



# **Robert Clack School of Science A Specialist College Newsletter**

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

**February 2010**

## **Parent Governor Election**

Following the recent election for the position of Parent Governor to sit on the Governing Body of the Robert Clack school, I am pleased to announce that Melinda Woodgate has been elected. I would like to congratulate Melinda. I would also like to thank the other two candidates Janet Graves and Antoinette Wheatley for their genuine interest and support of the school. It is a great sign of the strength of our school community that this position was so heavily contested.

Sir Paul Grant

## **Freedom of the Borough**

Before the year 1835, Freemen existed in many Boroughs as a constituent part of the Corporation. Freemen enjoyed special rights depending on local customs. Tradition tells us that when an armed force unit is given this honour, the military unit is allowed to parade in town with fixed bayonets, regimental band playing and colours flying. Today, "The freedom" is the highest tribute that a Borough can bestow.

Last Thursday Sir Paul Grant was given Freedom of the Borough and he invited the school council along to join him when receiving the award. Sir Paul gave public recognition to staff and pupils (both past and present) for all the hard work that went into creating the outstanding school that we have today.

Sir Trevor Brooking also received the award and in his acceptance speech made several references to how important he felt school had been to his own success. He also expressed his admiration for the outstanding work that our school does in the local community.

The school council all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and having the opportunity to listen to such distinguished people I am sure will inspire them to achieve their own aspirations in life.

Please see below Sir Paul Grant and his troops with the Robert Clack colours flying!



K Bevan

**IT'S SHOW TIME!**



Tickets for High School Musical will be available from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The show is on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Lower school pupils should get their tickets from the office and upper school tickets will be on sale at breaks and lunch time in the foyer.

The students have been working really hard since September to put the show together and are really excited about inviting as many of you as possible to come to a great night out!

Hope to see lots of you in the audience!

Mrs Brownley, Miss Templar and Miss Garlick

## Science News



### **Scientists of the week**

This month's scientists of the week are:

Year 7 – Oluwatuminu Eden and Lily-May Nanton.

Year 8 – Chloe Scott, Shaun Le Sage and Abigail Cook.

Year 9 – Grace Nwobi, Jordan McGinn, Bobby King and Bailey Pugh.

Year 10 – Mine Gokensel, Charlie Searle and Charlie Martin.

Year 11 – Chelsea Macaulay.

**Congratulations and keep up the hard work!**

#### **Girls into Physics Project**

Girls over the age of 16 are under-represented in the field of physics. In 2005 physics was the 12<sup>th</sup> most popular A-Level in the UK, with 28 119 candidates. Of these, 21 922 were male, making physics the 6<sup>th</sup> most popular A-Level choice for boys, where as it was the 19<sup>th</sup> most popular choice for girls. Of those girls who took physics A-Level, 34% achieved an A grade. In other words there is a substantial number of girls who have the ability to do well at physics but who are choosing not to study the subject post-16.

To try to alter this trend, 8 female year 10 students from Robert Clack teamed up with physicist, Dr Laura Grant to work on a project to encourage girls into physics. Being a woman in a male dominated profession Dr Grant wanted girls to see the relevance of physics to our everyday lives and careers. So with thanks to members of the science department, a physics day was organised, with female students from Eastlea Community School, Brentwood school and Castle View school also taking part.

Our task for the day was to organise a music festival. At first it was difficult to see how physics related to the task we were set, but little did we know that most of the planning that goes into festivals depended on physics. There were a number of job roles that had to be assigned to us, including a project manager, an electrical engineer and, sound and lighting directors. Working as a team, students from each school had to ensure that enough power was supplied to provide sufficient energy for all the sound and lighting needs of a 3-day concert, as well as designing a stage that looked aesthetically pleasing but strong enough to hold the weight of all the equipment.

Overall the day was extremely interesting and it helped to provide us with a more open minded view into physics. We saw different physics-related career paths that we could take, as well as seeing why we needed to learn the things we did in physics. The day made us consider taking physics at A-Level and we have also begun considering careers in physics. Our project doesn't end there though; we have now been given the task to find ways to make other pupils more interested in physics. Our plan is to create physics lesson plans for teachers to use, which will hopefully show pupils the relevance of physics and start an advertising campaign around the school, promoting physics-related careers.

