



Robert Clack School of Science A Specialist College Newsletter

www.robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk



Science



Maths &
Computing

July 2008

Dear Parents

Once again our school community has witnessed another impressive year of achievement.

This achievement has taken place across the curricular and extra curricular life of the school, and is a tribute to you, your child, our staff and Governors.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your continued support and wishing you a very happy, healthy and enjoyable summer.

Very best wishes.

P Grant
Headteacher

Arrangements for Returning to School

Pupils will return to school on Tuesday 2nd September 2008. Please ensure that pupils arrive strictly at the time allocated wearing correct school uniform. Pupils are reminded to be properly equipped for school. The following schedule will apply for this day only.

Year 7 Green Lane 8.45 am (Report to Tennis Courts)
Year 8 Green Lane 10.45 am (To Form Rooms)
Year 9 Green Lane 10.45 am (Report to Tennis Courts)

Year 9 Gosfield Road 9.45 am (Report to School Hall)
Year 10 Gosfield Road 10.45 am (Report to School Hall)
Year 11 Gosfield Road 10.45 am (Report to back playground)
Year 13 Gosfield Road 9.45 am (As appointment with all lessons starting on the afternoon of Thursday 4th September)

Green Lane	Year	Arrive @ School	Assembly
	7	8.45 am	9.00 – 9.45 am
			Assembly Room
	8	10.45 am	10.55 – 11.40 am
			Assembly Room
	9	10.45 am	11.40 – 12.15
			Assembly Room
Gosfield Road			
	9	9.45 am	1.30 – 2.10 pm
	10	10.45 am	1.30 – 2.10 pm
	11	10.45 am	2.10 – 3.00 pm
	13	As appointment time	

All Year 12 students should report to the Main Hall at Gosfield Road on Monday 1st September at 1.30 pm.

Robert Clack Dress Code

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for the Upper School site. I feel privileged and honoured to have been given this duty by the Governing Body and I am looking forward to working closely with you all to ensure the continued success of our pupils.

Mr Micek and I would kindly ask that you review our uniform requirements as set out in the table on the next page. 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. We are rightly proud of the standard of uniform at Robert Clack School, which is commented upon regularly by visitors and members of the local community.

Mr R Taylor

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 shirt with collar	School tie worn to waist length
School tie worn to waist length	Black shoes
Plain black or flesh coloured tights or white ankle length socks	V necked black jumper (optional)
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	Conventional black shoes. No Kickers, Timberland, Lacoste or trainers
V necked black jumper (optional)	

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.

UNIFORM FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

For Girls	For Boys
Rugby type jersey in red with 4" blue band	Rugby type jersey in red with 4" blue band
Robert Clack Black Shorts with school crest*	Robert Clack Black Shorts with school crest*
Long plain red football socks	Long plain red football socks
Training shoes	Training shoes
Towel	Towel
Change of underwear	Change of underpants (not boxer shorts)
Plain Black tracksuit bottoms (optional).	Plain Black tracksuit bottoms (optional)
Shin pads and gum shields are required for sports including hockey, football and rugby.**	

SUMMER ADDITIONS (optional)

*Robert Clack polo shirt (red-with school crest)
Cricket whites (for those selected for school team)

It is strongly recommended that your child wears a mouthguard for all PE lessons involving hockey and rugby. For those pupils who play for the school team a mouthguard will be **COMPULSORY.

These items are available from the School Uniform Supplier:

Premier Schoolwear

688-690 Becontree Avenue

Dagenham Tel: 020 8592 0141

Essex

(*These items are only available from Premier Schoolwear)

The school tie and blazer badge are also available from the school office.

Science news

A busy year for science

This year has seen some exciting events for the school as a Science Specialist College. Here are some highlights:



Science

- Year 7 & 8 Science Activity Days
- Visitors from BP, Pfizer, Cambridge University & RSPB
- Trips to the science museum
- Music & Science project
- Science, maths & ICT joint project
- A-level Biology field trip
- Sustainable Schools sub-committee &
- EcoSchool Bronze Award

Next year looks to be bigger and better and there will be more opportunities for pupils of all ages and abilities to actively participate in science and enjoy the fun of the subject.

