



Dear Parents/Carers,

As the Spring term comes to an end and we approach the Easter holidays, there is so much to celebrate. It has been ten weeks of hard work and dedication from both staff and students and we could not be prouder of our school community. When we return after the Easter break there are less than three weeks until the GCSE, AS and A Level exams begin. My sincere thanks to our dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly to support our students, many of whom will be coming in during the holidays to run revision sessions.

The Spring term is always a busy one with many highlights including: Friends of Romero Bingo Night, Year 9 Parents' and Guided Pathway Evenings; Year 11 Revision Conference, UK Maths Challenge; Royal Academy of Art Workshop; Holocaust Memorial Day; Science Competitions; Theatre visits; National Careers and Apprenticeship Week; John Muir Activities; Parents' Evenings and World Book Day. It is always lovely to see so many of our students and staff dressing up as characters from books and my thanks to Miss Jennings and the English Department, who continue to inspire our students and embed a reading culture across our school.

Over 180 Year 7 students spent the final week of the Spring term in Osmington Bay as part of their PGL activities week. Although the weather was cold this did not dampen the spirits of our students who spent an amazing week taking part in so many adventurous activities. My thanks go to the Head of Year 7, Mrs Trace and all the staff who supported this visit.

Building on the success of previous Maths Weeks, we introduced our first ever STEM Week that was jointly organised by the Science and Math Departments. All students in Years 7 - 10 had the opportunity to take part in an extra-curricular visit. Destinations included Bletchley Park, Herstmonceux Observatory, Mercedes World and Ricardo Engineering. We also welcomed over 100 year 5 Mathematicians to take part in the World Maths Competition. My thanks to Dr Lockwood and the Maths Team for giving our students these wonderful and inspiring opportunities. Huge congratulations to Year 8 student, Oscar Pennicott, who successfully defended his title during our annual Pi Day competition. Oscar set a new school record when he memorised 404 digits of Pi in front of a live audience.

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St Romero's Media

The Science Department were delighted to welcome over 390 Year 5 students to Romero's to take part in our annual 'Harry Potter Science Day'. Mr R Woodhouse made his debut as Harry Potter and certainly enjoyed staying in character for the day.

The Creative and Expressive Arts team have had a particularly busy term with both Dance Live and the school production rehearsals in full swing. In Dance Live, our students performed with passion and confidence in what was a stunning display of artistic talent, resulting in them winning the regional heats. My thanks to Miss Standing and Mrs Bowden, as well as the other staff, who supported behind the scenes to make this happen.

This year's school production was 'Annie' and it really showcased the wonderful singing and acting skills across the different year groups. All of the performers demonstrated confidence and professionalism, making it a joy to watch. My thanks to the large number of students involved and to Mrs Gladman, Mrs Gray, Mrs Walden and Mrs Ingram, and the many other staff and volunteers who supported backstage or provided technical support.

It was wonderful to be able to celebrate our Feast Day in March, having had to postpone it in previous years. We were blessed with beautiful sunshine and the day started with a whole school Mass and was followed by sports-based activities and games on the school field.

Sporting success has continued throughout the Spring term including rugby, football, netball, basketball, and cross country, with various teams winning their district and county competitions. A special mention must go to our KS3 Girls' Rugby teams. Both our U12s and U14s girls were crowned Sussex Champions and London and South East Rugby League Champions. Both teams will now play in the National Finals in Leeds which takes place in May.

Our term ended with our Easter Liturgy as we prepare for Holy Week. This was preceded by various opportunities to put our faith in action through fundraising and charitable giving. This included cake sales, Lent walks, and non-uniform days for a variety of charities including CAFOD, SVP, and the Worthing Food Bank. Additionally, over 30 students and staff took part in our annual sleep out and raised over £2,000 for Turning Tides and ANCOP in the Philippines.

There are a number of exciting community events in the Summer term, including our Summer Fayre, and our fourth Romero 5k and 10k Family Run. There will also be the opportunity for younger children, aged 3-12 years, to take part in the Romero Rave Run, a fun one mile run around the school field and inside the building with disco lights and dance music. All of the Romero runs take place on Sunday, 21st June, and I would encourage all families to support this event, along with our Summer Fayre, which is taking place on Saturday, 11th July. Not only will they be lots of fun but they are two of the main fundraising events of our 'Friends of Romero', a dedicated team of parent volunteers who do so much to enrich our school. Without their support it would not be possible to give our students as many of the opportunities they now have.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the high standard of uniform and appearance of the vast majority of students this term. Our students look absolutely stunning and wear their uniform with a sense of pride and confidence. For those students wishing to have their hair cut during the break, please can I remind them that their hair must be nothing shorter than a grade 2 when they return on the first day of the Summer term.

I trust you will continue to support your child in all areas of school life and I look forward to seeing you next term. Please get in touch if you have any concerns related to your child, their progress or school life in general.

The new term begins on Monday, 13th April, when all students should return to school at 8.35am looking smart, refreshed and ready to pursue the opportunities and challenges of the new term.

Please note that I have asked our staff to switch off their emails for the Easter break and allow themselves to recharge their batteries after an exhausting term. If you do need to contact the school, please email me pbyrne@stromeros.co.uk and I will respond when I can.

I hope you and your family have a happy and holy Easter.

God Bless,

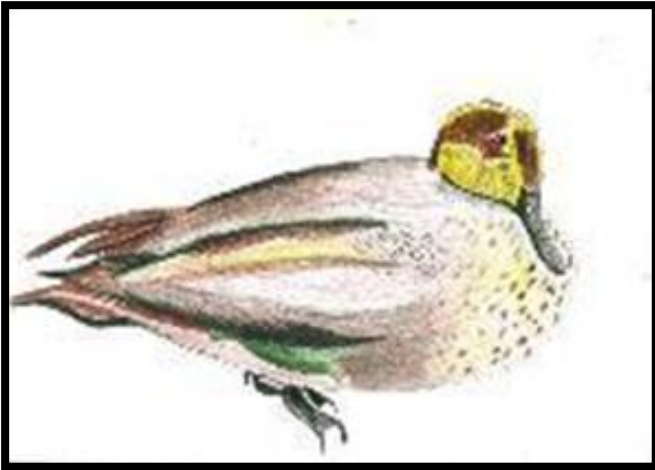


Mr P Byrne
Headteacher



Art

Year 7 Art are finishing their unit 'Natural World', the students have drawn a bird where they concentrated on; simplifying shapes, proportion and tonal variation. The student drawing outcomes have been fantastic and the department is looking forward to displaying the most impressive drawings in our annual Art exhibition in mid-July. Year 7 students are working on their 3D birds for their final pieces which were displayed last year in the Art exhibition on a branch really giving life to them.



Year 7 Textiles have been making their 'Textile Rock Pools' out of real fabric, for the DT rotation. The rock pools will come alive with; dyed starfish, embroidered anemone, stencilled sea creatures and embossed aluminium can fish with Ms Langley and Miss Longman. Students have really enjoyed dying cotton and seeing real cotton plants and learning about the science behind the technique of dying natural fibres.



Year 7 Graphics have been constructing 3D carousel souvenirs for the Circus themed project using technical drawing, precision cutting and paper manipulation. Students have experimented with oil bar, oil pastel, printing ink and mixed media drawing.



Year 8 Art are just finishing their 'Day of the Dead' unit, looking at Mexican culture and other contextual influences like Day of the Dead festival make up, and the artist Ben Brown. Students are finishing making 3D painted masks from their choice of inspiration.



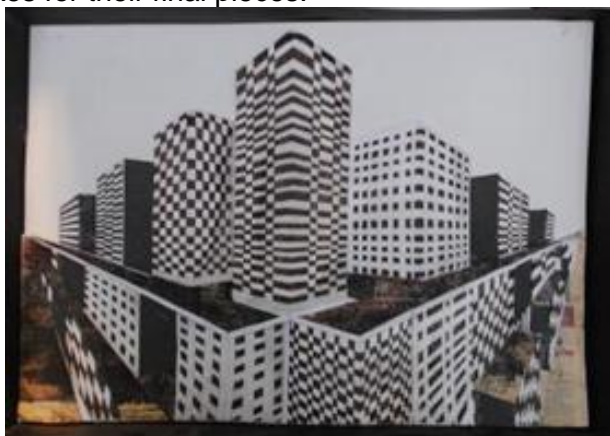
Year 8 Textiles have been working on the 'Native Americans' unit looking at Native American culture including; totem poles, animal symbols, feathers and eagles. In class the students are making Native American wall hangings using the techniques; weaving, feather painting and making dream catchers, with Ms Langley and Mrs Williams.



Year 8 Graphics have been producing 'point of sale' display boxes, to advertise the tourism of India and presenting their research, experiments and designs in a Taj Mahal shaped concertina. Pupils have developed their skill and knowledge in colour theory, frottage, block printing and drawing.



Year 9 Art students are finishing the unit German Expressionism. Students have learnt about 'Art Movements' and how some artists and art movements make art linked to world events and personal experience like the German Expressionists who made art to make sense of and express their feelings after World War 1. Students are making 3D perspective boxes for their final pieces.



Year 9 in Textiles are working on the unit 'Kimono' looking at ancient Japanese culture, cultural figures for example Geisha and Samurai. Students will be trying more complex textile techniques and using the new computerised sewing machines to produce a Japanese wall hanging.



Year 9 Graphics students have been designing and creating their individual search engine logos, and presenting these as 3D models. It has been exciting for students to use a range of techniques and media, such as painting, tetra pak etching with the new print press, lino printing, textiles and collage.



Year 10 Textiles GCSE have been working on the unit 'Oceanic' looking at three specialisms within textiles; textiles art, textiles, fashion and textiles interior design. The techniques students have been learning are based on skills learnt in key stage 3 but at a much higher level such as; weaving, embroidery, printing, fashion design, willow sculpting and drawing with the sewing machine. Students will have a choice in which specialism to make their final pieces, which they are finishing off now, and Ms Langley is very excited to see what the talented students will make. Ms Langley took the students to the Sea Life Centre and the Royal Pavilion in Brighton to take photos for their portfolios.



Year 10 Art students being taught by Miss Longman, are working on the unit Still Life, the first genre of the original European academies hierarchy and have started their final pieces. Students have studied 'Still Life' from historic times to contemporary times looking at the artists; Rembrandt, Soutine, Kapoor and Kostianovsky. Miss Longman will be taking the students to London to another exhibition or the permanent collection at the National Gallery which includes Vincent van Gogh's 'Sunflowers'.

Year 11 Art, being taught by Miss Longman, are working on their exam individual project which they will finish at Easter. Students are looking at diverse starting points for example; Miss Longman has introduced the process of cyanotypes to students who have exposed negative images on blue photograms using UV light. In addition, students have been

exploring a range of techniques using screen printing, painting, drawing and sculpture. Miss Longman is very excited about the student's final pieces and has seen a real growth in the student's skillset this term.



Year 11 Textiles, being taught by Ms Langley, are working on their exam individual project which they will finish at Easter. Students are looking at many starting points for example; time, movement and nature. Ms Langley has brought three new techniques for year 11 textiles students this year; felting, printing with objects and batik. The exam projects are looking superb and Ms Langley is very proud of the students.



The student of the term is Coco Durrant in year 11 Textiles, for her incredible dedication to her work and her determination to get the grade she wants even coming in to school on a Saturday with Ms Langley and other students. The annual Art Exhibition and private view took place last summer to great acclaim, a gallery like experience was created to display the GCSE work of years 10 and 11 in art and graphics as well as the best of year 7 and 8 art, textiles and graphics. The private view was attended by local artists, students, parents and carers as well as the school governors. All students in KS3 were given the opportunity to visit the exhibition and were in awe at the incredible work. The art department results continue to put St Oscar Romero's art department in the top 1% in the country.



Child Development

It has been a busy and rewarding term for our Year 10 and Year 11 Child Development students.

Year 10 students have successfully completed their first portfolio, which explored how young children learn and develop through play. The students focused on the social development of children aged two to three years. They are now focusing on the exam content of the course and are showing great commitment to their learning. An exciting part of the course is also approaching, as students will soon take home a real-life simulator baby. This experience will give them a realistic insight into the responsibilities of caring for a baby around the clock - so there may be a few sleepless nights ahead!



Meanwhile, our Year 11 students have completed their final portfolio and are now entering the final stages of preparation for their GCSE examinations. They have been working hard to revise key topics, strengthen their understanding, and practise timed exam questions to improve their exam technique. Their dedication and positive attitude towards their studies have been excellent, and they should feel proud of the progress they have made.

Well done to all our Child Development students for their hard work and enthusiasm this term, keep up the fantastic effort!



Dance

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting term in the Dance Department, with students working hard across both the curriculum and extracurricular activities.

Our Dance Live team has been rehearsing consistently this term, showing real commitment and focus as they prepared for their performance. The dancers consistently demonstrated fantastic teamwork, dedication, and resilience during rehearsals.

