

# Gifted and Talented Newsletter 2011





# What's been happening this year with Gifted and Talented students?

**This year, Redborne Gifted and Talented and Subject Excellence students have taken part in a number of Gifted and Talented activities and masterclasses, across all subject areas.**

From The Redborne Space Project to Latin Club, students in years 9 to 13 have experienced stretch and challenge both in lessons and throughout extra-curricular opportunities. As always, staff have excelled in providing these opportunities at Redborne and the enthusiasm and commitment of Gifted and Talented and Subject Excellence students have contributed to the successes achieved this year.

**Miss Z Hounam**

**Gifted and Talented Coordinator**

## A/A\* Evening a great success!



**On the 11<sup>th</sup> May, students who have excelled over the last two years in both maths and English, were invited to attend an A/A\* celebration evening.**

The first hour involved students getting into teams and undertaking mathematical and literary competitions from literature Pictionary, to mathematical challenges. Students worked fantastically in their teams, displaying not only superb ability in their subject areas, but also great organisational and collaborative working ideas.

After the arrival of parents, and a delicious buffet, a session of 'Countdown' was undertaken. With Mr Woodward doing an admirable job of presenting, Mr Lowe and Miss Hounam on dictionary corner and Mrs Fisher the mathematical genius, teams competed for the last few points available, with team 'Hat Stand' coming out on top!

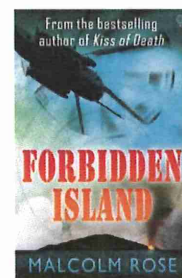
The A/A\* evening was a great success and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our top year 11 students. Congratulations to all students involved.

Miss Hounam

## Year 9 Author Visit

Renowned author Alan Gibbons visited Redborne on the 7<sup>th</sup> February to deliver a range of creative writing workshops to selected year 9 students. Around 100 students were involved in this fantastic opportunity to work with a Blue Peter Award author. Gibbons brought his own brand of creativity and humour to the workshops; the students involved were all enthusiastic and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

To mark this event, the department ran a short story competition for year 9; the winner of this was Georgie Smithen (9KB), and the two runners up were Rory Janes (9CB) and Amy Foley (9MJH).



## Because you're worth it!

The English department ran four lunchtime sessions in May for Gifted and Talented English students, aimed at helping them to 'think like A\* students'. We honed our metaphorical skills on shoeboxes containing random and often unexpected items; applied Marxist, feminist and psychoanalytical theories to fairy tales, and considered the nature of reality in relation to paintings.

Thank you very much to Laura Hill and Katherine Ronayne: sixth form students who ran one of the sessions for us.

Mrs Manley





## STEM club update



Year 9 students have just completed their Go4SET project, run by the Engineering and Design Trust and sponsored by Network Rail. Their brief was to research and design 'green' building technologies to complement those that will be incorporated into the new National Centre that NR are building in Milton Keynes. After a launch event at MK Academy, students spent ten weeks researching, designing, building a model, writing a report and preparing a presentation. They were aided in this by two graduate engineers from Network Rail who came to each after school session over this time period, and by Matthew Mead in year 13 who also came to each session.

On Tuesday I took them back to MK Academy for the Celebration and Assessment Day. This was opened by the Mayoress (her last official engagement before the new Mayor takes over), and presided over by the project manager of the MK National Centre project. There were nine other teams from a variety of schools and, without bias, ours were by far the best presented and most maturely behaved students. The boys' team were especially commended for the quality of their oral presentation (to project engineers from NR), and the girls missed out on the overall prize by the narrowest of margins.

The year 10 and 11 students have begun work on a long term project (The Redborne Space Programme), in which we hope to emulate the success of a Cambridge University outreach project which launched a teddy bear to the edge of what is officially 'near-space'. This will take some time to achieve, particularly with the inconvenience of GCSEs getting in the way!

Mr Dobson

## The Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification, or EPQ, is a qualification taken in the United Kingdom, which is equivalent to an AS level. We have offered the EPQ to Gifted and Talented year 13 students in a range of subjects this year, and hope to expand into other areas.

The EPQ comprises a product, typically a dissertation, of up to 5,000 words, backed up by paperwork and concluded by a presentation. It demands research skills, critical thinking, independence, and mimics skills required for undergraduate study.

Here, a student shares her experience of the EPQ this year in film studies:

*'To be chosen to do the EPQ project I felt really privileged. It gave me a great opportunity in removing myself from the constraints of my A-level subjects. It allowed me to further develop my knowledge and experience of film studies, which was fantastic as that's my chosen area for university and hopefully a future career. It gave me a unique talking point in my university interviews and on my personal statement. The film department were so helpful to my ideas and were a great support and I can't help but praise them; the other EPQ-er's were also great to work alongside. Thank you for a memorable opportunity!'*

Rachel Birmingham



The 'market place' presentation.  
Rachel Birmingham



The cast and crew of Katherine Ronayne's own written and directed pantomime, her EPQ product.





