



**Feel good!** Summer 2025

# Hello and welcome

We recently discovered that Tracie has been a student artist at Rowan for 20 years! As our welcome to you for the Summer Feel Good who better to do the job then Tracie herself.



'Welcome everyone to Rowan's summer newsletter. We've had a busy start to the year with projects and events. (As well as being a long-standing student artist at Rowan) I used to be the Representative Ambassador and now I am the Staff and Student Liaison. This is supporting the students and staff in building a bridge between the two.'

Tracie and I had a chat about the exciting and busy start to our year. 'John Lewis, Jewellery making, the art exhibition at the Guildhall in Cambridge (£4924), the Cambridge Half Marathon runners raised a lot of money for us (£5716), Painted Church exhibition, I have finished my challis for this and now I am making a bowl, and making a cross for it.'

## What is the biggest change over the last six months?

'We had a new roof, as it kept leaking, a little bit loud while they were fixing it but we got used to it. New solar panels up the top on the roof, saving us energy, new radiators and new air con - ready for the summer. I think the changes are brilliant because they are working!'

'A big thank you to staff, volunteers and students for their inspiration. Parents, carers and those supporting us outside of Rowan, thank you for all you do.'

Tracie Barham

Student artist / Student and Staff Liason

# Student Artist Spotlight

## Meet Elizabeth...

Elizabeth has been a part of Rowan for six years, attending every Monday to engage in the music and drama studios. It was a delight to chat with Elizabeth about her experiences at Rowan, particularly in the drama studio.



### What do you enjoy about drama?

'It's nice. We are doing another show. We have been practicing for this starting as a little seed and growing. We do warmups. I enjoy this. Getting your energy higher.'

### Why do you like coming to Rowan?

'It gets me out of the house. I don't like being at home, I get very bored. I would be watching TV. I've got loads of friends here.'

### Do you move and keep active in drama?

'Yep. We like exercise. Movement to music. The drama group is friendly and fun. I still love coming here. Just seeing all my lovely friends.'

### Are you looking forward to performing in front of an audience?

'It will be nice to see all the people at the theatre.'



If you had to describe Rowan what would you say?

'A lovely place! It helps all the students.'

Would you recommend it to others?

'Yep!'

# Reflections from our drama studio tutor



'In 2019 I was lucky enough to join the Rowan community. Soon after joining, it became clear our drama students are not only incredible actors, they also have an amazing sense of musicality which inspired me to introduce physical theatre. Physical theatre – or Movement to Music, as we call it – uses the body as the central tool for performance. It often merges with music to establish tone and rhythm, while using words as a secondary, expressive layer. It's about showing rather than telling, creating theatre that is visual, visceral, and often abstract. Movement to Music is wonderfully inclusive, allowing students with mobility issues (we often incorporate wheelchairs into our performances), students who are non-verbal, or those less confident reading and learning lines to fully participate.'

'In 2020, after many months of rehearsal, we were set to perform There's No Place Like Rowan at the Covent Garden Drama Centre when, just a week before the show date, we were told the centre was closing in line with government advice.'

'It wasn't until October 2023, that we felt ready to put on a show – our first in over four years. To say the show was a huge success is an understatement. We made the audience laugh, we made them cry – everyone said it was a joy to be a part of, and we all felt incredibly proud.'





‘Last year, we performed I Am What I Am, a thought-provoking piece of theatre based on the song It’s Okay to be Different, written by Rowan Music Students. And later this year, we’ll be stepping back on stage with a showcase of pieces the students have been working on over the past few months.’

‘Working at Rowan is an absolute privilege and teaching drama here is the icing on the cake. The students never fail to amaze. They are kind, sensitive, imaginative, impulsive, cheeky... I feel incredibly lucky to be part of this amazing community.’



## Become a student artist

Are you interested in joining Rowan? Would you like to find out more?

Get in touch and arrange an initial visit with our team. They will show you the arts centre, answer any questions and you will get an opportunity to see us in action.

### Contact us

☎ 01223 566027

✉ [student@rowanhumberstone.org.uk](mailto:student@rowanhumberstone.org.uk)



# Dates for your diary

## Evening art classes

We're now offering community classes two evenings a week. Check our website for details. To get updates on new classes, email [NEWS@rowanhumberstone.org.uk](mailto:NEWS@rowanhumberstone.org.uk) to join our newsletter.

STARTING

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SEPT

### Cambridge Open Studios

Explore our unique space and discover a diverse range of artworks created by our talented student artists.

**Location:** 40 Humberstone Road, Cambridge CB4 1JG

**Dates:** 19 and 20 July / 26 and 27 July

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**No need to book—just drop by and enjoy the art!**

### Walk for Rowan

In the week commencing the 15 September Rowan students will be taking part in our annual student fundraiser Walk for Rowan!



### Rowan artists Reimagine the Painted Church

Students have taken inspiration from the All Saints, Cambridge, Painted Church to create artwork in different media.

**Location:** All Saints, Cambridge, Painted Church

**Dates:** 20 and 21 September

**Time:** 1pm to 5pm each day

**FREE to attend**

### Sidney Sussex Music Event

Join us for an evening of music in aid of Rowan at the Sidney Sussex Chapel on Saturday 4 October from 7pm. Tickets available soon.

### Rowan Showcase

Save the date! Rowan students will be taking to the stage once more on Wednesday 22 October at the Covent Garden Theatre, Cambridge, from 5.30pm.

Sign up for our monthly **Feel Good Friday** to receive all our latest news, events and more.

Email **NEWS** to [communications@rowanhumberstone.org.uk](mailto:communications@rowanhumberstone.org.uk).

# All Saints, Painted Church

We are delighted to share our exciting initiative with the All Saints, Cambridge, Painted Church. At the start of the year, Rowan students were invited to explore the church and draw inspiration from its beautiful architecture and Arts and Crafts interior. They immersed themselves in the stunning surroundings, capturing photographs and engaging with the team. Upon returning to Rowan, they used these images to create their own artwork, which will be showcased at the church at an exhibition in September.

‘We are delighted to be working with the Friends of the Painted Church at Rowan’ says Abi, Creative Workshops Manager. ‘We all had a great time at the church with fantastic talks from Mary, Pat and James about the church and the artwork that is currently being shown there in the exhibition ‘Interlaced’. Many thanks for their hospitality and inspiration.’

## Rowan artists Reimagine the Painted Church

Join us on Saturday, September 20, and Sunday, September 21, from 1PM to 5PM each day at All Saints, Cambridge, the Painted Church, to view and explore the captivating artwork currently being created. The exhibition is free to attend. Stay connected with us on social media for updates on the exhibition and the evolving artwork!





/RowanCambridge



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