



RMGS NEWSLETTER

**RAINHAM MARK
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

February 2010

Issue No. 030

Dear Parents

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents who are willing and able to invest their time in supporting the school. Our PTFA works hard to organise social events and support the school at open evenings and parents' evenings, but we have had to cancel some recent events due to low take-up of tickets.

Lets hope that we have a large audience for our next event, "Murder at the Biftas", on Saturday 27 February 2010. Ticket information is on the school website.

Yours faithfully

Mr Decker
Headteacher

YOUNG ENTERPRISE **'Medway Speakers Competition'** **Thursday 28th January 2010**

This year's Young Enterprise Company 'Raw Enterprises' led by Managing Director Gideon Jinadu, is working towards providing both events for pupils at RMGS and also hosting larger outside events over the coming months. Before Christmas they held a very successful Disco for Year 7 and on Friday 12th February, will be hosting 'Romeo's Rave' for Years 7 and 8 in the School Hall. (*Further information for this event can be found on the school's website*).

On Thursday 28th January, one member of the company Jay Nanavati, competed in the Medway speaker's competition in Rochester. He had to present a speech to a panel of Judges, entitled 'The Country would benefit from a change of Government at the forthcoming general election'.

Jay was competing against pupils from other schools across Medway and was successful in winning the event. He will now compete again at Northfleet School for Girls in the County Finals on 10th February.

Mr Bowden

MATHS DEPARTMENT

'What are the Odds?' the risk and probability show will be visiting the school on 11th February. Year 8 will see an interactive presentation and take part in a game-show style workshop. They will discover how mathematics can help make sense of the real world in situations involving risk, probability, chance and uncertainty.

Mr White

EASTER REVISION

We are delighted to offer students from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 the opportunity for supplementary revision sessions during the Easter break. Staff will be running various classes during the second half of Easter on Wednesday 14th April, Thursday 15th April and Friday 16th April. The courses on offer can be found on the school website: www.rainhammark.medway.sch.uk. There are both morning and afternoon sessions. Students wishing to attend appropriate sessions must hand in their request forms by Monday 22nd March to the school office. As previously, the school is paying for the sessions so they will be free for students to attend.

Mr Watson

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS STUDIES

This year the school entered 54 syndicates into the Student Investor programme. Given a hypothetical £100 000, each syndicate invests by buying shares in 10 plcs with the aim of increasing the value of their portfolio of shares. The programme runs from November to the end of February.

At the moment (4th February) our best two syndicates are lying in the 95th and 100th places, having each increased the value of their portfolios by over £9000. They have a good chance of qualifying for the South East final in London.

They have performed very well so far considering that there are over 7500 entrants nationally and share prices have been volatile over this period.

Mr Lawrenson

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

'We Will Rock You' – Monday 16th January 2010

In January, the Year 12 Performing Arts class put on a performance of the musical 'We Will Rock You', which was examined on the evening by an external examiner as part of their AS course. The pupils had been working on this performance since September with pupils choosing to specialise as Dancers, Singers, Actors, Musicians & Production Crew.

The pupils worked extremely hard to put together the performance, particularly as the emphasis was on the pupils taking ownership of the performance with little assistance from teaching staff.

The Performance was very well attended by family, friends and staff and was a very enjoyable evening with a very high quality of performance being presented.



Congratulations to all the pupils involved and a big thank you on behalf of the cast and crew to the staff who worked with the pupils and helped at the performance.

Mr Bowden

Views from the performers:

'We Will Rock You' was a hugely enjoyable experience. Of course, being an exam, everyone backstage was terrified of what was going to happen. We were worried about how we would look and how it would sound, but as soon as the music started and the curtains opened, everyone began to enjoy themselves. We had an amazing audience cheering us along the way. Backstage everyone became increasingly happy as each scene passed and the success continued.

Taking part in this performance has been the highlight of my year so far particularly as I was playing such a powerful character. I know that everyone will agree with me when I say, we have never had so much fun. Now that it is over we are all missing it and are sad that we don't have rehearsals anymore!

Shannon Robson (Year 12)

Playing as part of the Band for 'We Will Rock You' was an extremely enjoyable experience. Although we had problems getting the music through to begin with, the Musicians all worked very hard over the weeks and months leading up to the performance to ensure a high quality of Music was presented.

With the assistance of Mr Letley, Miss Smallwood and Mr Bowden, both Andy Malet and I as Music Specialists were able to develop our skills as performers during the process.

