



Oxbridge Success



We would like to congratulate all of our Oxbridge candidates this year. 17 boys have received offers from Oxford. They are **Brendon Casey, Ed Clennett, Alex Cobb, Tom Fairclough, Tom Gavin, Matt Hankins, Alex Illingworth, Henry Irvine, Elliot Jones, Morgan Keenlyside, Jonathan Machin, Dan Mead, Churchill Ngai, John Richardson, Alex Stepanyan, Anthony Tat, and James Toole**. Eight boys have been offered places at Cambridge, including four to study Medicine. They are **Alex Johnstone, Stephen Parkinson, James Roberts, Sohun Shah, Arjun Thayyil, Kieran Toms, Omar Uwais, and Roy Zhang**.

Nurturing Future Scientists

This month we are launching our **Sponsor an Element Campaign**, the next phase of our fundraising for the new Biology and Chemistry Building. The campaign will enable us to raise over £90,000 for furniture and equipment in the new laboratories.

Find out more about the campaign, and how you can get involved, on pages 14 and 18.



We welcome readers' news and contributions to future editions of *Floreat*. Please send them to the Editor, Frances Greaney, by emailing development@reading-school.co.uk.

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Headmaster's Note

Leadership as service is exemplified in the work of pupils in relation to raising awareness of the importance of responding to extremism and about mental health issues.

Our pupils and staff can be seen to be taking our obligation to prevent violent extremism and actively promote positive values. For instance, the importance of British Values was shown in a recent display in the LRC, and inspirational talks were given in Chapel by Year 11 historians who visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, regarding Holocaust Memorial Day.

Indeed, in Chapel this forthcoming half term, staff and pupils, led by the Chaplain will consider the importance of debate, questioning and the development of world views that take into account the importance of truth.

In addition, the importance of the school student council in supporting a whole school behaviour review is clear evidence of the need to be open and listening both as individuals and as an organisation.

Our continued focus on academic excellence and improving extended writing is illustrated not only by our superb cohort of successful Oxbridge candidates,

but also the Science writing competition. We are always looking to nurture the Scientists of the future. What element catches your eye? Is it rhodium or perhaps radon?

I am looking forward to the forthcoming Reading School Book Week, which includes a talk by Simon Singh. Staff at Reading School, supported by the Governing Body, the Reading Foundation, the Old Redingensians Association, Reading School Parents' Association and of course, individual parents, continue to strive to provide opportunities for our boys. Significantly, as the contents of this newsletter demonstrate, they are always willing to respond positively to these opportunities, on the badminton court, at the chess board, or with the Bloodhound car.



A. Robson

School Council

This term, the School Council has been discussing with Mr Harris the possibility of extending access to Wi-Fi. It has been available to Sixth Form pupils for some time, and boys in Years 10 and 11 are also keen to use it. The overall consensus was that this would involve few benefits to learning, and it would be too expensive to allow Key Stage 4 pupils to have access due to the cost of licenses.

One of the key roles of the council is getting feedback and ideas from the whole student body. If you have a suggestion or wish to report an issue, please get in touch via the Student Council website at: <http://www.uk.gl/>.

The Student Council Bulletin, is produced fortnightly, under the editorship of Year 10 student, William Clennell. Three editions have been produced this half term, with reports on sporting and musical events, as well as a regular feature on specific teaching departments within the School.

You can read each of the recent editions by clicking on the links below:

[January 12th](#); [January 26th](#); [February 9th](#)

If you have any suggestions for articles or images in future editions of the Student Council Bulletin, please email: m00036@reading-school.co.uk

Mcllroy Essay Competition 2015

The 2015 Mcllroy Essay Competition is now open for entries. The Competition aims to reward one essay written by a Reading School student which, in the opinion of the judging panels, displays the best combination of: flair for expressing complex ideas about a subject in simple terms; a logical and well-developed argument; evidence of enthusiasm for the subject and the process of writing; passion for sharing a love and understanding of the subject; and originality in tackling matters of current affairs and general knowledge.

Entrants can be from any Year group in Reading School. They must select one of the subjects taught at this school and place it the question. For example: *How I am going to use my study of German to change the world.* Essays must be no fewer than 1,000 and no more than 2,000 words long.

All entries must be submitted in hard copy to Mrs Turner in the School Office before the **deadline of Wednesday 1st April 2015**. Further details are available on the [School website](#).

Boarding Open Days

We will be holding the following open days for prospective boarding students and their parents:

Saturday, 7th March 2015

Saturday, 6th June 2015

Both events will start at 10am and will include opportunities to meet the Headmaster, Boarding staff, and some of our current pupils.

There will also be a chance to tour the School and Boarding Houses.



We welcome two new members of staff

Miss Hooker



We are delighted to welcome Michele Hooker to our boarding team, as a tutor in East Wing.

Miss Hooker joined Reading School in September 2014 as a member of the Maths Department. She had also been placed here as a PGCE student, so she already knew the School well.

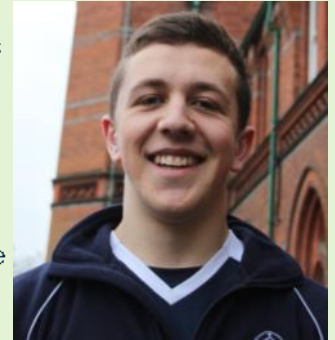
She got an early flavour of boarding life, when she accompanied members of East Wing and South House on their West End Theatre trip in December. She replaces Mr Bailey-Watson who, although relinquishing duties in boarding, remains as Head of History.

Mr Stevens

In January, Elliot Stevens joined us as our Gap Year Student for 2015.

Mr Stevens studied at Auckland Grammar School in New Zealand, where he was Head Boy of one of their boarding houses.

He is very much looking forward to getting to know the boys and supporting them during the year ahead.



Work, Rest, Play (and some tidying!)—Last Half Term in Pictures





Double Badminton Triumph

Congratulations to our Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Badminton Teams, who have each won their respective Berkshire County Finals.

