



9th June 2017

Name &amp; Tutor Group:

## Headlines by Rachel McGowan

### Reflection

We now have just six weeks in front of us prior to another school year coming to an end. For **Year 10** students we are now just **176** school days from their **GCSE examination beginning. Years 8** and **9** start their **GCSE courses** in just **29** school days' time. Year 7 have nearly done a full year with us and soon will no longer be the youngest. With time passing so quickly, now is a good time to reflect and try to ensure that from that honest reflective learning can be accelerated so that the very best use of the time in front of us all can be made. When you reflect you'll find so many things that you realise you do now know, that you do now understand and that you can now do that I'm certain every one of you will find yourself in a very positive state of mind once you've carried out that reflection. With that positive view point, as we reach the final **six weeks of the year**, set yourself ambitious goals. We have 1,350 absolutely magnificent young women attending our school and there is nothing each of you cannot achieve if you put your minds to it! Don't wait to act upon your reflections until some unspecified day in the future; make a start today and you'll create more opportunity and a better future for yourself tomorrow.

### Contact Numbers

Would all parents please ensure that we have up-to-date emergency contact numbers on our system. If you have changed your number recently (this is especially the case with mobile telephone numbers) please either write to your daughter's Year Coordinator to inform them of the change or contact our school reception.

### Fake News

Young people currently live in a society that is dominated by social media. As teachers and parents it is our duty to ensure that our students and daughters are equipped with the right tools, advice and support to manage anything that they

may see, read or hear. At the moment there are many 'Fake News' articles circulating social media to create hype and interest in potentially dangerous activities. Whilst there is no truth in the initial situation, the hype is intended to cause mass curiosity in the vain hope that young people will take part. Young people have a desire to be included in the latest gossip or media frenzy which potentially puts them at risk of ill-advised, and sometimes, potentially dangerous activity. As teachers and parents we must hold open discussions with our children about the dangers the internet and social media pose. Whilst we do not have total control over what they read, see or hear we can influence how they manage such information. I urge families to reinforce positive and appropriate use of the internet, developing safe environments for girls to talk about anything they may see, hear or read. Please do use parental controls and delete or block inappropriate posts or people. Young people must have the confidence to look after their own safety online.

If you as a parent are concerned regarding anything your daughter has read, seen or heard on the internet we ask that you please contact the school for information and advice.

### Ramadan Mubarak

The most blessed month of the year, where self-restraint, commitment and faith are displayed began whilst we were on half-term holiday. This holy month can bring about a lifetime change. We at Plashet regard it as a character-building month, where our girls of a Muslim faith can bring themselves closer to God and flourish both spiritually and academically. I would like to send my best wishes to all families observing the Holy month of Ramadan.

**Mrs McGowan**

## Bouygues Competition

On the 20th of March, 3 groups of 4 students, Ms Malod and Ms Lot participated in a French competition in Central London.

We prepared a PowerPoint presentation about building a sport centre sustainably which we presented on this day. We went to Bouygues which is a business focussed on building sustainably all around the world. We took the train to go there; it took about a hour. The employees in the building were very nice and patient. Furthermore, the judges who looked at our presentation were very excited. There were 4 judges: 1 who could not speak French and 4 judges who were French.

I liked being involved in the competition because it was a great moment thinking about new things. It also helped me to develop my French skills and knowledge. Finally, we finished and arrived at school before the last lesson. I loved participating in the competition which helped me to build my confidence as I am quite shy nonetheless I was ecstatic with the quality of my work.

**By Aranii Nagarajah**



**Ms Rouveyrol-Malod, French Teacher**

## Count on Us Secondary Maths Challenge

The Count on Us Secondary Challenge is a unique, pan-London Maths tournament for Year 8 and 9 students delivered in partnership with the Jack Petchey Foundation. By combining a series of mental arithmetic and problem solving tasks, the Secondary Challenge helps students become confident mathematicians, developing mathematical fluency and improving problem solving skills.

On Wednesday 10th March, five students from Plashet accompanied by Ms Khan and Ms Tang to participate in the first stage of Count on Us Secondary Maths challenge at Lister Community School. The first stage was a competition amongst ten secondary schools in London. The two schools with the highest scoring points were automatically sent through to the semi-finals that will be held on 15th June at City Hall, Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA. Overall, Plashet came second with a total of 193 points, meaning that the school will take part in the semi-finals at City hall.

