

The German department would like to congratulate students on some very good results this year. A level results were pleasing with **Anna Burgoine** getting a very good B at A2 and **Cameron Atkinson** achieving an A grade at AS. 19% of our GCSE students achieved A\* or A grades, even though grade boundaries were very high this year. **Daniel Yip** and **Emma Woodhouse** were very close to full marks overall, an exceptional achievement.

### HUMANITIES

The History department were delighted again with results across the department this year. At GCSE 81% of students achieved grades A\* - C with 25 students gaining A\* and 31 students attaining grade A. This meant that over 43% of students entered gained A\* or A grade.

Special mention must go to the following students who gained full marks in the final exam: **Holly Bland, Chloe Bowerbank, Rory Brown, Jamie Engineer, Connor Griffith, Amy Hall, Vanessa Hill, Elizabeth Jamieson, Penny McNally, Ellie Mitchell, Samuel Millingham, Alex Sharpe, Mary Simper, Hannah Winslade** and **Susannah Payne**.



Congratulations should also go to **James Clarke** and **Alice Dent** who both gained three grades higher than indicated and to **Rory Brown, Jack Keenan, Mary Simper, Lino Grillo, Toni Parker, Sam Bush, Jack Chellew** and **Samuel Millington** who all attained 2 grades higher than indicated.

At A2, 46% of students achieved A\*-B grades and there was 100% pass rate. **Alex Hopwood** gained A\* and **Jonathan Hicks, Alex Howard** and **Sasha Rutherford** achieved A grades.

At AS, 42% of students achieved grades A and B with congratulations going to **Jemma Allman, Harriett Gribbin,**

**Kieran Jeffs, Serena Kang, Amber Reidy, Rachel Sears** and **Rebecca Sykes** who all attained an A grade.

The Government & Politics staff were also very pleased with student achievement again this year. A2 saw 50% of students achieving an A or B with A grades going to **Ella Franceys** and **Sasha Rutherford**.

At AS 47% of students obtained A or B grades. Special mention must go to **Ryan Austin** who only dropped one mark in the two units and to **Amber Reidy** for her richly deserved grade A.

May I take this opportunity to thank both students and staff for their diligence and dedication throughout the past two years without which the above would not have been possible.

*Mr V Parry*

### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

26% of year 11 students achieved an A or A\* in their GCSE exams this summer. Special praise goes to **Sadie Rodell** who scored 200/200 and **Vanessa Hill** who dropped just 2 marks - outstanding achievements for both girls.

At AS level **Omar Akhtar Hernandez** and **Roberta Philip** both achieved A grades, beating their indicator grades by 3 and 2 levels respectively. **Gaia Ward, Alice Satchell** and **Ryan Austin** also gained an A.

**Oliver Rayner** achieved our first A\* at A2 and **Hannah Lim** achieved an A. 50% of the students achieved A\*-B grades overall.

*Miss K Eldridge*

### BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

#### GCSE APPLIED BUSINESS

The excellent work which the GCSE Applied Business students produced was complemented by the Examination Board. Students who did particularly well and achieved at least one grade above their indicator included **Thomas Allen, Sophie Ayres, Rory Brown, Jack Devereux, Jennifer Dodds, Callum Donbavand, James Freeman, Leah Henton, Mathew Hill, Alex Keel, Georgia Lee, Axil Sudra, Olivia Taylor, Adrees Tinkler** and **Nicholas Welton**.

#### GCSE BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS AND SYSTEMS

40% of students achieved above a B which was exemplary with 40% of the students achieving one grade above their indicator. Students who did particularly well included **Lucy Davies, Ross Davis, Mark Gilbert** and **Lino Grillo**.

### GCE APPLIED BUSINESS

Students exceeded their indicators at AS level with many achieving positive residuals including: **Evie Archer, Sophie Ayres, Paige Barringer, Keaton Cook, Daniel Coyle, Nathan Cubley, Sam Farrar, Michael Fletcher, Gwenda Goddard-Mason, Jeremy Hall, Gabriella Harper, Gabrielle Puddicombe, Harry Waller,** and **Kieran Willis**.

### A2 APPLIED BUSINESS

This year **Laura Collier** achieved an A\* and was only a few marks off gaining full marks on both examinations and coursework. Other students who achieved a high grade included **Jordan Darvall, Danielle Day, Michael Herrera, Stephanie Moore, Oliver Potter, Serena Wallinger, Jonathan Wood** and **Zoe Johnson**.

