



Science



# Robert Clack School of Science A Specialist College Newsletter



Maths & Computing



International School Award



[www.robert-clack.co.uk](http://www.robert-clack.co.uk)

January 2010

## Outstanding Academic Achievement

Congratulations to Gurinder Mahal of 9ER and Rebecca Sobodu of 9AW on achieving 14 'A' appraisals during the recent Key Stage 3 assessments. This meant that these two students achieved an 'A' appraisal in every single subject. This is an outstanding achievement and testament to the excellent work they produce and progress they are making in all of their subjects.

Congratulations also to Danielle Staras of 7AD for achieving 13 out of 13 'A' appraisals.



## **Year 7**

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year.

It's hard to believe that the year group have now completed their first term and they've made an excellent impression. The students have fitted in well to the ethos of Robert Clack School and are already an absolute credit to the school. I have been pleased to hear about their sporting successes as well as their participation in other extra-curricular clubs. Several pupils have involved themselves in Latin and debate club, activities usually aimed at the older pupils and I am delighted to see their initiative and keenness to develop.

All the pupils are working hard to earn merits and they are currently being awarded their subject appraisals. I do hope that more pupils will achieve the outstanding standard set by Danielle Staras of 100% 'A' appraisals.

I really hope that this term will be as successful as the last and I hope to meet more of you over the coming months.

Miss Sturman/Mr Saleem

## **Year 8**

The year group have started on their second term of Year 8. They have come back from the Christmas holidays with a desire to learn and a continuation of success both in the classroom and in extra curricular activities. A number of pupils were recognised in assembly for their 100% attendance during the first term which shows that they are committed and dedicated to their education.

The whole year group have been spoken to about the prospect of starting some GCSE courses early and the importance of attendance, completing homework to the best of their ability and striving to achieve their full potential.

I would like to extend my thanks to the year group in the way that they dealt with the recent weather conditions. Their conduct within school and the local community was fantastic they were a credit to themselves and the school.

I continue to look forward to future successes and achievements as this group of young adults never cease to amaze me!

Mrs D Maudsley/Miss N Ezzat

## **Year 9 (Green Lane)**

The Year 9 pupils on the Green Lane site have made a pleasing start to the new term. Some of the achievements include Eddie Hilton from 9BP achieving the Jack Petchy 'Outstanding Achiever' Award. Eddie has made excellent progress over the past 3 years at Robert Clack School and received this award in recognition of the positive change and maturity he has demonstrated.

The under 14s Netball team successfully achieved reaching the last 16 schools in Essex. Though they did not go beyond this point, their coach is very proud of their determination and teamwork.

Year 9 pupils have been working hard towards performing in the Gym and Dance show, which will consist of a range of pupils, including an all-boy dance group. Their commitment in attending rehearsals and working towards the success of this event is commendable.

With the forthcoming Options Evening and their first GCSE exam fast approaching, the year group are very aware of the need to remain focussed and determined to succeed.

Mrs Muirhead/Mrs Kirby

## **Year 9 (Gosfield)**

Year 9 have started the New Year with a very positive approach towards all of their school work with an average attendance rate of 94.5%. Year 9 students will be rewarded for excellent academic work and attendance in the form of merit trips and a special visit to Iron Bridge Shropshire in July 2010. Careers Connexions group work will be available to Year 9 with our school based careers officer. Mr Hamill will notify students individually regarding the dates, time and venue with appointment letters.

Keep up and maintain your current high standards!

Mr J Hamill.

## **Year 10**

Year 10 have settled in well after the Christmas break. They have just received their results from the first Modular exam which were very encouraging and will provide a good platform from which to build on for the rest of the year. We recently had a very successful Parents' Evening and I greatly enjoyed meeting many of you for the first time. The reports from Parents' Evening confirm what an excellent start the year group have made to Key Stage 4.

Mr Paul/Mr Course

## **Year 11**

Congratulations to the students who have recently been awarded pupil of the week: Jessica Salmon, Oyin Opeifa, John Opute, Agne Trimakaite and Klea Isufi.

