



Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



Term 3

www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk

February 2016



The construction of the structural steel was completed in early December 2015 followed by the concrete slabs just before Christmas in all zones. The SFS framework with insulation is also complete and the brickwork package is progressing well (see photo 1).



The main entrance is starting to take shape along with the fitness studio framework (see photo 2).



Internally the partitioning package has commenced and is in progress (see photo 3)



and installation of mechanical and electrical services has also commenced (see photo 4).



The sports hall framework has also taken shape (see photo 5).



With observation from photo 6 you can see the assembly hall with its brickwork façade near completion.



Looking ahead, once the internal partitioning has been substantially completed the painting and decorating will commence along with the curtain walling to all staircases and cladding to the sports hall walls.



First Lego League Robotics - 2015

In the last week of term, a group of students attended the First Lego League robotics competition which was held at the University of Reading.

The main part of the day was taking part in heats against other schools using a robot which they had designed and programmed to do a variety of tasks. As well as the robotics heats, the teams had to talk with judges about the design of their robot and do a team work challenge. They also had to research, write and give a presentation on the theme of the competition. This year the theme was trash (rubbish) and recycling.

Fifteen teams took part from across Berkshire and Surrey. They had spent several weeks designing, building and programming their robots, but it was amazing how much tweaking was being done in the rest areas in between the heats.



Our team, known as the Reading Geek Squad, was lucky to be mentored by staff from Procter & Gamble who had visited the team weekly to help them prepare. We are very grateful for their support, time and commitment.



The girls worked well and got excellent feedback from the judges, but sadly were beaten on the day.

Mock Interviews for Year 11s

As they move on to sixth form, college, apprenticeships or work, the Year 11 students will no doubt be having interviews soon. As this is a scary prospect, to help them feel more comfortable, mock interviews were carried out in December. Volunteers from employers and businesses gave up their time to come into school to give each year 11 student a mock interview, followed by feedback and the chance to ask questions. Each student will receive a feedback sheet saying what they had

done well and giving helpful tips for future interviews.

We are very grateful to the volunteers who gave up their time so generously to support the school with this project. There were representatives from a variety of organisations including BITC, KPMG, Symantec, Olswang, Verizon, CGI, Visa, Shoosmiths, Chiltern Training, Inspiring the Future, the FCO, HP, Bouygues, BT, Capita and National Grid.

Bridge to Schools



8G and 8U Science classes recently took part in a **Bridge to Schools** activity with volunteers from **Peter Brett Associates**.

The volunteers talked with the students about what civil engineering is and the projects they have been involved in, including the Reading Station redevelopment. Then the students were told about the activity which was provided through the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). Using simple construction techniques, the students built a 15 metre long, model cable-stayed bridge (based on the Second Severn Crossing) made of plywood and aluminium.



The students all had jobs allocated to them and were given safety helmets, high-vis jackets, and protective gloves. As well as learning about Health and Safety, they also developed team building skills and confidence. Once the bridge was built, the students were able to walk across it. As it was a suspension bridge and built to be flexible, it swayed slightly as the students walked over

which caused a lot of squealing and laughter! 8G gave a big cheer when their teacher, Mr Obosi walked across!



We hope this taster will encourage the girls to consider civil engineering as a career, and thank the ICE and Peter Brett Associates for their time and support.



Building Bridges - Science Museum Visit

On Wednesday 27 January, people from the Science Museum visited Y7 students to teach them about electricity, circuits and currents. Sofia Magar from 7C commented:

"I learnt that Benjamin Franklin discovered electricity and the connection between lightning and electricity. The fun thing about the workshop was we learnt new things and got to go on stage to present what we learnt - like being a teacher! During the presentation, we focussed on teamwork and interaction with the audience. We had to be loud on stage so everyone could hear us. best part about this workshop was that we spent a lot of time learning new topics and seeing how science is related to our everyday life."

