



Rook News

Autumn Term Round Up | December 2019

I would like to use this introduction to thank our parents' association, Friends of Rookwood School, for their continued support this term. I wish to thank their volunteers for (amongst other things) serving teas, coffees and cake at the various nativity productions, wrapping presents in the lower school for their Christmas Bazaar and running the Christmas hamper raffle. However, most importantly, I wish to thank Friends for organising the spectacular fireworks display last month. I am sure that you would agree that it was our best one yet!

The record funds Friends have raised this term will support additional projects within the school and allow us to provide the best quality education and resources for our pupils.

As we head towards the end of term, I wish all of the parents, pupils, staff and governors a relaxing and peaceful Christmas holiday.

With kindest regards,

Mr Anthony Kirk-Burgess
Headmaster



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Across the School

Little Rooks Nativity



Little Rooks Nativity

The Little Rooks loved performing their Christmas nativity. All of their singing practice really paid off with beautiful angels, fabulous animals, and very brave shepherds, wise men and innkeepers. Mary and Joseph really shone. The children in the Butterfly Room dressed up as carol singers for the nativity. Their rendition of Jingle Bells was a real highlight.

Years R to 2: A Miracle in Town

On Wednesday 4th December the parents, staff and children were thrilled by the performance of 'A Miracle in Town'. The children worked incredibly hard to learn their lines and songs. It was clear the performance was filled with enthusiasm and hard work. A special thank you to the Friends of Rookwood for the refreshments, as well as Mrs Parsons and the talented musicians for supporting the children with their songs.

Year 1

Year 1 have been looking at winter scenes and using white crayons to draw their own. They then covered their drawing in paint, to make a piece of art using wax resistance. They were amazed as their drawings began to appear!

Years 2 and 7

Year 7 invited Year 2 to the art room where they worked in pairs to teach the Year 2s about primary and secondary colours.

Year 3

Year 3 had a tremendous day out to the famous Roman Baths in Bath as they are learning about the Romans. The children first took part in a workshop, where they built mosaics, were allowed to dress up and handle real artefacts from 2000 years ago. Then they toured around the actual baths themselves, which included the ruined temple. This latter proved to be rather gory as the details of animal sacrifices were rather vivid! The children were very entertained by the displays which demonstrated that the Romans used to bathe in the nude and thought the water was very smelly and sulphuric, but luckily no one decided to jump in!

Christmas is in the air at Rookwood

Years R to 2: A Miracle in Town



Year 1



Years 2 and 7



Year 3



• Year 8 students are starting a new topic about World War One. Here they are writing on the board what they already know.

the germans were against the english

When the soldiers were there it was a hard time

They used strong chlorine gas to gas people

Also known as the Great War

Conscription - men over 17 forced to sign up

Many kids and women were evacuated

Food was rationed because the soldiers needed it

1918

The trenches were made on the side of the field and the soldiers were in the trenches. It was a hard time to be in the trenches. There was no food or water in the trenches. The soldiers had to live in the trenches for a long time.

Lower School Activity Week

On the night of 21st October a strange alien being landed in the Lower School and laid some mysterious giant eggs in some nests. It was up to the children to look at each site, examine its poo and clues left behind in order to decide what our mystery visitor may have looked like. A remarkable number of children actually claimed to have seen him too!

Years 7 & 8

Years 7 and 8 have been busy learning about World War One and making poppy bunting. The bunting hung in pride of place in reception and in the History classroom. Year 7 made poppies to mark Remembrance Day.

Boarding

Rookwood Boarders and their new staff team (Mrs Dwyer, Mr Graham and Mr Harvey) have had a very happy and adventurous term with lots going on to keep everyone busy. 'Wacky Wednesdays' have proved very popular, and activities have ranged from Glo golf to Mario kart championships, trampolining to bedroom decorating and hide and seek!

At the weekends we have taken the theme of 'adventure', and so our weekends have been action packed and offered some fabulously fun and challenging activities - Clip and Climb gave us some inspiring agility and courage, a Roller disco offered fitness and fun (with no leg warmers to be seen!) Bournemouth beach at the end of the summer was a relaxing chance to enjoy the last of the sunshine and then in December we visited again

This term, Mr Graham, Mr Harvey and myself, have been made so very welcome by our 'boarding family' and the wider Rookwood community. We want to thank everyone for their warm welcome and support throughout this term. We wish you all a marvellous Christmas from everyone in Rookwood Boarding! P.S. We would love to see even more pupils join us for a taster boarding experience next term. Please contact ddwyer@rookwoodschool.org to book a place.

