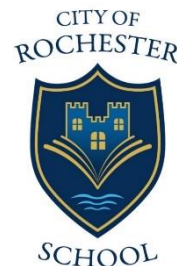


# City of Rochester School Newsletter



## Spring 2 2026 – Academic Year 2025-2026

### Introduction from the Head

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements, experiences and opportunities that our pupils have embraced over recent weeks.

This newsletter captures just a snapshot of the richness of school life at City of Rochester School. From our first football fixture of the year, where pupils demonstrated not only skill but outstanding sportsmanship, to meaningful community engagement through events such as the Medway Youth Conference and the Inspire & Educate programme, our pupils continue to represent the school with pride and maturity.

I am particularly proud of the individual successes highlighted in this edition. Oakley's achievement in reaching the Young Cooks competition final and Joshua's recognition as a finalist in the Pride in Medway Awards are fantastic examples of what can be achieved through dedication, creativity and commitment. These accomplishments, alongside the resilience shown by our Year 11 pupils as they prepare for their next steps, reflect the strength of character we strive to nurture in all our young people.

Equally important are the everyday moments, such as welcoming visitors such as Wisteria Cat Rescue, celebrating staff contributions, and creating opportunities for pupils to explore, discuss and grow. These experiences form the foundation of our supportive and aspirational school community.

As we approach the Easter break, I would like to thank all our families for your continued support. It is through our strong partnership that we are able to provide the best possible opportunities for our pupils.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable holiday and time with loved ones and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the start of Term 5.

### Key Dates

#### **Easter Holidays:**

07/04/26 –  
20/04/26

#### **Term 5:**

21/04/26 –  
22/05/26

#### **Half Term:**

25/05/26-  
29/05/26

#### **Term 6:**

01/06/26-  
15/07/26

#### **Bank Holidays:**

03/04/26  
06/04/26  
04/05/26  
25/05/26  
31/08/26

### **City of Rochester School Football Team**

What a game!!!

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, City of Rochester School took a football team to Meadowfield school in Sittingbourne for our first fixture of the year.

The boys were in good spirits on the team bus, discussing tactics created by Oakley and how they were going to approach the game.

After a thorough warm up the game started tentatively. Harry eased the tension with a wonder goal in the top corner after two minutes. The boys showed superb teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the game. Oakley was solid in goal. Jason, Quinn and Kian kept things secure at the back whilst Ollie and Harry were the engines in the middle of the field. Taite added a touch of class to proceedings and took his goal effortlessly.

The boys were very empathetic as the scoreline increased, showing a wonderful attitude towards their opponents. The team made the school proud both with their athleticism and sportsmanship.

We thank Meadowfield School for being the perfect hosts and we thank Chatham Town FC for providing the school with football kits for those who wanted to wear one.

After a fantastic afternoon, we are all looking forward to the next match.



### **Medway Youth Centre Visit**

This term, Secondary pupils took part in a valuable session led by a Youth Worker from Medway Council Youth Services as part of the *Inspire & Educate* programme. Pupils engaged thoughtfully with real life scenarios linked to safety, personal responsibility and community awareness. Their discussions were mature and reflective, giving them real food for thought about how to stay safe and support others.

The *Inspire & Educate* workshops cover key themes such as child protection, safety awareness, crime prevention and the importance of looking out for one another. The programme was created in response to concerns raised by young people themselves and aims to support those who may be more vulnerable to risks in the community.

We are grateful to Medway Youth Services and their partners for providing such an impactful session for our pupils.

Sharlene

### **Young Cooks Competition Finalist: Oakley**

We are delighted to announce that one of our pupils, Oakley, has successfully reached the finals of the prestigious Young Cooks competition. This is a remarkable achievement, reflecting both his culinary skill and his dedication.

Oakley impressed the judges in the earlier rounds by preparing two distinct and challenging dishes: a nutritious tomato and lentil soup and a beautifully crafted cheesecake. Balancing the technical requirements of a wholesome savoury starter with the precision needed for a dessert is a testament to his versatility in the kitchen.

The final will take place on 27th August at the East Kent College campus in Ashford. This event provides a fantastic opportunity for Oakley to showcase his talents in a professional environment, where he will recreate his dishes under the observation of a panel of expert chefs.



### **Year 11 College Visit**

Year 11 pupils recently took part in a successful visit to Midkent college where they explored teaching areas, social spaces, and learning support facilities.

Some pupils initially experienced feelings of overwhelm; however, with support and a short break, they demonstrated resilience, successfully regulating themselves and completing the tour.

The vocational areas—particularly engineering, bricklaying, and plumbing—were a highlight, sparking strong interest and engagement.

Overall, pupils found the visit informative, with some expressing interest in college pathways and others considering alternative routes such as apprenticeships. All pupils are keen to visit additional colleges to explore their options further.

The college was highly accommodating, making the visit a positive and valuable experience for all involved.

### **Pride in Medway Award 2026**

**By Joshua Born**

I am lucky to have been nominated by the school for the Pride in Medway Award for 2026 and I have made it into the finals as well. My work on the Peer Mentor SharePoint, the rework of the peer mentor training resources into a better format everyone in our community can understand, and my work on creating the digital peer mentor program has been a delight to take on and has been a very positive experience. Seeing my creations in use in our community and seeing the difference it is making to people feels very rewarding to me.

This year overall has been a very positive experience and is marking a positive end to my time at City of Rochester School. Although our Designated Safeguarding Lead (Kelly) and Headteacher (Alicja) alongside the school itself have also been nominated, they unfortunately did not make it into the finals. I will be attending the awards evening and will be representing myself alongside the school at the event. I want to thank the school and the community for all of the support that they have given me over the years and I am glad that my time here has been able to lead up to something like this.