In the competition there were a total of four rounds where points were awarded for winning each round. The first round was called the game of hex, in this challenge each team had to compete against four other schools. In the next round three members of each team completed geometric puzzles, points were awarded for each correct solution. After that, one person from each group had to compete against two other people from different schools in the 24 game. The person who came first was awarded the most points while the person who was third place received no points. Before the final round, there was a short break where students were provided with refreshments. During the final round, each group had to complete a worksheet involving algebra and decoding as fast as possible.

The five students who participated in this challenge were Iqra Ahmed 9L, Jashandeep Kaur Bassi 9L, Ridita Noboni 9E, Harini Nagarajah 8E and Fawziyah Chowdhury 8G. These girls were chosen in February based on their results in a mini maths tournament, which was held during lunchtime, for all year 8s and 9s. Ms Khan worked really hard with the students during lunchtime and after school in order to prepare them through all the stages of the challenge. During this selection process, students were asked to attempt geometric puzzles and the game of hex in groups of five. The girls were then asked to complete an

algebra and decoding test paper individually. They also had to compete against two other students in a mental maths game. The five students with the highest overall results were selected to represent Plashet for the secondary maths challenge.



Here are a few comments from the students who participated in the challenge:

'We prepared for the challenge by attending lunchtime or afterschool clubs twice a week. During these sessions we practised each activity individually and as a group so that we would be able to work effectively together whilst being efficient during the actual competition. During practice we went over a variety of puzzles; such as the 24 game (a mental maths game where a person tries to make 24 as fast as possible), soma cubes (a puzzle where groups try to create specific shapes out of the cubes), decoding (requires algebra to work out the solutions to problems) and many more. Attending the clubs has helped us develop our numerical fluency and group work skills. On the whole, the day was extremely enjoyable and significantly helped us develop our maths skills. We had a great time and we were awarded goody bags for participating in the challenge. We are definitely looking forward to the next stage of the competition and hope to get to the finals.' - **Ridita Noboni 9L**

'All five of us and the two teachers were extremely happy that we got through the first heat. We all got a taste of what it will be like to go to the semi-finals.' - **Jashandeep Kaur Bassi 9L**

'Going to the secondary maths challenge was amazing. It was a great experience as it helped me with maths.' - **Fawziyah Chowdhury 8G**

'This maths challenge gave us an amazing experience. It also showed maths in a different perspective.' - **Harini Nagarajah 8E**  
9L

'I have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the count on us secondary maths challenge. Enabling me to develop my mental maths skills greatly, the challenge has changed my perspective of maths completely. It is a great opportunity and I recommend it for other year groups!'

**Iqra Ahmed**

**Ms Kalote, Curriculum Leader for Maths**

## Carnegie Shadowing

The shortlist for this year's Carnegie Medal was announced in March. This award is presented each year to an author judged to have written an outstanding book for children or young adults and during the last couple of months, members of Plashet's Carnegie Club have been reading and reviewing the eight books still in the running for the prize. Students have also been exploring some of the themes discussed in the books during our meetings.

Here are some of the books on this year's shortlist.

Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk is a mystery set in a rural American community in 1943.

"When I first started reading this book, I thought it wasn't for me. I'm normally the sort of person looking for a laugh in the books I read. Boy, was I wrong! I cannot begin to express how much I loved this book. This book is not only a great read but a valuable lesson in life: To never judge a book by its cover nor a person by their appearance. Which is a bit hypocritical since the cover of the book is just as AWESOME as the book itself." **Keerthi Kadari 9E**

Railhead by Philip Reeve in a science-fiction novel in which humanity is connected by an intergalactic train network.

"SciFi is not my genre and I only read this book because it was on the shortlist. Railhead made me realise what I had been missing. I was engrossed in the world Reeve had created, especially the concept of trains with personalities!"

**Jashandeep Bassi 9L**

The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon looks at the experiences of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar living in detention centres off the coast of Australia.

"Personally, I thoroughly agree with the message of this book, and would encourage more people to read it as it will help them become more aware of what is going on in the world. The story was relatively engaging as it gave you an insight on how refugee camps are really like, including the character's thoughts and feelings about the camp. I really liked the fact that the story was told through the eyes of Subhi, who never really knew about life outside the camp." **Fatema Bushra 9N**

Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth by Frank Cottrell Boyce is a funny story about a boy who meets an alien disguised as a dog.

"This book is a very funny and an adventurous book. I really enjoyed reading this book. It is full of humour and friendship." **Wahida Shakoor 8N**

If you would like to join the Carnegie Club, please speak to a member of library staff. You can find more book reviews written by Plashet students at <http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/reading-groups.php>

### **Charity Second-Hand Book Sale**

We will be holding a second-hand book sale on Wednesday 14th June in the North Library at Break. All of the money raised will be donated to Book Aid International to enable them to provide books to communities in sub-Saharan Africa, helping local people to meet their potential.

