

# Inspiring Change Newsletter

**Contents:**

**Primary Update**

**Subject Focus: English  
Events**

**New additions**

**Sports Week**

**Year 11 Leavers**

## Terms 5 and 6







# Subject Focus: English

This term pupils have been committed to improving a wide range of skills in their English lessons! It has been a busy term, with lots of creativity, determination and celebrating success within the department.

KS3 have begun to explore the story and deeper meaning behind George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' this term, and have been using their inference skills to determine the characteristics and personalities of the main characters. They have practiced summary skills, creative writing and have designed some posters to display the animals' core rules for the farm. It has been really interesting to infer different meanings behind the events of the novel, and to apply the actions of the animal to real life history.

KS4 have been learning core GCSE English skills through Gothic Literature this term; focusing on the conventions and themes within the genre. They have begun to look at Susan Hill's 'The Woman In Black' and have been analysing the descriptive language used to describe a gothic setting. Pupils are developing their descriptive writing through the use of language techniques and sophisticated vocabulary, and are working really hard to up-level their spelling, punctuation and grammar and structure within their pieces of extended writing.





# Primary Update

What an exciting last two terms of the year we have had! Term 5 saw the children learning all about space. They loved investigating the different planets of the solar system and even learnt a song to remember them in the correct order. The children had English and maths lessons each day followed by going off-site most afternoons. They really enjoyed going to Chatham Town to develop their football skills and one or two hope to be scouted into the first team soon! Each Wednesday, the class have been going to the Cyclopark in Gravesend to build on their cycling skills and in one case, learn how to ride a bike. All children have shown commitment and resilience, particularly keeping going on the long hill back to the finish, Mrs Bentley and Miss Clarke have certainly struggled to keep up with them!



The topic for Term 6 has been 'Rainforests' and the boys have engaged well with all of the learning opportunities. They have used handprints and footprints to create creatures that live in the rainforest, used a range of resources to research insects and created their own insects based on their findings. They have explored a range of fruits, examining and planting their seeds. The children loved going to Chilton Manor Farm, picking their own strawberries and visiting Fenn Bell Zoo to see a wide range of animals that live in the rainforest. The boys love being outside and have enjoyed learning in our outside spaces both at ICPSS and at The Rowans. In Jurassic Park, they have made dens, explored the site and found seeds and insects that they have incorporated into their work. At Lower Grange Farm, they have engaged in lots of camping-based activities such as knot tying and shelter building and had great fun finding creatures in the stream.



Everyone at ICPSS wishes you a brilliant summer and we look forward to another fabulous academic year starting in September.



# Afternoon Teas

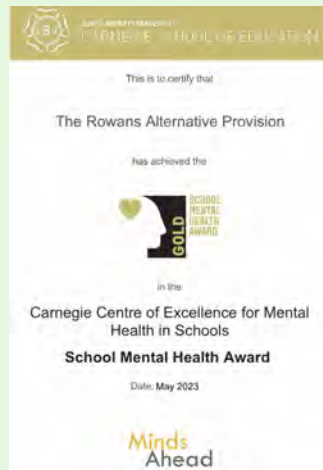
We have had lots of afternoon tea deliveries this term, with plenty of scones, sandwiches and tasty treats being packed up and delivered by pupils who had shown commitment to learning throughout the week. It is always a special moment seeing the faces of the recipients light up when a pupil hands over the bag of goodies, and a great lesson in kindness to the pupils involved.



## Mental Health Award

The Rowans AP has achieved the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools Gold standards for its outstanding mental health and wellbeing provision. The Rowans AP provides a wide range of activities to boost the wellbeing of pupils and staff, including a trauma informed approach, a vast range of interventions which are part of pupils' daily timetables, a dedicated attendance and welfare lead and a focus on the hidden curriculum. The Rowans AP work tirelessly ensuring that pupils can overcome the damage of exclusion, re-engage with education and make progress academically and personally. It's the effective working partnership between pupils, parents and staff that supports the pupils to be the best version of themselves, and to be recognised for this holistic care and education is a proud moment for The Rowans AP.

The Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools aims to strengthen pupils' mental health by supporting schools to make positive change at all levels of the UK's education system, improving students' outcomes and life chances.



## GCSE Art and Design, Textiles, Photography and Design Technology End of Year Exhibition

This term the GCSE pupils showcased their work at The Rowans end of year exhibition. The private viewing was a huge success; friends, family, colleagues and the local community joined us in celebrating the pupils' achievements. There was a huge variety of work on display, from outstanding artwork, stunning product designs and thought provoking photographs. The exhibition was testament to how hard the pupils and staff have worked throughout the year and it was a perfect finale to the year. We would like this opportunity to thank everyone who came to support us at this special event.





# Great Leaps

Pupils have enjoyed visiting Great Leaps this term and taking part in a bushcraft carousel. They have learnt all about knife safety and knife law and made mallets using bushcraft knives and saws. They have also discovered how to make a fire without a lighter or matches, cooked everyone a delicious breakfast and then washed up!! Our sessions have ended with some relaxing time swinging in hammocks and tasting marshmallows over the campfire.



