

The Rockwood Standard



The Newsletter of
Rockwood Academy
12th Edition December 2020

HEADTEACHER

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DEAR STUDENTS, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY,

2020 has been a challenging year, and Rockwood has risen to that challenge. We could not have done it without you. I would

like to thank everyone in the Rockwood community for their efforts: teachers, support staff, parents, carers and, most of all, our students.

We have all had to adapt to new approaches to education. Looking back at the year, it is remarkable how far we have come. Using the internet, we can now teach in so many different ways: teachers at school teaching students in their homes, teachers at home teaching students at school, teachers at home teaching students at home...the combinations of different ways we have taught seems endless! It is your hard work which has made it work so well.

At Rockwood, 2020 has been remarkable for the amount of awards we have received. As part of the CORE Education Trust's Echo Eternal project, we have won a Pearson National Teaching Award: the Gold Award for Impact through Partnership. This is especially exciting as the result was announced on BBC1's The One Show!

Other recognition has been for our work on Holocaust education. UCL's Holocaust Education Centre awarded us with their prestigious Quality Mark, and we are one of very few schools in the country to have achieved this accolade. We will continue to educate our students and the wider community about this difficult and important topic.

In addition, a UNICEF accreditor visited the school (virtually, of course!) and awarded us with their Silver Award as a rights respecting school. This is testament to the hard work of our staff and students in promoting the UN Convention on the Rights

of the Child. It will not be long before I am writing in a future newsletter about how we have achieved Gold!

At Rockwood, we have thought carefully about what support our students need to navigate these challenging times. Outside of school, so many activities which students would normally take part in have been closed: they can't go to community clubs, football and swimming clubs, nor any other of the various activities they would previously have enjoyed. So at school we have tried to bridge that gap. All our students in year 7 have had a day off normal timetable to take part in outdoor activities here on the Rockwood site: these included archery and paintballing! In this last week of term, students from all year groups have taken part in a specially-organised Activity Week.

Our curriculum has continued throughout the year and it has been a pleasure to see students develop skills across many different subjects. Excitingly, with our new building, we have the rooms and space to add to the range of subjects students can study: from 2021, students will be able to study Design & Technology in our brand new workshop.

This is one of many exciting developments we are looking forward to in the new year. We will get off to an exciting start on the 7th January, with the formal opening of our new building. We have decided to name it the Mady Gerrard Building, in honour of the Holocaust survivor, and our friend, who has done so much to teach our students.

Do enjoy reading this edition of the Rockwood Standard, which will give you a flavor of just some of the many things going on here at school.

Ms Sofia Darr Headteacher



CORE VALUES

COLLABORATION

Core Education trust set up 'Leaders of Tomorrow' to allow students across all CORE schools to develop the vision to create a better world. Students who are part of this programme were given the opportunity to work with Fela Lufadeju. Fela will be working in collaboration with the school for this academic year, initially to mentor the students and help them to improve their presentation skills. Faiza, from year 10, said that "the programme has enabled me to really develop my understanding of what a leader is and the values of a successful one." When discussing her mentoring with Fela, she said: "thanks to my mentor Fela for changing my perspective on vital issues that simply should not be ignored if we are going to improve society."



OPPORTUNITY

Year 11 student, Zaynah, took an opportunity created by the presence at an award ceremony of Brigadier Stuart Williams OBE. She asked him about adding a hijab to the CCF uniform. Zaynah argued that this would encourage more of our female students to join the CCF, and perhaps offer them opportunities to pursue a career in the military.

The brigadier was interested by this opportunity to increase the number of cadets in the school, and said he would explore the possibility of making this change. We thought Zaynah's question was a brilliant example of the kind of leadership which got our students to this award ceremony in the first place! Excitingly, hijabs have now been issued for students to wear in cadets – what an achievement!



RESPECT

On the 11th of November, Rockwood Academy always remembers those who fought in the World Wars. This year, whilst maintaining social distancing, the entire school came out to pay our respects at 11 am. The ceremony involved our school cadets, two of whom beautifully read poems in front of the whole school. The poems were J. McCrae's 'Flanders Fields' and a stanza from R. L Binyon's 'For the Fallen'. The ceremony always highlights the excellence of our students, who were very well-behaved, both while listening to the poems and throughout the two-minute silence.



EXCELLENCE

Rockwood Academy is proud to announce that the CORE Education Trust has been awarded the Pearson Gold Teaching Award. This was awarded for Impact through Partnership, and recognised the brilliance of the Echo Eternal programme. Echo Eternal is a commemorative arts engagement programme promoting respect and tolerance between different communities. We were already so honoured to have won the Silver Award, so we were beyond proud to have this upgraded to Gold! This is a perfect example of how Rockwood Academy and CORE Education Trust offers an excellent education, with opportunities for all students to excel.



FEATURES

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

The last several months have been remarkable and award-winning ones for our work on Holocaust education.

Previously, the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education has recognised Rockwood as a “Beacon school”; that is, a school whose provision of Holocaust education is exemplary such that it can provide an example to other schools regionally and nationally. In the summer of 2020, the prestigious university went a stage further and awarded us with their Quality Mark. The accreditor, an esteemed academic from the university, observed a Year 8 lesson about the Holocaust and met with staff and students. She was hugely impressed by the quality of the teaching and learning in the Year 8 lesson, and praised Rockwood for offering the same quality of education in lockdown that we would be in more normal times. Throughout the day, she was

particularly impressed by the intelligent and mature way our students were able to speak about this challenging topic. We are only the 16th school in the whole country to achieve the Quality Mark.

Of course we will not now rest on our laurels. There are many future plans for our work on Holocaust education:

- In the new year, students across key stage 3 will learn about the Holocaust through Echo Eternal’s innovative Amplify programme.
- On January 7th, we will host a ‘campaign day’ where our students will remember the life of Mady Gerrard through artistic performances.
- On January 20th, our students will remember the life of another Holocaust survivor, Ann Kirk.
- On January 26th, the Horizons exhibition will be launched online.



- From April 5th, we will turn our attention to another dreadful event, with a series of activities to remember the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

ECHO ETERNAL WINS GOLD PEARSON TEACHING AWARD

We are very proud to announce that the CORE Education Trust’s Echo Eternal project has won the Gold Pearson Teaching Award for Impact Through Partnership.

CORE Education Trust’s Echo Eternal is a commemorative arts engagement programme inspired by Holocaust survivor testimony to promote respect and understanding between different communities.

Rockwood Academy has been centrally involved in the project from the start. Through Echo Eternal, our students have met survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides, produced and performed in creative responses to the survivors’ experiences, and learnt valuable skills in leadership and empathy along the way.

