

School Newsletter Issue 3

15th February 2013

Note from the Headmaster

We believe in creating opportunities for leadership, in nurturing the development of resilience, character and integrity and celebrating excellence. I hope that this newsletter demonstrates the range and depth of activities which illustrate our shared determination to celebrate the richness of life at Reading School.

We are determined to create a culture whereby students are encouraged to be 'radiators rather than drains'. After half term we welcome our partners from Copenhagen, Denmark, who will be in School for two weeks as part of the Comenius project 'A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body'. It will be an excellent opportunity to learn from others about the importance of values in action and personal integrity.

Thank you to parents and students for completing the recent surveys which provide further evidence of a positive attitude towards Reading School. I would also particularly like to thank the Reading School Parent Association for supporting the Reading Generation project which aims to instil a love of reading for all. Professor Gary Sheffield has agreed to be a patron of this important initiative.

A. Kobson

Mr A Robson, Headmaster



Reading Generation Winners

Congratulations to Alex Fisher, 7C, who won our recent Reading Generation photo competition. This is part of the School's strategy to encourage more students to read for pleasure.

At the end of the Michaelmas term, students were challenged to take photographs of their whole family reading together in interesting or novel situations.

Alex and his family braved the recent snow to read their books al fresco.

Thomas Wilkinson and Stefan Darling, both from 7E were joint runners up. Thomas and his dad chose a windswept hillside, while Stefan and his parents took a break from tearing around the go-kart track to refresh themselves with a book. In third place was George Archer, who sensibly chose the comfort of the great indoors for his family's reading experience.





Well done to all who took part in the competition. The winners will receive their prizes during World Book Week in March and posters will be made of their winning entries for

display around School. Thank you to all our parents for encouraging their sons to read for pleasure, and to the Reading School Parents Association for supporting the project. Their support will make a big difference to the long-term outcomes.

It has been proved that students who read regularly do better in exams, have more sophisticated vocabularies and better spelling, punctuation and grammar skills. All of these will be tested in subjects other than English from next year. University applicants are also often asked about their current reading, both within and outside their chosen subjects.





Congratulations also to our staff winner, Mrs Ancel sharing a special moment with her son.

www.reading-school.co.uk





headspa@reading-school.co.uk

0118 9015600





humanities Science





Eminent Historian Visit

On Tuesday, January 15th, military historian, Professor Gary Sheffield, spent a busy afternoon inspiring our young historians. As one participant, Aleksandr Stepanyan, remarked: *"To be the best, we must learn from the best. To have the pleasure of listening to one of the leading historians of the First World War was a dream come true."*

Professor Sheffield began the afternoon with a group of Year 11 and Year 9 students, talking about Haig and the learning curve of the First World War generals. In the process, he corrected some common misconceptions about these men. After the talk there was an extensive Q&A session which brought up some very interesting points and on a few occasions, even challenged the great mind of the professor!

He then moved on to a session with a group of Year 12 humanities students, discussing life at university. He gave insights into his teaching life, how to write a historical book and even how to deal with criticism.

To round off the afternoon, Professor Sheffield delivered a lecture entitled "Winston's Best Kept Secret" to a packed audience of students, staff and parents in the refectory. This covered Churchill's life in the second half of the First World War, and his role as Minister of Munitions. The lecture was the latest in a series of inspiring talks funded through the generosity of Neil Thomason, an alumnus of the school.

Little is known about this aspect of Churchill's life, and the audience was fascinated to learn how his efficient management of the department led to almost unlimited provision of material for the army and a speedy end to the war as a result. This was, in Professor Sheffield's words: "*an apprenticeship for his great task 20 years later in the Second World War*".

Professor Sheffield also agreed to be a Patron of the Reading Generation Project, which aims to inspire students to read for pleasure.

Thanks to Aleksandr Stepanyan and Julian Sutcliffe for their help in compiling this report.

Coming Soon....The Reading School Family Book Club

When we asked pupils about reading as a family, many of them commented on how much fun it had been to read Harry Potter together. They said they had enjoyed discussing the books and how much fun it was seeing who in the family finished them first.

