



THE INSPIRING CHANGE NEWSLETTER

INSPIRING CHANGE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



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INSET DAY UPDATE:

There will be an additional INSET day on the **20th January**. No pupils will attend school on this day.

SUBJECT FOCUS: HUMANITIES

BY MRS BUCKENHAM

The humanities curriculum has had a revamp! We have covered the Tudors this term, and this has been a real experience for all of us! We have found out that barbers played the roles of doctors and that Henry had 6 wives! We have also visited the childhood home of Anne Boleyn ... more of that to follow! We have tried to compare our current lives to that of Tudor times, however our children would officially be middle aged if they lived in this period! Jennifer, Joey and Isabella have worked so hard in every lesson and shown real determination to learn and develop! Well done guys :)

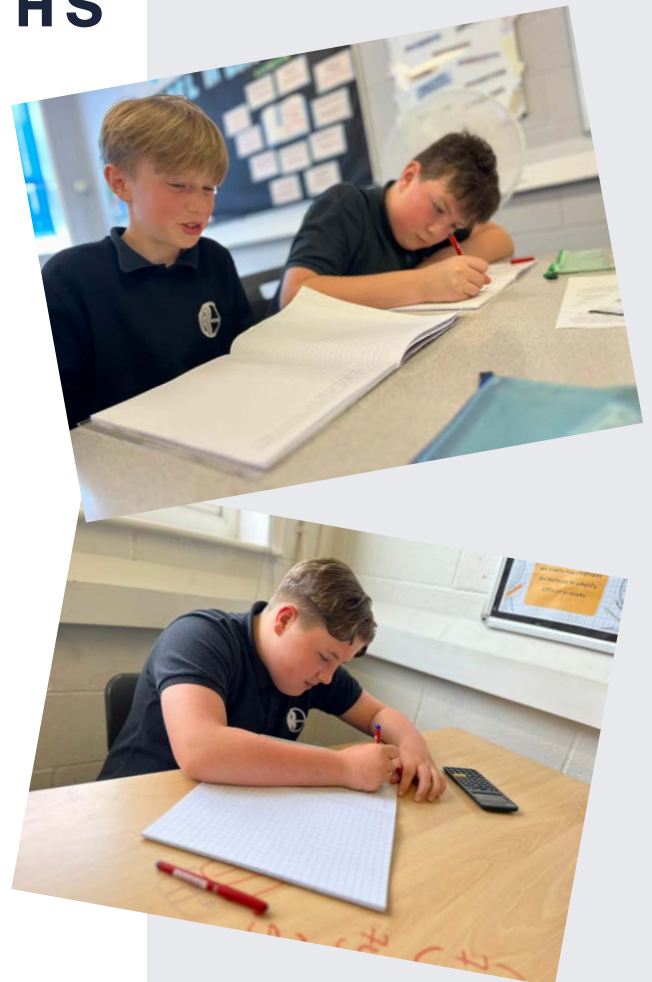


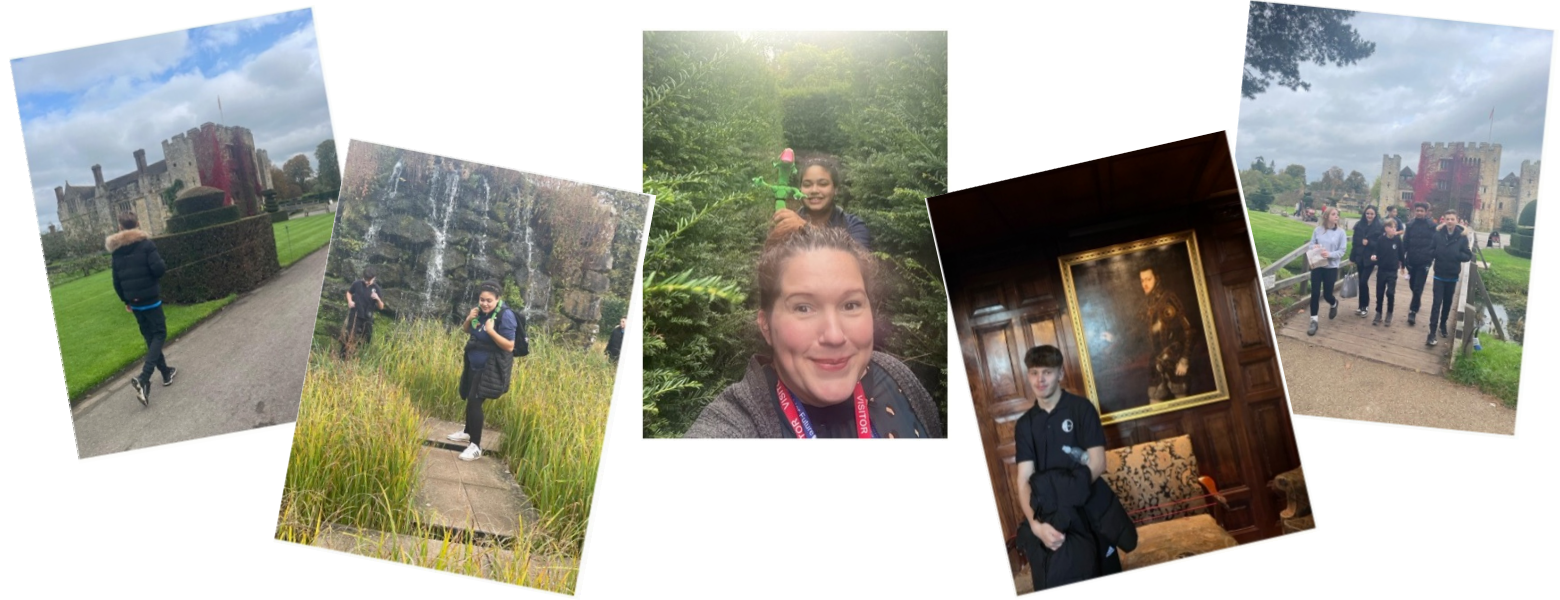
SUBJECT FOCUS: MATHS

BY MISS HARRIS

This term, our pupils have been building their mathematical skills and confidence by focusing on core topics. Year 11 pupils have concentrated on key areas for their GCSE exams, including fractions, percentages, and ratio. These topics are vital for exam success, and pupils have worked hard to strengthen their understanding and apply their skills to problem-solving questions. Year 10 pupils have covered similar ground, laying a strong foundation for their future studies.

Across all year groups, we've placed an emphasis on developing numeracy skills that are useful in everyday life. Pupils have explored topics like area and perimeter, equations, and basic number work, helping them gain confidence in using maths in practical situations. Through a mix of group work, hands-on activities, and independent practice, they've made solid progress this term. We're proud of the effort pupils have put into their maths learning and look forward to building on this in the new year.





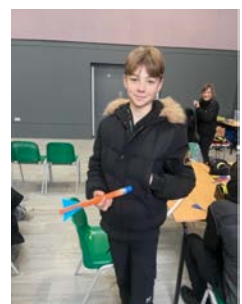
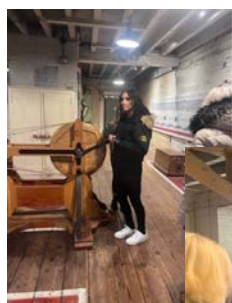
HUMANITIES ENRICHMENT TRIPS

FROM HEVER CASTLE TO THE HISTORICAL DOCKYARD IN CHATHAM

BY MRS BUCKENHAM

During Term 1, we organised a day trip to Hever Castle, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, wife of Henry VIII. The gardens were vast, giving opportunities to practice our geography skills from last term, navigating our way around two mazes. One made of hedges and the other of water! The grounds were beautiful but the castle was breathtaking. We were able to see what real life was like during the Tudor period, looking at how and where people lived and what their roles were. We could see and touch real life history and discuss how different life is now.

