



RMGS NEWSLETTER

**RAINHAM MARK
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

May 2009

Issue No. 026

Dear Parents

It was a real pleasure for me to attend the Kent Finals of Young Enterprise earlier this month and witness an impressive performance from our winners of the Medway competition, "Dimension Media". Extra-curricular activities such as this require a significant additional effort from dedicated colleagues and you will read in this newsletter about a broad and extensive range of activities that benefit our students.

Now that the examination season has well and truly arrived, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students who are sitting public exams all the very best during this particularly testing time.

Yours faithfully

Mr Decker, Headteacher

NEW ENSEMBLE LAUNCHED!

Extra-curricular provision at RMGS continues to grow with the introduction of a Woodwind Ensemble. This is for any student who has achieved grade 5 or above on any woodwind instrument, and is run by our Clarinet and Saxophone teacher.

Like all RMGS extra-curricular activities this is free – all that is needed is the commitment to attend the rehearsal on a weekly basis.

Ensembles now offered are:

Woodwind Ensemble
Choir
Orchestra
Big Band
Keyboard Ensemble
String Ensemble
Senior Vocal Group
GCSE and A Level Theory and Composition Groups and
Jam Club

Anyone interested in joining should talk to a member of the Music Department staff.

Miss Smallwood and Mr Bowden

PARENT GOVERNOR NOMINATIONS

Mr Decker has written to all parents inviting nominations for parent governors. There will be three vacancies in June when the terms of office of three of our parent governors end.

If you would like more information on the role of a school governor please contact Mrs Rayment at the school (e-mail rayma001@medway.org.uk) or speak to the Governors' Services team at Medway Council (tel: 01634 331052/331027).

If you have not received your letter or would like further nomination forms please contact Mrs Rayment. Mr Decker's letter and parent governor nomination forms can be found on the school website. The deadline for nominations is 4 June 2009.

Mrs Rayment
Clerk to the Governors

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that students should not be collected or dropped off on the school site. This is an important part of our efforts to ensure the security and safety of students and staff.

Mr Shibli, Assistant Headteacher

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

YOUNG ENTERPRISE 2009

This year has proved a very busy year for the Year 12 Young Enterprise students. In October, four companies were set up: MamboJambo, Dimension Media, Picture This and Silver Lining. Initially, each company had to develop a business plan, a mission statement, elect a Board of Directors and then raise £80 start up capital to pay for their company registration and public liability insurance premium. Once this was all done, the budding entrepreneurs were ready to enter the world of business. The students soon learned that running a business was no easy task and the responsibility for some was certainly an unexpected challenge. Each company was very different in its approach but all were very successful and we believe the students learned some very valuable lessons over the course of the year.

MamboJambo – The Managing Director of this company was Jason Mabb and there were 11 other members in this company. The initial business plan was to provide different forms of entertainment for young people. One of their first projects was to produce a book of children's stories. Unfortunately, this project did not proceed due to initial problems contacting the primary schools as a result of technical problems with the Medway Webmail system. This caused timescale issues for both schools and students and so the MamboJambo team moved onto other projects. They organised discos, ran lunchtime game sessions, attended Trade Fairs, sold gifts and stationery and managed to make a profit in the region of £300.



Dimension Media – This company was a small company with only six members. Jonathan Miller was the Managing Director. The students decided to set up recording company to provide a quality recording service to a diverse market. One of the first projects undertaken was to record Christmas and Spring concerts taking place in local primary and secondary schools and then produce CDs to sell to parents, pupils and teachers. This proved to be most successful and some very positive comments have been received from the Head Teachers regarding the professionalism of the students and the high quality of the CDs they produced. The company also provided a 'text to speech' service for customers who wanted their text documents converted into an audio format. Dimension Media sales figures totalled £1037.33 and their profit was in the region of £790.

We believe these achievers are going to have a good summer holiday with their profits. However, we have recommended they set up a 'University Fund' with their gains! The directors of this company have decided to keep it up and running on an independent basis and we wish them every success with this venture.

Picture This – There were two Managing Directors of this company; Nicole Aina-De-Haan and Rebecca Lee. Each served as MD for approximately half of the business year. The achievers in this company decided to provide personalised products to schools. One of their first and most successful projects was to produce personalised calendars for young children to give to their parents, friends and relatives. Local primary schools were their target market and the team arranged initial meetings with Head Teachers to promote their product. The take-up rate was excellent and Picture This went into mass production of the calendars using the individual pictures and messages prepared by the primary school children. Deadlines were tight, as the calendars were to be given as Christmas gifts. The company also produced personalised mugs for the Year Six leavers and they still have one project on-going. Over the year, Picture This made a profit of £1,430. Again, these entrepreneurs have been advised to invest their gains wisely.



