



ROOKS HEATH LIFE

Newsletter of Rooks Heath School

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Rooks Heath is still on **TRACK**

BY MRS M. MANDERSON

Greetings parents, governors and the community and welcome to the Autumn term newsletter. Our school drive this year is on culture and ethos. No greater time has this held such importance than now. This term has undoubtedly presented with many challenges which you will all be aware of. Most importantly our students and staff have shown tremendous resilience and tenacity in the face of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, moments of self-isolation and even managing periods of staff absence like never before. Rooks Heath is still on **TRACK**. Our values of **Teamwork, Resilience, Achievement, Creativity** and **Kindness** have been brought to the fore in a wonderful way this year so far. Teaching and learning has continued with our established in-class and virtual-based systems. Our Year 11 students were able to complete their mock exam series and we continued with our philanthropic and charitable nature contributing to Rainbow Laces day, Save the Children and the Harrow Food Bank with our Christmas Jumper / Mufti day. I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for their support this term. There have been so many messages of encouragement and in turn we hope we have helped to provide the care and reassurance to our community. Please enjoy the images from our Christmas Jumper Day. In addition, please click here for the latest [letter to parents](#).

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 2021.



Christmas Jumper Day

Staff and students wore an amazing array of Christmas jumpers and accessories for Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11th December.

We raised £630 from everyone's generous donations. All proceeds will be donated to **Save the Children**. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



Return To School in January

BY MRS M. MANDERSEN

The DFE announced on Thursday 17th December that secondary schools and colleges will operate a staggered return, offering all non-exam year groups full-time remote education, as close as possible to that which students would get in class, during the first week of term, with face-to-face education for all starting on 11 January. With that said, we are likely to open from the 4th January for only years 11, 12, 13 and vulnerable students and children of key workers.

The plans to introduce testing are also proposed. It needs to be made clear testing will be optional but is strongly encouraged by the DFE, particularly in areas of higher prevalence of the virus. Consent will be required from the student or parent as appropriate and we would not put pressure on families to be tested in school.

RAINBOW LACES DAY

On Wednesday 9th December, it was Rainbow Laces Day. The aim of the campaign is to make LGBT people feel welcome in sports, in all contexts - in the playground, as spectators or as professionals. As a sign of allyship, LGBT people and allies wear rainbow laces to show their commitment to making sport welcoming and accessible for everyone. Students and staff took part by swapping their usual shoe laces to rainbow or coloured laces.



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

On Friday 20th of November for the last day of anti-bullying week, staff and students wore odd socks to highlight that we are all unique and to show that we are united against bullying. It was brilliant seeing our students coming through the school gate with some very odd socks!



BE THE FUTURE CHALLENGE—KS3 WINNER

We are delighted to announce that leading learning company Pearson and the Peter Jones Foundation confirmed Gabriela Dias Sousa (9V) as one of the three winners of their inaugural Be The Future Challenge. The competition was set up to encourage young people across the UK to explore their entrepreneurial spirit and develop skills to become entrepreneurs.

Students aged 11-18 (KS3-KS5) in schools and colleges across the UK were challenged to create and pitch a social enterprise idea.

Gabriela's winning idea was an innovative approach to tackling plastic-pollution, with her idea of an app. 'Renew' is a litter picking app allowing communities to come together in organised litter picks. The removal of waste is then managed through a designated service. The judges praised her conscientious research, and her clear business strategy ensured that her pitch was robust and well-delivered.

The winners each received a personal online enterprise masterclass hosted by the Peter Jones Foundation and had the opportunity to meet and hear from leading social entrepreneur, Joana Baptista.

Thank you to Ms M. Falcon-Santana who has clearly inspired her students to go for such a challenge.



Food Bank Collection

A huge Thank You to all the staff and students who donated food products so generously to the Rooks Heath food bank appeal. The items have now been taken to Harrow Food Bank who will ensure that they are made available to families within Harrow and surrounding areas, who need support at what for some, is a really difficult time of year. The total weight of the products came to an amazing **225.20 KG**. Well done to everyone who donated!



Put a Little Love in Your Heart

BY MR S. SHARP

To mark the end of a difficult year, we invited staff to feature in a seasonal festive music video. This time we chose 'Put a Little Love in Your Heart', originally by Jackie DeShannon but more famously covered by Al Green and Annie Lennox at the end of the wonderful Christmas film 'Scrooged'. We thought it was a perfect message to end 2020. A big thank you to Miss Slater. Her musical skills were of great help.

