

Makeover treat for radio DJ

BBC Radio Berkshire DJ Maggie Philbin was walking on air after receiving a complimentary pampering session.



Beauty therapy students Leila Harper and Farida Krasniqi treated the breakfast show host to a fresh hairstyle and manicure. Maggie, who recorded the session to be broadcast on air, also interviewed students about their experiences at the salon. The salon caters for school leavers and girls returning to education. She said: "I've had a great manicure and the hair-dressing students have sorted out my hair. It's been great to see how engaged all the students have been, and it's apparent that they are all so keen and willing to learn. It's important that such courses are provided because they bring out so many talents and offer students a chance to learn from practical experience."

Salon International

On Monday 18 October a group of 15 students travelled to London to attend the Salon International event. The students were able to watch demonstrations by top class hairdressers from across the world and there were many stalls

where students could buy hairdressing products at discounted prices. The students had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

BTEC Diploma in Travel and Tourism



On 30 November 2010 the BTEC Diploma students visited the Hilton Hotel in Reading. Carolin Mueller, Head of Human Resources, gave the students a tour of the hotel and explained the role of each department and how the hotel is run. The students are currently studying all aspects of customer service and the focus of this visit was to gain an understanding of how a large corporate hotel creates a good impression to its guests.



The students found this visit both interesting and beneficial to their coursework as it provided real life examples to support their work. Our thanks go to Carolin who has given us much of her time—organising the work placements (which the girls thoroughly enjoyed) and for giving a tour of the hotel and a presentation.

They also visited a range of travel and tourism organisations including The Forbury Hotel, The Hilton Reading, Premier Inn Caversham and the Travelodge. They experienced a number of different roles including party planning, receptionist, housekeeping and working in food and beverage. The reports from employers were very positive and one student has gained part-time employment as a result of her success.

Wear it Pink day

The staff and students in the Post -16 Centre saw pink in aid of the breast cancer campaign on 'Wear it Pink Day'.



Students went all out to make it a fun and thoroughly worthwhile event for a great cause while staff showed that they weren't going to be outdone in their ability to visually assault with colour. They raised a fantastic £100 for the charity.



Farewell

It's a fond farewell to Jane Bentley who worked patiently to bring together the systems from two very different organisations to make the Post-16 Centre work. We wish her all the best in her new life in Germany.



Term 2



South East Regional Winners

On 24 November, eight Year 10 students travelled to The Brit Oval Cricket Ground in London to take part in the South East Regional Final of the **2010 Coca-Cola Enterprises Real Business Challenge** — a competition to create a brand new soft drink.

The competition was run nationally and girls had to create, in their own time, an idea, marketing and finance for a new soft drink. Group So-Low entered their product 'So-Glo' to Coca-Cola and were successful in beating 116 other schools to the regional finals. The day enabled the girls to build on their enterprise skills and develop their product further with the help of a

business consultant from Coca-Cola. Throughout the competition, the teams participated in a variety of workshops, as well as receiving coaching from both Edexcel and Coca-Cola Enterprises business mentors who provided them with expert insight and advice.

Deadlines had to be met throughout and a final radio advert and presentation in front of a panel of judges including guest speaker, Ben Fogle. The judges were impressed with the creativity of their drink and the commercial approach of their presentations. Ben Fogle said: "An inspirational afternoon of business creativity and fun, I wish it had been like this when I was at school." The 'So-Glo' team: Martha Tekleyesus, Anastasia Lohachova, Lucy Hall, Evonnee



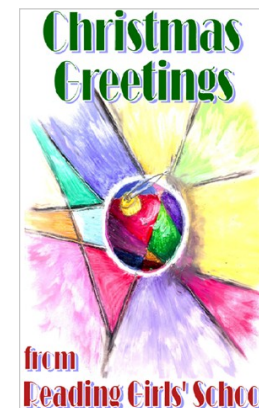
December 2010

Bentley-Holder, Martha Gurung, Mary Gurung, Bidhya Gurung and Sophiya Gurung have progressed to the National Finals in London on Wednesday 19 January 2011, where they will compete against six other regional finalists from across the UK.

The team will also receive a prize of the 'London Experience' including a hotel stay, show and limousine ride. Well done to all those who took part — they have been great ambassadors for the school.

Christmas Card Competition

A challenge was put forward to students to create an official Christmas card for the school. We were overwhelmed by the number of entries (some are displayed in the school foyer). After much deliberation the winning entry designed by Tamanna Hoque, Year 11 was



chosen and reproduced into a Christmas card.



The runner-up designs were a 3D card by Louise McHugh, Year 9

and a more traditional card by Jessica Rebelo, Year 8.



