



Senior Prize Giving



Photograph courtesy of Chris Widdows

Many of our 2013 leavers returned to attend Senior Prize Giving at the Great Hall of the University of Reading, along with prize winners from amongst our current students.

The Mayor of Reading, **Councillor Marian Livingston**, presented the Annual Stipend to the Headmaster.

The Guest Speaker was **Dr Oliver Harris OR (04-06)**, who

also presented prizes and A level certificates. Dr Harris graduated from the University of Nottingham in 2011 and trained as a junior doctor at Royal Liverpool University Hospital. He will travel to Malawi early in 2014, where he will volunteer in a rural health clinic.

In his speech, Dr Harris urged current and former students to be ambitious. He said: *"Ask yourself what impact do I want to have?"* He said that while others might question your ambitions, you should keep them in your sights. Quoting Nietzsche, he ended with: *"..no price is too high for the privilege of owning yourself."*

Carol Service

The annual Carol Service at St Luke's Church, Erleigh Road, was a joyful musical celebration conducted by **Reverend Evans**, with **Mr Meehan**, Director of Music. Carols were sung superbly by the Chapel Choir, with music by the Festival Brass. **Richard Parkinson (OR 2005-12)** played the organ.

The Service was based on the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols drawn up for services at Truro Cathedral and later King's College, Cambridge. Readings

were by Captain and Vice Captain of School, **Domenico Cullura** and **Christopher Mountain**; **George Henderson, 11S**, **Sebastian Young, 10E**, **Merlin Dillingham, 8S**. Other readings were by Year 7 parent, **Nick Honeyman**, Governor, **Mrs Stock**, Staff Governor, **Miss Rogers**, and **Mr Robson**.



Photograph courtesy of Chris Widdows

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Headmaster's Note



Reading School continues to flourish as a consequence of the excellence of the boys and staff, and the support of parents, governors, ORs and the Reading Foundation. The Boarding family is growing and undoubtedly goes from strength to strength.

Big School, The British Museum and Budapest are some of the venues for varied endeavours and successes of our boys. In addition, Public Speaking by Reading School boys continues to thrive as demonstrated recently in the House of Lords. In addition, Inspirational Lectures on Italian History, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and superb Charity Concerts serve to give a flavour of the excellence of staff and pupils at Reading School.

The breadth, depth and quality of the student achievements, inspirational talks and contributions from pupils, staff and governors illustrate why Reading School is a place where education in a rich, broad sense is nurtured.

Reading School flourishes because we encourage our boys to develop into young men who wish to make a positive contribution.

This term has been an extremely full one, certainly our boys, and indeed staff deserve the opportunity to enjoy time with their families over the holiday period. I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas time.

A. Robson

Governors' Noticeboard

The Link Governor system was set up to increase the Governors' involvement of Governors within the School and to ensure that Governors are able to have more detailed knowledge of the full range of the School's activities.

The initial phase involved the designation of an individual Link Governor to each teaching area. It has now been extended to all areas of the School's activities including Estates, Boarding, Teacher Professional Development, Administrative/Associate Staff, Health and Safety, Learning Resources Centre and CCF.

In a teaching area, the Link Governor meets regularly with all the staff. Discussions might include what they see as the strengths and weakness in their department, barriers to achieving higher levels of attainment, any resource improvements that would facilitate this, and how teachers are responding to changes in the structure of public examinations. If practical the Link Governor will also observe parts of some lessons given to the different key stages.

Following the visit the Governor produces a written report which is discussed with the head of department, then submitted to the Headmaster for comment, before being presented to the Curriculum Committee. Following consideration at the Curriculum Committee meeting the reports are tabled at the next meeting of the Governing Body.

Reports on the non-teaching subject areas involve a similar format with reports and outcomes considered at the relevant committees.

All Governors are involved in this programme and the response has been universally positive.

Governors have enjoyed the opportunity to learn more in detail about particular subjects and activities within the School. Governors have also welcomed the additional insight link Governors are able to provide when these areas of the School's activities are discussed in meetings.

Members of staff within the School have reported very positively on the programme. It enables staff to 'put a face' to at least one of the Governors and remove, at least partially, what might appear to be the 'remoteness' of Governors. Once the contact is established the Link Governor Programme should provide an improved level of communication between staff and Governors and improve Governance of the School.

Stephen Northcliff, Governor, Chair of the Curriculum Committee



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Busy Boarders have Christmas spirit



Christmas has well and truly arrived in boarding. Both houses are expertly decorated and revelling in the Christmas spirit.

This spirit was very much in evidence at the Boarders' Family Carol service on Sunday 8th December. It was great to see so many of the boys' families

come along to join them in the service and stay for mince pies afterwards. It was a really enjoyable family occasion.

This has been an eventful half term in boarding. The boys have been busy taking part in the numerous sporting, musical and academic events that are on offer.

Boarders always seem to make up a high percentage of the school's sporting teams and this year is no exception. It was particularly pleasing to see five of the Year 7 boarders performing so well for the U12 rugby team at the recent Berkshire Schools

tournament. Well done **James, Tomi, Ed, Freddie and Muiyiwa!**

The house competition within boarding is in full flow too. There have been some tightly fought contests in the swimming pool over the past few weeks. It pains me to say it but the Water Polo Competition has seen South House push on its place in the standings. Chess is next so watch out South House!

Earlier this month the boys were lucky enough to take a trip to watch the film of *The Hunger Games*, which was a great success. Attention now turns to the annual theatre trip which this year is to see *Matilda*, the musical based on Roald Dahl's book at the Cambridge Theatre in London's West End, early in January.

Mr Nicholas, Housemaster, East Wing



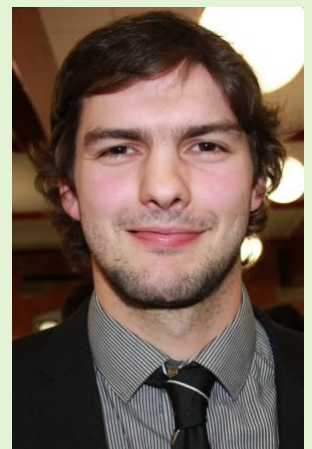
New boarding prefects



We are pleased to announce six new boarding prefects. They are from left to right: **Nelson Chan, Phillip Whittingham, and Timi Sanusi**, from East Wing, and **George Henderson, Matthew Oh, and Jack Ginger** from South House.