We knew that we had won the silver award, but only discovered that we had won the Gold Award today in an exciting unveiling. BBC West Midlands arranged an online video call between Holocaust survivor Mady Gerrard, Sana in Rockwood’s Year 11, and newsreader Natasha Kaplinsky. Mady and Sana discussed the special bond which had developed between them since they first met through Echo Eternal. Then, to her surprise, Sana was handed an envelope. She opened it and learnt, to her amazement and delight, that we had won gold! Balloons and confetti then rained from above her head, prepared by a few teachers who had been given the heads up we had won.

The excitement of the day continued thereafter. The gold trophy itself arrived shortly afterwards, by special delivery. Everyone who held it commented on how heavy it was!

Then in the evening, our achievement was broadcast to the region on BBC News West Midlands at 6.30. At 7pm, our achievement was also mentioned on the One Show.

Sara from Year 11 said: “we have been involved in Echo Eternal for a long time now. I think it is brilliant. Last year, I travelled to Wales and met Mady Gerrard in her home! That was an incredible experience. I am so

pleased that it has won this award.”

Mr Donaldson, Assistant Head Teacher, said: “This is a great achievement for the CORE Education Trust. It is a reflection on many years hard work, slowly building Echo Eternal up to the large-scale project it is today. Echo Eternal has many merits but, for me, its most important role is handing on memory of the Holocaust to future generations.”



ROCKWOOD STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



We are pleased to announce that Sana, from Year 11, has been named as the first ever Eternal Flame Fellow. The award ceremony was organised by Echo Eternal, the commemorative arts engagement programme inspired by Holocaust survivor testimony. The special guest at the award ceremony was Natasha Kaplinsky, the news reader and long-time supporter of Echo Eternal.

The Echo Eternal team stated: "The fellowship is in recognition of Sana's incredible contribution to Echo Eternal over the last two years. She has been an outstanding ambassador for the project and fully embraced the very many opportunities it has offered. Her exceptional contribution is something to be very proud of."

Sana's first became involved in the Echo Eternal project two years ago, when she was one of a group of students who listened to the testimony of Holocaust survivor Mady Gerrard and reflected on what could be learnt from Mady's experiences.

Here at school, Sana has played a big role in helping us commemorate the Holocaust and other genocides. She has led assemblies, helped run our Holocaust survivor exhibition, and even spoken to filmmakers as part of an ITV documentary filmed here at Rockwood.

During her acceptance speech, Sana said: "I am so pleased to accept the Eternal Flame Fellowship. It is a great honour and responsibility that I am grateful to

take on. At the centre of what we do is the testimony of survivors. We learn from the individuals' accounts of the Holocaust... in times of crisis and unimaginable horror and devastation, we also learn from these survivors that the human spirit is strong." She went on: "Our duty and responsibility to the survivors does not end there. It is not only to the survivors' history; it is also to the future and to take their messages forward. As Eternal Flame Fellow this year, I call on you to act for the future, the here and the now. Today in over 100 countries, including the UK, Save the Children is helping children stay safe, healthy and learning. That they are helping is great news, but for us as the adults of the future, what is the significance of this fact? It is that in over 100 countries including the UK now, there are children who need to be helped to stay safe, healthy and learning."

We look forward to other students at Rockwood being inspired by Sana to get involved with Echo Eternal and continue the project in the future.

STUDENTS TAKE PART IN ART WEEK

Over the summer holidays, students from Rockwood joined those from the other CORE Education Trust schools for a collaborative arts week, organised by Echo Eternal.

Students got to work alongside adult professionals. They worked with artists from the Highly Sprung Performance Company, River Rea Films and a visual artist.

The week had a serious purpose, as the students were looking at the survivor testimony from the Holocaust. Each student was allocated to serve as the guardian and

ambassador for a survivor and their testimony. Going forward, they will have the responsibility to ensure that their survivor's testimony is known and that the key messages are used to prompt action to make a better world.

The students who took part will become leaders of the Echo Eternal project, driving next year's work and preparations for Echo Eternal: Horizons in January 2021.

We are excited to see what they can do over the next year.



ECHO ETERNAL FILM RELEASED

In May Rockwood's latest film for Echo Eternal was released. The video was made in collaboration with students from Nansen Primary School and it was filmed at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, before the lockdown started.

The film reflects on the experiences of Marie Chantal Uwamahoro, a survivor of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda who now lives in England.

The film reflects our students' thoughts about what lessons should be learnt from events in Rwanda. We hope you will agree that a strong, powerful anti-hate and anti-racism message is evident in the film.

Two of the students who took part, Shannon and Inaaya, wrote about their experiences working with Echo on this project. They comment: "Chantal did not speak about her experiences for over twenty years. It still affects her everyday life, but she does

now speak out, hoping to educate younger generations and warn people about the nightmare of genocide. We know now how important it is to continue to speak out and share these stories."

We at Rockwood will continue to increase awareness of what happened in Rwanda – our students are passionate about that.



STEM

Rockwood's budding science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) students have had a successful start to this academic year.

Our year 7 launched right into "Scientific skills in Science" fortnight at the very start of term; through this the students learnt about Lab Safety, data handling and investigations skills. Students impressed staff with their graph skills and understanding of how to plan investigations. These skills were put to use for Children in Need 2020, when students investigated which parachute Pudsey Bear needs to land safely!

In mid-October, some of our year 7 also explored the importance of scientific drawing skills. Students took a walk around the grounds of the Academy to find an interesting object of nature: the combination of conducting research outdoors and being able to develop their artistic skills brought joy to all.

Our year 8 students practised their STEM skills during remote learning, where they explored how temperature affects the rate of diffusion. Despite not being in school, our students demonstrated excellent understanding of planning an investigation and analysing their results. There was lots of discussion around the STEM skills that we used in our day to day lives; students really came to appreciate the role and importance of the STEM subjects. Meanwhile, our year 9 cohort honed their STEM skills during a week-long research project on combustion;

our keen scientists investigated how the size of beakers affects the rate of combustion.

As part of our commitment to delivering a high quality STEM provision to every student, all of our students are receiving a STEM workshop during their Personal Development lessons. Students will learn about the importance of STEM, careers in the STEM sector, how to access these careers as well as competing in a range of STEM challenges.

At Rockwood Academy we passionately believe that our students should shape the enrichment experiences that are on offer to them so we have introduced the STEM Ambassadors programme. Our student STEM ambassadors will work collaboratively to ensure all students of Rockwood Academy are provided with a stimulating learning environment in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths. We look forward to showcasing the work and achievements of our STEM Ambassadors in the next edition!



SMSC

The teaching of Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) issues remains central to life at Rockwood. In these times of pandemic, we have been working hard to ensure our students understand the rationale and requirements of the national response to coronavirus. At 10am each day, all students are taken through a short presentation, explaining clearly the COVID guidelines for behaviour in and out of school. We have been pleased by how well our students have adapted to the different times and the efforts

they have gone to in obeying the rules.

Of course, we have not entirely given over SMSC to COVID! Our rich SMSC program has continued. As outlined elsewhere in this magazine, Black History Month (BHM) has once again featured as a major part of our Autumn calendar. Students learnt about the rich contribution of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities to global life, in many different areas from science to politics.

