

Inspiring Change Newsletter



The Rowans AP Term 1/2 2022

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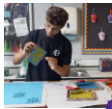
Subject Focus



Subject Focus: Art

Creativity across the curriculum

This term, pupils have been working hard to complete their Pop Art coursework. The pupils have been developing and refining their own ideas, as well as experimenting with a variety of materials. The final pieces are varied and original which reflect the pupils' individual strengths and interests.



This term, KS3 have been having fun making 3D sculptures in response to the theme 'Making the ordinary, extraordinary.' The pupils began the topic by researching the Pop artist Claes Oldenburg. They took inspiration from his larger-than-life sculptures of ordinary everyday objects, designing and making their own. The pupils experimented with a variety of modelling materials, including papier mâché, to create unique and colourful outcomes.



Subject Focus: DT

From Planning to Production

The DT ASDAN pupils have continued to impress the DT department this term with their amazing carpentry and joinery skills. They have each designed and made a children's step stool for a target customer of their choice, learning to manufacture a variety of wood joints and discovering facts about different types of timber. The outcomes are fantastic, with each stool made to a high standard and personalised to the child's interests.



It has been busy in DT recently with pupils working in a variety of materials, and building on their prior learning, to develop more complex designs and explore new manufacturing processes. Our latest project has involved combining acrylic within cast pewter to create these beautiful keyring and emblems. The DT team has been blown away by the creative ideas, hard work and stunning outcomes that pupils have produced!



Subject Focus: Food

Festive Food Fun

Pupils this term have been competing in The Great Rowans Bake Off. Pupils have spent the term putting a lot of time and energy into designing and planning their final pieces which were judged on the 9th of December.

KS3 winners:

1st GW

2nd XE

3rd KK

KS4 winners:

1st CD

2nd RF

3rd AP

GW is the 2022 champion!

Alongside the amazing creations of their cakes, which have all turned out wonderfully, pupils have created additional items which focus on key baking skills. These include; hot chocolate stirrers, peppermint creams and coconut ice. Pupils then packaged them and created food hampers to take home to share with their family and friends this Christmas.

KS4 pupils have in addition helped to prepare for Christmas dinner for the whole school, as well as the weekly school dinners which are voted for by pupils.





Food Club



Cooking Club has been full every week since it started in October, with pupils creating a range of meals to take home to feed their families. Dishes have included; red lentil curry, tomato and pepper pasta soup and smoky bacon pasta. We have focused on budget meals, which use up food that's been donated by Marks and Spencer as well as unused items from food lessons. We have also learned about the importance of climate change and how reducing food waste can help, whilst saving money to create healthy balanced meals.



School Dinners



Throughout terms 1 and 2 pupils have been able to enjoy a range of hot meals as well as desserts each week chosen by the student voice. The Student Council prepared voting slips for pupils to cast their votes on which hot meals and desserts they would like; the top choices were selected and put on the menu. So far pupils have enjoyed meals such as Chinese curry, pasta bake, sausage and mash and chilli con carne.

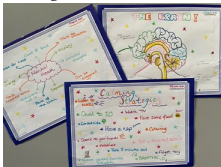
World Mental Health Day and Anti-Bullying Week

On World Mental Health Day 2022 pupils spent the afternoon in their form groups learning about their amazing brains and how they keep them safe. They analysed their own responses to when the amygdala activates the survival response and looked into flight, fight, freeze and fawn modes. All done whilst enjoying some drinks and biscuits. Through understanding how the brain works we can all have a better understanding of our own mental health.



This year's anti-bullying week had the theme of Reach Out.

We started the week with odd socks day to spread awareness of anti-bullying week. On Wednesday afternoon, pupils stayed in form groups and had hot chocolate and biscuits whilst discussing various elements of bullying and its effects, including cyberbullying and being an upstander and not a bystander. Each form group wrote their own pledge of actions they were willing to take to help eradicate bullying. On Thursday, pupils filled out a survey about bullying which will be used in PSHE lessons. We finished the week with a kindness day. Pupils and Staff raised money for Children in Need with a cake sale and tag day. To finish off the week, pupils who received a kindness point on their day-sheets got to leave school earlier than normal.



