CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

END OF YEAR EDITION

LE ROCQUIER SCHOOL DEC 2022

HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

Dear parents and carers,

As a school community we have embraced more and more of the pre-covid activities and events with many celebrated in this bumper Christmas Newsletter. It's been fantastic to have many after school clubs back, to see the return of the OAP Christmas party, even more sport and see our school community welcoming visitors from industry and education to support our lessons. I hope your children have made the most of the enormous number of opportunities we have offered. There is more to come with the return of Activity Week being just one of them in 2023.

This week, the whole school took part in the 1-minute silence for both the lost Fishermen and those effected by the Pier Road explosion. These events and perhaps events in your own family or community, give us focus on which to reflect this Christmas. A message, perhaps, that time with family, friends and loved ones is a precious moment and should never be taken for granted. Our amazing community spirit has seen us through these challenging times and is evident when I sit down weekly to review the many nominations for 'Student of the week'. Our students demonstrate our school values daily, often helping friends through kindness and compassion or making the right decisions and not just doing what is easy. Our students shine not only at Christmas, but all year round.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. I wish you all a safe and relaxing Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Andrew Adkin
Le Rocquier School Head teacher

❗ IMPORTANT MESSAGE ❗

We are aware of concern from some parents about websites which enable children and young people to meet strangers online, with no moderation or age restriction. The most common of these are **Omegle, Chatroulette and Kik**, and they can expose children to inappropriate and unmoderated content.

While these applications are blocked on the school network, children and young people can still access them via their devices. Parents can access information about how to talk to their child about internet safety via NSPCC. Information for children on what they can do if they see something upsetting is available via BBC newsround.

Information on how to block specific websites and adult content is available for apple devices and android devices.

Links:

https://www.bbc.com/ownit/dont-panic/what-to-do-if-you-see-something-upsetting-online

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/

https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201304

https://support.google.com/families/answer/7087030?hl=en

HUMANITIES

Humanities have had a very busy term with an exciting return to getting out of the classroom and running trips again.

Year 11 had a residential fieldtrip to Crabbe in which they worked very hard to understand two different kinds of fieldwork (rural and rivers) as well as enjoying being away from it all and playing long games of hide and seek. They measured rivers, jumped in puddles and had an expert from GeoMarine take them through the coastal management techniques used at Greve de Lecq. It was a fantastic trip in which some sleep was had, and issues were dealt with maturely. They even worked together to leave the place sparkling clean.

Year 8 have all had the opportunity to visit the Mosque in St Helier. Students enjoyed the trip immensely and commented on how interesting it was to experience a different culture and be able to ask questions and further their understanding as well as taking much from the feeling of the Mosque, many found it calm and comforting. This is something that is impossible to teach from a classroom and we are really grateful to the Mosque for showing us around. As we had to split into 2 groups there was a little time for playground antics and throwing teabags!

ACTIVITIES WEEK 2023

The majority of parents/carers will have received a letter from us now with regards to your child's chosen activity. You will notice that no payment is due until **13th January** to help ease any pressure over the Christmas Period. The letter will indicate the amount due on the **13th January** as well as any subsequent payment dates/amounts.

Activities Week is welcomed back by us all after a couple of years of cancellations and we look forward to our students having a week of well deserved fun!

MOCK EXAMS – YEAR 11

Year 11 completed their first round of Mock exams in November with some fantastic results achieved!

Mock exams allow the students to practice key questions and test their knowledge. Mocks also allow students to complete the exam under the same time conditions as the real thing and provide a sense of familiarity for the future.

Year 11 will undertake their official English Literature exams on **January 9th & 18th**, so Christmas holidays are a perfect time for those students to study and get prepared for their first official English GCSE. Good Luck!

REMINDER....

Gentle Reminder.... All Students must come to school with the correct equipment and in working order, this helps us save money on buying extra supplies....