We are delighted to share that the Dance Live team won their heat on Friday and have progressed through to the National Final!



The judges were incredibly complimentary about the dancers, praising both their outstanding performance and the impact of the digital screen (expertly created by Phoebe Duvall's dad).

They truly went above and beyond on stage, demonstrating not only exceptional talent but also professionalism throughout.

The entire day was a real pleasure. The students conducted themselves brilliantly and were an absolute credit to the school.

Thank you for all the support shown to the students, it really does make a difference. We are very excited to represent the school at the National Final!

Students have also been creating choreography for the upcoming Easter performance. This has involved exploring storytelling through movement and working collaboratively to bring key moments of the Easter narrative to life through dance.

Our Dance Club, led by Miss Norledge, has taken a strong technique-based focus this term. Students have been developing their foundational dance skills, working on strength, control, and precision to support their performance work.

Within the curriculum, students across the year groups have been exploring a wide range of styles and creative themes:

Year 7 boys have been on an imaginative "Journey to the Desert", using movement to explore storytelling and character through dance.



Years 8, 9, and 10 have been developing their physical theatre and movement vocabulary through Parkour, focusing on travelling movements, levels, and dynamic actions.

Year 11 students have been exploring ways to manage stress and support wellbeing through Yoga and Pilates, focusing on flexibility, control, and mindful movement.

Year 9 to 13 students took part in a GCSE Dance Choreography Workshop Day at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London. This workshop is delivered by AQA practitioners and is specifically designed to support students with the choreography component, helping to develop creativity, refine ideas, and gain a clearer understanding of AQA assessment expectations.



It has been wonderful to see students developing their confidence, creativity, and physical skills throughout the term. We look forward to sharing more performances and projects in the coming months.



Drama

What an incredibly busy term within the department, from year 11 and 13 practical exams to trips, school production rehearsals, and our Annie musical performance!

Year 7 students have made a wonderful start and it has been fantastic to see their confidence, team work and resilience grow in maturity in Drama. Many of our students have involved themselves in the wealth of extra-curricular activities on offer at St Romeros, including the school production. In class students have explored story-telling through the text 'Beowulf' and thoroughly enjoyed learning stage combat skills to support their final performance. They are currently analysing the play 'The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty', linking to our PSHE programme on bullying, whilst developing techniques such as script work, improvisation and thought tracking.



Year 8 students have had a fantastic time in year 8 learning about Commedia Dell Arte, whilst working with scripts and at times improvising. They have developed techniques such as slapstick, clocking and status, as well as learning about stock characters and using them to inform their final performances. All students made their own masks appropriate for the character they played, learnt lines and performed in front of their peers. Well done year 8 we are very proud of you. We are very excited to have just launched a devised project with this year group.

Year 9 students have been studying a wonderful play; 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time'. They have learnt about autism and the unapologetic and celebratory life of 'Christopher', as he goes on a mission to discover the truth behind the death of Wellington the dog. They have developed their skills in physical theatre, movement, and worked closely with the ideas of movement company 'Frantic Assembly'. It has been wonderful to see the teamwork, maturity and understanding of relationships they build around them. The thoughtfulness and kindness that our students have shown towards one another has been clear to

see during this unit of work. They have just started to read the play 'I love you Mum, I promise I won't die', creating an inspiring cross-curricular link with PSHE as we focus on the effects of drugs, as well as responsibility and consequences for young people.

Some year 9 students also joined us for a theatre visit to see 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' just before Christmas! They were impeccably well behaved and saw a fantastic performance. Well done year 9!



Our wonderful year 10 students have had a fantastic start to the year learning how to analyse and evaluate professional theatre, having been introduced to the thought-provoking play 'Things I know to be True'. Now we begin the first of our practical exams and experiment with a range of physical theatre techniques to explore the devising process before they make final decisions on acting or production pathways and create thought provoking narratives. We can't wait to show you some pictures after Easter! We also had a fantastic time seeing Blood Brothers in Brighton and no doubt this performance will immensely help the students in their written paper. Well done year 10!

We could not be prouder of our year 11 students as they completed their final scripted performances for their GCSE exam.

Students choose to either act or design costumes, set, sound or lighting for a script of their choice as a soloist, duologue or a small group. The scenes were captivating and demanded attention throughout with thought provoking costume and sound designs to



accompany outstanding performances. The pictures capture just some of the wonderful moments we felt privileged to witness. Well done year 11, we wish you all the best of luck in your drama written paper!



This term, our GCSE 3D Design students have been formally briefed on their final portfolio projects, marking the beginning of an exciting and important phase in their GCSEs. Students were given a choice of four carefully selected themes, allowing them to research and create a design that genuinely inspires them.

Since receiving the brief, students have begun their initial research, exploring contextual references, analysing artists and designers, and generating their first concept ideas. It has been fantastic to see such a wide range of thoughtful responses already emerging.

Design Technology

This term, Year 11 students have completed the manufacturing of their final products for the GCSE NEA.

The NEA is an independent project that requires students to design, plan, and manufacture a functional solution to a specific real-world problem. This year's cohort produced an impressive variety of work, ranging from unique conceptual pieces to highly practical everyday products. It has been fantastic to see so many innovative and useful designs come to life.



KS3 Projects – Portfolio projects and exciting opportunities ahead



Year 10 Theme Park Entrance Project

Just before the portfolio projects were set, our Year 10 students completed their 'Theme Park Entrance' project. As part of this challenge, students selected their own theme and designed a striking and engaging entrance to a theme park. Themes ranged from fantasy worlds to futuristic and underwater cities.



The project encouraged students to think about scale, structure, visitor experience and visual impact. The project started as a conceptual project, but because of how well the students took to it, we decided to physically make these entrances in one lesson, encouraging the students to work quickly and productively. The outcomes demonstrated impressive creativity and growing confidence in model-making techniques, spatial design and presentation skills. The standard of work produced was excellent, and students should feel proud of the ambition and originality shown.



Upcoming London primary research trip

To further enrich students' portfolio work, we are looking forward to an exciting research trip to London in mid-April. This visit will provide valuable primary research opportunities and exposure to high-level design practice.



English

It has been a wonderfully busy and productive term in the English department, with students across all year groups engaging enthusiastically with a wide range of texts and ideas.

Year 7 have thoroughly enjoyed their study of *Lark* by Anthony McGowan. The novel has sparked thoughtful discussions about survival, family relationships and resilience, and students have responded brilliantly to the challenges and emotions within the story.

Year 8 have finally reached the conclusion of their exploration of *The Woman in Black*, following on from our memorable theatre visit last term. Reading the full text after seeing the stage adaptation allowed students to deepen their understanding of the novel's suspense and atmosphere, and it has been fantastic to see them comparing the different ways the story is brought to life.

Meanwhile, Year 9 have completed their study of twentieth-century conflict. This unit has given students the opportunity to explore powerful texts and perspectives connected to war and its impact, while also building important foundations for the GCSE poetry they will encounter in the coming years.

Speaking and listening is central to all departments here at Romero's and we are busy working through our lower school classes to ensure that we work with our young students to create confident communicators. After the holidays, Lower school will be busy with their Data Capture exams where they will be assessed on a variety of reading and writing tasks. For our AQA GCSE students, we will be moving on to exam board presentations and recordings next term. It would be very helpful to encourage all students to discuss

various news events as this will develop their confidence in communicating with adults on a range of challenging issues.

Whilst there are a lot of exams, there is also some fun ahead with our trip to see *Macbeth* at the Connaught Theatre on the evening of Friday April 17th. Whilst school bookings for this trip have now closed, students can book directly with the Connaught if they wish to join us. We are also planning a visit to see the classic musical *'My Fair Lady'* and Shakespeare's *'A Midsummer Night's Dream'* at Chichester next term-keep your eyes on Bromcom for more information next term on this!

We are incredibly proud of the effort, curiosity and insight our students have shown throughout the term, and we look forward to another exciting term of reading, writing and discussion ahead.



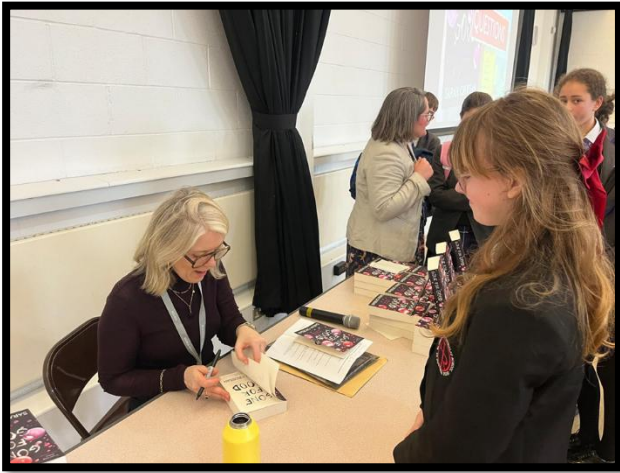
Library

The library has been busy this term hosting Chess Club. More students than ever have signed up for the inter-house chess tournament being organised by Christian Hanna (Year 12). We are looking forward to the date of the competition being announced so we can start the matches. There is even a lovely trophy up for grabs, care of Wood Tech.

Some investment has been made this term in expanding our collection of graphic novels and comic books. Three of our students have been evaluating inspection copies of a range of popular titles, helping to develop this section of the library further. We have also added significantly to the variety of Manga series we stock here.



We were lucky enough back in February to be asked by Worthing High School to send a cohort of interested students to an author visit there. Carnegie medal winning writer, Sarah Crossan, gave an excellent talk about her latest novel and what it was like to write a mystery story. The students thoroughly enjoyed the event, and were able to get their books signed at the end.



It was World Book Day on March 5th. Staff and KS3 students were encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character. There was a lovely atmosphere in school, and some brilliant costumes. We awarded prizes to Years 7, 8 and 9, and our librarians judged the staff. The winners of some of the other competitions will be announced shortly.



Finally, please take some time over the Easter holidays to check bedrooms and bags for any overdue library books, there are many missing from the shelves and it would be lovely to have them back for others to enjoy.



Extended Learning

Inspiring Future Pathways: National Careers Week

Our students recently took part in an inspiring and action-packed National Careers Week, where the focus shifted firmly toward the future. Throughout the week, every student was encouraged to reflect on the essential skills they need to develop for the modern workplace and the diverse pathways available to them.

Exploring Options with Unifrog

Students dedicated time to researching their future using their Unifrog accounts, a comprehensive platform that helps them find and compare university courses, apprenticeships, and further education options. This hands-on research allowed them to map

out personal career journeys and understand the requirements for their chosen fields.

Learning from Experience

Daily tutor time activities kept the momentum going, including a unique Teacher Skills Survey. This gave students a behind the scenes look at the professional backgrounds of our staff, highlighting how skills developed in previous jobs, such as communication, problem-solving, and adaptability, remain vital throughout any career.

Industry Insights: Electronic Engineering

A particular highlight of the week was a visit from Mark Bullen, Managing Director of GBE. He provided a fascinating window into the worlds of electronic engineering and product design. Accompanied by two of his employees currently at the apprenticeship level, they spoke with our Year 10 and 11 students about the practicalities of choosing an apprenticeship pathway. This first-hand advice on "earning while learning" was invaluable for those considering technical and vocational routes.

By focusing on these real world outcomes, we aim to motivate and inspire our students, showing them that with the right skills and planning, any career is within their reach.

Stem innovation workshop



STEM Sparks Innovation at Romero's!

This term, we were thrilled to welcome back Ali Khan and his fantastic STEM Innovation team. Our students dived head first into the world of robotics and engineering, exploring how AI is reshaping the global career landscape. From hands on robot demos to high level tech debates, the energy in the room was electric!

The excitement does not stop here! Ali is returning in the Summer Term to launch an exclusive after school STEM and Robotics club to take our students' skills to the next level.

Ali shared that he is always "really impressed" by our students' engagement and the warm Romeros welcome. We are committed to bringing industry

experts into every department to inspire hearts and minds beyond the classroom.

Calling all Industry Experts!

Do you work in a field that could inspire our students? We want to hear from you! Please contact Mr Dean at pdean@stromeros.co.uk to discuss running a workshop.

John Muir Award & Fingerprints not Footprints Organisation



Eco-Champions: The John Muir Award & Fingerprints Ambassadors

Now in its seventh year at St Oscar Romero's, the John Muir Award continues to go from strength to strength! This term, our Year 8 students are embarking on an eight week journey to discover and conserve the wild spaces of West Sussex.

From hands on conservation work at the Arundel Wetland Centre to exploring the South Downs National Park, students are gaining a deep awareness of sustainability and the importance of our beautiful planet.

The journey does not stop there. Many of our participants progress to become Fingerprints Ambassadors. Led by a dedicated team of senior ambassadors, this group meets every two weeks to

lead "Actions for Change," ensuring our school remains at the forefront of local environmental protection.

