



# THE RALPH SADLEIR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



October 2013

Dear Parents

Last half term was one of the longest on record, and one of the busiest we have ever had. As you will know, and this newsletter reflects, pupils were involved in a vast array of different activities that enhanced their learning, enriched their experiences of school and challenged them to extend their skills, thinking and knowledge in many ways.

As ever the pupils rose to the challenges set and grew as learners and young citizens. They were all a credit to themselves and to the school and, yet again, drew many compliments from the professionals who worked with them. Many of our visitors are more accustomed to working with older students yet they felt that the Ralph Sadleir pupils acquitted themselves in a manner more generally seen with students several years older.

October saw Ralph Sadleir move to a new phase of its history when we finally became an Academy. The journey had been a long one due to the delays caused by a land dispute with the Local Authority but finally we heard from the Department for Education that the conversion had been given the 'green light'. In the short term there are few outward signs that things are different but long term we hope that there will be changes that will make a positive difference to what we offer your children, particularly in the facilities that we have and the learning environment.

Our new website will be launched next Monday; a new look that reflects our new status and will give us many more opportunities to keep parents, pupils and others interested in the school up to date with all we do. In its development we have listened to feedback from parents and have tried to make it even more informative and user friendly. It will feature even more of the latest information so if you are a parent who likes to have the school's news at their fingertips you I recommend you add it to your 'favourites' and check it regularly.

Later this term the Annual Parent Questionnaire will be sent home to you. Please take the time to complete it as it is an opportunity for you to share your views with the school's leadership team and the governors. As those parents who attend Parents' Forum are aware, the responses are scrutinised, discussed and ways of building on the positives and addressing the negatives are considered very carefully. Like Parents' Forum, the Annual Questionnaire is a means by which parents can have a voice at Ralph Sadleir. Please use it!

The coming half term will as busy as ever as we approach Christmas and the usual festivities. Please come along to events and support your child(ren) and their friends and, like our other visitors, be impressed by what they achieve.

My thanks to you all for your continuing support,

Liz Hinton

## Dates for your Diaries

### Autumn Term 2013

Inset Day	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September
1 <sup>st</sup> Half Term	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept - Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Half Term Break	Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct - Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov
Inset Day	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November
2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Term	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov - Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Occasional Day	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Break	Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec - Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan
Term Ends	Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 2.30pm

### Spring Term 2014

1 <sup>st</sup> Half Term	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan - Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Half Term Break	Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb - Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb
2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Term	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb - Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> April
Easter Break	Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> April - Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> April
Term Ends	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm

### Summer Term 2014

1 <sup>st</sup> Half Term	Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> April - Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> May
May Day Holiday	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May
Half Term Break	Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> May - Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> May
2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Term	Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> June - Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> July
School Year Ends	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July at 2.30pm

**As Inset Days have not yet been set for the 2014/2015 school year, please refer to the [Hertsdirect.org](http://Hertsdirect.org) website for term dates.**

#### FREE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATIONS

Herts County Council is working to promote free school meals and educational benefits to make

sure that as many eligible children and families as possible get the support they are entitled to.

Families are able to apply in any of the following ways:

Online: at [www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals).

Smartphone: using the LookingLocal app available from app stores.

Digital TV: The Community Channel – press the red button

Wii/Xbox/PS3: at [www.lookinglocal.gov.uk/hertsdirect](http://www.lookinglocal.gov.uk/hertsdirect)

Phone: 0300 123 4084

We can help you if you do not have access to the internet.

## DINNER MONEY

### Autumn Term 2013

Per Day - £2.15

Per Week - £10.75

2nd Half Term - £70.95

If your child is going on one of the various school trips please deduct the appropriate amount

### Cheques to Ralph Sadleir School

Please put the child's name and 'dinner money' on the back of cheques.

Please note that meals should be paid for in advance and that any family debt over £30.00 can be referred to our legal team for retrieval.

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### **Changes to meal patterns**

A meal pattern has been set for your child.

Any changes to the pre defined patterns must be notified to the school office **before registration** otherwise you will be charged for the school meal.

Please contact the office if you have any queries.

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### Attendance

If your child is absent from school it is essential that you telephone the school before 8.45am.

If we do not hear from you, your child's absence may be marked as unauthorised.

## Sports Update September/October 2013

Ralph Sadleir kicked off the Autumn term by achieving our first award of the year. Thanks to all of the hard work from the last academic year we have been awarded the Silver Kitemark award from the Sainsbury's School Games. This recognises our dedication to providing high quality PE and school sport as well as delivering an extensive extra-curricular programme. Well done to all involved in making this achievement possible.



The Year 6 boys' football team were our first winning team of the new academic year after winning the district tournament over at Roysia School. The boys won having beaten Roysia, Greneway and Edwinstree respectively and huge congratulations must go to all the boys involved, well done!

Our Year 5 pupils attended the NEHSSP Schoolympics where they competed in sports such as basketball, hockey and cricket. All of our pupils came back to school with medals, but particular mention goes to our basketball team who picked up the gold medal, great work Year 5's!

Our Year 7 boys' football team have been improving so far this term. After losing to Greneway school in their first match, they came from behind to draw a thrilling 3 - 3 match against Roysia before finally claiming a win when it mattered in their ESFA 2<sup>nd</sup> round cup tie against Leventhorpe School. The game came down to Penalties after neither team could be separated following extra time. George P in goal produced two fine saves with our boys holding their nerve to secure a 4 - 3 win and a place in the third round! Well done boys.

Our KS3 girls football team did not fare so well, losing in their first round ESFA cup tie against an excellent John Warner side. Standout player had to be Ella our goalkeeper who made some excellent stops to frustrate the opposition.

Finally, our KS3 pupils attended Edwinstree School to take part in the NEHSSP district cross country competition. Following some late injury blows the team were down a few boys but all of the pupils involved were a real credit to the school. This was great preparation for the BS District competition that is coming after half term.

Still to come this term we have many teams aiming to qualify through our District events to try and claim a spot at one of the Herts School Games County Finals this year with U11 mixed and U12 girls basketball as well as KS3 table tennis competitions all still to compete in. All of these results will be covered next newsletter.

*S. Morgan*

Head of PE - Ralph Sadleir School

# Ralph Sadleir School



Introducing our new PE/Games kit which will be compulsory for all new admissions from September 2013



## Boys:

Navy/sky rugby shirt  
Navy/sky polo shirt  
Navy shorts  
Sky/navy socks

## PRICE LIST

**Rugby Shirt**  
£15.99 - £18.99

**Polo Shirt**  
£9.99

**Sweatshirt**  
£9.99 - £10.99

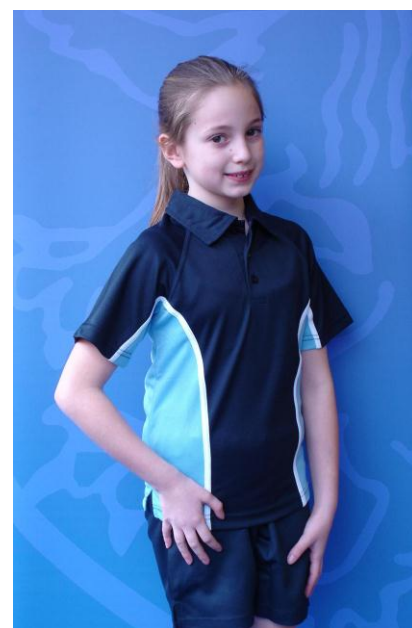
**Shorts**  
£6.99 - £8.99

**Socks**  
£4.40—£5.99

All items will be available from  
Kids Connection  
Hertford  
(date to be confirmed)  
[www.kidsconnection.co.uk](http://www.kidsconnection.co.uk)

## Girls:

Navy/sky polo shirt  
Navy Shorts  
Sky/navy socks  
Navy sweatshirt with logo (optional)



**Ralph Sadleir Local History Club** are trying to find out the heroic stories of all those local men who died in WW1. We are trying to collate the details and stories of these men as part of the 100 years commemoration of the start of the war.

If you have any information, stories or pictures we would love to hear from you. Please email [j.hesketh@ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk](mailto:j.hesketh@ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk)

Thank you.

### **Uniform**

We are having a purge on uniform, particularly the length of skirts for girls. Some skirts are so short that it is impossible for the girls to sit in school and not display what they are wearing underneath. Wearing PE shorts under skirts is not an option. Skirts should be no more than 3 inches (7 cm) above the knee; in some cases they are substantially shorter than this. I am asking that parents either buy their daughter a skirt of the correct length, send them in in navy (non-fashion) trousers or contact the school to arrange for a suitable skirt to be loaned until one can be purchased.

Similarly many of the shoes being worn are unsuitable and do not give the feet sufficient support or protection. Irreparable damage is being done to the developing bone structure which will result in many of our pupils having problems with their feet in later life, possibly having to have painful operations. Likewise, trainers should not be worn for school. They are designed in a different way to shoes and for a different purpose and are not meant for all day wear. As with other items of uniform we are happy to provide pupils with suitable footwear until more appropriate shoes can be purchased by parents.

### **Pupils leaving school for appointments**

Please be aware that the school will not release pupils from school during school hours unless collected by named Parent/Guardian. If you wish to collect your child from school during these hours please telephone the office or send an email. Thank you.

H.A.N.D. News is Hertfordshire County Council's free online newsletter with information about benefits, entertainment, activities, support groups, courses and much more for children and young people with additional needs. This newsletter is also for parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs.

Feedback from parents', carers and other professionals is that they find this newsletter invaluable. Please read the newsletter at

<http://handnews.hertsccl.gov.uk>

Thank you.



Technology – Here are a couple of our Year 8's and their Mechanical Cam Toys.



## Funds4Schools

Thank you all for your amazing support collecting unwanted clothes etc for Funds4Schools.

We have raised a RECORD amount of....

**£347.50**

A huge thank you from the school.

## Year 8 are in Business!

Last week Year 8 came under the intense scrutiny of our visiting Business experts - The Dragons. The Dragons listened, encouraged, challenged and advised our budding entrepreneurs in their latest business enterprises.

As part of their "Activities Week" groups of 5-6 pupils joined forces to form their own business enterprises and together, with lots of creative thinking and market research, the teams designed and created their own products or services to bring to market.

The business decisions were not taken lightly by our entrepreneurs as they have a vested interest in this new venture. Any profits from their enterprises will help to fund their own leavers event at the end of the year.



Amongst our Year 8s we currently have a tailor made cupcake service, a personalised key ring company, a one stop car wash organisation, a doodle pad production line and many more exciting start ups.

Throughout the weeks ahead, as a staff, we are very much looking forward to seeing these businesses up and running in school and hope that all members of the Ralph Sadleir community will support this new venture by purchasing some of the products or services on offer and by encouraging the Year 8s to persevere in turning their innovative ideas into successful businesses.

Many thanks to all those who have already supported us and we look forward to strengthening those partnerships in the future.

## Parent Calculation Workshops

A number of parents of Y5 pupils attended one of two calculation workshops. They were introduced to the calculation methods taught in school and were all encouraged to 'have a go' themselves. General information was shared on how to support pupils in their maths learning. Parents who attended were given a booklet for future reference.

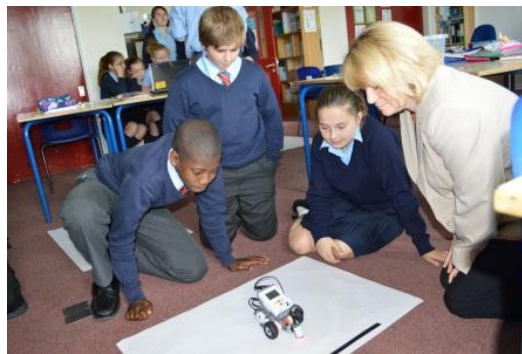
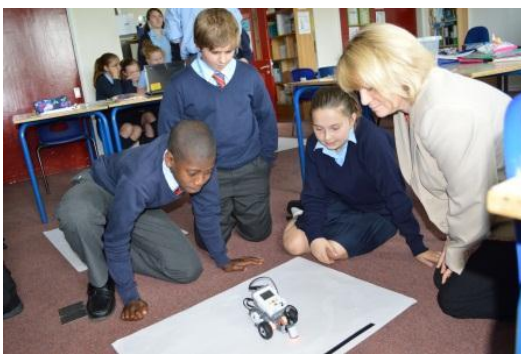
If you were unable to attend and would like a copy of the booklet, please contact the school office.

## STEM Day

Pupils in Year 7 were introduced to the importance of the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). They took part in activities that highlighted the relevance of their learning in school and how success in these subjects could lead to a variety of exciting career opportunities in the future.



One session entitled 'Speed-Dating with Engineers' gave pupils the opportunity to meet both male and female engineers from a range of different engineering backgrounds to discuss what they actually did in their jobs. The engineers brought along interesting objects related to their work. It was great to see so many animated discussions and the pupils are now much more aware of careers in this area.



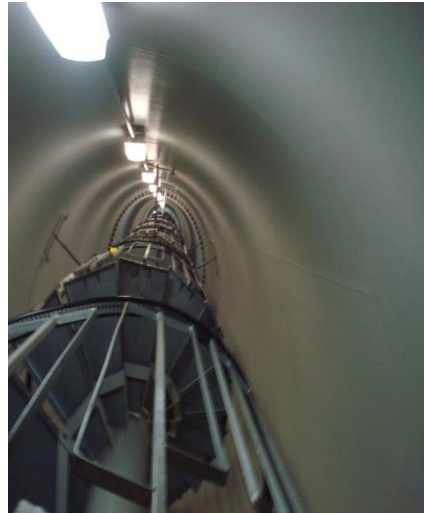
As you are probably aware, STEM subjects have been the topic of many recent media reports and at Ralph Sadleir, we will continue to promote their importance.

Please visit our [Gallery Page](#) on our website for more photos of the STEM day,

## Year 8 - Trip to The Green Britain (Eco Tech) Centre, Swaffham

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October, Year 8 went to Swaffham to visit The Green Britain (Eco Tech) Centre.

The purpose of this trip was to explore the world of renewable energy, harnessing the power of the wind, the sun and the sea. The students were able to take a look at transport of the future and see how we will all get around in a world without oil, and learn how with food, our small choices make a big difference.

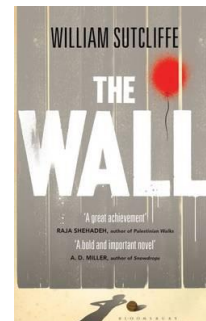
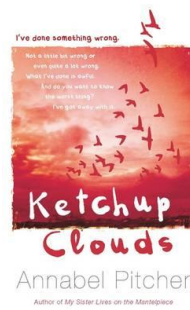
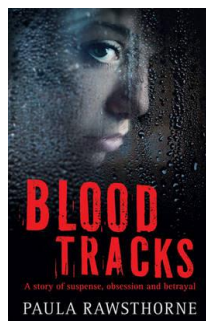


Students had the opportunity to climb the only windmill in the world that is open to the public, with 300 steps up a spiral staircase to climb, stopping at the two rest platforms was a good opportunity to learn more about the windmill.

## Sign up NOW for the Rib Valley Book Award 2014.

The Rib Valley Book Award is an exciting, transition project run by the Librarian and students at Freman College for Year 8 pupils at Ralph Sadleir and Edwinstree.

Those taking part, will read four recently published titles:



They will meet with students from both the other schools, discuss the books and enjoy literary games and activities. There will also be a visit from one of the authors and, at the end of the year, pupils will vote for their favourite title, which then wins the Rib Valley Book Award.

All Year 8 pupils are invited to take part, but as places are limited please encourage your child to see Mrs. Woollard, as soon as possible, to sign up for this year's project.