The KS 4 Team of **Rick Kisslay**, 11W, **Abhishek Adavikolanu**, 11S, **Dan Shao**, 11S, **Tim Chen**, 10S, **Abhinav Heble**, 10E, and **Saket Koti**, 10W, won 5-0 in all of their matches, including the final against a strong team from Maiden Erlegh School.

The KS3 Team comprised of **Michael Li**, 9W, **Ian Shang**, 8W, and the **Dillingham brothers** **Merlin**, 9S, **Alex**, 7W, and **Toby**, 7E, lost only one game in their match, which was also against Maiden Erlegh.

Both teams now progress to the Regional Finals.



The triumphant Key Stage 4 Team

Chess Team Marches On

Following a comprehensive 5.5-0.5 victory against Abingdon School in January, the Reading Chess Team took on RGS Guildford in the Regional Finals of the National Schools Chess Championships on February 10th. They were competing for a place in the knockout stages of the competition.

Our ages were roughly the same, meaning both teams needed 3.5/6 points to win, and in the case of a 3-3 tie, it would go down to 'board count' (wins on higher boards are more valuable).

However, we lost on board six fairly quickly, leaving us behind soon into the match. Ryan won a great

game against a very good player on board five, and Alex Vanlint also played well and drew on board four. Matthew on top board was against a very strong player, who also had international experience, and after a long game was eventually beaten.

This left us 2.5-1.5 down with two games remaining. However, since they had a win on board one, a 3-3 draw at this stage would have meant losing the match on board count. We needed to win on the last two boards.

Anthony managed to eventually win from a fairly equal position. Roy had to turn down a draw in an unclear position to try and play on for the win. A slight inaccuracy from his opponent gave him the advantage, and after a tense time scramble, he managed to win. So, it was a close 3.5-2.5 victory and through to the knockout stages!

Thank you Ms Readings and Ms Smith for accompanying us on the trip, and well done to both teams for a close and exciting match!

Roy Zhang, Chess Captain



House Competitions are hotting up!

Term 2 was mainly about House Rugby. School House managed to be in the top two of all but one competition and also won the Senior House Badminton.

This was an epic final between long-time rivals **Roy Zhang** from School and **Liam Duan** from West. Although Liam has got the better of Roy on occasions when it really mattered Roy was able to secure the points for School House.

Senior House Rugby was moved from Reading Rugby Club to the Old Redingensians Club, now known as Redigensians Rams. We were welcomed into their new club house, and we hope to continue to build a strong relationship with the club in future.

It was a mighty battle between County and School for the top prize, with the team ethic of County proving victorious over the individual talents of the School House Team. **Zac Stancombe**, from School, was awarded best forward of the tournament and **Michael Barker**, from East, was best back.



Aneesh Kottamasu, 7S, was awarded Player of Tournament in Year 7 House Rugby

This year, the PE Department piloted an approach to Year 7 House Rugby, where every boy represented his house, either in full contact, tag or touch versions. It was hugely successful to

see all 112 boys represent their house in one of our major sports. Hopefully this approach can be adopted for football and cricket later on in the year.

In Colts Badminton the West House team emerged supreme, with School second, East third, and County in fourth place. Best individual players were **Saket Koti**, West, **Abhinav Heble**, East, and **Tim Chen**, School.

To round off the first half of the Lent Term, we have had the Junior Road Races. In the Year 7 race, School House were victors, with West in second, County third and East in fourth place. In the individual rankings, **Ed Brunn** from County secured top place, followed by **Tom Crooks**, School, and **Scott Hogbin**, East.



Year 7 Road Race winners, Ed Brunn, Tom Crooks and Scott Hogbin

The County team won the Year 8 race, with School in second, followed by East and West.

County also had a clean sweep in the individual rankings, with **Tom Jordan**, **Hugo Warner** and **Hilary Lunn** coming first, second and third.



County's Year 8 Road Race stars, Hugo Warner, Tom Jordan and Hilary Lunn

Away from the sports field there is the House Eisteddfod. A plethora of opportunities for the boys to represent their house with plenty of points on offer.

A big thanks to all the games staff who have run the competitions so far, including Mr Bellinger, Mr Allen, Mr Steadman, Mr Tichband, Mr Stevens, Mr Pedlow, and Mr Aleksin.

- **Mr Beckey**, Director of Sport

Current Overall Rankings

	County	East	School	West
Juniors (Yr 7 & 8) Ranking (Points)	1 (24.5)	3(10.25)	2(21)	4(8.25)
Colts (Yr 9 & 10)	1 (22 pts)	3 (13.25)	2(14.25)	4(10.5)
Seniors (Yr 11, 12 & 13)	1 (26)	3(13.5)	2(24)	4(18.5)
Current Overall Ranking	1(80.5)	4(52.0)	2(64.3)	3(49.3)

U14 Rugby Team in Cup Final

Congratulations to the U14 Rugby Team on their fine run in this year's Berkshire Cup Competition. Having beaten Dr Challoner's School 10-7 in a hard fought quarter final match, they defeated Kennet School 19-7 in the semi-finals.

However, in the final against Reading Bluecoat School, some early mistakes cost them dear. Despite an amazing second half performance, they were unable to pull back and the match ended with a 19-7 win for Bluecoat.



U15 Footballers stay on track

Our U15 Football team have been enjoying an excellent season so far with great team work and some fantastic individual performances.

Their most recent game against Denefield School stood at 2-2 at the final whistle and went to penalties. A crucial save by **Josh Blake** and a winning penalty from **Elliott Callender** gave them a 5-4 victory.

Their game against Reading Bluecoats was a more tense affair, with the concession of four goals in the first half. However, a fight back of Churchillian proportions in the second enabled them to draw level at 4-4.

They defeated Brackenhail School by 5-2, including goals from **Joe Wilson** and **Andrew Prowse**.

Joe Wilson has been their outstanding player of the season so far, scoring ten goals in five games. This includes four goals against Brackenhail and a hat trick against Bluecoats.

California Dreamin'

The Year 11 and Senior Football teams will be touring California this Summer. We will be playing local teams and seeing the sights, including a trip to LA Galaxy's stadium- The StubHub Centre.

