



ROOKS HEATH LIFE

Termly Newsletter of Rooks Heath College Community

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Why I love Rooks Heath College

BY MRS M. MANDERSON

Greeting parents, governors and the community and welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. I was warmly welcomed by the community in September and I am delighted to have completed my first term at Rooks Heath. In August we celebrated our GCSE results and for another year running, our year 7 intake was full with a waiting list of students wanting to join us.

There have been a whole plethora of activities both in and outside of the classroom developing our students' 'Cultural Capital'. From trips to see Mathilda at the Cambridge Theatre, Careers day to the whole College Council meeting, where I had the pleasure of listening to outstanding speeches presented by the College's spokespeople. We were blown away by the performances of the Autumn Concert and I fall in love with this school a little more each day. Rooks Heath College is a school for everyone. It embodies a true sense of community and inclusion. I invite you to read our newsletter and immerse yourself a little bit into life at Rooks Heath Collegue. I assure you, you won't be disappointed.

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.

May I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a joyous new year 2020.



MUSIC NEWS

“It was brilliant to see so many of our talented students showcase their skills.”

Autumn Music Concert

BY A. SLATER

On Thursday 21st of November over 90 students were involved in performances as part of our annual Autumn Music Concert. These students performed to 183 very excited students from Heathlands and Earlsmead in the morning, and to a sold out auditorium filled with friends and family in the evening. There was a wide range of different musical items showcased on the night, ranging from classical performances from our string ensemble, to Year 9 rock bands, dance items and vocal solos.

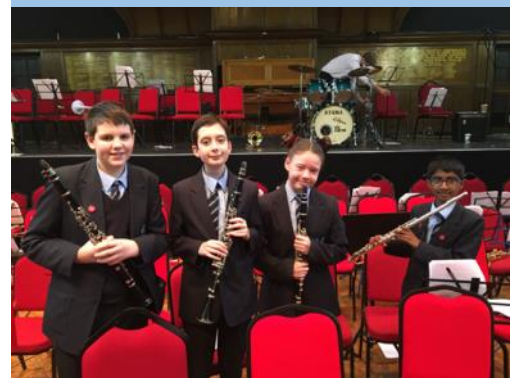
Both performances received overwhelmingly positive feedback from staff, students and parents – a credit to the hard work that the student put in leading up to these performances. It was brilliant to see so many of our talented students showcase their skills and I hope that many of them continue to perform at Rooks Heath events in future.



Harrow Music Service Band Festival 2019

BY A. SLATER

On Wednesday 27th of November, four wonderful Music students represented Rooks Heath College at the annual Harrow Music Service Band Festival. During the day, these four students joined with over one hundred students from surrounding Harrow schools to rehearse a set of pieces ahead of a performance in Elliot Hall at the Harrow Arts Centre in the evening. The students worked very hard during the day with students and staff to prepare these pieces and had a great time meeting new people and making music in a large ensemble setting. This was an invaluable experience for these students to not only further develop their musical skills but to experience making music within a larger ensemble context, playing with other musicians their own age. The performance in the evening was a smash hit and I know that the students had a brilliant time and can't wait to be involved again next year.



MUSIC TRIP TO 'MATILDA THE MUSICAL'

BY A. SLATER

On Wednesday 11th of December 80 very excited Year 7 and 8 students embarked on a trip to the West End to see a production of Matilda the Musical. We managed to navigate the buses, tube stations, cramped elevators, and busy streets of London to make our way to the Cambridge Theatre in Covent Garden for the matinee performance. This show thoroughly entertained students and staff alike with the fantastic costumes, sets, lighting and brilliant musical numbers. There were even lasers and confetti shot into the audience! We left the theatre with big smiles on our faces, all involved having had a splendid time. For some students this was their first time seeing a live show in a theatre and I feel confident that for all students lucky enough to attend it will be an experience that will stay with them for a long time to come.



Year 11 Army Skills Day

BY B. SAHOTA

Fun! Awesome! Interesting! Wow! Informative! are some of the adjectives used by the Year 11 students to describe their experience of the Army Skills session that they took part in during PE lessons on 12th September. They participated in activities which highlighted the importance of employability skills of problem solving, communication and teamwork, all of which are transferable and useful in any workplace. In addition, the soldiers talked to them about the career pathways they have undertaken. Thank you to the PE department for accommodating this session and to all the staff who helped.



Year 7 Careers Trip to KIDZANIA!

