



# Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



Business &  
Enterprise

Term 6

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

July 2016

## Headteacher's Introduction

I have hugely enjoyed my first few weeks as Interim

Headteacher at Reading Girls' School. It has been

good to meet some of you at the events that have been held recently at the school, and I hope to get the chance to meet more parents and carers at a "Meet the Headteacher" evening early next term, once we are settled into our wonderful new building.



## Ofsted monitoring visit

You will be aware that Ofsted placed the School in special measures following the inspection in December 2015, and the inspectors returned for their first monitoring visit on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 June. The report on this visit is on the school website at the following link: <http://www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=643&type=pdf>. The inspectors identified a number of strengths during the visit, in particular pointing out that our girls feel safe and cared for. I can reassure you that the Governing Body, the School's Leadership and all members of staff are absolutely determined that the School will come out of special measures quickly, and that the quality of education will be excellent, just as everybody connected with Reading Girls' School wants it to be.

Please accept my warmest wishes for a restful, enjoyable summer holiday, and I look forward to working with you next year to help make Reading Girls' School the outstanding school it has the potential to be.

**Leo Gilbert - Interim Headteacher**



**Please note that although the new school building is progressing well we will be unable to move into the new building for the start of the term in September.** School will open for Year 11 only on Tuesday 6 September in the old building until Tuesday 13 September. There will be two Inset days for staff to move to the new building on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September with Years 7 and 11 coming into the new building on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September. The rest of the school will be in on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. We apologise for this delayed start but I am sure you will agree it will be well worth the wait.

## Construction Update

The construction of the new Reading Girls' School building is in the final stage and heading towards completion. The following photographs show recent progress. Looking ahead – the sports hall and assembly hall flooring will be laid and the bleacher seating installed. Commissioning of live services and snagging will happen in the next five weeks. Decant of the existing school will start on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and continue throughout the summer along with all new and legacy furniture being delivered.



*Cladding to the sports hall is complete.*



*Internal finishing touches to the sport hall are being applied.*



*Finishing touches to the communal area.*



*One of the science labs with fixed furniture.*



*Finishing touches to the assembly hall.*



Externally, the hard landscaping has commenced and the rooftop services are nearing completion.



## Next Big Thing makes a Bigger Bang

On Wednesday 29 June we took the 2016 Year 10 Siemens Next Big Thing team to the Big Bang Fair South East in Sussex where they extended to five years our run of winning prizes. With their **Tête Tec** project, they won the Glaxo Smith Kline Award for Healthcare, coincidentally one of the sponsored prizes won by last year's team.

They went beyond last year's success, however, in winning the whole competition in their class, making them the Big Bang UK Young Engineers of the Year for the South East (Intermediate Class). This also means that they have been selected as finalists for the national Big Bang Young Scientists and Engineers Competition 2016/17 to be held in

Birmingham next March. The combined prize money was £90. Congratulations to the students who took part. A further report from Victoria Turchyn is on P6.



### Tête Tec

This is a wearable technology concept designed in response to a brief to reduce expenditure for the NHS. Tête Tec uses sensors integrated with items worn on the head, such as glasses, hats, hair pins and even Alice bands, to monitor brain activity and other physical signs to help predict epileptic seizures. The sensor is linked to a smartphone app allowing, among other things, medical practitioners and relatives as well as the patient to receive warnings. The team is working on extending the concept to other areas, such as strokes.

### Public Speaking Competition

This year's public speaking competition was held on Tuesday 28 June at the Prudential Offices in Reading. Eight teams from four different schools were selected to be in the final. This is the first year we have entered the competition and we are delighted to announce that one of our teams not only managed to achieve 2nd place, but our other team came 1st! The girls came back with a **MASSIVE** trophy and book vouchers each.

Blessed Hugh Faringdon has won the competition for the past three years consecutively and so I am sure you will agree that this is an excellent victory for the girls and for the school. The students on each of the teams were:  
1st place with their speech on mental health: Aisha Khan, Makhubele Hlami and Nour Metwally.



2nd place with their speech on the theory of Schrodinger's Cat and how it can be applied to risk taking and decision making in life: Maleehah Ali, Hafsa Kelly and Jareen Rahman.



### Internet of Things day

On Friday 17 June, some of our Year 10 IT students were invited to the Green Meets Grey technology event at **Green Park's Grow Entrepreneur Hub**. It was an exciting day, where the girls worked with technology entrepreneurs who were looking at how best to exploit "The Things Network" - which is a global low energy internet of things network, designed to pair devices and everyday objects.



The girls took to this and performed admirably. They had to learn quickly about ideas, creations and thought processes and then present to representatives from top local businesses and financiers like **Barclays Bank** and **Nvidia**. All the organisers were generally highly impressed at how amazing and professional our girls were.



