



THE ROWANS NEWSLETTER

INSPIRING CHANGE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



INSIDE...

Primary Updates

British Values Day

Values Trips

World Book Day

Red Nose Day

ATTENDANCE MATTERS AS IT HELPS YOU TO..



Build confidence
& self-esteem



Make new
friends



Achieve



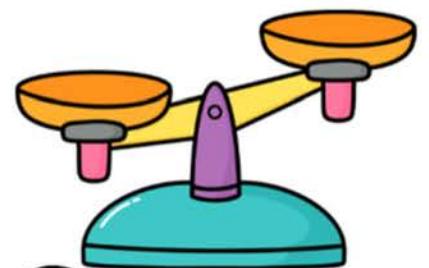
Develop
new skills



Have fun

Experience new things

Develop awareness of
other cultures, religions,
ethnicity and gender
differences.



Staff Awards 2026

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR TRUST STARS

6

Weeks Left
To Nominate

THE HOWARD
Academy Trust



Our Awards Staff Voting Categories

The Awards	Description
<i>Apprentice of the Year</i>	This award recognises the hard work and motivation from an apprentice within THAT.
<i>Team of the Year</i>	This award recognises a team who have had significant impact on their school community.
<i>Trust Impact Award</i>	This award recognises a person who has had whole Trust impact, potentially in some way benefiting children/ staff from all Academies.
<i>Unsung Hero</i>	This award recognises a colleague who is always there to provide a helping hand, a listening ear or support to colleagues/ students.
<i>Wellbeing Award</i>	This award recognises a member of staff who actively promotes wellbeing and has worked to enhance wellbeing across the school/Trust. They are a real champion of mental health.
<i>Outstanding Outcomes Award</i>	This award recognises a school for outstanding outcomes in one or more areas of the school, this could be purely academic outcomes, but could equally be for outstanding improvement in attendance or personal development offering.
<i>Rising Star</i>	This award recognises someone early in their career who continuously shows exceptional contribution and behaviours and is one to watch for the future.
<i>Governance Award</i>	This award celebrates a volunteer who is a Governor or Director, recognising them for their dedicated commitment and support to Governance within THAT.

Our Awards Staff Voting Categories

The Awards	Description
<i>Primary Teacher of the Year</i>	This award recognises an inspirational Primary teacher who is passionate about children and works tirelessly to unlock their full potential.
<i>Secondary Teacher of the Year</i>	This award recognises an inspirational Secondary teacher who is passionate about children and works tirelessly to unlock their full potential.
<i>Primary Support Staff of the Year</i>	This award recognises an inspirational member of Primary support staff.
<i>Secondary Support Staff of the Year</i>	This award recognises an inspirational member of Secondary support staff.
<i>Central Team Staff Member of the Year</i>	This award recognises a member of the Central Team that has gone above and beyond to support the Trust, and had an impact across our academies.
<i>Lifetime Achievement Award</i>	This award recognises a colleague who has worked in education for 20 years or more and has over their career been an asset to their employer, the children they serve and the wider community.
<i>Professional Growth Award</i>	This award recognises a member of SLT who consistently works to empower and provide opportunities to their team, encourages cross department and is a champion of cross-school working for the betterment of each school.

VOTE HERE!

WILLOW CLASS UPDATES

BY MR STONE

It has been a busy and exciting time for Willow Class across Terms 3 and 4, with pupils showing enthusiasm, creativity and determination in a wide range of activities.

Term 3 Highlights

In term 3, pupils thoroughly enjoyed Design and Technology, where the focus was on pulleys and levers. They demonstrated excellent problem-solving skills as they planned, tested, built and reviewed mechanisms designed to move toys. It was fantastic to see their ideas come to life through hands-on learning.

In History, pupils explored key inventors and discovered how their innovations have shaped the modern world. They showed great curiosity and were keen to discuss how these inventions continue to impact our daily lives.

