



Robert Clack School of Science A Specialist College Newsletter



www.robertclack.co.uk

July 2017

It's the end of a Robert Clack era as Sir Paul Grant retires.

On Wednesday 12th July, staff, governors and honoured guests came together to say farewell and wish Sir Paul well in his retirement. The evening was a wonderful celebration of Sir Paul's successful leadership.

Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director for Education in Barking and Dagenham, highlighted the many outstanding OFSTED reports the school has received and how Sir Paul 'raised the bar' - not only for Robert Clack but all schools in the borough. Jane thanked Sir Paul for his belief in the children, and said he had played a major part in the history of Robert Clack and the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

Senior Deputy Head Russell Taylor, who will be acting Headteacher from September, spoke affectionately about the '6"4 Scouse giant', commending his outstanding leadership over the years. As a former Clack student himself, Russell is well placed to comment on Sir Paul as a charismatic and gifted teacher with a no-nonsense technique.



Russell recalled stories of Sir Paul excluding 300 (or was it 400?) students soon after taking on the headship, tackling intruders, patrolling the community, and even boarding buses to ensure his students were behaving well.

Since his successful application for the headship in April 1997, Sir Paul has not only overseen outstanding academic achievements, but also large-scale developments to the school itself. Sir Paul has secured funding for a range of new buildings including the popular Leisure Centre in Gosfield Road, and a brand new Sports Centre opened this year on the Green Lane Site.

Sir Paul also enjoyed Royal interest in the school, hosting HRH the Prince of Wales in 2007. After following the progress of the school for several years, Prince Charles was keen to see the changes first-hand and arranged a visit to the Green Lane Site, an event which Sir Paul described as an honour.

In 2009 Sir Paul was knighted for his services to local and national education, appointed the Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London, and presented with the Freedom of Barking and Dagenham.

Sir Paul's career in education – most notably at Robert Clack – has been nothing short of outstanding.

On behalf of everybody whose life you have made a difference to, we wish you a long, happy, and healthy retirement. Sir Paul – you will always be part of the Robert Clack history and following your kind offer to continue as a trustee of the Alumni Association, you will be a key part of Robert Clack future too.

Thank you for your service to the students, parents and staff of Robert Clack, and the communities of Barking and Dagenham.

School Governor and Alumni Association Trustee Honoured at Sports Centre Opening

On Friday 14th July, the school saw the official opening of a brand new Sports Centre on the Green Lane Site. Pete Goyette, Director of Sport and Teacher of PE gave a grand tour of the impressive building. The new facilities include: a dance studio, an all-purpose sports hall, and a multi-purpose area for health related fitness.



The grand opening of the sports centre was attended by many honoured guests, including current talented sport students and by two very special guests – namesakes of the Centre itself: David Cane and Ian Pittaway.

David Cane has been a governor at Robert Clack for over 25 years. He was Chair of the Governing Body when Sir Paul took over as Headteacher back in 1997. David supported Sir Paul in his battle to implement new school rules and together they radically changed the school. It went from being one of the worst schools to one of the most oversubscribed in London. As a result of this hard work the school was rated outstanding by OFSTED and even featured in the prestigious Good Schools Guide. After stepping down as Chair, David remained an influential member of the Governing Body ensuring the school continued to maintain its outstanding reputation.

Ian Pittaway has been hugely involved with the school for many years. A former student with an enduring love for his old school, Ian has remained a dedicated supporter. Ian has funded the school in many areas including securing the shortfall to make the school a Specialist Science College, supporting student awards, and forming the fantastic Robert Clack Alumni Association back in 2011.



David and Ian were both thrilled that the impressive building was named in their honour saying: *“This has been achieved by the whole school community working together. It is the future. A huge thank you!”*

Sir Paul Grant added; *“This is a historic occasion - a great moment. It’s an outstanding facility. Thank you to all staff, students, governors, and everyone involved who campaigned for this. I hope this will encourage and inspire students to continue to exceed in the sporting field”.*

Year 6 Transition Day and the gift of Jamie Johnson!

Mrs Crowther-Green



360 year 6 pupils show off their very own copies of Dan Freedman's *Born to Play*

On Friday 30th June Robert Clack welcomed our newest students about to begin their secondary school adventure in September, for the annual year 6 transition day.

The future year 7 students, a cohort 360 pupils, spent the day at the Green Lane site getting to know the school, their prospective teachers and the school day routine. Aydin from Parsloes Primary School told his older brother Ibrahim in 7I that he thought the day was great and that he made lots of new friends from other schools.

