



Robert Clack School of Science A Specialist College Newsletter



Science

Maths &
Computing

www.robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk

January 2009

Maths and Computing specialism

Due to its excellent success Robert Clack has recently acquired a second specialism in Maths and Computing. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, Mr Hylton, as the person who will be co-ordinating this specialism. This is a very exciting venture and will create several opportunities for both pupils, parents and the wider community. I hope to extend both the Maths and ICT curriculum beyond what is currently taught in the classroom, offering extra curricular activities and opportunities for parents to get involved in their children's' learning.

Computer Literacy Courses

As part of the Maths and Computing specialism Robert Clack will be hosting Computer Literacy (CLaIT) courses for staff after school. We are hoping to expand these classes and also make them available to parents. This will be an excellent opportunity to develop ICT skills and receive a recognised qualification as evidence of them.

Maths &
Computing

Lunch Time Clubs

Computer rooms are made available for pupils every lunch time on both the upper and lower school. These provide pupils with an opportunity to complete homework and additional class work outside of lessons. They have proved to be very popular and pupils are finding that it is benefiting a variety of subjects, not just ICT.

Maths and ICT Pupil of the week

Each week the titles of Mathematician and ICT Pupil of The Week has been awarded to pupils in each year group. This has been an exciting process as it has illuminated the individual achievements of pupils within each subject.

Science news



Science

Bag Packing raises £4,800 for 6th form trip to HONDURAS !



TEAM HONDURAS

Over the Christmas holidays, the 6th form team travelling to Honduras worked in ASDA and Tesco packing shoppers' bags. They worked so hard as a team that they collected £4813 from donations. This is an outstanding effort and is great recognition for the hard work put in by everyone. They need to raise over £50,000 as a team to cover all expenses and have now reached the £20,000 mark.

Another £600 was raised by the raffle at the staff Christmas dinner! An amazing contribution from - thank you.

Fundraising will continue this year with the team selling raffle tickets, doing sponsored events and working in their own time.

A-level Biology



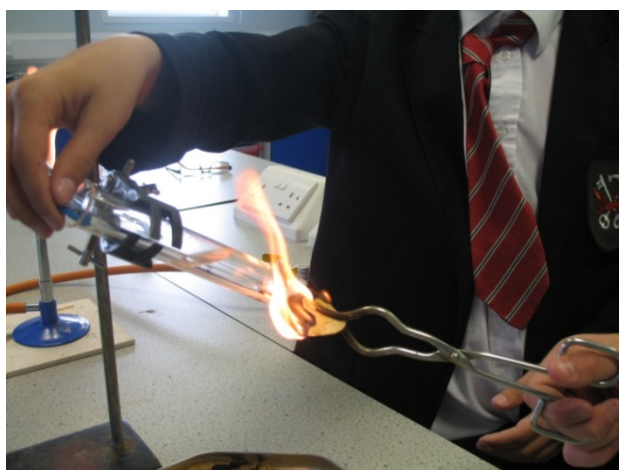
Grant Nichols and Jade Williams carrying out their assessed practical task.



This year has seen record numbers of students opting for A-level science courses, especially biology. The new syllabus requires students to demonstrate their practical abilities in the lab, carrying out experiments, carefully recording data, then explaining and evaluating their results. All 40 students completed their investigations to a high level.

Burning Crisps!! Year 9 Cross Curriculum Project

Recently, year 9 science classes have taken part in a cross curriculum project with maths and ICT to investigate the calories content of different crisps. Students planned and carried out the experiments in science, analysed the data in maths and presented their results using ICT. Ms Stone coordinated this exciting and innovative project, allowing students to see how these subjects fit together. The project was a great success and will probably be repeated, if we find more crisps!



Heating water with a burning crisp to investigate how much energy is released.



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 uses mixed capitals and small letters.

Pupils often write sentences such as, "One Day an old maN was walKING down the RoaD. He was very ScruFFy.

2. Please identify and correct your child does not use capital letters for proper nouns.

Please remind pupils they should start a word with a capital letter if it is:

- the start of a sentence
- someone's name
- the day of the week or a month
- something marked on a map like a town, a country, a river, a road, a mountain or a special building
- a shop and the brand name of something sold in the shops
- a title of the pupil's own work or the work of other people (stories, plays, poems, Films and TV programmes)
- the letter I on its own

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

Parents and carers of Year 9 pupils will receive a letter by post shortly concerning arrangements for the Year 9 Options. The main details are as follows;

Year 9 Options Information Evening

Wednesday 4th February at 6.00pm on the Gosfield Road site.

There will be a presentation explaining the Year 10 and 11 courses available to pupils as well as displays of information. For Health and Safety reasons the presentation will take place twice, the first at 6.00pm in the Hall and the second at 6.20 in the Gym, and parents can choose which one to attend. Teaching staff will be available in the display areas to provide more information on the courses available. Pupils are encouraged to attend this event.

Year 9 Option Interviews.

Tuesday 10th February between 4.00pm-7.30pm on the Green Lane site.

At this interview for parents and pupils the option choices are finalised. It is very important that every Year 9 pupil attends an interview. The letter contains

the time of each pupil's interview. If the appointment time is not convenient parents should ring the Green Lane office to arrange a new time.

Pupils should return the reply slip to their Form Tutor as soon as possible.

YEAR 11 PROGRESS EVENING

The Year 11 Progress Evening will take place on Wednesday 28th January from 4.30pm – 7.30pm on the Gosfield Road site. Mock examination results will be available for collection on the evening. This evening provides a final opportunity for teachers, parents and pupils to discuss progress before the GCSE examinations begin.

AFRICAN DRUMMING

On the 10th, 11th and 12th of December, all Key Stage 3 students took part in African drumming and dance workshops with Mbila Arts. We learned how to drum an African beat along with African dancing. It was a wonderful experience learning how to drum and also learning about music from a different culture.

By Michael Rhodes- 7A2



Carol singing

On Monday the 15th December, some of the choir members went out carol singing at residential homes. It was a wonderful afternoon and we even visited and sang to Mrs Churchill's mother. Our wonderful songs swept through the streets and put a smile on anyone who passed. Many thanks to Miss Templer, Mrs Churchill and Miss Garlick, our great music teachers, for organising this joyful event.

-by Joel Boateng 7D1.

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 Wednesday 11th 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.

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

Wed 28 January	Year 11 Progress Evening 4.30-7.30pm, Gosfield
Wed 4 February	Year 9 Options Information Evening, 6.00pm, Gosfield
Fri 6 February – Sun 8 February	Year 7 visit to Kingswood Centre, Isle of Wight
Tue 10 February	Year 9 Options Interviews (Green Lane)
Wed 18 March	Year 9 Parents Evening 4.30-7.30pm Green Lane

Holiday Dates



Fri 13 February	Break up for half term
Mon 23 February	Return to School
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