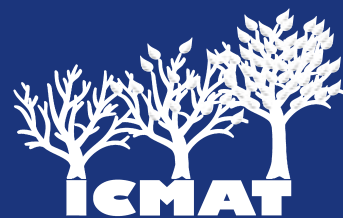


# The Inspiring Change Newsletter

Inspiring change for a brighter future



Inside...

Rowans' Careers Fair

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Science Week

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Easter Celebrations





# Afternoon Teas

As has become tradition, The Rowans continues to build and maintain supportive community links by preparing and delivering afternoon teas to members of the local community. Every Friday afternoon, pupils at the Rowans take it in turns to make up and deliver these bags of delicious goodies. Recently, we have started taking these tasty treats to the local community hub in Weedswood and they are very gratefully received. Word has clearly spread, and we are told by volunteers at the hub that local residents now regularly gather and meet on Friday afternoons to enjoy and share the afternoon teas together. We are delighted to be involved in facilitating such positive community interaction and engagement.



## Lower Grange Farm

A group of six pupils have had the fantastic opportunity to attend a weekly climbing session at Lower Grange Farm this term. Pupils have been working towards their National indoor climbing award scheme qualification level 1 new climber award which is an entry level aimed at novices that recognises their ability to climb safely under supervision. So far pupils have learnt how to develop climbing movement skills and improve levels of ability, learnt climbing rope-work and how to use equipment appropriately, started to develop risk assessment and risk management skills in the sport and to work as a team, communicate with, and trust a climbing partner. Pupils that have attended every week have really challenged themselves to climb higher and try trickier routes every session, demonstrating determination and resilience.



## DT & STEM - A great start to Graphics

It has been really exciting to introduce Graphics into the DT and STEM curriculum this year and our KS3 pupils have loved learning about Pop Art, and the work of Roy Lichtenstein and Romero Britto this term.

Pupils have become experts in using bright colours and bold shapes to create their own fabulous graphic designs, and have been able to produce some amazing finished pieces using our new sublimation printing equipment. It has been inspiring to see the wonderful range of heat pressed mugs and coasters they have skilfully produced, each one printed with their own unique design - all very professional and fantastic gifts for family and friends!





# Mental Health Week @ The Rowans

Children's Mental Health Week took place from 5-11 February 2024. This year's theme was "My Voice Matters". On Wednesday morning all lessons were paused for 15 minutes whilst all pupils and staff stopped to engage in conversation and enjoy a bacon roll and a drink. On Thursday a group of pupils attended an event at the Corn Exchange in Rochester which was run by Medway Council as part of children's mental health week celebrating young people's voice. The event aimed to help empower children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. During the event pupils had the opportunity to speak to various providers of mental health support and activity services. They also took part in activities such as nerf gun wars, a silent disco, face painting and quizzes, finishing the day with drinks and snacks.



## The Turner Contemporary

Fine Art, Photography and Textiles pupils had the opportunity to visit The Turner Contemporary in Margate. We took part in a navigator led tour of the art gallery, followed by a practical making workshop. All pupils engaged in the experience and were great ambassadors for The Rowans. It was lovely to see the pupils critically analyse the artwork on display and give thoughtful answers to the navigators questions.





# World Book Day

The Rowans celebrated World Book Day on the 7<sup>th</sup> March and it was a lot of fun! We aimed to encourage the importance of reading for pleasure in various ways throughout the day and it was embraced by all pupils and staff across the academy.

A huge effort was made by all staff, who came to school dressed up as their favourite book characters; pupils enjoyed guessing who they were supposed to be, as well as learning about some new 'old-school' books they had never heard of! The Rowans peer mentors were able to take some of our primary pupils offsite to spend their World Book Day book vouchers, and then returned to school to read with each other in small groups. This was a really lovely opportunity for KS4

To end the day, all pupils took part in a whole-school house event, where they worked their way through a series of book-related challenges to earn points for their house teams. As always, the pupils and staff showed their competitive sides as they all demonstrated their knowledge of authors, books and famous characters. This was really successful and, although it was a close call, Gladiators were able to take the win!

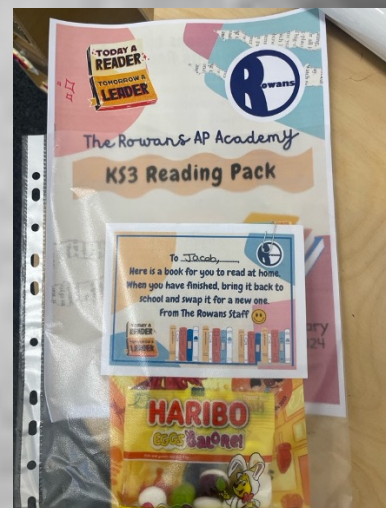
Overall, World Book Day 2024 was a fun way to spread a very important message: Reading is incredibly important, but can also be lots of fun...not just on World Book Day, but all year round.