## Introducing Kylo, the Reading Rabbit

We have a new member of our Rowans community - Kylo the rabbit. He used to visit the primary last year and now has a permanent hutch in The Rowans garden. Mrs Gale and a team of helpers erected the two storey hutch, which is palatial! Mrs Gale's next project is to build a run for Kylo so he can safely exercise in the garden and not eat Mrs Antoncini's vegetables! In the meantime, Kylo has a harness and lead and is routinely taken on walks by the pupils.

Kylo loves being with the pupils and has enjoyed many pupils reading to him this term, in the sunshine. He is also regularly visited by the primary pupils too, who still like to have cuddles with him.





# District Athletics

This year saw a record number of our pupils take part in SSG District Athletics at Medway Park. On an extremely hot day, the day got underway with Brandon taking part in the gruelling 1500m where he showed amazing resilience to finish the entire race and record a personal best time. Caroline and Harry then took part in the javelin with both finishing 5th overall in their year groups. Hayden, Bamore and Kurtis all competed in the shot putt, and Geoff, Terrell and Max competing in the discus, all showed great technique and recorded very good distances. Mikkie and Leo competed in the long jump to complete the field events. Onto the track and we saw more brilliant performances from Kris, Leo, Mikkie and Hayden in the 100m sprint, followed by Emma, Romeo and Charlie in the 200m. Overall, all pupils showed our core values throughout the day and can be very proud of their performances.



## Old School Sports day

On Monday 19th June, as part of The Rowans Sports week, pupils competed in their houses in an 'old school sports day' competition. Events included the three legged race, egg and spoon race, wheelbarrow race and the welly throw. It was great to see all pupils taking part, having fun and demonstrating our core values of kindness, commitment and resilience. Spartans were the overall winners, with Titans in 2nd, Warriors in 3rd and Gladiators in 4th place.



## Staff vs Pupil Rounders

To finish our week of sport, house teams teamed up to take part in a game of rounders. Gladiators and Warriors took on Titans and Spartans. It was a very close game, with some excellent performances displayed and all pupils and staff were involved. However, Gladiators and Warriors were victorious, winning the game 21-19. Outstanding sportsmanship was displayed by all pupils throughout the afternoon and it was great to see pupils enjoying sport and being active.





# Values Day Term 5 and Enrichment Week

Values Day always celebrates and builds on the school's core values of kindness, commitment and resilience. In term 5, tier 1 pupils went to laser tag, tier 2 went to Mote Park to play rounders and have a picnic and tier 3 pupils made jitterbugs and sunglasses holders at school. All pupils enjoyed their activities. It's always a fantastic opportunity for staff and pupils to solidify relationships and build trust.

For term 6, we don't have activities planned as we have enrichment week, where pupils choose from a range of trips and visits including; Paintballing, Go-Ape, Golf, Thorpe Park, Dover Castle and Escape Rooms, Canterbury Town Trail and Beach trips. There are also a number of exciting activities happening at school too.



## New building

We are delighted to announce the completion of a great addition to our school - a brand new bespoke Special Educational Needs (SEN) building for Primary pupils. The new provision is an interim measure before work starts on the much-needed Beeches Free School which is due to be built next year in Jurassic Park. This new building on the Rowans site will cater for eight Primary age pupils, providing them with a nurturing and inclusive environment to thrive in. The building has been constructed in record time and well equipped with classrooms, sensory room, and adaptable learning space to enable it to be fully self-sufficient. This purpose-built structure will ensure that our Primary pupils with special educational requirements receive the tailored support they deserve. We extend thanks to Medway Council and the Porkabin team of professionals who collaborated to make this happen in such a short space of time. With the introduction of this SEN building, we reaffirm our commitment to providing an inclusive education that empowers every pupils to reach their full potential.



## Duke of Edinburgh Award

For the Duke of Edinburgh Award, pupils made the difficult 11km journey with heavy backpack, very little training and bad weather. The journey started in Hollingbourne where the minibus left the group to walk through fields, over hills and even through a few puddles. In total there were six checkpoints for them to complete and it was not without its challenges. When the final checkpoint was reached, at Bexon Lane Scout Camp, the pupils were tired and exhausted after their 4 and a half hour journey. Well done to Hayden, Teddy, Richie, Summer and Grace for achieving your bronze DofE Award.







