



# 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



LANGUAGE  
COLLEGES

**November 2009**

## Pupils receive Jack Petchey Awards

Three pupils at lower school received Jack Petchey Awards this week. They have overcome their own individual difficulties and have thrived at Robert Clack School. All three pupils have sunny personalities and always give 100% in all of their subjects. The proud recipients of this award are Callum Evans-David (Year 7), Lucy Rumble (Year 7) and Liam Bennett (Year 8). The pupils receive a certificate and badge and a cheque for £200.00 to give to a Charity of their choice. Congratulations to all three pupils we are very proud of you and your achievements.



## **Year 7 Meet the Form Tutor Evening**

We would like to thank all the Year 7 parents/carers who attended the meet the Form Tutor evening on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

We would also like to thank you for your patience while waiting to see your child's form tutor and also for the huge amount of positive feedback that we received on the night about how well your son/daughter has settled in at Robert Clack School.

Sir Paul Grant, Mr R Micek & Miss K Sturman

## **Website update**

Please can I make you aware that the menus for the canteen are available on the school's website. Please take a look as information is regularly updated there. [www.robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk](http://www.robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk)

Mr Williams

## **Year 7 Report**

Year 7 have had a really successful first half term and I'm delighted with their progress and how well they have settled in as I appreciate what a big change it is.

The pupils have fully supported the ethos of the school and we already have year 7 pupils competing in the Essex Cup for Netball as well as various other tournaments for Rugby, Football and Girls Rugby.

The school council is well supported by year 7 pupils and they are very active in various committees. Extra-curricular clubs are also well supported by year 7 and I am so pleased to see so many of them getting involved with what the school has to offer.

I was also very pleased to see so many of you support the parents' evening last week and I am grateful for all your help in ensuring that all the children achieve their full potential.

## **Year 8 Report**

The year group have been working really well this academic year. Their success has been pleasing to see both in the classroom and in their extra curricular clubs. A number of the year group have been involved in the Black History Month celebrations, auditions for Undiscovered and High School Musical. I was extremely pleased by the large representation of Year 8 pupils at the Goresbrook music event, the range of skills and talent on display was fantastic. Finally the pupils will be receiving their Appraisal certificates in their form class and assembly over the next few weeks and I am pleased to say that the year group have excelled themselves once again. It gives me and Miss Ezzat great pleasure to work with all of the pupils in Year 8 on a daily basis.

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

The Year 9 pupils on the Green Lane site have made a pleasing start to the year. As well as achieving good attainment levels at the end of the last half term, many pupils are engaged in extra-curricular activities and have been contributing positively to our school community. I am pleased to acknowledge our Netball and Football teams for numerous successes to date, the pupils who took part in the Black History event and those who have demonstrated great citizenship by supporting Year 7 pupils during homework club and around the school. A number of year 9s are very active in the School Council, proudly wearing their blue ties, whilst guiding visitors around the school, amongst other responsibilities. The pupils have taken their role as senior members of the learning community on the Green Lane site seriously and are continuing to set a standard of excellence in all areas.

## **Year 9 (Gosfield) Report**

Year 9 students on Gosfield need to be congratulated on the high number of A appraisals that have been achieved by a large proportion of the year group. I would like to publicly congratulate the following pupils who have achieved 10 or more A appraisals: Kevin Wilson, Claire Hudson, Bobbie Starbrook, Conchobar Free, Corey Tomlin, Dannii Humphrey, Sandra Thomson and Jamie Waite for their outstanding performance since September.

## **Year 10 Report**

Year 10 continue to make good progress this year. They recently undertook their first GCSE modular Maths exam, and their conduct was exemplary - we nervously await the results in January! They have also started collecting items for the Christmas hampers, and hopefully we will be able to outshine the Year 11s with our hampers!

## **Year 11 Report**

Congratulations to the following students who have recently received pupil of the week awards: Georgie Cameron, Michaela Cacchio, Emily Ganson and James Radford.

Year 11 are making great progress, working extremely hard on coursework and in preparing for their GCSE modules in January. I hope they revise thoroughly for the mock exams which are fast approaching.

