



ROOKS HEATH LIFE

Newsletter of Rooks Heath School Community



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Head Teacher's Spring Message

BY MRS M. MANDERSON

The end of term was phenomenally busy! We have enjoyed leading several events including our whole school production of Matilda, several Parent Consultation evenings, Strive to Be Your Best evening, the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, Year 8s options interviews, mock examinations, STEM Quizzes and the brilliantly organised PTFA/ Staff Quiz! Meanwhile we are ensuring our students study hard towards what will be the first set of public examinations since 2019.

We have also enjoyed several sporting successes making us very proud – our Year 11 Basketball boys are the official Harrow Borough Champions!

Now we are all ready for a very well earned break and look forward to seeing all students next term.

Examination students will need to make the most of the Easter break. They have plenty of tools available and have been given lots of advice. I am sure you will support your children to maximise on their opportunities to study during this time.

Have a great break and enjoy this term's newsletter.

Trip to St. Anselm's Catholic Primary School - Dance Show Case

BY MRS J. LAMB

Year 7 students were invited to St. Anselm's Catholic Primary School for their Dance Show Case. We were made to feel very welcome and were offered tea, juice and biscuits before the show. We were then escorted into the main hall for their production. The students were able to see all different war time dances, Tudor dances, Bollywood, the Charleston and lots more! The children ranged from Reception to Year 6. It was a very enjoyable trip. We also received some student feedback from Nelakshi Lokananthan 7B. "The trip to the dance show was very enjoyable from start to finish. This is because the children were very



eye catching to look at in their intricately designed clothes and the types of dances were very nice in their own special way. e.g. The Bollywood dancers had a range of eye and hand movements and the Tudor dancers showed teamwork. I especially enjoyed how they used each individual child to their potential so nobody was left out. The music was very engaging and I felt glued to the performance and nothing was going to stop me from watching the fantastic acts. I would like to go to another trip as I hope that I will have as much fun as I have had in this awesome trip to St. Anselm's."

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Workshop

BY MRS R. GARRETT

On Tuesday 8th February twenty-four Year 10 students took part in the speaking challenge provided by the Jack Petchey Trust and was led by the fabulous Charles Emeka. All students were able to develop their confidence with public speaking and they all relished the opportunity to voice their opinions and discuss a range of topics. They were a credit to Rooks Heath with their engagement, courage, and respect for others. Thank you to all staff who arranged or did cover, changed their classroom to facilitate the workshop, and to those who allowed their students to attend. It was such a valuable experience for those involved; one student remarked this was his best day in school ever which I guess is a big thumbs up from the students too.



International Women's Day

BY MRS G. COURT

At the beginning of March, in Book Club, we celebrated International Women's Day. We were looking at books that are about inspirational women or fiction books written by women with strong female characters. I talked about my favourite female author Diana Wynne Jones who wrote many fantasy books and how there are lots of authors who talk about her stories inspiring them to write, such as Neil Gaiman. We challenged the book club members to complete some international women's day activities and hope to display their efforts in the library.



Ready Steady Blowwwwww!

AS Science

BY MRS S. UL-HAQ

AS Biology students have been measuring lung capacity as part of studying breathing systems in organisms. This was linked to respiratory diseases like Asthma and of course Covid. Students were tasked to research how Covid causes lung damage and presented facts in the following lesson.



BY FARHIYA, MUNA, NAJMA, ELEONORA AND VISHNU

Want to Know About Breathing Systems in Humans? We, the Year 12 A-level biology students certainly did. Here we are looking at a pluck (a pluck is the lungs, heart and liver of an animal). We watched Mrs Ul-Haq showed us the various types of tissues and how they all 'fit together'. We then got the chance to handle the trachea and compare lung tissue with heart tissue. We followed this by looking at lung tissue under the microscope. Sooooo different to just seeing things in textbooks and the internet. Loved the lesson!



