

The Rookwood School Newsletter

Rook News

Friday 1 February 2019



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the latest edition of Rook News. As always it has been a busy few weeks at Rookwood, and this edition celebrates our students' successes in and out of the classroom. We have also hosted five students on a cultural visit from China and I am grateful to the Rookwood community for welcoming them so warmly. You can read more about their experience below.

Looking ahead, rehearsals are well underway for the Senior School production of Beauty and the Beast, with performances on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 of February. I will also take this opportunity to remind Year 9 to return their GCSE Options forms by Monday 11 February.

Mr Kirk-Burgess

Boarders Host Chinese Students

Over the past two weeks, the Boarding House has hosted five Chinese students aged ten to fourteen, together with a tutor Mr Lockman. This has been their first opportunity to visit England, and experience how a British School system operates. Adding to this amazing adventure, they had not met each other before arriving at the airport in China.

During their short time at Rookwood, we have seen their confidence grow in speaking English, and both the boarders and staff have also learnt a few Chinese words. The students visited London and Oxford over the weekend and have taken part in the Boarding House activities, with Milo and Joe passing on some of their impressive basketball skills.



School News – Youth Speaks



On Wednesday 16 January, our intermediate team competed in the first round of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition, held at John Hanson School. We were represented by George (Chairperson), Phoebe (Main Speaker) and Millie (Proposer of the Vote of Thanks), all Year 9 pupils.

Their speech was entitled 'The News – Healthy or Harmful?' in which they explored the complex phenomenon of 'fake news' and its effects. Their speech was well-constructed, demonstrating the team's considerable wit and intelligence.

They all spoke fluently and expressively, coping well with a challenging question from the audience. Rookwood competed against a Harrow Way team, who asked, 'Should Corporal Punishment be reintroduced into Schools?' and a John Hanson team, who focused on 'Curriculum Planning for Today'.

Yet again, our Youth Speaks team did us proud and were rewarded with a cup for winning each individual category, as well as being awarded the title of 'Best Team'. They will go through to the next round of the competition, which will take place at Test Valley School on Wednesday 6 March.

We would like to thank all pupils who auditioned this year and each member of the team for their hard work and commitment. We wish you well in the next round!

Mrs Cumpsty and Mrs Payne

School News – Pupil Success

Since our last issue of Rook News, a number of our pupils have been busy outside of school and we wanted to share their achievements with you.

William and Oliver in Years 9 and 5 are both choristers at Romsey Abbey. In December a CD, which they recorded earlier in the year, entitled 'Victoriana!' celebrating 150 years of the Romsey Abbey Choir was released and then just before Christmas they featured in a BBC 2 documentary drama – Victoria & Albert: The Royal Wedding. In the programme, renowned historian Lucy Worsley restaged the wedding of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in stunning detail. William and Oliver can be seen singing at 'the wedding' (pictured below) which they filmed during a very long and full on day in July. If you are quick you can still catch the show on BBC iPlayer but it is only available until Monday morning.

At the beginning of the month, Ellie in Year 7 won the U13 Girls Shot Putt at the Welsh Junior Open and South West Indoor Championships. Not only did she achieve a personal best of 8.96m but beat the second placed competitor by over a metre! What a brilliant effort – well done Ellie.

In the pool, Joshua in Year 10 took Gold and the title of County Champion for the second year a row in the 50-metre backstroke. He also achieved Silver in the 100-metre butterfly and Bronze in the 100-metre individual medley, achieving personal bests in both. Competing in her first County event, Lauren in Year 6 also achieved personal bests in four of the six races she took part in. As a result of her performances, Lauren has now entered the top 10 in the Wiltshire County rankings. Congratulations to both Joshua and Lauren on their achievements especially as we know how hard you train.

And finally, Sam in Year 11 was recently appointed Captain of the Hampshire County U16s Rugby 1st XV. We are also delighted that Sam has been selected to join the U18 London Irish Squad. This is such an honour that he thoroughly deserves! At 16 we are so proud that the coaches have seen Sam's potential. What an inspiring sports captain we have.



School News – Introducing Miss Kelley



We were delighted to welcome Miss Chloe Kelley as our new Year 1 teacher in January. Here she tells us a bit about herself and why she became a teacher.

Could you tell us a little bit about yourself and career background?

I studied Primary Education at Winchester University where I gained hands-on experience in several local schools. I have worked across Year 1 and Year 2 and have found teaching both of these Key Stage One groups to be incredibly rewarding and inspiring. I really enjoy being at the start of a child's educational journey and being one of the first teachers to instil a love of learning in them. In my classroom I always encourage pupils to want to push harder with their learning, question further and challenge themselves more. These are important attributes that I hope will remain with them throughout their education.