The year group have been buoyed by their success in the English GCSE and are nearly through the January modular exam period. They are focussed on completing coursework to the highest possible standard and making sure they get the most from every lesson.

Mr Sullivan/Miss Bevan

## Science News

### Scientists of the week

Our recent scientists of the week are:

Year 7 – Akram Mohammed, Foyzul Amin, Harry Young, Verity Ward-Parker, Remi Stewart-Sisk and Alexander Wilson

Year 8 – Sarah Rochford, George Barnes, Caragh Gilsonan, Aleksija Haderaaj, Nicole Crawford and Abby Cullen.

Year 9 (Green Lane) – Samuel Nweje, Funda Osman, Jimmy Hasler, Lilli Knight, Paige Kemp, Colby Robinson and Ashleigh Westcott.

Year 9 (Gosfield Road) – Gemma Floyd and Dean Griffiths

Year 10 – Toluwa Dada, Kirstie Woodgate, Katie Edmead and Jamie Brown

Year 11 – Georgia Wigley, Harley Mason, Jodie Simmonds and Amanda Steer.

Congratulations to all these worthy winners.

### Year 9 Gifted & Talented Problem-Solving Morning



On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 21 eager year 9 scientists tried their hands at tackling some very tricky and thought-provoking investigations. Activities included using chocolate to prove that a wire gets hotter as you increase the current flowing through it and finding ways of piercing a balloon with a kebab skewer without it popping. All teachers involved were impressed by the students' investigative approach towards the tasks, but

unfortunately there could only be one winning group for each task. The winning students were; Islah Jagan, Ellie-Mai Lyme, Dafina Nishori, Risan Nishori, Thea Staff and Ryan Warrington. May I take this opportunity to congratulate these students and thank all staff and students who participated in the morning, making it an enjoyable and rewarding event.

### GCSE Science Live Trip

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 18 triple science pupils were involved in a trip to Westminster Central Hall for the GCSE Science Live event. GCSE Science Live is a unique series of large-scale events that puts well-known scientists in front of audiences of GCSE pupils. It is a fun, yet educational experience, which broadens the possibilities of those that show an interest in science as a career.

The trip, undertaken by Miss Stone and Mr Smith, gave these 18 pupils the chance to witness five of Britain's top scientists, (Dr Andrea Sella, Dr Ben Goldacre, Professor Sir David King, Professor Jim Al-Khalili, and Professor Steve Jones), talking about their experiences of how they came to be at the height of their specialism, and also what engages them within their career. The five scientists were chosen for their ability to communicate with students in a positive and exciting fashion.

Two particularly interesting lectures were given by Dr Andrea Sella and Dr Ben Goldacre. Dr Andrea Sella is a synthetic organic chemist, who is based at



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University College, London. His presentation on “How do Zebra’s get stripes?” gave an insight into how making new compounds and materials can have interesting optical properties. Dr Ben Goldacre studied medicine at Oxford University and is a practising physician, as well as writing the ‘Bad Science’ column in The Guardian. He presented the idea that we can better understand science by looking at the many bad examples that surround us, using the concept of ‘Brain Gym’ as a shining example.

As well as these scientists, Stewert Cherney, an experienced science GCSE examiner, gave a very useful presentation on how to best prepare for exams and the techniques we can use to help us better our overall grade.

This inspirational activity was an enjoyable day for both pupils and teachers, and it has motivated many of the participants to take at least one science subject at A-Level, and has also allowed them to see the enjoyment and rewards that the subject can bring as a career.

Emma Light

### Ecoschools

The EcoSchool committee is once again taking up the challenge to put sustainable practices into everyday school life. Last year the EcoSchools subcommittee of the school council was highly successful, winning several awards for its members and the school, including a nationally recognised Bronze EcoSchools award. This year we hope to achieve even greater success, working on larger scale projects, and hopefully the addition of a silver award to our collection. New members are welcome to join the EcoSchools Group; we meet every Wednesday 12.40 – 1.15pm in Miss Stone’s Lab (Lab 5).