England Day was a memorable occasion, with pupils taking part in traditional celebrations. They enjoyed a classic British tea and enthusiastically joined in with singing, including a lively rendition of Sweet Caroline.

Pupils also attended swimming lessons at a local school, where they developed confidence and improved their skills in the water.

In Computing, pupils worked with databases to sort and organise information. They approached this with enthusiasm and demonstrated a strong understanding of how data can be managed effectively.

Our Term 3 Culture Day focused on Sikhism. Pupils learned a range of interesting facts and developed a deeper appreciation of different beliefs and traditions.

Life Skills lessons centred on money management. Pupils explored the concepts of spending, saving and budgeting, and applied their knowledge to real-life scenarios with great maturity.

Term 4 Highlights

In Geography, pupils have been using maps and atlases to locate and label parts of the United Kingdom, including countries, cities and counties. They have shown increasing confidence in their geographical knowledge and map-reading skills.

Art lessons have focused on British landscapes, with pupils experimenting with colour and texture to create expressive and thoughtful pieces of work.

In PSHE, pupils have engaged in meaningful discussions about different communities, including sports groups, religious communities and local networks. They demonstrated respect and understanding when sharing their ideas.

Germany Day was a great success, with pupils enjoying the opportunity to taste traditional German food and learn more about the country's culture.

Weekly trampolining sessions have been a highlight, with pupils learning a range of new moves and developing their coordination and confidence. We are especially proud of those who represented the school and won the Medway Mini Youth Games Trampolining Competition.

Over the past three weeks, pupils have also taken part in skiing sessions. They embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and made excellent progress, clearly enjoying the experience and developing new skills on the slopes.

Overall, it has been a fantastic two terms for Willow Class. The pupils have worked hard, supported one another and taken every opportunity to learn and grow. We look forward to seeing their continued progress in the coming term.



MAPLE CLASS UPDATES

BY MR MAY

The start of the year saw us investigating a new topic of inventors and machines. The class loved creating their own machines and researching famous inventors and what they had created. It was also an invaluable opportunity to look at famous women in a range of different fields and reminding our children that gender is not a barrier to jobs in science and engineering. In DT, the class explored everyday materials and investigated the varying properties that materials have and how they are suited to a range of different functions, as a result. The class are very creative and built a range of different machines and inventions out of Lego, K'nex and recycled materials, exploring pulleys, gears and forces. In the outdoor garden area, we interacted with the natural environment, extracting clay from the ground and using it to build structures. Swimming at Oaklands is always brilliant and the class have made huge strides in being able to swim using the front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke. During the faith day, the class explored the religion of Sikhism, researched the holy texts and had a virtual guided tour of a Gurdwara. Our cultural day focussed on England, looking at traditions, food and sporting excellence, the children making a real effort to dress in red, white and blue.



Term 4 has gone by quickly and we can't believe that we are nearly at Easter already! The class have engaged brilliantly with the topic of cities and settlements. We started by looking at all of the cities that we have visited both in the UK and around the world and identifying them on a map. We chose our favourite cities that we would like to visit and produced adverts as part of persuasive writing. When thinking about cities, our attention turned to communities and what characteristics people require in order to get along with each other. This term also saw some changes in the class dynamics, with children leaving the class and others being welcomed into it. As ever, the class have coped well with these changes and they have become a strong team who enjoy each other's company, based upon building and maintaining strong friendships. This term, they class have loved creating their own routines on the trampolining, focusing on twists, turns, jumps, seat drops and backdrops. Alongside Mr Stone's class some of our class have been able to experience skiing at Capstone ski centre. During our focus on Germany, the class loved tasting traditional German produce, including cheese, bratwurst, apple strudel and black forest gateaux. Our faith day focussed on Islam and what it is to be a Muslim in today's multicultural society. We had a warm welcome from the Nasir Mosque in Gillingham and the class loved their experience of a faith other than Christianity. They behaved impeccably, asked brilliant questions and were a real credit to their parents and carers and to the Rowans.



