

Newsletter

Easter 2018



Cooperation – Responsibility – Happiness – Resilience – Respect - Caring

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Message from the Headteacher



Happy Easter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a very busy time since January and this newsletter includes updates on many of our activities and student achievements, which I hope you enjoy reading.



I continue to be impressed by the enthusiasm of our students to participate in the wide range of opportunities on offer to them. During terms 3 and

4, students have enjoyed many sporting and cultural opportunities and exciting Humanities and Enterprise days.



I am delighted by our students' willingness to get involved in fundraising and in decision-making through the School Council, which has recently been discussing ideas for healthy snacks, use of dictionaries and ICT in the classroom. The School Council also discussed the formal consultation to

extend the school's designation; they provided some useful feedback that has been shared with the Local Authority. Students have also been involved in our very active Green Team and Buddies schemes; they relish the opportunities that these bring them.





We have a special fundraising event next term, the **Annual Garden Fair** on **Sunday 20th May** and we need your support. The proceeds of this event will be going towards further development of Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) at Rowdeford.

There is exclusive entry for ticket holders from 10:00-11:00. The Fair commences from 11.00 am until 3.00



pm. There will be gorgeous plants from specialist plant growers plus practical and attractive garden accessories. Other attractions include farm animals, WI teas, a Pimm's tent, Bistro lunches and live music.



Advance tickets are £4 per adult (£5 on the day) with children under 16 free. Parking is free – sorry, no dogs.

For further information or advance tickets, please contact ma99iemoore@gmail.com telephone 01249 814979 or go to www.rowdefordcharity.org.uk.

I wish you all a very happy, safe and enjoyable Easter.

With best wishes,

Mr M Loveridge
Headteacher



Art

We have had a lovely term in Art. KS3 have been looking at animals and buildings and KS4 have been working hard to develop their ideas for their final 3D pieces.

We have created work using paint, clay, wire and modroc and Year 7 even used their hands to create cave-paintings of bison.



Year 9 pupils have made amazing cubist self-portraits and are currently making a Hundertwasser-inspired village using recycled cardboard.

Year 8 are finishing off their African animal inspired masks and I hope to photograph their finished creations in our woods.



Next term KS4 will be working on their final pieces for their 3D 'Structures' unit and KS3 will be creating some wonderful 'outside art' – weather permitting!

Boarding

Now that the clocks have changed and the nights are getting lighter, we have more time to get out and about and enjoy what nature has to offer without the coats and biting wind whipping around our ears.

However, we have kept busy over the dark winter months and here are just a few of the things we have done since we last wrote to you.



We have had our Ofsted inspection at the beginning of the year and our boarding provision has been graded as 'Good', which is great news.

We have been making cakes and pancakes all of which were delicious. We have been to the cinema in Trowbridge and Devizes, had quiz nights, DVD nights (with the obligatory popcorn), been to pin bowling and played skittles locally; we have enjoyed local walks, played badminton, played games in our sports hall, used the bikes and trikes, and enjoyed a couple of days off school due to the snow.



We have celebrated some birthdays on both the girls and boys houses and had even more yummy cake.



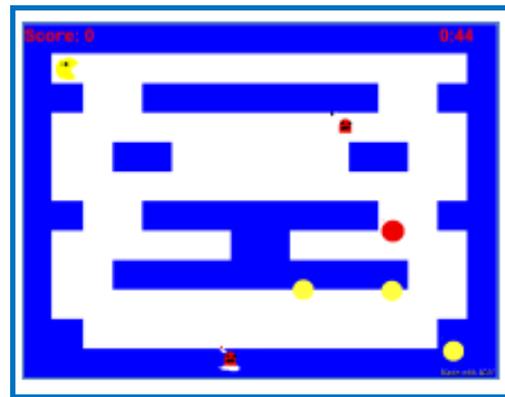
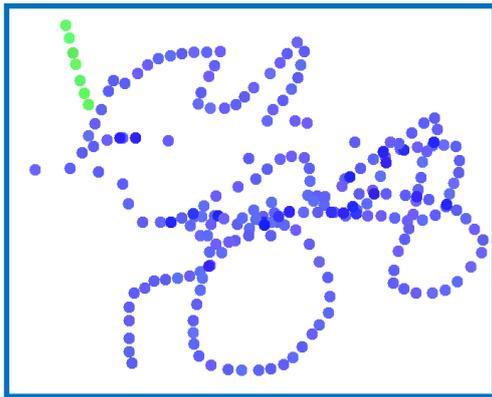
We have played games on the units in our round robin and made things for Mothering Sunday, which we hope all the mums enjoyed.