### A2 ECONOMICS

86% of students achieved a grade C or above and the following students did particularly well achieving a high grade or a grade beyond their expectations, though they found the course very challenging: **James Abbott, Laura Collier, Michael Tate** and **Alex Wallman**.

#### WELL DONE TO ALL THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS STUDENTS.

### LAW

The Law students were rewarded for their hard work with a fantastic set of results.

At A2, special congratulations to **Aimee Alfieri, Eleanor Judge, Alex Smith** and **Rebecca Stringer** who all exceeded their indicators by 2 grades to achieve A\* results and were joined by **Eleanor Durcan, Alex Hopwood** and **Sarah Thacker** to give a record 7 A\* grades. This was 28% of the cohort and over 5 times the national average. With another 5 students achieving A grades this meant 48% of the class gained an A or A\* grade against a national average in law of 18%. **Jennifer Bluffield** and **Jonathan Hicks** both exceeded their indicators by 2 places to achieve their A grades.

Overall, 80% of the cohort achieved B or above and 17 students exceeded their indicator grades.

AS students should be equally proud of their achievements, with 82% of the class gaining an A or B grade, against a national average of 28%. Special mention must go to **Beth Goodall, Nicola Mintern** and **Katie Blake** who exceeded their indicators by 3 places to achieve their very well-deserved A grades. Overall, all but 1 of the 17 AS students exceeded their indicator grade, and 9 by 2 grades or more.

Well done law students – you are all stars. *Mrs L Beamish*

### ICT

Yet again another set of fantastic results for ICT:

- 98% pass rate for OCR Nationals in ICT Level 2
- 100% pass rate for OCR Nationals in ICT Level 3

### AGRICULTURE

Another year another remarkable set of grades achieved by our students. The A\* - C pass rate nationally for this course is 26% and the Redborne students achieved an amazing 94%. Almost all the students achieved their target grade or better and in Mr Hodds' group **George Ash, Sophie Ayres, Emma Bright, Jenny Kent** and **Beth Smith** all achieved an overall A-grade so very well done to those students. As teachers, we always encourage our students to reach for the skies and it was pleasing to see that **Sophie Ayres, James Clark, Beth Rice** and **Rachel Taylor** all achieved higher than their indicator grades, with **Sophie Ayres** following a family tradition of smashing her indicator grade by two grades and achieving an A. One student who deserves a particular mention is **Abi Reardon** who finished year 10 with an E grade but pulled it around in year 11 (with a lot of support from Mr Scott with coursework) to achieve her target grade of a C, extremely well done I am very proud of you!

**Tom Green** received our first A\* one of only 2 awarded nationally and one of only 3 ever awarded in the history of the course. We also achieved a further 4 A's, 5 B's and 4 C's. All of the students worked exceptionally hard with many achieving over their indicated grades. Further mention should go to **Emma Fredrickson** who gained an A grade despite struggling with the new computer based tests and **Jack Tomkins** and **Callum Smith** who really rose to the challenges set.

*Mr A Hodds*

Our BTEC students passed with a 100% pass rate gaining either 2 GCSEs grade C or above and our double students achieved 4 grade C's or above. Of particular note were **Scott Hull, James Foster, Jack Rogers** and **Luke Turner** who all achieved above their indicator grades. All of the BTEC students achieved excellent results and we are very proud of them.



# Newsletter

### Dear Parents

**I would firstly like to welcome all of the new parents and students to Redborne. You join us at a very exciting time and I am sure students will settle in quickly and make the most of what Redborne can offer.**

I am delighted to be able to inform you of our excellent exam results in the first newsletter of this academic year, as we have achieved our best ever GCSE and 'A' levels.

At GCSE 93% of students got 5 A\* - C or better, a 7% increase on last year and 13% higher than at the time of the last OFSTED. 74% of students achieved 5 A\* - C including English and Maths, our best ever and 3% higher than last year.

Two students, **Phoebe Wilsmore** and **Daniel Yip** gained 12 A\*, 2 'A's and an AS grade 'A' in General Studies. This represents some of the best individual results in the country.

Our 'A' Level results as stated were also our best ever; 57% of grades awarded were A or B grades and there was an overall pass rate of 99%. Our results give Redborne an ALPS grading (a value added measure) of '2' which is classified as outstanding.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity of congratulating all staff and students for these fantastic results. More detailed information will be available on our website.

