

# City of Rochester School Newsletter



## Autumn 2 – 2019/2020

### Introduction from the Head:

As the calendar year draws to a close, we have had a very busy term. Our new experiential curriculum is now underway and we will shortly evaluate the effectiveness and impact of this. Our pupils have engaged in a number of community and fundraising activities to support citizenship outcomes and we are very proud of what they have achieved.

Building works continues over the Christmas period as part of our capital investment programme where we are creating new space for the integrated therapy service.

From all of us at the school, including our Trustees, we wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### Key Dates:

08/01/2020  
First Day of Term

17/02/2020 –  
28/02/2020  
Half Term

**Please note this is a  
two week break**

## News:

### Curriculum Update:

#### City of Rochester Film School:

Pupils have enjoyed taking part in Film School this term – particularly the primary school. Pupils have learned how to create storyboards, animate, use filming and sound equipment, edit film, work as part of a team and how to use new technology. I hope you enjoyed the viewing of some of these works of art at our Parents' Evening!



This has been a busy term for marking significant events in our **Equality and Diversity Calendar:**

- During Anti-Bullying week pupils and staff wore odd socks to show its ok to be different and buddy benches were introduced throughout the school.
- In addition, we have put Buddy Stops across the school which pupils use when they want to talk to another pupil or a member of staff.



Report by Wade Swan-Snashall

In our school we celebrate different awareness days throughout the year.

One of those days was Children in Need. We held this on November 14<sup>th</sup> 2019.

I saw the teachers in pyjamas and onesies and one with a pear on their head. There was a cake sale at lunchtime and after school. The lower school took part in the online Big Morning Move with Joe Wicks.

We raised £84.80.



- During Black History Month pupils showed previous knowledge of the persecution of people of colour now and in the past. They showed empathy and understanding of why this is wrong.
- Pupils and staff have been running a Reverse Advent Calendar where donations are being made to the chosen charitable cause this year – The Homeless. These donations will be given to One Big Family – a local homeless charity.
- On Save The Children Day pupils and staff wore Christmas Jumpers and the whole staff team had a Christmas lunch together. Pupils and staff raised £57.

In January 2020, pupils will be starting on the next chapter of our Experiential Curriculum which is accessing the British Horse Society Programme at Squirrels Riding School. We will write to you separately in more detail about this. Pupils will be:

- Learning about stable management
- Learning how to ride a horse/pony
- Participating in a wide range of Achieve Skills such as Field Care, Fix It Activities, Making and Painting Jumps and Photography

Research has shown that for children and young people with ASD conditions, horse-riding and connecting with animals is a therapeutic and effective way of supporting sensory needs. Physical communication with horses through brushing, patting and riding, children associate the care they provide with feelings and an emotional bridge is constructed. This bond can lead to social and communication skill production with other people in life also.

Links to our curriculum through this programme include:

- Lifeskills – social communication and interaction
- Friendship – RE
- Dreams and Goals – PSHE
- Drawing - Art

## **Ofsted:**

We continue to make progress towards moving out of special measures. Our new Advisory Board comprises senior leaders from local and non-local schools and educational establishments who have joined to advise and support the work we do. We had our very first meeting in December 2019.

In addition we:

- Will continue to upgrade the facilities in the school.
- Will be giving Reading a priority across the school – we will write to you separately about this in due course.
- Are launching our Able, Gifted and Talented Programme for pupils – we will write to you separately about this.
- Are introducing Pupil Journals to ensure we capture pupils' development holistically.

## **City of Rochester School Announces:**

### **New Staff:**

We are very pleased to welcome a number of new staff to our team – these being:

- Adam Hazelwood – learning support - secondary
- Charlee Haycraft – learning support - primary
- Alison Barton – pupil wellbeing – secondary and primary
- Kayleigh Passfield – learning support – secondary, and dance/drama/martial arts teacher
- Katie West – who will be starting in January as our new primary teacher
- Jonathan Farrell – who will be starting in January as a form tutor and learning support for secondary
- Alison Shaw – who will be starting in January as our new KS4/KS5 teacher – specialising in Life Skills and Cookery
- Melissa Maher – who will be starting in January as our new Pupil's Induction and Therapies Specialist and Art and Design Teacher.