So, we have been busy but we still have lots more planned!

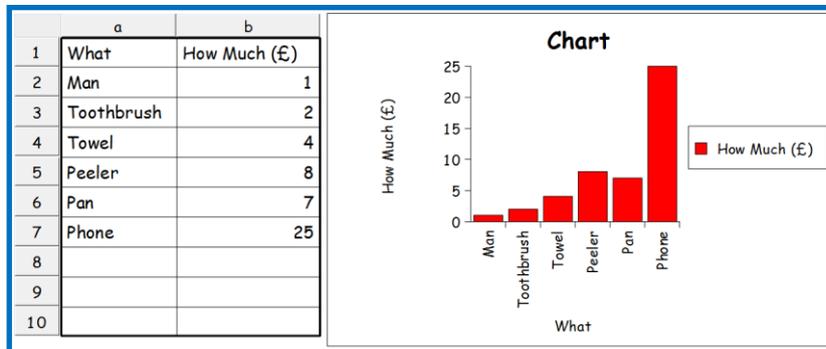
Computing

Year 7 have been sharpening their ICT skills whilst learning to use technology to express themselves.

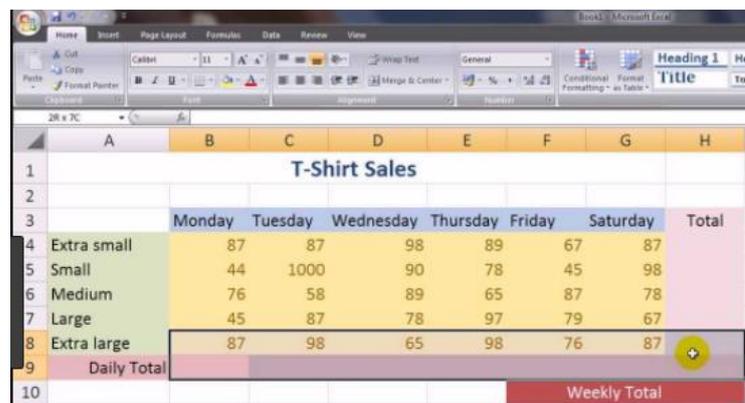
Year 8 students learned about creating computer games and considered how to make a computer game 'fun'.



Year 9s have looked at data and how to store and display it using Textease.



Year 10 ICT students have covered Spreadsheets and been introduced to Excel.



Cooking & Nutrition

This term pupils in Key stage 3 have been exploring the different food groups of the Eatwell Guide.



The children have been making recipes from the different food groups of protein, dairy, carbohydrates, fruit and vegetables and oils and fats. They have been making sunshine toast, sandwiches, scotch eggs, pancakes, cheesy pasta, cheese straws and cakes and muffins to name a few.

Key stage 4 are continuing to work on their coursework and they have been cooking many creative dishes, including rice

salad, vegetable stir fry, vegetable pizza, quiche, chicken Rogan Josh, fish goujons and many more.

We are always thrilled to hear that children are transferring skills that they have learnt at school to the home environment. This term we have received many emails and photos of pupils doing just that and these photos are on the display board in the classroom for all to see and be inspired. Please keep them coming!



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Year 10 have been completing their volunteering section of the award in the school woodland. This has involved removing introduced species such as Snowberry and Sycamore and coppicing the willow beds.



