



# Robert Clack School of Science A Specialist College Newsletter

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



Science



Maths &  
Computing



**December 2009**

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all of our families a happy and healthy Christmas. I hope that the coming New Year brings all of our school community every success.

Thank you for your genuine support in obtaining the best outcomes for your children.

Sir Paul Grant  
Headteacher



## Parent Governor Vacancy

The governing body of the Robert Clack School has a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Attached to this Newsletter you will find further information relating to this position and a nomination form. For interested parents nomination forms should be returned by Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010 to the school office.

## School Hamper Christmas Event

A huge Thank you to all the Parents, Carers and pupils who made such magnificent contributions to the Christmas hampers this year. We were able to provide 134 hampers through the excellent generosity of our school community.

The Sixth Formers hosted the evening on Wednesday 9 December and we had over 120 visitors on the evening. We invite local senior citizens and carers to come along on the evening. One of the visitors was 92 years old and said that she thoroughly enjoys coming along to the school every year and is looking forward to next year already. The spare hampers were given to a local charity group for distribution.



Lots of people contributed to the entertainment on the evening including the girls' choirs and individual performances. Thanks to the music department for their work on the evening.

The sixth formers organised Bingo games for the guests

and this was a popular activity.

All of our guests had a really wonderful time and enjoyed the company of the pupils and sixth form students.

Thank you so much again for your contribution to the evening, it really was appreciated by the guests.



Have a very Happy Christmas

Ms M.McNamara

## Safer School's Award

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December, Tajinder Sandhu, Macawley Evans, Emma Chandler, Azaan Akbar and Kennie Fricker represented the school at the London Serious Youth Crime Summit at Stamford Bridge.

The pupils received the Safer School's Award from Lord Victor Adebawale.



Two of the students, Macawley Evans and Tajinder Sandhu gave speeches to the Deputy Mayor and 200 delegates from all over London. I would like to thank Mrs Saunders for accompanying us on the day. As ever the students were a credit to the whole school.

Mr Argent

## Arsenal Double Club

In the second half of this term, 30 year 9 students have taken part in the Arsenal Double Club, a programme which combines high quality football coaching with French resources created by current Arsenal players. The sessions are run in the format of a football match, with pupils spending the first hour of the course being put through their paces by Monsieur Ndiaye and a qualified coach, and in the second half coming back into the classroom to put languages in a new and more exciting perspective than your average French lesson.



The response from all involved has been absolutely fantastic. Running the language side of the programme, I have seen students gain in confidence and independence, applying themselves well to some difficult tasks. Seeing some of their favourite players giving interviews in French, and writing about the stars in the Arsenal team has shown how languages can be enjoyed in a new and practical way, and with any luck they will be able to use their new found skills when we visit the Emirates stadium at the end of next term.



On the football side of things, Mr Ndiaye has shown that teachers can still mix with the best of them, teaching the boys a thing or two about the beautiful game whilst remembering that he maybe isn't quite as fast as he once was. His dedication and enthusiasm has been vital to the success of the programme, and I hope that we have paved the way for future years to benefit from this fantastic programme.

Many thanks to all those who have helped out, and I hope that everyone is as excited about visiting the Emirates as I am!



Mr Parry

## Year 11 Art and Design Visit to City of Liverpool

In November Mr Hamill and Miss Barrett led the 3<sup>rd</sup> Robert Clack Art and Design visit to the City of Liverpool [European Capital of Culture 2008]. The Year 11 GCSE students had the opportunity to visit an international museum dedicated to Liverpool's history with the global slave trade, creating an awareness of how we can learn from terrible events from the past. We also visited the Walker Art Gallery, the Tate Albert Docks Gallery and the new Architectural developments in the Liverpool One City Zone. Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral is the largest Cathedral in



Britain and also one of the most impressive providing a magnificent view point over the Liverpool skyline and its many world heritage sites-The Year 11 students were truly amazed by the scale of this building.

We also saw the Anthony Gormley Sculptures on Crosby beach and the world famous Beatles story on the Albert Docks. This exhibition tells how the Beatles became the biggest band in the world and changed and impacted musicians all over the world. All students involved had a fantastic educational visit that they will always remember.

Mr Hamill



## Maths & Computing Specialism

### Computer Literacy & Numeracy Courses

Last year saw the launch of Robert Clack Computer Literacy class for parents. This was an exciting, fully funded, tutor lead venture attended by several parents.

