GOAL

TERMS 3 & 4| 2021|THE ROWANS
EASTER EDITION

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Rowans

PEARSON TEACHING AWARDS UK WINNER

Ofsted Outstanding 2014|2015

ICMAT

www.therowans.org

Lockdown Learning

Despite the lockdown, school remained open and welcomed pupils to attend in family groups. Work for KS3 and KS4 continued, and pupils followed their family group timetables, which covered the whole of the curriculum and many enrichment tasks. Pupils excelled in this safe and nurturing environment, completing some fantastic work and progressing well towards GCSEs and BTEC courses. In particular, KS3 pupils particularly enjoyed taking photos in the style of Susan Saroff; distorting images to create new ones. Pupils had fun competing in the Homecourt challenge; virtually pitching their reaction and agility skills against staff. Pupils also took part in Mental Health week, creating posters to express themselves. We saw some amazing, very thought provoking, posters created by KA and AM during this challenging time. Pupils also entered the Medway City of Culture 'Love Medway' poster competition. We were very proud to hear AB announced as a winner. Her art work will be featured in the Medway City of Culture bid 2025. What a fantastic achievement and we look forward to seeing Millie's poster on display around Medway.

Throughout the lockdown period, there were several highlights from those pupils engaging in remote learning too. There were a record number of pupils attending live lessons, and the level of work completed online was amazing! In particular, HK in KS3 showed real commitment to his learning by being focused and engaged throughout. Additionally, MM and BLP in KS4 demonstrated their resilience by overcoming any difficulties and ensuring work was completed. The life skills challenges each week were a real treat to witness, especially when JM's competitive side came out! Furthermore, it was great to see pupils take part in World Book Day and careers week remotely.

Each week, we celebrated our remote learning and in-school learning stars for their hard work and commitment. Overall, we were so impressed with the level of dedication shown by pupils both at home and in school. It has not been an easy time but you have all shown such resilience and commitment to your learning.

WORLD BOOK DAY

WORLD BOOK DAY
4 MARCH 2021

This year's World Book Day was obviously different due to Covid. However, here at The Rowans, we still like to celebrate it. This year we had staff read extracts of novels with a 'mask on' and pupils had to guess who they were, as well as competitions, character matches and live readings from a popular novel. We also had quizzes and readings that were virtual for those pupils that were at home, to ensure that they could also join in and feel part of World Book Day. The winners of the quiz were form LKi, who got almost every question correct, however everybody participated and did incredibly well.

Daily Debate

As a proud member of the 'Get Talking in PRUs' programme, an initiative that aims to increase learning and improve social and emotional wellbeing for young people through talking and conversation, we have been engaging in 'Daily Debates' as a school community throughout lockdown. These were opportunities to discuss and challenge each other's point of view on a range of topics and current affairs issues, including whether schools should stay open over the summer holidays to catch up on learning and how to take care of our mental health. Each morning, family groups were given a topic to discuss and we were incredibly impressed by the depth and maturity of the conversations that were taking place. Students were not only able put their own points of view across in a considered and articulate manner but, most importantly, they were able to listen to the views of others.

Here are what some students had to say about the topics discussed:

HM, Year 9 on Drill music and its links to violence: *"If someone raps about the violence they've experienced then that's fine. It doesn't make other people more violent; it's up to them to make decisions about how they act."*

BJ, Year 10 on the legalisation of drugs: *"If drugs were legal it would be much easier to control who took them and what went in them, which would fix a lot of problems"*

Waste Week

KS3 Pupils participated in Waste Week 2021. Pupils learned about the importance of reducing food waste, whilst reducing carbon emissions.

Pupils turned left over potato peels into tasty crisps in a range of flavours. Left over cake and buttercream became delicious chocolate truffles; vegetable stalks and peelings, which were destined for the bin, became a filling and comforting bowl of soup, and over-ripe bananas and excess eggs became banana bread.

