



# Serenity School

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## Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to our Spring term newsletter!

We are happy to finally welcome you all to our Coulsdon site this term!

It has been amazing to see our pupils enjoy our new space and acclimatise to our local area. This term we have welcomed several new pupils and staff to Serenity.

I would like to introduce you all to:

- Ms Marva Hylton Denis: Rowan class teacher
- Mr Robert Yaxley: PP
- Ms Sarah Martyne: PP
- Ms Chloe Louise Cately: PP

We would also like to wish a fond farewell to Mr Swaby that left Serenity this term- We all wish him the best of luck in the future.

Ms C Ayisi

### Miss Richter's Attendance Awards

Since we have been in Coulsdon for one whole term now, attendance has improved greatly – SEN transport is arranged, parents are making an effort to drop their children off every day, and students themselves are working hard on improving their attendance. I want to say a big well done to everyone who is making this effort. It is not always easy- we are still learning how to deal with COVID-19 and other factors that may contribute to our absences, but I appreciate everyone's effort in improving attendance.

A big shout out to the following students:

Most improved attendance:  
Jayden, Savannah, Vaswani, Kai

Most consistent attendance:  
Thyrek, Sebastian, Alex, Angel

Best attendance:  
Owen, Ralph, James, Soufiane

Best Class:  
Willow Class! – Well done Willow, your class will receive a £10 voucher for an item for your classroom.



### Pupil & Parent Surveys

Some of our pupils said the teachers did not give them work that challenges them. We have now created work that is suited to individual needs and carry out regular assessments to assess pupils academic ability. We want to ensure that pupils feel challenged and are pushed to perform their best.

Some of our parents said that children cant take part in clubs and activities at the school. We have since started lunch time clubs such as PlayStation and Art Club. We have also built a mountain bike trail and have outdoor play equipment for the students.

Some of our pupils said that bullying is a problem at the school. We have created a bullying charter that puts pupils on report and has meetings with parents to discuss their child's bullying behaviour. More details about this can be found on our behaviour policy on our school website.



### Physical Education (Willow, Elm, Ash, and Oak)

Pupils in Willow, Elm, Ash, and Oak at Serenity School Coulsdon has experienced a very positive and engaging PE curriculum by conducting football in the new year and currently learning tennis. In the football term, pupils have developed their physical skills such as dribbling, passing, shooting as well as tactical understanding of attacking and defending. Pupils are currently engaging with the tennis scheme of work for which they are enjoying and mastering the skills of forehand, backhand, serve and ready position. The reason each term has a new sport is because we want the pupils to be exposed to a variety of sport in hope, they take a liking to at least one of the sports and continue this liking to participate in local sports clubs.



### Physical Education (Sapling and Rowan)

Pupils in Sapling and Rowan have been a thrilling and entertaining group for which they have thoroughly enjoyed their PE lessons by conducting the Outdoor Learning scheme of work. The pupils have visited the wonderful, friendly, and peaceful area of Banstead Woods whereby we have explored the magical world of Narnia, seeing lots of animals such as dogs, squirrels, cows, and butterflies. I am proud to say that the pupils have conducted themselves in the highest regard as they are very polite and considerate to their surroundings by saying 'hello' or 'good morning' to the public. I am very pleased with the progress the pupils have made in the last two terms and I hope they carry on this passion outside of school.



Mr Ramdham



## Rowan Class

Uniquely exciting. Students in Rowan's Class are very creative and expressive in their own way. Progress has been made in one or more areas in all students.

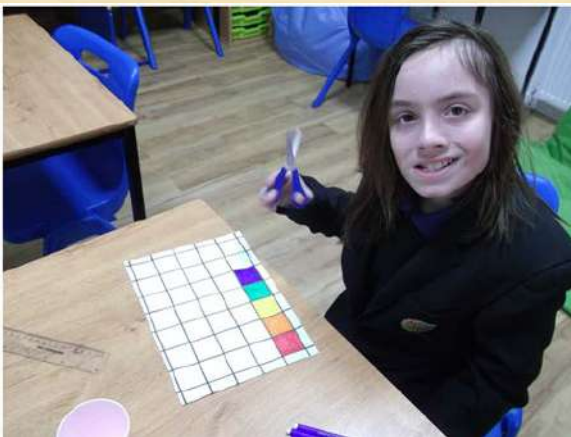
All our students know the routine in our cooking class: wash hands with soap, dry them, then put on our apron before we start cooking. It is truly amazing watching our students enjoying their meal at the end of a session in Food Tech.



Sensory play is a big thing for our students. All hands on deck during our sensory play sessions as they are totally involved.



Our Art sessions are extraordinary. Each design shows how different and unique each of our student is. Well done Rowan Class – The sky is the limit!



## Comic Relief – Red Nose Day!

On March 18<sup>th</sup> Serenity School celebrated Red Nose Day by having a break the uniform rules day, everyone got to pay 50p for each uniform rule they broke and together we raised a total of £113.04!!



## Art KS3 & KS4

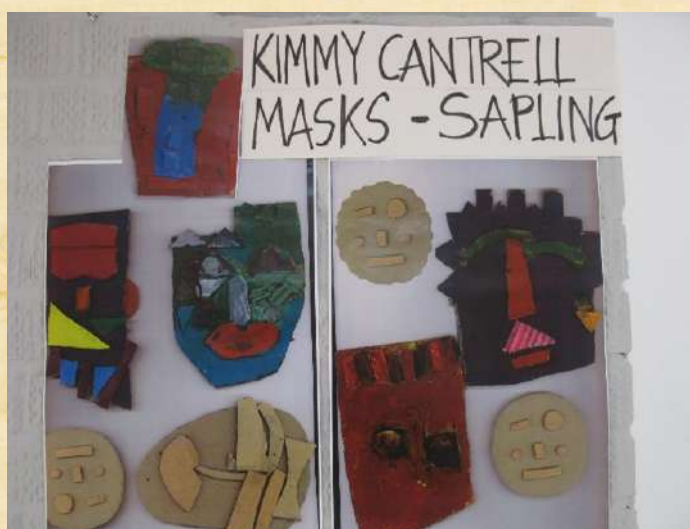
This term, KS3 students (Willows and Sapling) completed their final art and design project using the slap technique to make cups and mugs with clay.



