



Robert Clack School of Science A Specialist College Newsletter



Science



Maths &
Computing

www.robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk

February 2009

Maths and Computing Specialism

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.

THE JAGUAR CARS
MATHS IN MOTION
CHALLENGE FOR SCHOOLS

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.

Computer Literacy Course

Over the last term Robert Clack has been hosting a free Computer Literacy for staff called CLAIT. Due to the success we are now planning on offering this course to parents. This is a level 1 recognised qualification that can be used to evidence every day ICT skills that covers Spreadsheets, Databases, Word Processing and File Management. It is a very accommodating tutor lead course which can be completed at home as well as in sessions.

There will be more news on this during the next half term.

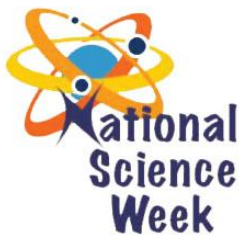
Easy Link

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



Science news



**A Science week of Higher Level Thinking:
9th – 13th March**

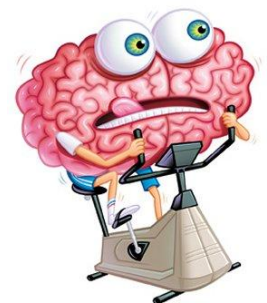
National Science Week this year is Friday 6th – Sunday 15th March. In school, years 7, 8 & 9 will have a slightly different timetable dedicated to Higher Level Thinking – giving their brains a real workout.



Science

Pupils will complete work in all subjects based around the theme of “Planet & People” looking at issues that affect their lives now and in the future. Lessons will be designed to allow pupils to Analyse, Evaluate and Create (higher level thinking skills) and see how subjects fit together.

It should be a really challenging, fun and informative week for everyone.



Work experience at The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine!

28 year 10 students have been selected for work experience placements at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in West London.

They will attend interviews to secure places on 11th Feb and we wish them all the best with their amazing opportunities there in March.



The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, West London.

Materials trip to the Tower of London

50 year 11 students attended a one-day visit to the Tower of London to study materials on 10th Feb, helping them with their GCSE units on the topic. They examined old and new materials and took part in 5 practicals where they had the chance to touch and understand why different materials are so good for their functions. It was an enjoyable and educational day out from school.



Pupils at the Tower of London Materials Workshop

Practical work in science – rockets and crime scenes

One of the best ways to learn in science is by doing practical work. This term has seen classes examining the flight of water-propelled rockets and crime scene investigation techniques.



Working with rockets and crime scene investigations

Scientists of the week

Recent scientists of the week include:

Year 9 – Peter Holbrook 9E2 – For having worked hard, behaved well and consistently achieving excellent test results.

Year 10 – Charlie Humphrey 10A2 – For independence of thought and a consistently focused attitude to work.

Cheryl Adams - Excellent approach in lessons – particularly in helping her group to work effectively on some collaborative tasks throughout the last week.

Year 11 – Kathleen Hilliard

Well done to all the worthy winners of this great award!

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 does not punctuate sentences correctly with a capital letter at the start and a full stop at the end.**

Please stress to the pupils that without sentences it is very hard for the reader to understand what is being written. If pupils write work without correct sentence punctuation please ask them to read their work through to themselves. They can then see where they pause so that the writing makes sense. In essence any piece of writing is a collection of sensible statements.

Pupils should be reminded that a sentence:

- is a group of words that makes sense**
- contains a verb**
- ends with a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark.**

- 2. Please identify and correct when your child does not use apostrophes for ownership.**

Please stress to the pupils that we use apostrophes for ownership when something is owned. Ownership often happens with people’s names. When Paul has a pen it is Paul’s pen. The first word owns the second word.

Problems come when words end in s. If it is a book by Charles Dickens it is Dickens’s book. If it is a plural the apostrophe comes after the final s – eg the ladies’ handbags (handbags belonging to two or more ladies).

Psychology

GCSE Psychology coursework club is running every Monday and Wednesday in E10 3-4.30pm.

Gifted and Talented Pupils visit the University of East London and West Ham

During January twenty year 10 pupils attended two day Learner Academies at prestigious venues. The events were about increasing self awareness in order to help the pupils in future to make decisions about their learning, educational choices and their career.

Successful people from the world of business ran the sessions with the help of current undergraduate students. Interesting issues on how we think and how people perceive us were raised.

Robert Clack pupils participated with enthusiasm and were commended for their excellent manners. Our pupils will have further opportunities to participate in similar Learner Academies in future.

Year 7 Kingswood Trip 2009

Last weekend (6th to 8th February) 100 Year 7 students and 10 members of staff made the annual trip to the Kingswood centre on the Isle of Wight. The visit was a huge success with the students (and staff) partaking in nine activities which stretched their physical and mental capabilities.