Wedding Bells ring for Mr T

We are very pleased to announce that **Mr Teixeira**, Assistant Housemaster in South House, will be tying the knot early next year. All the boys are very much looking forward to welcoming the future Mrs Teixeira into boarding life. We wish them every happiness in their future life together.



Student Achievement

Bound for Budapest

Adam Weller, Year 13, is among the elite group of Maths students chosen to participate in



a specialist training camp in Budapest over New Year. He was chosen on the basis of his performance at the recent British Mathematics Olympiad, run by the UK Mathematics Trust.

The visit to Budapest will enable him to train alongside other promising young mathematicians, including the Hungarian International Mathematics Olympiad squad. Students invited to the Hungary camps are automatically added to the MKMT Advanced Mentoring Scheme, a squad of students who are potential team members for international competitions such as the International Mathematics Olympiad.

National Champion

Oliver Pizura, 9C, won the National Under 14 Indoor Rowing Championships in Cardiff on December 7th. His winning distance was 1,122m, just 100m short of the Championship record. The event is the world's biggest indoor rowing race and the largest indoor sporting event in the UK. Oliver, who has been rowing single sculls for Reading Rowing Club for a year, describes the achievement as "a bit of fun".



Sixth Form Economists at British Museum

Five sixth form Economics students were privileged to experience an Economics internship at the British Museum. **Robbie Cottle, Tom Russell, Timi Sanusi, Sohum Shah and Jack**



Dunningan worked closely with the Education Manager at the British Museum. They helped to build a trading activity targeted at key stage 4 students visiting the Citi Money Gallery, the new Museum exhibit on the origins and uses of money.

The Reading School students were also involved in the delivery of the pilot activity to a class of Year 10 pupils from a local London school. As the day was a resounding success, the British Museum intends to develop the educational resources created further in cooperation with the Reading School Economics students, in time for the official launch of the new British Museum Finance school sessions on 7th March 2014.

The students would like to thank Mrs Bosser for facilitating this project, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Robbie Cottle (Year 13)

Arjun has a winning season for Berkshire

Arjun Mathur, 9E, had a highly successful cricket season in 2013. He captained the Berkshire Under 12 team, leading them to eight wins out of 13 matches. Altogether, he has scored 496 runs for the County at an average of 71, and strike rate of 115. This includes the fastest century scored for Berkshire in any age category. Against Hertfordshire, he scored 112 not out off 67 balls..

Arjun also plays for Pangbourne and Whitchurch Cricket Club, where he second highest number of runs and also the second highest wicket-taker. In addition, he led his club Under 13 team to victory in their league, and to the last four of the Berkshire County Clubs Cup. Altogether, for club, school and county he has scored 1300 runs in the 2013 season, at an average of 50 runs per innings.



Geographers win again

After representing the UK at the Geography World Championships in St Petersburg last summer, we were back to competing in the regional finals of the tournament in November. This year Reading School was represented by two teams. I was in Reading School 1, along with seasoned geographer **Josh Blake** and newcomer **Sanjay Arulchelvam**.

There were six rounds in all, and the first 3 were certainly the hardest. We performed fairly well when it came to landmarks of the world, but when it came to the OS Maps and A-Z rounds, we struggled. So by the half-time interval, we were in 6th place, just one point ahead of Reading School 2, and many points behind the leaders, Charters School. We knew we'd have to get our thinking caps on in order to make any sort of comeback!

Round four was the Geography In The News round, always an interesting one! We got 9 out of 20 on this one, which while not sounding impressive, was only beaten by 3 other teams. We felt like we were

making progress at this point, and we felt quite confident as we went into the final two rounds.

We did a lot better at in the Flags and Capitals round, scoring 19 out of a possible 20 marks. One of the half-marks we lost was a "spelling mistake" that we actually didn't make! But would it be enough?

The final round was the make-or-break round. Whereas all the other rounds were worth 20 points, this was worth 50, from just 10 questions! The rules were simple: A country outline would be put onto the screen, and we would have to guess what it was without any clues for 5 points. 1 clue meant 4 points if the correct answer was given, 2 clues meant 3 points, and so on. We did really well at this one, scoring 43 out of 50. The closest another team got to this was Charters School 1, who scored 38 points.

The teams around us looked very confident as the teachers started the final tally. Our team agreed not to expect anything, and when they announced that 3rd and 2nd place belonged to Charters School 1 and 3 respectively, we were certain that we would not be in the top three. When we were announced as the winners, it took us a moment to comprehend. Soon enough we were up at the front receiving the trophy for the third time in a row and, of course, Amazon vouchers worth £15.

It was an absolutely fantastic night, and I'm really sorry that I will be too old to take part next year. However, I hope that this victory will lead to another chance to win the national or international finals.

James Woolaghan 10E



In the local corridors of power

On 2nd December we travelled to the House of Commons to receive our Local Councillor Shadowing Awards at the British Youth Council event from the CEO of the Post Office and Sir Peter Bottomley MP in the Jubilee Room.

Last year we took part in a program run by Reading Borough Council to shadow a local councillor, Cllr John Ennis (Lead for Education). This involved attending several meetings including the interviews of the council's potential new CEO, the Holocaust Remembrance evening, an Early Years convention and meeting Lindsey Miller who told us about school governors.

After writing up about our meetings with the councillor and including information about what we had learnt both politically and socially during the

experience we sent these reports off to be assessed. We also wrote reports about how leadership in the local council works.

This was a great experience and we gained an insight into the workings of the local council. We did it as part of our Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award and would encourage those who are interested to get involved with the British Youth Council.

Rory McBride and Elliot Winch (12SJL)



House Competitions Round-up

In the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, Reading School boys have had many Inter-House Competitions to keep them warm! **Mr Beckey** had his trusty iPhone and Twitter feed on hand to record most of them. Here are some (but by no means all!) of the highlights.

House Rugby Winners

Seniors: School House

Year 9: County & School, joint First

Year 8: County

Year 7: County



School House, winners of Senior House Rugby



A jubilant Year 7 County team

It's County again, Year 8 winners!