Yours sincerely

*Headteacher*



**These are among the highest results in th country.**

### MATHEMATICS

Once again the Maths department has gained some fantastic results. At GCSE 85% of the year group gained at least a grade C and 38 students gained an A\* - our best ever results. Special mention must go to **Daniel Yip** who scored 198 out of 200, to **Thomas Allen** who scored the 4th highest mark in the year with an indicator of a C and **Joseph Smetham** and **Alice Dent** who achieved C grades, three grades above indicator. In addition this year, 19 students sat a level 2 qualification in Further Maths with astonishing success. **Daniel Yip, James Bower, Phoebe Wilsmore, Ben Ramchandani, George Yates** and **Susannah Payne** gained an A\* in Maths and an A\* with distinction in Further Maths. Another 10 students gained an A\* in both qualifications.



At A level 7 students achieved an A\* including **Emma Harvey, Josh Brothers** and **Josie Appleby** who also gained an A in AS Further Maths. 72% gained at least a grade C. At AS 22 students (a third of the cohort achieved A grades including **Oscar Gill, Jeremy Hall** and **Jemma Allman** who also gained an A at AS further maths, **Bethany Francis** who gained the highest mark and **Zach Smith, Harry Whan, Liam Galvin** and **Kathryn Badger** who gained A grades, three grades above those indicated.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the students and to thank the staff for their hard work and support.

*Mrs J Fisher*

## ENGLISH FACULTY

This year has been a great year in terms of results for the English Faculty with some fantastic grades achieved at both GCSE and A level. Students have worked incredibly hard and the English Faculty are very proud of their achievements. I would also like to thank the English Faculty for all their enthusiasm and dedication supporting and encouraging students to achieve their potential.

*Mrs C Hawkins*

### COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE

There are always many students who deserve congratulations for their hard work and continued effort in lessons. In Communication and Culture, special mention must go to **Lucy Goddard-Mason** and **Megan O'Donnell** who both achieved A\* grades, and **Megan Stokes** who attained a grade A. At AS, 46% of students gained either grades A or B, with **Elena Morales** scoring full UMS points for her coursework!  
**WELL DONE TO EVERYONE.**



Megan O'Donnell

Elena Morales

### FILM

The A-level Film Studies students did excellently this year. 100% passed at grade C or above. Our external moderator particularly praised the independence of our students and the high level research skills demonstrated in the coursework. **Tasmyn Church**, **Megan O'Donnell**, **Aaron Pickett** and **Hannah Taylor** got A grades at A2 level. Tasmyn scored an amazing 94% in the final exam!

### ENGLISH LITERATURE

All A-level English Literature students passed with 60% scoring a grade B or above. **Megan O'Donnell** scored 96% in the final unit which is an extremely good performance in a very difficult exam. She was rewarded with an A\* for her overall performance. **Eloise Bartoli-Leonard** scored full marks for her exceptional coursework. **Charlotte Bradshaw** and **Lucy Goddard-Mason** both scored an extremely impressive 98% for their coursework. All the coursework demonstrated impressive independence and an extremely high level of academic rigour.

### BA LITERATURE

Best ever results for our Y12 BA group! 16 Gifted and Talented year 12 students studied alongside first year undergraduates at the University of Bedfordshire. They achieved extremely high results, with five students receiving the equivalent of a first class for their final essay.

### EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Once again Redborne's Extended Project students have produced some fascinating and varied pieces of work, from the writing of an entire screenplay to the question 'Do the benefits of human space flight justify the cost?' Equivalent to half an A2 level and worth valuable UCAS points, the Extended Project Qualification comprises a product, typically a dissertation style essay or creative piece of up to 5,000 words. This is backed up by paperwork and concluded by a presentation or viva.

Our cohort this year have produced some superb results, with 100% of students gaining A\* to C grades, with an incredible 86% of students achieving an A\*. Such results are due to the hard work of all students and the commitment of our supervisors, **Mrs Manley**, **Mr Hardie**, **Mrs Brennan**, **Mr Johnston** and **Mrs Camfield**.

### WELL DONE TO ALL CONCERNED!

*Miss Z Hounam*

## SCIENCE

2012 saw a total of 661 exam entries made in either GCSE or OCR National science. Of these a huge 524 or 84% were awarded at least a grade C or equivalent. 79% of all pupils obtained at least one C grade. Congratulations to the 36 students who achieved a pass in the OCR national award having started the course in September of Year 11. We were also particularly impressed by the fifteen students who managed to achieve 3 A\* grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There are clearly too many outstanding performances to mention by name here but special mention should go to **Thomas Allen** who achieved an A grade in core and additional Science beating his indicator by 2 grades, **Todd Hetherington** who achieved an A\* in core Science, 3 grades above his indicator and **Sophie Ayres** who achieved an A grade in additional Science, 2 grades above her indicator.