Samaritans Shoe Box Appeal

Christmas at The Rowans started with our school value of kindness being shown in abundance with a school council volunteering trip to Samaritans Purse shoebox sorting depot. Pupils worked extremely hard following the very strict shoebox checking processes. They worked as a team with each member completing a different task such as: posting donations into the safe box, checking the boxes didn't contain unlisted items such as food in them, making sure they were age appropriate and then using packing skills to get as many shoeboxes in to the world-wide transport containers. The shoeboxes are going all around the world to countries affected by drought, floods and war. It was great to see our pupils helping other children to receive a Christmas surprise this year. We felt extremely proud to be able to help. One pupil stated that it was making them feel very happy to be able to help other children receive a Christmas present this year. It was such a great experience; the student council are planning to volunteer again next year.



Wear it Pink Fundraiser

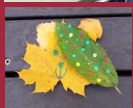
Our annual fundraising event for the 'Breast Cancer Now' charity was a huge success.

Our Student Council members managed to **raise an outstanding £207** by partaking in a Wear it Pink tag day, pink raffle and selling sweetie-cones at break time. In addition, lesson 5 activities included a pink pamper room and games of dodgeball. We are so happy to support such a worthy cause and would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all pupils, families and staff who support our charity events.



Primary Update

The first two terms of the year have been really busy at ICPSS, working with new children and helping members of the class successfully transition to new schools. We continue to offer English, maths, reading and SPaG at the Primary and we come to The Rowans to access art, craft, humanities, cookery and PE. These lessons are delivered by a combination of Rowans and ICPSS staff, which helps us to build strong community and professional links and allows the children to be able to continually access high quality teaching.





In addition to this, the primary children have learnt how to ride at the Squirrels Riding School, on Bluebell Hill and been encouraged to put together a trampolining routine at the Jumpers Rebound Centre in Gillingham. At Great Leaps, they have continued to build upon and develop their survival skills, recognising which plants they can safely eat and how to build a shelter that will keep them dry and warm. ICPSS now has 7 children on roll and supports a further 2 children during the week by offering these additional activities.

Our Term 1 topic was the ocean, which the children seemed to enjoy very much and currently we are looking at Autumn and Winter which will then link on to Christmas.

The school also likes to support national and international events and have collected items to make up a Christmas shoebox for the Samaritans Shoe Box Appeal as well as this, we raised money for Children in Need and worn pink for breast cancer.



Great Leaps

During Term 2 a group of KS3 pupils have had the opportunity to attend Great Leaps and take part in a bushcraft carousel. They have been taught which plants they could survive on in the wild, and more importantly which ones not to eat. Some brave pupils even tried some of the edible plants and were surprised that they tasted so good. Pupils have been using knives and saws to create mallets and spoons, whilst learning about knife laws and safety and finding out how to create fire without matches or a lighter. During the last week they used all of the skills that they had learnt to cook us all a full English breakfast, delicious!

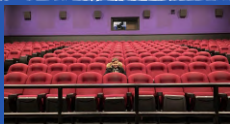
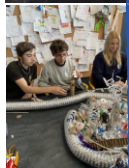
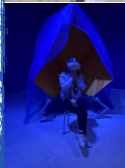


Throughout Term 2, the primary children have been exploring nature, the environment around them and how to use natural resources to their advantage. They started their activities by playing wild games on the Buckmore Park site, getting used to their environment and exploring what it has to offer in a safe way. The children were then tasked with using sticks, branches, leaves and mud to create a shelter. They had to work as part of a team and ensure that their shelter was large enough to keep them all dry! Most recently, the class were able to take advantage of the wet and muddy conditions to find and identify the tracks of animals. They found badger, fox and rabbit footprints and even saw evidence of the new shoots of brambles that had been eaten by Muntjac deer.



Turner Contemporary Art Trip

During term 2 GCSE Art and Textiles pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit the Turner Contemporary Gallery in Margate. Pupils participated in a navigated tour and workshop where they were able to create a fantastical landscape based on the exhibition. Pupils and staff also experienced a unique virtual reality exhibition. Fun was had by all and we look forward to visiting again in the near future.



Cinema Trips

As part of the Into Film Festival 2022, pupils from GHa, HB, LKi and KH had the opportunity to go to the cinema. The festival aims to bring learning to life by inspiring young people to watch, understand and create films in creative ways. Pupils enjoyed a wide range of films including The Railway Children, Jurassic World and Minions.



The New Sensory Room

We have a new designated sensory space at The Rowans AP which will support pupils' sensory preferences and needs. It is a space which aims to provide pupils with the individualised sensory input they need to self-regulate, so they can be better prepared for learning and interacting with others. The sensory space will benefit all pupils, especially those who have been exposed to trauma, stress and those with specified sensory needs.