PE

As part of the PE curriculum, the students in **Year 7, 8 & 9** will be studying the following sports-

Boys: Fitness & Badminton
Girls: Gymnastics and Fitness

All students are required to bring indoor kit, including trainers.
Please note that in gymnastics, students will be barefoot.

All students should ensure that they are well equipped for their lessons with items of clothing named. Hair must be tied up and all jewellery removed.

NETBALL SUCCESS

The Autumn Term was a successful one for KS4 Netball at Le Rocquier. We had two very strong teams who were very competitive in the local league, achieving some fantastic results - a highlight might be the **Year 10's** comeback against Haute Vallee (from 1 - 6 down at half-time, to winning 11-10 in the final minute!). Therefore it is no surprise that, not only did the teams represent the school excellently in local competitions, but they were also fantastic against visitors from off-island playing against teams from Birmingham, London and Guernsey (winning 2 and losing 1). A fantastic advert for sport at our school.

In fact, the standard of netball has been so good, that Le Rocquier is now contacting local netball clubs to give the students a route into netball outside of school. Jersey Jets have also been contacted regarding four outstanding players in the **Year 10** team - more about this will be put into the school's newsletters and bulletins at a later date!

Next term we are hoping to see the same faces - and lots of new ones - turn up for the KS4 hockey team which is available to students in **Years 9, 10 & 11.**

Girls Netball this year has been excellent. The atmosphere and numbers involved in girls extra curricular has been exceptional. We have had over 80 girls involved in netball training/fixtures, we have had English touring schools come to play us and we have won both the league and tournament for Y8B.

Our Year 10/11 group came from behind to also beat an English touring school, when no other school on the Island had beaten them!!!

Overall the girls have been brilliant since September and we are really excited about the girls sport for the next few years at the school.
Mr Logue

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

A number of **Year 10** boys have been attending Mixed Martial Arts sessions after school this half-term with locally renowned coach and fighter Vladimiro Afonso. They have worked through a range of skills from striking to mat work and have really impressed with their effort and commitment to learning these new skills in a disciplined way.

FOOTBALL ROUND UP

Year 7 - The year 7 teams had a tough start away at Les Quennevais in their very first game for Le Rocquier. However after a tough first game, both the A and B teams re-grouped and managed to play some great football in their remaining fixtures. The A team produced some good results against Haute Vallee, where **Phoenix Loyer** scored a memorable screamer and an end to end classic against Vic College that ended 4-4. The B team showed great resilience in their game with Vic and their most impressive performance came in their great win against Haute Vallee.

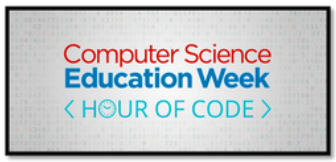
Year 8 - The A Team battled hard across the season to win a number of games with their direct, counterattacking style. A range of new players were blooded in the side, with **Brendan Piradeepan** making the step up in style. The season finished with the unusual indoor/outdoor tournament where Le Rocquier finished 5th.
The B Team found it hard to secure games, with not all other schools being able to provide a team. In the fixtures they did have, the B Team fought hard against some strong opponents, always trying until the end of every game.

Year 9 - There was only one combined Year 9 A/B Team that played in a range of selected fixtures against other schools. Once again, the standout player was **Shana Dolbel** but with strong performances from **George Westgarth** and **Jason De Olival** too.

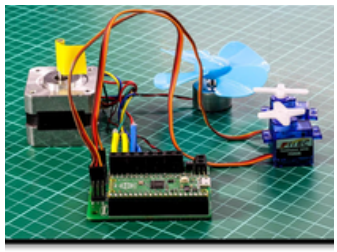
2nd XI - This side is made up of players from both **Year 10 & 11** to allow for the greatest number of students to be involved in school football. The 2nd XI used over 25 different players across the season, which may account for their inconsistent league form. However, they saved their best for last with a victory at the 2nd XI tournament, winning every game with some high-quality football. The successful squad was: **Taylor Roche**, **Shea Richards**, **Kevan Martins-Moreira**, **Zack Campos**, **Chris Dos Santos**, **Aaron Penttila**, **Ollie Gibb**, **Danny Agrela**, **Ella Docherty**, **Ollie Heaven**, **Kye Le Feuvre**, **Ryan Dumond**, **Kyle Vieira**, **Andre Carvalho** and **Jack Soyer**. (see picture below)

