

Redborne Upper School

Able, Gifted and Talented Newsletter

2016



It has been another busy and fruitful year for Redborne's able, gifted and talented students. Over the last three terms staff have provided so many opportunities for extension, across all faculties.

From biology club to year 8 history days, students in years 9 to 13 have experienced stretch and challenge both in lessons and through extra-curricular opportunities. As always, staff have excelled in providing extension for A, G&T students and the enthusiasm and commitment of all have contributed to achievements this year.

Miss Z. Hounam– Able, Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator

A, G&T Dance

It has been a busy year in the dance department with three A, G&T visits to the University of Bedfordshire where the students participated in various technique and choreography classes with university lecturers and undergraduate students. Redborne's able dance students also got to perform and showcase their exam work in the UoB professional theatre to various other schools, students, teachers and staff.

Our A level dance students were also lucky enough to work with Helen Mansell who taught them ballet on a weekly basis to improve upon their dance technique in preparation for their final exams. She also choreographed the AS performance in a group trio piece which was used for their actual exams. The students have also worked with Kerry Eason of Orbit Dance Company this summer term, learning a solo dance in the style of Alvin Ailey which they may wish to use again for their dance exams next year at A2 level.

Miss E Benjamin.



GIRTON COLLEGE
University of Cambridge

German students visit Girton College Cambridge

The German department has run a number of activities for A, G&T students this year. Through most of the year, there has been a KS4 grammar masterclass running after school which has extended students' understanding of the more complex areas of German grammar. Two Y11 A, G&T students were accepted onto a one day Cambridge University course at Girton College, where they spent time learning Italian as well as finding out about languages at A level and university. In January, nearly 30 very able students in Y11 were invited to a writing masterclass, which produced some interesting multi-author stories and a much greater awareness of effective linking between sentences and paragraphs. Students also enjoyed the German-themed refreshments! Mrs R Neale.

2016 Summer Science Master Class

22 students from our main feeder middle schools came to visit us on Tuesday 19th July 2016. They spent a day in the science department where their mission was to experience biology, physics and chemistry extension activities.

Students tested the decision making of woodlice, were fully engaged in the dissection and inner workings of the frog, had a lesson in the finer points of rocket science and, finally, had a session in the chemistry laboratory with Dr Sutton. Mr Ciampa

For more on the science masterclass and extra pictures, see the school website!



Able, Gifted and Talented Mathematicians

This term the best Mathematicians in the school have been kept busy with various different events.

In January, Tim Rayner from The School Puzzle Company came into school to run a maths problem solving day. Students in the top sets in years 9 and 10 spent an hour trying to solve difficult geometric problems both in 2D and 3D. The day helped to develop some perseverance with problems and was great fun in the process.

In February, eight of the best mathematicians in year 10 entered the regional team maths challenge. They worked in teams of four to solve mathematical problems, learn and apply new mathematics and try and beat Rachel Riley at countdown. Both teams did really well, coming second and fifth overall and winning a couple of the rounds.

In March, we joined with Alameda and Woodland middle schools for a Team Maths Competition. 24 of the top Mathematicians in years 8 and 9 from all three schools took part. In teams of four, they competed in three different rounds testing their mathematical knowledge, problem solving skills and speed. The competition was won by Oliver Wilshaw, Jemilia Hartley, Kai (Woodlands) and James (Alameda), who all took home an Amazon voucher!

Following the competition, six of the best performing students are now taking part in some intense training, ready to take part in the regional final of the Team Challenge on 26th April. We wish them luck!

We also had 60 year 10 and 11 Mathematicians who took part in the individual Maths Challenge, achieving 6 Gold, 18 Silver and 17 Bronze certificates, putting those students in the top 60% of Mathematicians that entered in the country. Congratulations go to Archie Ford, Tom Ali, Max Lister and Harry Ashby who scored so highly that they have been selected to take part in a follow on round, we wish them all luck. **Miss N Lake.**



Biology Club!

Biology Club has had another busy year and we have been pleased to welcome some new members. Among other things, students have dissected octopi and owl pellets. We have made indicators and studied bioluminescence. One of the most interesting aspects has also been the unplanned discussions between our well-informed and enthusiastic members. I look forward to next year, when there will be the chance for the new year 10 biology students to join the club.

I would like to thank Dr Sutton for sharing his expertise, and Miss Hounam for giving us A, G&T funds, enabling many of the activities to take place. **Dr K Jury.**





The Caucasian Chalk Circle

by

Bertolt Brecht

Rehearsals are underway for this year's whole school production. *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* uses a cast of over 50 actors and musicians to tell the story of a peasant girl who takes a child from its neglectful and monstrous mother in order to give it a better chance in life.