When asked which books pupils would like to read with their families, instead of just choosing current authors like Robert Muchamore, they suggested a fantastic range of titles including: '*My family and other animals*' by Gerald Durrell, '*The curious incident of the dog in the night-time*' by Mark Haddon and '*Millions*' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce.

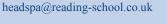
The aim of the Reading School Family Book Club is to help families read together by providing a family pack of library books. Each pack will contain two or more copies of the same book. The packs can be borrowed for 4 weeks at a time from the school library. Leaflets about the Family Book Group will be available from English staff at Parents' Consultation Evenings this term and from the school library. They can also be downloaded from the Sharepoint Learning Resource page.

We hope to start the Family Book Club by the end of the Spring Term. This is one of the exciting Reading Generation Projects sponsored by the Reading School Parents' Association.

www.reading-school.co.uk







humanities Science

0118 9015600

msis







Ngaiwa digs in

Gap year student, Ngaiwa Marshall-Lobb, and boarding students, Timi Sanusi, William Taylor and Merlin Dillingham, were out early on Wednesday 23rd January helping to clear snow from the School driveway, so that students could get to classes safely. They were among the many staff and students who rolled up their sleeves to keep the school open this week.

Ngaiwa (pronounced Noah) has recently arrived at Reading School from New Zealand on a year's placement. He aims to gain teaching experience, in anticipation of eventually training to be a teacher of History and Maori.

The life of a boarder is nothing new to Ngaiwa, as he attended a boarding school in Palmerston North, on New Zealand's North Island. However, from his point of view several things are different here.

"Boys here have great facilities" says Ngaiwa. "Older boys have their own rooms. At my old school there were four of us to a room, even in my last year."

He has also noticed that boarders of different ages socialise much more, and that the older boys are much kinder to the younger ones.

As part of his duties in boarding, Ngaiwa mentors younger boarders, supporting them during prep, and helping them to settle into life at Reading School. He also runs after-school activities for boarders, including swimming and football, and has introduced a multi-sport club, an activity involving lots of fun in the gym.

As part of his placement, he is also able to support PE staff during the school day, and will eventually be able to lead some PE sessions.

OR Enterprise Awards

The Old Redingensians Association recently launched the 2013 round of Enterprise Awards at house assemblies. The awards are open to all students currently attending Reading School, and may be used for projects which have an educational, scientific, charitable, sporting or cultural purpose. The money can be used for travel, for course fees, for equipment or any expense directly related to the chosen activity.

Last year, over 30 students received grants for projects that enabled them to gain new skills and valuable experience, as well as having fun.

Further details of the awards and how to apply can be found on Sharepoint. The final deadline for applications is Tuesday, April 16th. If students have any queries, they can talk to Mr Hussain, Head of Technology.

Specialist Schools

EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



www.reading-school.co.uk





headspa@reading-school.co.uk







0118 9015600





Economics Forum does Oil and Gas

Did you know that 25% of corporate taxes revenue paid on production to the UK government comes from the Oil and Gas industry operating in the North Sea?

Did you know that an oil rig is potentially one of the most dangerous places to work?

Mr Azubike (PhD in Engineering), HSE oil rig inspector based in Aberdeen and guest speaker at the Reading School Economics Forum, describes it as "sitting on a bomb".



Thanks to Mr Azubike's very informative, yet humorous presentation, our usually frowned upon view of health and safety was inverted and we realised how important it was to be planning for risks and putting the right safety measures in place.

Reading School Erleigh Road, Reading, RG15LW.

We also learnt how in the case of Oil & Gas, Economics, Politics, History and Geography can be tightly intertwined. Oil is traded globally in US dollars, not euro, yen or some other non-US dollar currency, hence the political pressure brought by the weakening of the US dollar and the rise of anti-US politics. By UN law, countries that border the North Sea all claim the 12 nautical miles (22 km; 14 mi) of territorial waters, within which they have exclusive rights. Hence some clever horizontal drilling often taking place as oil and gas fields can cross boundaries.