1st XI - The 1st XI was as strong a side as we have been able to field in recent years, with many of the boys playing Island football and the ability to play at an even higher level if the opportunities arose. One such opportunity did fall to **Joey O'Toole** who had a trial at Rangers FC in Scotland and another trial at Premier League Southampton FC.
Our self-appointed captain **Tom Gildea** led the team expertly and his motivational leadership style was vital in creating an environment where boys from **Year 10 & 11** felt comfortable to play with freedom. The boys were unstoppable and finished the season unbeaten and League Champions. Our defensive unit of **Ollie Vincent** in goal, and a back four made up of **Tom Gildea**, **Max Stefanski**, **Alfie Queree**, **Josh Ramsay** and **Zak Crossley** were hard to penetrate. Our midfield played some free-flowing football at times with **Joey O' Toole**, **Nathan McDonald** and **Joe Austin** dominating possession in the middle of the pitch which allowed our forward players **Paul Burton**, **Liam Brennan** and **Callum Gilroy** the platform to get on the score sheet with regularity.

COMPUTER STUDIES



Lots of exciting things happening in Computing this term. We have synced Seneca Learning for all students meaning they can access the learning platform with their school 'Office 365' login. The next homework project will start in January and will last approximately 2 months. It would be great if parents/carers can check in with their children.



Robotics Club came to Le Rocquier School, with Digital Jersey and JT programmers working with students after school on Thursdays creating mini robots (Servos), wiring circuits and coding in Python. By the end of the short block, students have created a basic robot that moves and experienced the new Virtual Reality software just released. Thank you to Digital Jersey for helping to facilitate this.

Students in **Year 8 & 9** have been exposed to a short new scheme of learning written by Mr Ali titled ICT capability. This scheme has provided students with a taste of spreadsheets and how useful this software will be in their future careers. This has been extremely successful, with students learning how to merge cells, create formulas, use functions and then share their 'amazing quizzes" with their peers. This is primarily aimed at ensuring students know what the IGCSE ICT entails for **Year 9** students about to make their option choices.

Year 7 students have continued to spend time on Javascript with classes creating images on Khan Academy along with applying variables. There has been some excellent work and we ask students to show parents what they have created.

The final week of term has been combined with national **COMPUTER SCIENCE** week. Students have been tasked with programming and problem solving using the Minecraft Education world "Escape the Estate". Some fantastic collaboration and several students have even chosen to code in Python (scripting) to solve challenges set.

"The Computing Team wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

WIZARD OF OZ.... WHAT A PERFORMANCE!

We couldn't have chosen a better production to mark Le Rocquier School's return to the stage than **"The Wizard of Oz"**.

The appreciative audience were thrilled with students' performances and did an excellent job with participating to save Dorothy and tell the Wicked Witch just how it was! The high standard of showmanship was commented on by many and we must give thanks to one very special cast member; **Libby** who played Toto!

The production was a huge team effort, and it was a delight to bring a touch of magic back into ours and others lives after such a testing few years. We can't wait for the next school production; we are sure it will be equally fabulous!

MUSIC

This term has been very busy and exciting for the Music Department. In November the **Year 11** GCSE class attended Jersey's first ever GCSE Music Conference at Victoria College along with many other island secondary school music students. The day was packed full of sessions designed and led by teachers from across the schools. It provided support for students in their preparation for the exam in the summer, as well as offer advise on coursework. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On the 7th December we welcomed award winning music composer Charles Mauleverer to the Music Department. Charles is a Jersey local and is currently working on a piece of music which will be first performed in January. He came to Le Rocquier to run a composition workshop for the **Year 10 & 11** GCSE students. This was an excellent opportunity for students to ask questions and learn about the process of composition, as well as have the chance to listen to some brand new music.