Congratulations to: Bhavanjah, Leah, Alivia, Ania, Halima, Reem, Zahraa, and Mehab. We're looking forward to also working with **The Things Network**, on a project involving Microbits in the near future.



**Dermalogica's** beauty students of the year Rochelle Darlow and Jordan Hathaway received awards and £150 worth of products for selling the most products and completing the most facials this year. Well done to both and enjoy using the products.



## University Preview Day

On Thursday 23 June, 15 Year 9 students and Miss Yu went to Reading University for a Spanish and Latin American Studies University Preview Day. This was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to experience a university style lecture and an introduction to Latin America. The trip included a tour of the university campus and a Q&A with some first year students. The students then worked in groups alongside students from JMA to create a presentation about a Latin American country. To quote one of the girls: "I can't wait to go to university, now!"



## Visit to Cern

A group of Year 10 and Year 11 students visited Geneva recently. The highlight of the trip was on the first



afternoon - a visit to Cern for a talk and guided tour of part of the facility to learn about the amazing scientific discoveries and the Large Hadron Collider.



On the second day, the group visited ITU to explore their museum and hear about how the United Nations coordinates companies and countries so that information, communication and telecoms systems work together across the world. They saw the United Nations building, the Gandhi statue and the famous 'Broken Chair' sculpture - a symbol of stability and fragility. Students also had time to explore the city centre and walk along the lake side to see the famous Jet d'Eau. They also went ten pin bowling in the evening.



A visit to the dam and hydroelectric works took place on the third and final day. This showed how the water levels of Lake Geneva are controlled and used to generate electricity before flowing into the River Rhone. A visit to the Frankenstein statue followed. Some of the students have been studying this story in English, and it was written in Geneva and partially based there. Students then had free time at a local mall to buy Swiss chocolates and other goods before their flight home. It was a very interesting visit and Geneva is a beautiful city.



## Music Department

This term has been a super one in the Music Department seeing excellent work from Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils. Classes worthy of note are 7C and 7S for the fabulous commitment they showed in developing the 'Walking on Sunshine' topic.



*7C Sunshine Band*

Both classes worked brilliantly as teams, supporting and encouraging one another in their work; some members of 7C performed their work and 7S made a brave studio recording. Also worthy of note are the Year 10 GCSE Music class who have shown real potential for success in their first composition submissions - due date for completion is October, but the progress so far shows real promise.



*'Vocalele'*

The Rock Academy Foundation supports the work of the Music Department and we have seen significantly more girls taking vocal and instrumental lessons. Although the available spectrum is still quite narrow (voice, drums, guitar, bass guitar), I'm extremely keen to expand this to piano/keyboard and other instruments from September. Please tell me if you have an interest here. We will also begin Steel Pan ensemble lessons from September, provided by Culture Mix Arts.

In June we had the trip to 'Wicked' which was a huge success and I was particularly

pleased that we had Mums and sisters with us as well as our own pupils. It really was a super evening and we will follow this up with another theatre trip in late November/early December to see the new production of 'Aladdin'. Letters will come home mid-September. Thank you for the support here.

Such is the level of progress now that last week we were able to present our first Summer Concert where over 40 pupils presented solo, small and large ensemble performances as well as superb dance pieces too. They performed to a capacity audience and it was clear that each and every one of them really enjoyed the experience. I'm sure that there will be a follow up concert in the autumn. A BIG thank you and 'well done' to all the pupils who took part and to Mrs Edwards who eloquently compèred the evening and to Miss Morgan who has shown incredible support in coaching our flute players, all three of whom played in the concert.

Two of the last events of the year are the prizegiving ceremony and the end of term assemblies. Three items from the Summer Concert have been asked to perform on these occasions; Briqueen Ntabe, performing Chopin's Etude No.3, Spinnet McKeown and Elle Hussey singing 'A Thousand Years' and Neha Kothapali, Karina Angotra and Nevindi Hewapatha performing their Hindi dance.



## Sports Department

### Volleyball Team

Once again our volleyball team worked really hard to get ready for their fixture, putting in lots of extra time with Miss Jones. Reading Girls' entered two teams but disappointingly there was only one opposition team this year, nevertheless, both RGS teams managed to beat JMA. Well Done.

### Year 7 Netball Team

Our Year 7's made great progress over the season and performed well in their league and tournament, putting in some good performances to secure some solid wins.

### Year 8 Netball Team



The year 8 team were very determined to perform well and displayed some excellent teamwork in their matches.

### Year 9 Netball Team

The Year 9 team continued their excellent run of the two previous years to put in some excellent performances in the league and performed extremely well to finish in 2nd place in the tournament.

### Year 10 Netball Team and Year 11 Team

At Key Stage 4 both teams play in the same league which means they also need to play each other! The RGS Yr10 v RGS Yr11 was a close fought match which ended in a one all draw. Both teams put in some great performances with some good wins.