Lower School Activity Week



Years 7 & 8



Year 7



Boarding



The Sky's The Limit!



Year 8's making their own film trailers at Sky Studios.

Full of anticipation, we boarded the coach armed with our packed lunch ready for our journey.

We entered the SKY mini town through the security barrier. Met by the SKY V.I.P. tour manager who took us to a dining area where we tucked into our lunch before the excitement began. Soon we met Naomi who took us to the SKY Academy studios.

There were four high tech studios in a hexagon shape. My group consisted of myself, Robbie, Ahren, Charlie, Lexie, Stephen and Eleanor and we were assigned studio 2. We began devising a film trailer for a sci-fi movie. I was given the role of an Actor along with Robbie and Charlie. Our Cameraman was Ahren, Special Effects was Eleanor, Editor was Lexie, Stephen was our Director and Alex was our Producer.

We used a green screen to enable us to choose whatever background would fit our trailer. We had the use of a high-tech film camera to give us a high quality film. There was a dressing room where we could choose relevant clothing

and props we needed to fit our trailer. As a team we decided and worked out our storyboard. Although at school previously we had worked together to put a story together, we had to condense the story to a short trailer. We decided on our storyboard and then using the high-tech editing table we chose our backdrops, music and special effects.

Then the filming commenced. Ahren on the camera, we started acting. 5-4-3-2-1 ACTION and we recorded in a few takes our final trailer: 'The Overcoming'.

In concluding, our trip to SKY was a great opportunity to see how TV entertainment is put together. We also had the opportunity to look at SKY Sports Live being recorded which was very interesting as we had the chance to see how this is reported to the public.

I would like to work at SKY, they appear to look after their staff and even had an ice-rink and a cinema for the staff to use!

Harry, Year 8

“ I would like to work at SKY, they appear to look after their staff and even had an ice-rink and a cinema for the staff to use! ”



Years 9-11: Getting into the Christmas 'Spirit'.

On Tuesday 3rd December, Years 9, 10 and 11 were lucky enough to watch a lively and entertaining production of 'A Christmas Carol', by Box Clever Theatre. This was a modern interpretation, performed in the round by a dynamic trio, who took on multiple roles each. Our students experienced an effective combination of drama, dance and music and were even required to participate at certain points. The staging was particularly inventive, consisting of a set of three platforms with various fittings, which allowed the set to adapt to the multiple changes of scene.

Following the performance, the three actors: Joel, Roddy and Rhian led a workshop in which they recapped some of the key themes from the novel and also encouraged volunteers to come out to demonstrate their acting skills, during which time James and Lily (year 11), and Amelie (Year 9) bravely obliged.

We are looking forward to hosting Box Clever Theatre again in January, when a different team of actors will come to perform 'Macbeth' to the same group of fortunate students.

Year 10

Congratulations to 10H for their participation in UK Parliament week. They were pleased to receive their certificates.



Year 10 Chemists have been performing a titration in their lessons.



Years 10 & 11

Years 10 & 11 GCSE Geography students went on their Geography field trip just before October half term. They kicked off their residential field work trip by looking at regeneration and sustainable transport initiatives in Birmingham city centre. Then they investigated how a river changes downstream at Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire. It was cold, but they managed to stay dry this year. Glacial revision was on the cards next. Cwm Idwal and Nant Ffrancon provided the stunning backdrop to brush up on glacial features and look at the impact of tourism on upland glaciated areas in the UK. Their final morning was spent investigating small scale ecosystems by pond dipping in the fabulous grounds surrounding Preston Montford.



Sports News

Netball

On 13th November Year 6 girls played netball against Leehurst Swan School winning 17 v 5. A fantastic result.

Year 5 girls netball team lost against Leehurst Swan, however they showed great teamwork when things got tough.

On 20th November Year 5 and 6 played Hockey against Sherfield School. Year 6 girls lost by 2 v 1, they showed great teamwork but were pitched in the last few minutes. Year 5 girls lost by 5 v 2, again a stellar team performance despite being extremely cold. Well done girls.

