

The Rookwood School Newsletter

Rook News



29 March 2019

Dear Parents,

This week I was delighted to appoint our new prefects for 2019-2020 (more details below) as well as enjoy the spectacular Lower School production of *Mystery at Magpie Manor*. The show was so much fun and everyone left with huge grins on their faces! I wish to thank all of the staff involved in the prefect appointment process, the various other activities celebrated in this edition and, particularly, to Miss Abraham for yet another amazing production.

I trust that all staff and students enjoy their well-deserved Easter break!

With warmest wishes,

Mr Kirk-Burgess

PREFECT APPOINTMENTS 2019-20

We are delighted to announce the prefect team for 2019-2020, which will be led by Olivia (Head Girl) and Kyrill (Head Boy), ably supported by Amelia (Deputy Head Girl) and Edward (Deputy Head Boy). Our House Captains will be Grace and Jonny (Hawks), Alice and Sam (Kestrels), and Tilly and Alex (Falcons). Jessica, Joshua and Myles will be our new Sports Captains. Constance and Alice have been appointed Performing Arts Prefects, while Theo is our new Creative Arts Prefect. James has been appointed Senior Librarian and Grace is our Academic Prefect. Alex, Elicia and Lily make up the rest of the Prefect team.



We are grateful for the outgoing team for their hard work and dedication over the last year and wish them luck in their GCSEs this summer.



MYSTERY AT MAGPIE MANOR

This week has seen the amazing Lower School production of "Mystery At Magpie Manor", a whodunnit set in the roaring 20s, featuring the mystery of a stolen pitcher worth £30,000, which calls on the skills of Agatha Christie to solve.

The children had been rehearsing hard for the past three months and dazzled their audiences with their jazzy songs and dance routines, including the difficult Charleston and amazing acting; the principal parts being taken by Year 6. Both nights ended in tumultuous applause and loud cheers from their appreciative audiences.

Director, Miss Abraham, said: "I am so proud of the children as they have all worked so hard and pulled together as a team. These children have produced performances which are worthy of students much older and they have thoroughly enjoyed themselves doing it, which is the most important thing."

The show was also supporting the charity "Women v Cancer" which targets cervical, ovarian and breast cancer and we hope we have made a significant amount for this worthy cause.



Across the School

RECEPTION & YEAR 1

To conclude our learning about Queen Elizabeth II and the Royal Family, Year 1 celebrated in style by hosting a Royal Tea Party.

We prepared a feast by making our own vanilla fairy cakes and traditional cucumber sandwiches in the shape of crowns. Of course, we had to dress for the occasion so made our own crowns to wear. Year 1 even invited Reception to join in the fun. Everyone also made a super effort to try a lovely cup of tea, of which most enjoyed and asked for seconds. We played exciting party games such as 'Pin the Tail on the Corgi'!

Year 1 and Reception thoroughly enjoyed their Royal afternoon!

Miss Kelly



YEAR 2

On Thursday 21st March, the Year 2 children experienced a day in the life of a Victorian child.

We experienced life as a child at school and at home. We also looked at making Victorian rugs and played with Victorian toys.

Quotes from the children:

Making the Victorian rugs was so much fun

I really enjoyed learning what the Victorian children learned

I learnt how it felt to be a Victorian child at school and what it was really like really enjoyed learning what the

It was interesting learning about the Victorian games and how they played them

the teaching bit was so funny as the teacher was so strict and told off the teachers!

YEARS 10 & 11

On 21st March, Years 10 and 11 had their annual Health Day. Topics from the day ranged from first aid, where students got to learn how to do CPR chest compressions and use a defibrillator, to drug, alcohol and cancer awareness. Year 10s completed the session looking at teenage mental health and participating in some yoga, which was very relaxing.

Thank you to all our contributors who made the day a great success.

Mrs Hacker

YEAR 10

Year 10 Business Studies students practised their interviewing skills as part of their Human Resources module.

The interviews for a department store Easter bunny were in depth and challenged the interviewees to identify the strengths needed for the role.



YEAR 7

Year 7 have been investigating microclimates around the school grounds as part of their Weather & Climate topic using digital anemometers and thermometers to note any differences.



Science Week

YEAR 9

Journey into the Afterlife – How to Mummify an Orange

Year 9 heard about the uses of frankincense and myrrh from our lab technician and former medical herbalist Ms Moore. They then set about mummifying an orange using spices, salt, bicarbonate of soda and paper towel bandages. These oranges, taken home and placed into an airing cupboard, should happily make the journey into the afterlife. The labs now smell like a marmalade factory!



