



Robert Clack School of Science A Specialist College Newsletter

www.robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk



Science



Maths &
Computing



April 2009

Science news

Work Experience at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine



Science



18 of our year 10 science students spent their work experience at LSHTM, working with real scientists on research projects. They had an enjoyable and very worthwhile experience, seeing science in action.

Great pupil feedback from Science Week!

Last month's Science Week theme was Planet & People and it's clear that you loved it!

Of the pupils we spoke to, over 80% of you said:

- you'd enjoyed the week
- learned something useful and
- thought lessons were more interesting than usual.

Your comments include:



“Lessons were more interesting than normal”

“I loved the group work, we don’t get to do it a lot”

“It was a nice atmosphere – teachers were less stressed”

“I learned useful things about my life”

“It was nice to learn about science in other subjects, I was surprised how they linked together”

“I leave my X-box on at home even though it’s broken. I don’t know why. I’ll probably turn it off now to save energy”

I know you’ll want to thank your teachers for putting in the time and effort to make your lessons especially interesting, fun and useful.

It’s time to revise!

Personal revision is absolutely essential to doing well in your exams. Here’s a way you can organise your holidays to:

- 1) Revise really well and
- 2) Have a relaxing and fun holiday too

#1 – Eat Smart



During exam time, it is extra important to eat regularly and healthily. Some tips are:

- Drink plenty of water to keep hydrated
- Have a good breakfast – cereals, toast & bananas are awesome energy foods and turn your brain on and help you concentrate longer
- Cereal bars for breaktime – they release their energy slowly
- Fish for dinner – fish is thought to be good “brain food”, especially oily fish which are high in Omega-3 oils e.g. mackerel

#2 – A Revision Schedule

You have 16 days off school in the Easter holidays. That's about 384 hours! That can seem like a long time and it's easy to let days slip by without doing any quality work and without having any fun!

YOU CAN DO BOTH – GOOD WORK & HAVE FUN if you plan it.

Here's how to do it:

1. Divide each day into 3 sections – am, pm and eve
2. Fill in what work you plan to do in that time and let NOTHING get in the way of it.
3. Plan to work 2 out of the 3 sessions per day & do something ENJOYABLE (Yes! Enjoyable!) in the other 1.
4. Plan some fun things to do in your free session.
5. No-one can work ALL DAY! Make sure nothing gets in the way of the fun things too.
6. Remember your brain needs a break – work for 25 minutes, then have 5 or 10 minutes break, then go back to it.
7. Lastly, eat properly during revision time – this plan has breakfast, lunch and dinner included, so no excuses!

Take a look at this example to help you plan your own:

		Morning 9am - 12.30pm		Afternoon 1.30pm - 5pm		Evening 7pm - 9.30pm
Monday	Breakfast	Science	Lunch	Maths	Dinner	Cinema
Tuesday		Football		Geography		Technology
Wednesday		English		See friends		History
Thursday		Science		Business		Circuit training
Friday		See Nan		French		Maths

In this example, the person has done nearly 50 hours of revision, been to the cinema, played football, seen friends, been to circuit training and seen their Nan before the weekend!! We've all heard the expression WORK HARD – PLAY HARD and it's so true.

Good luck with your revision and see you in Easter School.

Maths and Computing

Computer Literacy Course

Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest in the after school computer literacy course. You should have received a letter say that an induction session will be held on the Upper Site on Thursday 23 April at 4:15pm. In this session you will receive a brief course overview, meet the tutors and have the opportunity ask any questions that you may have.

This gathering is open to all so please feel free to attend, even if you have not received a letter.

Easter School

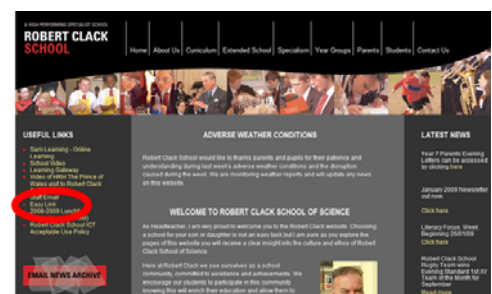
Both the Maths and ICT department will be running Easter revision classes during 14-16 April. This is an excellent opportunity for pupils to completed coursework and/or participate in revision sessions with the support of a classroom teacher. Many pupils have expressed an interest and we look forward to seeing them over the holidays.