The teams are keen to promote a good impression of Reading School whilst in the United States. To do this they need to buy a Reading School tour kit for all the boys on the tour. The total cost will be in the region of £13,000, and the boys are busy fundraising over the next couple of months. Any help and support that parents and alumni can offer would be very much appreciated.

Here are just some of the ways that you can get involved:

- **Buy a framed sports team photograph** -Year 13 students **Samuel Dexter**, **Andrew Little** and **Harry Marshall** have organised a photography project where they will take photographs of your son's sports teams for you to buy. The Rugby photographs have been taken and are available to buy for £15, including a frame (see sample photograph). If you would like to purchase one, please email g06108@reading-school.co.uk to place your order. The photographs are taken



using professional equipment and will be of the highest quality. **The deadline for orders is Sunday, 8th March.**

- **Give your car a spring clean**—every Saturday when your son is playing at home, senior boys will be available to wash your car while you watch your son play.
- **Quiz Night**—there will also be a family quiz night in Big School on March 28th. See inside back page for details of page

There are three teams touring this summer and we hope that you will show your support for Reading School Football by helping us fundraise.

- **Samuel Dexter**, Vice Captain of School

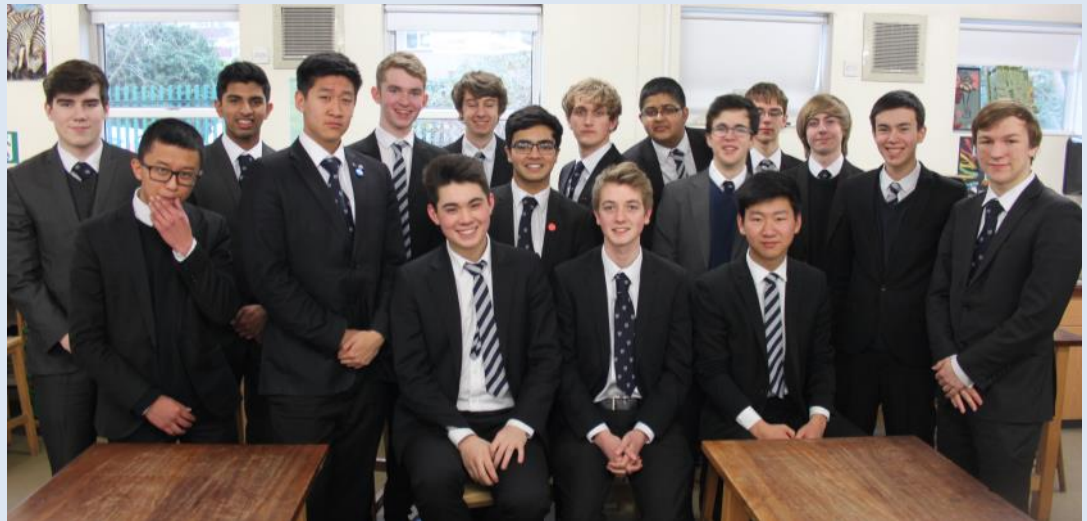
Record results in British Biology Olympiad

Our Year 13 biologists achieved exceptional results in this year's British Biology Olympiad, surpassing last year's results by some margin.

There were 16 Gold medals, well up on the nine achieved in 2014, our previous best year. Seven of these also qualified for the next round of the competition,

which will take place in March. There were five Silver medals, three Bronze, three Highly Commended and two Commended.

Gold medal winners who have also qualified for Round Two of the competition are: **Kieran Toms, Matthew Hankins, Morgan Keenlyside, Kevin Gurung, Nikhil Kachhwaha, Lawrence Sarsam, and Roy Zhang.** Other Gold Medal winners were: **Robert Clark, Stephen Parkinson, Robin Wilson, Jonathan Machin, Daniel Gillett, Daniel Spencer, Omar Uwais, Andrew Fisher, and Tom Fairclough.**



Those winning Silver were: **Benjamin Teall, Arjun Thayyil, Divyansh Dixit, William Heath, and Zhenghao Wang,** while **Henry Irvine, Abhiyan Bhandari, and Elliot Jewitt** were each awarded Bronze.

Highly Commended and Commended were: **Charles Green, Liam Duan, Bijoy Das, Charlie Taylor, and Sanjog Banstola.**

Congratulations to all 29 boys who took part.

- Mrs Maunder, Head of Biology

Maths Challenge

Some of our senior Maths students participated in the National Final of the UK Maths Trust Senior Maths Challenge recently. The event was held at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London, with 79 schools from across the UK taking part in a series of mathematics related team challenges.



Our team, **Matthew Le Croisette, Shabaris Sriraman, Alfred Wong and Roy Zhang,** came third in the designing a poster section and placed 35th in the overall competition.

A Drop in Motion

Naglis Ruksnaitis, 11E, has been using photography to understand how droplets of water behave when dropped into a pool of fluid, with the help of some food dye and milk.

In this sequence of photographs it is possible to see that the drop rebounding off the surface contains most of its original dye.

The final image was produced using a fresh bowl of milk and it shows more clearly how the rebounding drop retains most of the material it started falling with.

- Mr Tucker, Physics Department



Upsetting the Balance of Nature



On the 13th January, Reading School boys, parents and visitors from other schools got the opportunity to attend yet another talk in the increasingly popular Inspire Lecture Series. This time, Big School welcomed Dr Andrew Lack of Oxford Brookes University who was set to discuss whether humans have upset the balance of nature.

However, those who expected a rehash of assertions on the dangers of climate change were surprised to find the speaker taking quite a novel, not to say challenging stance. According to Lack, and the many data-sources he presented, the answer is no, humans haven't upset any balance, simply because there is no innate balance to be disrupted. Our environment will forever be changing, whether humans contaminate it or indeed question it.

To back up these claims, Lack guided us through countless examples of natural transitions. Using 'then' and 'now' comparisons, to show that our environment's equally drastic make-overs, from rocky gorges to verdant forestry, bare mountain faces to

fertile meadow-land, and plentiful species to endangerment. Despite the last example seeming tragic, something Lack also challenged, claiming such fears emerged merely from aesthetic considerations, it still demonstrates that if there is anything we can count on from nature, it is regeneration.

