



ROOKS HEATH LIFE

Newsletter of Rooks Heath School Community

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Important Dates

Head Teacher's Message

BY MRS M. MANDERSON

This term has been eventful as we had a few days of teacher industrial action. I hope that your children made the most of the days and completed tasks set for them during this time if they were not in school. As I always tell our examination students, the Easter Holidays are not really a holiday but provide two weeks of really valuable time which they can use to ensure they reach their potential in the upcoming examinations. We hope you will support them to make the most of this time.

Our Spring term Newsletter brings you updates on events which have taken place across a number of year groups; International Women's Day, International Poetry Day and the Chinese New year to name a few. Our students continue to champion us in the local community in their paired reading with primary pupils and the Mandarin Excellence Programme is going extremely well. It is a joy to see students going on trips and visiting speakers in school, ensuring that our statutory requirements such as PSHE and careers are fulfilled and our student access the best across the curriculum.

If you are a parent or carer, we would really like to hear your voice. Please consider joining our PTFA or attending one of my Parent Surgeries. The dates are within this newsletter. Please immerse yourself in the articles which have been carefully selected to share Rooks Heath Life with you. I hope you enjoy reading about them.



Production: The Lion The Witch and the Wardrobe

Science Club

BY MRS RAHMAN

Please see some pictures of what the students have been getting up to in the Science Club. To the right, students were creating bubbles of methane by adding methane gas to water containing washing up liquid. You can then see the result of lighting the methane! From this we can understand that methane is flammable, but what chemical reaction takes place during this combustion reaction? (see below for answer!)



The students also had fun creating fake snow out of shaving foam and bicarbonate of soda. They even made a snow man out of the fake snow.

answer is :



Year 7 Model Cells

BY MRS RAHMAN

The Year 7 Science students made some very impressive models of cells recently.



Paired Reading

By MRS LAMB

This half term, nine Year 8 students are taking part in a Paired Reading Programme with KS1 and KS2 children at Heathland School. Already the students are showing their ON-TRACK values. They have been enthusiastic and creative when talking with the children about their favourite book characters or superheroes. The children at Heathland School really appreciated the time the Year 8s spent with them reading and talking to them.

Hopefully, this Paired Reading Programme will be successful and beneficial to all students involved and will continue next year with more students taking part.



Careers Fair

By MS GREEN

On Wednesday 18th January we held a Careers Fair in school for all of our students. This was the first time that we were able to hold the Fair on site at the school since the pandemic. We had around 30 organisations exhibiting at the fair. In addition to various further and higher education institutions, we had organisations representing hospitality, engineering, law, the police, the NHS, and construction.

The Fair was organised in conjunction with the local MP, Gareth Thomas, who also gave a speech to open the fair.

The feedback that we've had from our exhibitors has largely been positive, and we believe that our students got a lot out of the day.

We'll be arranging further activities relating to careers later in the year, and we're already looking forward to next year's Careers Fair.



Trip to the Royal Institute

BY MRS UL-HAQ AND MRS IVES

It was such a pleasure to watch Rooks Heath students become scientists for the day at the L'Oréal Young Scientist centre at the Royal Institution (RI) last week.

The RI is Home to famous Christmas lectures started by Michael Faraday. It is a building where the work of great scientists like Humphrey Davy and James Dewar, among others, led to the discovery of ten chemical elements. It has had an instrumental role in the advancement of science.

Rooks Heath students took part in a colour chemistry workshop. The students discussed how colour arises through the removal of specific wavelengths of light and both additive and subtractive colour mixing. The students then discovered how chemical bonding can lead to colour, and they produced both natural and synthetic dyes. The final part of the workshop saw the students design their own colourimetry experiment to determine the unknown concentration of a dye sample.



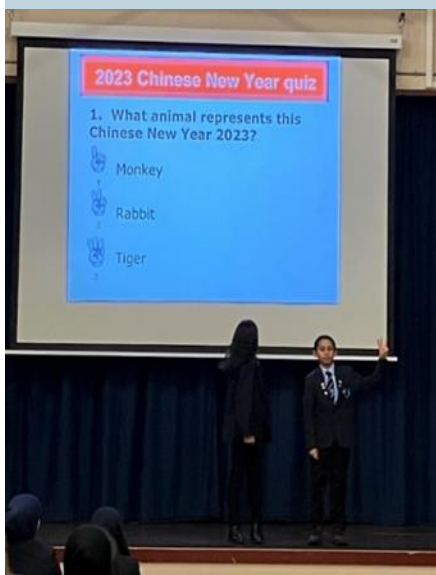
The whole experience has hopefully ignited a passion for scientific discovery and encouraged curiosity-driven learning among our students. This is an example of how we promote STEM subjects in the school. Just as in the best research laboratories, students had access to advanced technology and experiments outside the remit of the normal school curriculum, making this a school science trip to remember. The three scientists running the workshop commented on the impeccable behaviour of the students and the 100% engagement of the students in all activities. There was a buzz of excitement on the journey home with students discussing careers that they had not considered before.