One of the most challenging questions we had for Mr Azubike was the prediction of the oil depletion date. As Economists will know, the answer is always "It depends on"! In this case, it depends on whether or not we have already reached peak oil, which is the point in time when the maximum rate of petroleum extraction is reached, after which the rate of production is expected to enter terminal decline.

After speaking to Year 11 students, Mr Azubike also took time to meet with Sixth Form students who are interested in careers in Engineering. He left them with the following words of wisdom: "Study hard, be flexible and the world will be your oyster".

By Shabarish Sriraman, 11E

Chess Team Win

Reading School's chess team has progressed to the Championship of the National Chess Competition after a third successive victory. This is a knock-out stage with the best 16 out of the original 130 schools competing for the title. The team; Matthew Wadsworth, Roy Zhang, Daniel Noel, Ryan Wong, Alfred Wong and Alex Vanlint beat a strong team from The Royal Grammar School Guildford by 5.5 to 0.5.

Needing only 3/6 to win- as our team had the younger average age - it was all to play for as the games began. Our top three boards started strong and the first victory went to Roy with a powerful attack on his opponent's king. Needing now only two points to win, Matthew and Daniel smelt blood; winning in quick succession with solid positional grinds to secure the match.

Ryan managed to suppress his opponent's threats and secured a well earned draw, leaving two games still being played; Alfred's and Alex's. With the clocks getting dangerously low these games could have gone either way, but both Alfred and Alex held their nerve to secure two more victories - both with less than five minutes to go.

Special mention should go to Matthew for winning a great game on the top board, as the youngest player in the team. Over the season the chess team has scored 17.5/18, a remarkable feat!

Daniel Noel, Captain of Chess



Erleigh Road, Reading, RG15LW.

Year 7 Concert

Over 100 students took part in the Year 7 Concert in Big School on Monday February 4th. They ranged from fledgling musicians who were singing or playing an instrument in public for the first time, to the more experienced who are already performing at a high level.

The concert is part of the Director of Music, Mr Meehan's, initiative to get more students involved in making music.

"Participation in music is about so much more than just performing or playing well," says Mr Meehan. "It improves cognitive skills, helps boys to work within a team and enables them to acquire the communication and social skills that will enable them to get on in life."

The Year 7 orchestra got the evening under way by playing an orchestral dance suite, composed by Mr Meehan. Each house ensemble played part of the *Waterhouse Suite*, also composed by Mr Meehan, a homage to the famous architect of Reading School. There were several fine solo performances, including those of Matthew Gray, Denis Ivanev, and Edwin Hughes.

The climax of the evening was a rousing rendition of Carey Blyton's opera "Dracula". The Vampire was vanquished with the help of narrators Douglas Calder, Jamie Cottle, Agastya Das, and Devlin Freeburn, and soloists Edwin Hughes, David Bailey, Stephan Darling, leuan Galvin and Thomas Clay-Michael. Michael Li provided deft accompaniment to the chorus.

Year 10 Music Ambassadors

Year 10 music students were excellent ambassadors for music, when they recently visited Katesgrove Primary School.

Twelve students gave the first public performance of their group music compositions to a rapt audience of year 5 and 6 students, many of whom accompanied them on air drums and air guitar!

Achievements in the Maths Department

Following the National Maths Challenge a number of boys were invited to take part in the next rounds.

The Kangaroo was a one hour papers sat by 21 of our boys. Nationally, 25% of entries are awarded merit certificates. Eleven of our boys gained merits, with the top mark awarded to James Sun of Year 8!

The other merit awards were to Joe Moneim, Vieran Nijjar, Bobby He, Kyle Marsh, Adam Butler, Elliott Higgin, Samuel Hayes, Aaron Singh, Benjamin Koh and Bradley Rowlands.

The British Olympiad Round 1 was a three and a half hour paper, sat by 9 boys. Nationally there were 1370 participants. Gold medals are awarded to the top 17 candidates only, and silver medals to the next 33. Alex Fairclough and Adam Weller both received distinctions, silver medals, a book prize and an invite into the next round - BMO2 (another three and a half hour marathon!). Craig Paterson was also awarded a distinction for his work.

www.reading-school.co.uk

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

headspa@reading-school.co.uk

0118 9015600

msis



Page 5









School House Riddle

What is the connection between 589, DMV and apple?

