



Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



Term 6

www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk

July 2015



New build update

The construction of the structural steel works has commenced in Lot 1 and is ongoing, the floor slabs (Bison Beams) have arrived and are being installed and will continue through the summer break.



The site offices have arrived and have been fitted out for occupation.



The pad foundations for Lot 2 and the foul drainage are also being installed. In terms of what's coming ... elements of the structural steel will be erected in Lot 2, and construction of the Muga (multi use games area) will commence.



On Tuesday 30 June at the Crawley STEMfest, incorporating Big Bang Fair

South East, our team presented their DocSoc project. This was originally developed for the SATRO Siemens Next Big Thing healthcare competition which they won. At this event, they were awarded a total of £220 in prize money and trophies in the following categories:

- KPMG Prize for use of Accounts
- Network Rail Award for Women in Science and Engineering
- Parafix Prize for Innovation
- Pyroban Award for Design Technology
- Society for Endocrinology – Rising Star in Medicine



Business Challenge



The girls were in small teams and had to

Young Enterprise came in to school to present a challenge to all our Year 10 Business Studies students.

choose a new business idea to brand and promote. They were assisted by professional women from **Visa**, who were able to contribute their experience and encouragement. The challenge enabled our students to apply the theory from their lessons to realistic business scenarios.

Penguin Workshop

The GCSE Child Development class enjoyed a recent trip to Chessington World of Adventures. They started the day with a 'Penguin Workshop' – the students took part in a variety of interactive activities, discovering more



about penguins and how young children learn through play. They dressed as penguins, waddled like penguins, limbo danced and completed quizzes. The students also enjoyed a trip through the aquarium as a group.

Then the real fun began! It was a perfect day for the water rides and most of them got soaked at least once in the day – a great way to cool off on such a hot day.



A visit to Symantec

On Friday 3 July 2015, a group of girls who had been working on a project for the **GO4SET Challenge 2015** travelled to London to present their idea to the judges. The girls were one of seven schools participating in the event and they won the Students' Choice Award.

The group assembled at Reading Station early in the morning, taking the train and the London Underground to the University of Westminster. As they arrived, they were kindly welcomed by the staff and taken to a display stand, where they set up for their presentation. There was an air of expectation and a certain kind of rivalry as the other schools arrived.

The team had one more quick rehearsal with their mentors, **Helen Garrick and Peter Grimmond from Symantec**, before being led into a separate room with four of the competition judges. They gave their presentation with a confident and professional air; the girls explained their idea – a portable ‘E-Wallet’, and gave the judges some fundamental facts about the History of Money and why their idea was better than any other competitors.



After they returned to their stand, the girls presented their idea again to their judges as well as other important officials, such as the representative for the sponsor of the event, **Mastercard**. One of the awards was Students’ Choice, where each team got to select the idea they thought best, so the girls went round each of the stands, hearing and actively asking questions about the other ideas.



The girls all received certificates and won the **Students’ Choice Award**, though they were disappointed not to win overall Best Project. The girls warmly thanked their mentors and the accompanying teachers for giving them

the opportunity. The representative from Mastercard approached the school, saying the team has been invited to pitch their idea to the staff at Mastercard, as well as have a tour of their buildings and latest technology. Everyone was thrilled. The girls were treated to a celebratory Starbucks, before heading home with their display stand and trophies.

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition



After a very successful practice expedition in May roaming the countryside around Pangbourne, the DofE group arrived early in Henley on Saturday 20 June to embark upon their final weekend expedition. With bags packed and waterproofs at the ready, 16 year 10 girls navigated their way along footpaths, hills and fields, successfully reaching their camp in good time. The girls worked magnificently as a team, especially when setting up camp and cooking dinner in torrential rain, thunder and lightning. Despite the weather, the team were in great spirits, even performing an outstanding dance routine which they had prepared especially for the occasion! The following day brought along a little more rain and a lot more walking, but also a chance to see some beautiful scenery and wildlife.



Along the way, the girls were being assessed by an external DofE assessor, who was hugely impressed by them all

and passed every student with flying colours. Mr Boyd, Mr Nichols, Miss Yu and Miss Jones are all extremely proud of the team and everybody has really enjoyed DofE this year.

Day Dream Harvest

Ten art students spent a superbly creative day with Nick Garnett, local Artist and Experienceologist. Nick encouraged the students to explore their imaginations and develop a story using a large range of found objects which Nick had provided.



