

24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We are now at the end of the longest half-term (8 weeks) and pupils and staff deserve a well-earned rest.

It has been a successful half-term for us. Below are some key pieces of information from the start to the year.

Our 2025-26 School Improvement Priorities

This academic year we are focusing on improving the school in 4 priority areas:

1. Improving **Attendance**
2. Improving **teaching for our target group, especially pupils with SEND**
3. Improving our use of **Assessment**
4. Improving **Parental and Community Engagement**

Number 4 is vital for us to keep improving as a school. We do feel that we need to develop stronger links with our families and I would encourage you to attend all parent evenings and other events. We are planning a series of Connect parent workshops this year designed to build links between home and school, these include:

- Supporting your child's mental health
- Supporting your child to revise
- Keeping your child safe online
- Improving literacy
- Understanding autism
- Connecting with Alum Rock

Local Governing Board (LGB)

This week we held our first LGB meeting of the year with some new members of the Board. The LGB advises the Senior Leadership Team on all aspects of school life and support leaders in this way. The members are:

Mr Ziarab Yasin (Chair)
Mr Mohammed Ali
Mr Dean Brittle
Mr Richard Reeve (Headteacher)

We do need Parent members of the LGB. If you are interested in joining the board, can you please contact me at rreeve@corerockwood.academy

Year 7 Residential – Condoover Hall

Our Year 7 students recently enjoyed an unforgettable residential trip to Condoover Hall in Shrewsbury, taking part in a range of exciting outdoor adventure activities. From high ropes in the trees, abseiling and raft building, to archery and team-building challenges, the students showed tremendous enthusiasm, courage, and teamwork throughout.

The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for our new Year 7 cohort to build positive relationships with one another and with the staff who accompanied them. It was fantastic to see so many students step out of their comfort zones, face new challenges, and discover strengths they didn't know they had.

At Rockwood Academy, we believe experiences like this help our students to grow in confidence, independence and resilience. These are essential qualities that will support them both in and beyond the classroom. We are incredibly proud of how they represented our school and embraced every challenge with energy and positivity.

Toilets

A few parents have asked us about toilet provision at Rockwood and so I felt it important to write a short piece here.

Toilets are available throughout the day for all pupils. We do discourage pupils from going during lesson-time so that pupils maximise their learning time. The longest period in lessons without a break for any pupil is 2 hours (with a lesson changeover in the middle). Earlier this term we were operating a system where pupils who needed to leave lesson to visit the toilet were escorted by a member of staff. From this half-term, pupils in need of the toilet will go unescorted as a measure of trust that they will return to lesson quickly.

I am sure all parents and carers appreciate that time in lesson is vitally important and should be disturbed rarely.

Rockwood Champions

Congratulations to the following students as they have been nominated the Top-5 **Home Learning** champions, due to their engagement and completion of online home learning tasks:

1st place: Humaira Rayaz Year 10

2nd place: Muhammad Faizan Ali Year 7

3rd place: Sumaiya Ali Year 8

4th place: Aisha Syed Year 11

5th place: Suraiya Ahmed Year 8

Rockwood – Senior Students:

We are delighted to announce that the following students were appointed to form the Rockwood **Student Leadership Team**:

Hasher Rafiq- 11C - Head Boy

Imaan Babar- 11F – Head Girl

Maira Iqra Nissar- 11C – Deputy Head Girl

Raihan Malik- 11C – Deputy Head Boy

Isha Jahan- 11E – Senior prefect

Yasin Khan - 11B – Senior prefect

Mariam Noori- 11D – Senior prefect

Farwa Arif - 11G – Senior prefect

Saffa Raja- 11D – Senior prefect

Happy Half-Term

We wish everyone a restful half-term break. Please stay safe during Halloween and Bonfire Night celebrations, keeping in mind that children allowed to be out at night are at a much higher risk at this time of the year, with firework accidents leading to a surge in preventable injuries and trips to hospital. Please read the letter from West Midlands Police for further information about this and checking your child's security settings on their devices. This letter can be found on our website under Parents and Carers/Letters.



Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R Reeve".

Mr R Reeve
Headteacher