



# THE ROSEWOOD GAZETTE

## FROM OUR HEAD TEACHER

### Merry Christmas everyone!

I remember writing for this newsletter last Christmas and saying that by now Covid would be a distant memory. How wrong was I? I must admit that this term has been the most difficult yet in my 34 years of teaching. We have tried to make sense of everything we are supposed to do and we have tried our best to keep everyone safe. But, as I am sure you are aware, cases are rising all across the country and the knock-on effects are very difficult to cope with.

However, we are still here and still smiling and we will continue to do everything we can to ensure everyone is safe, happy and learning. As usual Christmas has come round too quickly and there is always too much to do. This year though, we can at least celebrate in style. We have the tree up at school and Christmas dinner is booked. Christmas dinner at Rosewood is always a very special event and it was really sad last year when we had to cancel. It is going ahead this year, even if I have to cook it myself! I love Christmas, I always have.

I do know though that Christmas can be a stressful time of year. Presents cost money and the kids always want that one thing which is either really expensive or impossible to get. I know that some struggle at Christmas and find it hard. If anyone is struggling over the holidays, please remember we still have the safeguarding phone and you can talk to a sympathetic ear at any time.

The boys have settled well this term considering all the upheavals we have had. They continue to do their best and that is all I can ask. I know the ladies in the office are busy ordering all the points prizes and it will be great to be able to present them in person.

I hope you all have a good Christmas and I hope that next year I really will not have to mention Covid ever again.

*Mr D. Kirk*

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# What have KS2 been up to?

This half term KS2 have been looking at Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in their Literacy lessons. Pupils have designed their own chocolate bars and the wrappers for them, as well as describing the taste after eating it! They all considered what made a chocolate bar appealing to customers when it's on the shelf and what flavours they would like for a chocolate bar. The focus of chocolate in Literacy links to the topic of the Aztec civilisation.

KS2 produced a wonderful scene from Charlie and the chocolate factory during Drama lessons, each taking on speaking roles and developing their characters over a few weeks. They were so proud of what they had produced, they wanted to show Mr Whyte who was very impressed by the acting skills of his pupils!

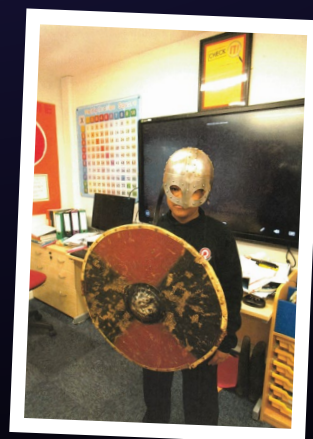
Fun fact: Did you know that the Aztecs discovered the cocoa bean, which is used to make chocolate?! The pupils learn what life was like during the Aztec era, where the Aztecs lived and how their civilisation had different social classes. In Maths pupils have been learning to add and subtract numbers using 'mental methods'.

Through their RE lessons KS2 have looked at inspirational people. Discussing who is inspirational to them, who is inspirational to different religions and how the beliefs of these religions were upheld by the inspirational people. Children have also decorated some beautiful Sugar skulls or known as "Calaveras" in Mexican. We have learning about the Mexican festival 'Dia de los Muertos' (meaning Day of the Dead) and how the Mexican culture traditionally celebrate this event.

KS2 pupils have been creating their own puppets in their DT lessons, which will be ready to come home with them in time for Christmas. The pupils have had to determine which animals would make good puppets and consider the materials that are best to use, whilst learning how to use a range of different tools and skills. During Art lessons this term, KS2 pupils have been learning about Vikings. Pupils were delighted when Mr Dean Russell from The House of Twin Tailed Lion Re-enactment Group kindly dressed up in his full costume to show them how a real Viking would dress for battle. Mr Russell allowed pupils to try on his Viking shield, Helmet, and they were able to look and feel the weight of chainmail. This then inspired pupils to design and make their own shields and helmets.

Mrs Morris was very impressed with pupils' results and how hard pupils worked to create superb armoury.

Well done Key Stage Two Vikings!





# KS3 & KS4

## MATHS

"Year 7 have had an excellent start to the new school year. New students have taken to Rosewood like a duck to water and our previous Year 6's have continued their excellent work and effort in this year since moving over to the main body of the school. I have been incredibly impressed.

In the first half term, we completed units one and two. Unit one focused on 'Analysing and displaying data'. The students created graphs and charts from a set of results and was able to draw comparisons and similarities from different sets because of their charts. Something that will be invaluable as they progress in life.