Nick encouraged the students to use their imaginations, to create new ideas and to explore creativity through play and inventiveness. He encouraged

students to reconnect with the playful creativity which Picasso explained when he said that, “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”



Students began to create characters, and costumes, designed and made flying vehicles, pets and accessories. The work was on a large scale, actively mixing together interesting found objects. A story of Whitley in a distant imagined future began to emerge. The students who took part in the workshop were superb participants and artists.

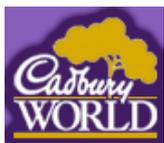


All were fully involved in the project, actively intelligently thinking, imagining, designing and making. Making then transformed into performance as the students composed photographs which presented what they had made. It was impressive to see how much the students managed to create in a day. Nick commented on how enthusiastic, motivated and artistically able the students were. One of the main aims of the project was to transform the everyday into the unusual.

Graphics



The artist Julia Rogers recently visited school to work with a number of Y9 girls. They investigated angles and viewpoints around the school and created some beautiful artwork.



BTEC Level 2 Travel & Tourism

This term the students were required to organise a trip as part of their coursework for Unit 13: organising a travel and tourism visit. The students were responsible for planning and organising the whole trip, from completing risk assessments to managing the budget. Every student was given a responsibility and they all rose to the challenge to ensure that the trip was a success. They enjoyed a tour around the 14 zones, learning about the history of chocolate, the making of chocolate including manufacturing and packaging. The most enjoyable part was, without question, the tasting experience. Well done to the Travel & Tourism class for planning and executing such a successful day out.

Skill! Enterprise Event

All of the Y9 students who have chosen to take the Business Studies GCSE were involved in the *Skill! Event* put on for them by **Visionpath**. This programme is designed to give young people an inspirational opportunity to learn vital new skills that will help them to be successful now and in the future. It provided the ideal induction for our new business students, with the facilitator Naomi, and the many volunteers from **Aldermore Bank**, providing guidance and support, as well as being excellent role models. The winning team all received prizes, and along with the girls who came second, will be mentored by Aldermore to compete against other schools in Global Enterprise Week in November.



The winning team – Glory, Orlenda, Samah, Michaela, Shisam and Samantha with Patrick from Visionpath, Naomi and the Aldermore judges.

Art Display at Reading University

A selection of work from students in Y7, Y8 and Y9 has been selected for an exhibition at London Road campus, of the University of Reading. It is currently on display in the site's original notice boards, located outside the old library building. These notice boards are on the main walkway from Crown Place to Redlands Road, and the University grounds are open at all times. So take a stroll past, if you're in the area!



Reading Girls' School was given the opportunity to exhibit their work, over the next year, as the University wishes to promote local schools in the nearby area. Thanks to links within the school and within the department, Reading Girls' School was selected to be given this display space.

Great Year 7 Languages Bake Off

On Monday 6 July, 16 Y7 students took part in the Great Year 7 Languages



Bake Off. Earlier in the month, students were asked to create a recipe in either French or Spanish and submit a recipe card. The most creative and well written recipes were then chosen to bake. The girls had 1 hour from start to finish to create their masterpieces and you will see from the pictures that there were some fantastic bakes; Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry would be impressed! Someone then had to do the terrible job of tasting all of the delicious food, but luckily, the staff were more than willing to oblige!

A huge well done to all of the students involved, and a special congratulations to the winners:

1st place: Karishma and Shahaana (salted caramel brownies),



2nd place: Vanessa and Temitayo (mini ice cream cakes) and 3rd



place: Jessie and Keely (vanilla biscuits with chocolate dipping sauce).



2015 Prom

This years Prom was held at The Crowne Plaza, Caversham on Friday 3 July. As always the girls and staff put on their finery, and danced the night away. There are lots more photos on the school website but here are a select few.



Festival of Light

2015 is the UNESCO International Year of Light and on Friday 3 July Mr Tuggey and Mr Dillely took a group of Y9 students celebrating by attending the Festival of Light at Reading University. During the day the students took part in a range of art, music, literature and science workshops on the theme of light.



Activities included performance art, where they composed and played electronic music and wrote and performed a script based on the experiences of an explorer from Earth, travelling at the speed of light and returning unaged after hundreds of years had elapsed on earth.



In a literature workshop they composed poems based on the first sight of the moon. They explored aspects of the electromagnetic spectrum and experimented with photofluorescence and chemiluminescence in one science

workshop and used long exposure photography to create light sculptures in the other, as shown in the photographs above.

