

The Rookwood School Newsletter

Rook News

Friday 12 October 2018



Dear Parents,

Firstly, I wish to thank all of the parents who attended last night's Senior School Prizegiving. This annual event allows us to celebrate the successes of the previous year and welcome back our school leavers as they collect their GCSE certificates. You can read more about the evening below.

I also want to wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing half-term break from Thursday, and I hope that the weather improves for the GCSE Geography field trip leaving at the weekend!

With warmest wishes,

Mr Kirk-Burgess

Prizing-giving

On 11 October, Senior School pupils, staff, parents and governors attended our annual Prize-giving at St Mary's Church to celebrate the achievements of current pupils and our outgoing Year 11.

The 2017/18 academic year was a remarkable one at Rookwood. Not only did our pupils achieve an outstanding set of GCSE results but there were successes across all areas of the curriculum with pupils winning national and regional arts, sports and drama awards as well as the phenomenal performances of the Wizard of Oz.

These achievements were reflected in the remarks and speeches from our Chair of Governors Mr Kevin Knight and Headmaster Mr Anthony Kirk-Burgess.

Mr Kirk-Burgess also noted that what makes Rookwood great is not just that we strive to be successful, but that we celebrate the learning journey and we are not afraid to fail. Therefore success and

achievement can also be measured by the resilience our pupil's show to overcome the trials and tribulations that inevitably come their way and keep working to achieve their best. You can read Mr Kirk-Burgess' speech in full on the latest news section of our website.

Congratulations to everyone who received an award and thank you to all the parents, guests and staff for joining us on this wonderful evening of celebration.



Rook News – Feature



Last week Mrs Willcox told us about her passion for Geography and why she felt studying this subject is so important. In this issue, we hear from our new teacher Mr Mills about his passion for sport and how he transitioned from a career as a professional footballer to become a teacher.

Can you tell us a bit about your career history?

My working career started at the age of 16 when I moved to London to begin an apprenticeship as a football player at Tottenham Hotspur Football Club. After turning professional I spent five years working in London and during this time I had the honour of representing England as a youth international from Under 16 to Under 19 as well as loan spells at both Brentford and Gillingham Football Clubs.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I have always loved sport and felt that this was an area of work I would be able to make a difference in. When I moved on from professional football and was deciding on a new career path I applied for a role assisting the PE department at The Wellington Academy. From there I was given more responsibility for clubs and then lessons. Before I knew it I was teaching a full timetable as an unqualified teacher. Having experienced teaching and seen the impact a teacher can have in a young person's life, I knew this was the career for me. It did mean enrolling on a five-year distance learning Bachelor of Science degree course and then a further two years of teacher training, but it was all worth it.

Why do you think PE is an essential part of the curriculum and why are you passionate about your subject area?

Having taught PE for seven years I have seen how crucial PE is to the curriculum. Not only does it have the obvious benefits for a young person's physical fitness and gives pupils the opportunity to participate in a range of sport, but it also has huge psychological benefits. Mental skills such as resilience, perseverance, coping with adversity, teamwork and leadership, to name a few, can all be developed and improved through the PE curriculum. The thing I am most passionate about in PE is being able to encourage students to attempt things even when they may not succeed. This is just as important for the ablest students as well as those who find sport challenging. Seeing students push themselves to improve without fear of failure is a huge success in my eyes.

What advice would you have for any young person that wishes to pursue a career as a professional sports person?

I have been asked many times in my teaching career what advice I would give to someone pursuing a career in professional sport and unfortunately my answer isn't what people are always looking for. Aside from the ability to play the sport to an elite level, it requires incredible dedication and a huge sacrifice of time, luck to avoid injury and then the psychological strength to succeed. It is a hugely rewarding career path but I believe anyone pursuing it should have other options if professional sport does not become a full-time career.

School News – Trips

On Friday 28 September Year 8 travelled to Durdle Door to study the coastal features and management along the South Coast Path.

