



# Reading Girls' School NEWSLETTER



Term 2

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

December 2011

## Headteacher's Message

2011 is drawing to a close and RGS has achieved another successful year. The students and staff are to be complimented on their very hard work this term—it is truly a school working together that makes a difference. There have been many opportunities for students in the last term and they have been excellent ambassadors for both the school and the local area when they have participated in events outside of the school. As you read through this newsletter you will be able to judge for yourself the excellent breadth of activities that the school has engaged in.

I would like to invite any parents or carers who are concerned about their daughter's safety when either being dropped off or picked up at school. Northumberland Avenue is a busy road and I am very concerned that a student may have an accident. Thus I am inviting anyone who is interested to a meeting on Monday 16 January at 4.00pm to discuss what we can do together to ensure all students' safety. Reading Borough Council and the Police are also very supportive of this.

The focus for terms 3 to 6 will be to continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning that exists at Reading Girls' School. I would ask you to support us in this by ensuring your daughter attends school every day

and is punctual. Wearing the full school uniform and bringing all the necessary equipment do indeed make a difference to overall achievement.

Students are to return to school on Tuesday 3 January 2012 at 8.40am and go straight to their tutor bases. On behalf of the staff and Governors at Reading Girls' School, we wish you and all your family an enjoyable break and a happy and successful year ahead.

Mrs V Angus  
Headteacher



## Swanage Visit GCSE Geography

On Monday 17 October, 39 students from Year 10 went on a visit to Studland Bay, Swanage on the Dorset coast to look at geographical landforms and coastal management. The idea of the visit was to help the students better understand the physical geography they have been learning about from text books, by seeing it in 'real life'. The day started out sunny and warm on Studland



beach, but got rather wet and windy in the afternoon. The students also looked at the local economy, and through their shopping in the sweet shops, souvenir shops and fish & chip shops, they made a significant input into the local economy. Having seen the amazing houses at Sandbanks when waiting for the ferry to cross to the Purbecks, the students were inspired to do well in their studies so as to be able to afford to live in such luxury.



On Friday 18 November, Reading Girls' joined the rest of the UK in raising funds for Children In Need. There

was a non-uniform day (spots and stripes theme); cake sales; and in Art Mr Bish drew a huge Pudsey on the art-room floor to be filled with small change. The total raised was just under **£400**.





The **Bag2School** collection on Thursday 3 November raised **£143.50** with 287kg of fabric,

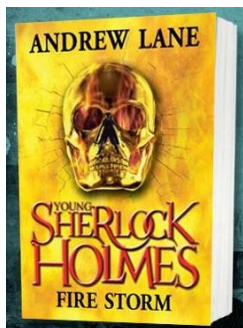
clothing, bags, belts, shoes and soft toys donated in 63 bags. Thank you to all those who supported this fund raising initiative.



The **next collection** is booked for **Wednesday 18 April 2012**—just after the Easter break. So please save up your unwanted items for this collection.

## Year 7 Author Event

On Friday 11 November, all of our Year 7 students were lucky enough to experience part of Reading's Crime Fiction Festival. They



had the opportunity to listen to a talk by Andrew Lane, author of the *Young Sherlock Holmes* series, at Reading Town Hall. After telling the audience some interesting facts about his work on the set of *Wallace and Gromit*, the *James Bond* movies and the BBC *Doctor Who* series, Lane gave a detailed presentation about the character of Sherlock Holmes and the history of this mysterious detective since his first appearance. The author then explained how he tried to craft stories about Sherlock's teenage years where a 14 year old Sherlock is

already encountering murder, kidnap, corruption and more. At the end of the session, students had the chance to ask Andrew Lane questions about Sherlock Holmes and how he writes his novels.

## 'The Stanislavski Experience'

GCSE Drama students took part in practical workshops with 'The Stanislavski Experience' company. In their first workshop held on Friday 21 October professional actor and director Nick O'Brien walked the students through method acting techniques including relaxation exercises and emotional memory exercises. In the second workshop held on Friday 11 November, performer and physical theatre expert Annie Sutton came to train the girls in physical performance and epic theatre strategies.



