

GOAL

**TERMS 1 & 2 | 2020/21 | THE ROWANS
CHRISTMAS EDITION**

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We've been busy...



Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival was a little bit different from previous years, but we didn't let lockdown prevent us from making our harvest boxes! Each form made their own box, which this year were collected by the charity One Big Family. The charity made sure that the boxes were sent to those that most needed them. Well done everyone who donated and supported this and a special thank you to Mr Hake who arranged for One Big Family to come and collect the boxes.

Voice 21 Oracy

We are proud to be a Voice 21 Oracy school this year as part of the 'Get Talking in PRUS' national programme.

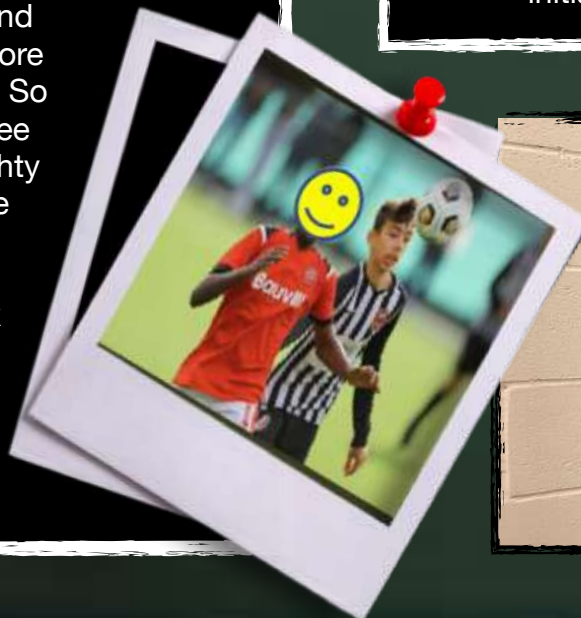


We are one of ten alternative provision schools to be successful in applying to this pioneering initiative that aims to develop the speaking and listening skills of our students. Oracy is about learning through talking and learning to talk. The art of explaining yourself, taking on opinions and expressing your feelings through speaking is a skill that will help all of our students in life after The Rowans. Throughout this year we will be developing oracy skills through our teaching, and through school wide initiatives like Tea and Talk.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Teachers at The Rowans are continuously encouraging students to become involved in sports clubs outside of school, and this has proved particularly successful for one young man. Layte asked Mr Hake if it was possible for a trial at Chatham Town football club, to join their Kent Youth League section. A trial was arranged over a two-week period, and the manager Gino was very impressed with Layte's effort, commitment and discipline levels, therefore decided to sign him up! So far, Layte has made three appearances for the mighty Chats, all of which have been wins!

Well done Layte; we look forward to following your career into semi-professional football...and hopefully beyond!



Kent Literacy Award

We are very proud to announce that we have received a Kent Literacy Award 2020 for our response to the school closures in March, when we launched our 'Writing at The Rowans Goes Live' initiative. Despite the COVID19 pandemic we worked incredibly hard as a team to ensure our pupils continued to have access to quality learning.



We designed and launched a series of online lessons for KS3 and KS4 which focussed not only on developing their writing skills, but also encouraged an awareness of environmental issues and an appreciation of the outdoors.

All lesson resources were provided on GoogleClassroom and Live Lessons were scheduled via video link to provide pupils with extra guidance and support. Of course, in true Rowans style, these were Tweeted and Facebooked EVERYWHERE, to encourage pupils to engage in this new way of learning.

This was a whole school effort. Not only were online lessons provided, but a huge amount of organising also went into ensuring all pupils had access to laptops and, on top of that, weekly Enrichment Packs were delivered to pupils and their families which provided them with essentials, treats and activities for the whole family to enjoy.

It goes without saying that receiving this award is a testament to the teamwork, resilience, kindness and commitment to learning that everyone at The Rowans demonstrates every day.



