



# Newsletter

## Summer 2018

Cooperation – Responsibility – Happiness – Resilience – Respect - Caring

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# From the Headteacher...

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wow, what an amazing year. I cannot believe that my first year of headship is ending. I am thoroughly enjoying being Head Teacher of such a fantastic school.

It has been a very busy Summer Term with a wide range of exciting school events, including Sports Day, a music event for Devides Festival, Prize Giving, Activity and Values Week, a Drama performance, New Intake Day and the DoE Silver expedition.

We held two wonderful community events – The Garden Fair raised over £11,000 for the further development of outdoor learning. You will notice some further developments to the Outdoor Learning Centre in the coming months that will further enhance this area of the school. Also the School Fete, which raised £2,200 towards the school minibus fund. We have now ordered our new minibus and we hope to receive it in the Autumn Term.



The whole school celebrated the Royal Wedding and the heatwave with a number of picnic lunches in the grounds. Always a firm favourite with the students. We had a Y11 prom, which was a wonderful evening. There was a real sense that Year 11 were ready to make their way into the big wide world, prepared with all the skills with which the school has equipped them.

Prize giving was a great event with special guest speaker David Flatman, who said he is inspired by the resilience and determination shown by students with Special Educational Needs. It was a great send off for our Year 11 leavers who will be going on to college and a wonderful way to celebrate the achievements of all of our pupils.



Sadly, at the end of term we will be saying goodbye to a number of staff because of the closure of the residential provision. Tina Cole (Head of Residential then Head of Student Welfare for 21 years), Linda Cook (deputy Head of Residential for 24½ years), Sarah

Haines (House Leader for 12½ years), Tanya Curtis (House Leader for 21 years), Carol Plumb (RCCO and Laundress for 19½ years) and Sandra Drake (RCCO for 19 years). It is incredibly disappointing that

*thank you...*  
*...AND good-bye*

the Local Authority has made the decision to stop funding the residential provision but we must take this opportunity to celebrate the amazing outcomes that have been achieved with generations of young people and the positive impact this provision has had on so many families.

Hilary Watts will also be leaving us after 22½ years of commitment to the school. She has decided to retire and we wish her well with all that she will be doing. We will also be saying goodbye to Denyse Boaler, who has worked with us for three years, as she pursues other opportunities.

Thank you to everyone who is leaving for your hard work and dedication. We wish you all the very best for the future and hope that you will keep in touch with the School.

I would like to thank the entire staff team for their commitment to the very highest standards of teaching and learning, their commitment to our mission statement, to be a 'centre of excellence' and for providing a positive, supportive, safe and nurturing environment. It is an absolute privilege to work with you all.

I would also like to thank parents/carers, governors, trustees and Friends of Rowdeford for their ongoing support and commitment to the school.

Finally I would like to thank all of our amazing students who continue to show resilience, determination and hard work to achieve more than they ever thought possible. You have all been an absolute inspiration to me.

*Thank  
you* 

I hope that you have a very happy, restful and enjoyable summer.

Very best wishes,

Mr M Loveridge  
Headteacher

# Art

This term in Art we have been out enjoying the woods and the weather as much as possible!



KS3 have been drawing and printing all of the architecture, flora and fauna found at Rowdeford school. This is all going to be collated into one big mural!

KS4 have all finished their 3D BTEC Unit and we have been working hard making lino prints and prom decorations.



## Next term

Next term we will be looking at colour and pattern and the Year 10 and 11 students will begin their 2D BTEC Unit.

# Boarding News

Here we are with our very last 'boarding news' report. We all have mixed feelings at this time but as we look back on all we have done; we cannot help but smile.

The staff, most of whom have been together for over 21 years, are facing some trepidation but are also excited at the prospect of new beginnings. We are very sad to be going, but are so very proud of all the young people who have been in our care over the years and what they have achieved. We want to say 'thank you' to everyone; our young people, parents, carers and all those who have supported us. Our time here would not have been so enjoyable without you and I can tell you 'we have had a blast'.



I will try to give you a taster of the many things we have done since Easter.



Despite an initial cold spell the weather has been wonderful and this has allowed us to get out and about to enjoy the sunshine.