*Mr A Day*

### CHEMISTRY

The Chemistry department has had another great year. Twenty five GCSE chemists achieved an A\* from a cohort of 98 students (more than quarter of students gained very the top grade: a fantastic achievement!) We are also celebrating 100% A\*-C.

Our Sixth Form chemists were also on good form this year. The AS results were excellent with 70.8% of students gaining A-C grades compared to 58.8% nationally. The A2 results were also very pleasing with 82.3% of students gaining A\*-C grades compared to 78.9% nationally. Congratulations go to both **Jack Wildman** and **Emma Harvey** for A\* grades and **Josh Brothers** and **James Lyons** for A grades in their A level. Congratulations also go to **Harriet Gribbin**, **Lauren Bush**, **Beth Francis**, **Suzy Martin** and **Harry Whan** for A grades in their AS level.



Jack Wildman

Harriet Gribbin

In July, **Harriet Gribbin** and **Harry Whan** were also awarded the Copper Award for the incredibly challenging national 2012 Chemistry Olympiad run by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

*Mr Ciampa*

Well done to all the students who sat a Physics paper this summer. Overall the results this year are excellent, and some of the best we've had. A special mention goes to the following students:

### GCSE PHYSICS

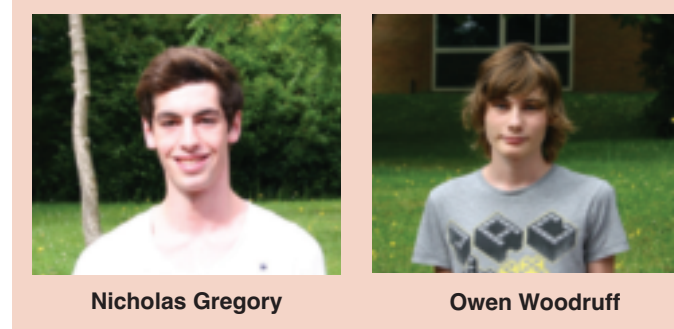
- **Sam Bush A\* (indicator B)**
- **Aaron Harvey A\* (indicated B)**
- **Jack Chellew A (indicated C)**

### AS PHYSICS

- **Owen Woodruff A (indicated D)**
- **Harry Molyneux A (indicated C)**
- **Oscar Gill A (indicated C)**

### A2 PHYSICS

- **Emma Harvey A\* (100% on final paper)**
- **Nicholas Gregory A\* (100% on final paper)**
- **Jack Wildman A\***



Nicholas Gregory

Owen Woodruff

### BIOLOGY

Well done to all our A level and GCSE Biology students on some very commendable results. 36% of our A2 students attained at least a grade B. Particular students to congratulate are **Jack Wildman** who gained an A\*, and **Alex Howard** and **Toby Willson** who both got As. AS achievement was also pleasing, with eight grade As, all above indicator; well done to **Harriet Gribbin**, **Georgina Halford**, **Serena Kang**, **Shannon Larkin**, **Suzanne Martin**, **Molly Parrish**, **Louise Windmill** and **Bethany Francis**. A special mention should be made of **Kate Badger** who also exceeded her indicator grade. Last but not least the hard work of our GCSE cohort paid off with a pass rate of 99%, with 22.5% of the students attaining an A\*. Particularly high marks were gained by **James Bower**, **Jamie Engineer**, **Ben Ramchandani**, **Phoebe Wilsmore**, **George Yates** and **Daniel Yip**.

*Dr K Juty*

Congratulations to the BTEC Biology students who were all rewarded with grades which reflected or exceeded their indicator grades. A special mention for **Jess Day** who achieved our first starred distinction.

## TECHNOLOGY FACULTY

It's been another successful year for students studying Graphics, Product Design and Electronic Products. GCSE students have, yet again, beaten the A\*-C national averages. Many exceeded expectations and achieved grades above and beyond what previous data had suggested. Special recognition should go to the following students for their outstanding results; **Sam Bush**, **Chloe Dallman**, **Tyler Gordon**, **Adam Scropton**, **Rhys Cheadle**, **Joe D'Souza**, **Owen Pittwood**, **Axil Sudra**, **Ryan Owens** and **Ben Ramchandani**. **Ben** also achieved 100% UMS marks for the final Electronic Products exam, a feat almost unheard of in a traditionally difficult subject.

