



The Newsletter of Raynes Park High School

Issue: 19 - Friday, 9th July 2010

David Herbert

We are sad to inform parents of the tragic death of David Herbert following a climbing accident in the Lake District. David had made an enormous contribution to the school over several decades as parent governor, chair of governors and most recently as chair of our charitable trust. Members of staff, current and former students and governors attended his funeral service last week. We will look back on David's life in a special article in the school magazine next year.

6th Form Orientation Days have been taking place yesterday and today in the new building. Students have enjoyed taster lessons in their AS level or BTEC level 3 subjects, have met their tutors and been briefed about the challenges of life in a 21st century 6th form. More reports and pictures to follow next week. *Miss Levesque*

Borough Debating Competition – Winners!

Raynes Park was represented by two teams at this event on Wednesday - both performed outstandingly. Team B reached the semi final stage beating teams from Wimbledon College, Dundonald Primary School and Ricards Lodge. Team A won the competition by beating a team from Ricards Lodge in the final, the motion was 'This House would make people with unhealthy lifestyles pay for their medical treatment.' Our team opposed the motion.

Congratulations go to: Stephanie Dale 7GZ, Sarah North 7GZ and Leah Phillips 8NX in Team A. Ellen Deverson 7GZ, Olivia Young 8NX and Talal Islam 8GX were in Team B. Additional speakers Kieran Stallard 7GZ and Jake Darter 7GZ were praised for outstanding contributions to all the floor debates. All students did exceptionally well in a challenging activity against very able and experienced opposition. They now look forward to continued success in future competitions. *Mr. Di-Toro*

STEM Club

This week in STEM club it was competition time! The challenge was to build a rollercoaster for a marble out of paper, tin foil and straws. Teams got points for the height of the rollercoaster and for how long it lasted. They also got points if they returned some equipment unused. All the teams were very creative and built some great roller coasters. The winning team was Amelia, Oliver and Surya. *Miss Hampden*

The Lionheart Challenge 2010



On Monday nine pupils from Year 9 travelled up to the prestigious Emirates Stadium to participate in the Lionheart Challenge Regional Finals. In keeping with the spirit of the venue, our team of pupils went on the attack from the first whistle and were "gunning" for glory.

The aim of the day was for pupils to learn and practise using different enterprise skills and attributes such as meeting deadlines, handling uncertainty & risk, decision making, problem solving and data analysis. Students were also expected to be innovative and to show entrepreneurial skills in their work. As a team, the challenge was to **"conceptualise, design and create a ground breaking product or device which will maximise safety for military personnel in combat"**. The team then had to present this product to the judges and the other teams. There were military experts, business leaders and university professors on hand to lead the pupils in the right direction but the project itself was wholly the work of the pupils. The pressure to constantly meet the deadlines to hand in the marketing plan, the product plan, the financial plan etc was well managed and the pupils can be extremely proud of their efforts.



It was a long and mentally exhausting day tinged with a little disappointment at not winning through to the National Finals, but these minor aspects were far outweighed by the amount that was gained by participating in such a prestigious and well respected event. There is no doubt that all students who partook in this challenge will benefit hugely from the knowledge and skills that they've learned, which they'll be able to put in use both in their time in school and in their future careers – surely a great "goal" to have at the Emirates. *Mr. Duus*

Transport for London (TFL)

Travel Plan – ‘Sustainable Level Award’

Every 3 years a report is written by the School's Travel Plan Champion setting clear objectives on ways to improve student numbers travelling by bike or walking to school. Part of this process is to conduct surveys and interviews on how students would like to travel to school if they had the choice. Of course we have to demonstrate that more students do walk or cycle to school! This year our school has won the Sustainable Level Award for our Travel Plan, which we are delighted and very proud to have.

TFL have also given the school books vouchers to the value of £70 for the LRC to purchase a selection of resources for our students as part of our reward.

Mrs Morello, Sustainability Coordinator

New Wimbledon Theatre Centenary Celebrations

“Dear Mr. Newman,

This is just a short note to let you know that the students from Raynes Park who have been performing at the New Wimbledon Theatre have been an absolute credit to themselves and to your school. In the audience last night was Stephen Hammond MP and the new Mayor of Merton. Both asked me to pass on to all participants their thanks for a slick, entertaining and heart warming production.

The backstage of a theatre can be an incredibly stressful and scary place, but they have behaved as absolute professionals, both on stage with their moving and inventive ‘Theatre of War’ and off with their mature behaviour. Several people in the audience complimented the group on their performance, praising the level of acting skill they displayed and the confidence with which they performed. Credit for this needs to go to Miss Valmarana and Mrs Jager who have both given the project their all and have worked incredibly hard with the group.

Christina Lydon, Creative Learning Manager, New Wimbledon Theatre”

Some Calendar Items

- Thursday 15th July – Access Centre Parents’ Evening from 7.00pm to 9.00pm
- Thursday 15th July – Post-16 Parents’ Evening from 7.00pm to 8.00pm
- Monday 19th July – Sports Day at Kingsmeadow
- Thursday 22nd July – School Concert at 7.00pm
- Friday 23rd July – Last Day of Term – finish at 12.15pm

A Vision of Success – Youth Philanthropy Initiative

Congratulations go to Ricki Blease and Sasha Borisaite of 8GX whose presentation to The Institute of Philanthropy won them £3000 for their chosen charity – **Merton Vision**- last Wednesday.



As part of the school’s Enterprise initiative, Year 8 students were asked to research a local charity including making a visit. They had to explore with the charity what it would do with a donation of £3000. Pupils promoted their charities in their SEAL lessons earlier in the year and the winning groups went through to the final. There was nervous tension in the air in the LRC on Wednesday afternoon as the six judges (three from the Royal Society of Arts and three Year 11 House Captains) took their seats.

All five presentations were excellent - passionate, thought-provoking, inspiring and informative. They demonstrated clear understanding, compassion and empathy for our local community. Their determination to make a difference for people who need society’s support was impressive.

However there could only be one winning group and Ricki and Sasha have been invited to Merton Vision for an official handing over of the cheque next week. Well done also to Ronald McDonald Housing who finished as runners-up. However, all five groups deserve praise for their achievements – they did themselves and their charities proud. The five groups were:-

Spires – 8HZ: Charlie Bambrough , Chris Pryor, Josh Harvey, Joe Latham, Alex Kim

The Children’s Trust – 8HX: Ellie Hutchison, Paige Vella, Lauren Frankland-Collick, Alex Lel-lye

Merton Vision – 8GX: Sasha Borisaite, Ricki Blease

The Rainbow Trust – 8MZ: Charlie Hearn, Jessica Owen, Ryan Patterson, Calum Marman, Ellie Henderson, Kiera Poole, Emily Paraskevas

Ronald McDonald Housing – 8GX: Jaydean Munting, Kayleigh Byrne, Hibaq Ismail, Leah Fullerton, Charlotte Ludlow-Sears

Mr. Duus, Enterprise Coordinator