



Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



Business &
Enterprise

Term 4

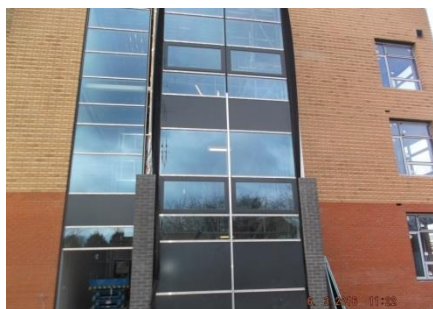
www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk

March 2016



As you are aware the new school building is progressing well but there is a likelihood that we will be unable to move into the new building for the start of the term in September. This will mean an adjustment to the term dates for the next academic year. We are liaising with the Local Authority and the EFA and will be able to inform you shortly of our term dates for the next academic year. The details will be relayed to parents and posted on the web-site as soon as the decision is reached.

The construction of the new school is progressing well.



The curtain walling to the east elevation staircase is installed.



The brickwork to the north elevation is near completion.



Internally the partitioning is in progress creating classrooms and corridors.



The roof work is taking shape.

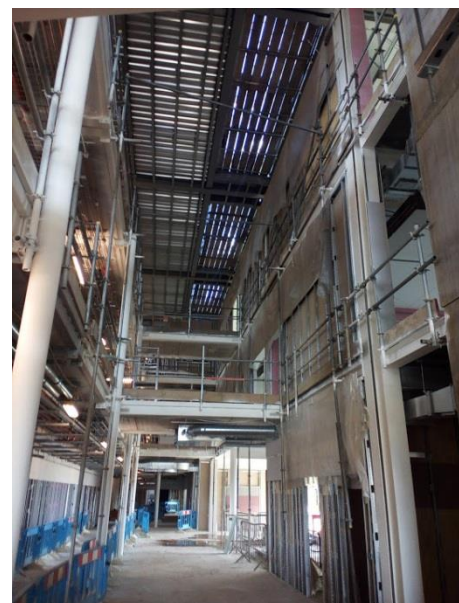


The installation of the skylights has commenced and is in progress.

Looking ahead:

Painting and decorating is due to commence soon. The M&E kit will be arriving to go on the roof and we have the first fix in the main kitchen.

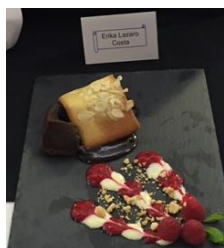
The redevelopment of Reading Girls' School is a community event as the new building will be providing some excellent new facilities that will be shared with the community including a purpose built fitness studio and other sporting amenities. Keep checking our website for further updates.





On 15 March Erika took part in Berkshire's Best Young Chef Competition held at Langley College. She had to make two of the same desserts (in the age 12-15 years category) and take no more than 90 minutes for her final competition in front of all the judges. The judges included some of the UK's top chefs including Michelin star chef and star of BBC2's Best Ever Dishes Tom Kerridge and award-winning pastry chef Will Torrent.

Her dish was praised for its flavour and appearance and she was told that "there is nothing to improve on the dish".



She won her field of the competition and is now **officially 'Berkshire's best young chef'** for 2016. Erika received a signed copy of Will Torrent's book, a behind-the-scenes tour of the prestigious Oakley Court Hotel, including a masterclass from the hotel's Head Chef and a complimentary three course meal in the hotel's award-winning restaurant with her parents and baking accessories worth over £75. It may not be long before we see Erika on Masterchef! Well done Erika!



It is very good news that we can report Reading Borough Council has decided The Haven will continue to provide its services on Reading Girls' School site.



On Friday 4 March, two groups of year 8 and year 9 students had a visit from Dr Par Kumaraswami, who runs the Spanish and Latin American Studies course at Reading University. The students learned more about Christopher Columbus and analysed the concept of "discovery" and colonisation. The workshop allowed students to work in more of a university style classroom: smaller groups, more in depth discussion and activities were of a higher level of Spanish. The girls who took part really impressed Dr Kumaraswami with their mature outlook and excellent analytical skills. In return, they were able to experience studying a language at university and the advantages of this. We are thrilled to have developed this link with Reading University and will have the opportunity to take part in more events in the future.



A one-day interactive festival of science

On behalf of Reading's Year of Culture, *Reading 2016*, I would like to invite your pupils, their parents and your teachers to attend **Tomorrow's Reading**, a one-day festival of science on **Saturday 7 May**.