Living Rainforest & Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre

On the Monday 8 February, 40 year 10 students went on a trip to the Living Rainforest and Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre as part of their GCSE geography course. Despite Storm Imogen's best efforts, the girls enjoyed their day exploring rainforest and deciduous forest ecosystems; learning about their role in ecosystems and how to exploit their resources sustainably. Highlights of the day were certainly the two toed sloth at the rainforest and finding shelter from the rain after a damp exploration of the Nature Discovery Centre.

Primary Maths Challenge

A group of year 10 students volunteered their services as The Palmer Academy visited Reading Girls' School in February with around 60 year 5 and 6 students.



The visit was organised to try to help the primary school students gain some exposure to secondary mathematics and feel less daunted by the step up to secondary school. Reading Girls' School students made the resources for the day and came up with activities to introduce the kind of maths that is done at our school. Feedback from The Palmer Academy was extremely positive, with both staff and pupils commenting on how much fun they had had, with one member of staff from the primary school calling our students that helped out 'a credit to the school'.

Thanks to all the students who did so brilliantly to put together the ideas and

run the maths activities, hopefully we'll be able to welcome back The Palmer Academy sometime in the not too distant future.



SATRO

Six students from Reading Girls' School participated in the SATRO problem solving challenge at the Tomlinscote School on Tuesday 2 February.

The students were engaged in a problem solving challenge which centred around designing and building an obstacle course to channel a marble with a view to trigger a switch and send an electrical current to a bulb in exactly 10 seconds. The students actively engaged in the challenge and demonstrated their team building, communication and problem solving skills which was admired by the judges. The six students were up against approximately 20 other teams.



Reading Girls' won the KS3 category with a massive 229 points and have propelled themselves into the grand finals in March.

Holidays are fine but not in term time

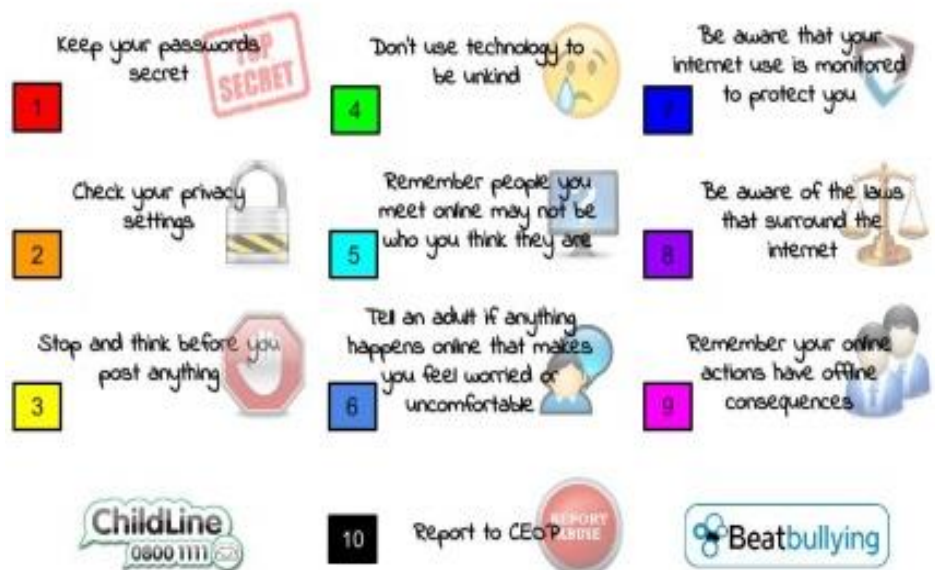
School holiday dates for the rest of the academic year 2015/16 are as follows:

Mid-term break
Monday 15 to Friday 19 February

Easter break
Friday 25 March to Friday 8 April

Mid-term break
Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June

10 Golden Rules of eSafety



<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

MOTHER GOOSE

On Wednesday 3 February, the Reading Girls' School hall played host to a production of Mother Goose. Featuring year 11 drama students and other budding thespians, the production was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.



The cast worked extremely hard in the run up to the production and all gave fantastic performances (including Priscilla the Goose played by Mr Shea).



The RGS school choir also played their part giving renditions of some classic songs and even getting up on stage!



Many thanks to all those who made this wonderful night possible.