This was the question that every house was asked in Chapel a few weeks ago. How were these seemingly random things related?

When we received the riddle, we were at a loss and had no idea what the link was. We tried many things, such as Morse code, numerology and even braille, as well as pointlessly typing the clues into Google, both separately and as a group.

But this riddle had piqued our interest and we simply wanted the satisfaction of working out the answer. When extra clues came out on Friday we wanted to be the first to know what they were.

The second set of clues was more helpful: Ficus Religiosa, Hiero II and G.

Now, the pieces of the puzzle began to come together! We both knew who Hiero II was. He was the ruler of Syracuse in 387 BC, when he posed a question to the great thinkers of the

day: how can I tell if this irregularly shaped crown is pure gold? Of course, it was Archimedes who worked it out (his eureka moment) when he was in the bath and he calculated that density is equal to mass divided by volume (DMV).

Ficus Religiosa had to be googled to find out its meaning. Apparently, this was the tree where, in 589 BC the Buddha had meditated to find enlightenment.

Again, once we had G, the link to apple became very obvious. They, of course, referred to Isaac Newton when he sat under an apple tree and invented the theory of gravity.

And the link? Archimedes, the Buddha and Isaac Newton all had a revelation or were enlightened. Ironic really, as this is the exact feeling that we experienced when we solved the riddle.

Tom Gavin and Charlie Bucknell, 11S

A new extended writing competition designed to inspire and reward Reading School students

The Reading Foundation is funding the revival of the McIlroy Essay Competition. A single £250 prize is on offer to the student who can produce the essay which, in the opinion of the judging panels, displays the best combination of flair, argument, verve, passion and ingenuity.

Each academic department has posed a question. Students from all Year groups are invited to choose one title and submit an answer of between 1,000 and 2,000 words in response.

A sheet outlining rules, regulations, guidance and the list of questions is available from Mr Baldock, Heads of Departments, or the School Office.

The aim of the competition is to inspire academic excellence and individual endeavour; most of all, Reading School and the Reading Foundation want to do everything possible to promote an exciting engagement with extended writing amongst our students.

We ask that parents do not assist students in any way other than providing motivation and encouragement. All submissions will be entered anonymously and will have been written without input from any member of staff at the school. The closing date for entries will be mid-May 2013.

www.reading-school.co.uk

Ofsted Outstanding 2009/2010



headspa@reading-school.co.uk

humanities Science

0118 9015600

msis



worked it out (his volume (DMV). 9 BC the Buddha Newton when he 1. Ironic really, as





Page 7

Mayor of Reading entertains Year 12 Students

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Jenny Rynn welcomed five Reading School students into the Mayor's Parlour to recognise their achievements in raising over £2,500 for one of her chosen charities, Daisy's Dream.

Sixth form students, Chris Poon, Ben Doyle, Matt Perry, Tom Russell, and Martin Shine, organised a charity concert at the School just before Christmas. In the process, they managed to get the entire school involved in supporting the Charity in some way. Such was the support they generated that they managed to exceed their original fundraising target of £1,500 by over £1,000.



The concert was the culmination of over three months' work by the students, who were involved either as performers or organisers. They also received support from Reading School teachers, who put together a band called the "The Manic Street Teachers", and from students at the Abbey and Kendrick Schools.

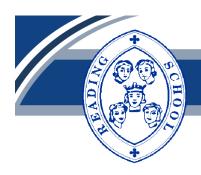
Daisy's Dream is a local charity which supports children coping with bereavement. It is also a Reading School Charity of the Year for 2012-13.

Gill Stevens, Director of Daisy's Dream says: "I want to say a huge thank you to the boys for raising such a magnificent amount of money. It will make a huge impact in enabling us to support local children and young people facing such difficult and distressing times."

