



Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk

Term 6

July 2013

Headteacher's Message

We are now at the end of another successful academic year. All at RGS, students, parents and staff, have worked hard and in partnership to achieve excellence. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students and staff for their support and their hard work.

We are waiting in anticipation for the Year 11 GCSE results in August and we are very positive that this year we will be celebrating excellent results both at the school level and individual levels.

We finished this academic year with a scorching hot sports day and enjoyed an excellent production of "The Willows" play. Again both events show how brilliant and talented the students of RGS really are!!

It is at this time of year that many staff will move onto new jobs or new opportunities and this year we have to say good bye and best wishes to quite a few. From the Maths department Ms Stoffels and Ms Glavey, from Science Ms Rosier and Dr Shabir, from Geography Ms Mitchell, from ICT Mrs Monk and from Technology Ms Vincenzi. We wish them all well. We are also saying a fond farewell to staff who are retiring: Mrs Bird (Technology) and Mrs Norris (English) and hope they both have a restful retirement. Both Mrs Nash and Mrs Parsons (Assistant Headteachers) are also retiring this summer and I wish to thank them for all the personal

support they have given me and all the hard work they have carried out at RGS as they were both instrumental in improving the school.

I continue to be very proud of all the students and staff at Reading Girls' School and know we can continue our journey towards being outstanding. Once again I wish to thank all parents, carers, students and staff for their continued support and I wish you all a safe and happy summer vacation. I look forward to seeing you all again on 9 September 2013.

Viv Angus
Headteacher

SATRO  .org.uk

Brooklands Museum was once again the perfect backdrop for the **2013 Festival of Science & Engineering** that Reading Girls' School took part in.



The event was organised by SATRO, a not-for-profit social enterprise that exists to inspire young people about their future careers. SATRO give young people the opportunity to see why maths, science, engineering and technology are changing the way we

travel, the way we communicate, the way we use the earth's resources and much more. By bringing the subjects to life, they give young people the opportunity to see what a career in these areas could bring them.

Malala Day

On Friday 12 July we celebrated Malala day. Last year a girl called Malala was shot on her way to school because of what she believed in: Girls have a right to an education. She survived this ordeal and is now fighting all over the world to have her campaign heard. We set aside a day to show that Reading, as a community, supports her cause. We did a number of exercises throughout the day to show the differences in the education systems of Third World countries, compared to ours. It made us all realise that girls in other countries, such as Pakistan where Malala grew up, can be forced to marry young, so do not get a chance to have an education. Malala is fighting for freedom of choice for all girls, in all countries. As a school, we are now behind Malala's campaign.



The Houses of Parliament

For the members of the Whitley Excellence Cluster Pupil Council visiting Parliament would be one of the most important trips of the year. We met Alok Sharma, MP for Reading West, and discussed many topics and issues - some of the other schools also asked Mr Sharma for tips for becoming an MP. Aside from this meeting, we also had a tour of the Houses of Parliament, where we were able to see the actual House of Lords. It was a very fun and fulfilling day!



Francesca Alvarez, Year 10



From 1 August our 16+ provision will be known as **Northumberland Training Academy**. Working with **New Directions** we are able to offer students from 16 to 24 opportunities to gain new skills, improve their chances of gaining employment and provide support in all aspects of their lives. Bursaries are available to financially support young people in need. We can provide the feel of a college environment but on a much smaller scale. With fantastic facilities we know that everything you need is right here. Courses starting in September 2013:

- Beauty Therapy Level 1
- Beauty Therapy Level 2
- Hairdressing Level 1
- Hairdressing Level 2
- Childcare and Education CACHE Level 2 Diploma
- BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Travel and Tourism

- Maths & English
- Pre-apprenticeships Level's E3, L1,2 & 3:
 - * Traineeships
 - * Project Based Learning

Pre-apprenticeships are a particularly exciting new offering. We recognise that the employment market is diverse and local needs change. Young people are likely to change their jobs many times in their working lives and so need broad, transferrable skills that are attractive for any destination. Pre-apprenticeships provide skills in presentation, teamwork, project management and many more invaluable aspects to ensure that securing that first job isn't just luck. It will be gaining the skills that employers are crying out for, regardless of the career. Work experience is included on all the courses to ensure that students gain real world skills and show application of theory learnt.