## Year 11 Leavers

The Year 11 leavers presentation and awards evening 2023 was spectacular. Staff worked hard during the day to transform the school hall into a highly decorated, glitzy space, ready for welcoming Year 11 for a final goodbye. Pupils, families, friends and staff attended in eager anticipation of what the awards would be and to watch the leavers films. Pupils came dressed to impress in suit trousers and shirts and dresses ready to receive their awards and listen to a speech, from the headteacher, about their time at The Rowans. The event was a great success with many laughs and also some tears whilst hearing the moving testimonials of our year 11's journeys through school life. The funny annual year 11 film was really well received as always, making many attendees laugh out loud! The theme was auditioning to play the part of our year 11 pupils. Members of staff were good sports playing the many roles, exaggerating core characteristics and mannerisms. The event ended with a film showing many pictures we had taken over the years, showing the diversity of school life our year 11's have had since joining The Rowans. Pupils were then given all of their gifts which included the annual Leavers Year Book, copies of both films, sweets, collage of pictures in a frame and a personalised balloon.

The event was a very special way to remember the journey, look to the future, and say goodbye. Our best wishes and good luck for the future go out to all of our year 11's.







# Useful Information

## Term Dates

<b>Term 1 :</b> Start: 04/09/23	End: 20/10/23	Academic Induction Day: 06/09/23
<b>Term 2:</b> Start: 06/11/23	End: 20/12/23	
<b>Term 3:</b> Start: 03/01/24	End: 09/02/24	
<b>Term 4:</b> Start: 19/02/24	End: 28/03/24	Academic Review Day: 29/02/24 Bank Holiday: 29/03/24
<b>Term 5:</b> Start: 15/04/24	End: 24/05/24	Bank Holiday: 06/05/24
<b>Term 6:</b> Start: 03/06/24	End: 23/07/24	

## Academic Induction Day

Wednesday 6th September, form Tutors and teaching assistants will be coming to visit pupils and their families in the home to ensure that they are fully prepared for the start of the new school term. They will have a catch up with what's been happening over summer and outline expectations for the term.

## Attendance

Regular attendance is essential if pupils are to achieve their full potential. We expect all pupils to have good attendance. The attendance target for all pupils is at least 96%.

Parents/Carer Responsibilities:

- Parents/carers must telephone the school on the first day of absence and subsequent days thereafter. **It is essential that the school is notified of any absence by telephone or text by 8:30am.**
- If an absence is longer than two days then medical evidence must be provided.

## Uniform

All pupils are asked to wear full school uniform to school every day. This is black below the waist, shoes or trainers (no sliders), Rowans polo shirt and a Rowans jumper.

Reminder: Uniform can be bought directly from school, with payment to be made using the School Gateway. The cost of uniform is heavily subsidised by the school to make it affordable.



# Final Word



I am delighted to have been invited, one again, as Chair of Trustees, to contribute to the final newsletter of this academic year and to express, on behalf of all my fellow trustees, our pride in the role we undertake and our respect and admiration for all that has been achieved by pupils and staff during this academic year. We have again been impressed by the determination and resilience of all members of the school community as they have ensured a relentless focus on excellence, which characterises the Rowans and ICPSS.

We are kept fully informed of the work and achievements of pupils at all levels throughout the year both academically and through all the opportunities provided via enrichment. There have been many exciting and fun activities brought into the school and provided outside the school site and we have been delighted to learn of the richness of this wider curriculum and how these opportunities have inspired and encouraged pupils at all stages.

The trustees visit the school in person for meetings and to review different aspects of the life of the school and it is always a joy to see the amazing work displayed across all areas of the school, clearly demonstrating the skills and talents encouraged and developed in every subject area. The recent Art Exhibition is just one of those occasions when it was possible to enjoy and celebrate the extraordinary achievements of the pupils. At these meetings we also look forward to the wonderful treats prepared by the pupils, the standard is exceptional and the trustees are very appreciative of the time and care that staff and pupils have given to the food and the presentation. I must also mention here the spectacular Christmas logs which are a particular triumph!

This is a good time to highlight the extraordinary strength and commitment of the leadership team and the staff which underpins the success of the school and has earned the respect and admiration of the educational community in Medway and beyond. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be part of The Rowans team and we are looking forward to accompanying you all on the next part of your journey in the academic year 2023-2024.

*Mrs Conibeer*



We have reached the end of another busy year, well done to all pupils and their families for the commitment shown towards attending school, engaging, making progress and developing core values. As I reflect on the year, I am immensely proud of what has been achieved and the fantastic progress made by pupils academically and personally. There have been many successes, notably Miss Wordie completing her apprenticeship with a distinction and Miss Calder who has completed her teacher training and now begins her qualified teaching career with us. Mrs Skinner and the whole staff team have achieved a Gold Mental Health Award,

which recognises best practices in supporting the emotional wellbeing and mental health of young people in schools. Enrichment week has been another success with pupils enjoying all various activities and having lots of fun, both on arranged trips and in school completing textiles, DT and cooking based projects.

This final term we have begun our new academic year and this has been successful, providing additional learning time for new options choices and for groups to be established prior to September. I look forward to seeing those who signed up for Summer Enrichment, beginning on Wednesday 2nd August. Please remember we are available, should you need support over the summer break, via our website and via email [help@therowansap.co.uk](mailto:help@therowansap.co.uk)



*Mrs May*