



# ROOKS HEATH LIFE

Newsletter of Rooks Heath School Community



## NEWS & FEATURES

### PAGE 1

Head Teacher's comment

### PAGE 2

Year 8 Football

### PAGE 3

Kindness Week

### PAGES 4 & 5

Music News

### PAGE 6

Geography Trip

### PAGE 7

Science News

### PAGE 8

Year 7 Disco  
Diary Dates



Swanage Diary  
Page 6

## Head Teacher's Seasonal Greetings

BY MRS M. MANDERSON

We have made it to December! We have come to the end of a long term and the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest. The prospect of Christmas cheers us and lifts our spirits away from the cold, dark and depressing weather of the season. It was a fabulous week enjoying seeing staff and students dressed in all sorts of wonderful Christmas jumpers! Christmas has always been a special time for me and knowing that the dedication and enthusiasm with which staff and students have worked and learned together this term fills me with more joy. I am sure that students, parents and carers will join with me in thanking all of the staff and governors at Rooks Heath School for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to the students of the school. Likewise, we the staff, governors and pupils would like to thank all parents and carers for all your support.

Continued on page 2

Last but in no way the least, we would like to thank our students – you have made an excellent start to the academic year and it has been wonderful seeing all the learning and activities you have engaged with. Please have a read of our Autumn newsletter and enjoy every moment you read about as much as we have. I wish everyone peace and happiness in all homes and families during this holiday season – may we all be safe and keep healthy. Merry Christmas or Season's Greetings to everyone!

## Creative Classics

BY MISS O. OLIVERO

The Year 10 Latin students were set a creative homework on the Trojan war. Please have a look at these two very creative Trojan horses!



## Year 8 Girls Harrow Football Tournament

BY MRS S. LEONARD

The Year 8 Girls Football Team played over two evenings against a number of other schools in the borough at the Cedars Youth Centre. The tournament was run by the Watford FC Development Staff and a number of volunteers studying at the local university. The girls were undefeated, drawing one game and winning the rest. They showed great determination and skill to become the overall champions. They were very excited to receive medals for their efforts. During the second evening they also took part in several challenges, such as the crossbar challenge, speed dribbling, and passing accuracy and control. They had numerous tries at each challenge and were determined to improve each time. Each challenge winner was awarded a trophy. Well done Year 8 Girls!!!



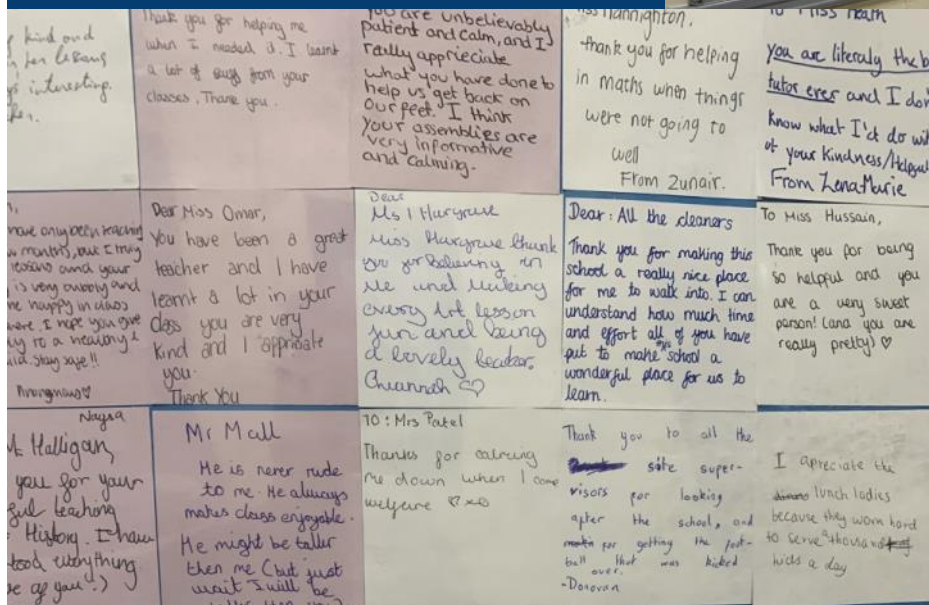


# Kindness Week

BY MR S. SHARP

The first week of December is often a difficult time; the weather turns colder and the nights draw in. To give everyone a boost as we moved towards the end of term, we had a week focussing on kindness. We asked our students to commit random acts of kindness and encouraged staff to reward this with kindness points from our On-Track system. It was wonderful to see our young people holding doors open for staff and offering help in lessons.