NTA will be open from 1pm till 5pm on GCSE results day (Thursday 22 August) for you to come and have a look round and perhaps have a chat about how our courses can help you make that next step.

Enrolment is from 11am on Thursday 5 September and 10am on Friday 6 September.

Careers

RGS has invested in online careers resources for all students. The resources can be accessed from school or home. Compromising of various elements the resources provide:

Kudos

- Unique careers matching based on interests and aspirations
- Transparent results illustrate why each career has been suggested
- Matching to virtually every career shows why certain careers are not suggested
- Independently researched and up-to-date information on over 1,800

career titles

- Integrated Action Planning tool
- Enhanced searching options and layout
- Salary and labour market information
- Web and email links signpost additional resources

Kudos Inspire

- Personalised careers matching based on interests, skills and aspirations
- 'My Skills' identifies transferable skills and highlights how they link to careers
- 'Inspire Me!' tool shows the additional careers that students can aspire to
- 'Progression Routes' highlight routes to professional careers
- Subject checker in 'My Subjects' enables students to identify the subjects they need to take
- Detailed information on over 1,800 careers and over 4,000 photographs
- 'Explore Articles' provides a database of relevant articles, eg, 'Apprenticeships'
- CV building tool to create and manage a CV Education and Career plans allow students to plan and set goals

Careerscape

- Over 250 useful and in-depth articles
- Over 400 high-quality videos
- Over 550 real-life case studies
- Over 100 Career Families which group careers in specific areas, eg, business
- 42 Subject Link articles which link subjects to careers
- Information on over 43,000 UCAS higher education courses
- 20 Lifestyle articles aimed at 13-19 year olds
- Salary and labour market information
- Print or save PDF leaflets of every career and article
- Produce career leaflets with a range of printing styles to choose from

Launchpad

- Skills profiling quiz provides results after just 20 questions
- Identifies Functional Skills and areas for improvement
- PLTS (Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills) diagnostic tool
- Information on GCSE subjects (built-in controls allow schools to just show options available locally) illustrates the skills needed to study subjects at Key Stage 4
- Highlights routes from subjects into careers Information on over 490 careers
- Over 300 high-quality videos
- Over 3,100 photographs of people in the workplace
- Case study interviews with people about their jobs
- Action Plan records achievements and encourages goal setting

All students will be issued with logon details and support on how to use the tools.

Jane Austen trip

On Monday 8 July 7N, who had been reading *Sense and Sensibility* visited the Jane Austen House and Museum in Chawton, Hampshire. It was the school's third visit and, as usual, it was both enjoyable and rewarding.



Jane Austen trip - Olivia Gibbs

We began our trip at the education centre where we discussed *Sense and Sensibility* which we had been reading in class. We also discussed Austen's other books focusing on the main themes. After our discussion, we watched a video about Jane Austen's life and her education. We also learnt more about her family.

Jane Austen's cottage - Shisam Gurung

Jane Austen's house had a very homely feel to it and it was more modern than I expected it to be apart from the kitchen which was more old fashioned than the rest of the house. There was a bed that had a beautiful hand sewn design on the quilt; I couldn't believe it was hand sewn because it was so perfect.



Lunch on the lawn - Ashmita Gurung

Lunch in the garden was beautiful; the trees, the flowers and the weather were wonderful. There were some really good souvenirs at the gift shop, quill pens, books about Jane Austen and lots more. I enjoyed it.

Chawton House - Victoria Turchyn

We also had a chance of visiting her brother's mansion, Chawton House. The library was full of books written by female authors and which were over 200 years old. There were only two pictures of males in the entire house. The dining room was a spacious room with a giant table and the Great Hall was used for dancing and entertaining. The house was built during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and it has wide yet shallow staircases. Chawton House is in the middle of a picturesque village and it is obvious where Jane Austen got her inspirations from.