What are you passionate about?

A personal hobby of mine has always been Art. It is something I have included in my personal learning during school, college, university and in my teaching career. I specialised in Art during my degree which allowed me to work on numerous projects with children of all ages. In a previous school I was 'art lead' and thoroughly enjoyed inspiring new artistic minds and celebrating creativity. It also gave me a real opportunity to share my passion for the subject. Passion is infectious and I hope that by displaying my passion for art it will inspire my class to identify a subject which they are passionate about too.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

When I was younger I initially found school to be quite a daunting place. However, I was lucky enough to be taught by several teachers who recognised this. Through their words of encouragement I found school to be less daunting and more engaging. I started to look forward to learning rather than being worried about what I might not understand. Without the support of those teachers and their belief in me I have no doubt that I would not be where I am today. As I have grown older, I have realised just how important your first teachers are in helping you grow as a person and how they shape not only your early years learning but also the rest of your learning journey. That is one of the reasons I wanted to become a teacher myself.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is getting to work with so many creative minds every single day. It's a privilege to have a job where no two days are the same. I really enjoy watching children learn about and experience new things and my job allows me to support them to do that. I love coming up with different ways to teach new subjects and getting children excited about new learning. I am really looking forward to the term ahead with Class 1 and watching them grow in knowledge and confidence as they experience new things and begin to discover what they are really capable of.

Senior School News

24 Hour Charity Row



Agnes and Emily in Year 11 have organised a 24 Hour Indoor Rowing Challenge on February 22. Along with four others, they will each row for four hours in multiple shifts over the 24 hour period.

They are raising money for the Countess of Brecknock Hospice in Andover in memory of Agnes' mother Jo who tragically lost her battle with Cancer last year. The Hospice cared for both Jo and also a friend of Emily's family who recently passed away and we are very keen to show our appreciation for the care and love that the Hospice provided.

Agnes' younger siblings John (Y4), Kitty (Y6) and Constance (Y10) are all at Rookwood and along with her siblings Gwennie and Edith (who also attended Rookwood) would greatly appreciate your support.

You can make a donation, however small, at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/emily-smart4 - your support will mean the world to them and they would greatly appreciate your generosity. To read more about the hospice please go to www.cobh.org.uk

New online learning platform

On Monday 28th January students from Years 9, 10 and 11 were introduced to CENTURY, an innovative online learning platform.

The system responds to each student's own knowledge, skills and understanding and provides every student with a unique learning journey. By giving students and teachers real-time feedback, CENTURY allows them to focus their efforts on the areas requiring most attention. It has been proven to raise attainment by an average of 30%. Currently, CENTURY covers English, Maths and Science for KS2 through to KS4, and, over the next few weeks, we will roll the system out to other year groups. Within the next academic year, CENTURY expects to add resources for other subjects, including MFL and Humanities.

At Rookwood, we will use CENTURY in three main ways: as a classroom resource, for homework and as a revision tool. We are excited by the opportunities this new technology will bring to our students' learning. For further information, parents and students should speak to Mr Kirk-Burgess or Mrs Jellard, or visit www.century.tech



Help Needed

On Tuesday 12 March we are holding our annual mock interview session for our Year 10 students. This has previously been a hugely successful event which gives our students a wealth of career experience.

If you have any experience in recruitment or the interview process and would like to assist with this event can you contact Mrs Hacker via email: ehacker@rookwoodschool.org for more information. Thank you in advance for your help.



Senior School News

French Immersion Trip



In December pupils from Years 10 and 11 took part in a French Immersion trip to Nice. It was an academic challenge with an authentic family hosting experience.

The trip was very well structured and organised and included both cultural visits to Monaco and perfumeries as well as the language challenges of staying with host families and having French lessons in the mornings.

The families were generous with their time and attention to detail. The food they provided was aimed to be a taster of French food and they took the time to find out what we liked. Our French hosts insisted we spoke French throughout the time we were with them but also helped us find the words when we struggled.

The highlight of the trip was our day in Monaco where not only was the weather warm and inviting but the tour of Monaco was packed with exciting visits including the Car Museum with a Formula One simulator, the cathedral where Prince Rainier and Grace Kelly are buried, the aquarium almost opposite Princess Caroline's house as well as viewing the Formula One race markings on the road and taking in the beautiful coast. Also, the double-decker train ride was stunning!