Each student was put into a form with a timetable to follow for the day sending them to lessons in a range of subjects, from English and Maths to PE and MFL.

The year 6 students were given a glimpse of the expectations of secondary school and being a part of the Robert Clack community. Students were told by the Head Teacher, Mr Taylor, in their end of day assembly, "Robert Clack is a place where hard working students can succeed, and everyone pulls together and works together to achieve this."

This year, the year 6 students were also given an extra special gift: their very own copy of the book *Born to Play* by children's author Dan Freedman the creator of the Jamie Johnson series, which is currently being aired on CBBC. They will also be given the opportunity to meet Dan and get their books signed by the man himself when they start school in September! Ugo from Richard Alibon Primary told his brother Chika in 7K he really loved the fact he was given his very own copy of *Born to Play* as he loves watching the Jamie Johnson series on the TV. Chika even confessed he has his eyes on the football themed book for his summer read too!

Millionaire Reader's Trip to Keats House

On the 12th of July 2017, the millionaire readers travelled to Keats House in Hampstead in north-west London. After arriving to Keats house at around ten o'clock we were all separated into two groups. One group went to do the creative writing activity whilst the second group (the one which we were in) were free to explore the surrounding areas. We first came across a book shop not very far from Keats House where we looked around and some even bought books! From there we headed out onto Hampstead Heath. We walked through the park and took many pictures and came across a hill from which we took pictures of the vast view of the city. Without any care of the fact that we were 11-14 year old teenagers, we found a completely empty park with swings, a zip line and a wooden track all around it. We had a fabulous time! Later we returned to the house, we all ate our lunch in the back garden and took pictures with our friends, ready for our turn to do the creative writing activity and tour of the house.



After having lunch we were escorted into Keats house for the tour and activities we came for. We were given an introductory presentation and in this allocated time we were permitted to ask any questions and answer any questions that we knew about Keats or his house. After this relatively short talk we set off for the tour of the actual house. There were many fascinating things for us to see and everything was very well preserved. The two rooms we visited were Keats' sitting room and his bedroom. Kept in a glass case in his sitting room was a portable desk with a built in ink pot, which he would use to write his poetry, because he did not have a writing desk. After the tour of these two rooms we were allowed to roam the house and take pictures of anything we wanted. The best part was trying on the hats! We ended the day by writing a poem inspired by John Keats. Overall, knowledge was gained and fun was had and we hope the trip next year is just as fun as this one!

By F. Ndure and P. Jalal (Year 8) BBC School Reporters



Summer Activities

Barking and Dagenham offer a programme of free and affordable activities during school holidays for children and young people who live or go to school in Barking and Dagenham.

Please note that all of the activities must be pre-booked. To find out more information about the activities please use the link below:

<http://www.gettingactive.co.uk/schoolsout>

Under 13s Hardball Cricket Festival

Andrew Doherty Year 8

I was lucky enough to get invited to go along for the day to see the under 13s girls Robert Clack Cricket team compete in the Under 13s Hardball Festival tournament.

We left school by coach at 8.45am to head for Chelmer Park in Chelmsford. Sprits were high as the girls were chatty and signing along to the radio and Miss Bond was telling us all about bringing her dog along to the match!



Girls warming up for the competition

Finally we arrive at the venue. The cricket strip and green looks ready to play on and the grass had been freshly cut.

The Robert Clack girls' team looked cool and collected in their red and black kit as they began to warm up. Another team playing in the tournament soon arrived wearing all black. If they were worried about any of their opponents it didn't show. They were totally unfazed and ready to go.

The temperature began to rise as the tournament was about to start. Soon enough the first game was called: Robert Clack vs Saint Martins. After a tense game the girls came out with a well fought draw as they played through the intense heat and glare from the sun.

The girls then took on William Edwards and with some excellent fielding and bowling and came out on top!

While I was enjoying watching the matches I managed to ask Kelly Castle, the Robert Clack mascot for the day, and an Essex county player and coach a few questions. She told me, to become a professional cricket player she had to work really hard and overcome many challenges. She said she loved her position as coach but preferred to be on the field and play as part of a team.

The last game of the day Robert Clack played Passmores from Harlow and again they managed a good draw. The girls were happy with their performance of the day, although I got them impression they wanted to win all three!

I would like to say a massive thank you to Miss Elliot for inviting me as a BBC School Reporter along to the tournament and for Miss Bond for a fantastic day of Cricket.