Careers workshops



Building Futures: Our Industry Champions and The Power of Giving Back

Our careers program is more than just a series of talks; it is a targeted approach to ensuring every student is ready for the world of work. By starting the year with a personal career plan, students can engage with workshops specifically tailored to their interests and goals.

Turning Tides: The World of Volunteering

This term, we were delighted to welcome the local charity Turning Tides to speak with our students. They provided a powerful look at the world of volunteering, explaining how supporting our local community benefits society while offering young people invaluable life experience. Through these sessions, students explore:

- Empathy and Teamwork: Understanding the realities of homelessness and building compassion.
- Skill Development: Gaining confidence, communication, and problem solving skills that are essential for any future career.
- Personal Growth: Discovering a sense of purpose and improving wellbeing through community contribution.

Over 150 Workshops and Counting

Over the last five years, our students have benefited from over 150 workshops facilitated by local industry champions. These sessions often take place within the industries themselves, giving students a first hand look at real world developments and professional environments. This hands on exposure helps bridge the gap between classroom learning and future employment.

Recording Success on Unifrog

To ensure no experience is forgotten, all students are encouraged to log their learning and skills on Unifrog. This digital portfolio becomes a vital reference point when it comes time for:

- UCAS Personal Statements: Providing concrete examples of extracurricular engagement.
- CVs and Apprenticeship Applications: Helping students articulate the transferable skills they have gained from industry speakers and volunteering.
- Career Action Plans: Allowing students to track their progress and refine their goals as they grow.

We are incredibly proud of how our students are engaging with these opportunities to become informed, compassionate, and career ready citizens.

Preparing for Tomorrow: The New 10-Day Work Experience Standard

The landscape of secondary education is shifting, and our school is at the forefront of ensuring students are 'future ready'. In line with new national expectations, every student across the UK is now expected to gain 10 days of meaningful work experience before completing Year 11.

While our Year 10 students are currently busy securing their formal external placements, we believe the journey into the professional world should start much earlier.

Spotlight on Finance: Barclays Bank Visits

We were thrilled to host the Barclays Display Van recently, providing a high-tech window into the rapidly evolving banking sector. Barclays has long been a dedicated partner to secondary schools, and this visit offered our younger students a well deserved "experience of work" workshop immediately following their exams.

The session highlighted a critical reality: the world of work is changing faster than ever. Students explored how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the financial sector, moving beyond traditional roles and into the realms of fintech and data driven strategy.

The Shift in Law and Finance

Finance and Law remain two of the most popular career pathways for our students, but both are undergoing a massive technological transformation.

- In Finance: AI is now handling complex calculations and risk assessments.
- In Law: Technology is streamlining legal research and document review.

To stay competitive, our students must focus on 'future skilling', developing the human centric skills that AI cannot replace, such as ethical judgment, complex problem solving, and interpersonal communication.

Student development and team building



Taking it to 'The Next Level': Building Resilience Beyond the Classroom

At St Oscar Romero's, we believe that education extends far beyond textbooks. A vital part of personal development is the ability to collaborate, lead, and persevere when things get tough. This term, we put those skills to the test with our 'Next Level' team development sessions.

The event challenged groups of students to step outside their comfort zones through a series of collaborative problem solving tasks. These were not your average classroom assignments; we intentionally set 'impossible' challenges to see how students would react under pressure.

Throughout the day, it was inspiring to watch our students:

- Embrace Leadership: Students experimented with different leadership styles, learning how to motivate their peers and guide their teams toward a common goal.
- Practice Empathy: Decision making required a high level of emotional intelligence, as students had to value and integrate the diverse ideas of their teammates.
- Build Fortitude: When faced with setbacks, our students demonstrated remarkable resilience, proving that failure is simply a stepping stone to growth.

As a school, we view it as our duty to provide a breadth of experience that prepares our young people for the complexities of life. 'The Next Level' was a powerful reminder that when we challenge our students, they do not just meet expectations, they exceed them.

Partnership working with Ferring Country Centre



Hearts, Minds, and Helping Hands: Our New Partnership

At St Oscar Romero's, we believe that education extends far beyond the classroom walls. Inspired by our patron's call to "Aspire not to have more, but to be more," we are thrilled to share our latest community initiative.

Recently, our students and staff have been working closely with the Ferring Country Centre to explore the true meaning of partnership. This collaboration is not just about ticking a box; it is about instilling a lifelong sense of duty and community in our young people.

By engaging with the Centre, our students are learning how to build "hearts and minds" through active volunteering. Whether it is supporting local projects or learning the value of collective action, these experiences are helping our students understand that they are part of something much larger than themselves.

We are incredibly proud of the energy our students have brought to this partnership. They are not just learning about community, they are actively building it. Together, we are proving that when we work hand-in-hand with our neighbours, we create a future that is kinder, stronger, and more connected.

This term our Year 7 students have been busy in the kitchen, learning essential cooking skills and exploring a variety of delicious recipes. From mastering knife skills and the art of washing up! Their favourite dish has been apple crumble and popcorn.



While year 8's have been looking at food miles and sustainability and the importance of considering the environment when buying, producing, transporting and preparing food. This term they have made Fairtrade banana muffins, pasta bake, scone based pizza and the famous apple and pork sausage rolls.



Year 9 have been using the woks making a vegetable stir fry and then using their folding skills to make spring rolls. These were baked in the oven to make them healthier.

Year 10 has been working hard at learning high skilled dishes, making pasta, Ricotta cheese and spinach Ravioli stuffed with a herb sage butter dressing.



Food & Nutrition



Year 11 have been practising their knife skills deboning chicken and fillet fish in preparation for their final practical exam at the end of March. They have to produce two dishes from scratch with all accompaniments in three hours.



Geography

Year 7 have had an exhilarating term studying tectonic hazards. Students had the opportunity to take on real world roles in the hazard management industry where they worked in teams to manage the incoming live reports from the Montserrat eruption and based on their decision making were awarded points. These points reflected how suitable these decisions were made which would have, in real life, equalled potential loss of life or saving the lives of hundreds of people. This scenario was based on the 1995 eruption of the Soufriere Hills Volcano. Well done year 7 for really working well as teams in this real world scenario. A great opportunity for students to consider where studying geography could take them in potential career paths. This half term, students have begun exploring issues associated with migration, including the impact of the construction of the Qatar world cup stadiums and migrant workers. A topical, and rich topic linked to the human side of geography.

Year 8 were developing their fieldwork skills in the coasts in the first half of spring term. They undertook virtual fieldwork examining coastal processes at working. Students had to complete risk assessments of the coastal environments and spent time assessing sampling methods for data collection. Students were able to critique different approaches to sampling strategies and evaluate the methods used by using photographs and videos filmed at Worthing beach.



The second part of the spring term students have been exploring contemporary global issues. A deeper look at the causes, consequences and potential management strategies of climate change has had students gripped. Leading into a focus on food and how food is leading to multiple areas of concerns for us and our planet.

We had some fantastic news this term, our year 9 Antarctica flags that were designed as part of the UK Polar Network project had made it to Antarctica!!! In the photograph you can see the designs from St Oscar Romero students in the Southern Ocean, aboard the RRS Sir David Attenborough.



The first half of Spring term, students were examining water issues in the Middle East and how this is being addressed through a range of technological approaches. During this unit students had to weigh up approaches and undertook a decision making exercise and developed their extended writing skills.

The second half of this term students have been considering GCSE topics on tectonic plate theory and examining earthquakes. The focus was on the response to earthquakes and how this varies between countries of different levels of development in the short and long term. Students have had the opportunity to explore an emergency disaster pack and discuss and evaluate the different items inside.



Year 10 have been studying Resources Management. This unit has explored the global inequality of food, water, and energy distribution, emphasising the need for sustainable management. A deeper focus was on energy issues with students utilising our St Oscar Romero Geography you tube channel to help consolidate their learning by the use of dual coding. Our you tube channel can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/@GeographyStRomeros> Dual coding is a technique that combines verbal explanations with images to help students learn and remember information in geography (and other subjects). When we use dual coding, we help the information go in better (to long term memory) and come out more easily (to use in working memory), as has been shown in numerous studies (Weinstein et al.,

2018). It is a technique we use across our lessons to support our students in developing an understanding of the curriculum. The second half of this spring term has led students into the physical unit of coasts. Here students have been studying the natural processes that shape our coast and the ways in which we can manage our coast to protect us from these processes. In the summer term students will undertake their first of two different fieldwork days where these coastal processes and management will be considered at Worthing beach.

Our year 11 have truly risen to the challenge of the demands of the second year of GCSE studies. Students have completed studying the UK and the economic side of the UK and are now well underway with revision. We have received the resources booklet for paper 3, where students get to demonstrate their top skills as geographers and analyse and issues leading to a well-founded and support decision on the issue. We are super confident in their abilities to produce outstanding answers due to the hard work and commitment they have shown during the past two years. We are supporting our year 11 with key revision materials in the run up to the exams, including the St Oscar Romero Geography you tube channel.

Year 12 have been very busy this term. They had two separate fieldwork days. The first to Goring to assess the role of the coastal defences. Students undertook a number of surveys including land use, coastal management effectiveness and conducted questionnaires. The data was analysed back in the classroom, combined with secondary data sources to reach an informed conclusion.



Geographical Association WorldWide Quiz

Year 10 took part in the Geographical Association WorldWide Quiz. The WorldWide Quiz involved teams of three students answering a range of thought provoking geography questions. Our students performed superbly and held their own against some extremely tough competition.



The second trip was up to Stratford, East London. Here the topic was looking at the impact of the regeneration from the London Olympics of 2012. Contrasting locations were visited and students collected a range of primary data. It was a very successful day for the students to develop their primary data collection skills.



History

Year 7 have had an exciting introduction to medieval history this term. They have explored the turbulent reign of King John and why the Magna Carta became such an important document in English history. Students have also investigated the devastating impact of the Black Death and the dramatic events of the Peasants' Revolt, helping them understand how ordinary people experienced life during the medieval period. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and enthusiasm in lessons, particularly through their discussions and creative activities.



This term, Year 8 have been discovering the huge changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution. Through their study of Whitechapel, they have explored what life was like in Victorian London and examined the infamous Jack the Ripper case. Students have also learned about the determination and bravery of the Suffragettes in their campaign for women's voting rights.



More recently, they have begun exploring the events that led to the outbreak of the First World War, showing great interest and insight in their work.

Year 9 have spent part of this term exploring the struggle for civil rights in the United States, learning about the challenges faced by African Americans and the individuals who fought for greater equality. Students showed great engagement in discussions about protest movements and the impact of key figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. and John F. Kennedy.



They have now begun their study of Weimar Germany, examining the political and economic difficulties Germany faced after the First World War and the tensions that shaped this fascinating period of history.

Year 10 have recently completed their GCSE study of Weimar and Nazi Germany, gaining a strong understanding of how Germany changed during this turbulent era.

They are now turning their attention to Early Elizabethan England, where they are learning about the challenges Elizabeth I faced as a young queen and the key events that shaped her reign.



It has been great to see students continuing to develop their historical thinking and confidence in analysing sources and interpretations.

Year 11 have been working incredibly hard this term as they completed their mock examinations after finishing the GCSE History course. Their commitment to revision and preparation has been impressive, and they should feel proud of the effort they have put into their studies so far. As the final exams draw closer, we encourage them to keep up the momentum and continue building on the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the course.

Year 12 students have now completed the full AS Level content for their course, studying both Mussolini's Italy and developments in Germany between 1918 and 1989. They have demonstrated excellent engagement with these complex topics and have been developing their ability to analyse historical interpretations and construct well supported arguments. As they move towards their assessments, it has been encouraging to see their confidence and historical understanding continue to grow.

This year we are proud to have our first Year 13 cohort studying A Level History. Students have now completed all of the course content, including their Paper 3 study of Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors. They are currently working on the final stages of their coursework, refining their arguments and demonstrating the impressive analytical skills they have developed over the course. We wish them the very best as they prepare for their final exams and look forward to seeing the results of their hard work.



Mathematics

As we pass the halfway mark of the school year we reflect on the year that we have been blessed with so far. Our students have been working hard and continue to put in their best effort every day. Our key stage 4 students have just finished a round of assessments, and our key stage 3s have their next assessments soon. Our year 11 students have finished learning new content and are starting their final stretch before their GCSE exams. There are a lot

of exciting activities to look forward to this year as well, as we will see later in this newsletter.

Sparx - The year 7 students have taken to using Sparx very well and are currently the best performing year group in multiple categories, including highest percentage of extra work completed, overall best completion of any year group and most XP at over 12400. They are followed at a distance by year 9 who have just over 11400 total XP at the time of writing. However, all of our year groups put in a lot of effort with their Sparx and we are proud to be in the top 2.5% of all schools that use Sparx on a regular basis.