Silver Lining – This company, under the directorship of Jessica Wilcox with help from Emily Weet consisted of 16 members and one of their main projects was to produce personalised T-shirts. They were very creative in their designs and worked really hard on ensuring all of their products were produced to high standard. Learning how to print and transfer onto plain T-shirts proved to be more difficult than the operations team originally thought. Although the T-shirt project raised sales of £125, the profit margin from this was small. However, it certainly proved to be a good learning experience for the students. Silver Lining's biggest project is yet to come – Battle of the Bands. A

great deal of effort has been put into the organisation of this event. Initially, it was due to take place at the beginning of May but due to the Young Enterprise Competition, forthcoming exams and staff commitments, this event had to be cancelled. However, posters will be going up in June, following the GCSE and A level exams. This will be a fantastic evening with judges from the music industry and local radio stations. Come along and rock your socks off.

Mrs Taylor and Mr Bowden

YOUNG ENTERPRISE 2009 CONTD.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YOUNG ENTERPRISE YEAR

SPEAKERS COMPETITION - In February, five speakers for Young Enterprise took part in the Medway Speakers Competition and delivered a seven minute speech on either 'The impact the 2012 Olympic Games will have on the lives of the people living in Kent' or 'What action is needed in order to protect the environment and the Earth's valuable resource?' Those brave enough to take part were Jonathan Miller, Conrad White, Anthony Soh, Jason Mabb and Lee Carter. We are very proud of all the students who represented the school at this competition. They were true ambassadors of the school and delivered their speeches with confidence and style. Conrad White won first place and went on to represent Medway in the Kent Final and Jason Mabb was runner up. Conrad was up against some very tough competition at the Kent Final and although he did not win, the judges were very complimentary about his delivery and his thorough research on the social and economic impact of the 2012 games on Kent and Medway. Congratulations to Conrad and Jason.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE COMPETITION – Three weeks ago, all four companies took part in the Medway Young Enterprise Competition. This took place at the Corn Exchange, Rochester and the students had to deliver presentations on their business to the Mayor and a number of successful business entrepreneurs, as well as parents, teachers and students from other schools. Again, we were so proud of our students and believe they were all winners that evening. Dimension Media won the 'Best Company' award and went on to represent Medway in the Kent Young Enterprise Competition a week later. Dimension Media also won the 'Best Accountant' award and this was collected by Christopher Morris.

The Young Enterprise students have had productive and profitable year and hopefully the experience has taught them some valuable life skills. We both have thoroughly enjoyed working as Link Teachers with these energetic and enthusiastic entrepreneurs, even if they did cause us to despair at times.

Mrs Taylor and Mr Bowden

STUDENTS FILMED TALKING ABOUT ART

Tutor group 8F took part in the competition 'Young Brits at Art' run by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. They spent a day working on their competition entries on the theme of 'Identity' with Cecile Grant, a professional artist. The class were asked if they would be filmed talking about their work for a film to be shown at the competition award ceremony in July and on the website and YouTube channel of the equality and Human Rights Commission. It will also be used to promote the competition in the future.

Students were excited to find a film crew of three people in the art room and enjoyed talking about their work and being filmed and photographed. 16 students were brave enough to be interviewed on film and we are assured that they got some great footage and will be using some of it in the film.

Callum Tipple and Shope Nubi were particular stars. Thanks to all of the students who took part and we hope to have good news about the competition soon. The promotional teddy bears students were given have been spotted around the school several times since.

Mrs Heron



YEAR 11 ARTS AWARD SCHEME

The following students have successfully passed their Bronze Arts Award certification:

Daniel Elphick
Bradley Sowter
Simon Vandeppeer
William Rigden
Hannah Paskins
Jodi Reid
Jade Collings

Arts Award is a nationally recognised Arts qualification that the students have participated in as an extra curricular activity over the last year. The scheme is intended to allow the students to further their interest in different aspects of the Arts. Mrs O'Rourke would like to thank all the students for their hard work and offer them her congratulations.

Mrs O'Rourke

PE DEPARTMENT

'An Evening of Dance': On Wednesday 14 May, approximately 40 students performed in an 'Evening of Dance', along with seven members of staff. The evening was well supported and the audience saw a variety of dance styles ranging from Latin / Cheerleading / Turkish / Contemporary and Street.