County & School share the spoils



Road Relay Results

Winners: School; Second: County;

Third: West; Fourth: East



Year 10 Table Tennis

Team Winners: County House

Individual Winner: Sam Liu



Sports Personality of the Year

James Smith, Year 13, was voted **Reading School Sports Personality of the Year** on December 18th. James enjoyed considerable success in Ice Skating during 2013, including becoming U18 British Champion and winning five gold medals at regional competitions.

Second place went to Matt Wadsworth for his achievements in chess, and third place went to Cameron Ward for his achievements in squash.

The Sports Personality of the Year awards also includes several other awards. These recognise sporting excellence and achievement by students, both within and outside of school. Other award winners were:

- **Individual Sports Performance of the Year: Ben Loader**, who scored 100 in 20 Overs against St. Bartholomew's this summer
- **Sportsman of the Year: David Jordan**, for his consistent commitment to his teams in rugby, football and cricket,



- **Team of the Year: 2012-13 Under 12 Football Team**, Winners of the 2013 Berkshire Cup
- **Coach of the Year: Mr Teixeira**: Coach of the U15 Rugby Team, and co-founder, with **Mr Bywater**, of the Triathlon Club

House and representative colours were also awarded for boys representing their house or school in Rowing, Chess, Football, Cricket, Lacrosse and Rugby

The evening was compered, with much humour and élan, by **Dominico Cullura** and **Matthew Perry**.

Guest Speaker for the evening was Richard Moon, former England Rugby Union Player and founder of the Rugby Union Players Union.

He gave boys several pieces of advice, including practical tips on training, nutrition and time management. He said: *"Sport teaches you to work in a team, how to cope with pressure, and develops drive and ambition. Above all its fun!"*



The Nominees

1. **Campbell Nugent, 7W, Tumbling**: selected for the GB National Squad, for the World Trials, and to compete at the Belgian National Open. Silver Medal at National Championships. Gold Medal in Team Event at Welsh Open.
2. **Dan Trussler, 13GB, Sprint Kayaking**: from Novice to National Finalist in 18 Months. Competed at K1 and K2, both Sprint and Marathon Distance. Promotion to Division 1 Competition. Plays rugby for Reading School and Abbey in his spare time.
3. **Sam Liu, 10C, Table Tennis**: Southern Regional A Squad. Qualified for British Junior League. Represents Berkshire. Multiple Competition Winner in 2013. Current House Table Tennis Champion.
4. **Matthew Wadsworth, 9E, Chess**: selected for England for the 7th Year in a row. Ranked No. 1 in England at U14. Ranked Top 20 in the World at U14. Finished 19th in British Open Championship. Part of the Berkshire team who the National U18 Youth Championship.
5. **Tom Henderson, 10C, Trampoline**: second at the U15 British Championships in Synchro. Second at the Welsh Open in Individual. Reading School SPOTY 2012.
6. **Dev Gakhar, 10C, Karate (Kata)**: Fifth Kyu. Individual Kata Medal Winner and Team Kata Medal Winner at Tiska National Karate Championships. Plays Cricket and Badminton in his spare time.
7. **Cameron Ward, 11S, Squash**: risen 55 places in National Rankings over last 12 months. Now Ranked top 10 in England. Finished 9th at the English Championships. Member of the Berkshire team who won the National County Championships. Selected for British Championships.
8. **James Smith, 13GSW, Ice Skating**: U18 British Champion 2013. Five Gold Medals at Regional Competitions in 2013. James is now looking to improve his technical work to compete at U21 Level at International Level.

Trips & Exchanges

Comenius Exchange

Reading School hosted twenty one pupils from schools in Madrid, Brittany and Istanbul, from November 8th to 15th. This was the first exchange in a new two year exchange programme with our partner schools, IES Pablo Neruda in Madrid, Collège Le Sacré Cœur de Ploërmel in Brittany, and Nişantaşı Anadolu Lisesi in Istanbul.

The two year exchange will focus on the theme *"Classical times light our future"*, looking at how the Romans and Ancient Greeks have influenced life in each of the four participating countries. For the visit to Reading School, we visited The Corinium Museum, Cirencester, The Roman Baths, Bath and The British Museum, with the objective of gaining information for our project; *'What have the Romans done for us?'*

On the first Friday we got to know our exchange students over lunch, and with "ice breakers" in Big School. Over the weekend, students spent time with their exchange partners. Our family travelled to Oxford on Saturday and visited its colleges and the Pitt Rivers Museum. On the Sunday we went to London to visit the Natural History Museum and the London Eye, which both me and my exchange, Miguel, enjoyed hugely.

On Monday morning, we gave our exchanges a tour of the school, followed by a briefing on plans for the week and information from each school. We then went to our normal period three lessons with our exchanges; mine was English, where we were analysing war poetry. Doing this in another language was hard for the exchanges but they got sweets so all was well! In the evening, we visited the cinema and enjoyed watching the film Gravity in stunning 3D.



On Tuesday, we travelled to The Corinium Museum in the morning and to the Roman Baths in Bath in the afternoon. Next day, we went to the British Museum and ate lunch in Covent Garden.

On Thursday, my exchange student Miguel celebrated his birthday. So, we bought him a present and also went out for a meal. We spent the whole day working in groups on our presentations for the project. We looked at different aspects of Roman heritage, such as legacies that the Romans have left us in religion, language, leisure and technology. We tried to include links between all four countries and therefore came together as one team demonstrating that the Romans have done a lot for us.

After school there was a buffet in the Refectory, for which everybody brought a dish. The next day, every group did their presentation. Then, sadly, we all said our goodbyes and returned to normal lessons.

This was a great experience and opportunity created for us by our teachers, we made so many new friends and learnt many things about them, for example, in Spain nine is the normal time to eat your dinner. On the whole, I can't wait to go to Madrid!

Albie Bish-Groucott, 9C

Drama News

On 5th December the drama department organised a trip for all year 9 students to the New London Theatre to see 'War Horse'. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the show and Ms Capon and Mrs Fooks are looking forward to seeing the boys' assessed performances of extracts from the play, showing inspiration from the professional production.

The previous day, the year 10 Drama GCSE boys performed extracts from 'The Woman in Black' for their first practical assessment. They were all highly professional in their approach and gained very good marks.

This followed the success of the year 11 Drama GCSE boys who set a very high standard with their performance in extracts from a variety of plays for their practical assessment, performed in a public performance to parents and friends the evening following their exam. Ms Capon and Mrs Fooks were immensely proud of their achievement.