As a result of this success, in addition to a Computer Literacy course a Level 1 Numeracy adult numeracy class has begun. This is a recognised qualification that can be used to develop and evidence every day numeracy skills and can be done as a precursor to a Maths GCSE. It is a very flexible tutor lead course which will be completed in sessions. Classes take place after school once a week at Robert Clack.

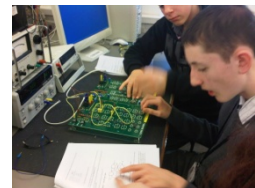
For more information on either course please contact Mr Hylton via the school office.

### Essex University Trip

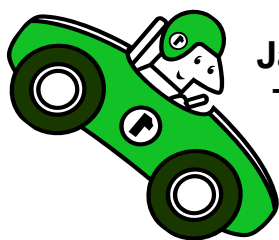


Zeeshan Arshed, Rex and Jamie Austin

This month a handful of Year 12 BTEC ICT pupils visited The University of Essex in Colchester. This was an excellent opportunity for pupils to get a taste of ICT in Higher Education. It was a very interesting day. The day began with a tour of the university and the Computer Science Department; pupils were given the opportunity to meet Rex the Robot, an interactive PhD robotic project; then attended a lecture about Natural Language where they were shown websites where you can have conversations with the computer. The day was finished off with an exciting programming and



hardware lab where everyone (including teachers) was set the challenge of controlling various cartoon characters and wiring a logic board to control the lights. An exciting time was had by all!



## 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. 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.

THE JAGUAR CARS  
MATHS IN MOTION  
CHALLENGE FOR SCHOOLS

## University of East London

Next term will see several Year 12 BTEC ICT Pupils completing a short course, called Compact, at the University of East London. This course aims to develop skills needed for university, such as developing active listening skills, preparing for higher education interviews and planning your career. 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.



## Finance Day

In the near future we are looking to provide a Finance Day for Year 8. The day will feature guest speakers and teach pupils useful life long skills such as budgeting, how to handle their money and the value of banks. This will be an exciting and constructive day.

## Model UN Conference

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, Robert Clack pupils took part in the Model United Nations conference on 'child labour' at Mulberry School for Girls in Whitechapel. In Model UN, pupils participate in simulations of official United Nations proceedings. The United Nations (UN) is an international organization whose stated aims are facilitating cooperation in international law, international security, economic development, social progress, human rights, and the achieving of world peace.



In Model UN, each pupil represents a particular nation within their committee. At the Mulberry School conference, the pupils were intent on creating resolutions to improve child labour conditions on a global level. Robert Clack pupils represented several UN member nations including China, Ethiopia, France, Mozambique, Nicaragua, South Africa and the United States of America.



Robert Clack enjoyed considerable success at Saturday's conference, finishing in second place out of the twenty-five schools that participated, just being edged out by Highgate Woods School for top honours. The participating Robert Clack pupils are deserving of much praise for the manner in which they prepared for, and ultimately performed in their respective committees. They represented our proud school community exceptionally well, employing strong skill in the areas of communication, leadership, diplomacy, cooperation and creativity. Several Robert Clack pupils were recognized for outstanding performances within their committees. Rob Jones, Shekhar Seebaluck and Reece Weaver all received 'honourable mentions' for their efforts, while Audrey Boum-Enock earned 'best delegate' honours in her committee, which was made up of some of the most experienced pupils at the conference, including many sixth formers. It should also be mentioned that the four Robert Clack teachers who attended were in unanimous agreement that certain other participants deserved recognition for their efforts during the conference.

Many thanks are in order to Ms. Kleinfeld, Ms. McCleay and Mr. Parry for sacrificing a long Saturday to support our pupils at the conference. We're now all very motivated to make the necessary steps to reclaim top honours at the next Model UN conference in summer.

Mr G Staino



## Former Robert Clack Student Exhibits work

Antony Williams who left Robert Clack two years ago to study art at Coventry university has participated in a recent exhibition called Korea in Colour as part of the Kookmin University Exchange Student Exhibition in Korea. Below is one of the pictures exhibited. Well Done, Antony!



## Enterprise Education

Students attend Growing Business awards

Once again our Business bursary students made a big splash at this year's Growing Business Awards. The prestigious event took place at the Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square, London on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009.



We were given a really warm welcome by Caspian Publishing's Chairman, Stuart Rock and introduced as aspiring business students who would one day also be receiving awards at the event.



For most of our students this was their first time at such a formal event and all looked very elegant and represented Robert Clack, and themselves, very well. Students were:

Matthew Allen, Zeeshan Arshed, Jamie Austin, Mitchell Din, Joao Rodrigues, Hannah Brown, Brean Horne, Louise Jarrett, Perdita Klingbeil, Michelle Makunganya, Angela Ogunfojuri.