Further Maths and Statistics - For those who do not know, further maths and statistics are extra GCSE qualifications offered to our year 10 students to complete at the end of the year. Our further mathematicians and our statisticians have recently had their first assessments. Further maths students took two papers, one calculator and one non-calculator, and statistics students had one paper. Being the first assessments of these subjects, some year 10 students were unsure what to expect, but they have faced the tests head on and now have a better feel for how to tackle these extra subjects. We wish them luck as their final exams get closer.

Year 5 Maths Competition - In February we were joined by 15 of our local primary schools for the Romero's Year 5 Maths competition. This saw the young minds in the local area battling off in a range of different mathematical tasks aimed at getting them thinking outside the box. During the event, our team of ambassadors aided and helped make the day run smoothly being a real credit to both themselves and the school. They did this in a fantastic manner and should be commended. The eventual winner was St Peter's so congratulations to them!

UKMT - Our most able Year 9 and 10 mathematicians recently took part in the UKMT maths challenge. This national challenge is a multiple choice maths test that uses out of the box thinking to answer each question. We are delighted with this year's results, having 9 students achieving a gold award, 12 students achieving silver and 39 getting a bronze. That is a total of 60 awards over the four classes that took part.

Wiktor Zajac and Harrison Hockett are our stars of the show, earning the Best in year for year 10 and year 9 respectively, with Wiktor getting the best score in the whole school.

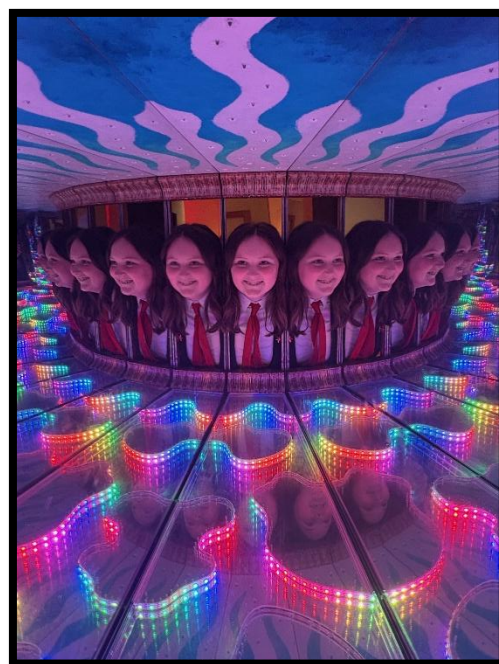
We are incredibly proud of the 8 students who have qualified for the next round, known as Kangaroo. We wish them luck on this trickier test.

Edge Hill University Mathematics Poster Competition - Some of our top mathematicians in Year 9 recently entered the Edge Hill University Maths Competition and impressed judges with their work.



As part of the first stage, they explored a challenging magic square problem, showcasing their mathematical thinking and creativity through their project. A huge congratulations to them all for successfully passing the first stage and being invited to the second stage of the competition. In the next round, they will tackle a real-world challenge by helping a pizza company determine the best location for a drone centre so that it is the shortest possible distance from all of their pizza shops. Mathematicians save the world! We look forward to seeing more amazing work from them as they continue in the competition!

STEM week - Year 8 students took part in a visit to Science Museum in London, where they saw all sorts of groundbreaking inventions and discoveries throughout history. They also had a wonderful time in the wonderlab, a laboratory full of hands on experiments and demonstrations. Students watched lightning being created above their heads, got lifted up into the air, played with all sorts of sounds and motions, as well as so much more.



Year 7 students took part in a visit to the Herstmonceaux Observatory, where they learnt about space using the giant telescopes, as well as other

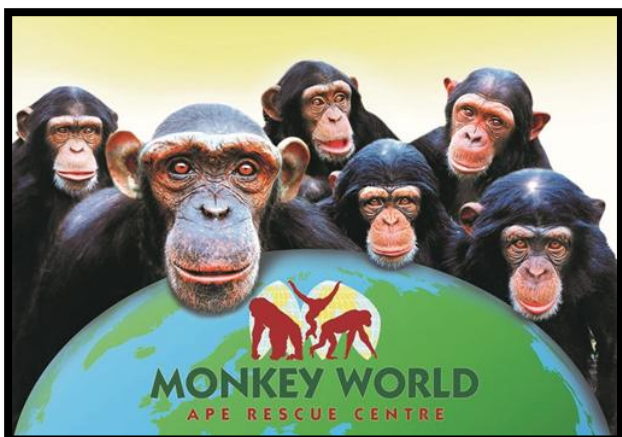
phenomena such as sound and light and how to manipulate it.



Year 9 students visited either Bletchley Park or Brooklands Museum. Bletchley park was where Alan Turing worked to create the codebreaking machine that helped us win the war and Brooklands is an ex-racetrack turned museum, where students learnt about the history of engineering in both cars and aeroplanes, and even walk through a Concorde plane.



Our friends in the Science department gave our Year 10 students the choice between visiting the Bovington Tank Museum, where they learnt about the incredible feats of engineering needed by our armed forces, or Monkey World to study the biological differences less than 1% of DNA can make.



We hope all of our students had a brilliant week and appreciate the maths and science in the world around them.

Finally, at the end of STEM week we find **Pi Day**. Pi day is where we celebrate the magical number that is represented by the greek letter pi. Pi is one of the mathematical constants of the universe, but has infinitely many decimal places, so students will compete for who can remember the most. Some very impressive efforts, but **hats off to Oscar Pennicott who managed a mere 404!!!** A school record and the deserving winner of who got to "pi" Mr Byrne!

Special mention to Mr Negus who also got double pi-ed by getting his tutor group to donate to charity for the opportunity.

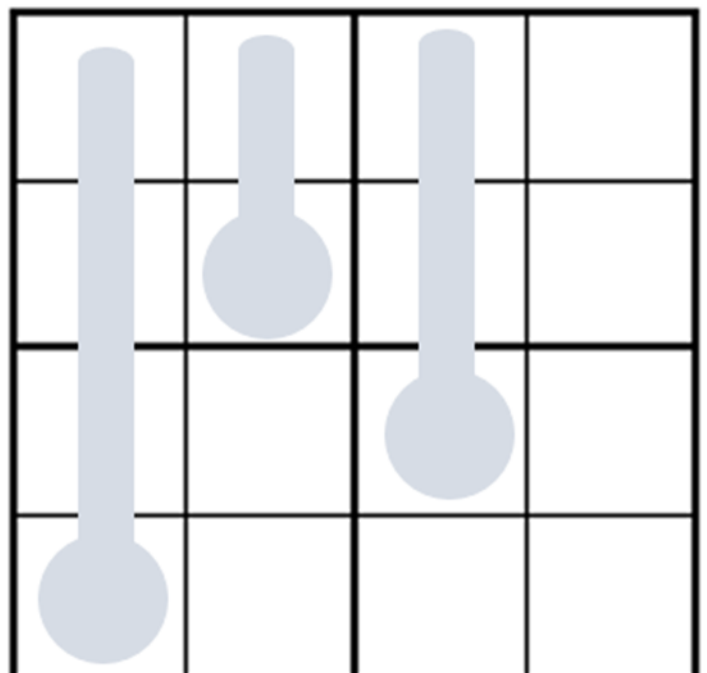


An exciting way to end an action packed week.

Maths puzzle

Lastly, we love logic puzzles in the maths department and we hope you do too. Here is a quick sudoku puzzle for you to try, made by one of our maths teachers. This time no digits are given to you, but you do have some thermometers.

4 by 4 sudoku rules: Put the numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 once each (no repeats) in every row, column and 2 by 2 outlined box. On a thermometer digits must increase with the smallest at the bulb end and the largest at the tip.





Welcome to Modern Foreign Languages (MFL).

Year 7 MFL French and Spanish

Year 7 continue to make great progress in learning their chosen language, French or Spanish. We are very impressed with their aptitude and efforts!

Year 8 MFL French and Spanish

We have had a very positive year with our year 8 cohort who have enthusiastically continued with their chosen language, French or Spanish.

Year 9 Duo-linguist pathway

Our Year 9 Duo-linguists are now into their second and final year of this programme and have already chosen their year 10 languages so will finish the Duo-linguist pathway this year. We are very excited to teach you when you start your chosen GCSE language in September 2026.

Year 9 Language Leaders

In September 2025, we launched our first cohort of Year 9 Language Leaders who are MFL ambassadors representing St Oscar Romero to support the Languages department with events in and around school during the next academic year. A big part of being a Year 9 Language Leader is our work with the local feeder primary schools who we make links with and visit throughout this year when the Language Leaders deliver a lesson to the primary children in a language of their choice. We have 25 amazing Language Leaders this year which means they have to be divided into 3 teams!

This week, we visited our 3rd school, West Park primary where students are taught Spanish, Romanian and Japanese! Subsequent visits are planned for throughout the summer term to other neighbouring primary schools.



Year 10 and 11 French and Spanish

Well done to the Year 10 and 11 MFL cohort who have just completed their DC2 exams; it is great to see the hard work paying off as we feedback on your results. Another big 'Well done' to Year 11, who have completed their mock speaking exams. You have demonstrated hard work, maturity and resilience in working your way through these exams. Now we have completed the MFL curriculum, students will be undertaking concentrated exam revision; focussing on the 4 key skill areas and timed practice ready for the real exams starting in May.

Homework

In French, and Spanish we continue to set weekly homework for all students on a four weekly cycle. Our MFL homework portal: [Languagenut](#) is an excellent MFL learning platform used in lots of secondary schools to improve language learning. In KS3, 3 weeks out of the 4 will be Languagenut activities and the '4th' week will be either a grammar/vocabulary or translation sheet. In KS4, students are offered a rotation of Languagenut/GCSE grammar and translation worksheets/GCSE past papers and GCSE exam question activity sheets. Sometimes homework will be supplemented by Duolingo or BBC Bitesize. If students need any help with homework they just need to ask their language teacher.



Trips

We are starting to get very excited about our trips to Paris and Barcelona in 2026. Both trips are now at capacity and we look forward to meeting students, parents and carers ahead of both trips and our parental meetings.

Paris



We have now had our parent and carer meeting for the Paris trip and are getting very excited about our visit at the end of March. If your child is taking part in the trip, please ensure you have returned all the required documentation, especially your passport and GHIC card!

Barcelona



We have our parent and carer meeting about the Barcelona visit on Tuesday 14th April 6pm to 7pm. We look forward to seeing you there!



Music

In Year 7, our students have completed the Equip stage of lessons, where we learn about 4 elements of music,



and are now delving into the world of musical skills. Their journey began with the joy of singing, exploring a variety of musical rounds. Moving forward, they have now started to develop their keyboard skills through learning the beautiful Bach's Prelude No. 1 in C major. If students do not have keyboards or pianos at home we encourage them to use the keyboards in the

department at a break time or lunch time to practice. The Year 7 choir has been developing their skills of learning to sing songs in multiple parts beginning with rounds/ostinati and have learnt some of the songs from our upcoming school production, Annie Jr.

Year 8 has been immersed in the wonders of Musical Theatre, singing their hearts out to the iconic "Seasons of Love" from Rent. Additionally, their exploration into the realm of film music has led to the mastery of keyboard pieces that promise to captivate audiences. The Year 8 Orchestra, Cornet lessons, are seeing some students start to excel. Year 8 students should now be serenading their families at home by practising their rendition of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" for their assessment in the week before Easter.



Year 9 students have been exploring harmony and tonality through Pop music. We began the term by singing the anthem 'Next To Me' by Emeli Sandé while also playing the chords on the ukulele. We then transitioned to playing the chords on the keyboards and finished the term by learning Largo, from the Romantic composer Dvorjak's 9th Symphony, on the keyboards.

Year 10 began the term with an in-depth exploration of our GCSE set works, Badinerie by J.S. Bach and Africa by Toto, developing their understanding of their musical features and context. They then sat their second DC exam and got some real life exam experience. Through listening, analysis, and practical work, they have been broadening their musical knowledge and performance skills, preparing them for the challenges ahead in their GCSE studies. We will now be moving through the rest of our areas of studies, first up being Western Classical music. Year 10 has also embarked on their first "mock" composition, and the initial results are starting to show promise. Many students have already demonstrated signs of outstanding creativity and skill in crafting musical pieces. We eagerly anticipate the evolution of their compositions as they refine their work further.

In Year 11 this term has been a crescendo of hard work as they diligently strive to fulfil their coursework requirements. The students have been immersed in the creation of two distinctive compositions, showcasing their unique musical voices and technical skills, and have also ensured that their performance coursework is finished. Many students have been working in break times to polish their non examined components and their hard work is paying off.

