

FLOREAT

The Newsletter of Reading School

May 2013



University Offers

17 students have been offered places to study at Oxford and Cambridge this year. These include offers on music, medicine, economics, mathematics and natural science courses.

In total, 15 students have received offers to study Medicine, three for Dentistry, and one for Veterinary Science—at other leading universities.

School Captain, Matthew Greaves, has been offered a place at Trinity College, Oxford to study mathematics. He says: "I like the College because it is small and centrally located in Oxford. Mathematics has always been my favourite subject, so I'm really looking forward to studying it at university."

Mrs Smith, Head of Year 13, says: *'We are immensely proud of all our students who gain places on the most competitive courses at the top universities in the UK. This is a testament to their exceptional ability, their hard work as well as the unstinting support they have received from peers, teachers and parents.'*

We are especially grateful to colleagues from other schools, parents, Old Redingensians and others who generously volunteered their time and expertise to provide mock interviews for our Oxbridge and medical school applicants.



Leadership Danish Style

Our two-year exchange programme with Danish partners Frydenhojskolen drew to an end this year with a buffet party in the Refectory.

Last year, 30 Year 9 students visited Danish host families on an exchange experience

centred around the theme of a *healthy mind for a healthy body*. This year, the same students, now in Year 10, hosted the Danes with a variety of activities aimed at encouraging integration and reflection.

At the end of the programme the overwhelming feedback was that our students had not only made friends but gained a greater awareness of independence and leadership.

John Livesey says: *"I was much more nervous about hosting than I was about going to Denmark. However, it was made*



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a lot easier by the activities laid on for us by the school. I think the hugs, kisses and hidden tears as Frydenhojskolen left means it is likely that we'll be seeing them again soon!"

Note from the Headmaster



Education at Reading School is concerned with creative pursuits and personal development as well as academic studies.

This newsletter showcases the range, depth and quality of the opportunities available to our students.

In the middle of the examination season it is heartening to reflect on the substantial array of positive activities recently undertaken. Whether in the field of public speaking, economics or the Combined Cadet Force, student achievement is to the fore. We believe in enrichment and the positive experiences of our Year 12 Geographers in Iceland, symbolise our drive for educational visits that inspire students.

Indeed, the Geography department have participants in two forthcoming teams representing the UK at international competitions in St. Petersburg and Kyoto.

Rewarding good behaviour is a crucial aspect of our approach to discipline. Therefore, all members of 7C were recently rewarded with a visit to Jamie's Italian restaurant as a consequence of their integrity and excellent behaviour, under the leadership of Mrs Hall.

Parents play a crucial role in supporting the positive ethos of the school. The Spring Fayre organised by the Reading School Parents Association is an excellent example of how the parents work in partnerships with the school.

Furthermore, we value the enthusiasm and support of the Old Redingensians Association on Sports Day, with Ken Brown and Michael Maule presenting medals to senior athletes, and the Enterprise Awards helping to fund so many excellent student projects.

It is the strength of these partnerships and relationships that help to make Reading School such an inspirational organisation.

A. Robson

Governors' Noticeboard

The strategic role of governors at Reading School has been evolving over the years, particularly since our conversion to an academy in 2011. Feedback from recent staff surveys has highlighted the need for governors to be more accessible and to have greater visibility within the school community.

Link governors have recently been appointed for different subject departments and aspects of education, in order to increase understanding and communication between governors, staff and students, and to heighten governor visibility within the school. Link governor departmental visits and subsequent reports will enable the governing body to have a deeper understanding of the teaching, learning and pastoral issues that staff face day to day. It will also assist in the identification of areas for improvement, resourcing and development.

Profiles of current governors are now available on the school website, giving details of the rich variety of expertise they freely give to the school, in addition to time spent at meetings of the governing body and its sub-committees.

Profiles can be read at:

<http://www.reading-school.co.uk/5/governors>.