Chris Poon says: "It was an absolute pleasure to be involved in this event. The amount of support we received was overwhelming. Thanks to all the performers, students, parents, and staff for all their support. They made this happen. We are happy that the money is going to such a worthwhile cause."

The Mayor says: "It was such a pleasure to meet and welcome the boys into the parlour for the cheque presentation. They are such a kind and caring group of young people who are a credit to their school and themselves. They had the whole school behind them. May I say a big thank you from the bottom of my heart."





Page 8



speaking and presentation skills.

The Reading School team of Jacob South-Klein (11C), Aleksandr Stepanyan (11C) and Ritvij Singh (10E) came second in the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition Branch Final at Maidenhead Town Hall on Wednesday 6th February.

The competition is open to students in key stage 4 (years 10 and 11), with team members taking on one of three roles – chairperson, speaker or questioner. It enables participants to develop self-confidence and knowledge of topical issues, while enhancing their speech writing,

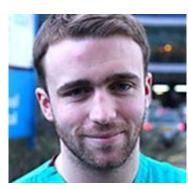
Particular congratulations are due to Jacob who won the award for Best Chair. He also won the award for Outstanding Personality of the evening, winning the accolade by just one mark from Aleksandr! In addition, Ritvij, in the role of questioner, had the highest marks of all the questioners involved in the competition. A brilliant night all round!

Public Speaking Success

Great 8 Debate

Great 8 Debate! Friday 15th March, Big School: this is a sponsored fundraising event for the boys going to South Africa to enter the World Individual Debating Public Speaking Competition. We will have a soapbox for anyone and everyone to tell us what they feel strongly about (our own Hyde Park Corner in Reading School!) ... boys will be delivering LAMDA speeches (some serious issues, amusing, informative - all good speeches!) and boys will also make up teams of six (2 proposers, 2 opposers, a chair and a timekeeper) to debate. There will be competitions and prizes galore and lots of food and drink - and a big clock for the countdown! We would love it if you would support us, in whatever way you choose ... come along and cheer the boys, sponsor the boys, join us to watch and eat and drink and/or for the opening ceremony, donate a prize for the raffle ... anything and any of your time (even 10 mins) would be so much appreciated.

Alumni News



Oliver Harris, who left Reading School in 2006, is one of the young medics currently featuring in the BBC3 series *Junior Doctors:* Your Life in Their Hands.

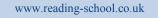
According to the BBC website: "Confident charmer Oli, aged 24, prides himself on his personal skills with his patients and his relaxed nature epitomises the dishy doctor with a good bedside manner."

Oli grew up in Tilehurst and, says his mother, Debbie, expressed an interest in becoming a doctor from a very early age. He entered Reading School in 2004 in the Sixth Form, and went on to study medicine at Nottingham University. When he qualified in 2010, he was amongst the top 10% of medical students who qualify with

msis

honours. He is now a second year junior doctor at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

The television series was filmed between August and October 2012. For his parents, watching Oli on television is a revelation. "Seeing him change from being his normal laid-back manner to taking charge in an emergency situation has been amazing," says Peter.







headspa@reading-school.co.uk

humanities Science

0118 9015600







Reading School CCF—Flying High in the Spring

Training: Although we are only a few weeks into the school year, CCF training has continued to move forward successfully and we have taken part in some exciting offsite training. The recruits have returned from their Christmas break with renewed enthusiasm and their training on Thursday afternoons reflects this. The Army Section, having completed their weapon training before Christmas have been working on the other areas of the Army Proficiency syllabus and the RAF recruits are well on the way to being able to complete the Skill At Arms syllabus. The more senior cadets are continuing with their advanced proficiency training as well as preparing for a number of offsite activities including the Cadet Skills Competition, the Air Squadron Trophy and the two Field Days later in the term . A large number of cadets have been applying for courses run by all three services including the Cadet Leadership Course at Frimley Park, signals courses at Blandford and Gliding and Flying Scholarships.