KPMG Careers Visit

The school are grateful to KPMG for funding a Work Ready event for the Year 10 students, and providing mentors to work with the students.



Sidra Karim and Seana Bolton report on the event:

'On Thursday 9th July Reading Girls' School was visited by KPMG for an informative workshop on careers. The students did a variety of tasks including dressing up mannequins and giving them a personal profile. Experience was gained in tasks like CV writing and it was an interesting and informative session that was greatly enjoyed. It served to give students an idea of what skills are needed in the world of work and the variety of tasks kept it interesting yet educational. Students were put into groups with mentors who answered extra questions and provided realism to the tasks by linking them to personal experiences as the workshop was ended with anecdotes from two of them.'

Recycling/STEM activities

On Friday 10 July year 10 child development students learnt how recycling and STEM activities can be fun. They pedalled to run a generator to amplify music from their phones and inflate the 'recyclops' monster.



PE Department
U16 Athletics League



Our U16 girls worked hard in the two league rounds with some excellent individual performances. They made the final and again we had some excellent performances. Well done girls.

Y9/10 5-a-side Football Tournament



We took 8 girls to this tournament. This was a new venture for RGS and they enjoyed the experience of playing at the 'Goals' football centre. Due to the smaller pitches and playing off the walls



this was a quick paced and quick reactions tournament. In addition to the tournament, there was a separate competition to have the fastest kick measured against a speed detector. We were proud to see an RGS student win this; Shelby had the fastest kick and won a signed football.

Year 9 Rounders League



The girls were on form and focused with their batting and fielding skills and played consistently well in all their

matches. The girls finished in equal second on points, but moved to third place with rounders scored overall. Well done girls.

Year 8 Rounders League



The girls played with real determination. They scored some great rounders off some fantastic hits and fielded really well. They won the majority of their games and came third overall. Well done girls.

Year 7 Rounders League



The Year 7 girls had a chance to try out their newly formed rounders skills and develop their knowledge and application of the rules. Although they found some of the matches quite tough, they will go on to bigger and better performances next year.

U14 Athletics League



We had 15 girls compete for us over three league evenings and then the finals. The girls performed extremely well and we finished in the top 3 every week in the league matches. We

competed in the 'B' final (out of A,B,C &D) and finished 3rd in that final. Well done girls.

Reading Schools' Athletics Championships

In this competition we entered Year 7, Year 8 and combined Year 9/10 teams. As always all the athletes' behaviour off the track and effort on the track did RGS proud. In the team events Year 7 were 5th, Year 8 were 3rd (3 points from 1st!) and Year 9/10 were 4th, all out of 11 teams.

The girls won 13 individual medals as follows:

Year 7



Latasha – 75m sprint
Silver medal &
Shot Put – Silver medal



Jade – 150m
Silver medal



Amie – 600m
Bronze medal

Year 8



Angela – Javelin
Gold medal



Angela – 100m
Silver medal



Ellise – High
Jump
Bronze medal



Zuzanna – Shot Put
Silver medal



Relay –
(Dominika,
Angela,
Ellise & Paige)
Gold medal

Year 9/10



Kia – 300m
Gold Medal



Ella – 800m
Bronze medal



Princess – 200m
Bronze medal



Relay (Teta, Ella,
Princess & Kia –
Silver medal

Berkshire County Athletics Finals

In addition to the Reading Schools' Athletics Championships, we had four girls who were selected to compete for Reading in the Berkshire County finals:

Latasha – 75m

Jade – 150m

Kia – 75m hurdles - silver

Angela – Shot Put - gold

* Angela beat the Championship record, reached National Standard, and is in the top 10 for her age in the country. She went on to compete in the English Schools National Championships in Gateshead.

Berkshire School Games

Seven of our Sports Ambassadors attended the training day and then assisted with the running of the

Berkshire School Games at Wellington College in Crowthorne.



We also took a combined Year 7/8 Touch Rugby Team. As we hadn't had a lot of training time, it was very much a 'learn on the job' event. By the second game they were playing brilliantly and had really sussed out the tactics in the last two games. They were 3rd in their group and won their final game. They can also have the satisfaction of holding the eventual winners to a draw in their game. Well done girls.



Sports Day

Well done to everyone who competed and those that cheered their house on. The final overall house results were:

1st – Bronte

2nd – Curie

3rd – Seacole

4th – Roddick

5th – Austen

Best Performance winners

Year 7: Latasha Lowe 75

Year 8: Tilly Sirijunya 8B and

Angela Lowe 8S

Year 9: Emmanuella Young

Year 10: Princess Young

These girls had the best results for a track and a field event for each year group.