BY B. SAHOTA

60% of the lovely Year 7 students arrived early in school to travel on the Central line to Westfield, London. Their destination was Kidzania, where they "tried" out different jobs for the day. The most popular job was Air Conditioning Engineer. This involved crawling through vent tunnels in the ceiling to learn about air conditioning units and repairing faults! This was closely followed by working for a Cricket Club, Dance Academy and Air Cabin Crew. It was interesting for the students to realise that the skills they acquire in school for subjects like English and Maths are essential for the world of work. When questioned, the students agreed that teamwork and resilience were the most important and common skills required for the different jobs. The day also provided important lessons in time management and budgeting with some students having earned over 150 of the Kidzania currency to spend in the shop.

The following job sectors were available to the students to try out:

Acting, Aviation, Banking, Tour Bus, Cleaning Company, Cricket, Dance, Dentist, Face Painting Studio, Fashion Recycling Factory, Fashion Studio, Fire and Rescue Unit, Hospital A&E, Hotel, Library, Medical Courier Service, Music Academy, Newspaper, Nintendo Workshop, Vets, Police, Radio Station, Service station, Supermarket, Vault Services, Theatre, T.V. Studio, University, Wrap Factory.



YEAR 7 DISCO

BY S. SHARP

On Thursday 5th December, a group of Sixth Formers, as part of their Business Studies coursework, organised our now customary Christmas Disco for Year 7 students. The Hall was transformed with festive decorations and flashing lights to create a great space for posing and dancing. The older students worked hard to create a great atmosphere, providing refreshments and party games for the Year 7s to enjoy.

The highlight of the evening was a very competitive dance-off! Some of the moves on display really were a sight to behold, with Oliver Clanford awarded first prize. The Year 7s had a fabulous time and Mr Sharp even learnt some new steps!

Thank you to Mrs Fosbrooke and all of the Sixth Formers involved for organising such a great event.

Year 8 Rugby Success

BY J. BOYLES

On Friday 22 nd November the Year 8 rugby team travelled to Harrow RFC to compete in their first ever borough tournament. The boys had only ever played 15 minutes of 10 a side rugby before and were due to be playing Salvatorian College, a traditional 'rugby school' and one that teaches rugby in the curriculum from Year 7 onwards. The task was a daunting one to say the least and was sure to be a big test of how far the boys have progressed since starting training in September.

The weather was perfect for rugby, rain in the air but not too cold and a nice muddy pitch. The boys warmed up and were spoken to by the referee regarding the rules and how he would be managing the game. The first game begun and within 10 seconds the tone was set by Theo Davies who hit a superb tackle. From this point onwards Rooks Heath did not look back and went on to dominate both games comfortably. The strength, speed and understanding of the game was clear to see and before 5 minute had passes Rooks Heath were leading 4 tries to 0. The score was 5-0 at half time. The second half began and Salvatorian started strongly and scored two quick tries to make it 5-2. A couple of changes saw Rooks Heath take control once again and they went on to win 9-2. The second game started to look like it would be a more even affair, however, once Rooks Heath had found their rhythm they blitzed passed them, winning by 7 tries to 0.

They became Year 8 borough 10s champions, the first team from Rooks Heath to ever do so and in the process have been asked by Harrow RFC to attend their training and affiliate themselves to the club for the rest of this season free of charge. As hard as it is to name some stand out performers in what were fantastic games of rugby, it would be harsh not mention Elrike, Dorian , Theo and Zabir. These four boys really excelled and really need to attend training at the club to ensure we their talent is harnessed.



YEAR 8 RUGBY TEAM

*Jayden
Theo
Zabir
Maxim
Sean
Harrison
Sohail
Dorian
Elrike
Andrew
Malachi
Denzel
Ry-Lee*

Year 12 Vs 13 Football

BY M. PITCHFORTH

Our annual year 12 verses year 13 football match took place on 11th October. Students braved the wind, rain and mud and give an energetic performance on the pitch. Despite a plucky performance from the 12s, year 13 walked away with a 7-4 victory. All students paid to play and altogether we raised £40 for the charity MIND in honour of Mental Health Awareness Week. Thank you to Mr Williams for refereeing.



STUDENT BAKE OFF

BY E. WRIGHT

Students in year 8 have been learning about tectonic hazards such as Volcanoes and Earthquakes. Students have learnt that the earth is made up of different layers and moving plates. Students were asked



to create models to either show the structure of a volcano or the layers of the earth. Manha in 8G and Ma'An in 8O went an extra step and created two beautiful volcano cakes that were very tasty!



YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO SWANAGE

BY W. SIMPSON & N. MOHAMED

Nancy Mohamed (11 Indigo) has written a fabulous diary of events relating to the 3-day residential Geography trip to Swanage. Below is a small extract. For the full story please click [here](#).

Day 1: On the 13th September at 7:30am, 48 Rooks Heath students met outside the college for a trip they would never forget. The sun was shining and it was looking like it was going to be a glorious end-of-summer weekend. The trip to the services was filled with laughter, loud music and casual snoring from here and there. Our first stop was after 3 hours at one of Studland Bay's beautiful beaches where we were given some free time to explore, take some pictures and stretch our legs before returning to the minivans for our next stop, a small village near Swanage containing a duck pond. Here we completed a worksheet about the environment and what it is like to live in the village of Worth Matravers. We then walked down a large hill and arrived at a clearing which consisted of some caves which we explored briefly before being offered the option to climb down an even steeper hill, which I said no to because it was too steep for my liking. We then returned up the hill which was filled with lots of moaning about how tired we all were. Little did we know, that this was just the beginning!



Norfolk Lake Trip 2019

BY P. TODD

A group of forty Y8s & Y9s travelled to Norfolk Lakes last Friday, to spend the weekend enjoying each other's company and taking part in the numerous activities that the centre had to offer.

The students clambered over the assault course, kayaked around one of the huge lakes, tried their best to throw Mr Todd & Mr King off the giant stand up paddle board and all of that was on day one!

Day two saw the students take on the art of sailing, caving, climbing and raft building. To see Miss Acharya and Miss Olivero clinging to part of the rafts plastic barrels whilst trying to stay dry, will live with the students for a very long time!

When Monday arrived, we had still not seen a rain cloud and the students had gone 72 hours without their mobile phones, an absolute miracle but a delightful digital detox!

The students behaved impeccably, and a fantastic time was had by everyone in beautiful surroundings.



DATES & DEADLINES

PUBLIC EXAMS

- 8/1/20 morning - BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care Unit 4 written
- 9/1/20 morning - BTEC Level 2 Music Unit 1 written
- 10/1/20 morning – BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care Unit 1 written
- 16/1/20 morning – BTEC Level 3 Applied Science Unit 3 practical
- 20/1/20 morning - BTEC Level 3 Applied Science Unit 3 written

YEAR 11 MOCKS

- 10/1/20 afternoon – Maths 1 non-calculator
- 13/1/20 morning – Maths 2 calculator

YEAR 8 & 9 OPTIONS

- 07/02/20 Years 8 & 9 Option Books home
- 11/02/20 Year 8 Assembly and option forms given out
- 12/02/20 Year 9 Assembly and option forms given out
- 12/02/20 Years 8 & 9 Options Evening
- 24/02/20 Year 8 Deadline for forms back
- 25/02/20 Year 9 Interview Day
- 02/03/20 Year 9 Deadline for forms back

New Academic Timetable Arrangements

BY N. CHRISTENSEN

There is an important change that will happen to the academic year for your child.

Previously, students would start their new year group in mid June. We have decided to change this arrangement.

This year, all students will continue with their current timetable structure and year group until the end of the summer term. This means students will remain in their year group with their current teachers until our last day of term which is Friday 17th July.

We have given this some careful consideration and recognise that our students will benefit from the additional time to deepen their learning of the curriculum with their current year groups. This will allow for further preparation for the next academic year. We will introduce assessment and examination weeks for students in years 7 – 10 to support students and parents in tracking progress.

It will also allow us to plenty of time to plan supportive revision and extra-curricular activities leading up to the end of the year. Students will break for the summer holidays and return to start in the new year groups with new timetables.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

CALLING ALL PARENTS

Please consider being a member of our PTFA 'Parents, Friends and Teachers Association'.

Please put the following dates into your diaries and calendars. All meetings run from 6pm – 7pm and are held in the lobby area next to the main reception.

22/01/20, 04/03/20, 06/05/20, 25/07/20

Parent Surgery is here! —Mondays 4pm—5:30pm

Would you like to discuss something with the headteacher. Please make an appointment with Vicky Cook. Dates available are: Monday 27th January, 2nd March and 30th March.

Rooks Heath Poppy Appeal

BY M. KENNARD

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal have confirmed that Rooks Heath college have raised £179.67.



*“Without your help, we
would be unable to
continue our vital welfare*