



A Year in the life of Roding Valley High School

Aspiration Respect Endeavour

September 2019

Class of 2019 - our best GCSE results ever!

This year we are celebrating the best ever GCSE results at Roding Valley High School. We experienced impressive improvements across a range of subjects, with a record number of students achieving the highest grades; 5 percent of all grades achieved were at Grade 9, which is more than double the national average.

Our results in English, Maths and Science were significantly above the Essex and national averages. The Sciences enjoyed outstanding results, the vast majority achieving Grade 7 and above. English results were also significantly improved, with 85 per cent achieving a standard pass and 67 percent at Grade 5 and above. Progress rates across the curriculum were excellent and Maths results continued to produce outstanding outcomes.

Headteacher Sharon Jenner said: "I am absolutely delighted with these results; they are a testament to the sheer hard work and commitment of both students and teaching staff."



Up for Debate national champions

On 10 July 2019, our debate team was crowned national champions at the Up for Debate National Championship 2019, a competition which was organised by Partners in Excellence (PiXL) and saw students from across the UK debate a range of topics.

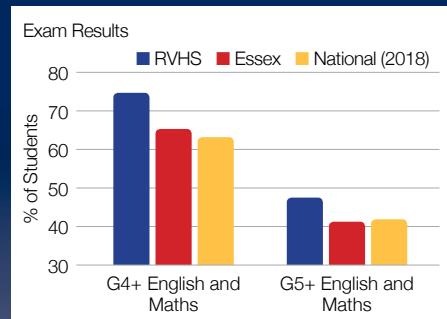
Congratulations to Year 8 students; Ruby Coyte, Zak Smith and Joseph James for winning a series of rounds that focused on topics such as climate change, politicians and nuclear weapons.

Following the win, our students were invited to debate the topic of climate change live on BBC Essex Radio!

"We have worked incredibly hard to raise standards and these results, coupled with our A-Level success, are proof of our ability to support students to achieve the highest grades and reach their individual potential."

She added: "I am immensely proud of all our students and I look forward, for many, to continuing to support their seven-year journey as they join us for Sixth Form."

"It is really wonderful to be able to celebrate with these young people."



	% of students achieving a Grade 4+ in English and Maths	% of students achieving a Grade 5+ in English and Maths
RVHS	74.8	47.4
Essex	65.2	41.2
National (2018)	63.0	42.0

Secured spot at University of Cambridge

Congratulations to our student, Igor Dasuzhau, for securing a hotly contested place at one of the world's most prestigious universities, the University of Cambridge.

Igor, who achieved A*, A*, A, A, A in Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Physics and his Extended Project Qualification respectively, began his studies in Biological Natural Sciences at the University in mid-September.





ENRICHING THE CURRICULUM

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Roding Valley High School has seen the continued success of the Duke of Edinburgh program, with over 60 students enrolled in the Bronze award this year, and over 20 enrolled in the Silver award. Students in Year 9 have the opportunity to take part in the Bronze award and Year 10 students are able to participate in the Silver award. There are exciting times ahead, with the launch of the Gold Award for students enrolled in our Sixth Form. They are going to complete their first practice expedition in June, whilst working on the other four sections of the award whilst completing Sixth Form at Roding Valley.

Our exciting, yet challenging expeditions see our Bronze students spend two days walking through the Chelmsford area, navigating through fields, national trails and small country lanes. Our Silver students spend three days/two nights hiking through the beautiful Chilterns. This has proved to be an invaluable experience for our students, who come away with a vast array of new team work and leadership skills.

In managing the expedition component for the students, it allows them to fully engage in the other three components; physical, skill and volunteering. We have seen students volunteering in a vast array of different establishments which has built character, leadership and resilience amongst our students.

Our students have spent time working on and learning new skills; from cooking to sign language to pottery. They have showed commitment and determination to successfully complete this component of their award.

Congratulations to all 30 of our students that last year received an award.



