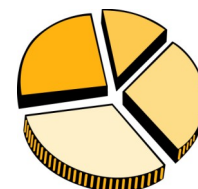




Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



Business &
Enterprise

Term 5

www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk

May 2013

Headteacher's News

Although this last term has been a short one it has been an extremely busy period and students have continued to work hard and behave exceptionally well.

I must congratulate the students who were part of the winning team at Siemens; they were excellent ambassadors for the school as were the students who took part in the Magistrate Competition held at Reading Crown Court on Saturday 11 May, I certainly would like to see our students represent me if I ever needed a lawyer! They were consummate professionals.

At this time of year—Year 11 students are busy revising for their GCSE examinations, please encourage and support them, I have great hopes that this year will see the best GCSE results ever at the school. Year 11 are focused and have shown great dedication to their studying—every one at RGS sends their very best wishes to all the students in Year 11.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers for their support—RGS is a school that totally believes in working with students, parents and the community to ensure all students receive a first class education.

Finally, I hope you and your family enjoy a safe and sunny mid-term break and remind you that school starts at 8.30am on Monday 3 June.

Viv Angus
Headteacher

RGS Siemens Winners

Weeks of hard work paid off when a team from Year 10 won the SATRO Siemens: The Next Big Thing Challenge!



The original launch for this competition had to be postponed in January due to snow, but once the team were primed they were full of ideas for the 'Next Big Thing' for Siemens' portfolio. They eventually settled on an idea called 'Diagnostick'. Moving out of their comfort zone, this idea was aimed at men's health - an over-the-counter urine test stick to detect signs of prostate cancer, heart disease, liver disease or kidney disease. As many men feel uncomfortable seeing their doctor, the instructions would be simply and clearly written, and would avoid colour as many men are colour-blind.

Working with mentors from Siemens, they researched their idea, ran scientific tests and carried out market research. They also designed a logo, prototype and posters. Each team member had a job role and responsibility for various tasks. At the final held at the Siemens UK Headquarters in Frimley, students displayed their ideas and gave a presentation. They also answered

questions from the judges. Other entries included a pelvic mould to assist with radiotherapy treatment, a water filter which enhanced water with vitamins and a water curtain to prevent houses from external fires.

The day wasn't all work - students also had the chance to explore the City of the Future display and try their skill at a simulation of running a modern city, including planning energy and transport and raising taxes.

The girls were stunned and delighted when they were announced as the winners. They were presented with a watch each and a trophy, which will be displayed in the school foyer.

Thames Water Network Challenges



On Tuesday 26 March, volunteers from Thames Water visited to work with some of our students. Students in 8N and 8E Maths classes took part in a maths and engineering activity called **The Network Challenge** in which they had to design and build a prototype water supply for a town.



Throughout the challenge, students worked in teams and faced real-life problems such as environmental, social and economic issues - just like a real-life engineering project! As well as being a fun and valuable activity, the activity also supported the National Curriculum, covering Maths, Technology, Geography, Science and Citizenship, coupled with key skills including problem solving, communication and teamwork.

Then on Thursday 25 April, Reading Girls' School hosted a second Thames Water Network Challenge event for year 9 students from secondary schools across Reading.

The winning team were Prospect School, with Reading Girls' School and John Madejski Academy coming 2nd and 3rd respectively. The students found the activity fun but challenging, and we thank Thames Water for running these events.

PE and Sports News

Level 7 novice Trampoline Competition

Some of the girls who attended trampolining club regularly entered into the Level 7 competition. This is to give developing trampolinists a taster of what competition level is like. All the girls beat their nerves and performed their routines well.



Level 10 Elite Trampoline Competition

A number of girls were selected for the elite level competition. There were a lot of competitors and it was quite daunting performing on your own in front of everyone. Two girls Leah Williams in Yr8 and Bethany Rixon in Yr10 were selected for the Reading Team.

U15 Cricket Tournament

This was a triangular tournament and the team played two matches against Maiden Erleigh and Waingels College. The scores were very close and some excellent batting and fielding skills were shown.

Yr7 Netball League and Tournament

The year 7 team has had an excellent first season and has showed there is a lot more to come. They were 2nd in the netball league and finalists in the netball tournament. Well done girls.



Yr8 Netball League and Tournament

The year 8's showed a lot of improvement from last year and played some very good netball. They were 3rd in the league and finalists in the netball tournament.



Yr9 Netball League and Tournament

The year 9 team faced some tough matches in their league and tournament this year but played some excellent netball with the defence having to work hard to keep out the opposition teams.



Yr10/11 Netball League and Tournament

A mixed year 10 and 11 team played in the league this year and put in some excellent performances to finish 3rd. The Year 10 only team went on to finish 3rd in their tournament and as the only Year 11 entry for their tournament and therefore the winners, the Year 11's joined the Year 10 tournament in order to play some netball.



Year 9, 10 and 11 Inter-house Basketball Competition

Year groups combined to make up a basketball squad for each House and rotated who played. Competition was fierce with some good dribbling, ball handling and shooting. The results were: 5th place Roddick, 4th place Seacole, 3rd place Curie, 2nd place Austen and the winners were Bronte.



Sports Leaders for Year 1 and 2 Sportshall Athletics



A group of Year 8 Sports Leaders were selected to assist with the Primary Schools' Year 1 and 2 Sportshall Athletics competition. The girls did an excellent job assisting and supporting the younger students and were fantastic role models for RGS.