During Term two, we organised a day trip to the Historic Chatham Dockyard. This enrichment trip was designed to allow the pupils to immerse themselves in both history and geography in real life. Seeing modern history somewhere that is within our local community was an eye opener for our pupils. The pupils were able to engage in rocket building and firing, explore both the submarine HMS Ocelot, which we found out was a spy ship during the cold war and the HMS Cavalier, the last remaining war ship of its kind! It was a brilliant experience.



CHILDREN IN NEED

BY MISS KING

Across the country, people have been raising money for Children in Need, and here at The Rowans we are no different. For Children in Need this year, we held a cake sale at break time, with delicious cakes provided by staff, as well as holding a whole school tag day and finishing off with a period 5 event of either biscuit decorating or a game of football. At The Rowans we believe in the importance of kindness and display random acts of kindness throughout the school day for both staff and pupils.

In total we raised, £163.80, thank you to all those who took part and donated to a very special cause



MUSIC CLUB

BY MR MANSFORD

Guitar club runs every lunchtime and provides pupils with a fantastic opportunity to learn a new skill and explore their passion for music. Pupils choose their favorite songs to learn, giving them a chance to work on pieces they love and feel connected to. The club also encourages teamwork, as pupils practice performing their songs together as a band.

This lunchtime activity is about more than just music—it's a space for pupils to be expressive, creative, and build their confidence. It's been wonderful to see pupils supporting each other as they learn and grow in their musical abilities. Guitar club is also a great way to make new friends and be part of a group that shares a common interest. Whether they are beginners or more experienced players, all are welcome to join and develop their skills in a fun and inclusive environment.





WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

BY MRS SKINNER

On Thursday the 10th of October we marked World Mental Health Day with some quality time in our form groups. Reminding each other that your mental health matters as much as your physical health and it's okay not to be okay and ask for help when it's needed.

Pupils enjoyed eating a "Big Brunch" with sausage, bacon, waffles, toast, spaghetti hoops, hashbrowns and toast whilst watching Inside out. They also spent time answering some questions around their understanding of emotions.



TERM 1 VALUES DAY!

TIER 1

BY MISS RAVATE

At the end of term 1, the pupils on tier 1 were lucky enough to visit Spadework's PYO Pumpkin Garden in West Malling. The pupils had fun choosing the perfect pumpkins to bring back to school to carve into devilish designs.



