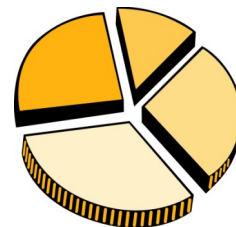




Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



Business &
Enterprise

March 2013

Term 4

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Northumberland
Training
Academy

As from 1 August 2013, Reading College at Reading Girls' School will be known as **Northumberland Training Academy**. The Academy will be offering to students 16+ a similar course set as this year including Hair and Beauty, both at Level 1 and 2, Travel & Tourism, Business and Childcare, all at Level 2. In addition to these the Academy is responding to the Raising Participation Age initiative as well as employers' need for young people to come better equipped with work skills, English and Maths.

So from September we will offer GCSE English and Maths as well as Progression options. These options provide English, maths and employability units, suitable for any destination, whether employment or further education, and coupled, for every student whom is ready to go into the workplace, work experience organised by the Academy at least one day a week. This will provide the students with invaluable experience and the opportunity to start filling their CVs with references.

If you are interested in a visit or more information please do not hesitate to contact the **Academy on 0118 9231010**.

Reading Half Marathon

Two members of staff ran the Reading Half Marathon this year, and a third staff member had her son running. We are delighted to report that all three completed and raised several hundred pounds for their respective charities. Miss Komba completed the course in 2hr 31m; Miss Stoffels in 2hr 14m; and Jared Cunningham (Mrs Cunningham's son) in a miraculous 1hr 35m! Well done to all of them.



Ugly Tie Day!



The press came in to see the ugly ties and you may have seen the article in the Reading Chronicle during the half term holiday.

Students paid 50p to enter the competition and those deemed best in each tutor group were judged by the Chronicle photographer, the lucky winner receiving a fantastic bag of goodies donated by Nirvana Spa.

COMIC RELIEF

Several Year 7 girls had permission to wear their pyjamas for the day to raise money for Comic Relief, they raised around £40!



Students who leave the school site at the end of the day will not be allowed back into school for any reason. Students must leave the site if not attending an after school club.

GCSE DRAMA Ballroom Dancing Workshops

Students in the year 10 GCSE drama group have been undertaking ballroom dancing lessons with Mr Dan Bridle and learning how to cha-cha and jive around the hall. The discipline of ballroom dance has given them both a challenge and perhaps some skills that will make an appearance at prom next year.



Multicultural event this summer

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, please contact Kate Thomson. She is available in the Business & Enterprise department: direct dial 0118 9213424 or email kthomson@readinggirls.reading.sch.uk

Science Theatre

Year 8 and 9 students were entertained by Scott from The Science Theatre. There was some shocking, spellbinding, sense defying displays. Scott started the show with mind-baffling optical illusions. Our brains were thoroughly confused by our eyes. Students were introduced to infrared light, the same one used on wildlife documentaries to view

nocturnal animal activity. It was explained to us that our normal senses cannot detect them. This invisible light was put to use by Scott as he turned Coca-Cola into water. Using an Infrared (IR) camera to view Coca-Cola in a glass, he made the murky, brown liquid appear to be colourless. We could see straight through the bottle to what was behind it. Then, we had a look at what a twenty pound note looked like using IR camera. Why there appeared to be nothing on one side – the Queen had disappeared! Let there be light and there was! There was little resistance when a current (a small one) was passed through some of our year 9 girls. Without plugs or sockets in sight, the girls lit up a lamp by forming their very own large scale electric circuit.



The force was truly with us as Scott showed how to light up a fluorescent strip without it being plugged in, just using a plasma globe. Any worries about electric shocks were dispelled, as the only shock was that such a wonderful show seemed to end too swiftly. Finally, the session was topped off by a look at the night sky using the most up-to-date satellite telescopes. We would like to thank Scott from the Science Theatre for a wonderfully, electrifying show.

Helping students prepare for the future

No matter what path they take in the future, our students will need to be interviewed at some point. To help

them prepare for the future, Year 11 and some Post 16 students have recently had mock interviews carried out by volunteers from local businesses and employers. They had a short mock interview, followed by feedback and time for questions and answers and to get comments on their CV.

Though school staff and parents can obviously advise students on this, having the chance to talk to an external person used to interviewing staff is obviously beneficial. We would like to thank our volunteers and their employers who made this possible: Olswang, Verizon, Visa, Cisco, KPMG, Members of the Rotary Club of Reading Matins, The Oracle Shopping Centre, Royal Berkshire Hospital, Proctor & Gamble, Grundon, Chiltern Training, Chartwells, ING Direct, Peter Brett Associates and Network Rail.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are on the rise and are now a popular path to learning an occupation. To help Year 11 students find out more information, we recently had an assembly from the local apprenticeships network, and a group of Year 9 students attended the Apprenticeships Challenge. This event was held at the Legoland Hotel in Windsor and included talks, quizzes and hands on





activities from colleges and employers from across Berkshire. It showed that as well as the traditional apprenticeships in construction and motoring, apprenticeships are now available in hair and beauty, animal care, child care, hospitality and catering, engineering, administration and finance, and many more.



