

City of Rochester School Newsletter



Autumn 1 2024 – Academic Year 2024-2025

Introduction from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers

As we head into the next academic year, looking back on some of our achievements last academic year, they were most extraordinary. Some highlights were:

- We opened our new technical and vocational college which many of you have been to see and I am sure you will agree that we have created something very special for our pupils
- Our Peer Mentors who have worked hard supporting other pupils in school. We are continuing this programme.
- The staff v pupils football match – and I am pleased to say that pupils won!
- Pupils representing the school at the Medway Youth Conference and the Medway Games
- The visit from Emma Brown, England Woman's Deaf Football Captain. She talked of her experiences as a woman with a disability getting to the top of her game. She was a real inspiration to us.
- Pupils working hard on their placements

There have been many more, and far too many to list here.

We had our Ofsted visit early in July and we have again been judged to be a "good" school, with two outstanding categories.

This year we are excited to be launching our **Girls' Curriculum – Our "We Are" programme**. We put this course together, following consultation with parents of our girls and through consultation with pupils. The aim of this programme is to ensure that our curriculum is enabling and empowering. The themes are:

- W – Wellbeing
- E – Empowered
- A – Advocacy
- R – Ready/Resilient
- E – Enough

We are also excited to launch our **Kids MBA Programme** (which has been identified as one of the world's leading children's entrepreneurship programme in Forbes Magazine) which we are trialling with two groups this year. This programme is aimed at pupils aged 11-15 and is designed to give pupils a real world taste of the life skills, know-how and aptitude required to run a business or become an entrepreneur, opening up the concept of self-employment and business leadership to young people.

Key Dates

Term 2:
05/11/24-
19/12/24

**Christmas
Break:**
20/12/24-
06/01/25

Term 3:
07/01/25-
14/02/25

Half Term:
17/02/25-
21/02/25

Term 4:
24/02/25-
03/04/25

Easter break:
04/04/25-
21/04/25

Term 5:
22/04/25-
23/05/25

Bank Holidays:
25/12/24
26/12/24
01/01/25
18/04/25
21/04/25
05/05/24

Introduction from the Head (continued)

This will also provide pupils with a solid foundation to move onto future business studies courses we offer. Pupils will receive an ABE Endorsed Kids MBA Certificate and they will be part of the international community of Kids MBA Schools. At the end of the programme our shark tank (Dragon's Den) winner(s) will have the opportunity to go through to an international competition – The Future Entrepreneur of the Year. Watch this space as I share more information with you as our pupils progress through their course.

You can read some more information here:

[ABE Endorsed KidsMBA](#) | [ABE UK](#)



We are also excited to announce our joint collaboration with Squirrels where some pupils will be helping run their tea room - Nutkins. In addition we will be growing produce in a new greenhouse that will be installed early next year – pupils will be growing produce to prepare food. Pupils engaged in these initiatives are working on accredited Land Based Studies/Hospitality and Catering pathways. I cannot wait to share how our pupils are getting on. Watch this space.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your ongoing support of our school. Your involvement and commitments plays such a crucial role in the success and wellbeing of our pupils.

Alicja Emmett
Headteacher

Community Project

This term we have been working with Squirrels Riding School, where we have been helping them to develop and build an allotment. The first job was to build a fence to stop the horses from eating the plants.

We have cleared the area and started to build the fence. We plan to also build a shelter to use as a teaching area and potting area out of the rain.



School Council

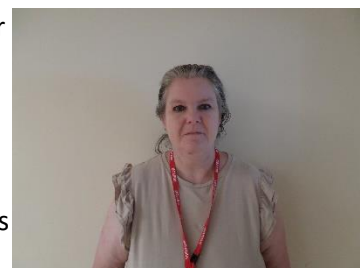
The school council got off to a good start this year. Classes have chosen their representatives who attended the first meeting in the second week of the term. They have lots of new ideas and suggestions, especially for lunchtime clubs. A new fundraising committee has been chosen and leading this is our student fundraiser for the past two years, Kian, who is happy to continue in his role. This year's charity, chosen by the pupils in a vote, is the Sophie Lancaster Foundation. The charity works hard to promote accepting differences, one of our class values. The fundraising team has plans including a quiz and a gig in a local venue.