### Sports Leaders Activity Day



students had a great day trying out a variety of activities, some familiar, some new.

### Year 9 Netball Coaches

Four girls in the Year 9 Netball Team were selected to assist with some primary school coaching. The girls did an excellent job supporting and coaching the students through a series of passing, attacking and shooting drills. Our Year 9's acted as excellent role models for the younger students who loved working with them.

### Sport Relief Day



As well as a non-uniform day, 8S organised a bake sale and lunchtime game of benchball to raise money for Sport Relief.



The girls did an excellent job, raising almost £500 for Sport Relief.

### Year 11 Rounders Tournament

This was the Year 11's last ever fixture for RGS. They were helped out by a few year 10 as well. The girls came third overall after a good display of rounders skills.

### Year 10 Rounders Tournament

The Year 10's played some excellent tactical rounders and slick fielding to come third overall. Well done ladies.



### Year 9 Rounders Tournament

Although the girls played consistently well with some great hitting and fielding, they just missed out on the semi finals.

### Year 8 Rounders Tournament

The girls fielded very well and scored some good rounders but just missed out on going through to the finals.

### Year 7 Rounders Tournament



The girls got better and better as the tournament progressed and their confidence grew. They won most of their matches and came 2nd overall. Well done girls.

### Sports Leaders to Silchester Sports Day

A group of ten Year 9 and 10 Sports Leaders/GCSE PE students were selected to assist with Silchester Primary School Sports Day. They did an excellent job doing the track judging, assisting with equipment and supporting the students as they ran the middle distance event. Both staff and parents commented on what a great job they had done.

### U16 Athletics League



The Year 9 and 10 girls worked really hard in the first two league matches as only 12 of the 24 schools entered made the final. We qualified safely and the girls performed exceptionally well to gain 3rd place.

### U14's Athletics League



The Year 7 and 8's also worked really hard over the four weeks of this league and performed extremely well in the finals. They were a very close second in their final, a mere two points behind the winners.

### Reading Schools' Athletics Championships



A huge congratulations to all the athletes that competed in this event, they were a credit to RGS with their behaviour on the day and all worked their socks off to perform their best in their events. A number of girls finished in the top three and gained the following medals:

#### Year 7 Team:



Ocean Haylett -  
Discus - Silver  
Medallist

#### Year 8 Team:

Latasha Lowe  
- 100m -  
Silver  
Medallist



Latasha Lowe, Jade Goodings, Damia Martin and Temitayo Balogun - Relay - Silver Medallists



Jattu Vandi - Shot - Bronze Medallist

**Year 9/10 Team:**  
Angela Lowe - Shot - Gold Medallist - set new Championship Record



Ella Young - 300m - Gold Medallist - set new Championship Record



Ella Young - Long Jump - Gold Medallist

Kia Slade - 100m - Silver Medallist



Mollie Darlow - Javelin - Bronze Medallist



Trinity Norris,  
Ella Young,  
Angela Lowe  
and Kia Slade  
- Relay -  
Bronze  
Medallists

### Berkshire County Finals

Four RGS students qualified for the county finals due to their exceptional



performances earlier in the season. They were Ocean Haylett Year 7 for Discus who achieved a best throw of 17.34m, Angela Lowe Year 9 for Shot Put who won the gold medal, Kia Slade Year 10 for 80m Hurdles who won the Silver

Medal and Ella Young Year 10 for 200m who won the Gold Medal.

### English Schools' National Athletics Finals

Amazingly two of our students, Angela Lowe Year 9 and Kia Slade Year 10, performed to such a high standard and achieved qualifying times and distances, that as a result they have gone on to compete in the English Schools National Finals. Well done girls; this is a fantastic achievement.

### Big Bang Competition

On Wednesday 29 June 2106, a group of 12 Year 10 students visited the annual Big Bang Competition, held near Crawley, Sussex, with their project, Tête Tec, which they had previously developed for the Siemens competition of The Next Big Thing in healthcare. In the previous weeks, the team had prepared a display for their idea to help predict epileptic fits, and on the day they got the opportunity to present their idea to different sets of judges, who were STEM specialists.

All the hard work paid off for the girls, as they won the GSK prize for Healthcare, as well as the Big Bang Fair National Engineers prize for the Intermediate category, hence they will now go on to represent the south-east of England in the finals held at Birmingham in 2017.

As well as the competition, there were many interesting exhibitions; some girls took part in the 'build a truss bridge' challenge while others got the chance to hold a small corn snake, as well as stroke his rather larger relative; the python. There was a bird of prey display, and various companies had attended to show the exciting work and research that they do on a regular basis. In addition, there were exhibitions over a wide selection of STEM careers, from the NHS to pieces of asteroids.

*Written by Victoria Turchyn*

# 10 Golden Rules of eSafety



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