Berkshire College of Agriculture talked about their animal care course – with a millipede to help! Students had the opportunity to try out hospitality and catering and engineering with British Airways.

If you want to find out more about apprenticeships, information is



available from the following websites:

www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide
www.apprenticeships.org.uk



Our hairdressing students held a “Teach the Teacher” day on Wednesday 13 March, in aid of Red Nose Day. The students taught non-hairdressing staff how to do either plaits or a hair up style on a blockhead, which was great fun, and shows how much the students have learnt and grown in confidence since they started the course.

Staff have been attending local careers fairs to promote the Northumberland Training Academy, which is resulting in applications and enquiries. We will also have a stand at the **Jobs Fair**, being held at the **Pentahotel in Reading on Thursday 25 April**, so that we can liaise with local businesses, especially regarding the Traineeship (Project Based Learning course) and work experience, that we will be offering through the NTA in September.

French Café

As we are an inclusive school, the French department have ended the term by opening a French café in the School foyer in order to start fundraising for future residential trips to France. We had to cancel the proposed trip last year due to



financial strains faced by all of us. With such activities, we hope to raise enough to be able to offer some financial support. Thank you to the staff and students who helped us raise £41! We know you enjoyed the cakes. Merci et Joyeuses Pâques!

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.

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Message from the Head:

Mrs Angus is delighted to report that she will be returning to school, fully fit after the Easter break and thanks everyone for their good wishes while she has been recuperating.

Reading Challenge

Girls were buzzing over books in the library on Tuesday break time as they came to collect their prizes for the Spring Reading Challenge. The Spring Challenge attracted 34 entries from a dozen girls. Each entry entitled them to choose a reading book to take home and every girl also got a couple of items from the lucky dip.

Next term at the end of the Summer Reading Challenge I hope to have prizes suitable to start a sizzling summer holiday and all the entries will go into a grand prize draw. Summer Challenge forms will be in the library after Easter.

Easter House Competition



During the last week students have entered the latest house competition by finding posters placed around the school and scanning the QR codes to get the questions. Students who do not have smart phone could get a copy of the questions from Mrs Lavender. Five points were awarded for each entry and all correct entries were placed into a draw for an Easter Egg.

Austen	245
Bronte	438
Currie	302
Rodick	388
Seacole	254
Young	131

The winning student was Samata Shretha with Fel Carrence Llanora and Lateefah Begum as runners-up.

Mock Trial Competition

On Saturday 2 March 2013, 14 of our Year 9 students participated in a Mock Trial at Reading Crown Court. Girls were either lawyers or witnesses at the event. The girls beat off competition from other local schools, and were declared winners of the heat and are now through to the next round. The girls were well supported by their families and did a

very good job of representing the school as always.

GB Rowing

On Wednesday 20 March three members of the GB Rowing Team; Dan Brown, Steve Gunn and Connie Spoor came in to



allow our girls to try out to see if they could be a GB Rower. The team travel around lots of schools, and likely prospects are referred on to local rowing clubs for further testing and training. A number of students from all year groups participated, it was quite hard work, but a lot of fun.

Globe Theatre

On Wednesday 27 March, 50 Year 10 students are lucky enough to visit the Globe Theatre in London to see a performance of Romeo and Juliet. A report will be in the next newsletter.



Dear Headteacher

My name is Raymond Holden, father of a Year 9 student. I am writing to you not about my daughter but in my capacity as Director of the Place and Space Research Group and Post-graduate Researcher at Kellogg College University of Oxford. On Monday 4 March I undertook a presentation organised by Ms Cunningham of the Year 11 GCSE Geography and Citizenship Class to discuss sustainable urban development and the effects of climate change.

I wanted to write to say how impressed I was with the knowledge and enthusiasm of the girls in the class in discussing what can be very important topics affecting society, but often can be very difficult to understand given the multi faceted and sometimes technical nature of the subjects in question.

The students showed a high degree of knowledge and I think they are a credit to your school and staff and I wish them well in their future careers.

Many thanks and kind regards,

Raymond Holden
Place and Space Research Group

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 £60 per parent for each child doubling to £120 if not paid within 28 days.**

The remaining school holiday dates for 2013 are as follows:

Easter break Friday 29 March to Friday 12 April

Mid term break Monday 27 to Friday 31 May

End of term Friday 19 July