We have baked cakes and celebrated birthdays. We have been to the cinema and had a film night in.

We recently went to Christie Miller to have a game of 10-pin bowling and we played our last skittles game at the Owl in Bromham: Thank you to Sue and the team for always making us so welcome.

We have enjoyed local walks at Bradford on Avon, Drew's Pond, Avebury, Cherhill, Alton Barnes and many more. We have played on our trim trail, played games in our sports hall, used the bikes and trikes, and enjoyed a few lovely picnic teas at various locations locally including Lydiard, Bath and Hillworth Parks. We have walked uphill and down at Heaven's Gate, Sheerwater lakes, West Kennet Long Barrow, Barbary Castle and



Silbury Hill and enjoyed the 'haze of blue' at West Woods in Marlborough when the bluebells put in a late appearance.

We have been to the Oasis swimming, had ice creams at the Hungry Horse and a treat at McDonalds. Bingo was a firm favourite both on-site and at the social

centre in Bromham, as was creating our 'memory scrapbooks'. Poulshot Vintage Rally was a great success and we cannot forget our very last Boarder's Day Out at the SS Great Britain in Bristol, followed by a wonderful meal at Za Za Bazaar. A real must if you are looking for a great day out. Thank you to all the staff at both venues for making our day such a memorable one.



Finally, we have had our last evening activity, our last night BBQ. This was a celebration of all we have achieved, the friends we have made and the wonderful memories we will all share.

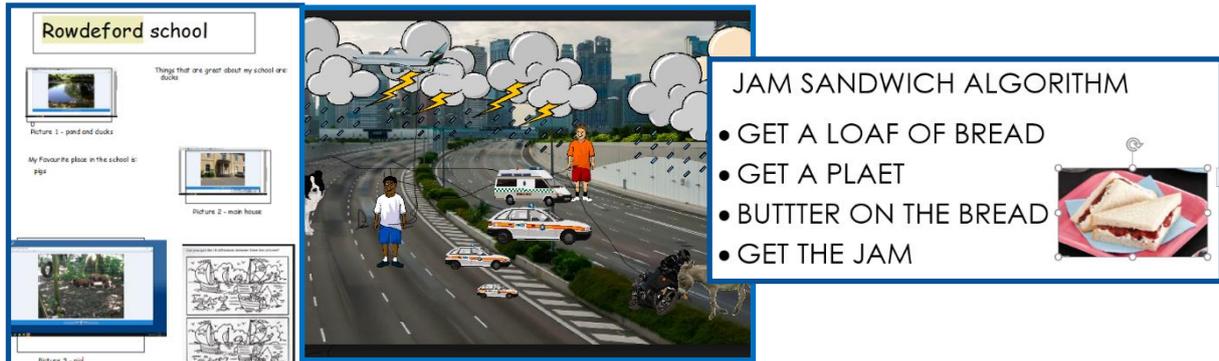
So all that is left is for all of us to say to all of you is:



# Computing/ICT

## Computing

Year 7 have been expressing themselves by creating magazines about the school, while the Year 8 students have created their own interactive 'moving picture' stories. And the Year 9 pupils have been writing jam sandwich algorithms and then eating the finished product!