### **Ann Clifford - Smith, Librarian/Resource Manager**

## **Compass Project**

Congratulations to the following students for completing five mentoring sessions of the Compass Project; Safiyah Master (10N), Halimah Akhtar (10N), Mehjabin Ahmed (10N), Sara Nadeem (10E), Zahra Ahmed (10E), Fatma Torbas (10E), Suad Farah (10G), Alia Khan (10P), Amirah Patni (10S), Nafeesa Uddin (10S), Amaani Khan (10S), Shaumi Selvaelangeswaran (10L), Sahanaz Ali (10H).

The girls learnt how to participate in meaningful and challenging dialogue, the importance of self-belief and confidence, employability and interview skills, and how to speak up and take on leadership roles. They were also given academic and career guidance from five professional female mentors.

### **Shaumi Selvaelangeswaran 10L**

"The compass project was a very valuable experience and I feel like I have benefitted a lot as I have become more confident and have started to think about my career."

### **Suad Farah 10G**

"The compass project boosted my confidence in areas like public speaking. It also prepared us for life after school and made us think about what we wanted to study at university. Overall, the compass project was extremely helpful in preparing us for adult life."

### **Nafeesa Uddin 10S**

"The compass project really had a great influence and impact on me. I feel that I have gained so much more confidence by interacting with new people and expressing my views and opinions on topics I feel very deeply about. It was a good insight into life after education and things to expect."

### **Safiyah Master 10N**

"Over the past four months we have been attending 'the compass project'. It was a pleasure to be a part of this project as it was interesting and beneficial. I learnt many new skills which I can adapt into my life. I gained a lot of confidence while doing this."

### **Alia Khan 10P**

"I thoroughly enjoyed the compass project because the mentors were very understanding and the different sessions were interesting. My favourite session was the employability skills because of the S.T.A.R method. This method showed us how to accurately answer our interview questions and how to make ourselves better candidates for a job in comparison to others."

### **Halimah Akhtar 10N**

"I have found the compass project very useful and have found that I am now using many of the skills I learnt in class, such as speaking up in public. I found the last lesson particularly useful and fun. I didn't realise so much could be said about a waterproof jacket. I really benefited from these sessions and now I have a clearer vision about my future."

### **Mehjabin Ahmed 10N**

"Over the past 4 months, I have been attending 5 after school sessions called 'the compass project'. They were very helpful and many of us learnt new skills after the sessions such as building up confidence, how to do an interview and skills."



## Year 10 Most Able Event: St. Mary University

As part of our programme for the Most Able students, 70 students and parents/carers attended a university engagement evening led by representatives from St. Mary's University on Thursday 25th May in the South Hall.

The evening was a success and included presentations from St. Mary's University representatives about funding, entry requirements and life on campus, and provided opportunities for students and parents/carers to ask questions throughout.

Below are some student reviews:

"The university engagement evening was a real eye-opener to the world of real work and post-16 education. I gained very beneficial facts on how to approach my future decisions regarding university for the coming years. Wonderful experience."

**Ishrat Uddin 10S**

"The experience was absolutely amazing and really informative for parents and students! I was so inspired by the idea of going to university and I would definitely like to go when I'm older."

**Khizra Mir 10E**

"I think that the university engagement evening was informative and I've learnt more about university options and choices to make in the future."

**Simran Sohal 10S**

"I gained a lot of information from the university engagement evening. I learnt that there is more than one route to getting a place at university."

**Bhabanjot Kaur Mann 10S**

"The St. Mary event was a very interesting experience and has made me think more about universities. After this I want to go to the best university for my preferred courses."

**Shaumi Selvaelangeswaran 10L**

**Miss Hogan, KS4 Lead for Most Able Students**

## A Visit from our Pen Pals from France

On Thursday 4th May 2017, some visitors came to Plashet School. We got to meet our pen pals, as they came to London all the way from the North of France. We had been in contact with them since January. Our pen pals came from the school called Georges Brassens. They arrived at 10:00am. Then we went and watched a GCSE performance in the south hall. Everyone enjoyed the performance. The performance was filled with joy and amusement as the GCSE students put on an incredible show for us all to enjoy.

Later on, the Plashet girls, in Year 9 gave their pen pals a tour of the North, South and South Annex Building. It was about 1 hour long. At 12:15pm they had lunch. After lunch at about 1:15pm they left. All of them had a great time! They learnt a lot of new things!