During that week, 1353 acts of kindness were acknowledged by staff!



During tutorials we also asked the students to write 'Kindness Cards' to acknowledge those members of staff who have helped them this year. Some of these cards were then used to create a display to celebrate this most important of qualities. It was a very timely reminder that Rooks Heath really is a wonderful place to work and study.

## Year 13 vs Year 12 Football

BY MR M. PITCHFORTH

This term saw the return of the 6th Form charity football match. This fixture is firm favourite at the beginning of every year that establishes bragging rights in the 6th Form study room! Both teams started well. Year 12 made a convincing defence but were left trailing 5-2 by half time. I don't know what was in the Year 13s' water bottles, but during the second half they proceeded to mop the floor with the 12s winning 10-2 by the time the final whistle blew.

Thanks, as always to Mr Williams for refereeing. The teams all paid £1 to play, raising money for World Bicycle relief. We hope to see some more inter-Year Group games between the 12 and 13s over the year. Hopefully the Year 12 girls can claw back some dignity at when they challenge Year 13s at bench ball soon!





# Music Concert and Battle of the Bands

BY MISS A. SLATER

It's been a busy few weeks for the Music department! We had our first whole Year Group performance extravaganza on Tuesday 16th November – the Year 8 Battle of the Bands. Around 60 students showed tremendous resilience and creativity in performing their class band song in front of their peers. The atmosphere in the hall was electric as each group performed their hearts out to cheers and applause. The winners were the band from teaching group 8G who performed 'Levitating' and had the crowd on their feet singing and dancing along. A big congratulations to all students involved in these performances!

The week of musical frivolities continued on Thursday 18th November with the annual Autumn Music Concert. Around 60 students spent the week rehearsing to prepare for two performances on Thursday. Students from Heathland School were treated to a matinee performance on Thursday morning and had such a fantastic time being entertained by our talented students. Then, our students wowed audience members with a wide variety of high-quality performances at our sold-out evening concert. We were even lucky enough to have Rooks Heath alumni Aidan Tucker, Rohan Patel and Ben Bark return to share their musical expertise and inspire our younger musicians.

It is thrilling to be able to provide opportunities for our students to showcase their talents once again, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from all those who attended. All students involved should be commended on the hard work and commitment that went into preparing these performances – well done!

A big thank you to Mr Pitchforth, Mr Ring, Ms Logan and all the numerous staff who helped to organise and run these events this week – without the support of staff, these kinds of events just wouldn't happen.









# YEAR 11 SWANAGE DIARY

BY KERETHIKA ROSAIRO

Here is a small excerpt of an article about the Year 11 Geography Trip to Swanage written by Kerethika Rosairo.

"On the 17th of September 2021, twenty-one Year 11 students and three teachers began their voyage to visit the glorious coastlines of England. Little did they know that this residential trip would be a highlight of their last year of secondary school. After hours of watching cars passing by on the motorway, our first pit stop was a service station where we all enjoyed the fresh air and freshened up before hitting the road for another 30 miles to visit Shell Beach. On our way to the breath-taking beach, we boarded a ferry at Sandbanks, which is a small peninsula on the coast of Dorset. In order make the most of our time, we later walked to Winspit Quarry, where we took in the gorgeous view of the English Channel and explored the caves of this abandoned limestone quarry. The evening was finally settling in as we arrived at the youth hostel. This is where my fondest memories of the trip were made. After hours of anticipation, my roommates and I settled into our enormous room which came with an en-suite bathroom and a stunning view of Swanage beach and its cliffs. We then headed down to dinner and then to our lesson where we were informed about the fieldwork we were going to be doing the following day. The highlight of the day was when we were free to explore the town at night. We ended up spending our time in a local arcade where most of the boys spent their time on the claw machines. Waves of laughter and excitement floated through the air when we were all huddled around the claw machines, cheering and running in exhilaration whenever someone won. As our curfew approached, we walked back to the hostel where our night ended."