Another topic covered in SMSC this term has been gender-based violence, and our students raised around £200 for charities working in this area. In addition, we marked anti-bullying week by all students saying polite and kind things to a classmate each morning! This is just a flavour of the wide range of topics we have studied; we have also covered inter-faith week, sexting, and the idea of "success". There is much more planned for 2021!

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

Rockwood Academy is very proud to announce that we have achieved our UNICEF Silver Award accreditation as a rights respecting school. This award is very special to us, especially as we achieved it in such uncertain times. The dedication of everyone to children's rights – senior leaders, teachers, support staff, students and parents – brought us to this milestone.

We are all highly excited to embark on the journey to achieving Gold accreditation. The school's dedication to children's rights is already evident. To proceed to the next

stage, we need to show how the school is driven forward by student leadership. We already have the student council and rights respecting schools' ambassadors, but this term we have newly appointed Holocaust education ambassadors and STEM ambassadors. These students will lead our school's work in their respective areas.

Our students are working relentlessly to incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into school life. Huge thanks go to the whole school community for their dedication to achieving the silver award but,



of course, we won't be satisfied until we have achieved gold!

CURRICULUM

ART

During this Autumn term, we have set up an exciting and popular Art club for year 7 pupils, every Monday night after school. As it develops, Art club will start doing live projects with the local community, fostering pride in their work amongst our students. Our first project is designing creative and captivating signage that can be displayed around school; the signs will promote the CORE values. We will then move on to creating new signage to guide people around school, showing them where all the different departments are situated. Given the new building is opening soon, people will need to know where to go! In year 8 we have been working on the Echo

Eternal project, which gave us the brief of creating a memorial piece for Holocaust survivor Mady Gerrard. As part of this project, we worked alongside local artist Nicola Richardson, who came into school to deliver the lead lesson for this project. The twelve pupils working on this from year 8 were then given a half day workshop to create our final piece, which will form part of an online exhibition about the Holocaust. The students decided our final piece would be a freestanding mod roc and card sculpture, and it focuses on elements of Mady Gerrard's life. The Art department is also running a catch-up session on a Thursday night for any pupils



in year 11 who need support on different techniques or expanding their coursework. There has been a large take-up for this session and, as such, pupils have created well-planned and unique Art projects.

BUSINESS AND COMPUTING

We have had a great term in Computing and Business!

This term, our year 7 students have been busy learning about the importance of e-safety. They have also been learning about algorithms, flow charts and how these are used in Computing. As we are coming to the end of this term, children are starting a new and exciting project for which they will be creating some fantastic educational games in Scratch. They will use their computational thinking skills to develop simulations of computer-controlled toys.

Our year 8 students have been learning what data is and why is it important. They

have learnt how to use binary conversions and how to carry out addition using binary. Also, they have learnt the different components of a computer. This will develop the students' understanding about different computer hardware and software. For the future, we plan to join up with the Science STEM Club to deliver a weekly code club. Students in year 7 will be given the opportunity to join this after school club very soon. This will be a fun and exciting way to teach our students coding. We will be using Scratch to create animations and games. As the students continue to progress further, they will move on to Python (text

based coding language) and Micro:bit (a tiny computer used to learn programming through fun, practical projects).



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Exciting changes are coming to Rockwood. After Christmas, when the new building opens, we will be able to use the brand new Product Design workshop! Design Technology will be revived in the school, and we will run an exciting new course starting next September. The Graphics room is also now completed, and sessions will be held in there for pupils after Christmas.

In the build up to the re-introduction of D&T to the Rockwood curriculum, in the Spring term we will introduce a range of

extracurricular activities: we have put a bid in for a laser printer, and pupils will use this to design decorations that can be sold to generate money for local charities. We have a newly furnished food room, where we want to extend the curriculum and offer after-school master classes for our students. Soon, we will be able to send some of our creations to homeless charities.

We are proud of our new facilities, and the Design department look forward to developing it into an exciting experience for



pupils, who will develop new skills with flair, passion and pride.

DRAMA

Our Year 11 GCSE Drama students are working with energy and enthusiasm to devise performances inspired by Malala Yousafzai's story. They are applying their drama techniques and skills to communicate a powerful message. We can't wait to see their final performances!

Year 10 have been creating performance inspired by music and visual imagery and developing their vocal and physical acting

skills. KS4 will soon have the opportunity to learn physical theatre skills with the acclaimed Highly Sprung - the UK's leading physical theatre company working with children and young people. They create performances that tell stories through movement, gesture and dance, inspired by humanity, science, and the complex world around us.

Key Stage 3 students have been developing

their performance skills and learning new drama techniques, whilst exploring topics such as knife crime, online safety, eating disorders and the experience of refugees. Year 7 will soon be inviting Stories of Hope and Home into their classrooms, with an online meeting to get to know people from a refugee background and find out more about their experiences and the challenges they have faced.

ENGLISH

Students spent time looking at the ideas and emotions in 'Sympathy', a poem written by Paul Laurence Dunbar. The poem's opening line, 'I know why the cage bird sings', not only inspired Maya Angelou in her work but also our students. They explored ideas around oppression and racism, commemorating Black History Month. They discussed ideas in groups, then created poetry and posters of their own. Our students used their understanding of how emotions are presented in poetry to better empathise with the stories we explored.

For Children in Need, the English department focused on poverty. Through our exploration of first-hand accounts, newspaper reports, and government reports, students researched the suffering of children associated with poverty. Looking to a more hopeful future, students discussed what we could do, and should do, to promote improvements: they decided to write to the Prime Minister. Students crafted

their letters using the ideas and evidence they had collected, along with the writing skills we have been developing in lessons. Year 10s have been working on their reading skills. They started the unit of work with 'The Tell Tale Heart', and enjoyed a performance streamed from The Globe Theatre in London in lieu of a trip to the theatre. It was great to see the actors reading the story and how their expression changed with the ideas in the text. We are looking at different ways of giving the students these experiences in this challenging time.

There is much to look forward to in English. In the summer term, a group of professional actors and directors will be visiting Rockwood to run workshops on classic plays. The students will be given scripts and rehearsal time, then they will perform an abridged play. We are then planning on showcasing that performance either in a concert or an online stream.

Our students will be participating again in a national young writers' competition. They will be constructing an original piece of poetry from the prompt 'Imagine'. We are always very successful as a school in these competitions, with many of our students selected for publication in the anthologies – this year we are aiming for a prize! Our students will have masterclasses on poetry and construction before being given additional time to construct and redraft their poems. We know we have potential winners; fingers crossed the judges agree!



GEOGRAPHY

This term so far has been a lively one in the Geography department at Rockwood, and for all our students.

Our Year 11s are embarking on a new topic about resource management this half term. They are learning the importance of securing energy, water and food supplies, and these resource's role in global development. This brave and intrepid year group have just finished studying the growing significance of Nigeria to Africa and the wider world, and they continue to perform admirably in their Geography mock exams during these incredibly testing times.