An enjoyable evening was had by all and thanks go to all who performed and those who helped behind the scenes.
Mrs Fincher

Netball League Results:

Year 7A	Won League
Year 7B	3rd place
Year 8A	Won League
Year 8B	Won League
Year 9A	3rd place
Year 9B	Won League
Under 16A	2nd place
Under 16B	2nd place (= 1 but decided on points for goal difference)

Fantastic results, well done to all players. Mrs Fincher



Year 8 Cricket: The team played Meopham in the Kent Cup Cricket 20/20 competition. We scored 132 - 6 and Meopham scored 50 - 7 so a convincing win for RMGS. We now through to the next round against Chatham Grammar School for Boys or Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School .
Mr Pearce



REPORT ON SCIENCE COLLEGE ACTIVITIES TERM 5 2009

This term has been busier and there are a range of activities planned for the remainder of the year.

Science

On 22 April, Year 8 enjoyed a visit from the Astrodome. This has been a regular event over the past few years and is always well received by the students. Mr Peter Bassett, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, gave an excellent presentation which was a mixture of factual knowledge and fun. The students thoroughly enjoyed it and my thanks go to all the staff both within and outside the Science Department who helped supervise the day and also to the support staff who kept a beady eye on the dome over lunch.

Also on an astronomical note the Astronomy Club continues to flourish and a member of Year 8, Milad Bahojbe-Ghodsi has had a photograph published on a national website as "Photograph of the Month".

The Science Club continues to attract interest and many of the pupils are preparing their entries for the regional CREST (CREativity in Science and Technology) competition. I know that Miss Rogers has put a lot of effort into this and Miss Budden and Miss Brodie are always there providing support and my thanks goes to all of them for giving up their time to support the students. Later in the year the students will be attending the Regional Final at Wakehurst Place in Surrey and we wish them well.

Also in June, the Science Club will be taking part in a Forensic Science activity where they will learn about the science of one of the most popular forms of science.

On 24 June, Miss Rogers will be offering an extra GCSE in Health and Physiology and the numbers for this are very good and we are sure it will be very successful.

As usual all of the activities would not take part without the efforts and kindness of the staff who give up their time to organise and run them. I hope that the students appreciate all the hard work and time that is freely given to enhance their education.

Mr Dixon, Science College Co-ordinator

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Many congratulations to all of the staff and students who took part in The Wizard of Oz just before Easter on the 1st–3rd April 2009. This is the first musical that the school has put on for a number of years.



The students made a huge commitment to this production, giving up a lot of their free time to rehearse during lunch break and after school on a regular basis. In spite of this, all of the hard work was worth it and everyone involved should feel very proud of what they achieved.

From the classic opening song “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” sung poignantly by Stephanie Hobbs, to the Munchkin dancing choreographed by Samuel Mullin, Rebecca Cross and Nicole Aine-De-Haan, to the comic performance from our clumsy scarecrow Sean Hollands, to the evil shrieks of Lucie Tuck-Brown, it was a highly entertaining show. Added congratulations must go to year 9 students Jordan Shepherd (Lion) and Luke Millard (Tin-Man) who delivered mature and polished performances.

A special thanks must be extended to the Music Department for organising the band. Students from years 10 to 13 were involved, as well as Miss Bigwood and a few invited guests. The band was led by Mr Bowden, in his usual calm and organised manner. Miss Smallwood worked with the cast for the entirety of the production, teaching them all the songs and musical numbers and preparing the band for performance.



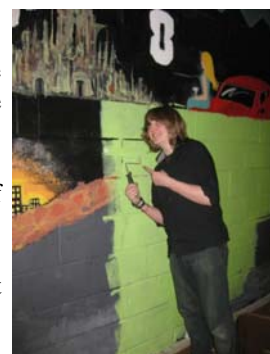
Students were involved in back stage and front of house. Production manager Jack Rule kept staff and students alike organised, and was very encouraging to the students to help them project their voices. Sound design was by Thomas How in year 12. He coped well with the mixture of microphones and sound effects used – in particular his use of the cow sound effect was much enjoyed by cast and crew. Lighting was by Mrs O'Rourke, helped by the Arts Award students. Glenn Bunn was our Stage Manager, whose main job on the night was helping Toto get on stage at the correct time. Glenn was assisted by a willing team of back stage hands. Laura Weeks and Brenden Fuggles, assisted by Y13 prefects, ran the front of house operations.

The creative team of wardrobe, makeup, set design and props also drew on the talents of many RMGS students. Makeup was designed and applied by Lisa Brighton and Becky Saunders, with the wardrobe ably run by Mrs Rayment and Gina Benham. Set design, by Richard Parson, created a Tim Burton-esque setting for the show.