Our Year 13 A Level students had their final mock recital before half term, which saw them play to an audience of Year 11 students and staff. We were thrilled to welcome some guests to sing with one of our students, who really added to the performance and demonstrated exceptional professional choral singing. Our students did brilliantly and it has helped to inform repertoire choices for their final recital after Easter when an external examiner will come in to assess them for 35% of their A Level. They are also working to polish their compositions and gain as many marks on their coursework as possible, as we also revise the incredible symphonic, jazz and 20th century content for their exam. We wish them both the best of luck.

Our Chamber Choir has been working in the background on some songs for the Summer term, alongside singing in assembly and preparing for Easter masses. We are thankful for the members of Chamber Choir who show up every week with a positive mindset and who work hard in rehearsals and out.

Concert Band has been working hard on becoming the accompanying band for Annie Jr. Students are learning what it is to be accompaniment for a show and getting their fingers around some trickier passages. They showed excellent commitment at a weekend rehearsal and are excited for show week. Worship Band has continued to support our school masses and liturgies doing an excellent job of providing musical accompaniment for our school's faith.

School Production of Annie

Many students were involved in our school production, Annie Jr. Each week we noticed more and more stand out performers who know every line, every harmony and every move. The whole cast worked exceptionally hard to meet these high standards and we could not wait to share our final performances just before the end of term.



As always our dedicated team of instrumental teachers continue to be fantastic in serving our school and developing our students' musical ability. We currently offer one-to-one or group tuition in Voice, Piano, Drum Kit, Guitar, Ukulele, Bass Guitar, Violin, Viola, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tenor Horn, Euphonium and Saxophone. Our teachers are listed below, do make contact with them if you are interested in lessons:

- Brass - Joy White - joywhitebrass@gmail.com
- Guitar/Ukulele - Andrew Walker - bangandstrum@gmail.com
- Strings - Russ Robinson - <https://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk>
- Saxophone - Rania VandenOuweland - Rania.VandenOuweland@westsussexmusic.co.uk
- Piano - Helen Phillips - enquiries@helenphillipsiano.co.uk
- Voice - Sam Hawkins - <https://cbsingingandteaching.mymusicstaff.com>
- Drum Kit - Ollie Foreman - ollie.foreman@gmail.com





Religious Education

Johnny Thomson

We were privileged to welcome a guest speaker to our school this term. Johnny Thomson is an author and philosopher, who writes for the 'big think' website and runs a popular social media page 'Philosophy Minis'. Jonny met with our sixth form students as well as students who had signed up for a workshop from years 8-10. Students were spoilt with an engaging time of discussion on themes such as stoicism, Aristotle, Jean-Paul Satre and Existentialism, a range of ethical ideas. Johnny stirred our student's imagination and powers of logical thinking. The questions were non-stop, with students really challenging Johnny and entering into lively debate. This session was a real insight into the hidden power of philosophical and ethical debate and reflection. It gave students an insight into what A-level Philosophy and Ethics will look like should they go onto study this subject in the future at St Romero's. We are grateful to our Year 13 Philosophy and Ethics student Joshua Eames for organising this event.



Cafod Workshops

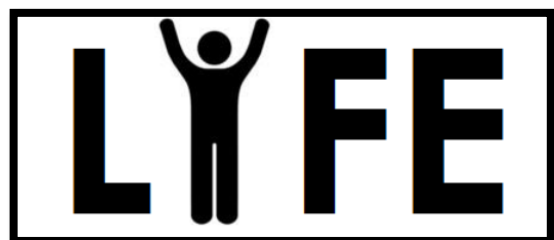
We also welcomed Jessica Bailey, the Education Resources Co-ordinator from Cafod.



Jess ran some sessions with year 9 and 10 groups. Her year session with year 10 covered how the media covers issues of social justice and how differently news can be interpreted based on how it is presented. Students gained a real insight into the struggles that Romero faced, not only in his own country but in how the reality of the injustices he faced were being misrepresented to the world. Year 9 took part in an activity highlighting the difficulties in global poverty and how poor countries are left to deal with difficult situations. Students were engaged and contributed brilliantly to all the activities.

Key Stage 3 - Year 7 students are currently studying the Eucharist, reflecting on its significance in Catholic life and worship. As part of this topic, they are also considering important social issues such as world hunger, poverty and homelessness. Year 8 students have been learning about the Kingdom of God, what it means, who is welcome within it and why it remains an important message of Jesus today. Year 9 students are currently learning about the Temple and the Tabernacle, exploring their importance in biblical tradition and how they connect to themes of redemption and atonement in the Old Testament.

Philosophy Conference - On April 27th a group of Year 12 Philosophy and Ethics students will be attending the Warwick University Philosophy Conference. They will meet expert lecturers who will be giving talks on a range of philosophical topics including 'The Philosophy of conspiracy Theories' and 'How (Not) to justify Democracy'. They will also have the opportunity to meet with students in Warwick's Department of Philosophy and discuss university life and all things Philosophy! The students are very excited about this trip (except the early start) and we look forward to being able to share their learning and experiences in our next Philosophy newsletter!



During this term in LIFE (formally known as PSHE) students have been focusing on exploring how humans are made to 'love others'. This has included a wider understanding of human relationships including some about personal relationships and also how humans should treat all people with dignity and respect in order to create an inclusive and loving society.

In Spring 1 Year 7 studied Diversity. In their discussions and written work they explored the meaning of the term diversity as well and how different

cultures and backgrounds contribute to our varied and diverse world. They also looked at how prejudice and bullying can have a negative impact and why it is important to celebrate difference within our school community and the wider world. In Spring 2 they are studying Building Relationships focusing on friendship. They have discussed what makes a healthy friendship and how friendships online and in person can be positive for both parties. Their discussions continue to be insightful, mature and balanced which is a positive indicator of things to come.

Year 8 started the term studying discrimination. They were focusing on the idea that all people have Human Dignity and deserve to be treated with respect. They studied Racism, Religious Discrimination, Sexism and Misogyny, Disability Discrimination and Homophobia and Transphobia. At the heart of this module was the Catholic teaching that all people are made in God's image and likeness and therefore should not face discrimination or bullying. In Spring 2 Year 8 are exploring identity and how this forms an important part of romantic relationships as knowing and respecting yourself can play an important role in knowing and respecting others.

The Year 9 scheme of learning this term has covered firstly respectful relationships particularly within families. They have explored the idea that different families have different shapes but that communication, respect and love are at the centre of all of these. They have also explored some of the challenges of parenting or providing parental care so maybe you will start to see them being more understanding at home! In the second part of the term Year 9 are looking at intimate relationships. Within the Catholic lens and understanding of sex and sexuality as a gift from God they are exploring issues such as consent, contraception and sexual health. Year 9 have reflected their growing maturity in their understanding of and engagement with these topics.

In Spring Term 1 Year 10 students studied radicalisation and extremism, including the law around this and how to identify patterns around the behaviours of extremism and radicalisation. One of the Year 10 tutors reflects that students were fully engaged in the discussions around the importance of freedom of speech but also it's limitations when it comes to keeping people safe. In Spring Term 2 Year 10 are exploring healthy relationships, including how the expectations of sex and relationships might be different from the reality.

Year 11 have spent much of the Spring Term exploring their next steps including looking at their callings, skills and the different paths they might take after KS4. They have also engaged in practical skills such as writing CVs and how this might look different in our

increasingly technological world. In the second part of Spring term they are discussing how communication is important in a variety of relationships including personal and professional relationships. These topics should help Year 11 to be ready for the wider world when they enter it in a few brief months.

Sixth Form LIFE topics this term have been wide ranging. Year 12 have explored inclusion and how to create a more inclusive society. They even learned some British Sign Language in order to put this into practice. Year 13 have explored important topics of Sexual Ethics within our wider responsibility to ensure all students understand sex and sexuality as a gift from God. These topics are vital in ensuring our students have a broad understanding of the world but also that they understand their commitment in making this world a better place for all.

Thank you for all your support at home in ensuring all students receive a broad, safety first curriculum that is forged in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and enables our students to Love Themselves, Love Others and Love the World.



Chaplaincy

It has been another inspiring term within chaplaincy at St Oscar Romero School and as usual so many people have been involved in enabling these brilliant opportunities that it is impossible to name them all. It is such a powerful feature of life at Romeros that the spirituality and prayer life of the school is held by everyone, using their gifts and talents to the max!

Welcoming the new school chaplain Martha to the role was a great start to the term and the really powerful day of retreat for the staff of Romeros and Arundel C of E school, with key note talks by David Beresford and an incredible array of thoughtful and creative workshops offered by staff and visiting leaders. It was a gentle and positive start to 2026 for all the staff and we look forward to repeating this in the future.



Paul, Karla and Ele with Miss Lock and their rosaries. Early on in the term was the week of prayer for Christian unity with activities like learning how to pray the rosary led by year 7 students Ele and Paul. We

also marked Holocaust memorial day on 27th January with a whole school gathering. Students led prayers and reflection on this important and devastating subject.



A highlight of the term has been regular chapel masses on Friday mornings at 7.45am and we are really grateful to our deanery clergy for coming to support these. All students and staff are welcome to come to these masses, Martha will keep everyone informed when they take place.

Our incredible Cafod Young Leaders continue to lead the school in raising awareness of those around the world who need our support to develop and their Valentines activity, making and selling "Love Grows" bows, and leading workshops for year 7 and 8 classes all day had a real impact. They also managed to raise enough money to pay for a new floating garden in Bangladesh, the project they were promoting which was a wonderful result of their hard work.



Faith ambassadors continue to be a credit to the school, meeting regularly together and supporting all the chaplaincy activities within the school, for example working with our feeder primary schools in our regular deanery council. They are full of positive energy always saying yes to the opportunity to help out and are definitely the leaders of the future.

The Alpha course is now running on Friday lunchtimes with an invitation to anyone who has big questions about life and faith, it is a lovely fun way of meeting

others with questions, enjoying some great snacks and thinking about these questions.

We continued our partnership with Cafod welcoming Jess to try out a brand new Cafod peace building game, it was very satisfying to know our feedback will help refine the game going to retreat centres all around the country.



Danai, Ati, Jess from Cafod, Jessie, Ashley, Evie and Ayo: Our Cafod Young Leaders

As we write we are busy marking Lent in a variety of ways. The Big Lent Walk is an opportunity for every member of the school to do their little bit, sacrificing time and energy thinking of others and raising money for Cafod and ANCOP and we pray everyone enjoys this together and as they walk alone. Our Day of Reconciliation in which we are invited to the sacrament or to pray individually is always a highlight and an important act of preparation for Easter. We wish everyone a joyful and holy Easter from St Oscar Romero's Chaplaincy.



Science

STEM week, and the theme of 'Curiosity' have been well enjoyed by students in their science lessons and beyond the classroom at St Oscar Romero's this year. Particular highlights are students using household items like coins and aluminum foil to make a battery light up an LED!



KS3 students basking in the glow of the battery they produced, lighting up an LED. The battery was produced using copper coins, aluminum foil and filter paper. Students thought about the applications and importance of batteries in solving the energy storage issues associate with the modern world.

Year 7 students have been deepening their learning of science throughout the term, with topics like Energy, Separation techniques and Genes and Evolution. Additionally, students in KS3 have had the opportunity to attend science club on a Wednesday afternoon. Students so far have created 'Oobleck', a substance that acts as both a liquid and a solid, created catapults, investigated neutralisation, and made and launched air propelled rockets. Students have engaged amazingly in the tasks and the club is going from strength to strength.



The results from an investigation on the effectiveness of handwashing on the growth of bacteria
1) Unwashed hands 2) hands washed with soap
3) washed with hand sanitiser 4) washed with soap and then hand sanitiser.

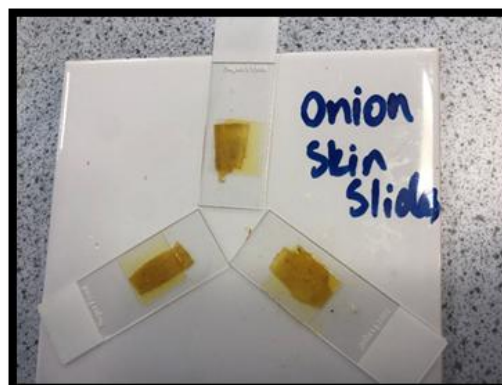
Year 9 students have begun the GCSE curriculum, and have taken to the content extremely well. The first topics include cell biology, structure of the atom and energy stores and resources.

The following image shows slides prepared by students to investigate the structure of onion skin cells, which were then observed under the microscope.



Year 8 learners have been deepening their understanding of the world. Particular highlights have been thinking about diseases and immunity, investigating the effectiveness of hand cleaning to reduce the growth of bacteria, as well as topics like the Earth and Atmosphere, forces and reactivity of metals.

Additionally, all year 8 students went up to the Science Museum in London. The particular resounding highlight of the trip was the "Wonderlab", where students were treated to try out scientific principles through interactive demos and activities.