Next term they will continue to complete projects in the school woodlands and in the school grounds.

Year 11 have been preparing for their expedition. Pupils have completed first aid training this term and have demonstrated some excellent new skills.

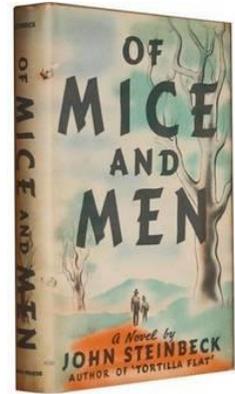


Next term they will be going on their practice expedition on Tuesday the 24th of April and their assessed expedition from the 22nd to the 24th of May, in the Quantock Hills in Somerset.

English

As usual, everyone has been working very hard in their English lessons since we came back to school in January.

Year 11 have been reading "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck, and have also started their Functional Skills Entry Level English exams.



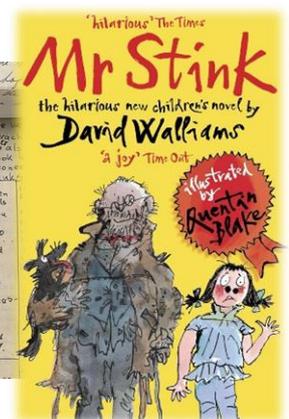
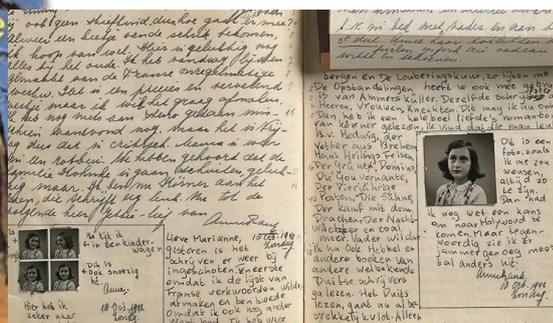
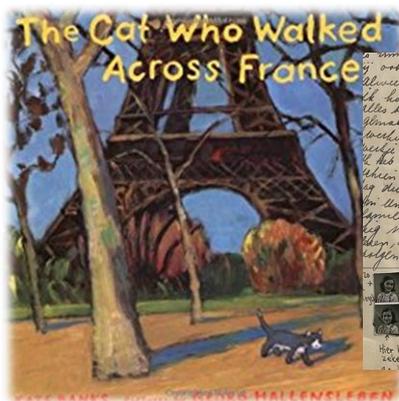
Year 10 have been studying "Macbeth." It was disappointing that the trip to watch a performance of this play in Swindon was cancelled by the snow, but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the students. They have done some amazing work, writing newspaper articles about Macbeth's strange behaviour at his coronation feast, and a doctor's report on Lady Macbeth's equally strange sleepwalking behaviour.



Year 9 have been finding out about different places, first by reading "The Cat Who Walked Across France" and moving on to "The Tempest."

A study of poetry started the year for Year 8, who then went on to explore "The Diary of Anne Frank".

Year 7 have enjoyed humour, alliteration and onomatopoeia in "Mr Stink" and "The Lorax."



French

Year 7 pupils have been learning the months of the year, the four seasons, counting up to 31 and how to say the date of their birthday in French.



Year 8s have been learning to talk about clothes. As you can see from the picture on the left, they have had fun making and labelling clothes for a 'washing line' display.

Our topic for this term in Year 9 is food and drink. The pupils have designed their own menus and learnt how to say what they like and don't like, which they then drew onto paper plates as seen in the photo below.



Year 11 have been working hard towards their Entry Level Certificate and have completed assessment 4 (one more to go) on the topic of 'Travel and the Wider World'. They have learnt how to describe different forms of transport and have been talking about holidays and the environment.

Humanities

In KS3, Year 7 have had a fascinating time with History and Geography, learning about the Ancient Greeks, and weather in the UK. They made Greek vase prints, as you can see in the picture on the right. Role-play, making a seasonal tree and a spring walk were the highlights of learning.