At KS3, students have been exploring a variety of topics this term, showing a "ground-breaking" enthusiasm for earthquakes and volcanoes!

Year 7 have scaled the heady heights of

contour-mapping and have also enjoyed developing other mapping skills; they have learnt how to use grid references and OS map symbols. Year 9s study of hazards is a key part of the curriculum and an exciting way for the pupils to understand the raw power of mother nature in a wider geographical context.

In that same vein, our students have excelled in discussing the geology of Japan, Haiti and Iceland and are coming to understand how both benefits as well as challenges are associated with geological forces.

Year 8 excelled in their study of the "Rocking Rock Cycle" and how coastal processes shape the British Isles in which we live. Their eagerness to learn more about how Geography is all around us



and how its physical and human nature influences our daily lives has been both encouraging and rewarding.

The Geography department looks forward to more exciting wonders to come!

HISTORY

KS4 pupils have been working hard gearing up towards their summer examinations. In year 10, students have been exploring key themes like opportunity and inequality in society, with a specific focus of American history between 1920-1973. Students in year 11 have been exploring medicine through time, and they are working diligently to learn new historical skills, for example comparing how medicine developed in different time periods. In addition to this, students are focusing on the medieval, renaissance and modern era and they are given specific case studies which bring out different aspects of the development of medicine.

All KS3 and KS4 students were able to participate in Black History Month, where

the History department ensured that many cross-curricular activities were set up where students could engage and explore the significant contribution the black community has made both nationally and around the world. Students were also able to reflect on key themes like tolerance, respect and freedom of speech. This enabled our students to further understand why it is important to respect everyone's beliefs and cultures. A postcard was sent to the home of every student, showcasing Black History Month-related artwork by our very own students. We want to share our message of tolerance with the wider community.



MATHS

It has been a busy start to the academic year in the Mathematics department.

Pupils across the key stages have been working very hard either in class or online.

The present year 11 are well into their final year of GCSE Mathematics and have just completed their first round of mock examinations. Targeted intervention for pupils will commence early in the spring term. Years 7 and 8 are following a new scheme of work over the next three years to prepare them to start their GCSE in year 10.

Years 7 and 8 have taken part in the UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge. The Mathematical Challenge aims to stimulate mathematical problem-solving and lateral-thinking. For the first time this was administered online. Well done to all the pupils who took part and congratulations to Hassan, Haleema and Nafissa who all achieved the gold award.

Recently one of the year 7 classes took part in

the Diversity in Maths: how to use numeracy Skills for current events workshop. This was led by the Economist Educational Foundation and KPMG. Pupils were introduced to the concept of using numeracy skills for daily news. The event included panel discussions with members of the KPMG Teams and two sessions on how numeracy skills could be used to interpret current events, such as the 2020 American elections and Covid 19. Thanks go to Mr Bacile for organising the event. Students thoroughly enjoyed the day as they highlighted in their feedback form:

"I enjoyed it because I was able to understand how Maths has a big impact in our lives" (Nafeesa)

"I enjoyed it because I had the chance to speak about my opinions" (Inaaya).

"This was an excellent time to get students motivated and to think about Maths much more" (Abdishadi)



Over the course of the coming academic year, pupils will be involved in various other exciting enrichment activities.

MFL

This term has truly been jam-packed with lots of fun and engaging activities for all our year groups across the Academy. Alongside projects exclusively in MFL, we have collaborated with other departments: as an example of the latter, in Black History Month we studied how Martin Luther King utilised linguistic structures to maximise the effect of his famous 'I have a dream' speech. We have also jointly celebrated Children in Need, creating some lovely posters to raise awareness on the importance of this day.

European Day of Languages

This year we celebrated The European Day of Languages on 26th September as a school, which proved a fantastic opportunity to celebrate all the different languages around the world.

The day was filled with many fun quizzes and competitions throughout the school, with students taking the opportunity to explore and learn new and interesting facts. Students were also able to showcase their creative and baking skills, with some very tasty looking creations being put forward for our inter-school baking competition!

After lots of amazing entries, the three top cakes were awarded prizes:

- In first place, Laiba in year 8 impressed the MFL department with cupcakes decorated with icing in different colour flags. She received a personalised apron with her name and a photo of her themed cake!
- In second place, Amina in year 8 created some very neat biscuits with the American flag in the icing. She received a set of 84 cake decoration utensils.
- In 3rd place, Nafisa from year 8 created sweet treats with lots of colourful

iced flag decorations. She received a children's baking book.

A big well done to all our winners and our other participants too! This year we also had a poster decorating competition for all year groups. Their task was to create a colourful and informative poster celebrating 'The European Day of Languages'. The winner for this competition was Zahra, from year 9. She won a £20 Amazon gift card. Great effort!

Year 7 Flamenco workshop

This term year 7 have fully immersed themselves into the world of Spanish dance and music with an interactive Flamenco Dance Workshop. We had a special visit from a Flamenco dancer and a guitarist, where the year 7s learnt all about the rich history of this dance and why it is still so important in Spanish society. Afterwards, they were given a step-by-step lesson on a Flamenco routine and they performed it together in the hall. We saw some brilliant natural talent!

Year 9 Language Ambassador

This term year 9 have been given a fantastic opportunity to engage with a language Ambassador from Aston University, to discuss the importance of language learning. This session was delivered by academics online, with students listening and contributing from their classrooms. Students learnt first-hand what it means to study a language at degree level, and the session also encouraged students to think about the range of exciting opportunities a language degree could mean for their futures. We were proud to see lots of insightful questioning and curiosity from our students.



MFL

Arabic Language Day

In celebration of multilingualism and cultural diversity at Rockwood Academy, we had the pleasure of taking part in the UNESCO World Arabic Language Day on the 18th of December. This enrichment experience built on students' knowledge of Arabic and the history behind calligraphy. Participants then combined both their artistic and linguistic skills, practising some traditional calligraphy techniques and creating beautiful lettering with their names in Arabic. Meanwhile, to raise their cultural and linguistic awareness of Arabic, year 7 enjoyed a fun taster session on the Arabic alphabet.

Christmas Cards Competition

Towards the end of this term, we invited our students to enter a national Christmas Card Competition. This competition is administered by the prestigious 'Routes into Languages' organisation, and it involves different schools across the country. The creative contest was for students to showcase their talent and create a Christmas

card in the theme of a different country or language, using drawings, words or pictures. There will be a £20 Amazon gift card prize for the winner, as well as the privilege of seeing their card used as the official Christmas e-card: we are excited to see who the lucky winner will be after the holidays!

MFL Language Movie Week

At the end of this term, students studied a Spanish- or French-language film. Each year group were given a different film to study, and they analysed aspects of language, culture and meaning in the films. This project was designed to help engage students and strengthen their listening skills, as well as strengthening their cultural understanding. The films were:

- French *Sortir*: A short film especially created for students in schools, which includes an engaging storyline and targeted language to encourage and embed students' language knowledge.
- Spanish *La fiesta*: An entertaining short film, using authentic but accessible

language, this film builds students' confidence and expands their cultural understanding.

Alongside watching the film students completed activities and tasks to fully engage their learning and contextualise the language learnt in lessons.

Alternative Learning Online

This year, with remote or blended learning, students have experienced fun and engaging online lessons using a variety of interactive learning apps. In the MFL department we routinely use apps such as Memrise and Quizlet, which embed and reinforce key vocabulary learnt in lessons. Other online learning platforms like ActiveLearn, Menimeter and Quizziz create competitive learning environments for students whilst they learn from home. This has been a unique opportunity for all our language learners.

MUSIC

The Music department has been working very hard to ensure students get the best musical education. We have adapted to the rules for these times of pandemic, with increased listening activities as well as adapted composition and performing opportunities. All students have been working hard and have been very engaged! Year 7s have been learning about the elements of music, exploring aspects such as tempo, pitch, dynamics and harmony. They are also beginning to study African Drumming, learning to play the djembe as well as creating their own unique drum rhythms. Last half-term, year 8s have been exploring the Blues, a crucial genre to the history of music as the precursor to jazz, rock 'n roll, and pop music. With Blues music, students also can explore deeper moral questions about African American history and slavery, as well as appreciating Blues music as a shining cultural achievement that was created through great human suffering. This half-term year 8s turned their

focus to video game music and we have explored how music developed alongside the technology of video games and their consoles. We have been studying famous videogame composers and exploring how music can be used for various functions in a game, including as background, to establish character, and to generate emotions specific to the point in the game.

Year 9s have been learning about music from all over the world, including Indian Classical, African music, Celtic folk songs, music of the Middle East and the music of East Asia. They are currently working on a group songwriting project, and talented songwriters are starting to emerge!

Both years 10 and 11 have been diligently working on their GCSE music topics. Year 10s have been exploring rhythms of the world, taking a deeper look at the history, cultural context and musical characteristics of different music from around the world. Year 11s have been working hard with their listening activities for the GCSE module



"Concerto Through Time", and in doing so they have developed a deeper appreciation for a range of classical music. Both years 10 and 11 have also been working on their solo compositions and performance projects, with students exploring a wide range of genres.

PE

It has been a busy term once more in PE. Despite the lack of competitive sporting fixtures against other schools, this hasn't dampened the spirit of students who have worked tirelessly in PE.

In Key Stage 3 the focus has been on fitness. Students have been developing knowledge and understanding of fitness, through a variety of health-related tests and activities designed to encourage students to lead healthy and active lifestyles. The introduction of the newly refurbished Fitness

suite has added an extra dimension to the PE curriculum, with students benefiting from and embracing this new facility. In Key Stage 4, football and team-building have been at the forefront of our work, with students developing a range of skills.

The popular Inter-Form Competitions Week, at the end of each term, has allowed students to experience competitive sport. This is very much a favourite with staff and students alike! Dodgeball and benchball took place in Key Stage 3, and football at Key



Stage 4. A big thank you to all students for working and performing to your maximum! Children in Need had a sporting feel this year: the highlight was that, for a £1 donation, students could take on Mr Cooke at Table Tennis! Mr Cooke was undefeated, but this will just make students even more determined to beat him next year.

Extra-curricular clubs are starting up again this term. We wish to see as many of you as possible taking part! If you have any ideas or suggestions for extra-curricular clubs, or indeed other ideas as to how we can make PE even better, please let us know.

It is a big term for Year 11, as BTEC Sport students continue with their studies. We wish them well as they continue to work hard in preparation for their exam in February.



RE

The RE department has made a very exciting start this year, with students given opportunities to demonstrate excellence through learning about various religious beliefs and practices. Students have been exploring different pilgrimages and visiting the locations virtually, which they have really enjoyed. They compared various extraordinary journeys, which opened their eyes not just to religious matters but also to the richness of world geography. They have watched Hajj documentaries, which provided them with a deeper insight into the spirituality of a pilgrim.

We also have been studying religious signs and symbols, and as part of this we have

been watching the Prince of Egypt which really inspired or students and enhanced their understanding of Jewish people's struggle against slavery. Our students were truly amazed, and their comments included: 'a truly inspiring and moving film'; 'this is the best film I have ever seen'; and 'I have never looked at and understood the history Jewish people until I watched this film.'

In addition, our students participated in Children in Need during RE lessons, in which they reflected upon wealth and generosity. They have explored this idea in depth by reflecting upon their personal, family, religious and social values around responsibility and making the world a better



place. Students have demonstrated great excellence in their work and, indeed, in RE our students have reflected on the words of Plato, who said: 'Excellence is not a gift, but a skill that takes practice. We do not act 'rightly' because we are 'excellent', in fact we achieve 'excellence by acting 'rightly'.'

SCIENCE

It has been a busy and exciting term in Science. We have had a range of engaging activities taking place in these unusual times, not allowing the challenges of the pandemic to limit the experiences and opportunities provided to our students.

Our year 7s set the tone and have really impressed the team with their exceptional manners and love for Science, which are evident in every lesson. Students have demonstrated a natural curiosity to find out how the world around them works, and this was seen recently in our project, Investigating air resistance using parachutes, as part of Children in Need. Feedback from students included:

- "On Friday 13th November, it was Pudsey day and I enjoyed making the parachute with Pudsey on it. We had to test how long it took to drop from a certain height."
- "I have learnt how to investigate air resistance using different sized parachutes and checking the time it took to drop. We worked in groups of three and were able to help each other. It was great fun".

Last half-term year 9s took part in a STEM-based project in-class, Investigating combustion in different sized beakers. Students developed their practical write-up skills, which is an essential skill that needs to be developed for Key Stage 4.

Year 10s and year 11s have been working

extremely hard to meet the challenges brought on from the summer lockdown. Well done to both year groups; keep up the good work! As always, the Science department is working hard to best support the students and ensure they catch up on any lost learning, both through our in the classroom and online.

Next half term, we are launching two exciting roles for students: Science champions & STEM ambassadors. 'Science champions' is an initiative which will celebrate students who consistently demonstrate excellence in lessons. The STEM ambassadors will help plan our extracurricular Science activities and develop their leadership skills at the same time!