The sun was shining and it was a perfect day to be on the beach. We first went to Durdle Door to look at how the Jurassic Coast has changed over the last few million years! We looked at the erosional processes that created the magnificent arch as well as the new features being created along the way. Our next stop took in Man-O-War bay. We climbed back up to the top of the cliffs and walked along to Stair Hole and Lulworth.

Pupils were looking out for coastal management strategies along the way and admiring the geological processes shaping the land. The pupils reviewed the processes of erosion and reminded themselves about differential erosion of differing rock types creating the magnificent features at Stair Hole and the spectacular Lulworth Cove.

A great day of reinforcing their classroom teaching by learning outside the classroom watching Geography in action!

On Friday 5 October, Year 9 went to the town of Cheddar to see to what extent tourism impacts on the area as part of their Geography topic. We started off by having a guided tour of the caves, seeing the replica skeleton of Cheddar Man, the oldest complete human skeleton, and of course all of the fabulous cave features including some pretty impressive stalactites and stalagmites.

The pupils all then ventured into Cheddar itself to complete various different types of field work including a land use survey, environmental survey, business questionnaires and tourist questionnaires amongst others. All of this work was then duly rewarded by an obligatory trip to possibly the best ice cream/sweet fudge shop ever before the long journey home!

Mrs Willcox and Mrs Ellison



School News – Trips



Tensions were running high on the 4 October, as the Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama pupils set off to London to watch Stephen Mallatrat's spine-chilling theatre production of 'The Woman In Black'. Before they saw the award-winning play they attended a special workshop at the Fortune Theatre which is specifically tailored to the GCSE syllabus. The workshop was led by veteran actor Mike Southern who has performed in the West End for over 15 years.

The workshop examined the techniques and mechanics that make the play such an effective piece of theatre, showing our pupils how 'The Woman in Black' creates tension and engages the audience to make them feel unnerved. They got to take part in the ghostly tale themselves working with the text, the set and each other to tell a story. It was great to see the pupils really throw themselves into this experience and grow in confidence as they did.

Our Senior Drama Prefect Polly said "To have the opportunity to perform on the same stage as the actors of 'The Woman In Black' was a real treat. We learnt how to build dramatic tension on the stage and read some parts of the script and even got to use some of the actual props."

'The Woman In Black' has been running for 27 years and it is clear that the success of this production is down to the two main (and only) actors whose superb multi-role narration truly captures the imagination of the audience. In summary, the play is about a lawyer, Arthur Kipps who employs an actor to tell his disturbing ghostly tale in the hope that by doing so the spirit of the woman in black who terrorises him will be exorcised once and for all. Does it work? Well, you will have to pay a visit to the Fortune Theatre to find out.

Commenting on the production Year 11 pupil Kristina said; "The show was brilliant and we were all on the edge of our seats the whole time as it was very intense - I definitely want to see it again."

Mrs Blackmore

School News

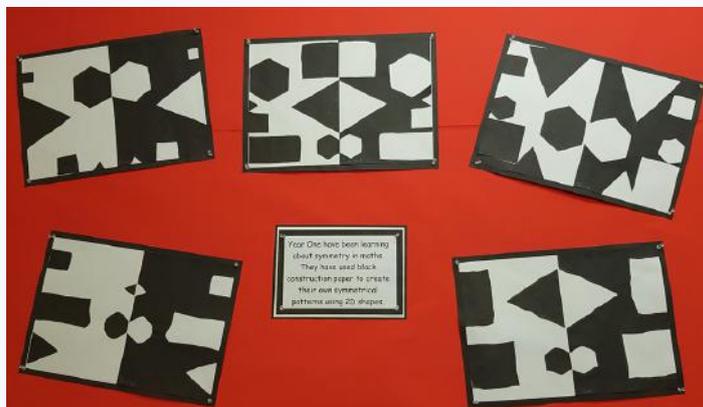
Nursery, Reception and Year 1

In the Nursery the children have been enjoying getting to know each other with their All About Me topic. The children have loved sharing their family photos and their family books they made for their home learning project. They have also been exploring the school grounds in the beautiful Autumn weather with lots of conker and leaf hunts and listening walks.

