

The Rockwood Standard



ROCKWOOD
ACADEMY



The Newsletter of Rockwood Academy
7th Edition December 2018

CONTENTS

01 Section 1
Headteacher Message
Meet Your Student Council

02 Section 2
Core Values

03 - 06 Section 3
Curriculum

07 Section 4
Key Stage 3 & Key Stage 4
Pastoral Managers

08 - 09 Section 5
Partnerships

10 Section 6
Co-Curricular & Parents

11 Section 7
Governors
Head Boy & Girl
Winter Festival
Ted Ed

HEADTEACHER



DEAR STUDENTS, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY,

The end of term has almost arrived but the Academy is a very busy place for students and staff. We have had

an exciting autumn term at Rockwood with a host of successes to celebrate. You will gain an insight into the excellent quality of education and opportunities provided at Rockwood from the newsletter, website and tweets. I would like to thank all the parents and carers for their continued support and commitment to the Academy. We are extremely proud of the dedicated staff and students that we have. It is clear that our students enjoy school and are keen to excel and it is wonderful to see our dedicated Year 11 students attending after school and Saturday revision sessions. As we approach the festive season, it is time again to update you with some of the exciting events that have happened this term at Rockwood.

A taster of the events we have held this term include many theatre trips, a visit to the Houses of Parliament, a geography residential to Snowdonia and charity events. Our students have been totally immersed in our Echo Eternal project: our students who are involved have worked diligently with the independent Screen Dance Director and Creative Producer Sima Gonsai on developing an artistic video response to Holocaust survivor Mady Gerrard's testimony. Our video can be seen on the academy and Echo website www.echoeternal.uk.

We have also provided many opportunities for our students to effectively prepare for the demands of higher education by having numerous guest speakers deliver presentations about the demands of sixth form education and the transition from Key Stage 4 to 5. In order to further raise goals and aspirations for our students, they attended a national conference on Raising Aspirations for the Universities. Our students were given detailed guidance by the admission teams from some of the top universities across the country.

We have opened our doors to many parents and the community with events such as Open Evening, Parents Evenings, Parents Literacy and Numeracy Classes, and our Winter Festival. We have also held our annual Presentation Evening for our Year 11 students who graduated last academic year. It was great seeing our past students excelling academically and adjusting to the rigours of the working environment.

Finally, we have had a great start to our fund raising events. We have had three main events so far-Macmillan Coffee Morning, Children in Need and World Aids Awareness Day. Overall, we have raised approximately £1500.

It has been a great end to the term and I wish you and your family a restful Christmas break. I look forward to working with you in the New Year

Ms Sofia Darr Headteacher

MEET YOUR STUDENT COUNCIL

Head Girl and Head Boy



Deputy Head Girl and Head Boy



Year 11



Year 10



Year 9



Year 8



Year 7



The Student Council is made up of the Head Boy, Head Girl and the Deputies as well as two representatives from each year group. Lately, they have been involved in helping with recruitment of teachers at Rockwood Academy, which is a really important role! Their goal is to give Rockwood Academy students representation in decision making within the academy, and to have a direct impact on the development and improvement of leadership within the school.

CORE VALUES

COLLABORATION ECHO ETERNAL PROJECT

Rockwood Academy has had the privilege to be selected to be involved in a special Government initiative which has helped raise awareness and promote the significance of the holocaust. Echo Eternal is a commemorative arts, media and civic engagement project delivered in schools for children of all ages, inspired by the testimony of British survivors of the Holocaust. The testimony was captured by the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation - UKHMF. The project is underpinned by CORE Education Trust's track record in bringing together diverse communities in a collaborative context, in this case with a common focus of Holocaust memorial and genocide awareness. This focus is supported by the creation of collaborative civic alliances between schools with different social and cultural characteristics.

Over the past year, Rockwood students have been working with Sima Gonsai, a local director, to put together a reflective artistic 'echo' to best remember the holocaust victims. By using the testimony of Mady Gerrard, students were able to interpret her story into a video remembering the journey she went through. The shooting of the video took place in November 2018 and will be released shortly. We have also been hosting the rehearsals for the 'echo' here at Rockwood Academy, with lots of students coming together from other schools to perfect their performance.

