

VOICES



ROOKS HEATH COLLEGE

Issue 94
December 2018

EDITORIAL

This has been an extremely busy term for The Tithe Academy (of which Rooks Heath is an integral part). The trust is now firmly established and both schools are working really well together.

Rooks Heath is going from strength to strength. We had a wonderful set of results in the summer with a record number of top grades awarded, and we are in the very top bracket in Science and Languages.

I am also pleased to report that we are full in the current Year 7. This is the first time this has happened in many years. Applications are also very strong for 2019/2020 and we hope to be full again.

Attendance is vastly improved and exclusions have dropped significantly. The new Behaviour Hub is working really well and is having a very positive effect on the College.

Finally, can I thank you all for your continued support. Have a great Christmas holiday. I look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 7th January 2019

Best wishes

Dr John Reavley

2019 DRAMA PRODUCTION!



3 NIGHTS:

13, 14 & 15 FEB. 2019

ROOKS HEATH IN THE 2018 PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW



Ms Caullet, Head of Modern Foreign Languages and Mr Macaulay, Head of Classics, were invited to celebrate the successes of Rooks Heath students in modern and ancient language

GCSEs following a publication in the Parliamentary Review. The event, held in the centre of the City, featured the guest speakers former Chancellor George Osborne and former Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls.



YEAR 7 TRIP TO KIDZANIA - WESTFIELD

On Friday 5th December, 15 teachers accompanied 150 Year 7s to Kidzania, Westfield. The students had a fantastic time testing out different careers and revelling in the festive spirit of the place. It is a great place to learn about the world of work. It was great to see so many of the students so keen to earn Kidzanian money as well as spend it!



BE AFRAID, BE VERY AFRAID!

6th formers dressed up for Halloween this year. Their costumes ranged from the subtle to the rather more obvious and the students made a great effort. They donated £2 for the privilege and all proceeds went to Children in Need.

Sith Form Team



YEAR 9 BIMA DIGITAL DAY

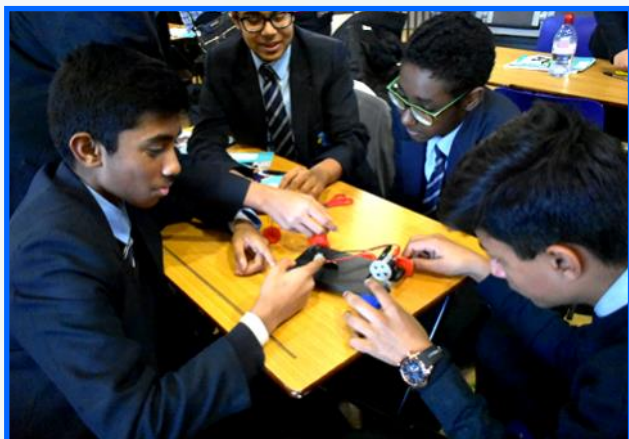
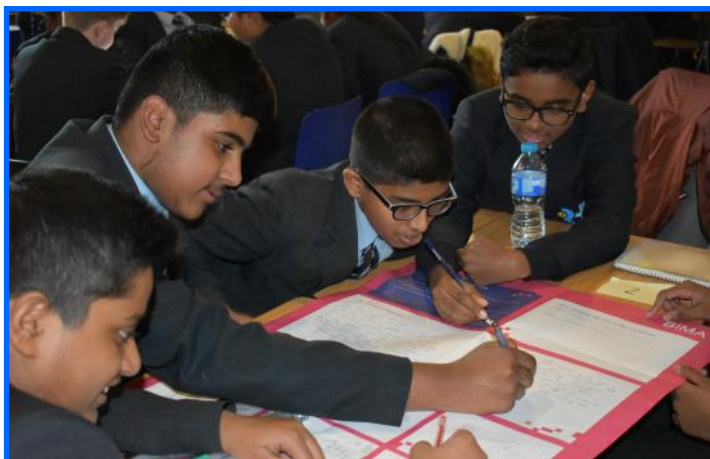
Digital Industry Fact: In the last five years the number of digital tech. jobs across the UK grew by 15%, more than twice the rate of non-digital jobs.

On 13th November the Year 9 ICT and Computing students enjoyed our 2nd Digital Day with seven digital and tech. experts from Cancer Research UK. The students had a great day away from lessons, taking part in an exciting national competition and learnt about the careers that are available in the digital sector. Some lucky students even won prizes for their efforts.