Governors

- * Elected Staff Governor
- ** Elected Parent Governor
- *** Appointed by Reading Foundation



Mr Jason Bannister**

I have been parent governor since late 2012. I serve on Curriculum, Finance and Sixth Form Funding Committees. I am an IT Director for a global healthcare business, and have experience in strategic planning and financial, personnel, and programme management in complex highly regulated environments.



U-12 Footballers' historic victory

Our Year 7 team defeated John Madejski Academy (JMA) 3-2 to become Berkshire County Football U-12 Champions on Monday 29th April.

Reading got off to a flying start when, after just 5 minutes, **Ieuan Galvin** was fouled in the box. **Matt Rudd** slammed home the resulting penalty.

Within 3 minutes, **James Williams** outpaced the JMA defence to set up Matt Rudd for his second goal. **Tim Cato** almost made it 3-0 but his 25 yard pile-driver was superbly tipped round the post by the JMA keeper.

Gradually JMA crept back into the game and just before half-time they halved the deficit to leave the match 2-1 to Reading.

The second half saw intense JMA pressure, but, the smallest back three in football, - **Joe Holland, Fred Newbold and Ryan Woolaghan** - held firm. **Dan Graham** was also in inspired form. However, with just over 5 minutes left **James Williams** coolly lobbed the ball from 25 yards to make it 3-1.

After the nerve jangling final minutes, the Edgecombe Cup was on its way to Reading School for the first time in its history.

It was a superb performance from all the team which owed no small part to the expert coaching from **Mr Roca** throughout the season.

- **Colin Williams, Year 7 Parent**

East Wing's new arrival



In September, boarders in East Wing will have a new arrival, when **Mr Nicholas** will take on the role of Housemaster.

After five years of dedication to the welfare of boys in East Wing, **Mr Coggan** is moving on to a new position as Head of House at Yateley School in Hampshire.

We wish both Ben and Chris all the very best in their new roles.

Mathematicians with bounce!

Some of our younger students have been flexing their mathematical muscles by taking part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Run by the UK Mathematics Trust it is aimed at the top third of students in Year 11 and below, who took part in the earlier Olympiad and Kangaroo rounds of the competition.

Alfred Wong, Year 10, who scored 51 points out of 60 in the Olympiad, was awarded a distinction, a medal and a book prize. As one of the top 40 performers in the country he was also invited to attend a week-long Maths Summer School in Leeds.

Distinctions are awarded to the top 25% of each year group taking part, a recognition gained by **William Davies, Jimmy Liu, Minghua Yin and Roy Zhang**. They also received books and medals. Six other boys were awarded merits.

Of the boys who took the kangaroo papers, ten boys were awarded merits. **Surya Kongara**, Year 10, was the top performer with a score of 105.

All boys in Years 7 and 8 have recently taken part in the Junior Maths Challenge. 111 were awarded gold certificates, 58 silver and 36 bronze.

James Sun, Year 8 came top in School and **Elijah Price** came top in Year 7. 18 boys have been invited to take part in the Olympiad competition on June 11th.

- **Mr Walder, Head of Maths**



Jazz Band selected for National Festival

Reading School Jazz Band have been selected to take part in the National Festival of Music for Youth, which will take place in Birmingham on July 6th.

They are just one of ten school bands who have been so honoured. If all goes well in Birmingham, they may be selected to perform at the School Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in November.



Kieran's essay win

Year 11 student **Kieran Toms** was given an honourable mention in a recent environmental essay competition. He won through to the final stages against entries from over 800 schools from around the world.

As part of his prize, Kieran and his PSHE teacher, Mrs Romano, have been invited to attend an international debate, at the Living Rainforest, on June 27th.



Eton Mess!

Reading School's chess team has progressed to the semi-finals of the National Chess Championship with a 5-1 victory over Eton College on April 25th. Only four schools now remain in the competition out of 130 entries.

Our team, Matthew Wadsworth, Roy Zhang, Daniel Noel, Ryan Wong, Alex Vanlint and Alfred Wong, had a younger average age than Eton's team. We needed a 3/6 result to win. The time control was an hour and a half for each player, so we all knew we were in for some long games!

