



ROOKS HEATH LIFE

Newsletter of Rooks Heath College Community

NEWS & FEATURES

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Returning to a full Cohort September 2020

A letter has been sent to our families outlining arrangements for the full return in September. A copy can be found by clicking here: [Letters](#).

Arrangements for the start of the Autumn Term 2020:

September Return:

Date	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
Wednesday 2 nd September	Staff Professional Development day, College closed to students.						
Thursday 3 rd September	8:40am-11:40am	Remote learning at home (years 8, 9, 10, 11)				8:40am-11:40am	
Friday 4 th September	Staff Professional Development day, College closed to students.						
Monday 7 th September	8:40am – 11:40am			12:10pm – 3:30pm			
Tuesday 8 th September	8:40am–3:10pm	Remote learning at home (years 8, 9, 10, 11)				9:00am- 3:30pm	
Wednesday 9 th September	8:40am – 3:10pm		Remote learning at home (years 9 and 10)		9:00am – 3:10pm		
Year groups	Y7 and Y11	Y8	Y9 and Y10		6 th form		
Entrance points	Main entrance	J Block entrance	E block entrance left		E block entrance right		



2020—Changes

BY MRS M. MANDERSON

2020, the year of vision, clarity and change. The year has seen some uncertainty but also plenty of opportunity. This newsletter presents the changes we have seen and those we will be making. We have seen extraordinary resourcefulness and resilience from so many people across our staff and student community all quickly adapting to the implications of lockdown.

We used the opportunity to have some dedicated one-to-one conversations with students in Years 7 – 10 and 12. We made the most of launching our virtual [Year 7 New Intake day](#). Please do take a look. Don't forget you can find all our virtual assemblies here: [Rooks Heath Virtual Assemblies](#) which include some wonderful contributions from ex-students who are part of our Rooks Heath alumni.

We look forward to welcoming all our students back for a full return in September. Yes, there will be some changes. 'Bubbles', social distancing protocols, separate break and lunchtimes, increased hygiene measures, a new one-way system of movement around the College, updated remote learning and parent communication systems are all part of the new changes to come. Some changes are more exciting than others of course. A letter detailing September return arrangements has been sent to all our parents and carers.

Over the year, we have received a wide range of feedback from our parent community. We are a listening school and are grateful for all feedback. We particularly like receiving news such as this because at Rooks Heath, we aim to create the conditions for every student to strive to be their best:

"Dear Mrs Manderson,

I have emailed some of my son's teachers directly, but I don't have the email for all of them. I would just like to say how much the staff at Rooks have been amazing with my son. They have challenged and supported him in equal measure. The moment we came to look around Rooks when he was in Yr. 6 we knew it was the right school for him and we have never doubted that decision.

He has turned into a thoughtful, funny, caring, young man and in no small part it is down to all of you.

Thank you so much"

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your show of support, commitment and dedication to your children's education by engaging with our communication. Let's all continue to strive to make our students, your children, the best they can be. If you have some time, click the image above to hear my final words to all students for this year.

Looking forward to seeing you all, face-to-face in the new academic year.

Have a lovely summer holiday.

Farewells

Sadly, we need to say farewell to three of our colleagues who are retiring. They have worked at Rooks Heath for a total sum of 80 years between them. Impressive! Below are dedications to these members of staff who will start their retirement this summer.

Ms Williams (42 years at Rooks Heath)

BY MRS J. HADDOW

This summer we bid a fond farewell to Ms Williams. Ms Williams joined Rooks Heath 42 years ago in September 1978. 42 years represents incredible loyalty and service to our school. During that time Ms Williams has had a positive impact on the lives of thousands of students, many of whom are now parents of our current students and who affectionately remember their time in Ms Williams' care.

A lot has happened since 1978. To give you some idea of life in 1978, it was the year that we first saw Grease and Superman in the cinemas. Rivers of Babylon by Boney M was the best-selling single of the year. Ipswich Town won the FA Cup, and it was also the year that we first saw Dallas and Grange Hill on television.

During her 42 years at Rooks Heath Ms Williams has regularly been described as a role model, a mentor to staff and students, an ambassador for women's sport, kind, committed and conscientious. She knows every girl in the school and often has a more positive relationship than average with those girls who find school difficult.

During her career she has undertaken various responsibilities and in 2014 became Head of PE at Rooks Heath. She has delivered all of the roles that she has undertaken to the same high standard with the same enthusiasm, positivity and quiet determination and outstanding teaching have remained at the centre of her practice.

