



Robert Clack School of Science A Specialist College Newsletter



Science



Maths &
Computing

www.robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk

October 2008

Dear Parents

Key Stage 3 Tests

Arrangements for this year will be the same as previous years. I note in the Secretary of State's letter dated 14th October, the following very important sentence, "Teacher assessment will be carried out and reported as normal in 2009 and the National Assessment Agency will provide KS3 test papers to any schools that wish to use them." We will be invoking this clause given that our teachers and children have already put in a huge amount of effort and work into preparation for the test.

The announcement, of course will have ramifications for our curriculum design in 2009-2010 and we will be informing you all about those changes at the appropriate time.

P. Grant

Election of Parent Governor

Please find attached to this Newsletter a voting form for the position of Parent Governor at the Robert Clack School There have been four parents nominated for the two vacant positions and parents are asked to register their vote for two candidates of their choice. Voting forms should be returned to the school office in the envelope provided by Friday 7th November.

Robert Clack visit the DCFS in London

On 7th October 2008 Harry Coster presented the pupil brief for Barking and Dagenham to Jim Knight the Secretary of State for Children and Families at the Headquarters in London. Harry, a Year 10 student at Robert Clack School, gave a five minute speech to the minister and other important educational administrators with four other students who together represented over 100 schools in the U.K.

Harry and Agne Trimikaite were invited after Robert Clack's successful input into the Sorrell Foundation's Building Schools for the Future programme to join the foundation's pupil advisory board.



Congratulations must go to Harry and Agne on representing the school to such impressive effect.

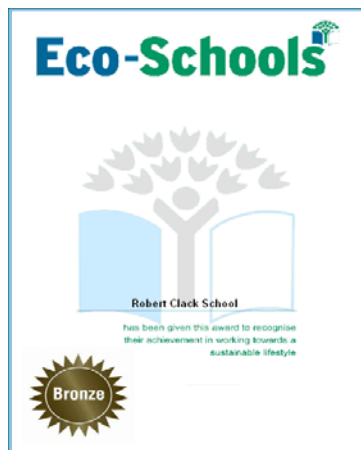
P. Grant

Science news

EcoSchools Campaign group



Science



Following the success of being awarded the “EcoSchools Bronze Award”, a group of year 11 and 10 students have begun work on this year’s EcoSchools targets.

Andrew Crawford, Enrik Nako, Ben Thorne, Luke Battle & Connor Murray are leading the way to earn the Silver Award for the school this year.

New members are welcome to join the EcoSchools Group – we meet every Tuesday 3.15 – 4.15pm in Mr Davis’s lab (lab 1).

“TURN IT OFF!” CAMPAIGN

This year’s targets for the school include:

- reducing our energy bills by at least 10%
- improving our school grounds by cutting down on litter
- working with an expert consultant, ‘Mr Greeny’ to guide us



Two pupils designed these “TURN IT OFF” campaign wristbands, which were given to all staff and can be bought by pupils for just £1. All money will go towards other Eco projects.

These remind us to TURN OFF equipment when we don’t need it:

TURN OFF LIGHTS when we leave a room

TURN OFF COMPUTERS at end of day

REPORT problems to site staff.

Dr Laura Grant leads active research project.

Five Year 10 students have earned places to work on an active research project with Dr Laura Grant. We're delighted to be working with Laura again. Beth Berrett, Sallyann Sindrey, Luke Battle, Paris Rhodes and Connor Murray were all successful in their applications to train as researchers and take part in this project looking at public opinions on patient records held by the NHS.



Dr Grant with Beth Berrett

6th form trip to HONDURAS ! – July 2009



The school is organising a once in a lifetime trip to Honduras this coming summer! So far 20 committed pupils have signed up and paid deposits to be able to travel to Honduras (central America) and take part in active conservation work in the forests. They will also learn to SCUBA dive and earn their PADI



qualification. Each team member needs to raise £1500 to travel and any help that you can give them will be so helpful! Fundraising events will be coming up soon!