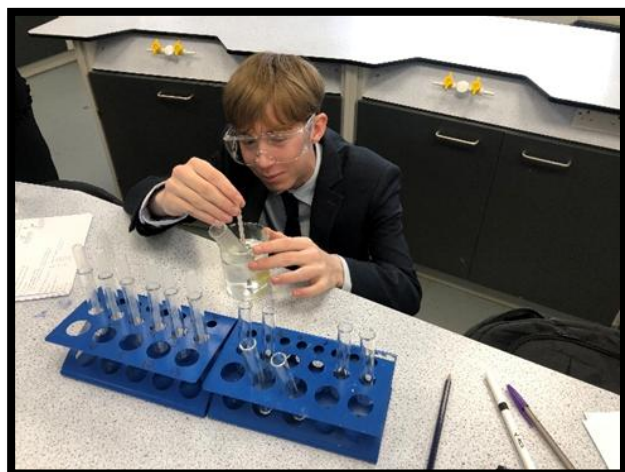
Year 10 students have had the opportunity to attend either Monkey World or the Bovington Tank Museum. Students had the chance to learn about the preservation, conservation, rescue and rehabilitation of primates, or the engineering, piloting and impacts that Tanks have had on the modern world.



Year 11 students are getting ready for their GCSEs. All students have finished the curriculum, and will be revising to be suitably prepared for the exams.

KS5 science learners are also busy preparing for external examinations. Both year 12 and year 13 students are taking exams this summer, and all students are demonstrating dedication and passion for the subjects at this extremely important part of the year.

Below are some images of year 12 chemists as they complete a required practical, where they are identifying unknown chemicals using test tube reactions.



Competitions

Congratulations to all those who took part in Physics competitions this term:

Year 12 Senior Physics Challenge (online)

GOLD - Harry Ford

SILVER - Joshua Martinez, Amelia Roberts

BRONZE - Oscar Carpenter, Arthur Cass, Victoria Figueira-Diez, Alfred Jobi, Theo Ktori, Mikulas Nezhoda, Ayo Ogunwale and Aaron Richards

Year 11 Intermediate Physics Challenge (online)

Congratulations to Eve Christie and Louie Newsom who achieved GOLD (top 20% of over 6000 students). We also had 17 SILVER awards (top 45%) this year.

Year 11 Intermediate Physics Challenge (written)

Well done to Connor Dales, Louie Newsom and Gabriel Owen-Williams who did the 1 hour written Physics challenge at the end of DC2 week! We await their results.

As always, the summer term will be a busy one for Science competitions. Students can look forward to: Y7&8 BPhO Physics Challenge, Y9&10 Biology Challenge, Y10 BPhO Junior Physics Challenge, Y10 National Scientific Thinking Challenge.

SPARX SCIENCE

Students from Y7-Y11 are now making the most of Sparx Science. Remember you do not need to wait for your teacher to set you work, you can always make use of the independent learning tasks on the platform. This would be a great way to prepare for DC assessments.

We have a monthly leaderboard for Sparx performance in each year group. Congratulations to the following students who, at the time of writing, are the top 10 overall performers in each year group:

Year 7 - Natalia Napora, Helena Saiju, Jeswin Antony, Diyan Kataria, Florrie Bloomer, Elizabeth Crowter, Isabella Dedman, Amy Fitzpatrick, Aleksanders Hodoss and Jessica White.

Year 8 - Erin Bayley, Rhys Dickinson, Harryson Crowley, Isaac Yeboah-Regis, Myla Wincell, Jakub Sienniak, Aaron Sijo, Ruby Brown, Arthur Calver and Giuseppe Testa

Year 9 - Alex Cook, Annabel Chandler, Trey Parry, Karla Timotin, Charlotte Clarke, Tunde Szabo-Laborcz, Bertie Cresswell, Charlie Davis, Mia Queally and Marcel Ceglinski

Year 10 - Fiona Jacob, Aurora Gjoka, Vienne Doliente, Joseph Reyes, Aude Calmet, Teri-Rose Haggerty, Selena Mikhael, Caitlin Simmonds, Hayden Parker and Seyara Ponweera

Year 11 - Gabriel Corrales, Charlotte Parsons, Diego Lekvinadze Marrero, Eliza Cork, Hana Cook, Megan Clayton, Daniel Elliman, Eve Christie, Connor Dales and Sabina Ambros-Carrilero

British Biology Olympiad

A number of our students recently took part in the British Biology Olympiad. The Olympiad is designed to test students' biological intuition and problem-solving skills and is normally aimed at Sixth Form students. This year we went bold and also entered some more able Year 10 and 11 students, who stepped up to take on this highly challenging competition early.

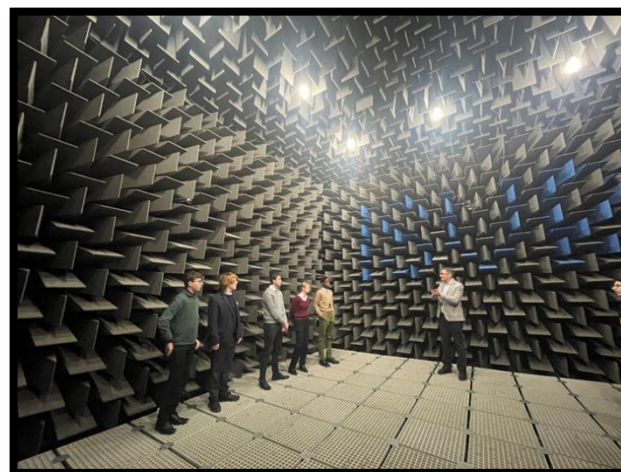


A special well done to Eve, Loui and Sabina, who achieved Bronze awards, an excellent result against such strong national competition.

A huge thank you to Dr Webb-Blofeld in her role as Most Able coordinator in organising and preparing the students.

A Level Physics visit to ISVR

This term our Year 12 Physics students and some Year 10 students visited the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research (ISVR) at the University of Southampton. They heard a lecture on sound, and then had a tour of the facilities, including the anechoic chamber, the reverberation chamber and the 3D audio-lab. A fascinating experience, giving the students an insight into how research can lead to real-life applications and products.



SEND

Staffing changes

We were sad to see Miss Silver, our KS3 Coordinator, leave St Romero's, but we wish her every success in her future endeavours. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Stevenson to the role and wish her every success as she takes on this position.

Ice Skating Visit

We held our annual ice-skating trip in December. This much loved event is always a highlight of the year, providing students with the opportunity to celebrate their achievements and enjoy a memorable day together.

Cake Sale

The LSA team supported a staff cake sale, to help raise funds for one of our Learning Support Assistant sons, Luke Awde. Luke is currently in our Sixth Form and taking part in the ANCOP trip to the Philippines. A total of £177.00 was raised, making the event a great success!



With thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to our incredible team of LSAs. They are an exceptionally caring and hardworking team who consistently go above and beyond. Their dedication and commitment ensure our students receive the very best support each and every day.



Mental Health & Well Being

Our Mental Health Champions meet every week and discuss the latest wellbeing issues. Students are champions for their tutor group and bring along questions or issues to be discussed. A big welcome to Miss Saksena, who has joined us this year as our second staff champion; she has been sharing top tips for managing anxiety during stressful times, such as assessments.

This term we have been learning about the important link between healthy eating and a healthy mind. Students from years 7-10 are now working on a healthy and fun menu to request from our canteen, so watch this space! For top tips on the importance of a healthy diet and to learn more about food groups, please go to the Mind website: <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/food-and-mental-health/>

Our big project this year is setting up a new wellbeing newspaper which will be published termly. Students are currently writing articles and conducting interviews for the first edition which will be published in April. We regularly practice a range of mindfulness techniques and ask our champions to share them in tutor groups. This includes meditation techniques, drawing our emotions and sharing reading for wellbeing. Have you explored the resources for parents on the Young Minds website? There is an A-Z of mental health, as well as lots of advice on how to talk to your child about mental health issues. If you need to seek advice, please use their helpline or if you prefer send a message online. They are a fantastic charity who work across the UK supporting children and their parents.

Speak to us on the phone



Call our Parents Helpline for free on [0808 802 5544](tel:08088025544).

We're open Monday to Friday. You can call us:

- from 9.30am - 4pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays
- from 9.30am - 6pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Chat to us online



To chat to us online, click on the chat icon in the bottom righthand corner of your screen. Our chat is open Monday to Friday, 9.30am - 4pm.

When we're closed, you can leave us a message by clicking on the chat icon in the bottom righthand corner of your screen. We'll reply to you by email in 3-5 working days.

Our next Mental Health Awareness Week is coming up in the summer term and will focus on our three key strategies to support our mental health: get talking, get active and get serving. There will be a range of activities through the week, as well as some outdoor fun to spend some time with nature. All money raised from the week will go to our mental health charity: Young Minds.



Our Mental Health Champions meet every Wednesday lunchtime in English 1.

Safeguarding support in school

Students can access the following staff listed below:

Mrs L Stewart lstewart@stromeros.co.uk

Mr Bell sbell@stromeros.co.uk

Mrs Hedger jhedger@stromero.co.uk

Mrs C Krost ckrost@stromeros.co.uk

Miss G Legg glegg@stromeros.co.uk

Mental Health First Aiders

What are Mental Health Support First Aiders? There are members of staff in school who can support students who are concerned that they may be experiencing a negative impact on their mental health and would benefit from sign posting and support from a member of staff who has been trained in mental health first aid. These members of staff are:

Mr Bell sbell@stromeros.co.uk

Miss Saksena asaksena@stromeros.co.uk

Mr Cutler icutler@stromeros.co.uk

Mrs Rys-Kent lrys-kent@stromeros.co.uk

Miss Hughes ehughes@stromeros.co.uk

Mrs Stewart lstewart@stromeros.co.uk

Mr Awde mawde@stromeros.co.uk

Mrs Hockett nhockett@stromeros.co.uk



St Oscar Romero continues to celebrate another busy and successful period of sport across a wide range of activities. Students have represented the school with pride in district leagues, county competitions, and national fixtures, demonstrating outstanding commitment, teamwork, and resilience.

Across football, rugby, basketball, netball, athletics and more, our teams have produced some fantastic performances and memorable moments. From historic cup runs and district titles to individual achievements at regional and national level, this term has once again highlighted the strength of sport at Romero.

We congratulate all students who have taken part and thank the staff, coaches, and supporters who continue to make these opportunities possible.

Boys' Football - Term Highlights

Year 7 - Historic National Cup Run

The Year 7 boys enjoyed a fantastic run in the English Schools National Cup, reaching the Fifth Round, the furthest a Romero team has progressed in the competition.

A superb 4–1 victory over Reigate in the Fourth Round saw Joshi Ansell produce a standout performance, scoring a brilliant hat-trick and earning Player of the Match honours. The cup journey ended in the Fifth Round with a 3–0 defeat to Durrington, but the squad competed admirably, with Spencer Ampomah delivering a strong performance to earn Player of the Match.



Year 10 - Competitive District League Campaign

Year 10 competed strongly in the District League, beginning with a confident 2–0 victory over Steyning. Zion Gisbey was particularly influential throughout the match, leading the team with energy and composure.

They followed this with an exciting 3–3 draw against Durrington, where Gisbey again played a key role in a high-tempo game. Despite a

challenging 5–1 defeat against Angmering, the team showed determination, with Henry Goodwin producing a notable individual performance.

Year 11 - Determined Performances in the District League

The Year 11 squad faced a demanding District League schedule, battling hard in several competitive fixtures. Despite losses to Sir Robert Woodard Academy (4–2) and Steyning (3–0), players such as Harvey Read, Thomas Smith and Kian O'Reilly produced strong performances throughout.

The team ended their campaign on a high note with a well-earned 2–0 victory over St Andrew's, with Hayden Hickey, Josh Sheward and Harvey Read all playing key roles in securing the win.



Girls' Football - Term Highlights

Year 7 - Strong League Performances



The Year 7 girls have made an excellent start to their District League campaign, producing some impressive results. A dominant 5–0 victory against Steyning saw outstanding contributions from Amy Fitzpatrick, Summer Knee and Ivy Quinn, while Ava Rapps earned Player of the Match.

The team followed this with a hard-fought 0–0 draw against Durrington, with Ivy Quinn and Talia West standing out and Helen Tran awarded Player of the Match. Another excellent performance came in a 5–1 win over The Littlehampton Academy, where Ava Rapps scored a superb hat-trick, supported by Molly Newton and Amy Fitzpatrick. Helen Tran once again delivered a standout display to claim Player of the Match.

Under 14 - High-Scoring District League Victory

The U14 girls produced an excellent attacking performance in their District League fixture against Durrington, securing a convincing 7–2 win. Alba Weston, Willow Hickey and Summer Woods all made significant contributions, while Gracie Baker's all round performance earned her Player of the Match.



Under 16 - District Tournament Success

The U16 girls competed in the District 6-a-side tournament, finishing in a strong 3rd place overall. The team secured a win against The Littlehampton Academy and battled to draws with both Sir Robert Woodard Academy and Davison before narrowly losing to Steyning.