TIER 2

BY MISS KING

Tier 2 went on an exciting trip to Ninja Warrior for a morning of fun and excitement, where pupils and staff worked together. On this trip, pupils were able to showcase their agility, determination and team work as they tackled a variety of obstacles; running, jumping, and leaping to test their limits. From scaling walls to swinging through various courses, everyone embraced the spirit of the experience and left with a big sense of accomplishment.

TIER 3

BY MISS HORSLEY

As part of our tier 3 activities for Values Day pupils made fabric pumpkins using preloved clothes. This creative process produced unique Halloween decorations from clothes destined for the landfill highlighting the importance of reworking items rather than buying new! The activity was enjoyed by all and the outcomes were impressive.



MID-KENT COLLEGE

COLLEGE TOURS

BY MISS RAVATE

Year 11 pupils visited MidKent college for a group transition tour at the Medway campus. We were all impressed with the facilities, such as industry standard workshops, machines and tools. The pupils were particularly interested in the carpentry workshop as well as the fully-functioning beauty salon!

The pupils are looking forward to applying for their chosen courses and attending the college next year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dionne for the warm welcome and relaxed tour.



ASSEMBLY

MISS RAVATE

MidKent College delivered assemblies to our year 10 and 11 pupils this term.

The college entry requirements, courses and facilities were discussed and pupils had the opportunity to ask any questions to the careers advisor.

The talk was very informative and was a great platform to promote post 16 destinations.



TURNER CONTEMPORARY ART TRIP

BY MISS RAVATE

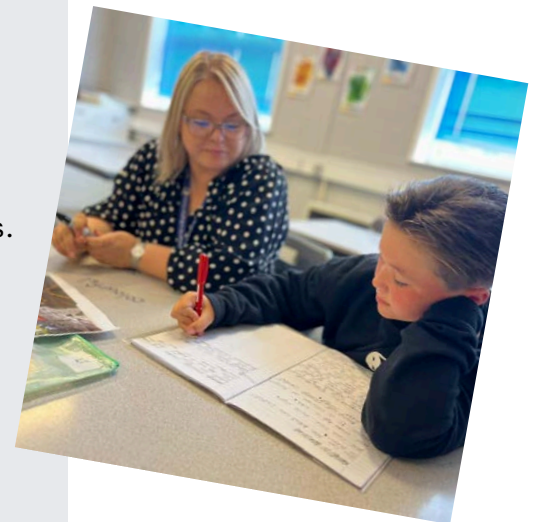
GCSE Art & Design, Textiles and Photography pupils visited the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate this term. They took part in a navigator led tour and a practical making session. The pupils had the opportunity to see and discuss the 'preserve' exhibition, which is the largest exhibition to date of British artist Anya Gallaccio. The works of art were thought provoking and included an apple curtain which had been decaying and an installation of burning candles. All pupils engaged in the exhibition and were great ambassadors for The Rowans.



LITERACY AND NUMERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

BY MISS CALDER

Our Literacy and Numeracy working party has been working hard this term to promote essential skills across the school. On the literacy side, several new initiatives have been introduced to support reading and vocabulary development. Peer reading is one such program, where secondary pupils read with primary pupils to build confidence and develop fluency. This has already taken place once this term and will happen more frequently as the year progresses. Another initiative, Stop, Drop, and Read, has been a success with our KS3 groups. Every Friday during Period 5, lessons are paused to allow pupils to read together as a group. This creates a calm, focused environment and helps to foster a love of reading. To support vocabulary building, every classroom now features a Word Wall displaying key terms for the term relevant to that subject. We've also introduced a Word of the Term initiative to encourage cross-curricular learning. This term's word is "Statistics," tying together literacy and numeracy by highlighting its importance in various contexts. These efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to embedding literacy and numeracy into everyday learning. By making these skills a core focus, we aim to help pupils develop the tools they need to succeed, both in their academic work and beyond.



ASPEN CLASS

BY MRS DEACON

What a great start to the new academic year Aspen Class have had. We have been doing lots of exciting learning. In Term 1 our topic was 'we are Britain'.

In History we had lots of fun looking at our family trees and some children were able to bring in their family photos from home and talk about who was in their family. We also looked at British celebrations and traditions. We had a lovely afternoon tea in class with scones, biscuits and tea. In design and technology, we designed and created our very own sock puppet and theatre. There was some great enthusiasm and teamwork shown by the children. English saw us learn about the countries that make up the United Kingdom, looking at the names of cities, famous landmarks and flags from each place. The children created some great fact files about the United Kingdom. In Science, we were learning about the human body and growing up from a baby to an elderly adult. We learnt about the different parts and functions of the body including the skeleton and muscles. In PSHE sessions we had the opportunity to find out about each other - what we liked and disliked, what our hobbies are, who is special to us and how we can use kind behaviours to get on well with others.