Chinese New Year Assembly

BY MS LIU

Sunday January 22nd marked the beginning of the Chinese Lunar New Year. At RHS, Y8 and Y7 pupils celebrated by learning about the origin and customs of this festival. The assembly was proudly presented by Miss Gong and some pupils from the MEP (Mandarin Excellence Program). The assembly climaxed when the pupils sang a festival song and wished each other “新年快乐” (xīn nián kuài lè) a very happy year of the rabbit.



That week also meant the beginning of the Chinese Spring Festival. Pupils from Y10, Y9, and Y8 showed off their calligraphy skills. In groups, they used traditional Chinese brushes to write down “blessings (福fú) and prosperity (恭喜发财gōng xǐ fā cái)” .

May the new blessings and prosperity spread further and around our beloved RHS community.

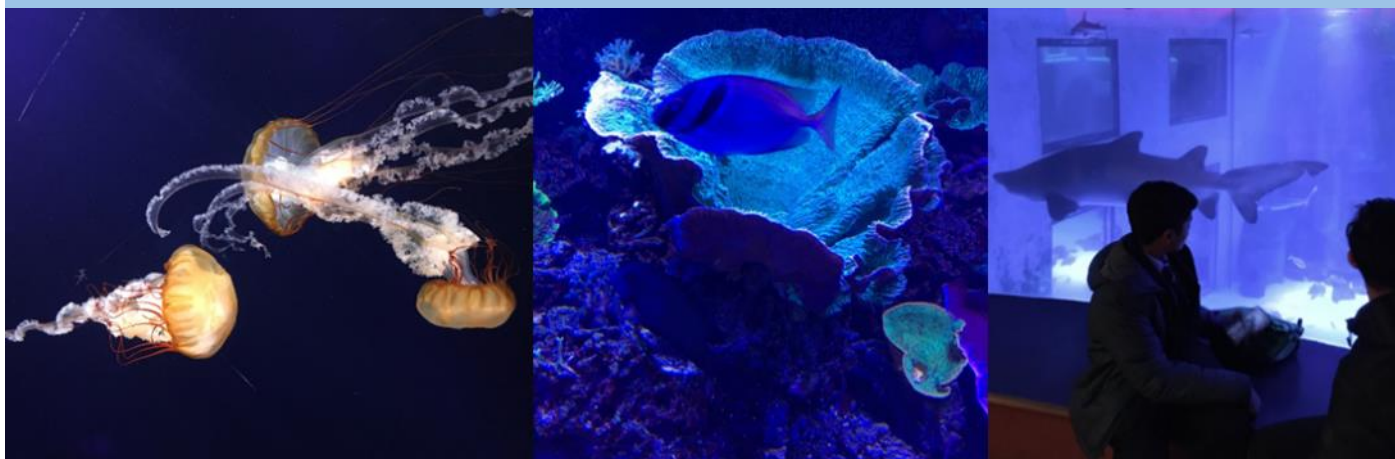


Year 10 Trip to the London Aquarium

BY MRS HARGRAVE

Last week the year 10 GCSE Ceramics students visited Sea Life Aquarium in London to study the different ocean zones. We saw coral reefs with tropical fish, starfish and sea horses and an amazing collection of jelly fish. We had lunch watching the sharks, a giant turtle and other larger fish swim by.

This visit will inform their final ceramic pieces as students have a work-related design brief to create a ceramic form celebrating life under the sea for an exhibition to be held at Sea Life.