PASTORAL MANAGERS' MESSAGES

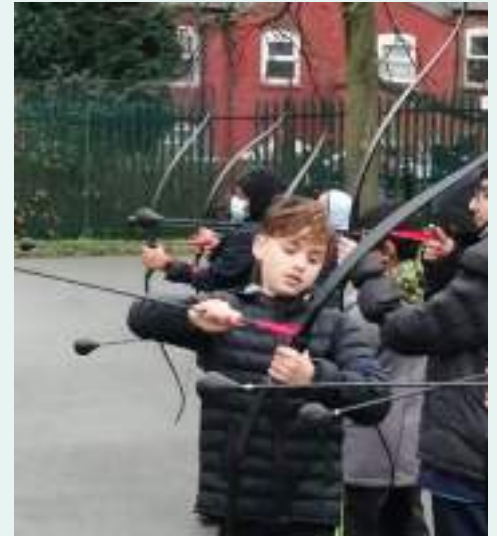
YEAR 7 - MR KHAN

I am delighted to say that Year 7 have had a very positive start to their life at Rockwood; they have made sure their time at Rockwood Academy is positive and very busy! They are the biggest year group to have joined Rockwood in recent times, and talent abounds in the year group: our students have already shown their gifts across the curriculum.

Our after-school clubs are very popular; in particular, Art club and Football Club given our students a release from lockdown boredom! In the new year, we will start a homework club to ensure that all our students have the chance to develop academically.

All year 7 classes have had a day off timetable to take part in outdoor activities, organised by CCF commander Mr Tucker. They practiced archery, paintballing and engineering skills!

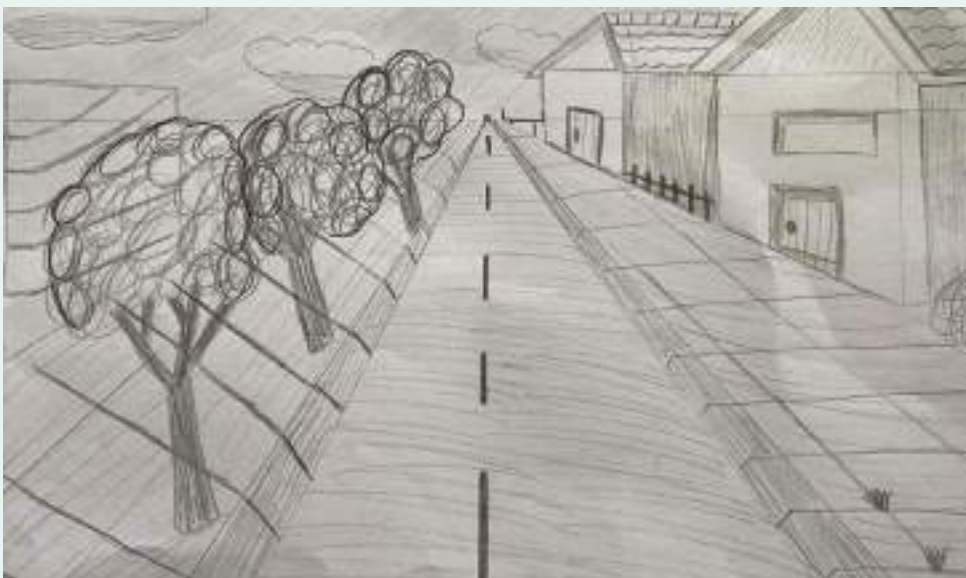
Year 7 have shown real commitment and generosity when we have sought to raise money for charities. Year 7 alone raised £390 for BBC Children in Need, and then another £180 for charities working with victims of domestic violence. Finally, our students have shown energy and commitment putting together shoeboxes of presents for the Birmingham homeless.



YEAR 8 - MS SHAHEEN

Year 8 have made a great start to the 2019-2020 academic year. They have not been phased by the difficult circumstances the world faces, and I am proud of the way they have adapted to a mix of online and face-to-face learning. Our students have taken full-advantage of extra-curricular opportunities. A group of talented artists from Year 8 were especially chosen to produce work for the

Echo Eternal exhibition: I knew the year group had talent, but the work this group has produced is truly extraordinary! Other students have enjoyed the chance, now they are in year 8, to join the cadets. Their proficiency at archery and paintballing is to be admired. 2021 looks like being another great year for year 8!



YEAR 9 - MS SAHOTA

Year 9 have had another successful start to the academic year, and I feel extremely privileged to support them again this year. I am so proud of how well the students have adjusted to learning in the face of the pandemic and all its challenges. The year 9 cadets continue to go from strength to strength, with one student winning an Army Proficiency Award at half star level. Despite Covid-19 restrictions, there are plenty of opportunities for our year 9 students to take part in extracurricular activities. The year 9 music club plays on. The football club is also up and running and doing very well. The year 9s were very lucky to be invited to take part in a virtual visit from a language student living in Germany, teaching us how to speak German and telling us all about a career in linguistics. We have had strong attendance this year, and I am looking forward to the rest of this academic year staying as brilliant as it has begun!



YEAR 10 - MR ALI

Year 10 have started very well this academic year; they are positive and engaged in their learning. Whilst they face difficult circumstances, it is a testament to their character that they continue to remain calm and focussed.

I am incredibly proud of how many of the year 10's are engaged in extracurricular activities: from record numbers joining the

Duke of Edinburgh award to so many of the year 10's involved in after school clubs.

Year 10 continue to go from strength to strength and I am confident that they will really push themselves to engage in both the core curriculum and the wider opportunities the academy provides.

Well done Year 10; keep up the hard work.



YEAR 11 - MS WALKER

In normal times, Year 11 is a challenging period in a young person's life. In 2020, with all the world is going through, the challenges are even greater. Yet I am delighted to say that our Year 11s have risen to the challenge. They have not been deterred by the uncertainty about exams, nor the necessity of sometimes learning online, from home. They have shown a focus and, most of all, a real determination to succeed in their exams.

The year group have been lucky enough to work from our new building, the first students in the school to do so, even before its formal opening in the new year. It is great

to see the effect the new environment has had on the students: they are clearly proud to come to a school which looks like this, and the environment has had a palpable positive effect on our students. They need to keep

working hard, but year 11 can do very well next summer!

Finally, it is great to see our students working so well on laptops at school, taking part in the Mytutor programme!



PARTNERSHIPS

CCF

As you all know Covid 19 has produced quite a few obstacles over the last few months, but here at Rockwood Academy, our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) has risen to the challenge. We continue to push forward, delivering fun and exciting activities in a safe and Covid 19 secure environment, with 106 students now taking up this fantastic opportunity offered by the academy.

During this trying time, six cadets from year 11 took part in a virtual awards presentation; this was to celebrate their achievement in passing their Leadership and Teamwork Award, sanctioned by Institute in Leadership and Management (ILM). This event was hosted by the Headteacher Ms S. Darr with a special guest presenter, Brigadier S. Williams OBE, Deputy Commander Cadets, based in Aldershot.

The contingent also took the lead in the academies' Remembrance Day event held on the 11th November 2020: cadets from years 10 and 8 completed the readings, and the poem Flanders Fields. Year 8 cadets have also had the opportunity to complete an activity day in the school grounds, with 20 cadets per day over 2 days, taking part in Archery Tag, Paint Ball and they were also all set a task of building an 18th century catapult in 90 minutes, using Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths equipment.