Tap Attack, the **England Tap Team** danced their way into Reading Girls' School on Saturday 6 November for a spectacular fundraising Celebration Dinner. 140 guests were treated to a sit down meal prepared by the school's catering team, whilst being entertained by the phenomenal choreography of Jo Scanlan, Founder and Director of Tap Attack. There was also live music, a raffle and auction, which



raised over £3,000 towards supporting the England Teams' entry into the Tap Dancing World Championships being held in Reisa, Germany, in December. Reading Girls' School wanted to show its support for young people in our local community and beyond, by helping them to realise their dreams and aspirations on the world wide stage. We were delighted to have been able to sponsor this prestigious event.

If you would like to hire Reading Girls' School for your event please contact info@readinggirls.reading.sch.uk and to sponsor the Tap Attack England Team, who really need your support please contact jo@tapattack.co.uk.

New website

On Friday 22 October a professional photographer came into school to take some pictures for our new website which will launch in January 2011. Once the girls had become accustomed to his presence they settled back down to learning and some very good results were achieved. Then on 24 November, Martin Aust from Posterity Video Productions came into school to film us during a normal school



day. As well as an interview with Mrs Angus, some School Council members gave their views and opinions of the school and other students were filmed in a variety of lessons. A short film created from all the footage will be on the front page of the new website.



WATCH THIS SPACE:
www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk

Headteacher's Report

As we face the end of another year, Reading Girls' continues to go from strength to strength. As you will read in the articles, we have much to be proud of. I am continually amazed at the talents shown by students at RGS—they are truly remarkable young women who will certainly make their mark in the global society. Huge congratulations must go to the Year 10 students who competed and won the Regional Finals of the Coca Cola Challenge—this is impressive and

excellent display of skills and team work and were unlucky not to score.

Football Tournaments/Leagues

Years 7, 8 and 9 have taken part in the Reading Schools' 7-a-side Football Tournaments this term and have now started their league matches. All our teams have had some close matches with some excellent skills on display.



Year 7 Football Squad



Year 9 Football squad

Year 7G and 8G attempt blind football



To complete their block of work on football, both 7G and 8G attempted to play blind football. They wore blacked out goggles and tried to follow a ball with a

bell in it and listen to a guide who was coaching and directing them. Although they had fun the students gained some appreciation of how difficult it was without their sight and how reliant they became on their other senses.

KS3 Badminton Tournament



Well done to both the A and B teams who both got through to the semi finals. The A team went on to play in the finals against Kendrick and were only just beaten. Best performance came from Ammani Daniel who had some outstanding wins in her singles matches. Well done girls!

Year 10 BTEC Sport class go to the gym



Sarah Hart and Vikki King

As part of their Unit 1 course work where they are looking at training methods, the Year 10 BTEC Sport group enjoyed a visit to Academy Sport to have a training session on the weight machines.



Habigale Gray

Year 11 BTEC Sport class run a Multi-skills Tournament for 96 Year 7 Kendrick students



As part of their Unit 5 coursework the girls had to plan and deliver a sporting event. They delivered an excellent festival which developed agility, balance and coordination. The Year 7 students really enjoyed it and all the Kendrick staff were very impressed with our girls.



**DON'T FORGET
SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON
WEDNESDAY
5 JANUARY 2011
AT 8.40AM**

The governors are also working with the staff of the school to work out what the impact will be of the range of government initiatives that have been announced in the last few months. Early in the New Year we should be given some information about how our budget will be affected but at this point in time we do not know whether we will be better or worse off.

Governors have also undertaken to be available during the forthcoming Parents' Evenings at the school. Please use these opportunities to come and talk to us if there are any issues you wish to raise with us. There should be at least two governors available at each Parents' Evening, starting with Post-16 on 12 January, Year 7 on 20 January and Year 9 on 27 January. Meanwhile on behalf of all the governors I hope you have a very enjoyable Christmas and wish you the very best for the New Year.

Peter Kayes
Chair of Governors

PGCE Experience

On the morning of 18 October, Pippa and I arrived at Reading Girls' School. In what could have been a very overwhelming experience, we were welcomed by Mr Scrivens and given a warm introduction to the rest of the staff and a tour of the school. We were assigned to a tutorial group and a selection of classes. The learning curve was very steep and within a fortnight we had progressed from taking the odd starter or plenary to teaching full lessons. All staff members were very approachable and most accommodating. We

received fantastic encouragement and feedback and though our teaching practices are in their early stages of development, we feel that the progress we have made has been considerable.

