

The Rockwood Standard



ROCKWOOD
ACADEMY



The Newsletter of Rockwood Academy
9th Edition July 2019

HEADTEACHER

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DEAR STUDENTS, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY,

As we approach the summer holidays after an amazing academic year. I always feel privileged to have

the opportunity to educate and shape the future of young people at Rockwood. Our students are an asset to the academy and I'm proud of how they have demonstrated our core values of collaboration, opportunity, respect and excellence throughout the year. This year Rockwood is honoured to become a Beacon School for Holocaust education. As a Beacon School we serve as a dynamic hub co-ordinating a network of local schools, helping them to develop confidence, proficiency and excellence in Holocaust teaching and learning. Leaders from three schools visited Warsaw, the capital of Poland for a study trip. The study trip was designed to deepen their understanding of the Holocaust and explore the impact the Holocaust had on the local Polish community to further inform their teaching. We were delighted to receive the Silver Mark Award for 2018/19 in recognition of the students and staff's commitment, dedication, and passion for physical education and passion both within the curriculum and during extra-curricular activities.

A flavour of other achievements and opportunities our students have taken part included the Great Get Together which was celebrated by 15 schools where all students made civic pledges on bringing divided communities together; we celebrated 183 students becoming published authors as part of the young writers competitions ; our Combined Cadet Force students visited Crowborough Training Camp in East Sussex for the annual CCF Central Camp where 11 of the cadets won medals, whilst overall the cadets achieved 8 CCF Basic passes and 4 Advance passes, which are awarded

to cadets as part of the Cadet Force Syllabus; to raise cultural awareness up to 40 students travelled to the Opal Coast in France to practice their French skills. Students studying Music attended a concert performance at the Town Hall in Birmingham. The solo cellist was Sheku Kanneh-Mason, who performed at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding! They were really inspired by how expressive his playing was and really enjoyed the charisma between him and his sister Isata who accompanied on piano.

I can truly say we are a place where students come first. I would like to thank our dedicated staff who go over and beyond on a daily basis to provide the best education for our students. A great deal of what we do at Rockwood cannot be achieved without the support and co-operation of parents, who have shown immense dedication to the Academy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you.

I am pleased to report that our £14 million school expansion which our CEO Adrian Packer has secured is on track to start in September 2019. We will be working closely with Nansen School who will be supporting Rockwood through the development phase by providing additional space in the interim. You can read more about the developments on our website from the autumn term.

We continue to have high expectations of attendance, uniform, behaviour and attitude to learning, which form the foundations for success. Students are recognised as individuals; yet we act together as a strong family, proud of the Rockwood values and ethos. Please refer to the website for details on the Academy uniform before you go uniform shopping over the summer break.

Yours faithfully

Ms Sofia Darr Headteacher



CORE VALUES

COLLABORATION THE GREAT GET TOGETHER 2019

15 schools from Birmingham and Coventry celebrated the Great Get Together at Rockwood Academy on Friday 21st June 2019. The Great Get Together is a national campaign run by the Jo Cox Foundation. This year is the third Great Get Together and fell on what would have been Jo Cox's 45th birthday. The driving force behind the event is the groundswell of people who reject divisive politics and simply want to bring our communities together and celebrate all that unites us.

The 15 schools taking part are all from diverse communities and have all taken part in the Echo Eternal programme, a commemorative arts initiative focused on the Holocaust. All schools taking part in Echo Eternal are taking part in the Great Get Together, with students making civic pledges focused on bringing divided communities together.

This year, the pledges focus on the themes of loneliness, welcoming refugees, and support of women and girls. The 15 schools were paired and put into groups, with each of the alliances coming up with

their civic pledge. The schools will then plan a range of activities for the coming academic year. These include:

- Hosting an intergenerational lunch
- Action in support of anti-bullying, combatting loneliness and welcoming refugees
- Developing Echo Eternal: Connects – the civic engagement strand of the Echo Eternal programme

The Great Get Together in the West Midlands has been organised by CORE Education Trust, a family of six schools in Birmingham. These six schools have been joined by six other West Midlands schools. CORE Education Trust is the organisation behind Echo Eternal.

Adrian Packer, Chief Executive of CORE Education Trust and Founder of Echo Eternal said:

"It was incredibly moving to see the schools get together earlier in the year to remember the Holocaust through the Echo Eternal programme. Today the schools that took part in Echo Eternal have come together again. They are united in their commitment to

bring communities together and have made a series of pledges today to do just that.

"Everyone at CORE Education Trust is incredibly proud of the way that all 12 schools have engaged with the Great Get Together. Their pledges represent hope and optimism for a future in which our communities are truly united and, as a result, are more than the sum of their parts."



OPPORTUNITY FIRST INTERNATIONAL TRIP - FRANCE

I am very excited to be able to share stories from our first international trip at Rockwood Academy. The trip was organised by the MFL department in order to raise cultural awareness and to give French students a chance to practice their speaking skills! On the 2nd of July 38 students from Year 7 and 8 took part in an incredibly successful and exceptionally enjoyable two-day Trip to the Opal Coast, in France.

We left school early on Tuesday morning and, after taking the Eurotunnel from Folkestone to Calais, arrived safely at our destination in time for lunch. In the afternoon, we made a visit to Boulogne-Sur-Mer city centre and Boulogne Market. We also visited Becasac Sweet Factory and learnt how bonbons are made, all in French! We even had a chance to try our

own sweet making skills and enjoyed using our French speaking skills to make purchases using Euros.

The second day began with a visit to the beach. After a picnic lunch on the beach at the beautiful, coastal town of Le Touquet, the afternoon was spent at la boulangerie Le Fournil – a traditional French bakery. Here students had the chance to watch a baker at work in the original part of the bakery and practice their language skills too. At the end of our visit we were able to sample fresh pastries, which were delicious!

