

The Rookwood School Newsletter

Rook News

Friday 9 November 2018



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the latest edition of Rook News, covering the three days before half-term and the last fortnight. It has been a busy few weeks at Rookwood and there are reports of the numerous activities and events in these pages. As always, I am very grateful to the staff and students for their hard work. However, I want to extend particular thanks to the team of parent (and grandparent) volunteers who organised the spectacular fireworks display last Friday. The fireworks are one of the main fundraising events for the Friends of Rookwood, and their continuous efforts play an essential role in ensuring that our students have access to the best facilities and opportunities possible.

With warmest wishes,

Mr Kirk-Burgess

Shooting success

We are delighted that Rookwood School has qualified a Senior Team for the British Shooting Schools Pistol Championships National Final which will be taking place at Stoke Mandeville Stadium on 16 January 2019.

Agnes, Constance and Alex took part in the South East Schools Championships at Whitgift School, Croydon on Tuesday, 30 October. Solid shooting performances earned them a Senior Team place in the National Finals. In addition, Agnes was placed 6th in the qualification shoot so she went forward to the knock out final, a format she had not competed in before. After four rounds she was lying in 4th with some excellent shooting including 19 out of 20 in the 4th round. Sadly she was knocked out in the 5th round and finished 6th overall.

Agnes described it "as very pressurised, a real adrenaline rush and a great experience!"

Many congratulations to them all for their achievement, particularly as Constance and Alex were shooting in an older age category to enable the school to field a team. They are now looking forward to the finals which are on laser targets and will be another new experience for them! We wish them every luck.



Feature – Tree Conference



Rookwood School is proud to be a core partner of Andover Trees United. Through this initiative two of our pupils, Hannah and Erin, were invited to participate in the annual Tree Conference alongside two pupils from Harrow Way and environmental experts from across the world. This year's Tree Conference aimed to inspire citizen-lead reforestation and the growth of ancient forests in the UK, as well as the wider re-greening of our Earth. Here Wendy Davis, Operations and Schools Manager from Andover Trees United reports on what happened at the event.

The Tree Conference at the Merlin Theatre in Frome was an inspirational, sell-out event which showcased effective strategies for citizen-led reforestation and for halting deforestation worldwide. Attended by a 240-strong audience, the event placed a core focus on supporting the younger generation to be resilient caretakers of the Earth.

As part of author Mary Reynolds Thompson's talk, calling for 'deep imagination' to be brought back into our school systems, the Conference also gave the stage to four Andover secondary school students to highlight what we need to do, from their perspective. Andover Trees United's Wendy Davis accompanied Hannah and Erin as well as Megan and Nicola from Harrow Way. Trained as 'Plant-for-the-Planet Climate Justice Ambassadors', the girls' responsibilities include training their peers and reaching out to community leaders and local politicians.

During a Q&A session on the main stage, the girls called for children and adults to work together, combining the strong imagination of children to re-envision the future with the aptitude of adults to turn ideas into action. "If we don't do something then my kids might not get to know some of the animals in the wild and in the rainforests," said Erin. "I learn about crude oil in school but not about its effect on the environment – changing the education system would be a wonderful place to start," said Hannah. "Listen to us, we have lots to say, stop talking, start planting!" urged Megan.

Andover Trees United shared the stage with headline speakers at the event which included Millennial trailblazer Ayana Young, founder of the 1 Million Redwoods Project in California, Scientist Dr Martin Bidartondo who has worked at the University of California at Berkeley as well as Imperial College and Kew Gardens and Isabelle Tree, author of the number one best-selling environmental book of 2018.

School News – Fantastic Fireworks!



On Friday 2 November, the Friends of Rookwood held their ever-popular annual fireworks display. The gates opened at 6.00 pm to give spectators time to sample the delights of the BBQ and mulled wine and cake stalls as well as enjoy the bouncy castle and bottle and sweet tombola.

Live music was also provided by local singer Chris Bernstein who kept everyone entertained before and after the main event. The firework display was again choreographed by Whitchurch based company Pyrotastic UK and was quite a spectacle drawing many oohs and ahhs from the 1,000-strong crowd. The display culminated in an amazing finale which saw a barrage of over 250 pyrotechnics light up the night sky. It was a truly spectacular display with people even taking to Twitter to express their delight and appreciation.

We would like to thank the Friends of Rookwood for all the hours of work they put into organising this brilliant event for the school and the wider community. We would also like to thank all the members of staff and volunteers who helped on the night. We really do appreciate all your support.



School News – Choirs Unite



An eclectic mix of classical, modern, and traditional songs from around the globe ensured a fundraising evening in aid of Andover Young Carers and St Peter's Church, Goodworth Clatford was a resounding success.