Taking the hits, embracing the challenge

On Tuesday, November 19th, Captain Tony Harris, founder of Race2Recovery, gave the most recent Inspire Lecture. Entitled '*Taking the Hits, Embracing the Challenge*', the talk was about his team's experience in the gruelling Dakar Rally, and how in only eighteen months they were able to raise the funds and build a team to become the first all amputee team to complete the rally.

Starting with his deployment as an officer in Iraq, Harris's story was one that highlighted the value of teamwork and the power of core values. Following an IED attack in Afghanistan, doctors battled for weeks to save his leg. He had multiple close shaves with death before he took the decision to have his left leg amputated below the knee. This motivated him to start Race2Recovery, a charity that supports amputees who have served in the Armed Forces to compete in professional rally competitions.

For those who don't know, the Dakar rally is the epitome of off-road motorsport. A 9,000 km long course snaking through Peru, Argentina and Chile, it is a brutal test of endurance and skill, watched by over 1 billion people worldwide. 152 cars started the race and only 90 finished!

Using the teamwork and leadership skills that years in the Armed Forces had taught them, the new team went from strength to strength, building up experience in smaller races. With widespread public support and donations from sponsors, they were able to raise the £1 million required to deploy 28 men, four support trucks and four Bowler Wildcat

racers to South America.

Harris described their experience as a "challenge", which strikes me as somewhat of an understatement.

One of the support trucks crashed, causing three of the crew to be airlifted to hospital. Two of the Wildcats, including Harris' own, were forced out of the

race by irreparable mechanical failures. Another hit a ditch at 80 mph, destroying the car and seriously injuring its co-driver. Yet one of the Wildcats was able to cross the line, making history. Race2Recovery had fulfilled their ambition of becoming the first all amputee team to finish the race.

Harris's commitment to what he believed in and his determination to show the world that his injury would not prove to be a disability, was truly inspirational.

You can find out more about their adventures at: <http://race2recovery.com/>

James Roberts, Year 12



Lessons in Italian History

Year 12 historians were treated to a fascinating talk by Professor Christopher Duggan last week. He is Professor of Italian History and Director of the Centre for Modern Italian History at the University of Reading. He recently won the prestigious Wolfson History Prize for his latest book *Fascist Voices*.

Year 12 students have been studying Mussolini's fascist regime in Italy in the 1920s and 30s. Professor Duggan's talk covered Italian identity, the complicity and willingness of the Italian populace to buy into fascism. He also made connections between Mussolini's regime and the Third Reich, and weaved a history that is intrinsically connected to our present.

Despite not lowering the undergraduate tone, the students were engaged throughout and Professor Duggan commented afterwards that the level of questioning was very impressive. We are very grateful to Professor Duggan for giving up his time and sharing his insights with us.

Mr Bailey-Watson, Head of History



Making a Contribution

CCF Michaelmas manoeuvres

We recruited about a third of the current Year 10 into the ranks of the CCF. As with their colleagues in Year 11, they have been enthusiastic attenders on Thursday afternoons, bringing our active strength to around the one hundred mark. They are now working their way through basic proficiency subjects, while more senior cadets follow advanced training and methods of instruction cadres. They have been given a great deal of support by the senior cadet NCOs who work very hard every week to organise and deliver the training programme. We have also received much help from our RAF TEST NCO, Sgt. Chris Williamson and from Capt. Paul Sydenham, and Sgts. Jones and Porter of 145 Brigade Cadet Training Team.

Our October Field Day at Aldershot Training Area B6 was a great success. The recruits in both sections have also had the chance to get to grips with administration in the field, night navigation, camouflage and concealment and observation during the two overnight exercises we ran on Bramley Training Area in October and November. We also entered a team in the South East Cadet Skill at Arms Meeting at Pirbright at the end of September and have visited Otmoor Range on Oxfordshire to give our cadets experience of firing full bore with the Cadet GP Rifle. At time of writing, we are planning to take a dozen RAF cadets to RAF Benson before the end of term.

Planning is well under way for next term – more range visits, Field Days for the Army and RAF Sections, Exercise, the national signals competition which we have won in the past and the 145 Brigade Military Skills Competition in March. We could not hope to run such a range of activities without the support of our outside helpers from the regular Army and RAF as well as the other adults on the CCF staff who come in from outside to help each Thursday and with our offsite activities.

We are excited by the prospect of Miss K Cox and Mr D Morris completing their respective commissioning processes and being able to play an even larger part in our programme. We are grateful for the continued involvement of Capt. J. Flexman, Lt. A. Ferguson, Flt. Lt. G. Jones and Wg. Cdr. C. Cousins. As always, we appreciate the support and understanding shown towards the CCF by the rest of the school community.

Finally, we are grateful for the continued commitment demonstrated by the cadets at all levels and especially the senior NCOs for their leadership. CSM Sullivan threatens to rival Wing Commander Walter for the record for the number of hours spent in the CCF office!

Capt. P. F. E. Hurst

Brigadier Hughes visits

The highlight of our Thursday afternoon sessions this term was the visit of Brigadier Andrew Hughes MBE, Commander of 145 Brigade, on 28th November. Brigadier Hughes clearly enjoyed meeting the cadets and was impressed with their enthusiasm and skill.

During his visit, Brig. Hughes also presented the trophy for our second place in Exercise "Summer Whine". This is a national cadet signalling competition involving the operating of a HF radio station in the field over a 24 hour period.



Over 50 cadets, past and present, gathered for the CCF Christmas Dinner on December 13th.

Public Speaking and Debating



Rotary Youth Speaks

Neil Kokkaparampil, Seth Peiris and Yousuf Mohamed-Ahmed won the Senior section of Rotary Youth Speaks in November and are now through to the next round in February.

ESU Mace Debate

George Prové and **Julian Sutcliffe** are through to the next round of this competition in February. They're opposing Reading Blue Coat School with the motion, *THW Ban All Individuals Who Have Advocated or Used Violence in Order to Further a Political Cause, From Standing for Election*

LAMDA Examinations

52 boys took LAMDA examinations over the weekend

of November 30th and December 1st. The examiner said: "your work is outstanding". We had speeches on such varying topics as Marxism, Boris Johnson, Reptiles, Gaming, The Bad Guys, Colour, A&E departments, and many more. The Start of Term letter and Application Form for the Spring Term has now been sent out.