The games started off slowly, with all roughly equal after an hour of play. All our players held their nerve, and Alfred won the first match. Then, Matthew outplayed his opponent in a complicated endgame, and Daniel gained a winning position in his game, which won the match. We scored a solid 2/3 in the remaining games for a resounding victory and a place in the semi final of the National Chess Competition.

Following the games, Mrs Smith and Mrs Readings bought us ice cream to round off a successful day for the team.

The semi-finals and finals will take place on July 4th and 5th at Uppingham School. The team placed 2nd in the Championship two years ago. Let's hope we can go one better this year!

- **Daniel Noel, Captain of Chess**

Sumansu is clearly the best grower

Congratulations to Sumansu Paudyal, Year 12, who recently won an iPad in a STEM competition to grow the biggest and highest quality single crystal in just six weeks. Run by the University of Leeds, the competition required practical and analytical skills, attention to detail and patience. The aim was to get more students interested in crystallography, a branch of science that analyses the structure and behaviour of molecules, which aids the development of drug design.

- **Mr Walder, Head of Maths**



Geographers take Reading School to World Class Status - Representing Great Britain in two World Champion-

Reading School has for many years hosted the annual Geographical Association WorldWise Quiz.

Last year, two of our teams won through to the National WorldWise Challenge in Blencathra, and one team emerged as National Champions. This year, four of our top geographers will be represent Great Britain in the two World Geography Championships.



Edward Clennett 11W (right) won a place on the UK team going to the Geographical Union Olympiad, which will be held in Kyoto, Japan in early August.

Ed earned his place by writing and winning an essay competition on

changing shopping habits and the demise of the High Street.



Joseph Grimmatt 10C, James Woolaghan 9E and Joshua Blake 8E (pictured above) have also been selected to represent Great Britain. They will go to the National Geographic World Championship 2013 in St. Petersburg, Russia, in July.

These are fantastic achievements by our geographers. In representing Great Britain in both events they are taking Reading School to a world class school!

- **Mr Norgaard, Head of Geography**

Scholarships for students of Chinese

Two current students and one recent past student of Chinese have been awarded scholarships to join volunteering programmes in Taiwan and Beijing this summer.

Samuel Hayes (Year 13) and **Alexander Johnstone** (Year 12) are going to teach English and help underprivileged children in remote villages in Taiwan. They both passed telephone interviews, conducted in Chinese, to be amongst 350 candidates selected from several thousand applicants from all over the world. Alexander is also the recipient of an OR Enterprise Award which will help towards the cost of the trip.

Nick De Mulder (OR 2005-12), who is now studying at New College Oxford has won a scholarship from Oxbridge Summer Camps Abroad. This will cover all his expenses to teach in a summer camp in Beijing.

- **Mrs Hayes, Teacher of Chinese**

Pranav wins trip to Italy!

We are delighted to announce that **Pranav Bharadwaj**, one of our Year 12 economists, has been selected for a week-long Economics Summer School at the Università Bocconi in Milan.

Pranav is just one of **100 international students** selected to take part in a "Discover Your Talent Week", during which they will explore the subject areas that are part of Economics, Management or Finance undergraduate degree programs. They will also have a chance to meet senior students and professors.

The programme is only open to high achieving Economics students, and only 14 applicants were selected from the UK last year.



Citius, Altius, Fortius

The annual outing to Palmer Park for Sports Day yielded nine new school records in athletics.

East House athletes, **Jonny Davies** and **Dan Brock**, set new records for the senior 1500m and 800m respectively. They also contributed to the new record set by East House in the Senior 4x100m Relay.

Year 8 students scored three new school records for their year group.

Roy Wong won the Hurdles race, **Joe Wilson** the High Jump and **Andrew Prowse** triumphed in the Javelin.

Kene Obieniu set a new record for the Year 9 200m event, and School House set a record for the Year 9 relay. **James Williams** set a new school record for the Year 7 Long Jump.