Out with the old - in with the new! Keen vehicle spotters will have noticed that our venerable Series 2 long wheel base Land Rover has disappeared to be replaced by a more up to date version accompanied by a Sankey trailer which spent time in the Falklands before ending up at Reading School. When he has not been in front of his computer uploading course applications, Wing Commander Walter has spent a lot of time making sure that both Land Rover and trailer are ready for use with the CCF. They should be a real asset on exercises and other offsite activities. The Land Rover even has comfy seats in the back!



Our new Land Rover and trailer with a delicate covering of snow



Cadet Jonathan Sinclair prepares for his first flight in a Vigilant motor glider

RAF Cadets – up in the air, yet with their feet on the ground!

The RAF section has had some successful out of school training over the last few weeks. On Sunday 3rd February, nine members of the RAF section (eight of whom were taking part in this activity for the first time) undertook a Gliding Induction Course at 612 VGS based at Abingdon. They were able to learn the basics of how to fly the Grob Vigilant motor glider including controlling the aircraft themselves when in flight. It is possible for cadets to apply for Gliding Scholarships which enable them to undergo a more intensive period of training culminating in being awarded gliding wings and being able to fly solo. Yanfeng Ren will be taking up a Gliding Scholarship during the Easter Holidays.

On Sunday 10th February, twelve members of the RAF Section travelled to RAF Halton to represent Reading School CCF in the Air Squadron Trophy Competition. Among the activities they had to complete were stands on aircraft recognition, first aid, RAF knowledge and a leadership task. They also had to undertake a fitness test and were given the opportunity to develop their marksmanship skills on the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer. The highlight (or most stressful part, depending on your point of view!) of the competition was the drill event. The squad was quite apprehensive about how this was going to go but in the end everyone worked well together and produced a smart and very professional performance. Overall, it was a successful day out as well as being a valuable learning experience for all the Air Squadron Trophy- preparing for the cadets who were excellent ambassadors for our CCF unit.



drill competition.

Looking forward: the run up to Easter will be a very busy one for the CCF. In March, we plan to run at least one range day so that newly trained cadets will have the opportunity to fire the A2 Cadet GP Rifle and gain a full bore shooting qualification. The Army Section will be planning for the day exercise on our Field Day in March as well as the Cadet Skills Competition at Westdown Camp and the RAF cadets are looking forward to their visit to RAF Benson at the end of term. Hopefully, we will have enough energy left to submit another entry for the next school newsletter!



Page 10

News from the LRC

We have had another busy half term in the LRC supporting various departments throughout the school in order to enhance the boys learning.

In February, we see the return of 24 students from Frydenhøj School in Denmark as part of the Comenius Exchange Programme. To encourage our year 10 students who are part of the programme together with the rest of the school community, we are supporting the Geography Department by displaying a selection of Danish books in the LRC.



Our Danish display



World Book Display

We are also supporting World Book Day on 7th March 2013. World Book Day is a day set aside every year to celebrate reading, books, authors and illustrators. It is marked in more than 100 countries around the world and will be celebrated in the UK and Ireland on Thursday 7 March 2013. All Key Stage 3 students will have a visit to the LRC as part of our World Book Day celebrations to chat about books, to see the new library catalogue and to collect World Book Day vouchers. The whole school can get involved by visiting the library to see our new display of a wide range of books that are either written or based in other countries, and we hope this display together with their visits to the LRC will inspire staff and pupils to try something new.

Finally, members of the Book Club which ranges from years 7-12 are currently shadowing the annual Berkshire Book Award (BBA). 'The Award is for books written for 11-14 year olds and participation is open to all young teens in Berkshire through secondary schools and public libraries'. Members of the Book Club nominated eligible books during the Michaelmas term and following on from that a shortlist of books was published by the BBA in early December.

We are now shadowing the six eligible books:

John Green *The Fault in our Stars* Charlie Higson *The Sacrifice* R J Palacio *Wonder* David Walliams *Gangsta Granny* Jacqueline Wilson *Four Children and It* Jacqueline Wilson *The Worst Thing about My Sister*

They are enjoying reading different and varied titles and are in the process of nominating their chosen books. Winners will be announced on the 18th March 2013.