Ms Williams is respected not only by staff and students at Rooks Heath but around the borough where her knowledge of girls' sport, coupled with her calm and thoughtful demeanour, earns her the highest accolades. She is passionate about sport and, having played sport herself at a high level in the 1980s, particularly basketball, she continues to support participation in sport for all ages and has recently discovered walking basketball, coaching those who's mobility prevents them participating in the full version.

Her legacy is evident whenever we meet former students. They are always keen to hear about teachers they knew and Ms Williams is the teacher that they tend to ask about first. For many, some of their happiest memories are linked to PE or our wonderful fully inclusive yet fiercely competitive Sports Days. Ms Williams is always at the heart of Sports Day, and the photo above taken in 2016 with her trademark cap and clipboard captures her perfectly.

Ms Williams, we have been lucky to have you for the last 42 years, we are going to miss you terribly and we wish you a long and happy retirement.



Ms Metson (13 years at Rooks Heath)

BY MS I. HARGRAVE



Ms Metson arrived at Rooks Heath 13 years ago. When she came, Ms Rook was Head of Department and Ms Sturgess, the ceramics teacher, was leaving. Mrs Jones was the school manager and was in charge of ushering the candidates around the school. I wasn't involved in the interview process but wanted a look at them.

The candidates were very formally dressed in suits and sombre colours and were standing awkwardly around the edges of a class in full swing in C1. I say all; In the middle of the class was a vision in yellow florals, chiffon I think? And heaven forbid she was actually talking to the children! Ms Jones looked at me and I nodded. I don't know how the rest of the interview went, but Ms Metson was appointed to teach a mix of Fine Art and Ceramics.

Over the years the glamour theme has prevailed. I have never known anyone to be able to teach all day and get covered in paint, clay and the grime that persists in an Art department, who can look so clean and glamorous at parents evening a couple of hours later just by shaking down her hair and putting on some heels. Maybe this is a throwback to her diplomatic days when she wore hats, which she donated to the photography department. They arrived in hat boxes, individually wrapped in tissue, each a little art piece in its own right.

Aside from the glamour, Ms Metson is and has always been a phenomenally hard worker. Over her time at Rooks Heath she has reinvigorated the Ceramics department, making it a craft more accessible to all students but would always remind you that she is not only a Ceramics teacher, but a talented teacher of Art and Design as well! She is adaptable and has taught across the Key Stages up to and including A Level very successfully. Recently Ms Metson became part-time and formed a very positive teaching team with Mrs McGregor to continue to deliver quality lessons to Years 7 and 8. During this time she also maintained her after school Art club to ensure her students had access to equipment and materials, space and time to complete homework and coursework.

Ms Metson's sense of fun and sociable nature means that she has made many friends at the school over the years. I am sure these friendships will last and she will be much missed. I would personally like to wish her well in her retirement; I know she has already made a lot of plans, so it's an exciting time and a step into the next stage of life of which I am sure she will make the most of every minute.

Successful CIF bid



We are pleased to announce that Rooks Heath has been successful with our CIF bid to have an important upgrade to the electrical switches throughout the College. This is an important aspect for maintaining the high standards of health and safety as without this upgrade there could be serious implications. We also placed a CIF bid to secure further funding to improve the condition of our M block. Unfortunately, on this occasion this was not successful. We hope that we will be able to make use of the newly announced funding to improve the condition of all schools up and down the country.

Mrs Harrison (25 years at Rooks Heath)

BY MRS J. LOGAN



The best thing about having my office where it is at the moment in AF8, is the smell of cooking coming from AG8 downstairs! I particularly like the Year 9 groups, where they must put on a buffet for others, showing off their cookery skills, because they ask others to sample it. Recently, Mrs Harrison introduced the Jamie Oliver Level 1 course. The work that they have completed on this course has been great. I really love the atmosphere in the room when students proudly show off their work.

I have known Mrs Harrison for a quite a few years now. Initially, I met Mrs Harrison when I supported in her lessons as a SEND support teacher. Mrs Harrison has always run her lessons with a high degree of control, high expectations and excellent classroom management skills.

I have also worked closely with Mrs Harrison in various situations, including liaising over in class support in lessons and more recently as her line manager for appraisal. She has always spoken up for students whom she feels need support in lessons and aimed to get what she feels is needed for the students in her class. Mrs Harrison has always been a very efficient and organised person throughout her career. I don't believe I have ever known her to miss a deadline!

Over the years, Mrs Harrison has played an active role in extra-curricular events, both inside and outside of school. She has won several awards from Harrow with regards to her commitment to her guiding groups, and within school such as providing Strawberries and Cream for the International Evening. She has enabled opportunities for others to do the same, such as supporting the Personal Development classes in their cooking. She has given a huge amount of her own time and money to the school – often, for example, buying ingredients herself to create demonstrations for her classes.