Final Standings, based on points scored, were: **First:** School House;

Second: County; **Third:** East; and

Fourth: West.

The overall team standings by age group were: -

Year 7s: First place - County House; Second - West; Joint Third - East and School

Year 8: First - School House; Second - County; Third - West; and Fourth - East

Year 9: First - School House; Second - County; Third - West; and Fourth - East

Year 10: First - West House; Second - County; Third - East; and Fourth - West

Seniors: First - East House; Second - School; Third - County; and Fourth - West



Senior Medal Winners

Thanks to the Old Redingensians Association, eight senior students were recipients of medals to commemorate their victories in senior athletics competitions. The brain-child of Michael Maule, a former captain of athletics and multi-medal winner at past Sports Days, they are named after high-achieving ORs —Towner, Farmery, Gardiner, and Maule. They are an inspiration to our many excellent and dedicated athletes.

The medals were presented by OR Association President, Ken Brown and by benefactor Michael Maule.



Rory Bird won the Maule Medal for the 200m.



Charlie Oakley was awarded the Maule Medal for the 400m.



Edwin Lam won the Gardiner Medal for Senior Shot Putt.



Nick Qiu won the Towner Medal for Long-jump.



Sam Day was victor of the Towner Medal for Hurdles.



Jonny Davies ran the 1500m in an amazing 4.02 minutes, surely a record that will stand the test of time!. OR Association President Ken Brown presents him with his second Farmery Medal.



Dan Brock broke his own school record in the 800m to win the



Will Lamptey won the Maule Medal for the Senior 100m.

7C Go Italian



On Friday 17th May, 7C were invited to go to Jamie's Italian to get an insight into the enticing food of the restaurant.

We received a warm welcome from the restaurant staff, who kindly escorted us upstairs to a table of attractively presented fresh fruits and colourful vegetables, including mortadella, honey cress and fennel. Restaurant staff were very enthusiastic, telling us about the ingredients that make up the dishes.

Then came the scotch bonnet, the second spiciest chili in the world! The staff dared us to try them, and some

brave students volunteered, unlike me! Eyes watered, drinks were gulped and a few cries of pain could be heard. That'll teach them no doubt!

After the heat had died down, we broke up into groups of seven. On each table we had a cup of tamarind, flour and tomatoes. Flour was spread all across the table and each person was provided with a dollop of dough. We kneaded it to create the shape of bread and embellished it with some tamarind and tomatoes. Our decorated dough was put neatly onto trays and slotted into the oven. Whilst we waited for the bread to bake, lunch was served.

We were pleasantly surprised to see pasta with tomato sauce for the vegetarians and pasta with bolognaise for the others freshly prepared for the class. The food looked delicious and tasted divine.

The end of lunch timed perfectly with the baking bread. It came out of the oven piping hot. We took it and thanked the restaurant staff sincerely for the wonderful time we had had. We had our picture taken outside and

reluctantly headed back to school.

From my perspective, it was both an excellent educational and social experience. The introduction to bread-making, the affability of the staff and most of all, sharing this with my classmates who all revelled in the fun and made it a thoroughly memorable day..

- Umar Asghar, 7C



102 boys get their feet wet



Year 10 geographers ventured to Preston Montford Field Study Centre in Shropshire to investigate the Carding Mill Valley Stream as part of

their controlled assessment from April 22nd to 24th.

We all loved going out and getting our hands wet, measuring different cross-sectional characteristics of the river. Although the 20-hour report, which we are currently writing, accounts for 25% of our overall GCSE grade, applying geographical concepts in the real world is genuinely enjoyable.

Our adventure into the wilds of Shropshire was fantastic. We faced many trials and tribulations: from the

arduous treks up hills, to the horror of finding KFC closed at the service station. To our relief, we discovered a Burger King a mere few metres away!

Even while not working, the trip has left us with many great memories, such as 51-a-side football, scrambling to get to dinner before everyone else, and experiencing the only sunny day in Shrewsbury resulting in a little sun burn.