British Parliamentary Debating

This year we are entering the Oxford Schools Debating Competition. It is run along British Parliamentary debating lines. We will have a workshop next term to learn about this format before entering the competition.

There are 12 boys doing involved from Years 10 to 13. **Domenico Cullura, George Prové, Julian Sutcliffe, Toby Morris; Aleksandr Stepanyan, Jacob South-Klein; George Henderson, Neil Shabong, Ritvij Singh; James Woolaghan, Ryan Yao-Smith and Sam Miller.** As always, these boys will encourage and support others in all year groups.

Miss Williams

In the House of Lords

In the company of over 150 cadets and veterans from all three services including teams from the Air Cadets and Sea Cadets, **Corporal Omar Uwais** and I represented Reading School CCF in the House Of Lords Chamber Event. The topic of the debate was *The Great War: Listening to the Past: Talking to the Future*. Knowing that it was both a great honour and privilege to be speaking from the famous red benches and the fact that the event would be televised got the adrenaline flowing as we sat down before speaking. Omar spoke calmly and with feeling about the social impact of the First World War from the despatch box. And I followed him, kicking off the debate from the floor of the chamber.

A huge thanks to **Captain Hurst** and **Karen Andrews** for taking care of us and allowing us to have this wonderful opportunity.

Experiencing what the Lords do on a daily basis to help run our country proved invaluable for us and demonstrated further the importance of speaking and debating in our country, today.

Aleksandr Stepanyan

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Mr Wheal is leading the introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award for Year 10 students, and he has already recruited over 30 students to take up the challenge.

The Bronze Award, which takes a minimum of six months to complete, enables students to develop leadership skills by participating in a series of challenges. These cover volunteering, physical challenge, skill development and completion a two-day overnight expedition. Participants are required to spend a minimum of 3 months on each of

the volunteering, physical and skills sections, as well as planning and training for the expedition.

Mr Wheal completed his leaders and assessor's training in the summer. He and Parent Governor, **Bob Kenwick**, were invited to Buckingham Palace in October for the presentation by the Duke of Edinburgh.



Making a Contribution

Charity Concert 2013 raises over £2,000 for Touraid



Photograph courtesy of Robbie Cottle, Year 13

Chris Poon, Matt Perry, Tom Russell, Tristan O'Leary, Ben Doyle and friends raised nearly £3,000 for Touraid by organising a charity concert at Big School on December 13th.

The boys lined up eight acts, including Shane MacGowan and Kirsty MacColl sound alikes **Chris Poon** and **Mrs Smith**. So, they have better teeth than the originals, but their performance of "Fairy Tale of

New York" had just as much sass and attitude.

Little known punk band, *The Manic Street Teachers*, performed "Teenage Kicks" among other classic songs. The band featured **Mr Bailey-Watson** on lead vocals, with sterling support from **Mr Longstaff**, **Mr Teixeira** and **Mr Bellinger**. They were joined by **Mrs Smith** and **Chris Poon** on backing vocals and **Jacob South-Klein** on sax.

The evening also featured several emerging local bands, including the *Handsome Devil's Club* who have just released their first EP. Other bands and artists featured were *Canadian Bagel Factory*, *Becki Ritchie*, *Sasha Cooke*, *Josh Waites Band*, *The Keytones*, and *Peach Fuzz*.

Thanks to all the students, staff and supporters, particularly Chris Poon, who worked so hard to make the evening such a success.

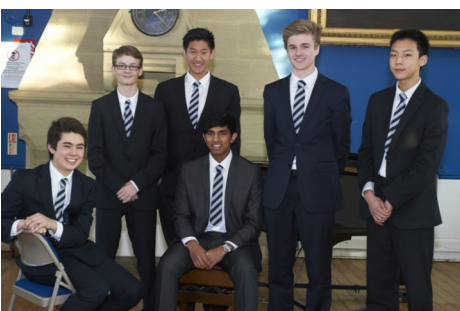
If you wish to support the boys fundraising efforts, you can make a secure online donation at: <https://www.justgiving.com/Reading-School-Touraid>.

Classics for Breakfast

Some of our Year 12 community service volunteers have been serving up classics for breakfast at two local primary schools.

Robert Clark, **Liam Duan**, **Sam Dexter**, and **Arjun Thayyil** spend 45 minutes each Tuesday morning before school running a breakfast club for pupils at Redlands Primary School.

Tim Kenyon, **Simon Mote**, **Robin**



Wilson, and **Roy Zhang** do the same each Thursday morning at Alfred Sutton Primary School.

The boys teach *Minimus the Mouse*, a Latin course for primary school children created by The Primary Latin Project. **Mr Cooper**, Head of Classics, gave them a short teacher training course for a few hours before they began at their primary schools. The boys have had regular feedback sessions with **Mr Cooper** to help hone their teaching skills.

The feedback from their pupils has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. Mrs Olivia Palmer, Deputy Head Teacher at Redlands says: "Our children are really

enjoying the Latin Club and our teacher who supervises the sessions says that it always looks and sounds fantastic."

The boys want more and are keen to continue the clubs in the Spring term.

Robin Wilson with junior Latinists at Alfred Sutton Primary School



Didcot Railway volunteers

15 Year 12 students have started making weekly trips to Didcot Railway Centre this term. They are helping to preserve our steam heritage by carrying out restoration on steam engines, coaches and rolling stock.

They are led by **Mr Fermor** who, as well as teaching electronics and computer science, is a locomotive project manager at the Centre. He has been introducing Reading School volunteers to the joys of steam for many years. **Alasdair Matthews OR (2007-12)** liked the work so much that he is now making a career in heritage railways and is an apprentice boilermith at Didcot.

The Centre was set up by the Great Western Society, an organisation set up by a group of 16 year olds in 1964, so our young engineers are continuing an honourable tradition of tinkering with engines.



Jamie Terry, Lawrence Sarsam and Dmitry Samartsev work on removing the slide bars of locomotive No. 1363, which was built in 1910.

Launch of OR Enterprise Awards 2014

The Old Redingensians' Association will be launching their Enterprise Awards at house assemblies in early 2014 with a budget of £5,000.

