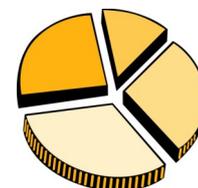




# Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



Business & Enterprise

Term 6

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

July 2014

## Headteacher's News

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

Some very lucky students had the opportunity of spending a long weekend in Barcelona - they enjoyed the sights and the food - one student commented to me that the experience was "incredible!". Other students have enjoyed camping at Ufton Court and they were extremely lucky with the weather; many returned with a healthy glow!

The development of the new school is proceeding at a pace and we are very pleased in the final design. It certainly will be a 21st century building where all girls can receive an excellent standard of education. The first stage of the new build is set to commence in February 2015 and we will inform you of the progress - students will also be offered the opportunity to work with the contractors in a variety of ways that will help them develop skills that they can utilise in their future careers.

At Reading Girls' School we value the partnership we have with both our parents and the wider community and value all contributions. Can I direct you the Ofsted website called 'Parent View' where parents can complete a short survey that would inform the school

what we are doing well and areas we need to improve ([www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)).

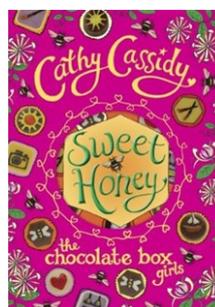
We also have to bid a fond farewell to Mr Ashmore from the Art department and wish him every success in his new post. I continue to be very proud of all the students and staff at Reading Girls' School and know we can continue our journey towards being outstanding. Once again I wish to thank all parents, 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 2014.

**Mrs V Angus**  
Headteacher

## Cathy Cassidy Visit

The long awaited visit by Cathy Cassidy was greeted with great enthusiasm by Year 7 and 8 students.

Cathy talked about the importance of day-dreaming as well as research, to allow the imagination to create new and exciting stories and characters. She developed a lively interactive question and answer session with the girls, getting them thinking about characters and writing techniques, before taking the time to talk to each student who wanted their book signed.



accompanying "Create a Character" competition. Fathima Iqram, Asya Mohammed and Marisha Fofanah were involved with initial planning of the event and were joined by Ayesha Z. Khan, Zobia Yasin, Urooj Hussain and Mridhu Job, who sold books and kept records of sales and orders. All 22 competition entries were displayed at the book fair and the winners, Chang Shen, Sannah Ishteyaq, Sharon Anatole, Emily Budothoki and Razaz Mohamed, each received a £5 voucher. At the final count the Book Fair took £368.74.

## Ufton Court Adventure

From the 2nd to 4th July, four teachers and 29 pupils set out for the Ufton Court Adventure. Students and teachers embarked on a number of different activities: canoeing, archery, whittling, den building and the ballistic challenge. Students also took advantage of their down time; exploring the large expanses of land and forest, using the beach volley ball court and enjoying the beautiful sunshine. Highlights of the trip included pizza making and the use of the



pizza oven as well as the campfire on the Thursday night.

A great time was had by all students and staff.

## Book Fair

An enthusiastic team of Year 10 volunteers took on the challenge of running the annual Scholastic Book Fair as a business based school project. Mayah Bentley-Holder produced stunning posters for the Fair and



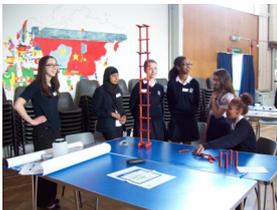


The hall was buzzing as they took part in a series of quizzes, puzzles and challenges, led by three professional workshop facilitators. There was a lot of debate and discussion. During the activities the mannequins evolved their qualifications, personal qualities and CV to become a work ready person. The final challenge was to adjust it's clothing to be suitable for a work place interview and they all looked very smart.

As the Year 10s move into Year 11, they are looking forward to their work experience and developing their own work ready skills and we hope this was an enjoyable way of preparing for the future.