Similarly, Unit two, 'Number skills', will also be very important in their life. This unit focused on the core aspects of Mathematics. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, time, and money. During this period, you could see the confidence of the students developing as they started to believe in their own ability more!

Since returning from half term, Unit three, 'Expressions, functions and formulae' has been our focus. This topic involves algebra which students can often find difficult and can't often see how it is used in day-to-day life. But the students have tried incredibly hard and produced work that they should be proud of.

For example, one pupil at first didn't see the point in learning about algebra, but after seeing examples of how it is used in life, such as budgeting, cooking (ingredients), shopping, he shown an excellent attitude towards the work. I was really impressed with how quickly he understood how to simplify expressions.

### A message from Mr Floyd:

*"This being my first ever Maths group, it has been an absolute pleasure to teach every single one of them. I look forward to seeing more great work from them in the future. Well done Year 7!"*

## Can you break the code?

### Christmas Maths Codebreaker 1

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
12	2.5	6	48	4.5	120	50	20	9	40	8	100	60
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
10	750	150	45	200	30	3.5	210	64	25	36	5	75

Answer the Christmas questions below, link your answers to the table above to reveal why Santa's helper had to retire:

Christmas crackers come in boxes of 8. I bought 6 boxes. How many crackers did I have?	The turkey we are having takes 3 hours to cook and half an hour to rest. How many minutes is that in total?	The same present. I paid with a £20 note and received £6.50 change. How much was each present in	I have three bits of tinsel measuring the following: 2.3m, 45cm and 750mm. How long is my tinsel altogether in metres?	The recipe for 4 people says I need 300g of sugar. I am making for 10 people. How much sugar do I need in g?	long and 1.5m wide. I want to put festive ribbon all around the outside. What length of ribbon should I buy

My Christmas tree has 240 lights but $\frac{5}{12}$ have stopped working. How many have stopped working?	A Christmas day film starts at 2.50pm and finishes at 4.30pm. How minutes did the film last?	I need to cook the carrots for 270 seconds. How many minutes is that?	I bought a 1kg bag of sweet chestnuts to roast. I only have 10% left; how many grams is that?	treat at Christmas so I've saved her 320g of turkey. I want to give her $\frac{3}{8}$ of it today. How much is that in

# KS3 & KS4

## ENGLISH

The pupils have made a great start to the Autumn term!

Year 7s have managed the transition to Key Stage 3 ever so well. They have produced some lovely work during the study of *The Butterfly Lion* by Michael Morpurgo. Miss Montero, our new addition to the English team, has thoroughly enjoyed teaching such an enthusiastic and responsive year group.

Meanwhile, the Year 8s have explored some challenging issues around homelessness in their study of *Stone Cold* by Robert Swindells. Miss Harvey has been delighted with the progress they have made with their spellings since September.

Year 9 continue to be our star creative writers. They're about to embark on their latest extended piece on the theme of winter. Some of our boys are even spending their free time working on writing their own short stories. Who knows – perhaps one day we'll produce our own JK Rowling!

Whilst reading Jewell Parker Rhodes' *Ghost Boys*, Year 10 have maintained a mature and analytical approach to modern day issues such as racism and the justice system. They have made a fantastic start to their GCSE studies.

Finally, Year 11 are well on their way to passing GCSEs in both Language and Literature. Currently, they are deep into Dickens as they study *A Christmas Carol*. They have also analysed a range of poetry and are having regular intervention sessions on exam skills.

All of the English team are looking forward to our boys making even more progress over the next term!

## English Matters

Six Riddles...to get your brains warmed up!

1. Can you name five days of the week without saying (or writing) Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday? (Well, it should be an easy riddle)

2. Read this aloud right now:

***The cow ate the  
the green grass.***

Did you get it right? If not, why not?

3. What number, when added to the number three or multiplied by it, gives the same result?

4. Count every "F" in the following sentence (What could be easier than that?):

Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the experience of years.

How many did you find?

5. I have three letters, and I read the same forward and backwards. I rhyme with a word that is important to everyone. What word am I?