Making Roman honey cakes!

## Latin Club

Salve! This year the staff and students were given the opportunity to learn Latin and gain an entry level qualification. We have met on Mondays after school where a series of fun activities have taken place. These include baking traditional Roman honey cakes, writing plays in Latin, role playing and even performing 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' in Latin at the Christmas year 9 assembly. The members that attended range from years 9 to 13 and even include members of staff. The response has been positive and it provides a stepping stone for all members later on in life, which will be unmistakably good in formal documents, such as CVs and personal statements.

Mr Gove, Education Minister, is very keen to introduce ancient languages back into the curriculum. This shows how important Latin is becoming. We hope that the school will continue offering this programme, as it is very fun and rewarding for all.

Emily Mallet & Alba Herencias-Davies



'Fustis', Latin for 'a club', iced cake!

## The Brightest Mathematicians Get Together!



On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March, the maths department held a competition for the best mathematicians from Redborne and our two feeder schools, Woodland and Alameda. They were organised into six groups consisting of two from Redborne, and one from each middle school.

The evening was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by staff and students. It promoted team work between schools and much mathematical discussion. At the end of three rounds the winning team was Rory Hicks and Eleanor Rowe (Redborne) Jamie Dann (Woodlands) and Alex Glyn-Davies (Alameda). The purpose of the evening was to select four students to take part in the UKMT Challenge, (see page 5) The students chosen were Rory Hicks and Erin Barnard (Redborne) Alex Longmuir (Alameda) and Charlie Porter (Woodlands).

An earlier event in the calendar year was the Intermediate maths challenge. 46 students from years 10 and 11 were selected and they managed to produce the best results ever! 13 students were awarded gold certificate, 16 silver and 11 bronze. A special mention goes to Rachel Sears, Jemma Allman, George Bates, Matthew Bailey, Harry Smith and Phoebe Wilsmore all of whom qualified for the next stage in the competition.

Mr Murray

## Business /enterprise article

Joey Russ - Redborne's Star Social Enterprise Pioneer- is proving to be a very gifted and talented social entrepreneur, which means that as well as being innovative and an excellent leader he has skilfully used his business skills, knowledge and understanding to make a difference to the local community and to raise money to help the vulnerable and those who appreciate a friendly, capable 'helping hand'.

### How to become a Social Entrepreneur Star in the Future?

Joey set up the 'Brighter Horizons Redborne Club', who meet in room 18 on Wednesdays, at lunch time and after school, to work on a chosen project which is currently the 'Film School'. They identify young people who want to have a career in media and need some guidance about how to do this, as well as having fun and meeting students from all year groups.

### Joey's Networking Leads to Large Businesses Investing in Brighter Horizons

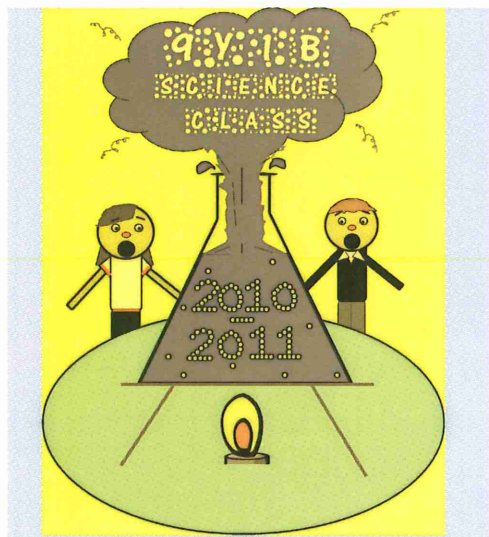
Joey has skilfully negotiated onto 02's Community Funding Scheme, which will mean that as well as the £300 they have already given for the 'Film School', additional funding will be granted, up to £5,000. Waitrose has backed the project by entering it into the 'Waitrose Matters' scheme, associated with the green tokens which are given when you buy goods and place the tokens in the box for your chosen business.

### Joey is talented at Event Management

Joey is talented at organising charitable events including Bingo Nights and Quiz Nights in the local community which means that he is an excellent organiser, team leader and person who puts on events. These will all provide entertainment in the local community.