- Neil Shabong 10C



Jonny Bryant, Year 12, took this prize-winning photograph of Skógafoss during the school trip to Iceland over Easter, winning a £20 Amazon voucher.

Land of geysers and volcanoes

After an early start on April 3rd, 33 students and staff, arrived safely in Reykjavik.

We launched straight into the trip, with a visit to the Blue Lagoon geothermal pool. If there's one thing Iceland can boast, it would be great swimming pools, with two of the three on our list having hot tubs and phenomenal slides.

Our first full day was packed full of geographical sites, with geysers, rift valleys and waterfalls galore. The teachers were in their element, with an insightful observation or wise comment, no matter the situation. We must have spent a good half hour waiting next to the geyser - while it erupted often enough, half the trip revolved around getting the perfect picture.

Next day we took a ferry to Heimaey

Island, where we were disappointed when gale force winds and hail forced us down from our climb up Eldfell volcano and into the nearest Subway for sandwiches. The pool on this day was voted the best of the bunch, with even Mr Norgaard having a go on the slide.

On our last full day, we encountered the most painful part of Iceland - the spelling. Eyjafjallajökull volcano is still virtually unpronounceable to the vast majority of our group, even after hearing it a good dozen times. We managed to reach the glacier with the whole group intact, even after a snowball fight with the outnumbered teachers!

Mr Norgaard was certainly full of knowledge about the glacier, with the tour guide asking for his advice and explanations on our glacier walk. His

bank of technical terms and processes overwhelming the Scandinavians, who lacked an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Year 9 Reading School geography scheme of work.

After a game of football, with some frankly disgusting displays of cheating from the side who claimed victory, we had the part of the trip that some students had even revised for - the quiz. Year 13s snatched the title by a one point margin.

On the final day, we explored Reykjavik, buying souvenirs and sightseeing until we caught our flight. It was exhausting and exhilarating trip, but one we very much enjoyed. We are very grateful to Mr Nicholas for organising it.

- Julian Sutcliffe – Year 12

RAF Field Day

On 28th March the RAF Section had the opportunity to visit RAF Benson where they gained a proper insight into the work of an RAF station

The cadets visited the RAF Regiment where we learned about the work that the RAF has been doing on the ground in Helmand Province. Other areas of the station visited include the Air Traffic Control Tower and the RAF Fire Section

It was an extremely informative day out and we all left with renewed respect for the dangerous, complex and life-saving work undertaken by the RAF at home and abroad.



Opportunities for Training and Adventure



Most people don't realise that CCF training doesn't stop when the gates close at the end of term.

Over the Easter holidays, Corporal **Richard Sullivan** attended a Cadet Leadership course at Nesscliff Training Area in Shropshire. Activities centred around tactics, leading groups of people in stressful situations, as well as first aid and navigation skills.

Phillip Meerman attended two courses—completing his Gliding Scholarship at RAF Abingdon, and a Sea Kayaking Course in Snowdonia. His adventures included solo flights in a powered glider and learning to control 5 metre kayaks. As Philips says: *"Many people think CCF is just marching around, shouting and doing some military training, but there is so much more. From mountaineering to first aid, from power-boating to ocean diving, the CCF offers so much training, and apart from the cost of food, it is all free!"*

Fieldcraft and Other Skills

On 22nd to 24th March, 9 Army RAF Section cadets took part in the Cadet Military Skills Competition on Salisbury Plain. Cadets had a chance to demonstrate their stalking, observation, and weapon handling skills. The severe weather conditions meant it wasn't possible to run the night navigation exercise. Nonetheless, the March, Shoot and Drill element went ahead, and generated a great deal of heat!

We hadn't entered this competition for some years, and over half the team were first year cadets. So we were very pleased to be awarded 6th place, a very respectable result and a great team effort.