Finally, we'd like to take the opportunity to thank all staff and sixth formers involved for giving us the opportunity to explore physics on a new level.

**Linette Mukandatsama**

### **Ecoschools**

EcoSchools has been working hard this term, and the team have come up with many ideas to achieve the Silver Sustainability award. We have begun

investigating the feasibility of installing bike racks within the school grounds, and we are in the process of displaying information about the committee on a display board in the S corridor. In addition to this we are looking into several large scale projects, including installing solar panels on to the L block on the Gosfield Road site and exploring the viability of obtaining our energy supplies from Ecotricity, a company that can supply energy from sustainable sources. EcoSchools is still open to new applicants, if you are interested in joining please see Miss Stone in Lab 5 for more details.

Joel Barnard

## **Maths and Computing Specialism**

### **Computer Literacy & Numeracy Courses**

Adult Computer and Numeracy courses are currently running at the upper site. These are free courses for anyone interested! Both courses lead to a recognised qualifications that can be used to develop and evidence every day skills and can be done as a precursor to a GCSE. If you're interested contact Mr Upper School Hylton via the school office.

### **University of East London**

This term a handful of the Year 12 BTEC ICT Pupils began a short course, called Compact, at the University of East London. This course develops skills needed for university, such as developing active listening skills, preparing for higher education interviews and planning your career.

It is delivered through a range of activities that supports each pupils' preparation for Higher Education programs. Pupils are travelling to the university once a week for sessions lasting 2 hour that involve role plays and active work as well as producing academic documents. In some cases completion of Compact can result in additional UCAS points. Not only will pupils be acquiring valuable skills, but it can also be credited towards their BTEC ICT coursework.

### **Year 8 Finance day**

Last month the whole of year 8 took part in a Finance Day. The day began with pupils deciding what they would do if they received a £100 cash gift. Some said they would buy an MP3 player, some chose to keep the money locked in a box in their bedroom and others chose to open a bank account and put it in there. Other activities included filling in a mock bank application form and choosing furniture for a house from a well known high street retailer but within a set budget.

### **School WebPages**

In the coming weeks students will be able to have the exciting opportunity to create and upload their own websites to the internet. This will not only give them the ability to see a working webpage that they have created themselves from home, or anywhere else in the world; but it will give pupils a greater understanding of how websites work!

## ICT

We have been concentrating recently on E-Safety, focussing on the correct use of the Internet and Mobile phones when using Social networking sites. The year 7's have gathered information and are designing a poster that will be placed around school to make pupils aware of some of the rules when accessing and using these sites.

The web site they have been using is <http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk>

- Rule 1. Never put pictures of yourself on line that you would not be willing to show to your parents/guardians/grand parents
- Rule 2. Make sure your privacy settings are set and kept to **PRIVATE**
- Rule 3. Make sure you know who's on your buddy list
- Rule 4. Report Abuse via your parents/guardians or the Internet abuse button.

### SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Talk to your child about what they are doing online
- Make sure your children understand they should keep online friends online
- If they want to meet someone in the real world, make sure they take you, or another trusted adult, with them
- Encourage your child to only chat to and webcam with people they know in the real world and that they understand why they need to protect personal information

## Internet

As you will be aware, there are vast amounts of inappropriate information and images available to young people through the internet. As a school, we protect pupils as much as possible through the filtering devices that are used on our network. Please be as vigilant as possible regarding internet use at home, parents have recently drawn our attention to highly unsuitable chat room sites that some pupils are accessing while at home.

## Photography Competition

The deadline for entries into the first Photography Competition of 2010 is the first Friday back after half term. Remember to pass on your images, preferably via memory stick to me as soon as possible. The competition is open to all students in years 7 to 13 as well as staff. The theme is an open one so images of any suitable subject can be entered. Certificates and prizes will be awarded! Please see Mr Morgan for more details!