## Thames Water

We were delighted to welcome Thames Water to the school again recently. Students in 8N Maths and 8N science took part in their Network Challenge to celebrate National Women in Engineering Day and they proved that engineering isn't just for the boys!



The sessions were led by a team of six Thames Water volunteers and three ambassadors from the Institution of Civil Engineers. The students worked in teams and were faced with real-life problems such as environmental, social and economic issues - just like a real-life engineering project! The first challenge was to build the tallest tower they could from wooden bricks. The second challenge was to plan a water supply network, construct a classroom sized model and test it using real water.

Students also learnt key skills including problem solving, communication and teamwork. Victoria Turchyn, who was part of a team of five that won the network challenge said the event had been "loads of fun", while teammate

Ariana Jahromi said: "I really want to become an engineer." Liz Banks, Education Manager at Thames Water, said, "We were really impressed with the students who all got stuck into the challenge and successfully planned and built their water networks. Girls often assume engineering is just for boys, but we've discovered some budding female engineers and found they are just as innovative in their thinking and planning as boys have been at previous events."

## Media Studies

On Tuesday 17 June, Mr Campbell and Mrs Davis took the two Media classes to The Oracle in Reading town centre to find out more about advertising. Brandon who worked in the Customer Services department showed us around and gave us a lot of information that really helped us. We learnt a lot of facts that helped us looking at the marketing perspective of the centre. We were told some interesting information such as they don't have clocks up on purpose because the consumers take their time which makes them buy more products, however when they look at the time constantly then they tend to leave earlier. Overall this was a great experience as we were able to view areas closed to the public and see where they keep the stock and the loading bays—we were amazed about how big it was! The control room was fascinating because they can see everything that was going on in the centre! This will really help us complete our next Media assignment.

*Written by Fariha Abbass.*

## Year 5 Primary Maths Challenge

Wednesday July 9th saw the return of Reading Girls' School Primary Maths Challenge, where ten local primary schools competed to win the highly sought after trophy and position of UKMT's Primary Maths Champion.

The day was great fun – students enjoyed team and pair games and were fiercely competitive, many of the schools doing pre challenge warm up sessions before.



We were fortunate to have Alison Simpson, a merchandiser for Primark come in and talk to students about how she applies mathematics to her job role. As well as primary school students, some Year 10s from Reading Girls' helped out at the event with scoring and team coaching. We also had a past student – Martha – return to help at the event and was a great asset. Congratulations to Whiteknights and all other school's which competed – you did yourselves proud!

## Barcelona trip

From the 4th to 7th July, 28 students were joined by Miss Komba, Miss Yu and Mrs Hawkins in the beautiful city of Barcelona in Spain.

After a short flight from Heathrow, they were greeted by the tour rep Nacho and a sunny 30 degrees. After settling into the hotel they went straight out to explore the city. On the Friday evening they went to a traditional Spanish restaurant and shared some tapas, tasting some Spanish dishes such as paella, squid, mussels, serrano ham and manchego cheese. This was followed by front row seats at a flamenco dance show, and some of the girls even got to go on stage.



Reading Girls' has some great dance talent!

The next day, they visited the Picasso museum and saw some priceless works of art by the famous Spanish painter.



They also visited Las Ramblas, which is a famous shopping street and tackled the crowds for some souvenir shopping and a chance to practise their Spanish. That evening the students enjoyed a delicious buffet and then jumped onto the metro to visit the Magic Fountains.



On Sunday, the hardcore shoppers braved Las Ramblas again whilst the rest of the group relaxed in the beautiful Ciutadella Park. They watched a man make churros and of course, had to taste them! Everyone agreed that the churros were amazing. Finally, after another gloriously sunny day, they caught the plane back to the UK, but not before practising a final bit of Spanish by ordering food at the airport—they all definitely know how to say “patatas fritas” now!

Well done to the girls for taking part so enthusiastically in the activities and to the parents for their support in the trip.

¡Viva España!