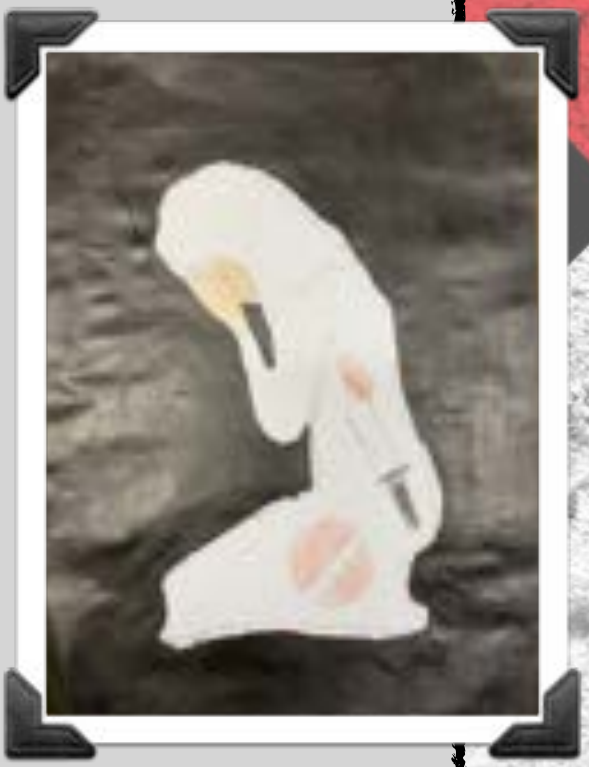
If you would like to try any of the recipes at home please take a look at: http://www.jointhepod.org/teachers/other/amazing-waste-cookbook

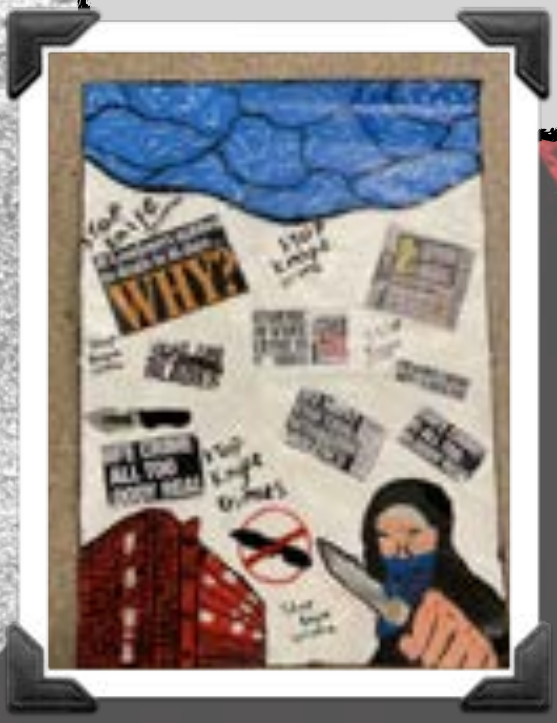
Waste Week 2021

County Knife Art Competition

"Create an art piece to express the harm knife crime does to society"

Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit held an art competition for students in year groups 7-13, to coincide with Operation Sceptre. The purpose of the competition was for students to produce a piece of art, which reflects the national drive to reduce knife crime, or, the impact knife crime can have on others. In total over 80 pieces were submitted by students from all over Kent and RW, from The Rowans, won 3rd place for his entry.





Snowman Competition

We all know how important it has been to get outside, get some fresh air and take part in outdoor activities over lockdown. So when the snow arrived in February, we decided to take full advantage of it and include a wintery challenge alongside the weekly learning and enrichment activities. The challenge: simply to build the BEST snowman!

We had loads of fantastic entries, from pupils and staff alike, including a fantastic Covid safe snowman from HWa. However the prize had to go to TJL and his little brother for their very colourful creation! Well done everybody who took part (even Buster!)

British Science Week

British Science Week 2021 was celebrated at The Rowans in great style this year. We were inspired by the theme of innovation and KS3 competed in the Spaghetti and Marshmallow Tower Challenge. Pupils designed and then built the tallest tower they could. Some clever designs were constructed and towers rose up from sturdy bases to marshmallow tops. The winner, at a whopping 68cm tall, was Harry and coming in a close second was Taish.