We very much look forward to our next opportunity to present a similar performance in the future.

John Clark (Year 12)

MUSIC DEPARTMENT: -Future Events

A-Level Recital Evening – 24th March 2010: On Wednesday 24th March, the Music Department will be presenting an A-Level Recital Evening with pupils in Year 12 and 13 presenting a selection of pieces. Pupils will be presenting repertoire that they have been preparing during the course of the year, in preparation for their A-Level performance exam in March to a visiting examiner. The evening will begin at 6.30 pm in the Tommy Emmanuel Recital Hall, in the Music Department.

Spring Soirees – 18th & 19th March 2010: In March, the Music Department will be presenting two concerts showcasing the musical talent of the pupils at RMGS. On the 18th we will host the Lower School Soiree and on the 19th the Upper School Soiree both presenting a range of solo and ensemble performances including School Ensembles in the Tommy Emmanuel Recital Hall, in the Music Department.

(Further information regarding ticket sales will follow at the start of next term).

Miss Smallwood and Mr Bowden

Drama Gifted 7 talented theatre-in-education Project with Medway Police: The Drama G&T group have been rehearsing two pieces of drama in association with DC Ally Smith from Medway Police to raise awareness amongst young people about two very important social issues: knife culture and underage sex. The messages contained in the dramas are extremely important and the students have worked hard to devise drama that is both hard-hitting and thought-provoking. The students work will be presented across Medway secondary schools later in the school year. The two pieces have been directed by Daisy Kennedy and Sean Hollands in Year 13 and feature students from Years 9 -12 in the cast. Mr Mount and DC Ally Smith would like to thank all the students for their hard work and commitment to the project.

Mr Mount



PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT CONTINUED



'An Inspector Calls': This year's school play is an adaptation of JB Priestley's classic thriller performed by students in Years 10 - 13. Performances are on:

Wednesday: 10/03/10

Friday: 12/03/10

Saturday: 13/03/10

At 7pm in the Drama Studio. Tickets will be going on sale after half term.

Please contact Mr Mount or Mrs Skinner

Year 13 Extended Project: Drama students in Year 13 recently performed a devised version of Edgar Allan Poe's 'Fall of the House of Usher' at Eastgate House in Rochester as part of their Extended Project. Not only did the students devise and perform in the piece, which was done in a promenade style around the venue, but they also liaised with Medway Council's Heritage department to co-ordinate the event, taking part in meetings with their client and organising publicity. The performance was a great success and the atmosphere in Eastgate House entirely appropriate for a ghost story!

Mr Mount

Sixth Form trip to see 'Twelfth Night': On 28 January 2010, Year 12 and 13 Theatre Studies students went to see a production of Shakespeare's timeless comedy featuring the brilliant Richard Wilson (Victor Meldrew!) as Malvolio at the Duke of York's Theatre in London! The students have to produce a review of a live theatre production as part of their A Level course and this was a great opportunity for them.

Mr Mount

Sixth form Trip to New York: The Performing Arts trip to New York departs on: 12 February 2010 and everybody going is very excited about visiting the Big Apple and working with Broadway professionals in our Dance and Drama workshops!

Whilst there we will also be going up the Empire State Building on Valentine's Day and catching a couple of Broadway shows! Details of our trip will be in the next newsletter!

Mr Mount and Mrs Skinner



DUKE OF EDINBURGH - Bronze Expedition

The dates for the DofE Bronze expeditions are from Friday evening 7pm until approx 2.30- 3pm on the Sunday.

Practice- 14-16 May 2010

Assessed 25-27 June 2010

Training sessions for the expedition section will start on Thursday 4th February at 3.30 pm in A2, finishing at 4.20 pm. A register will be taken and you are expected to attend all sessions. Please bring your Record Book with you so I can check you are doing the other sections. Please keep checking Moodle for updated information.

Any problems please see Mrs Fawcett.



Readathon®
Reading for life!

Year 7 pupils are involved in a Readathon; a national sponsored read that helps raise money for The Roald Dahl Foundation and CLIC Sargent. These two charities help children and young people in Britain suffering from cancer,

Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia, epilepsy, blood disorders or acquired brain injury. I hope our Year 7 pupils will have fun reading books and magazines of their choice and will also help young people who are seriously ill by getting friends and relatives to sponsor them as they read. Our Readathon will run over half term and the following fortnight and so include World Book Day on 4 March 2010.