Held at St Mary's Church, Andover, the 'United in Song' concert performed by the Romsey Male Voice Choir and Rookwood School raised more than £2,500 for the charities.

"It was such an uplifting evening of song," commented concert organiser Jane Eastwood. "We were all captivated by the talents of the young performers and the rousing performance of the male voice choir. It was particularly heart-warming that the schoolchildren were helping their less fortunate contemporaries and we could feel the church was filled with people who cared about the plight of the Andover Young Carers."

Jeremy Simmonds, a member of the AYC management committee, explained some of the responsibilities the carers have looking after a parent and often siblings as well. Some are younger than nine years old and frequently have no time for a childhood themselves. Often their schoolwork can suffer as well as their social lives.

Two choirs and soloists from Rookwood School took part in the concert and were led by our Head of Music Louise Parsons. They literally moved the audience with their joyful renditions of the traditional Congolese song Banaha, and Adiemus, from Songs of Sanctuary by Karl Jenkins. William's voice soared magically in Ave Maria and Lucy Sumner was captivating with I Put A Spell on You.

Romsey Male Voice Choir, led by musical director Marion Maxey, also had people swaying to the South Pacific rhythm of Pokarekare Ana. They chose a less traditional selection of songs for the evening which featured well-known songs from the shows, favourites from Paul Simon and the Hollies and finished with Impossible Dream, from Man of La Mancha. David Grey, also one of the organising committee, sang the solo part in the Working Man. All the performers joined together for the finale of Somewhere from West Side Story.

Commenting on the evening Miss Parsons said: "It was quite simply a fabulous vocal performance from all involved, I was so proud of Rookwood's Choir."

School News – GCSE Field Trip



On Sunday 14 October, staff and Year 11 geography students departed Rookwood for the annual GCSE field trip to Shropshire and North Wales. This excursion allows the pupils to carry out the compulsory fieldwork element of their course in spectacular surroundings, as well as revise topics for their forthcoming exams. Sunday afternoon was spent in Shrewsbury assessing the sustainability of transport systems in its Central Business District. Pupils carried out vehicle movement surveys and questionnaires.

On Monday they went to the stunning Carding Mill Valley to examine how channel and drainage basin characteristics change downstream, and what impact this has on flooding in the local area. Pupils had the opportunity to get in the river and measure width, depth and velocity and also to see how many of them had holes in their wellies – several of them did!

On Tuesday they headed to the beautiful glaciated valleys of North Snowdonia to see how ice has shaped our present landscape. The pupils walked to Cwm Idwal, a stunning corrie with all of the glacial features pupils have been studying. For those of you whose GCSE Geography knowledge is a bit rusty, a corrie is a horseshoe-shaped valley which is formed through glacial erosion. After one last look at the dramatic glacial trough of Nant Ffrancon it was time to head back to our field study centre in Shropshire.

The final morning was spent looking at an example of a small scale ecosystem in preparation for our next topic in school. Pupils had great fun pond dipping and identifying various animals including fish, newts and water scorpions – a very rare find. Despite the pouring rain on Monday, everyone had a great time and enjoyed the variety of fieldwork on offer.



School News

Activity Week

In the days leading up to half-term, our Lower School pupils took part in a curriculum-based Activity Week covering Maths, Science and English.

This included a range of indoor and outdoor maths challenges, a workshop designing, building and flying kites, a session creating mini-ecosystems in a bottle and a series of science experiments to assess the dunking qualities of a range of different biscuits. For those of you that are interested the Hobnob proved to be the most robust for dunking.

However, the highlight for many pupils was Mr Walker's 'Exploding Lunch Bag' workshop where pupils used a plastic sandwich bag, some tissue, baking powder, warm water and vinegar to create an acid-based reaction which eventually led to the bag going pop!



Doodle Maths

Congratulations to Toby, Oliver, Harry, Isabel and Evelyn for completing the Doodle Maths Summer Challenge. To gain the award they had to complete maths tasks every day for four weeks and gain over 2,500 gold stars! Now that is dedication – well done.



Christmas Production

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been working extremely hard preparing their Christmas production – 'A Midwife Crisis.' Many of the children have speaking or narrating parts and we are very grateful for the support they are receiving at home to learn these. The children are also mastering acting, singing and dancing at the same time, no mean feat!

We hope you are able to join us for our performance on 3 December at 9.30 am. We will let you know about any costumes that may be needed from home soon but our first request is for a nurse's outfit.

Lower School Showcase

Also before half-term pupils from Years 3 – 6 treated parents, friends and other guests to a music and drama showcase.

The audience greatly enjoyed the range of talent on show from acting and singing to dancing and musical performances. The event was followed by a very successful Growers' plant sale. Thank you to everyone who attended.