A regency dance - Emily McQuillan Heaney

The dance was repetitive and very simple because the lady explained it extremely well. We had to dance in partners: one was the lady and the other the gentleman, it really felt as though we had gone there for a ball.



Year 5 Team Maths Challenge



This popular annual event using UKMT resources took place at Reading Girls' School on Thursday 11 July. It was attended by ten of our local Primary Schools. The English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School were the winners last year and so they returned the trophy for this years competition. We had a very enjoyable day with Y5 students being able to discuss and puzzle over some very challenging Maths problems. The tension of the competition was kept right up to the end of the day when we had a tie break situation between The Hill and Whiteknights who ended with equal top scores of 128 points. The outright winner was decided by a head to head tie break question; the final winners were Whiteknights. Our year 10 students who supported throughout the day were a credit to the school and we could not run events like these without them.



Business & Enterprise

On Tuesday 18 June we were visited by local primary school children for an enterprise event. *Our Nation* was run by Young Enterprise with funding from Kraft Foods and volunteers from Reading Scientific Services Ltd, who are based on the Reading University campus. 180 pupils visited Reading Girls' School from Battle, Christ the King, Coley, George Palmer, Katesgrove and Redlands Primary Schools.

Pupils explored a cartoon map of Britain identifying different regions and types of geography such as cities and coastal areas. They investigated different types of work and businesses in the different areas of the UK. Through a variety of games and problem solving scenarios, the pupils learnt how businesses and people interact, what issues businesses can face and how they handle them. They also learnt about different types of businesses, the essential ingredients to set up in business and the reality and pitfalls facing entrepreneurs.

During the day, the Mayor of Reading visited the children. The questions they asked about being Mayor were varied, interesting and entertaining. They were particularly interested that she came in her own car rather than the official limousine! The children worked hard and had a stimulating day.



Some Year 8 students recently attended the annual TeenTech event, which was held at Newbury Racecourse.



This motivating and stimulating gave the students a day of intriguing encounters and practical challenges with employers in Science, Technology and Engineering industries. It gave the opportunity to explore different industries and career possibilities. Students were helped through the day by an 'Industry Ambassador' from CISCO engineering.



The activities our students took part in this year included a competition to think of an original and useful App, investigating the inside of a computer with CA Technologies, and designing a gas supply for a town with National Grid. They also heard about the Diamond Light Source in Oxfordshire and had the chance to try out some of Samsung's latest technology as well as looking round an exhibition of various technologies and careers.



In June, some of our Year 10 Media Studies students had the opportunity to visit the BBC Monitoring Station in Caversham. The BBC's People Team had their annual conference in a tepee marquee on the lawn there, and offered local schools, colleges and universities the opportunity to find out about careers and working life at the BBC, as well as sessions on



CV writing and interview skills. The students also had the chance to talk with the People Team about their own hopes and interests for the future.

Business & Enterprise news in brief

The Year 6 students took part in an enterprise activity as part of their induction day to help them get to know one another. Working in teams, they had to think up ideas to 'Put Reading on the Map'. Staff from Penta Hotels and members of The Rotary Club of

Reading Matins visited the students in the Post 16 centre to help with their CV writing and interview skills. The Science Ambassadors have been working hard to plan for the Global Festival.

Big Bang Fair

On Wednesday 3 July, two girls from Year 9, six girls from Year 10 and one from Year 11 went to an event in London called The Big Bang Fair which had exhibitions of different parts of Science, Technology and Robots.



The exhibitions contained making things such as light bulbs with cells, lip balms and key rings with your own thumb print on it. Students also made hard sticks of newspaper and collected leaflets and scientific recipes, which they could take home and make themselves. Everybody enjoyed the day in London. Three students were also interviewed about their success in the Robot Competition which they won. They were asked several questions about how they won, how difficult the competition was and how they could improve if they did it next time.