Our topic for Term 2 has been 'Battles and Bravery' with a focus on World War 2. The children have enjoyed learning about different aspects of this topic and have found it interesting. They were fascinated by life in the trenches and were able to use their learning to write some good poetry in English using metaphors and similes. The children have also written diary entries and letters as if they were soldiers or evacuees in the war. In Science, my group have enjoyed exploring the circuits creating their own, changing elements of the circuit to see the brightness of the bulb change and identify why a circuit may not be working. Well done to Aiden, Maddison, Harry and CJ for working hard in your science lessons. Art has seen us learn a variety of different media methods such as collage, drawing, watercolour paints, and pastels whilst being inspired by our artist this term 'Georgia O'Keefe'. A big well done to Poppy, Neeco and Mark for trying incredibly hard in Art this term to create some amazing artwork. We are very proud of the work you have created!

This term we have also celebrated Children in Need by wearing our own clothes and completing some Children in Need activities in the classroom. The children designed their own Pudsey bandana and were able to complete a range of Pudsey word puzzles and mazes. As well as our academic learning, the children also started the Fizzy Programme which focuses on gross motor and fine motor skills. The children did this daily to help them with co-ordination, balance, ball skills and body awareness. A big well done to Diondre for completing the programme showing great commitment! The children have also had some opportunities for different enrichment activities such as trip to Leeds Castle which was all Christmassy, a trip to Capstone Park to develop our social skills and cooking to develop our skills in the kitchen. Some yummy cookies were made this term!



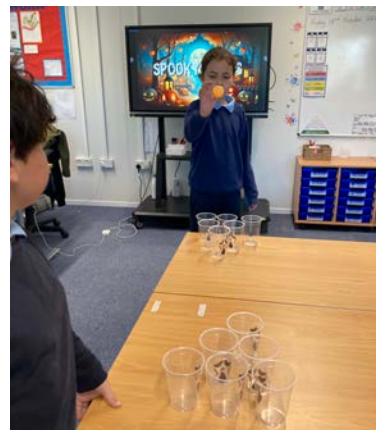
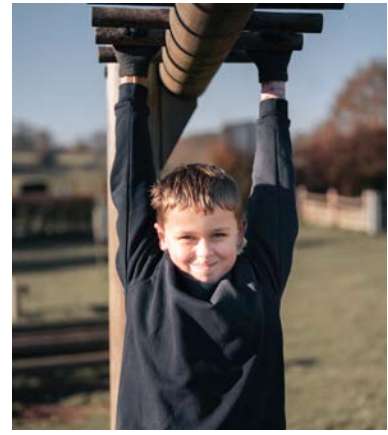
WILLOW CLASS

BY MR STONE

This term, Willow Class has worked hard on building friendships and developing strong, supportive relationships with one another. They enthusiastically participated in new sports, showing teamwork and skills. In practical activities, the class enjoyed following instructions carefully to make delicious sandwiches and bread pudding, demonstrating how well they can follow guidance to achieve great results. During history lessons, they explored life as evacuees in wartime Britain, experiencing what it might have felt like to collect their tags and gas mask boxes. They also had a fantastic time at Leeds Castle, exploring the beautiful grounds and marvelling at the magical Christmas lights. Willow Class thoroughly enjoyed the experience and made wonderful memories.

Willow class had an exciting and memorable day exploring the beautiful grounds of Leeds Castle. The students toured the castle itself, enjoying a special Nutcracker-themed event that brought the festive spirit to life. They also tackled the maze, played in the various playgrounds, and observed the impressive birds of prey up close. As part of their visit, the class had the opportunity to see how the castle was preparing for its spectacular Christmas lights display, adding to the festive atmosphere. It was truly a wonderful and enriching day out!

This term also saw some fantastic individual achievements. Alfie has made excellent progress in his behaviour for learning and has worked hard to follow expectations both in and outside of school. Poppy has shown a mature and thoughtful approach in navigating challenging social situations, setting a great example for others. Skylar has continued to grow in confidence around her peers and staff, becoming a valued and enthusiastic member of the class. Well done to everyone for a brilliant term!



MAPLE CLASS

BY MR MAY

In Maple Class, we cannot believe that we are at the end of term 2 already! Our term 1 topic was 'We are Britain' and the class looked at all aspects of what it is to be British, our British identity and how we celebrate our history and culture. In English, we explored the four home nations and created fact files to share with each other. We investigated the seasons and went on a woodland walk to experience the sights and sounds of autumn before creating beautiful acrostic poems. In science, we looked at the human body, how it changes over time and how we use our senses to understand the world around us. Our art topic saw us researching typical British entertainment such as a puppet show. We designed and created sock puppets before building a theatre stage and putting on our own puppet shows! Our enrichment activities saw us explore the local area and we had a fantastic afternoon at Rochester castle, where the children were brilliantly well behaved and a real credit to the school.

The title of our term 2 program of study is 'Battles and Bravery' and is based around the World Wars and their impacts upon the lives of ordinary people both in Britain and around the world. In history, we have located the countries of Europe on a world map and investigated which countries collaborated together during WW2. The children have further explored topics such as evacuees, rationing and the Blitz, with the latter seeing the children building their own shelters within the classroom. They enjoyed this so much that they now want to work under their shelters every day! In art, the children explored the artwork of Georgia O'Keefe and experimented with a range of media to create vibrant poppies. In science, the children have loved creating and building a range of circuits to light bulbs, sound buzzers and investigate conductors and insulators. Our enrichment visits have seen us explore Capstone Country Park, engage with the woodland areas and research the local wildlife, through their fantastic education centre. We have been to Leeds castle, watched Cinderella at the Hazlitt Theatre, visited the Museum of Kent life for their Christmas extravaganza and had a wonderful time at Ninja Warrior! Maple class would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a fantastic 2025.