The sensory space will provide a safe environment where pupils can be supported to calm and regulate, therefore optimising learning and participation in the school environment.

The Sensory Space is flexible, changeable and adaptable and will be used for interventions, a quiet working space or somewhere to take some time out from the day.



Construction Centre of Excellence

At the Rowans, we are fortunate enough to have some outstanding facilities, however, none more so than the recently refurbished Construction workshop.



Great morning showing @AccAylingKP around @TheRowansAP. VRU are always proud to show examples of positive partnership work. As always there was a warm welcome. AAC Ayling was able to see the newly refurbished construction room. #alloutday #positivepartnerships



Over the summer, members of the Construction department applied their skills and knowledge to convert an extremely run down, leaking, aged, almost derelict container, into a fully functioning, water-tight teaching space! The workshop is used to carry out several activities, including plumbing, electrical installation and tiling as part of the Construction course delivered at the school. The workshop contains 6 station rigs, a hot work area and a site office, which is used to promote the feeling and atmosphere of being on a live construction site.

The workshop is also used to carry out architectural drawings and planning for the Designing the Built Environment course, which uses some of the facilities recently installed.

Afternoon Teas

Afternoon tea deliveries are a regular Friday afternoon treat for our local community. Pupils have been delivering afternoon teas for over two years now and it is still a delight to chat to elderly members of our local community and deliver a box full of goodies to share. What a great way to show our school values of kindness and commitment. ❤️



Breakfast Club

Come and join us in the hall for the most important meal of the day. Breakfast gives you energy and will help you focus in your lessons. We have toast, cereal, fruit and juice available every day, and several times a week we have pastries and other treats. Breakfast is free and available from 0800 -08:35 every day.



Football Fixture Against Inspire

6th October saw The Rowans compete in their first competitive sporting fixture of the school year against neighbours Inspire. The football fixture was held at Chatham Town football club and the team was selected from the pupils that have attended football club after school.

We didn't get off to the best of starts, with Inspire being awarded an early penalty after a handball in the area, which they converted. The boys responded brilliantly to going behind with great link up play between HJ, BS and KL and continued pressure on the Inspire goal. The pressure was finally rewarded with HJ finishing off a great attacking move to make it 1-1. RC pulled off some brilliant saves to keep the scores level and RCo bossed the midfield, with the score remaining level at half time. Onto the 2nd half and the boys raced out of the traps; LB won the ball back with a crunching tackle, LA picked the ball up and played the ball forward, which led to great feet from AON to send HJ through, who calmly put the ball in the back of the net. However, the lead didn't last long as Inspire capitalised on defensive mistakes to bring the scores level. In the final few minutes KL produced the goal of the match by bending the ball into the top corner of the goal from outside the area after more great defensive play from RCo and AP. Inspire equalised with the last kick of the game and the game finished 3-3.

A very entertaining game and the whole squad showed all of our core values throughout. We have SSG Futsal coming up, as well as a KS3 football tournament, so if you wish to be involved you need to attend after school club on a Tuesday evening.

The squad was: KL, LA, LB, AON, BS, HJ, AP, RCo and RC.



GFC School Joining Construction

At the Rowans, we are very pleased to be able to welcome a group of students from the GFC school with their construction studies. Twice a week, Cohen and Connor attend the school to join the construction course with Mr Hake and Mr Mansford. In addition to their portfolio work, they are given the opportunity to practice and execute their electrical, plumbing and tiling skills in preparation for a final assessment in the summer of next year.

Cohen, from the GFC school, gave us a quote which proves that the students enjoy being part of our community; "I like the atmosphere of the school and I especially enjoy how the construction course feels like it would if I was an apprentice. We are looked after and shown how to do some brilliant work".



Today's school page in the match programme focuses on a fantastic construction course.

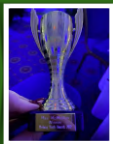
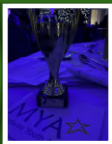
They are learning useful new skills. 🧑🏻🧑🏻

Come on you Gills! 💙👊



Mya-Medway Youth Award

The Medway Youth Awards took place on the 9th November and saw Year 11 leaver Mya nominated in the Personal Development and Achievement Award category. "Mya has flourished at school, which she sees as family, and has become a role model for the school community." Mya had some tough competition as this was the largest category with double the nominees of all the others. We were all over the moon when Mya was announced as the winner and the whole school is very proud of her.



