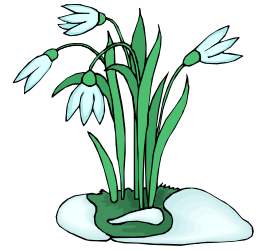




Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk

Term 3

February 2011

Welcome to Reading Girls' School

We are extremely proud of our school which aims to fulfil the potential of each and every student within a caring and stimulating environment.

Visits to the school are always welcome

Telephone 0118 986 1336 to make an appointment

Home School Information Curriculum Post-16 Centre Parents News & Events Recruitment Contact Us

School Calendar

February 2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Watch our school Video

Reading Girls' School

PLAY

Quick Links

- Post 16 Centre
- Business & Enterprise
- Life at Reading Girls'

New website

On Thursday 13 January 2011 the new Reading Girls' School website went live. In just seven months the new site was planned, sourced, built and compiled. It contains some excellent new features including the Head's welcome and interviews with students. Hopefully you have already discovered the 'parents' section where you will find everything you need to know about activities in and around the school. We have included downloadable copies of all general letters sent home to parents, homework timetables, extra-curricular activities, key dates, term dates and much, much more.



The website has been designed to be updated on a regular basis with news of current events and information so please keep checking it. We welcome any comments or suggestions you have to improve further our communications with you. Still to come is an area dedicated to the Pastoral Care your daughters receive and regular updates from the Student Council.

We would love to be able to contact more of you by email as a quick and inexpensive way of communicating. Please send us your email address and daughter's name to admin@readinggirls.reading.sch.uk.

We would like to thank e4education who host the site for us, Martin Aust from Posterity Video Productions, Andrew Ivens who took all the excellent photos and all the staff, students and governors who have contributed so much to it.



Headteacher's Report

2011 started with a bang at RGS – after 7 months in development we have been able to launch the new website. The website is continually being updated with news and events that have happened at the school. A new 'Parents' page is available where all communications from the school to parents/carers can be found. I am sure a huge sigh of relief will occur when parents no longer have to search in their daughter's school bag for such communications but simply go to the web site for this.

Luckily this year there have been no interruptions to the school days due to the weather. The students at RGS continue to work very hard both inside and outside of lessons.

Many students have been involved in extra curricular activities such as the STEM Challenge at Royal Holloway College, WOW Languages and the Real Business Challenge finals in London. All students involved in such activities reap huge benefits and I am always impressed by their excellent attitude and behaviour which is commented on by others outside of the school. You can read more about these events further in the newsletter.

May I take this opportunity to remind parents /carers that all girls need to attend school each day on time and in the correct uniform.

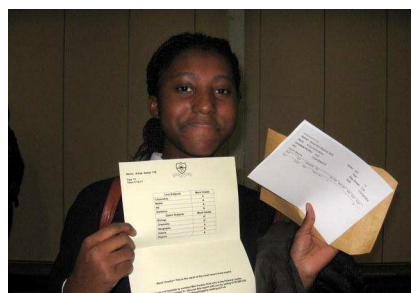
Please see the school website for a list of the correct uniform and information regarding term dates, holiday dates and information on free school meals.



Mock Results Day

Year 11 had a mock results day on Thursday 13 January to experience how it will be in August, when they receive their real GCSE results.

It was an emotional afternoon where students collected their individual envelopes with their results from mock exams taken in December and some of their 'actual' GCSE English results. Some were excited, others scared – there were tears of joy and a few tears of disappointment. This experience has given them an insight into how it will feel in August but they have the opportunity now to work harder in the subjects they need to improve upon in order to gain the results they are predicted.



Anisa Sesay achieved an A in English and A and A grades in all of her mocks.*



Samantha MacGregor and Tamanna Hoque amongst the many who received A-C grades for all of their mocks.*

81% of students who sat the English exam gained an A*-C

grade. There were some outstanding results from many students. Good luck Year 11 for the real results.

The Maritime Museum



On Monday 31 January 85 students from Year 8 went to the Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London to participate in a climate change day. They spent the day in lectures and workshops, and got involved in discussion on this very relevant and topical subject. They had a little free time in the museum, just enough time to go to the shop! The journey in and out of London was very entertaining as the coaches went through the centre of the city for a sightseeing tour.

A good day was had by all and the girls learnt a lot, and have a lot to think about on the future of the planet.

Geography in the News

All students are encouraged to watch the news, the weather forecasts and many of the TV programmes like Human Planet and Arctic. They are full of relevant and current information in geography and they also help with one's general knowledge and awareness of one's place as a global citizen.