SYCAMORE CLASS

BY MRS MARTIN

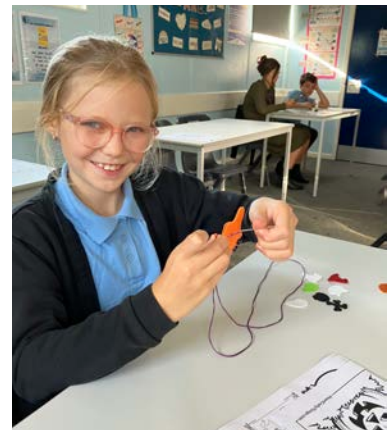
What a great start to the year it has been for the children in Sycamore Class. I can't believe two terms have flown by already! The children have all shown a really positive outlook towards coming back to school and have settled very well.

Our topic for term 1 was "We Are Britain". We enjoyed getting to know each other better and thinking about what makes each of us special, as well as thinking more about the communities that we are part of, including our families, school and Britain. The children loved finding out about British traditions such as maypole dancing and bonfire night, and a particular highlight was sharing an afternoon tea of scones together. Our topic for term 2 was Battles and Bravery, where the focus was on learning all about World War Two and thinking about Remembrance. In Sycamore class, the children really enjoyed our science topic of electricity. They loved making circuits with the electrical equipment and exploring problem solving when the circuits weren't working. They enjoyed exploring which material conducted electricity and which were insulators.

The children have been super artists throughout the last two terms. They have used lots of different techniques to create amazing effects. They have used paint, pastels, printing and collage to produce artwork on the theme of fireworks, poppies and winter.

We have enjoyed lots of learning through play in Sycamore class. The children have been able to follow their interests, learn new concepts, explore problem solving and build resilience all whilst having fun! They have loved driving cars and stomping dinosaurs through the kinetic sand and seeing the tracks that they leave. They have developed an understanding of using money and receiving change whilst playing shops, as well as writing menus and designing some tasty dishes. Through playing with Lego and other construction sets they have explored how to make a strong, stable design whilst also using great imagination and storytelling.

Thank you to you for your support over these past two terms. The children have all worked so hard, I hope you have a well-deserved rest over the Christmas break.



DEN PROJECT

BY MISS GARDENER

The Developing Engagement through Nature (DEN) project is a tailored intervention delivered by our Primary Outreach Team. It supports not only pupils at The Rowans but also those from Medway Primary Schools that receive our outreach services. Based at The Rowans school site, the DEN has welcomed 19 children from 9 Medway Primary Schools this term, in addition to engaging all The Rowans Primary pupils in its activities.

The project aims to provide pupils with opportunities to develop key skills such as resilience, confidence, social interaction, and coping with change. It also focuses on fostering a sense of belonging and boosting mental health in a positive, nature-based environment.

This term, we've been fortunate to bring together Primary and Secondary pupils, creating opportunities for older students to mentor younger ones. Secondary pupils have modelled and taught practical skills such as whittling, fire-building, den construction, and tool use. These mentoring sessions have been highly rewarding, with Primary pupils enjoying their time with their role models, while all students involved have benefited from this unique and enriching intervention.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

BY MR NORRIS

Our annual Christmas dinner is always a highlight of the festive season at the Rowans. It's a time for pupils and staff to come together, share a meal, and celebrate the holiday spirit. The primary pupils enjoy their Christmas dinner together in the hall with staff, creating a warm and lively atmosphere. Meanwhile, secondary pupils eat in their form classrooms alongside their form tutors, making it a cozy and personal experience.

The festive fun doesn't stop at the meal! There are crackers to pull, Christmas crafts and activities to enjoy, and music to add to the holiday cheer. The excitement reaches its peak when a special guest arrives—our very own Elf who visits each group to spread Christmas magic and pose for photos with the pupils. It's always a joyful event that brings our school community closer together and sets the perfect tone for the holiday season.



