

GOAL!

TERMS 3 & 4 | 2019/20 | THE ROWANS
EASTER EDITION

INSIDE...

Rowans'
Careers Fair

Science week

Values Day

Staying Home Saves
Lives

 **STAY AT
HOME**

PROTECT THE NHS

 **save lives**



www.therowans.org

TO OUR ROWANS FAMILY

We miss you all very much. We are all incredibly proud of how sensible and mature you have managed the situation so far. Remember staying at home is saving lives and protecting our NHS. We think about you every day, we miss your smiles and your laughter. Remember to take care of your loved ones and together we will practise the Rowans' core values of kindness, commitment and resilience.

Miss Johnson



Science Week @ The Rowans

The theme for this year's British Science week was "Our Diverse Planet" Celebrating the diversity of life and knowledge in the Sciences. We kicked off Science week by inviting ZooLab back for the second year in a row who brought along some furry and cold blooded guests to teach key stage 3 about biodiversity. Pupils in all KS3 classes handled slimy snails, creepy cockroaches and even a terrifying tarantula. Fun facts from the session include that a cockroach can survive without a head for up to 3 weeks. And an adult African land snail can weigh 32kgs when fully grown! The engagement of the pupils with the animals was fantastic and a lot was learnt about these creatures in their natural habitats



Throughout the week, pupils in Key stage 3 also enjoyed first hand experiences of the diverse applications of scientific knowledge while also considering some careers it may lead to. The Medway Education Business Partnership delivered a number of sessions in the hall to KS3 students, completing activities like the tetrahedron challenge. A construction task where pupils create multiple tetrahedron structures and keep adding them together to make a larger macro structure. Other groups tried their hand at entrepreneurship creating houses out of Lego with priced components sticking to tight budgets and deadlines to simulate a real life business scenario. The final session of the week, the RISK-IT challenge, had pupils create from scratch a useful product that could be marketed and sold to a target audience. The creativity and innovation on display was exceptional, ideas ranging from a runaway alarm clock to get you out of bed, to the prizewinning design of the Coronavirus hand shaker to encourage social

distancing. The ideas were truly inspirational.

Finally pupils have been engaging in a cross curricular activity to design and create a bird feeder that will add to our school sites biodiversity. In STEM students have created a design brief and considered the target market for such a product. In D.T students have created wooden stands and utilised recycled materials to create bird feeders. In Food lessons, nutritious lard balls for birds have been prepared and in Science we have been studying endemic bird species that may come and visit the final product.

Science week has again been a massive success at the Rowans and we would like to thank all involved for the varied and enriching activities we have enjoyed.

Fakeaway

During Term 3 KS3 pupils learned how to make some of their favourite takeaway dishes healthier and cheaper. Pupils built on their previous food knowledge and challenged themselves to create delicious meals whilst adapting them to suit their personal preferences. Many pupils tried new meals including Chinese Wontons with dipping sauce. Pupils also discovered the inspirational stories behind brands such as Subway and KFC.



"I'm claustrophobic Darren!"

This term GCSE Art pupils have been working hard to complete their coursework so they can progress onto their exam preparation. Kelice is a huge fan of Gemma Collins from TOWIE and painted this 'Poptastic' portrait of her. She has included lovely details such as 'bejazzled' sunglasses and a grey crushed velvet dress. After tweeting a picture of Kelice's masterpiece, the diva herself Gemma Collins commented 'this is wonderful hunny xxx'. Lets hope it doesn't make the other pupils 'well jel'!



THE ROWANS' CAREERS FAIR

The Rowans Annual Careers Fair was, yet again, a great success. To start the day we had an extended form time to review all the providers and complete a pre-visit provider checklist. Pupils personalised their checklists, after discussions in their form groups, thinking about what their career aspirations are and what providers they most wanted to speak to first. All pupils visited the careers fair assisted by staff to gain the very most from their interactions with the wide variety of providers that came and visited our school. We had providers from the Army, Navy, Police, Fire brigade, NHS, Lloyds bank, apprenticeship providers, NCS, MidKent college, Canterbury Christchurch University and many more. Pupil feedback included; comments on learning about the many parts of the Navy and that they have their own football teams, that providers gave them good advice about their future careers, 'I got different ideas and advice for my future and I got to talk about apprenticeships that I am interested in'. Since the careers fair, pupils have been updating their aspirations with their form tutors and setting new ones or reviewing how to achieve any not already met.