From the questions afterwards, it was obvious that almost everyone who attended the lecture felt their preconceptions had been deeply challenged; with students testing themselves to try and understand the full effect of Lack's theory might have on their worldview.

Though at points his answers did not quite stand up to questioning on whether the dangers and responsibilities concerned with climate change could then be dismissed, having such an original and informed take introduced to the debate was both refreshing and stimulating.

Beginning the lecture Lack had asked 'How can you not be fascinated by ecology? An hour and 20 minutes later, it seemed quite a few more people in the room would be prepared to agree.

John Livesey 12S

For details of Inspire Lectures during March, please see page 17.

Biting the Ballot

As the countdown to the next General Election begins, Michael Sani, founder of Bite the Ballot, made a timely visit to Big School on February 12th to encourage our Year 13 students to register to vote.

Bite the Ballot is a campaigning organisation, which is aiming to get 500,000 more 18 to 25 year olds registered to vote by the next election. They are already well on the way to their target, through their campaigns on social media and by talking directly to young people in schools.

According to the Electoral Commission, which oversees voter registration, there are twice as many 18 year olds on Facebook than are registered to vote. Shockingly, only 56% of 19 to 24 year olds are on the Electoral Register.

Michael says: "Only about 50% of those on the Register actually vote. This age group are the biggest demographic, which is not exercising its democratic right".

Michael, a former teacher, gave the boys the background to the campaign, telling how a former

colleague challenged his own apathy about the political process.

"Politicians control so much of our lives, from deciding laws to setting national budgets, how can you not exercise your right to have a say in choosing them?" says Michael.

If you're 16 or over and live in England, Scotland or Wales, you can register via the gov.uk portal at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote?

For more details about **Bite the Ballot**, please visit their [website](#) and follow them on [Twitter](#).





Year 9 students trail the Bloodhound

Year 9 students spent a whole day finding out about supersonic car engineering on Friday, February 6th when they met the Bloodhound SSC team at Madejski Academy.

Bloodhound is a unique, high-technology project to design and build a car that will break the 1,000mph barrier and set a new world land speed record. The car is still in the design and testing phase, and is being designed and built entirely in the UK.

The project entails solving several major design and engineering problems, and the finished car will have three engines- car, aircraft and rocket to enable it to achieve the target speed.

The Bloodhound team are sharing this adventure with schools around the UK to help inspire a love of science, technology, engineering and mathematics,

and Bloodhound SSC shows how amazing - and fun - these can be.

During their day at Madejski, the boys took part in three design and engineering challenges, covering telemetry, aerodynamics, propulsion and materials. The pupils with the best results on the day will have their names added to the roll of honour on the vertical stabilizer fin of the finished Bloodhound.

Congratulations to **Tom Clay-Michael, Josh Wallace, Atro Autio, leuan Galvin and Jack Lee**, all of 9S, who will soon have their names travelling at the speed of sound!

The Bloodhound SSC is due to begin testing later this year with the aim of achieving 800mph to beat the current world land speed record and will be looking to smash the 1,000mph barrier next year.



You can find out more about the project and follow the progress of the team at: www.bloodhoundssc.com.



Testing ability to think under pressure!



Checking propulsion



Consulting a member of the Bloodhound team about vehicle design

Making a Contribution

Music Concert for the Youth

On the 16th of January, a few Year 12s including **Stanley Glendinning, Ritvik Singh, Jonathan Purcell** and myself, organised a youth charity concert in Big School. The idea was to get musicians from Years 11 to 13 from Reading to put on a show for friends and supporters whilst raising money for two fantastic causes. We sold over one hundred and fifty tickets

for young people in Reading.

We were very grateful to the Reading West MP, Alok Sharma, who not only put us in touch with the Community Centre but also came to the concert, and said a few kind words too!

To bring an international edge to the fundraising, we teamed up with **iCFDR**, a charity based in India. It stands for 'I Care for Developments and Rights' and its aims are to encourage socio-economic development in weaker sections of Indian society. It has a connection with our school – especially since one of the organisers is a part of the charity! Their projects such as running a school in Badaun, in rural India, offer education to underprivileged young people and this fit well with the aims of the concert.

On behalf of the organisers of the concert, a word of thanks to everyone involved in the concert. Our greatest thanks go out to all the **teachers** who gave up their time to supervise on the night, the management and development staff who allowed us to use Big School and all students involved in the event. Special mention must go to **Alistair Fleming** and **Joel Bowring** who so professionally managed to procure and set up the equipment on the night. Finally, thanks to anyone who attended the concert – together we raised money for a good cause and showed that it is possible to have fun while contributing to the society!

Neil Shabong

and raised eight hundred pounds in total!

Young people from schools all around Reading, including Kendrick, The Abbey, and Reading School came together to enjoy the thirty performers. Regardless of tastes in music, it was an enjoyable experience for all, both for the organisers' and the attendees. Flamboyantly hosted by the charismatic **Paddy Byfield** and **Jacob South-Klein**, the acts ranged from sweet and elegantly sung songs and toe-tapping pop tunes to hard-core rock floor-shakers.

The concert started out as an extension of a community project as part of the National Citizen Service. Our idea was called "**The Creative Space**" and the aim was to revitalise underprivileged youth centres around Reading by redecorating and buying brand new equipment. **Stanley Glendinning** and I were part of this project and our work focused on Norcot Youth and Community Centre in Tilehurst. After the project was completed, we decided that to give the community centre a really lasting difference in terms of funding, a charity concert should be held. This would keep in line with our theme of improving social life



OR Enterprise Awards 2015

The **Old Redingensians' Association** Enterprise Award Scheme is now open for applications from Reading School pupils of all ages.

The Awards are for individuals pupils or groups of up to three, who wish to pursue projects or activities that have an educational, scientific, charitable, sporting or cultural purpose. The money can be used for travel, course fees, equipment or anything that is directly related to a pupils's chosen activity. For example, an award could be used to help pay for: **tuition** on a course; **travel costs**; or **materials** for a project.

Major Awards of up to £600 will be made for outstanding projects and **Minor Awards** of up to £150 for smaller projects. The Awards can be cited in CV, university and job applications, to demonstrate skills and achievements.

