



# Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



Business &  
Enterprise

Term 4

[www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk](http://www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk)

April 2015

## Music

Music is thriving at RGS; girls are working with interest and producing work of a very pleasing standard. Pupils in Y7 have developed their rhythmic, notation and keyboard skills on work based around Cee Lo Green's 'Forget You'. Both Y8 and Y9 have been involved in composition tasks. Y8 based their work around 'ostinato' and looking at the music of various composers and girls in Y9 have been composing their own songs, some of which have been recorded in the studio. I've been really pleased to see girls writing in their own languages and using their own cultural elements in their work too. Y10's focus was primarily in preparing for their recent mock examination.

The major event of the term was our visit to the Wembley SSE Arena where members of RGSC participated in the amazing spectacle that was '**Voice in a Million**'.



This was a wholly worthwhile project; the girls (and staff) sang their hearts out with almost 7000

other children and danced the night away too. Thank you for your support; it really was super and something that we are looking to do again next year on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016.



A small number of Y7 girls are learning to play flute with Miss Morgan. They meet once a week and are making excellent progress under her guidance. We have a number of other musical instruments in school: clarinets, trumpets, trombones, violins, a viola and cello, for example and I am more than keen for pupils to use these. Please let me know if your daughter is interested.

I mentioned in a previous newsletter that we had established links with **Reading Rock Academy** and that they were coaching Y10 pupils in school. I've now expanded this opportunity to include younger pupils. **Musical Enrichment Club (ME Club)** will begin in the new term and take place after school on Wednesdays, from 3.15 to 4.30pm. Here, pupils will begin learning or further develop their skills in guitar (electric/acoustic/bass), drum-kit, ukulele and keyboard under guidance of staff from Reading Rock

Academy and myself. Unfortunately, we can't run the 'ME Club' for free. The cost will be £15 for 5 (or 6) sessions depending on the length of each half term. If your daughter would like to join 'ME Club' please ask her to collect a letter from me. I will be looking to further expand 'ME Club' to include vocal coaching, recording and PC based music skills in Cubase and Sibelius too. There's a lot going on in music; if you would like to get involved just let me know.

**Mr Greenway**



On Friday 27 March the Y10 GCSE Leisure and Tourism class took a trip to **Legoland Resort Windsor**. Upon arrival pupils were quickly taken to the *exploratorium* where they had a behind the scenes presentation and question and answer session from the education facilitator. The girls learnt all about the business of Legoland Resort Windsor and how they are using promotions and technologies to increase sales. The girls had a great time exploring the park for the new technologies and promotions that they had been told about – a great day was had by all and they are looking forward to writing up their controlled assessments.



## Berkshire Apprenticeships Adventure

**Business & Enterprise** A group of Y11 students recently visited the **Berkshire Apprenticeships Adventure**, which was held at the Coppid Beech Hotel near Bracknell. They had the opportunity to speak to colleges about their apprenticeships courses and with employers about their apprenticeships schemes. There were many types of careers represented including: hair dressing, car maintenance, administration, IT and engineering. They are available to students after GCSE and A-Level, and some higher apprenticeships would fund them through a degree course if needed. Several of the students now have ideas for careers and opportunities they hadn't previously considered.



A group of Y10 students visited the offices of **Microsoft** for a day of activities about careers and job seeking skills, which was run by their interns and apprentices. The day was also attended by another school, and the first activity was an ice-breaker to help everyone get to know one another. As there were small prizes for correct answers, things soon livened up!



The young apprentices then told their stories of how they got to work at Microsoft, and an HR representative gave them tips about CV writing and interviews. A team

activity followed where they thought about inspirational people and their qualities, and presented to the room about their chosen role model.



After lunch, they were given time to prepare before having a mock interview. Certificates and prizes went to the best three interviews, of which two went to our students, Siobhan Lynch and Rebecca Barnett. There were also three prizes for the best working students over the day, one of which went to Catherine O'Loughlin. It was a very stimulating and challenging day, which took the students out of their comfort zones and will hopefully benefit them in the future.

### Visitors for the PSHCEE Day

During the recent PSHCEE day, we had some visitors to help the Y11s preparing for GCSEs and the transition to the next stage of their life and careers. Some of the current Y11s had said they would find it beneficial to talk to students who have recently taken GCSEs about coping with exams, so some ex-students now studying for their A-Levels returned for a short visit to chat with them. The students found it very useful and informative - they were able to ask questions about being in a sixth form and the A-level work as well as getting tips and advice about coping with the GCSEs. The ex-students were very helpful and it was good to see them.



Students had also asked to find out more about careers in the health sector, so we had a guest speaker from the **Royal Berkshire Hospital** to talk about careers in the **NHS**. They have very varied roles - everything from gardeners to IT and admin staff, and from art therapists to ambulance paramedics, psychologists and medical staff. She also spoke about how to find out about jobs and vacancies.



For those students who needed help with their CVs, we had some workshops with business volunteers from the **Rotary Club of Reading Matins**. They took time out of their day to work with the students, and were great at coaxing information out of the girls to help them with their CVs. This was invaluable as some students don't realise how their achievements, hobbies and skills can be used to market themselves as future employees.