Easy Link

It is now possible for pupil to access their user spaces from home. This will provide pupils with more flexibility by enabling them to complete work from home without needing to be at school.

For instruction on how to access Easy Link simply visit the school website <http://www.robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk/> and click on the Easylink button

R Hylton



The Man Who Walked Around The World...

On Thursday 26th of March, Robert Clack 6th Formers were privileged to have a visit from world famous speaker, Satish Kumar.

“He was such an inspiration to those wanting to make a positive impact to people around them,” said Mustafa Karagozlu. *“He helped us to understand the opportunities we have and the abilities to become successful in our own personal ways.”*

Another 6th former, Michael Agyeman, wrote:

“He initially gave a moving talk about how he WALKED FROM INDIA TO AMERICA, all in the name of peace. He then left us with the message that we should not allow culture and race to create a divide between us and we should instead consider everyone as human beings and be at peace with each other.”

Speaking to all of year 12 and 13 in assembly, Mr. Kumar told his story of how as a young man he had set off from his village in India to do a ‘peace walk’ to the four nuclear capitals of the world: Moscow, Paris, London and Washington. His guru told him, *“If you want to achieve peace, you must put trust in other people. For this reason I advise you to travel with no money in your pockets.”*



Satish Kumar with 6th Formers



Satish Kumar with Mr Taylor and Mr Radovic

Three years and 8000 miles later, Mr. Kumar and his companion completed their incredible walk, accepting food and shelter from the people they met but never once handling any money. In a smaller question and answer session with 6th formers after the assembly Mr. Kumar told of how he had met with Martin Luther King at the end of his peace walk, and the great British philosopher and peace activist Bertrand Russell.

Mr. Kumar encouraged pupils to find their passion in life and then follow that passion: *“We need to recognise that every one of us has enormous potential and capacity. There is genius in every one of you, but it needs to be uncovered, like a small acorn which becomes a mighty Oak tree.”*

Satish Kumar’s autobiography “No Destination” is available in the school library, as well as Resurgence Magazine, which Mr. Kumar has been the editor of for the last 30 years.

For more information visit www.resurgence.org/satish-kumar

Congratulations to the lower school students who have been awarded pupil of the week over the last term:

Year 7: Bernice Ayling, Oliver Cannon, Andrew Tapson, Kajal Ruparell, Ella McCarthy, Charlie Holden, Jasmin Bath, Adam Cope, Tiago Espirito Santo, Chloe Stanley, Joseph Radley, Courtney Richards-Kingston, Samar Khatib, Robbie Bodding, Lucy Patching.

Year 8: Jamie Waite, Scott Hammond, Tyler Griffiths, Mazie Gatt, Jordan McGinn, Bailey Pugh, Emma Sculfor, Alice Weller, Gemma Filloyd, Chloe Harrison, Nicholas Murphy, James Hutton, Jaime Woolnough, Charlotte Holbrook, Ryan Warrington.

Year 9: Deborah Richards, Alfie Cox, Alfie Sandbrook, Perry Cook, Laimonaus Andrieiauskas, Emma Chandler, Charlie Spiers, Sarah Jane Wileman, Grace Thomas, Matthew Daines.

Year 10 Students visit the Home Office

On Wednesday 25th of March 10 students from Robert Clack School joined with two other schools to present their feelings on crime to Jacquie Smith at the Home Office

The students had been selected from the hundred or so schools that have been working with the Sorrell Foundation in London. The group spent over an hour with the Home Secretary and other influential guests. The students are: Harry Coster, Natalie Kodom Baah, Connor Muray, Klea Isufi, Agne Trimakaite, Leanne George, Bonita Hughes, Nyta Nkansah-Nyarko and Fummilayo Olukolu.



School Council visit the House of Lords

On Thursday 26th of March five Robert Clack students were invited to tea at the House of Lords for the publication of the London Youth Crime Prevention Boards report. The report outlines proactive ways to deter young people from entering the justice system.

The students are all members of the schools council and part of a pilot scheme to develop a Safer Schools Mark.

The pupils enjoyed cucumber sandwiches on the veranda of the house by the Thames whilst listening to speeches by Boris Johnson, Tony McNulty and other important guests.