YEAR 10

On Friday afternoon Year 10 journeyed into the desert to look for rhinos. To do this they firstly had to build a tower out of spaghetti to hold a tracker receiver (pencil) up as high as possible and, secondly, had to design packaging out of straws to protect equipment (a raw egg) being air-dropped to them to help with the search.



YEAR 5

On Monday we explored the Curiosity Mars Rover to help us create designs for lunar rovers for another planet: focusing on five aspects: Brain, communication, sight, power and propulsion.

Then we built rovers from Lego and junk modelling.

Competition Success

MUSIC FOR YOUTH

On Wednesday 20th March Rookwood School Choir were accepted to take part in the Music For Youth Regional Festival at Tauntons College in Southampton. With nearly 50 festivals across the country, and open to groups of any style and standard under the age of 21, the Regional Festivals are a platform for young musicians to perform, share their music, listen to other local groups and get advice from a team of professional Music Mentors. The choir received outstanding feedback having pieces described as “confident and stylishly executed”. Well done to all involved. Mrs Parsons was extremely proud of the choir’s achievements.



BASINGSTOKE DRAMA FESTIVAL

Congratulations go to those pupils who took part in the Basingstoke Drama Festival:

Zara (Year 6) and Oliver (Year 5) won bronze medals by coming joint third in their age group for Solo Acting. Hary (Year 8), William (Year 9), & Elicia (Year 10) Solo Acting – received Commendations for Solo Acting.

Maria (Year 11), awarded a Silver medal (second place) in her age group and HUGE congratulations to Alice (Year 10) for a Bronze medal for her age group for Solo Acting and WINNER of the Shakespeare cup for her wonderful performance as Juliet.

Mrs Blackmore

PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE

Sidharth (Year 6) recently scored highly enough in the first round of the Primary Maths Challenge to be chosen for the Bonus round. Whereas the first Challenge is an in-school Challenge, the Bonus Round sees pupils competing on a worldwide level.

We have just received the results, and are delighted to discover that Sidharth was awarded a Bronze certificate. An amazing achievement!

Mrs Lodge

Rotary Competitions

YOUTH SPEAKS DISTRICT FINALS

On Saturday afternoon, our Year 9 Youth Speaks team (Phoebe, George and Millie) performed strongly in the District Finals of the competition held in Southampton. They competed first, against five other teams and acquitted themselves extremely well.

The winning team came from Ryde, asking 'is it time to end the use of plastic in packaging?', and presented some convincing arguments. It was a long afternoon, most of it spent in a hot and airless room. All of the teams did well to sit still and listen for that long, apart from performing well themselves when their moment came.

Our team is to be congratulated on its successful first Youth Speaks experience. Phoebe, George and Millie worked really hard, having demonstrated impressive commitment during the past three months of this process.

Mrs Cumpsty/Mrs Payne



YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER

Congratulations to Florence (Year 7) who was awarded Runner Up in the regional competition.

YOUNG WRITER

It was a successful evening for Rookwood at Andover Guild Hall. Of our finalists in the Rotary Young Writer competition, Charlotte (Year 9), Alya (Year 9) and Elysia (Year 7) were all highly commended in the intermediate category, with Georgia (Year 9) the runner-up and Charlie (Year 9) was the winner. In the Senior section, Robert (Year 10) was the runner-up, which is an amazing achievement.

Charlie was also awarded a cup as the overall winner and his entry goes forward into the regional round of the competition.

Mrs Nias

Boarding News

BOARDERS OUTINGS: GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL & THE QUAYS

Gloucester Cathedral was used in several scenes for the Harry Potter films, including the corridor that spelled out the ominous words “The Chamber of Secrets has been opened! Enemies of the Heir beware!” and “Her skeleton will lie in the chamber forever”.

After looking around this amazing cathedral we walked through the town centre, stopping at another ‘Potter’... Beatrix Potter Museum and gift shop, where the children had great fun looking at the re-creation of the Tailors Shop, where Beatrix Potter drew and which inspired her to write what she described as her ‘favourite book’.

Lastly, we headed for some retail therapy in **the Quays**, where there are lots of designer shops set alongside the boats on the water.

A lovely day in glorious weather.