Joint Charity Concert with Kendrick School



On Friday 19th April, Reading School hosted a joint Kendrick and Reading Schools' Concert in support of the Chiltern and Thames Valley Air Ambulance Service. The life-saving work of the Air Ambulance Service can be witnessed regularly on the Reading School field, as they use it to access the Royal Berkshire Hospital. They also helped transport one of our students, Toby Darrington, to hospital after he was involved in a serious road accident some years ago.

The concert was a chance for students to show their appreciation and to raise vital funds, since the Service relies entirely on public donations. The aim of the evening was to raise enough money to send the helicopter out on a mission and save another life - £2,000 per trip.

There was a wide selection of music both instrumental and vocal including Classical, Barber Shop and Nu Metal all produced and performed entirely by the student community. The event has already exceeded its target, and over £3,000 has been raised to date.

Toby's mother and sister were amongst the many people who worked so hard to make the evening such a success. Friends **Samuel Wood** and **Toby Davies** organised months of rehearsals, with the support of Mr Meehan. Thanks to professional photographer Tim North for photographing the evening.

You can still make a donation at <http://www.justgiving.com/KendrickReadingConcert>.

Out with the Meat, and in with the Veg!

Reading School held a Vegetarian Day on Monday the 20th of May, in conjunction with National Vegetarian Week. It helped spread awareness of the benefits and cultural traditions involved in the vegetarian way of life.

Spicy and delicious Mexican and Indian vegetarian dishes were on offer in place of the usual Monday meat dishes. I ran a stall, providing more information about the benefits of being a vegetarian,

The event allowed students to understand how a simple change in lifestyle and diet can be easy and can bring big benefits. Reading School has many vegetarian pupils .

The Reading Post sent one of their staff photographers, and an article will be featured in the paper soon.

Thanks to Torrin Edwards, the Catering Manager, who was so helpful in creating the vegetarian menu.

- **Sohum Shah 11E**



Tim Bowler brings reading to life

Award-winning author, Tim Bowler, visited Reading School on March 25th. This was an English Department, and LRC joint project to promote reading for boys.

Tim entertained students from, Years 7 and 8 with tales of perseverance, dedication and a good sense of humour! He gave readings of his books, and there was plenty of time for questions and answers.

He explained that, although he had started writing at the age of five, it was not until he was forty that his first book was published. He has since gone on to win the prestigious Carnegie Book Award and has published twenty one books. Tim also delighted the boys with his list of previous jobs, including driving an ice cream van and translator.

He told the boys: *"You need to believe in yourself because everyone has some sort of magic within"*. He said that they should never underestimate the importance of writing and that the secret of success for a good book is 'to get the reader involved from the beginning.

The boys asked many interesting questions including *'Do you base your characters on real people?'* from Julian and *'Who is your favourite author?'* from Dominic. We had a lot of positive feedback from the boys including the following reviews;

'Seeing Tim Bowler was great..... We also found out that most of his books are based on his personal experiences' (George, year 7).

'It was an interesting talk packed full of inspirational content and jokes' (Ian, year 8).

'Tim Bowler's visit was a great insight into his books. He spoke about his life and how he writes his books.' (Danny, year 8).

Robert Baldock, Head of English, said 'He was terrific, and students gained a lot from his visit. I really enjoyed him too'.

Catherine Harden, English Teacher, said 'Tim was engaging and inspirational, totally down to earth and able to speak to the boys at their level. Anyone who admits that 'lunch' is their second favourite word after 'evanescence' is a winner in my book!'

Tim produces a monthly blog on his website and has included a piece on his visit to Reading School in May's edition. This can be found on his website: <http://www.timbowler.co.uk/bb>

Mrs Jackson, LRC



Oliver Lewis, 8C, demonstrates the magic of cube seats when it comes to reading in the LRC. Four were generously funded by the Reading School Parents' Association as part of the Reading Generation Project. The request for more seating in the LRC was raised by 9C at the Library Forum meeting in October and are already proving popular in the LRC.

- Mrs Kestevan, LRC Manager

Reading School SPRING FAYRE

Parent volunteers and hardy families braved the cold on Saturday May 11th to make the 2013 Spring Fayre a fantastic success.