Staff v Students Tug of War

For the first time ever, the staff team were beaten by the student team – the mighty force of Roddick House was too much for the staff on this occasion.

Staff v Student Relay

1st - Year 9/10 Relay Team

2nd - Year 8 Relay Team

3rd - Staff Team

4th - Year 7 Relay Team

For the most part the girls proved too fast for the staff although they did manage to just pip Year 7 to the finish line.

Active Kids Vouchers

Thank you to all those that gave in vouchers, we raised 1,701 vouchers this year and have ordered some new equipment for PE.

2015 Book Fair

Emma Philpott and her team had a very short time to organise and publicise this year's Book Fair. They did a fabulous job of prioritising what needed to be done, and made good use of the feedback from last year's team. Maimoonah Ali produced and put up posters before the event and ensured there were plenty of interesting books on the displays.

Zeema Mubarak kept track of the cash and the sales team, Hajrah Ali, Sidra Karim, Annabel Moneim, Jenny Regi, Yashica Gupta and Amasha Rajaguru worked well on the sales desk, dividing up the sales and ordering to ensure everything went smoothly throughout the week. By the end of the week they had sold 90 books, as well as assorted stationery and earned the library over £56 in new books. This is the highest profit we have made in the three years since we started running the book fair as a business school project. Well done to all concerned.

Drama, music and the Summer Show

This has been an exciting year for Drama at Reading Girls' School. From an in school drama workshop, the Christmas production of "Cinderella" to theatre trips, this has been a year to remember for Drama.

The summer show was a collaboration between the drama and music departments at the school. As part of their requirements for GCSE Drama, the students scripted and performed their own drama sketches based around various stimuli. The performances involved a lot of humour and the performances were outstanding. A tribute to Miss Komba featured in the first part of the evening with Kunashe Mukupuki (who played Miss Komba)

wishing her well for her future, as she leaves after many years of dedicated teaching, at the end of the sketch. The second part of the evening had the entire Drama class involved in a Reading Girls' School adaptation of Sister Act 2. This was quite hilarious at various points and the audience was encouraged to respond which they did whole heartedly! The next step is preparing for the intense final year of GCSE Drama. If this evening's performance is an indicator, I do expect some outstanding results!

The next whole school Drama production is "Mother Goose" to be held on Thursday, 10 December 2015. Auditions have already been held and a wide variety of students are involved as actors and behind the scenes helpers. Thank you to everyone who has supported Drama at Reading Girls' School this year.



After a splendid year in the musical life of the school, over one hundred pupils contributed to a super 'Summer Show' presentation on 8th July. The evening began with pupils from 7A tutor group performing 'Forget You' by Cee-Lo Green. This was a piece of performance classwork from earlier in the year and featured a vocal group (Sidrah, Karina, Alisha, Jessie, Amie, Yashaswi), guitars (Jaeme & Chloe), bass guitar (Lemiah), keyboards (Eman & Vanessa), glockenspiel (Bushra & Anelia), hand chimes (Shiwani, Subrina, Shannon). The ensemble was kept in time by Rincy, Amirah and Princy each playing one of three drum-kits. A real spectacular!



Sandra (Year 8) performed a warm and very well controlled 'Yours' by Ella Henderson which was extremely well received by the large audience.

Other vocal items were presented by Sulamatu (Year 10), who sang Natalie Imbruglia's 'Torn' (and who also accompanied herself on piano) and a beautifully exquisite and heart-warming performance of 'The Climb' (Miley Cyrus) by returning Year 11 pupils, Apsara and Genevieve.



Jashmin and Maria (Year 10) performed piano solos - Jashmin playing 'Für Elise' by Beethoven and Maria, 'River Flows in You' by Yiruma. Both were extremely accomplished musical performances. Sharuugha and Billiey (Year 10) performed 'Crescent City Voodoo' as a drum-kit duet and clarinet duets by H. Klose and F. Berr were also presented by Isabella (Year 7) and Mr Greenway. Each of the Year 10 pupils are members of the GCSE Music group.



Two dances also featured in the Summer Show. The first was of a graceful and serene nature - Karina dancing to Little Mix 'Wings' and the second presented by Leatitia-Oona was a vibrant, exciting and energetic dance to P-Square 'Collabo'. Both girls are in Year 7 and each choreographed their own dance.