Holidays

Looking ahead to the Easter break you will be aware that term 5 begins on Tuesday 26 April and three days later on Friday 29 it is the Royal Wedding followed by Bank Holiday Monday. May I remind all parents that students **ARE** expected to be in school for **all three days** and this time should not be taken as extended leave. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Prefects

At the beginning of term 3, a group of Year 10 and 11 Prefects took office. They are:

Louise Rock, Sian Derere, Shannon House, Tamanna Hoque, Farheen Shaukat, Sia Deniche Matturi, Deena Riaz, Haddy Darboe, Grace Hawkins, Evonnee Bentley Holder, Victoria King, Noushin Sikdar and Anjana Radhakrishnan.

This came about as a result of discussions in the School Council and the decision was made to have a group of prefects to work with and for the school community to ensure the smooth running of different aspects of the school day. This will be a developing role - a few of the duties will be: helping in the canteen at break and lunchtimes, corridor duties and assisting at school functions.

During the selection process in Years 10 and 11, consideration was given to various criteria including reliability, maturity, organisational skills, and their standing within their peer group.

WEC Student Council

Three girls from the School Council - Fatoumata Darboe, Nimrah Iqbal and Doreen Chengula represent the school on the Whitley Excellence Cluster Pupil Council, which brings together pupils from all the Whitley primary and secondary schools. In recent months the girls have visited the heart of local and national government. The year's first meeting was held in the Council Chamber of the Civic Centre in Reading and Fatoumata chaired it, in the presence of the Mayor and afterwards they were invited for refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour.



The second meeting of the Council took the form of a visit to the Houses of Parliament and they were joined with a couple of last year's representatives, Rebecca Whiteway and Rosie Hargrave. They were given a guided tour and then had a meeting with Alok Sharma, our local MP.



The Head's Hat



Mrs Angus was shocked when asked if Year 11 could borrow her hat, as in the winter it rarely comes off her head! Year 11 had a mini attendance challenge in term two and the hat was needed for a draw to be held for all students that braved the snow and ice in December and achieved 100% attendance. Forty-nine names were put into the hat and four prizes of £20 were handed out by the Education Welfare Officer, Irene Lilleystone, to spend at the Oracle. Well done to all who achieved 100% and thank you Mrs Angus for the loan of your hat.

All Booked Up

A brand new book for every Year 7 student. For the third year running the Book Trust have provided a wide range of titles to choose from in their "Booked Up" scheme, which aims to inspire a love of reading.

Research has shown that students who read widely have better concentration levels, improved knowledge, speaking and listening skills, they are more creative and do better in school.

All the Booked Up books are available to borrow from the school library so even if your child is not in Year 7 they can benefit from the scheme.



7C show off their new books.



Business &
Enterprise

Business & Enterprise

BAF Diploma

As part of the Business, Administration and Finance Diploma course, students needed to research different types of admin tasks. To assist them in this the school administration staff agreed to be interviewed by the students. Those being interviewed included Administration, Finance and Reception staff. They had many interesting questions to ask and received some answers they had not expected. Overall it was just as interesting for the staff as for the students.



We are fortunate to have volunteers from Verizon in

school for the next few weeks as part of their community outreach programme. They will be working with students in 8G on their website design project. We hope the students' work will benefit from the experience that Verizon staff will bring to this project and the opportunity to develop their enterprise and work related skills such as teamwork, planning, creativity and communication. We are delighted to welcome Verizon to the school and look forward to this opportunity.

WOW Languages

Nine students were invited to Reading University to participate in workshops including a Chinese (Mandarin) lesson and to listen to a presentation about the year abroad. University students assisted the girls throughout the day and told the girls about their reasons for choosing to study modern foreign languages. It was an enjoyable day, especially learning Chinese and German. More importantly, it made the girls realise that learning a foreign language is very important in the 21st century.



Thank you to the judges from Verizon and Visa, and congratulations to the winning team from 9B.



Lesley Machin of Visa presented the winning team with Visa Prepaid Cards

ING DIRECT

Saving feels good

For the Year 10 Enterprise Day in December, students were set the task of 'rebranding Reading'. They worked in teams of 4-5 with a business facilitator from ING Direct and needed to demonstrate leadership potential, creativity and teamwork. They had to carry out research, produce a written proposal to support their idea, and create a prototype if suitable. The presentations were judged by ING Direct managers on their marketing proposal, financial bid for funding, presentation and best overall team.



In February Year 9 students had a Maths and ICT enterprise day. Working in teams their task was to think up new technologies that VISA could use to make cashless payments more efficient. They had to produce a marketing strategy and give a presentation about their ideas for the new technology to Visa. There were some interesting ideas! This day has been created by RGS working with Visa and will be published for other schools use.