Next term sees us starting a topic around the Ancient Egyptians, something the children are already excited about! All that remains is for Maple Class to wish you a very happy and peaceful Easter break.



SYCAMORE AND ASPEN CLASS UPDATES

BY MRS BUCKENHAM & MRS BENTLEY



Terms 3 and 4 have been incredibly busy and enriching for pupils in Aspen and Sycamore classes, filled with memorable experiences, hands-on learning, and fantastic achievements across the curriculum.

One of the highlights of the term was our immersive cultural learning. Pupils had the opportunity to step back in time during our visits to Rochester Castle and Cathedral, where they explored British history in a real-world setting. Alongside this, our Great British and German Culture Days allowed children to broaden their understanding of traditions, food, and customs from different cultures. In Religious Education, we deepened our knowledge by exploring the faiths of Sikhism and Islam, encouraging respect, curiosity, and thoughtful discussion.

The term was also packed with exciting whole-school events and fundraising opportunities. Pupils enthusiastically took part in Number Day, Red Nose Day, and World Book Day—each providing a fun and meaningful way to engage with learning while supporting important causes.

In English, our focus has been on instructional writing. Pupils developed their ability to follow and write clear, step-by-step instructions, particularly through the engaging context of recipes. This hands-on learning led to some delicious outcomes, including making rice crispy cakes! Pupils also used their senses and descriptive language to recall and write about experiences such as eating chocolate cake, producing some fantastic pieces of writing.



SYCAMORE AND ASPEN CLASS UPDATES

BY MRS BUCKENHAM & MRS BENTLEY

Our science learning has centred around habitats and the natural world. Pupils explored where different animals live and why, developing their understanding of how living things depend on their environments. It has been especially exciting to observe the transition from winter into spring, as nature came to life around us. Children have enjoyed sharing their observations and discoveries with classmates, fostering a real sense of curiosity and wonder.

In mathematics, pupils have been working hard to strengthen their understanding of measurement, including length, height, mass, and money. Alongside this, they have continued to build strong foundations in place value and the four operations. We are particularly proud of the progress made in number bonds and multiplication skills, where many pupils have shown excellent improvement and confidence.

Learning has extended well beyond the classroom in our foundation subjects. Both classes have taken part in local visits to enhance their understanding of habitats and the wider environment. Sycamore class were delighted to receive the Robin Award for their efforts in feeding and caring for local wildlife, while Aspen class have also been actively supporting wildlife in their immediate surroundings.

Swimming lessons at Oaklands have been another highlight of the term. Pupils from both classes have shown great enthusiasm and determination, with many becoming increasingly confident and capable in the water. Overall, Terms 3 and 4 have been filled with rich learning experiences, creativity, and achievement. We are incredibly proud of all the pupils in Aspen and Sycamore classes and look forward to continuing this positive momentum into the next term.



PRIMARY BRITISH VALUES DAY

As part of our enriched primary Faith and Culture Curriculum, we dedicate time each term to exploring and celebrating the diverse traditions, beliefs, and cultural identities that shape our world. Last term, our focus turned closer to home as we celebrated Great British Day—a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to learn more about the heritage, values, and unique character of the country we live in.

Throughout the day, pupils explored key questions such as: What does it really mean to be British? What are British values? What makes our culture special? Together, we discussed ideas around respect, tolerance, democracy, and celebrating both our similarities and the differences that make Britain so diverse and vibrant.

To bring these ideas to life, Sycamore and Aspen Class embarked on an exciting educational trip to the historic town of Rochester—a perfect setting to experience British culture first-hand.

Their first stop was Rochester Castle, where the children learned about the castle's impressive history and its role in shaping Britain through the centuries. As they walked the ancient grounds, pupils shared thoughtful conversations about how castles protected communities, what life may have been like in medieval Britain, and why these landmarks remain such an important part of our national story.