Mrs Witcomb

END OF TERM ACTIVITIES

The boarders had a busy final week to the end of term. On 21st March they got into the Easter spirit by blowing eggs and decorating them. It was rather tricky, but the boarders persisted and we managed to create a total of 28 colourful eggs. These were hung on the tree in the dining room as part of our Easter display.

At the weekend the boarders ventured out into Basingstoke where they had a wonderful time at Flip Out. They climbed across the warrior wall, flipped into the foam pit, and even battled each other on the balance beam. It was a tiring, but very enjoyable afternoon.

On our final evening in boarding this term, we lit a campfire and had delicious s’mores. It was Maria’s first time having s’mores and she absolutely loved them. It has been lovely having Maria as a boarder over the last month and we wish her well as she returns back to Spain. We hope to see her back at the Boarding House soon!

Happy Easter from the Boarding House Staff!



Sporting News

ESSA NATIONAL SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 15th March, Lauren, Grace, Abi and Lucy from Lower school swam in the ESSA national swimming championships for Primary schools - Relays (Hampshire round).

It was Rookwood School's first entry in this competition and the standard was extremely high - over 200 children had entered.

The Rookwood mermaids came seventh place out of 13. They swam with passion, confidence and enthusiasm. They were amazing and we had a great afternoon. We may not have won, however we will return next year.

Mrs Kerrison



ANDOVER DISTRICT RUGBY 7'S TOURNAMENT

The Year 7 and 8 boys competed in the annual Andover District Rugby tournament on Tuesday 26th March and performed excellently.

Competing against very strong opposition the Year 8 team finished third overall, narrowly missing second place by one point. The Year 7 team finished second overall only losing one game to John Hanson A.

Playing in a different format of Rugby against strong opposition was always going to be a challenge but each and every student played with focus and determination and were rewarded with some excellent results.

The boys did themselves and the school proud and continue to go from strength to strength in Rugby this year.

Mr Mills

NETBALL

At the end of the Spring Term its time to celebrate the success of our sports teams. The Year 7 and 8 girls have had all of their league matches over the last three months. The Year 8s have grown together as a team and have developed in their specific positions. The most improved player has to be Amelie whose energy and work rate on court are phenomenal. Captain Bethan has led her team with style suggesting some strong tactics against good opposition and ensuring that centre passes are very slick. Ellie in Year 7 has played in the Year 8 team and frequently been awarded player of the match. Recent outstanding results were 17-5 against Testbourne and 21-3 against Stroud School.



The Year 7 team have been plagued by injury and consequently have borrowed two Year 6 players to support them. Captain Alice has been so supportive to team members even playing out of her usual position to strengthen the team in defence. With their latest wins of 15-1 against Testbourne and 14-4 against Wellington we have high hopes of being placed high up the league table.



Well done to all of the players who have shown commitment and enthusiasm for this great team game!

Miss Brown

SUMMER CLUBS

Our new extra curricular activity timetables are all now live on the school website and many parents have already booked on through the parent portal. We would encourage all of the bookings to be made in the coming weeks please so that we are ready for the start of the new term.

Many thanks,

Miss Brown



FINAL NOTE

Tuesday 23rd April is an INSET day for staff and the first of the iCGSE ICT exams, the 2nd Hand Uniform shop is available from 1500-1600. The Summer Term starts on Wednesday 24th April.

Hoping everyone has a lovely Easter Break and the weather is kind to us all.

Good Causes

PLANT FOR THE PLANET

Year 5 took up the challenge to become United Nations Climate Ambassadors and planted trees for Plant, whilst learning about the problems that will happen if we do not tackle the destruction climate change is causing our planet.

Mr Brewer



RECYCLING

3228 batteries have been sent off for recycling so far this week so a huge thank you to everyone who has brought in batteries. The school competition will now run until May half term so please keep bringing in your used batteries. There are some fabulous prizes up for grabs for our school including for individual pupils; so far Anastarzia and Henry in Year R, Dottie in Year 7 and Finlay in Year 8 have been put forward for a special mention for their enormous contributions.

The new crisp packet recycling bins will be arriving over Easter as well – look out for the bright yellow bins around school. Please save all of your empty crisp packets so that we can continue to do our bit.

Many thanks, as always for your continued support.

Mrs Willcox



NON-UNIFORM DAY

Our Non-Uniform day this term was held on 15th March and proceeds were split between Comic Relief and World Down Syndrome Day— £175 was raised for each—a fantastic amount!



shop.worlddownsyndromeday.org