# Adult evening language classes

**Wish you'd taken French more seriously at school?**

**Embarrassed by your Spanish accent?**

**Want to help your kids with their homework?**

**The languages department will be running evening classes between 4 and 5 o'clock every Thursday on the Green Lane site starting on 25<sup>th</sup> February. The first 6 weeks will be beginners/holiday French. Spanish to follow in the first half of next term. All those interested please contact Mr Parry.**

**[tparry@robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:tparry@robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk)**

**0208 270 4222**

**Please make sure you confirm your attendance prior to the first session so that we have a rough idea of numbers.**

## Gym & Dance Show

Another successful year for the annual Gym and Dance evening. On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February there were 20 different dances and pieces of gymnastics from the talented pupils of Robert Clack School. Who could know that the evening would be as amazing as it was? It showed the hard work that the pupils and staff had put into producing some heart stopping performances. Well done to all those that took part. I would like to mention every individual but I would not have enough space in this newsletter! However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and guardians for their support since September and an extra thanks to Chelsea Webb's mother for her hard work with the amazing costumes for the year 7 dance.

I look forward to next years production



Mrs Kirby



## School Uniform

The School aims to develop in its pupils a corporate identity. All pupils in Years 7 to 11 are expected to be appropriately dressed in school uniform at all times. All students in Year 12 and 13 are expected to follow the Sixth Form dress code.

For Girls	For Boys
Black Blazer with school badge	Black Blazer with school badge
Black tailored trousers (6-8" hem width) or	Black trousers
Black knee length skirt box pleated from the waist	White cotton shirt with collar
White cotton shirt with collar	School tie worn to waist length
School tie worn to waist length	V necked black jumper (optional)
Plain black or flesh coloured tights or black ankle length turnover socks	Conventional black leather shoes. *
Conventional flat leather black shoes with fitting heel and toe (no 'fashion shoes' e.g. stiletto heels, platforms or ankle straps). *	
V necked black jumper (optional)	
Narrow hair bands, which are in keeping with school uniform colours (Red, black or white)	

\*Kicker shoes can be worn in school only if all the stitching and soles are black and any Kicker tags are removed. **KICKER BOOTS ARE NOT ALLOWED.** Boots, "Timberland", Lacoste, trainers, baseball caps and cardigans/tank tops are not allowed. Jewellery, including earrings, is not permitted. It may be confiscated and kept in a safe place until collected by parents. Also, extremes in appearance cosmetically such as make-up, false nails and unnatural hair extension or dye are not allowed. The Governors reserve the right to send pupils home who are inappropriately dressed

The following items are also not allowed onto the school premises: chewing gum, cigarettes, lighters, matches, correction fluids, aerosols, mobile phones, pagers, laser pens and portable music devices including MP3/4 players and iPods. (The Governing Body allows all students in emergency circumstances to use the phone to contact home free of charge).

## Lost Property

Has your child lost something this term? If yes, it may be located in the following areas:

Lower School site lost property is kept in the LSC and can be collected from Mrs Leggett at break or lunch during the school day.

Upper School site lost property is handed in to the main office and stored under the A staircase and can be accessed from the main office at break or lunch during the school day.

## Bicycles

A reminder to pupils that bicycles should not be brought to school. Also we have been informed by local residents living in the vicinity of the back entrance of the Green Lane site that they have been advised to lock the footpath which runs parallel to the area behind the lower school kitchens. Bicycles should not therefore be stored in this area. Any bikes in this area can be removed.

## Medical Appointments

Whilst we understand that sometimes it is necessary for students to attend medical appointments during schools hours, we would ask that you keep such appointments to a minimum as it can be detrimental to your child's education for them to regularly miss lessons.

In addition please can parents be aware that if students are to be withdrawn from school part way through the day the school needs to have this in writing. It is important for our records that students' withdrawal is not requested over the phone. We thank you with your support in this matter.

## Dates for your Diary

Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 7 Parents' Evening 1 4.30-7.30pm, Green Lane
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 7 Parents' Evening 2 4.30-7.30pm, Green Lane
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> March	High School Musical Performance, 7.00pm Upper School
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> March	High School Musical Performance, 7.00pm Upper School
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> March	High School Musical Performance, 7.00pm Upper School
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> March	PE Fundraising Quiz Night, 7.00pm Upper School
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.30-7.30pm, Green Lane



## Holiday Dates

<b>Fri 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Break up for half term</b>
<b>Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>Return to school</b>
<b>Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>Break up for Easter</b>
<b>Mon 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Return to school</b>
<b>Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank holiday</b>
<b>Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Break up for half term</b>
<b>Mon 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Return to school</b>
<b>Tue 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Break up for Summer</b>