Mrs Harrison, we will miss you greatly and we hope that you have a lovely retirement.

A potted version!

BY MRS A. LISTER

She tells me she hated going to Primary School. She felt that as she was very quiet, she was ignored and not pushed by most teachers. She didn't enjoy primary school. As a result, she wasn't looking forward to going to Senior School. Her parents had sent her to an all-girls school that was a long bike ride away. She found it difficult to make friends and started to become a school refuser. But when her parents asked her what would make things better, she said *'to go to the school five minutes away'* – and her life changed! She made friends, she found she was good at some subjects, and represented Harrow at netball which she loved, became Head girl and met her future husband at school too! After a 3-year Food course, she then landed a job as a Home Economist at Bejam (now Iceland) doing food demonstrations and advising customers on freezers, microwaves and how to prepare and cook food.

During a career break to stay at home, bringing up two sons, Mrs Harrison studied for a degree with the Open University, and one summer, she was at Guide camp and the Leader asked if she had ever thought about teaching Food. The school where she worked, which was for pupils with very special needs, wanted someone to 'take' (not teach!) lessons teaching basic cooking skills to children at the school and to teenagers at the Pupil Referral Unit in Harrow. This, she thought would be a challenge, but she was ready!

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Mrs Harrison—Continued from page 5

BY MRS A. LISTER

She took the job, finished her degree, and completed a PGCE. After a few months, the Head of the Pupil Referral Unit said his friend was Head of Rooks Heath (John Stanley) and had mentioned they were looking for a part time Food Technology Teacher. One of the existing Home Economics teachers there was retiring as she wasn't confident teaching the new subject of Food Technology. The following year the teacher retired. That was 25 years ago.

More recently Mrs Harrison has had to change again from Food Technology to Food Preparation and Nutrition – so almost back to the same subject she studied at school! Dr Reavley suggested it was time to treat Food as a separate subject from DT and so she was appointed as Head of the Food Department. How times change! Going from a school refuser to teaching as Head of your own department! And what's more, teaching the children of children that you taught many years ago too!

Mrs Harrison has a calm, firm, in-control manner in her Food room and around school. Her expectations of her students are very high, and she is meticulous in record-keeping and determined to get the best out of her charges. She is a fabulous cook and passionate about passing on good cooking skills for life. I particularly love her fruit roulade!

Mrs Harrison, I shall miss our regular tea and wonderful 'cake work meetings' together! You always made me feel welcome, and our meetings friendly. I think you are probably leaving me behind as one of the oldest teachers in the school now. I would love for us to keep in touch.

Happy and well-deserved retirement!

Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge

BY MRS R. GARRETT

Huge congratulations to Ci-Anne Jude (10Y) on achieving 'runner up' at the Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge Digital Final on Tuesday 14th July. Please see the email below from Speakers Trust Team to Ci-Anne.

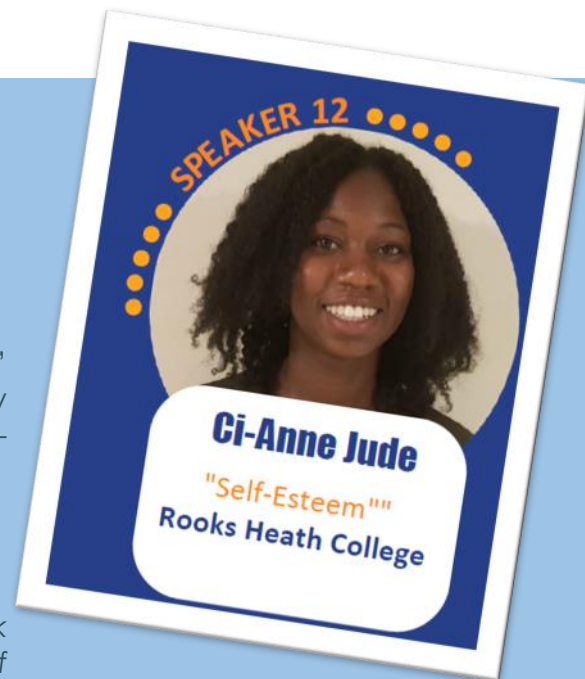
"Dear Ci-Anne,

Congratulations on your achievement at the Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge Digital Final last night! You should be very proud of yourself for doing so well in the world's largest youth public speaking competition.

Please find attached your second runner-up certificate. Your prize voucher and some other goodies will be sent to your school for you to collect when you return. You can see your fantastic speech on our website here. Your video will also be uploaded to YouTube and our Facebook and Twitter accounts will be updated with your success.

We were so impressed with your confidence and eloquence last night. Once again – congratulations!

