

The Rookwood School Newsletter

# Rook News

Friday 13th July 2018

Dear Parents,

This edition of Rook News is very much focused on the various enrichment events and opportunities that we ran during the two Activity Weeks. There have been so many activities that it would be impossible for me to list them all here, but I do want to thank all of the staff for 'going the extra mile' for the students.

I would also like to thank Miss Chloe Zillwood. She has edited the new-look Rook News since its launch at the start of the year and, I trust that you agree, each issue has looked fabulous! Miss Zillwood will be leaving Rookwood over the summer as she is getting married and relocating to London. I congratulate her and wish her well in the future. She will be missed.

With warmest wishes,

Mr Kirk-Burgess





# Whole School News

## Family Day celebrations

Last weekend parents, governors and friends of the school celebrated the achievements and successes of pupils throughout this academic year at our annual Families Day.

The afternoon began with Mr Kirk-Burgess welcoming guests and wishing everyone a pleasant and enjoyable day. Pupils and parents then had the opportunity to visit classrooms to look at the various displays and to chat with teachers.

The GCSE Art Exhibition was extremely popular as well as the science laboratories, where our school technicians were giving scientific demonstrations.

Following this, guests gathered on the field and in the sports hall to watch numerous netball, cricket and tennis games, as well as dance performances.

Throughout the afternoon the Friends of Rookwood served Pimms on the lawn. Our school catering staff also prepared a delicious spread of sandwiches, finger foods, fresh fruit and cakes and puddings for everyone to tuck into.

There were also various dramatic and musical performances including the Musical Theatre Club's rendition of Matilda's 'Revolting Children', Year 7's 'Duelling Djembes' played on the African Drums, a selection of songs from the Years 7-10 Choir and GCSE Dance pieces.

Thank you to everyone that came along to celebrate this year's highlights and successes and to those September starters who also joined us, we welcome you to the Rookwood family!



# Whole School News Continued

## School receives Gold Award



Following another successful year for the PE department, with a record number of students competing in intra-school competitions, local inter-school competitions and county finals and achieving their personal best, we are delighted to have been awarded the School Games Mark Gold Award.

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sports Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

Miss Brown, Head of PE, commented, "We are proud to receive this highly prestigious award, reflecting the importance we place on PE and Sport at Rookwood, as well as the hard work and efforts of the staff and of course the pupils. Congratulations to all the students who competed in the various sporting competitions this year. We place a huge emphasis on achieving your personal best in every activity and this award celebrates just that."

Sport is an integral part of life at Rookwood and within the rich and varied curriculum, pupils benefit from high quality, specialist teaching. Sport is also a key component of the school's extra-curricular programme and students enjoy trying new sports as well as developing their favourite ones further. Activities such as trampolining, cross-country, gymnastics, wall climbing and yoga all feature in our broader offer.



# Lower School News

## Little Rooks

In Little Rooks the children have been having lots of fun taking part in forest school activities.

They collected natural objects from around the school grounds and made forest crowns, which they really enjoyed.

The children have also been doing various different phonics activities. Their favourite involved listening to a sound and then squirting the matching letter with a giant water pump.



## Year 1

Year 1 have continued to be busy both in and out of the classroom.

They have been practising partitioning numbers into tens and units and then finding the different amounts using coins. The aim was to make each amount using as few coins as possible.

They have continued with their story writing and have used their topic books to research different types of homes around the world.

They also enjoyed working with clay to make tiles which they painted and they were just beautiful! All the children have coped extremely well with the heat over the last few weeks and enjoyed showcasing their swimming to their parents last Monday.

Mrs Wyatt would like to wish everyone a wonderful summer break and hopes you all enjoy some relaxing days together.



## Reception

The Reception children have been enjoying the end of term activities, including playing lots of different games.

They had a great time in PE practising their frisbee skills with their friends. As a refreshing treat, everyone made orange and strawberry lollies and they certainly went down well in the sunshine!

Mrs Walsh would like to wish all the Reception children a very happy and restful holiday – you all deserve a well-earned break. Well done Reception and thank you for a wonderful year!