Sadly, we had to say "Au revoir La France" and return home. The teachers and the staff at the accommodation, were extremely impressed by the excellent attitude and behaviour our students throughout the trip. The polite and friendly way

in which they conducted themselves and their commendable efforts to practise their French during their two days stay in France meant they were a real credit to the school and a pleasure to take abroad!



RESPECT PYN CONFERENCE LONDON - PRIDE YOUTH NETWORK

Our Pride Youth Network, which consists of Year 8 and Year 9 students attended the PYN Conference in London on Friday 5th July. The PYN conference is the annual conference for educational institutions who participate in the PYN programme. The PYN programme is run by Educate and Celebrate. Educate and Celebrate is a LGBTQ+ charity that provides training for staff, support staff, leadership teams, governors, trainee teachers, as well as student workshops, to equip them with the knowledge, skills and confidence to embed gender, gender identity and sexual orientation into the fabric of their organisations.

The PYN is now in its third year and funded by Children in Need, the PRIDE Youth Network Conference is open to all LGBT+ groups 11-18 year olds from all over the

UK and beyond. Throughout the conference, students participated in panel discussions and workshops. Panellists and workshop leaders included poet Dean Atta, You tubers Jamie Rutter and Jake Edwards, The Museum of London, Goldsmiths University of London, Pride in London, Exposure Magazine, Dr Ronx and many more.

The aim of the conference is for students to meet like-minded people in a safe and welcoming environment to take part in interactive workshops, collecting ideas for their own group. This year, students learnt about social justice campaigning and the effective use of social media.

Throughout the conference the students shared their thoughts;

"People were so open, as a student from a Muslim

background, from a predominantly Muslim community I find it refreshing when people from other backgrounds are happy to have serious conversations which I find doesn't happen in my community."

"I've learned so much about people today."

We are incredibly pleased to announce that at the end of the day students received their Pioneers Award!



EXCELLENCE SCHOOL GAMES SILVER MARK AWARD

Rockwood Academy is proud to announce that they have been accredited with the School Games Silver Mark Award for the 2018/19 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community and Rockwood Academy are delighted to have been recognised for their success in achieving this.

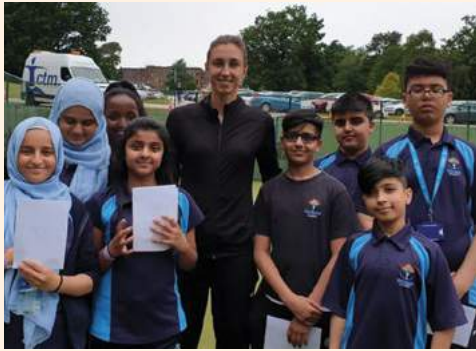
The accreditation is an extension of the Expressive Arts faculties ongoing strive to promote Rockwood Academy's CORE value of Excellence. It further highlights the students and staff's commitment, dedication, and passion for physical education and passion both within the curriculum and during extra-curricular activities.

Rockwood Academy's Head of Physical Education Mr I. Smith commented: "This is in recognition for the hard work by external sporting working partners, community support and the hard work of the students both within curricular and extra-curricular time."



FEATURES

LTA



The Birmingham Classic is a premier level women's tennis tournament on the WTA Tour held at the Edgbaston Priory Club in Edgbaston, Birmingham. This year, students in year 7 and year 8 were invited by the Lawn Tennis Association to be Sports Leaders at the Nature Valley Birmingham Classic at Edgbaston Priory Club, over the course of three days in the Schools Zone. The students met Venus Williams and got her autograph and also met Margarita Gasparyan who had just won against Elina Svitolina.



A spokesperson from the LTA said: "The Schools Zone at the Nature Valley Classic, Birmingham is a fantastic way of engaging children from across the city of Birmingham in the prestigious event. The aim is to inspire children to experience tennis at their local venue, who will be running a series of open days on the weekend of 22/23 June. The volunteers from Rockwood have been an integral part of delivering the event, helping young children have a positive and fun



experience that is peer-led! The LTA really appreciates the support from CORE."

Some of our students said:

"I feel privileged to have worked with the coaches as I learnt new skills from them."

"It was amazing meeting Venus Williams. I can't believe she had a puppy in her handbag."

"I loved meeting Margarita Gasparyan, she was so cool and posed for photos and gave us her autograph."

PROM

This year, our Prom was held at Birmingham City Football Club, in the Legends Lounge. Our students arrived looking like movie stars, the ladies were dressed in extravagant, sparkly dresses and the gentlemen dressed in well-cut suits, displaying their individual style and flair.

A fantastic night was had by all, with awards voted for by the students, awarded to students and staff, as well as the Prom King and Prom Queen being decided on the night. The night included lots of excited talking, as the pressure of GCSE exams was lifted, followed by the comedy of the awards, a bite to eat and culminating in a substantial amount of dancing. As the night drew to a close, it was time to say goodbye and see you on the 22nd of August for your results. It has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of their journey from childhood towards adulthood. We look forward to GCSE results day.



SMSC DAY

Rockwood Academy held the third SMSC day on Friday 12th July 2019. The key theme of the SMSC event was the UNICEF Charter.

Pupils undertook an in-depth study of the different children's rights and explored how the Charter has impacted them in the modern society we live in. Throughout the day, there were several key workshops that examined, how rights if they are practised correctly, enable children all around to grow up in a safe and secure world.

Pupils worked in pairs and groups to explore how the UNICEF Charter highlights different rights that impact them.

At the end of the day, both staff and students expressed their delight at the challenging, yet accessible and incredibly engaging content of the day.