## Key stage 3 and 4 Reading Packs

Reading is necessary for learning, so instilling a love of reading at an early age is the key that unlocks the door to lifelong knowledge. At The Rowans we believe that ‘today’s readers are tomorrow’s leaders’. As part of our initiative to promote a love of reading, all key stage 3 and 4 pupils received a reading pack to take home. Every pack included activity sheets, phonics support and a hand-picked book for pupils to enjoy outside of the classroom. The packs were gratefully received and we hope that they help pupils to read more at home with their family.



## GCSE ART WORK ON DISPLAY

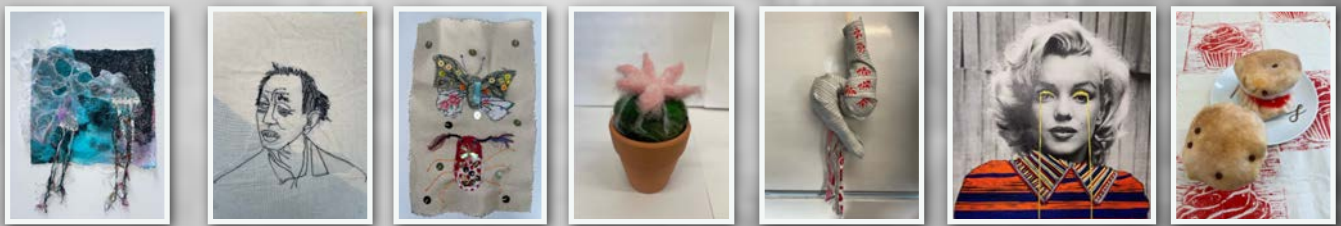
Some of our GCSE Art pupils’ final pieces are now on display for all to see at Walderslade Hook Meadow library. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Medway Libraries, especially Yvonne, for loaning us this public space to showcase the hard work of The Rowans’ pupils. Anyone is welcome to visit the library during opening times to see the work for themselves. But in the meantime, here are some photographs.



# GCSE TEXTILES

As part of our ever-growing option choices GCSE Textiles has become an established part of the KS4 curriculum. Pupils complete 2 components as part of the course, Component 1 (coursework project) and Component 2 (externally set exam), where they are able to experiment with a variety of skills and processes. Skills covered include: embellishment, tie dye, batik, appliqué, hand and machine embroidery. The flexibility of Textiles allows pupils to research and work within themes of their own interests which produces a wide variety of Textile based outcomes. Each response is planned in detail starting with artist and designer research which informs the pupil's idea development. When ideas are finalised and experimented with, pupils produce a portfolio of coursework alongside a final piece.

This year final outcomes have been varied and effective with a fabric Vogue magazine cover, a Textiles afternoon tea and a boxing themed screen-printed flag celebrating the life of Mohamed Ali to name a few. We have been really impressed with the commitment, creativity and dedication displayed in lessons so far.



## The Inspiring Change Outreach Service

This service offers bespoke tailored support for pupils and mainstream schools experiencing challenges. The outreach service has been running for three years and has become well respected and valued by mainstream schools in Medway.

We know that each situation is different, that each child will have specific needs and support is tailored to meet these individual needs. Presently, the outreach team is actively supporting 13 primary schools across Medway, with 32 children benefitting from personalised outreach support provided by Jenny or Charley.



Our support has recently included; establishing a nurture group within a primary school right through to arranging off-site trampolining sessions for a child, alongside the ICSEN pupils to support the transition from their mainstream school to ICSEN.

As part of our outreach efforts, we have also been implementing the TEACCH approach across various schools we are working in. This initiative fosters independence and self-sufficiency among pupils and it has proven highly effective for pupils who find it difficult to access learning in the classroom.





## Terms 3 & 4 ICSEN Updates

These past two terms at ICSEN primary have been the best yet! After spending the first part of the year getting to know each other and building those all-important relationships, based on mutual respect and trust, we have created a wonderful ethos amongst our new school.

