Level Results!

## Progress score ?

The banding for this school or college is 'well above average' because the score is greater than or equal to 0.39, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

**Banding** **WELL ABOVE AVERAGE**

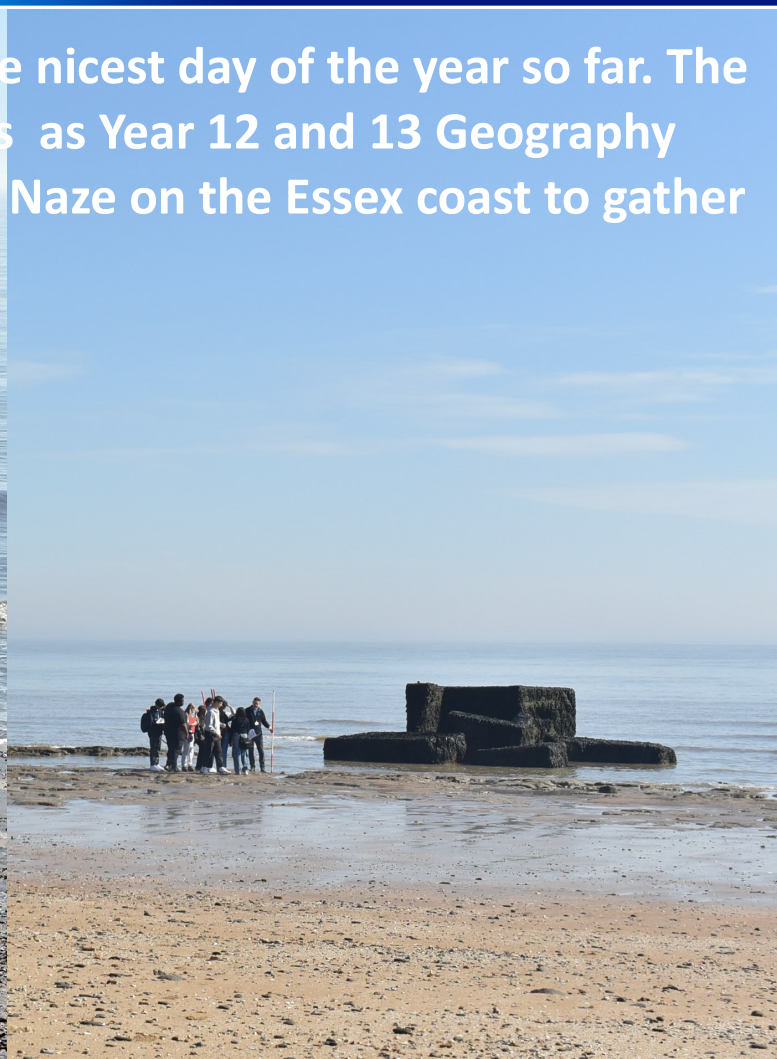
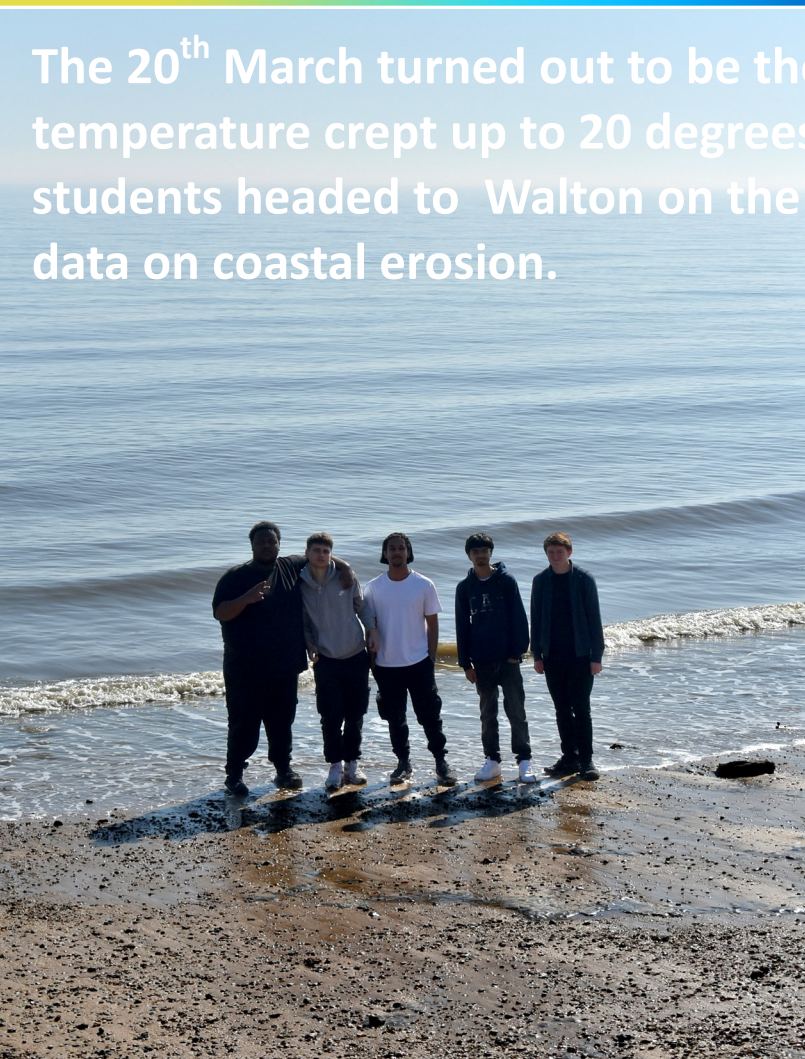
**Score** 0.41

