

The Rookwood School Newsletter

Rook News

Friday 23 November 2018



Dear Parents,

Welcome to a slightly lighter edition of Rook News. This is because we have had fewer events in the last fortnight as the students focus on their studies and also as we take a collective deep breath before the run up to Christmas and all that that brings.

In the last few weeks we have had some problems with our IT system. This has meant that some emails have not been sent out, even though our system was showing that they had.

Our IT contractors are fixing this issue. I want to apologise to those parents who have been inconvenienced by this.

With warmest wishes,

Mr Kirk-Burgess

Oxbridge Talk

On Tuesday 13 November Mrs Hacker and Mr Winnett took a group of Year 11 students to South Wilts Grammar School for a talk about Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

The talk highlighted the need to select A-Level subjects carefully and how planning for your future is crucial. It also focused on university life and the different options that people have.

There are approximately 130 universities in the UK, offering 10,000 different courses, so there will always be subjects to explore and discover. The talk also reflected on the need for students to become better at independent learning as this is the key factor in succeeding at university.



School News – Swimming success



On Monday 9 November, 12 pupils from our Lower and Senior Schools competed in the Independent Schools Association London West Regional Swimming Gala at The Aldershot Garrison Pool.

Our junior team – Lauren, Grace, Abi, Lucy and Amelie were ready for their warm-up at 8 am. The girl's unbridled enthusiasm was reflected in the team's achievements. Lauren, Lucy and Grace all gave their best swims but were just pipped at the finish for medals. Abi gained two personal best times and Amelie received a gold and a silver medal for her determined performances. She will now compete in the National Swimming Finals in December at the London Aquatic Centre in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The senior team – Joshua, Alex, Harrison, Xen, Emma, Lily and Ellie, swam in the afternoon session. Lily and Xen gained personal best times resulting in Xen winning a bronze medal. Emma and Ellie gave gutsy performances in their events too. Joshua achieved two gold medals for his outstanding swims and will be competing in the National Swimming Finals next month alongside Amelie.

The senior boys relay team were amazing. Despite having to make personnel changes at the last minute, they did themselves proud. Although just beaten to the medal positions on the Freestyle relay, the individual performances from each swimmer in the Medley relay showed determination and perseverance resulting in 3rd place and a bronze medal. It was an incredible day full of adrenaline and excitement.

Mrs Kerrison



School News

Reception

The Reception class have really enjoyed their week learning about puppets. They have made a variety of different types including a stick puppet, paper bag puppet and sewing a glove puppet.

The children have used their creations to put on little shows in the puppet theatre which was a pleasure to watch. Mrs Walsh has been really impressed with all the children's imagination and creativity!



Year One

Year One has been working hard in maths with some very practical work about the language of position, things that are longer than or shorter than a given object and measuring various items around the classroom using non-standard units. They also measured a corridor using metre sticks and had to think outside the box as to how we could continue measuring when we had used all the metre sticks that were available.

In English, they have been learning to write captions remembering to keep them as short as possible. They then had to draw their own pictures and write a matching caption. P.E. with Year Two has been great fun as the children are working on improving their basic skills and learning how to play different games. Well done Year One for all that you are doing.



Sports team debut

On Tuesday 13 November our U8/U9 boys football and girls netball teams took part in fixtures against St Francis School. It was their first match of the season and for many of the pupils, it was the first competitive match that they have ever played. While St Francis came away victorious our teams put in a great effort and showed fantastic team spirit.

Mr Brewer and Mrs Kerrison commented on just how much each player enjoyed the matches. They also saw some great skills displayed across both teams and are looking forward to seeing these develop over the rest of the season.

School News

Senior Showcase

On 7 November Staff, Family and friends were treated to a superb Senior Music Showcase.

The evening showcased performances from Orchestra, Choir, Bands and Soloists. Mrs Parsons was delighted by the standard of performances and the challenges which pupils had set themselves to perform at the highest level. The evening highlighted the outstanding musical talent we have at Rookwood. A huge well done to all involved.



Planting for the planet

As part of our involvement with Plant for the Planet and Andover Trees United, our Year 6 pupils spent a chilly morning at Harmony Woods in Enham Alamein. They soon warmed up as they busied themselves planting out saplings they had previously helped to grow.

The saplings, which are all varieties of British native trees, are being used to create a community woodland. Pupils Amelia and Sid were given the honour of planting a cherry tree in the special cherry tree walk to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War One.

The pupils all worked very hard and really enjoyed the experience. Thank you to Mrs Morgan for coming along to help on the trip.



Dates For Your Diary

Week commencing 26 November 2018

Monday 26 November
Governors Meeting 18.00
Year 10 & 11 GCSE Drama Woman in Black
Workshop 9.00 – 12.00

Wednesday 28 November
U10 & U11 Boys Football v Leehurst Swan (H Astro)
U10 & U11 Girls Netball v Leehurst Swan (H) 14.30
U12/13 Boys 5-a-side Football @ Sherfield

Thursday 29 November
U15 Boys Football v Leehurst Swan (A)
U15 Girls Netball v Leehurst Swan (H)
Year 9 Parents' Evening 16.30 – 19.00

Friday 30 November
FOR Discos 18.00 – 21.00
Year 11 GCSE Drama Scripted Performance 14.30
– 16.00

Week commencing 3 December 2018

Monday 3 December
Lower School Christmas Production (Nursery – Yr
2 only) 9.30am – 10.30am
Senior School Staff Meeting 16.15
Year 11 Core GCSE Mock Exams

Tuesday 4 December
Years 1 & 2 Fire visit

Wednesday 5 December
U11 Boys Rugby v Avondale (H)
U11 Girls Netball v Avondale (H)

Thursday 6 December
Year 11 John Hanson Careers Fair
Year 8 National Gallery – Art Trip

Friday 7 December
Lower School Christingle 11.00 – 12.00
Lower School Carols around the Tree 15.15
Year 7 Panto – Salisbury Playhouse 9.00
– 14.00

Week commencing 10 December 2018

Monday 10 December LAMDA exams

Tuesday 11 December
Lower School Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 12 December
Senior & Lower School Carol Service Rehearsals
Senior & Lower School Carol Service, St Mary's
Church. Doors open 18.30, service starts at 19.00
Years 10 & 11 French Immersion trip to Nice

Thursday 13 December
Senior School Christmas Lunch

Friday 14 December
End of Term 16.00 – No Afterschool Prep

Battery recycling

Don't forget you can still recycle your batteries in school. The main battery bin is in Mrs Willcox's classroom but there are boxes in each of the school offices.

And finally

On the evening of 15 November, the boarders headed down to Andover for another night of bowling. They were keen to find out if the 'bet' was still on: any two students combined score beating Mr Witcomb and Gappie's wins them lots of chocolates – and yes it was!

Unfortunately for the boarders Gappie, Miss Cas came with her 'A' game. Dakchya gave it his best shot coming 1st with 73 and Jacob was close behind with 68. Unfortunately, it just wasn't enough on this occasion. Also, Oliver came top between those using the 'bowling shoot' with 82.

Another fun evening out even if the milkshakes or chocolate weren't free!