

City of Rochester School Newsletter



Autumn 1 2022 – Academic Year 2022-2023

Introduction from the Head

We welcomed all our fantastic staff and pupils back to school on the 5th September 2022, with three new pupils joining us for Year 7 and one in Year 11. Our pupils have shown tremendous resilience in getting back to school and embracing the new academic year. Our experiential curriculum for the lower and middle school has been very exciting and our older pupils have been involved in two community projects – see the Curriculum Section for further details.

We have held our first coffee morning of the new academic year and we plan to open these out to the wider community very soon. We very much hope that those of you who have attended continue to do so, and that more of you will find the time to attend, including our new parents. We have external speakers who are on hand to offer advice and guidance to you as well as refreshments. Please do come along!

We are planning our face-to-face Parents' Evening for Thursday 15th December and I will write to you about the arrangements in due course.

Some parents on our Parent Advisory Group have been looking at some of our policies – these being Behaviour, Attendance and Safeguarding. I would like to extend my thanks to those of you who have been involved as your feedback really helps to shape our practice.

As always, I want to thank you for your continued support of the school and what we are achieving to support our wonderful pupils. We have received some very heart-warming posts on social media which I always share with our staff as it's good to know that what we do every day is having such a positive impact on young lives.

Please look at our Facebook page: City of Rochester School and sign up to follow us!

I wish you all a peaceful and restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school on Monday 7th November 2022.

Alicja Emmett - Headteacher

Staffing Update

The following new staff have joined us from September 2022:

Simon Hazelby (Jupiter Class Teacher) – 'Hello! I'm Simon and I'm the new teacher in Jupiter. I have been teaching in main-stream schools for many years and have also taught abroad in Spain. I am pleased to be working for City of Rochester school, its families and children and am looking forward to my new role as Jupiter's teacher!

Kate Jarvis (Moon Class Learning Support) - I have worked in schools since I graduated from university, mainly in a TA capacity but have also taught PE/Drama & Dance. PE is one of my favourite subjects to teach and learn about. I enjoy watching sport outside of school and this is helped to stem my love for it. I have enjoyed my first term at City of Rochester school. I am looking forward to learning more about the school and the students in it.

Rob Turton (Maths Teacher), Louie Cross (Jupiter Class Learning Support) and Nicole Xhepa (Neptune Class Learning Support) also join us from this term.



Key Dates

Term 1:
05/09/22-
21/10/22

Half Term:
24/10/22-
04/11/22

Term 2:
07/11/22-
15/12/22

**Christmas
Break:**
16/12/22-
03/01/23

Term 3:
04/01/23-
10/02/23

Half Term:
13/02/23-
17/02/23

Bank Holidays:

25/12/22
26/12/22
27/12/22
01/01/23
02/01/23

Reports Sent Home:

21/10/22
09/12/22

Curriculum News

Pupils in the lower and middle school have visited the Guildhall Museum and Kent Life for workshops based on the Bronze, Iron and Stone Age. In addition, they visited Buckmore Park Great Leaps Adventure Education and participated in bushcraft activities, map reading and orienteering, caving and archery.



Pupils have been learning about Louie Braille and Braille as a means of communication and we had a visit from Guide Dogs for the Blind where pupils learned about the working life of a guide dog and how they are trained.



GCSE News

The school had its best GCSE results to date with all pupils who sat exams achieving a pass. One pupil achieved a 9 in his GCSE English which is the highest grade on the scale!

One pupil who had learned to drive as part of his curriculum passed his test! Well done to our pupils. All have gone off to positive destinations which include employment and colleges.



Some pupils visited Eagle Heights Wildlife Foundation to learn about Birds of Prey. As can be seen from the photographs, pupils have thoroughly enjoyed themselves!



Our new kitchen had a makeover during the summer and this term pupils have been learning about food safety.

Pupils in the upper school continue to thrive on their various placements which include Squirrells Riding School, Creepy Claws at Whiteleaf Farm, Curly's Farm and Kite College.



We firmly believe in our experiential curriculum as a concept. These "practical/hands-on" experiences broaden and deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding of topics. They are linked to our curriculum, accreditation routes and ensure pupils are fully "immersed" in the topics taught.

Super Exciting News.....

We are pleased to announce that three of our students are finalists in the prestigious Medway Youth Awards!

Tegan T, Riley B and Louie C have all been invited to join the other finalists for the awards evening on Wednesday 9th November 2022 at Gillingham Football Club, Priestfield Stadium. Staff, parents & family friends will be in attendance.



Curriculum News

Mercury Class visited the National Maritime Museum and Planetarium in Greenwich.

Whilst there, pupils & staff explored the Royal Observatory which is steeped in History. We got to see some of the very first telescopes that were made by famous astrologers when they first discovered there was more in the universe than we all thought!

We then went to the Planetarium where we laid back and enjoyed a stary show. The whole theatre was in darkness and the ceiling turned into the night sky. We then had a virtual trip to the rings of Saturn, Jupiter and Pluto. Pluto is now classed as a dwarf planet, but we were still able to look on its surface.

We had a great day exploring the museum and found out lots of new facts as well as being able to talk about what we had learned in our Mission Control Unit in LMTW.



Community Links

Pupils in the upper school are engaged in two community projects. One at St. Francis Church in Strood where pupils are helping with general maintenance.



The other project is at Cliffe Pools Nature Reserve where pupils are helping to make and erect signposts for the walks around the lakes, gathering firewood ready for the large fire pit, pruning shrubberies and painting fences. Two of the students are working on a media project, gathering information about the walks and wildlife, and taking photos which, they hope to make into a calendar at the end of the year. Sneaky peak below.....



Charity of the year

Our chosen charity for this year is Gillingham Street Angels. Their mission is to help the homeless, and vulnerable members of the community of all ages in the Medway towns and surrounding areas. They supply food parcels and other essential items to those most in need as well as supporting with advice and help with Housing forms and job applications.



Equality and Diversity Calendar

Pupils have been busy engaging in our Equality and Diversity Calendar where we have taken part in Jeans for Genes Day where we raised £62!



National Fitness Day was celebrated with pupils learning new skills and taking part in a wide range of activities that included archery and circuit training.



The Harvest Festival where pupils and staff donated items to a charity Gillingham Street Angels who are our chosen charity for this year.



PC Brett has been into school to deliver workshops on Internet safety and appropriate behaviour in the community as well as discussions on the use of vapes, advice on health and the law around the use of these devices. Some of the older students also reflected on their visit to the Ben Kinsella Trip and knife crime from the end of last term.



Coffee Mornings...

Please remember to visit us at the St Francis of Assisi Church in Strood, the last Wednesday of every month. Our coffee mornings are a wonderful opportunity for parents and the community to get together, share ideas and challenges over a cup of coffee.

Special Guests!

30th November 22' – Alison Webb – Attendance Advisory Board & Child Exploitation information

14th December 22' – Nathan Cripps – CoRS Teacher for Online Safety Support and advice.