



Robert Clack School of Science A Specialist College Newsletter



Science



extended
schools



Maths &
Computing



www.robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk

September 2008

I would like to take this opportunity, at the start of the school year, to welcome new parents, guardians and carers to our school community. I look forward to working with you in partnership throughout the coming year.

I wish all of our pupils and families every success and good health and happiness in the future.

P Grant

Open Evening – Thursday 2nd October 6.00pm-9.00pm

The annual school Open Evening will be held on Thursday 2nd October from 6.00-9.00pm on the Green Lane site. The evening is aimed at Year 6 pupils and their parents who are beginning the process of selecting their secondary school. Open Evening is an excellent opportunity for the school to showcase its achievements. To facilitate preparations for this important evening both Green Lane and Gosfield Road sites will be closing at 2.00pm on that afternoon.

School Security

In the interests of school security we would be grateful if parents/guardians and carers would meet children outside the main school gate. As we are sure you will appreciate it is in the best interests of pupils and staff to ensure that the site is secure at all times. In order to maintain health and safety on site we would also appreciate parents not driving onto the school site at the start and end of each day to collect children.

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.



International School Award

Robert Clack School has been successful in gaining The International School Award for its continuing international involvement throughout school life and within the curriculum.

This achievement has been awarded thanks to all members of staff and pupils and throughout the last academic year, many events with an international flavour have taken place, including the Year 8's International Day, African drumming in music lessons and Indian Cooking in Food Technology lessons. Additionally, many activities and trips have taken place outside of school for pupils to learn and experience from, such as the day trips to France for Year 7's, the Mondialogo project and the Model United Nations Conferences.

We have also been able to foster links with schools in other countries which is an excellent opportunity to learn about different cultures and create friendships.

Congratulations to everyone who has taken part in helping to achieve this award. We are fortunate enough to have pupils and teachers from many different countries in the world, something we can celebrate and feel very fortunate about.

Mrs Ansell

Science news



Welcome to Robert Clack School of Science

A big welcome to our new students joining the school this September. One thing is for sure, if you like science, you're in a great place. Robert Clack has been a Science Specialist school for 5 years now and in that time we have spent money on some very interesting projects, including:

- A 6th form conservation trip to Indonesia
- Trips to the science museum, London Zoo & ecology parks
- Year 7 & 8 Science Activity Days
- Visitors from BP, Pfizer, Cambridge University & RSPB
- A-level Biology field trip
- Science week events
- A innovative Music & Science project

- Science, maths & ICT joint project
- Sustainable Schools sub-committee & EcoSchool Bronze Award



It is our aim to reach every pupil in the school with a Science Specialist activity during the course of each year. You can help yourselves by looking out for opportunities and getting involved. Ask your science teacher for more information.

Science gets the thumbs up! – recent survey results

In a recent survey, 744 pupils from all year groups completed a survey about their thoughts on science. Some of the results are shown here:

90% were satisfied with the delivery of science in the school.
78% thought that their science teachers were good or better
71% thought that there was a 'point' in learning science.
80% believed that science was of practical use outside lessons and school.
86% responded that an understanding of science would improve their life in some way.

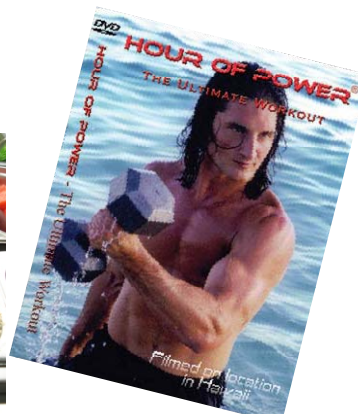
We are very pleased to hear that our students are so positive about science and your teachers.

Healthy School

We encourage all pupils and staff to be fit and healthy. To support this there is:

- A salad bar at lunchtimes
- A popular breakfast club with smoothies, toast, cereals & newspapers
- After school sports clubs & fitness classes

We know that if you are fit and healthy, you can lead happier and more successful lives!



Scientists of the week



Scientist of the week awards are made weekly on both sites in each year group. Your science teacher needs to nominate you for the award based on something exceptional that you have done. It might be an outstanding piece of homework, a great experiment, demonstrating great scientific thinking.

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

Have a great year!

We hope that all our students coming to science enjoy their lessons and work hard. Good grades in science are always very useful on a CV.

If you have ideas for extra clubs or need any extra help from your teachers, just come and ask us.