## **Science News**

### **Scientists of the week**

This month's scientists of the week are:

Year 7 – Diellza Nishori, Stephanie Addo-Boadu, Amy Knight

Year 8 – Lucy Kingsley, Sarah Rochford, George Barnes

Year 9 (Green Lane) – Raymond Buchan, Leon Lindsay-Ayres

Year 9 (Gosfield Road) – Sandra Thompson

Year 10 – Charlotte Goodbody

Year 11 – Rosie Graham



Science

Very well done to these pupils for achieving the status of 'Scientist of the Week'. Your teachers have recommended you for the outstanding work you have achieved in your lessons. Congratulations!

### **Year 6 and 7 Science Clubs**

The Year 7 Science club has got off to an explosive start, with pupils taking part in a range of activities, including rocket making and testing, delving into the world of a crime scene investigator with fingerprinting, and having a thoroughly messy time making custard bouncy balls. The Year 7 club aims to give pupils the opportunity to look at various aspects of science that they wouldn't normally get the chance to do, and all in all, I think everyone, teachers and pupils alike, have enjoyed the club and look forward to it continuing throughout the year. Many thanks to all the teachers who have helped out by running one of the sessions or have put themselves down to run one in the future.

The year 6 science club has also begun this half term with pupils from 4 local primary schools taking part. The pupils have commented on how excited they are working in a science lab and using facilities that they would not be able to access at primary school. Special thanks should go to Mrs Ward and Mrs Warden in arranging the club to run as smoothly as it does, especially as I know it takes a lot of time and commitment. Thank you also to the teachers that have given up some of their time to entertain and teach the year 6 pupils.

### **Scene of Crime Officer Visit**

Earlier this week several of our Year 10 and 11 pupils had the opportunity to meet Lorna Reeves, a Crime Scene Investigator with the Metropolitan Police Force. Lorna demonstrated to pupils techniques commonly used at crime scenes to collect evidence and shared her experiences with them. Pupils were also able to interview Lorna, providing a source of information that will assist them in completing their Applied Science coursework. Particular interest was shown in the tales of the more gruesome cases!



### **Policy on holidays during term time**

As you are no doubt aware, in recent times there has been a great deal of coverage nationally about the importance of school attendance and holidays taken during term time. Children are required, by law, to attend school regularly. When children miss time from school it disrupts their education and affects their attainment. Consequently, at the request of the Local Authority and Central Government, the Governing Body of Robert Clack School has decided to adopt a position of not authorising requests for leave of absence (commonly referred to as term time holidays).

You may request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances or on compassionate grounds but we are not obliged to grant it. Should you wish to request leave of absence please write to Mr R. Taylor, Deputy Headteacher, outlining the reason for your request. Please be aware that if a request is refused and your child still incurs unauthorised absences, the Local Authority

may issue a Penalty Notice against you. If a Penalty Notice is issued and you wish to appeal on the grounds that it was issued wrongly or unfairly, then the appeal will be considered by the Governing Body.

## **Fair Processing Notice at Robert Clack School**

As a school holding personal information on computer about your son/daughter we are obliged to inform you that this information may be shared with other government departments and agencies.

### **DATA PROTECTION ACT**

Schools, Local Authorities (LAs), the Department for Children, School and Families (DCSF), the government department which deals with education, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), Ofsted and the Learning Skills Council (LSC) all process information on pupils in order to run the education system and Department of Health (DH) and Primary Care Trust (PCTs) process information on pupils in order to tackle the year on year rise in obesity amongst children and in doing so have to comply with the Data Protection Act 2003. This means, among other things that the data held about pupils must only be used for specific purposes allowed by law. We are therefore writing to tell you about the types of data held, and to whom it may be passed on.

The school holds information on pupils in order to support their teaching and learning, to monitor and report in their progress, to provide appropriate pastoral care, and to assess how well the school as a whole is doing. This information included contact details, National Curriculum assessment results, attendance information, characteristics such as ethnic group, special educational needs and any relevant medical information. From time to time schools are required to pass on some of this data to LAs, the DCSF and to agencies, such as QCA, Ofsted and LSC, that are prescribed by law.

Details of how the LA, QCA, Ofsted, LSC, DCSF, DH and PCTs use this information can be obtained from the school.