Scientists of the week

Scientists of the week awards have been made to:

Year 7 - Matthew Clarke, Kajal Ruparell, **David Stone**

Year 8 - **Mazie Gatt**, Taylor Fenton, Devon Cooney

Year 9 - Lewis Howlett, Connor Bentley, Taya Staff

For their excellent effort & aptitude towards science

Year 10 - Tayla Scannel for continued excellent classwork and homework & Cheryl Adams for her excellent approach in lessons – particularly in helping her group to work effectively on some collaborative tasks throughout the last week

Year 11 – Ben Thorne for outstanding piece of work on climate change & Edward Searle for an excellent coursework investigation

Winners receive a badge, a certificate and a pass that allows them and a friend to bypass the one way system at lunchtimes.

The French Department

Over the last 7 weeks there has lots been going on in the French Department!

Possibly the most popular of all the events was the trip to Normandy arranged by Mrs Ansell for our year 9 pupils. In just 5 days we managed to pack in a visit to a chateau to do rock-climbing, archery and aero-balle (basically netball on a trampoline!), a visit to the D-DAY landing beaches, a visit to the cemetery for British WW2 soldiers, a treasure hunt on the beach, a music concert on the beach, a talent show, a visit to the Mont St. Michel and lots of shopping! And the majority of this was completed in French as 'Stouff' our French guide did not speak English. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all, the pupils got to put into practise the French they had learnt in the classroom and the staff were thoroughly impressed by the attitude of all those who took part.



Mrs. Ansell also had the pleasure of picking up the International School Award given to the school for its excellent contacts with other cultures through clubs, classroom activities and partnerships with schools abroad. We all hope to see these links develop further for the benefit of our pupils.

Year 7 have settled in well and are enjoying studying French through a new revised curriculum. This means they get the chance to have highly interactive lessons using interactive websites, French films, radio, speaking projects and lots more. The results seem so far very positive.

Finally we would like to welcome to the Department Miss Thomas and Mr. Parry who started with us in September.

Photography Club Competition

The first photography competition of the year is now underway. Pupils need to see Mr. Morgan in room. 25 for more details.

The deadline for submissions is the first Friday back after half term. One of the entries from last year is shown below.

Mr. Morgan



Gifted and Talented

As ever, there is a lot going on for gifted and talented pupils at Robert Clack. Below is a report from a recent trip our Year 8s took part in to involve them in the borough's preparation for the Olympics. As well as the final of this event in December, some of the pupils involved have been invited to talk to councillors and local business people on how the borough should prepare for the Olympics in a consultation event this week.

Preparations are underway for the next Model United Nations conference we will participate in. Our pupils will represent Qatar, Australia, Mauritius, France and Greece in debates on stopping violence against women. In addition, pupils will be offered further opportunities to improve their debating skills through a major new project, which will launch on upper and lower schools in November, involving debating coaches from London Universities working with our students.

Mr Jenkins
Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator

Gifted And Talented Olympic Challenge

Two weeks ago I and a team from Robert Clack went to Jo Richardson to take part in the Gifted and Talented Olympic Challenge. I was elected team captain and we were given our challenge: to create a presentation on how to make the borough a better place for the Olympic Games, an audit of costs for different projects and a £64 million budget. We had to decide how much to spend and what to spend it on. We decided on a range of different projects, mostly in the health and wellbeing category and got to work on the presentation.



We decided roles and what to include through a debate. We each wrote our own scripts and divided up the presentation as follows; Aziz-opening, Robbie-transport, Navdeep- environment, Gabby-culture, me-wellbeing and summary and Justin took responsibility for the PowerPoint.

Even though we were nervous we encouraged each other and the presentation went really well. When we had finished I had to answer one of the judge's questions. When the judges decision came we were all very pleased and delighted that we had made it through to the final.



By Reece Weaver

“Wicked”

On Wednesday, 15th October, we, 225 children and staff went to the Apollo Victoria, in London, to see the now famous production of “Wicked”.