The Music Department ended the term with a Christmas Concert to showcase some of the huge variety of talent and skill within the school. The evening featured performances from the school choir, clarinet ensemble and orchestra as well as a specially formed **Year 10 & 11** Christmas Band and lots of soloists from across all year groups. Many of these groups and soloists then went on to perform at the OAP Christmas Party. What a fantastic way to end the term and a huge well done to all students involved!

PSHE

Year 7. The PSHE department have had a busy and productive first term. We welcomed a new **Year 7** cohort who have been learning about themselves, their friendships and had an early introduction to different careers and how secondary school prepares them for life as an adult. They also produced some fantastic anti-bullying videos to raise awareness of what bullying could 'look and sound like' in a secondary school.

Year 8 have had the opportunity to look at careers in more detail and prepared some amazing business pitches which they delivered in a 'dragons den' style format to guests from Lloyds Banks. Year 8 received some fantastic feedback on their product ideas and presentation skills. They, too, put their product ideas to the test to create video adverts for anti-bullying products and services for schools!

Year 9 have showcased their excellent ambassadorial skills by welcoming and learning with many visitors which included Brook, You Matter and the Jersey Women's Refuge. They have learned about Sex and Relationships Education and domestic abuse and the services that our visitors provide to children and adults in Jersey.

Year 10 were very lucky to host some of our island's politicians. The deputies spoke about different existential issues affecting livelihoods in Jersey and what their work as politicians does to affect positive change through democracy. They focused on climate change, immigration, legalising recreational drugs and the current cost-of-living crisis. Year 10 then had the opportunity to put their own voices to the test by debating these issues in class.

Year 11 have had lots of opportunities to reflect on their academic progress and career aspirations by planning the next stage of their education journey. They have had a one-to-one careers meeting with Skills Jersey, attended a 'skills roadshow' at Fort Regent and learned at taster days provided by Highlands College and Hautlieu Sixth Form. Currently, year 11 are working hard on finishing their applications for post-16.

"Good luck to all of you
& have a happy, restful holiday."

DEC!

DEC! students have had visits and guest presentations from local architects and construction industry leaders this term. These have included Colin Buesnel of Dyson Buesnel Architects and Marc Burton MBE of the Garenne Group.

Colin has been working with the **Year 11** students to help them analyse and review their building designs so that they can better develop them for their DEC! NEA projects. Marc has presented to all the **Year 10 & 11** DEC! students about the Jersey Nightingale Hospital.

The purpose of having outside experts in school for the DEC! course is to give them real world input and expertise so that the students can see how their course learning links to live projects both locally and internationally.

The students also get to see how professionals in the Construction and Built Environment use very similar methods and processes to those studied on the DEC! course.

The students continue to talk about the input from Colin and Marc and it can be seen where the knowledge the students are gaining from these two is having an impact on the work in class.

YEAR 7 FOOD SHOUT OUT!!!

"My year 7 food class where the cutest little angels and worked really well throughout this year. "
Mrs Langton

DANCE

The Dance department has had a lot of success this term with many performances from all year groups. **Year 10 & 11** students performed beautifully at the OAP Christmas Party and I am very proud of them.

We are all excited for the upcoming Dance Trip to the world's largest dance event in London. Students will experience professional workshops and performances, pictures will follow....

OAP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Yesterday (15th) we welcomed around 100 St Clements Senior Citizens for an afternoon of student cooked food and student/staff entertainment. We held a raffle with prizes such as 'Dinner for Two' as well as gift bags for all.

I am sure you can all agree that after a couple of years of not being able to host such events, these types of events are thoroughly enjoyed by our elderly community and we look forward to welcoming them back again next year.

Shout out to Mrs Lappin for putting this amazing event together!

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year