MATILDA 2022

BY MISS A. WEBB

In the third week of February a large number of Rooks Heath students performed in the production of Matilda. These students ranged from Years 7-11 and all dedicated five months to learning lines, songs and choreography, not to mention hours of rehearsal time after school. Over those five months it was lovely to watch students evolve and come out of their shells, but most of all it was beautiful watching



friendships forming between students that if it wasn't for the production, probably wouldn't have happened. After two years of no school production due to Covid the students were ready and raring to go! They were extremely patient and well behaved (for the most part!) throughout the rehearsal process. This was a lovely opportunity for friends and family to come and watch the students hard work and effort in action. The backstage crew were amazing and patient with us in the run up to the performances. They had been running around making sure everything ran smoothly. A massive thank you to the students and staff that helped backstage and front of house. We really appreciate you giving up your time to help us! We would like to give a massive thank you to Miss Slater, Mr Broderick, Mr Sharp, Mr Pitchforth, Miss Hargrave and Mr Pruzhanov who brought the set of Matilda to life. Mr Sharp & Mr Pitchforth spent hours after school and on weekends painting and building the set for Matilda that was far better than anything we could have ever imagined. They came up with the genius ideas for the magic chalk board scene or was it magic / Mr Pruzhanov's carpentry skills? You'll never know!

We honestly couldn't have done it without them, and we can't thank them enough. We would also like to thank Miss Hargrave for organising and ensuring all cast members had costumes. She spent many a weekend hunting round shops to see if there was anything she could use for cast members. Miss Hargrave also made the amazing cake that Bruce eats! We would like to give a massive shout out to 'Found' in Shaftesbury Circle, South Harrow and Emmy from Stagecoach Harrow for supplying us with several costumes. Thank you to those who came to watch Matilda and we will hopefully see you again in 2023 for our next school production!



CNY Activities

BY MISS V. GONG

Chinese New Year took place at the beginning of February, and to help celebrate and connect to the Chinese curriculum, we embarked upon a number of fun and educational activities.

For KS3 students, we created "Chinese New Year" posters, and had a lively discussion on the historical context of the "Chinese New Year,". We also enjoyed some of the most popular songs played during the New Year. Year 10 students wrote short essays using Chinese characters to describe the ways in which Chinese people celebrate the new year. They sampled some of China's most renowned foods, including "Mapo tofu," egg rolls and "Pai Huang gua", a special dish consisting of cucumber and chilli. Year 11 students were also taken on a culinary tour of China and learnt about the different provincial cuisines of China and how the different regions use different variations of chilli sauces. Some of the students also practised their calligraphy skills with a traditional Chinese calligraphy brush.

Every year group also participated in a "Hong bao" red pocket challenge. To reward students for their excellent behaviour and high attainment, they were given a red pocket, which contained a small prize, such as "a positive phone call to parents", "a Chinese souvenir", "Chinese postcards" and the one that students most excited to win: the "no homework for a week" prize!



Year 11 Borough Basketball Final

BY MR P. TODD

The Year 11 Basketball Team played the Borough Final at Park High School against Hatch End in what was a closely contested match.

The game began badly for Rooks Heath with several crucial players getting into foul trouble early on, mainly due to the physicality of the Hatch End team. Having started slowly in previous games we usually improve as we go through the game, but on this occasion this didn't happen. This resulted in us being four points down with 2 minutes left on the clock.

We called a timeout, set out what we needed to do and sent the boys back on court with a renewed sense of purpose. The next 2 minutes were intense, draining but exciting and when the final buzzer went at the end of the game, we had overhauled the Hatch End total to win by three points.

To date, the Year 11 Basketball team have trained for 77 hours this academic year. It shows a dedication, an application and just what it means to be in the team. I am certain that as they mature, they will use these qualities that they have employed in their basketball, in their future lives.

But for now, they are very happy to be called Borough Basketball Champions 2022, which sounds just great! They are: -

Kyrese, Kanye, Zak, Abdulkadir, Masud, Aakarshan, Preachard, Sameer, Abdallah, Dominik

Geography Trip

BY MR W. SIMPSON

Year 12 and 13 Geography students visited Canary Wharf to investigate the re-generation of London Docklands. Despite it being cold and windy, students completed several field-work activities and improved their understanding of how this former industrial area had been regenerated and transformed into a major global financial center. I was extremely pleased with all the students - their behaviour and attitude to learning was exemplary throughout the day.



Pie-A-Teacher!

By MR M. PITCHFORTH

Friday 25th March saw the return of a popular Rooks Heath fundraiser: Pie-A-Teacher for Comic Relief.



Students paid £1 a ticket to enter the draw on the afternoon to Pie-A-Teacher, that is: to push a "custard pie" onto the face of one of the assembled senior teachers. The options students had at the end of the onstage shooting gallery were Mr Todd, Mrs Haddow, Ms Grover, Mr Sharp and Miss Rockell.

Unfortunately for the students and maybe less so for him, Mr Parkinson was unable to attend.

