

rowan

Creating art, Improving lives



Feel good!

Winter 2025

Hello and welcome

'Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. I come to Rowan once a week and do Print and Drama with the lovely Chris and Lindsey.'



'In July Rowan was part of the Cambridge Open Studios, we raised an incredible £2000. I came to it and it was as lovely as ever. I bought one of the new Rowan water bottles and I also bought one of the Cherry Hinton Brooke Jigsaws for my friend's birthday. We had a successful holiday club again which I did three days of each week in July and August. I find it good as I'm generally quite busy in the week so during the holidays I get to come on different days, meet new people and do different things. And more drama!'

'In September Rowan did a collaboration with The Painted Church, I went on the Saturday. It was really good with a lot of variety of stuff on display created by Rowan students.'

'In Woodwork students worked on a collaboration with Red 2 Green to make a new sign for them.'

'As we write this me and the other music and drama students are busy preparing for the showcase 'I Am the One and Only' in October. I am very much looking forward to that. We've also got the Christmas Fair coming in December. The Rowan Christmas Fair is one of my favourite events at Rowan because Rowan becomes an even warmer place and it's a great place to celebrate Christmas.'

'A big thank you to all the staff at Rowan for making this place special for me and other people'

'In my opinion Rowan is the best place on earth, because people flourish here. I love coming here because of the variety and creativity.'

Eloise Tucker Brown
Student Artist

Exhibition at The All Saints' Church

A big congratulations to all our students for their stunning artwork showcased at our weekend exhibition at The All Saints' Church. The feedback has been incredibly positive, and we were so pleased with the outcome. A special thank you to the volunteers at All Saints' Church for your support and for allowing us to draw inspiration from your beautiful church for this exhibition.

Comments left by visitors at the exhibition:

'This is wonderful art. I enjoyed it so much. You are all very good artists in many different ways. Thank you.'

'I loved this – definitely want to visit the Christmas Shop and would love to buy a mixed media piece by Darcie!'

'I have really enjoyed finding out about Rowan's work and loved the variety of art. A privilege to spend time here today.'



New Garden sign

We are absolutely thrilled with the results of our latest Rowan commission for Red 2 Green. The garden sign has now found its new home at the Community Garden site in Bottisham. Thanks to funding from the D'oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Red 2 Green learners and clients had the opportunity to visit Rowan, where they gained woodworking skills and helped carve spades and forks for the top of the sign. A big shout-out to the woodworking team at Rowan for their dedication and attention to detail, and ensuring the sign was transported safely in one piece. If you find yourself in the local area, be sure to stop by and check out the new garden sign. While you're there, take a moment to explore the plants and crafts available for sale. They are open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.



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 or forest school, answer any questions and you will get an opportunity to see us in action.

Contact us

☎ 01223 566027

✉ student@rowanhumberstone.org.uk



NEW DAY ADDED!

ROWAN RANGERS



Den building



Fire lighting



Storytelling



Creating art



Green
woodwork



Wildlife
spotting

Rowan has started a new day of forest school.
This will run on a Wednesday, 10am-2pm, in private
woodland in Histon, close to Cambridge.

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🌐 www.rowanhumberstone.org.uk



Student Artist Spotlight

Meet John

John, it's lovely to sit with you and have a chat. I recently checked our records and it says you have been with us since 2001.

'2001?! I can't believe it. Where has the time gone?'



John, what days do you come to Rowan?

'Two days, Monday and Friday. Friday is a new day for me, which I like. Woodwork on a Friday. Monday, music in the morning, and in the afternoon acting with Lindsey.'

What do you enjoy in your workshops?

'Woodwork, I use the hammer and chisel, being careful of my fingers. No interruptions in case you hurt yourself. I like doing the shows for music and drama.'

Why do you enjoy coming to Rowan?

'Rowan makes me happy. I would get bored at home all day.'

Do you enjoy performing in music?

'Yes. Music makes me happy. Especially when we play Kylie Minogue's music.'

What's your favourite instrument?

'The Glockenspiel is the favourite. I like the sound.'

If you had to describe Rowan to others, what would you say?

'Good. It's a happy place.'



Cork and Canvas

Create your own canvas and
enjoy a drink with friends!

FRIDAY 30 JANUARY | 7PM TO 9PM

TICKETS £25 (includes canvas, materials, drinks)

**Rowan Arts Centre,
40 Humberstone Rd,
Cambridge, CB4 1JG**

Take it home or enter it into our Secret Postcard
Exhibition at the Guildhall, Cambridge.

Buy your tickets now
www.rowanhumberstone.org.uk



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A word from Peter...