**During the course of the night our students got the opportunity to mix with and meet most of the movers and shakers present.**

Theo Paphitis, chairman of Rymans and a `Dragon



John Caudwell,  
founder of Phones4U

### **With Students**

Stelios Haji-loannou Founder of Easy Jet



**The Growing Business Awards is a great event which gives our business bursary students a real opportunity to see and meet first hand the prominent entrepreneurs and business leaders in the UK.**



**Karen Paterson, founder and CEO of Patersons HR and Payroll Solutions, was the other major winner, scooping the Entrepreneur of the Year and Global Outlook and Expansion accolades.**

**Patersons provides HR and payroll outsourcing services to customers in over 160 countries worldwide and was praised by judges for "an exemplary strategic approach to entering a huge number and variety of overseas markets, including the more demanding markets of China and India, in a very challenging economic climate."**

**Following a long conversation with one of our students Perdita Klingbeil, Karen was so impressed with her that she offered her a job, promising to keep contact with her offering summer internships until she finishes University then she could take up a position in her firm.**



**All in all a great night was had by all with the possible exception of Mr Tierney who felt ill at the start of the event and had to be nursed back to health by Jo Brand, the entertainment for the evening!**

**Mr Jarrett**

## David Beckham Academy Visit

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 32 footballers from Years 8 & 9 attended a day's course at David Beckham's soccer academy next to the O2 Arena in London's Docklands.

The pupils were split into teams and had to perform the roles of; player, manager, physio, journalist and nutritionist. The activities were enjoyable and educational, and all pupils took a great deal from the day.



The afternoon finished with a tournament on the full sized astro-turf and the Clack team managed to win.

Unfortunately David himself was unable to be there, but Mr Goyette was happy to fill in, signing autographs and posing for photos with football fans!



## Gifted and Talented trip to Warwick University Saturday 12 December 2009

On Saturday Audrey Boum-Enock, Lewis Howlett, Sam Martin, Paul Burnell and Taya Staff and their families attended the GOAL induction day hosted by Warwick University.

The GOAL programme offers a fantastic range of activities and opportunities. They will be able to take part in events across the country and online, exploring familiar subjects or exciting new ways of learning with nationally and internationally recognised experts. They will be able to interact with fellow students from all over the world through the International Gateway for Gifted Youth.



We left school at 8am and arrived in Warwick with plenty of time to have a guided tour of the University campus. We visited the University's library, student union, halls of residence and Arts Centre (complete with Cinema and Theatre!).

We then met a number of members of the staff from the University of Warwick and existing students were there for us to ask questions. The GOAL team then held workshops for the students, parents and teachers.

It was a most enjoyable and informative day. We spent the entire journey home discussing ideas for the Business Enterprise Competition – which is the

first of many activities led by GOAL (the prize being a trip to NYC!). We're now really looking forward to the next stage. Watch this space!

Miss C Thomas

## **Robert Clack win again in the 3rd Gifted and Talented Citizenship Challenge Final 2009**



Once more, the school came top in the competition where 8 Year 9 Robert Clack pupils had to present and explain their ideas at the Barking council chambers, on how they would run and manage a community radio station for London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and its partners, and how they could make the radio station a big success among the people of Barking and Dagenham.

After less than 6 hours of brainstorming ideas and then preparing the presentation and speeches, the students had to present their ideas to 3 judges who work for the council. The other 2 schools in the final - Jo Richardson and Barking Abbey - gave intelligent and interesting speeches, but were not able to beat the defending champions who gave an outstanding performance.

In the end, the judges came to a decision and thought that everyone who took part had done well. They especially liked the fact that the Robert Clack pupils had analysed the competition, among other things, though, and awarded the winners with bags full of small prizes and a big trophy to show off their achievements. As well as this, the students have won math tickets to see Dagenham & Redbridge FC vs. Northampton FC on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010, including a 3 course meal with the footballers, lots of signed goodies, and much, much more!

Congratulations go to Reece Weaver, Robbie Osborne, Aziz Akbali, Risan Nishori, Dafina Nishori, Rebecca Sobodu, Daisy Pritchard and Victoria Rayment, for winning the Citizenship Challenge. Also, a special thanks to Miss Thomas - Gifted and Talented co-ordinator - and Mr Hicks for organising the team and making the victory possible.

Well done, Robert Clack!