Aleena stated that the event was, "Extremely well organised, I learnt a tremendous amount about rights and respect. As a young person growing up in modern society, it's important for me to understand the UNICEF charter."

Ms Taj, our Head of Humanities stated, "It is very powerful for young people to understand how rights need to be respected"

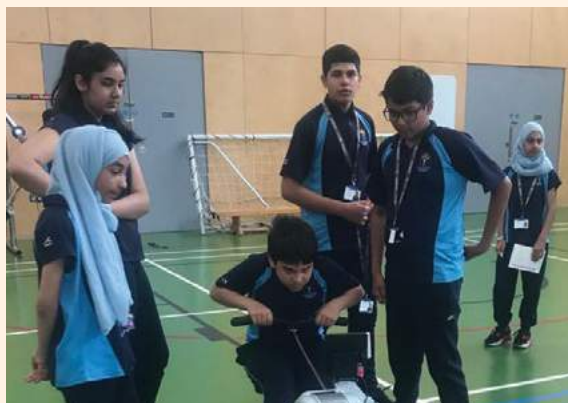


SPORTS DAY

On Friday 5th July the school played host to its second annual Sports day. The day encapsulated the CORE values in all its glory, with sport at the heart of it. The day presented a multitude of physical, mental and team challenges designed to engage and inspire the students across all years.

A highlight of the day in most instances was the Tug of War, with many students trying this for the first time. Students worked in forms to defeat other forms in their year group. This culminated in a competitive staff competition with no quarter given!

A big thank you to the students across all years who took who took part, and staff who ensured the day was a success for all.



WORLD OF WORK



Year 10 participated in the World of Work Week with a view to collaborate with a range of business colleagues in the city, to get a first-hand experience of the World of Work. World of Work week has become an iconic opportunity for our year 10 pupils to work on their interpersonal skills and reflect on the many opportunities available to them once they leave the academy.

As part of the World of Work Week, year 10



pupils participated in Sector Insight days, Business walks, participated in a skill builder day which included, mock interviews, CV writing, goals setting and listened first hand to business colleagues who have been extremely successful in their own careers.

Some of the feedback from the students and staff has highlighted what a valuable experience the week was:

"Extremely well organised, I learnt a



tremendous amount about different careers in Birmingham." (Zaynab, year 10)

"Loved taking part in the mock interviews, it allowed me to experience first-hand what a formal interview looks like." (Zakariya, year 10)

"World of Work Week has been a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to see first-hand what the world of work is like" (Mr Makwana)

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Y6 INDUCTION DAY

Finally, after much excitement our New Year 7 arrived for their fun packed transition day! We welcomed 210 children into Rockwood Academy to experience a day in their new secondary school. The children were taken out of their comfort zone and were integrated with our other feeder schools. They took part in drama, history, science and cooking lessons. They cooked some very tasty butter biscuits, most of them were eaten at school. They spent time team building on the Astro turf and enjoyed the sunshine whilst taking part in their activities. The children were introduced to their new form teachers and worked collaboratively with our current Year 7 and 8 student mentors.

The children went home very tired and happy. We are excited to welcome them permanently in new academic year.



CURRICULUM

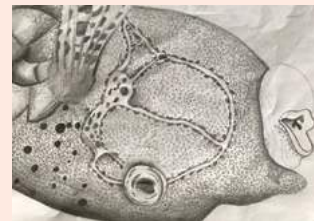
ART

Mr Atkins has come into the school to work in Art for this term and continued the development of the art curriculum at Rockwood.

Year seven art students have been studying sweets and cakes in Art, working on pencil and pencil crayon drawings leading to watercolour paintings based on artists' works. While in Graphics, they have been studying everything from lettering design and logos to figure studies of superheroes

Year eight students have been following a GCSE style approach looking at a choice of topics including still life, landscape and machinery leading up to a final drawings or paintings.

Year 9 and 10 students have been developing ideas around the theme 'Nautical' and after studying styles and techniques of artists, have developed work based on compositions to include seascapes, sea monsters and unusual fish as a main composition of their own



and are currently sitting a test to produce their final piece for this term.

Year 11 students have taken their final exam and created a main composition over ten hours. Their coursework and exam work has been marked and moderated by the exam board. We keenly await their grades in August.

BUSINESS AND COMPUTING

The Summer term has been both busy and exciting in equal measure for the students in Business Studies, Computer Science and IMedia. A massive well done to all of the students that have worked tirelessly over this academic year to complete their coursework assignments to the highest possible standard. They have shown dedication and a commitment that is to be commended and hopefully rewarded when the results are published in the summer. I also want to take this opportunity to say well done for their continued efforts in preparing for their exams and best of luck for whatever comes next.

Year 10 Business students are currently working to complete their first coursework assignment. This involves them carrying out research into two local small and medium sized businesses. Many of the students have carried out excellent research into these local businesses and learnt a lot about what makes these businesses successful. They have then been able to apply this to their coursework. The next generation of entrepreneurs are already developing their ideas and we look forward to seeing these plans come to fruition over the coming years.

Our KS3 Computer Science students have been really engaged this term whilst learning how to create their own websites and have produced some excellent examples. We may well have a few budding web developers amongst us!



ENGLISH



Rockwood Academy's English department commemorated 'Refugee Week' with an array of activities including the exploration of a number of texts relating to the lives of inspirational refugees. Students in Years 7 – 10 were given the opportunity to enter a competition to write short stories linking refugees to one of the four CORE values; the opportunity a refugee sought and the respect a refugee was given are just two examples of ideas covered by students. The Headteacher and Head of English were tasked with selecting the winning stories (two per year group), as well as runners-up

(ten per year group). This proved to be an arduous task in light of the quality of work produced by over 600 students! In order to honour the wonderful stories chosen, they were published in Rockwood's very own book with winners and runners-up receiving copies as part of their prize. However, to ensure everyone else was also rewarded for their enthusiastic efforts, all students in Years 7 – 10 received a personalised Rockwood Academy pen as a memento. Needless to say, again, Rockwood Academy boasts a wealth of literary talent!