The story is very closely connected to the story “The Wizard of Oz”: it tells how the wicked witch of the west came to be so evil. Born green, picked on by lots of people and destroyed by that little girl from Kansas, Dorothy. But it has a happy ending which I won't ruin for you. Here are the reactions of two pupils who attended:

“I was so excited when I went to pay for “Wicked”. The queue was absolutely massive: It was half way round the school. I thought I'd never get a place but luckily I did. On the night of the show I couldn't be more excited. We left the school at 5.30pm. As I was on the coach I had lots of fun. At that moment I was so excited I couldn't stop thinking about it.

When I arrived at the Apollo Theatre in London I couldn't believe it. The outside was so bright and beautiful. My best friend Abigail Cook thought it was so pretty. It was even more beautiful inside. There were lots of pretty, bright lights inside. The seats were so comfortable.

Then there was the whole production. It was absolutely fantastic. There was singing and lot's more. I was speechless. The play was so good. I thought that they must have rehearsed and performed for ages, which they have and they got it 100% perfect. The production was terrific. There were two main characters, Elphaba and Galinda. They were both brilliant singers and there were also lots of special effects. My favourite part was when the witch was about twenty five feet in the air and her cape was blowing all around her.

If I could get another chance to watch that again I would. Even better, I could watch it a 100 times and still not get bored.

After the show I was so happy I couldn't get to sleep on the coach. We finally reached the Civic Centre at 11.20pm. Everyone was happy that they went and so was I.

I wish I could go all over again. I think everyone else thinks that too".

By Sarah Rochford 7A1

"A few weeks ago we got a letter explaining a trip to the West End show "Wicked". I signed up for it and got a reply saying I could go. I was so excited. So on the 15th October we turned up at the school by 5.30pm to get on our coach. When we got into London I couldn't help but take a photo of the London Eye. When we got there we were welcomed with a huge "Wicked" sign. I thought it was amazing because the whole entrance was lit up green. I was thrilled when I found out we were sitting in the stalls. Plus the production was great. It started with a huge dragon above the stage and loud music, so loud I thought my body was going to explode. Then Glinda came down in a giant bubble. It was fantastic because all the actors were full of energy. My favourite part was when Elphaba sang her solo and her cape became bigger, as she floated twenty five feet above the stage, and it was great when the flying monkey started dancing.

Then when it finally finished, and we got back on the coach and arrived back at the Civic Centre at 11.20pm

Thanks to Mr Hopkins for arranging a superb trip".

By Nikki Relf 7E1

Enterprise Education

Excellence in Enterprise Education bursary programmes

Bursary programme 2007/8

Those students from Robert Clack who took part in the 2007/8 bursary programme will be attending a closing ceremony at the Civic Centre, Dagenham on Friday 7th November. This is to acknowledge their efforts and successful completion of the programme.

Congratulations to the following students (currently in Year 13) who completed the programme:

Sports bursary	Science bursary	Business bursary
Lee Wilkins	Kelly Atkins	Whitney Afram
Billy Driver	Samir Hamdaoui	Joanna Akrofi
Bradley Reece	Gamuchirai Mawoyo	Samuel Bale
Devon Samson	Chris Lemmerman	Jehosheba Bamgbose
Laura Townsend	Kazime Lamina	Daniel Cattini
	Reece Clark	Eoin Murphy
	Alex Aidoo-Micah	

New bursary intake – 2008/9

Following a competitive application process, 30 students (aged 16-17) from across Barking and Dagenham have been recruited to the bursary programmes for Sport, Business and Science for 2008/9. This includes a number from Robert Clack. The names of which will be published in the November newsletter. The students will take part in a number of events, activities and workshops designed to inspire and motivate them in their chosen discipline while providing them with career opportunities.

Forthcoming events:

Business and Science students: Corporate mentoring: (10th November 2008)
This is a professional mentoring scheme given by Limitless London. This is run by two young professionals from the legal industry who are keen to support sixth form students. The programme will provide students with the framework in which they can consider their available options following A Levels. This event will involve between 20-30 Year 12 students from Robert Clack.

Sports students: Workshop of setting goals and objectives – Amelia Scott from Vitacoaching. Wednesday 26th November. Participants will learn how to set goals and objectives and the importance of this with qualified professional Amelia Scott from Vitacoaching.

