



Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



Term 2

www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk

December 2015



Work on the new school is progressing at a fast pace. The structural steel works have been completed in all zones. The construction of the MUGA has also been completed.



The window installation has commenced and the SFS framework is progressing well along with the insulation.



The brickwork package has now commenced and is progressing very well indeed.



On Wednesday 2 December 2015 we had a visit from Councillor Tony Jones (see below) with Viv Angus and the RBC Media Relations Officer David Millward.



Looking ahead – the internal partitioning is due to commence in zones 1 to 3 followed by the painting and decorating.



Duke of Edinburgh Award 2015-2016

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is now an established and integral part of the RGS calendar. This year's DofE award has begun, and we are excited to be embarking with a new group of 18 Y10 students. As ever, there were many excellent applications, but unfortunately there were just not enough places to allow everybody to take part.

We would like to congratulate the students who were successful in their applications, and we look forward to another successful year of training and expeditions, with a big welcome also to Mr Delaney and Mr Dilley, who have joined the team this year.

Textiles Technology

Congratulations go to Mya Inniss in Y11 for making it to the final ten in the UK for the **Young Artist of the Year Award**, sponsored by the Clothes Show Live, for the textile art patch she submitted for the competition brief. Mya worked extremely hard to combine her artistic talent with her textile skills to create an eye catching submission. She created all the artwork and fabric decorations from scratch.



Mya attended the awards ceremony at the NEC Birmingham with Miss Spence

on Tuesday 8th December. Although Mya didn't win the first prize she was crowned runner up and highly commended by the judges for her fantastic artistic talent – well done Mya.

The Relevance of Maths

Some Y10 students recently took part in an event with business volunteers. Instead of their normal Maths lesson, they had the opportunity to talk with local businesses and employers about how they use maths at work and why it is important to know how to use maths. **Peter Brett Associates** talked with the students about civil engineering, and **Interserve** brought along maps and plans of the new school to show how maths is important in building. **KPMG** spoke about accounting and business and the representative from **Waitrose** was able to show the girls how important staff rotas are. The event was supported by **Business in the Community**.

We are grateful to the volunteers for their time and support and hope the girls are inspired to do well in their Maths as it is such a vital skill for the future.

Children in Need

A week of fundraising preceded the main event held on Friday 13 November. Students held food sales, sold wristbands, tote bags and offered Henna painting to raise money for **Children in Need**. On Friday 13th staff and students were encouraged to dress as a superhero and donate £1 to the appeal.



There was a flashmob dance during the lunch break, and the ice-cream van turned up and donated all his takings to the appeal. There was due to be a concert that evening but Miss Spence

and Mrs Angus were invited to take some students to Tower Bridge to take part in the live TV broadcast instead.



Overall in excess of £700 was raised.

Library News

Thanks to the hard work of Rhia Sohal 8C, Toni Boyd 8B, Arhum Arish 7A, Michelle McKeown 7C, Krisma Gurung 11R, helped by a number of other students, we have finally got all the library stock onto the computer. Students and staff can log on from any computer to check what books are available, what they have out and when it is due back, and renew books before they become overdue. Contact the librarian Mrs Bilbé for instructions on how to log on and access your account. READATHON is back in the new year. Look out for sponsor cards towards the end of January.

Digigirlz 2015

Every year, **Microsoft** hosts the 'Digigirlz' event to give girls an idea of what it is like to work with technology and once again, Reading Girls' were lucky enough to attend along with 19 other schools.



On arrival everyone listened to the welcome speech before participating in the challenge. This year, the girls had to create an app. First, a project leader was elected; then, the envelope detailing exactly what they had to do was opened.

The girls were tasked with making a travel app.

After much brainstorming, an idea was decided on and filming of the advert took place. Each team had 2-3 members of staff from **Microsoft**, who kindly took the girls wherever they needed to go within the **Microsoft** offices for the filming. The deadline was only just met, as the girls went from their Starbucks to conference rooms to a ping-pong table!



Finally, the video was assembled, marketing strategies were planned and pictures were drawn. All of this work was handed in to be judged. Girls were next treated to a big lunch before listening to more talks from members of staff about their experiences and how they joined **Microsoft**, as well as showcasing new technology which were very interesting.

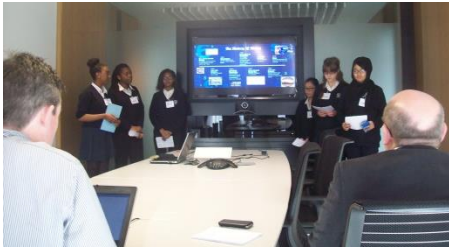
Before leaving, the results of the challenge were announced. Sadly, Reading Girls' didn't win this year but the girls found it a very informative and enjoyable day.

Isabella Stephenson, 8C

Go4SET group visits Mastercard

On Wednesday 25 November a group of six Y10 students visited the main **Mastercard** offices in London, after having been invited by a representative of the company on the **Go4SET project** they had previously competed in. The girls had a tour of the offices and a chance to work with finance professionals, before presenting their idea to judges, who gave them helpful feedback on how to improve their concept further.

After a tour of the building, the girls received an hour with their mentors,



who were finance professionals, and widened the girls knowledge of profit. Next, the girls ran through their presentation once again, adding the improvements into this rehearsal.

Then, it was time for the girls to perform their presentation for a final time. They delivered this to three senior managers at **Mastercard** confidently and clearly, and faced some difficult questions at the end, which they answered to the best of their ability. Towards the end of the day, the group received a talk from a young graduate who explained his enrolment into the world of technology, having taken a very non-traditional approach.