6. How can you cut a cake into eight parts with just three cuts?

### THE ANSWERS:

1. The day before yesterday, yesterday, today, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow.
2. Most people read "The cow ate the grass" when they first try this. However, "the" actually appears twice in the sentence, which is easily missed due to the way our brains look for and find familiar patterns - even when they are not there.
3. 1.5 (I didn't say it was a whole number.)
4. The letter F appears six times in that sentence. Most people think there are only four (although those who speak English as a second language seem to do better at this). For some reason the brain doesn't identify the Fs in "of".
5. Eye (rhymes with "I").
6. Cut it as you normally cut a cake, in half with one cut, and again with another, resulting in four pieces. Then cut it horizontally in half. This third cut creates eight pieces total.



# FUN SCIENCE FACTS FROM MR AFSAR

## 1. BABIES HAVE AROUND 100 MORE BONES THAN ADULTS.

Babies have about 300 bones at birth, with cartilage between many of them. This extra flexibility helps them pass through the birth canal and also allows for rapid growth. With age, many of the bones fuse, leaving 206 bones that make up an average adult skeleton.

## 2. SOME METALS ARE SO REACTIVE THAT THEY EXPLODE ON CONTACT WITH WATER.

There are certain metals – including potassium, sodium, lithium, rubidium and caesium – that are so reactive that they oxidise (or tarnish) instantly when exposed to air. They can even produce explosions when dropped in water! All elements strive to be chemically stable – in other words, to have a full outer electron shell. To achieve this, metals tend to shed electrons. The alkali metals have only one electron on their outer shell, making them ultra-keen to pass on this unwanted passenger to another element via bonding. As a result they form compounds with other elements so readily that they don't exist independently in nature.

## 3. STOMACH ACID IS STRONG ENOUGH TO DISSOLVE STAINLESS STEEL.

Your stomach digests food thanks to highly corrosive hydrochloric acid with a pH of 2 to 3. This acid also attacks your stomach lining, which protects itself by secreting an alkali bicarbonate solution. The lining still needs to be replaced continually, and it entirely renews itself every four days.

## 4. A FLEA CAN ACCELERATE FASTER THAN THE SPACE SHUTTLE.

A jumping flea reaches dizzying heights of about eight centimetres (three inches) in a millisecond. Acceleration is the change in speed of an object over time, often measured in 'g's, with one g equal to the acceleration caused by gravity on Earth (9.8 metres/32.2 feet per square second). Fleas experience 100 g, while the Space Shuttle peaked at around 5 g. The flea's secret is a stretchy rubber-like protein which allows it to store and release energy like a spring.

## 5. VENUS IS THE ONLY PLANET TO SPIN CLOCKWISE.

Our Solar System started off as a swirling cloud of dust and gas which eventually collapsed into a spinning disc with the Sun at its centre. Because of this common origin, all the planets move around the Sun in the same direction and on roughly the same plane. They also all spin in the same direction (counter-clockwise if observed from 'above') – except Uranus and Venus. Uranus spins on its side, while Venus defiantly spins in the complete opposite direction. The most likely cause of these planetary oddballs are gigantic asteroids which knocked them off course in the distant past.



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**This term Year 9 pupils have been taking part in swimming lessons, they have improved their skills in front crawl, breast stroke and butterfly. Pupils who were new to swimming are doing extremely well and are starting to participate without swimming aids.**

**Year 9 are studying badminton and table tennis this half term and are doing extremely well and are showing good progression.**

**The PE department have organised a trip next year where some pupils will be able to see the England Open Badminton Championships.**

**Keep an eye out for this in future newsletters!**





# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

There has been a hive of activity in the DT room since returning. All pupils really have got back into the spirit of the subject with lots of creativity, critical and innovative thinking. They certainly know how to make the most of lessons and are as keen as ever to learn new skills and use any new tools and equipment – this term has seen the arrival of the new resin 3D Printer amongst some other enjoyable fun new items.

Key Stage 2 pupils have been designing and making animal inspired toy puppets, where the boys have been using basic wood tools, picking up measuring, cutting and finishing skills along the way.

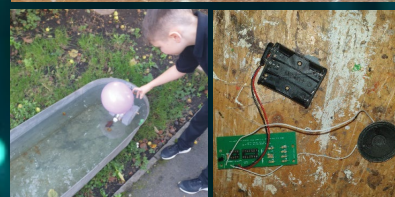
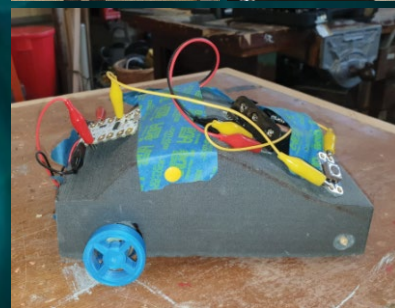
Year 7 pupils have just completed the design and make something that moves on water challenge, where the boys get to use the workshop, make and test something but most importantly the boys get express their own ideas. As normal the boys came up with some unique designs.