Values Day Fabric Pumpkin Workshop

During Tier Three of Term One Values Day, a group of pupils took part in a textiles workshop led by Miss Horsley and Miss Harris. Both children and staff recycled old jumpers by making them into impressive fabric pumpkins in a wide variety of colours and patterns. The workshop was enjoyed by all and the whole staff team were wowed with autumnal decorations produced by the children.

If you would like to try this autumn themed craft at home here is how:

You will need:

- An old jumper
- Polyester filling or an old cushion insert
- Hot glue gun
- Twine
- Needle and thread
- Scissors



1. Cut off the sleeve of a jumper and cut again into two sections.
2. Pick one sleeve piece and turn it inside out.
3. Bunch up one end and tie together tightly using string.
4. Turn the sleeve section back into the right way and stuff using filling.
5. Round the shape by using your hands and tie the top using string.
6. Use a hot glue gun to stick and wrap twine around this top section to make the stalk of the pumpkin.
7. Trim excess fabric from the top part and add more glue and twine to the top in a snail shell formation until completely covered.
8. Using a needle and thick thread sew through the pumpkin base through to the top to create the first curve.
9. Pull string tight to make a pumpkin shaped section.
10. Repeat all the way around the pumpkin until you are happy with the shape.
11. Finish by tying your string and making a knot at the end.



Born to be Wild...

Take Cover!

In term one, the ASDAN group had to learn how to survive in the wild. We went on an adventure to Walderslade Woods and **tried** to set up camp. Their mission was to build an outdoor shelter made up of all-natural materials. There were three requirements that the boys had to follow, these were; to fit all of them inside the shelter, work as part of a team and of course for the shelter to be waterproof. Whilst the shelter looked amazing, it was unfortunately not waterproof and the boys ended up a little wet during our testing! Although you may agree that their effort was fantastic!



Great Leaps

This term, two groups of Year 10 students, accompanied by Mr Hake, have had the amazing opportunity to participate in the Great Leaps bush-craft carousel programme at Buckmore Park Scout Camp.

The programme provides pupils the chance to explore the wilderness and develop skills in wood carving, foraging, fire craft, woodland management and survival.

During the carousel pupils have worked on developing their; teamwork, motivation, physical fitness, achievement, success and self- belief, communication skills, personal challenge, environmental awareness, physical and mental wellbeing, self -confidence, co-ordination, trust and responsibility.

Pupils have enjoyed all elements of Great Leaps, especially the chance to spend so much time outdoors, but their favourite part is warming up by the campfire!



The Great Outdoors

Land Based Studies

Land Based Studies pupils Kyle and Harry practiced their planting skills whilst replanting the container outside school reception. As part of their coursework they have to plant a container for a pleasing display. I am sure you will agree, this arrangement of Cyclamen, Heather, Primrose and Ivy does make for a very colourful welcome for all of our visitors. We are looking forward to spring, when the bulbs planted beneath will also start to burst through. Harry and Kyle are also planning their own container displays for assessment; Kyle is building his container from pallets and Harry is making a container out of an old motorbike tank. The other Land Based Studies pupils, Dashawn and Hayden, are making their containers from an old football and an old car tyre! Such creative upcycling ideas that I am sure will all make very pleasing displays.



Key Stage 3 Team Building Challenge

This year, key stage three pupils had the exciting opportunity to attend a team-building event that would help to foster key relationships between not only the pupils, but staff as well. They were each given maps of Capstone Park and they then had to navigate around the park on a scavenger hunt for the key locations. The pupils were completely in charge in following this map and this led to Alfie getting Mr Cheal lost several times! Overall,

the pupils had a lot of fun and Summer in particular was very enthusiastic the whole way round. In the end though, Miss King's form came out on top and completed the hunt in the quickest time with the most correct answers!



TALKING MENTAL HEALTH



To mark World Mental Health day on October 10th 2020 we spent time in our form groups having a 'tea and talk' afternoon. Hot chocolate, tea and biscuits were served to each form group by the leadership team whilst the forms discussed:

- What is Mental Health?
- Who has Mental Health?
- How do you share your feelings?
- If you are struggling with Mental Health who can you talk to, who can help us?
- How can we look after our Mental Health?
- How can we look out for our friends?