The adventure continued at Rochester Cathedral, a stunning example of British architecture and creativity. Inside, the children had the chance to admire the striking sculptures of British artist Tessa Campbell Fraser, including her inspiring installation of sperm whales. The artwork sparked curiosity and imagination—some pupils even wondered aloud whether they might spot a few Hogwarts students wandering through the cloisters!

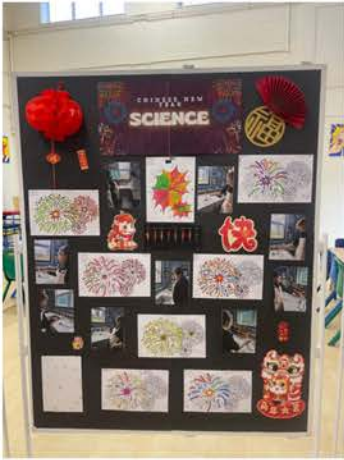
After returning to school and enjoying lunch, the celebrations continued with a truly quintessentially British tradition: a Great British Tea Party. Aspen and Sycamore pupils enjoyed sandwiches, scones, and good company, all while reflecting on what they had learned throughout the day. The festivities even included a special “royal visit” from Mrs May, adding an extra touch of fun and ceremony.

Great British Day was a joyful blend of learning, exploration, and cultural pride. Through hands-on experiences and shared discussions, our pupils gained a richer understanding of British values and heritage—while also recognising how each of us contributes to the wonderfully diverse tapestry of modern Britain.



CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR

We loved welcoming families in today to view our Key Stage 3 Creativity Week exhibition. Students proudly showcased the fantastic work they planned and created around Chinese New Year, alongside a delicious menu of chicken chow mein and spring rolls. Their creativity and effort really shone – such impressive work from everyone involved!



TERM 3 VALUES TRIP

BY MR KETCHER

Values Trip!! Pupils had an amazing time today celebrating their achievements across the term. Laser tag was great fun, and we all need to learn some tips from Mr Ketcher, who managed to come in 1st Place!



PRIMARY MOSQUE TRIP



Faith Day at Rowans Primary was a great experience, focusing on Islam. We visited a mosque where we were warmly welcomed and learned about the religion, including prayer and the importance of the mosque.

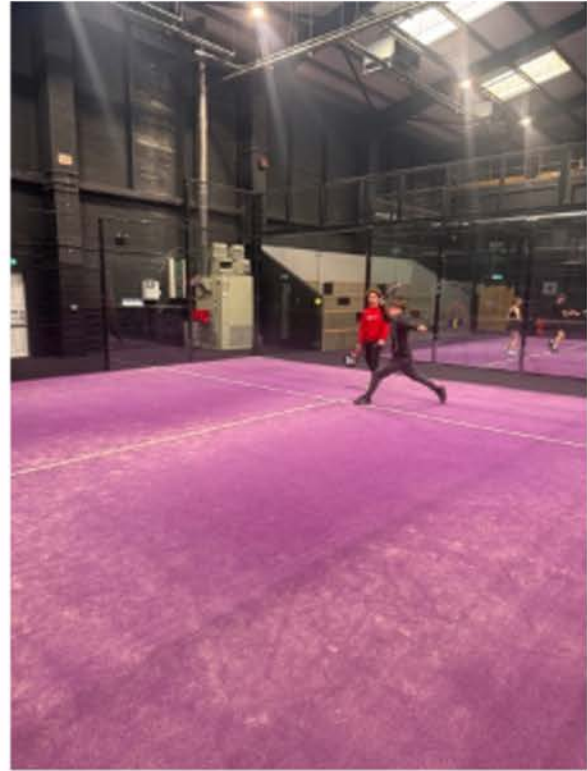
The day was very engaging, with interactive activities that helped us understand Islam in a fun and meaningful way.

Thank you 'Nasir Mosque' for being so welcoming and kind.

PADDLE TRIP

BY MR KETCHER

During terms 3 and 4 we visited Square One Padel centre in Ashford. Pupils had the opportunity to receive a coaching session and play padel in one of their 7 indoor panoramic courts. Both trips were a huge success and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to experience playing a new sport.



BALLERZ TRIP

On Friday 27th March we took 14 pupils to Ballerz football centre in Bluewater. Pupils had the opportunity to play on their state-of-the-art pitch, receiving match highlights and post-game analytics. It was great to see all pupils having fun and modelling our core values of kindness, commitment and resilience throughout.



THE HUNGER GAMES

BY MR NORRIS

On Friday 13th March, some lucky pupils were invited to attend The Hunger Games Live at The Troubadour, a purpose-built theatre for the show in Canary Wharf. We drove to the O2, parked up and then jumped on the Elizabeth Line, it was only one stop to Canary Wharf and a three-minute walk to the theatre.

Upon arrival we were greeted by a crew member, smartly dressed as if he was from The Capital. We were given a briefing about the show and a short-guided tour of level three (where we waited until we were shown to our seats). As mentioned, the theatre is purpose built, and if you have seen the films or read the books you will know that the districts were very poor, the front of house areas had a mixture of run down and opulent items to make it feel as if you were walking from a district into the Capital, where the fight for survival was to begin.

We took our seats, which were incredibly comfortable, and waited for the show to begin. A couple of our pupils had not seen the film or read the books but with thanks to Katniss Everdeen (the main character) they were soon up to speed with what was going on, her opening dialogue explained everything perfectly.

The show was enjoyed by all of us, it was true to the original story and the cast were amazing.



Red Nose Day



Primary Fund Raising

Red Nose Day was a fun and special day. Everyone wore red noses to help raise money for people who need it. We did lots of activities like games, sweet raffle, and sharing stories about kindness. It was great to see everyone smiling and working together to make a difference. We also learned how important it is to help others and be kind every day.



Secondary Fund Raising

On Friday 20th March, The Rowans staff and pupils worked together to raise as much money as we could for Comic Relief.

We all had a choice to make when getting dressed in the morning, if you wore red it was £1 for charity, if you decided to wear an alternative colour it was £2. At breaktime Miss Stacey and Mr Norris held a 50p for 3 tickets tombola for both our primary and secondary students, there were lots of red prizes on offer (with grateful thanks to all of the staff who donated the prizes).

During the day, Miss Billingham kindly visited classrooms so that our pupils could pay 50p to guess the number of sweets in the jar, Louis was thrilled at the end of the day as he correctly guessed 157 sweets, he was kind enough to share some of them with those who had paid £1 to play Miss Wordie's red prize bingo at the end of the day, instead of attending their usual lesson.

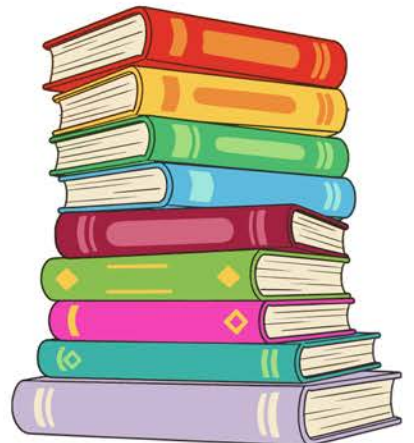
In total, The Rowans raised £201.35 for this very worthy cause!



WORLD BOOK DAY (PRIMARY)

BY MR STONE

We had an incredible day in Primary celebrating World Book Day. Just look at how amazing our costumes turned out! We also enjoyed reading in some of the most unexpected locations.