Members of the Book Club with some of the shortlisted BBA books

Mrs Jackson, LRC

Reading School Erleigh Road, Reading, RG15LW.





Page 11

Student Achievements

Congratulations to Adhav Radhakrisham, 8W, who recently won the UK Children's Fine Art Competition.

Ten Reading School students took part in the Berkshire Schools Cross-Country Championships, held on Saturday 2nd February at Wellington College. Jonny Davies, 13E, won the Under 19 Championship, with Alex Tabari, 12W, coming 13th in the same race.

Matthew Rudd, 7C, came fourth in the Under 13 race. Matthew also won the Year 7 house road race just the day before, helping the County team to victory.

Andrew Smyth, 9S, was placed 11th in the Under 15 race.

Well done to all the participants!



Jonny Davies and Alex Tabari

Congratulations go to Edward Clennett in 11W who has won a competition with the Geographical Association to represent the UK as part of the team going to the International Geography Olympiad which takes place in Kyoto, Japan this summer. He had to write an essay on the demise of the high street which was submitted to the GA and he was in competition with older students to win his place. Edward was one of Reading School's quiz team who won the national Geographical Association Worldwise Quiz last year and we wish him every success in this Olympiad.



In early December 2012, Thomas Brown in 8W raised £315 for Daisy's Dream. He (along with his brother William and sister Sarah) worked very hard to raise this money by raffling a Christmas teddy bear which Harrods kindly donated to them, and also by running a stall at the Sonning CE Primary School Christmas Fete selling toys donated by Find Me A Gift.com, homemade knitted hats and homemade Christmas decorations. On 11th December, Thomas. William and Sarah were invited to present their cheque to Daisy's Dream. They met Gill Stevens, the Charity Director and Vickie Randall who is the Fund Raising Manager who made them very welcome, even sharing their Christmas chocolates with them.

This is Thomas' second fund raising event, as in December 2011 he, again with William and Sarah, raised £600 for the Charlotte Starmer-Smith Unit at The Royal Berkshire Hospital, who looked after his mother for 6 months and helped his mother survive Leukaemia. This year they decided to support Daisy's Dream who helped them during this difficult time. Thomas did a tremendous job and worked very hard to raise this money for Daisy's Dream.

Events for your Diary

Junior Concert, Thursday February 28th in Music School - Following the success of last term's event, the Spring Junior Concert will give younger musicians a chance to perform their pieces in public. The event will feature the Junior Jazz band and Junior Choir, as well as soloists and curriculum ensembles drawn from years 7 to 10. Tickets are £5 for adults, free for concessions. They can be booked online at http://13springjuniorconcert.eventbrite.co.uk

The RSPA Quiz Night, Saturday 2nd March in Big School. Doors open 7pm with quiz starting at 7.30pm. All the family and any friends welcome and teams can be any number to max. of 8. There will also be a live bank and a licenced bar selling soft drinks and snacks. Tickets cost £4 and can be purchased by contacting Simon Blake at simon.blake@sky.com

Big Bands at Reading School, Monday 4th March 7.30pm in the Refectory - We are proud to present professional Jazz Band "The Innovations of Jazz Orchestra" in concert with our own Junior and Senior Jazz Bands. Bring along your own picnic and enjoy the atmosphere of the Refectory which will, for one night only, be transformed into a casual Jazz Cafe complete with smooth and relaxing sounds. For more information about "The Innovations of Jazz Orchestra" check out their website: www.innovations-jazz-orchestra.co.uk. Tickets cost £7.50 for Adult, £3.00 for Concessions and Free for Reading School Students. Tickets can be purchased online here: http://rsbigbands.eventbrite.co.uk/

Inspire Lecture: Is there a future for Britain in the EU?- Tuesday, March 19th at 4pm in Big School. Mr Andrew Lebrecht, former UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU gives an insider's view of this controversial issue. The event is free and open to all Reading School students and their parents. It has been made possible through the generosity of an alumnus of the School.

Joint Concert with Queen Anne's School, Thursday March 21st, St Luke's Church, Erleigh Road at 7.30pm. Booking details will be available after half-term.