Our picture shows the students with Lord Adebowale the Chair of the LYCPB, they are: Emma Chandler, Tajinder Sandhu, Kennie Fricker, Azaan Akbar and Macawley Evans.



Year 9 student visits Downing Street

On Monday Shekhar Seebaluck in year 9 went to Downing Street ask questions to the Chancellor, Alistair Darling, and communicate the views of young people to him before Mr Darling went to discussions on the financial crisis with President Obama and other world leaders this week at the G20 Summit. Over his two days at the event Shekhar also had the opportunity to question Cherie Blair and work with the British Council's team of Global Change Makers, young activists from across the world. His summary of his experience is below.

Mr Jenkins, Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator

The G20 youth summit, was a workshop with a difference. Along with the 20 UK students the conference was attended by youth representatives from each of the twenty nations at the summit. The workshop included exploring the impact of the crisis in different nations, reasons for the crisis and possible solutions. Each UK student worked with the youth representative from one of the G20 countries. Robert Clack was given the role of the U.S.A so I worked with an American university student on what the problems in the States were and how America could work within the G20 to address these. The workshop included a trip to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with some representative going to see Gordon Brown, President Felipe Calderon of Mexico and the International Development Secretary David Miliband. It was not all work; there were great opportunities to talk to people from around the world, for example, Canada, India, Russia, France, China, Australia and Brazil.
Shekhar Seebaluck, Year 9



Discussing the financial crisis with the Chancellor
At Downing Street



Cherie Blair answering questions at the Conference



Shekhar outside 11 Downing Street

Jaguar Maths Challenge

Congratulations *Victoria Rayment* for qualifying for the semi finals of the competition. This opens up the competition again as we now have to prepare a driver for the Australian GP track. This does NOT mean that last times winner is going through, the winner of this race will be entered into the semi-final.

ALL are still welcome to the competition, which is still running on Tuesday in the CLC Room 3, 3:15 till 4:15.

KS3 Geography

It is assessment time again for KS3 pupils. All classes are now undertaking their next Modular Curriculum test and are hopeful of increasing their levels.

In Year 7 pupils are also conducting their second piece of school based fieldwork. This is in the form of a Microclimate Analysis. Pupils enjoyed doing their study (see the attached photo) and should be writing up their conclusions soon.

Mr Morgan.

History News

The Robert Clack History Society, in collaboration with the All Saints History Club, put on a very successful medieval feast for family, friends, and teachers on Tuesday night.

The menu included 'Girdle' breads, green pea pottage, chicken and rice with almonds, cream custard tarts, lasagne layered with spices and cheese, and pine nut candy. Due to the hard work of the students from both schools, the feast was a triumph!

Many thanks go to Mr. Kirkbride who oversaw the cooking, the teachers who gave up their time to help supervise, Mr. N. Galvin who has helped with the collaborative project over the last month, Matthew Daines and Luke Phillips who took photos, and the parents, teachers and friends who came along to try the food.

All that was left over in the end was plates scraped clean!





RE

Amnesty Internal Club celebrated this years Comic Relief by holding a cake sale on Friday they 13th March. Students from Year 7-9 gave up three evenings that week to bake the cakes and their break and lunch time on the 13th March to sell their fantastic products. As a result of their hard work and efforts the students raised an outstanding £200.78! This is enough money to enable a number of families across Africa to put their children through school for a whole year. This was a fantastic effort from everyone involved, as well as the staff and children who purchased the cakes on the day. Special thanks goes to Mr Kirkbride for donating his time and assistance in making the event a success.

Miss Valentine



Jack Petchey Award Evening

The Jack Petchey awards were fantastic. The boys choir performed “You to me are everything” by the real thing and we are said to have blown the audience away (they came right back to see more). Tapfuma and Josh sang wonderfully and were said to have sung like angels. The rest of the boy’s choir sang as backing vocalists. The girls’ choir sang Bridge over troubled water, and Kim Brightman sung solo. The rest of the girls’ choir were also backing vocalists for their act.

We think that we were the best school there.

By Perekimi Kieribo



Literacy Matters

We hope you can help us in raising the level of your child’s literacy. Each newsletter will focus on two specific areas. If you notice that your child makes these mistakes please correct him or her and explain what s/he is doing wrong.