Year 3 and 4 played netball against Leehurst Swan School on 26th November. The girls played amazingly well, winning by 7 goals to 2. They showed great teamwork, energy and competitiveness.

Gymnastics competition

Years 3 and 4 took part in our gymnastics competition on 19th November in the Sports Hall. Josalyn came 1st in Year 4 with Megan a very close 2nd and Abigail 3rd. In Year 3, Elizabeth came 1st, with Uriel coming 2nd and Georgiana came 3rd. It was amazing experience for them all and such a high standard.



ISA Regional Swimming Finals – 15th November

Pupils from the Lower and Senior school took part in the ISA Regional finals Swimming Gala at the 50m pool at The Garrison in Aldershot. They achieved two 1st places, four 2nd places, one 3rd, a one 5th and two 6th places.



• Theo, Harrison, Alex, Joshua, Amelie, Abi, Rebekah and Xen

ISA National Swimming Finals - 30th November

Joshua, Year 11, attended the ISA National Swimming Finals at the London Aquatic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Park. He won two silver medals in the medley and freestyle relays Years 11-13. He showed amazing resilience in an extremely close race.

Amelie, Year 5, also competed, she had an amazing swim achieving a silver medal in her individual event and a bronze medal in the freestyle relay. Fantastic achievement - well done Amelie.



Clubs and Charity



Clubs: Year 7- 11 Knit 'n' Knatter

In the last Knit 'n' Natter we enjoyed Christmas chocolates and showing off our makes of the term. Still lots of ongoing projects to be continued over the holiday. Star of the term has to be Lily, who has progressed from total beginner to

maker of cable patterned gloves. Aoife wins the 'most projects started' award and Miya the 'first item completed and worn' award. A fantastic term – thanks to all for their enthusiasm and good company.

Charity

The school council met to decide on the charities the school would be supporting this year. The two chosen charities were Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance and Cancer Research UK

Borneo Trek 21

The Camps International Year 9 and 10 Borneo expedition team received their T-shirts, ready for fundraising. Watch this space!

Books

The Lower School library is moving and clearing out some of their old books. The books are going to a charity in Kent called bookszafrica. They distribute to poor and needy areas where the schools have little or no resources. Transplus have kindly offered to deliver the pallet of books to Kent, free of charge.

Christmas Shoeboxes

Thank you to everyone who has once again supported this fabulous initiative. The Rotary Club collected 93 Christmas Shoe Boxes from Rookwood School which will be driven across Europe.



Other news...

Performing Arts

Two Rookwood students are celebrating HUGE achievements. Lily in Year 11 has been awarded a full scholarship to the prestigious Theatre Arts School Italia Conti in Guildford. In 2020, Lily shall undertake a three-year diploma in musical performing arts. Seven hundred students auditioned for a place with only twenty receiving an offer, so needless to say an outstanding success.

William in Year 10 has gained a place in the National Youth Choir of Great Britain following a gruelling audition where he sang several pieces and displayed his superb musical skills through theory knowledge and complex aural tests.

Both Lily and William are involved in Rookwood School's next production of 'Return to The Forbidden Planet', which is being performed at The Lights Theatre in Andover on the 4th and 5th March.

Mrs Blackmore and Mrs Parsons who run the Performing Arts Department at Rookwood School continue to be immensely proud of all drama and music students and their continued successes.



• Lily and William

Book Bus

On Monday 18th November the 'Book People Bus' came to visit the school. The children were very excited to see a big bus, they had a lovely time looking at all of the books. We managed to raise £39 to put towards buying new books for the school.

'Big Book Boost'

If you purchase books online at the Book People you can support us, by helping us to get free books. Simply visit <https://www.thebookpeople.co.uk/bigbookboost> and search for Rookwood School.

Senior School Library

The move of the Senior School library in Highfield has now finished. The new library is located in the old History classroom, H3, next to the main school reception.

The move has brought a new atmosphere to the library. The new room is a bright and happy space and, with two additional large bookcases, able to accommodate even more reading than before.

Mrs Cowles and Mrs Hickman, ably supported by their dedicated team of student librarians, welcome individual or class groups of readers to the new space.





ROOKWOOD
SCHOOL



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