Meanwhile, Year 8 made exciting discoveries about the Ancient Mayan civilisation and visited the Devizes Museum and Roundway Hill to find out about some local history.



Year 9 looked at France and its geographical location, its currency and language. Finding out about Rosa Parks, Christopher Columbus and Queen Elizabeth I gave Year 9 lots of opportunities to explore significant contributions made by people in the past.

Looking forward:

	<u>Term 5</u>	<u>Term 6</u>
Year 7	Transport	Iron Age
Year 8	Map work	Conservation
Year 9	The Wider World	The Roman Empire

Land Based Studies

Care of Farm Animals

Years 10 and 11 have been learning how to look after our rare breed Oxford Sandy and Black pigs. This term they have learnt how to assist moving them from one pen to another.



Pupils have also been looking after our poultry. The two hens have just started laying and we have some new arrivals coming at Easter that we are rescuing from a nearby battery farm.



Next term pupils will be learning how to treat livestock if they are ill or injured and they will help look after the new pigs and chickens arriving at Rowdeford.

Horticulture

Pupils in **years 10 and 11** have been preparing the beds in the walled garden for summer crop planting.



They have also been tidying up borders by dead heading, pruning and edging.



Next term the garden will be in full bloom, pupils in both years will be helping Di the gardener get ready for the Garden Fair and tending the fruit and vegetable plants to help produce a bumper harvest in late summer.

Learning Outside the Classroom

Year 7 have started their Lime Tree Award this term, planting potatoes on World Book Day and learning how to look after the garden tools. Next term pupils will continue to look after their garden crops and learn about feeding the school farm animals.



Year 8 have been completing the Oak Tree Award. This has involved learning how to handle a chicken with care, cooking on a campfire and making recycled paper kites. Next term pupils will



move onto the Yew Tree Award where they will learn the difference between an evergreen and a deciduous tree, complete some problem solving activities using teamwork and continue to monitor the growth of their potato plants.



Year 9 have completed the Beech Tree Award this term. This has involved monitoring the growth of our chickens and pigs, learning how to identify our woodland trees from their autumn leaves and completing a birds nest challenge. Next term they will be moving on to the Apple Tree Award which will involve learning how to recognise the animals that visit our woodland from the tracks they



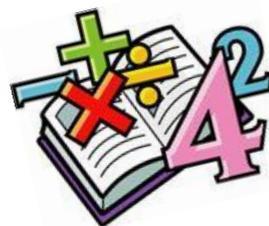
leave, learning how to make a survival shelter and light a campfire safely.

Maths

Year 7 / 8 / 9

In Key Stage 3 pupils follow a cyclic programme, spending a week or two on each topic, then reinforcing and extending those skills again each term.

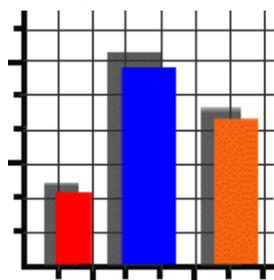
During the spring term, pupils focused on key numeracy skills involving place value and calculations, including an introduction to fractions. Towards the latter half of the term they also looked at time and shape.



After Easter pupils will continue to work on key numeracy skills. This will involve an understanding of place value and calculations, as well as money and data handling.

Year 10

Pupils in Year 10 completed work based on data handling. They looked at methods to collect and display data, such as tally charts, bar graphs, line graphs and pictograms. In the latter half of the term pupils conducted their own survey based on their choice, such as food, film or car preferences, then displayed and analysed their results.



After Easter pupils will be learning about measures. This will involve lots of practical work to enhance understanding and develop skills related to length, weight, capacity, temperature and time.

Year 11

Pupils have been working very hard to revise for the Functional Skills exam. They have been looking at exam skills and techniques to demonstrate their knowledge effectively to the examiner.

After Easter pupils will continue to revise key topics and sit practice papers before taking the final exam towards the end of April.