Full details, including the application form, are available on Sharepoint. **Forms must be submitted by no later than 12 midnight Wednesday 22nd April 2015.** Applicants will be notified of the outcome within three weeks of this date.

We are very grateful to the OR Association for continuing to offer the Awards each year.

OR Enterprise Awards 2015

Awards up to £600

Leadership Challenge
Creativity Science Adventure
Initiative
Community

Forms and guidance: **on Sharepoint**
Deadline for Applications: **22 April 2015**
Applications to: **development@Reading-School.co.uk**

 **The Old Redingensians Association**
Developing and maintaining an active and diverse old boys association
Supporting the students and staff of Reading School
www.oldredingensians.org.uk

OR named in Forbes's list of top scientists under 30



David Liptrot, OR(2000-07) has been listed as one of Forbes Magazine's 30 under 30 scientists for 2015.

The list recognises some of the top young scientists internationally, and David is one of only three on the list who are not based in the United States.

25-year-old David says he aims to solve the world's

problems through chemistry. His goal is to find ways to undo or prevent the damage done by toxic elements in the chemical industry, including changing the way that inexpensive metals are used in the electronics industry.

After leaving Reading School, David took his first degree and studied for his PhD in Chemistry at

the University of Bath. For his PhD, David looked at changing the metals used for catalysis, particularly focussing on non-toxic metals such as calcium and magnesium. He is now working as a postdoctoral research associate on a collaborative project with Professor Roland Fischer at Graz University of Technology in Austria, together with his PhD supervisor, Professor Mike Hill.

David returned to Reading School on February 12th to talk to our sixth form Chemistry students about studying the subject at degree and post-graduate level.

From the end of March 2015, David will be taking up a competitive Lindemann Fellowship at the University of California, working with Professor Philip Power.

See the full list of [Forbes' 30 under 30 in Science](#).

Save the Date—Saturday May 9th

Spring Fayre 2015

The Spring Fayre is the main fundraising event for the RSPA each year. This year their chosen project is equipment and furniture for a laboratory in the new Biology and Chemistry Building. We need as many parents as possible to get involved, to ensure that the event is a great family day out and raises essential funds for the School. Here are a few ways you can help:

- **Volunteer** -We need volunteers to help the Spring Fayre Committee with organising the event, including running stalls on the day
- **Support the Raffle** - Tickets will be mailed to all parents during March. Please sell them to your family and friends. First prize this year is a Samsung Galaxy Tab 3; **second prize** is Fire HD 7, 7" Tablet; and **third prize** is MercedesBenzWorld Under 16 1 hour Driving experience. All proceeds support the new laboratories.
- **Use your connections** to raise sponsorship and donations—if your employer has a sponsorship scheme for local charities, or if they could donate a prize for the silent auction, please let us know. Previous donations have included driving lessons, Indian cooking lessons, holiday cottage for a week, landscape gardening.

If you can help in anyway please get in touch with either Sandra Rodrigues or Patricia Fryer, Joint-Chairs of the Spring Fayre Committee (email San (san@roddy.clara.net) or Patricia Fryer (p.c.fryer@gmail.com).

Read the first issue of the [Spring Fayre Bulletin](#) to find out more ways that you can help.

Growing Tips

The plant stall is always very popular at the Spring Fayre and links nicely with this year's Science theme. If you are a keen gardener, you have probably already started planting for Spring. Could you could plant a few extra seeds to donate to the Spring Fayre this year?

Flowers to start in February include dahlias, lilies, and begonias.

- Start **dahlias** tubers: fill a shallow tray with compost, and set the tubers on top (singly or several). Place them in good light maintaining a minimum temperature of 10 degrees Celsius, and spray every now and then with clear water - this will encourage the buds to grow.
- Potting up **hardy Lilies** for early flowering: in a deep pot add a layer of multi-purpose compost, place 3 or 5 bulbs, and cover with 50:50 mix of compost and horticultural grit.
- Plant **Begonia** tubers (hollow side up) in pots of moist compost and just cover with a little more compost. Keep them in a bright, frost free position.

- Natalia Loukiantchenko, Spring Fayre Volunteer

The Giving Machine—Give as you shop, at no extra cost to you!



The Giving Machine enables the RSPA to raise vital funds towards their annual project to help improve facilities for the boys.

Online shoppers using the Giving Machine referral site can earn substantial

donations to the charity of their choice, at no extra cost to them. Many major online retailers are involved, including Amazon, John Lewis, Tesco, Asda, Sainsburys, Ebay, Boots, iTunes, Boden, Next, Virgin Atlantic, the Trainline, Argos and

Currys. So whether its your regular grocery shop, or buying gifts, your shopping can generate extra cash for the School.

How it works:

1. Sign up for free at: www.thegivingmachine.co.uk
2. Remember to access your favourite online retailer via the Giving Machine website each time you shop and you will generate a donation to RSPA.
3. The donation will be used by the RSPA to fund its chosen project in the School each year.

Science Writing Competition Winners

The Science Writing Competition was launched in the Autumn term to inspire boys to write around 600 words about a science topic that they were passionate about. There were a total of 62 entries, of whom 10 were shortlisted to discuss their essays with a panel of staff and interested students.

It was a difficult decision, but the winners were announced as:

- Key Stage 3: **Paul Saunders**, 7W, who wrote on the topic: *"What would we really see at the restaurant at the end of the universe?"*;
- Key Stage 4: **Sam Miller**, 11E, on *"A challenge for our time"*;
- Key Stage 5: **Matthew Le Croisette**, 12S on *"Five senses? What is this non-sense?"*

They will be presented with their prizes by leading science author, **Simon Singh**, when he delivers his Inspire Lecture on March

3rd in Big School.

Well done to all the entrants, including the other seven shortlisted candidates, **Beck Walker**, **Siyuan Li**, and **Ethan Jones**, all of 7 W; **James Dryden**, 8E; **Alex Osborne**, 10C; **James Craig**, 12W; and **Shubham Gantayet** and **Jake Fawkes**, both of 12S

Thanks to members of the English Department, the Science Departments and to our Pupil Librarian Team for helping to promote the competition and to decide on the winners.