GEOGRAPHY

Our amazing Geographers at Rockwood Academy have had a very busy year; they have created some amazing pieces of work. These include journeying to the centre of the Earth as well as visiting some fantastic places on the Earth including the UK, New Zealand, Easter Island, the Amazon rainforest and many others. They have been learning about the floods in Bangladesh and how weather and climate can have different effects on people and the planet.



HISTORY

This summer, the History department has provided all Year 7 pupils the opportunity to attend the Black Country Museum! This exciting trip took place on the 1st of July and allowed students to explore the living and working conditions in England during the Industrial Revolution. More importantly by visiting the Black Country museum, students examined in closer detail why the Industrial Revolution is one of the major reasons for how our world functions the way it does today. The enormous changes in industry during this historical period had major ripple effects in the economy, society, geography, health and culture and students will be able to explore these links of cause and consequence.

The History department is also part of the Beacon School programme where the department has been working collaboratively with the UCL centre for Holocaust education, in order to enhance students understanding of the Holocaust. As part of the programme, our lead teacher on the programme and Head of History Mr Singh, recently visited Poland in order to deepen his own understanding of the Holocaust and explore the impact the Holocaust had on the local polish community. Mr Singh has been able to share his experience with students by creating a brand new scheme of work for year 8 that specifically focuses on the holocaust and explores why it took place and the impact it has had



on people's lives. In addition to this, Mr Singh has also successfully organized an external training session for teachers across England to develop their teaching and understanding of the Holocaust. Due to Mr Singh's endeavours, Rockwood Academy will be accredited and nationally recognised as Beacon School by the end of this academic year, which allow the school to provide specialist support and training for other schools focusing on holocaust education.

Finally, year 9 and year 10 pupils have been working hard towards learning the new content and skills needed for their GCSE History course. Year 10 are currently exploring medicine through time and year 9 are focusing on conflict and tension during 1918-1939. Both year groups are working hard and continually build up their key skills so they are ready to take their exams in year 11.

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

The Highlight from Hospitality and Catering

I am impressed with our students' enthusiastic approach in displaying their culinary and hospitality qualities. As a team we were delighted to take part in the hosting of the, "Great Get Together", as we prepared a picnic spread for the occasion, consisting of a variety of sandwiches, mini scotch eggs, mini quiches, scones with clotted cream and fresh strawberries, vanilla sponge cake and short bread biscuits.

"My experience at the Great Get Together" was fun, because I learnt how to make a variety of traditional British dishes, but more so, I got the chance to hear what others have to say about my food. I was surprised when I looked at how many people we cooked for." Eman year 10.



MATHS

In April two groups of year 7 and 8 pupils sat the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. The Mathematical Challenge aims to stimulate mathematical problem solving.

Well done to all the students who participated. We had a number of winners of the Bronze, Silver and Gold award. Two students also qualified for the Junior Kangaroo which they sat on the 11th of June. This is by invitation only for the top 25% of pupils in years 7 and 8 across the country. An excellent achievement by both boys and the outcome will be in the next newsletter.

Students across all key stages have been working very hard in preparation for assessments. Y11 staff and students have been spending a lot of time doing key intervention sessions on Saturdays, Wednesdays and during the holidays to help our Y11 students demonstrate their rapid progress. Thank you to the maths team for the extra commitment to our students. The GCSE exams are now over for this year and we wish all the year 11 pupils every success in their future endeavours.





MFL Visit to the Birmingham REP - A drama language workshop

In the MFL department we always promote creativity and like to try different methods of expressing ourselves through language. Therefore, on the 22nd June we took 14 students from year 7 to a drama and language workshop at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

It was such a unique opportunity for our students to take part in a range of drama activities as well as having the chance to do design some art and perform some footage using their linguistic skills. Onatti Production - "Un ticket pour l'espace"

On Wednesday 17th July our academy enjoyed a successful visit from Onatti Productions. A company that specialises in foreign language plays for schools. All year 7 and 8 students watched the performance by two French speaking actors and they thoroughly enjoyed the

show!

The play was called "Un ticket pour l'espace" and was about a boy named Jack who won a ticket to go to space. We followed him through his training and incredible journey, meeting a fellow French astronaut and an alien along the way.

As a language teacher, the play was such an interactive show where actors made the audience interact with the characters and also practise and learn new French words. Overall it was a very educational experience and a pleasure to watch.

Al Bader Restaurant

14 students from Year 9 Arabic were extremely fortunate this term to have a taste of Arabic gastronomy in Al Bader Restaurant - an Arab restaurant on Ladypool Road. Students invited on the trip were chosen as a reward for their

outstanding effort, behaviour for learning, and commitment to Arabic this year!

This visit was filled with opportunities to communicate using the Arabic language as well as tasting traditional Arab food. Whilst visiting the restaurant, students used the target language to interact with Arabic speakers as they were challenged to order their meals using only Arabic. This experience not only exposed the students to the target language, but enabled them to gain the confidence to speak Arabic spontaneously and widened their knowledge of the Arab etiquette when eating.

It was a fantastic opportunity to immerse our students in a real linguistic atmosphere where they were able to see the purpose for learning a language.

MUSIC

This term musicians at Rockwood have been just as active as always. We have explored many different types of musical performance and have had the pleasure to attend many fantastic events that have really helped students to excel the musical progress and talent!