All form groups engaged in the conversations and had some informed ideas which were noted down.

It was lovely to see all the forms working together and listening to each other's ideas and points of view.

All pupils went home with more information about the Kooth app - <https://www.kooth.com>

which provides free, safe and anonymous support in an online mental wellbeing community.

Parents and carers were sent a link to Every Mind Matters - <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/> which has expert advice and practical tips to help with mental health and wellbeing.

The afternoon was a great success and we look forward to the next one in term three.



Values Day



Pumpkin Picking

On Values Day we had the pleasure of visiting Milebush Farm to pick pumpkins to take back to school and carve in preparations for the Halloween festivities. The Rowans pupils let their imaginations run wild and sculpted some frightening faces and devilish designs!

Laser Tag

The tier one Values trip for term one was Laser Tag. This was a well-deserved trip for the highest achieving pupils. The pupils and staff teamed up, but the mighty Miss Clarke's team won by a small amount. A great trip for the pupils who, as always, were model citizens for the school.



Lest We Forget



As part of The Rowans Remembrance Day celebrations, two members of our student council decided that they wished to lay crosses on the graves and monuments of the fallen. Using the crosses manufactured from our Values Day in term one, Indi and Taish placed them very respectfully on the headstones and central memorial at the Military Cemetery in Chatham. #LESTWEFORGET #WEWILLREMEMBERTHEM



Values Day - Remembrance crosses

As part of our Term One Values Day, pupils in school had the opportunity to make Remembrance Day crosses which were placed at the War Memorial, on Jackson's Field, by members of the School Council.

Pupils used the laser cutter and their workshop skills to make the plywood crosses which they engraved with a personal message of remembrance and thanks.

The finished crosses were beautifully made and it was great to work with the pupils on developing their sense of respect and appreciation for the sacrifices made by others through war.



Raising Money for Charity

Macmillan Coffee Morning

At The Rowans we are passionate about fundraising for important causes and giving back to the wider community. This term we held a Macmillan Coffee Morning to help support the charity which provides specialist healthcare, information and financial support to people affected by cancer. Baked goods were sold, in addition to some lovely handmade key rings and coasters which were created by the pupils during their DT lessons. The staff and pupils managed to raise an incredible £73 for the charity; thank you to all who contributed.



Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child

Every year, pupils and form tutors rally together to contribute to and make beautiful charity Christmas shoeboxes; packed full of gifts and treats for children less fortunate than ourselves. This year was no different. As you can see, their kindness and generosity will go a long way in brightening Christmas day for many deserving children. A special mention has to go to Indi and family, who contributed enough gifts and treats to fill two shoeboxes!!! A true demonstration of kindness in action – one of The Rowans' core values. 😊



11k Steps a Day

Prostate Cancer is now the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the UK and each year more than 11,000 men die from the disease.

Given those statistics Mr Cheal accepted the challenge of walking/hobbling 11,000 steps for every day of



September. I managed to complete the challenge and raised £545. Thank you to everyone for your support!

Children in Need Fundraiser

The Rowans always supports Children in Need with some imaginative fundraising activities. This year, as well as having a dedicated 'Wear it Pink' day, with pupils and staff donating a pound to take part, student council members also organised a delicious donut sale and a crazy duck race at break time.

We are pleased to announce Mrs Bournier won the race and celebrated with a big box of chocolates. The pupils' efforts culminated in a whopping £140 raised for Children In Need! Well done everybody!



Christmas Card Competition

We held our annual Christmas Card Competition this year to bring some Christmas cheer to our school and the wider community. Key Stage three pupils at The Rowans had the opportunity to experiment with lino printing techniques to create original Christmas card designs. The staff voted for their favourite cards and the points were awarded as follows:

1st Place – 100 house points: Billy B

2nd Place - 50 house points: Taish

3rd Place - 25 house points: Alfie

4th Place – 10 house points: Louie

The winning Christmas card design will also get printed professionally and sent out to our Trustees and other schools.