## Parent Pay

Thank you to everyone who has joined ParentPay, it will prove to be increasingly important over the coming months, as trips and other items will be paid for by this method. Items are already available for sale like school planners, maths kits etc— you will see them when you log in to ParentPay. If you require activation codes or need your password re-set, please call the school office or email [admin@readinggirlsschool.net](mailto:admin@readinggirlsschool.net). If you are having difficulty accessing the ParentPay site, please contact us. We intend to reduce the amount of paper communication wherever possible, so parents who have already given us their email address will receive most general information by that method. If you have an email address that we could send information to, please let us know. We also use texts so make sure you download the school gateway app, which sends the messages straight to your smartphone at a reduced cost for the school. More information about ParentPay and the School Gateway App are available from the Parents tab on our website.

## PE Department

### School Games Trampoline Finals

Milly Philpott in Year 7 qualified as one of the team members in the Reading Trampoline Team in the School Games. Milly and the team performed brilliantly coming third overall and winning bronze medals.



### School Games Leadership Academy

Four girls in Year 9 were selected to take on the role of Sports Ambassadors for 2013-14. The girls attended a conference in



November, a training day in March and then assisted with the preparation and running of the 2014 Winter School Games. The girls did an excellent job and were a credit to the school. Well done Princess Young, Shelby Preston Morris, Aqeela Amanullah and Yashica Gupta. Shelby and Princess were chosen as flag bearers for the Reading Team.



### School Games Festival YR 7 Netball

The Year 7 qualified for the School Games final following their excellent performance in our league. The finals were played at a very high standard and our girls have gained a lot from the experience.



### YR 8 Rugby Team

The Year 8 Rugby team qualified for the School Games competition. They played very well with some excellent tackling and attacking play. They came 4th overall but some games only had a few points in them. Well played girls.



### U16 Athletics League

The Year 9 and 10 girls performed to their best during the league, narrowly missing out on the finals.

### U14 Athletics League

The Year 7 and 8 girls worked hard throughout the three league matches with a couple of students standing in last minute to cover absences. They



qualified for the County Final. This proved to be quite tense, the girls were in joint second place with two events to go and then joint first place with just the relays to go. Luckily our relay team stormed home in first place to secure the win. The girls went up to collect a lovely cup and Ella Young only a few weeks after surgery won the best performance medal for the High Jump with a personal best jump of 1.39m. Well done girls!



### Athletics Reading Championships

Girls competed in separate Yr7, Yr8 and Yr9/10 teams. All the girls who competed did their best and RGS received 9 medals in total:

- Angela Lowe gold medal 75m sprint
- Angela Lowe gold medal javelin
- Aaliah Hussain bronze medal shot put
- Teta Rukotana gold medal javelin
- Ella Young gold medal high jump
- Kankalongo Mukeba bronze medal discus
- Kia Slade bronze medal 80m sprint
- Princess Young silver medal 200m sprint
- Elizabeth Evans bronze medal discus

### Athletics County Finals

Six students from Reading Girls' School were selected to compete for Reading in the County Finals:



- Aaliah Hussain Yr7 shot put
- Angela Lowe Yr7 70m hurdles
- Kia Slade Yr8 75m hurdles
- Teta Rukotana Yr8 javelin
- Ella Young Yr8 high jump
- Gaby Dopson Yr10 javelin

Unfortunately two couldn't compete on the day, but both Angela Lowe and Kia Slade medalled in the hurdles. Well done.

### Yr11 Rounders Team

This was the last fixture for what has been a very sporty year group. The girls played well and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

### Yr10 Rounders Team

The year 10 team demonstrated some excellent fielding skills and scored some very good rounders. They had a mix of results and just narrowly missed out going through to the finals.

### Yr9 Rounders Team

The Year 9 girls batted really well and demonstrated some slick fielding.



They won most of their matches and finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. Well played girls.

### Yr8 Rounders Team

The girls fielded really well getting lots of players out. Unfortunately we couldn't quite score enough to take us through to the finals.