In May, GCSE students were invited to attend a concert performance at Town Hall in Birmingham. The solo cellist that we saw was Sheku Kanneh-Mason, the cello player who performed at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding! We were really inspired by how expressive his playing was and really enjoyed the charisma between him and his sister Isata who accompanied on piano. It was a really great opportunity to see music

making at its highest standard!

The Rockwood choir created a stir by performing "Imagine" by John Lennon at the Great Get Together, an event that brought together schools from across the area to continue with the Echo Eternal project. We loved learning this iconic song about peace although the best bit was the fact that there were so many of us joining together as one to deliver the message through song - nearly 50 students!

We are looking forward to an incredibly busy end of term for the Expressive Arts team! The Music Department has held 3 separate morning performances to give students who have had a Music Service lesson this year, the chance to showcase their skills in front

of an audience. Some students have only been learning for as little as a few months so this is a big step and their first public performance. We will also be hosting an Evening of Talent on Tuesday 16th July. This will be a massive event, bringing together performances and offerings from Music, Drama, Art, Hospitality and Catering, English, Modern Foreign Languages and PE with the sole aim of celebrating the incredible and diverse talent that we have at Rockwood!

Finally, make sure that you enjoy your well-deserved summer holidays!

Take your instrument home, and make sure that you practice, ready for next year!

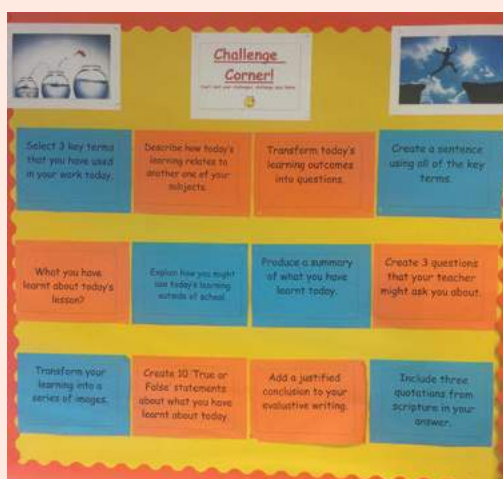
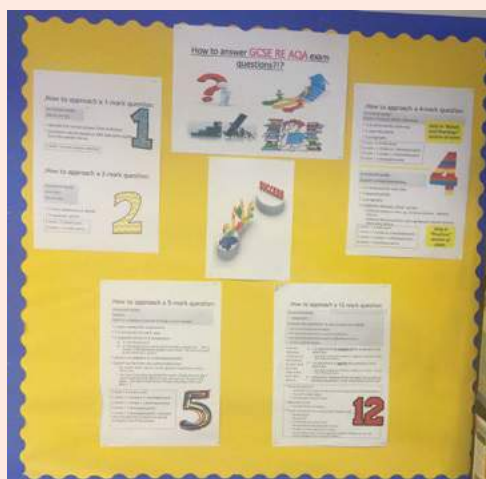


PE

It has been a busy term in sport once again, as we approach the summer season. The Year 11 BTEC Sport group are approaching the final stages of their course, and are busy working hard to achieve the best results they can. Their attitude and focus has been excellent and hopefully the results will reflect the effort they have put in to their studies. The emphasis will shift shortly to Year 10 to ensure they get the best marks they are capable of, with the leadership module fast approaching completion.

Summer term means Athletics, Cricket, Tennis and Rounders activities in Core PE. The students' attitude has been very good, with many students pushing themselves to their very best each lesson and showing a pleasing attitude to the subject. It's essential however in Core PE lessons Rockwood PE kit is brought in and worn at all times. If there is an issue regards PE kit, please see Mr Smith or Miss Harley. Extra-curricular activities are very

much up and running and there will be numerous opportunities to participate in competitions and events as part of the Level 2 Sporting Games program. If students wish to take part in the Extra Curricular programs on offer, please see Miss Smith to get an Extra-Curricular letter. If there is an extra-curricular activity you would like to see, or wish to join a local sporting club then please speak to a member of the PE staff who will only be too willing to help.



RE

The RE Department has been working very hard this half term in order to raise achievement in RE across the curriculum. In particular, we have focused on stretching and challenging our students beyond their potential. In order to achieve this we have created a challenge corner for KS3 students to stretch themselves further. Students have really welcomed this opportunity as it has boosted their confidence to challenge themselves in order to achieve even more and has created a very competitive environment in lessons. For KS4 we have looked at the exam success criteria and have

worked very closely with the sources of wisdom to enhance their understanding. Alongside that we have a display which is based on the Sources of Wisdom from AQA, the examining board and students have used this resource in their learning effectively. We, as a department ensure that through respect and collaboration students have been given the opportunities to accomplish excellence.

SCIENCE

Students have been working exceptionally hard in Science this term. We'd like to say a very big well done to the Year 11 students who worked tirelessly during the GCSE examination period and would like to wish them the very best of luck for the future. Year 9 have taken part in a trip to Nottingham University where they participated in the Chemistry Salters quiz. Students worked in pairs and used their chemistry knowledge to compete with other year 9 students from across the country.

Both Year 7 and 8 students are involved in the Academy's Science Club, which takes place every Thursday with Mr Shah. Here the students carry out some flaming fun practical's whilst developing their scientific knowledge and laboratory skills.



KS3 PASTORAL MANAGER MESSAGES

YEAR 7 - MS SHAHEEN

Year 7 have had another great term, in which students have shown their commitment to working hard, towards meeting their academic goals and meeting the academy's expectations. Many of our students have been involved in many extra-curricular clubs within PE, science and the music department and others have been involved in the Tennis school and Echo Eternal project.