This unique event for Reading is being curated by the team behind London's *FutureFest* and will provide young minds (and older minds alike) with the opportunity to explore our future. We have a programme of incredible speakers from leading universities, as well as journalists and science practitioners. Your pupils will be exposed to the latest ideas from thought leaders in the fields of health, food, environment

and cities - all delivered in entertaining, bite-size chunks, as well as being able to try out interactive installations and the latest technology demos.

Tomorrow's Reading is one of the pillar events of Reading 2016. We are keen to make this event as accessible as possible to young people, particularly those with a keen interest in science – so ticket prices are just £3 for individuals and £6 for a family group. Please do get in touch if you would like any further information. Alex Brannen - On behalf of Reading 2016, Reading's Year of Culture. <http://www.livingreading.co.uk>

Manicure Showcase

On Friday 11 March, year 11 beauty students held a 'manicure showcase' at the Northumberland Training Academy. They charged fellow students for a manicure with the funds raised going to Cancer Research.



GCSE trips for students

The GCSE Leisure and Tourism students went to Windsor to help prepare for their exam. The sun was shining on a brisk winter's day on Thursday 28 January when 14 Y11 Leisure and Tourism pupils visited Windsor Castle and Windsor Town as a major international tourist destination and tourist attraction to help pupils prepare for their exam in May.



All were impressed with the size and grandeur of Windsor Castle; the state rooms were particularly impressive. Windsor town centre provided a fantastic destination; pupils enjoyed exploring the town. Eton College was a particular highlight, which was even more impressive when the pupils learnt that this is where the prime minister and many members of the royal family went to school.

The GCSE Citizenship students had a very informative day out in London. It was an early start for 35 staff and pupils on Wednesday 13 January as they set off for the Houses of Parliament and the Imperial War Museum.



It was an impressive journey along the embankment of the river Thames before arriving at Parliament where pupils were able to take in the sights of London. Upon arrival pupils quickly passed through security and were soon enjoying their tour of Parliament. Due to their early start they also had the opportunity to walk along Whitehall and visit Trafalgar Square, seeing a number of important government buildings and tasting the local delicacies.



The Imperial War Museum gave pupils an opportunity to reflect upon past and current conflicts identifying how this has

affected the identity of individuals, countries and the world. All pupils and staff had a great day and look forward to the next trip to the EU House and the Royal Courts of Justice.



A group of Year 11 students were fortunate to be invited to attend a 'Study Higher' event at the University of Reading on 2 March 2016.

The purpose of the event was to give students a taste of University life. This included a variety of taster seminars, ranging from Psychology, Archaeology, Philosophy and Business. The event also included an excellent 2 hour workshop called 'Exams Made Easy' which gave the students practical tips on how to revise for their forthcoming exams.

It was a well organised day and all the students agreed that they found it very beneficial in terms of the revision techniques presented and the lectures attended.

Music Department

More and more girls are becoming involved in the musical life of the school and it's really good to see them coming along at break and lunch times to not only practise skills learned in class but to also initiate their own projects too. The flute group has expanded and we now have more girls learning to play clarinet too. I'm equally pleased to report that Year 7 girls have taken an enthusiastic interest in the violin too.



I'm really keen that our girls should have the opportunity to have vocal and instrumental tuition in school and The

Rock Academy Foundation are able to provide such lessons. They are available for pupils to learn in groups of 5 (30 minute lesson) at a cost of £3.50 per pupil per lesson. These would be paid for on a termly basis and lessons are available for guitar (acoustic/electric), bass guitar, ukulele, drum-kit, keyboard, piano and voice. If this is of interest to you, please let me know.



It was with regret that we were unable to run the trip to VIAM earlier this month but, as you'd expect, we're already in the process of planning to be involved for 2017. This time, however, it's clear that we need to make a much bigger effort to fund raise towards the event and so if you would like to have R.G.S.C. sing at a venue, or indeed have other amazing fundraising suggestions again please let me know.



At the end of last year we ran a small trip (15 pupils) to see 'The Lion King' in the West End. This was indeed a truly super evening with pupils

from Year 7-11, and one which we are keen to repeat.

Mr Greenway

Holidays are fine but not in term time

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

Easter break

Friday 25 March to Friday 8 April

Mid-term break

Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June

End of Term

Friday 15 July 2016



8D took part in creating a persuasive poster for Sports Relief

The winners were Chelsea Sowe, Alise Tukmane and Tia Stoute