Please [Click Here](#) to view the music video. Mr Pitchforth and I would like to thank everyone who stepped outside of their comfort zone to get involved in a bit of much needed togetherness.

Have a happy Christmas!



Subject decoration

MRS J. LOGAN

Please take a look at the wonderful displays Ms Gardezi has created in her Sociology classroom. It has lifted our spirits and encouraged us to feel positive about the environment in which we all work. Thank you Ms Gardezi for taking such care over your classroom and making it feel so welcoming and inviting for students.



The Digital Future of Rooks Heath

BY MRS L. HYDE

We have seen some big and exciting changes in our remote learning provision since September with our move from Canvas to Microsoft SharePoint and Teams. This move is not only about remote learning but part of our ongoing digital strategy, making sure that Rooks Heath students are equipped with the digital literacy skills they need to succeed in our 21st Century world. We have been impressed with how well the students have applied themselves and adapted to our new ways of working.

During a really challenging term, our new systems and technology have served us well; lessons have been live-streamed into classrooms from teachers' homes, from school into students' homes, and we have had lessons with some students joining from home and others from school. Throughout, we have seen an impressive range of activities delivered from live demonstrations in Art, "filtration" experiments in Science, a "Cadbury Challenge" in Business Studies, "watch and work" in Music and Media and across the curriculum, quizzes for revision and use of collaborative apps such as "Whiteboard" and "Quizlet Live".

Also new, is our move from "My Child at School" to "SIMS Parent App" and we have seen an excellent up-take from parents – thank you. If you are still to sign up for "SIMS Parent App", look for the invitation email from SIMS; if you did not receive this, please email the school. Please also ensure the school has up-to-date contact details for you, including your email address.

Of course, we do understand that keeping up with changes in technology can be demanding, especially as many families do not have devices at home for each parent and child. To help us support your child as effectively as possible, please complete the "[ICT Facilities at Home survey](#)"; many thanks to all parents who have already done this.



Sidonia and Maran in 7 Blue were happy to share some of their experiences so far with live lessons. They said that while it was a bit weird at first, they found the lesson very helpful. They enjoyed using the online whiteboard and giving answers in the message section on their PC or phone. They particularly enjoyed the game of Kahoot! with their classmates to revise their vocabulary words.

Leaping into Live Lessons—Year 10 Chinese

MS N. CHRISTENSEN

This week the Year 10 GCSE Chinese classes all had a live lesson. It was really lovely seeing the students actively participating in the lesson and their answers all popping up on the screen. I was most impressed by their effort! Some students had downloaded Chinese characters, so were typing their answers in characters from home too!

谢谢, Christensen Lǎoshī



Christmas Art

BY THE ART DEPARTMENT

Year 7, 8 and 9 art students were asked to design a Christmas card reflecting the theme "Together again". We wanted to share our top 3 favourites with you all.



Year 9 were introduced to acrylics through the work of Robert Burrige and painted Christmas pears.

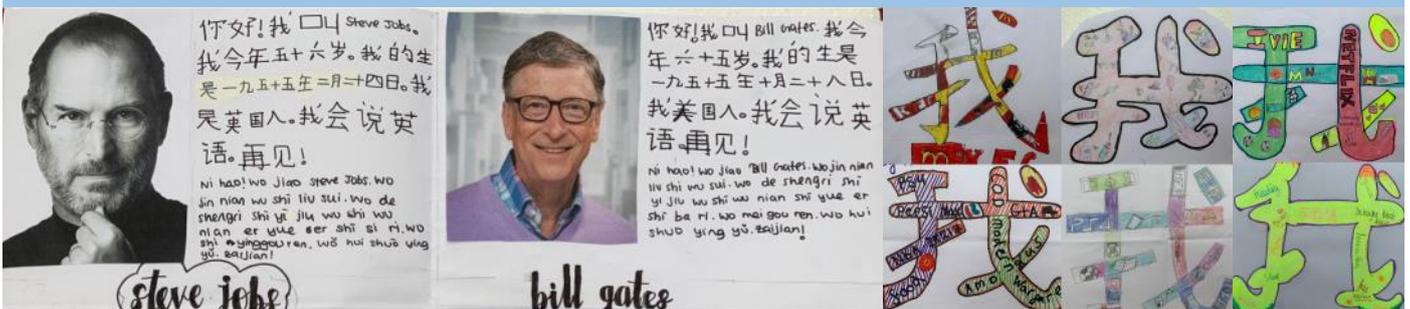


Year 8 and 9 Chinese work

MRS Y. LIU

The Year 8 Chinese students have been doing a great job with their character design posters. The Year 9 students have also now finished their nationality and languages posters. I am proud of the students for the effort that they have put in and would like to share some of their work with you.

