



Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



Business &
Enterprise

Term 3

www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk

February 2015

Clothes Show Live

On Monday 8 December 2014 thirty GCSE Textiles pupils embarked on an action packed day to the Clothes Show Live at the Birmingham NEC. The Clothes Show is Britain's biggest fashion and beauty event with over 500 exhibitors, showcasing new designers, fashion trends and beauty products on the market. Pupils had the opportunity to watch live catwalk shows, speak to young designers, shop and celebrity spot!

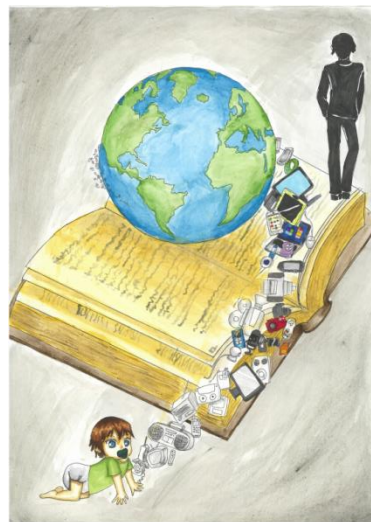


Miss Spence arranged the trip to give GCSE pupils exposure to the fashion industry and allow pupils to gather first hand research and inspiration for their coursework. All girls thoroughly enjoyed the trip with highlights of the day being shopping, the model master class, ALCA TEL Fashion theatre finale, catwalk and watching *StereoKicks* perform on the main stage.

All girls were extremely well behaved, showed real maturity and independence when exploring the venue with their peers and kept to check-in times. Well Done GCSE Textiles girls.

World Book Day

For the first time there was a competition to win books for the school library. Entries could be in any creative medium and the theme was *WHY WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT BOOKS*. The closing date for the competition was Wednesday 27 January and the winning entry from the school (Chang Shen 11A) was uploaded to the World Book Day Competition website. **World Book Day will be on Thursday 5 March** this year when every student will receive a book token worth £1 to spend in participating bookshops. www.worldbookday.com



Palace of Westminster

On Tuesday 20 January a group of Citizenship students travelled to London and visited Westminster Hall in the Palace of Westminster. They had previously visited the Supreme Court before heading for a tour of the Houses of Parliament.



This was followed by a workshop about how laws are made. It was a long day but very enjoyable and the students learnt a lot about law and politics.

The Bloodhound Project

Bloodhound SSC is a supersonic land vehicle currently in development. Its goal is to match or exceed 1,000 miles per hour achieving a new world land speed record. The pencil-shaped car, powered by a jet engine and a rocket engine is designed to reach 1,050 miles per hour.



As part of our interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities we were invited to join Kendrick School at the prestigious **Bloodhound Workshop Tour** hosted at the John Madejski Academy on Tuesday 27 January. Winning one of the three workshops, the K'nex Challenge to build the fastest and most stable car, was the highlight. The girls were

marked on speed, stability and teamwork and will have their names printed on the Bloodhound SSC tail fin, and travel over 1000 mph!



Congratulations to Kaya, Diamond, Sammar, Samantha and Alizaya and the five girls from Kendrick School.



Peer Visit

The GCSE Citizenship class was honoured to be visited on Friday 30 January by Lord Rosser, to talk about the House of Lords and his work there. It is part of the Houses of Parliament Education Service initiative to raise interest and awareness of politics and the working of Parliament among young people. The students have all been on a trip to the Houses of Parliament and have had visits from the local MP Rob Wilson. With the visit by Lord Rosser they should all now have a much better understanding of politics and may



be able to help their parents when it comes to the general election.



Active Kids Vouchers



For those parents who shop at **Sainsbury's**, this scheme has started again so any vouchers will be much appreciated. We always get a decent amount of PE equipment from them. Please give your vouchers to your daughters to bring in to school.

Year 11 Mock Results

Every year we stage a 'Mock Results Day' so that Y11 students can get a taste of how it will feel in August collecting their real GCSE results. As on the real results day, some were surprised or delighted, some were disappointed. For some of them this will have provided them with the motivation to sort out their revision and study plans, for others it will have confirmed that they are doing the right things and just need to keep working hard.



World Peace Day

WPD was marked in school when Miss Komba asked students to submit designs for a Peace Mural.

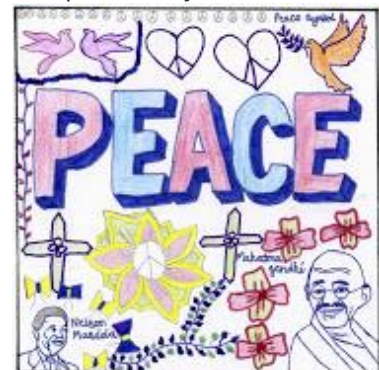
The best Tutor Group entry was by Emily in 9R.