WORLD BOOK DAY (SECONDARY)

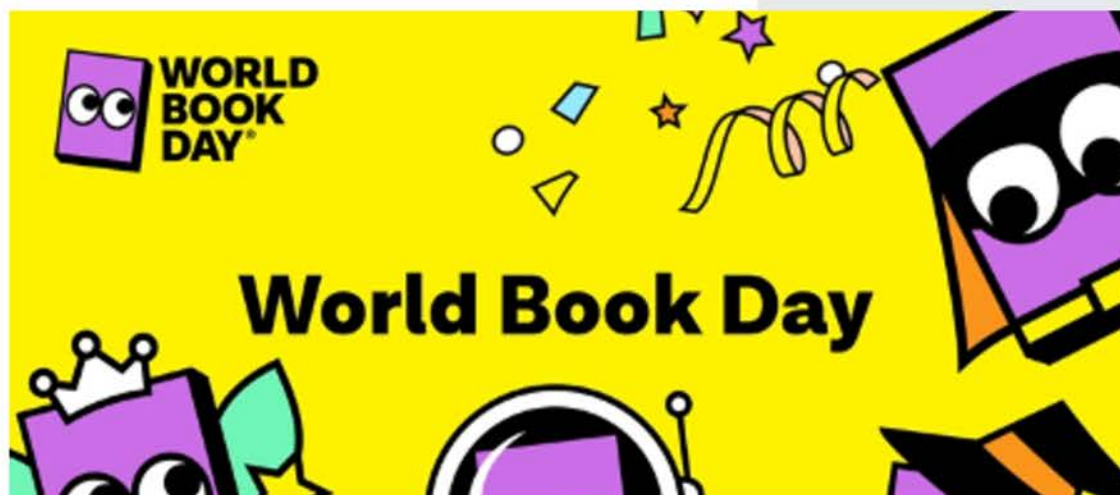
BY MRS FOX

The Rowans enjoyed a wonderful World Book Day this year. Pupils were set the World Book Day 'Props' Challenge - which led to lots of great prizes being won. Pupils had to track down members of staff who had each brought in props or clues to either a book title or a book character. Pupils spent the day completing their clue-sheets and bonus points were also up for grabs if pupils could work out authors, or which books the characters came from.

As always, we had our World Book Day inter-house event in the afternoon, which included Charades, Heads Up, First Line, Last Line and the delightfully, delicious Taste a Story! Pupils had to make their way around the book themed rooms, earning points for their houses, completing various fun challenges and games, all with a bookish twist. Titans just managed to take the lead in the house event, scooping a huge 50 points for their house, with Spartans following closely and grabbing 25 points for second place.

We also introduced a World Book Day Treasure Hunt this year, with key stage 3 pupils correctly identifying famous books from clues and book covers, and a World Book Day lunch menu which included Mr Twits Wormy Spaghetti, Snozzcumber Salad and Bruce Boggtrotters Chocolate Cake! Yum! Some pupils also got the opportunity to go out and exchange their WBD token for a free book of their choice.

Winners of the World Book Day Challenge were announced in assembly. Congratulations to HKG and AB in joint third place, and to LC who came an admirable second. First place went to JaOH - who hunted down every clue and answered every single one correctly!! An amazing effort JaOH, well done!



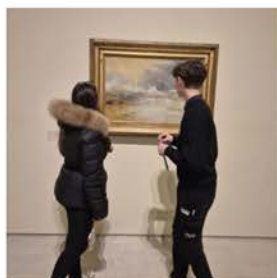
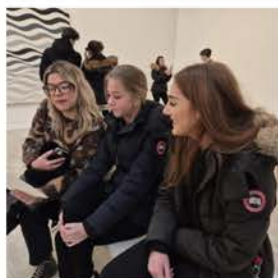
CAREERS FAIR

What an incredible Careers Fair! Our students displayed curiosity and confidence, asking insightful questions and fully embracing this wonderful opportunity. A heartfelt thank you to all the visitors who generously shared their time and expertise with us!



GCSE ART

GCSE Art pupils were given the opportunity to visit The Turner Contemporary. They enjoyed exploring the different pieces of artwork whilst broadening their artist knowledge.



PRIMARY WIN GOLD AT TRAMPOLINING



The WINNING team at the inclusive youth games for Trampolining! They all worked amazingly hard, and represented our school beautifully with such pride, and were extremely proud to be part of the experience!

We are so proud of you, Well done!