Pupils also had the chance to construct 'Hot Wheels' cars, to use in the speed challenge to find the fastest car at The Rowans! Pupils really showed great resilience whilst constructing the intricate and fiddly parts to make their speedy cars. Cars were timed over a 4m drag race track so pupils could calculate the speed of their cars. Again, Harry was victorious with a top speed of 3.6 m/s with Harley T coming in a close second. What a great way to learn about the physics topic of speed.

Pupils also showed kindness in helping to assemble 40 enrichment bags, so that young people who are members of a local charity, 'Street Games' could experience the same fun challenges they have at school. We have had great reports back to say the young people have really enjoyed assembling the Hot Wheels cars and using them to calculate speed.

What a fantastic week. A massive thank you to The British Science Association for helping us celebrate our passion for science. We are all looking forward to next year!

Mental Health Matters

During Children's Mental Health Week 2021 all pupils had the opportunity to participate in daily activities to help look after their mental health, both in school and online. They were also challenged to 'express themselves' by producing a piece of art which encouraged them to express their feelings through drawing. We had some amazing entries and Mrs May chose Kelice's, Alfie's, Daniel's and Tegan's posters to feature on future mental health displays around the school. Well done.

Over lockdown we have all experienced very sudden and big changes in our lives and routines and we're living with lots of uncertainty about the coming weeks. For some pupils, the Corona Virus pandemic may have worsened or triggered anxieties they were already struggling with.

On the school website you can now find lots of tips, activities and ideas, for both parents/ carers and pupils, to keep mentally healthy. There are also links to mental health services for parents/carers and pupils.

We have a lot to look forward to over the coming months, especially reconnecting with friends and family.

Enrichment

During lockdown, pupils have once again been receiving weekly enrichment bags that have been hand-delivered to them for completion at home.

We have loved seeing the photos of pupils cooking, creating and enjoying their weekly deliveries!

Special thanks to Alison, the community champion, at Strood Morrisons. She provided all the half term pizza enrichment packs and helped us source lots of the others too.

Supporting the Community

Cleaning Up Our Streets

During January and February, we started to notice that the local community was getting a little messy, so we took matters into our own hands to tidy it up. Over the course of three weeks, Family Group One led by Mr. Weston, performed 30 minutes of litter picking each day collecting over 30 bags of rubbish in total. AE, HWa and RH were the community heroes who helped tidy up the litter that had accumulated on Silverbank and Timberbank, demonstrating our core value of kindness to our local school neighbours.

Cupcake Kindness

During the lockdown period, pupils baked and decorated cupcakes which were then given to members of the local community. Recipients were overwhelmed with the cupcakes, and by the kindness shown by pupils to take the time to make them. We received a number of thank you cards and really did make a difference for local people during an incredibly difficult time.

Values Day Egg-stravaganza!

On Thursday 1st April we celebrated our school values of kindness, commitment and resilience during our termly values day. Due to current restrictions, all activities took place on school site. Pupils who consistently displayed our school values throughout the term finished in tier 1 and baked Easter nests as well as receiving an Easter egg for their hard work. Tier 2 pupils took part in an Easter crafts session and pupils who finished in tier 3 created Easter cards, using a lino printing technique, that were given to members of the local community. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activities and it was great to see our school values being modelled once again.

In the afternoon pupils took part in our annual Easter egg hunt. During extended afternoon registration form groups completed a range of tasks which earnt points for their form group. The form with the most points entered the Easter egg hunt first and followed by each form group in order of how many points they earnt. It was great to see pupils having fun and searching for over 300 eggs that were hidden in Jurassic Park.

Final Word...

As we approach Easter, it's amazing to think it has been a year since the first national lockdown and what a lot we have achieved in that time!

I am incredibly proud of how pupils and families have responded to the challenges of lockdown, continuing to value education and support pupils with their learning and enrichment activities.