The project is so successful that the Prime Minister has even praised it: "I see it in innovative new projects like Echo Eternal in Birmingham where schools from every background are working with the CORE Education Trust and the Centre for Holocaust Education at University College London to create their own responses to the testimonies of survivors.

She went on to commend the media element of the project which she said "inspired children to make their own films to promote tolerance, empathy and hope."



OPPORTUNITY

YEAR 10 STUDENTS GO TO THE SKILLS SHOW!

The UK's largest skills, apprenticeships and careers event was held on 15-17 November at the NEC Birmingham. We decided that this would be a fantastic opportunity for Year 10 to explore the vast array of career opportunities that are open to them. The event was divided into 4 areas: - Construction & Infrastructure; Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle; Digital, Business & Creative; Engineering & Technology. There were lots of high-profile organisations who were exhibiting at the show, including car manufacturers such as Ford, Volkswagen and Jaguar-Land Rover, technology companies such as Huawei and Toshiba, and representatives from the Armed Forces including the Army and the RAF. The students especially enjoyed trying the helicopter flight simulator! The Year 10s came back to the Academy with lots of ideas about their future careers and the skills they would need to achieve their dreams!



RESPECT

FANTASTIC FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FROM THE ROCKWOOD COMMUNITY!

Staff, students and parents have all worked extremely hard this term to raise money for different charities. Our first big event was the Macmillan Coffee Morning which was held on 1st October 2018. Cakes were brought in by staff and students, and then sold to raise funds for the Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity which supports those affected by cancer. The total raised was £469.53. The cakes were amazing, particularly Miss Bibi's cupcakes! But on a serious note, we are proud to support a charity like Macmillan as so many people, including those in our school community, have been affected by someone's cancer diagnosis.

Another huge fundraising event was Children in Need. Activities took place throughout the day across the Academy. Students were invited to wear an item of yellow (at a price, of course)! Other events included another delicious bake sale, which again included some of Miss Bibi's smashing cakes, and some tasty samosas which were the hit of the sale! We also had a football match between the Year 10 and Year 11 boys, with the Year 10s coming out as victors. And the day ended with a bang (or should that be a song) with our very own X Factor-style karaoke. All of the fun led to donations from staff and students, and we raised over £1000. Well done to all who got involved and donated money to a fantastic charity.



EXCELLENCE

CELEBRATION EVENING FOR THE 2018 LEAVERS

On Friday 30th November 2018, our 2018 leavers were invited to return to Rockwood Academy for an evening of dining and celebration to commemorate the exam successes of the students. It also gave them an opportunity to get together to remember their time at Rockwood and talk about their chosen paths for the future. Most of the students are now studying at college, so they told us all about the new courses that they are studying and how their experience at college compares (or rather differs!) from life at Rockwood.

The evening was a great success. The stars of the evening were Sajid Hussain, who got the Collaboration Award, Zain Rafiq who got the award for Opportunity, Fatima Munir who received the Respect Award and Shimas Mehmood who received the award for Excellence. Finally, the recipient of the Headteacher's award was Yumna Riaz.

A great evening was had by all who attended, and we wish the 2018 leavers every success for the future.



CURRICULUM

ART & TEXTILES

Here's what's been going on in Art this half term. Year 7 are working on the artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser using string foil cardboard and sharpies to create a relief piece of work. They are so colourful and the pupils have really enjoyed creating a vibrant wall display. Year 8 are working on a Futurism train multi media design and using lots of different materials. Years 9-10: Working hard at their nautical design sketch book outcomes and learning about their GCSE objectives. Year 11 had an amazing time on their trip to The London Tate Modern in November and are working towards completing their course work for their GCSE Art qualification.



BUSINESS & ICT

Within the Faculty, students are currently working towards their final qualifications in Business and Creative IMedia. In Business Studies, students in Year 11 are preparing for their Finance Exam as part of their BTEC qualification. Students are learning about the importance of managing costs, how to generate revenue and how a business can measure its performance for the year. Students have all been working well to ensure they are prepared for the exam and are looking forward to it!

In Creative IMedia, our students are currently completing coursework units for

their final qualification. Throughout the term so far, students have been attending lunch time clubs and working well to complete this unit on time. They have created some excellent DVD covers for their project titled "Energy Matters". They have also worked very well to analyse their graphics and have discussed areas to improve. Students have independently created time plans to ensure they have independently completed their projects on time. We hope that this will bring fantastic rewards when the exam results are handed out next August!