My pen pal was Margot and she was so nice! She spoke a bit of English. It was hard for all my friends to communicate in French, and it was hard for our penpals to communicate in English. However, we managed to somehow talk to them. I had a great time. My friends enjoyed it too! I would like to thank the French Department, who organized this, because it was nice to actually meet the person once you have written to them.

**Khushleen Kaur 9G**



## A Visit to our Pen Pals in France

On Friday 19th May, a selection of Year 9 students journeyed across the Channel to France in order to meet their pen pals that study at George Brassens school. To start the trip, the students had to arrive at school gates at 5:30am so we could board the coach. After a two-hour coach journey, we finally arrived at Dover, where we would get on a giant ferry. There were a huge range of activities that we could do on the ferry whether it was enjoying the view from the upper deck or buying souvenirs from shops.

Later on, we reached the French coast and so we came back into our coach and travelled to George Brassens School. Our school was greeted with drinks and snacks after our long trip. We then were taken to the school's sports hall to meet our pen pals and watch them perform an array of acts. The students sang songs and did a series of dances that greatly entertained us as well as the teachers. Afterwards, we were eventually reunited with our pen pals that visited us only two weeks ago in the UK. The Plashet students were given a booklet with some questions and a treasure hunt. We split up into groups and our pen pals took us on a tour of the school. Many of us were surprised at how small the school was however the school itself was very serene and filled with nature.

Sadly, we eventually had to wave our pen pals good bye and travelled to the nearest hypermarket. The students were given an hour to go round and buy all the items and souvenirs they wanted. Some students either shopped in Sephora or ate waffles from a little shop. Lastly, we all met up and got back into the coach for our journey home.

This trip was fun and it allowed all the students to put the French we learn in lessons into practise.

**Noshin Sadia 9N**



**Ms Louot, Second in Department for French**

## EAL Welcome Celebration - Wednesday 24th May 2017

When I saw the invitation for the Welcome Celebration, I was surprised. I didn't expect such a warm welcome from the school. When I walked into the celebration room, I was very happy to see the arrangement. All the new students came. The music was really good. The teachers were kind and friendly. All of the students sat and had lunch: pizza, cake, fruit and juice. Then we moved tables to introduce ourselves to the other students. I feel that I am so lucky to be in Plashet School and all the students helped me so much.

Thank you for this Welcome Celebration.

**Sai Mani 8P**

## Visit to Newham Library and Newham Leisure Centre

The EAL department organised a visit to Newham Library and Leisure Centre. We went on the trip with Ms Kirtley and Ms Gohil. We left school at 1:15pm (during lunch time), when it started to rain. It was slightly unfortunate that it started to rain, but that didn't stop us from feeling excited about going to the library and leisure centre. After all, the quicker we got there, the quicker we'd be away from the rain!

At Newham Library, we had a chance to take out a book from a variety of genres that the library offered. All of us took out at least one book and some of us took more. The visit was very informative and the staff told us about details of the library we did not know before. At the Leisure Centre, which was a few minutes away from the library, we got to know about the facilities and membership. Like the visit to the library, it was both explanatory and interesting.

We hope to go there again!

**By Sukhwinder Kaur (8T) and Mahin Azim Rahman (9P)**



**Ms Kirtley, Curriculum Leader for EAL**

## Lionheart Enterprise Challenge

The Year 9 were off timetable on Thursday 18th May 2017. They were participating in the Lionheart Enterprise Challenge. They were working in non friendship groups of 10 and they had to:

“Conceptualise, design and create a product or device which will be a highly effective tool in the fire and rescue services armoury, to assist them in safety and life saving situations which arise in their day to day lines of duty”

We were joined by some ex Plashet students as judges, with Tulsi Vagjiani, Rebeca Hussain, Amara Gaspard Brown and Rani Rajan giving up their valuable time to see what the students were doing and to grade them on their teamwork, communication skills, marketing, presentation and overall product design.



Winning Team number 1 with the judges.



The day in action

“I thought the whole day was fun and exciting..... it has built up my confidence by being a presenter and presenting in front of the year group” **SB 9T**

“I really enjoyed this challenge as it improved my communication skills” **HI 9N**

“This gave me a better insight into what running businesses are actually like, especially in terms of finance, marketing and product design” **NB 9G**

“It helped me develop the Plashet Practices of resilience and communication” **NI 9P**

**Ms Clark, Head of Careers Education  
Information Advice and Guidance**