## Year 2

Year 2 have been busy writing and designing their own kitchen safety posters in class. They each put forward their own ideas and thoughts, which they then discussed as a group before adding to their posters.

Well done on another great year Year 2! Mr Walker is looking forward to seeing you after the summer break and hearing all about your holidays!



# Lower School News

## An action-packed activities week

The weather certainly smiled down on the Lower school activities sessions last week and wow, what a week! Monday morning found Year 6 discussing career pathways with some of our parents. They learnt about the life of a PA, an anaesthetist and an army officer. Thank you to Mrs Light, Dr Rylah and our very own Mr Hick for sharing their experiences. Meanwhile, Years 3 and 4 took part in a Maths relay in the hall. Everyone was very excited and the children were extremely competitive! A particular well done to Oliver's team who were the winners! In the afternoon, Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a spot of pond dipping at Rooksbury Lakes. The range of creatures found was huge - caddisfly larvae, water spiders, freshwater shrimps to name but a few! Susie was our star 'dipper' as she managed to catch a water scorpion, a leech and two baby newts! Years 3 and 4 spent the afternoon at the Dogs Trust near Newbury, where they learnt about responsible dog ownership and the rehoming process.

On Tuesday, Year 3 took part in 'Bird Day'. The children began the day with a nature ramble around Rooksbury Lakes, where they identified different species of flowers, insects and birds. Back in the classroom, they turned the data into a huge pictogram for our display boards. They also made bird treats and decorated stylish bird feeders for the birds to eat from. The children completed their bird fun by making origami birds and sculpting birds from clay. The rest of the Lower School were lucky enough to go to Lymington baths and participated in an inflatable aqua-obstacle course and paddle boarding.

On Wednesday, Years 2 and 3 went to Pizza Express in Basingstoke to learn about catering, food hygiene and how to make a pizza! They had a wonderful time dressing up in chef's outfits before making and baking a delicious Margarita Pizza, which they then had the pleasure of eating!

On Wednesday morning Year 6 were privileged to record their performance poems for the Talking Newspaper, which sends audio recordings to local visually impaired residents. In the afternoon, Mrs Fazal taught Year 3 and 4 some old-fashioned playground games which she remembered from her childhood. The children learnt French Skipping, hoop and ball tricks and practised with skipping ropes.

Thursday found Years 3 and 4 at the Riverside Bowling Centre, for a game of ten-pin bowling and a round of Glo in the Dark Golf. Congratulations to George who had the winning score of 96 points! Years 5 and 6 visited the REME museum at Lyneham, where they took part in a shelter building exercise.

Back to school for all on Friday, and into the pool! All the children swam fantastically and received medals for their efforts. Thank you to Mrs Kerrison, Miss Brown and the Year 8 helpers for organising such a great afternoon. All in all, it was a very exciting week!



# Senior School News

## HMS Belfast trip

Last week Year 9 spent a very hot, but wonderful Thursday and Friday in London on the HMS Belfast Study Tour.

Once they had arrived at Waterloo, they made their way to the Clipper river bus for a short journey across the Thames. Another short walk took the group to the Houses of Parliament, where they had a guided tour and took part in a number of workshops. Pupils were fortunate to sit in the galleries of both Houses and to listen to snippets of the debates.

The group also had the pleasure of meeting Kit Malthouse MP, who talked about the recent campaigns he has been involved in and his current job as a Minister.

Dinner at TGI Friday's was followed by a performance of 'Strictly Ballroom' at the Piccadilly Theatre. The show was a dazzling blend of spectacular dancing, Will Young's incredible singing, glittering costumes and lots of laughs.

A surprisingly comfortable night passed on HMS Belfast and the children spent the next morning on board the ship taking part in different workshops. The next stop was The Globe Theatre, which was followed by ice-creams and a leisurely guided walk along the South Bank, culminating in a spot of further sight-seeing on The London Eye, from which the views were truly amazing.

Year 9 were a credit to the school and together we enjoyed another successful trip.

