



CHANCE TO

SHINE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018-2019



WELCOME TO OUR FIRST SHINE NEWSLETTER

This is a newsletter we will produce each term for teachers and parents, to highlight what everyone is doing to meet the needs of our most able students.

Over the past 3 years we have been on a journey, and we are delighted to report last year we obtained our most top grades yet.

[Please see the table >](#)

	GRADE 9'S	GRADE 8'S (A*)	GRADE 7'S (A)	TOTAL HIGHER GRADES
2016-2017	3	32	72	107
2017-2018	5	37	79	125



This year we are hoping to be accredited with the NACE Challenge Award. This award is an assessment of our provision for our most able learners. More can be found out about it here: WWW.NACE.CO.UK/CHALLENGE

We have had a lot of extracurricular events and activities this term, with trips to Oxford and Southampton universities. In the last week of term we had a whole school event called 'Chance to Shine Week' where students were challenged to go the extra mile in as many of their subjects as possible. I hope you enjoy reading what we are up to, and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any feedback or suggestions.

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WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A SHINE STUDENT AT REDBRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL?

We asked a group of Year 10 students what it is like to be a Shine student at Redbridge, and here are their thoughts.

- Have the opportunity to go on trips both in England and abroad. For example; Southampton University, Oxford University and China.
- Gives us the opportunity to be challenged in every lesson, through a 'Chance to Shine'. This allows us to stretch ourselves to try and reach the higher grades.
- You are able to get mentoring in Year 11, which helps with the added exam pressures.
- In Key Stage 4 we are put into bespoke tutor groups. This is brilliant as it put us with people of a similar mind set and other students that are experiencing the same pressures.
- It has given me confidence – made me realise that I can do it!
- We have regular Shine Assemblies, this has been good as I can now see who else is 'Shine' in other year groups.
- We have high aspirational grades. With the support and additional intervention of the teachers we are able to reach them.
- In Year 10 and 11 we have timetabled in Master Classes in Maths, Science and English. The main aim to stretch ourselves to reach the grade 8 and 9's.

USING SHINE IN PE

Using shine in PE works well for those Shine individuals and for the MA pupils within the class. When setting the shine learning objective I often put the names of the shine pupils below it and then direct that lesson objective to the MA of the class.

The shine objective is always set as a question. I don't make this objective extra work for the individual, I set the objective at a higher level, a more complex question, an evaluation, an independent learning approach.

I don't increase the work load for the Shine pupils, I just give them a different approach to the lesson, one that will stretch and challenge them. Allowing this different approach works well for those individuals that may be stronger practically than verbally and vice versa.

Miss M Williams, Teacher of PE

STUDENT SURVEY

Last term every shine student in years 8, 9, 10 and 11 completed a survey about the level of challenge they feel in lessons, and how they feel about their subjects. Here are some headlines from the survey.

- Languages continues to be rated the most challenging of subjects, closely followed by Science.
- History is a very popular choice among the shine students, because the teacher makes their lessons fun and interesting.
- Year 11 find their lessons the most challenging, and year 8 find them less challenging.
- Many shine students would like to be challenged even further in some of their lessons.
- 94% of the shine students were clear about their plans for when they leave Redbridge Community School.
- 70% of the shine students plan on attending university, and 48% of the students have a member of their family who has attended university.
- Some Shine students have asked for more 'life lessons' such as mortgages, finance, and first aid.

YEAR 8 — 'A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...'

In February 2019 we took 25 year 8 students to Southampton University to find out what a day in the life of a university student involved. Here are some of their thoughts.

- It was a fantastic experience to see what different courses you can take at the University.
- It was lovely to actually meet the Lectures and have the opportunity to speak to them.
- It gave us a good understanding of the place because of the tour around Southampton University.
- To see how different their lives are in comparison to ours at the moment.
- They gave us a real depth and opportunity to ask questions to the students that are currently studying at Southampton University.



YEAR 9 — CAREERS MASTER CLASS

In November 2018 we took 15 year 9 students to Southampton University to find out about possible careers following particular subject choices. Here is what one student thought of the day.

During our trip we had the opportunity to meet new people from other schools and find out what their hobbies were. We were taken on a fantastic tour of the University, seeing all the different subject areas. There were several competition throughout the day, one of our favourite was the hobbies competition. We were able to speak to both students, course leaders and lectures. This was a brilliant opportunity to find out more about the different courses. We then had to enter a final competition, to design an app to help choose what course would be best for you. Redbridge won the competition and was awarded an Amazon voucher.



YEAR 10 — TRIP TO OXFORD

In February 2019 we took 10 year 10 students to Oxford University for the day to find out about what it takes to be offered a place there and what it involves if you go there. Here is what one of the boys thought of the day.

Our day out enabled us to think about potential jobs that we could have at the end of University. We were taken to the local Oxford Museum, which was amazing and allowed us to see the history of the University. By seeing the different courses at University it allowed us to think about what courses we should consider taking at College.



We actually got to look around Oxford University – this was amazing and such an experience. We also learned that 1 in 5 applicants to Oxford get their place, and you need to have amazing grades to go there!

