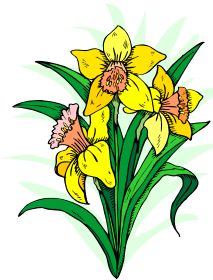




Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



Term 4

www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk

March 2012

Headteacher's Message

Reading Girls' School continues to provide a good education for the students and provide a number of positive experiences that will help them to develop their skills in a number of areas.

As you read through this newsletter you will see that the activities and events that have occurred at RGS this term cover many different aspects of the curriculum. We have seen students from Year 7 to 12 visiting and learning in a variety of novel ways. Enterprise is a theme that has been consistent throughout the school, for example Year 7 students enjoyed a Science and PE enterprise day. At this time of the year with impending GCSE examinations Year 11 students are focused and striving hard to achieve their goals. I must compliment the Year 11 students not only on their work ethic but also I was very impressed with the way they dressed in their "Smart Dress Up Day" – they certainly looked the part and transformed themselves from school girls into young professional women.

Our linguists have visited Kendrick School this term to extend their understanding of languages. It is at this point I would like to bid a fond farewell to Mrs Marsha Elms – the Executive Head – as she is now retiring from Kendrick. Reading Girls' School and Kendrick School have built up a close relationship over the last few years which has benefited the learning at both institutions and Mrs Elms has been instrumental in helping to formulate this. From a personal note Mrs Elms has always been very supportive of me as



the Head teacher of Reading Girls' and all the students in the school. Although we shall miss Mrs Elms I am confident that our special relationship with Kendrick School will continue to develop.

I would also like to thank the Leadership Team at Reading Girls' School who have worked hard to ensure that the school continued to be as focused on learning whilst I was absent during this last term.

The first day of next term is Monday 16 April and school will begin promptly at 8.40 am and students are expected to attend in full uniform.

Your support and cooperation are very much appreciated. I hope you all have a safe and pleasant holiday.

Regards

Mrs V Angus
Headteacher



Dear Parents, Girls, Staff and Governors

You may be aware that, at Easter, I will be retiring as the Executive Head of both Kendrick School and Reading Girls' School. I wanted to take this opportunity to say what a pleasure and privilege it has been to work with the staff and girls of RGS. I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the school community and watching it grow in strength over the last few years. Kendrick School will always now remain close to RGS.

I was absolutely delighted that the recent Ofsted inspection correctly judged RGS to be "good" in every category and I, like you, am very proud of what has been achieved.

I wish you all well for the future and, to all the girls, wherever you go remember

to believe in yourselves and never settle for second best!

I will continue to follow the progress of the school and indeed I will remain as a Governor for the time being.

With very best wishes to you all.

Mrs Marsha Elms
Executive Headteacher

Storyteller

On Tuesday 20 March 2012 storyteller Red Phoenix visited RGS. She had been invited to tell stories to nine classes, throughout the day in the school library. Her energy and enthusiasm shone through the strong women stories she told. Around 150 students from years 7, 8 and 9 came to listen.

Listening to stories improves students' listening skills and provides a variety of frameworks which they can use in their writing. Staff and students enjoyed the sessions and there were discussions during lunch on follow-up work that could be done in lessons. One student wrote, *"I thought that the storytelling time with Red Phoenix was really interesting. I was really lucky to be there for two lessons. I loved all her stories and liked the part where she was making the noises and voices of the characters, like the growling troll, which made the story more realistic. Another thing I liked was that she asked us what stories we were into, what sort of story we wanted, instead of just saying, 'Let's listen to a sad story.' when we wanted comedy or horror."*

Kaya Allen
7A





Business &
Enterprise

Business & Enterprise



Business &
Enterprise



We have recently been helping the University of Reading with a project. Teachers and student teachers from across Europe are attending a course called 'Teaching in a Foreign Language'. Representatives from Austria, Denmark, Hungary, Poland and Russia make this a truly international course. They came into Reading Girls' School to meet two classes and their teachers and observe a lesson, and will be returning soon to teach a lesson themselves.



Emma Malpass of Reed Recruitment visited students to discuss job descriptions and person descriptions and the difference between them. Victoria Brierley and Steve Rice of the BG Group talked about



BG GROUP

Structures and how they affect day to day work. Year 11 students are looking at business enterprise and will shortly be visited by Graham Cassie from Waitrose on Mission Statements.

Waitrose

STEM Careers Fair

Year 11 students recently attended a Careers Fair held at The Holt School. There were representatives and stands from a wide range of businesses including IT, engineering, banks, finance, construction and medical companies. Hopefully this will encourage the girls to pursue a career using their science, technology and maths skills.