Year 11 Music Project

BY MR PITCHFORTH



It's been a while since I've had the pleasure of working with students in the recording studio on a big, student lead project, but the last few weeks with year 11 music students Ollie and Miguel has been a lot of fun. The project was to produce an EPs worth of songs to promote their band and they've done themselves proud. Both are very talented musicians and song writers with great chemistry. They were so receptive to me explaining the intricacies of studio recording and took on all the information I was throwing at them, to the point that halfway through my role became standing at the back of the control room with a cup of tea and occasionally saying "more cow-bell". As the deadline loomed, they remained cool and unflappable and were even gracious enough to let me thrash a few chords for them.

I'll let the music speak for itself... [Primavera - Fox in a Box](#)

Chinese Students trip to China Town

BY YEAR 10 STUDENT RAXITHA KANAGASABAI NADATAJAH

On Thursday the 26th of January a group of year 10 and year 11 students went on a trip to Chinatown! The days leading up to this were very hectic as everyone was excited about what we would be doing and where we would be going.

On the morning of the trip, we all wanted to finish period 1 as fast as we could to prepare for our trip. As soon as we were dismissed from our period 1 lesson, everyone rushed to reception to wait for our teacher to come and give us instructions on the day ahead. Our lovely Ms Gong and Ms Liu came in and gave us all a booklet to fill throughout the day as we did each task.

We set off for our journey at 10.30! We took the bus to South Harrow station to get the Piccadilly line to go to Leicester Street for our first stop, an amazing restaurant called "Joy King Lau". We all got seated without groups, and they served us the most delicious food. It took us each a while to master the art of chopsticks, but with teamwork and everyone helping each other out, we got it in the end. They brought steamed cream custard buns, sweet and sour chicken, fried chicken noodles, steamed chicken gyoza, king prawn dumplings, and vegetable spring rolls. We all collectively agreed that the spring roll was the best part of the meal, even though everything else was tasty.

As we all finished eating, we went to Bedford Street, within walking distance, to watch the East Wind performance. The concert was held in St Paul's Church, which was breath-taking from the outside and equally stunning on the interior. The performance included traditional Chinese instruments and songs that the performers sang beautifully. Some of the performers even dressed up in traditional Chinese clothes, which they looked wonderful in. After we enjoyed the beautiful instruments playing, we interacted a bit with the performers to sharpen our Chinese skills.

Sadly, we had to leave Chinatown, we were all down because of that, but we were all happy to experience something incredible like this. On our way home, a couple of us got off at South Harrow station, got ourselves some bubble tea, and bonded over how fun this trip was!



Farewell to Mrs Das

BY MR MACAULAY

In February we bid farewell to our longstanding and exceptional examinations officer Mrs Das. Mrs Das was with us at Rooks Heath for 18 years. Mrs Das began as an invigilator and after two years demonstrated how she would use her skills to lead such an integral part of school life and so has been best placed to lead her exams and invigilation team over the years. Mrs Das has made so many friends here at Rooks Heath, and we will all miss her dearly in our working days, but I think as many of us know, the friends we make here are for life.



The Globe Players perform An Inspector Calls

BY MS HOLLY

On the 7th February we welcomed The Globe Players back into our hall and watched a spell-binding performance of the year 11 Literature text: 'An Inspector Calls'. Students were particularly enthralled by the *in the round* performance style and asked an array of pertinent and perceptive questions which really demonstrated their engagement with the performance, undoubtedly reaping beneficial feedback to further their understanding of the play. We hope to welcome The Globe Players back again before too long to regale us with further performances of other GCSE Literary texts. Thank you to all who were involved in the successful organisation and overseeing of the visit. Your input and support was greatly appreciated.



Leadership Workshop at Watford FC to celebrate International Woman's day

BY MRS LEONARD

On Tuesday 7th March a group of 12 Year 7 and 9 students were taken to Watford FC's training ground for a Leadership Workshop for International Women's Day. It was an amazing experience for them especially seeing the facilities of a Premier League Football club. They were based in a full sized 4G football pitch indoor dome with the First Team Players training in the pitch just outside.

The day consisted of several practical sessions, creative thinking and a Q&A session with 4 different women associated with football.



This was a refereeing workshop where they had to come up with the roles, responsibilities and skills needed to be a Football Referee. They were also given advice on how to become a referee and the different pathways they can follow. The students got to practice their skills in a shooting, defending and tactical drill. The coaches commented on their great teamwork and they helped each other out to understand some of the more different aspects of the drills.

The students got to learn about media in sport. They looked at the different types of media and how it can influence opinions. They also looked at the number of women that are represented in the media compared to men and what the possible solutions are to make things more equal.