The ever popular Nightline course had been overrun by 'tree snakes' and the 'mud monster' was on the prowl for much of Saturday afternoon, but our students overcame the adversity of the situation and they succeeded in the task. A new activity called the 'Leap of Faith' was added to our timetable – this required students to be harnessed up, climb a 10 metre pole and then 'leap' for a hanging trapeze. I was extremely impressed by the bravery of the students in this activity, many of them overcoming a fear of heights to simply climb up the ladder. Many students made it to the top of the pole but could not reach the platform, some got to the top but overbalanced or fell off as they leapt for the trapeze (Mr Iberi included here) but all the praise must go to the many students (and Mrs Owen) who successfully completed this heart-stopping challenge!



The students were a credit to the school and the local community. As usual all of the members of staff at the Kingswood site were full of praise and admiration for the behaviour and conduct of the pupils. I would like to thank all 100 students and the nine members of staff who accompanied me on the trip and I look forward to the visit with next year's Year 7. A special mention must go to the 19 students, Mr Carder and Mrs Wilkins who were stranded with me on the A3 when our coach broke-down on the return journey – their patience and understanding is an example of what makes this school the special place that it is.



Mr Howarth

Year 10 Employers Mock Interview Day – Monday 2nd March 2009 – Venue Robert Clack Sports Centre, 8.55-3.00pm

20 local and London based employers will be providing work related learning skills on interview techniques to the whole of Year 10 before they embark on their two weeks of work experience.

Mr Hamill

CAPOEIRA CLUB



What is it?

An exciting non-contact Brazilian Martial-Art.

(Capoeira was originally developed by African slaves in Brazil, who disguised it as a dance).

When?

Thursdays 3:15 til 4:15pm

Where?

Leisure Centre Dance Studio

Who?

Anyone can do it! All year groups.

No experience needed, boys and girls of all ages welcome. Teachers are also welcome!

Taught by a professional instructor from the group who appeared on the BBC Commercial above.

Why do it?

Get fit. Improve flexibility, balance, coordination. Learn self-defence & **have fun!**

For more info see your form tutor or Mr. Radović.

Year 10 Rugby

Robert Clack met King Edwards VI Grammar school (Chelmsford) on Monday in the quarter final of the Essex Cup. King Edwards were amongst the favourites to win the competition and had knocked the boys out of the Cup in year 8, when they went on to win it. They came to Dagenham with an impressive record this season, winning most of their games by big margins.



The boys were nervous and some maybe even doubted if they were good enough to win the match. In appalling mud bath conditions, they produced an outstanding performance to win 24 – 7. The team spirit they showed and the effort they put in were immense. Their defence was brave and aggressive and proved too much for their opponents.

Jake Larkin's scored two tries with Ashley Boyce managing a solo effort just after half time to seal the match. Luke Stimson kicked all 3 conversions and a penalty. Paul Parker also gets a special mention for producing an outstanding defensive performance but all the squad deserve praise and should be proud of what was a great team effort.

Mr McDarby



Robert Clack Website

www.robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk

A HIGH PERFORMING SPECIALIST SCHOOL

ROBERT CLACK SCHOOL

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Curriculum](#) | [Extended School](#) | [Specialism](#) | [Year Groups](#) | [Parents](#) | [Students](#) | [Contact Us](#)

USEFUL LINKS

- Sam Learning - Online Learning
- School Video
- Learning Gateway
- Video of HRH The Prince of Wales visit to Robert Clack School
- Staff Email
- Easy Link
- 2008-2009 Lunchtime Clubs (Upper School)
- Robert Clack School ICT Acceptable Use Policy

EMAIL NEWS ARCHIVE

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Robert Clack School would like to thank parents and pupils for their patience and understanding during last week's adverse weather conditions and the disruption caused during the week. We are monitoring weather reports and will update any news on this website.

WELCOME TO ROBERT CLACK SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

As Headteacher, I am very proud to welcome you to the Robert Clack website. Choosing a school for your son or daughter is not an easy task but I am sure as you explore the pages of this website you will receive a clear insight into the culture and ethos of Robert Clack School of Science.

Here at Robert Clack we see ourselves as a school community, committed to excellence and achievements. We encourage our students to participate in this community knowing this will enrich their education and allow them to become successful students. We believe that these elements combined have made Robert Clack School one of the most successful schools in the country.

Mr P.J. Grant - Headteacher M.A.

LATEST NEWS

January 2009 Newsletter out now.
[Click here](#)

Literacy Focus: Week Beginning 26.01.09
[Click here](#)

Robert Clack School Rugby Team wins Evening Standard 1st XV Team of the Month for September
[Read more](#)

Robert Clack School gains outstanding Investors in People Award
[Read more](#)

Robert Clack School tops performance league table

Robert Clack School is committed to ensuring that communication between parents/guardians and the school is as effective as possible. We have therefore updated our website so that the very latest news on forthcoming events can be accessed on line e.g.