The many stalls and attractions included books, cakes, origami, and Mr Tucker's astronomical photos, as well as the bouncy castle and traditional rolling horse.

The event, and raffle raised a fantastic £6,000 to help the school, through the **Reading Generations Book Project**, which is raising awareness of the benefits of reading for pleasure.

The project has already facilitated many exciting reading activities, including the Family Book Club, and the recent visit by leading poet, Simon Armitage.



For more information about Reading School Parents' Association:

www.readingschoolpa.org.uk



Adhav Radhakrishnan used his impressive origami skills to fundraise for the school.

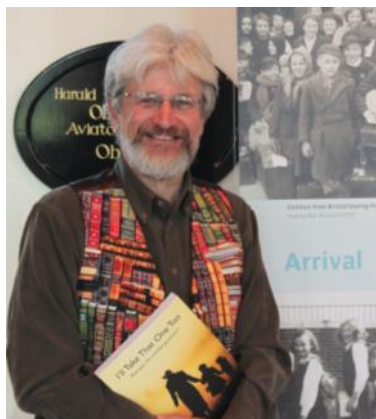


Matthew Graham found sponsors for the charity canoe trip that he and his family will be making across Scotland this summer in aid of the Parkinson's Disease Society and the British Heart Foundation



Year 10 and 11 students fundraised for their trip to Borneo in 2014

I'll Take That One Too!



Reading School Governor and Old Redingensian, Professor Martin Parsons launched his book "I'll Take That One Too" at Big School on Friday, April 26th in support of the 1125 Fund. Professor Parsons is Founder of the Centre for Evacuee and War Child

The British war-time evacuation remains a contentious episode in the nation's social history. Although carried out with all the best intentions, it has left a legacy of emotional and social fragility for many individual evacuees.

The book describes the complexity of the evacuation scheme. It also examines the importance of continuity, and the role of BBC radio programmes such as Children's Hour and Schools Broadcasts in maintaining a sense of "normality".

Copies of the book can be ordered online at: www.dsmgroup.co.uk/books for £18.99.

Studies, the only such centre in the UK.

The book tells the stories of some of the children evacuated from British cities during World War II. It is based on Professor Parson's interviews with evacuees, and draws on newly released material from archives across the UK and Northern Ireland.

2013 OR Enterprise Awards

The Old Redingensians' Association have awarded Enterprise Awards totalling over £5,000 to fund over 30 student initiatives. These range from learning new skills, participating in overseas volunteering, film-making, building computers, and charity fundraising.



Chris Warby, Year 12, (pictured left) received an award towards the cost of undertaking the Three Peaks Challenge in aid of the Firefighters' Charity. He will be completing the Challenge in late June with a group of friends from the Loddon District Explorers Unit.

Chris Mountain, Year 12, will use his award to

fund a volunteering project in Uganda this summer. While there he will be involved in work in several local

projects, including a local medical centre, and in a school.

John Livesey and **Laurence Bashford** will be able to attend Theatre Workshops in London. They were awarded places at prestigious National Youth Theatre Summer Schools, and will be able to improve their acting and musical theatre skills.

Aleks Stepanyan and **Jacob South-Klein** received funding to attend the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Competition in South Africa at Easter. Watch out for more news of their adventures in the Southern Hemisphere later in the Summer.

Neil Shabong and **Ritvij Singh** are collaborating on setting up a GCSE language revision website for students.

Several younger students received small grants for film-making and computer projects.

Biography Blitz

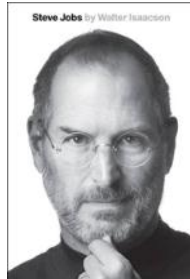
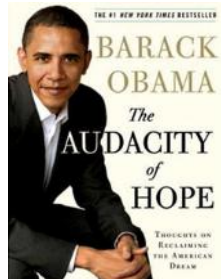
We are setting ourselves the challenge of reading as many biographies as possible between now and the end of the Summer Term.