Business Studies Guest Speakers

The Business Studies students have again benefitted from a wide range of guest speakers. One of the objectives of the BTEC Business Studies course is to make learning 'come alive'. So it is wonderful to have business people involved and speaking from a personal viewpoint. Year 10 students have been studying People in Businesses.



Reading Girls' designs on
success

On Tuesday 28 February, Verizon, a global communications company, hosted a graduation ceremony for 30 pupils from Reading Girls' School.

Verizon bosses presented certificates to the girls who completed a 10-week website design course with staff from the company's European HQ in Reading.

The year 8 students learned web design and construction skills with the focus on a 2012 Olympics theme. Mrs Angus, said: *"The Verizon project reinforces our own specialist learning areas of business and enterprise, providing a way to learn about technology within a stimulating real-life environment."*

"It is also an excellent opportunity for the girls to develop their enterprise and work-related skills such as teamwork, planning, communication and creativity."

The certificates were awarded by Arnold Coleman, IT community outreach coordinator at Verizon. He said: *"It is important that young people are introduced to IT skills at an early age, building their abilities, confidence and awareness. Verizon's IT community outreach programme aims to bridge the gap between business and education, and also provides our own employees with the opportunity to develop additional skills outside of their daily jobs."*

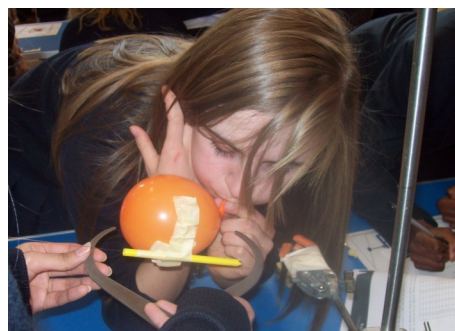
Reading Girls' School pupils receive their IT skills certificates from Verizon. Seated on the bench are overall winners Precious Abbey, left, and Milly Allwood-Rose, with Arnold Coleman, co-ordinator of Verizon Outreach.



The science department works closely with the Physics Department at Royal Holloway, University of London. Recent activities were lead by Dr Simon Reynolds their Science Outreach Officer in charge of Physics outreach, Science ambassadors and RGS science staff. Working in teams, the students enjoyed all the activities they participated.

Operation Golden Eagle

Students in Year 9 became secret agents for the day in a race to recover stolen gold. The students had to work in teams to overcome a series of scientific challenges in order to recover gold stolen by a group of evil thieves.



Roller Coaster Physics

During the activity, students built their own roller coasters out of K'Nex and used them to explore the mechanics of roller coasters by performing experiments and calculations. Topics explored included forces, acceleration, energy transfers and collisions. The activity encouraged students to work as a team and gave them an opportunity to investigate mechanics in a practical way.



Talk Science

Year 10 Students worked in a selection of experiments and they had to prepare a short talk to explain their particular experiment in small groups. They then presented it to their peers. The talks were judged and the group with the best talk receives a small prize.

Grunden

A group of enthusiastic students has recently been working toward the Eco-Schools award with volunteers from PriceWaterhouseCoopers. They have been looking at energy saving in school and are also investigating recycling of waste produced by the school.



As part of this project, the Science Ambassadors visited Grunden's Material

Recovery Facility at Beenham to find out what happens to the school's rubbish and how materials are recycled. They heard about how the waste is sorted and turned into reusable products by the 'Grunden Wizards'. They also saw the sorting facility and the myriad of conveyor belts carrying different varieties of waste around the site.

RHS Wisley

On Tuesday 18 March, eight students from Year 8 attended a Science Enterprise day at RHS Wisley. The girls looked at the theory behind how plants disperse their seeds, before taking part in a number of challenges to test these theories. These included launching a rocket, as well as making parachutes and boats. They competed very well against tough opposition, with one team coming fourth and the other coming first and winning a crystal making kit for the group.



Team Maths Challenge

The Team Maths Challenge is a competition organised by the UK Mathematics Trust who have been dedicated to advancing the education of young people in Mathematics since they were established in 1996. The organisation runs a number of team and

individual events across the country, and for the first time, Reading Girls' School sent a team of four mathematicians from years 8 and 9 to the Regional Finals in Newbury where they competed in four rounds against 21 teams from different schools across the region. The rounds varied from team problem solving to a mathematical relay race. Here is what the girls had to say about the event:

"The Team Maths Challenge was a great experience. We were able to apply many Business and Enterprise skills such as teamwork and problem solving to the tasks, as well as our maths knowledge, and our running skills even came into play in the relay event! All of the teams at the event were really enthusiastic towards all of the challenges and everyone tried their best. Even though our team didn't win we had a really enjoyable day and would like to thank Mrs Wells and Miss Stoffels, as well as all of those involved with creating the Team Maths Challenge, for organising the event." *Amy Choules and Mairead Casey, Year 9.*



Thank you to Mairead Casey and Amy Choules (Year 9) and Yeukai Jiri and Kimberley Sumner (Year 8) for representing the school at the event.