House Food Bank Appeal

In December 2018, our students participated in the local Food Bank appeal as part of a House competition. Hundreds of tins and packets of food were collected and delivered to the Epping Forest Food Bank. The Christmas collection was organised by Head Girl Grace Cain and Head Boy Harry Boyd-Walker.

Grace said: "Harry and I are absolutely delighted with the response. When we launched the appeal a few weeks ago we were hoping for a few items in each box but we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of staff and students and have plenty to deliver to the Epping Forest Food Bank on Friday."

Grace added: "Regardless of which House wins, it has been great to pull together as a whole school and do something to help our local community."

Assistant Headteacher, Miss Sam Dyer, said: "We are all very proud of Grace and Harry for launching the appeal. The response from our staff and students has been fantastic, just as I expected it would be."

The final count was approximately 300kg of food and household items (the food bank weigh everything to estimate how many people it will be helping) and it was delivered to the delighted volunteers, who said that it was the biggest single donation they had ever received.





ENRICHING THE CURRICULUM

Open Day 2018

On Saturday 6 October, we opened our doors for the 2018 Open Morning to hundreds of prospective parents. It was a fantastic event and we are exceptionally proud of all of the students that took part in the event as they showed real passion for the school.



Quotes from the feedback forms:

"Absolutely fantastic presentation from a wonderful school - the teachers are so committed and the students praised the school highly"

"The guides were very well mannered"

"Having had two children that have studied at Roding Valley High School, I am very impressed with the direction of the school"

"Thank you to all the staff and students who performed and supported our school."

Key Stage 5 Awards Evening 2018

On Monday 17 December, we celebrated the huge success of the summer 2018 A levels. Welcoming back many of our ex-students to collect their awards.



Finalists at national **RateMyApprenticeship Awards 2019**

We were named as finalists at the national RateMyApprenticeship Awards 2019' in the Best Collaboration Between a School and Employer category, alongside award-winning construction company, Hill Group.

The awards, which took place on Thursday 18 July, brought together apprentices, schools, employers and training providers to celebrate success in the apprenticeship sector. We were recognised at the event for our fantastic partnerships with employers, specifically in helping students understand and undertake apprenticeships.

Donna Mason, Careers Development Manager, said: "Engaging with employers and supporting students into their first job, apprenticeship, or onto university is a big part of our student journey."

We place emphasis on the importance of career readiness through a number of initiatives that take place throughout the year. Our Year 10 students enjoyed taking part in Careers Week, which included activities such as Take Your Child to Work Day, career advice workshops and A-Level taster sessions.

Sharon Jenner, Head Teacher, said: "We are passionate about giving our students the best chance of succeeding in life. A great deal of hard work goes into achieving this, so I feel incredibly proud that we have been recognised at the awards."



Make a splash for charity

On 30 March 2019, students, parents, teachers, and governors from Roding Valley High School came together to complete a 10-kilometre swim in a national 'Swimathon' in aid of Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie, raising over £1000 for both charities; beating its £750 target.





ENRICHING THE CURRICULUM

Year 8 Student Exchange

Roding Valley High School was delighted to welcome the students and teachers of Beijing School of Technology. Twenty three students and four teachers have spent three days in July in our school.

We had over sixty volunteers from our students to partner the Chinese visitors and they have been fantastic representatives for our school. The visitors went with their partner students during the school day and took part in lessons. They also attended Sports day and took part in the Tug of War.

This was a great opportunity for our students to meet and interact with students from another culture and we will certainly hope to repeat the event in the future.



Year 6 Parent Transition Evening 2019

In June we welcomed our new Year 7 Parents to our school for our Year 6 Parent Transition Evening Event. The evening started with a Barbeque catered by our PTA, enabling both our staff and parents to meet in a relaxed environment, with the live music supplied by our school band.

This was followed by a presentation by Mrs Jenner our Headteacher, Mr Price the Year Progress Leader for Year 7 and our Head Boy and Girl whilst the students were treated to a fantastic display in Science.

With the warm weather, it was a fantastic event with a record turnout. We would like to thank all of the parents that attended and all of the students, staff and our PTA that supported the event.