Year 8 Rounders

This year's rounders squad have shown great commitment to training sessions and fixtures. Even though we've only had one team this year, I think it has certainly paid off as we have been extremely successful. The girls who have played cricket have been an asset to the team and they have made a big difference to our game play.

We were undefeated in all of our Borough League games and managed to become champions of the Borough League, beating Sydney Russell in the final. We also came 3rd in the Borough Rounders Rally, achieving bronze medals. These are tremendous achievements from all who represented the school and I hope they continue to play rounders next year.

Miss Higginson.



Sickness

It is a legal obligation that children of school age attend school regularly. If a pupil is sick, the parent or guardian should telephone the school that morning. He or she should be kept at home until well, and a note of explanation sent to the Form Tutor on the day of return to school. If no telephone call has been received by 9.30am on the first day of absence, the school's Attendance Officer will make contact to confirm the reasons for absence.

If a child falls ill in school, parents will be contacted to arrange for their child to be collected and taken home. In the event of an accident requiring urgent medical attention, an ambulance will be called and parents informed.

If your child has to leave school during the day for an appointment, please send your child in to school on the day of the appointment, with a note stating the time they need to leave school, along with the appointment card where possible. Your child will then be able to obtain a pink slip which will release them from their lesson.

How a pupil obtains a Pink slip

(To leave school during the day)

1. **REGISTER** in form.
2. Get note (not in planner) signed by Form Tutor.
3. Go to HOY for the note to be signed.
4. Go straight to the Attendance Office to collect a Pink slip.

All of the above must be completed during MORNING registration.

Homework and Safe Place Club 3-6pm every day in the Information Centre, Green Lane and now at Gosfield Road too!

We are pleased to inform you that we offer an exciting facility that enables your child to come and complete homework, print off work, take a reading quiz and return their library books. This is now also available at Gosfield Road for students to complete coursework, homework, printing and revision.

All pupils at Green Lane and Gosfield Road can use the telephone if they forgot to tell you that they are going to attend. You can also contact us directly on 0208-270-6818 – Green Lane or 0208-270-4189 – Gosfield Road if you want to check that your child is present, or to arrange a collection time.



If no pupils are on site after 5pm, we will close.

Please keep this page somewhere safe

Arrangements for Returning to School

Pupils will return to school on Tuesday 5th September 2017. Please ensure that pupils arrive strictly at the time allocated, wearing correct school uniform. Pupils are reminded to be properly equipped for school. The following schedule will apply for this day only.

Year 7	Green Lane	8.45 am (Report to Tennis Courts)
Year 8	Green Lane	9.45am (Report to Tennis Courts, lists to be found by Learning Centre and IEU)
Year 9	Green Lane	10.50 am (Report to Tennis Courts, room lists to be found by Learning Centre & IEU)
Year 10	Gosfield Road	10.00 am (Report to School Hall)
Year 11	Gosfield Road	10.45 am (Report to back playground, lists to be found along 'S' corridor/external windows)
Year 13 (All Pupils)		11:00 am (Report to School Hall, Gosfield Road)

Green Lane	Year	Arrive @ School	Assembly
	7	8.45 am	9.10 – 9.45 am
			Assembly Room
	8	9.45 am	10.00 – 10.35 am
			Assembly Room
	9	10.50 am	11.20 – 11.45 am
			Assembly Room
Gosfield Road			
	10	10.00 am	1.30 – 2.10 pm
	11	10.45 am	2.15 – 3.00 pm
6 th Form (Year 13)	13	11:00am (Tuesday 5 th)	11:00am (Tuesday 5 th)

Thursday 7th September:

Year 12 (All Pupils) 8:45 am (Report to School Hall, Gosfield Road)

6 th Form (Year 12)	12	8:45 am (Thursday 7 th)	8:45 am (Thursday 7 th)
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Dates for your diary

Thurs 28th September

Open Evening for prospective pupils and parents from Year 6 (school will close at 2.00pm on this day)

Holiday Dates

Wed 19th July 2017

Break up for summer

Tue 5th September 2017

Return to School

Fri 20th October 2017

Break up for half term

Mon 30th October 2017

Return to School

Fri 15th December 2017

Break up for Christmas

Wed 3rd January 2018

Return to School

Fri 9th February 2018

Break up for half term

Mon 19th February 2018

Return to School

Thurs 29th March 2018

Break up for Easter

Mon 16th April 2018

Return to School

Mon 7th May 2018

Bank Holiday

Fri 25th May 2018

Break up for half term

Mon 4th June 2018

Return to School

Fri 20th July 2018

Break up for summer