The awards are of two types: **Major Awards** of up to £600, and **Minor Awards** of up to £150. These are for individual, or groups of up to three students, 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 which is directly related to a student's chosen activity.

For example, an award could be used to help pay for:

- **Tuition** on a sports coaching or musical course
- **Travel** to a place which might help with a school project and/or help people from developing countries
- **Fees** for an educational, scientific or cultural event
- **Materials** for a science based project, a community project or a conservation project

Full details will be available on Sharepoint from late January 2014. Forms must be submitted by no later than 12 midnight Wednesday 23rd April 2013.

OR Enterprise Awards 2014

Planning a special project ?

An Enterprise Award could help!

Leadership



Challenge



Initiative



Adventure

Creativity



Science

Forms and guidance: available on Sharepoint from late January
Deadline for Applications: 23 April 2014
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

Extracts from the project reports of some of the 2013 Enterprise Award winners are on page 14.

Enterprise Reports

As students think ahead to their goals for 2014, and consider the possibility of applying for an OR Enterprise Award, here are extracts from a small selection of award winners' reports from 2013. Thanks to the OR Association for setting up and continuing to support the scheme each year.

The Three Peaks Challenge

Chris Warby, 13JN, completed the 'Three Peaks' Challenge in June, scaling the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales in 24 hours. He was part of a team raising money for the Fire Service Charity.

Chris says: *"My teamwork skills have improved as a result of this experience. Climbing Snowdon, we all had to motivate and support each other when it looked unlikely that we would make the summit. However, we stuck together and managed to complete the challenge within the allocated time for gold."*



Budding Linguist

George Southon, 13HH, spent several weeks in Salamanca in Spain gaining work experience and improving his spoken Spanish, with the aim of studying it at university.

George says: *"I think I got a good insight not only into current Spanish culture but also into the country's history, and this trip further fuelled my desire to take my study of Spanish further in the future."*



Building a computer

Hamza Khan, 9C, used his award to build a desktop computer. He raised matched funding from other funders and completed his project successfully.

Hamza writes: *"Due to the learning curve I experienced in undertaking this project I learnt not to trust all component compatibility websites and I also learnt to*

adapt when encountering problems. I have donated my unused parts, with a value of £55 to a local electronic recycling company at my local library."



Teaching in Taiwan

Alexander Johnstone, 13HH, spent a month in Taiwan teaching English to disadvantaged children in rural areas, alongside over 350 other young people coming from places all across the world.

He says: *"I experienced an unforgettable month during this program, forming enduring links with another country and getting to truly know a foreign culture"*



Musical Theatre

Laurence Bashford, 13VP, used his award to fund a place in the National Youth Musical Theatre summer school, and won a place on this year's flagship production, staged in West London.

Laurence says: *"My YMT experience was one of the absolute best ways I could have spent summer 2013. I developed crucial skills for myself as a performer, and made so many brilliant friends and contacts for the future."*



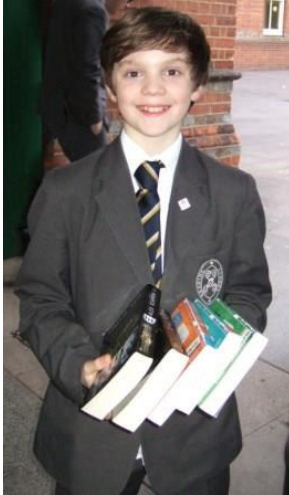
Volunteering in Uganda

Chris Mountain, 13GSW, spent nineteen days volunteering in Uganda during the summer.

Chris says: *"It was seriously thought-provoking and incredible fun. Seeing the hospitality of those who have nothing to give, but will joyfully share what they have, has challenged me and made me infinitely more aware of the blessings I have and frequently take for granted."*



Book Club charity bonanza!



We run a Book Club each Tuesday lunchtimes from 1.25 to 2.00 in G1 and all boys are welcome to attend. We run it on a three week basis, whereby we read/discuss books for two weeks and then on the third week we have a quiz/competition and there are always biscuits on hand!

In recent weeks, Book Club members spent a lot of time planning have raised over £200 in support of the

School's charities for 2013-14, Launchpad Reading and Touraid.

Launchpad Reading is the chosen charity of this year's School Captain's **Domenico Cullura** and Vice-Captain **Christopher Mountain**. Touraid is championed by **Mr Beckey**, **Mr Bywater** and **Mr Teixeira**. All funds raised will be split equally



between the two charities

Book Club members asked students and staff to donate a good quality second-hand book that they would recommend to someone of their

age. They then ran the sale over three days at their pop-up Book Trade Centre (the old tuck shop cart) in the Cloisters, asking for a minimum donation of £1 per book.

We suggested that this could be a chance to buy an early Christmas gift or start a Secret Santa

for classmates. We would like to thank **Mr Sobieniak** and **11E** for taking up our suggestion and running a Secret Santa for the whole class.

Book Club members really enjoyed being part of the event team and were selling books, promoting the book sale, asking boys and staff for their views on the sale and generally entering into the spirit of the event.

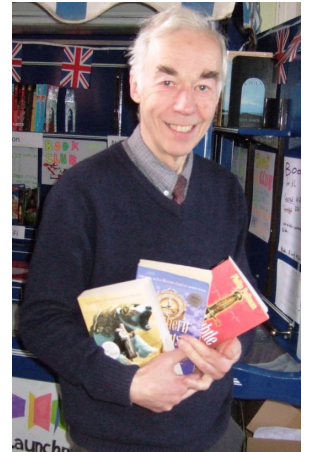
Domenico Cullura, School Captain, said: "Fantastic, really good raising money for such a great charity".

Mr Beckey said: "I love reading and it's for a great cause. A perfect combo!"

There are still some books left, and boys are selling these at break and lunchtimes. So there is still time to get down to the LRC to grab a book bargain, while supporting two great charities at the same time.

Thanks to everyone who supported the event.

Mrs Jackson, LRC



Reading School Book Festival

The Reading School Book Festival will take place throughout the first week in March 2014, to coincide with World Book Day on March 6th. This is a great opportunity for the whole school to get together and celebrate books and reading.

Activities will include author talks, a workshop, book sales and signings, our first ever D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) and a writing competition. Lots of hard work is already underway, with a team of Pupil Librarians working on a series of videos to promote the authors attending the festival and Mrs Willoughby is leading a team of budding artists inspired by Jon Mayhew's book "Monster Odyssey" to transform the LRC!