Year 8 have been learning 2D CAD design skills, basic electronics and how to solder. The boys have soldered kits to make simple torches, playable electronic xylophones and mini powered amps.

Year 9 pupils have been exploring modern and smart materials and designed products incorporating these new materials with some great ideas. They are currently learning some old fashion skills making log reindeers and honing new age skills with some laser cut designs.

Year 10 are responding well to the step up to Key Stage for and have covered the fundamentals of design thinking and considerations, learned some new skills in Onshape 3D design as well as gaining skills and knowledge in the new Crumble programming kits and then applying these new skills to real world problems – this cool little water pump activates when water exceeds a certain level, ideal protection for flood hit properties

Year 11 have had their heads down, researching hard for the start of their GCSE NEA Coursework which goes toward their final grade. The boys are covering the briefs of either educational play or outdoor eating. They are nearing the design section which really does get fun but sadly exam codes of practise prohibit any public sharing of live work! But here is a car that they worked on together to make and programme in an end of half term fun session.





# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## YEAR 10 - STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT MUSEUM

Year 10's visited Staffordshire Regiment Museum in September as part of their Religious Education curriculum. They explored inspirational people from WWI and WWII and had a guided tour around the museum.

Whilst there they were able to ask questions to an experienced and knowledgeable tour guide, they were able to walk around and explore trenches and went down the mines. Pupils then explored other aspects of life for the soldiers such as weaponry and uniform.



## Year 8/9 Buddhism Trip

Year 8's and 9's visited Birmingham Buddhist Vihara in September as part of their Religious Education Curriculum. Whilst there, they had a guided tour around the Pagoda and got to ask questions to their tour guide.



### **Trips to look forward to for RE**

Year 7 - Lichfield Cathedral

Year 8 - Worcester Cathedral



# Animal Therapy

Our pupils have enjoyed an eventful year on our Farm. Rosewood (pupils and staff!) have successfully cared for and watched eggs hatch into 8 chicks.

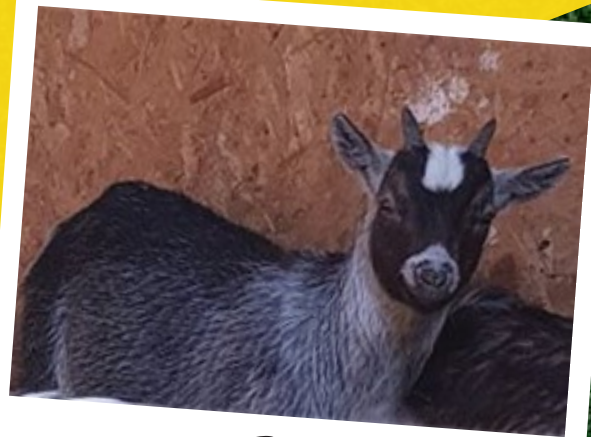
Pupils have had the chance to see different stages of how chickens grow and have seen first hand their personalities develop into their own individual characters.



Earlier this year we were joined by two playful Pygmy Goats, who have settled in at Rosewood very well. Meet Ant and Dec!



*Ant*



*Dec*

A great opportunity has recently arisen which has given the chance for some of our pupils to attend Sedgley Activity Farm to take part in 5 week animal care course. Pupils will learn in depth about animal care and will receive a certificate on completion.



# Drama

Since September KS2, Year 7 and 8 have been working hard in our new subject, Drama. We have been working alongside other subjects and crossing curriculum, predominantly with English and PSHE.

Year 7 have been working hard on their basic skills of Drama and even begun the difficult task of improvisation work. Watching the boys go from being shy and nervous in their first few lessons, to confidently coming up with lines on the spot has been fabulous to see. It has been a pleasure to observe each pupils confidence grow. Keep it up!

In Year 8 drama we have been exploring homelessness, linking in with their English work on the book "Stone Cold". They created a small five minute piece through freeze frames, working together to cast the parts and direct each scene. Their work on using a stimulus to create a scene is also coming along nicely; as the boys are using a simple picture to come up with ideas for a story from it. They are beginning to approach the subject with more maturity and are able to discuss serious topics with a grown up attitude.