Other Enterprise events:

Radio project:

Twelve year 8 students have begun the radio project for this year in partnership with Prestigious entertainment. This is an extra curricular activity in the CLC using state of the art equipment. They are learning the basic skills connected with running and delivering a radio show. Other students will get the opportunity to participate throughout the year.

National Enterprise Week (17th to 21st November 2008)

An exciting and innovative programme is planned for this week. This will involve whole school and mini project activities across most year groups.

For further information on Enterprise education please contact either Mr Tierney, Mr Gauthier or Mr Jarrett on 0208 724 4189.

Food Technology

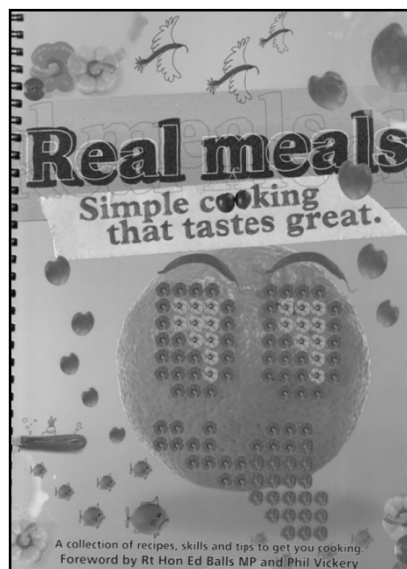
Free Cookbook for Every Year 7 Pupil:

As part of the Government's ongoing investment programme to teach children to cook, each Year 7 pupil will receive a free cook book entitled 'Real Meals'. The book will be given out during Year 7 lessons after half term.

The book has been designed for young people to cook healthy, tasty meals whether it is in a lesson at school or at home with their family. Every recipe in the book meets with the healthy eating guidelines and uses simple ingredients and simple equipment. Although some of the recipes will be covered in lessons there will be plenty that you could try with your child as well!

Recipes Include:

- Spicy Tomato Soup
- Beef and Veggie Stew
- Chicken Casserole
- Hotpot
- Roast and all the trimmings
- Mushroom Risotto
- Spaghetti Bolognese
- Chilli Con Carne
- Vegetable Lasagne
- Chow Mein
- Fajitas
- Lamb Rogan Josh
- Chicken Pasts Salad
- Ragu
- Apple Crumble
- Fruit Pie



For further information or to download the recipes visit:

<http://www.letsgetcooking.org.uk/News/F5y4>

Robert Clack Post 16 Information Evening

On Thursday 13th November Robert Clack will be hosting its Post 16 Information Evening on the Upper School site. All Year 11 students who are interested in continuing their studies into Sixth Form should attend the evening. A letter will be sent out shortly after half term with more detailed information.

Netball

On Monday 20th October the Netball under 14 squad played amazingly well in the borough rally to secure a place in the county netball competition on Sunday 16th November. Well done to the below girls on their hard work and good luck in the county games.



Audrey Boum Enock, Sofyat Kasim, Kirstie Woodgate, Gemma Bailey, Hayley Oakhill, Shiann Evans, Georgia Potter, Rebecca Sobodu and Carla Forbes.
Mrs Kirby

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's Counselling Service

A counsellor from the health service will be in school twice a week, holding timetabled sessions in the morning and a drop-in session one lunchtime. All sessions are confidential.

This service is available to all pupils on the Green Lane site, however, if you do not wish your son/daughter to have access to this facility please contact the School office on 020 8270 4222.

Should you require any further information or wish to discuss the matter please contact Mr Argent on 020 8270 4222.

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 or
Black knee length box pleated skirt
White cotton shirt with collar
School tie worn to waist length
Black or flesh coloured tights or
white socks
Flat black shoes with fitting heel and
Toe no Kickers or boots

For Boys

Black blazer with school badge
Black trouser
White cotton shirt with collar
School tie worn to waist length
Black shoes no Kickers or boots

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 make-up, hair styles etc.

As the weather deteriorates during this term, could parents please ensure that all pupils have suitable warm overcoats.

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

Mon 10 November

Year 7 Parents Evening with Form Tutors
4.30-7.30pm, Green Lane

Thurs 13 November

Robert Clack Post 16 Information Evening

Holiday Dates



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