Some of the authors confirmed so far include: poet and author **Alan Durant**, on March 4th, who will give talks to Years 7, 8, and 9 and the primary school

students in the Gifted and Talented Academy.

Award winning author **Beverley Naidoo**, will give talks to Year 11 and Sixth form English students. On March 5th.

First World War historian **Richard van Emden**, will give talks to Sixth form and Year 10 historians on March 6th. Historian and Reading School Governor, **Martin Parsons**, will give a talk to pupils involved in a special event organised by Mr Bailey-Watson.

Jon Mayhew will run a Year 9 workshop for 30 pupils on March 7th, about "The Art of Fear", followed by talks to Years 7 and 8.

Watch the website for more details.

Mrs Kestevan, LRC Manager

Meet the Art Team



Hello everyone, we are the Art Team. We consist of Sean Laing, Tomi Amole, Harry Lauchlan, Jacob Munonyedi and Joe Hicks. Our aim is to help publicise Reading School's art department, and help enhance the School's overall experience.

Art at Reading School is brilliant- but who actually knows what happens down there? The answer is not many, and with many new arrivals, this should be changed.

For example: did you know about Martin Chak's incredible portraits of teachers? Or that we have a revolutionary 3Doodler, months before official shipping time? Did you know we have interviewed wire

artist Ruth Jensen? The general consensus is no, and we want to change this.

We do the following:

- **Maintain** a Reading School Art Website
- **Interview artists and product designers-** such as Daniel Cowen, co-founder of the 3Doodler
- **Raise awareness** of students' work- such as Martin's

And mainly- get people to know about what Art has to match the other Departments of Reading School!

We have only been around for little over two months, but we have already accomplished major achievements, and by the looks of it, we will be making more, and taking steps up- we are hoping to start interviewing people who work in technological design, such as Sir Jony Ive, Senior Vice President of Design at Apple.

So watch out for us, and don't hesitate to question us or visit our website at <http://www.rsartpub.com/> (Launches on First Day Back) and our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/readingschoolartpub/>



Christmas Cards

Year 7 and 8 art students started thinking seriously about Christmas months ago, and they weren't just compiling their Christmas wish list! They were aiming to save the school money by designing e-Christmas cards that could be mailed. These enable us to send seasonal wishes to our parents, alumni and other supporters, without the expense of print or postage.

The designs of five boys were short-listed, and you can see these below. From right to left, they are the work of **Oliver Hooper, 8C**, **Jack Davis, 7S**, **Toby Cheng, 7C**, **Harry Lauchlan, 8C**, and **Jamie Cottle, 8S**. Oliver, who designed the only animated card shortlisted, used flash software to produce his work *"in about an hour."*



RSPA Project for 2013-14

The RSPA's chosen project for 2013-14 is to help to improve outdoor recreation facilities. They have pledged to raise £10,000 this year for the project. Currently, the school has very few facilities of this type for boys to use at break and lunchtime.

Mr Robson and the RSPA are consulting with boys and staff to determine what types of equipment they might buy. Some ideas under consideration include outdoor table tennis and chess as well as table football.

Funds will be raised through the Spring Fayre and other RSPA activities for this year.



Spring Fayre—get involved

Once Christmas is over – it would be great to focus on the next BIG reason for celebration – The Spring Fayre. It will take place on **Saturday May 10th**.

The Spring Fayre is the main fundraising event for the RSPA each year, and we need as lots of volunteers to ensure it is a success. We also need to start planning early in the New Year to get everything in place for a great family day out.

There are two main ways you can help to make the Spring Fayre lots of fun and to raise lots of money for the school.

Get involved on the planning committee – we do need more volunteers to help. There will be 7 or 8 meetings between now and the Spring Fayre. These usually take about an hour (you don't need to make every meeting – we appreciate how busy people's diaries get) . It is a great way to get to know other parents, help the school and have some fun for a good cause.

Use your connections – Any connections which can help with the costs of the Spring Fayre would be brilliant. We are particularly interested in anyone with connections in catering, publishing or the music industry. We also need donations for the silent auction and raffle. Is your company willing to donate a prize or can you use your own skills as a prize? Previous donations have included driving lessons, Indian cooking lessons, holiday cottage for a week, landscape gardening. Please be imaginative in how you can help. It is good to have offers of donations early so we can add them to the publicity material.

If you can help in anyway please email San (san@rodgy.clara.net) or Patricia Fryer (p.c.fryer@gmail.com)

The Giving Machine

We now have 84 supporters on the Giving Machine, and they have helped raise over £570 for the RSPA's project for this year, but **we need even more!**

The Giving Machine enables online shoppers to donate a percentage of their total shopping bill to their favourite charity, at no extra cost. All funds come

from the referral fee paid by online retailers, such as 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.

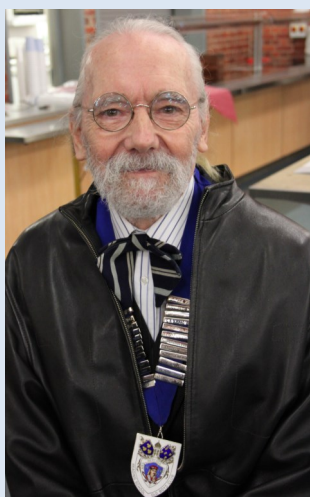
How it works:

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/s in support of the School each year.



Old Redingensians

David Cox: OR President 2013-14



"Look to the light, strive for the right" are just some of the words from the Reading School song that have great significance for David Cox OR (1951-56), incoming President of the OR Association. *"Those words have got me through some difficult days over the years,"* says David.

Music and singing have been an important part of David's life since joining the choir of St Bartholomew's Church at

the age of seven. His fine singing voice was recognised when he arrived at Reading School at the age of 11. He sang in the chapel choir, and played piano and clarinet. As he progressed through the school, he took increasingly larger roles in the Operatic Society productions of Gilbert and Sullivan operas. In adulthood, he spent 12 years with the Sainsbury Singers, and more than 20 years with the Phoenix Singers, with whom he performed in most European countries.