Mrs Wilson





With the June timetable roll-over, students in 9Y1b decided that it would be a good idea to have a memento of their work together. An editorial team of volunteers was assembled, and we set about collating the best of the student work over the year. *Matt Bull* wrote the introduction and used his charm, diplomacy and arm-twisting skills to extract articles from enthusiastic but forgetful members of the class. *Beth Malcolm* provided creative talents to design the cover and set the 'house style' for the overall look of the magazine, and *Erin Barnard* put in many hours of hard work editing, collating and organising the layout of the articles into the finished product, with her own distinctive editorial commentary. The 24-page magazine was published on the last day of the May half term, before students were organised into new groups. A fantastic achievement – well done to you all!

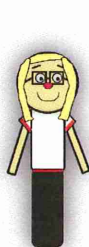
S Gray

## Year 9 science magazine

To conclude our second half term of year 9 and the chemistry section of science we studied within it, our last homework before the Christmas holidays was used to highlight our knowledge gained from previous lessons covering the campaign against limestone quarrying. This combined our work on the reactions of limestone to the social, moral, environmental and economical advantages and disadvantages of constructing limestone quarries, often altering the landscape significantly in areas of outstanding natural beauty or where tourist attraction is common to the area. Previously, we had focused upon the reactions of limestone, identifying the cycle evident through chemical reactions in returning, from a starting compound of calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), to this same compound after producing previous products such as calcium oxide (quicklime), calcium hydroxide (slaked lime) and calcium hydroxide (limewater). Thanks to Erin Barnard and Flossie Friend for sharing their limestone campaign work with us.



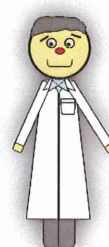
Matt



Erin



Beth



Mr Gray

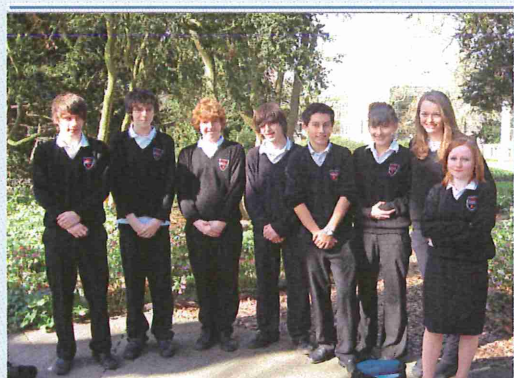
## Success for Redborne Students at the English Speaking Union's Public Speaking Competition

For the first time, Redborne offered some students from year 10 the opportunity to be involved in a public speaking club. They decided to enter us into a competition run by the English Speaking Union, which, this year, was held at Bedford School. We were given a list of topics to write a speech on and, after much deliberation, we decided to argue against 'Mankind needs religion'. Not only did the team have to write a speech, we also had to consider questions for the other schools participating in the competition.

At Bedford, we heard a wide variety of speeches from 'Celebrities should be judged on their private lives' to 'Democracy is a sham'. As well as performing the speech, our speaker answered questions on the subject. Our questioner had to pose questions on another school's topic and our chairperson oversaw one of the rounds.

After winning the Ouse Valley heat at Bedford, we progressed to the regional round at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. There we came up against schools from all over the East of England and we chose to speak on the subject 'A book worth banning is a book worth reading'. Everyone had a fantastic day out and we came home with an invitation to have lunch at the college at a later date. All of the students involved are grateful to have had the chance to take part in such an interesting and challenging group. We look forward to continuing to improve our skills and a year 9 club has also been set up.

Emma Woodhouse



The winners: Emma Woodhouse, Jamie Engineer, Daniel Yip, Phoebe Wilshire, Chloe Bowerbank, George Yates, Thomas Harrison, Peter Smith, Matthew McCready, Matthew Bailey.



## Geography Gifted and Talented and Subject Excellence

During year 9 all geographers are given the opportunity to apply for a chance to visit Cambridge University for a geography workshop and to find out about university life. This year 18 students from Redborne joined 16 students from Samuel Whitbread for the visit in March. The day started with a welcome at St. Catherine's College and an introduction to student life and more specifically Cambridge University. Students were then mixed with members of each group from both schools and set the task of producing a future plan for a soon to be empty shop in the city centre. The students were then given the opportunity to undertake fieldwork of their own design. The task culminated in them having to present a flyer for their plan, backed up by evidence collected to a panel of Cambridge University undergraduates (one of whom had undertaken the task herself 6 years ago and had gone on to study Geography at St. Catherine's). The day also included a tour of St. Catherine's, lunch in the college dining hall, a tour of King's College Chapel and a quick wander round the backs to watch the punting!

The group of students then plan their own workshop (task for this year is top secret, but previously they have included planning a new island for the Maldives needed because of sea level change and making Centre Parcs more environmentally friendly). This workshop is completely designed and resourced by the students, who then lead an afternoon session in July for 20 Gifted and Talented year 8 geographers in Woodland and Alameda Middle Schools. Similarly, the year 9 students judge the winning ideas and award prizes.