DRAMA

All KS4 groups have been working towards their U1 performance, a devised piece they are solely responsible for directing, creating, and performing in. The performances will take place in January, having already completed their dress rehearsals. All groups were given the theme of protest and guided towards their own response.

The following are the highlights:

in Y11:

One group have created a performance in an advanced style of satire, using comedy to highlight the smears and lies directed at women during the suffragette movement. One group have used a proscenium arch inspired fairytale style to tell the delightful story of womens' rights through the ages.

In Y10:

One group have created a naturalistic performance looking at the struggle of Ms Pankhurst, and the practice of force feeding in prisons in the early 1900s.

In Y9:

One group have used a large cast to create a piece of physical theatre with an emphasis on sound to show aggressive attitudes towards peaceful protest. One group have focused on using contrasting techniques to highlight difference between two different time periods. We are looking forward to seeing the finished results!



ENGLISH

The Old Rep Theatre - On Wednesday 19th September, Year 11s had a thrilling experience at The old Rep to watch Jekyll & Hyde, described by Stevenson himself as a "fine bogey tale" of the 19th century.

It is a narrative of a respectable doctor who transforms himself into a savage murderer. The novella is based on the duality of good v evil.

Students extremely enjoyed the light-hearted production dramatised and felt that it helped enrich their understanding of the play in preparation for their GCSE exam.



GEOGRAPHY

Year 10 & 11 Rhyd-y-Creuau Geography Residential to North Wales

Welcome to Wales! A group of Year 10 and 11 students visited Rhyd-y-Creuau field centre for 3 days. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience outdoor learning and team building.

The students worked extremely hard to collect data for their field work in the villages of Penmachno and Betws-y-Coed to analyse the differences between the two. We also visited a small mountain stream near Mount Snowdon to measure the width and depth of the water.

During the evening students enjoyed orienteering and using maps to find clues and complete a treasure hunt as well as listen to ghost stories told by Mr Khan. We can't wait to revisit our Welsh friends again next year.



HISTORY

Year 8 students have been exploring the city of Birmingham during the industrial revolution. Students have been fascinated to learn how Birmingham was a leading industrial city and significantly contributed to Britain's success in the war. Year 7 students have been focusing on key history skills and sharpening their understanding to become historians of the future. Finally, students have been participating in the Echo Eternal project where Rockwood Academy will be working with key organisations to explore and promote the significance of the Holocaust.

This project engages children and young people in commemorating the Holocaust, inspired by the testimony of survivors. The Echo Eternal pilot commenced in Birmingham on Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 and will run for twelve months in twelve schools.

The project will then pass to a new host city within the UK where it will continue to grow and evolve. Each city will work with partner organisations to create its own distinct "echo" which will ultimately be made available nationally via the new Holocaust Memorial and education centre.



MATHS

Well done to our Y11 students on making good progress so far in the October Mock Exam – locked and loaded for the January mock! Keep up the hard work! Across Years 7 to 10, students have been getting their teeth into Pie Charts and various data topics this half term. One Year 7 class has successfully completed the 'I am a Teacher Project' whereby they worked in groups of 3 to design a short revision lesson and actually deliver to the rest of the class. Well done to all of 7xMA1 for showing strong leadership and confidence: as quoted from one of the students "It is not easy talking in front of lots of people." In Years 7

and 8, all students are taking part in exciting research projects about 'Famous Mathematicians' and 'Where do numbers come from?' The best projects from students will be awarded a prize and mentioned in the next school newsletter.

There are a number of exciting projects which are forthcoming in the calendar. First we have the Intermediate Challenge which is for Year 10 students and will take place in February. Another event aimed at Year 10 is the Maths Feast which will take place in March, and finally, we have the UKMT Junior Challenge which is aimed at Year 7 & 8 students. This will take place in April. If your child has been selected for any of these events, we will contact you!



There are a number of exciting projects which are forthcoming in the calendar. First we have the Intermediate Challenge which is for Year 10 students and will take place in February. Another event aimed at Year 10 is the Maths Feast which will take place in March, and finally, we have the UKMT Junior Challenge which is aimed at Year 7 & 8 students. This will take place in April. If your child has been selected for any of these events, we will contact you!