It was a real pleasure to invite all pupils back to school at the beginning of Term 4, we have missed being together as a school community and have quickly settled back into school routines. All the staff have been overwhelmed with the commitment shown by Year 10 and Year 11 as they continue to produce evidence towards their GCSEs and BTEC qualifications. Year 11 have particularly shown real maturity towards their learning and are determined to achieve their potential this summer.

Science week has been a success, as it is every year, and this year included making and racing cars! Thank you to both Mrs Martin and Mr Weston who made this possible. I have been equally impressed with the academic and vocational learning that has happened this term and of course, EVERYONE enjoyed The Rowans' annual Easter Egg Hunt!

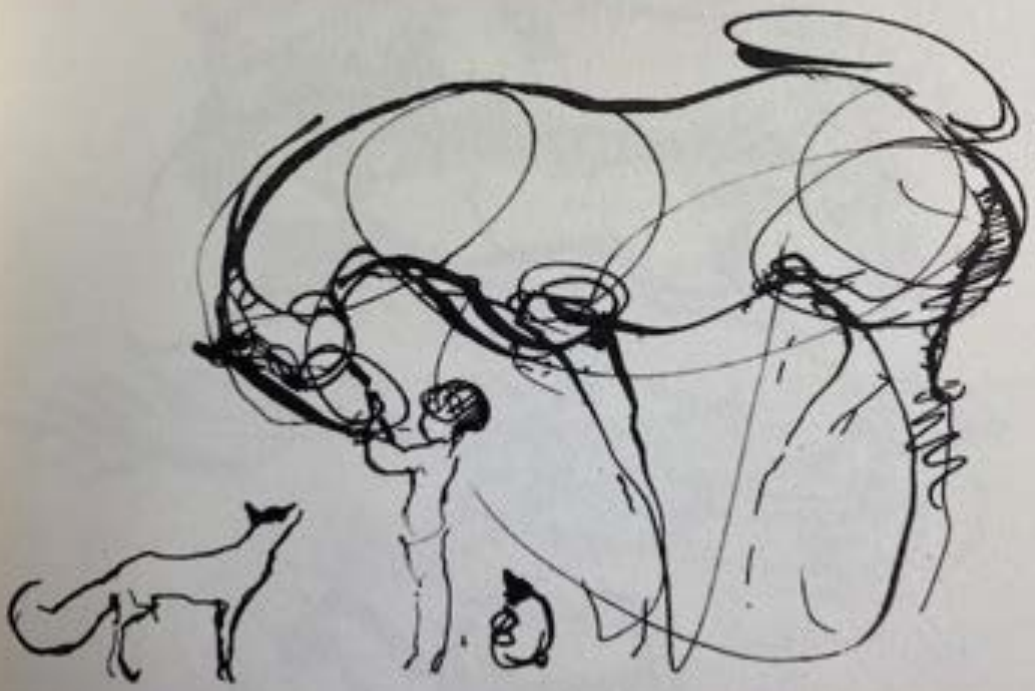
I feel it is important to end this message by acknowledging the hard work and commitment shown by the staff who have continued to work tirelessly throughout all lockdowns, ensuring quality learning continued, enrichment packs were delivered, welfare and safeguarding checks were regularly carried out and for pupils in school, they were kept safe within family support bubbles, whilst continuing to learn and make progress. Since returning, staff have continued to be absolutely amazing and I was delighted that they all received such positive feedback from you all – it means a lot to the staff to know that you value them and that they make such a difference to you and your families.

This term we have been focusing, in lessons and through our weekly assemblies, on the importance of diversity, inclusion and kindness, so I want to share with you one of the inspirational quotes from Charlie Macksey that we have used. Whenever things are difficult we should never underestimate the importance of help and support.

It now remains for me to wish you a chocolate-filled Easter and I look forward to welcoming back all pupils to school on Monday 19th April, for Term 5.

Mrs May

"Doing nothing with friends is never doing nothing, is it?" asked the boy



"No," said the mole.

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