Henry Canayalal

Verizon trip

The year 10 GCSE Citizenship group went to the offices of Verizon on 11 July. They have been doing a course on the law with the legal department at Verizon, who invited them to complete the course at their offices, and gave them a very interesting talk on the company and careers within



that area. They also provided them with lunch, and gave the class their certificates as they had completed the course.

French Spelling Bee

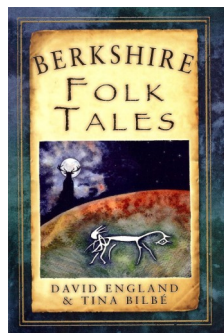
In preparation for the Spelling Bee students learnt a total of 200 words and although we did not ask them to spell all the words, Hana made only one mistake (an accent) in all the words she was asked to spell – a very able speller! It was a very tight competition with the last three students going round after round until one made a mistake! The winners were: 1st – Hana in 7P; 2nd – Sonia in 7E; 3rd – Ella in 7E.



Miss Komba

Mrs Bilbé—a published author

Congratulations to Mrs Bilbé who is the joint author of this collection of folk tales of the Royal County. Mrs Bilbé painstakingly gleaned many of these accounts from the Berkshire archives and local studies library. The enchanting results of this research have been sensitively written by storyteller David England.



PE and Sports News

Sports Leaders help with Primary Quadkids

Six of our newly qualified Year 7 Sports Leaders went to Palmer Park to assist with the running of the Primary Quadkids event. The girls did an excellent job in the sun and rain and were a real credit to Reading Girls' School.



Athletics U14, Year 7 and 8 League

The year 7 and 8 athletics team completed three evenings of the league competition at Palmer Park. They had some excellent results, achieving some very good times and distances. They qualified for the Cup Final and finished 6th out of 18 schools.



Athletics Reading Town Championships

This competition consisted of a Year 7 team, a Year 8 team and a Year 9 and 10 combined team. They put in a lot of hard work and displayed some outstanding talent. Many of the girls came in the top three and won Gold, Silver or Bronze Medals. The Year 7 team threw, jumped and ran their

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| Year 7 Team | | |
| High Jump | Emmanuella Young | Gold Medal Winner |
| Shot Put | Tracy Kpani-Addy | Gold Medal Winner |
| Discus | Kankolongo Mukeba | Gold Medal Winner |
| Javelin | Teta Rukotana | Gold Medal Winner |
| 4x100m Relay | Teta Rukotana, Emmanuella Young, Mary Haward and Kia Slade | Silver Medal Winners |
| 150m | Emmanuella Young | Bronze Medal Winner |
| Year 8 Team | | |
| 4x100m Relay | Yashica Gupta, Ajeje Hassan, Princess Young and Shelby Preston-Morris | Gold Medal Winners |
| High Jump | Ajeje Hassan | Bronze Medal Winner |
| Year 9/10 Team | | |
| 100m | Nieema Hassan | Silver Medal Winner |

socks off and achieved 1st place out of 10 schools winning a lovely glass trophy. Medal winners are listed in the table above.



Qualification to Berkshire Athletics U13 County Finals

As a result of their excellent performances in the Town Championships, five girls were selected for the Berkshire County Finals representing Reading. The following girls competed in the following events, including two who won medals:

Emmanuella Young—High Jump (Bronze Medal)

Kia Slade—70m Hurdles (Silver Medal) and qualified for Regional Finals

Teta Rukotana—Javelin

Kankalongo Mukeba—Discus

Tracy Kpani-Addy—Shot Put

Year 9 Rounders Tournament

The girls batted and fielded well scoring some superb rounders. They finished in 4th place overall out of seven teams.

Year 8 Rounders Tournament

The girls played extremely well with some excellent catches and superb batting. They won their group to go through to the final but unfortunately couldn't quite compete against Leighton Park.