Best wishes



Jack Petchey's
"SPEAK OUT"
Challenge!

Sixth Form Success

BY MS S. MALINS

Below is an excerpt of an email from the Anthony Nolan charity. If you wish the further information, please click [here](#).

We'd like to say a huge thanks to Rooks Heath College Business & Enterprise for supporting our education programme, The Hero Project, this academic year.

Here at Anthony Nolan, we make lifesaving connections between people with blood cancer and incredible strangers ready to donate their stem cells.

By hosting our education sessions, you've helped your students realise that they have the power to save a life through stem cell, blood and organ donation.

Thanks to our education work, almost 200 young people have gone on to be a match for a patient and donate stem cells to give them a second chance at life. This wouldn't have been possible without support from schools and teachers, like you. Without you, there is no cure.

We've created a [certificate](#) to recognise your fantastic support - we hope you'll display it with pride!

Katie Day

Education Programme Lead

Celebrating student's success

A massive congratulations to the 25 students took part in the "Junior Mathematical Challenge (JMC)" competition which was conducted online on 1st July 2020. The students achieved an impressive 7 Gold, 5 Silver and 5 Bronze Awards.

Gold Awards:

Anshi K (Year 7), Abdurahm S (Year 7), Maahi C (Year 8), Oneli H (Year 8), Siththeth P (Year 8), Anisa S (Year 8), Shankar N (Year 8)

Silver Awards:

Krish M (Year 7), Sidhant S (Year 7), Tejas A (Year 8), Steven-Roni D (Year 8), Sujetha G (Year 8)

Bronze Awards :

Rui F (Year 7), Soban K (Year 7), Yussef A (Year 8), Selma H (Year 8), Navetha S (Year 8)

Thanks to Ms Sritharan who arranged this for our students. Once again, congratulations and well done to all!

Learning Support Newsletter

Please find linked the two most recent Learning Support newsletters that were sent out to all students on the SEND register and their parents this week. There are a number of links to helpful resources including topics such as managing anxiety, wellbeing, talking to children about COVID 19 and a wealth of other topical issues. Please do take the time to read them.

[Learning Support Newsletter #8](#)

[Learning Support Newsletter #9](#)

Examinations and Qualifications News

We wish our Year 11 and 13 groups all the best as we await the final examination results days on the 13th August (A level) and 20th August (GCSE). Good luck to them all. The Secretary of State wrote to Ofqual on 18 June 2020 with proposed changes to examinations and qualifications. You can read the letter here: [Secretary of State Letter to Ofqual](#).

Rooks Heath is evolving!

We are moving away from MCAS (My Child at School) to the single information management system -- **SIMS**. You should all have received an email to connect with the SIMS Parent app. If you have not received an email, please check your junk mail. If you haven't already provided us with an email address, or if you know your email address has changed, please inform us by contacting our Data Manager, Miss Haines at:

ContactUs@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk



DATES & DEADLINES

EXAM RESULTS

- 13/08/20—AS, A-Level and Level 3 results day
- 20/08/20—GCSE, CAMNAT and Level 2 BTEC results day

WELLBEING



Below are some resources that may help ease anxiety surrounding the return to school

Khulisa	Managing Anxiety
Mentalhealth.org.uk	Returning to school after lockdown
Harrow EPS	Supporting students with transition back to school
Harrow EPS	Looking after ourselves
Harrow EPS	Helping children with loss and bereavement

CALLING ALL PARENTS

Your PTFA needs you!

We have always welcomed the support of our parents and carers, and are now looking for more to join our PTFA. It is a small, informal group, which meets once every half-term. We very much believe in 'doing', not just 'saying'.

Why should you get involved?

- It's for our children.
- It's for your voice to be heard.
- It's for our community.

Please read the PTFA page on the Rooks Heath website (you will find us in the 'Parents' section) and get in touch with Ms Grover (via the Contact Us email address) for further information.

We look forward to seeing you at the first meeting of the new academic year.

Virtual Assemblies

Please keep up to date with our online virtual assemblies that are accessible through Canvas.

[Please follow this link to the assemblies.](#)

 Virtual Ass 11:26 ROOKS HEATH COLLEGE VA14: Social distancing for... 221 views • 1 day ago	 13:11 ROOKS HEATH COLLEGE VA13: Creative writing... 367 views • 1 week ago	 7:03 ROOKS HEATH COLLEGE VA12: STEM Learning with... 387 views • 1 week ago	 4:42 ROOKS HEATH COLLEGE VA11: Interform results... 763 views • 2 weeks ago
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ROOKS HEATH COLLEGE VA14: Social distancing for years 10 and 12.

221 views • 24 Jun 2020