The contingent also welcomes a new member of staff to its ranks; Mr Nuruz Zaman (Maths) has volunteered to become an active member of the cadets here at Rockwood. Mr Nuruz Zaman is looking forward to working with all the cadets and staff as well as joining them all on the activity days and weekends, when measures allow.



CCF QUALIFICATION

On Tuesday the 20th October 2020, eight Rockwood students received praise from Brigadier Stuart Williams OBE, in an award ceremony in which they were given their Level 2 Award for Young Leaders. The brigadier praised the students' resilience, and he urged them to continue to show their leadership skills going forward.

The brigadier joined us remotely, as did the two students from Year 10. In the room were the Year 11 students, head teacher Miss Darr and our CCF commanders.

Brigadier Stuart Williams OBE spoke to the students about the importance of leadership, in army settings but also more broadly. He talked about the chances Rockwood offers

students, and praised the young people present for taking up these opportunities.

The students were able to ask the brigadier about his career and the army. Zaynah, from Year 11, asked whether the army planned to start issuing hijabs as part of CCF uniform as this would encourage more girls from our school to join CCF. The brigadier was interested in this idea and said he would go away and investigate the possibility. Excitingly, these hijabs have now been issued for students to wear in Cadets, which highlights how brilliantly how innovative our students at Rockwood are.

All in all, the event was a great success; we are proud of all the students who took part.

We would like to thank the brigadier for taking time out of his busy schedule to show his support for Rockwood's CCF and our students.



LEADERS OF TOMORROW

The CORE Education Trust set up Leaders of Tomorrow in order that students from across the CORE schools develop the vision to deliver a better world. Here at Rockwood, the students who applied to join the programme have been working with an inspirational mentor, Fela Lufadeju. We asked one of the participants, Faiza from year 10, to tell us what the experience had been like. She said: "The first lockdown was extremely difficult for all of us. I applied to join CORE Leaders of Tomorrow immediately when the opportunity was

offered during our time learning online. The programme has enabled me to really develop my understanding of what a leader is and the values of a successful one. This has led me to meet new people from various parts of the community, with different backgrounds and cultures. This has made me a more confident and articulate individual, and it has taught me not to be afraid of expressing my views because my opinion counts too. Thanks to my mentor Fela, I take the time to rethink things I consider to be 'fine' and 'normal'.



I will be forever grateful for Fela changing my perspective on vital issues that simply should not be ignored if we are going to improve society."

CHILDREN IN NEED

Every year, Rockwood raises a fantastic amount of money for Children in Need; this year was no different, with an impressive £700 raised. Throughout the day, there were several curriculum-wide activities taking place. Year 7s wrote speeches about children's rights in their English lessons, and the year 11 students played a knowledge-retrieval game; for every answer they got right, Ms Singh donated 50p to children in need! Our year 8s organised a come-to-school-in-trainer's day, and nearly every pupil donated towards Children in Need. During their lunch breaks, all students were given the opportunity to beat Mr Cooke at table tennis!

Miss De Jesus and Mr Robinson ran an 'M&M Challenge' where students had to guess the number of M&M's in a jar and could also guess the weight of a Chocolate cake. The M&M competition was open to all five year groups and cost 20p a go, raising over £50 for Children in Need! Congratulations to Nafissa for correctly guessing the weight of the cake and to Zuleikha and Danial for guessing the number of M&Ms.

All donations raised will be used to help change the lives of disadvantaged children; as a school we are always so proud of how much we raise.



READING CULTURE

Work is underway for the opening of the new Learning Resource Centre as part of the Rockwood Academy £14 million new build. We will be introducing exciting new titles from David Walliams, Jacqueline Wilson and Jeff Kinney - ready for loan once the new LRC opens.

Reading continues to be supported as part of our form time 'Book Box' initiative, with each student in years 7 to 10 being given their own set of texts (titles from authors like Mary Shelley to Philip Pullman) to read either independently or collectively as a class. Each student is allocated a specific book copy number, as part of whole school measures, to encourage safety and reading during this difficult time.

We look forward to returning in 2021 with the new library in the Learning Resource Centre - with exciting activities planned as part of World Book Day next term.



ROCKWOOD RADIO

Rockwood Radio, new to the school last academic year, has quickly been established as a part of school life. Two of the radio programmes made so far particularly stand out. Firstly, a group of our students involved in Echo Eternal planned, scripted, hosted, edited and released a full-length radio programme about the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The students were able to deal sensitively with this difficult historical event, and they showed their empathy when describing the atrocity through the experiences of survivor Chantal. The programme was then played to students across the school during form time; many students commented that learning in this way was much more powerful than a boring PowerPoint!

The other stand-out programme was on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and Rockwood's status as a rights respecting school. On this occasion, students really showed they were gaining proficiency in the medium of radio. After providing information about the UNCRC, they recorded a gameshow-style quiz, which really brought the programme to life! Again, the show was played to all students in form time. When we met the UNICEF assessor online, our students told him all about the programme. He was very impressed, and it was no doubt one of the reasons he decided we deserved to achieve the UNICEF silver award!



WORLD AIDS DAY

On December 1st, our students took part in World Aids Day. In Personal Development, they learnt about Aids and the progress that has been made to fight it. As stated by the organisers of the day, there are over 103,800 people living with HIV in the UK. Across the world, there are an estimated 38 million people who have the virus. The virus was

only identified in 1984, yet more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS. Positively, scientific advances have been made in HIV treatment. We can make even further progress to develop scientific solutions to Aids, and to help sufferers of the disease. To this end, on World Aids Day our students were given the chance to buy the

universal symbol of the fight against Aids: a red ribbon. Across the school, we sold 300 red ribbons, raising a large amount of money for charity once more. Again, in their generosity our students showed they live the CORE values of our school.



SHOEBOX APPEAL

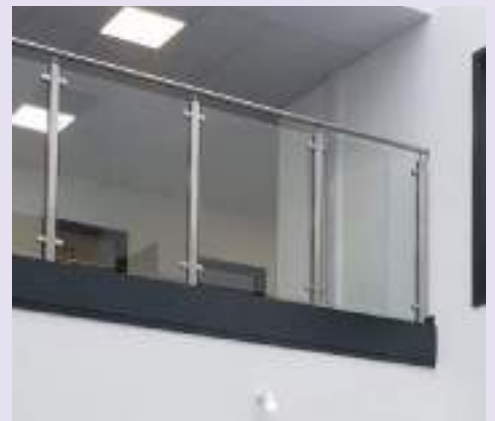
Every year, students at Rockwood take part in the Shoebox Appeal, putting together shoeboxes of presents for Birmingham's homeless. The campaign is organised by the Salvation Army and it is very popular with our students because, unlike when raising money for other charities, with the shoe boxes our students can actually see what it is they are providing for those in need. This year, the lockdown presented us with a unique challenge: the shoe shops which usually give us their unneeded shoe boxes were all closed! Needless to say, the community at Rockwood were undaunted: students and teachers alike brought in shoeboxes from home, and we had enough to create a sizeable number of present boxes. Well done everyone for their contribution!