Term 3 saw us exploring natural disasters including earthquakes and volcanos and the children were particularly fascinated about the ancient disaster in Pompeii. The English work produced, as a result of the children's engagement in the topic, was fantastic. This included diary entries and fact files about volcanoes. We put our construction and artistic skills to the test and created 3D, erupting volcanoes of our own. During term 4, our focus turned to that of the Vikings and the best part of this topic was designing, building and decorating our very own Viking Longboat. These really do look amazing! In maths this term we have been trying really hard to learn new skills and have moved on from number work to telling the time on

Our offsite enrichment activities have provided practical opportunities to develop our 3 core values of **kindness**, **commitment** and **resilience** in public. We have particularly enjoyed a trip to Chatham Dockyard, climbing trees in Shorne Country park to playing football at Cobtree Manor. Our weekly PE sessions included Swimming in term 3 and trampolining in term 4. As part of World Book Day this year, we celebrated by dressing up as our favourite book characters and exchanging our vouchers for a book to share with our friends and family at home. We even buried a time capsule as part of British Science Week 2024!



We are particularly proud of Skylar's dedication to her learning and always bringing the riddles and jokes to class and of Dexter for challenging himself, particularly in English and extending his sentences and improving his handwriting. Makenzie continues to show excellent resilience in his maths learning and has achieved lots of personal targets these past two terms and CJ for transitioning into Aspen Class and building some positive relationships with his peers. Since joining ICSEN, Alfie has adapted positively into full time school life and continues to apply himself to all areas of his learning. Even though Kayden has only been with us for a short period of time, he continues to build positive relationships with both staff and children. We are also proud of Mark's achievements in writing and his enthusiasm to transfer his phonics to his English work and of Mickey for his positive attitude towards learning and building friendships.

As a team we are extremely proud of how well the children have settled and adapted to the routines and expectations and this shows in their progress both socially and academically. The summer term is exciting for us as we learn all about farming and Ancient Egypt, we also have some exciting end of year celebrations to look forward to.



# BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

The theme for Science Week this year was TIME

Each provision created a time capsule, a robust stainless steel, rubber sealed capsule to last for 100's of years.

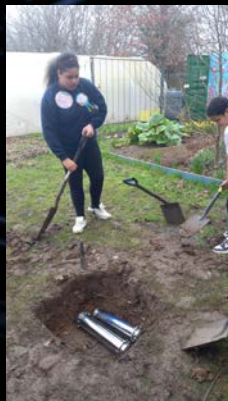
ICPAP time capsule consisted of a copy of the Medway messenger, money of our time, predictions of what life will be like in 2050, current social media platforms, what we like to do, hobbies etc, a welcome pack to our school including photos and information sheets on all of the teachers.



The ICSEN time capsule consisted of photos of the school, money, writing on my identity and all about me, information on different technology we use at school with photos, ICSEN newspaper and prediction for life in 2050.

The Rowans time capsule consisted of actual coins of our time, examples of pupil work from various departments such as art, textiles and photography, photos of pupils at school, English writing on prediction of what it will be like in 2050 and information on what pupils hobbies are and what music they like to listen to and technology of our time.

**Big thanks to Bamore and Terrell for digging the hole!  
I wonder who will dig these capsules up in the future!**





# The Inspiring Change Primary Alternative Provision

What busy Terms 3 and 4 we have had! Our theme for Term 3 was dinosaurs and the class loved learning about them, looking at herbivores, carnivores and omnivores in science and investigating how dinosaur teeth are different depending upon their diet. They created a dinosaur diorama in art and made brilliant non-fiction fact files in English. The children read a wide range of fictional stories about dinosaurs and even wrote their own. In art, they created dinosaur silhouette pictures with watercolours and loved exploring the dinosaur exhibition at Wingham Wildlife Park.



Our topic for Term 4 was Medway and the global community. The children have researched the local author Charles Dickens, in English, investigating where he lived and explored the book "A Christmas Carol". They further developed their reading skills by listening to and engaging with a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts from around the world, sharing their learning with an orphan from Uganda via wonderful letters to him. In Geography, they have investigated the local area, looking more closely at the river Medway and why it is so important to this area.



As well as developing their learning skills within the classroom, the class have had lots of opportunities to learn outdoors. They have learnt how to jump with control and precision at Jumpers trampoline centre, and have put their skills together to create a routine and have learnt how to swim 3 different strokes at the Oaklands pool. The class are currently loving attending Cyclopark in Gravesend, cycling around the track and even experiencing going off-road! The children really enjoyed investigating what life might be like in 2050 for National Science week, writing their own jokes as part of their Comic Relief celebrations and buying a book, using their World Book Day voucher, whilst dressed as their favourite character. Finally, the class loved their visit to Kent Life, where they saw new life during springtime in the shape of piglets, lambs and ducklings.