## Media Exhibition

As part of the BTEC Media course, year 11 students put on an exhibition of their own photography in the school foyer during the week of 14-18 November. There was a wide range of styles and subjects in the photos, from landscape shots of Autumn scenes to street photography in Reading town centre, and a variety of composition techniques put to impressive use. Many visitors commented on how impressed they were by the quality and originality of the photographs produced by our year 11 students. This exhibition was a great success.

## PE Department

### Year 8 Hockey Team—Plate Winners

Congratulations to the Year 8 hockey team who won the Plate League with a very exciting penalty Shoot out against The Abbey School. After finishing 0-0 after normal time and 0-0 after extra time, our girls held their nerve with a winning goal from



## Holidays are fine but not in term time

Any absence in term time undermines the continuity of your child's education and reduces her chances of success. **Parents and carers are asked to take family holidays during the school holidays.** The Headteacher may authorise leave of absence but will consider the reasons for the request, the effect on the continuity of your daughter's learning and her overall attendance. Please be aware that if you take your child out of school for an unauthorised holiday during term time, you may be issued with a **fixed penalty notice of £50 per parent for each child.** School holiday dates for 2011/12 are as follows:

Christmas break Monday 19 December to Monday 2 January 2012

Mid term break Monday 13 to Friday 17 February

Easter break Monday 2 to Friday 13 April

Mid term break Monday 4 to Friday 8 June

End of term Friday 20 July



Kea Vandi and outstanding goal keeping from Antonia Saunders.

### Sports Ambassadors Conference

Aishah Jibreel and Amy Choules were selected to represent Reading Girls' at the conference which took place at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre. The focus was on how to raise more awareness and implement Olympic related activities within school. The ambassadors



received an inspiring talk from former Paralympian Danny Crates. The PE Department will shortly be issuing awards based on the Olympic and Paralympic values: Excellence, Determination, Courage, Friendship, Equality, Inspiration and Respect.

### Year 11 BTEC Sport class

As part of their Unit 7 coursework the girls had to plan and deliver a sporting event. They delivered an excellent multi-skills tournament which developed agility, balance and coordination. The Year 4 George Palmer students really enjoyed it and all their staff were very impressed with the RGS girls.



## Are you good at organising events?

### Are you able to give some of your time to help the school?

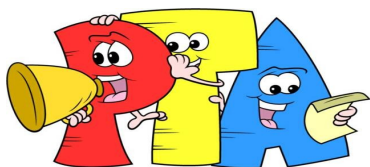
We are looking to set up the RGS Parent Teacher Association.

#### What is a PTA?

A PTA is open to all parents who want to get more involved in the school. They will meet at least once a term and organise fundraising events within the school. The PTA includes representatives from the school's teaching staff and a range of parents throughout the school years. Most PTAs also run social events for parents and students and this gives parents an extra opportunity to meet and 'get to know' each other; this is an especially good idea for Year 7 parents.

#### Does this sound like something you would be interested in?

If you are and can help us out in any way or have any questions, please contact us through our email address [pta@readinggirls.reading.sch.uk](mailto:pta@readinggirls.reading.sch.uk) or write in with your details to Lisa Newman, Parent Governor, c/o Reading Girls' School.



### Football Leagues

Year 7, 8 and 9 have taken part in the Reading Schools' 6-a-side Football League. All our teams have had some close matches with some excellent skills on display. The Year 7 and 8 B-team qualified for the semi-finals.



*Year 9 and 10 Football Team*

### Charlie Wheeler Dance Workshop

A number of girls in Years 7, 8 and 9 and Years 10 and 11 were invited to take part in a two hour dance workshop being run by Charlie Wheeler. Charlie was a contestant in BBC1's 'So you think you can dance' in March and specialises in contortion break dance. Although



choreography was challenging the girls enjoyed the session making good progress in the time they had.



Girls in Key Stage 4 have had Zumba Fitness sessions as part of their core PE options. This has proved to be a popular choice and most girls have developed really well with the routines.