Life Skills

As part of their life skills days pupils have been learning to apply their Maths skills to complete everyday tasks.

In Year 10 pupils used their measuring skills to make snacks and cakes.

In Year 11 pupils used their money handling and budgeting skills to travel on a public bus, buy drinks and snacks in shops and use self-service machines.

We are also very grateful to Greggs for sending us a voucher. Pupils had lots of fun learning with cakes when counting money, calculating change, recognising shapes and understanding fractions.



The photo only shows a selection of the cakes that Greggs supplied!

PE and Dance

The Year 7 pupils have been very busy having specialist coaching in Table Cricket as well as Tag Rugby throughout this term. In Dance we have celebrated the Year of the Dog with a Chinese New year



inspired dance. To mark the Winter Olympics we have performed winter sports inspired dances.



The Year 8's have been busy improving their skills across a range of sports, half continuing with swimming while the rest have been doing athletics and benchball. To celebrate the Olympics the Year 8's have also

been involved in group Winter Sports dances as well as a Doctor Who 'Time' themed dance.

The Year 9's have continued their work with various games, improving their coordination and teamwork. They have explored their 'Inner Warriors' with a Haka dance, which has lead us onto exploring the dance group 'Stomp' and creating our own stomp dance, with the sounds being created by our bodies.



Years 10 & 11 have continued their preparation for the exam sports by participating in fitness circuits, basketball, Frisbee and the individual sports of new age kurling and boccia.

Students have learnt the fundamentals of a warm up and developed their own routines.



Upcoming Activities for Terms 5 and 6

Year Group	PE		DANCE	
	Term 5	Term 6	Term 5	Term 6
Yr 7	Tennis/ Volleyball Swimming	Athletics Swimming	Patterns travel	Actions - sports
Yr 8	Athletics Golf Swimming	Cricket/ Rounders Swimming	Zumba/ aerobics	Cultural – Haka
Yr 9	Athletics	Kwik cricket, Rounders	Movies	Choreo- graphy
Yr 10	Athletics	Kwik Cricket Rounders		
Yr 11	Rounders Cricket	Football		

In addition to all the above, pupils in Year 7 have been learning to play table cricket as part of their PE lessons. A specialist coach called Sam has visited each week to teach pupils the skills and rules of the game.

In February, pupils in 7NG attended a Table Cricket Tournament held at Crowds Hill School in Swindon. There were eight teams, from six different schools. 7NG played fantastically and won!



Batting



Fielding



Bowling



PSHRE

We have been focusing on the value of Resilience this term and our PSHRE lessons have looked at various aspects of this value that can help us.



We have been looking at how to build our resilience with the Year 7 pupils. The children have explored ways to deal with friendships, having a positive body image as well as coming up with strategies to deal with difficult situations.



The religious focus has been based around Hinduism and exploring the Ten Main Duties. The students have been learning how this teaches resilience, respect and living a happy lifestyle.

Year 8 pupils have focused on the value of resilience. They have been working on ways to deal with difficult situations as well as exploring their own strengths and weaknesses. This has resulted in the pupils setting themselves some goals that they would like to achieve.



They have also looked at their own role models and recognised some of the qualities they admire about different people.

The religious focus of this term has been Christianity and the students have looked at Martin Luther King Jr. as a religious leader. They have studied how King showed resilience during the Civil Rights Movement.



Plus Programme



Spring has definitely sprung, with the Plus Programme making the most of the warmer weather. However it has not been warm all the time and all groups have had to face the Beast from the East, flooding and freezing temperatures during their outdoor learning adventures.



Our Mondays Land Based Studies group have spent many enjoyable hours with Dave on the farm, learning about the husbandry of a wide variety of animals and enjoying some quality time with them. Then there has been time well spent in the greenhouse and walled garden, studying propagation and putting theory into practice. It is all hands on deck at the moment as we prepare pots and beds ready for the Garden Fair. The wheat we sowed in October has survived the winter and is flourishing. We look forward to harvesting that in June or July to bake some bread.