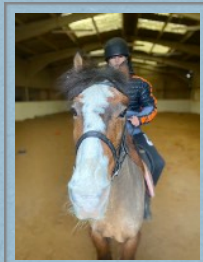
Mathletics House Event

Mathletics triumphantly returned for the 2nd year in a row – pupils competed in houses mixing agility with hand-eye coordination with maths problems. It was a difficult feat yet everyone who participated worked well within their teams, showed great sportsmanship and displayed excellent mathematical ability! The 4 rounds consisted of: Office Tennis; Hopscotch; This Blows; and Flipping Heck. In the Hopscotch round Mr Campbell led by example, showing the Warriors exactly how it was done. The pupils put their years of bottle-flipping practice to the test in the Flipping Heck round, flipping cups one at a time. Great fun was had by all and we are already planning on how to improve the game next year. In the end, Warriors came out on top in 1st place, Gladiators and Titans tied for 2nd and Spartans came 3rd. A special mention to Lucy for volunteering to take photos of the event – not only for the memories but also to develop her camera skills for her Photography coursework!



Changing Lives through Horses Programme

This term four students completed the Changing Lives Through Horses Programme. They were amazing and achieved numerous certificates for horse management, grooming, feeding, stable cleaning and their riding abilities. They very quickly overcame their nerves and grew in confidence over the twelve weeks. A very big WELL DONE to all involved. Also thank you to the staff at Squirrels Riding School who were so welcoming, friendly and encouraging.



National No Smoking Day

The 11th March was national no smoking day. At Rowans we value the health of all our pupils in line with article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We provided information about the effects smoking can have on both physical and mental health as well as a range of methods of support to stop smoking. If anybody would like for information or support to stop smoking, The Medway Stop Smoking Service is a completely free service, offering 1-2-1s with highly trained, approachable advisers and drop-in sessions throughout Medway each weekday 10am-5pm at: 2-2a Railway Street, Chatham, ME4 4JL, or you can email medwaystopsmokingservice@nhs.net



Safer internet day 2020

On Tuesday the 11th of February The Rowans AP Academy took part in the Safer Internet Day 2020. The aim of the day was to educate pupils about how to stay safe online, raise awareness of potential hazards and encourage pupils to sign a pledge stating that they will remain safe and aware whilst using the internet and social media. The safety of pupils at The Rowans AP Academy whilst online is of paramount importance to all staff, and we are pleased that all pupils treated the day's activities with a mature approach.



Academic Review Day

The Rowans held its first Academic Review Day in January and it was a huge success! Parents and carers came to school and were able to speak with teachers about their child's progress and achievement. Pupils attended too and were part of the conversations to ensure they understood the importance of the partnership between school and home. Parents and carers were able to look at written and practical work done by pupils and have meaningful discussions about how pupils could make further progress. There was so much to be celebrated with pupils excelling in so many areas of the curriculum. Mrs Martin was able to speak with parents and carers of Year 11 about post 16 options and next steps, with many having already submitted applications for college and or apprenticeships. Thank you to Mrs Howard who had a very important job on the day ensuring that staff and parents had a regular supply of tea, coffee and refreshments.



At The Rowans we are trauma-informed

We connect before we correct

We stay curious not furious

We understand behaviour is communication

We believe in co-regulation

That pupils regulate from the adults in their lives

We think can't – not won't

We believe in restoration – not retribution

We believe that relationships buffer stress and build
resilience

All of us need one another, always

Trauma informed practice means;

We see you, we hear you, we are with you

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day looked a bit different this year, with The Rowans putting the focus of the day firmly on reading and the pleasure that can be found in a good book!

Throughout the day, key stage three pupils were taken to local bookshops to exchange their World Book Day voucher for a brand, new book of their choice. Many of the pupils also started reading their new books over a tasty hot chocolate!

Back at school, we then arranged paired reading sessions whereby the younger pupils were encouraged to read their books to key stage four pupils. This was hugely successful and it was wonderful to see reluctant readers finding the confidence to share and enjoy their new books. One TA made the following comment;



“Our Head Boy Bob start off quite reluctant to listen to another student read as he said it would be 'boring' and 'awkward'.

Fast forward 15 minutes and Bob was eagerly listening to new student Callum read Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. He was even asking questions about the book and a real conversation was sparked up between two students who normally wouldn't have even acknowledged each other. It was truly enjoyable to watch and be involved with!”

As is tradition, we finished the day with a fun-filled house event which included book character dress up, a Hunger Games challenge, book title Pictionary and even a George's Marvellous Medicine tasting room! It was an incredibly successful and enjoyable day for all.



Values Days

The new, three tier values days have been extremely popular with all pupils in allowing them to develop our school values of kindness, commitment and resilience.

Term three's values day was an incredible day and a real highlight of my time at The Rowans. As before pupils who finished in tier one were rewarded for continuously demonstrating our school values by going bowling.

During period four, tier two pupils prepared an afternoon tea such as sandwiches, sausage rolls and cakes, as well as decorating the hall. They then hosted a local group of 20 senior citizens in the afternoon for afternoon tea. It was amazing to see pupils engaging in conversation and demonstrating real kindness to people from the local community. Every single pupil in tier two was a credit to the school and should feel extremely proud of themselves.