"The residential trip to Swanage has made a mark in my final year of secondary school, and those four days had been exhilarating with new adventures every day. Thank you to Mr Simpson, Mr Wright and Ms Rockell who worked very hard organising this trip, despite the recent pandemic. Lastly, to future Year 11 geographers reading this, I hope this article has inspired you to visit the beautiful town of Swanage as it's a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience with your classmates and teachers!"

[The full article can be found here.](#)





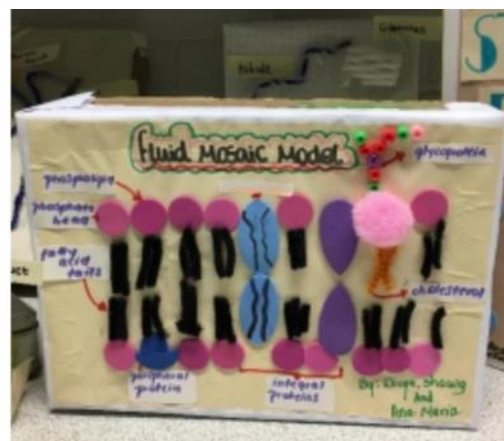
# Modelling in Science

BY MRS S. RAHMAN

Year 7 Science students have been making 3D Model cells as part of their Autumn Term Assessed task.



Year 13 BTEC Applied Science have made models which show The Loop of Henle in the Kidneys and the Fluid Mosaic Model for cell membranes.



Rooks Heath School understands the Fundamental British Values and strives to build them into our everyday experience.

A special thank you to our Sociology teacher, Ms Gardezi for a wonderful display.



# YEAR 7 CHRISTMAS DISCO

BY MS H. GROVER

What do you get when you put-together music, dancing, disco lights, games, drinks, snacks...and one hundred or so Year 7s? Well, surely that must be the Rooks Heath Year 7 Christmas disco party!

Thanks to the superb planning (and big energy!) from the Year 13 Business Studies students, as well as guidance from Ms Fosbrooke, their BTEC teacher, the Year 7s were treated to a fabulous, festive, fun-filled afternoon disco.

The disco was combined with Christmas Jumper Day, for the Save the Children charity, allowing for students to come to school already dressed in their party outfits. It was an opportunity for Year 7s to gather together and enjoy the 'lighter' side of Rooks Heath life.

"We received excellent help from the volunteers and teachers. We were so happy to have such a successful event!" Danielle, Year 13.

Safe to say that everyone had great fun....and here are the photos to prove it!



## DATES

**Tuesday  
4th & 5th January**

Student Covid Testing (see table opposite)

•  
**Thursday 6th January**

All students in school.  
Normal start time.

•  
**Tuesday 18th January**

Online Yr 11 Consultation Evening

•  
**Tuesday 25th January**

Yrs 12 & 13 Consultation Evening

•  
**Monday 14th February**

Half Term holiday begins

## JANUARY COVID TESTING

Please note that there will be two days of testing for the students when we return on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th of January. Below is the current plan, subject to Government change.

Date	Year group	Tutor Group	Time slot
<b>Tuesday 4th January</b>	Year 10 & Year 12	R, O, Y, G	11:00am – 12:00pm
		B, I, V, W	12:00pm – 1:00pm
	Year 11 & Year 13	R, O, Y, G	1:00pm – 2:00pm
		B, I, V, W	2:00pm – 3:00pm
<b>Wednesday 5th January</b>	Year 7	R, O, Y, G	9:00am – 10:00am
		B, I, V, W	10:00am – 11:00am
	Year 8	R, O, Y, G	11:00am – 12:00pm
		B, I, V, W	12:00pm – 1:00pm
	Year 9	R, O, Y, G	1:00pm – 2:00pm
		B, I, V, W	2:00pm – 3:00pm
<b>Thursday 6th January</b>	All students in school. Normal start time. Lessons resume.		
<b>Friday 7th January</b>	All students in school.		