Year 7 Rounders Tournament

The girls fielded extremely well throughout the tournament. They had a mix of results but only lost by the smallest margin.

Silchester School Sports Day

Ten Sports Leaders/ BTEC Sports students were selected to help with Silchester Primary School Sports Day. They did all the track judging, gave



out stickers, and ran a carousel of events such as the space hopper race, bean bag relay and the egg and spoon. The staff and parents at the school were very impressed with the girls and commented on what a good job they had done.

Berkshire School Games—2/3 July

This was the county finals for all the qualifiers of sports leagues and tournaments the primary and secondary schools participate in. Reading Girls' was involved in two ways:

Competitors—Eight girls were selected to compete in the indoor rowing competition which required a combination of stamina and speed.



They all competed in an individual race which required them to row as far as they could in a given amount of time; 2, 3, 4 and 5 minutes for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 respectively and then

a team relay rowing 2012m as fast as they could. They all worked hard and performed well showing the Olympic and Paralympic values of determination and courage.



Officials—Some of our regular cricketers participated in a training session on how to score and umpire the primary 'kwik cricket' game. They then worked in teams of three to oversee the Berkshire finals. The day required a lot of focus and concentration and the ability not to be distracted by the competitive adults that accompanied the primary schools. The girls did an excellent and professional job.

Sports Teams and Sports Club attendance 2012 - 2013

Well done to all the girls who have competed for the school teams over the year and to those that have regularly attended sports clubs. In doing so you have demonstrated the Olympic and Paralympic Values of friendship, respect, excellence, determination, inspiration, courage and equality, all the qualities that are required to be outstanding sportswomen.

Year 7 Rugby Team – School Games

After some intensive training sessions and a difficult selection process due to the number of good rugby players in Year 7, a squad of



eight players were taken to the School Games county finals. Our girls battled hard with some outstanding displays of speed, skill and sheer strength. The girls only lost one match and finished in 2nd place receiving their silver medals with pride.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Thank you to everyone who gave us vouchers, we received over **2000** and will now be able to buy some new equipment for the PE department.

Citizenship

One of the major requirements for GCSE Citizenship, is that the students have to organise and run their own campaign into an issue that will benefit others. This year 10 class have been campaigning to get the cost of fares for students going to the secondary school of their choice, reduced. They arranged for the local MP, Rob Wilson, and the head of Reading buses to come to a meeting to discuss their points.

If the gentlemen had thought they were going to meet some 'schoolgirls' they found themselves meeting young ladies who were very well organised, and put forward their argument clearly and decisively. As a result of this meeting, the MP will be raising questions in Parliament over subsidised school transport, and the head of Reading buses will be looking into their suggestions. Who says no-one listens to teenagers!

Junior Prizegiving

It is at this time of year that we celebrate the successes of our students in Key Stage 3 at Junior Prizegiving. Our special guest speaker this year was Bianca Cullimore a past student of Reading Girls' who is currently Heads of Maths at Wallingford School. The special awards this year were awarded to:

- Gaby Dopson—The Beverley Callender Trophy for Sporting Achievement.

- Rachael Payler—The Jessica Cecil Cup for Academic Achievement.
- Ayesha Z Khan—The Performing Arts Award.
- Kimberley Blatchley—The Barbara Hughesdon Award for Young Citizen of the Year.
- Mayah Bentley-Holder—The Ruth Allen Award for Junior Enterprise.



Many other prize winners received an array of gifts including a large number of sporting awards—congratulations to everyone.



STOP PRESS.....

Mini tornado causes havoc at Reading Girls' School

On a very hot and sunny Tuesday afternoon, the class of 8J were in lessons in the art department when suddenly the wind picked up and created a mini tornado that swept along the back of the art block picking up dust and debris in its path. It then turned the corner and headed towards the garden shed. It was picked it up, spun around and dumped back down with some force. Many girls caught the action on their cameras. The fundraising initiative for next term will be a new shed.....



Year 11 Prom 2013

On board the Caversham Princess