Scientists of the week

Very well done to the following pupils for becoming Scientists of the Week over the last month. Your teachers have recommended you for the outstanding work you have achieved in your lessons. Well done!

Lamar Griffiths
Connie Priestley
Aiden Wise



Five decades challenge

Two of our top science students – Anthony Mercer and Tina Imatitkua took part in the Five Decades Chemistry competition on 27th June. Over 1100 students from across the country took part in this online challenge where they completed exam questions drawn from hundreds of GCSE and O-level papers in chemistry from the last five decades.

- The average mark across the country was 25%
- The average marks per decade were:
 - 1960s 15.3%
 - 1970s 18.1%
 - 1980s 21.6%
 - 1990s 34.5%
 - 2000s 35.1%

- 90% of students achieved 50% or less

The competition was won by Nathan Brown from King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys, who scored a fantastic 94%. Congratulations to both our competitors for putting themselves forward in such a difficult test.



A-level Biology Field Trip

The A-level biologists have just returned from Wales after their week of field studies and adventure. They enjoyed investigating the biology of rock pools on the rocky shore, sand dunes, forest and caves. On the adventure side, they spent a day crawling through the water and mud of the Welsh caves, climbed a mountain, did some indoor rock climbing and some 10-pin bowling.

Websites

Next time you're on-line over the summer, why not have a look at some of these excellent websites. This month, there's one for each of the sciences – Physics, Chemistry and Biology, plus a couple just for fun!

<http://www.physics4kids.com/>

http://www.chemistrycoach.com/periodic_tables.htm

<http://www.biology-resources.com/>

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>

<http://www.cosmos4kids.com/>

ACE Day Wednesday 12th July

Twelve ex-students who are currently at University or have just started their careers having finished their degrees came back to Robert Clack School as student ambassadors to encourage current Year 9's to think about higher education. Ex-pupil Jason McCarthy also returned to engage in five 50 minute powerpoint presentations on his career as a fashion designer after completing a B.A. (hons) at UEL and M.A. at the Royal College of Art.

Year 9 engaged in a wide range of activities from UEL presentations to internet University website research to that of CV preparation and the design of University marketing poster. The whole day was a huge success and had a very positive effect on the aspirations of Year 9 students.

The ex students who attended were:

Jason McCarthy – BA (hons) MA, RCA Fashion Design

Lloyd Wood – Sports Science BSc

Kathryn Mason – BA (hons) History Cambridge

Maame Mintah – BSc (hons) Cardiff

Steven Smith – BA (hons) Bristol

Lance Horsey – BSc (hons) Criminology Swansea

Katherine Johnson – BSc Radiography Kingston
Ashley Downey – BA (hons) English Lancaster
Leigh Ebdon – BA (hons) History Kings College
Alex Rose – BSc Medicine & Surgery Peninsula Medical School
Liam Tillet – BSc Economics Durham
Oswald Marongue – BSc Science Kent University
Jenny Holloway – BA (hons) QPS PE Bedford University

Mr Hamill, head of WRL/Careers and Year 9

Barking and Dagenham Film Festival

On Tuesday 8th July Robert Clack School was represented at the 3rd annual Barking and Dagenham Film Festival by two short films. The first was made by Daniel Leggett and Jamie Mason with the title *Hi Viktor! Hi Kiam!* and the second was *Doors* by Adeena Watts and Shahima Khanom. The films were developed from their Year 13 A Level Film Studies coursework and were experimental in nature playing with ideas derived from the Surrealist art movement.



The festival took place at the Vue cinema in Dagenham in the presence of the Deputy Mayor and other representatives of the council and the local press. The festival is gaining in status and recognition each year. There was fierce competition to get films accepted for the festival and Dan, Jamie, Adeena and Shahima were competing against other schools in the Borough, Barking College, Community Projects and professional filmmakers.

