

18th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We have reached the end of another exciting year for Rockwood Academy. Thank you for your continued support.

Please take note of the key dates for the new term and **slight change in school start time, which from September will be 8.40 am! (Not 8.35am)**

New Term Starts: Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Start times on that day will be slightly different for each year group:

Year 7	8.40am
Year 8	9.00am
Year 9	9.30am
Year 10	9.30am
Year 11	10.35am

Rockwood Events this Year

Below I outline a selection of events that we have either created or facilitated our pupils to take part in this year. I am sure you would agree that Rockwood has so much to offer our children.

Aston Outreach Programme

The Aston Outreach Programme, conducted annually at Aston University, offers Year 10 students a distinguished opportunity to advance their academic ambitions and personal development. This initiative is meticulously designed to elevate students' aspirations, cultivate essential skills, and provide detailed guidance on prospective educational and career pathways. Through carefully structured workshops and interactive activities, participants are encouraged to expand their perspectives and make well-informed decisions concerning their future trajectories. Ultimately, the programme seeks to empower students to realise their full potential and confidently pursue their chosen paths.

Joseph Chamberlain College Taster Sessions

Year 10 students attending Joseph Chamberlain College were afforded the opportunity to gain a thorough understanding of the courses offered and to experience college life in a supportive environment. Each student received a tailored timetable aligned with their individual interests, enabling participation in a range of taster sessions. These sessions provided an in-depth insight into various subjects, thereby assisting students in making well-informed decisions regarding their future educational pathways. The visit served as a valuable introduction to further education and facilitated a smoother transition to college life.

Pupil Commentary:

'Criminology was really interesting we looked into the mind of Jeffrey Dahmer and learned about who was statistically more likely to become a serial killer' (Jacob Mohammed 10F)

'The politics lesson was very engaging, as we got to debate new bills and understand the perspectives of other individuals around the country'. (Hasher Rafiq 10C)

Spanish Breakfast Immersion Experience

On July 3rd, the MFL department celebrated Year 7 students' outstanding commitment and achievement in Spanish with a traditional Spanish breakfast event in the canteen. The students had the opportunity to make and taste classic Spanish dishes, such as *tostada con tomate* and *churros*, while also enjoying lively games like "Pass the Sombrero" and listening to flamenco music. It was a wonderful chance to immerse students in Spanish culture, celebrate their hard work, and create a fun and engaging experience that they'll remember.

Year 7 Translation Bee

The Year 7 Translation Bee, held on July 4th, was a thrilling success, showcasing the impressive language skills and competitive spirit of our students. The event had a fantastic atmosphere, with all participants receiving a certificate of attendance. Congratulations to our three winners Khadija Ahmed, Aleena Begum and Husna Bibi, who were awarded special certificates for their outstanding performance and a mini speaker as a gift. Next year, we look forward to taking the competition to new heights, potentially inviting other schools to join in the fun and challenge!

Rockwood Academy Achieves International School Award Foundation Certificate!

We are delighted to announce that Rockwood Academy has been awarded the British Council International School Award – Foundation Certificate! This prestigious recognition comes as a result of our vibrant extra-curricular programme and the enthusiasm of our students in engaging with international opportunities. This achievement reflects the dedication of our staff and pupils in broadening global awareness and fostering cross-cultural connections. The International School Award highlights our commitment to providing students with enriching experiences that extend beyond the classroom, promoting a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Our next goal is to achieve the Intermediate Certificate, and we are confident that, with the same teamwork, passion, and commitment, we will reach this milestone together.

Media literacy programme and parent workshop around being safe online – Me

As part of our drive to teach students to keep themselves safe online, we took part in the Ofcom Media Literacy Programme, aimed at educating young people and parents about the dangers of social media. Our students enjoyed in-school workshops, followed by a filming session at Birmingham City University where they produced an excellent learning resource video for others to learn from. We are immensely proud of every student that took part and thankful to those parents that attended the parent workshop in school. Keeping our children safe online is an essential partnership between parents and the school, where supervision, vigilance and openness are key.

Bournemouth Beach attendance rewards trip

Our annual attendance rewards trip to Bournemouth beach took place on 2nd July, with 46 students enjoying the sea and the sand, on what was a very hot day. With smiles and ice creams all around, our top 11 students by attendance percentage enjoyed a change of pace and look forward to their chance to attend next year. If your child would like to attend in July 2026, they must attend school every day. Students that attend every day achieve far better than those that do not, so it is every good parent's responsibility to get their child into school every day.

I also enclose a letter sent in conjunction with Chief Superintendent Tom Joyce of the West Midlands Police where we give tips on how to keep safe during the long summer holidays. Please do have a read of this and ensure your children read it too!

I wish you a relaxing summer break and look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

Yours sincerely



Richard Reeve
Headteacher