The last few weeks have been full of exciting events that year 7 have embraced, such as; The Black Country Museum, the international trip to The Opal Coast in France, trips to Wimbledon and finally to end

the year a visit to Alton Towers. Something we can look forward to reading about in the next newsletter.

Finally, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank year 7 for being such a great year group, you truly are an amazing group of young people who will continue to grow and prosper in year 8. I'd also like to thank parents for their support throughout the year.



YEAR 8 - MR DHILLON - SENIOR PASTORAL MANAGER

After a busy term, with trips and after school sessions the year 8 have been very successful in demonstrating resilience and building confidence. They are now fully prepared for the commencement of their GCSE studies in September, with all students receiving confirmation of the subjects they will study and ultimately excel in, throughout the remainder of their time at the academy.

Some highlights this term include; the inter year football competition, which has been a perfect opportunity to see team work and a healthy, competitive attitude amongst our students, SMSC day which was

delivered through interactive workshops hosted by external agencies, which challenges common misconceptions and opened our minds to the diverse society in which we live and our first international trip, which a number of the year 8 students attended to the Opal Coast in France.

Once again, I look forward to sharing more news in the future and would like to wish all our students and their families a restful summer.



KS4 PASTORAL MANAGER MESSAGES

YEAR 9 - MS WALKER

As we come to the end of another successful year I would like to say how proud I am and how much I have enjoyed being head of year 9 this year. All pupils have made achievements brilliantly in preparation for year 10. Looking back at their journey from the start of this academic year to where they are now shows they have gone from strength to strength and have grown in confidence. Year 9 have been involved in a lot of different things throughout the year - cadets, echo eternal, music lessons, football club and cricket club as well as other opportunities that are still to come.

I would like to say massive congratulations to Izma Hamid 9E who

organised Rockwood Academy Eid Fair to raise money towards her charity trip to Tanzania where she will be spending time with the locals taking on various different projects within the community. So far Izma has raised £850!

We are all looking forward to the end of year trip and are excited to be moving on into the new academic year in year 10 and getting closer to those all-important GCSEs.



YEAR 10 - MR ALI

It has been a wonderfully busy term for the year 10s experiencing extra-curricular and educational activities. Year 10s have had the privilege of taking part in the World of Work week learning about future prospects in both work and further education. Whilst education is at the forefront of the academy the students in year 10 have also faced a tough challenge in sitting their first realistic mock exams in the hall. This has been a priceless experience and gave the students a valuable insight to what is coming next summer at the end of year 11. I am thoroughly looking forward to an important and busy year, next year

with my year group, where we all aim to achieve the best possible outcomes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the students and parents in achieving a remarkable 100% attendance to Parents Evening this term. I look forward to working closely with families over the next 12 months in pushing and supporting our students to achieve excellence in their GCSE results.



YEAR 11 - MR KHAN

This term, we have witnessed our year 11 students develop from teenagers into young adults. They tackled all of their GCSE exams with complete dedication and resilience and ensured all of their course work was completed to the best of their abilities. As a reward, following their final exam, we arranged an end of exam party in the Academy Hall on Friday 14th June. There were a number of treats, including a chocolate fountain, balloons, a captioned photo experience and much more. The students enjoyed all of the rewards, but mostly enjoyed the final get together with their friends of the last five years. Many left with shirts and memory books signed, with heartfelt messages, as a lasting memory of their time at Rockwood Academy.

This was followed by an end of year reward trip to Alton Towers,

and although it was a wet and dreary June day, a fantastic time was had by all, with many braving all of the exhilarating and daring rollercoasters. Some even managed to acquire some new friends, in the shape of teddies and large round cuddly faces, for their bedrooms.

We look forward to welcoming them back to Rockwood on Thursday 22nd August to collect their GCSE results and support them with their next steps, but would like to take this opportunity to remind them that they will always be a part of the Rockwood family, and as such are always welcome to visit.



PARTNERSHIPS

BEACON SCHOOL

Rockwood Academy's Head of History joined Echo Eternal Network Schools; Jewellery Quarter Academy and Nishkam High School for a visit to Warsaw, the capital of Poland, as part of University College London's (UCL) Centre for Holocaust Education's, Beacon School programme.

Mr Singh, alongside Mr Soper and Miss Moody joined other Beacon Schools on the annual study visit during the 10th-13th May 2019. The study trip is designed to deepen their understanding of the Holocaust and explore the impact the Holocaust had on the local Polish community to further inform their teaching.

The trip included visits to key historical locations including the Warsaw Ghettos and Treblinka, the second largest death camp created by Nazi Germany during World War Two, where 800,000 people were killed. The Warsaw Ghettos allowed Mr Soper and Mr Singh to see first-hand the ways in which the Jewish community were segregated from the rest of society, hearing stories about how many died from malnutrition and a lack of medical supplies to treat diseases and illnesses. They visited the site of the Grand Synagogue which was destroyed by the Nazis after the Warsaw Uprising in 1943.

Mr Singh, Head of History at Rockwood

Academy said:

"Being able to talk about places I'd visited and how they related to specific individuals like Janusz Korczak who were taken to such places can provide a further dimension to the explanation that the students will provide in response to their understanding of the Holocaust"

"Being able to describe the physical dimensions of a place, what it looks like now and how a particular site has been remembered will allow students to grasp the suffering that Jewish people faced as result of prejudice and hatred."

"The trip to Poland informs my teaching of the Holocaust. It provided me with knowledge, inspiration, depth, breadth – all facets that I can call upon to enhance the lessons I teach. More importantly on reflection, the trip has shaped me both as a classroom teacher but also as a person."

Miss Moody, History Lead at Niskham High School said:

"I've learnt so much about the pedagogy of effective site visits. Most importantly, I've begun to understand the void that was left by the Holocaust. When we visited a Jewish Cemetery in Warsaw, we were asked why was it overgrown with trees...because the children and grandchildren who should be caring for it now were never born, that is what genocide means."