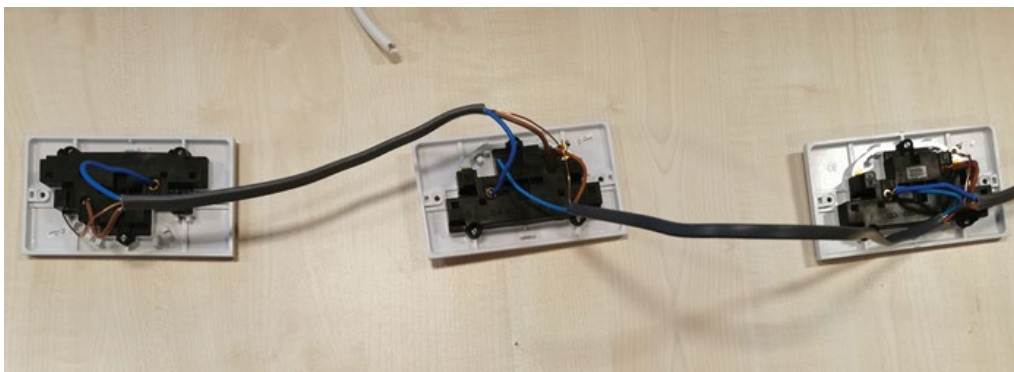
Both Miss Sayce and Miss Rudge have been incredibly impressed with how each year has thrown themselves into the subject, and are looking forward to taking all three year groups on a trip to Wolverhampton grand to watch the Pantomime as an extension to their learning!



# Project

Over the Summer and Autumn term, pupils have been working some new practical skills. We have focused on fixing plumbing leaks and most recently have moved on to some basic electrics, such as rewiring plugs and sockets.

Pupils have picked up these skills very quickly and confidently. We may have some future tradesmen on our hands!



# SENCO

Currently, we have lots of exciting things happening in the SEN department. There are many interventions being carried out daily.

As well as holistic therapy, pupils have access to many educational interventions such as 1:1 reading, group phonics and spelling, Rapid Plus Series (reading and comprehension) and on-going support in English, Maths and Science.

We are continuing to work closely with the outside agencies that are listed below. Recently, a new Educational Psychologist, a Speech and Language Therapist and a Dyslexia Specialist have started work with us.

Pupils are assessed each term (unless they have reached a reading and/or spelling age of 12+ where they are tested once a year, or receive interventions where they are tested half termly).

Pupils who have worked hard, or have made significant progress, are now being invited on trips, with Mr Kirk and Mrs Hand, to Waterstones where they can choose some books of their own.



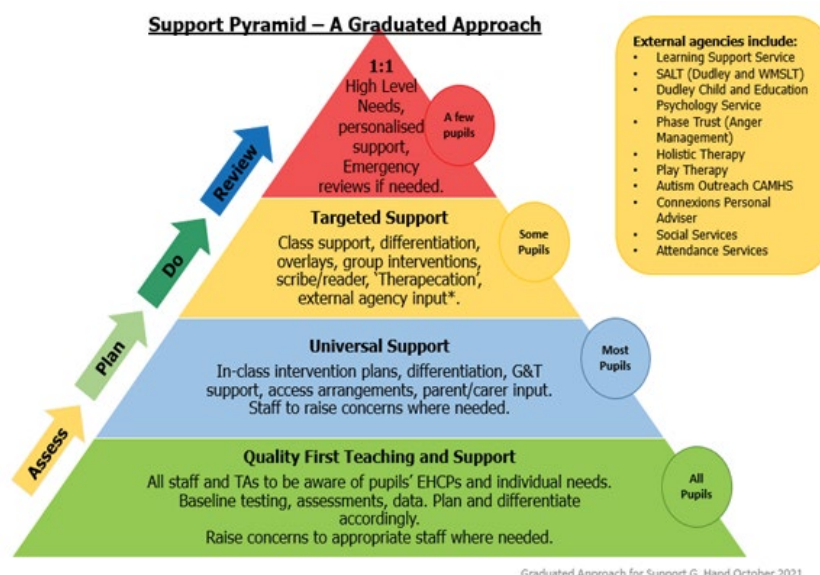
## A FEW FIGURES

- 88% of pupils have received at least one educational intervention over the last half term.

- 70% of pupils made 1 year (or above) progress in reading last year.

- 73% of pupils made 1 year (or above) progress with spelling last year.