- **Mrs Kestevan**, School Librarian



Young Wizards Fundraise for Young Minds

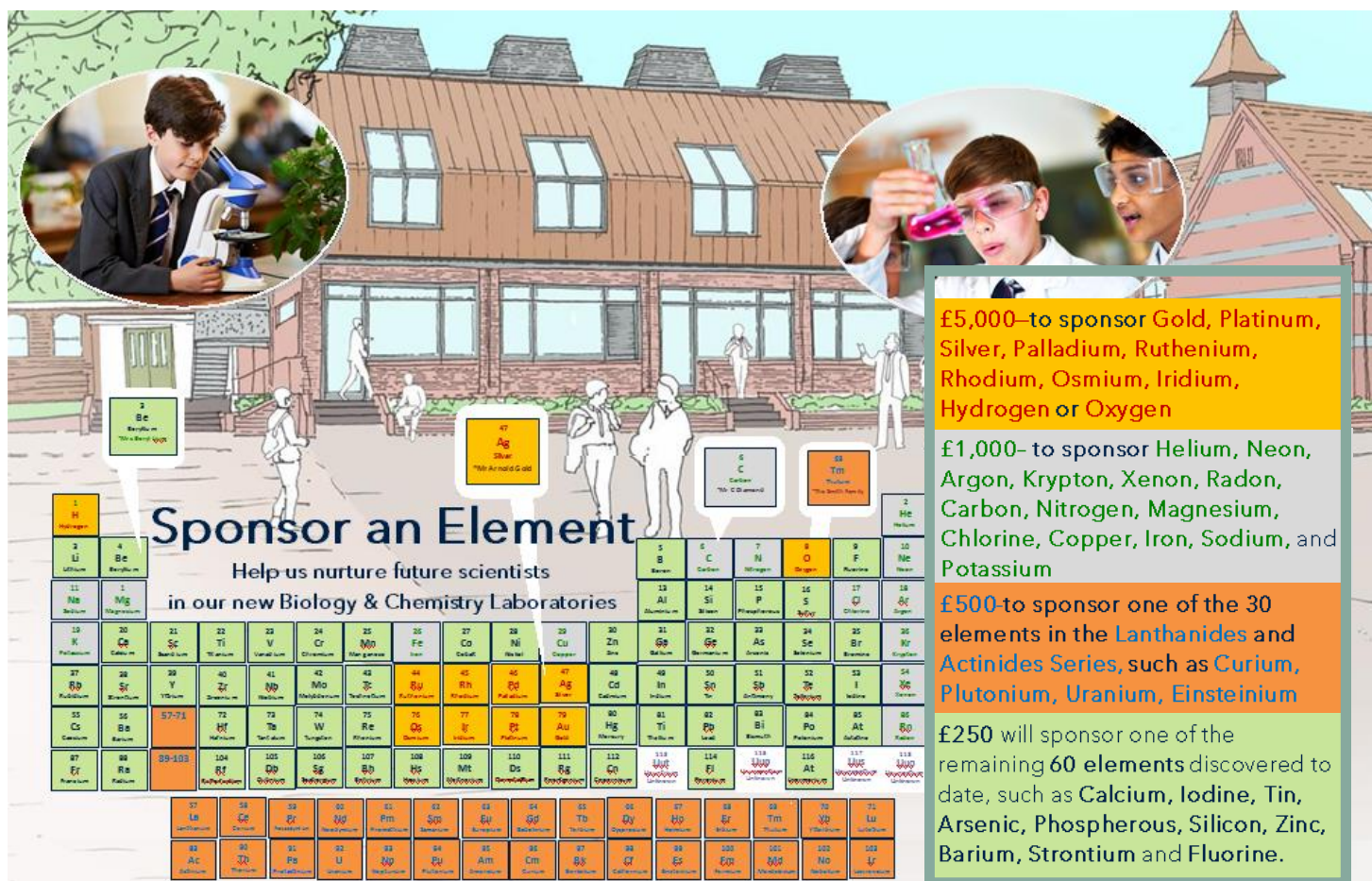
The first ever Harry Potter Book Night on February 5th was a nationwide series of events celebrating Harry Potter, books and reading. Head Pupil Librarian: Special Projects, **Sam Miller**, 11E, had the fantastic idea to both celebrate Harry Potter and raise money for the charity **YoungMindsUK** by organising a cake sale. Sam and his team have worked really hard raising the profile of mental health and wellbeing throughout the school and we are delighted to announce that he has raised over £220!



Pupil Librarian, **Matthew Songer** (12SP), continued the celebrations after school by preparing and hosting a challenging Harry Potter quiz for pupils and staff. Matthew worked with a team of helpers to produce the quiz and was very pleased with how the evening went. Pupil Librarian **Daniel Cooke** (12ADW) also helped out and said *"All the teams performed very well in a quiz designed to test even the Hermione's of Harry Potter, but congratulations to the winning team who display Harry Potter knowledge which probably surpassed the quiz writers!"*

The winning team was **Ben Harrison** (7C) and **Alexander Osborne** (10C) who scored an impressive 87 out of 97 points!





Sponsor an Element

Help us nurture future scientists in our new Biology & Chemistry Laboratories

£5,000–to sponsor Gold, Platinum, Silver, Palladium, Ruthenium, Rhodium, Osmium, Iridium, Hydrogen or Oxygen

£1,000– to sponsor Helium, Neon, Argon, Krypton, Xenon, Radon, Carbon, Nitrogen, Magnesium, Chlorine, Copper, Iron, Sodium, and Potassium

£500-to sponsor one of the 30 elements in the Lanthanides and Actinides Series, such as Curium, Plutonium, Uranium, Einsteinium

£250 will sponsor one of the remaining 60 elements discovered to date, such as Calcium, Iodine, Tin, Arsenic, Phosphorous, Silicon, Zinc, Barium, Strontium and Fluorine.

Sponsor an Element–help kit out our new laboratories

Over 60% of our pupils leaving each year progress to studying a STEM subject at university

We have already raised enough funds for the bricks and mortar of the new Biology and Chemistry Laboratories. Now we need to raise around £260,000 to cover the cost of furniture and specialist equipment for the new laboratories. Much of this will come from institutional donors, but we need individuals to help too.