Victoria Turchyn, 10R

Skill Event at the London Stock Exchange

A group of Y10 Business Studies students recently had the excitement of taking part in the Skill competition at the **London Stock Exchange**. This was run by **Visionpath** with funding and mentors from **Aldermore Bank**.



After an initial ideas creation day in June, the teams with the winning two ideas had the opportunity to develop their idea. They worked with mentors from **Aldermore Bank** over several weeks to investigate finance and marketing, and developed business plans. *AllaMode's* idea was recycling and personalising designer clothing while *Exercharge* was a band using kinetic energy produced during exercise to charge mobile phones and devices.

Eight teams were at the **Stock Exchange** for the final to present their ideas to a panel of judges including entrepreneurs, senior managers from **Aldermore Bank** and **BBC Breakfast TV's Bill Turnbull**. All the students who attended were rewarded for their efforts with gift vouchers and a goody bag. Though we didn't win, the students involved found the experience a rewarding one.

Aleena Khalid said:

"It is amazing how a big business starts from a simple idea that most people don't focus on. This is one of the many things I learnt when I was in Skill."

Glory Ombui said:

"Before this competition, I really couldn't have said I was your most confident student. Being given this privilege of exploring the world of business is really something I am grateful for. So, if you ever get a chance to participate in these types of project, don't take it for granted; see it as an opportunity."

The Big Bang

Our DocSoc team (Sidra, Ofuase, Yashica and myself, Jenny) had the honour of representing their team with their prize winning idea in front of MPs and people of industry in the **Houses of Parliament** on 5th November. As a part of Engineers Week, the girls had been invited (as well as a few other schools) to explain their idea to members of the scientific and business community, and to their delight, they received incredible feedback.



Their idea, DocSoc, is designed to perform independent testing for sensory neuropathy, a condition in which the loss of sensitivity occurs in one's limbs, in particular their legs and thus their feet.

DocSoc was praised for being a "viable solution to a real life problem" with the team's realistic scientific foundation for the idea. The girls were even encouraged to pursue the idea by contacting organisations and companies that may be interested. It seems as if there are high hopes for the DocSoc team!

Jenny Regi, 11S

Never Such Innocence

On Wednesday 4 November, a small group of Y9 students were invited to the John Madejski Academy, where they heard a fascinating and enlightening introduction to an amazing charity called "Never Such Innocence."



At first they listened to a few inspiring speeches about the charity and its building blocks by people like Sir John Madejski (a major sponsor) and Lady Lucy French, the founder of the charity. They experienced some astonishingly good performances of various war poems, by JMA students, as well as an impromptu acapella performance of some haunting songs by the Y12/13 drama students. The purpose of the event was to inform the 'younger generation' about the First and Second World Wars, as well as the wars before and after them.

Aisha Khan, 9R



You may like to know that our house competition for Global Enterprise Week was recognised as a High Impact event as it was encouraging social enterprise in a number of young people and give extracts from the letter received from the organisers:

“Dear GEW Partner

Congratulations! In recognition of your contribution to this year’s campaign, you have been selected as a winner of the High Impact award for Global Entrepreneurship Week 2015.

As you know Global Entrepreneurship Week is hosted every year during the month of November. This year the theme was *Make it Happen*, and thanks to you and the co-hosts **UnLtd, Virgin Startup, Startup Direct and Youth Business International**, in partnership with **Barclays**, we did just that.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working with you on Global Entrepreneurship Week 2016.”

PE Department News

Y7 Football Team



The girls had two separate competitions; the first was a 5-a-side tournament. They did extremely well making it all the way to the semi-finals.

Following the tournament, the girls have been playing in a 6-a-side league. They have had some excellent wins, beating JMA twice 1-0 and 3-1, beating Chiltern Edge 2-0 and beating Highdown 1-0.

Y8/9 Football Team



The girls were playing in a 9 a-side format for the school league. Although they suffered a few losses they drew some games and displayed some good passing and defence skills.

Y10/11 Football Team



This team was predominantly made up from our Year 10 and 11 GCSE PE students so very useful for assessment purposes! The girls played some excellent attacking football and worked well in defence as well.

We had a number of close results. We also need to say a separate congratulation to Shelby Preston -Morris Y11 who successfully completed trials for the Berkshire county team.

Trampoline Competition



We were pleased to welcome some new competitors to our squad this year who all gave it a good go in what was a very nerve racking competition. Congratulations go once again to Milly Phillpot who won the Senior Novice Section. She will go on to represent Reading in the Berkshire School Games county competition.

KS3 Badminton Tournament



The girls had a confident start beating The Abbey with an excellent display of attacking shots. They went on to beat Little Heath and made it through to the 3rd/4th place play off. Well done girls.

KS4 Badminton Tournament



Similarly, the Yr10's and 11's had four competitors playing a combination of singles and doubles. The girls had two resounding wins over The Abbey and Highdown and finished in 3rd place overall. Well Done girls!

Sports Ambassadors Conference



Four girls were selected to be our 2015-16 Sports Ambassadors. The decision was based on performance and contribution in PE lessons, attendance to school clubs and selection for fixtures. The girls selected were: Mollie Darlow Yr9, Jasmine Gurung Yr10, Angela Lowe Yr9 and Tilly Sirijunya Yr9. They had a good day at the conference and learned how to plan activity sessions that may include disabled students, about communication and were shown a number of great football drills from Reading FC.

Yr7 Football team update

The Yr7's finished the league in 2nd place overall. The top 4 teams went through to the semi-finals where RGS were up against Prospect. Our girls played some excellent attacking football, with the ball bouncing off their keeper into the goal after a shot from Brie-Ana Patrick. Our defenders and GK worked hard to keep a clean sheet and we went through to the final. The final score was 3-2 to The Abbey but we are very proud of the girls' effort and performance. They will receive their silver medals at the end of the year.