- 67% of pupils are above the age of 12 years in reading.



The diagram above shows the different levels of support that pupils are given within school.



# Road Safety Week 2021

For Road Safety Week 2021 Year 8 gained their Bikeability Level 2.

Level 2 teaches children to grow more confident with and experience "real" cycling on the road. Accompanied by instructors and Mr Phillips, our Year 8's spent a day and a half learning travel skills in the classroom, and then onto negotiating the local roads.

This included junctions, crossroads and roundabouts, and sharing the road with other vehicles.





# Anti-Bullying Week 2021

As part of Anti-Bullying Week 2021, Rosewood pupils in from KS2 and Year 7 took part in a workshop delivered by Loudmouth Theatre Company. The workshop presented interactive performances around topics such as: the different types of bullying, the impact of bullying, how to get help and the responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying, mental wellbeing and the normality of this in daily life, and the range of different emotions from different experiences.

"The programme uses well researched drama with relevant, engaging content to bring the issues to life to introduce or consolidate learning on the issue."



Anti-Bullying  
Poster Design  
Winner

## Anti-Bullying

Winning Anti-bullying  
poster contestant!

Example: This boy has one leg but it doesn't matter



JUST dont  
listen to  
the bullies  
you are trying  
to make you  
sad and down  
in the dumps.

### Online bullying

- If anyone online  
texes you in any  
threatning, sexual, rude  
bad way tell a  
trusted adult and  
keep away from  
them. and save  
thing dont let the  
bullies pull you down.

- Bullying is a  
horrible thing.

- If you have  
dissabillate or  
sad injury  
and is getting  
bullied dont  
let the bullies  
pull you down  
stand up for yourself  
and tell a responsible  
adult.

Just think to yourself that everybody is unique  
some people have been born without a arm or  
some people might were glasses therse Mited  
race, different religions and even the bullies  
must have something so just think  
"I'm unique."

COVER

"If a bully is trying to pull you down walk away and think "I'm unique"

## **A message from the office...**

Most parents/carers recognise us as Kym and Jess, we are usually the first staff member you catch when you call school or visit the office.

We'd like to say hello and welcome to the new parents/carers and pupils that have joined us since September 2021. Also, a big thank you to those that have been part of our school for a while and for helping us build a connection/partnership with you all that we are proud of. We hope that the newer and future parents/carers will build a similar rapport with us too.

During Covid in particular, you have probably heard from us quite a lot. As frustrating as the ever changing rules can be, we have such great understanding and support from parents/carers for which we are grateful.

Please always remember to notify us with any new mobile numbers and medication changes.

**We hope all parents/carers and pupils have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

### **SPOTLESS.**

Congratulations to the Rosewood cleaning team, for achieving 100% in their annual cleaning inspection by Dudley Council. They have achieved 100% in the last 8 years which is a fantastic achievement by the Team, demonstrating a high level of consistency throughout the years ensuring Rosewood School is a clean environment for both pupils and staff.

**Well done and keep up the good work!**

# Thank You..!



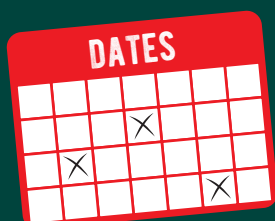
Rosewood would like to thank the Dudley Voluntary Association for the Mentally Handicapped who have very kindly donated £20,000 towards our Food Technology Room Refurbishment.



# Dates for your diary

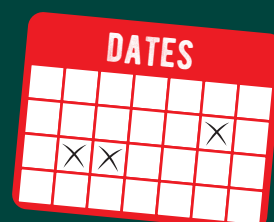
After the Christmas break, Year 11 will be undergoing mock examinations in readiness for the main event in May and June. On the whole, they have been working hard and we wish them all the luck during this time.

**Main examinations will take place between Monday 16th May and Friday 17th June 2022.**



## Spring Term 2022

- Term starts - Tuesday 4 January
- Half term - Monday 21 February to Friday 25 February
- Term ends - Friday 8 April



## Bank Holidays

- in lieu of New Years Day - Monday 3 January
- Good Friday - Friday 15th April
- Easter Monday - Monday 18th April
- Term starts - Monday 25th April
- Half term - Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June
- Term ends - Thursday 21st July

## Bank Holidays

- May day - Monday 2nd May
- Spring Bank Holiday - Thursday 2nd June 2022
- Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday - Friday 3rd June 2022



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**