Successful Reintegration

We are all really proud to be a part of The Rowans, all pupils have the very best opportunities both academically, socially and emotionally. Pupils who remain at The Rowans and continue their studies have every opportunity to succeed and excel.

Where appropriate we are also committed to enabling young people to reintegrate back into a mainstream secondary school.

Medway mainstream schools share the opinion with The Rowans that, where possible and appropriate, it is important for young people to have another chance at a mainstream education and reintegrate from The Rowans back into local schools. We work closely with local secondary schools to ensure that all key stage three pupils have a school to work towards and that if and when possible, they are reintegrated back into schools and given another chance at a mainstream education.

This year already we have successfully reintegrated two key stage three pupils back into mainstream schools. We are immensely proud of these young people and grateful to the schools for their support. We have more pupils who are keen to make the transition and we are fully committed to supporting them at the appropriate time. Increasing opportunities for all pupils is our aim and ensuring that everyone can fulfil their potential is our utmost priority.

There are occasions at The Rowans, following a period of assessment and successful application for an education and health care plan, where young people also make the move to specialist provision. We are committed to this process and ensuring that all pupils have the appropriate provision and support moving forward in their education. So far this year we have successfully supported one pupil in gaining an EHCP and moving to a superb local special school.

All pupils in all years are afforded the opportunity to return to a mainstream school. Pupils should always feel able to speak to staff about this goal and how it can be achieved. We are fully committed to supporting this move. In addition, pupils who remain at The Rowans to continue their education, do so in the knowledge that they will achieve and reach their full potential.

Student Council

The Student Council have been working extremely hard during terms one and two to promote kindness and ensure that every pupil's voice is heard. The council have met twice so far this year to discuss various topics such as The Rights Respecting Schools Award, which charities the school would like to raise funds for and to redesign the student voice questionnaire.

So far this year the Student Council has raised an outstanding amount of money for various charitable organisations, these include:

Macmillan Coffee Morning £73

Wear it Pink £90.80

Children in Need £140



As well as raising money, the student council have also led on projects such as the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child and Harvest Festival hampers which were given to the organisation 'One Big Family' to distribute to families in need. Two council members also laid Remembrance crosses made by pupils during Term One Values Day at The Military Cemetery in Chatham



Moving forward, the Student Council will be opening a tuck shop every Friday break time. Snacks and drinks will be available, ranging from 20p - £1.

The Student Council would like to thank everybody for their continued support with raising money for such amazing causes; your kindness and generosity when supporting charity events is much appreciated.



Subject Focus: STEM and DT

DT and STEM lessons at The Rowans are always a hive of activity, with pupils working hard to produce some amazing outcomes term after term. Lessons are creative and challenging, and pupils learn to work with a wide variety of tools, machinery, materials and processes - there is never a dull moment to be had! We caught up with Mrs Gale in the workshop, and Mr Hake in Room 8, to take a look at what's been going on so far this year in DT and STEM ...

KS3 DT: Creative CAD / CAM

Key stage three pupils made a great start this year by learning about workshop health and safety and refreshing their basic skills. Then, in our first project, pupils designed and made a novelty USB stick for a client of their choice and produced some fantastic outcomes using Computer Aided Design / Manufacture (CAD / CAM). Finished off with some eye-catching graphics and vacuum formed packaging, they created some very impressive looking final pieces. Pupils are now learning about different types of timber and wood joints, and are making their own pine storage system using hand and machine tools in the workshop. Such a creative bunch!

Mrs Gale's Term 1-2 superstars:
Taish and Aiden



DT ASDAN: New course – No problem!

The boys in the DT ASDAN group have made a fantastic start to this newly introduced qualification, and have already completed five units of work for their 'Carpentry & Joinery' module. The course is a great mix of hands-on practical work and real-life context theory, leading to the pupils practising a variety of workshop skills and designing and making a whole range of products. The dowel jointed storage boxes and children's step stools that they have produced so far have all looked fantastic and have been gratefully received by family, friends and target clients.