Thank you to the parents for their support with this event and helping our PTA to raise over £1000 for the school. All the funds raised will be put back into the school for necessary resources for our students.



Speakers4schools Programme

On Friday 30 November, we were delighted to welcome the Rt. Hon. Baroness Tessa Blackstone to our school to speak with our Sixth Formers as part of the Speakers4schools Programme. Roding Valley High School joined this programme to facilitate access to influential leaders of today.

Tessa Blackstone studied at the London School of Economics (LSE) where she went on to take her doctorate. She has held numerous positions of high office including; the Deputy Education Officer of the Inner London Education Authority and the Master of Birbeck College. Later in her career she worked as a policy advisor to the Cabinet.

In 1987, Baroness Blackstone was awarded a life peerage and sits on the Labour benches in the Lords. After Labour came into power in 1997, she was Minister of State for Education and Employment and Arts Minister (2001-03).

She has published widely in academic journals, and written a number of books mainly on social and

educational policy. Her key message was that students should take every opportunity presented, to consider university and endeavour to be the best that you can be regardless of background or privilege.



Shakespeare @ Boswells

On Tuesday 30 October, a group of our KS3 Drama students visited Boswells School in Chelmsford to take part in a Shakespeare Festival.

They joined students from King Edwards VI Grammar School, Sandon Arts School, Chelmer Valley High School and Boswells School to celebrate Shakespeare and each school showcased a performance.





ENRICHING THE CURRICULUM

STEM: Medical Mavericks

In December 2018, Medical Mavericks visited our school to lead interactive workshops on various NHS careers, in order to allow students to appreciate various pieces of scientific equipment, such as using an ultrasound machine, performing keyhole surgery, taking blood pressure and ECG'S.

Students involved from Year 9 -11 were all engaged, and were able to think about future STEM careers.



World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day on 7 March 2019 by hosting a variety of thought-provoking activities and events across the school, including a Where's Wally riddle challenge and Shelfies (bookshelf-selfie!). Alongside the student activities, teachers also took part in a 'Do it Now' (DIN) task at the start of each lesson.



Year 7 Youth Voice trip

On Wednesday 17 October, our Year 7 students were invited to the Youth Voice Leadership Development Day, which brought together youth representatives from across the UK. The day is designed to support young people to develop their key skills and knowledge through discussions, simulations and planning, enabling them to succeed during their time as youth representatives.

Our students had this to say:

"It was very interesting to learn about democracy going on in parliament, and I value the fact that I could express my views on society. I think it's a nice thing to have our youths express their opinions as we get an input into decisions made. I thank Miss Williams and Miss Pinches for such an amazing day".

Written by Ruby Coyte

"The Y.E.A was an enlightening experience, where I learned many new skills, such as how to formally debate and discuss political topics, tactics to cope with anxiety and where to find support if I am struggling with mental health issues. We learned how the government makes decisions, manages money and record media, all through diverse and fun activities".

Written by Henry Foster



Maths in Action trip

On Thursday 13 December, over 20 Year 11 students were selected to go on the Maths in Action trip to the famous Emmanuel centre. This trip involved a series of enriching lectures to give greater understanding of how the study of mathematics can lead to a wide range of career choices.

The students learned from five lecturers, each with their own perspectives and personal experiences of careers in Mathematics. The students were presented with puzzles and riddles throughout the lectures, as well as an enthusiastic Maths rap from one of the energetic speakers. It was a successful trip that educated the students on the different branches of Mathematics.



World of Work Conference with the YES Partnership

In January, some of our Year 10 students took part in the WOW Conference at the Marriott Hotel. Students participated in many activities and were given advice and guidance from employers about the world of work. Our very own Loughton Mayor, Stephen Murray, handed the students their certificates at the end of the conference.





ENRICHING THE CURRICULUM

Beyond Breakfast

We were privileged to welcome Christine Whetstone, a volunteer from Amnesty International, to Roding Valley High School to lead an inspirational workshop at our Beyond Breakfast for Year 8 students.