The programme of 18 films reflected the diversity of the Borough and included documentaries, music videos, dramas and animated films and our students acquitted themselves extremely well in the face of such stiff competition. The challenging subject matter of the two films stood out amongst the other films and received a very warm reaction from the packed audience.

All four students greatly enjoyed the experience and Dan and Jamie are hoping to build upon this by going onto study film and the media at University and hopefully to make many more films in the future.

Mr Johnson

Photography Club

On Saturday 5th July Mrs McCarthy, Ms Valentine and myself took 6 members of the Robert Clack Photography Club on a Trip to London. Luckily the weather was excellent and all pupils and staff had a great time. We saw St. Katherine's Dock, Tower Bridge, The Tower of London, City Hall, HMS Belfast, Southwark Cathedral, The Replica of The Golden Hind, The Tate Modern, The Millennium Bridge and St. Paul's Cathedral as well as many places in between. The pupils behaved excellently and

were a credit to both themselves and the School. We hope to set up an exhibition of the photographs taken in September.
Mr S Morgan



Barking College Science and Technology day

On Thursday 3rd July, 12 children from year 8 attended a Borough competition attended by each secondary school. The winners of this event would represent Barking and Dagenham in the London finals. There were four events and each group (made up of two children from one school and two from another) got to participate in three of them. These events were Robotics, Renewable energy, Electronics and Building bridges.

Robert clack did extremely well with Josh Geach and Katy Dell winning the Building bridges challenge, and Max Saito and Taya Staff finishing runner up in the same event. Ezekiel Ignacio and John Hattam finished runner up in the renewable energy challenge. Unfortunately a team consisting of Eastbrook and Dagenham Park children won and will progress to the next stage of the competition. Good luck to them in the finals and we hope that they will make Barking and Dagenham the most able borough in London. This was a highly enjoyable day enabling us to work with people we wouldn't have met otherwise. Thanks go to Mr Jenkins for organising the event, Miss Clyburn for supervising and Mr Manning for providing transport.



John Hattam

Citizenship

Year 8 pupils from Robert Clack School and members of the local council have been working together during citizenship lessons to share ideas and discuss solutions to local concerns. Pupils have written letters to the council's 'Tell Us' department and worked alongside Neighbourhood managers to run a 'Mock Ward Panel Meeting'. When asked to comment on the project, pupils responded extremely positively:

'In my opinion, ward panel meetings help to address issues in the community by focusing on one problem at time and bringing the council together and listening to what the residents would like their community to be like ... the meetings help to address issues in the community by addressing the victims situation and they help residents to understand how we could improve our borough'.

The school and the council have valued the opportunity to work together and want to develop the partnership. Next year Victoria Ekubia, the Neighbourhood Manager for Heath Ward, will be working with members of the school council to launch an anti-litter campaign.

Mrs H Anderson

Barking and Dagenham Business Enterprise Summer School 2008

The school recently hosted a Business Enterprise Summer School on behalf of schools in Barking and Dagenham. Working in partnership with the organisation 'Young Enterprise' some 60 Year 8 students from Robert Clack, Warren, Sydney Russell, Eastbrook and Jo Richardson took part in this 3 day event on 7,8 and 9th July.

The students learned and developed a range of enterprise skills, including team work, presentation, problem solving, creativity and communication. They also developed their understanding of basic business concepts having to cope with the challenge of setting up a mini enterprise, developing and designing a new product, budgeting and pricing materials, allocating tasks and presenting their ideas to a judging panel.

Alongside, the students were supported by young volunteers from the UK Career Academy and Robert Clack who shared their own business knowledge and developed their leadership and mentoring skills.