### Non Contact Boxing

Girls in Key Stage 4 have also had the chance to develop their fitness and skills in non-contact boxing lessons. They have worked on jabs, crosses, hooks and uppercuts and developed defence and footwork skills. A very good way to get rid of your stress.



*Samata Shrestha and Noor Dhakal*

### Trampoline Level 7

#### Competition

Four girls took part in the Level 7



Trampoline Competition. Although performing on their own was very nerve wracking, the girls all did their best. Georgina Jones in Year 9 produced the best routine and came 6<sup>th</sup> out of 20 girls in the senior competition.



Business & Enterprise

On Friday 18 November, a group of Year 8 students attended the **DigiGirlz** event at the Microsoft offices in Reading.

They attended presentations on future developments of the internet, saw demonstrations of some 'cool stuff' and heard about careers in technology. They also took part in a challenge, where they worked as a team to imagine a new technology for the Olympics in 2028! They created a company name and logo and nominated a managing director.



Then they brainstormed ideas, developed their favourite, filmed a presentation and incorporated it in a Powerpoint presentation for judging. All within two and a half hours!

The Microsoft staff who mentored the girls for the challenge were impressed by them and their idea, which developed a heart rate monitor watch to incorporate all sorts of health monitoring and social networking features. They said the group included 'a handful of stars'. The challenge was won by students from Easthampstead Park School in Bracknell whose idea was similar to our team's but included a few extra features.



**BG GROUP**

**The Year 10 Chemistry** classes had guest

speakers from the BG Group in November. They talked about their work finding new gas supplies around the globe, and how the gas is extracted and transported to the UK. They also talked about

the range of careers and jobs in a company such as BG Group.

### Year 7 Safety Day

The Year 7 students recently had a Safety Day organised by the PSHE Department. This included sessions on internet safety, road safety, personal safety, alcohol awareness, drug awareness, and the effects of truancy. Events were run by PCSOs and PCs from Thames Valley Police together with Arcade, a local drugs education charity.



Verizon have started their website design course with students in 8G ICT. Their volunteers will be working with the class until February half term. The course will be working on their work related and enterprise skills of teamwork, planning, creativity, and so on, as well as developing a website.

### pwc Eco Schools Volunteers

PriceWaterhouseCoopers have started working with the Science Enterprise Group on their eco schools project. Over the coming months, they will be taking on a variety of projects to make the school a more ecological place and work toward the eco school award.

### Year 11 Work Readiness Skills

To help Year 11s prepare for their next steps after Reading Girls' they have had workshops to improve their work readiness skills.

Volunteers from business have been attending their PSHE lessons to discuss a variety of topics including CV writing, application forms and interview skills. This will also help with their applications for Sixth Form colleges and further education. The Year 10 and 11 students also had an

### Get On Line!

Reading College at Reading Girls' School is now a UK Online Centre. IT beginners can learn about the internet, email, etc., in free weekly sessions from 3-4 pm on Friday afternoons. Sessions start again on Friday, 6 January. Contact Kate Thomson on 0118 9213424 for more information.

assembly on apprenticeships with a guest speaker. For this project we are very grateful for all the support of our business volunteers from:

- \* ConnectReading
- \* Reading Borough Council
- \* The Oracle
- \* The Rotary Club of Reading Matins
- \* Microsoft
- \* Olswang
- \* Visa
- \* Verizon
- \* Reed Recruitment
- \* Thames Valley Regional Network

### Young Chamber

Our Young Chamber is being rejuvenated with new volunteers and they had a guest at their first session: Romilla Ready from Ready Solutions Ltd visited to help with their creative ideas. We are looking forward to some wonderful projects!

### Yr 11 Citizenship fundraising

11I Citizenship class have been working on fundraising projects as part of their coursework. There have been sales of goodies and food, car-washing sessions, a concert, a pink day and, of course, cake sales! Funds have been raised for a variety of charities including GOSH, cancer charities and the RSPCA.

### Free School Meal entitlement:

Consists of a savoury item  
main meal, sandwich, baguette, pasta  
pot or salad pot  
plus a pudding—dessert of the day or  
small fruit salad

*Drinks, cakes, doughnuts or biscuits  
are NOT included.*