Mrs Bassett



St Catherine's College



## UKMT Challenge

Following an internal mathematics challenge event on Monday 21 March at Redborne, a team of four students from Redborne, Alameda and Woodland was selected to participate in the Regional Mathematics Challenge at Haberdashers' Aske's Girls School on Tuesday 3 May.

The team, consisting of Rory Hicks and Erin Barnard (Redborne) Alex Longmuir (Alameda) and Charlie Porter (Woodland), had the benefit of some coaching in the fine mathematical juggling skills required by Mr Foster in the weeks leading up to the event. On the day, they were undaunted by the range of leading schools pitted against them, including the school that won the national final last year, and managed to reach a very creditable 13th place overall.

The team challenge is a very fast paced event, requiring not just an excellent knowledge of mathematics and a high level of numeracy, but also the ability to think very quickly and very strategically about the best way to solve a problem.

One of the rounds involved a relay race, in which the handover to the other pair in the team involved not just a bit of running but also solving a maths question. Another round, devised by someone with a surely tortured mind, required the participants to solve a crossword involving numbers rather than letters, in which one pair had the down clues to work on and the other pair had the across clues. What made it worse was that solving the down clues sometimes required the answers to across clues but the two pairs were not allowed to talk to each other. They could only look at each other's answers as they unfolded. The Redborne consortium team got remarkably close to solving the whole crossword in the required time. Somebody's been teaching telepathy somewhere!

Mr Murray



## Gifted and Talented Dancers lead at Redborne Dance Company



Redborne Dance Company is a weekly based company that specialises in choreography and performances in and outside of school. We are entering a competition in June which has been choreographed by Alice Cornwell, one of my very gifted and talented year 11 dancers. She is choreographing a piece for 16 dancers of all years. Two of my year 12 Gifted and Talented students have also been leading dances within this company.

Miss Benjamin

## Catering Masterclasses take place

Jason Wong, Sous Chef at the Inn at Woburn, ran a masterclass for year 13 food technology students to develop their culinary skills required for the A2 course. Students spent the day working alongside Jason to produce a range of sweet and savoury canapes including sushi, chocolate choux bites and vegetable stacks. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and we look forward to welcoming Jason back to the department this term to work with year 12 students.



The catering department are planning another masterclass for year 10/12 with Jason Wong, where he will demonstrate two dishes from the Inn at Woburn a la carte menu which students will then cook in pairs. We are hoping that there will be enough meals to serve about 16 staff at lunchtime for a small contribution towards the cost of ingredients.

Mrs Crowther



## STUDENTS WHO ARE GIFTED AND TALENTED

We believe that all students are individuals with their own special needs and requirements. We recognise our responsibility to ensure that opportunities are made available for all students to realise their potential. The work we carry out is in accordance with the Institutional Quality Standards and Classroom Standards in Gifted and Talented Education.

### **THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:**

- Middle school liaison and collection of data
- CATs: Initially, year 9 students are put on the register if they have 129 or above in any of the tests
- Staff nominations: Subject staff nominate students across all year groups
- Parental nomination

### **STUDENTS WILL BE PLACED ON THE REGISTER IF THEY HAVE:**

- Two or more staff Gifted and Talented nominations
- One Gifted and Talented and four Subject Excellence

The register will feature up to 5% of the school's student cohort.

If students are nominated as Gifted and Talented in only one subject, their progress will still be monitored by subject staff. However, they will not formally be on the Gifted and Talented register, but will instead appear on our 'shadow register'.

Redborne is pleased to support Gifted and Talented individuals by offering the following provisions:

- An individual learning plan (ILP)
- A careers interview
- The opportunity to attend any of the enrichment activities run by the school; such as masterclasses, visiting speakers, practitioners, trips to universities
- Subject specific monitoring: Subject staff negotiate specific targets and strategies with students, according to their specific needs
- A personalised curriculum with reduction or addition of courses where appropriate and necessary.

### **EXAMPLES OF YEAR 9 MASTERCLASSES 2010-2011**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| • English   | Author visit and workshop by writer Alan Gibbons               |
| • Art       | Ceramics Workshop  |
| • Music     | Pianoman masterclass and concert                               |
| • Geography | Visit to Cambridge University and Gifted and Talented workshop |
| • Science   | STEM Club every Monday and Space project                       |
| • PE        | Gifted and Talented masterclass in sports nutrition            |
| • Business  | Social enterprise and Brighter Horizons project                |
| • Maths     | Maths challenge in conjunction with feeder schools             |