MFL

European Day of Languages

As soon as the Year 7 students joined the Rockwood family they took part in the annual European Day of Languages. It was a fascinating opportunity for new students explore and embrace all the linguistic diversity around the world.

Students took part in a two day competition to find out which language staff members were representing around school. Each staff member had a designated sticker to wear with a greeting in a foreign language and students had the challenge to locate all 38 within the 2 day deadline. Students also had to independently discover where each language is spoken to complete their challenge!

Each winner received a personalised certificate and a special prize to acknowledge their effort and commitment to languages.

A massive well done to the 2018 Winners!

Gold award: Haider Munir 7C

Silver award: Shahid Rahman 7E

Bronze award: Ayaan Ali 7G

Overall it was tremendously successful event and our Year 7 students felt more familiarised with teachers' names. It was a great opportunity to show their ethos to learning by showing their good manners when interacting with teachers too.

I would like give a massive thank you to all teachers who took part in this annual event and we look forward to next year where there will be more opportunity for Rockwood Academy to show off their linguistic talents!

Shoe Box Project

In languages we learn about different areas of daily life and this half term Year 7 and 8 Arabic classes have been focusing on the topic of "house and furniture".

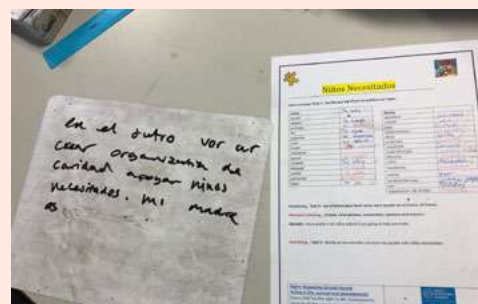
During this half term Year 7 and 8 Arabic homework was to design a "shoes box house or room" and I have to admit that the outcome of each homework has impressed me due to the level of detail and creativity shown in all their "mini houses". All shoe boxes have been equipped with all rooms and furniture labelled appropriately in Arabic using their dictionary skills.

The idea is to personalise the experience of learning Arabic through something they have created and they can relate to it. The aim of this project is to give students ownership and control of their own learning as they seek out learning that's meaningful to them and accomplish it on their own terms.

There is always an element of competition in the MFL department. Therefore, at the end of this topic all "shoes box houses" will enter a competition to select the best one for Year 7&8. The winners will be revealed soon!

MFL upcoming events

On the 18th of December 2018 we will celebrate World Arabic Language Day! Year 7 and 8 Arabic students will participate in a cultural enrichment afternoon where they will raise their cultural awareness of the Arab world through exploring food, clothes, music, traditions, calligraphy and much more. This event will be open to both students and parents so that we can all explore this fascinating culture and language together!



MUSIC

There have been lots of exciting activities happening in the Music Department over the last half term! Our new Year 7 students have really settled in and the Department's extracurricular clubs are full and thriving.

In lesson both Year 7 and Year 8 are exploring brand new areas and developing their musical skills. Year 7 students are learning to play the keyboard for the first time whilst Year 8 students are currently exploring music technology

and creating their own Grime tracks!

In October, students from the School Choir performed in a Rockwood first – a concert in the library to celebrate National Libraries Week. We were thrilled that Ms Cook asked us to perform and we really enjoyed singing some of our favourite songs from last year. The choir are now looking forward to performing in more events like this across the year.

Finally, with so many students currently learning instruments through the Music Service in school, we are incredibly exciting about our upcoming Winter

Concert. Tickets will be on sale soon for an evening of music, drama and language!



PE & SPORT

It has been a busy start to the sporting calendar with a variety of activities taking place in both curricular and extra curricular time.

Football has led the way this term with all age groups experiencing competitive action in the district league and cup competition. The stand out performance this term must go to the Year 8 Boys football team who defeated Washwood Heath 11-1: a fantastic result lads! Keep this going! As part of Healthy Schools week, a week long skipathon took place at lunchtime. The challenge was to see how many skips could be done in one minute. The record was 145 skips! A great score! We have introduced an Interform sporting competition which will be taking place in PE lessons each half term, which the students have thoroughly enjoyed so far. As always, we want as many students as

possible to take part in Extra Curricular activities so please feel free to come along!