Finally, this production wouldn't have happened without a director, and Mr Mount put in many hours of hard work to bring together this very successful production.

A massive well done to everyone involved in The Wizard of Oz, and here's looking forwards to our next musical production!

By Miss Couch and Miss Smallwood



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2008/2009

<p>19 May to 23 May inc 21 May 22 May 22 May 25 May 26 May to 29 May inclusive 1 June 1 June to 5 June 1 June eve</p> <p>8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18 June</p> <p>8 June am</p> <p>10 June 12 June 12 June pm</p> <p>15 June 16 June</p> <p>18 June and 19 June 20 June</p> <p>22 to 26 June 22 June to 3 July inclusive 23 June 24 June 25 June</p> <p>25 June - 7.30pm - 9.30pm 26 June</p> <p>29 June, 30 June and 1 July</p>	<p>Yr 9 visit to Andalusia, Spain Year 11 - last day before study leave Year 13 - last day before study leave Last day of Term 5 May Bank Holiday HALF TERM First day of Term 6 Year 7 exams Yr 10 visit to Globe Theatre, London to support study of Romeo & Juliet Year 9 Geography field work to North Downs Theatre-in-education performance to primary school HPV vaccine for Yr 8 female pupils Music students visit to Excel, London Theatre-in-education performance to primary school Year 12 return Yr 12 visit to Canterbury University for programming in Java Year 12 - Find that Course Yr 12 visit to Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge Year 10 exams Year 11 work experience Yr 7 ESB exam Yr 8 drama visit to see 'Lion King' Yrs 9 & 10 visit to Greenwich University, for 'Is that Maths?' New Year 7 Parents' Evening Yr 8 (A, B, F, N) visit to Le Touquet for French cultural trip Yr 12 science visit to Wildwood Trust</p>
<p>29 June</p> <p>29 June</p> <p>30 June 30 June 2pm 30 June</p> <p>1 to 3 July 2 July 6 July 6 to 11 July</p> <p>6 to 10 July inclusive</p> <p>7 July 7 July 8 July 4pm - 5.30pm 9 July 10 July 13 July</p> <p>14 July 14 July 15 July 16 July 3.45pm - 5pm</p> <p>17 July 20, 21 and 22 July</p> <p>20 August 27 August</p>	<p>Years 10/12/13 Art visit to Tate Britain, London G&T Drama visit to various schools - Theatre in education tour Year 13 Book Return Day Lower School Prize Day Yrs 9 - 12 drama performance in Rochester for Medway Safeguarding Children Conference Year 10 Enterprise Days Yr 12 ESB exam AS Induction day Yr 9 cultural visit to Normandie France Year 10 visit to Black Forest, Germany Year 11 Book Return Day Prov - Year 8 Drama Festival Yr 12 Achievement afternoon New Year 7 Taster Day Yr 12 Ethics conference Yr 13 visit to Regents Park, London to see open air production of 'Importance of Being Ernest' Sports Day Summer Revue Yr 10 visit to Aylesford Priory Yr 7 tea with previous primary HTs and teachers Last day of term 6 INSET (No pupils in school)</p> <p>Results for A level Results for GCSE</p>

YEAR 8: PERCUSSION SCHOOL WORKSHOP

On Thursday 2nd April, the Director of Percussion School based in Ramsgate led a series of workshops throughout the day to each of the year 8 tutor groups. The workshops were an opportunity for pupils to work on a project based on improvisation, a unit of work they look at, at the start of the summer term.

Each session began with a whole class clapping activity based around a forbidden rhythm; this was a good test of both pupils' aural and rhythmic perceptions. Pupils were then given a pair of drum sticks to use as an extension to the same activity.



As the activity progressed pupils used the floor along with their chairs to explore a range of timbres. Pupils were then split into groups of four and were set a task of composing their own piece that had four separate rhythms based on a theme of their choice.

After working on their pieces for around five minutes the groups were then allowed to incorporate a variety of junk percussion instruments ranging from pots and pans to brooms and metal bins. This again broadened the timbres available to and added another dimension to their compositional work.



Each group then performed their work to the rest of the class; each tutor group produced an excellent selection of compositions, which demonstrated their ability to work as part of an ensemble whilst ensuring that their work was rhythmic and creative. Each session then closed with a whole class performance working once again only with a pair of drumsticks and a chair. The piece worked on building rhythmic patterns.

The workshop sessions were very well received by all the pupils who took part! Our thanks to the Director of Percussion School, for such a successful and creative event.

Mr Bowden