## **PROVIDING INFORMATION TO CONNEXIONS SERVICES PROVIDERS**

For pupils approaching or above 13, the school is also required to pass on information to Connexions services providers on request. This information includes the name and address of the pupil and parent, and any further information relevant to the Connexions services' role, which is to support young people, helping them to achieve their potential and to realise benefits from education and training. However parents, or the pupil themselves if aged 16 or over, can ask that no information beyond name and address (for pupil and parent) be passed to Connexions. If as a parent, or as a pupil aged 16 or over, you do not want Connexions to receive from the school information beyond name and address, then please contact the school Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December. If you do not notify the school that you wish to exercise your right to opt out after 5<sup>th</sup> December information will be passed to Connexions providers upon request.

## Christmas Concert

This year's Christmas concert will take place at 7.00pm on Monday 7th December in the Assembly Hall at Lower Site.

Lots of Students will be taking part and I'm sure they will be very appreciative of your support.

There is something for everyone so come along and celebrate the festive season and the wonderful talent of Robert Clack Students.

Tickets will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> December and money raised will go to the homeless charity Shelter for their Christmas appeal.

Miss Garlick

## Debate Club

This half term has seen the launch of this years *Debate Mate* programme. This year's launch event was held at the Royal Institute in London. At the event there were two debates to show the members of the debate club how formal debates are held and structured.



Last year the Robert Clack debate team were incredibly successful and became Borough Champions, as result of this our winning team, Audrey Boum-Enock, John Hattam, Nyasha Hove and Reece Weaver were personally selected by *Debate Mate* to take part in the opening debates.



This was an amazing opportunity for our debate team as they were given the chance to debate against and with world champion debaters. These pupils were excellent representatives for the school as they



debated in front of a 300 strong audience which included business executives who fund *Debate Mate*, a member of Parliament and not mention Margaret from The Apprentice who chaired the debate!

As a result of their successes debate club this year has seen a huge up take in membership across years 7- 10. All members are displaying enthusiasm and drive to continue the success of last year. The debate club is also being supported by two mentors from *Debate Mate* who are



training our pupils before they enter this years competitions. I look forward to the Robert Clack debaters having another successful year in debate.

E Valentine

## Lost Property

Has your child lost something this term? If yes, it may be located in the following areas:

Lower School site lost property is kept in the LSC and can be collected from Mrs Leggett at break or lunch during the school day.

Upper School site lost property is handed in to the main office and stored under the A staircase and can be accessed from the main office at break or lunch during the school day.

## School Uniform

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.

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 cotton shirt with collar	School tie worn to waist length
School tie worn to waist length	V necked black jumper (optional)
Plain black or flesh coloured tights or black ankle length turnover socks	Conventional black leather shoes. *
Conventional flat leather black shoes with fitting heel and toe (no 'fashion shoes' e.g. stiletto heels, platforms or ankle straps). *	
V necked black jumper (optional)	
Narrow hair bands, which are in keeping with school uniform colours (Red, black or white)	

\*Kicker shoes can be worn in school only if all the stitching and soles are black and any Kicker tags are removed. **KICKER BOOTS ARE NOT ALLOWED.** Boots, "Timberland", Lacoste, trainers, baseball caps and cardigans/tank tops are not allowed. Jewellery, including earrings, is not permitted. It may be confiscated and kept in a safe place until collected by parents. Also, extremes in appearance cosmetically such as make-up, false nails and unnatural hair extension or dye are not allowed. The Governors reserve the right to send pupils home who are inappropriately dressed

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).

## **Bicycles**

A reminder to pupils that bicycles should not be brought to school. Also we have been informed by local residents living in the vicinity of the back entrance of the Green Lane site that they have been advised to lock the footpath which runs parallel to the area behind the lower school kitchens. Bicycles should not therefore be stored in this area. Any bikes in this area can be removed.

## **Medical Appointments**

Whilst we understand that sometimes it is necessary for students to attend medical appointments during schools hours, we would ask that you keep such appointments to a minimum as it can be detrimental to your child's education for them to regularly miss lessons.

In addition please can parents be aware that if students are to be withdrawn from school part way through the day the school needs to have this in writing. It is important for our records that students' withdrawal is not requested over the phone. We thank you with your support in this matter.

## **Dates for your diary**

Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> December

6<sup>th</sup> Form Parents Evening at All Saints



## **Holiday Dates**

<b>Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Break up for Christmas</b>
<b>Tue 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Return to School</b>
<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>