RE

Diwali Celebrations at Rockwood

The RE Department has made an amazing start to this new academic year where students always come first. We have been embedding British and Core Values to promote respect towards others' beliefs and values. Learners have been exploring different beliefs through fun lessons and have expressed their gratitude and interest throughout. We have particularly celebrated Diwali where students have participated in and created the Diwali festival in their very own classroom at Rockwood. They have been very creative and designed their own paper Diwali lamps. I am very proud of our students for their continuous dedication and hard work. Keep it up! This is a clear example of collaboration, opportunity, respect and excellence.



SCIENCE

Thursdays after school when the rest of the corridors are empty, the Science corridor is lit up (literally), by the Science Club! The club aims to inspire students and engage them in all aspects of science by providing students with an opportunity to take part in aspects of science, which they may not be able to do during the school day.

Over time the Science Club will develop further and allow students to achieve a CREST award. CREST is the British Science Association's scheme for STEM project work that inspires young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers. Below are some statements made by students who attend:

"Science Club is fun as the experiments are interesting and new. The experiments we do are things we haven't even done

yet. Some people might think that it's boring but it really isn't. It can inspire young students like myself to excel into an amazing scientist. The things we learn about are important as when the time is closer to our GCSEs, we will know a lot of things already." (Sneha)

"I love how we do exciting experiments. New ones every day! Everyone in the club is really friendly and all the teachers are enthusiastic about the topic. It is worth staying an extra hour after school!" (Humaira)

"I like Science Club because we do really cool experiments" (Sonia)

Although these sessions are originally planned for KS3 students, everyone is welcome. We have had drop in visits from staff members from lots of different departments and SLT members who have taken part too. We'll see you there!



KS3 PASTORAL MANAGER MESSAGES



YEAR 7 – MS SHAHEEN

I am honoured to be the Pastoral Manager for Year 7

Moving from Primary to Secondary can be a very stressful time; however Year 7 have come in with a positive attitude and mind-set towards learning. I am pleased to say that they are now settled and have made their mark within the Rockwood family. I have faith that they will continue to shine by maintaining their high standards and continue to fulfil their full potential.

They have fully immersed themselves in life at the Academy. Some of the students were even brave enough to take part in the Karaoke competition in support of Children in Need. Many of them also contributed some tasty cakes and treats to raise money for the Macmillan Cancer Charity's coffee morning.

I hope they continue to grow and excel within the Academy.



YEAR 8 – MR FLETCHER

I joined this wonderful school in September as the Pastoral Manager attached to Year 8. It has been a positive start to the new academic term for the learners and already I can say, with conviction, that I am so proud of the relationships that are being forged by Year 8.

Whilst education is at the forefront of the Academy; extracurricular activities will further shape the experiences our pupils receive and year 8 learners are continually encouraged by me to actively participate in as many activities as they possibly can because they will hopefully look back on their time at school with affection. The Year 8 football team have had a successful start to the season and have yet to be beaten. The standout performance was an 11 – 1 victory against our local rivals, Hodge Hill.

Rockwood Academy continues its partnership with the Combined Cadet Forces (CCF) and there has been a good uptake of Year 8 pupils who are now taking part in the programme and the opportunities it has to offer.

KS4 PASTORAL MANAGER MESSAGES



YEAR 9 – MS WALKER

It has been a wonderful start to the new academic term for our Year 9 pupils. Whilst education is at the forefront of the Academy, extracurricular activities have further shaped the experiences our pupils have received. On a weekly basis, Year 9 pupils are encouraged to take part in Fitness, Badminton and Football clubs, which have been a huge success. I am extremely honoured to be part of the journey that the pupils are on.



YEAR 10 – MR ALI

Displaying **ROLE MODEL** Behaviour.

It has been a wonderful start for the Year 10 students, going from strength to strength in their chosen GCSE subjects. I am immensely proud of the high standards Year 10 have set in terms of attendance, behaviour and attitude towards learning. We are very proud of all our students here at Rockwood and encourage them all to be independent and resilient individuals.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate both the boys and girls football teams who won their opening fixtures to the season. A massive well done to all who took part.