The day finished with a Q&A from a panel of women that have made a career in football in different ways. The panellists were:

Kat Clifton Founder of She Can Play, a female-first coaching brand

Helen Ward Watford FC Player. She also plays for Wales

Charlotte Lynch Football Freestyler

Laura Dyer Watford Ladies FC Coach



Year 9 Media Trip to Sky Studios

BY MS MOHAMMED

Throughout March, two of the five Media classes set off to be budding reporters at Sky Studios in Osterley. The students got a tour of the incredible campus, in which some of their favourite content is created.



They placed **teamwork** at the heart of their production, working in different studios to create a news report on the negative effects of celebrity culture. Their **resilience** got them through the pressures of a 1-hour turnaround in which they had to create this outstanding news report, which they **achieved**. Their **creativity** was undeniable as the students took complete charge of their script, framing and editing, in which I, Miss Mohammed, was made their personal assistant and runner. They covered the effects of social media and celebrity culture on teenage mental health, backed up with research and even interviews with Logan Paul, KSI and Kylie Jenner (The Rooks Heath versions of course!). They tackled the subject both maturely and empathetically, and with a clear point of view. But most importantly, above all, the **kindness** they showed to each other and the workers at Sky Studios left the staff with a smile. The staff described the students as a "dream".

Fascinated by the enormous buildings, witnessing a live news broadcast, and learning that workers even had a free cinema and gym on the worksite let to a great interest from our students. I'm sure we will have some future Sky workers amongst our Rooks Heath students!



Pastures New

BY MRS MANDERSON

We wish all the best to Mrs Navarange, one of our LSA's at Rooks Heath who is leaving for pastures new. Thank you for your time with us, you will be missed!



Year 8 Trips to the Local Church—St Andrews

BY DR DONKOR



Between Monday 13th March and Thursday 23rd March 2023 the year 8s have been visiting their local church, St Andrews during lesson times. The aim of the visits was to learn about the features of the church, how Christians celebrate Easter and how the church serves the local community. The students completed a worksheet that helped them to identify the different features outside and inside the church, understand the importance of Easter and how it is celebrated, and how the local church serves the general community and the local area irrespective of one's religion. Their behaviour and respect to the place of worship was outstanding.



Christmas Jumper Day 2022

BY MS SMITH

Save the Children has confirmed that we raised £780.62 for Christmas Jumper Day 2022. A big thank you to everyone one who brought in a donation and wore a Christmas Jumper!



DATES

17.04.23—Year 13 Mocks All Week

19.04.23—Year 9 Trip to Sky Academy Studios

25.04.23—Sixth Form Trip to the Lyceum Theatre

01.05.23—May Bank Holiday

08.01.23—Coronation Bank Holiday

15.05.23—[Start of GCSE Exam Season](#)

16.05.23 + 17.05.23—Year 9 Trip to Sky Academy Studios

23.05.23—Year 7 Trip to the Living Rainforest

29.05.23 to 02.06.23 Half term

12.06.23 —Music Concert all week, Evenings

21.06.23—Year 12 Oracy and Presentation Skills Workshop

23.06.23—Year 9 Trip to the British Museum

26.06.23 to 03.07.23—Year 10 Mocks

27.05.23 Year 9 Workshop with Natwest

29.06.23—Year 13 Boat Trip/Prom

04.07.23—Year 12 end of year assessments

04.07.23—Year 7/8 Celebration, Evening

10.07.23 to 14.07.23—Year 12 work experience

11.07.23—Summer Concert/Culture evening

12.07.23—Year 9/10 Celebration, Evening

17.08.23—KS5 GCSE Results day

DATES FOR PARENTS

26.04.23—Year 10 Parent Consultation, Evening

03.05.23—PTFE in School 6pm

05.06.23—PTFE in school 6pm

20.06.23—New Year 7 Interviews

21.06.23—Year 12 UCAS Parent Information, Evening

06.27.23—New year 12 parents information, Evening

College Open Days

It is never too early to start researching your career options. The local colleges have a range of courses that offer many choices including vocational options. The more research you do, the more likely you are to make the right choice for you. If you need any help please email our Careers Coordinators on c&t@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk.

[Harrow College Open days](#)

[Uxbridge College Open days](#)

[Rooks Heath Sixth Form Open days](#)

[Stanmore College Open days](#)

[West London College Open days](#)

[West Herts College Open days](#)

