



Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



Term 3

www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk

February 2013

Climate Change Conference

On Monday 3 December a group of ten students from years 7-10 attended a Climate Change Conference at the Reading Borough Council offices. In total 15 teams from various schools across Reading were there, each one representing a different country. During the conference, the young people debated three major elements of the actual negotiations:

- Plans for more ambitious action – to agree how far all nations, developing and developed, will go to cut emissions or reduce emission growth.
- Kyoto Protocol 2 – how to make the second period of this international agreement legally-binding.
- Priorities for Long-term Cooperative Action – to decide joint action to meet targets.



Reading Girls' School represented Bangladesh and Brazil and some very lively discussions took place. The girls were some of the youngest there, but held their own against the other teams and learnt a lot about global warming and what can be done to reduce this and the consequences of not taking action.

Spring Reading Challenge

This term students at all levels have joined the Reading Challenge and earned some well deserved house points and a go at the Library Lucky Dip. The Challenge is open to all age groups and there is still time to enter - all you need to do is read at least three books before the 25 March, record what you have read, write what you thought of each book and give it a star rating. When you hand in your reading challenge Mrs Bilbe will email your tutor and they will give you your House Points, the Library Lucky Dip will take place in the library, on **Wednesday 27 March at 1.20pm**. All the entries will go into a big prize draw at the end of the Summer Term in July.

Swap a book on World Book Day

We are celebrating **World Book Day** on **Thursday 7 March** with a book swap in the library. Bring in any books you would like to swap on 6 March and the swap organiser will give you a book swap to use the next day. You have to bring a book to pick a book so turn out all those books you have finished reading and find something new to explore and keep.

World Book Day Tokens will also be handed out in Tutor Time that morning.

Book Club

The first books for the **Book Club** are being handed out now. The Wednesday Wonders meet in the library after school and are reading "The Graveyard Book" by Neil Gaiman, and the Thursday Thinkers meet in the library at lunchtime, they are reading "Northern Lights" by Philip Pullman. Both the after school and lunch-time groups have a spare place, so if you like reading and talking about books come and speak to the librarian about joining one. If we get more than two enquiries perhaps we'll be able to start a third group.



at Reading
Girls'
School

On 31 January the Travel & Tourism Post-16 students went to Windsor and Earls Court in connection with their course work. The trip was organised by one of the Level 2 students, as part of her course.

Whilst in Windsor they saw the Changing of the Guard at Windsor Castle. The students then travelled to Earls Court for the Destinations and Travel show, where there were stalls for every part of the world, and the students obtained plenty of brochures!

The Post-16 Centre is currently interviewing potential new students hoping to start in September, and held a 'meet the team' event and tour of the Centre on Tuesday 12 February.

The **next Open Evening** will be held on **Tuesday 5 March 2013 from 6.00-8.00pm**, and welcomes anyone interested in the Post-16 Centre at Reading Girls' School to come and look round and meet the team. For further information please telephone 0118 9231010 or visit the website www.reading-college.ac.uk/rgs.



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.

Christmas Show

Jesus of Nazareth–This is your life Part 1

On Wednesday 19 December a home grown script loosely based on the story of the nativity hit the stage at RGS.

The scenario was built around a group of students who kindly decide to help their frazzled and stressed teacher to come up with a show that is “....sure to impress the Headteacher and entertain the parents.” In their attempts to get the Christmas story accurate they encounter several difficulties including the student who comes dressed as Elvis the king, another king who misheard and bought

Frankenstein – played spectacularly by Mr Hughes, as a gift, a donkey who refuses to carry Mary on his back, and a group of shepherds who are saved from the lack of intelligence by their very astute sheep. I should also



mention our zumba teacher Dan Bridle who willingly took on the role as a carrier of the giant gold *Ferrero Roche*.

The production also saw the debut of the reformed RGS choir, who performed numbers such as Robbie Williams ‘Angels’, and Madonna’s ‘Papa Don’t Preach’. Their sound was quite something and even this old hard faced drama teacher found herself dabbing an eye when I stood back and listened to what they had achieved. The choir continue to meet and rehearse on Mondays after school and are going from strength to strength with numbers rapidly swelling following their inspiring performance. A special mention should go to Chris West from St Laurence’s Church who came to offer us some percussion support with his amazing box drum.



Jamaica in year 10 did a tremendous job in ensuring that the cast of 70 were dressed and ready to go on stage, and also that all the hired

costumes came back ready for return.

Francesca, also in year 10, was the production stage manager and said that she never realised how difficult it was to organise large numbers of people back stage, but had learned a lot in her role, despite feeling totally exhausted by the end of it all. Students from the GCSE food technology class provided plenty of delicious homemade festive refreshments for the audience.



So much fun was had putting this production together, and alongside that fun came some very practical learning that simply couldn’t take place in a regular classroom lesson. Students took on all aspects of production from lighting to costume management.

This was truly a team effort that showed Reading Girls’ at its best. So many stellar performances from our students, and great enthusiasm for a summer production..... We’ve already started fundraising!





Fundraising

As spring is (almost) in the air – If you are having a clear out, do think of us.....