**Rowdeford school**

Things that are great about my school are:  
ducks

Picture 1 - pond and ducks

My Favourite place in the school is:  
P&P

Picture 2 - main house

**JAM SANDWICH ALGORITHM**

- GET A LOAF OF BREAD
- GET A PLAET
- BUTTER ON THE BREAD
- GET THE JAM



**I like the D.T room because it is cool and I love Rowdeford School.**

## ICT

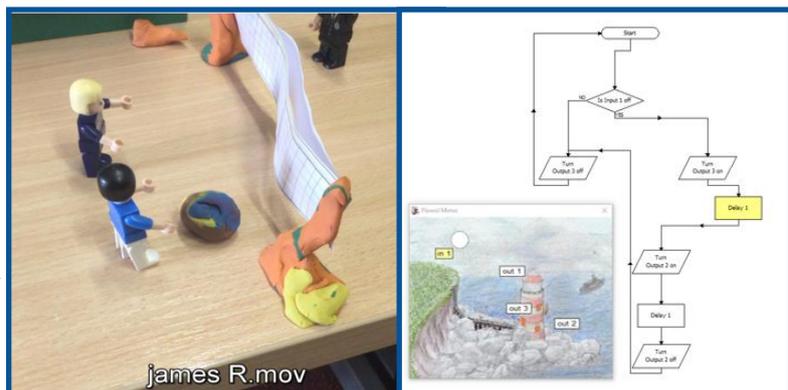
Year 10 ICT students have been practicing their photography skills around school and publishing the results.

Year 11 students have worked hard to achieve their ICT Functional Skills qualifications. :)

## Computer Science Option Groups

Year 10s have learned about software design and how to create flowcharts.

Year 11 students have been amazing and successfully completed all of their assignment work for their Computer Science qualification.



James R.mov

```
graph TD
    Start([Start]) --> Decision{Is Input 1 off?}
    Decision -- YES --> TurnOff[Turn Output 3 off]
    Decision -- NO --> TurnOn[Turn Output 3 on]
    TurnOff --> Delay1[Delay 1]
    TurnOn --> Delay2[Delay 2]
    Delay1 --> TurnOff3[Turn Output 3 off]
    Delay2 --> TurnOn3[Turn Output 3 on]
    TurnOff3 --> Delay1
    TurnOn3 --> Delay2
```

# Cooking & Nutrition

This term pupils in Key stage 3 have been exploring arable and livestock farming, understanding that all foods come from plants or animals.



Pupils have been making dishes from grains including potato salad, traffic light rice and puff pastry squares, exploring fish, cooking dishes including fish pate, tuna wrap and Mediterranean fish.

They have enjoyed making their own chicken nuggets from scratch and the favourite in the recent hot weather has been the Rowdeford version of Eton Mess! Here are some pupils enjoying their Eton Mess!

Key stage 4 have continued their coursework and have now completed their portfolio of work.

Pupils have cooked some of their favourite dishes including Pizza, Pasta arrabiata and Bangers and mash, as well as learning some new skills, to cook an All day breakfast, Pineapple upside down cake and Chocolate muffins.



Across the school the pupils prepared their own sports day snack of Oat and raisin cookies and Flapjacks (see below)



We have been amazed to see the children have been transferring skills that they have learnt at school to cook at home, with superb results. Many new photos are making their way onto the display board in the classroom for all to see and be inspired!

*Why not have a go at doing some cooking over the holidays?  
We would love to see your creations!*



# Drama

What an incredibly busy couple of terms it has been for Drama students (and adults!).



Year 10: As part of the BTEC in Performing Arts course work, Y10 Drama and Music students collaborated on a project in

which both groups set up a venue in which the other group could perform.

Drama students set up a concert hall where Music students performed the song "Loaded" and the Music students set up a theatre for Drama to share a very short Romeo and Juliet.



Next term we will be developing Romeo and Juliet to be performed at the Shakespeare Schools Festival on **14<sup>th</sup> November** at the **Wyvern Theatre, Swindon**.



Year 11: After rehearsing for months the Year 11 Drama students performed their original drama “Trouble at the King Bill” in front of family, staff and some students at the Wharf Theatre, Devizes.

They all performed fantastically on the night and really enjoyed the applause and cheers from the audience.



In fact, they enjoyed it so much that they wanted to do the play again in school – which they did, in the Arts Centre. Twice. So the whole school was able to come and enjoy the show.



A huge thank you goes out to the Wharf Theatre and to all the staff (and Emily Caslin) who helped so much with preparing for the performance.

# Duke of Edinburgh Award

All of our Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (DofE) pupils have been working extremely hard.

They have been learning new skills, such as navigation and tracking, pursuing new hobbies and have enjoyed exploring the great outdoors.



Our Year 10 DofE students had a lot of fun, as well as learning new skills, when they camped out in our

Rowdeford grounds for the night.