Mrs Rayment, School Librarian

Art Club

Competition

Would you like to design the cover for next years School Planner 2010/2011

Susanna Morton

Was last years winner



Please see Mrs Brown in N1 for information Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes.

Visit our website for more information about the school
at www.rainhammark.medway.sch.uk



Science

REPORT ON SCIENCE COLLEGE ACTIVITIES TERM 3

Science

The highlight of this term was the visit of the 'Bug Man' who this time turned out to be the Reptile man. He brought a wide variety of creatures for us to see including snakes, lizards and various amphibians. You can see from the pictures that a good time was had by all, including Miss Laxton. The talk emphasised the differences between amphibians and reptiles and proved to be very enjoyable and educational.

Other activities include the construction of the observatory and its associated computing and we hope to have it fully functional very soon.

Miss Rogers and her science club continue with their projects and we are very hopeful of a repeat performance in the CREST awards later in the year. Once again, my thanks to all staff who participate and help to organise events without whom nothing would take place.



Mr Dixon, Science College Coordinator

SCIENCE CLUB GOES TO THE BIG BANG!

In March, two of our year 8 students (Idrees Anwar and Rahul Khatau, AKA the Gravity Hedz!) will be attending the Big Bang Science Fair in Manchester. They achieved their place at the fair by winning the South East heat of the British Association of Science bronze awards (BA Crest) last June. They were judged best in Key Stage 3 Science by a panel of experts and were highly commended on their knowledge and presentation of their work.



They will now compete in the national final with schools from all over the country. Their project involves looking at balance and how the centre of gravity of an object can be used. As well as being judged on their project Idrees and Rahul will have a chance to take part in many events over the three day fair, such as Brainiac Live, Bang goes the theory and a VIP breakfast with the scientists and celebrities present at the event. The fair ends with an awards ceremony party! I think I am more excited than the students!



In other science club news..... Thanks to everyone who took part in the Twelve Experiments of Christmas event in charity week. It was a huge success and we raised a lot of money. Particular thanks to my colleagues in the science department for running events (Mrs Goodall, Miss Brodie, Miss Budden and Miss Laxton) and to the senior students (Kane and Carina) for their help and enthusiasm.



A number of groups have already started work on their projects for this year's BA Crest awards. The projects range from kaleidoscopes to catapults. Hopefully we will have equal success in this year's South East heats in June!

GCSE Human Health and Physiology.

Our new optional GCSE in Human Health and Physiology has been running for six months now. In this time we have covered a range of topics:- from heart disease to how the eyes and ears work. The dissection classes, in particular, have proved extremely popular with the students! We have now studied hearts, lungs, kidneys and eyes. Highlights for the coming term include a visit from a local physiotherapist and chiropractor to help out with the Bones and Muscles topic. My thanks go to Mrs Powis our amazing biology technician without who this course would not have been half as successful. Mrs Powis has helped me organise a huge range of materials and practicals – from resuscitation dolls to eyeballs! Thanks must also go to the wonderful students who are taking the course. Their ongoing enthusiasms is very much appreciated.

We will shortly be recruiting year 9 students wishing to start the course next year.