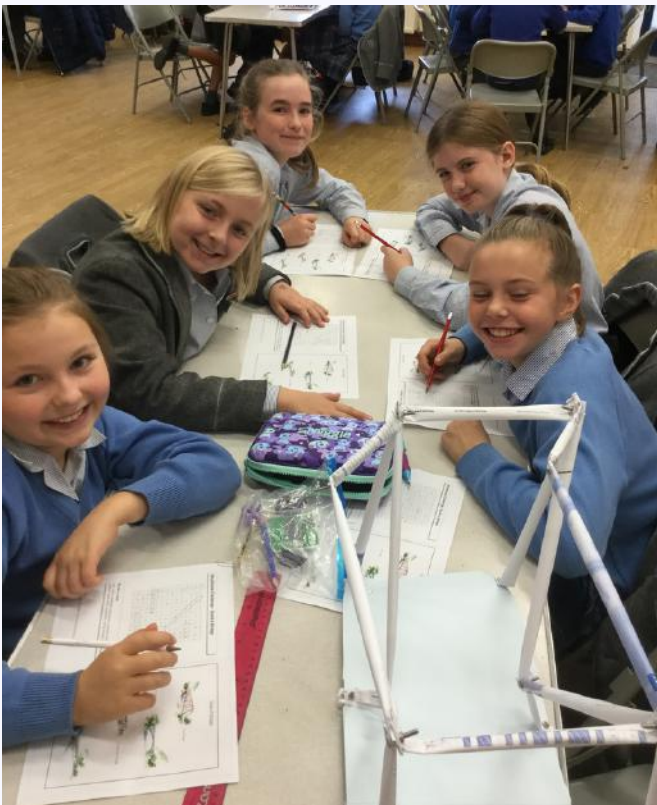


School News

Structures Challenge

St John the Baptist, Wherwell and Abbotts Ann Schools joined our Year 6 pupils for Rookwood's annual 'Build a Bridge' Structures Challenge. Jane Sheridan, from Ed2Biz organised the event and we are always delighted to host it. Lisa Bateman, a Civil & Structural Engineer from Test Valley Borough Council gave pupils an overview about the role of an engineer and spoke about different bridges, materials used, and the forces that affect different structures.

With a new insight into bridge engineering, pupils set about creating their own bridges which were required to span a set distance and support a toy truck. Miss Thorne commented, "The energy in the room was lively, and the pupils' enjoyment, eagerness - and competitiveness, was evident." While pupils enjoyed a well-earned juice and biscuits, Lisa judged the bridges, and the team from Wherwell Primary School were thrilled to be the overall winners. Well done to all of this year's teams and we look forward to next year's challenge.



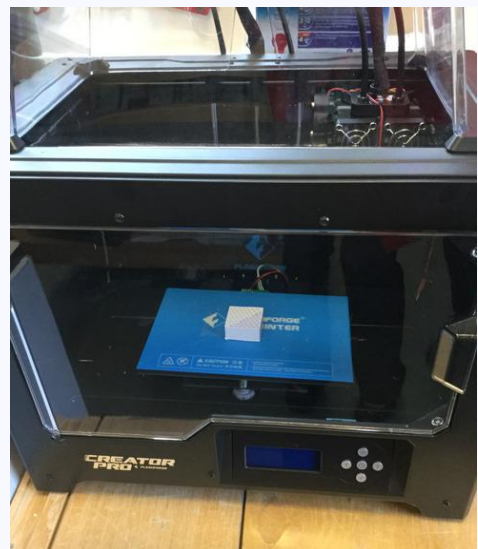
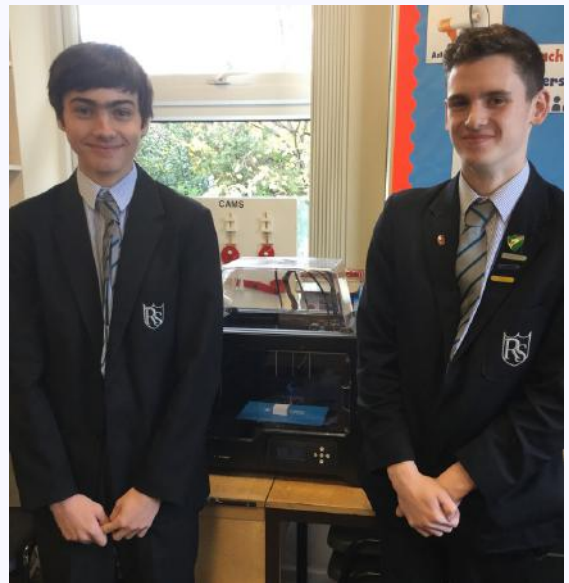
With thanks

Our Design & Technology pupils would like to thank the Friends of Rookwood for kindly donating a 3D printer to the department.