Peter joined our team in November 2024 to cover maternity leave for the music group. As we prepare to welcome back music tutor Bethany, Peter's time with us is drawing to a close. We would like to take a moment to reflect on Peter's experience with us.



'I have really had an immense amount of fun doing this job. The environment at Rowan really appealed to my playful and creative side. The Rowan students are fantastically inventive, expressive and articulate, but also display a very impressive musicality, a sense of rhythm, pitch and ensemble. They are supportive of each other and of each other's playing within a group context, but as well as this, they have a wonderful sense of spontaneity, leading to some fantastic group improvisations.'

'My personal highlight would be a long-term project I did with my students called "Pictures at the Exhibition". Inspired by the Russian composer Mussorgsky's suite of orchestral pieces set to pictures, I encouraged the students to draw whatever picture came to mind at the time, using whatever artistic supplies and techniques they wished to use. When the pictures had been completed, I then encouraged students to craft improvisations evoking the mood of their pictures. The music was specifically tailored to fit around the pictures and played as a backdrop to a person walking around a gallery looking at each picture in turn. It was also a lot of fun to perform a small selection of these pieces at the 2025 music and drama showcase, to a very warm reception.'



'I was asked to organise a fundraiser for Rowan in October of this year at Sidney Sussex Chapel, Cambridge. I decided that I was going to put on a concert of choral music, chiefly because of the fabulous surroundings and acoustic of the chapel, which I had sung in several times before coming to Rowan. I decided to do the concert in two halves, the first half sung by a local folk group that I had joined a year ago called 'Mnatobi', and the second half sung by a scratch group of fantastic local singers that I assembled. The idea was to inject some variety into these concerts, and so appeal to the wide variety of people I hoped would be attending. I also had the idea of having multiple people conduct and lead the ensembles during the concert, not only as a labor saving tool so no one person had too much to do, but also so each person's interpretation of the music could come across, and add to the variety of the performance. I have to say that it was an absolute pleasure to organise and be a part of. In particular, singing in such a fabulous building was a definite tick of my bucket list. I also have to credit the wonderful singers I recruited for this, without whom, it would not have been possible to do this.'



'I will miss a lot of things, the lovely students, the amazing facilities and creative spaces within Rowan, but I think the main thing is the atmosphere. There is a fantastically warm, easy-going and most of all kind and compassionate atmosphere at Rowan. I have to credit my fellow staff members in creating an environment where you really can feel comfortable and valued. I think I enjoy this job so much because it encourages you as a tutor to bring your whole self to the table. It encourages me to use both my therapeutic skills as a music therapist, and my educational skills and musical expertise as a teacher.'

Peter, you will truly be missed. Your enthusiasm and dedication to the students have been outstanding. Please don't be a stranger!

Dates for your diary

Evening art classes

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

STARTING

Jan
2026

Cork and Canvas Evening



Friday 30th January
7pm to 9pm



40 Humberstone Road,
Cambridge, CB4 1JG

Tickets £15 including your canvas and plenty of fizz. All materials will be provided.

Visit the website on
www.rowanhumberstone.org.uk/latest-events/

'Greetings From...' Postcard Exhibition

Saturday 28 February &
Sunday 1 March
10am to 4pm
The Guildhall, Cambridge



Find out
more



Or visit the website on
www.rowanhumberstone.org.uk/latest-events/



Cambridge Half Marathon 2026

Join Team Rowan and run the Cambridge Half Marathon 2025 in support of adults with learning disabilities.

Sign up
today!



Or email rose@rowanhumberstone.org.uk

Rowan events

Visit the Rowan website for the most up-to-date events list and how you can get involved!

Scan the
QR code



Or visit the website on
www.rowanhumberstone.org.uk/latest-events/

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

Email **NEWS** to communications@rowanhumberstone.org.uk.

Let's be friends!

Become a regular donor today and make a difference



Pays for day-to-day art materials



Pays for travel for three trips to a local museum



Pays for two days of specialist teaching



Choose your own amount

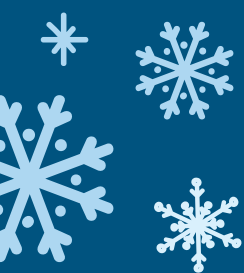
Benefits for you

- Regular updates about Rowan events and activities
- A personal tour of Rowan studios
- Invitation to our special events including drinks receptions at our Art Exhibition Preview
- 10% discount in our shop

Scan the QR code to
sign up today and
claim your FREE gift



Or email rose@rowanhumberstone.org.uk



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@rowancambridge



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