Happy Easter to you all from everyone at the Primary Alternative Provision.





# PE updates

This term we introduced netball to both our KS3 and KS4 curriculums. It proved to be extremely popular among all pupils, which high levels of participation and engagement.

Lesson focused on learning fundamental skills, such as a range of passes, pivoting and shooting, along with learning the rules and playing positions. It was great to see pupils learning a new sport and displaying excellent teamwork, supporting each other to be successful and make progress.



This term we were extremely excited to see the Kent Inclusive Football League re-commence. After a successful start in term 1, which saw us sitting the top of the league, the team looked to continue their impressive form. Our first fixture of this round saw us at home to Northwest Kent AP. After a very physical game, we came out 3-1 winners, with Hayden scoring a hat trick. Brad was named man of the match for his impressive display in midfield. The second fixture of the term was against Inspire Academy. After another solid performance we once again got the win, which saw us remain top of the table going into term 5, where we have 3 more fixtures to play.





# ASDAN DT

The ASDAN DT group have been working incredibly hard this term on their Carpentry & Joinery unit of work. They have learnt to classify types of timber, explore a variety of wood joints and

then design and make their own footstool for a target client of their choice. They have demonstrated a high level of skill in their making and produced some really professional outcomes.



## Huge congratulations to The Inspiring Change Primary Provisions

Our Primary Support Service as a whole consists of several different elements. Two years ago we developed the Primary Behaviour Outreach Service, the staff have worked tirelessly to embed this well regarded service within Medway and it is really making a positive difference to many schools, pupils and families. The Primary Alternative Provision has been offering respite and turnaround placements for primary pupils and supporting their reintegration back into mainstream schools or into specialist provision. September of this academic year we were thrilled to open the new Primary Special Needs Provision for pupils with an EHCP and their primary need being SEMH.

These primary provisions were nominated for a Medway Parent and Carer Award. Miss Johnson had the pleasure of collecting the award on behalf of the staff team. We are truly grateful to the family who nominated us and proud of this recognition.

All of the staff within these provisions are incredible and it is a real honour to have their work and commitment celebrated.

The following are details of the nomination.

*Both my boys have additional needs and have been supported by The Inspiring Change Primary Provisions. The staff go above and beyond to support not only the children in their care but to support the families as a whole. All the staff are kind, caring and very professional and have transformed the way my children view school after having such awful experiences in mainstream settings. They really think about each child and ensure that the learning is adapted to capture the child's interest. As well as the amazing learning that takes place they have helped with applying for ECHP's and making referrals to Snapdragons so really go the extra mile. They offer not only permanent SEN places but support to children in mainstream and where possible work to reintegrate children back to their mainstream school.*





# Final Word.....

This year is absolutely flying by, I can't believe it's the end of term 4 already! This edition of the newsletter is action-packed as ever, showcasing our amazing pupils, the progress they are making and the enrichment opportunities they have been engaging with.

We celebrated World Book Day in style with a range of activities, a house event and all the staff dressing up too. Pupils from The Rowans joined pupils from ICPAP and ICSEN in choosing a book and then reading with them. It was lovely to see the pleasure that reading brought the pupils and the support that The Rowans peer mentors gave younger pupils was commendable. The most up-to-date research from The Department for Education tells us that,

"Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income."

All pupils, primary and secondary, have access to a library in the school, with an impressive range of books and magazines. If your child wishes to borrow books, please encourage them to ask a member of staff. We are really happy for children to borrow books.

More recently, Mrs Martin has led the whole provision, as part of science week, in creating time capsules, now buried in our school garden. I was incredibly proud of the effort shown by pupils to engage with this activity. It has been an important lesson for pupils that there are times when we invest our time and effort into something even if we won't see the outcome or know what happens.

Fortunately for Year 11 pupils, who are busy working towards their GCSE and BTEC exams, they will know, in August, the outcome of all their hard work and efforts as they come in on results day to collect their eagerly awaited results. It is important for them all that they continue to work hard and invest in themselves and their futures and your support is very much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to remind pupils and parents about the importance of attendance. The target for pupil attendance is 96%. It is important that we maintain high expectations and that pupils attend school regularly. Regular attendance at school supports pupil's progress and learning, it helps build vital trusting relationships with staff, it supports positive mental health and social and emotional development. It also helps pupils get into good habits for their next steps and ultimately for future employment.

We value the support from parents and carers and thank you all for working in partnership with us. We know we are stronger together.

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter break  
Mrs May