Business & Enterprise



Part of the winning team's reward was a tour of the ING Direct offices in Thames Valley Park, Reading, including lunch with their CEO. They were allowed to listen in on some of the phone calls being taken by ING staff and enjoyed that! During the visit they were presented with their winners' trophies.



We are in the process of starting a new school bank with Community Savings and Loans – Berkshire's Credit Union. Any member of the school community who opens an account is given a passbook, a money box and a certificate, and will be able to pay into their account and withdraw funds.

To be able to set up an account, proof of identity needs to be seen for the student and proof of identity and address for the responsible adult. Please bring this into school if your child wishes to start an account. Contact Business & Enterprise in school for more information. Further information about CSL

can be obtained from their website, www.cslberks.org. They also have an office on London Street and their phone number is 0118 9585803.

ICE Create Sport

A group of Year 8 students are working on a project called Create Sport, which is run by the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE). They have to work together as a team to create a design for a community sports venue, build a model of the venue, then write a detailed report of the different project stages and the problems encountered. They can use the competition website and social networking tools to help with the project. They are using their creativity and knowledge to overcome a range of engineering problems, becoming more aware of the world around them and learning the things engineers do to solve worldwide and local issues. The project will also help them develop skills in project management, design and technology, communication, presentation and organisation. They are working with guidance with Civil Engineers from Peter Brett Associates. Their entry has to be submitted in the spring and we wish them good luck!

Community Tea Party

On Monday 6 December a Big Community Tea Party was held. Members of the local community were invited to see what activities

are going on in school and what we can offer the community.



Residents were very impressed with the school, especially the students and commented on how polite and helpful they were. Mr Elvie and members of the school choir sang to entertain the guests.



The Winter Fayre



The Young Chamber organised a winter fayre selling goodies and a variety of games. We would like to thank Panasonic, The Oracle and Academy Sport Leisure Centre for their donations.



PE and Sports News

KS4 Reading Schools' Badminton Festival

The girls had a combination of doubles and singles matches and played both Kendrick and Highdown. They showed some good attacking and defensive shots and both the A team and B team produced some good wins.

Football Leagues and Tournaments

All years from Year 7 to Year 10 have taken part in the remaining games of the Reading Schools' 7-a-side Football Matches this term. All our teams have had some close matches with our Year 8 team beating Highdown 5-1 in their final game of the league.



Year 8 Football Squad

Year 8 Sportshall Athletics Competition

Seven of our Year 8 athletes competed in this indoor athletics event which involved sprinting, relays, middle distance and jumps. The girls all performed really well and came 2nd overall.

Indoor Cricket Leagues

The U13 and U15 cricket teams completed the final games of the league this term. They displayed some excellent batting and fielding skills and the U13's were pleased to win their final match against St Crispin's School.

U16 Basketball League



Girls in Year 10 and 11 are playing in the Basketball League for the first time this year. They have displayed some good attacking and defensive skills and have enjoyed the challenge of playing against some very experienced teams.

Reading Schools' Trampoline Competition



Tia Davies, Paige Roberts and Ciara Riley

Three students took part in the trampoline competition. This was a very nerve racking experience as they had to perform on their own in front of five judges and all the other competitors. All the girls performed well. Tia Davies came 3rd in the Elite category.

KS4 Non Contact Boxing



Year 11: Maria Owino and Aleshia LaRose Jones

This term the girls have had the chance to have a go at non contact boxing. The sessions are run by outside coach Mark and work on fitness aspects such as reaction time, strength and agility as well as specific boxing skills.

Year 8 Gravity Sky Diving Dance



Students in Year 8 have been working on a dance incorporating topics from science. The students considered the impact of gravity and based this around a sky diving sequence.



Year 7 Inter-house Benchball 7C are Champions!

The Year 7's kicked off the start of the Inter-house competitions with their benchball tournament. With some excellent ball skills and defending 7C were the overall winners.

Olympic Countdown

On Friday 18 February it will be 524 days until the London 2012 Olympics start.



Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

We will be starting to collect these again soon – the more we collect, the more PE equipment we can order!

Post-16 Taster Sessions

Many Year 11 students had the opportunity to attend taster sessions in the many courses being offered at our Post-16 Centre on site. The sessions included AS Psychology, AS Business, BTEC Business Studies, AS Sociology, Hair and Beauty, Travel and Tourism, CACHE Level 2 and AS English. There will also be an AS Use of Mathematics and BTEC ICT courses offered (date to be confirmed).

