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Dear Families,

I thought long and hard about whether or not we should send the (overdue) Spring newsletter out to you - in many ways the Spring term feels like a distant memory! Looking back at photos from World Book Day or the Sixth Form Launch event, which were just a few weeks before the corona pandemic accelerated and it feels like a different world.



And yet. There was so much to celebrate between January and the middle of March so it seemed silly not to! For example:

- In January we had some fantastic exam results! Two of our Year 11s sat their IGCSE English Language exam early in November 2019 and received a B and a C grade! Also, two of our Year 12s re-sat their IGCSE English and have now got their well-earned C-grade.
- We also received confirmation that our application to increase our PAN (the number of pupils we can educate at The Rise) was approved! This is brilliant news for young people with autism in our local area. The expansion was so that we could have a full cohort of 30 pupils in our Sixth Form at West Thames College. We'll continue to educate about 100 pupils at our main site.
- We launched our Comfy Reading plan. We want The Rise 'to float on a sea of books' and therefore each class is relaxing and being read to every day for 10 minutes. You're never too old to be read to! It was brilliant to see that pupils were initially sceptical about the whole idea soon came round and began to show their curiosity.



And even one full half-term into lockdown, there is still much to celebrate now. Yes, of course we're very proud of all pupils trying to engage in their academic work at this time. We are teachers after all! However, it is an utter delight to hear your stories of the life skills they are acquiring. For example:

- James M remembering what an Iambic Pentameter was in my session with him just now and clapping out our sentences.
- Thomas cooking burger patties with onions from scratch while singing songs from Trolls World Tour.
- Zach's presentation for his Final Major Project, it took him two days to record it due to being nervous and shy and other distractions but when he finally sent the finished copy it was really fantastic. We submitted it to Digital Arts and he received an amazing email of feedback.

It is clear to see that our Rise values are very much alive.

We have a plan in place for **if** the government announces that it is safe to increase the number of pupils attending school.

In our case, we'll be welcoming back Year 10 and then Year 6. I know this is tough, so thank you for your ongoing support. We are not trying to win any race, safety is at the forefront of every single decision. You may be a little sick of hearing from me, but of course, I will be in touch again soon! Enjoy half-term!

Primary highlights



Bay class took part in some science experiments with magic milk and rainbow walking water! We also had a group story writing session with cookies and milk.



We had the fantastic Zoo Lab come to The Rise to see us and all the children from Willow Class enjoyed engaging by holding and touching some of the creatures. These included a snake and an African grey snail. They were all brave and stroked at least one of the creatures which came around which was great resilience from Willow Class.



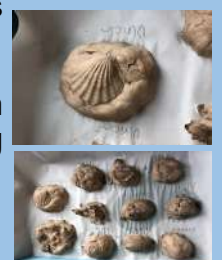
We also had the fantastic World Book Day which was amazing to see Willow Classes costumes and how much hard work they went into coming in all dressed up. From a dinosaur to Willy Wonka there was a variety and it showed their friends and staff members which books they enjoy!



Jade, Lauraine and Jack enjoying a cup of tea with their blankets and bean bag for comfy reading in Hazel class.

A highlight for Oak class was science week. The boys loved every experiment we did especially Frankie. We made slime (which went wrong) we made our own bouncing balls and created fossils using plaster of paris.

The week leading up to Mothers day we created cards in class for the women in our lives we are thankful for. We had the radio on and all of us were up dancing and having a lot of fun just being together.

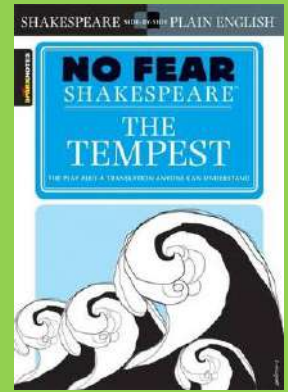


Secondary highlights

Juniper Class are really enjoying reading *The Tempest* in English and have all taken part in reading the play together. We are especially proud how some pupils have been independently researching further about Shakespeare and Elizabeth was even inspired by the play for her World Book Day costume.

This term we are proud of the resilience of pupils Remy and Tegan and our new TLA Amy Bailey. The kindness shown by Juniper Class to welcome them and help them settle in so quickly.

The Rise School community have all enjoyed the creativity of *The Rise News* written and illustrated by JoJo and Jack.