YEAR 11 – MR KHAN

I can't begin to say how proud I am of Year 11 this term! There are so many reasons for this. Firstly, 98% of all students have already secured offers from colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeship schemes. This is a fantastic achievement for them to have done so by Christmas. Secondly, I was delighted by the maturity and diligence shown by the Year 11 students when they had their mock exams at the start of November. Their hard work was repaid with encouraging exam results, and this gave them good preparation for what to expect in the summer exams. Furthermore, many of the Year 11 students attended the Geography residential which you can learn more about in this edition of the newsletter! Finally, my students have put a lot of effort into raising funds for both Macmillan and Children in Need. I hope they continue to work hard throughout the school year.

PARTNERSHIPS

AIM HIGHER

Aim Higher will be starting for the first time for 5 students in Year 8 who have not had anyone in their family who has gone on to higher education. Nazia, our mentor, is at BCU studying Adult Nursing. Aim Higher is academic mentoring for students who wish to go on to university and will be the first in their families to do so. We are sure that the students' involvement in this programme will encourage them to strive for excellence and achieve great things.



CADETS

On 28th November 2018, The Mayor of the West Midlands Andy Street signed the Armed Forces Covenant yesterday with Brigadier Richard Carter, the Brigade Commander of 11th Signals and West Midlands Brigade. The signing was hosted by West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadet Association at their premise at Tennal Grange in Harborne. Mr Street was keen to meet and speak with Rockwood's cadets regarding their experiences of being involved with cadets and to promote the good work schools are doing regarding cadet expansion.

We were delighted to be involved in such a prestigious event, and the Mayor was impressed by the fantastic reports that the cadets shared about their experiences.



MOSAIC MENTORING

Being part of the Prince's Trust Mosaic Mentoring programme is something we are proud of. The mentoring will start in January 2019 with 25 students from Y9 working with a group of mentors to develop their confidence and self-esteem. We look forward to welcoming our inspirational and motivational mentors to the school – most of them have worked with us before, including Karen, our lead mentor, who is now in the fourth year of supporting our students.

FRED THEATRE COMPANY

A CHRISTMAS CAROL THEATRE PERFORMANCE

On Friday 7th December, the Year 8 and 9 students had a fantastic opportunity to experience the interpretation of 'A Christmas Carol' (by Charles Dickens) performed by the amazing Fred Theatre Company from Stratford Upon Avon.

The play lasted approximately 90 minutes and during this time, the protagonist Scrooge was brought to life together with a vivid depiction of the key themes of isolation, poverty and redemption. This 6-man performance intrigued and engaged the students to understand the novella in great depth and this also allowed them to recognise different interpretations of the characters central moral of the story: everyone can change for the better.

Once the play had finished, students had time to feedback, interact and ask any questions to the Fred Theatre team which they answered in great detail, developing our knowledge even further.



PRIDE YOUTH NETWORK

Our Pride Youth Network Includes students from Years 8, 9 and 10 who are working to transform the lives of those who identify themselves as LGBT+. Our Year 10 students were part of the Pride Youth Network when it was established 3 years ago.

So far this year, the Rockwood Academy students have been to watch a performance of Breaking the Code at the Crescent Theatre to learn about Alan Turing. They have also been privileged to visit the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court to learn about democracy, law and social activism. As part of this visit, they met MP Liam Byrne and Lord Justice Kerr. They have also been busy selling World Aids Day ribbons to raise funds for the Terrance Higgins Trust.



UNICEF: RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL AWARD

As you are all aware, last year Rockwood became part of Rights Respecting School Award. Our excitement and dedication, and with the support of a very committed team, we managed to achieve our Bronze Award: Rights Committed in such a short period of time. This academic year we are working towards the Silver Award: Rights Aware. Our main focus for this term has been: Article 3 (best interests of the child): The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children. This reflects Rockwood's motto where students always come first. This has been demonstrated throughout various school policies to ensure that all the decisions are made for our students' best interest. We will be carrying out further work to raise awareness of children's rights throughout the academic year.



LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

As part of our drive to improve engagement in sport, we are continuing to work with the Lawn Tennis Association. We are waiting for the 2019 calendar of events to be released, and will keep you updated about the exciting events that we will be involved in!