Reception have also been making the most of the lovely weather and have been learning new skills such as plate spinning! Mrs Walsh has been really impressed with how they are using the equipment and their enthusiasm for these activities.

Year 1 have been working on symmetry in maths. They each had a selection of different paper shapes which they folded to see if they could find any lines of symmetry. They then had some tasks to complete in their workbooks identifying symmetrical shapes and drawing the other half of a picture from its line of symmetry. This was quite tricky but they all did their very best.

The children made symmetrical pictures to go on display which you are very welcome to come and see. They have also created some lovely artworks to brighten up the walls inside our building and were delighted to see their finished work on the boards.



Lower School celebrations

On Wednesday 3 October Nursery, Reception and Years 1 and 2 held their Harvest Festival celebrations. It was lovely to share this special event with so many parents and relatives. Thank you to everyone who donated food for the Andover Foodbank. Their representative was overwhelmed by the generosity when they collected our offering.

On Wednesday 10 October a celebration assembly was held to present badges to pupils (pictured right) who hold positions of responsibility in the Lower School. Additionally, bronze medals were awarded to Harry, Samantha, George and Megan who have all already received 100 house points.



School News

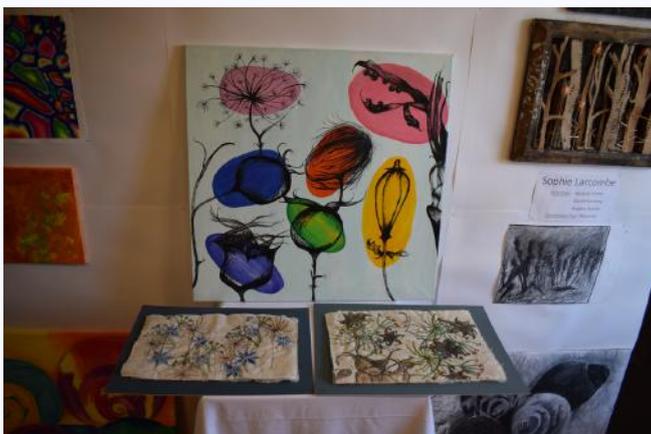
Artistic success

We are delighted that three of our pupils' creative talents have been recently recognised by the Independent Schools Association.

Alex in Year 10 was awarded 2nd prize in the ISA Art competition for his textile piece while Tilly, also in Year 10, was highly commended in the same category. Year 11 pupil, Daisy was highly commended for her painting. Congratulations to you all.

Additionally, we would like to congratulate Amelie in Year 8 who recently heard that she has won the 11-13 age group of the National Rotary Young Photographer competition, having won the local one earlier in the year.

The competition was open to pupils from schools across the UK and this year's theme was 'A Different Perspective'. Entrants were required to produce a portfolio of three photographs and Amelie's entry focused on reflections and the way in which objects look different when reflected.



Macmillan Coffee Morning



Our recent coffee morning in aid of Macmillan was a huge success raising over £570 – an amazing amount!

We would like to thank our Senior School Prefects for organising the event, our Senior School parents for providing so many delicious cakes and everyone who came along and gave their money to support this extremely important cause.

Match Report

The U12 football team played The Clere on Wed 10 October. The boys started well, scoring two quick goals before the opposition settled into the game. The Clere then started to put pressure on but couldn't get passed goalie Joshua. As the game went on we gained in confidence and started to pass the ball around with ease, setting up two more chances for Harry and Charlie which they took making it 4-0 at halftime.

In the second half, we tried players in different positions and Ahren made the most of it scoring two goals, the second of which he started in his own half. Then, just before the end Stephen received a clearance ball well outside the box and he struck it sweetly and everybody watched as it went over the heads of the defence and smashed into the top of the net, a stunning goal.

The final score was 8-1 to Rookwood. 'Man of the Match' went to Ahren for scoring two goals, but also for his ferocious tackling.