Miss Rogers

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2009/2010

10 February 3.30pm - 7.30pm	Yrs 10, 11 & 12 World Challenge Meeting in Hall	3 May	May Day Holiday
12 February	Deadline for Year 9 Option Choice for GCSE	4 May to 7 May	Year 9 Exams all week
12 to 16 February	Yr 12 Performing Arts trip to New York	14 May	Year 12 - last day before study leave
12 February	Last day of term	21, 26 and 28 May	Yr 10 science exam
14 to 19 February	Yr 13 Film Studies trip to Los Angeles, Hollywood	22 May	PTFA Quiz Night
15 February to 19 February	HALF TERM	25 to 29 May inclusive	Year 9 visit to Andalusia, Spain for Spanish Language visit
22 February	First day of Term 4	28 May	Year 11 and Year 13 - last day before study leave
22 February to 5 March	Year 12 Assessments	28 May	Last day of Term
23 February evening	Various years visit to O2 Arena to watch Eng v Australia International Netball Match	31 May	May Bank Holiday
24 February	U13 Kent County Netball Tournament	1 to 4 June inclusive	HALF TERM
24 February	Yr 12/13 art students visit to UCA Rochester for Life model work	7 June	First day of Term 6
24 February 6.30 pm	Yr 12/13 Music A Level Recital preview evening	7 June to 11 June	Year 8 exams all week
27 February	PTFA Murder Mystery	7, 8, 10, 11, 14 & 15 June	Year 9 Geography field work to North Downs
1 to 5 March	World Book Week	10 June 4pm - 7pm	Year 7 Parents' evening
2 or 9 March 4pm to 6pm	Careers Café tbc	11 June	Music students visit to Excel, London
4 March	Year 8/9 taking part in Medway Secondary School Football	11, 16 and 24 June	Year 9 Science exams
4 March 4pm	Presentation of GCSE certification for Summer 2009 exams	14 June	Year 12 return
8 to 10 March	Yr 7 geography trip to Reculver	17 June and 18 June	Year 12 - Find that Course
10, 11 and 13 March	Performing Arts Production	21 and 22 June	Year 7 ESB exam
16 March 4pm - 7pm	Year 10 Parents' evening	24 June - 7.30 pm	New Year 7 Parents' Evening
17 March	Yr 12 visit to Keele University, Medical School	26 June	PTFA Race Night
18 March	U12 Kent County Netball Tournament	28 June to 2 July	Year 7 exams
18 March	KS3 Spring Concert	28 June to 9 July inclusive	Year 11 work experience
19 March	KS4 Spring Concert	28 June	Year 13 Book Return Day
21 March to 27 March	Year 12 Geography field trip to Snowdonia	28 June	Year 12 ESB exam
23 March	Post 16 visit to London Conference	30 June 2pm	Lower School Prize Day
27 March	PTFA Barn Dance	30 June to 2 July	Year 10 Enterprise Days
29 March to 2 April	Yr 10 visit to Spain	8 July	New Year 7 Taster Day
30 March	Oxbridge Evening	9 July	Yr 12 Ethics conference
1 April	Last day of Term	12 July	Year 11 Book Return Day
2 April	Good Friday	12 to 16 July inclusive	Year 10 visit to Black Forest, Germany
3 to 11 April	Ski trip to Pragalato, Italy	13 July	AS Induction day
5 April to 16 April inclusive	Spring Holiday including Easter	13 July 4pm - 5.30pm	Yr 12 Achievement afternoon
14, 15 and 16 April	Easter Revision Sessions	14 July	Sports Day
19 April	First day of Term 5	15 July	Reserved Sports Day in case of bad weather
19 to 30 April	Yr 13 Assessments	15 July	Summer Revue
19 to 23 April	Yr 10 Assessments all week	19 July	Yr 10 visit to Buddhist Temple
21 April 4pm - 7pm	Yr 8 Parents' evening	19 to 23 July inclusive	Yr 7 visit to Gibraltar Point Nature Reserve
29 April	Yr 12 visit to University of Kent for HE Conference	20 July 3.45pm - 5pm	Yr 7 tea with previous primary HTs and teachers
		21 July	Last day of term
		22 and 23 July	INSET (No pupils in school)
		19 August	Results for A level
		TUESDAY 24 August	Results for GCSE

NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT



Boys Football: Rainham Mark Grammar School is currently enjoying its most successful season for many years. Having already won two Medway cups (Years 7 and 9), three teams have mounted a serious challenge for Kent Cup glory. Three teams reached the quarter final of the competition, a feat not surpassed by any other Kent school. Although the Year 10 team narrowly lost their quarter final match, both the Year 7 and the Year 9 teams won their matches in convincing style to reach the semi finals, which will be played in February.

In recent years, our teams have consistently competed well without quite winning a Kent Cup trophy. The level of commitment displayed by the students and staff suggests that maybe this will be the year!

Mr Stacey

Swimming team: The Rainham Mark swimming team competed well during the Kent School's Championship held at the Black Lion Leisure Centre recently. Darcy Baldwin achieved most success by finishing 2nd in the 200 metre Individual Medley. She will now represent Kent in a triangular competition next month. Matt Parry finished 5th in the Intermediate Boys 100 metres freestyle and Alex Sweet was also 5th in the Intermediate Boys 100 metre Butterfly. Jenna Fisher achieved 7th position in the 100 metre Backstroke. Andrew France achieved a personal best in the 200 metres Individual Medley, taking 10 seconds off his previous best time.

Mrs Fincher