*Mrs Cumpsty*



## Year 8 visit Normandy

Normandy was the destination of our last trip of this school year. We experienced the historic town of Bayeux, the D-Day landings, Normandy's dramatic coastline and sandy beaches, the beautiful countryside and its cheese and caramels all in just four days!

The 18th-century Château du Molay was our home for the trip and it was set amongst 38 acres of beautiful private parkland. At the château, we experienced two refreshing and exhilarating swimming sessions, as well as a range of wonderful food. We tried frogs' legs, snails soaked in garlic, and even though we were not sure at first, we plucked up the courage and popped a snail or two into our mouths. They were a little chewy but strangely tasty! The team at the château were very accommodating and always ready to help, which made our trip even more enjoyable. The disco and karaoke were the evening highlights and we will not forget when George sang a whole song in French and dedicated it to Mme Hapke!

One of the best parts was visiting The Cité de la Mer, a maritime museum in Cherbourg. The decommissioned nuclear war submarine was an eye opener, particularly the very cramped conditions and the huge range of technology, dials and switches. We also had the opportunity to watch a Titanic reconstruction, which was very moving and authentic. Afterwards, we were enrolled on a mission where we had to learn how to communicate underwater. We even experienced a submarine simulator. Finally, we did not know that they had made a film of our mission, which was hilarious!

An interesting and fun trip superbly organised. It was our best trip to date.

*Millie and Georgia in Year 8*



# Senior School News

## Activities week

Thorpe Park, Paultons Park, Lymington water baths and HMS Victory, were just the tip of a very big activity week iceberg!

Over the past week, pupils have pond dipped, karaoke'd, made sustainable goods and have completed an Apprentice challenge, involving designing, creating, selling and promoting their own product.

The fun-filled week is designed to test, challenge and engage students outside of the usual classroom environment. The enthusiasm of students has been second to none, with everyone participating in independent and team building activities to strengthen their already strong bond.

Thanks must go to Miss Brown for organising a varied programme of activities, as well as all the staff who challenged themselves in different fields.

Mrs Hacker



# In and Around School News

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## Performing Arts Extravaganza

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On Thursday 5th July parents and friends of Rookwood School were treated to an extravaganza of Performing Arts talent.

Throughout the evening students had the opportunity to showcase not only work from this year but also pieces devised and rehearsed in clubs such as the Musical Theatre Club.

The audience was delighted by the various performances, which included vocal solos, dramatic pieces, dance routines, musical theatre, the orchestra and the choir.

Mrs Parsons would like to congratulate all the children involved in the showcase.



## Pupils dig for Bronze Age artefacts

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Last Friday, pupils in Years 3 and 4 took part in an archaeological dig organised by the University of Southampton.

The excavation site was a possible Bronze Age settlement and the children were involved in the digging and sieving of the spoil heap, as well as looking through the 'finds' trays.

Other activities during the day included the ancient art of fabric dyeing using plant materials that would have been available at the time.



## Thank you to the Friends (FOR)

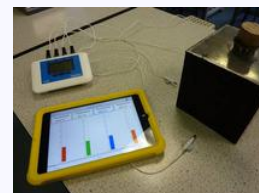
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The Science Department recently received funding for six LogIT Observers from the Friends of Rookwood.

These high tech pieces of scientific equipment were quickly put to good use and are already being enjoyed by students across the Senior School.

The LogIT Observers work with a range of sensors to record different types of data. This includes measuring the temperature, velocity, acceleration and soundwaves, as well as nuclear radiation such as background radiation

Thank you to the Friends for their ongoing support.



## Dates for your diary

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Thursday 23rd August 2018  
GCSE Results Day

Wednesday 5th September 2018  
First Day of Term

## School Communication

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Recent whole school communication:  
6/7 Summer Swimming Pool and Tennish Cort Use Letter  
6/7 Headmaster's Letter to Parents  
13/7 Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Recent information sent out by the Lower School:  
4/7 Doodle Maths Challenge

Recent information sent out from the Senior School:  
Year 8 Girls HPV Vaccine Letter

If you would like another copy of any of these letters, please contact Mrs Holder or Mrs Salter.