### Yr7 Rounders Team

The girls fielded extremely well throughout the tournament. They had a mix of results but only lost by the smallest margin. Good effort girls.

### Quadkids Team and Sports Leaders



A team of five Yr 7's and 16 Sports Leaders participated at the event which was held at RGS.

The Year 7's had to all complete four events; 100m, 800m, a standing long jump and a howler throw. Girls accumulated points for the team depending on distance and times achieved. Our girls came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and the sports leaders did an excellent job measuring, recording and organizing.

### Sports Leaders help with Primary Quadkids

Twelve Year 7 and 8 Sports Leaders went to Palmer



Park to assist with the running of the Primary Quadkids event. The girls did an excellent job and were a real credit to us.

### Sports Leaders to Primary Sports Day

Nine students from Year 9 were selected to help with

Silchester Primary School Sports Day. They did all the track judging, gave out stickers, and



ran a carousel of events such as the space hopper race, bean bag relay and the egg and spoon. Many of the girls also supported the primary students that found the long distance event tough going by running around with them. The staff and parents at the school were very impressed with the girls and many commented on what a good job they had done. Well done girls!

### Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Thank you to everyone who gave in vouchers, we received over **2,500** our highest total yet and will now be able to buy some new equipment for the PE department.

## Junior Maths Challenge

Congratulations to all the students who took part in the Junior Mathematics Challenge for Years 7 and 8.

Year 8:

Emily McQuillan—Best In Year and Gold

Jasmine Gurung—Gold

Maddy May—Silver

Glory Ombui—Silver

Lily Herbert—Bronze

Rosie Mulhern—Bronze

Year 7:

Grace Ewing—Best In Year and Silver

Dewashree Rimal—Bronze

Samantha Aid—Bronze

## The Prom



It was a lovely evening for our Year 11s, (breezy but

not cold) with a little rain at the end of the event, but no dampened spirits were in evidence! The girls as usual looked absolutely beautiful, the venue was welcoming, and they danced the night away. They were joined by a number of celebrity guests too!



## Music Summer Show



Students have worked very hard during the course of this term and I have been particularly pleased by the work produced by girls in each of Year 7, 8 and 9. The term culminated of course in our Summer Show which provided an opportunity not only for students to

show their skills in Music and Drama, but also in Art and Textiles. To accompany the show the Yr9 Food Tech class provided lots of lovely cakes as refreshments.

The musical contribution featured items from GiG Night performances over the last two terms. From Year 7 were Teonie Stoute and Lilly Kurton who together performed 'My Heart Will Go On.' Further up the school, there were brilliant and mature performances from Nishfa Nismy, Milly Allwood-Rose and an equally inspirational and uplifting performance of 'Out Here on My Own' by Julian Windingwi. There was another super performance by Lauren Butler and Mrs Cunningham. No musical event is ever complete without the RGS Choir and here they performed four songs. These performances also featured Emilia Helewska (bass guitar) and Billiey McKeown (drum-kit). With Sharuugha Jayakumar taking charge of sound for the evening, this really was a super event.

*Mr Greenway*

## Peace Quiz/Cake Sale

9B ran a teacher v student Peace Quiz and cake sale to raise awareness of Peace Day and fundraise to start making a peace mural to be displayed in the new school building. A big thank you to Miss Yu, Mr Ashmore, Miss Paget and Mr Williams for taking part and congratulations for winning the Peace Quiz. We have raised a fantastic £136.44.

## Farnborough Air Show

On Friday 18 July, The Science Club students had the chance to see the exciting career opportunities available in the dynamic sectors of Aerospace and Defence. The interactive, informative and engaging programme enabled them to see first-hand the variety, innovation and expertise that makes a career in these key sectors so rewarding.



They have witnessed a five-hour flying spectacular and static display of over 150 aircraft, and visited the Autonomous Systems Zone to see how remote technology will change how we live.