At the end of the 3 days a number of prizes and awards were decided by the judging panel that include Tom Mabey from Barking and Dagenham Enterprise. The results are as follows:

Best Trade Stand

Rush, Sydney Russell (customized vase and chocolate holder called 'The Duo)

Best Presentation	Blaze, Robert Clack (the ‘snuggly wuggly’ cat pillow)
Innovation Award	Bytac, Warren School (voice controlled laptop)
Team Award	Blu, Robert Clack (‘The Blu Box’ games consol’)
Individual Award (Effort)	Lorrie Kalambay, Jo Richardson
Individual Leadership	James Langham, Warren School Taya Staff, Robert Clack
Best Overall Team	Unique, Eastbrook (customized handbags)

Pleasingly, Robert Clack students received two awards for Best presentation and best teamwork. Taya Staff also received an award for outstanding individual leadership. Participating students are listed below and they should be congratulated on representing the school with credit

Makoto Saito, Kirstie Woodgate, Taya Staff, Joshua Geach Deborah Atuahen Gemma Bailey, Connor Bentley, Magdalene Cofie, David Brightman, Natalie Charlton, Alfie Cox Nyasha Hove, Jamie Brown, Collins Kahingu.



Excellence in Enterprise Bursary Programme

Sports Bursary:

- **Coaching day with West Ham United Football in the Community Department at Beckton Park. 25th June 2008.**



The students on the Sports bursary programme received a tour of the Boleyn Ground and then travelled to Beckton Park to participate in a coaching session with West Ham United Football in the Community staff representatives. The day was co-ordinated by ex Olympic High Jumper Dalton Grant.

They went on to coach small groups from local primary schools and put in to practice what they had learned from the previous sessions. Staff at West Ham were impressed with the coaching potential of our students with four receiving tickets for a match in the 2008/9 season. A signed first team shirt is being donated to the bursary programme by the club in September 2008.

Six students from Robert Clack Year 12 are on the yearly programme. They are Bradley Reece, Billy Driver, Lee Wilkins, Devon Samson, Carly Tully and Laura Townsend.

Bradley Reece 'coaching is something I am considering in the future. It was really useful practical experience coaching the Year 6 students.

Sports bursary visit to Loughborough University

On the 2nd July some 12 students including 6 from Robert Clack visited Loughborough University in Leicestershire for the day. The students used the state of the art indoor coaching centre for a training and conditioning session with ex Olympian Dalton Grant. They then went on a tour of the University campus where they visited National academy centres for tennis, netball, swimming and cricket to name a few.

The students met Great Britain 100m sprinter Harry Aikines Aryreety who is based full time at the University, ex Olympic Great Britain Shot putt representative Geoff Capes (who is now coaching the leading Great Britain junior throwers) and witnessed National tennis academy scholars in a training session.



Carly Tully from Year 12 said ‘I learned that to get somewhere in life you have to work hard at it. Loughborough is definitely a university I will consider applying for’.



Students with Harry AIKINES AYRETEY

Enterprise Events

- “Speak up! Speak out!” Workshop – Jack Petchey “Speak Out Challenge”

This is a full day workshop for 50 Year 10 students at Robert Clack School. They learned the skills of successful public speaking; the importance of structured arguments; giving and receiving written and verbal feedback and delivering and presenting with confidence and impact.

“Today’s training has been beneficial to me, now I am more confident in speaking publically”. Michael Smith Year 10 Student Robert Clack School.

“This was great, it gave me confidence to speak aloud to groups of people I don’t know”. Munturayo Opeifa Year 10 Student Robert Clack School.

HSBC Summer Games

The school hosted the inaugural summer games for schools in London sponsored by HSBC on Friday 11th July.

The event comprising of 9 London Secondary Schools of boys and girls (Year 8 and 9) students was a rousing success with all competitors, spectators and officials enjoying and benefitting from the experience.

The day began with a lively opening ceremony with a parade of competing schools most carrying banners/flags with music being provided by a steel band from Stockwell Park School. This was followed by addresses from Headteacher Paul Grant, Paul Sinclair from HSBC and Pete Goyette Head of PE.