Speaking about the trip prior to it taking place, Programme Director Ruth-Anne Lenga said:

"As teachers walk through the former ghetto stopping at points of significance and remembrance, they will engage in creative tasks that bring about a powerful encounter with the past. Throughout we will consider site-based pedagogy and reflect upon the significance of these spaces and shared learning for our classrooms."

Beacon Schools serve as dynamic hubs co-ordinating a network of local schools, helping them to develop confidence, proficiency and excellence in Holocaust teaching and learning.



REMEMBERING SREBRENICA

To mark the 24th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide on Thursday 11th July 2019, students at Rockwood Academy took part in events throughout the day to help remember those who lost their lives.

Year 7 students joined other schools across Birmingham at the NIA and participated in a football tournament which helped to bring communities across Birmingham together and remember the victims of the worst atrocity on European soil since the Second World War.

In addition, all students learnt about what happened in Srebrenica in lessons and assemblies delivered by staff. The theme for this year's event looked at "Bridging the Divide: Confronting Hate", which seeks to inspire people to challenge those who seek to divide communities, celebrate those who build bridges across divisions and encourage us all to build bridges of our own.

ANN FRANK

As part of a commemoration of the Holocaust and what would have been Anne Franks' 90th Birthday, Rockwood Academy devoted time on focusing on the importance of the life of Anne Frank. All students were able to experience a powerful assembly on who Ann Frank was and her significance in history. Students were given the opportunity to reflect on the insight Ann Frank has provided the world of what it was truly like to live in Nazi occupied Holland. In addition, students were also provided with thought provoking tasks to complete during SMSC lessons in form time. Students were moved and inspired by the strength and bravery shown by Ann Frank and were amazed to find out she was just 13 years of age when she went into hiding to escape Nazi persecution as young Jewish individual. Indeed, Ann Franks' diary provided students with a vivid and poignant glimpse into key themes such as anti-Semitism, injustice and totalitarianism and students were able to reflect on how fortunate they were with the opportunities provided to them.



BEYOND THE BASELINE

The Tennis Foundation and the Youth Sport Trust have partnered to create the Beyond the Baseline programme. Beyond The Baseline Tennis Mentors inspire pupils with their experiences of playing tennis and the obstacles they've overcome both on and off the court.

The Beyond the Baseline Mentors link their journey to four key Employability & Life skills; Personal, Social, Creative and Thinking Skills; that everyone needs to be able to achieve their goals.

This year twenty five of our year 8 students participated in Beyond the Baseline. Our mentor, Yasmin visited us on three occasions. The last session was on Wednesday 19th June, during this session, our year 8 students coached 30 students from Nansen Primary School in Tennis, demonstrating all the skills they have learnt through the Beyond the Baseline programme.



CCF CAMP

Rockwood Academy's Combined Cadet Force students visited Crowborough Training Camp in East Sussex for the annual CCF Central Camp during the 23rd-29th June 2019.

17 cadets from Years 8, 9 and 10 took part in the Central Camp, which is the culmination of a cadet's training cycle and is designed to offer a wide range of unique activities which develop the skills learned during Rockwood Academy's training programme and put to the test in new experiences during the week.

On day one, training consisted of rotating through the following stands: live firing on the camp shooting range, obstacle course navigation, shotgun training, paintball and laser guest activities, and mine-locating.

Day two was focused on Adventurous Training, which was split between the morning and afternoon sessions. The morning saw the Rockwood Academy cadets take part in mountain biking, STEM-focused activities, and archery. The afternoon involved floating on the reservoir in open kayaks as well as a team competition that involved building a raft from oil drums and planks, which were used competitively to race each other in

the water.

Day three saw the Rockwood Academy contingent move into the field, taking part in specialised training with the 11th Infantry Brigade, one of the British Army's 6 Adaptable Force brigades. They produced 4 fieldcraft stands and a Platoon-level attack against an undisclosed number of enemy positions. Cadets also took part in an outdoors 'escape room' challenge, were shown how a vehicle checkpoint works, and took part in a platoon ambush. The cadets then took to the woods, building their own tents, cooking their own food and staying out overnight.

On day four, Rockwood Academy's cadets took part in morning and afternoon sessions. In the morning, cadets were taught how to build off the ground stretchers and then tasked with showcasing their new-found skills by building them in teams. They also took part in an orienteering exercise. The morning session was completed by an axe and spear-throwing session which highlighted how food was captured during the medieval era. The afternoon session saw cadets take part in first aid and

compound clearing.

On day five, the cadets worked as a team and participated in 10 competition stands, which were designed around the week's training. Rockwood Academy competed against well-established schools within the Cadet movement, however each of Rockwood's cadets took part in at least one stand with dedication and passion. Overall, Rockwood's cadets achieved 4 Bronze and 6 Silver medals, with particular success seen during the Mountain Biking and Survival challenges.

11 of the 17 attending cadets won medals, whilst overall the cadets achieved 8 CCF Basic passes and 4 Advance passes, which are awarded to cadets as part of the Cadet Force Syllabus. These passes resulted in the promotion of both Cadets and Staff. Z. Bashir and O. Bostan were promoted from Cadet to Lance Corporal whilst M. Waseem was promoted from Cadet Lance Corporal to Full Corporal. Staff member and Second Lieutenant Ms Walker was promoted to Full Lieutenant.

We are incredibly proud of our CCF cadets and their achievements during Central Camp and across the academic year.