Students are rehearsing three times a week and are honing their singing, movement, vocal and ensemble skills for the performances on 23rd – 25th November 2016 in the Connolly Hall. This is a great opportunity for our more able musicians, drama students and singers. The production also calls upon the skills of our hospitality, technology and textiles students .

There are still opportunities for students to get involved in Front of House responsibilities such as catering, hospitality and selling programmes as well as backstage assistance with set building, creating costumes and prop making.

For more information on how to get involved in this exciting project, please contact Mr Francis (stafrancis@redborne.beds.sch.uk).



Year 8 History Day with year 12 students.

On 24th June, Year 8 students from our two main feeder schools, Woodland and Alameda spent a morning in the history department at Redborne. Students worked in groups, each supervised by one of our Year 12 historians. Each group was given an historical period to investigate. They were then required to set themselves an enquiry question, research it, present a case for and against and then reach a judgement. Having done this they presented their findings to the rest of the group - all in one hectic morning and over a working lunch!

We have been running this for the past four years and it has now become an annual event. Topics researched this year were as wide ranging as ever and included enquiries on the Babington Plot, causes of the US civil war, prison reform in the nineteenth century and the origins of the Cold war. As usual the standard of research and quality of presentations were impressive.

We look forward to seeing these budding historians at Redborne in Year 9 in September and hope to repeat the exercise with a different, but equally enthusiastic group at the same time next year. **Mr V Parry.**

Gold for Ben Davies at the English Schools track and field championships in Gateshead!

As most of you already know, I was competing at the English Schools track and field championships in Gateshead on Friday and Saturday. I was competing in the U19 senior boys and was the bottom year in this age group. I finished the heat in 2nd place in a time of 4m03secs, in very windy conditions; this meant that I was safely through into the final on Saturday.

The final was just as windy as the heat, but was taken out hard and fast by two Greater Manchester athletes, going through the 800 metre mark in around 2m06seconds – from this point the pace gradually picked up. With one lap to go I was positioned in 3rd in the leading pack, hoping to get a medal. With 100 metres to go in the race I took the lead, but was followed by the favourite for the win, James Gormley from South Yorkshire; James finished 5th at last years World youth Championships in Colombia. After a tough battle down the finishing straight I just nicked the Gold medal, winning by 0.19 of a second in 3:52.8, only 0.3 seconds off my personal best in far from ideal conditions.

This was a huge achievement after the disappointment of not getting selected for the Great Britain team for the European Youth Champs despite being ranked 11th in Europe in the U18 age group. It also gives me the confidence for next year when I'll be top year in the U19 age group, hoping to make it a 3rd win at English schools in a row.

Ben Davies 6LLH



Sporting success and achievements:

Elliot Fleet (Y9) Finished 3rd in the Powerboat GT15 British Championships May 2016.

Joe Turney (y10) Seeded 5th in the UK, Rotax Minimax class Karting.

Thomas Bryant (y10) Has been selected for the British Youth Sailing Team.

Izzy Goode (y11) achieved success and is ranked British U19 Wakeboarding Champion.

Benjamin Davies (Y12) finished 3rd in English National Cross Country Championships at Castle Donington and is currently ranked 19th in the UK U20's 1500m category, competing against many much older athletes.

Ryan Owens (former student) Has been selected for Team GB's Men's Track cycling squad for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Ben Chilwell (former student) Awarded Leicester City 2015/2016 U21 clubs player of the year and helped Leicester City win the Premier League title.

A, G & T PE and Sport



PE Year 9 Subject excellence Visit:

For the third year running Redborne able, gifted and talented students have been rewarded with the opportunity to be inspired by a guest athlete mentor through the Sky Sports Living project. This year we were fortunate to have a returning guest, London 2012 GB Paralympian and England Footballer Alistair Patrick-Heselton, to inspire our students through delivering a morning of interactive and practical workshops based on Sky Sports Living 'Six Keys to Success': Mental toughness, Hunger to achieve, People skills, Sports and life knowledge, Breaking barriers and Planning for success. Alistair started the day with a presentation with his story from being a former professional QPR U17s and U19s footballer, including the ups and downs of his career and the life changing car accident, which put him in a coma for three months. After waking up he was told that he would never walk again or play football, but after a lot of determination he made an extraordinary recovery. Four years later he was approached by the FA and he made his debut scoring for England at the 2011 Cerebral Palsy World Cup against Korea. He went on to be selected for Great Britain's CP Football team (Cerebral Palsy or brain injury sufferers) in London 2012.

An excellent time was had by all and we would like to thank Alistair for his time and inspiration.

Mrs R Grainger.