Bigger and better equipped laboratories will enable us to provide more hands-on learning and practical science for our boys. This will enable them to meet the demands of the curricula and to achieve their academic potential in these subjects.

By sponsoring an element, you will be helping us to meet our fundraising target for this major project. Whether you choose an element to match your age, the initials of a loved one, or because you feel it is significant for life on earth, you will be enabling us to continue to inspire future generations of scientists, doctors and engineers.

For details of how you can help are on page 18. If you have queries, please contact Frances Greaney on 0118 9015600 ext 264 or email fgreaney@Reading-School.co.uk.

How it all adds up

If we can get a sponsor for each of the known elements in the Periodic Table, we would raise over £94,000 towards furniture and equipment.

10 sponsors at £5,000 will provide a total of £50,000

14 sponsors at £1,000 will raise £14,000

30 sponsors at £500–will be worth £15,000

60 sponsors at £250 will add up to £15,000

Every element counts

Each element sponsored will help us to kit out the new laboratories and refurbish existing classrooms.

1 sponsor at £5,000 would pay for two laboratory benches. 5 sponsors will completely kit out one lab.

14 sponsors at £1,000 will cover the cost of equipment for one prep room

15 sponsors at £500–will pay for a large item of equipment, such as a fume cupboard

1 sponsor at £250 would pay for an alkali cupboard in the chemical store

Computer Science Opening

On January 28th, we welcomed parents, alumni and former members of staff to mark completion of the refurbishment of the Computer Science Laboratories and the Lecture Theatre.

These classrooms are now in regular use by all pupils, including over 740 who study Physics, Computer Science and Electronics. They are also used extensively by sixth form pupils for independent study, and by several after school clubs.

We wish to thank all those donors who have supported the project. Their names will be recognised on printed panels in the Lecture Theatre. We will be in touch with them very soon with more details.

There will be further opportunities to tour the refurbished classrooms. For details, please contact Frances Greaney on 0118 9015600 ext. 264 or email fgreaney@Reading-School.co.uk



In Their Element

Over the course of the **Sponsor an Element Campaign**, we will be asking some individual members of the School community to talk about an element that they feel is important to human life, the modern world, or for the future. **Mr Longstaff**, Head of Chemistry, and **Mrs Maunder**, Head of Biology, have nominated Iridium and Hydrogen respectively. **What is your element?**

Mr Longstaff's element is:

Why is it special?

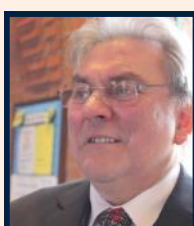
Iridium is one of the rarest elements on Earth. It is found in higher abundance in meteorites than in the Earth's crust. Because it is often found in the clay layer at the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary, it gave rise to the Alvarez hypothesis, which asserts that the impact of a massive extraterrestrial object caused the extinction of dinosaurs and other species 66 million years ago.

What is it used for?

Its high melting point, hardness and corrosion resistance make it useful in long-life aircraft engine parts, computer memory devices and in solid state lasers.

Discovered by?

British scientist, Smithson Tennant discovered it in 1803. In 1813, another British scientist, John George Children, was the first person to melt it.



Mrs Maunder's element is:

Why is it special?

Hydrogen is the most abundant element in the Universe. It makes up two of the three atoms in

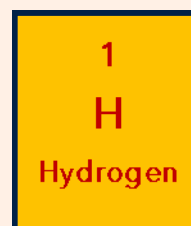
water and water is absolutely essential to life. It accounts for 10% of the total mass of the human body and is present in all organic compounds.

Tell us more?

Hydrogen was the primary fuel for early life on Earth and remains the major substrate of microbial life and the core of energy metabolism. Hydrogen ion (proton) pumps remain vital for many aspects of life including being essential in both respiration and photosynthesis.

Discovered by?

In 1766, Henry Cavendish was the first to recognise it as a discrete substance, but Robert Boyle produced it as early as 1671 in his experiments on iron filings.



Book Festival Events

Reading School Book Festival 2015 will take place during the first week of March 2015, to coincide with World Book Day on March 5th.

There is a full roster of visiting authors and book related activities including author talks and readings, writing workshops, book signings, and competitions. Staff and pupils will also be able to take part in a **Drop Everything And Read** event during the week.

Simon Singh

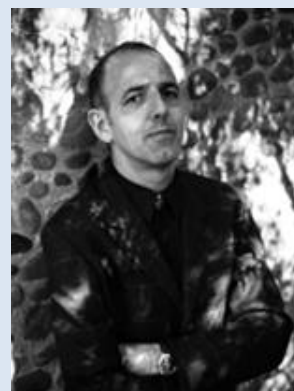


Best-selling science writer and film-maker **Simon Singh** will be giving a joint Inspire Lecture/Book Festival after school talk on Tuesday, March 3rd.

As well as covering topics in maths, physics and alternative medicine, Simon will be answering questions about his work and how he became a writer.

Gothic fiction author and artist, **Chris Priestley**, will be giving talks and workshops to Y8 and 6th form English students on Friday 6th of March. Chris has been involved with the 'Terror and Wonder: The Gothic Imagination' exhibition at the British Library

Chris Priestley



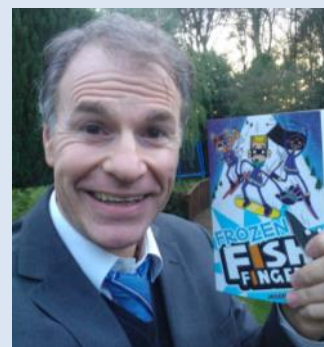
Damian Dibben



Author, actor and screenwriter, **Damian Dibben**, will give a talk to Y7 and Y8 on Thursday, March 5th. His book series, 'The History Keepers', has been translated into 26 languages, in over forty countries, with a major film in development with Working Title.

Jason Beresford, author of the Fabulous Fish Fingers series, will spend a day with students on Friday, 13th March. He will lead a series of writing workshops and give advice on building a career in writing.