ART AND DESIGN

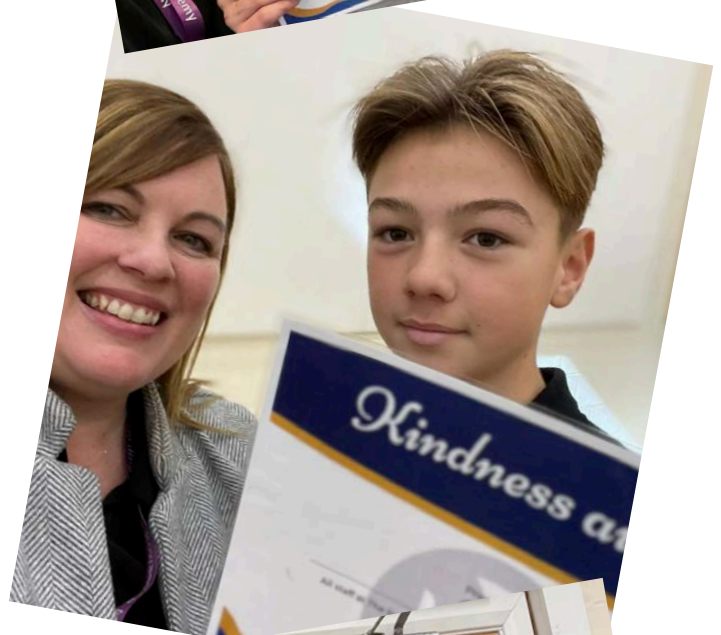
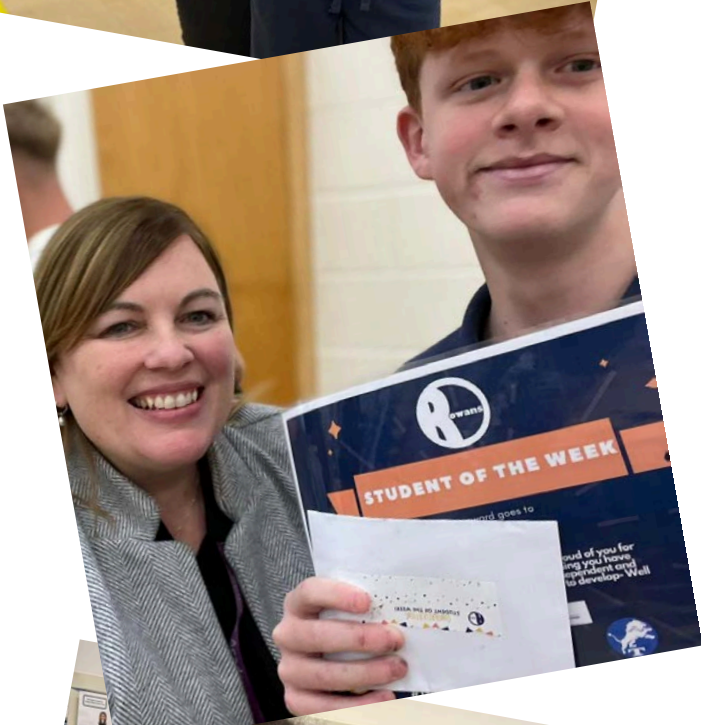
GCSE pupils have been working so incredibly hard across their Art, Textiles and Photography lessons. They are all currently working towards completing their portfolios and they are producing some amazing work.