The teachers have fantastic relationships with their students and are highly respected. The school is a vibrant, exciting place to work with many young and formidable personalities. There are some charming young ladies at this school who I am sure will go on to achieve great things. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time here and the experience has had an indelible influence on our teaching practices.

Tim Yates and Pippa Smith—Bath Spa Students

'Miss do you want to hear a joke about maths? Why was 6 afraid of 7?, because 7 ate 9.' It's moments such as these that have been the highlight of my time here at Reading Girls' School as a PGCE student. The sense of humour of the students, the friendliness of the staff, the diverse culture of the school, all of these attributes have contributed to the fantastic experience I have had at the school and have been influential in shaping the kind of teacher I aspire to be.

Thank you to the students in my tutor group for taking part in my weekly tutor group quiz, to my Year 8 maths class who have inspired me to plan lessons I enjoy and think of creative ways to make maths fun, to my Year 7 class who are always so keen and suspiciously complimentary on my fashion sense, to all the teaching staff who have given me support and advice (including my fantastic mentor) and every other

student in this school that has contributed to its bubbly atmosphere.

The students and staff of Reading Girls' School should be proud of themselves and their school, and I hope they promote this to the wider community so others can have the same impression of the school that I do, inspiring others to join the community of Reading Girls' School.

Jackeline Stoffels, PCGE Student, Mathematics.

PE and Sports News

Year 7 Tag Rugby Tournament



Ten girls took part in the Reading Schools' Year 7 Tag Rugby Tournament. They produced some excellent performances both going forward in attack and ripping the opponent's tags off in defence. They came second overall – well done girls!

Year 7 and 8 Hockey Team



Well done to the Year 7 and 8 combined hockey team who reached the semi finals of the Reading Schools' Mini Hockey Competition. They put on an

I must say I am envious of their achievements and wish them every success in the National Finals in January 2011. I am sure they will progress even further and we will be celebrating further success.

As part of our commitment in supporting young people in their dreams and aspirations, I am happy to report that the National Tap Dancing team certainly achieved their dreams—the Junior group won the gold medal. The student voice at the school is heard and I am happy to report that a small group of prefects has been elected by the students and we look forward to the development and growth of such initiatives.

I am grateful that the poor weather conditions have not impacted greatly on us however I must urge you to ensure that the school has your correct contact details to ensure that any messages can be relayed to you. We look forward to launching our brand new website in January 2011 and I hope that you will find this both innovative and informative and as you can see, redesigned the newsletter format.

Students are to return to school on Wednesday 5 January at 8.40am and go straight to their tutor bases. The staff will be in school from 8.30am and normal lessons will be the order of the day. Full school uniform and necessary equipment is required by all students. I look forward to meeting you and your family in 2011. On behalf of all the staff and Governors at RGS we wish you and your family an enjoyable break and a happy and successful year ahead.



Severe Weather Conditions

We wrote to you recently to clarify arrangements for severe weather, in the unlikely event that it becomes necessary to close the school.

The school will stay open if at all possible but please ensure your daughter is appropriately clothed for bad weather and that shoes/boots have good grip for icy conditions. Parents and carers should inform the school if their daughter is absent due to severe conditions making the journey unsafe. If conditions worsen please try to avoid collecting your daughter before the end of the day unless you feel her safety is at risk.

If the weather was to turn worse during the school day making it necessary for us to close the school early, parents would be advised via the Schoolcomms text and email service. Please note that sufficient staff will remain in school until all students have left the site.

Communicating a school closure

A decision to close the school will be made by 7.00am. The Headteacher will inform radio stations once this decision is made. At the same time text and email messages will be sent via the Schoolcomms service. The school website will also be updated. Below is a list of local stations and their frequencies:

- BBC Radio Berkshire 104.4, 104.1, 65.4 and 94.6FM
- Heart FM 97.0, 102.9 and 103.4FM
- Radio 107fm 107FM

It is useful for students to carry mobile phones when weather conditions are poor as it will help with quick communications. However, mobile phones will be carried at the owner's risk. We hope that with these procedures in place, all parents will be notified of a school closure as soon as possible.

Please make sure we have up-to-date mobile numbers and email addresses in the event we need to contact you.

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 are as follows:

Start of term Wednesday 5 January 2011

Mid term break Monday 21 to Friday 25 February

Easter break Monday 11 to Monday 25 April

Mid term break Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June

End of term Friday 22 July



Business &
Enterprise

Business & Enterprise News

Student Leadership & The 2012 Games

In October a group of students from Years 8, 9 and 10 attended an event on Student Leadership & The 2012 Games at St Crispin's School in Wokingham. This will enable them to represent the students and work with staff to plan events in school to increase awareness of the Olympic Games in London 2012 and the Olympic themes and values. Some of their ideas have already been taken on board by the school and events will be taking place in the summer.