A level and AS results were outstanding and amongst the highest in the school with both Graphics and Product Design achieving ALPS grades of 2. A2 Graphics students gained some of the best results in the course's history with **Charlotte Perry**, **Emily Tyler** and **Joseph Friend** all achieving A\* grades. At AS level, Graphics students also produced fantastic results with 95% achieving or exceeding their indicator grades. The following students attained two grades higher than expected: **Rachel Shearman**, **Elena Morales** and **Rhonwyn Symonds**.

Product Design students produced original and innovative major projects for their A2 coursework, which went a long way in helping students to attain outstanding results once again. The following students all achieved one or two grades above

their indicators; **Connor Barry**, **Matthew Blackwell**, **Joseph Friend**, **Bradley Gifford**, **Raymond NG**, **Emily Tyler** and **Peter Yu**. A special mention goes to **Charlie Kitcher** who continued to work hard despite difficult personal circumstances. At AS level 88% of students attained or bettered their indicator grades. **Pierre De Wet**, **Ben Frost**, **Ben Irwin** and **Rhonwyn Symonds** all achieved two or three grades higher than indicated by school data.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL INVOLVED.

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Well done to Year 11 GCSE students who achieved 89% A\* - C grade; this is the best result ever in Child Development at Redborne. The following students achieved an A\* grade: **Ellen Crowther**, **Ellena Gazeley**, **Katherine Mitchell**, **Georgina Morris** and **Chelsea Zerfahs**. There were also exceptional performances by **Ellen Day**, **Melanie Dudley**, **Gemma-Leigh Shotbolt**, **Shannon Stickland** and **Jhelisa Finlayson**, these students all achieved two grades above their indicator.

### BTEC CHILDREN'S CARE, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The department would like to congratulate the students on fantastic results. This was the first cohort of students to study the course and 19 of the 21 students achieved Distinction which was the highest grade available. Many of the students have gone on to study Nursing, Primary Education and Early Years at University. There were exceptional performances by **Jade Tyler**, **Georgina Potter** and **Alice Day**.

## CATERING

Congratulations to Year 11 GCSE students who achieved 96.5% A\* - C grade and 79% achieving A\* - B grade. These results are the best ever in Catering at Redborne. There were exceptional performances by **Katie Veryard**, **Ellie Mitchell**, **Abbie Nye**, **Amy Hall** and **Sadie Rodell**. The following students achieved well above their indicator grade - **Sam Bush** by three grades and **Chelsea Zerfahs**, **Georgia Roberts**, **Jhelisa Finlayson**, **Todd Hetherington**, **Hannah Peters-Watson** and **Ellen Day** by two grades.

## AS/A2 FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Another fantastic year for results! At A2 twelve students followed the course, with four students achieving grade A, six achieving grade B and two students achieving grade C. Exceptional performances by **Abigail Coulter**, **Max Lee**, **Hannah Williams** and **William Goode**. At AS level students also worked hard with significant achievement by

**Charlotte Kerr** who achieved 97% and **Alexandra McCarthy** who achieved an A grade. **Paige Barringer** and **Nathan Cubley** both achieved two grades above indicator.

## EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Well done to all the expressive arts students and staff who worked so efficiently at juggling written coursework, practical coursework, performances, practical application of theory exams, hours of after-school rehearsals, and, at the end of it all, written examinations!

PE again have managed to get a significant number of students GCSEs in their core PE lessons so that these students could still enjoy being active in their final two compulsory years as well as studying all the option subjects they wanted. Music and art both managed to achieve 100% A\*-C for their GCSE students. The A2 dance students also impressed by achieving 100% A to B grade at A2, a feat matched by the art and design students at AS. At A2, all expressive arts subjects beat the national figures at A and B grade, "outstandingly" so in the cases of Art, Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Music Technology and Music. At AS, Art and Design achieved the coveted ALPS 1 - the highest grade for the measure of how much value we add to our students - and Dance managed to better their last year's ALPS score by an impressive 3 grades (out of a 9 grade scale). The Music and Sport BTEC students brought a wealth of distinctions and starred distinctions to the table, as well as a 100% pass rate.

## FRENCH EXAMINATION RESULTS SUMMER 2012

**We were very pleased with the French examination results this year.**

In Year 10 GCSE, every student was entered one year early for two of the four papers. Over 84% gained an impressive A\*-C grade in the reading paper, with 68% achieving A\*-C on the Listening paper. Special mention must go to **Nikhil Garwood**, **Joshua Pearce**, **Oliver Ali** and **Hannah Waters** who all achieved A\* grades in both papers.

In Year 11, over 72% were awarded A\*-C grades in the full GCSE beating the national average with over 28% of the students entered passing with either an A\* or A grade. Particular mention must go to **Rohan Garwood** and **Emma Woodhouse** who both scored maximum UMS points on each of the four papers.