Thank you to our visitors - your time and help is much appreciated.



Part of the February PSHCEE day for the Y7 students was an activity called **Careers Lab**. This was run with volunteers and resources from **National Grid** and **Thames Water**, and we thank them for their time and support.



The aim of the day was to think about the skills and qualities needed for different career roles and how students are already developing these. Personal development is an ongoing process, both at school and with hobbies and interests outside of school. They thought about their role models and why they are inspirational, and they were encouraged to constantly challenge themselves and be their personal best.

## OLSWANG

In the February half term, four of our Y11 students attended work experience with **Olswang LLP**, a law firm based at The Blade, in central Reading. The previous week they were taken to Olswang to meet the staff they would be working with. As Olswang knew the students may not have clothing appropriate for the workplace, this visit included a shopping trip to buy each student an outfit of office attire. Highlights of the work experience included a debate, a visit to Microsoft and a graduation ceremony with lots of cake!

Florida Ferizolli said "I learnt a lot about Olswang and the different types of law that are available. I have developed a lot of skills whilst being here, including my communications skills. The experience has given me an in-depth knowledge about solicitors and working in a business environment. All the activities were extremely enjoyable and I have gained an insight into employment and real estate law. Everyone has been exceedingly informative and welcoming."

Thank you to **Olswang** for their generosity in arranging this for the students.

## Science Activity Day at Kendrick School

Dr Karen Perry, from Kendrick School, kindly invited ten students to a scintillating science activity day. Students from both Kendrick and Reading Girls' investigated how to determine the effectiveness of a vaccine. Our girls asked some extremely pertinent questions and came to the right conclusion about the most effective drug.

The inimitable Professor Winston, the father of IVF, gave a talk about his journey into medicine. His advice was to study what you enjoy and not what is dictated to you – controversial words!



When asked why he went into the particular branch of medicine, Professor Winston mentioned an experiment carried out by a famous scientist 300 hundred years ago. Pupils and staff were enthralled by the story of frogs in pants.

There were great gasps from teachers and an uproar of laughter from students when Professor Winston remarked that he did not like the word 'inspire' and felt it to be a redundant word (recall the motto of Kendrick School - *Lead, inspire, make a difference*).

Our students also had the chance to use a robotic hand to assist them in doing set tasks. Again they triumphed in stacking up objects using it. The hand was being trialled with people who had lost an arm.



Please don't let Professor Winston hear me say this, but our time at Kendrick School's Science Activity day - was truly inspirational!

## Y7 Science Museum

7E were visited by the science museum last term and have been working on the 'building bridges' project in school. The culmination of the project was a trip to the Science Museum in London.



Miss Jomaa said: "Year 7s enjoyed a fun packed day at the London Science Museum as they carried out activities prepared for them in the Information Age Gallery. First they answered a series of text messages sent to them, before solving problems through the ages with items from the past. They then spent some time in the 'Who am I' exhibition finding out more about who we are and what we are made of. After lunch, the girls listened to a talk by a real life scientist about Genetic Modification in food before finally making posters presenting their ideas and opinions on GM products in a scientific manner."

## Tasting Chocolate

8G became food scientists for the day, as they walked around the labs of **Reading Scientific Services Ltd at the University of Reading** trying to find out why the new Cadbury's cherry chocolate had gone wrong. They found out how biology, chemistry, physics and even mathematics played fundamental roles in making the perfect chocolate bar!



After intense analysis in the microbiology lab to see what different micro-organisms could do to taste and safety they then ventured into the texture analysis lab, looking at the force it takes to bite a bar and learning why chocolate is made differently in different countries. The girls were then shown the secret to perfect tempering before finally becoming consumer scientists and having a taste themselves! Only our top tasters could spot the Irish Cadbury from the UK Cadbury! Who would have ever thought so much science went into chocolate!

## Magistrates Mock Trial

A group of students took part in the Berkshire heat of the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition on Saturday 7 March. They spent weeks preparing for the trial with the assistance of Mrs Thomson and Tina Heaford from the Reading Youth Service CAT team. They did very well and came second in the heat.



This means that they are through to the semi-finals with the South East Regional Heat taking place in May when they will have a new case to study and learn, and will be up against stiff competition. Good luck to them for May!

## UK Maths Challenge

The **UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT)** is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics. The UKMT organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year old UK school pupils. They were established in 1996 and last academic year over 600,000 pupils from 4,000 schools took part in the three individual challenges, the UK's biggest national maths competitions.

This year's team comprised of Sara Shuttleworth and Grace Ewing (Y8) and Glory Ombui and Manal Bses (Y9). The competition involved four rounds of tough maths problems which the girls contested keenly and they are already looking forward to competing again next year.

## Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

Year 9, 10 and 11 bright mathematicians took part in the **UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge** in early February 2015. Of the 15 pupils who took part in the competition, 3 pupils achieved silver and 5 pupils achieved bronze.