GB Rowing Testing

A number of students in Year 7 to 11 took part in GB Rowing testing to see if they had the appropriate height, strength and stamina to possibly be selected for further testing and training with elite rowing squads. The testing was physically hard work but all the girls selected for the tests gave their best efforts. Two year 8 girls, Ofuase Dirisu and Ajeye Hassan tested particularly well on the strength element. GB rowing will return again next year to see what progress the girls have made.



School Games Leadership Academy

Our two Silver Sports Ambassadors Gaby Dopson and Kanza Manzoor were selected to participate in Leadership training so they could assist with the School Games competition. Kanza completed the media training and assisted in filming and photographing the events. Gaby completed the sports leadership training and assisted with the teams



competing. Both girls did an excellent job and were fantastic role models.

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 8 players were taken to the School Games county finals. It was a freezing cold day with temperatures barely above 1 or 2 degrees but nevertheless 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. Well done girls.

Dance Festival

A large group of Year 7 and 8 girls who regularly attended street dance club with Jenna put on a fantastic final performance in the Dance Festival. The theme this year was the Olympic Cultural Legacy and many of our local primary schools attended performing routines linked with basketball, culture and other sports. The Reading Girls theme was 'girl power' to celebrate the success of the women in London 2012.



U16 Athletics League

A combined Year 9 and 10 team entered the U16 league. The league has been expanded this year to include more schools from Berkshire and so we were competing with 17 other schools. The girls put in some strong performances which qualified them for the B final where they finished 3rd overall.



Yr11 Rounders Match

For their last ever fixture representing RGS the girls had a rounders match against The Abbey. They fielded and batted very well but couldn't quite beat them on this occasion.



Yr10 Rounders Tournament

For the 3rd year running the girls played some fantastic rounders with amazing hits and very slick fielding. They won their group outright and were once again finalists with The Abbey. Well done girls.

Year 7 and 8 Quadkids

Ten girls from Year 7 and 10 girls from year 8 and four Year 8 Sports Leaders were selected to either compete in or assist with the Quadkids event at Palmer Park. The competitors have to complete four events; 100m, 800m, howler javelin throw and a standing broad jump. The competition was tough and tiring but our girls performed well. The Sports Leaders did a very professional job organizing and running the throwing events.



Yr10 BTEC Sport class—climbing trip

As part of their Unit 2 coursework, the Year 10 BTEC class chose to develop their fitness for climbing and visited the Reading Climbing Centre before and after their training to see if they had made a difference with

their fitness for climbing. The girls challenged themselves with different heights, harder routes including climbing over overhangs and using the scrambling wall without ropes.



Revised School Uniform

We have reviewed and simplified the Reading Girls' School uniform and will be **replacing the traditional blazer and tie with a jumper bearing the RGS logo and introducing navy blue trousers instead of black.** It will be worn by the new Year 7 intake from September 2013 and it is anticipated that it will be phased in through the rest of the school when replacement uniform required. All students should be wearing the new uniform by September 2014. A detailed list of the full school uniform is available from the school office or on the school website.



Science Ambassadors

by Neyma Siddiqui 9U

Last week a group from years 7-10 went to The Science and Natural History Museums in London. Our journey started by taking the train to London Paddington and then travelling via the underground to South Kensington. We arrived at The Science Museum and set off to explore the wonders before us. We saw many planes, cars, satellites, clocks, jacquards looms, old operation equipment. All of us were fascinated by the models of DNA structure.

We then walked to The Natural History Museum where we explored the dinosaur bones and skeletons. It was almost like being in a snapshot of Jurassic Park, but without the screams and the roars of course. You could sense the presence of what



was left of these huge magnificent creatures. Something I will most certainly never forget.

After getting back to reality we also explored the biology area and played many games and activities. We saw various exhibitions in both museums and ended the trip with a visit to an Italian ice cream parlour.



Film club screens a variety of different films weekly. It has been a really good way to spend our lunchtime and express our views on different films every week. We are able to write up reviews immediately we watch a film and share with other clubs across the country on the film club website. We have also learnt the different skills set, it takes to produce really good films. It has also enabled us to explore genres of movies we wouldn't normally watch.

By Kala Coles

Multicultural event

Would you like to celebrate the culture of your country - its dances, music, art, costume? Would you be prepared to cook some samples of its food for others to try?

If you or your family or friends would be interested in helping in any way at the **Global Festival on Wednesday 17 July 2013**, please contact Kate Thomson. She is available in the Business & Enterprise department: direct dial 0118 9213424 or email kthomson@readinggirls.reading.sch.uk



Northumberland
Training
Academy

Not sure what you want to do when you leave school?

Come and have a look round and fill out an application form for the course(s) of your choice!

- Childcare
- Travel & Tourism
- Business
- Beauty
- Hairdressing
- English and Maths work experience
- Project based learning and Traineeship

Northumberland Training Academy
Northumberland Avenue, Reading
Tel: 0118 923 1010
www.northumberlandta.co.uk

Holidays are fine but not in term time

The remaining school holiday dates for 2013 are as follows:
Mid term break:

Monday 27 to Friday 31 May

End of term: Friday 19 July
for summer holidays

**New School Year begins Monday
9 September 2013**



Calling all former students! we have joined forces with Future First to get back in touch with ex-students and hopefully involve them in the lives of the current students. Please view the website and sign-up using this link: <https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/readinggirls>