Strong performances came from Eve Christie, Bella Roberts and Emily Budd, with Bella Roberts producing an exceptional tournament display to earn Player of the Tournament.

Under 13 – Competitive Fixtures and Resilience

The U13 boys faced several challenging fixtures this term. In the County Plate competition, they narrowly lost 6–4 to St Philip Howard despite strong performances from Oliver Margalef-Boustead and Year 7 player Felix Steele.

Further close contests followed in the District League, including a 9–7 loss to Steyning Rock Road and a narrow 4–3 defeat to Durrington. Players such as Henri Boyle, Orson Senders and Zain Boyland showed excellent commitment throughout these fixtures.

Boys' Rugby – Term Highlights



Year 10 – Regional Rugby League Experience

Year 10 took part in a Regional Rugby League Festival, where they gained valuable experience competing against strong opposition. The team secured one win against Long Dean School while putting in determined performances across the tournament. Tom Smith, Tom Hunter and Dillon Cane were particularly influential.



They also faced a tough County Cup fixture against Warden Park, with Joshua Treagus standing out despite a difficult result. The team later competed in a Rugby 7's tournament, performing well but narrowly missing out on qualification from the pool stages.

Girls' Rugby – Term Highlights

Under 14 – County Champions

The U14 girls enjoyed an outstanding term in county competition. At the U14 Girls Rugby Festival, the A team finished 1st place, while the B team secured an impressive 3rd place finish.

Their success continued in the County Cup Final, where the team produced superb performances to become County Champions. Victories over Cardinal Newman (17–0) and Downlands (26–12) sealed the title, with Ella Gant and Melvina Smith delivering outstanding performances.



Boys' Basketball – Term Highlights

Under 13 – District League Champions

The U13 boys enjoyed a fantastic District League campaign, beginning with a dominant 48–8 win against Steyning. David Amaize, Kryz Chiu and Max Berrera all delivered excellent performances. In the District League semi-final, the team secured a hard-fought 34–28 victory over Worthing High School, with Max Berrera earning Player of the Match. The final proved to be an exciting contest, as the team edged past Angmering 51–49 to become District League Champions for the second consecutive year. Max Berrera once again delivered a standout performance in the final.



Under 15 – Mixed Results in the District League

The U15 boys faced strong opposition in the District League. Despite losses to Durrington and Bohunt Black, players such as Marc Ambros-Carrilero and Austin Heath delivered determined performances.

The team ended on a positive note with a 33–20 victory over Bohunt Green, where Marc Ambros-Carrilero played a key role.

Girls' Basketball – Term Highlights

Under 12 – District Finalists

The U12 girls produced an excellent run in the District League. Strong wins against St Andrew's (36–14) and Shoreham (32–8) showcased the team's quality, with standout contributions from Mia Springer, Izzy Proc, Helen Tran and Talia West.

They continued their impressive form with a convincing 42–12 win over Durrington in the semi-final. In the final, the team fought hard but narrowly lost 48–40 to Angmering. Despite the result, players such as Izzy Proc, Mia Springer and Amy Fitzpatrick performed superbly, with Helen Tran once again earning Player of the Match.



Under 14 – District Tournament Competition



The U14 girls competed strongly in the District Tournament against teams including Worthing High, Angmering, Shoreham and Sir Robert Woodard Academy, finishing in 4th place overall. Willow Hickey, Emilia Griggs, Amber Edbrooke and Sienna Broad all delivered notable performances.

Under 16 – Close District League Matches

The U16 girls secured a narrow but well-earned 16–11 victory against Durrington, with strong performances from Maddie Whiteley, Emily Luke and Eve Christie. A closely contested match against Angmering followed, ending in a narrow 9–8 defeat, with Whiteley again delivering a standout performance.



Girls' Netball – Term Highlights

Year 7 – Strong League Performances



Year 7 enjoyed an excellent start to their District League campaign. The A team secured a convincing 10–0 victory against Bohunt, while the B team followed with an impressive 11–2 win. Helen Tran and Amelia Burleigh both earned Player of the Match for their performances.

Year 8 – Competitive League Fixtures and Cup Semi-Final

The Year 8 squads faced a busy schedule in the District League and County Cup competitions. The A team delivered a strong 25–6 win over Shoreham Academy, while the B team battled through several challenging fixtures.

In the County Cup Semi-Final, the team put in a determined performance against Hurst, with Amber Edbrooke and Hollie Luke standing out. Additional strong performances across the season came from players including Bella Frost, Annie McCarthy, Zara Lumsdon and Jessica Iwuamadi.



Year 9 – Excellent League Victories

Year 9 produced several excellent results in the District League. The A team secured impressive wins over Davison (39–18) and Davison B (30–16), while the B team recorded a strong 31–15 victory against Davison B.

Key performances came from players such as Erin Easton, Emilia Griggs, Gracie Baker, Sasha Omokaro and Sofia Manning-Smith.



Year 10 – National and County Cup Progress

The Year 10 squad enjoyed success in both national and county competitions. A strong 28–20 victory over Seaford College in the Sisters in Sport National Plate competition highlighted the team's quality.

The team also progressed to the Sussex Knockout Cup Semi-Finals after a narrow 31–27 win against Seaford. Despite later defeats to Brighton College and Epsom College in cup competitions, the team performed admirably against strong opposition.



Under 16 – District Tournament Champions



The U16 team delivered an outstanding performance at the District Tournament, winning all of their matches to become District Champions. Victories over Steyning, Davison, Durrington and Sir Robert Woodard Academy highlighted the team's strength and teamwork, with the entire squad contributing to the success.

Athletics – Term Highlights

Indoor Athletics – District Qualification Success

Our Year 7 and Year 8 indoor athletics teams competed brilliantly in the District Qualifying Round, taking part in a variety of track and field events.

Both Year 8 teams produced outstanding performances, including relay victories and strong individual races from Isaac Yeboah-Regis, Felix Dumitrascu, Willow Hickey, Olivia Hunter, Niamh Appleby, Hope Byrne and Annie McCarthy. Both teams won their events overall and secured qualification for the County Finals.



The Year 7 team also delivered an exceptional performance. Standout victories came from Spencer Ampomah, Joshi Ansell and Riley Ayre in the boys' races, while Molly Newton, Billie Sutton and Helen Tran led strong performances for the girls. Relay teams also claimed multiple victories.

In an historic achievement for the school, all four Year 7 and Year 8 boys' and girls' teams qualified for the County Finals for the first time.



Cross-Country – Term Highlights

Brighton Waterhall Competition

Romero runners competed in a challenging cross-country event at Brighton Waterhall, navigating demanding hills and trails over distances ranging from 3km to 4.8km.

All athletes completed their races with determination and resilience. Special recognition goes to Harryson Crowley, Willow Hickey, Noah Brereton and Florence Colgate for their standout performances.



Gymnastics – Term Highlights



Our KS4 gymnasts travelled to Davison CE High School for Girls to perform their GCSE PE NEA routines. The team delivered some impressive performances and represented the school with pride and determination.

Although the team did not place this year, the gymnasts demonstrated excellent commitment, teamwork and positivity throughout their preparation and performances. Their effort and professionalism made them outstanding ambassadors for the school.

Star Performers beyond the classroom

Riley Ayre – Outstanding Cross Country Achievements

Riley Ayre competed in the South of England Cross Country Championships, finishing an excellent 16th place out of more than 200 athletes in the Under 13 race. Among Year 7 runners, he is believed to have finished either first or second and was the highest-placed athlete from Sussex.

Riley then produced another outstanding performance at the Chichester Corporate Challenge Road Race, winning the Year 7 Boys race and setting a new course record of 6:38 for the 2.1km distance - beating the previous record by 11 seconds. With the series running since 1992, this achievement represents the fastest time recorded in over 30 years.



Mia Springer – Inter-Regional Netball Success

Congratulations to Mia Springer, who represented U12 Mix Storms Sussex West at the South Aspire Inter-Regional Tournament Finals at Essex University. Mia and her team delivered an excellent performance, finishing in 2nd place overall.

Bella Roberts – England U16 Selection

Bella Roberts has been selected to join

the England U16 squad as a training player for an upcoming tournament in France. As a current U15 player, this is an exceptional achievement, as opportunities to train with an older national squad are extremely rare. Bella will train with the team over a ten-day period during the Easter break and may also feature in matches if required.



New sporting opportunities

Hockey Development Programme

Hockey training at Angmering continues to grow, with students making excellent progress in developing their skills. After focusing on passing techniques, sessions have now moved on to dribbling and tackling as the group prepares for practice matches.



Coach feedback has been extremely positive, with particular praise for Orson Senders and Ava Smith-Bayley. Both students have been invited to join Worthing Hockey Club in recognition of their dedication and rapid improvement.



It has been a fantastic and busy Spring Term with a wide range of competitions and activities taking place, giving students the opportunity to get involved, challenge themselves and earn valuable house points. From the excitement of the paper aeroplane competition to the creativity shown in creative writing, and the strategic thinking demonstrated in chess, it has been brilliant to see so many students taking part and representing their four houses with enthusiasm.

One of the highlights has been our Inclusive Dance competition, which celebrated teamwork, creativity and confidence, with students supporting each other and showing real team spirit. We have also been encouraging our students to take part in 'Random Acts of Kindness', reminding us all that small actions can make a big difference to our school community.

There is still plenty to look forward to this term, keep an eye out for upcoming events!

Paper aeroplane competition

Earlier this term, a paper aeroplane competition was held, where students designed and built their own planes to test for distance and flight time. The activity encouraged creativity, problem solving, and friendly competition, while also introducing basic principles of aerodynamics. Students were highly engaged and enjoyed experimenting with different designs to see which performed best.



Inclusive dance

Our Inclusive Dance Competition was a fantastic celebration of creativity, teamwork and confidence across the four houses. Students worked together to create short dance pieces that focused on participation and supporting one another, showing that dance is truly for everyone. It was wonderful to see such a positive atmosphere, with students encouraging their peers and celebrating each other's ideas. The performances showcased a range of movement styles and lots of enthusiasm, demonstrating great team spirit and collaboration. A huge well done to everyone who took part and contributed to making the event such an enjoyable and inclusive experience.

Creative writing 'A new year'

At the start of the year students were invited to take part in a creative writing challenge with the theme of a "New Year". We had many entries from across all year groups. We are awaiting the results with support of the English department, the winners will be announced in the next Head of House assembly!

Chess tournament

The chess tournament has been very popular this year. We have had our highest number of students enter. The LRC even had to purchase some new boards and every lunch time there are students battling it out to be crowned The Romero's Chess Champion. Perhaps it is the new House trophy that has inspired everyone to have the honour of being the first name engraved on it. We will keep you posted on the results when the tournament has finished at the end of March.



TIK TOKO dance

Coming up soon is our TikTok Dance Competition, which we are very excited about. This competition will give students the opportunity to recreate popular TikTok dances or choreograph their own short routines to perform for house points. We hope this will encourage lots of students to get involved, have fun and show off their creativity and confidence. Whether performing solo or in small groups, we are looking forward to seeing the energy, personality and pride that students bring to the challenge!

Random acts of kindness

During Acts of Random Kindness week, students were given a slip outlining simple acts of kindness to complete throughout the week. The initiative encouraged students to be thoughtful and supportive towards others, aiming to spread positivity across the school. Many students engaged enthusiastically, helping to create a more considerate and caring school environment.



National Schools Football Week

On the week commencing 23rd March it is the National Schools Football Week. This will be an opportunity for all students in PE lessons to take part in football challenges and games such as; tournaments, kicky up challenges, cross bar challenge and skill tasks. Students should speak to the PE department for more information. Thank you to the sports leaders who will be helping organise the results.

Next term - There are many exciting competitions coming up next half term, with brighter weather it is great to be able to enjoy the opportunity to go outside. We have; Romero Wimbledon, Colour Run and Romero Run (5km/10km) and many more to look out for! #getinvolved



Student Leadership

Student Leadership Update from Faith & Student Ambassador Lead – Mr Chaffer

Our amazing Ambassadors from both KS4 Years have been nothing but inspirational throughout this term. Led this term by Mr Watts, they have assisted and supported each other to help at many Romero events across both the main School and our Sixth Form.

These have included:

- Parents evenings for Years 7, 9 and 10
- Guided Pathways Evening (for Year 9)
- Assemblies, Liturgy and Mass
- DC - Exam Hall preparation
- Pi Day
- Harry Potter Day
- School Feast Day

It is nearly impossible to think that we are coming up for one year since our current Year 10 Ambassadors were then in Year 9, and were about to start on their journey within this amazing community; and with that thought, we are on the horizon of when I will announce the opening date for the next application of 'want to be' Ambassadors for the Academic Year 2026/27. It is a full process including initial application, a shortlist to interview, followed by interview, panel discussions and finally those that have been awarded Ambassador status will be announced (during the Summer term) within a Celebration Assembly.