<https://www.sophielancasterfoundation.com/>

All about me

Hi. My name is Susan and I am the teacher who oversees the BTEC Qualifications at Squirrels, Nutkins Cafe, Larkin Farm and Lower Bush Alpaca Farm. I am really enjoying working at City of Rochester School and enjoy seeing what our students can achieve especially when they are out in the community. In my spare time, I like to do flower arranging, quilting and taking our dog for a walk.



Cultural & Diversity Calendar

As part of our experiential curriculum the school celebrates a cultural and diversity calendar. This valuable resource gives details of important dates, including holy days, festivals, important holidays and awareness events, as well as key City of Rochester School British Values activities. Our aim is to bring learning to life and fully immerse pupils in learning outcomes and experiences outside the curriculum. Our calendar of cultural and diversity awareness days helps the children to;

- Gain an awareness of other's life experiences, past and present
- Learn about different faiths and beliefs
- Enjoy learning in a different environment
- Work with other children in the school outside of the classroom
- Explore the books in our school library
- Understand other people's differences
- Learn about the British values of respect, tolerance, democracy, law and freedom



This term the pupils have enjoyed Recycling Week, World Animal Day and World Mental Health Day.

In Recycling Week, the pupils learnt which items are recyclable and how they can be reused. Secondary pupils in Apollo choose the orangutan as their endangered animal for World Animal Day. They came up with ideas on how to save the decline in the species because of their habitats being cut down to make palm oil.



World Mental Health Day

On 10th October, City of Rochester School celebrated World Mental Health Day. To mark this occasion, staff and pupils wore comfy clothes to school and took part in various activities. Some highlights from the day were the amazing pyjama's that some staff members wore to school as well as seeing a pupil from Apollo class in their alien onesie! Pupils engaged in the assembly as well as creating 'mental health first aid kits' to help them visualise what makes them feel better when they are feeling down.

These included biscuits, pets and binge-watching old sitcoms while lying in bed! There were also one-off lunchtime clubs running that day, we had painting, crafts, music and dance!



Safeguarding

Welcome to our latest edition of the Safeguarding section of the Newsletter! Our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our children is paramount, and we want to keep you informed about important topics, resources, and tips to help protect our young ones.

1. Understanding Online Safety

In today's digital age, it's crucial to educate our children about online safety. Here are some key points to discuss with your child:

Privacy Settings: Encourage your child to review and adjust privacy settings on social media platforms.

Stranger Danger Online: Remind them not to share personal information with strangers online.

Reporting Concerns: Teach your child how to report inappropriate content or behaviour on social media and gaming platforms.



Resource: Visit Childnet International <https://www.childnet.com> for more information on online safety.

2. Mental Health Awareness

Mental health is just as important as physical health. Here are some signs to watch for:

-Changes in behaviour or mood

-Withdrawal from friends and activities Declining academic performance.

Tip: Encourage open conversations about feelings and emotions.

Let your child know it's okay to talk about their mental health.



Resource: For support, check out Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk>, a charity dedicated to improving the mental health of children and young people.

3. Bullying Prevention

Bullying can take many forms, including physical, verbal, and cyberbullying. Here's how you can help:

Open Dialogue: Create a safe space for your child to talk about their experiences.

Recognise Signs: Be aware of changes in your child's behaviour that may indicate they are being bullied.

Encourage Empathy: Teach your child the importance of kindness and standing up for others.

Resource: Visit StopBullying.gov <https://www.stopbullying.gov>

for strategies and resources.



STOP BULLYING

4. Emergency Contacts

Ensure your child knows how to reach you or another trusted adult in case of an emergency. Consider creating a list of important contacts and keeping it in their backpack or on their phone.

5. Stay Informed

We encourage you to stay informed about safeguarding issues. Follow our school's social media pages and website for updates and resources.

6. Feedback and Suggestions

We value your input! If you have any suggestions for topics you would like us to cover in future newsletters, or any concerns regarding safeguarding, please do not hesitate to us Sheila.humphrey@cityofrochesterchool.org