The English Department

1. Please identify and correct when your child confuses there, their and they’re.

There is a place word like: 'There he is, over there'. It is also the word that comes before: is, are, was and were. It is often found at the beginning of a sentence.

Their is the owner word. It shows possession as in: their books, their houses etc.

They're is the hardest to spot. It is an abbreviation for 'they are'. You find it in most speech.

2. Please identify and correct when your child confuses of and off.

When pupils mix up of and off it is simply put right by asking them whether they mean of pronounced ov or off pronounced with an f sound. Most pupils correct his mistake when it is pointed out to them.

Pupils have a lot of homework but get off a bus.

Photography Club

It has been an eventful few weeks for the Photography Club.

Members have been to several events to take photographs.

These have included the "Barking Cup" debating competition, the Amnesty International Club's "Cake bake and Sale" and the History Society's "Medieval Feast" event. Members have been able to experience what it is really like to take "event" photographs and to also do the follow up work required including editing and printing. I would also like to remind you of the competition. Its theme is black and white and the deadline for entries is the first Friday back after Easter.

Mr Morgan.



Ski trip to Crans Montana, Switzerland:- 3rd – 11th April, 2009

During the Easter holidays, the school will be taking students on its first skiing/snowboarding holiday for over a decade. 42 Students from year 9 and 10 will leave on Friday evening and view the Swiss Alps by Saturday afternoon. Mr Swallow, Mr Baxter, Mr Smith, Mrs Owen and Miss Sturman will accompany the trip.

We hope to publish a photographic log of the week when we return. The more photos we obtain, the more interesting this will be.

Mr Swallow

National Schools Netball Finals 2009

The Robert Clack U16's netball team competed in the National Schools Netball Finals held at Oundle School, Northamptonshire on Saturday March 21st. They played absolutely superbly, achieving 5th place overall in the UK.



The Finals were a culmination of knockout tournaments played at Borough, then County, then Regional competitions involving many hundreds of participating schools. On the day, the Robert Clack team comprising of Nicole Dalton, Kirsty Fletcher, Emma Light, Amanda Ngonyama, Kike Oniwinde, Paris Rhodes, Rochelle Rhodes, Sian Tillet and Alex Wood, won through some very tough matches to do so well. The following results underpin just how close the tournament was in pitching the country's best netballers against each other.

Central Newcastle High School -	win 14-3
Nottingham Girls School -	win 8-7
Chelmer Valley School -	lose 8-5
Wellsway School -	win 10-5
Higham Lane School -	win 11-7
Wakefield Girls High School -	win 11-3
Loretto Grammar School -	lose 8-7
Beaconsfield High School	lose 12-11

Games were played at a super fast pace lasting just seven minutes each half so leaving no room for error. Every single shot counted and could so easily tip the balance one way or the other. As a result of the aforementioned match results, Robert Clack missed out on a semi-final place by literally one goal. Beaconsfield High School, who beat Clack by that one elusive goal, went on to be crowned National Champions.

The girls performed brilliantly and should be recognised for their skill and commitment to netball. It is remarkable how far this group of girls have come in just four or five years. At the start of their first term at Robert Clack aged just 11, only two of the team had ever played competitive netball before. To reach the Nationals, not once, but twice in the last three years is a phenomenal achievement in itself and places their names in Clack's Record Book as being the first netball team in the schools history to do so. Well done girls, I am so proud of you!

Miss Georgallides

Dates for your Diary

Thurs 2 – Wed 8 April	Germany Football Tour
Thurs 2 – Wed 8 April	Year 10, 11 & Sixth Form visit to Krakow/Berlin
Fri 3 – Sat 11 April	Ski trip to Switzerland
Wed 22 April	Year 8 Parents Evening Band X, Green Lane 4.30-7.30pm
Thurs 29 April	Year 8 Parents Evening Band Y & Z, Green Lane 4.30-7.30pm

Holiday Dates

Fri 3 April	Break up for Easter
Mon 20 April	Return to School
Mon 4 May	Bank holiday
Fri 22 May	Break up for half term
Mon 1 June	Return to School
Thurs 16 July	Break up for summer
Thurs 3 September	Sixth form lessons commence
Fri 4 September	Start of term