Fundraising

Book Collection

A fundraising collection of books and DVDs made £54 in February. The collection made for an especially good spring clean of the English stock cupboards unused and damaged books to make room for new titles. The collected items go to third world countries where they are used by schools and libraries that cannot afford new books for learning. Those books in poor condition also get recycled as they are pulped for paper recycling. We will host another collection next year, so unwanted items are always welcome - Please drop them into the school for the attention of Mrs Eddy.

Bag2School

The next bag2school fundraising collection takes place on Wednesday 18 April. Blue collection bags have been given out to students to fill with unwanted clothing, fabric, soft toys, shoes and bags. Please ensure returned bags are at the school by 9am on the day of the collection.



Tesco vouchers for schools

After last years very successful collection this years scheme has just started. The collected vouchers get used to purchase extra resources for use across the school. Please hand to Mrs Eddy.



The Valentine's Day poetry competition was won by Karola Kane and Lauren Butler.

PE and Sports News

Year 11 BTEC SPORT class work with Reading Rockets coach Ben

As part of their Unit 2 work the girls have been developing their coaching skills in basketball and have been put through their paces by Ben Fisher the Reading Rockets coach.



Kelly Goswell and Vikki King undertook some football coaching at George Palmer Primary School with Year 5 girls as part of their coursework practical task.



Year 8 Inter-house Netball - Final 8Cv8S

Both teams had battled hard against the other houses to reach the final. There was an excellent display of attacking fast netball but 8C however were too strong on the day winning 5-0. Year 9 Sports Leaders once again assisted with the umpiring of the competition.



Year 7 Netball Team

The Year 7 team has been working hard and improving their skills throughout terms 3 and 4 in training. Although they found the league quite hard, they toughened up to play really well in the tournament beating both St Joseph's and Prospect.



Year 8 Netball Teams

The Year 8 Netball Squad improved dramatically over the term developing their attacking and defending skills. Both teams played well in the league achieving some good wins. The team selected for the tournament played really well, finishing in 3rd place overall.

Year 9 Netball

The year 9's have once again demonstrated an excellent commitment to training. Both teams played very well in the league, with the A team finishing 2nd and the B team finishing 5th. In the tournament a very determined A team overcame the opposition (Leighton Park and Little Heath) to become finalists for the second year running.



Year 10 and 11 Netball

A combined team played in the league. They won their first two games quite comfortably against Hugh Farringdon and Prospect. They played hard in their



remaining games, giving the Abbey School a good game in particular.

Touch Rugby Coaching

As part of the Sportivate funding from RBC some of the girls from year 7,8 and 9 have been working with Andrew the Touch Rugby coach to develop their skills. Despite a lot of giggling the girls are now playing very slick touch rugby.



Staff and Students Zumba Club

Staff and students have come together to sweat it out in Zumba classes which run after school on Wednesdays. As this has proved a success, this will continue on during the summer terms.



RGS and Primary Dance Festival

Once again RGS hosted a dance festival in which some of the primary schools in our sports partnership group participated. The primary children put on some excellent dances including street dance from Redlands and Geoffrey Field,



a beautiful Chinese fan dance from Wilson Primary



an Indian Dance from Whitley Park and an amazing Round the World in 80 days from Battle Primary.

Our students who worked extremely hard with instructor Andre Bright opened and closed the show with two



very slick street dance performances. Each school was awarded a certificate the Olympic and Paralympic values they best represented.



Sports Relief

In order to support the fundraising effort girls had a non uniform day, completed the sport relief mile and participated in hula hoop challenges, sitting volleyball and



benchball. Final monies are still being counted but we have definitely raised over £300 so far. Well done to those who got involved and gave generously.



Year Group fastest mile winners:

Year 7	Princess Young	6.23 minutes
Year 8	Stephanie Linken	5.16 minutes
Year 9	Natalia Svobodova	5.18 minutes
Year 10	Shreya Rijal	6.28 minutes
Year 11	Lois Maxwell	5.04 minutes

STUDENTS ON SITE:

Students should NOT be on site before 8.20am and should register with the After School Club at 3.30pm if they are staying behind. NO students should come on site during holidays or inset days unless directly instructed to.