

Maths &
Computing

Science



Robert Clack School of Science A Specialist College Newsletter

www.robertclack.co.uk**November 2016**

GCSE grades are changing

GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. English Literature, English Language and Maths will be the first subjects to be graded in this way, affecting our current Year 11s, for the 2017 results. Most other subjects with the highest numbers of candidates (e.g. arts, humanities, languages) will follow in 2018, affecting our current Year 10s. The remainder of the subjects will change for the results in 2019, affecting our current Year 9s. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades. This is happening as GCSEs are being reformed to make them more challenging, to keep pace with employers' and universities demands. In the first year each new GCSE subject is introduced, students who would have got a grade C or better will get a grade 4 or better. Grade 9 will be more difficult to achieve than a grade A*. To see how the numbered grades compare to the current A* to G system, [click here](#) or Google "ofqual 9 to 1 postcard".

Mr S O'Brien

Launch of the Robert Clack Alumni Academy

In a previous newsletter we mentioned the Robert Clack Alumni Academy – a scheme which was born out of discussions amongst the Robert Clack Development Trust Trustees. The trustees are keen to support students to realise their entrepreneurial potential. We are delighted to report that the first cohort of budding Clack Entrepreneurs (nine of our new Year 12 students) are on their way to discovering the secrets of business success. They are working with a group of individuals (most of whom are former Robert Clack pupils themselves) who have 'been there and done it'. Guest lecturers have included a recent Year 13 leaver from the 'class of 2016' who sells self-made clothes.

Alongside former pupils established in a range of business areas, including finance, coaching, marketing, communications, law and accountancy. We have also welcomed a friend of an ex-student who has developed an exciting and innovative online gaming business and games café.

Together with trustee Michael Jeffrey, Neville McKay, partner in Aon Hewitt (a global leader in human resource solutions), was involved in designing and rolling out the very first Alumni Academy.

Neville shares some thoughts on the first few weeks of this exciting project: “The pupils have now been exposed to a number of new ideas and concepts. They have been given challenges to work through and techniques to practice. We now need to build on this by completing the technical content of the course and then giving the pupils time and support to develop their business ideas. Undoubtedly this will be a very big challenge for them but we are optimistic that they will be enthused to give it their very best. The students will undoubtedly encounter many hurdles on their personal journeys. Let’s hope they learn much in the process – including resilience and determination – in preparation for future, hard won success.”

We currently have 1198 members signed up to the official Robert Clack Alumni Association database. Many of these are already taking part in fantastic events to help the school - but we want more!

Alumni play a vital role in helping to develop the school and current pupils. Seeing people like you achieving great things after leaving Robert Clack will inspire current pupils to work hard and realise the opportunities that are available to them.

So don’t forget if you or your friends/family are ex-students and would like further information regarding our alumni and forthcoming events,+ please sign up and become a member of our official Robert Clack Alumni Association by following the link below.

Be part of the future of Robert Clack School – sign up to the Alumni Association **TODAY! It’s free to join!**

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/robertclack>

Year 12 Trip to Essex Chemistry at Work Day

Year 12 students attended a variety of talks from people who work in the chemical or engineering industry. There were talks on problems we face feeding the world’s population, how engineering is helping medicine to improve and how drugs are formulated. It was a fantastic day where the students got a real insight into what types of skills are required for many of the scientific jobs

available. It was also an excellent chance for students to see what types of jobs there are that are related to science.

Some of the talks really opened their eyes to some of the problems we face as a society and what is being done to try and overcome these problems. It also inspired many of them to think about using their Science A levels to help overcome the future problems that we may encounter.



Year 11 visit to Hampton Court School

A few weeks ago, we attended a school trip to Hampton school in south west London. We were able to meet 4 survivors of 4 separate genocides, Cambodia, The Holocaust, Bosnia and Rwanda. It was a very inspirational and eye opening experience for everyone involved with the trip.

During the morning we were put into groups and listened to one of the four survivors and their experience of genocide. After listening to their accounts we were also given an opportunity to ask further questions.

After having lunch we did a number of workshops involving a ‘Question and Answer’ with BBC presenter Dan Snow. We then began to discuss with students from other schools how we could share our knowledge within our wider school communities.

The first step in doing this was a presentation in year 11 assembly this week where we were able to disseminate the knowledge gained. It is our hope that over the coming months we will be developing further ideas for a genocide awareness campaign. This campaign will involve the whole school and enable students of other year groups to gain an understanding of this important issue.

Ekzon Metalia and Callum Meyrick



Booked Up – Free books for all Year 7 pupils

This year our school is once again participating in Booked Up. This is a national programme aimed at encouraging 11-year-olds to read for pleasure run by Booktrust and supported by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

All Year 7 pupils have been given the chance to choose a title from a total of 12 books. This has been coordinated by the staff in the Information Centre.

The books have been distributed during library lessons. Many of the titles have Accelerated Reader quizzes which will be available for the pupils to complete once they have read their book.

This is a great opportunity to encourage your children to read independently.



Year 8 Netball

The netball season is underway and it is lovely to have girls so committed to training sessions on Tuesday after school and Saturday mornings. All three teams have played some games recently and have had great success.

A Team

The A team played against Jo Richardson and won 28-4. Player of the match went to Alecia Sesiuk for her supportive play on court. Coach's player was shared between Ellie Luxton and Toni-Ann Barron for their excellent attacking play.

A team players: Alecia Sesiuk, Ellie Luxton, Amelia Balogun, Rhyanna Williams, Toni-Ann Barron, Isobel Fletcher-Robinson, Claudia Perdoch, Zacchia Moore and Sumana Ahmed.

B Team

The B team played a friendly against Frances Bardsley Academy's A team and won 12-8. This was a close game but the girls dominated play in our attacking third.

B team players: Monique Smith-Osinaike, Mariah Olabode, Shereece Amoani, Casey Mance, Bolu Oke, Eva Obadan, Rukudzo Nyoni, Tendayi Hove and Davina Addo-Boadu.

C Team

This team has worked well together in games and their play is improving on a daily basis. They played a friendly against Frances Bardsley Academy's B team and drew 4-4. They played another friendly against All Saints' C team and won 7-3. Player of the match was Kimberley Wachira for her adaptability. Coach's player was Macy Margini for her excellent shooting. This is a great start to the netball season considering that for some of these girls, it is their first year of training and playing games.

C team players: Macy Margini, Kimberley Wachira, Tiffany Parson, Lila Canary, Manovi Saha, Asia Folarin, Renee Palmer-Davies, Roxana Popa and Gisela Sequira.

Some excellent results from all teams. Well done girls and keep up the excellent work!

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. Go to HOY for the note to be signed.
3. 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.

Dates for your diary

Wed 23rd November 2016	4.00-7.00pm Year 8 Parents' evening for students in English groups: Gaskell, Hardy, Ibsen, Joyce, Keats Lawrence & Milton
Sat 26th November 2016	10.00am-2.00pm Robert Clack Association Christmas Table Top Sale, Gosfield Road site

Holiday Dates

Fri 16th December 2016	Break up for Christmas
Wed 4th January 2017	Return to School
Fri 10th February 2017	Break up for half term
Mon 20th February 2017	Return to School
Fri 7th April 2017	Break up for Easter
Mon 24th April 2017	Return to School
Mon 1st May 2017	Bank Holiday
Fri 26th May 2017	Break up for half term
Mon 5th June 2017	Return to School
Thurs 20th July 2017	Break up for summer