Pupils in tier three were also working hard during period 5 to prepare small gifts that could be given to our guests to take home to remember their afternoon at The Rowans that included Chinese book markers and coasters created on the laser cutter.

Our values days have been a huge success so far and we look forward to seeing pupils to continue developing our school values of kindness, commitment and resilience.



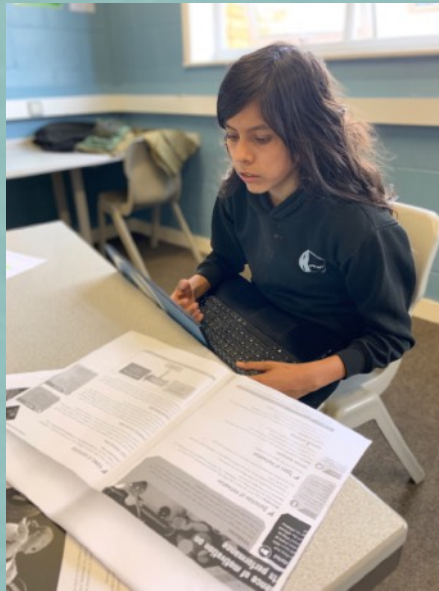
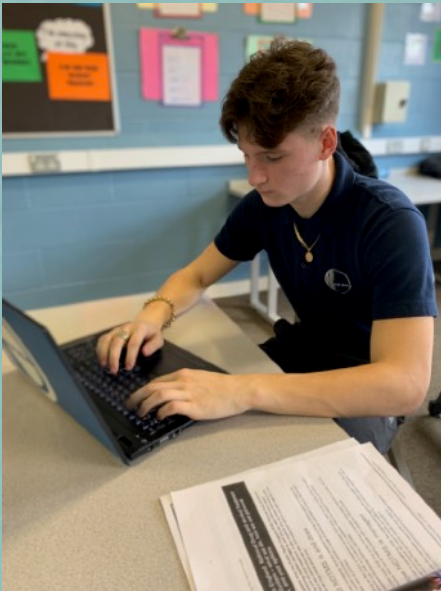
College Carousel at Mid Kent College

This term, college pupils have again attended Maidstone College, however this time have taken part in Motor Mechanics. The Maidstone campus is fully equipped with up to date tools and they have created their own Mechanics garage which gave our pupils a great insight into life as a mechanic. The boys worked independently and learnt how to fully service a car over 6 weeks. They also learnt about the health and safety measures that are in place and what they need to do to pursue a career in Mechanics.



Celebrating Learning

I have been incredibly impressed at the amazing learning that has been taking place at The Rowans. Everyday pupils are learning new skills and knowledge, proving that alternative education is not inferior education! I have the real honour of being brought 'WOW' work daily by pupils who have done a piece of work they are particularly proud of. To share that moment is very special. All of this work is in folders in our visitors room, so next time you're at The Rowans please make a point of asking to see it 😊



Sport @ The Rowans

In PE this term, KS3 have taken part in Boxing, Table tennis and Hockey whilst KS4 have taken part in trampolining and a variety of sports-hall sports. In boxing, KS3 learnt about keeping a guard, basic boxing punches and began linking these into combinations as well as working on their fitness levels. In hockey they worked as a team to improve on their hockey skills and went on to be able to officiate a match. Finally in table tennis they worked on serving accurately, playing a variety of forehand and backhand shots and learning the rules which enabled them to officiate matches. Stand out pupils were Billy L for nearly breaking Mr Cheals hand whilst throwing a right jab, Summer for showing amazing resilience during table tennis and Sacha for continuing to make brilliant progression.

KS4 PE saw a weekly battle between Brad, Char and Mr Rayner at wall ball and Reece, Jimmy and Indie competing in some very competitive basketball matches. Highlight from KS4 being Char's seal impression on a trampoline which I'm sure we will be able to show the video of at our next celebration day! Next term we will be focusing on Health Related Fitness so get those exercise shoes out and keep taking part in Joe Wicks in the mornings so that you are fully prepared.

Sports relief 2020

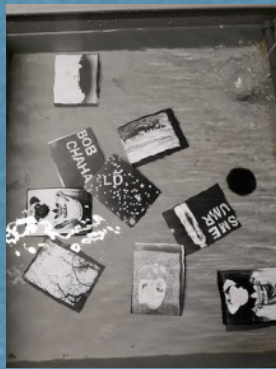
On the 13th March, The Rowans got active and raised an amazing £157 for Sports Relief. The student council planned the day, with pupils and staff wearing their own clothes for £1, holding a cake sale at break time as well as fitness competitions in the hall. In the afternoon pupils could donate money and take part in a dodgeball competition. 20 pupils got active and took part, displaying some outstanding skills as well as demonstrating our core values of kindness, commitment and resilience. Personal highlights were Lilly dodging about 100 balls as the only player left in her team and Summer eliminating Charlie.