Maple class have been enjoying their comfy reading book 'Once', relaxing on beanbags and colouring while listening to the story. Maple class have also been particularly enjoying developing their football skills in PE. The class had a trip with Elm to the Brooklands museum – A museum of planes, buses, cars and other transport. We all particularly enjoyed racing each other in the Formula 1 driving simulator in a real formula 1 car, playing hide and seek in the bus museum and climbing the hill to see the old Brooklands text track. We also boarded a concord and the Sultan of Brunei's plane.



Cypress and Dragon class enjoyed meeting a range of animals when Zoolab visited. Pupils enjoyed asking questions and finding out more about these animals and enjoyed handling, or looking from a distance. Both classes also joined year 10 for Enterprise Day where they showed initiative and their creativity by working in teams to make a shoe. Students also used the power of persuasion when presenting the shoe to encourage others to buy theirs!



Guelder-Rose have had a productive spring term, focusing hard on their mock papers. They have been exploring options for life after Year 11, such as The Rise 6th Form courses and how to write a CV to obtain a part-time job. Guelder-Rose showed off their culinary skills and completed their BTEC Level 2 in Home Cooking—the dishes tasted amazing! All students completed their 'Junior Umpire' qualification for table tennis during their PE lessons.



Sixth Form

During the Spring Term we were very proud to host our Sixth Form Launch. It was well attended by members of the West Thames community, Ambitious about Autism (AaA) staff, donors, and of course, our Mayor of Hounslow, Tony Louki. Tony made a speech highlighting the importance of a provision like ours, which is dedicated to supporting young people with autism achieve the qualifications of their choice, and be prepared for the next steps in life.

Additionally, Sixth Form students also attended the launch, where they were able to converse with the mayor, as well as other guests, and share their experiences as a Rise pupil. The launch was a huge success and we are very grateful and proud of all the work that went into preparing for the event.

During the spring term we were also very proud to send another student to work experience. Kieran completed his two-week work experience placement at the AaA office in North London. I think Kieran would have liked to stay there forever, but unfortunately, he had to return!

Kieran was asked to work on projects he found really interesting, like doing daily news updates, prospect research, and blogging about his own experiences of growing up as a person with autism. Kieran received an evaluation which not only gave constructive feedback, but highlighted the skills he was really strong in: Ability to work in a team, Relationship with Others, Enthusiasm...etc.

Last we had a few more proud moments for some of the students in the Sixth Form that I would like to share:

- Robert completed a Silver Award for his Duke of Edinburgh
- Kevin, with the help of his West Thames peers, wrote and produced a song/rap for our Sixth Form launch
- Danny built a bookshelf for our IT room



Term Dates

Summer Term 2020

Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May: Half term

Friday 17 July: Last day of term (pupils finish at 1pm)

Monday 20 July: INSET (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 21 July: INSET (school closed to pupils)

Our Tweets of the term...

The Rise School @Rise... · 24/04/2020

Wow! Blown away all the FAB learning from home this week. Some highlights:

- Y7 Art 🎨
- Y9 Mindfulness 🧘
- Y5 English 📖
- Y7 cooking 🍳
- Y10 Maths 🧮
- Y5 gardening/baking 🌱
- Y7 TT Rockstars galore 🎸
- Y9 discovered Edgar Allan Poe 📖
- Y7 star gazing 🌠
- Y11 Maths exam 📝
- Y4 doing chores 🧹



3 replies 4 retweets 16 likes

The Rise School @RiseSchoolUK · 1d

Amazing feedback from a Year 12 family. This student has blown everyone away with his creativity and quality media products. The power of high expectations. Shout out especially to Bex! #ThankATeacher

As [redacted]'s parents, we are very grateful to you and your team for the support and guidance you have provided. Your team is deserved of all our praises and thanks because of your dedication and hard work. Your support are not just for [redacted] but also extended to us, his parents. I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Bex for her support and guidance. I don't think 'Thank You' is enough for your team because every effort counts. Kind Regards,

15 likes

The Rise School @Rise... · 27/04/2020

Looking forward to sending out this pile of celebration postcards to some of our students who particularly smashed their Learning from Home last week. 🥳🥳🥳



1 reply 21 likes

The Rise School @Rise... · 06/05/2020

Wednesday wellbeing session is under way! @Fredovola is teaching Rise staff how to "cook" kale with their hands. Who knew? Every day is a learning day!



12 likes

Absence Hotline

If your child is going to be absent from school or late, please call and leave a message on the following number by 8am on each day of absence.

02080990644

"The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding."

Ofsted
Good
Provider