## **Medway Youth Conference 2026: Digicon**

On Tuesday 10th March, seven of our pupils—William, Jason, Brody, Clive, Alfie, JJ, and Bailey—attended the annual Medway Youth Conference held at the Corn Exchange in Rochester. This event is a highlight of our school calendar, providing a platform for young people to engage with regional issues and local leadership.

Throughout the day, our pupils participated in high-level discussions, shared their opinions, and utilised the microphones to address a large audience of their peers from other schools. The event also showcased the leadership of two of them, Jason and William. Both are active members of our School Council and the Medway Youth Council. They worked alongside their Youth Council peers to help run the conference; William supported our school group while Jason took on the responsibility of looking after another school.

The theme of this year's conference focused heavily on use of digital technology. The pupils took part in three workshops:

- **Artificial Intelligence:** Pupils examined the ethics of AI, questioning how this emerging technology impacts their lives and learning to distinguish between AI-generated and human-made content.
- **Social Media:** The group engaged in a topical debate regarding the potential UK ban on social media for those under 16, using voting paddles to express their stances on the matter.
- **Digital Resilience:** Through the journey of a fictional character, the pupils explored the benefits and drawbacks of technology, identifying potential harms and learning strategies for staying safe online.

The day concluded with a Q&A panel featuring a local councillor, representatives from the Medway Youth Service, and a police officer. Our pupils were keen to pose direct questions to the panel, seeking insights into how local services are addressing the challenges faced by young people today. For the second-year running, Bailey was keen to share his annoyance at the amount of potholes in our roads.

It was a particularly significant day for Brody, who was attending for the first time. His enthusiasm was evident, and he has already requested to be involved in the conference next year. We are incredibly proud of how all the pupils engaged with these complex topics and represented our school community so professionally.



## **School Council Welcomes Wisteria Cat Rescue**

Our school council members were delighted to welcome Billy from our chosen charity, Wisteria Cat Rescue. James, Head Organiser of the school council, invited Billy to visit, and together with Alfie, provided a guided tour of the building to highlight the many exciting activities taking place across the school. Billy then joined the formal school council meeting, where he spent time chatting with our class representatives. He spoke about the vital work Wisteria does to protect and provide sanctuary for vulnerable cats. The pupils were fascinated to learn about the high volume of cats currently receiving care at the rescue. Throughout the visit, Billy was incredibly kind and supportive, and he expressed how much he enjoyed meeting the council and hearing their ideas. We will continue to collect donations of cat food and treats for the remainder of the school year, and the fundraising team will meet shortly to plan further events.

### **Support Wisteria Cat Rescue**

If you would like to support the essential work carried out by Billy and the team, please consider making a donation via the details below:

[www.wisteriacatrescue.org/ways-to-donate](http://www.wisteriacatrescue.org/ways-to-donate)



### **Staff Spotlight**



Hello everyone,

I'm Clare, one of the form tutors of Epic Earth and a Phase Leader at City of Rochester. I've been a secondary teacher for 13 years and am now in my second year at the school—I truly love being here. I'm also a qualified dance teacher and enjoy bringing that passion into school life. I lead our PSHE curriculum, and I really value the weekly time spent exploring everything from wellbeing to future aspirations with our students.

Every day, I'm reminded how fortunate I am to work with such kind, funny, and inspiring young people. They genuinely brighten my days.

Thank you for your continued support,

Clare

## Wire Belt Company Visit

City of Rochester School's physics and engineering students recently visited Wire Belt Company Limited on 26th March 2026. Pupils from Years 9–13 took part, gaining valuable insight into how a global engineering company operates. They explored a range of departments, including marketing, sales, technical design, and manufacturing, learning how products are designed, produced, and distributed around the world.

A highlight of the visit was the pencil tins gifted to pupils, which were designed and engineered by a former apprentice—an inspiring example of how apprenticeship pathways can lead to lasting contributions, with the design still in use today.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience, asking many thoughtful and inspiring questions throughout. On their return to school, there was a real buzz of conversation, reflecting how engaging and worthwhile the visit had been.

*We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Wire Belt Company Limited for allowing our pupils to have this valuable experience.*



# FAMILY FUN DAY

- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALL DAY
- KENT EQUINE THERAPY PONIES
- CREEPY CLAWS EXPERIENCES
- FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS
- FACE PAINTING & GRAFTS
- CHARACTER MASCOTS
- PRINCESS EXPERIENCE
- RAFFLE AND TOMBOLA
- PENALTY SHOOT OUT
- GIFTS TO BUY

**CASH EVENT**  
SO PLEASE BRING LOTS OF CHANGE

WIN BIG MONEY

# SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026 10.30AM TO 5.30PM

**RAISING MONEY FOR  
THE EVELINA LONDON  
CHILDREN'S CHARITY  
AND THE CITY OF  
ROCHESTER SEN SCHOOL  
FOR CHILDREN WITH  
ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

Evelina  
London  
Children's  
Charity

CITY OF  
ROCHESTER  
SCHOOL



Priestfield Stadium  
Redfern Avenue,  
Gillingham, ME7 2PE

LICENSED BAR  
(CARD PAYMENTS ONLY)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU  
TO ALL OUR PARTNERS &  
SERVICES ATTENDING THE FUN DAY

**ENTRY FEE**  
Adults £2 Children £1 (Under 2s are free)  
TICKETS ON THE DOOR

UNISON

Kent Fire &  
Rescue Service

Green  
Juni  
Trust