At A2 level, there was a 100% pass rate and 92% gained A-E passes at AS level.

*Mr C Flynn*

## YEAR 9 AND 10 GERMAN EXCHANGE

During the week of 9 July 2012 we took a group of 18 year 9 & 10 students to Günzburg in Germany. Students stayed with German families where they were made very welcome. They spent 2 days in school and also visited the famous castle at Neuschwanstein, went shopping in Munich and spent a day at Legoland. Our students were punctual (despite having to get up very early every day), fun to be with and always polite. They were a credit to us and we all had a great time.

*Mrs Bryan*



## LONDON 2012 GAMESMAKERS

London 2012 will never be forgotten and Redborne had a small part in making it all happen. It began with the torch relay where Suzi Martin, year 13, was successfully nominated to carry the torch on one of the legs through Bedford. Her nomination was as follows:

Suzanne, is an active member of Explorer Scouts and walked 30km last year (with 3 others) to raise £450 for Keech Cottage Hospice and 50km this year to raise a further £1000 for Keech, despite having had tendon lengthening surgery about a year ago. She is also raising funds for a charity expedition she is going on to Botswana next Summer to assist local scouts there with a building project - she will be doing a sponsored 50 mile walk in October to raise funds. She is an inspirational young person with drive and enthusiasm; she motivates and organises others and has an incredibly strong sense of community. She plans to study medicine, assuming she gets the grades!



Progressing from the torch relay London 2012 began but even before the opening ceremony the Games Makers were hard at work. Mr Adamson, who retired from Redborne two years ago after over 30 years of service to the school, was one of the volunteers working on the Olympic warm up track watching and assisting the athletes as they made their final preparations for the games. He had 4-5 different jobs, which were rotated through the shift, but tended to get the 'starter's role' and started all eight 100m finalists at some point.

Ms Stopher was lucky enough to be situated in the Aquatics Media Centre which gave her an amazing view of the pool and an excellent



'behind the scenes' look at how everything comes together to get to what you see on the television. Ms Stopher was glowing about the experience and would jump at the chance to do it all again.

Brogan Fielden who left this year after completing her A-Levels was seen by millions of people around the world. If you saw Usain Bolt in the 200m semi-final you would have seen Brogan standing behind him at the start collecting his possessions in a box for him to collect after he completed his race.

Emma Nicol, a member of staff in the Redborne Sports Partnership, was a Games Maker based in the London 2012 training gymnasium. The roles she performed included welcoming the athletes, organising music for their floor routines, making sure athletes had towels/water etc. She said the atmosphere in London whether it be in the O2, training venue, tube stations or just on the streets was amazing.

Mr Eager had the enviable position of being right in the middle of the action, commentating in the gymnastics arena. His years of experience in trampolining and DMT gave him the ideal knowledge base to speak in front of thousands utilizing his years of teaching experience in the process.



We would like to thank all of them for their contributions to making the summer so memorable and for giving of their time so freely in the spirit of volunteering. If you are interested in volunteering then a good place to start would be to put volunteering in to a search engine and going from there or log on to [www.voluntaryworks.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryworks.org.uk)



Redborne Upper School & Community College

# Newsletter

September 2012

## INTERNATIONAL INSPIRATIONS

### South Africa trip, July 2012

As part of our continuing work with our partner school, Van Cutsem Combined in the De Doorns region of South Africa, we sent a small group from Redborne this July, during their coldest winter for 20 years!

Jordan Worth, currently in year 13; Mr Gray, deputy head and science teacher; Miss Piggott, PE and Ms Brennan, science teacher all took part. We were in the country for 11 days. The tour started in Cape Town where we were fortunate enough to experience some of its diversity. From the very unsettling relics of life under the apartheid regime in the District Six Museum to the upmarket tourist attraction of its water front, it is a city that challenges you to think about all that you see.



The following day we had a sobering trip to Robben Island, home of the ex-prison that incarcerated Nelson Mandela for 18 years. The trip across Table Bay was magnificent, we sailed across the stunningly beautiful yet treacherous Atlantic Ocean, which is flanked by the imposing outline of Table Mountain. Our tour guide in the prison was an ex-political prisoner and his memories provided us with a stark reality of life under the apartheid regime.

After our sightseeing we went to visit three schools over the next eight days. Here both Mr Gray and I taught some lessons to some very large groups of students, in order to support physics

teaching in the schools. We took a variety of reusable resources and had some truly inspirational days working with students and teachers who had very, very little in the way of material resources, and yet very much in terms of their drive, enthusiasm, and motivation to succeed. Education is seen as a way out of poverty and hence has a huge importance to many of the people in the townships (shanty towns) we visited.