The events included mixed badminton, boys football, girls football, and indoor athletics sprints and relays. Some students took part in time trials for indoor rowing and cycling.

Great Britain High Jumper Ayamba Akin was guest of honour and spoke to the students at the closing ceremony specifically about setting goals and the importance of staying determined and focused. Ayamba presented medals to winners of all events much to their delight.

The school had a number of winners on the day. These are:

Football boys:

**Luke Stimson
Khalid Khatib
Jack McCallister
Josh Craske
Liam Coughlan
Charlie Land**

100m relay

**D'Jae Destouche
Ashley Boyce
Jenna Hegarthy
Solome Apeawin**

Badminton

**Georgia Potter
Jemma Bailey**



All competitors



Headteacher Paul Grant with Margaret Hodge – MP for Barking



High Jumper Ayamba Akin addressing the audience



Presentation of medals



Badminton



Boys football

**Mr Tierney
Mr Goyette**

London Cricket

On Thursday 10th July, Robert Clack's Under 15 team played in the prestigious London schools cricket finals day for the first time in their history. The finals were held at London's picturesque Streatham & Marlborough cricket club in glorious sunshine. The top four teams in the capital qualified by winning a regional league and then a quarter final. Clack drew the much fancied South Camden high school in the semis and on a bowlers



wicket Clack fought hard to make 105 in their 20 overs. Important contributions from Jack McAllister and Ashley Rix along with top scorer Mitchell Sinfield ensured the bowlers had something to aim for. Some tight bowling and excellent fielding kept the run rate of Camden down. Josh Craske was the pick of the bowling with 3 for 17 off of his 4 overs. A wag in the tail of the Camden lower order ensured a nervous finish, but skipper Jordan Calverley stepped up in the last over to bowl a maiden and confirm the victory and a place in the grand final.

Unfortunately the final just proved a bridge too far for the tired Clack boys, despite a stirring effort in the field and super bowling from strike bowler Mitchell Din, Stepney Green reached a total of 134. Clacks top order never really got into gear, but Jamie Gapes and Jordan Harris steadied the ship and provided hope of victory with valuable runs and some well timed shots. When they eventually went Clack were still 20 short of the target.

Although they finished disappointed, runner up in a competition that over 80 teams started in is still no mean feat. The boys hope to pick up where they left off next season and go one better.

The team – left to right

Back row – Craske, Din, Sinfield, Flaherty, Gapes, Honey, McAllister

Front row – Harvey, Wilson, Calverley, Harris, Rix, Ballard

Rounders

A massive congratulations to the Robert Clack Year 10 Rounders A Team for winning both the Borough Rally and Borough League. This is a great achievement since they have managed to retain both these titles since Year 7. The team this year consisted of – Alex Wood, Sian Tillett, Rosie Holloway, Lauren Parnell, Rochelle Rhodes, Kike Oniwinde, Kirsty Fletcher, Nicole Dalton, Natalie McGuigan and Alice Power. Well done to all the girls involved in rounders this year!

Miss Georgallides



Robert Clack joins the Sorrell Design Forum

Agne Trimakaite and Harry Coster were invited to join a group of six other students to work at the Sorrell Foundation in Somerset House in London. This Youth Design Forum will advise the Foundation on important design projects in the U.K. This has come as a direct result of the Robert Clack Building Schools for the Future Group's outstanding contribution to the Borough's BSF programme.

Mr Argent



Rounders

Congratulations to all the girls who participated in the Borough rounders rally in which Years 7, 9 and 10 were all successful in securing a medal. Girls from all year groups have trained very hard and have been rewarded with due success in both the Borough league and rally.

Well done girls.
Miss Godfrey

Holiday Dates



Thurs 17 July	Break up for Summer
Tue 2 September	Return to school
Fri 24 October	Break up for half term
Mon 3 November	Return to School
Tue 16 December	Break up for Christmas
Mon 5 January	Return to School
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