Thank you for your continued support and kindness throughout the year in raising money for a number of charities, so far, we have raised £429 in total this academic year.



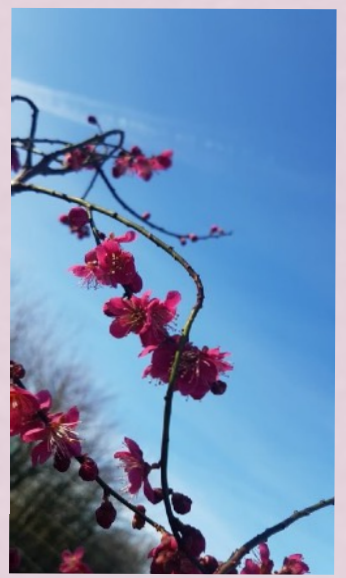
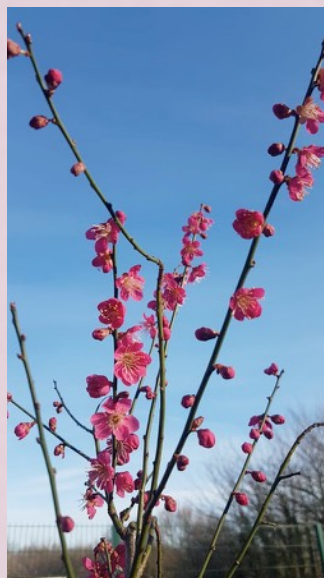
Photography Trip

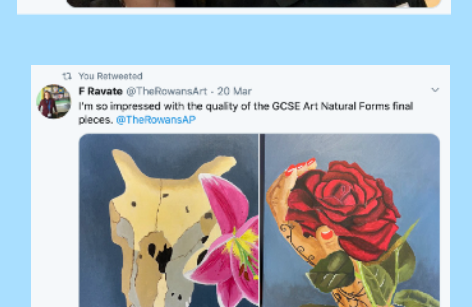
The GCSE Photography students visited the University of Creative Arts to carry out dark room experiments in order to develop their skills and add to their coursework portfolios. They were able to use different chemicals and equipment in order to expose pictures to varying degrees of light which would then create Photograms and Cyanotypes. All of the pupils were amazing throughout and really worked hard to create thoughtful pieces of work. After this, pupils visited the local area to try and incorporate their community within their final pieces for their projects – with some really wonderful photos taken! In particular, Bob was really focused and keen to try and experiment with his photography skills. A brilliant effort all around and everyone should be proud of the work produced!



CONNIE 2001-2018

A beautiful tree in loving memory of a truly beautiful girl. Forever missed and forever in our hearts. Thank you Mrs Antoncini for so lovingly nurturing this gorgeous tree for Connie.





Final word.....

I never thought that I would be writing this from my home but like so many of you, we are all getting used to a new way of living under the current Covid-19 restrictions. These certainly are unprecedented and difficult times but I know that by following guidance and working together – there will be better times ahead and I look forward to us returning to school and being together once again.

Terms 3 and 4 have been busy, full of challenges, enrichment activities and lots and lots of hard work. Teaching and learning has remained a core focus and so many pupils have made great progress in a range of curriculum subjects. I have been particularly impressed with the quality of work produced and celebrated each Friday in our celebration assembly. Each week there is an attendance star, an interventions star and a student of the week, all of whom have demonstrated The Rowans' core values of kindness, commitment and resilience. Alongside hard work, success and learning we exploit every opportunity to celebrate, compete, raise money and enjoy new experiences. We raised £157 for Sports Relief, parents, pupils and staff all worked together to raise this amount which will make an incredible difference to people less fortunate than us both in the UK and abroad.

Being apart can bring us closer together – there have been so many wonderful reminders of what a close community we are as we all follow the current guidance around social distancing. Staff have been keeping in touch with all pupils regularly and Miss Johnson and I have been delighted to hear how pupils are using their time productively to learn new skills, keep fit and to help others. Our Twitter feed @TheRowansAP and our Rowans Facebook page are helping us to keep in touch, share videos, celebrate pupils' birthdays and give and receive support. Please do keep commenting and let us know what your children are doing that you're proud of. It makes us proud to see how well pupils are coping and adapting at this difficult time, showing so much resilience and perseverance. It is, without doubt, difficult for Year 11, who are not finishing the year as expected but I would like to reassure them that we will say goodbye and celebrate in the usual way, when we can.

Please remain positive, support each other and stay safe.



Mrs May