# English

(Literacy, communication and interaction)

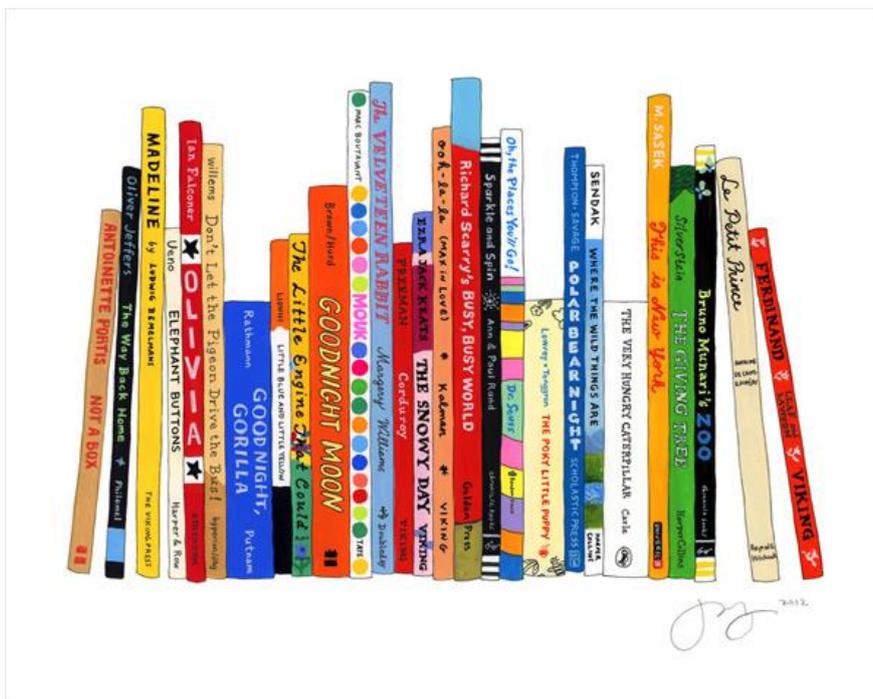
## Summer Reading Challenge



Wherever you go this summer, take a book or a magazine to read. Then, get someone to take a photo of you and bring it to school with you in September.

There will be prizes for the students who read in the most unusual places, and all photos will go on display in our Library. Some photos will also go on our school website and Facebook page.

If you don't like reading books, you can still join in the fun. When you're out and about, look for interesting and unusual signs and notices, and get someone to take a photo of you trying to read them.



All photos need to be emailed to the school office or given to Mrs Walling by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Please indicate if you do NOT want your photo displayed electronically.

# French

Y7 have been learning the words for rooms in school. They have made signs and have been around school labelling each of our rooms in French, including Mr Loveridge's office!

Y8 have been learning about the weather and have come up with their own actions to go with the different weather words. They have especially enjoyed throwing imaginary snowballs at the adults whilst shouting "il neige!"



Y9 know their directions in French.

They have made their own town maps on the playground using chalk and have had fun guiding each other around in French.

We said "au revoir" to our Y11 French group with a special celebration. The class decorated their room and invited Mr Loveridge and previous French teachers Ms Curwen and Mrs Andrews Wheeler to join them for French music and a delicious French breakfast. *Delicieux!*



# Garden Fair

Hundreds of people flocked to Rowdeford School for the annual Garden Fair on Sunday 20th May and were not disappointed.

As ever, there was much to see and do and beautiful, quality plants to purchase at reasonable prices.



# Humanities

In KS3, Year 7 have had a great time making connections with modern day transport, and how they get around from place to place. They also considered the cultural aspects of the Anglo-Saxons, including weapons, and clothing worn during this period.



For Year 8, WW2 was explored, along with its challenges to Britain and Europe. In term 6, students began thinking about what they can do to conserve the rainforest.

They were able to use our woods to great effect to make comparisons of woodland in the UK with that of the South American rainforest.

Year 9's geography study included locating some of the world's countries, using maps to focus on oceans and continents, in particular Europe and the UK. They enjoyed a game of 'Globe Volleyball'.



Ancient Egypt provided an opportunity to explore some of the greatest achievements of an early civilisation.

Willow group used our fabulous school grounds to learn more about the weather and the environment.