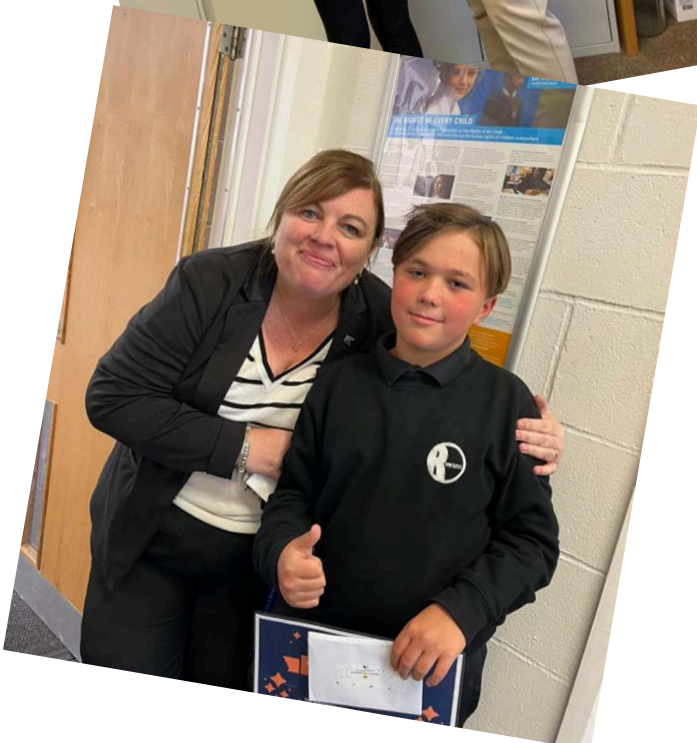
ART AND DESIGN



CERTIFICATES



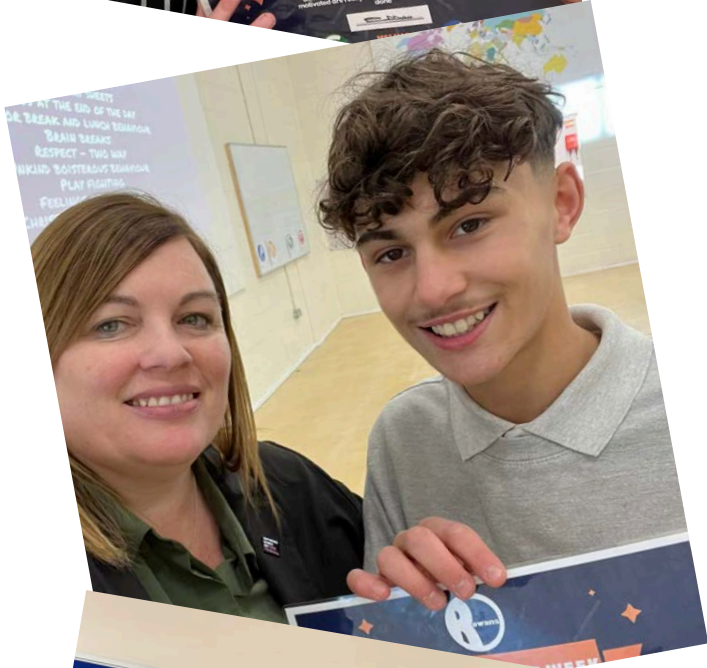
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CERTIFICATES



CERTIFICATES



ASSEMBLIES

BY MRS MARTIN

At The Rowans we hold weekly assemblies, and they alternate between: celebration, innovation and information. Celebration assembly, as the title suggests, is full of celebration of all that has been achieved during the week with shout-outs from teachers and lots of inspiring photos of pupils working hard in lessons and interventions.

New for this year is information assembly where pupils stay in their forms to discuss a key topic. Throughout Terms 1 and 2, house teams have taken part in a variety of activities during our innovation assemblies, all with the chance to earn points for their house. Pupils have competed in fun and engaging challenges such as a music quiz, emoji movie quiz, puzzle challenge, and the much-loved Rowans Christmas quiz. These assemblies have been a fantastic way to bring pupils together, fostering teamwork and house pride.

This terms topic was sexting and how to remove and report a nude picture. In form groups pupils have the opportunity to ask questions and share experiences in a safe space. Secondary pupils discussed the law regarding sexting, watched a video showing an example of how people can be pressurised into sexting and then discussed what the outcomes could be. This was a really positive assembly where pupils were engaged and respectful regarding the topic covered and can now understand the pressures on young people, the possible consequences of sexting and give advice to others.

What has been particularly special is seeing pupils from both the primary and secondary provisions working together within their houses. The assemblies have not only provided a platform for some friendly competition but also strengthened the bonds within each house, making them a highlight of the term for many pupils and staff alike.



PANTOMIME

BY MRS MARTIN

Following our great traditions, this year's enchanting pantomime trip was Cinderella. "Oh no it wasn't", I hear you cry. "Oh yes, it was."

Pupils from The Rowans primary and secondary KS3 visited The Hazlitt theatre in Maidstone on Thursday the 5th December to enjoy watching a festive production that from as soon as the curtain rose, transported us into Cinderella's home at 'Hard-up Hall'. The production took us on a rollercoaster of love, romance, laughter and mischief with their antics and funny jokes, not to mention the appearance of some very mean and ugly sisters! We had great fun singing, clapping and also some dancing to the 12 Days of Christmas song that was somewhat different from the traditional version with 5 gold rings replaced with 5 toilet rolls!

We are now well and truly filled with Christmas spirit.



WORK EXPERIENCE

BY MR KETCHER

This year, 17 of our Year 10 pupils took part in work experience from the 14th to the 18th of October, gaining valuable insights into the world of work. The placements provided pupils with a chance to experience jobs in their chosen sectors and included a range of businesses, such as: Code Red Hair Design, Great Leaps, Kent Life, and Saxon Engineering. We are incredibly proud of the resilience and commitment shown by all of our pupils during this week. They adapted to new environments, embraced challenges, and left a positive impression on their employers. Feedback from the placements was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the professionalism and enthusiasm of our pupils. This has been one of our most successful years for work experience, and all 17 participants were a credit to the school. We look forward to seeing how these experiences shape their aspirations and future choices.



INTER-HOUSE ROWING

BY MR KETCHER



Our annual inter-house rowing competition took place on Wednesday 9th October, bringing the whole school together for a thrilling event. House teams competed in a timed relay race, each striving to row the furthest distance within the set time. After an intense and exciting contest, Spartans emerged as the overall winners, followed by Gladiators in second place, Titans in third, and Warriors in fourth.

The event showcased outstanding kindness, commitment, and resilience from all participants. Pupils supported and cheered for their teammates, displaying incredible sportsmanship and determination throughout. The competition wasn't just about winning—it was about coming together as a community, pushing limits, and celebrating team spirit. It was a memorable event, and we're already looking forward to next year's challenge!

MATHS AND ENGLISH MOCKS

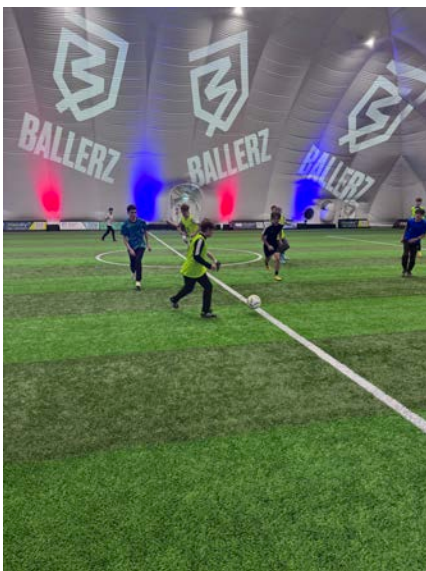
BY MISS HARRIS

Our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils recently undertook their Maths and English mock exams, an important part of their preparation for future success. While both year groups sat these assessments, it is our Year 11 pupils who will be sitting their formal exams later this academic year. The mocks provided a valuable opportunity for all pupils to experience the format, pace, and expectations of formal exams, building their confidence and readiness for the challenges ahead.

