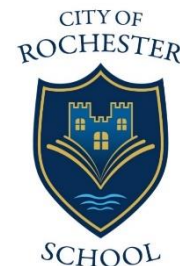


# City of Rochester School Newsletter



## Spring 2 2024 – Academic Year 2023-2024

### Introduction from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the Easter break, it has been a very busy term for our staff and pupils and we look forward to this chance to relax and re-energise! We opened our new City of Rochester School Vocational College formally on the 19<sup>th</sup> February and our KS5 and some KS4 pupils are settling in. We hope to organise a visit for all our families in due course. It really is spectacular and we are excited to be able to offer a range of subjects and vocational and technical pathways, including an extended Lifeskills Programme to ensure that pupils are ready for their next stages once they leave us.

Our Peer Mentoring programme began and we have a number of pupils supporting each other. This is a wonderful initiative and already we are seeing some positive impacts.

Fundraising continues to take place through the various events we have in school. So far this year we have raised £3,467.74. A fundraising black-tie dinner was organised by West Kent Volunteer Lodge on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Some staff from City of Rochester School attended and a total of £3,000 was raised. We will use some of this money for Easter and Summer programmes for pupils. Representatives from the Lodge came to visit school and presented us with a cheque.



I hope that you and your family have a relaxing and joyful Easter break, and I look forward to welcoming our students and staff back, ready to take on the next term.

Alicja Emmett  
Headteacher

### Key Dates

**Term 4:**  
19/02/24-  
28/03/24

**Easter break:**  
02/04/2024-  
15/04/2024

**Term 5:**  
16/04/24-  
24/05/24

**Half Term:**  
28/05/24-  
31/05/24

**Term 6:**  
03/06/24-  
16/07/24

**Summer  
Holidays:**  
17/07/24-  
02/09/24

**Bank Holidays:**  
29/03/24  
01/04/24  
06/05/24  
27/5/24  
26/08/24

**Reports sent  
Home:**  
12/07/24

## Experiential

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March Mercury and Jupiter class went to the museum of Kent Life to embark on a day of Viking discovery.

Here pupils learnt the different items that the Vikings would use when they raided villages, how to sword fight and build a wall of shields.

They learnt that the long boats of the Vikings were very adaptable and when they were not being used to sail, they were turned upside down without the masts and turned into houses until the Vikings were ready to move on again.

All of the pupils had a great time and all enjoyed one another's company.



Mercury class really enjoyed the CSI crime team that visited this term to teach them about how to gather evidence at the scene of a crime to catch criminals!



## City of Rochester College

This term at CORSVC we have seen the students settle into the new college well and we have also seen some of the primary classes utilise the new workshop with all that attended achieving an AQA for building a bird box.



**Safeguarding:** If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, please call our safeguarding team on 01643 570706 in school hours or 07947 144640 out of hours.

**Our safeguarding and anti-bullying policies can be found on the school website.**

The Prevent Duty is the duty of those in authorities to keep people and communities safe from the threat of terrorism. It focuses on preventing people from being drawn into terrorist organisations or ideals. All CoRS staff have received Prevent training. This teaches us what the Prevent Duty is along with how to apply it. Staff are taught how to spot the signs that a child or young person may be at risk of radicalisation, whether religious or political. Staff will also be trained in clear guidance about what to do if they suspect a pupil is going through this to help keep them safe and supported. Our role as a school is to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This includes safeguarding learners from extremist ideologies and radicalisation.

All staff look out for concerning changes in behaviour and report them to the designated safeguarding lead Kelly Lovell DSL. For more information regarding Prevent please see the Government website [Get help for radicalisation concerns - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

### Cultural & Diversity Calendar

Our school enjoyed celebrating another World Book Day with both pupils and staff dressing up for the occasion. There was a 'Where's Wally' hunt around the school and pupils discussed the different books that they enjoy including non-fiction and manga.

Acts of Kindness Day saw us sharing compliments with each other and talking about how they made us feel.

The school held a careers fair in the hall for Careers Week. The pupils had a chance to talk to people from different industries including the fire service, police, a photographer and highways services. They enjoyed trying on some of the uniforms and having conversations about possible career choices including looking at what qualifications they would need to work towards to achieve their goals.

For Science week, pupils were able to take part in many activities including bridge building, designing an invention, drawing what they think a scientist looks like and designing a poster for the British Science week competition. Information about a different scientist that challenged the stereotypes was shared with the classes each day.



## Life skills lessons

The topic for Apollo and Venus' life skills this term was employment. We have been exploring jobs that our pupils may not have considered. This included a visit from Sergeant Paul Garvie from the Army Recruitment Centre in Chatham, a 'backstage' tour of Hempstead Valley to see how a shopping centre is run and meeting with independent shop owners in Rochester to interview them about how they started their businesses. They have also been to Chatham library to see how people use the space to work and study and to find out how to join the libraries, if they haven't already. They are finishing with a trip to the Travel Safe & Smart venue at Margate station, joined by Earth class, to learn about independent travel and personal safety when using our railways.



## Peer Mentors

Our Peer Mentoring scheme is underway, and the mentors have all completed their safeguarding training. They asked great questions and have been mature in their learning. The mentors have all met with their mentees. Session times have been given and some have started this term, with the rest starting as the new term begins. Those that have taken part so far are enjoying the opportunity to talk with their peers. One of the mentees has said that it is good to have an opportunity to speak with someone his age.



## School Council:

'My name is James, I am the School Council Publicity Officer- my job is to promote the school and everything we do here and try to get people from outside into our school council meetings.

The pupils of City of Rochester take part in work experience from the age of 14 until they finish in the school. So far pupils have worked for Gillingham Street Angels café and their warehouse. Please speak to Alix Wilson if you have any work experience recommendations. Alix is always looking to expand on our work experience offer. You can contact her here: [alix.wilson@cityofrochesterschool.org](mailto:alix.wilson@cityofrochesterschool.org).'

'This term, lots of pupils have moved to our new Vocational College. Our older students have been doing their exams this term and the younger pupils had a Learning Means the World Wellbeing Week. We also celebrated World Book Day, Careers Week, Science Week and Autism Awareness Day.'

'We are working towards running School Council without adult help, this is due to us wanting pupils to be more confident and take ownership and responsibility for this forum. Thank you for reading my segment. James'