It is very difficult for me to put onto paper just how memorable or moving this trip was for us all (not least because as a scientist, I am less comfortable with descriptive writing). Suffice to say if you ever have a chance to visit this most diverse of countries where wildlife and shipwrecks abound; mountains tower and food (in particular meat) beckons then do so. Be prepared for regions of abject poverty and evidence that people are still separated on grounds of their colour. However, the schools were welcoming, open and upbeat; the people we met were friendly and open about the issues still to be resolved. The impossibly serene, stunningly scenic Karoo National Park where we stayed for 3 nights and saw the Milky Way in the night sky, along with a night safari was a tourist highlight for me. Miss Piggott still loves the African penguins on the beach, Jordan was persuaded to eat ostrich and Mr Gray sampled some springbok.

Our South African teachers are coming to Britain to visit us in our schools at the end of September and we are really looking forward to repaying some of their warm hospitality. Watch this space!

*Mrs N Brennan*

## THE LONDON TO BRIGHTON CYCLE CHALLENGE

The London to Brighton cycle challenge is a fantastic bike ride, from the heart of South London, heading out to the South Coast of Brighton taking participants through some of England's most idyllic countryside!



Many who enter do so to raise money for charity and this was certainly the case for two of our current year 10 students – Elliott Griffett and Zoe Airson who completed the challenge back in June. Elliott recalls that “it was a lot of effort” but worth it as he has raised around £300 for the British Heart Foundation. When asked if he would do it again he gave a resounding “YES!” but still says the highlight was crossing the finishing line. Zoe raised the same amount and remembers that she was so exhausted that she fell asleep on the beach but must have enjoyed as she's doing it again next year.

This was a fun and exciting family day out; you could just jump on your bikes and enjoy cycling part of the Olympic route. Starting from the iconic Energy London Eye, and receiving free refreshments along the route.

This cycle challenge was available to everyone who wanted to have a great day out whilst helping many amazing charities.

BHF spokeswoman Gemma Cloke said “participants were from “across the spectrum” including more seasoned cyclists to those taking part with friends and family in memory of people they had lost. “People are always pleased knowing the money is going to a good cause.” There is so much support along the route, with local residents watching the ride.”

## FARM NEWS

**A mixed year for the Redborne school farm pigs with regards to the weather but rain or shine we tried our best!!**

Suffolk show is always our first stop in the showing season and by this point we hope to have the young pigs trained and our show coats washed and ironed ready to go but as soon as we hit Suffolk we realised we we're in for wet and windy weather.

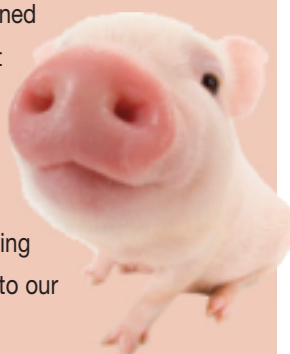
Our class was an inter-breed September gilt class and we gained a 3rd and 4th place rosette and this qualified our 3rd place gilt to go in to the best of breed class.

On the second day due to high winds and the sheer amount of rain we had to decide what to do about the qualifying rounds and decided to continue showing inside the pig tent in our wellies and now not so white show coats and to our delight we gained the best saddleback pig in show rosette.

East of England show was another wet one but everybody kept their spirits up and although we were showing in a very muddy show ring we gained a 2nd place rosette which is not bad considering the breeder of the 1st place saddleback has been breeding these pigs for sixty five years!!

Hatfield show was a scorcher and by this point in the show season our show pigs had decided they would rather act like greyhounds and run around the ring, not good in that heat!! But in a massive class of nearly 20 saddleback pigs we came 8th so we can't complain too much

Overall we had a great season and already have the pigs chosen for next year!!



## ICT LATEST NEWS

All ICT coursework will now be submitted and assessed electronically. This will mean that students are to save their work to their user areas in organised folders and on a regular basis. Only work saved on the student's school user area will be assessed.