The 50 strong RGSC rounded off the musical items, first performing 'Total Eclipse of the Heart' (Bonnie Tyler) and

'All of Me' (John Legend) and then 'This Little Light of Mine' and 'I Won't Give Up' (Jason Mraz) as part of the 'Sister Act' drama presentation. All songs were accompanied by Hlami (Year 8) on drum-kit and Mr Greenway on piano. The choir was ably organised and led by their newly appointed RGSC Manager, Victoria (Year 9).



Work Experience

Year 10 students are on their work experience placement and we would like to thank the employers that are hosting them for their time and support in letting the students experience the realities of the world of work. It is invaluable for their confidence and self-management, and gives them a boost to do well in year 11.

Women in Engineering

A group of young engineers from AMEC Foster Wheeler visited the school on Tuesday, 23 June, which is National Women in Engineering Day. They worked with some Year 9 students to promote engineering as a career and encourage girls with their Maths and Science subjects. The students were given two challenges to do. Firstly, the groups had half an hour to design and build something to protect an egg when it was dropped from the stage. Masses of paper and sellotape were used before their designs were tested and most were successful. Of the six groups, one egg was slightly cracked and another was a little broken. All the other eggs were unharmed.



In the second challenge, the groups had half an hour to design and build a bridge to link two chairs so that a toy car could drive across. There were some excellent designs and only one failed the test drive. The girls enjoyed a stimulating and fun day and enjoyed talking with the engineers about their careers.

3M

Some Year 10 students recently visited the Innovation Centre at 3M in Bracknell to hear about science careers and try out some new inventions.



Path Hill Outdoors

Back in June, the transitions group of Year 10 students who have been working with Central Berkshire EBP had a day at Path Hill Outdoors.



They had to build a shelter which was tested for being water proof by having a bucket of water thrown over it while they were inside! They built a camp fire and were given the basics to cook burgers for their lunch. They also did a team building challenge to win extras to help with preparing their lunch such as firelighters, ketchup and onions. It was hard-work but a fun and rewarding day.

Year 8 Summer Fair

Year 8 wanted to raise money towards a new school mini-bus so they held a Summer Fair on Monday and invited Y7s and Y9s to attend. Each tutor group

set up 4 or 5 stalls, including: raffles, food sales, tombola and henna. 8A invited the ice-cream man to sell his wares outside of reception and 8B filled the mini-bus with balloons and asked us to guess how many were in there. They wanted to fill the bus, but vastly underestimated how many they would need but had a lot of fun popping them the next morning!



The sums raised were:

- 8A £65.55**
- 8B £116.56**
- 8C £119.73**
- 8R £37.57**
- 8S £44.98**



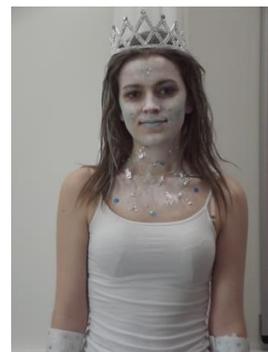
Mrs Kink also had a stall raising £27.10 making a grand total of £411.49 for the mini-bus fund. Well done girls! 8C received a small prize in assembly the next day for raising the highest amount and we would like to thank the Y8s for organising this event, and the Y7s and 9s for spending their pocket money!



Our Beauty Level 2 students had to create an image competition and the photos are of the



winning student – Nathalie and her design, which was "The Snow Queen".



The NTA Student Award

Ceremony was held on Wednesday 1 July – our 'Student of the Year' at NTA:

Sandra Pommereuil, pictured with Peter Gallagher (Academy Director), with her award.



Headteacher's News

Just glancing through this newsletter I am amazed and proud of all the activities and experiences students at Reading Girls' School have been involved in. The students in both Key Stage 3 and 4 are bright, enthusiastic and supportive of the school and its vision.

It is at this time of year that we bid a fond farewell to the following members of staff and wish them every success in their new ventures.

- Mrs Cunningham – Geography
- Miss Paget – Maths
- Mr Williams – English/Drama
- Mrs Jomaa – Science
- Mrs Ochieng – Science
- Miss Komba – Languages
- Mrs Njuguna – English

I continue to be very proud of all the students and staff at Reading Girls' School and know we can continue our journey towards being outstanding. Once again, I wish to thank all parents, carers, students and staff for their continued support and I wish you all a safe and happy summer vacation. I look forward to meeting you all again in September 2015.

**Mrs V Angus
Headteacher**