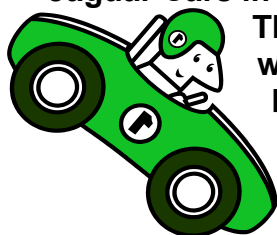
Andrew Crawford

## Computer Literacy & Numeracy Courses

Adult Computer and Numeracy courses are currently running after school. 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 Hylton via the school office.

## Jaguar Cars in Motion Maths Challenge

This year Robert Clack will be entering the ‘Jaguar Cars in Motion Maths Challenge.’



The Challenge involves students working together in small teams to build Formula One cars on the computer and then race them against each other in an effort to win a Grand Prix type race and become U.K. Champions.

THE JAGUAR CARS  
MATHS IN MOTION  
CHALLENGE FOR SCHOOLS

Students will have to design and customise their car for different real life Formula One tracks such as Silverstone and the Bahrain International Circuit.

This activity involves using a wide variety of basic mathematical skills ranging from the measurement of angles and scale to the use of percentages and higher level key skills.

For more information speak to Mr Saleem.

## **Year 8 Finance day**

This week 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 Argos catalogues but with a set budget.

## **Photography Competition**

The first Robert Clack Photography Competition of 2010 is now underway. The first competition is an open theme and is open to both pupils and staff. The deadline for entries is the first week back after the February half term.



Digital images should be placed onto a memory stick so that I can print them on to photo paper at school.

Please see me for further details and to discuss ideas.

Mr. Morgan

## **QUIZ NIGHT**

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to one of Robert Clack's most enjoyable social events – the Quiz Night! This event has been organised in order to raise funds for the PE department's Sports Tour fund for the forthcoming tours to Canada and Barbados 2011.

Our Quiz Nights are always hugely successful and whether you consider yourself an Albert Einstein or a Frank Spencer you will undoubtedly have a fantastic evening!

The Quiz will take place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010, in the Upper School Hall, at 7:00 pm. Tickets cost £5 each with the proceeds going towards the Robert Clack Sports Tours Fund. Teams are to be made up of a maximum of 10 people. Pupils are more than welcome but will be expected to sit with their parents.

You are welcome to bring your own drinks and nibbles to the evening.

If you are interested or would like more information please contact Mrs Maudsley or Mr Playford via the school office.

# 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.**

## **YOUR WORK IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!**

- 1. SAVE YOUR WORK REGULARLY! IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU START ANY DOCUMENT BY NAMING AND SAVING IT RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING.**
- 2. ORGANISE/ARRANGE YOUR FILES IN CLEARLY MARKED FOLDERS SO THAT THEY ARE EASY TO FIND.**
- 3. USB (FLASH DRIVES/HARD DRIVES/IPODS) DRIVES ARE BACKUP DEVICES ONLY. THESE CAN BE CORRUPTED, BROKEN LOST OR STOLEN . PLEASE KEEP THE MOST UP TO DATE COPY OF YOUR WORK BACKED UP AND SAVED, EITHER ON THE SCHOOL NETWORK AND/OR AT HOME ON A SECURE SYSTEM.**
- 4. THE SCHOOL KEEPS A REGULAR BACKUP OF ALL NETWORK DATA PRIMARILY AS PART OF ITS DATA DISASTER MANAGEMENT POLICY AND OFSTED REQUIREMENT. IF LOGGED THROUGH THE RIGHT CHANNELS WE WILL ENDEAVOUR TO FIND LOST ITEMS, HOWEVER THIS PROCESS IS TIME CONSUMING.**

**THE SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR A FAILURE TO TAKE NOTICE OF THIS INFORMATION.**

**Mr Camilleri (School Network Manager).**

## Dates for your Diary

<b>Wed 27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Year 11 Parents' Evening, Gosfield Road 4.30-7.30pm</b>
<b>Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>Year 9 Options Evening 6.00-8.00pm, Gosfield Road</b>
<b>Tue 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Year 9 Options Interviews, Green Lane</b>
<b>Wed 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>7.00pm Gym &amp; Dance Evening, Green Lane</b>
<b>Fri 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Non School Uniform Day</b>
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Year 7 Parents' Evening 1 (more details to follow shortly)</b>
<b>Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Year 7 Parents' Evening 2 (more details to follow shortly)</b>



## 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>