Useful links for the digital industry
<https://www.imperialcodelab.com/#start-coding>

Saturday coding club run by Imperial at Kensington and White City for ages 11-16yrs

<https://idea.org.uk/>
Develop digital, enterprise and employability skills



YEAR 9 ENGINEERING WORKSHOPS

29th-30th November 2018

Engineering Industry Fact: Engineering apprenticeships earn almost double the national apprenticeship minimum wage and the starting salary for an engineering graduate is 18% higher than for university graduates overall.

Engineering touches every aspect of our lives from the phones we use, to the make-up we wear and the foods we eat. To help the Year 9 students understand the engineering sector and the opportunities available, they investigated concepts in energy engineering and had fun applying these to racing cars as well as learning about careers and speaking to ambassadors from the engineering industry. These workshops were designed to help the Year 9 students with decisions for their upcoming GCSE options.

Useful link for the engineering industry
<https://www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk/>

UK-GERMANY CONNECTION TEACHER EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



In November this year I had the privilege to visit Rooks Heath College for two weeks as part of the Host a Teacher programme from the UK-German-Connection. The programme offered teachers from Germany the opportunity to visit an English school in order to gain cultural impressions and to exchange experiences in daily school routines which will result in a report about the similarities and differences between both countries.

I was impressed by the very friendly welcome of the staff and students. Everything was very well organised by Ms Pucicka and she had prepared a timetable for me so I could visit different kinds of subjects, different age groups and different teachers. My overall impression was that

the students are very far in their studies and that learning at school is a priority for most students. This is a bit different in Germany. I was especially impressed by the Art Department as you can tell that the students gained great skills. Also, the Language department made a great impression on me because the students spoke very fluent German.

The students were very polite, always offered help when I appeared lost and they showed great interest in the similarities and differences between Hamburg and London. I have not witnessed any arguments between students during my whole stay and was pleased to watch how friendly they interact with each other as well as with adults.

The staff were very open and I'm so grateful that so many teachers allowed me to visit

their lessons. I learned a lot and will do some of the topics in my classes back home. All teachers appeared to be very passionate about their subjects and they work hard to pass on their knowledge to the students. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again in June when I'll be visiting for one day with German students.

Thanks again to everyone and especially to Ms Pucicka!

Sonja Strahlendorf



YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO SWANAGE

It is not every day that one gets to go on a trip, let alone a trip with some of your best school mates to Swanage. Yet on the 14th of September that opportunity came, and around forty students and members of staff packed the minibuses and left for Swanage, the whole trip turning out to be one of the most memorable experiences of my time at Rooks Heath. Despite the overall educational value of the trip, sharing a room with some of your best friends on possibly one of the last residential trips of Year 11 is not something one forgets easily. So with high hopes and spirits we left for Swanage, and even without the ferry crossing at Poole Harbour, Mr Wright's dynamic driving saw us get to Swanage with time to visit some of the nearby beautiful beaches.

Situated along the Jurassic coast, Swanage, a small coastal town, was the perfect area for our fieldwork study, as well as a great little

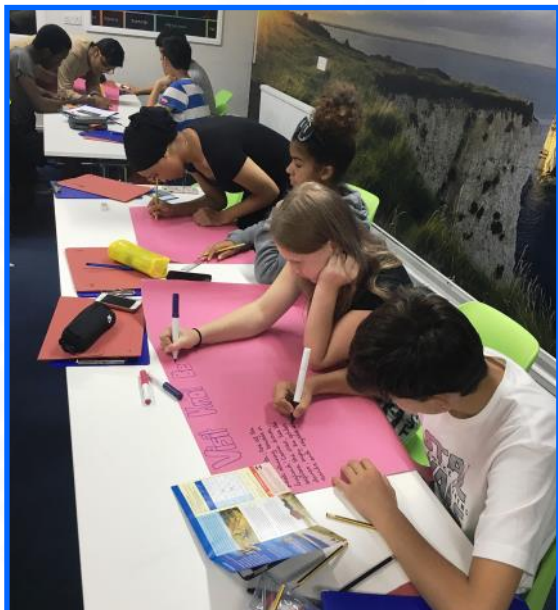


holiday location. Kicking off our first few hours around Swanage we visited a few key geographical areas, including Shell Bay, a beautiful long beach with sea views all around. Then came what could have been the most worrying part of our trip; accommodation. However, I'm pleased to say that the YHA Swanage Hostel provided a homely and comfortable stay for our short time in Swanage. It is safe to say that, after travelling all day, we got an early night before the start of our fieldwork in the morning.