Mr Witcomb

School News

Friends of Rookwood firework display

Our annual firework display is on Friday 2 November. Tickets cost £5.00 in advance and will be available from the school office and Kenyons, please tell all your friends and family and help us make it the most successful yet. This is our main fundraising event and raises more than £5,000. Last year the event was attended by over 1,000 people and we are expecting even more spectators this year.

As in previous years, we are looking for donations. Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will be asked to bring in sweets for the sweetie tombola, this is one of the most popular stalls so a lot of sweets are required. Donations can be bought in from after half-term and left with Mrs Holder who promises not to eat them!

Years 2 - 6 take part in the Great Rookwood Bake Off - cakes and biscuits are brought in on the morning of the 2 November. If homemade, please list ingredients for allergen purposes. Years 7 - 11 will be asked for bottles for the very popular bottle tombola - this was the first stall to sell out last year! Therefore, the more donations the better, again to be bought in on the morning of the display.

Fireworks is a huge event and takes most of the day on Friday to set up. If anyone has a spare hour or so to help either during the day (making up sweet bags, sticking raffle tickets on bottles, cleaning the BBQ in the morning, or setting up the gazebos, tables & chairs in the afternoon) or if you are happy to do a stint on a stall during the event, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing friendsofrookwood@gmail.com

Mrs Bradbury, Friends of Rookwood School

Growers

As usual, our Growers Clubs have had a busy time. The Lower School Club has been planting cuttings of Kalanchoe (Flaming Katie) and Erysimum (a perennial wallflower) and also got the opportunity to study Ladybird larvae and pupae close up using the hand lens. They were thrilled to witness this part of a ladybird life-cycle. While the Senior Club got their hands dirty sorting through daffodil bulbs from last year's potted displays. All the good bulbs will be planted out around the school.

Don't forget the next Growers Sale will take place at the Lower School Music Showcase on Monday 15 October.



Dates For Your Diary

Week commencing 15 October 2018

Monday 15 October

Lower School Music Showcase and Growers Sale

Tuesday 16 October

Year 8 Rugby Tournament at John Hanson

Wednesday 17 October

Years 2 & 3 Kite Workshop

Year 6 Structures Challenge (selected pupils)

Years 9 & 10 Manchester City Football Trip

U12 & U13 Girls Netball v Leehurst Swan (A)

Year 7 Boys Football v Wellington (A)

U10 & U11 Girls Netball v St Gabriels (H)

Half-Term commences at 16.00 or following

Afterschool Prep

Thursday 18 October

Half-Term

Friday 19 October

Half-Term

Week commencing 22 October 2018

Half-Term

Week commencing 29 October 2018

Monday 29 October

Whole school staff meeting 16.15

Wednesday 31 October

U12 Boys Football v Harrow Way

Thursday 1 November

U14 Boys Football v Harrow Way

Friday 2 November

Non Uniform Day

U 16 Football v Harrow Way (TBC)

Friends of Rookwood Fireworks Display

Week commencing 5 November 2018

Tuesday 6 November

Years 3-6 Meet the Tutors (TBC)

Years 7-9 Boys Badminton at John Hanson

Years 7-9 Girls Badminton (H)

Wednesday 7 November

U12 & U13 Girls Netball v Sherfield (A)

U11 Girls Netball v Avondale (A)

U11 Boys Football v Avondale (A)

Senior School Music Showcase 18.30

Thursday 8 November

U15 Boys Football v Leehurst Swan (A)

U14 & U15 Girls Netball v Leehurst Swan (A)

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Please don't forget that the last day for bringing in donations for our annual Rotary Christmas Shoebox Appeal is Tuesday 30 October. It's such a brilliant initiative so please support if you can.

Thank you so much to everyone who has already brought a box in.

And finally

Congratulations to our Head of Lower School Mrs Wowk and her husband on the safe arrival of Zachary Julian born Friday 21 September weighing 7lb 10 oz. Welcome to our world Zachary from everyone at Rookwood.