KS4 continued to work on their coursework, in particular the Religious festival of Easter.

As you can see from the picture, they had great fun taking part in an egg rolling competition, having learnt about the

significance of eggs to new life and new beginnings.

## Next term

### KS3

	Term 1	Term 2 *
<b>Willow Class</b>	The history of Rowdeford School	Position & significance of the Arctic and Antarctic Circle
<b>Year 7 (Cherry/Lime)</b>	All about us – changes in living memory	The history of Rowdeford School, Rowde and Devizes
<b>Year 8 (Apple/Beech)</b>	Conservation	Comparing Victorian life to today
<b>Year 9 (Oak/Yew)</b>	The Vikings	The wider world – the globe

\*Please note that this may change, as November marks the centenary of Armistice Day.

### KS4

Next term KS4 pupils will be looking at:

- WW1, in particular Armistice Day
- Consumerism.

# Land Based Studies

Both the Horticulture and the Care of Farm Animals groups have been working very hard over the last term.

Rowdeford School adopted some ex-battery hens who arrived here looking very sorry for themselves and with very few feathers. With a lot of tender loving care, they now look beautiful, healthy and happy (before and after pictures below).



This has been a great example for the children who have enjoyed caring for these hens and seeing them improve day by day.

They have also been able to care for our pigs and visit a local farm while the Horticulture group have worked hard around the grounds, including the walled garden.



# PE & Dance

## Year 7

The Yr 7's spent time this term preparing for sports day with a variety of athletic events, as well as beginning to develop skills in rounders.



7K participated in a touch rugby competition against other schools around the region. They performed extremely well displaying all our school values and demonstrating the

skills they had been learning in the previous terms unit.

In Dance we explored a fitness inspired dance as well as an extreme sports Skydiving dance.

## Year 8

Y8 students were introduced to 'Extreme Golf'; a scheme of work that introduces students to putting and chipping through large colourful equipment. They have also prepared hard for sports day.

In Dance they have explored dances from other cultures, and created their own 'Haka' dance which they performed in front of the class.

## Year 9

With the onset of the summer term for Yr 9's came the summer sports of Athletics and Cricket. From high jump to forward drives, they have developed both their coordination and general motor skills through participating in the activities.

## Year 10&11

Our Yr 11's completed a successful moderation visit from our exam board WJEC. The moderator was full of praise for the hard work the students had put in, and commented on the respect and kindness they observed.



Next year we will begin to introduce Trampolining into Yr 11, and then push this further down the curriculum in future years.

### Sports Day 2018



To finish of our year, we had our annual sports day. With a variety of rotational activities to start with, including the world cup inspired football shoot, all students showed the skills they had been working on throughout the year. After a snack pupils participated in a number of track events in front of the large

number of parents, carers and relations that came to watch.

Once again our values based curriculum was in full evidence during the morning, with students helping and encouraging each other in events.



### Activities for Terms 1 and 2 (next academic year)

Year Gp	Term 1	Term 2	DANCE	
			Term 1	Term 2
Willow Class	Moving Throwing & catching	Gymnastics Locomotion	Food – Growing Dance	Warm up Dance
Yr 7	Swimming/ Gymnastics	Swimming/Team games	Street Dance	Robot/ machines
Yr 8	Swimming/ Team games	Swimming/Indiv- idual games	Moving safely	Eye of the Tiger
Yr 9	Short Tennis/ Badminton	Fitness circuits NAK	Movie Videos	Street Dance
Yr 10	Football	Volleyball		
Yr 11	Warm ups, fitness circuits	NAK/Boccia		

# PSHRE

This term our lessons have focused on our core value of caring. KS3 have been doing a variety of activities that have allowed them to develop this value and understand the importance of showing we care every day.

## Year 7

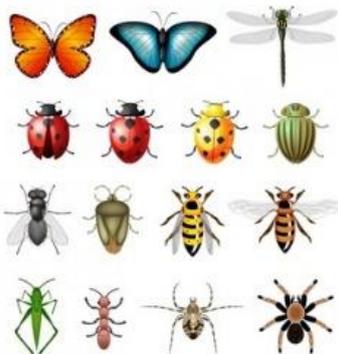
Year 7 have focused on being good friends this term and developing their understanding of what makes a good friend.