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So with an early start and breakfast sorted, we grabbed our packed lunches and headed out towards Knoll Beach to begin our fieldwork. Having arrived at Knoll Beach, firstly we completed a survey, asking visitors about the local area, before heading along the beach towards the dunes where the crucial work would begin. Being put into small groups and armed with a tape measure, quadrat and Mr Simpson's brand new anemometers, we headed into the dunes collecting data about the marram grass cover relative to wind speed. After the fieldwork, we set off on a hike up to the world renowned Old Harry Rocks. Once there, we were greeted by stunning views all around, with some quite scary drops either side, which needless to say we stayed clear of. Following a gentle hike back to Swanage, day 1 came to an end with a hot meal and a good night's rest.



Starting day 2, and with the knowledge that all the fieldwork was completed, we were able to begin visiting some lovely



coastal landforms. We started off at Lulworth Cove before visiting Stair-hole, a small cove which is slowly becoming larger. We then walked to the simply unique Durdle Door which was truly the highlight of the trip. That evening, in celebration of our time in Swanage and as a final activity before leaving, the staff planned a treasure hunt and all the clues were in town. All groups sped around town frantically trying to find the answers. However, the winners were unfortunately not announced which remains a mystery to this day. (Note from Mr Simpson: Team Eleven were the winners and have been awarded their prizes!)

And so our residential trip came to an end. However, the memories made will never be forgotten. As potentially one of the last trips of my and many other students' time at Rooks Heath. To people planning on going in the future, I highly recommend it not only for its value to your exams but the memories, experiences and friendships you will gain during your short time away from home. Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to the teachers for planning the trip and bearing with us for four whole days. To everyone involved, well done!

Cristian, 11G

GLOBAL MINISTERIAL MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

Year 13 student attends Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit

On October 9th and 10th I was fortunate enough to be part of the first ever Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit. This summit was the first of its kind and involved politicians, ministers, mental health workers and experts with experience from over sixty one different countries. On the first day of the summit I helped host a workshop about a global charity of our choice. My group represented the 'This is Me' campaign from Slovenia. This is an anonymous online counselling service that helps improve self-esteem and mental health amongst young people.

Later on in the workshop, we were pleasantly surprised to have a visit from the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge; our workshop ended with a speech from Prince William in



which he expressed his thanks and views on how to improve mental health support. The first day of the summit ended with a boat ride across the Thames to our evening reception and a stay at Holiday Inn, Kensington. The 10th October, which also happened to be World Mental Health Day, involved attending various talks by ministers and campaigners. We ended the summit with networking where I got to speak to many different people including clinicians and psychologists from around the world. Meanwhile, the other half of our group attended a reception at 10 Downing Street in which Theresa May discussed future plans for the NHS and mental health. I am grateful to have been part of this once in a lifetime opportunity and also grateful for the support I received from Rooks Heath to make it possible.

Nasreen, 13 Orange



PSYCHOLOGY IN THE REAL WORLD

In October Year 13 Psychology students visited the Museum of the Mind at Bethlem Royal Hospital in Kent. The students completed a workshop called 'Weekend Leave' where they experienced the process clinical psychologists go through when making judgements about decisions about patients. It gave a good insight into clinical psychology and students also got the chance to see a range of artwork from current and ex-patients.

Ms. Malins
Head of Psychology



MIGHTY ROOKS HEATH START OFF THE BASKETBAL SEASON

Mighty Rooks Heath started off the basketball season with three nail biting games, winning two matches against Acton High and arch rivals Whitmore. All scores were led by Malachi (11Red) and Adarsh (11Red), with the defensive presence of Menorah (11Yellow) and Jodeci (11Yellow) protecting and getting vital rebounds as the games went on. Year 10s Ahmed, Sayeson and Zach also contributed to the game with key points, rebounds and assists.

Rooks Heath aims to continue its winning start with games against Alec Reed, Haydon and top of the league Harrow High in the coming Weeks.