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

MR KETCHER

House competitions- This terms house event was a whole school World Book Day competition. House teams moved to different rooms taking on different challenges such as a blindfolded food tasting competition and charades. Titans were the overall winners, with Spartans in second and Warriors and Gladiators and joint 3rd. There have also been Innovation assemblies, such as catchphrase and a World Book quiz, where teams also had opportunities to win points for their house.



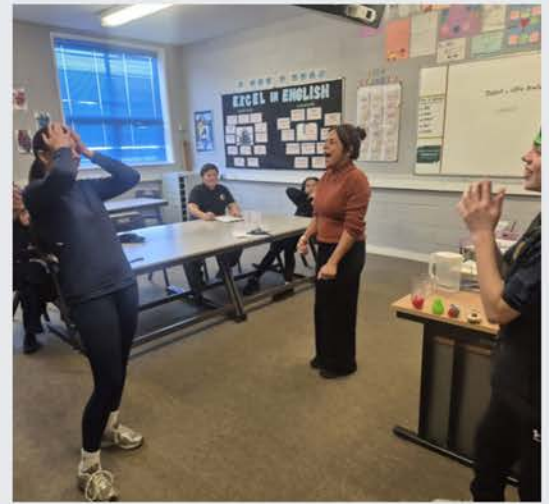
Totals

Warriors- 1861

Gladiators- 1974

Titans- 1645

Spartans- 1526



CERTIFICATES



**KEEP UP
THE
GOOD WORK**



FINAL WORD

BY MRS MAY

Final Word - Term 4 2026

As we come to the end of Terms 3 and 4, I am proud to share the achievements of our pupils at The Rowans. Across both our primary and secondary provisions, pupils continue to demonstrate kindness, commitment and resilience, values that sit firmly at the heart of our school community and are central to all we do.

I have been particularly impressed by the quality of pupils' work this term and have greatly enjoyed the opportunities to celebrate their successes with them. Whether in the classroom or through enrichment activities, pupils have shown a real determination to do their very best and take pride in their progress.

A key focus for us as a school continues to be attendance. Good attendance is essential for both academic success and personal development, and it is encouraging to see so many pupils making a positive effort to attend regularly and arrive ready to learn. Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support in this area, it truly makes a difference. Alongside this, we continue to emphasise the importance of respect: respect for one another, for staff, and for our learning environment. These values help to ensure that The Rowans remains a positive and supportive place for everyone.

At the end of term 2 we were visited by Ofsted. I am incredibly proud of our staff, whose hard work, professionalism and dedication shone throughout the process. Our pupils and children conducted themselves exceptionally well, demonstrating how proud they are of their school and the support they receive each day. Together, we were able to show the inspectors the very best of The Rowans, and we were delighted to achieve a 'Strong Standard' across all areas. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our parents and carers for their support during the inspection and for sharing such positive feedback with the inspection team, much of which made me very emotional, hearing the difference that The Rowans make in the lives of your families.

In our primary provision, I have thoroughly enjoyed listening to the wonderful singing in assemblies. The enthusiasm and joy that pupils bring to these moments is truly uplifting. I am also delighted by the growing number of 'Salad Stars', children who are making healthy choices and showing a willingness to try new fruits and vegetables. This is fantastic to see and an important part of developing lifelong healthy habits.

In the secondary provision, our examination year groups continue to work hard as they prepare for their upcoming GCSE and BTEC exams. I would also like to take this opportunity to say how impressed I am by the exceptional standard of work being produced in Art, Photography, Textiles and Design Technology. The creativity, skill and dedication on display are remarkable, and all GCSE pupils involved should feel incredibly proud of what they have achieved.

As we approach the Easter break, we look forward to a range of end-of-term trips and activities, providing pupils with valuable experiences and opportunities to celebrate their hard work.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break, and I look forward to welcoming pupils back, refreshed and ready for the final two terms of the academic year on Monday, 20th April.

Mrs May

Mrs May