Congratulations to Glory Ombui (Y9) – Overall Best Pupil and Best in Year Silver. The rest were:  
Chang Shen Y11 – Best in Year silver  
Morsel Haidari Y11 – Bronze  
Sahara Pandit Y11 – Bronze  
Aisha Alobaidi Y11 – Bronze  
Amasha Rajagaru Y10 – Best in Year Bronze, Manal Bses Y9 – Silver  
Emily McQuillan – Bronze.

## Maths Feast

On Thursday 12 February Reading Girls' School sent two teams of Y10 mathematicians to a 'Maths Feast' at John Hampden Grammar School. The competition was entered by many different local schools who were showcasing the best mathematicians from their school. The day included puzzles, origami, group and rally tasks and tested the girls, Miss Paget and Mrs Thomson! We all really enjoyed the Maths activities and look forward to returning next year and possibly getting a prize for our achievements.



In the run up to **World Book Day** the library ran a Readathon which is a sponsored

read to raise money to provide books and resources for seriously ill and disabled children. Congratulations to Isabella Stephenson for reading the largest number of books and raising the most money. In all we raised £213.77 which gives us a target to beat next year.



Our entry for the **World Book Day Award** was a fabulous poster by Chang Shen. The judges went for animations and videos but we are hoping Chang's work can be used to promote reading throughout the school.



## PE News

### Y7 Rugby Team



The girls played really well in their first competitive rugby tournament with some really good tackling and break away sprinting to score a try.

### Y9/10/11 Volleyball Team



Once again RGS dominated the volleyball competition, outplaying JMA and Highdown. The team, along with Ms Jones put in hours of extra practice at break times and it certainly paid off.

### Y8 & 9 Rugby Team



The girls put in a good performance against a strong BHF side. They scored the first try and kept them under pressure throughout despite being a few players short.

### Year 9 Netball Team



The girls displayed some excellent passing and shooting skills. They had some good wins and finished mid table in the league.

### Year 10 Netball Team



The girls produced some excellent netball throughout the league and tournament with some good results. Overall they finished mid table.

### Year 8 Netball team



Following on from their success last year, the girls once again put in a strong performance in the league finishing 3rd out of 10 teams. In the tournament, they won their group and made it to the final against the Abbey which they narrowly lost 2-3.

### Year 7 Netball Team



The girls have had a good first season, developing their skills and tactics as the league went on. They did extremely well in the tournament finishing 3rd in their group only narrowly missing out on the semi-finals.

### Year 9 Inter-house Netball

After a very intense tournament with moments of joy for some and despair for others the results of the Year 9 tournament were:

1st = 9C

2nd = 9A, 9R and 9S

5th = 9B



We are collecting the Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury's so we can order more equipment for you. Please hand them to your PE teacher if you have any.



Over the past few weeks work on site has been progressing well. The site hoarding has been completed to ensure safe segregation between the school and construction site. The excavation work has begun; the first phase of this is to remove the majority of top soil from the site. Also in conjunction with these works Headland Archaeologist have commenced following their trail trenching earlier and are investigating further, so far they have revealed probable medieval and post-medieval agricultural use of this site and have found two tools, a scraper and some form of cutting tool.

Following the top soil strip the cut and fill exercise will be carried out to level the ground under the building footprint.

Looking ahead the main drainage runs and building foundations will be constructed along with Interserve's site compound. Our blue site offices will be arriving on site and our main site set-up completed. After this most visual sign of progress will be the installation of the steel frame starting in the summer. We will be around for a while - the main build is due for completion in August 2016. Please check the school website for more regular updates.



Rob Wilson, MP recently visited the Northumberland Training Academy. Following a tour of the Academy's hair and beauty facilities, Mr Wilson met students planning to start their own businesses. He also talked with Nigel Dacombe of *Xenca* (a business specialising in a range of beauty and nutrition products) who has been working alongside the Academy Director Peter Gallagher to boost business acumen amongst the students.



Recently, students raised over £300 in an exercise requiring sales of beauty products to local businesses and members of the public at a Christmas Fayre. Commenting on the students' recent selling exercise, Rob said: "It's fantastic to see students learning about business and putting this into practice so readily. It's great to see students with such determination and enthusiasm for business."

#### Funky Bliss Training Day

On 27 February students and graduates from all across the borough showed off their cutting, styling and colouring skills at the NTA salon. Hairdressers were so impressed, that they plan to make this a regular bi-monthly event. The event saw hairdressers share good practice and included refreshments from the Academy's Snack-Shack which is run by students.

Our **Enterprise Builder** students have set up a **Snack-Shack** for students and staff, as they want to learn more about business management.



#### NTA at the Bett Show

James Downing, English teacher at NTA, was asked by **Google** to give a talk at the Bett Show in Excel London, about using Google apps in education, which went really well, and gained a lot of interest in what we are doing at NTA.



#### 12th March: NTA Progression Day

Many students attended and spoke to our visitors from **Adviza, KPMG and Rotary**; the students found this event really useful, in helping them to decide what they want to do next.

Our visitors all said how impressed they were and that "the staff and students are always very helpful, pleasant and enthusiastic, which makes coming to NTA a good experience". They were glad that their input was useful and look forward to assisting our students again in the future.