The new machine will benefit all pupils, especially in KS4 where they are expected to rapidly prototype products as part of their GCSE course.

3D printing allows our Year 10 and 11 pupils to design, develop and produce iterations of concepts with ease. I am so grateful to the Friends for their support and we are all looking forward to creating! Thank you.

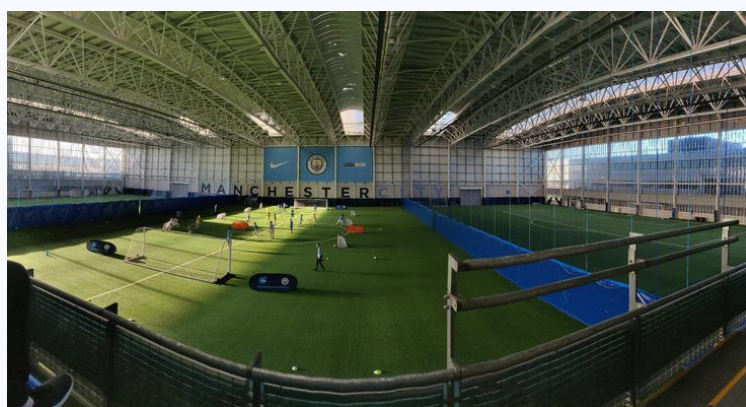
Miss Thorne, Design & Technology Teacher.



School News

Football tour

Over half-term, our Year 9 and 10 boys had an insight into the life of a Premiership footballer during their football tour to Manchester. As part of the trip they attended four training sessions with the Manchester City Academy coaches at the City Football Academy which is the home of all Manchester City squads and one of the most advanced sports facilities in the world. Additionally, they had tours of the Etihad Stadium and Old Trafford and visited the National Football Museum and the Munich Disaster Memorial. They also had a chance to test their football skills against a local team and watched Manchester City beat Burnley 5-0. It was a fantastic trip and one the boys won't forget any time soon!



Boarders

For the third year Rookwood boarders showed that giving can be even better than receiving. In the lead up to Halloween they distributed over 100 leaflets in The Avenue and adjoining roads explaining that instead of 'Trick or Treating' for sweets on Halloween they would like to collect 'Food for the Foodbank'.

On All Hallows Eve we were simply overwhelmed by the generosity of our neighbours. In fact, it took so long to collect all the food and make additional drop-offs to the house (due to the sheer weight of the donations) that when we got back there was only time for the boarders to have a few well-earned sweets before cleaning their teeth and heading to bed. All the Halloween games had to wait until Thursday night! The following day all the boarders involved helped to deliver our incredible collection to Andover Foodbank, who were extremely thankful for everyone's efforts and very kind donations. Anne Witcomb, Head of Boarding



Dates For Your Diary

Week commencing 12 November 2018

Monday 12 November

Lower School Staff Meeting 16.15

Tuesday 13 November

U8 & U9 Boys Football v St Francis (H) 14.30

U8 & U9 Girls Netball v St Francis (H) 14.30

U12 Boys Football Tournament at John Hanson
15.05 – 17.45

Year 11 Oxbridge Day SWGS (selected
pupils) 10.00 – 12.00

Wednesday 14 November

U10 & U11 Boys Football v Sherfield (H) TBC

U10 & U11 Girls Netball v Leehurst Swan (H)

U13/14 Boys Football Tournament at Farleigh 1.30
– 16.30

U16 Girls Netball v Testbourne School (H) 15.50 –
17.15

Year 7 Meet the Tutors 16.15 – 17.30

Friday 16 November

Senior School Taster Day for 2019 Year 7 Intake

Sunday 18 November

Lower School ISA Swimming Gala, Aldershot 7.45
– 13.00

Senior School ISA Swimming Gala, Aldershot 9.30
– 15.00

Week commencing 19 November 2018

Monday 19 November

Whole School Staff Meeting 16.15

Wednesday 21 November

U11 Boys 5-a-side Football Tournament @ Sherfield
16.15

U12 & U13 Girls Netball v Leehurst Swan (H)
GCSE D

Friday 23 November

Years R-5 Flu Immunisation

Festive wreaths

The Growers Club are pleased to be able to offer festive wreaths for sale again this year. They are made in school and are available from the beginning of December until the end of term at a cost of £15 each. To order yours, email growers@rookwoodschool.org – can anyone who has already expressed interest please confirm by email.

Additionally, if anyone is fortunate enough to receive Lindor chocolates in a rigid transparent globe for Christmas, could they consider donating the empty globe to Growers, who will make good use of it – thank you.

And finally

Mrs Willcox and her form would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated a shoebox to our annual appeal.

The final count was 101 boxes and they are ready to be shipped across Europe where they will spread some Christmas spirit and make a huge difference to disadvantaged children.