They have been able to do many circle time activities, which have enabled the pupils to say what they like about their friends and coming up with positive words to describe them. Within the theme of caring, year 7 have also done a lot of work on families, helping them to understand that all families are different and unique.

The religious focus this term has been Christianity where students looked at the story of the Good Samaritan. Through this, the students have been able to learn the lesson that we should care for everyone, not just people we like. It has been a positive term where all year 7s have embraced our core value and shown real kindness to their class.

## Year 8



This term year 8 have completed a variety of tasks around our value of caring.

A particular favourite was our 'caring for the environment' topic. Students had to do surveys outside to find different types of insects, which was very exciting. We discussed why our environment was so important to us and why we should care about small creatures like insects.

Our religious focus this term was Christianity and their views on looking after our environment. It really got the students thinking and

discussing about our own views and we realised that whatever you believe, we all feel the same about caring for our world.

## Year 9

Year 9 have done a range of activities this term that have focused on our core value of caring.



A particular favourite was a series of lessons of 'who cares for us in our community?' where the students have to learn about the work of the emergency services. The students were very engaged in the lessons and it made them think about how lucky they were to have so many people that care about them.



Year 9 were also set a kindness challenge, where they had to show kindness to others around the school. We wrote positive messages on pebbles and hid them around the school for others to find, it certainly bought a smile to many student's faces!

Year 9 have really impressed me this term with their ability to show how much they care for others in the school and the term has ended on a real high.

The religious focus this term was Christianity and the students look at the Christian value of giving to others that are less fortunate.

# Plus Programme

What a contrast to our last Plus Programme update, with beautiful sunny days and temperatures soaring; being outside in the Rowdeford grounds is just what our students need. Over the past year, we have seen such positive improvements in their well-being.

Our morning updates have revealed that many are now exchanging 'screen-time' for time outside with their own families, including planting vegetables and just re-engaging with the outdoors.



The wonderful hanging baskets around the school have been planted and maintained by the Monday Land Based Studies group.

They have also been busy learning other summer skills, such as lawn mowing, plant care and how to ensure all the animals are happy in the heat (a muddy puddle for the pigs definitely went down well). Even the extreme temperatures in the walled garden and greenhouse did not put them off, as they worked hard to plant out the summer vegetables – although the water sprinkler was handy for cooling off.



Tuesday and Wednesdays' John Muir Award Group have gone from strength to strength, with individuals improving in their own personal goals and engendering real teamwork.

They have all achieved the first level in their John Muir awards, which was only possible due all the wonderful wild and natural things Rowdeford has to offer just outside the classroom.

To give you a quick snapshot of the activities undertaken to complete the award, we have surveyed invertebrates, made wormeries, checked out what is in the pond, set up experiments to see how seeds grow, created wild





garlic pesto and stinging nettle pizzas, made award winning elderflower cordial, created junk model rafts, miniature gardens and so many wonderful wild art pieces. Our own garden area has yielded some great salad crops that we have used as starters – there is plenty more to come.

Our Thursdays' Sustainability group have achieved an outstanding number of units in their BTEC. This has included completing their upcycling projects by upcycling cable reels, an old bicycle, paper coil pots and a gun cartridge clock. We have also seen an improvement in the general health of the students, as they pursue their healthy lifestyle targets. Cooking continues to be a very popular feature of our Thursday timetable too, often looking for inspiration within the walled garden – they never knew rhubarb could taste so good when cooked fresh in a cake or a crumble!



We wish our leavers all the best in the future, and hope they continue to enjoy the great outdoors. There is also plenty of learning and fun to look forward to, with exciting developments for the programme in September. We will continue with the Land Based Studies/John Muir Award, also adding a Primary School Day. Please contact Martin Marshall ([MartinMarshall@rowdeford.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:MartinMarshall@rowdeford.wilts.sch.uk)) for more information.



# Prize Giving

Prize giving this year was held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June in Bromham Social Centre. It turned out to be a very special occasion and our thanks must go to our special guest speaker, David Flatman, who was truly inspirational.