Mr M. Rhaman



YEAR 9 GERMAN TRIP TO THE GERMAN INSTITUTE & THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



On Monday 8th October 2018, twenty five students supervised by two members of Rooks Heath staff (Ms.Pucicka, Ms.Subra) went to Exhibition Road, South Kensington with the aim of visiting 'The Goethe Institute' and 'The Natural History Museum' to gain better understanding and views about the German activities. The plan was to visit the German Institute to see the German film screening 'Der Grosse Traum' and also for us to have the opportunity to participate in the STEM activities in German at the National History Museum.

We were guided by a tour host in the German Institute, who explained in detail about the movie and we had a talk about the different ways this movie is an opportunity for us to learn the language better and have a clear understanding of it. Two hours later, we went down to the Natural History Museum where we explored the place and went on our own adventure. We went on our own pathways and discovered a variety of fossils and other things. We were given a quiz to complete within two hours which was about the objects displayed within the museum. It was a challenging task. As we went further on, we jotted down notes and asked the members of staff various questions. We also managed to collect and gather different brochures and poster relating to this. Due to time constraints, as there were many things to watch and see, the day passed too

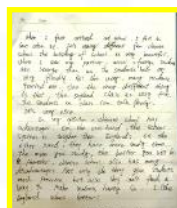
quickly and we had to approach our meeting place. We learned various things about the Museum and the institute, and had a clearer understanding about the language and the way it is spoken. We found out that there were a lot of creative and imaginative products on show in the museum in the various exhibitions and galleries.

Our trip ended at about 3:10 pm. It can be concluded that the trip was very successful and we achieved our objectives. We learned many new things which were beneficial to us. We would recommend this trip to other students, especially those who are choosing to take German for their GCSEs.

By Thadsajini, 9 Indigo



CHINESE INTEGRATION PROGRAMME: CHINESE SCHOOL CHILDREN VISIT ROOKS HEATH



Rooks Heath students had a fantastic opportunity to work with students from the Chinese Integration Programme. The Chinese students came to Rooks Heath for a week and were paired with Rook Heath 'buddies' from all different year groups. They spent the week attending lessons such as English and Cooking, taking part in Sports Day and after school clubs. All students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, learning so much from each other whilst forging firm friendships.

Below are some of the Chinese students' thoughts on their time with us:

"When I first arrived at school I fell in love with it. It is really different from my Chinese school. The building of the school is very beautiful. When I saw my partner I thought: 'Wow, foreign students are stronger than us. The students are very friendly. Many students greeted me.'"

"I like the cooking class very much; the students are so friendly to us and always says hello with a smile."

"I like the way the English teachers teach rather than from a boring text book. In China they work from a text book. They have long days in Chinese schools."

By **Ms J. Lamb**
School & Community Liaison Officer

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY!

For the third year running the sixth form prefects have organized Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. Students and staff donned their festive jumpers and looked fantastic. Thanks to everyone who made the effort to celebrate. Your donations will go towards improving the lives of children in the UK and abroad.

Sith Form Team



COLLEGE CALENDAR TERM DATES

Spring Term 2019

Term begins	Monday 7 January
Half term	Monday 18 February - Friday 19 February
Term ends	Friday 5 April

Summer Term 2019

Term begins	Monday 23 April
Half term	Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May
Term ends	Tuesday 23 July

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **ALEX FERRIER**, a former student of Rooks Heath, has just co-published, in the **Cambridge Physical Review B98**, a paper on 'Properties Of The Signal Mode in the Polariton Optical Parametric Oscillator Regime'

- ◆  **RADIO ROOKSHEATH IS LAUNCHING IN 2019!**

A radio station by Rooks Heath students for Rooks Heath students!

Auditions started on Wed. 19 Dec.

Interested? In Y7, 8 or 9? Check it out!

- ◆ **FIRST DAY BACK: Monday, January 7th**
(Week 2)



CHRISTMAS CAKES & BISCUITS IDEAS AS SEEN ON BBC

For fun and creative cup-cakes, biscuits and cookies, visit BBC Food Recipes pages

<https://www.bbc.com/food/recipes>



Melting Snowman Cupcakes



Snowman Christmas Biscuits



Easy Cookies



Business & Enterprise



centre for education & industry
excellence in enterprise education



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