Tuesdays' and Wednesdays' John Muir Award Group are achieving their goal of discovering, exploring and conserving all the wonderful wild and natural things Rowdeford has to offer. We have tracked animals, surveyed birds, checked out the resident bats (discovered they were

hibernating) and done so much in the gardens and woodland. We are lucky to have our own Plus Programme area of the walled garden, where the students have been set the challenge to 'grow a healthy meal'. The bed has been prepared, menus discussed, preferred vegetables noted and seed planting started; we will, hopefully, update readers in the next newsletter as to what meals have been grown!



The students are preparing their own Power Point presentations and posters to share some of the things that they have discovered and explored. Our tech-savvy students will also be taking on the challenge of updating their Blog on the John Muir Website.

Our Thursday Sustainability group have been upcycling, looking at healthy living, problem-solving and team building. When faced with the challenge of how to make a healthy cookie, they excelled with achieving almost all of their five a day in a biscuit! This has sparked a real love of cooking in this group, which we have been able to incorporate into many aspects of the course.



However, this is only a small part of their Thursdays, as we have been out in the grounds and garden ensuring our team working and healthy lifestyle targets are met. We have been keeping healthy with plenty of exercise and hard work (not all work and no play as free time has been constructively used for more team games, with teachers and TA's brushing up on their badminton and ball skills!).



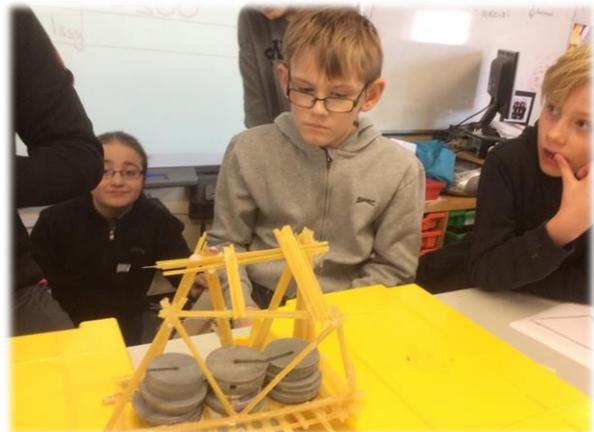
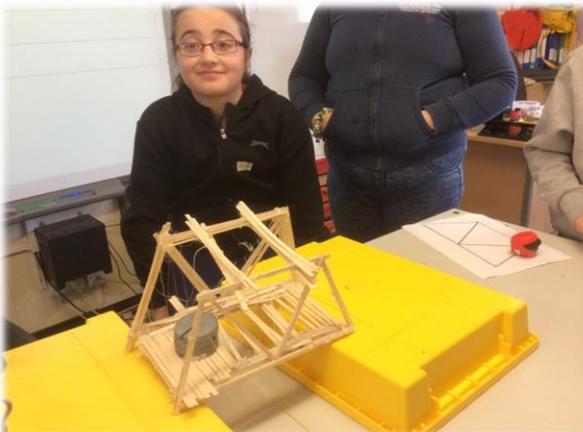
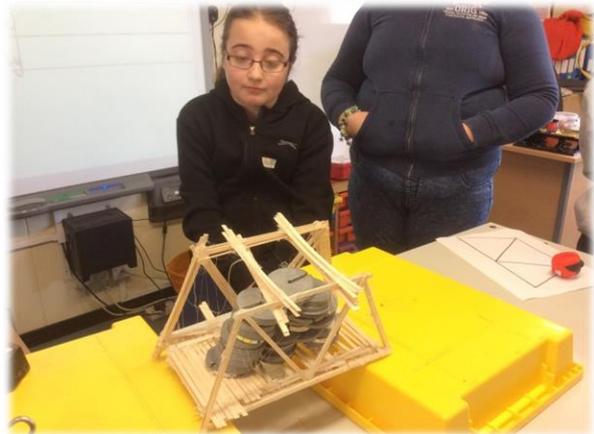
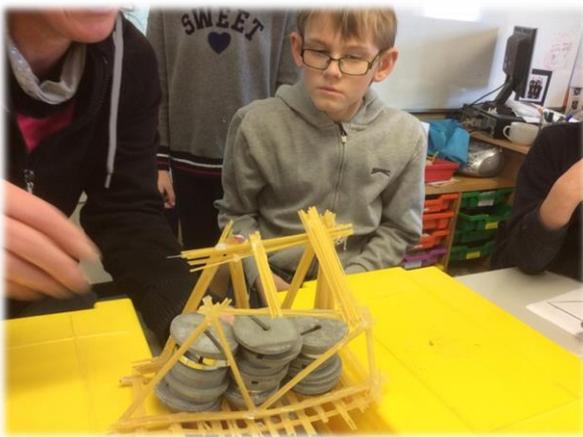
The Plus Programme has also been volunteering and learning about the work of the Canal Trust, up at the Jubilee Woods and Caen Hill Locks in Rowde. All groups learnt about the Caen Hill Flight and many facts about the trees, wildlife and purpose of the Jubilee Wood. They then got to work clearing a bank for families to enjoy in the summer. There will be lots more volunteering work, with great opportunities to get involved in the fantastic conservation work of the Trust.