The opportunity to be a part of our Student Leadership is not to be missed, therefore if your son or daughter would like to know more, then please do ask them to come and speak with me, or better still speak to one of our current Year 10 or Year 11 Ambassadors, as I am sure they will say the same thing, go for it. They all work extremely hard, get actively involved with so many events and school/ community and also fundraising initiatives, they deserve the credit they get and they are a huge asset to our school and daily life within Romero's....



Head of Year 7

Year 7 Update from Head of Year – Mrs Trace

It has been a lovely term for us in Year 7, which of course has culminated in our simply brilliant week away in Osmington Bay. A full write up will follow separately, but let it be said that brilliant memories were made!

Firstly, I would like to praise the whole of Year 7 for the way they have embraced every learning opportunity this term, they have coped brilliantly both in class and at home with the increasing academic challenge of Year 7, and of course, and also had lots of fun in the meantime. Well done all of you!



World Book Day was massive this year, with Year 7 really leading the reading pack! I was particularly impressed by Paddington and Mr Fox, who even worked 'in role', but there were so many fabulous costumes this year! Great job Year 7!



We have had some huge sporting successes this term in netball, basketball, football, rugby and cross-country (to name a few), our teams have acquitted themselves simply brilliantly, this year group make me very excited for Sports' Day next term. In addition to this, many students have performed brilliantly in their chosen sports outside of school, whether it be on the running track, boxing ring or football

pitch. It continues to be an absolute joy to receive email updates from parents and carers proud to share the successes and challenges faced by our students.



It is not just sporting events though, we have got some brilliant musicians too, across so many disciplines, plus our dancers, actors and public speakers. Every time I have asked for a volunteer for assembly to read, write a prayer, sing, or play an instrument, I have had a whole swathe of volunteers.

And let us not forget the quite brilliant Annie Jr production with year 7 students involved, in rather important roles!



We have had some brilliant opportunities to head out of the classroom this term, our fantastic STEM Week visit to Herstmonceux Observatory encouraged team building and problem-solving skills, plus we stretched our brains and learned about the wonderful world of space. If you have an opportunity to head to Herstmonceux Observatory as a family over the Easter holidays – do!



Let us not forget the sleep out and the sleep over for our chosen charities, and the disco! I am so pleased to see so many Year 7 students getting stuck into every extra-curricular opportunity, embracing their Romero's life!

Have a lovely Easter break everyone, please take time to recharge and come back ready for the last amazing term of Year 7!



Head of Year 8

Year 8 Update from Head of Year – Mrs Rys-Kent

Spring has arrived, and we are getting ready to welcome the Summer term. It is a great moment to look back on the past few months. Our students have been fully engaged in their learning while also enjoying some memorable experiences outside the classroom, including the school disco, a sleepover, and a visit to the Science Museum in London.

Students in Year 8 have shown great dedication throughout the term, earning an impressive number of positive points and receiving many certificates for their efforts. Altogether, they achieved a remarkable total of 15190 positive points, which is a fantastic accomplishment.

The following students were invited to a special breakfast reward in recognition of their excellent attitude to learning. They achieved an impressive average score between 1.00 and 1.16 for their attitude to learning in DC1.



Well done to Maria, Niamh, Aleena, Noah M.S., Blossom, Erin M., Nathan, Freddie, Summer, Evelina, Hope, Seth, Malaqui, Fia, Emilio, Sienna, Augusta, Erin B., Felix K. and Zara. It is truly a proud moment to be surrounded by students who relentlessly strive to be the best they can be!

And finally, I would like to share the performing success of Hannah McAdams with you.

Hannah achieved first place at the South Coast Dance Competition, performing “My House” from Matilda.

She competed against 16 other performers and achieved an outstanding score of 92 out of 100.

Hannah was awarded a trophy for the Best Musical Theatre Performance of the whole festival, covering all age groups. What an incredible achievement!



Wishing you all a Happy Easter!



Head of Year 9

Year 9 Update from Head of Year – Mr Cutler

It has been my pleasure to continue to lead Year 9 through this most important term. Year 9 have been fantastic in their maturity and continual growth as we head towards the end of Key Stage 3 and commencement of GCSE studies. We saw a fantastic turn out for Guided Pathways evening and parents' evening, and we await confirmation of option subjects in the Summer Term. I have been most impressed with the year groups' maturity around making these most important choices as a foundation to GCSE and then in turn sixth form choices. Mr Bell hosted a really informative evening about the issues around mobile phones. with contributions from community experts including the Police and the NHS.

Attendance has been fantastic with consistent high levels of attendance and this has continued to improve as the term has progressed. Year 9 also had a brilliant trip to the Science Museum in London for a fascinating look at some unique science history. Furthermore, Year 9 also visited Bletchley Park as part of STEM week to look at the efforts of mathematicians, linguists and classicists in breaking the Enigma code and contributing to the Allies victory in World War 2.

Mr Dean has taken Year 9 through a range of careers sessions and events including how AI may change the future jobs market as well as a session on working in the Law as part of the "All Rise" session with a barrister. All have been really well received and key input into students' career choices and also options. We have also seen out Year 9 Geography students' flag designs taken to the Antarctic.

This term has seen lots of sporting success for Year 9. Our netball and rugby teams have won nearly every fixture. It has been brilliant to see the girl's rugby team taking part in many rugby tournaments, both home and away.

As we are closing the term we are looking to maintain our excellent attendance, maintain our focus and implement key improvements from our in-class assessments for the Spring Term.



Our Year 9 Gold Badge Recipients!

- Marcel Ceglinski
- Alex Pope
- Joe Figuracion
- Erin Easton





Head of Year 10

Year 10 Update from Head of Year – Mr Strudwick

As we move through the Spring Term, it is a great opportunity to reflect on the continued hard work and positive attitude shown by our Year 10 students. They have approached the term with maturity and focus, and it has been wonderful to see how well they continue to conduct themselves both in lessons and around the school.

Many students have been representing the year group brilliantly in extracurricular activities. We have enjoyed some excellent results in both netball and football over the past term, and it has been fantastic to see so many students taking part and showing great teamwork and commitment.



Alongside this, students have been continuing to think about their futures. Recent assemblies have focused on work experience, helping students prepare for the important opportunity to experience what 'life after Romero's' is like.

We have also had a number of students take part in the British Biology Olympiad, which is a fantastic opportunity to challenge themselves academically and explore their interest in science at a higher level. It is always great to see students engaging in opportunities beyond the classroom.



Thank you to all of our Year 10 students for the positive contribution they make to our school community.



Thomas Smith – Rugby Success!



Thomas has recently been selected for the prestigious UR7's (Ultimate Rugby 7's) Elite Rugby 7's Academy.

Thomas attended the selection session in Epping and was informed the very next evening that he had been successfully selected. This is a tremendous achievement and reflects the consistent hard work, dedication and commitment Thomas shows, both with Worthing Rugby Club and in representing the school rugby team.



Year 11 Update from Head of Year - Mr Davies

As the term ends, we reflect on the outstanding achievements of our students, whose dedication and enthusiasm continue to inspire. Their commitment to learning, both in and out of the classroom, is truly remarkable. In this edition, I will highlight their talents and successes.

Conference Day 2026



Early in the year, students enjoyed an inspiring conference day featuring a masterclass from Michele Miller and an engaging session with the inspiring Mr Lee Spencer, aka the Rowing Marine. With valuable well-being workshops and expert guidance, the day was both motivating and insightful. We are confident it will have a lasting impact on their progress come exam season in May.



10k Success - Congratulations to Gabriel on completing his first 10K race, a fantastic achievement! His dedication and determination paid off, making this an impressive milestone. Well done, Gabriel!

Year 11 Football -
The Year 11 football team has been giving their all throughout the season, showing great skill, teamwork, and determination. With the next few weeks of fixtures crucial in



deciding whether they qualify for the knockout stages, we wish them the very best of luck and look forward to cheering them on.

Amazing Year 11 - We are immensely proud of this incredible group of students. Over the past year, they have demonstrated resilience, creativity, and kindness despite the pressures of Year 11. What truly sets them apart is their unwavering support for each other and their wider community. Their positivity and strong sense of unity are truly inspiring, and we have no doubt they will achieve great things in the future.



Final word from me - Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our exceptional students. Even in a challenging and demanding year, their dedication, positive attitude, and perseverance have been truly impressive. They are a credit to you, to themselves, and to our school.



Update from Head of Sixth Form - Mr Noye

The spring term in Sixth Form has simply flown by. Our Year 12 and 13 students have worked extremely hard, as always, and continue to lead by professional example to the rest of the school. We are so proud of how they have coped with the challenge of their DC1 and 2 examinations and their work ethic, attitude and dedication to their studies is exceptional.



A key feature of our spring term has been over 50 of our Year 13 students applying to universities all over the country through the UCAS process. We are delighted to share that our students are receiving offers from top universities on account of the strength of the applications, personal statements and predicted grades. Particularly congratulations go to Ashley Coleman, Connor Frogley and Shay Wheeler, all of whom have successfully been offered places at Cambridge or Oxbridge universities in September 2026.



In this whole school newsletter there are some highlights of our term, however, much more information as well as photos, videos and social media links can be found on our interactive newsletter (which is under construction at present) and will be shared in due course.

Whilst our current students continue to thrive, plans are in full swing to welcome over 120 new Sixth Formers in September 2026. We have been overwhelmed by the volume of applications and look forward to welcoming back many of our current Year 11 students as well as welcoming students from other local schools.

Answering the Cry of the Poor (ANCOP)



In June this year, approximately 28 Sixth Form students and 4 staff will travel to the Philippines to work as part of ANCOP for their Work Experience. During this trip we will be supporting housing and development, nursing and medical care and education, as well as immersing ourselves in the culture. However, our major project is to raise over £25,000 to support the building of an indoor facility for the community of Samal, who at present have nowhere to gather together as a community to eat, play and pray. It is a challenge that the Sixth Form students are really inspired by and we look forward to putting our faith in to action to change lives. Emmeline in Year 13 (pictured) took part as a volunteer last summer.

Our first ever Sixth Form ski trip to Italy in February was a huge success. Next year we will be skiing in Andorra, look out for further updates!





The Friends of Romero team would like to thank you for your continued support for our events. All proceeds raised from FOR events are used to support special projects and purchase equipment to benefit the students. Your support is vital and we could not do this without you.

Year 7 and 8 Disco

The annual Disco for Years 7 and 8 was on Friday, 27th Feb. We were delighted to welcome over 130 students from across both year groups. With dancing, games, hot dogs, sweet treats, and not forgetting the photo booth, everyone had a great time.

Dates for your Diaries

We have got a busy schedule of events this year and we are delighted to confirm the following events: -

Wrestling - Friday, 24th April

Romero Run - Sunday, 21st June

Summer Fair - Saturday, 11th July

Fireworks - Friday, 6th November

Christmas Fair - Friday, 4th December

Watch out for further details of each event, included in the Head of Year Weekly Newsletters.

Friends of Romero Funding

All proceeds from FOR events are used to fund school projects and equipment. These are some of the requests we have been able to fund since September 2025;

- Third school Minibus - funding for a second year
- Tumble Dryer - enabling PE kits, bibs, towels and equipment to be dried quickly and hygienically, particularly after outdoor lessons in poor weather.
- A camera and tripod - used to film practical assessments for multiple GCSE courses, including PE, English and MFL.
- Boot wiper with scraper - allowing students to remove mud quickly and effectively after lessons or fixtures. Improving safety, minimising slip hazard risks and protecting the surface of the netball courts.

Your School Lottery

We are delighted to tell you that, since joining in September 2022, your ticket purchases have raised over £4,700 for the school! So please register and buy your tickets from Your School Lottery at

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/st-oscar-romero-catholic-school>

The jackpot is £25,000 for matching all 6 numbers.

Second Hand Uniform

We strive to offer second hand uniform for sale, but often struggle due to very limited stocks. If you have any unrequired uniform, especially PE kits in good condition, please bring it to the School Office marked "Attention FOR". All donations gratefully received.

For uniform requests, please email for@stromeros.co.uk and include details of requirements, size and your contact details. We cannot always fulfil your requirements but we will help if we can.

Clothes Bank

Don not forget to use our clothes bank, located just inside the exit gates, for your unwanted clothes, shoes, bags, belts, hats, gloves, bed linen, towels and sleeping bags. Please ensure donations are securely bagged. This is an easy way for us to raise funds for the school, so please remember us when you are spring cleaning.

As we have advised, all proceeds raised from FOR events are used to support special projects and purchase equipment to benefit our students. However, these events would not be possible without our wonderful volunteers. Thank you so much to those of you who give your time.

If you would like to find out more about Friends of Romero, what we do and, maybe, give volunteering a try, please contact us at: for@stromeros.co.uk