Christine's presentation was informative, engaging and valuable to our students' understanding of the work of the world's leading human rights organisation. Students were educated on inequalities and injustices all around the world and were told stories of young refugees and their struggles.

Christine left us all with an important message: in a world that is full of conflict and suffering, we are all human and every individual deserves to be treated with kindness and respect.



Year 8 trip to the Big Bang Fair

In March 2019, our Year 8 students visited the Big Bang Fair at Hertfordshire & Essex High School and Science College, they had a fantastic time learning all about science and possible career paths in the science industry.



Year 9 Yes Conference

On Tuesday 26 March 2019, a group of our Year 9 students attended the annual YES Conference. The educational conference event organised by Norma Green OBE; is aimed at helping young students gain employment skills; students took part in a variety of activities such as reviewing case studies of job profiles and acting as delegates for the day.

At the end of the event, students were presented with certificates from Loughton Town Mayor Councillor, Stephen Murray, and we received great feedback from all

in attendance, who said they felt excited and motivated for the future following the experience



Highest scoring state school at UK Mathematics Trust competition

On 5 March 2019, a group of our Year 8 and 9 students claimed the spot of highest scoring state school at the UK Mathematics Trust's (UKMT) Regional Team Maths Challenge 2019.

The team, made up of students, Skye, Chloe, Joseph, and Zak, secured fourth place overall out of 29 state and independent schools - a winning combination that saw our school move up 10 places from our ranking in 2018.





ENRICHING THE CURRICULUM

RIBI Young Chef Competition

Two of our students, Lola Collings and Laiba Batool-Bokhari, entered the district Young RIBI Competition and scooped top prizes.

Lola won First Place with her chicken pie and tiramisu with shortbread biscuits, whilst Laiba took Third Place with her chicken curry and homemade waffles.



Loughton Young Artist of the Year

Congratulations to our student, Clara Rodriguez, who won the title of Loughton Young Artist of the Year 2019 succeeding against A Level entries from other local schools.

Mayor of Loughton, Stephen Murray, presented Clara with her award at the prize giving ceremony on Saturday 23 February.



Victorious at West Essex Regional Final of Speak Out Challenge

On 24 April 2019, we hosted the West Essex Regional Finals of Jack Petchey's "Speak Out" Challenge.

The competition is aimed at instilling confidence and public speaking skills in

students by challenging them to deliver a speech on a topic of their choice. Year 10 students, Mia and Charlotte, successfully scooped first and third place respectively.





EXTRA CURRICULAR EXCELLENCE

Inspiring positive change at the Challenge and Enrichment Showcase

On 20 June 2019, our Key Stage 3 students presented the results of their Challenge and Enrichment projects; a six-week programme of independent learning on a topic of each student's choice.

Topics that were covered included plastic pollution, climate change and the impact of palm oil. The event was attended by parents, students, teachers, governors and Councillor Richard Bassett, Chairman of Epping Forest District Council.

The standard of work produced was exceptional. Well done to all of the students that entered and congratulations to the following winning students:

People's Choice Award:
Ava Towner

Innovative Award:
Skye Salek-Haddadi

Imaginative Award:
Henry Foster

Informative Award:
Finn Maddigan



Senior Maths Challenge 2019

In November 2018, a team of our students participated in the Senior Maths Challenge at Queen Mary University. They performed incredibly well and finished in 19th place out of 37 schools from all over the South East and London - our best result ever.





EXTRA CURRICULAR EXCELLENCE



“Youth Makes Art” Success

Yet again, Roding Valley smashed the ‘Youth makes Art’ event in Epping this year!

Roding Valley students picked up 7 prizes out of 12, including a commendation for Freddie Rawlinson, 3rd prize for Celeste Radclyffe and Sophie Wilkins, 2nd prizes for Jamie Smith, Claudia Ferreira and Patsy Stow and an overall 1st prize (in the independent entry section) for Patsy Stow.



Year 10 Drama students perform at Rudolph Walker Foundation’s Inter-School Drama Awards Final

On 30 June 2019, our Year 10 drama students performed in the final of the Rudolph Walker Foundation’s inter-School Drama Awards.