谢谢 Liu Lǎoshī



Staff Farewells

Ms S. Shah

MR W. SIMPSON

Ms Shah has been covering Mrs E. Wright's maternity leave since April. She has been extremely diligent and hardworking, and we have enjoyed working with her in the Geography department. We would like to thank her for everything she has done, and we wish her all the best for the future.



Mr K. Thambiah

MRS N. TAKHAR

To one of our finest teachers, congratulations on your retirement Mr Thambiah. Thank you for everything you've done for our department and school over the last 24 years, all your work has been much appreciated and you will be missed.

Working with you has been an immense pleasure over the past few years. Your graciousness and the guidance that you've given to the team have been much appreciated.

We are all really going to miss you! Enjoy your retirement. Best wishes!



Mr B. King

MRS J. HADDOW

Mr King joined us as an NQT in September 2011. He immediately made a positive impression and quickly established himself as a popular teacher and a valued member of the Rooks Heath Family. Over the years, he demonstrated that he had a wide range of skills and talents in PE and beyond. He was one of the trailblazers when we introduced our Virtual Learning Platform, Canvas and he also spent a year as a Pastoral Leader where his excellent pastoral skills were able to take a more prominent role. In addition, throughout his time with us, he has been considered an outstanding teacher in the classroom.

In September 2018 he was promoted to Head of PE and over the last two years he has continued to develop the department in a variety of ways, integrating a more digital approach to learning in PE, as well as driving initiatives such as the Rooks Heath Allstars and the Sport Relief 10-hour challenge.

Mr King leaves us to move with his family to South Wales to take up the Head of PE at a school there. We are sure that you will join us in wishing him and his family the very best of luck for their new adventure.



DATES

&

DEADLINES

PUBLIC EXAMS

- 06/01/21 morning—BTEC Level 3 unit 4 Health & Social care
- 07/01/21 morning—BTEC Level 2 Music Unit 1
- 08/01/21 afternoon—BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care Unit 1
- 11/01/21 morning—BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care Unit 2
- 12/01/21 afternoon—BTEC Level 3 Applied Science Unit 1
- 13/01/21 morning—BTEC Level 3 Applied Science Unit 1
Afternoon—BTEC Level 3 Applied Science Unit 1
- 15/01/21 afternoon—BTEC Level 3 Media Unit 1
- 18/01/21 morning—BTEC Applied Science Level 3 Unit 3 Part A
Morning—BTEC Applied Science Level 3 Unit 3 Part B
Afternoon—BTEC Applied science Level 3 Unit 5
- 19/01/21 morning—BTEC Applied Science Level 3 Unit 5
Afternoon—BTEC Applied Science Level 3 Unit 5
- 05/02/21 afternoon—BTEC Health & Social Care
- [Click here](#) for the Sixth Form

LEARNING SUPPORT NEWSLETTER

BY MR C. RING

At Rooks Heath School, we feel it is important to work collaboratively with parents. The Learning Support Department has been producing termly issues of the Learning Support Newsletter. These can be found through the links below and on the Rooks Heath website. For all queries related to SEND and support with your child's learning, please contact learningsupport@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk to reach one of the team.

Mr C Ring (Assistant Headteacher: SENCo)

[RH Learning Support Newsletter Issue 12](#)

[RH Learning Support Newsletter Issue 13](#)

CALLING ALL PARENTS

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

Please put **TUESDAY 26 JANUARY** into your diaries.

All meetings run from 6pm – 7pm and are currently being held via Microsoft Teams. Please contact Ms H Grover if you would like to participate.

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

Would you like to discuss something with the headteacher. Please make an appointment with Reka Soti. Dates available are: 14th January, 28th January and 11th February.

Sixth Form 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 current situation with COVID 19 means many open days are not yet confirmed but you can go on a virtual tour and find further information with these links. Please have a look. The more research you do, the more likely you are to make the right choice for you. If you need any help please email Mrs Sahota, our Careers Coordinator, sahota@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk or pop in and see her in BF8.

[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](#)