BUILDING UPDATE

If you have been to the front of Rockwood in recent weeks, you will have seen that the building work has all gone and we are now using the new reception! It is great to finally have access to the new building, after much hard work by everyone to get it completed. We think it looks fantastic from the outside. When you go in through the main doors, you enter the Atrium, a two storey high space with a lovely, open feel. From there, doors lead to new classrooms and our first ever drama studio!

The official opening of the new building takes place on 7th January 2021. We are pleased to announce that it will be named the Mady Gerrard Building, after our friend Mady, who has shared her experiences of the Holocaust with our students. All the new classrooms will be in use in the New Year."

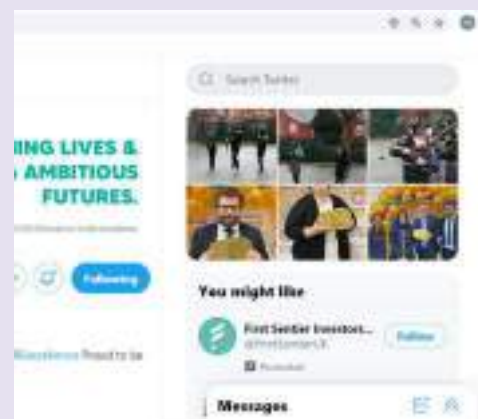


PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Rockwood has had to be creative in its approaches to parental engagement through 2020, with COVID-restrictions often restricting or banning entirely face-to-face contact with parents. Of course, we have risen to the occasion! During times of lockdown, support staff made innumerable doorstep visits, checking on students' welfare and ensuring all students have what they need to work online at home. Long before the Department for Education started sending schools laptops for students, we were sending laptops to the homes of students who did not have their own device at home. When students are self-isolating at home, we have adopted it as school policy to contact parents by phone every day: that way, we can check students are safe and immediately identify any technical issues the students find getting online.

Where it has been possible, we have invited parents into school. At the end of lockdown 1, year 10 students were the first to come back to school. To ease this transition, parents and students together attended a returning-to-

school meeting. During lockdown 2, teachers have met with parents online through MS Teams and other platforms. This Autumn, we are very pleased to have achieved 100% attendance for both year 10 and 11 parents evenings. As always, we keep our community up-to-date on developments at Rockwood through letters, stories on our website and Twitter. Going forward, we plan to release a half-termly video about a specific aspect of Rockwood life; look on the Rockwood website for our first such video, which chronicled our activities for Black History Month.



UPCOMING EVENTS

LAUNCH OF THE NEW MADY GERRARD BUILDING

On 7th January 2020, we will officially open our new building, which we are proud to name after friend of the school Mady Gerrard. The event will also serve as the launch to Horizons 2021, Echo Eternal's series of events for Holocaust memorial month. At the event, our students will re-enact aspects of the life of Mady Gerrard. A beam of light will be projected in to the air, thanks to our kind partners on this project: Morgan Sindall. In addition, our students will pledge to always remember Mady's name and continue to live by the values she has taught us.

LGBT MONTH

In February, our students will take part in LGBT Month. This year's theme is 'Body, Mind, Spirit' and Rockwood will be re-connecting with our partners, the Pride Youth Network.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month is an annual event, held from 1-31 March, that aims to raise knowledge and awareness of women's history, to celebrate and promote women's achievements, and to provide students with role models and inspiration



GOVERNORS

As a staff Governor I often take walks throughout the Academy; this provides me with the opportunity to meet with students and staff, allowing me to have an informed overview of how the academy is doing. The feedback from these walks this term has been very positive and has confirmed that high standards are still being maintained across all classes, despite this trying time. There can be no denying the challenging circumstances nationally, with Covid-19 dominating national life. It has been a hugely emotional and demanding time for all the Rockwood students and staff.

I would like to show my gratitude to all students, staff, support staff and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) for their dedicated work during this difficult time. Despite

class and teacher isolations, Rockwood has continued to provide face-to-face provision; in addition, teaching staff have also undertaken an enormous amount of work to provide detailed remote learning and support for the students at home. Year 7 has been given the opportunity to access outside learning within the academy grounds, and feedback has been great. All staff members, teaching and non-teaching, have also been given the opportunity to partake in wellbeing sessions every Wednesday after school; this is headed up by Mr Cooke.

I can confirm that all members of Rockwood Academy are working tirelessly in order to ensure that the Academy continues to provide the best possible education and



care for its students during unprecedented times. Finally, a very warm welcome to our new governors: Andy Howell and Sadaf Alvi.

Delroy Tucker
School Staff Governor

HEAD BOY AND GIRL

This year has been incredibly challenging for everyone. We are proud that everybody has managed to pull through during these difficult times. Many of us have had challenges which we have never faced before; we have overcome these through determination and diligence.

As Head Boy and Head Girl, we are proud to call you all our peers. We are so excited to take on these leadership positions, as we believe that - with the help of our peers - we can work as a team and succeed this year despite the national challenges.

We would love to thank all the teachers for their efforts in ensuring the best for year 11, and all other year groups. Thank you to Ms Walker, our head of year, along with Ms Williams, who work hard together to give year 11 the best opportunities.

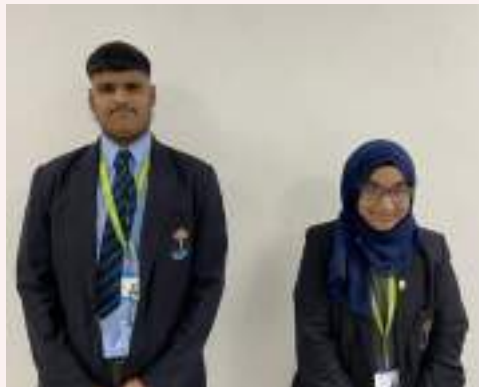
Thank you to Miss Darr for providing opportunities for year 11, so we can grow into committed hard-workers. This term has had so many varied events and awards: for example, accomplishing the silver rights respecting UNICEF award and Echo Eternal receiving Gold for the Pearson National Teaching awards! Well done to each

and every person participating in these impressive projects.

Year 11 has undergone much uncertainty this year, however one thing we are certain of is that we will continue to do great things. If any of our fellow students feel like you need any help in any subjects, make sure to let your teachers know!

Finally, we would like to remind everyone to stay safe and have a peaceful and merry Christmas Break! Let's come back in January ready to successfully tackle the challenges that 2021 may bring us.

Sana and Hamzah.





Rockwood is an exciting place to learn,
grow and achieve. There is a real sense of
community among pupils and staff.

Pupils are genuine ambassadors for their school.
They believe that it is a privilege to attend their school.

- Ofsted



At Rockwood, pupils learn to gain in
confidence and develop strength of character.

They learn the importance of collaboration,
and how this leads to stronger communities.

- Ofsted

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