By Victoria Rayment

## **Food in Focus 2009. Schools cookery challenge**

There is increasing concern both locally and nationally, that too many young people are unable to cook and do not recognise the need to eat a healthy, balanced diet. From September 2011, there is a statutory obligation for schools to provide cookery teaching in Key Stage 3, so



that young people will leave school, able to cook a range of tasty, nutritious food. At Robert Clack school we are ahead of the game and have for many years provided this opportunity for all our students at Key Stage 3. Additionally a huge proportion of our students choose to study catering at Key Stage 4.

Against this background it was decided that there should be a Barking & Dagenham Schools Cookery Competition as a celebration of young people's growing skills and to offer encouragement and an incentive for food to be a part of all young peoples' lives.

So on Tuesday 1st December three of our yr 10 catering students Liliana Dos Santos, Salome Apeawin and Katy Dell took part as "Team Robert Clack" in the launch of this event at Jo Richardson School. Beforehand they had spent a great deal of their spare time planning and organising the dishes they wanted to cook and then practicing them both at home and at school. They competed against 5 other schools and despite having to cook in an alien environment they worked amazingly calmly, and with great efficiency producing the following nutritious, skilful and delicious two course meal:-



Stuffed chicken pistachio and Palma ham rolls  
Stacked roasted potatoes and squash  
Glazed steamed carrots  
Stir fried spring greens

— — — — —  
Lemon tart with sweet pastry  
Vanilla cream

Although they didn't win the competition all three students were highly praised for their skill and professional attitude by the Head judge Cyrus Todiwala chef patron of Cafe Spice. Well done girls!

Mrs. G Hopkins

## London School of Samba

This term, we had quite a fun and exciting group of samba players come into school. This is because in music, the Year 8 students have been learning to play this type of music. It originated in Brazil, and is very popular there. Many carnivals are held there, and they are spectacular events to take part in. There are many instruments that are used in Samba, like the surdo, the ago-go bells and the tambourine. These instruments make up the fun and upbeat tempo of Samba.



Now, the group of Samba players started off by asking us questions about Samba, then we played a game called Rubber Chicken. Then, we played another game called Ping Pong. We learned about a Surdo. This is a rhythm that doesn't necessarily have to go with the beat, but brings all the music together. After this, we had a bit of fun and let ourselves go, by playing a bit of upbeat Samba. It was immensely fun, and everybody enjoyed it very much. It was such an enjoyable experience.



Hassan Habtoune



## Music Department Christmas Showcase

The Christmas Showcase on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December was brilliant! As an audience member, the atmosphere was good and every in the audience loved the performances. Some of the highlights were; Lorraine Mango singing 'Valerie,' the lower school orchestra's performance of 'James Bond' and of course, the memorable performance by Babajide Shokeye, Mr Staino and Mr Parry singing 'Three Little Birds' by Bob Marley! However, the performance I like the best was the one I was in which was 'Word Up' by Cameo!

By Aziz Akballi – Year 9.



## Celebration of Cultural Diversity at Robert Clack

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November a significant number of pupils from lower, upper and the 6<sup>th</sup> form took to the stage to celebrate their heritage and to convey an understanding of the events that lead them there. A whole range of items were prepared which included dancing, singing, presentations of significant moments in time and a number of excellent poems written by our own students.

Everyone who was involved on the night was excellent and this made the evening a real success.



The lower school drama group, with the help of Mrs Muirhead, prepared and presented a piece based on the events of 1948 and the arrival of the ship 'Windrush' which brought many Caribbean migrants to Britain. This has been seen as an important moment in British history and they have helped to transform significant aspects of life in this country.

Other highlights of the evening included the fashion show and renditions of 'I'll be there' and 'Ben' by the Lower School Boys Choir directed by Miss Garlick and accompanied by Miss



Templar. In addition our guest speaker Mr PJ Cole gave an insight into the work he is involved with and how help has been given to many people less fortunate than us in other countries.

The hard work that was put in by a number of 6<sup>th</sup> formers as well as members of staff made the evening a real success and I would like to thank all of the people who came to the event to celebrate with the students. I hope you had an enjoyable night and will

continue to support celebrations in the future.  
D Towler





## Dates for your Diary

Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 10 Parents' Evening, Gosfield Road 4.30-7.30pm
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Parents' Evening, Gosfield Road 4.30-7.30pm
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 9 Options Evening 6.00-8.00pm, Gosfield Road

## Holiday Dates

Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up for Christmas
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Return to School (Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> January is an INSET day and school is closed to students)
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up for half term
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Return to school
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Break up for Easter
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Return to school
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Bank holiday
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up for half term
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Return to school
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Break up for Summer