Jason Beresford



Andrew Fermor

On Monday, March 2nd, our very own Mr Fermor will be giving a lunch time talk in the LRC about his recently published book, "Castle Class Manual", and about how his passion for train restoration led to him writing and publishing his book.



The book is based on his experience as project leader of the on-going restoration of the locomotive *Pendennis Castle* at the Great Western Society at Didcot. Restoration began in 2000 after the locomotive returned from a 23-year stay in Australia. Mr Fermor devotes much of his spare time to a hands-on role in the restoration and therefore has considerable knowledge of its engineering and specification. He also leads a group of pupil volunteers who work on engineering projects at Didcot each Wednesday afternoon.

Castle Class locomotives were the pride of the GWR when introduced in the mid-1920s, and were heralded as Britain's most-powerful express passenger locomotives. 171 Castles were built or converted between 1923 and 1950, and eight preserved examples survive today. Mr Fermor's book provides a fascinating insight into the design, operation and restoration of an iconic steam locomotive. It is available from all good booksellers.

Inspire Lectures

There will be two Inspire Lectures during March. All students, parents, governors, staff and alumni are warmly invited to attend. Each lecture will last about an hour, starting at 4:00pm with refreshments available in the Refectory from 3:30pm.

On **Tuesday, March 3rd** best selling science writer and film-maker, **Simon Singh** will talk on: *"From theorems to serums, from cosmology to cryptology, ... and Bart Simpson"*.

On **Thursday, March 12th** **Nicola Padfield**, Master of Fitzwilliam College Cambridge will talk on: **'The sentencing process: what are prisons for?'** Mrs Padfield, who is a criminal lawyer, will focus on the penal system and the effectiveness of prison in dealing with offenders. Following the lecture, she will also give a talk about applications to and student life at Cambridge.

Astronomy Evenings—March 2nd, 3rd & 4th

As part of our support to Year 9 GCSE Astronomy students, the Reading School Observatory will be running viewing sessions of Jupiter and other well known astronomical sights for these students and their parents on each of the evenings of March 2nd, 3rd and 4th from 6pm to 8pm.

Please Note: these events are weather-dependent, and we may need to cancel them at short notice if viewing conditions are unsuitable. We will endeavour to email all attendees by 4.30pm on the day, should we need to cancel a specific session.



RSPA Ceilidh - Saturday, March 21st

The RSPA will be holding a Ceilidh on Saturday 21 March 2015 at Big School. Doors open at 7.00 pm with dancing commencing at 7.30pm. Tickets are available via [Eventbrite](#), at £10 for adults and £5 for children aged 12 years and under. A licensed bar and food will be available on the night.

Special Offer- Saracens v Harlequins, March 28th



Saracens Rugby Club are offering discounted tickets to parents, pupils, staff and alumni for their match against Harlequins on Saturday, March 28th at Wembley Stadium. Kick-off is at 3:15pm. Pre-match and half time entertainment includes Pixie Lott. Adult tickets cost £16.50, and U16's £5.

Reading School will get a donation of £5 for each adult ticket sold, and £1.50 for each U16 ticket. Bookings can be made at: <http://www.saracens.com/wembley-old/groups/> and remember to use the code "READINGSCHOOL", so that the School benefits from a donation.

DIARY

Thursday, February 26th
Junior Concert, 7pm, Junior School. Tickets cost £5 for adults, U18 are free. They are available [online](#), or by following the links on the website calendar.

Friday, February 27th
Historical Association Lecture, 7:30pm LRC. Dr Anne Lawrence - Mathers from the University of Reading will deliver a talk on: ***Merlin and the Chroniclers: the Creation of the Medieval Prophet***. The lecture is free and will finish at around 9pm. For further details, please email phurst@Reading-School.co.uk.

Monday, March 2nd to Friday March 6th
Reading School Book Festival, see page opposite for events throughout the week.

Tuesday, March 3rd & Thursday, March 12th
Inspire Lectures. See top of the page for details of speakers.

Monday, March 2nd to Wednesday March 4th
Year 9 Astronomy Evenings for GCSE Astronomy students and their parents. Book a place [online](#) or follow the links on the website calendar.

Monday, March 16th
Spring Concert, 7.30pm, Big School. Details of tickets will be available via the website calendar in early March.

Saturday, March 21st
RSPA Ceilidh, Big School, 7.30 pm to 10.30pm. Tickets are available via [Eventbrite](#).

Saturday, March 28th
Fundraising Quiz Night, Big School. Football Tour Summer 2015. Further details will be available after half term.

Wednesday, April 1st
Drama Showcase by GCSE students, Drama Studio 1. Tickets £5 available on the door.



Sponsor an Element

What is your element?

47

Ag

Silver

*Mr Arnold Gold

6

C

Carbon

*Mr C Diamond

69

Tm

Thulium

*The Smith Family

3

Be

Beryllium

*Mrs Beryl Lium



Yes, I wish to support the Sponsor an Element Campaign by making a gift to Reading School

Please use my gift to commemorate the name of: _____

I would like to sponsor the element: _____ with a gift of £5,000 / £1,000 / £500 / £250
(delete as appropriate)

Payment Method



I am pleased to enclose a donation of £ _____ (Please make payment to Reading School Charitable Fund)



By making a regular gift over 12 months (Please complete standing order mandate below)

My Details

Title: _____ First Name/s: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Post Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____@_____

Please let us know:

Years attended: _____
(If you are an OR)

Son's Name: _____
(If you are the parent of a current pupil or of an OR)

Standing Order Mandate

To The Manager: _____ (Your Bank)

Bank Address: _____ Town: _____ Post Code: _____

Please pay to: **Lloyds TSB, Broad Street,
Reading RG1 2BT**

Account name: **Reading School Charitable Fund**
Sort Code: **30-67-99**

Account No: **40733560**

Please pay the sum of £ _____ On: ____/____/20____ and thereafter Annually / Monthly / Quarterly (as appropriate)

Until: further notice or ____/____/20____ (as appropriate)

My Bank Details

Sort Code: ____ - ____ - ____ Account No: _____ Account name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/20____

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money that I have made:

Today ☐

In the past 4 years ☐

In the future ☐

(Please tick all that apply)

giftaid it

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/20____