There will be amazing prizes for the tutor group which reads the most biographies during this period, and also individual prizes for the best reviews.

Teachers are welcome to get involved with their tutor groups, or individually, and help us try to reach the target of 100 books.

Can you help us read 100 biographies before the holidays?

Contact Mrs Kestevan in the LRC for more details.



Open Air Shakespeare

The GB Theatre Company will be visiting Reading School again this year. On Tuesday, July 9th and Wednesday, July 10th, they will be presenting A Midsummer Night's Dream, and the Merchant of Venice. Profits will benefit the 1125 Fund.

Tickets are now on sale, and cost £17 for adults and £8 for concessions. They can be bought online at:

<http://www.gbtheatrecompany.com/readingschool.html>.



Attention all Movie Makers!

Reading School are launching a horror movie competition over the long summer holidays. Entries can be animation or live action drama. But it needs to be **SCARY!**

First, second and third prizes will be awarded to a value of £100, £75 and £50 respectively.

The **deadline for submissions is 1st October 2013**. Please contact the Art Department for details.



DIARY

Friday, June 21st

from 6.30pm Year 13
Leavers Party

Saturday, June 29th

ORA Cricket Weekend
School XI –V– OR XI

Sunday June 30th

ORA Cricket Weekend
6 a side tournament

Tuesday, July 9th

GB Theatre Company
present an open-air
performance of "A
Midsummer Night's Dream",
7pm, School Playing Field

Wednesday, July 10th

Junior Prize Giving, 2.00pm,
Big School

GB Theatre Company
present an open-air
performance of "The
Merchant of Venice", 7pm,
School Playing Field

Tuesday, June 25th

International Evening,
6.30pm Big School &
Refectory

Monday, July 15th

Summer Concert, 7.30pm
Big School

Thursday, October 24th

Commemoration Service,
2.00pm, Minster of St Mary-
the-Virgin, Reading

Thursday, November 14th

Inter-house Music
Competition, 7.00pm, The
Concert Hall, Reading Town
Hall

Thursday, December 19th

Senior Prize Giving, 2.00pm,
The Great Hall, University of
Reading, London Road
Campus

1125 FUND UPDATE

Building a World Class School

Classroom Refurbishment

Plans for the major classroom refurbishments in Technology and Physics are now well advanced. We've received quotations from builders and suppliers, and we've recently appointed a project manager to oversee implementation. Some preparatory work has already been completed in the Technology Laboratories.

Donations from parents and alumni to the 1125 Fund over the last year have been invaluable in helping to secure a major capital grant from the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund recently. This will enable us to complete some more improvements to the Physics Lecture Theatre and an adjacent Physics Laboratory. It will also cover additional costs to the work needed in the two new Computer Science classrooms that will replace the current Wood Workshop.

We are now starting to plan for the next phase of improvements in Science, with the aim of adding new laboratory space in Chemistry and Biology, and improving existing space. Our aim is to have detailed plans developed, so that we are in a strong position to put in an application to the ACMF when the next bidding round opens in late 2013. If that bid is successful, we will aim to



start work on that project next year.

Thanks to all the parents who have so generously donated towards equipment costs recently. We really appreciate their support, as it will enable us to equip the new classrooms in time for the start of the next academic year in September.

There is still time for others to make a gift. It will be used towards the cost of computers, and benching. All donations will have an direct and immediate benefit to students' academic work.

Your Details

Title: Initials: Surname:

Address:

Town: Post Code:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Student Name & Form Group:

Gift Details

I / We am/are delighted to pledge a donation of

£ (Amount)

Please make cheques payable to **Reading School**

Method of payment: (Please tick one)

☐ **Cheque** (Please make payable to: **Reading School**)

☐ **Bank Transfer**

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 quote ref:

(to be inserted by School)



Please Gift Aid my donation

Please treat this and any subsequent donations to Reading School as a Gift Aid Donation. To be eligible you must pay enough tax in the UK to equal the amount that we can reclaim from HMRC on your donation.

Signature: Date:/...../.....