- Any information on adverse weather conditions will be posted on the homepage.
- Any forthcoming events this term can be found on the homepage.
- Events during the course of the academic year can be seen in the school calendar under the parents tab.
- All non personalised letters between the school and parents/guardians can now be accessed via the website. Letters to parents will be able to be downloaded in the *communications* menu in the *parents* tab. Each letter will be placed under the correct year group. If an event involves pupils from more than one year group, it will be displayed under the *whole school* option.
- Newsletters can also be downloaded from the website.

- A list of the extra curricular lunch time and after school clubs that are running on both sites.
- Information on our highly successful specialism in Science and Maths & ICT can now be found under the *specialism* tab.

We hope are hopeful that these changes will ensure that communication between the school and parents/guardians will be further improved.

Robert Clack Golf Tournament – Crowland's Heath Golf Course Sunday 8th March 2009



Calling golfers of all abilities to participate in this event. Your efforts will contribute to the fundraising for The Business and Enterprise department trip to New York in April 2009. Parents, teachers, friends, family, students all welcome!!

Following a successful tournament in November, this is back by popular demand and is not one to be missed!

Details:

- Texas Scramble teams of 4 participants.
- Single applicants welcome (allocated to a team).
- 18 holes of golf (2X rounds of 9 holes)
- Full English Breakfast before tee off.
- Prizes awarded – best team and nearest to the pin.
- Raffle

PRICE (including golf, breakfast and prizes) - £30 per person (£120 per team)

Please register your interest via email to Phil Tierney ptierney@robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk or by calling 0208 270 4189 by no later than Friday 27th February 2009

Alternatively, you can post team entries to:

Phil Tierney, Robert Clack School, Gosfield Road, Dagenham, Essex, RM8 1JU

Cheques made payable to Robert Clack School.

Punctuality

One of the aims of the Robert Clack School is to prepare children for adult life. To this end we expect everyone to be punctual at all times.

A pupil arriving after 8.55 is late and receives a late mark in the register, unless late for a medical appointment. We would ask for your co-operation in ensuring that your child leaves home early enough to arrive at school before the bell. Pupils who are late twice or more in five days will receive a late detention. If the pupil is very late, please give them a note to the effect that you are aware of the lateness.

Sickness

It is a legal obligation that children of school age attend school regularly. If a pupil is not attending school, the parent or guardian should telephone the school that morning before 9.30am. He or she should be kept at home until well, and a note of explanation sent to the Form Tutor on the day of return to school. If no telephone call has been received by 9.30am on the first day of absence, the school's Attendance Officers will telephone home to confirm the reason for absence.

School Uniform

All pupils are expected to be appropriately dressed in school uniform at all times. The school uniform for Years 7 to 11:

For Girls:

Black Blazer with school badge
Black tailored trousers (6-8" hem width) or
Black knee length skirt box pleated from the waist
White shirt with collar
School tie worn to waist length
Plain black or flesh coloured tights or white ankle length socks

Conventional flat black fully fitted shoes with fitting heel and toe (no 'fashion shoes' e.g. stiletto heels, platforms or ankle straps). No Kickers, Timberland, Lacoste or trainers
V necked black jumper (optional)

For Boys:

Black Blazer with school badge
Black trousers
White cotton shirt with collar
School tie worn to waist length
V necked black jumper (optional)
Conventional black shoes. No Kickers, Timberland, Lacoste or trainers

JEWELLERY, INCLUDING EARRINGS, IS NOT PERMITTED.

Jewellery should not be worn. It may be confiscated and kept in a safe place until collected by parents. The Governors reserve the right to send pupils home who are inappropriately dressed. This also applies to extremes of appearance cosmetically including for example make-up, false nails and unnatural hair extensions or dye.

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).

Equipment

Pupils should ensure that they have all the essential equipment needed for lessons every day. This should include:

- Pens
- Pencil
- Ruler and rubber
- Mathematical equipment
- Correct PE kit
- Correct equipment for any practical lessons e.g. food technology and catering.

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.

Bicycles

We do not have facilities for the safe storage of bicycles. Please do not encourage your children to bring such equipment to the vicinity of the school sites. The roads surrounding the school are very dangerous.

Dates for your Diary

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Tue 24 February | Year 9 Options Interviews (Green Lane) |
| Wed 25 February | Year 7 Parents Evening Band X 4.30-7.30pm Green Lane |
| Mon 9 – Fri 20 March | Year 10 Work Experience |
| Wed 11 March | NEC Higher Education Evening |
| Fri 13 – Sun 15 March | Netball Tour to Devon |
| Wed 4 March | Year 7 Parents Evening Band Y & Z 4.30- 7.30pm, Green Lane |
| Wed 18 March | Year 9 Parents Evening 4.30-7.30pm, Green Lane |

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 |