The students performed an original piece in competition against six other schools at the Shaw Theatre in London. The audience was made up of parents, actors, friends, dignitaries, the public, and Robert Gee, the celebrity mentor who worked with the students in preparation for their piece.



Key Stage 4 and 5 trip to New York

During the half term break, 45 of our Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students travelled to New York. They spent time visiting the Empire State Building, Radio City, Ellis and Liberty Islands and the 911 Memorial.





EXTRA CURRICULAR EXCELLENCE

Year 7 and 8 trip to Mersea Island

In July our Year 7 and 8 students spent three days in sunny weather on Mersea Island for their action packed Residential Trips.

The trips were certainly packed full of activities as soon as they arrived on the island - up at 6am for a run, followed by breakfast and then the groups had six activities over the three days such as climbing, adventure course, high ropes, kit karts and indoor archery.

Our students had an amazing time!



Year 9 and 10 trip to Italy

In February 2019, our Year 9 and 10 students headed to Bardonecchia in Turin, Italy, for a week's trip skiing.

All students had a thoroughly enjoyable week and made impressive progress with their skiing ability; some of them went as a beginner, and ended by completing the Olympic Run at the end of the trip.



Year 7 and 8 trip to Disneyland Paris

Over the half term break, a number of students were lucky enough to spend their time visiting Disneyland Paris.



SPORTING SUCCESS

Sports Awards 2018

On Thursday 11 October, we hosted our annual Sports Awards Evening for 2018.

It was a wonderful evening of celebration for all of our students sporting successes over the previous year - with a special appearance from ex-Roding Valley High School student and Queens Park Rangers Goalkeeper, Joe Lumley.



Year 10 Futsal

In March 2019, our Year 10 Futsal team travelled to the University of Essex for the Essex FA County Futsal Finals.

Roding Valley High School was one of four schools left in the competition - with two wins and a loss, the boys managed to secure second place, which is a fantastic achievement for the Year 10 boys who have represented the school at Futsal since Year 7 and are the first year group to have managed to make the County finals.



Under 13's Girl's Football

Congratulations to our Under 13's Girls Football team, who beat 404 teams to win the runners up position in the Essex Cup and came in the last 16 in the National Cup. Our girls won 10 out of the 12 matches played, scoring 52 goals over the season. It was an amazing achievement!!



Year 8 Girl's Athletics

In March, the Year 8 Girls Sportshall athletics team finished 3rd in the Essex County Sportshall Athletics Finals in Southend, after winning the West Essex Sportshall Athletics competition to qualify for this finals event. They picked up their bronze medals after an excellent performance throughout the afternoon with consistent finishes in the track events and some brilliant scores in the field events. This result matched the best ever achievement by a Roding Valley Year 8 girls team since 2016.





SPORTING SUCCESS

Year 10 Handball

Well done to our Year 10 Girls Handball team, who on Thursday 21st March achieved a fantastic second place at the Essex County Handball Competition held at Bower Park. The girls won three out of four games, losing out narrowly to the home team!



Sports Day

This Year our winning House on Sports Day was Churchill for a second year running, it was a fantastic day. Congratulations to Rendell House, who also claimed the title of 'Tug of War' Champions!



District Sports Day Success

Friday 5 July saw the annual West Essex and Harlow District Sports event at Melbourne Athletics Stadium in Chelmsford and Roding Valley High School's best ever finish!

Our PE Department took its largest squad to the event with over 100 students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 participating in a range of athletic track and field events across the day.

Due to the fantastic level of individual effort and teamwork numerous students finished the day with medals for their events which lead to the Year 7 team finishing 2nd, year 8 team finishing 3rd overall from the 12 schools competing on the day and the Year 9 and 10 teams finishing 4th. This meant as a school we finished in our best ever position of 4th at District Sports which was a fantastic achievement.



Students follow us

@RodingValleyHS will be tweeting top tips, reminders, links and guidance for our students - everything from delays on the Central Line in the morning to revision tips and links for their GCSE's.

