



Riana Development Network

Harnessing the future

# Newsletter

Welcome to our third edition of the RDN Newsletter. Find out more about the programmes we're doing in your community

## Contents

### Page 2

- Ruth Cadbury Visit
- London Docklands Training

### Page 3

- Jack Petchey Awards Scheme

### Page 4

- ESOL and Sewing Classes

## Local MP Ruth Cadbury Visits RDN Supplementary School



On Saturday 25th February, Ruth Cadbury (local MP for Brentford & Isleworth) paid a visit to the RDN Supplementary School.

Chairman, Job Omondi, was present to warmly welcome Ruth on her arrival. He spoke of how appreciative the organisation was for Ruth to take time out of her busy schedule to see the great work RDN is doing.

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## What's going on?

### Riana Youth Hub

Ages 11-18yrs

Wednesdays 5-7pm

Alf Chandler Centre,  
Hounslow

### Supplementary Education

Ages 7-16yrs

Saturdays 12-4pm

Sundays 2-4pm

Alf Chandler Centre, Hounslow

### Community Allotment

Open to all

Tuesdays 3:30-4:45pm

Waye Avenue, Cranford



Parents, trustees and previous volunteers were invited to attend the open session, alongside existing students at the Supplementary School. Many of the students cheered in delight when Ruth was spotted entering the building with one Year 3 student calling in excitement, "She's here! Ruth Cadbury is here!"



Year 5&6 were given the task of pretending to be local reporters for the day as part of their English work. The students brainstormed interesting questions such as, 'Are MPs able to just build houses and parks straight away for us?' and 'Who would you rather have as Prime Minister, David Cameron or Teresa May?'

Ruth was visibly impressed with the inquisitive nature of the students and it highlighted how engaged the RDN students are with local affairs.

One important message that came from the informal Q&A was summarised in Ruth's words, "When we bring people together, we are stronger together."

She recognised the impact that organisations such as RDN have in encouraging integration and diversity; helping individuals embrace British and native cultures and values; and in giving young people the chance to achieve their potential through a balanced education.

Parents also had the opportunity to ask questions and after the visit, time was set aside for deeper issues and concerns to be discussed. Many of the parents were particularly grateful at the fact that they were able to speak face to face with their local MP.

Overall, the day was received very positively with the centre packed to full capacity. RDN would like to thank Ruth once again for her time and hope that the charity can continue to work with her in the future.

## London Docklands Training



On Sunday 29th January 2017, volunteers from the RDN Supplementary School visited the Museum of London Docklands as part of a training to see how to teachers can illustrate the importance of maths in every day life.

Another major aim of the training was to show how the Museum of London Docklands could be used as an extension of the classroom to teach across the curriculum.



The day was split into three parts which focused on what students could do with teachers before, during and after the visit. The theme of the training was warehouses and the movement of products to various destinations. Emma and Sarah, trainers for the day, presented a range of resources and ideas for mathematics which could be used to engage students such as: using unconventional methods to measure heights of objects; following instructions to locate objects on a coordinate grid; and brainstorming the process of taking a product from source to destination.

Throughout the day, the emphasis was on letting the students take initiative when doing the tasks, in order for them to have the best learning experience.

Teachers and volunteers alike thoroughly enjoyed the training session, stating that even though the activities were designed for children, they were engaging and fun to take part in.



**The resource pack issued at the training, bursting with fun mathematical activities**

## Jack Petchey Awards Scheme Up and Running!



**Riana Development Network is now set to start running the Jack Petchey Awards Scheme as part of the RDN Life Skills Programme.**

Every 6 months, two young people from the youth group at Benson Close may be nominated by their peers, based on their personal or community achievements that they have worked towards.

Each award winner will receive a certificate of achievement and £250 which they may spend on behalf of the organisation towards something of their choice.

# ESOL and Sewing Classes

RDN has been running a new and exciting sewing project for the last 6 weeks (January to February) designed for women to help build confidence, develop their creative skills and generate income for the future of the project, as well as for the women who make and create the products. Most of the women are on a low income and have been unsuccessful in finding suitable paid employment, partly due to language barriers.

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**“This project has allowed me to come out and learn a new skill whilst discussing and sharing how to tackle issues that affect us.” - Participant**

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As a result, these women have often been marginalised and become excluded from mainstream society.

This project wants to give these women a voice through the things that they create; to empower and make them feel part of the community. This will also provide them with an alternative route to income generation more suited to them than the requirements of conventional employment.

The project offers them the opportunity to:

- Build and develop their creative skills
- Plan and produce products from start to finish
- Develop and market products that they create for income generation

In addition to helping create this new social enterprise, women will also develop their formal work ready skills through taking part in:

- ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Classes
- Enterprise Development
- Basic IT Skills Courses



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