Plenty of learning and fun to look forward to with all the groups in the summer term, with exciting developments for the programme in September. Please contact Martin Marshall (MartinMarshall@rowdeford.wilts.sch.uk) for more information.



Science

Since January in Science we have been very busy. Year 7 have been learning about seasonal changes, and are now studying materials. We have looked around Rowdeford for different materials and then made bridges out of pasta, straws and wood! You can see from the pictures how well they managed the task.



Year 8 have loved learning all about sound, and are now learning about rocks. They were surprised how many things around Rowdeford are made of rocks. They made their own fossils with Ms Jones.



Year 9 did lots of experiments with electricity; they were amazed to learn what different household items conducted electricity by fitting them into a circuit. More recently they been learning all about themselves in the 'Humans' units.

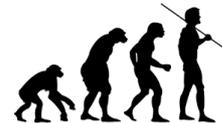


Year 10 have learnt all about health, disease and medicine and have completed the whole Biology section of the syllabus. They have worked very hard, doing some extremely challenging science.

Year 11 have nearly completed all the units for their Entry Level, finishing with Physics.

Next term

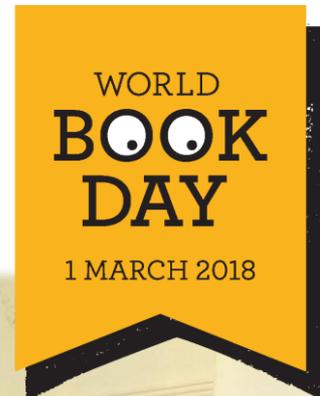
<p>Year 7 Dinosaurs/evolution Solids/liquids and gases</p>	<p>Year 8 Plants Forces</p>	<p>Year 9 Humans (continued) Project work Entry level preparation/ investigation skills</p>
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<p>Year 10 Chemistry. Atoms, compounds, and states of matter, followed by separating mixtures, breaking down substances and acids and metals</p>	<p>Year 11 Finish Waves and Radiation, complete all outstanding EL assignments, submit work. Then neuroscience and practical/outdoor activities</p>
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World Book Day

The snow meant that World Book Day was postponed but, a week later, we enjoyed coming to school dressed as characters from books and taking part in a Book Swap.



The photo above shows the staff entering into the spirit of the day!

Everyone was given a free £1 Book Token, and the "use by" date on these has been extended to the end of March because of the snow chaos at the beginning of the month, so you still have time to spend yours!





A VERY HAPPY EASTER FROM ALL AT



ROWDEFORD SCHOOL



Cooperation – Responsibility – Happiness – Resilience – Respect – Caring