It was a thoroughly enjoyable trip, building up our confidence in French and our independence.

Jonny, Alex and Ege Year 10



School News

National Finalists

Over The 2018/19 British Shooting Schools Pistol Championships (BSSPC) reached its climax this month with the national final taking place at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Buckinghamshire, and we were delighted to have had three pupils competing.

Over this year's BSSPC season, 608 athletes representing 315 schools competed in seven regional events across England, Scotland and Wales with the best air pistol shooters going forward to the final. The Rookwood Senior Team comprising Agnes, Constance and Alex qualified after competing at the South East Championships.

The format at the final was slightly different from previous competitions as competitors used laser targets and equipment which allowed them to view a screen at their firing point to see how they were getting on. After a warm up shoot each individual had 20 competition shots to take in their own time within a 20 minute time period.



During the event each member of our team shot well with Alex achieving a personal best. Overall, the team finished in a very respectable 5th place in the Senior Team competition against some very hot competition including some on the British Shooting and British Pentathlon talent pathways.

Congratulations Agnes, Constance and Alex we are extremely proud of your great team performance and how hard you worked to reach the national final.

Prince William Award Update

Over the past few months Rookwood has been taking part in the Prince William Award, a fantastic scheme which enables individuals to develop their character by focusing on different skills.

Each week the children in Years 2, 3 and 4 have been set tasks which have tested their teamwork, cooperation, listening and resilience. They have also looked at problem-solving and have worked in groups as well as teams. Through this they are now beginning to recognise skills that they didn't know they possessed which is really rewarding to see.

Recently we have been learning about nature and the environment. We have learnt why we should look after wild birds. As part of this the children learnt

how to make bird feeders. During this the children had to demonstrate sharing, resilience and cooperation. It was a really productive and enjoyable afternoon and we now cannot wait to watch the birds feeding.

Jo Hursey



Dates For Your Diary

Week commencing 4 February 2019

Monday 4 February

Year 9 Immunisations

Lower School Staff Meeting 16.15 - 17.15

Tuesday 5 February

U8 & 9 Netball Vs Thorngrove

U8 & 9 Rugby Vs Thorngrove 14.30 - 16.00

Years 7/8 Basketball @ Test Valley 15.00 - 16.25

Years 9/10/11 Football @ John Hanson (7-a-side)

17.00 - 18.30

Wednesday 6 February

Year 7 Rugby @ Rookwood (10-a-side) 14.00 - 15.45

U11 Rugby Vs Avondale 14.30 - 16.00

U11 & U10 Netball Vs Thorngrove 14.30 - 17.00

U12/13 Rugby 2 teams Vs Thorngrove 14.30 - 17.00

U13/U12 Netball @ John Hanson 15.00 - 17:00

Year 10 Parents' Evening 16.30 - 19.00

Thursday 7 February

Young Musician of the Year at St Mary's Church

Lower School Parent Representatives Meeting 15.15 - 16.00

Sunday 10 February

Beauty and the Beast rehearsal 9.00 - 16.00

Week commencing 11 February 2019

Monday 11 February

Senior School Staff Meeting 16.15 - 17.15

Tuesday 12 February

U8/9 Netball Vs St Francis 14.30 - 16.00

U9/8 Netball Vs Leehurst Swan (A) 15.30 - 17.00

U9/8 Rugby Vs Leehurst Swan (A) 15.30 - 17.00

Wednesday 13 February

U13 Rugby Vs Leehurst Swan

Year 10 GCSE German - day with students from Goch 9.00 - 16.00

Years 3 & 4 French Day 9.00 - 16.00

Years 5/6 ISA Mixed Basketball @ Cobham School
9.00 - 16.00

Beauty and the Beast Matinee 14.30 - 16.00

Beauty & the Beast 19.00 - 21:00

Thursday 14 February

Year 11 GCSE Geography trip to Iceland

Beauty and the Beast Matinee 14.30 - 16.00

Beauty & the Beast 19.00 - 21:00



Beauty and the Beast

Mrs Parsons & Mrs Blackmore have been busy painting the set for our production of 'Beauty and the Beast'. Performances will take place on February 13 & 14 at 7pm in the school hall. Tickets cost £8 for an adult & £5 for a child and are available from the school office.

Stop Press!

Congratulations to Sidharth in Year 6 who has made it through to the Bonus Round of the Primary Maths Challenge!

Around 68,000 children across the UK entered the challenge last year but only the top 3,255 were invited to take part in the Bonus Round so this is a huge achievement for Sidharth and Rookwood. We wish him well in the next round.