BAG2SCHOOL – There will be another bag to school collection at the end of next term. Please bring

unwanted clothing, shoes, bags, belts, bedding and soft toys bagged up to reception at any time.

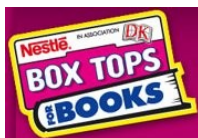
We are also able to make use of the following unwanted items.....

DVDs, CDs, books, old mobile phones and empty printer cartridges.

SAINSBURY ACTIVE KIDS – We are collecting the vouchers from Sainsbury for the PE department. These vouchers can be used by schools to buy extra sports equipment for use by our students.

NESTLE BOX TOPS – We are collecting these!

They are found on the top of boxes of Nestle cereals and can be used by schools to buy books for use by our students.



House Competition

Monday 28 January saw Year 10 tutor groups cheering each other on at the Maths House Competition 2013, organised by the school's team of Maths Ambassadors.

During the term running up to Christmas, all Year 10 students took part in a weekly mental maths quiz during tutor time to win points for



their house. Following this, four students from each tutor group were selected to take part in the competition in January. The competition consisted of four themed rounds with a house being knocked out at the end of each round.

Round 1 was general knowledge number round—Seacole were eliminated first with 100 points.

Round 2 was based on a wheel of fortune—Austen left with 200 points.

Round 3 'What am I?' required each team to guess as many maths terms described by one of their team members as they could in 1.5 minutes—Bronte left with 300 points.

The final round between Roddick and Curie was themed on Blockbuster. Each team had to make a path of hexagonal spaces in their teams colour from one side of a grid to the next without being blocked by the opposition. It was a close game but Curie were victorious, winning the house competition and being awarded 500 points and Roddick took with them 400 points.

The atmosphere in the hall was electric with all students supporting their houses and cheering them on and even having a go at the questions themselves.

Poetry Live

"Let poetry live in your mouth"

"Poetry comes from all walks of life"

These were just some of the inspiring words a group of Year 11s had the opportunity to hear from some of

Britain's finest poets, when they attended this year's Poetry Live! event at the Reading Hexagon.

Various poets including Grace Nichols, Carol-Ann Duffy and Simon Armitage took to the stage – but the pièce de résistance was saved for the final hour of the day. To a great chorus of applause and cheering, and as a collective shiver of excitement rippled through the room, Mr John Agard arrived. His influence was great and his words surrounded the entire theatre. All of the poets used words that we use in daily life, but made them take on the most beautiful meanings.

It was an amazing experience to be able to see the poets in real life and to hear them reciting the poems we study in class to give us a better understanding of the GCSE Literature texts and the exam. We walked home that evening full of inspiration at the beauty of language.

Jessica-Megan Year 11.

LEGO League Competition

On Thursday 10 January, nine students from years 7-11 competed in the First LEGO League Competition held at the University of Reading.

The first LEGO League originated in America but now holds competitions all over the world. It is centred around how we can use robots to help solve real world problems while also encouraging students to be creative, work as a team and become more familiar with the applications of science and technology beyond the classroom. The competition at the University was the first of its kind



in this area, with 13 teams from various local schools taking part.

Preparation for the event began in October 2012, with the team members giving up their time after school to build LEGO models, learn to programme the LEGO robot and complete a project based around the competition theme for this year of 'Senior Solutions'.

The competition consisted of four tasks which were judged equally. The robot game required students to programme a robot to complete various tasks and score as many points as they could in two and a half minutes. All of the obstacles were constructed from LEGO and much of the preparation time was spent building these obstacles and programming the robot – a much more difficult task than we had anticipated! We managed to reach the quarter final of this round and were astonished by the performances of some of the other robots in the competition.

Secondly the students took part in a robot design interview followed by the teamwork challenge which required the team to build a structure from six marshmallows and 30 strands of spaghetti that could hold an egg as high from the ground as possible, without talking to each other. Proudly we built the only marshmallow structure that survived the entire day, and held the egg!

Finally, the 'Senior Solutions' project required students to investigate everyday problems that people associate with getting older and come up with an innovative solution to one of these problems and present it to a panel of judges. Our students investigated this by administering questionnaires to a group of seniors and came up with the idea of a remote control which



read out the button you were about to press when you hovered your finger over it. The students presented their project in the style of Dragon's Den complete with wigs and a giant remote control costume. This round was our greatest success and we were awarded with a trophy (made of LEGO!!) for the best project at the competition.



The day was highly enjoyable and a great success for Reading Girls' School. We look forward to more students at Reading Girls' getting involved with LEGO Robotics events in the future. Preparation for the next competition will begin in September; however Mrs Monk is currently holding a weekly lunchtime session where students can start to learn how to programme the robot.

For further information about how you can get involved please contact Miss Stoffels or Mrs Monk.



We have now launched FILMCLUB to run weekly every Thursday starting after half term until the end of the academic year. Students will have the opportunity to send 'wish lists' of films they would like to watch, write reviews and enter competitions on the FILMCLUB website. This will enrich their experiences in terms of learning about the film industry, cultures and improve their literacy. FILMCLUB engages young people through informal learning.

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:

Mid term break Monday 18 to Friday 22 February

Easter break Friday 29 March to Friday 12 April

Mid term break Monday 27 to Friday 31 May

End of term Friday 19 July