Individually: 1st place – Neha Y10



2nd place – Sujita Y8



3rd place – Ziyi Y8



Microsoft Inspiration

A group of Y11 students recently visited the offices of Microsoft to find out what life was like working in a large organisation.



The first activity was an icebreaker, thinking about how technology affects our lives and how it might be used in future. This group activity meant the girls practised their enterprise and employability skills such as teamwork, creative thinking and resilience. Presenting to the room was a scary experience but gave them a chance to practise their communication skills and was excellent for their confidence. The students had a guided tour of Microsoft’s beautiful offices and saw how a large organisation has office space, meetings rooms and rest areas within it. The girls (and school staff) were very impressed by the light, airy spaces, colourful furniture, and shops inside the building.



Talks from young staff at Microsoft followed showing how they followed various paths to a career in Microsoft - some were apprentices and others had followed a graduate route. They talked about their personal experiences in education and how they had made decisions and overcome set-backs.

The last part of the day was a talk with HR about CV writing. The girls had an interesting, informative and inspirational morning.

The Science Museum workshop visits RGS

Y7 and Y8 students enjoyed the dramatic and electrifying ‘*Danger, High Voltage*’ show, performed by the Science Museum. The girls travelled back in time to meet the founding fathers of electricity, and watched demos re-enacting the discoveries which eventually made electricity a possibility in every home.



They started off learning about the dangers of lightning, and learnt the safety measures they should take should they be caught out in a lightning storm. Then they watched

with awe as a Van der Graff shot indoor lightning bolts, and magically levitated throwing metal plates across the stage. The girls were impressed, but not as much as Barbie, whose hairs stood on end when she was placed on the Van der Graff.

The show ended in a dramatic demonstration of bravery as a tesla coil was revealed, with one student bravely standing close enough to power neon tube lights.



Their equally brave and noble science teacher placed her life on the line, by setting a torch alight with a bolt of electricity!



The Museum team stayed for a hands-on, interactive two-hour workshop where girls were shown exciting classroom demos which they recreated and presented to each other. Some of the girls are

looking forward to visiting the Science Museum in March, where they will take part in more activities and workshops.

Safer Internet Day

As part of the PSCHEE Day, the school has marked Safer Internet Day with a variety of activities.

All year groups have had an assembly on internet safety and staying safe on-line. For the younger year groups this focussed on cyber bullying, while for Y10 and Y11 the focus was how your use of social media can affect your future. The students have also had internet safety activities in their tutor groups.

If parents want to look into these aspects for themselves, the following websites are very useful:

CEOP (National Crime Agency):

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Safer Internet Centre:

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

BBC - Webwise:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/topics/safety-and-privacy/>

NSPCC:

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/>

Year 7 Careers Lab

It may seem early to be thinking about careers, but Y7 took part in a Careers Lab activity with volunteers from **Thames Water** and **National Grid**.



The main objective of the session was to understand the skills and

qualities needed for different roles. Students thought about the skills and qualities they already have and how they can be developed for the future.

Students looked at the huge range of occupations, jobs and careers, and saw how their interests and hobbies can help their choices as if you pick a career you love it doesn't seem like work.

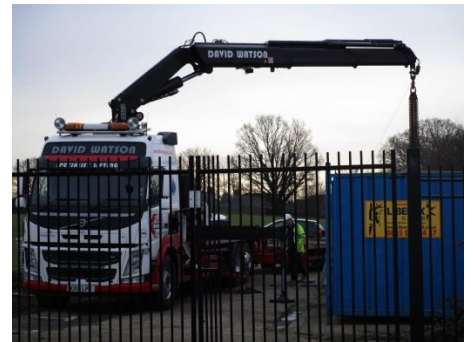
The final session was thinking about the students' role models, whether someone they know personally or someone they have seen on television or in public life. The students considered the skills and qualities the role model has that they would like to emulate. Like working towards qualifications, personal development is an on-going process and everyone needs to challenge themselves to be their personal best.

Thank you to National Grid and Thames Water for their time, help and generosity in providing resources and volunteers.



New build update

Over the last two weeks we have seen lorries arriving on site with equipment and the archaeological survey has started this should be completed by the end of February at the latest. So far nothing interesting has been found – this is a good thing for the build schedule!



The next phase will be the erection of the fencing for the main site and will start on 23 February and what is called 'site mobilisation' will follow very quickly. After that we will see some quite rapid progress as foundations are dug.



We are hoping for a time lapse video of the whole event, providing we can overcome some teething issues with technology – our tests have given us some very nice cloud movement but nothing below about 10,000ft!

Regular updates on progress will be found on the school website www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk.