In assembly this morning I had the pleasure of conducting a summary review of the term and some of the many pupil achievements that have taken place in what seems a blink of an eye since we were returning from the Winter holiday. The list was long and, sadly, not exhaustive!

Reptonian’s have triumphed on a wide variety of fronts this term ranging from a growing sporting presence in cricket, rugby, netball and football to debating, robotics, drama, art, charity, Duke of Edinburgh and conversation. We have delivered a top class drama performance in the form of the Little Shop of Horrors as well as enjoying literary performances as part of the Emirates Festival of Literature. Arts have featured strongly this year culminating in the Year 13 Art Exhibition and a strong Arts and Culture theme clearly in evidence during Arabic week. Sadly the space in this newsletter or indeed at assembly was not sufficient to include every achievement and initiative that has run this term.

As we now embark upon a holiday, our Year 11 and 13 students are very much focused on a major revision push in readiness for the May examinations. The critical nature of using this time wisely cannot be overstated. The current additional support sessions being run this term in support of our examination students will continue next term and in some cases, throughout the Spring Holiday, in order to ensure the very best performance in the summer sessions.

Whilst hard work is, or certainly should be a given at this time of year, it is also important to ensure that an appropriate balance is struck between work, rest and well being. The importance of adequate rest and diet is vital to ensure strong revision and positive performances in the examination room.Whilst procrastination may be the thief of time, poor rest and diet are very much the thieves of examination success. Careful planning and self discipline are needed therefore, to ensure that the Spring break and subsequent examinations are times well spent.

Our new Head Boy, Head Girl, Heads of Houses and Prefects have now been publicly announced and take office from the first day of next term. They are an excellent team and I wish them well in their new roles that are set to develop the excellent work undertaken by the incumbent students. To the outgoing team, I would like to say a heartfelt “thank you” for your efforts and support over the last 12 months and, importantly, thank you for the positive legacy you leave.

As the term closes, we look towards a rest but also towards the Summer Term and another session of achievement, challenge, investigation and exploration for our pupils as they move through their education. With this in mind, I would like to close by thanking you for your support in ensuring your children, our pupils get the very best out of their time with us and out of their academic and pastoral education. I wish you a restful and positive holiday and the very best wishes for the Summer term.

David Flint
Head of Senior School
EPIC by LiTTLe MACHiNe

On Wednesday 5 March, a selection of students from the sixth form attended a talk at the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature. The talk was EPIC by LiTTLe MACHiNe who take classic poems by the likes of Chaucer, John Donne and Byron and re-invent them for the 21st century. The band comprises Walter Wray, Steve Halliwell, and Chris Hardy - prize-winning poets, musicians and song-writers. Carol Ann Duffy, the UK’s Poet Laureate, has described LiTTLe MACHiNe as:

“the most brilliant music and poetry band I’ve seen in decades.’

LiTTle MACHiNe gave us all an inspirational and entertaining ‘story of poetry’: a lighthearted look at what poetry has meant over the last 3,000 years. We were part of a 60-minute dash through poetic history, from Homer to Carol Ann Duffy. LiTTle MACHiNe brought poetry alive by mixing music with bawdy humour, satire and poetry analysis. We learnt a lot, and we enjoyed doing so: now that doesn't happen every day! Some highlights:

- We learnt how Beauwolf depends upon explosive alliteration rather than rhyme;
- We learnt that lyrics are so called because they were traditionally stories accompanied by the lyre;
- And we learnt exactly where bad friars live when they're in hell, according to Chaucer.

“The symbiosis of music and poetry was fascinating. It totally brought the words to life (although Ms Calvert thought the accompaniment to Blake’s ‘London’ was a bit too upbeat ...)” Nutalya

“They managed to engage the audience (even me) through music and humour. There was a great deal of comedic relief that managed to make even the most complicated poems come to life.” Omar

“It was an invigorating experience. I thoroughly enjoyed the poetry, and it was great to meet people from other sixth forms. A great day!” Joe

Epic was indeed ‘epic’ to use the language of today.
Science Week

On the first week back after half term the senior school science department helped the Junior school celebrate their Science Week. 240 Y5 and Y6 came across to the senior school labs to exciting chemistry demonstrations from Mr Brown and Mr Briggs at different times throughout the week. Y6 studied chemical changes and Y5 on the science of rocketry. This was essentially a practical exercise with pupils doing practical work in the fabulous Repton science labs and outside on the Repton Circle for rocketry. For those who did not have the time or opportunity to visit the senior school, Mr Williams in his guise as a ‘mad scientist’, burst into lessons in the Junior with his Science Trolley and demonstrated the experiments there and then. Ms Sykes sixth formers also were travelling science demonstrators as well as many Y11 and Y10 Chemistry students helping out with the programme.

The children were fascinated, at times surprised, enthralled and excited by the wonders of science as the accompanying photos show. Many thanks to Jackie and Jehana, the lab technicians, for all the work they had to do behind the scenes.

The Science Week Senior Team
The Repton Exchange

The Repton Exchange was an exciting and educational experience. The trip was a good learning curve for the students who have not been in a British boarding school environment.

We all met at Dubai International Airport at 5am on Sunday the 16th of February, to fly to Birmingham International. Once we arrived at Repton Derby, it was, for most, a blur of new names, faces and places. We were all given a very warm welcome into the boarding houses on, what was for us, a freezing cold day.

One of the highlights of the trip was going to Alton Towers, an Amusement park near Repton Derby, with our exchange partners. Although most of the main attractions were closed, we still had a blast.

Another highlight was the Headmaster’s Dinner, which started out with a tour of the Headmaster’s house. It was all very formal until dessert was served. Then things got a bit crazy. There were at least 4 different tarts to choose from and ice cream with jelly beans! After, we were all on a bit of a sugar high. The Headmaster announced that we would play Charades in teams with the tables we were sitting at. Everyone got involved and I am sure that even the teachers had a good laugh.

The trip to the Birmingham Bullring, was the most successful shopping trip, even the boys had at least 2 bags of goods each. The girls however, had more than 3 each. We all went looking for brands and sweets that are not available in Dubai, to bring back to our friends and family.

It was all over too soon but there was so much we did that I cannot put into words. It was amazing, wonderful and worth putting in those hours for the application.

Written by: Ronita Kruger, Y10 Orchard
Year 13 English Revision Day

With the IB examinations fast approaching (and the fact that their school days are nearly over) Year 13 decided to make the most of their short time left at Repton, by coming in on Friday for an English Revision Day. The day started at 9am with a graffiti quotation activity, in which students had to write down as many quotations as they could memorise. This was followed by a quotation race, which involved a great deal of energy and strong memory skills. More serious activities followed, including a Paper 2 mind mapping exercise. This involved looking at a series of past examination questions and exploring different ways of answering them. Students worked in groups throughout the day which aided thinking and interpretation of the plays studied. Undoubtedly the most popular activity (apart from the pizza lunch) was a quotation treasure hunt around the Repton circle. Students commented that the day had helped them “learn more quotations”, “gain an insight into different interpretations of plays and characters”, and even “realise I have a lot of work to do”!

Next year the plan is to expand the day into an entire weekend where students can absorb themselves in their texts. Overall, however, a very constructive day was had by all.

Miss Norwell

World Book Day

The 7th of March 2014 saw Repton Senior School invaded by a myriad characters from literature texts. Spotted walking down the corridors of the school were Peter Pan, Daisy from The Great Gatsby, Gatsby himself, Caliban from The Tempest, Nora from A Doll’s House, Miss Havisham from Great Expectations, and Tintin, to name but a few. Pupils were urged to dress up as a character from literature in order to celebrate World Book day. They had to pay 10 dirhams for the privilege, and funds raised went to the Red Crescent’s Syria appeal.

Amazingly over AED 5,500 were raised! Lunch time that day saw a presentation of Year 8 poetry in the Rathbone Round. These poems were written by the Year 8s themselves about how they perceived their own cultures. The standard was amazingly impressive! Accompanying the Year 8 poets was a selection of Roald Dahl presentations from a group of pupils who were rehearsing for their Emirates Literature Festival performance. Again, these performances were very impressive. The lunchtime concluded with the presentation of first, second and third prizes for costumes. Third prize went to Louis Olivier, who came dressed as Death. Second prize was awarded to a very suave Zoreb Malick who dressed up as Jay Gatsby. First prize went to Afreen Khan who was a fabulous Mad Hatter! The teacher’s prize went to Miss Pegg who was a wonderful Cat in the Hat. Well done to everyone who dressed up. For those who didn’t, get thinking about your outfit for World Book Day 2015.......

Miss Norwell
**Little Shop of Horrors**

On the twenty-fifth day of the month of March in an early year of a decade not too long before our own, the human race suddenly encountered a deadly threat to its very existence. And this terrifying enemy surfaced as such enemies often do, in the seemingly most innocent and unlikely of places...

...D Block

Last week saw the culmination of 7 months hard work by our very talented pupils. The Drama and Music Department were very proud to present *Little Shop of Horrors.*

D Block was transformed in Mushnik’s Skid Row Florist and the audience were treated to a musical spectacular about a very strange and interesting plant. The pupils worked tirelessly on this performance; prep, ECA’s, lunchtimes and weekends were all dedicated to this production and it was done with complete professionalism. This was the first time a musical had been done at Repton and it was a big success; so much so that we went from doing three performances to doing six, including one for Early Years and two for Year 7. The talent that was shown by the pupils was extraordinary and I was enormously proud of what they achieved, they made it a very enjoyable experience for myself, Mr Crook and Mrs Oliver.

Congratulations to all the cast you are all stars.

Miss Martin.
Careers Update: April 2014

Dear Parents,

At the time of writing, our Upper Sixth students are nearing the end of their IB studies and in addition to their exam preparation, are now receiving their university offers. Repton students already have offers from: Oxford, LSE, Kings, Warwick, Durham, St Andrews, Edinburgh, UCL, SOAS, Exeter, Bristol, Bath, Manchester, Nottingham and a wide range of excellent UK universities.

In addition, we are pleased to be able to confirm that we also have students who have received unconditional offers from US universities such as NYU, Cornell, UCLA, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, UC Davis, Pittsburgh, Claremont McKenna, Kentucky, Ohio State and also McGill in Canada. We are particularly proud of Alyaa Al Haj who has already received unconditional offers from Cornell (Ivy League) and UCLA (ranked in the world’s top 10). A fantastic achievement and thoroughly deserved.

IB News

We are often asked by parents about the status of the IB Diploma against the US curriculum and we know that some parents are still unsure as to what would be the best route for their children.

We recently hosted a visit by Thomas Caleel, former Director of Admissions at Wharton Business School, UPenn. He was very keen in supporting the IB Diploma as ‘the Gold standard’ of qualifications and to support his professional views, there was also a very good article in the National newspaper recently where, at a parent forum, Mr Peter Davos, founder and managing director of Carian College Advisers, was quoted as saying “….a pupil’s academic programme carried more weight with university placement officers”. He went on to say “that pupils studying advanced level courses such as the International Baccalaureate (IB)….. are at more of an advantage.

We, at Repton, would fully support this and with each successive year, our students are gaining entry into a wide range of excellent North American universities.

Lower Sixth Students:

In the term ahead, our focus will turn to the lower sixth as they finalise their university choices and start to write their Personal Statements. Students have already had the opportunity to meet visiting universities throughout the year. In the term ahead, I will be available during ECA times to help all students with their personal statements and applications. In addition, we shall be inviting a range of specialists into school to ensure that our Year 12 students are fully prepared to submit their applications in the autumn.

For any Careers or University questions, as always, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Grahame Bolton
Universities and Careers Adviser
Gulf Schools Karting Championship (GSKC)
Repton Team on the podium

Though there are many fans of motorsport and karting, there were surprisingly no opportunities in this region for schools to compete against one another on the track. However, that changed this year with the Gulf Schools Karting Championship (GSKC). This year over 30 students from Repton took part.

Based on the British version of the Championship, the idea was to bring students from Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and compete in something they mutually love: racing. Initially, we had a couple of practice sessions to get used to the track, before we had the regional finals at the Dubai Autodrome, in which we had to drive in two heats, hoping to be the top three teams to qualify for the national finals. In this, we came second, a result which we were ecstatic about.

Then came show time. We were one of the lucky teams to have qualified for the national finals. Representing Repton on a dusty and slippery Al Ain Raceway track, the best teams showed what they were made of. Odds were against us, as we had not really had practice on this track. However in the end, after a very long, tiring but exhilarating day on the tarmac, we came out of it third – a result unexpected, but truly fantastic.

We were able to truly experience our passion for racing. It should be a point for everyone who is interested in this sport to participate and represent their school in the future, for it is really an experience to remember.

Jumeirah College were the winners this year but we will return next year.

By Yusif Amanullah Yr 11
This year’s IB DP Art exhibition was opened on the 25th of March in the senior school old library. Art students displayed the fruits of their 2 years of labour, working with a diverse range of media and techniques including painting, drawing, print, ceramic, photography, sculpture, photoshop and glass.

All of the students stretched themselves to produce personal and inspiring work that everyone who viewed the show agreed was outstanding in its range and skill.

The exhibition featured work from:

Anindita Agarwal
Bianca Cameron
Christopher Casey
Alexa Georgia Hansen
Sophia Moosa
Reem Tajrobeh Kar

All seven students that took part in the exhibition have now completed the course and await their final grades from the IB. Please take the time to congratulate these students for their excellent efforts.

Mr Rice.
A very warm welcome to what is the last edition of the Senior Reptonian before school breaks up for the Spring Holiday. The past couple of weeks, even months, have been long and tiring and so an extended layoff will be extremely beneficial to recover and have that important downtime.

For those in Year 11 and Year 13, although the break arrives at the perfect time, it will act as the prime opportunity to begin revision for those all-important IGCSE and IB exams. Please do use the two weeks carefully! Although there will be moments where you can rejuvenate and socialise, the majority of the time should be focused on work and cramming in all the information that you have learnt over the past two years. It may sound horrible and slightly degrading but all the effort and dedication you put into one month, at least, will be extremely beneficial and rewarding after the exams have concluded. Knuckle down, work hard and persevere and by the end of a chaotic and hectic couple of months will you feel relieved and with the results you so rightfully deserve.

For those Year 13s, university offers are coming in thick and fast. Offers from the likes of Oxford, LSE and UCLA and even to the Mediterranean of Spain and as far as Australia are being issued and, with some big names being seen, all that can be said is that this year’s group of Year 13s may be one of the most successful and talented to graduate from Repton. As for the Year 12s, you should be aiming to look around and start questioning universities in order to obtain a strong start moving into the new academic year of 2014. Do not just sit there and wait for someone to order you around; take the initiative and be proactive.

The past few months, let alone weeks’, have also seen many involved in the musical Little Shop of Horrors. Those who have dedicated their time for such a long time period must be commended, especially when it does take long hours and hard work to succeed. The drama, music and art department must be thanked for their commitment and patience in the project as well as the devoted and enthusiastic students who have managed their time efficiently and valiantly to produce, perhaps, one of Repton’s most spectacular dramas and inaugural musical. Huge congratulations and we know the shows are going to be a major success! Next term, a whole new outlook takes place throughout the school. New sports squads like basketball are on offer as well as further inter-house events so be prepared and get ready to be involved!

This newsletter will also, sadly, be the last that Harriet and I write. With a new term in April comes an entirely new Prefect Body and so it is with great sadness, yet happiness that we The Prefect Body have represented the school at the highest level, that we bid farewell to so many parents, students and teachers alike who we have grown so attached to in recent months and dedicated our time to making other people’s lives easier. “

Head Girl, Head Boy & Prefect Farewells!

“This newsletter will also, sadly, be the last that Harriet and I write. With a new term in April comes an entirely new Prefect Body and so it is with great sadness, yet happiness that we The Prefect Body have represented the school at the highest level, that we bid farewell to so many parents, students and teachers alike who we have grown so attached to in recent months and dedicated our time to making other people’s lives easier.”
We do not leave until exams are finished so we have not disappeared yet! However, our appearances throughout the school will be limited and so I would like to take this occasion to just say how great an opportunity it was not only in working alongside such fantastic students, teachers and parents but also acting as a role model and leading such an amazing school community. I have made so many friends over the past four years and will indefinitely miss Repton when I leave. On behalf of the Prefect Body, I would just like to wish the new incoming Prefect Body the best of luck and to everyone else for the future! In this final column, we have also managed to get a final say from the rest of the Prefect Body.

Harriet Geyer (Head Girl) – The time has gone by so quickly. A year ago, it was Ismail Badat and Zainab Khatib handing their roles to Matthew, I and the rest of the Prefect Body. Now, in only a couple of weeks, it is time for us all to hand over again. I have really enjoyed working with our Prefects this year! With Mr Hughes-D’aeth reminding us, we have less than ten days of school left which sounds scary yet exciting at the same time. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has made our time at Repton so great and wish the best of luck to all those involved in examinations in the coming months!

Alia Syed (Deputy Head Girl) – Over the past academic year, the Prefect Body has actively participated in various duties around the school, including at parents’ evenings and supervising during lunch breaks. We have never had a parents’ evening in which we have lacked volunteers. All in all, I can definitely say that the commitment of the team has contributed to the success of such events. It has been a pleasure to work with the Prefect Body and I wish all the success to the new team.

Arjun Dhawan (Deputy Head Boy) - Being Deputy Head Boy for Repton has been a great experience. I loved being able to be in a position to create change and I think the Fight Like A Girl Breast Cancer campaign was my most successful endeavour. I'm glad and grateful that I got chosen for this role of responsibility and hopefully I was the role model for the younger years as I hoped to be. Congratulations and good luck to the new prefect team and to everyone else, have a great summer!

Aliazia Al Dhaheri (Head of Latham) – I was so proud to have been chosen last year and consider it to be the happiest house with the most spirit. We Lathamites are so lucky to have such a great Housemistress in Miss Patterson to look up to and I shall miss her guidance and support, as well as Mrs Hollis’. As I leave I would like to wish everyone good luck with their studies and also to the new Head of House Saad.

Jaime Speijer (Head of Brook) – It has been such a great experience being in Brook for so many years and becoming Head of House was even more special. I wish the next Year 13s the best of luck and also to the new Head of House Abbas for his decision on taking the position. Finally, I would like to thank everyone for such a great time!
Zain Siddiqui (Head of New) – Being Head of New this year has been an absolute honour and an absolute pleasure. I leave Repton with fond memories of every member of the House and wish them all the very best of luck in the future.

Chris Casey (Head of Orchard) – I have had a very enjoyable year as Head of House supporting Orchard. It will be a great shame to leave Repton and Orchard House but at the same time a pleasure to pass the position on to Caleb and I am sure he will help continue Orchards success. Being a part of Orchard has been a major part of my school life and something I will carry with me after Repton. I am very proud of our achievements this year and I would like to wish everyone in Orchard House all the best for next year.

Jess Hardman (Head of Jumeirah) – Being Head of Jumeirah this year has been a great opportunity to get to know the younger pupils within the house and lead them through the different house events. I have loved every minute of it and would like to wish Ali congratulations for being chosen as the next head of house. Good luck for next year!

Cameron Eadie (Head of Foremarke) – I have truly loved every minute of being Head of Foremarke this year. We have really grown as a house going from strength to strength and I’d like to think I had a part to play in it. I have learned to be approachable, friendly to everyone, and help people deal with problems when they couldn’t deal with them alone. I will miss everyone I have gotten to know well this year and hope they keep up the effort when I’m gone.

Alia Al Haj (Head of Dahl) - As my time at Repton comes to an end and university life approaches, I look back at my time at Repton with great memories. Being Head of House has helped me create strong relationships with many of my peers and I look forward to getting updates about everyone whilst I am abroad! Have fun and good luck!

Anindita Agarwal (Head of School) - I believe that I held the position of Head of School House with a sense of responsibility and maturity. I found the experience exhilarating and rewarding. My duties included helping my Housemistress, assisting in house activities and also guiding and mentoring junior students. I would like to wish the next Head of School House and the Prefects the very best for the future and hope they enjoy the responsibilities of their respective positions as much as I did.

Alexa Hansen (Prefect) – During my team as prefect, I have learnt a lot about leadership, which I hope to use later in my life. I wish the entire new Prefect Body the very best!

Samir Roked (Prefect) – Being a prefect has been a memorable experience. Through this role, I have been able to be a role model to my fellow peers and younger students alike, as well as fulfilling my own aspirations in developing the school. I will miss it a lot and this role dearly, and I also wish the next Prefect Body the best of luck in this challenging yet rewarding role.
Ferras Alwazir (Prefect) - Being a prefect is a role that teaches big responsibility and being a good role model, a quality that is imperative to have before leaving school.

Vahaj Syed (Prefect) – Prefect role is a position that teaches you good leadership skills and intercultural understanding, qualities that are important in university and professional life. Being a prefect also allows one to become a role model for others.

Sunair Khan (Prefect) – It has taught me how to deal with responsibility, have better communication and leadership skills. It made me a good person overall.

Finally, on behalf of the Senior School, I would just like to wish everyone at Repton, whether it is teachers, parents or students, a fantastic holiday. Socialise, work hard and most importantly stay safe!

Matthew Bolton, Head Boy.

FAREWELL VI FORM PREFECT BODY, YOU (AND YOUR SELFIES) WILL BE MISSED!

BEST WISHES REPTON SCHOOL.
‘WANTED’ – IGCSE Invigilators May & June

Do you have a spare hour or two during the months of May and June to help invigilate?

Last year it was very successful with parents helping from both the Junior and Senior School. Mrs Payne, the Academic Administrator, is now looking for parents to help her again with invigilating the IGCSE examinations this year and would be very grateful if you could give a little of your time.

Training will be given. Exams run from 6 May to 12 Jun including Fridays and start at 0815hrs.

If you are interested please email Fiona.payne@reptondubai.org for further information.

Mrs Payne.

Roald Dahl production plans take shape!

Repton students across Years 7 to 10 are busy preparing for the world premiere production of ‘Roald Dahl: Hallucinations in the Desert’. Audiences will be treated to a unique performance which has been created by the students, after months of creative workshops and rehearsals.

The devising process began back in October 2013 and will be ready for you all in May 2014. Watch this space for more news!

Mr Philip Brooks.

Have a lovely Spring Holiday!
Best wishes from the Repton Newsletter Team.