**Confidence interval ?** 0.22 to 0.6

## Average result ?

	Average result	Points
School / college	C	29.67
Harrow state-funded schools / colleges	B-	35.05
England all schools/colleges	B-	35.69

The 20<sup>th</sup> March turned out to be the nicest day of the year so far. The temperature crept up to 20 degrees as Year 12 and 13 Geography students headed to Walton on the Naze on the Essex coast to gather data on coastal erosion.



# Rooks Heath School Needs Your Vote

Mrs J. Lavery

Rooks Heath School has made a successful application to Tesco Stronger Starts. This is where shoppers use the little blue tokens to vote for a deserving project / cause. The project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive £1,500, the second placed project £1,000, and the third placed project £500.

**What is our project?** We are trying to poverty-proof education, specifically teaching students about food nutrition and cooking. These skills will serve our young people well in later life. The proceeds will support students with ingredients in DT Food.

**Where can you vote for our project?** Tesco stores:

Harrow 2627 Harrow Express Small unit HA2 9DL  
Harrow 2628 Harrow 2 Large unit HA1 2TU  
Harrow 2637 Harrow Kenton Lane Exp Small unit HA3 8RQ  
Harrow 3030 Pinner Large unit HA5 2AG  
Harrow 3098 Rayners Ln Harrow Exp Small unit HA2 9UE  
Harrow 4405 Harrow College Rd Exp Small unit HA1 1FB  
Harrow 4457 Canons Pk 16-18 St Small unit HA8 6RW  
Harrow 4854 Pinner Exp Small unit HA5 5JX  
Harrow 5288 Stanmore Middlesex Exp Small unit HA7 1JN  
Harrow 5357 Hatch End Express Small unit HA5 4JN  
Harrow 5922 Harrow Pinner Rd Exp Small unit HA2 6EH  
Harrow 5935 Eastcote Exp Small unit HA5 1QL  
Harrow 6023 Harrow Shaftesbury Exp Small unit HA2 0AT  
Harrow 6144 Harrow Apollo Exp Small unit HA1 4HF  
Harrow 6581 Harrow Greenhill Way Exp Small unit HA1 2EA  
Harrow 6617 Edgware Mollison Way Exp Small unit HA8 5QH



## Important dates for your Calendar

Tuesday 22 April	Summer Term – all students in school as normal
Tuesday 22 April	Year 13 mock exams and Year 11 Home Language GCSE speaking exams start
Monday 28 April	Year 11 GCSE art exam and MFL Speaking exams start
Tuesday 29 April	PTFA meeting
Tuesday 6 May	Level 2 Health and Social Care exam
Thursday 8 May	GCSE exams start
Friday 9 May	A Level art exam starts
Wednesday 14 May	Year 9 Strive to be your Best Evening for parents/carers
Monday 19 May	Year 12 end of year exams start
Wednesday 21 May	Years 7 & 8 Strive to be your Best Evening for parents/carers
Monday 26 – Friday 30 May	Half-term break