Throughout the week, we were incredibly proud of the way our pupils approached their mocks. Many demonstrated real determination and focus, putting their best efforts into tackling the papers. For Year 10 pupils, this was an excellent introduction to what they can expect next year, helping them understand the exam environment and identify areas for improvement.

For Year 11 pupils, the mocks served as a vital practice run for the summer exams. Staff were on hand to provide guidance and support, ensuring pupils felt equipped to give their best. The experience highlighted strengths and pinpointed areas that need extra focus in the months ahead, giving pupils a clear pathway to success.

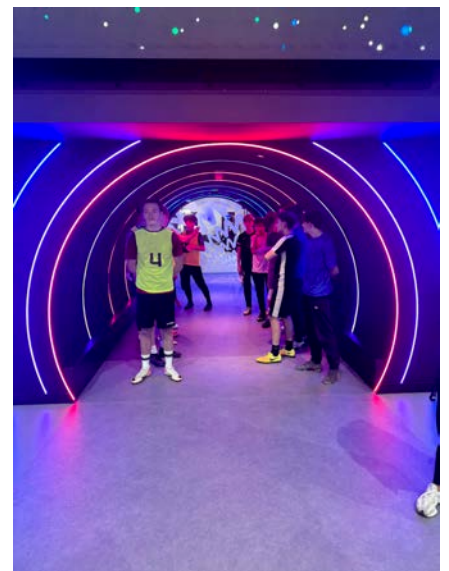
Congratulations to all our Year 10 and 11 pupils for their hard work and commitment during this period. Your effort and determination are paving the way for future achievements! Keep up the great work as we move closer to the next stage of your academic journey.



BALLERZ TRIP

BY MR KETCHER

On Friday, 29th November, 15 pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit Ballerz Air Dome, the new state-of-the-art football facility at Bluewater. This incredible experience gave pupils a chance to play like pros and refine their football skills on a cutting-edge 5G pitch.



The trip began with pupils using the professional changing rooms before stepping onto the pitch through the players' tunnel to the sound of a roaring crowd.

Once on the pitch, pupils participated in an exhilarating game of football, where they showcased our core values of kindness, commitment, and resilience. The atmosphere was electric as pupils enjoyed the thrill of playing in such a unique setting. The trip was a resounding success, leaving pupils eager for more opportunities to engage in similar activities. We're excited to announce that this is something we plan to run regularly moving forward, offering even more pupils the chance to enjoy this incredible facility.

FINAL WORD

BY MRS MAY

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas"

It is always an absolute pleasure to share with you all the progress that pupils and children have made, to celebrate achievements, to reflect on what has passed and to look forward to what is yet to come. Christmas gives us all the opportunity to pause and reflect so as we approach the festive season please remember the importance of togetherness, of spending time with family and friends, the need for laughter and love and making memories.

It has been an incredibly busy two terms, and we have particularly enjoyed our annual festivities including Christmas dinner, a trip to the pantomime and of course our form group and class trips. We started the year by welcoming the extension to our Primary SEN provision. This alongside the KS1 and KS2 outreach team, have offered much needed support for Medway children and their families. This has seen an expansion to the staff team and a growth in expertise, supporting all pupils to make progress and reach their potential.

It is impossible to list all the highlights from the two terms as there are so many. I have been delighted with the quality of work produced by pupils and shared with me for the 'WOW' folder. I have been impressed with the way that Year 10 and Year 11 have conducted themselves during the recent English and maths GCSE mock examinations, demonstrating our core values, as well as commitment and dedication to their futures.

I have been made many special gifts this year including some DT products and some very tasty food. It is so incredibly thoughtful that pupils want to share their achievements and I have seen the growth in pupils' confidence and self-esteem. I am always impressed to see the progress made by pupils and children, whether academically or personally and it is an honour to award certificates in assembly for pupils who have been recognised and recommended by the primary and secondary staff for; improvements or commitment to attendance, for persevering with interventions, for showing kindness and of course for achieving student of the week. All of these pupil achievements along with daily school life are regularly shared on our social media accounts, so please give us a follow at:

Facebook: The Rowans AP Academy

Twitter: @TheRowansAP

Instagram: therowansap

I am going to conclude by once again thanking you all for your ongoing support of the school. The strong partnerships we have with you all are vital in supporting pupils and children to make progress, to grow in confidence and self-belief and to develop their core values of kindness, commitment and resilience. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff team, who all work tirelessly and with commitment and determination to support pupils and children to thrive. Thank you to you all, I wish you a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Mrs May