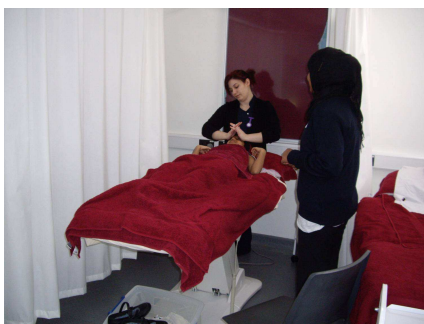
These taster sessions have been a great success so far and many more wish to attend if they are offered again next term, all students enjoyed working in the centre alongside the current students. Centre staff said how well the students worked and showed a lot of enthusiasm. Many are now completing their applications forms to attend in September.

level two beauty students, who are in their second year at the Post-16 Centre. The students were paired up and each pair had the chance to experience a facial by a level two student. They had a relaxing twenty minute facial massage. One student from each group did a great job as timekeeper as the level 2 beauty students were practising working to exact times, as they would in industry.

It was a very successful day. The Year 11's gained an insight into what to expect if they choose a hairdressing or beauty course. The level two beauty students practised their client skills. The girls were keen, interested and impressed the tutors with their sensible attitude.

Liz Guthrie

Hair and Beauty



On Monday 7 February a group of Year 11 students attended the taster day in hair and beauty with hairdressing tutor Paula Howson. In the morning the students had a session in the hairdressing salon where they learnt about what the hairdressing course involves. The students created some lovely plaiting hairstyles including weaving with ribbon. In the afternoon the group worked in the beauty salon with beauty tutor Liz Guthrie and the

Travel and Tourism

BTEC First Diploma in Travel and Tourism—On Thursday 3 February the Post-16 Travel and Tourism students went to Earls Court which was hosting the 'Destinations – Holiday and Travel



Show 2010'. This was an opportunity for the students to experience the different organisations who work within the travel and tourism industry. There were many travel companies showcasing thousands of holiday destinations as well as entertainment and cultural performances from around the world.

The students were able to collect information on holiday destinations which they will be able to use to assist them in their coursework.

DON'T FORGET

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SCHOOL RE-OPENS

ON

MONDAY

28 FEBRUARY 2011

AT 8.40AM

Holidays are fine but not in term time

Any absence in term time undermines the continuity of your child's education and reduces her chances of success. **Parents and carers are asked to take family holidays during the school holidays.** The Headteacher may authorise leave of absence but will consider the reasons for the request, the effect on the continuity of your daughter's learning and her overall attendance. Please be aware that if you take your child out of school for an unauthorised holiday during term time, you may be issued with a **fixed penalty notice of £50 per parent for each child.** School holiday dates for 2011 are as follows:

Mid term break Monday 21 to Friday 25 February

Easter break Monday 11 to Monday 25 April

Mid term break Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June

End of term Friday 22 July



On Tuesday 18 January, eight Year 10 students embarked upon a 'London Experience'. These girls were part of the So-Low team, taking part in the Coca-Cola Real Business Challenge National Final. The Final was held at BAFTA on Wednesday 19 January but as part of the award the girls were given the opportunity to spend a night in London, touring around Covent Garden and dining in Planet Hollywood all before catching a show in the West End. Following this they retired to their luxurious hotel preparing for the next day ahead.



The team worked extremely well together and comments were made throughout the two days regarding the behaviour and conduct of the girls. Unfortunately the competition was just too tough and they were beaten at the last minute. However, there was much to be gained from the experience and I look forward to seeing the team

succeed in future as well as taking another group forward next year! If you wish to see further details of the competition and the experience gained from it please go to our website to see a video produced by Coca-Cola in school www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk. Once again, congratulations to the girls who took part on beating hundreds of schools to the national final.



The girls were treated like royalty throughout the two day experience being transported by limousine to the final, even being 'papped' on their entrance! The final brought trials and tribulations but most of all an enjoyable and enterprising experience during which the team had to develop their idea further alongside a Coca-Cola mentor. The day culminated in a presentation within the BAFTA theatre where Mrs Hargrave was very impressed sitting in a chair paid for by George Clooney!



at Reading
Girls'
School

open evening

POST-16 CENTRE

Thursday 17 February 2011

Open until 7.30pm

Come along to our open evening to find out more about the great courses we have on offer and to see the superb facilities including industry-standard hair and beauty salons. Childcare, Business and Travel & Tourism are just some of the courses on offer.

- Post 16 Centre
- Reading College at Reading Girls' School
Northumberland Avenue
Reading RG2 7PX
- Telephone: 0118 923 1010