Mrs Gale's Term 1-2 superstars:
Indi & Tobie





GCSE Engineering: **Solar Power!**

The current project, as set by the exam board, is to design and manufacture a solar powered fan for a client. The students have been very busy designing and manufacturing their prototypes, and to some extent, the weather has been kind! We've seen lots of sunshine which has enabled them to carry out their testing to a high level.

Mr Hake's Term 1-2 superstars:
Jimmy and Bobby



GCSE DT: **Impressive NEA projects**

GCSE DT is a challenging and highly-paced qualification which requires pupils to carry out a range of research and to then design and make their own, innovative product to solve a 'real-life' problem. The pupils this year have made a great start on their NEA (Non-Exam Assessment coursework) projects and we look forward to seeing their final outcomes, which will include a shoe storage unit, portable Lego trolley, kitchen organiser and multi-functional storage area for pet owners.

Mrs Gale's Term 1-2 superstar:
Daniel



KS3 STEM: **Festivals and Fun!**

During term one, students have been hard at work with their "Junior Leaders Award". For the competition, pupils had to put themselves in the shoes of an engineer, and design any product of their choice, regardless of how extreme it is! The entries have been outstanding and we await the results.....

For term two, students have been studying and manufacturing USB light sources for the Diwali festival of light. In their classes, we spoke about the festival, the traditions behind it and their STEM projects involved the manufacture of a colour changing light, focusing on electronics and optical light sources.

Mr Hake's Term 1-2 superstars:
Alfie and Aiden

BTEC Construction: **Hands on Learning**

Since September, the students have been extremely hard at work, with not only their BTEC course, but also with studying for their CSCS card. Upon completion, the CSCS card will give them the correct legislation to work as labourers directly from



school on a construction site. Through taking mock tests and completing health and safety work, the students have been very impressive in their approach. Well done all!



Mr Hake's Term 1-2 superstars:
Jimmy and Indi

Final Word...

2020 has been an unprecedented year, a real challenge for us all, in so many ways for us personally and for our local and wider communities. It has reminded me of the importance of human connection, love and kindness. This year we celebrated the astounding work of our doctors, nurses and support staff in the NHS, alongside the amazing work done by voluntary organisations day in, day out, supporting those most in need.



This year we have worked hard at The Rowans to maintain connection with all our pupils and their families, with our hashtag of #ApartButTogether trending, during the first lockdown earlier in the year, alongside enrichment packs and welfare checks and visits. Since returning to school in September pupils have acted with great responsibility, adhering to safety measures put in place to protect our school community and have adapted quickly to having assemblies delivered remotely and maintaining greater social distance. It is important to stress that although social distancing has had to increase, emotional and welfare support has increased alongside to ensure that pupils are cared for and supported with every aspect of their education and personal development. Pupils have continued to support others through charitable events, raising money for Breast Cancer and Children in Need. One of my favourite moments this year has been how totally mesmerised pupils were watching the Duck Race for Children in Need, cheering support for their ducks as they made their way around the water course.

I have been overwhelmingly impressed with the quality and quantity of learning that has taken place since September, with Year 11 leading the way demonstrating outstanding commitment to their qualifications. All Year 10 and Year 11 who have recently sat mock GCSEs have conducted themselves well, with maturity and resilience. Some of our pupils have been fortunate to benefit from a new partnership with Great Leaps, participating in outdoor bush craft sessions, developing practical skills and building character.

The last few weeks of term are always busy as we approach the festive season. Sadly, there will be no trip to the Pantomime this year, however, we have replaced this with many other Christmas treats. All pupils will be gifted a Christmas Eve box from the school as well as all families receiving a Christmas Hamper with all the food needed for a Christmas Dinner. These acts of kindness are only possible due to the generosity and time of the school staff and local organisations who have worked with us to spread some Christmas cheer and demonstrate the power of kindness and hope.

“You never really know the true impact you have on those around you.
You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them.
You never know how much your kindness turned someone’s life around.
You never know how much someone needed that hug or talk.
So, don’t wait to be kind.”

Fiona May