CO-CURRICULAR

MUSIC

Extracurricular music at Rockwood has really grown since September and we are now seeing more students engaged than ever. Students can choose from a wide range of clubs, including keyboard club, choir, karaoke and the brand new Rockwood band! This means that students from across the year groups can come together every day to practice, perform and celebrate their love of music!



SPORT

Getting involved isn't just about going to lessons. Rockwood offers an extensive range of student opportunities through various clubs and societies.

As part of this, we have a number of sports clubs running at both lunchtime and after school which students can get involved in. These include Table-tennis, Basketball, Tennis, Football, Cricket, Netball and use of the school's well-equipped fitness suite. The new timetable for the Spring terms for these activities will be available in the students' section of the Rockwood website from January!



PARENT ENGAGEMENT

LEARNING REVIEW EVENINGS

We have conducted a number of Learning Review Evenings this term, and this has given us a chance to meet with parents to discuss their child's progress. The attendance to these events has been excellent! These are really important evenings as we value the support and input of all of our parents and carers, and always want them to be involved in their child's learning journey. These will continue to run throughout the school year and we hope that all parents will attend so that we can share successes and ensure any areas for development are addressed.



PARENTS' CLASSES

The parents' classes have now been running successfully for 11 years and are led by a trained teacher from Mathew Boulton College in Birmingham.

Parents are taught Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2 in both Literacy and Numeracy; Literacy runs from September to February and Numeracy from February to July.

Currently there are 12 parents who attend the course and 2 parents are ready to take their Level 1 in English and 10 will be entered for Entry Level English. We are really proud of the progress that they have made this term and wish them luck in their exams.



GOVERNORS

YOUR LOCAL GOVERNING BODY

The local governing body is made up of volunteers who are responsible for the strategic vision and oversight of Rockwood Academy. We act as 'critical friends' and seek to support and challenge the school to ensure the best outcomes for all pupils. In practice this means that we adopt, approve and adapt Core Education Trust policies, and monitor progress of the academy.

The local governing body and the school leadership team work in collaboration to ensure we continue to provide high quality teaching; continue to raise standards further and enhance student well being.

Engaging with parents and the local community is important to us; we recognise that a successful school depends on strong partnerships between the staff, trust, governors, parents and pupils. We are committed to working with you all to provide the best possible education for everyone at Rockwood, a place where students come first.

Dr Steve Ball

Chair, Rockwood Local Governing Body



HEAD BOY AND GIRL

We are proud to introduce you to Rockwood Academy's new Head Boy Hayyaan Malik and our new



Head Girl Mariya Shakoor. They went through the nerve-racking experience of delivering speeches to the teaching staff, who then voted for them to take on these prestigious roles. Two other students, Qasim Jaan and Jawairiyah Bano, also competed for the roles, and were awarded the positions of Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl. We look forward to working with them to create an outstanding learning community for all of the students.

WINTER FESTIVAL

On Wednesday 12th December, we held our wonderful Winter Festival. This fantastic event was organised by Miss Wilkins who was assisted by Mrs Rida, and they worked hard to put together an exciting evening of music and drama. Some students sang the Justin Bieber favourite 'Love Yourself' while other students played festive favourites on a variety of instruments. We also had a nativity performed by our Arabic students which was put together by our MFL teacher Mrs Rida.



All in all, a brilliant time was had by all who were there, and it was a brilliant way to begin the festive season.

TED ED

JOIN TED ED CLUB NOW! YEAR 7 – 10 JOIN NOW!

Are you ready to join the newest club at Rockwood Academy? Do you feel you could talk about something you believe in passionately? Do you want to discuss an idea you feel your fellow peers should be aware of? Do you want to join a global movement which is committed to spreading youth ideas? Come and speak to Mrs Sahota (Head of Wellbeing) about joining. This could be your time to stand up and speak up for yourself! We will be meeting once a week at lunchtime – there are limited spaces so be quick and sign up!

The world is waiting to be redefined by the biggest, smallest, boldest, quirkiest, bravest, most inspiring and most brilliant ideas from young people around the world.



Rockwood Academy
Naseby Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham B8 3HG
Tel: 0121 566 6500
Email: enquiry@rockwood-academy.co.uk
www.rockwood-academy.co.uk