Drop Down Careers Day

Year 11 took part in a whole day of careers to prepare them for the various post 16 destinations they will choose. The day followed a carousel of activities run by our teachers and outside speakers. The Department for Work and Pensions ran a CV writing workshop and CXK ran a workshop helping our pupils sign up for the government apprenticeship webpage and search for local apprenticeships. CXK had already delivered a short apprenticeship assembly in the previous week, to prepare our pupils for this task. In the afternoon, pupils were set into production teams to learn how to specialise in a manufacturing role to design, engineer and construct a product. Pupils really engaged in the production process and created some beautiful lanterns.



College Carousel



Over the past 2 terms we have been completing a course on Motor Mechanics at Maidstone college. The group are now able to carry out a full service on a car as well as fix punctures and balance wheels correctly. Well done to HJ, RC, GB, TM and RCo.



School Council



Student Council are a force to be reckoned with this year! In the Student Council, pupils have been busy behind the scenes making pupils voices heard, creating a positive environment, where ideas can be shared and valued. So far this year, we have already implemented lots of different new and exciting initiatives and have been supported by staff to improve our school. The Student Council has achieved so much in such a short space of time such as; new football goals in the playground, air conditioning in Miss Bank's room, new choices of food at lunchtime and supporting different charities to name but a few! Next term, we hope to implement even more and continue to contribute to every aspect of our school community in a positive way!



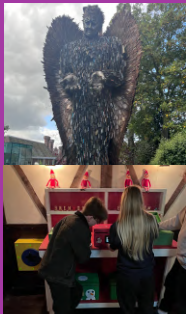
House Events

As always, the house system has continued to promote healthy competition and encourage pupils to model our school values. During term 1, pupils competed in their houses to take part in a countdown competition organised by the maths department. The competition was a carousel of events which included activities such as conundrums and timed maths equations. The overall winners were Warriors, with Titans in 2nd, Gladiators in 3rd and Spartans in 4th place. In term 2, pupils baked Christmas cakes which were then judged by both staff and pupils to determine the top three. For KS3, Spartans finished 1st, Gladiators 2nd and Warrior's 3rd. For KS4, Spartans were 1st again and Gladiators 2nd and 3rd. There were some excellent designs and all pupils took great pride in baking and decorating their cakes. There was also a KS3 Christmas card competition running, where pupils designed and then made their own cards. Warriors finished 1st and 2nd, with Spartans in 3rd and Titans in 4th place.



Enrichment/After School Clubs

Throughout terms 1 and 2 there has been a wide and exciting variety of enrichment on offer. Pupils have visited locations such as, The Escape Room, The Knife Angel, The Turner Contemporary, Squirrels Riding School and the cinema. These opportunities have helped create a love for learning, along with providing new cultural experiences. There has also been a wide range of after school clubs on offer, with the best take up by pupils we have ever seen. Football club is regularly attended by many pupils each week, along with cooking and guitar club. We look forward to more pupils attending after school clubs in term 3.



Tux

Tux has had a busy couple of terms helping out during interventions. He loves having a cuddle whilst listening to pupils reading and prefers a head scratch to a treat! Tux normally attends school a couple of times a week and is usually found in Mrs Skinner's room or taking a walk on the field.



Christmas Dinner

All pupils and staff at the Rowans were treated to a festive, traditional roast dinner with all the trimmings! After a fun day out at the Pantomime, students returned to a freshly home-cooked meal by Miss Banks. We all spent some quality time in our form groups, reflecting on the year we have had and all that we are grateful for. We sang Christmas songs, pulled some crackers and played some festive-filled games. It was a great afternoon had by all and was the perfect way to start the Christmas celebrations.

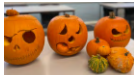


Pantomime

On Wednesday 14th December all pupils visited The Chatham Central Theatre to watch this years Pantomime performance which was Snow White. A great time was had by all, with all the pupils singing and dancing along. All pupils were a credit to the school and displayed our core values of kindness, commitment and resilience whilst representing the school in the local community.

Term 1 Values Trips

Throughout term 1 pupils who consistently modelled our school values of kindness, commitment and resilience were rewarded with a trip to Chessington World of Adventures. An excellent day was had by all and all pupils were a credit to the school. In order for pupils who finished in tiers 2 and 3 to develop their school values, they were taken pumpkin picking at Lower Ladysden Farm, where they had the opportunity to pick their own pumpkin before returning to school to carve it. There were some amazing carvings and pupils enjoyed the activity whilst building kindness, commitment and resilience.