Students with Anna Hemmings MBE – Olympic Medallist and World Kayak Champion.

Digirlz

In November, 19 students from Year 8 took part in Microsoft's Digirlz event. This event is held at Microsoft locations worldwide and is designed to provide secondary school girls with a better understanding of what a career in technology is all about and to see first hand any new technology designs.



Ideas gathering and script conference followed by rehearsal.



Students were split into teams and were asked to make a pilot for a new programme using new Microsoft technology. They wrote a script and acted it out in front of a 'green screen'.



In front of the green screen—lights ... camera ... action!

As one of the students said, "Unfortunately nobody from Reading Girls' School won but we were allowed to have a play with the Kinect and even Mrs Wells had a little dance around! We were provided with lunch and had a great day!"

Children in Need

This year the BBC Children in Need fundraising appeal fell in Global Enterprise Week and became one of the focal points of school activities.



A team of students ran a stall selling goodies, Pudsey merchandise and games for Children in Need and they made a profit of £342.47. A talent show was also held, and students were sponsored for a variety of activities. As many of them chose a sponsored silence, some lessons were surprisingly peaceful! Together with the Non-Uniform Day the school raised £978.87 for Children in Need.

Year 10 Enterprise Day



Saving feels good

Year 10 students were off timetable on Tuesday 14 December experiencing an enterprise day on rebranding Reading facilitated by ING Direct. They worked in teams with business mentors to create ideas to improve Reading! They will be researching, planning and working on presentations.

Operation Christmas Child

The school took part in Operation Christmas Child again this year. This initiative is run by Samaritan's Purse: shoeboxes



are filled with toys, toiletries, stationery, etc., and wrapped. They are then shipped overseas to areas of deprivation and poverty where children may not otherwise get a Christmas present. Many shoeboxes go to Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe and we understand some of our shoeboxes may end up in Haiti this year.

The school sent off 41 shoeboxes. 11C tutor group were particular enterprising this year as they organised a cake sale and used their profits to buy items for the shoeboxes.

What is Dynamic?

As part of the Year 11 Business, Finance and Administration Diploma, students have created a small business called Dynamic to represent Reading Girls' School. They are competing against many other schools in the Reading area such as the Abbey School and Reading School. They have set up a jewellery stall in Miss Stevens' room in the B&E building selling their jewellery every Wednesday



and Friday lunch time. Everyone is welcome to browse the stall—the more people the better and the more chance they will have of beating the other schools in the young enterprise project.

So far the BAF Diploma students have organised the Battle of the Bands event, where they successfully raised £123.50 thanks to your help! They will also be selling their products at the Young Chamber Christmas Fair including the latest item—an embroidered polo shirt which is available in a range of sizes and colours.

French Café

On 13 December, as part of the French Department's B&E activities, six Year 7 students helped run the French Café in aid of the Big Community Tea event. To prepare for this day 7G and 7E made Christmas cards in French which were handed out to guests as well as a nice French pastry to enjoy. There was also a presentation about *la fête des rois*, a French festival that involves sharing a *galette* (almond filo pastry cake) and finding a trophy hidden inside it in order to be crowned queen.

English Department

Year 7 created a book of short stories—50 words or less—which they then marketed to other teenagers.

Year 8 were involved in an activity called *Live Writing*, imagining they had been invited onto a website live-write session, where they had to produce a story 'live' in front of an audience. They also chose their favourite poem and prepared a presentation to persuade the

class why their chosen poem was so special.

Year 9 worked in groups, imagining they were a successful PR company. They were asked to create a press party to promote the release of a new film called *'The Virus'* – a short film viewed earlier in the term.

Young Chamber

The Young Chamber are affiliated to Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce who have been running forums and workshops, to enable students involved in the initiative at different schools to meet and interact and to widen their knowledge of business. Representatives from the Young Chamber at Reading Girls' School attended the first forum and workshops on 'Business Set Up' and 'Marketing'.

Plans are progressing well for the Young Chamber's Winter Fayre, which is being held on Wednesday 15 December with stalls, music, games and treats. We would like to thank South Reading Leisure Centre and The Oracle for their generosity in donating prizes.

A message from the School Governors

We are pleased to be able to welcome two new members to the governing body of the school to replace governors whose terms of office ended this term. Mrs Sabiha Siddiqui is the new parent governor and Sarah Stevens is the new staff governor. Thanks are due to the two retiring members, parent governor James Mugo and staff governor Judy Botherway.