MOSAIC MENTORING

Rockwood Academy's year 9 students participated in Mosaic mentoring for the third year running. There were seven sessions of mentoring with our year 9 students focusing on building confidence, presentation skills and having a positive mind set. The eighth session was a celebration of the students' achievements, where they received their certificates of completion. There was also a World of Work visit to two of the mentors' place of work which meant students visited KPMG. We would like to thank Karen and Shalabh for organising the World of Work visit and KPMG for hosting us. Thank you to our dedicated mentors who volunteer their time so generously, we hope you'll join us again next year.



SPEAK OUT

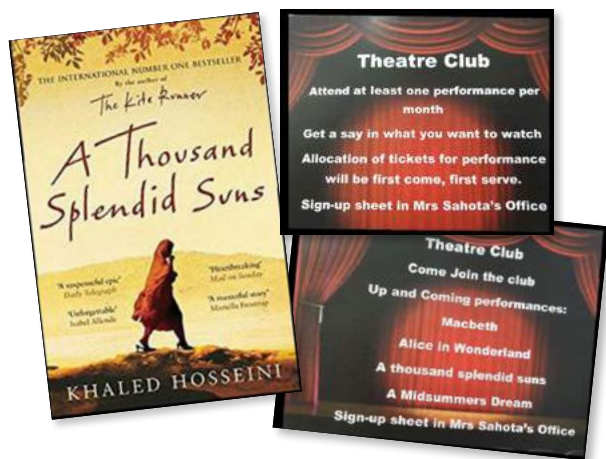
In May, we welcomed the Speakers Trust, in partnership with HSBC UK, to Rockwood. As a part of the Speak Out Challenge. The aim of the day was to train a new cohort of year 10s to speak with clarity, conviction and impact. Each participant was given the essential tools to communicate in front of an audience.

The day saw many of our talented Year 10's flourish, we topics presented passionately and confidently.



THEATRE CLUB

Our Theatre Club continues to go from strength to strength. Since starting in November 2018 with 15 members it now has over 80 members who have been to see; Breaking the Code which is based on the life of Alan Turing who is to be the face of the new £50 note; Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth; as well as, Orange Polar Bear and Pinnichio. Most recently the students went to see a production of the nationally acclaimed, A Thousand Splendid Suns at The Rep Theatre. The plays are all chosen by the students. Theatre Club isn't just about watching plays it's also about understanding literature, drama and the process of getting a play from the script to the stage, as well as giving students a safe environment in which to enjoy the theatre. More visits are planned for the coming academic year with Peter Pan and The Snow Queen already causing ripples of excitement around the academy.



UNICEF

We are a Rights Respecting School, currently holding the Bronze award and currently working towards the Silver Award. This Half term our steer group have been very busy engaging with the children's rights UNICEF project. We have created been busy ensuring that all students at Rockwood Academy are aware of their rights. In addition, we have taken part in a UNICEF production which was a great opportunity for our students to collaborate with other schools, promote children's rights, showcase their skills and to proudly represent Rockwood Academy. Our students have demonstrated a great sense of respect and responsibility throughout the year by participating in UNICEF meetings and as such have developed and demonstrated fantastic leadership skills.



CORE-US

In June we were invited to lots of different choral events. Selected singers joined the CORE-US choir again (after a performance on the Teacher Training day at the start of term!) and have started attending weekly rehearsals at the Birmingham Conservatoire - a high profile music university that we are lucky to have in our city. We have been working with choral conductor Dan Galbraeth and many students and teachers from other CORE schools to practice lots of different types of vocal music. Our favourite song at the moment is A Million Dreams from the Greatest Showman and we are really enjoying the challenge of singing in harmony!



TANZANIA

We have started our fund raising campaign for our journey with Camp International 2020, to Tanzania. The target we need to raise is £4150 per student. One of the events we have organised this term is the Rockwood Academy Eid Fair. Throughout the evening, the students sold a variety of food, including; samosas, pakoras, chick peas & rice, cakes, biscuits and drinks. In addition, students took great pleasure in throwing lots of sponges at the teachers and there was also an opportunity to have Henna tattoos and hair braided. The event was that popular, that all tickets for the event were sold out in advance!

Great fun was had by all and most importantly we raised a grand total of £530 from the event. Well done to all the students for turning this into a brilliant evening.

If you are interested in joining our exciting expedition to Tanzania 2020 and you are in Year 8, 9 or 10 please come and speak to Mrs Sahota.

Well done Team Tanzania!



TED ED UPDATE

The students have made a great start tackling the concept of TED Ed Club. We have had our TED Ed leaders going from strength to strength in delivering TED Ed lessons to the team of TED Ed pioneers! They have carefully and thoughtfully narrowed down the subject of their talks and we had phenomenal reaction to their initial delivery of the talks. Mr Adrian Packer CEO of CORE Education Trust and our Headteacher, Ms Darr gratefully gave up some of their time to be the first to hear some of our fantastic work. The reaction was astounding Mr Packer and Ms Darr were blown away by the content of the talks. Mr Packer said the talk resonated with his childhood and was very emotionally moved by the talks. Our speakers will be delivering their talks in Assembly and we are very proud of their efforts so far.

As they say in the world of TED ED - all ideas are worth spreading locally, nationally and globally!!



NEW DEVELOPMENT

The New Face of Rockwood Academy!



**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION

Completion in Summer 2020!

- ✓ Brand New Teaching Block
- ✓ 14 New Classrooms
- ✓ State of the Art New Library
- ✓ Specialist Dance Studio
- ✓ Improved Science Laboratories
- ✓ Project website being launched to follow progress
- ✓ Activities planned to involve students in the project
- ✓ Local companies and labour to be used

Follow progress at:
www.rockwoodproject.co.uk

ASSOCIATED
ARCHITECTS

Please follow us on  Twitter @CORERockwood



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