Term 2 Values Trips

Term 2's Values Day saw pupils who continued to model our school values rewarded with the opportunity to take part in a chocolate making workshop at Temper Temper Chocolate. Pupils had the chance to make a range of chocolate using moulds to create their designs and then take their creations home to enjoy. Tier 2 forged materials, before returning to school to design and create their own Christmas wreaths as well as enjoying a Christmas film, whilst tier 3 also spent the afternoon creating their own wreaths.

Students of the Week

Each week, staff vote for a pupil to be selected and proudly named as student of the week. Pupils selected for this award have consistently modelled our school values of kindness, commitment and resilience, going above and beyond during that week. It is always a close contest each week, but our students of the week so far this year are RI, HM, XE, KL, MR, LM, RR, JB, LB, GB and RC.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

This award goes to

HARVEY

All staff at Rowers are incredibly proud of you for outstanding attitude towards learning you have demonstrated this week. Being independent and motivated are really important skills to develop. Well done

WEEK MAY

#Kindness #Commitment #Resilience

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

This award goes to

MADDIE

All staff at Rowers are incredibly proud of you for outstanding attitude towards learning you have demonstrated this week. Being independent and motivated are really important skills to develop. Well done

WEEK MAY

#Kindness #Commitment #Resilience

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

This award goes to

RILEY

All staff at Rowers are incredibly proud of you for outstanding attitude towards learning you have demonstrated this week. Being independent and motivated are really important skills to develop. Well done

WEEK MAY

#Kindness #Commitment #Resilience

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

This award goes to

RITCHIE

All staff at Rowers are incredibly proud of you for outstanding attitude towards learning you have demonstrated this week. Being independent and motivated are really important skills to develop. Well done

WEEK MAY

#Kindness #Commitment #Resilience

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

This award goes to

GRACE

All staff at Rowers are incredibly proud of you for outstanding attitude towards learning you have demonstrated this week. Being independent and motivated are really important skills to develop. Well done

WEEK MAY

#Kindness #Commitment #Resilience

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

This award goes to

LEO

All staff at Rowers are incredibly proud of you for outstanding attitude towards learning you have demonstrated this week. Being independent and motivated are really important skills to develop. Well done

WEEK MAY

#Kindness #Commitment #Resilience



Final word

As the song lyrics say, "it's the most magical time of the year" and that is certainly true for pupils at The Rowans. As we approach the end of term there are so many festive activities, treats and trips, including our annual trip to the pantomime in Chatham. It was wonderful that pupils continue to enjoy this Rowans' tradition. This year there was a lot of audience participation and all the pupils had a fabulous time, singing and dancing, having fun and yet representing the school's values impeccably.



Christmas dinner was a fantastic occasion with individual classes being served their dinner by the Leadership team. Pupils enjoyed the dinner with music and a visit from the Christmas Elf! It was lovely to have the pupils and staff from the Primary Support Service join us for this special occasion, enjoying their Christmas dinner and gifts from the Christmas Elf.



As I reflect on the term, I am delighted to share that there has been some outstanding progress made by pupils in both key stage 3 and key stage 4, I have been particularly impressed with the pewter castings made in DT by key stage 3 and by the group of pupils who represented our school at the Secondary School Games in futsal.

A highlight for me this term has been the privilege to teach GCSE English to a fabulous group of Year 11 pupils. The Year 10 and 11 pupils are determined to achieve and are working hard towards their qualifications and it is a genuine pleasure to share this journey with them. They conducted themselves well for the mock exams they sat at the end of term, demonstrating our school values of commitment and resilience.

We are proud of the support we offer families. As we all make sacrifices as the cost of living continues to rise, we will endeavour to support our pupils and their families by offering all pupils free breakfast and lunch every day. In addition, we will continue to work in partnership with Marks and Spencer, providing food hampers to families each week.

I am going to conclude by once again thanking you all for your ongoing support of the school. The strong partnerships we have with you all are vital in supporting pupils to make progress, both academically and personally, growing in confidence and self-belief. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff team, who all work tirelessly and with commitment and determination to support pupils to be the best versions of themselves. Thank you to you all, I wish you a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Mrs May