Upper School Healthy Breakfast Club

Every day from 8am to 8:40 there is a range of Breakfast options available in the lunch hall, including:

- Smoothies
- Cereals
- Yogurt
- Fruit
- Toast
- Eggs (Free range, Organic)
- Bacon rolls



Many of these items are sold at HALF PRICE to make sure that all pupils start the day with a healthy breakfast, as this has been scientifically linked with higher levels of concentration and achievement in school.

Breakfast Club also offers a relaxed atmosphere to read, socialise or study before school.

Breakfast club is open to pupils from all year groups and all staff... Enjoy!

Robert Clack Association Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Robert Clack Association will be held on Monday 22nd September at 7.00pm on the Green Lane site. This will be an informal meeting and an opportunity for parents to meet with members of the committee to find out about the work of the association. In particular we would welcome parents of children new to the school.

This is always an enjoyable and informative meeting and drinks and refreshments will be available. We look forward to meeting you.

Jill Douglas
Chair

Gifted and Talented Model United Nations Conference

Students from Robert Clack researched, debated and negotiated to form coalitions and pass resolutions as they worked as the ambassadors for Bolivia, Australia and Guinea at the Mulberry Model United Nations on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th July. Just like the real United Nations, this Conference involved countries with different points of view finding ways they could work together to achieve their countries objectives and improve the world.

The subject was the Eradication of Poverty, and students had to research issues around global poverty and the views of the country they were representing in advance. At the Conference, Robert Clack students worked with pupils from around London in different committees, ranging from UNICEF, which focused on issues affecting children, to the committee on sustainable development, which looked for long-term solutions to poverty.

Robert Clack students performed magnificently, taking the lead and holding their own in discussions with older pupils and those with years of experience of Model United Nations. Kayleigh Pitt completed detailed preparation and was particularly influential in her committee, where she represented Australia and David Lee and Sam Olawanle both overcame early nerves to make excellent contributions as ambassadors for Guinea. Pride of place goes to Frankie Mcfarlane who was singled for a Special Mention in his committee for his strong negotiating and debating, a notable achievement, as there were pupils as much as four years older in his committee.

All students enjoyed the experience and are keen to participate in Model United Nations conferences in the future. Congratulations to all who took part.

J Jenkins (Gifted and Talented Coordinator)



FOOD TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Thursday 12TH JUNE – Indian cooking event

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Ruby Khan into the department to work with some of our year 8 students. She is an experienced cook and taught the pupils how to make some delicious vegetarian and meat samosas. They thoroughly enjoyed learning all the techniques involved and were very proud of their results. We will be doing similar events this academic year.



Tuesday 24th June –International Day

As part of this day our year 8 pupils sampled a wide variety of international foods reflecting some of the areas our students come from. They were able to taste African stew, Turkish honey cake, plantain, samosas, polish sausages and haggis to name but a few. The majority of pupils had a very mature approach and eagerly tasted the dishes. Special mention should go to Zeyhal Ozulku, Taoheed Bamidele and Bamidele Soetan for bringing in food for the groups to share.



Thursday 3rd July – Indian Restaurant Visit

Mr Kirkbride, Mrs Firman, Mr Maudsley and I took a group of 31 year 9 catering students to Chandni Chowk (a local Indian restaurant) in order to experience Indian cuisine. We walked there so by the time we arrived the pupils were very hungry which was just as well as we were treated to an immense lunch. The idea was to introduce Indian food to those people who had never tasted it before and to learn about ingredients and methods of cooking related to the dishes. A variety of snacks, drinks, chicken tikka and sweets were served and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The staff at Chandni Chowks' were extremely helpful and explained in detail how each dish was made. The pupils responded well and were a credit to themselves and the school.



Mrs G Hopkins



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.

Payment of School trip money

If pupils are paying for trips, uniform etc could you please note that payments should be made by students between 8.15 and 8.45am. If payment is being made by cheque we would be grateful if you could write the students name and form on the reverse of the cheque.



Dates for your Diary

Sat 20 September	Year 9 French Trip (until 24 September)
Mon 22 September	RCA AGM 7.00pm (Lower School)
Mon 22 – Tue 23 September	MidYis tests for Year 7
Fri 26 September	School Individual Photographs
Mon 3 November	Year 7 Parents Evening with Form Tutors 4.30-7.30pm, Green Lane
Tue 5 May 2009	Year 9 SAT tests (all week)

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