Nobody managed to escape the mess despite the very interesting pie throwing techniques. Mrs Haddow, however, somehow seemingly deserved most of the students' attention. Probably not a lot of maths fans in the audience....

Thank you to Mr Williams for comparing the event and a big thank you to our pie-ees for being such good sports. All together the event raised £145!



Local Artist visits Rooks Heath Art Department

BY MISS A. BORRILL

This term, the Art Department was very lucky to be visited by local artist Armando Alemdar. Armando introduced our Sixth Form Advanced Level class along with some Year 10 GCSE Art students to his own work of figurative painting. His specialism is oil painting, and Armando produced a very inspiring workshop for the students. He demonstrated how to build up layers in portraiture by first applying a layer of mid tone, followed by a layer of dark tone and finally adding lightest tones to their portraits. Finer details of the eyes, lips and nose were then applied to their portraits. Armando then challenged our students to work outside their comfort zones and push the boundaries to produce their own exciting work using the techniques he had demonstrated. Our students rose to the challenge with enthusiasm and commitment, and Armando was delighted with the work they produced. The students will now be able to continue with their portraits from the workshop and add them to their portfolio. The Art Department would like to thank Armando for his energy and interaction with the students and for providing such an exciting challenge. We are very much looking forward to his second visit!



YEAR 7 FAIR

By MS H. GROVER

On Friday 18th March, the Year 7s held a lunch time fair, to raise money for Comic Relief. There was an fantastic variety of stalls, such as Guess the Number of Sweets in a Jar, Bottle Flip and Play Your Cards Right. There was also a Bake Sale, with lots of super delicious cakes made by a group of students. It was a great event, with over £80 raised, going towards worthy causes. Well done, Year 7!

THE LAST DANCE

BY MR P. TODD

The Year 11 boys played their final basketball match ever with a prestigious fixture at the Harrow School. From the moment we drove down onto the campus the boys were taken aback by the array of facilities that greeted them.

Entering the sports hall, we were met by a very welcoming group of staff who made us all feel at home very quickly. The game itself was like an actual league match. We had two external official referees, two external scorers on the score table and lots of people watching.

Their team had been coached by a very well-known external coach, so we feared the worst as we warmed up, but were still determined to put on a good show, what with it being our last venture together. In the end, it turned out to be a very close match throughout, but our boys finally ran out of steam with 30 seconds left, losing the game by just one point. Heartbreaking!

However, this was not just about the basketball. This was also about the experience, the privilege and the aspiration, that all of the boys received tonight.

I have been teaching at Rooks Heath for 25 years and never have I been prouder of a group of students visiting another school. They showed what they were capable of as young men and it meant the world to me! Ambassadors, every single one of them, and an experience they will never ever forget.

It's been a pleasure boys – all the best for your futures in the game.



WORLD BOOK DAY

BY MRS G. COURT



At the beginning of March, we celebrated World book day in the Library with our Emoji Book title quiz each day. Throughout the week we had fun listening to students and staff trying to work out the different clues with exclamations of "it's Golf Golf Golf" or the 3 Golfs. Thank you to all staff who showed the emojis throughout the week and encouraged the students to take part. There were some very interesting guesses with some of my favourites being "The boat is sinking" (Watership Down), "I don't know why Goallock's parrot stabbed an eye" (I know why the caged bird sings), "When leaves fall tigers and monkeys read" (The Jungle book) and one that a lot of people came up with, "Grape Punch" (Grapes of Wrath). A big thank you to Mr Pitchforth who came up with the fiendish clues and well done to the staff and students who managed to come up with the answers. Well done to the below students who got 5 correct answers on one day; Aliya Yr 9, Hyder Yr 8, Shann Yr 8, Shlok Yr 11. Well done to the following students who got 5 correct answers on more than one day; Nat Yr 11, Prushva Yr 8, Krishni Yr 8, Andrei Yr 8, Talal Yr 8. And Finally, well done to the staff that got 5 correct answers on one day; Miss Gloor and Miss Noone!

DATES

Wednesday 20th April
Students return to school
Sixth Form mocks begin

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Monday 2nd May
Bank Holiday, school closed

•
Monday 16th May
Public exams begin

•
Monday 30th May
Half Term holiday begins

PUBLIC EXAMS 2022

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS and CARERS REGARDING PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

All candidates sitting public (external) examinations at Rooks Heath School must be aware of the regulations.

These regulations and a full exam timetable can be found [in this link](#).