David, who won eight England Caps during his rugby career, told us about his brother who has Down's Syndrome. He said he enjoys working with and visiting schools, but is particularly inspired by the resilience and determination shown by students with Special Educational Needs.



David's message to our students was that he wasn't the best rugby player as a child or even as a teenager but he loved the game so he kept on practising and ended up getting where he wanted to be.

It was a great send off for our Year 11 leavers who will be going on to college and a wonderful way to celebrate the achievements of all of our pupils.



# Prom Night

Year 11 pupils looked so smart and grown up as they arrived at the prom in style.



Stretch limos, a fire engine, a Porsche and a Ferrari came up the drive and everyone looked very glamorous.



After a lovely spread put on by Cath, there was a wonderful rendition of Stand by Me performed by Mr Fletcher and the Y11 Music Group.



Then it was to the Art Centre for a disco. The Year 11's had chosen the play order and everyone was dancing and singing along. There was a photo booth with props, that resulted in some very amusing pictures.

The evening was a great success and everyone went home tired but very happy.

# Science

Terms 5 And 6 in Science have been very busy and we have been outside as much as possible. Year 7 have been learning about Dinosaurs and Evolution, and then Solids, Liquids and Gases. They have learnt to safely use a Bunsen burner.

Year 8 have loved learning all about plants, and have also learnt to safely use a Bunsen burner. Everyone got their license in the end!



Year 9 prepared their own PowerPoint presentation about a topic of their choice and they were amazed to find that there is Science in everything!

This used many cross curricular skills, including ICT, literacy, and research. They then presented this to their peers.

Year 10 have completed the whole Biology section of the Entry Level Certificate and have learnt some challenging concepts in Chemistry. Well done guys.

Year 11 all gained the Entry Level they deserved, and I hope they continue their interest in science throughout their lives.



They created some amazing PowerPoints and learnt to give and receive constructive criticism, set targets to improve and make their work even better.



All of the science department, indeed the whole school community, have enjoyed incubating and hatching Rowdeford's own chicks.



The chicks 'pip' the eggs - make a little hole, then 'zip' around the whole shell, until they finally hatch. The chicks have been an important learning tool, both for scientific ideas and for promoting the school values.

## Next term

### Willow

Safety, body parts and senses

### Year 7

Safety, living things and habitats

### Year 8

Safety, experiments and Bunsen burners, plants

### Year 9

Safety, light

### Year 10

Biology- cells, genetics, inheritance and modification

### Year 11

Chemistry- making molecules and breaking up compounds



# Summer Fete

Once again the Summer fete was a roaring success as you can see from all the pictures below.

The fete was held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June and there was plenty to see and do for all the family.



This year there was a competition, called 'Fete Create' with a prize for the best floral arrangement using an upcycled vase and the winning entry, designed and made by Jennie Noble-Nesbitt, is in the middle below.



# Welcome

We would like to say a big WELCOME to our new students who will be starting Rowdeford School in September.



## CHERRY

Erin  
Matthew  
Jamie  
Kayleigh  
Callum  
Chris  
Mirren  
Jack  
Theo  
Ellie  
Alfie  
Eren  
Scarlett

## LIME

Ashton  
Noah  
Alex  
Darren  
Benjamin  
Kieran  
Taru  
Amber  
Grace  
Charlie  
Amy  
Poppy



## YEW

Charlotte  
Lara  
Maddie



## WILLOW

Kieton  
Lily

## APPLE

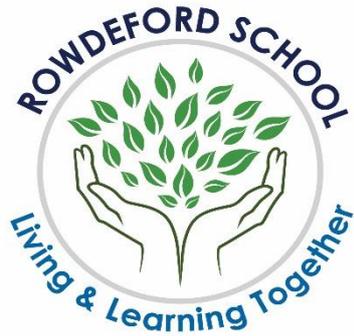
Kian  
Andrew



## CEDAR

Nehemiah





**WITH BEST WISHES FOR A  
HAPPY SUMMER 2018  
FROM ALL AT  
ROWDEFORD SCHOOL**