- **Staff will email students individual feedback after each assessment.**
- **Students will be sent regular email bulletin updates and are required to check their school emails on a regular basis.**
- **If parents wish to be included in this initiative please ensure that the school has a record of your up to date email account details**

We look forward to implementing this new system which inevitably will help and support our students.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

In terms of enjoyment and motivation, the expressive arts faculty has provided a vibrant year of extra-curricular experiences for the students, and this looks set to continue into 2012-13. Art students have exhibited artwork in Tring Museum and The Mall Galleries in London, and drama students have performed in a school production of “Our Country's Good”. Thanks to the PE department, Redborne students were fortunate enough to visit the Olympic Park. Drama students enjoyed trips to see “The 39 Steps” in London and “The Birthday Party” in Stratford-upon-Avon, and there are trips to performances of “Our Country's Good”, “The Woman in Black” and “Dr. Faustus” already planned for 2012-2013. Music students will enjoy a trip to see the Royal Philharmonic perform in London, attend a Music College open day, benefit from the visit of an international violinist, and host an outdoor concert in March with an award winning pianist and local choirs in attendance. Plans are currently being drawn up for an outdoor Jazz Café which will then go on tour in Germany to perform at the Bonn Music Festival! The dance students have seen Matthew Bourne's “Nutcracker”, attended a dance convention in London, seen the musical “Chicago”, and performed in the dance show “Legends and Icons”. As well as trips and treats, there are regular clubs that run after school. Ask your teacher for details, and give a few a try!

*Mrs T Francis*



## WORK EXPERIENCE - Year 11 Students - 2012

I would like to congratulate Year 11 students who completed their Work Experience in the summer term. We have again had a very successful year and students will be awarded certificates at Gold, Silver and Bronze level as well as for Key Skills to recognise their achievement.

There were very many excellent comments from employers, one of whom said that the student was the best that they had ever had!

**Year 10 Students - Work Experience 2013, Monday 24 June 2013 to Friday 5 July 2013**

Year 10 Students will need to start planning their Work Experience for 2013. All students will have been given a pack of information about Work Experience during the first week of term and it is important that they take this information home and look at it carefully, following the instructions given. The pack will contain a letter with a reply slip, a Work Experience Data Agreement form which will need to be completed and returned, an information leaflet about Work Experience and a form to be completed by an employer when a placement is offered.

*Mrs G McCabe*

## HOME START

Have you been inspired by the enthusiasm of the 70,000 people who volunteered to help with the Olympics? Their happy smiles showed how enjoyable and rewarding volunteering can be.

Do you have a couple of hours to spare each week to help a young family who are struggling to cope? Are you a kind, reliable, approachable person? If so, then why not consider volunteering for Home-Start?

Home-Start is a local family support charity that recruits, trains, and supports volunteers to provide friendship and support to families in their own homes once a week for a couple of hours. Being a parent with young children can be tough at any time, but in this current economic climate the pressures on families are even greater and for those already struggling to cope with illness, disability, isolation, bereavement or just the challenge of parenting, life can seem overwhelming.

Our training is free, informal, fun and informative and the course is accredited to the Open College Network for those who would like to gain a qualification. We have a course beginning in Sandy on Thursday 20th September from 10.00 to 2.30 one day a week for ten weeks. We have other courses at later dates throughout the year.

If you are considering a job in Health or Social Care then volunteering with Home-Start can help you to get on that career ladder.

You don't need to be a super nanny to help parents with young children and with your help parents can gain confidence to manage on their own and give their children the best possible start in life.

**Please give us a call or send an email and make a difference to a family in your community. For further information call Linda or Chris at Home-Start Central Bedfordshire 01582 660061 or email [office@home-startcentralbeds.org.uk](mailto:office@home-startcentralbeds.org.uk).**

**Website: [www.home-startcentralbeds.org.uk](http://www.home-startcentralbeds.org.uk)**

**See us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.**

## **TEXTILES & FASHION**

Once again all our students have produced an amazing set of results and those of you who visited our Technology exhibition at the end of last term will have seen the very high standard of work our students achieve.

### **FASHION & CLOTHING**

This has been another very successful year with 4 of our students achieving the maximum D\*D\* by giving total commitment to their work. Our first boy to complete this course, Aaron Chamberlain has gone to the London School of Fashion to do a degree in Bespoke Tailoring. We are very proud of his immense personal achievement.

### **YEAR 11 GCSE**

40.74 % of our students achieved A \*

Georgia Lee, Gemma Shotbolt and Eve Kemp all achieved 3 levels above indicator

All our students do well in the controlled assessment part of this GCSE but special mention of Katie Veryard and Phoebe Wilsmore who scored 77 out of a possible 80 marks on the written paper. In the year 10 exam paper Katie Abbott achieved full marks and Harley – Jo Avery, Freya Samuel, Hannah Waters, Eleanor Wiacek, Kate Younger, Olivia Glew also scored very highly.