KS4 completed works exploring 2D mark - making techniques and 3D visual communication making clay sculptures and making prints.



Sapling class studied and made Masks in the style of American artist Kimmy Cantrell using cardboard and acrylic paint.



Mr Essel



## Motor Mechanics

The motor mechanics course is based on repairing motor vehicles to road worthy standards. The majority of the bikes have come from the police which have been stolen or beyond repair. Therefore they are used for spares on other bikes that are in the workshop. The students are also taught how to ride them safely during the course and they are taken to a special track where they can learn how to ride over various courses.



Mr Jones



## Numeracy

Shapes are all around us! Space, Shape and Measure has been the focus in Numeracy. We have been identifying a variety of 2D and 3D shapes and using mathematical terms to describe them. We have also been using standard and non-standard units to measure the length, width, area and volume of everyday objects such as rulers, books, boxes, cans etc. On My Maths we have been working on activities to describe the position of objects using the Cartesian map such as northwest, southeast etc. further enhancing students' knowledge in using compass direction.

Ms Quarcoo

## Literacy

In Literacy, it's been words, words and more words. As well as weekly spellings tests, we have looked at synonyms to develop vocabulary, and become more familiar with homophones and spelling rules. Our MyOn online library is now up and running for all students, and a reading-development programme has been introduced for those students who may need a boost.

We celebrated World Book Day with a challenge to write a book recommendation or 100-word short story, and the students rose to the occasion!

Ms Brookes



## Southwark College Visit

On Monday 7th March Oak tutor group were invited to look around the Southwark campus of Lewisham College. We met Hannah, who is the Head of SEND. Whilst at the campus we look around each of the departments spread out over five floors.

One of the students in the group is keen to start a Music Production course there for his Post 16 Option. The music department is well equipped, and the faculty lead was keen to give us a tour. We also looked around the Art, Fashion, Media & Animation departments whilst also taking in the views from their roof terrace.

## NCW 2022

As part of National Careers Week 2022 we hosted some guest speakers to give students a talk about their careers and the insights of their roles. Dr. Sanders who is a research scientist gave a virtual talk of the research he is currently doing and the route he took into his role. Dr. Sanders is about to start a new three-year role at Cambridge University which he is really pleased with.

The students were given a face-to-face talk with Mr. Heron who has worked as a prison officer at Wandsworth prison. This is one of the largest prisons in the UK and houses some of the country's most hardened prisoners. It was a great opportunity for students to experience and hear stories of how decisions we make can affect the rest of their lives.

J Grange a musician and motivational speaker came in for the afternoon to give the students a talk about his own struggles with education, and how being diagnosed with ADHD in year 11 had a huge impact on his education and his personal life. The students related to J's story and asked some great questions. J was very complimentary about our premises, our students, and the work we do.

J has spoken to some of the largest organisations in the UK about being neurodiverse and ways they can support employees that have a similar diagnosis. J finished off his session playing his most recent track which he collaborated with the London Community Choir.

Quote of the session- "It's not a disability, it's away of doing thing differently" Kyle (Willow class)

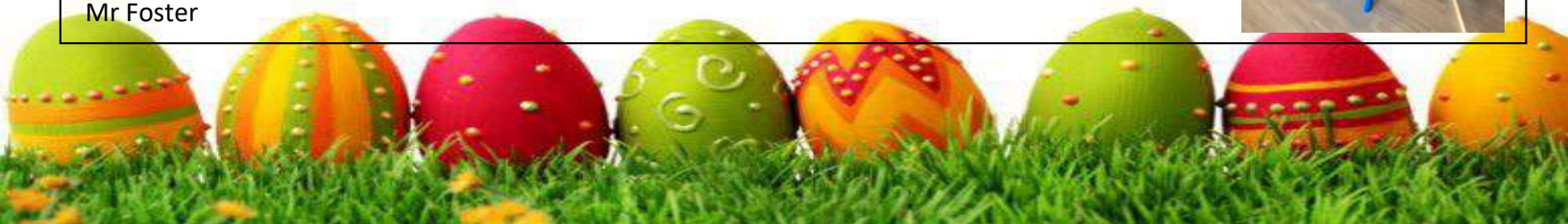
## Impressionable Minds

Adrian Gilbert came into school for the day to deliver sessions to all our students on, gangs, drugs, and county lines. Adrian has spoken to thousands of students about the work he does, and it was a great opportunity for us to see the students so engaged by his stories. The sessions were fun interactive and thought provoking.

The main message that came through these sessions was, choices. We have a choice, surround yourself with positive role models and speak up if you are ever in a situation that could lead to criminal activity.

Adrian didn't use any props or PowerPoints, he maintained attention solely with words and scenarios. We look forward to working with him again the future.

Mr Foster



## Animal Therapy

This term we have begun animal therapy sessions which take place every Monday. Pupils have had the opportunity to work with rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, bearded dragons and ponies. KS3 classes have had weekly sessions which have been very successful. We will be extending this to our key stage four pupils in the Summer term.