David would like to mark his year as President musically by endowing a prize for the best unbroken

boy's voice. *"It was where my musical career started,"* says David, *"and I would like to encourage more boys to develop a life long love of music."*

He is also keen to support the OR Enterprise Awards, which have benefited so many boys over the last 20 years. He wants to encourage even more boys to apply this year, so that they can develop their skills and pursue projects that reflect their passions and interests.

David spent his career in the Civil Service, within the Department of Social Security. He was one of the pioneers of IT within the public sector, helping to develop the computerisation of benefits payments, where his ability to get the details right contributed to national systems going live.

David has loved the traditions and values of Reading School since he first walked up the drive with his mother for his interview with Mr Kemp.

And the school song? David would dearly love to hear boys singing it regularly again.

"If it comforted just one boy leaving the school each year, in the way it has comforted me, I feel it would be worthwhile," says David.

Remembrance Sunday

Over 100 ORs, parents, staff and students attended the Remembrance Service in the School Chapel on Sunday, November 10th. The service was conducted by the Rev'd David Hemsley OR (1945-55), and the sermon was given by the Rev'd David Salt.

Attendees included Major John Perry OR (1942-49) and Lieutenant James Smith OR (1994-01). James has been serving in the Royal Navy since 2006 and recently took up his first command, HMS Biter.



Annual Dinner

Guest speaker at the 2013 OR Dinner was historian and author, Julie Summers. She spoke movingly about her ancestor, pioneering mountaineer and explorer, Sandy Irvine. Irvine died on Mount Everest at the age of 22, accompanying George Mallory in one of the earliest attempts on the summit of Everest in 1924.

The discovery of Mallory's body in 1999 is the cause of much speculation and research. Were Mallory and Irvine the first to reach the summit? Did they die on the way down or on the way up?

These were some of the questions that led Julie to write her biography of Irvine, *Fearless on Everest: The Quest for Sandy Irvine*.



Big Band Ball - Saturday, February 8th

We are working hard in preparation for the first "Big Band Ball". Tickets for this exciting event are selling really well and we will soon need to put people on a waiting list. The event is sure to sell out so if you want tickets, make sure you get yours now by completing the order form on <http://rsfom.weebly.com/upcoming-events.html>.

Simon Ward, Friends of Music at Reading School

Family Quiz Night - Wednesday, 5th February

Year 11 students, **Charlie Harding** and **Matthew Oh**, are organising this fundraising event their True Adventure expedition to Borneo in July. The quiz will start at 7pm in the refectory. More details will be announced next term. It promises to be a fun evening so put the date in your diary now!

The Great Debate Till 8 awaits!

This event, which will raise funds to enable us to send students to participate in the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Competition, was a great success in 2012-13. Plans are afoot for another event in Spring 2014. We'd like to have a boys v parents debate. If you are interested in taking part, please contact me: streetsahead@aol.com.

Miss Williams

Charity Concert in support of



The third annual Reading and Kendrick Schools' Charity Concert will take place on Friday, March 14th, in support of the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance team.

There will also be an opportunity to commemorate the life of Toby Davies, a former student of Reading School, who recently passed away following a short illness. Toby was an outstanding musician and a key figure in organising last year's concert. These donations will be gratefully received on the night and will benefit charities chosen by Toby's parents.

Tickets can be reserved at <https://reading-kendrick-2014.eventbrite.co.uk>. They are free but we suggest donation of £5 to the TVCAA via our Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/Kendrick-Reading-Charity-Concert/>, so that as much of the proceeds as possible go directly to the charity. Tickets will also be available on the door. For queries, please contact us at reading.kendrickconcert@yahoo.co.uk.

Samuel Wood, Year 13

DIARY

Friday, January 31st

Year 7 Concert, 6.30pm, Big School.

Wednesday, February 5th

Family Quiz Night, The Refectory

Saturday, February 8th

The Big Band Ball, The Refectory, 7.30 pm 'til late

Friday, March 14th

Charity Concert in aid of Air Ambulance Service, 7.30pm, Big School

Monday, March 24th

Spring Concert, 7.30pm, St Big School

Saturday, April 5th

Organ Recital, 2.30pm, Reading School Chapel

150 for 150 Recital— Saturday, April 5th

In 2014, as part of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the Royal College of Organists, the Old Redingensians' Association are hosting an organ recital at Reading School Chapel. This will feature Ben Morris (OR 2003-10) Senior Organ Scholar at Jesus College Cambridge. Other organists will include Huw Jones and Paul Manley.

For booking details, please check the OR website: <http://www.oldredingensians.org.uk/>



Supporting the School

Take your seat in the Lecture Theatre...



...and leave a lasting gift for current and future students.

The Lecture Theatre is just one of several parts of Reading School that is being improved in the very near future. The overall strategy is to ensure that current and future generations of students have adequate space and comfort in which to learn, and that our classrooms are fully equipped to teach a 21st century curriculum.

Sponsoring a seat in the Lecture Theatre is one of the ways you can help Reading School. The cost of sponsorship is £250 per seat. If you wish, the seat can be named to commemorate your family's association with the school or to remember a loved one. Your gift will be recognized on a plaque mounted permanently on the wall of the Lecture Theatre, and your name can

also be added to the list of benefactors that we will publish on the school website.

To make your commitment to current and future generations of Reading School students, please complete the donation form below, and return it to the Development Office.

My Details

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

Address: _____ Town: _____

Post Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

☐ Yes, I wish to support Reading School

☐ By sponsoring a seat in the Lecture Theatre, I am pleased to enclose a donation of £250.

☐ With a gift of £100

☐ With a gift of £50

☐ With a gift of £ _____

*Please make cheques payable to
Reading School Charitable Fund.*

☐ Please Gift Aid my donation

By ticking the Gift Aid box, you will increase the value of your donation by 25%

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

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/20____

If you are sponsoring a seat, please indicate the name/s that you wish attributed to the seat. The list of names will be mounted on the wall in the Lecture Theatre, and will also appear on the list of benefactors the school website:

If making a gift of another sum, please let us know if you wish your name to appear on the list of benefactors on our website

☐ Yes, I am happy to have my name published on the list of benefactors

☐ No, I prefer my gift to be anonymous

Thank you for supporting Reading School!

Reading School is an Exempt Charity under Schedule 2 of the Charities Act 1993, and is recognised as charitable by HM Customs and Excise for gift aid purposes (Ref: XT35863).

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