



Note from the Headmaster

At the end of the first half term of the academic year, I am pleased to update you with news from Reading School. It has certainly been a very busy and fruitful start to the year.

Reading School students are being inspired through a Lecture Series sponsored by a generous donation from an OR. In October, there was an excellent lecture on tuition fees. Whether it be through Chess, the Economics Forum, Engineering schemes, CCF or Running a City State for the Day, students are given opportunities to be stretched and challenged, to thrive and excel.

Student leadership is an important feature of life at Reading School and through the extension of the prefect system, the introduction of House Colours and the DARE approach, students throughout the school are rewarded for their positive attitude and commitment.

Our International links continue to develop through involvement in the European Day of Languages and also through recent visits to Barcelona, Berlin and Tours. I fully support the hard work, dedication and professionalism of staff that enable these inspiring educational visits to take place. Trips to Iceland, Poland, New York and Borneo are also being planned for the future.

More immediately, I am pleased to publicise two forthcoming events inspired by students. Students are organising a Christmas Charity Concert in aid of the Vice Captain's School Charity, 'Daisy's Dream' on Thursday 13th December in Big School. Also, students in Year 11 are leading on the 'Non Uniform Day' on 30th November to raise funds for the National Aids Trust for their work focusing on changing the lives of those with Aids. Two excellent examples of the generosity and character of Reading School boys.

Mr A Robson
Headmaster

Reading School DARES its students to be good!

We have started the new academic year with a positive drive on celebrating success at KS3. This comes in the form of DARE points, collected by the students both individually and as part of their tutor group. Students can collect DARE points for all manner of achievements, from academic success in the classroom to victory on the sports field, the way they wear their uniform, and participate in group activities. We want their exemplary performance and behaviour to be recognised and rewarded. Prizes will be given at the end of each term as we celebrate success. Please encourage your boys to collect their points!

For more information, please see the powerpoint presentation on the school website
<http://www.reading-school.co.uk/14/document-zone>.

Ms J Capon

School Observatory

Sessions in the Observatory will take place this term every Tuesday, Week B, from 3.25pm—5.25pm. Sessions will run even if it is cloudy as we can talk about theory and how to use the telescopes. Sessions for the remainder of this term will take place on 13th November, 27th November and 11th December.

Mrs V Brierley



Extreme Readers are our Inspiration



Edward Denman 7C

The winners of the Reading School Extreme Readers Competition are Caleb Berney (8W), Edward Denman (7C), Harry Firth (7C), and Charles Harding (10S). They submitted fantastic photographs, showing them reading in some extraordinary locations - scuba diving, in Monet's garden, by a waterfall, and perched on a cliff. Their winning entries have been made into posters, displayed around the school, with the aim of inspiring more students to read for pleasure.



Harry Firth 7C

The Extreme Reading Competition is the brain child of Library Assistant, Mrs Jackson, who along with Learning Resource Centre Manager, Mrs Kesteven, organises several reading activities throughout the school year. These include a programme of visiting authors, a book club, and a pupil librarian scheme.

At the start of the summer holiday, students taken of themselves reading a book in the find. English teacher, Mrs Harden, who curriculum, says: "We were very pleased and I'd like to congratulate our four promote reading across the school. It has do better in exams, have more spelling, punctuation and grammar skills. than English from next year. University current reading, both for and outside their

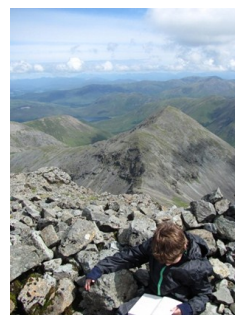
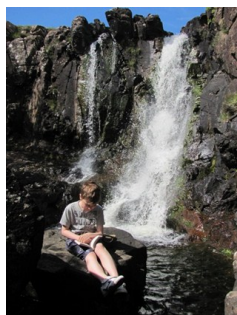


Charles Harding 10S

were challenged to have a photograph most exotic or bizarre location they could also co-ordinates literacy across the with the volume and quality of the entries, winners. As part of my role, I want to been proved that pupils who read regularly sophisticated vocabularies and better All of these will be tested in subjects other applicants are also often asked about their chosen subjects."

Mr Robson says: "I want to thank Mrs Harden for her leadership on this exciting project. We are proud that so many students took up the extreme reading challenge. This is part of a long-term strategy to inspire a generation of students to love reading, and this is a fantastic way of getting it under way."

Mrs L Kesteven and Mrs C Harden



Caleb Berney 8W



Student Achievements

Congratulations to Sohumi Shah who has completed his Gold medal, Grade 8, at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) in Public Speaking and Acting, achieving Distinctions. Each of these qualifications are equivalent to 65 points at UCAS and correspond to an A at A Level.

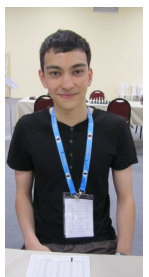


Sohumi Shah

2012 World Youth Under-16 Chess Olympiad



The 2012 World Youth Under-16 Chess Olympiad took place between 28 August and 6 September in Istanbul, Turkey. There were 39 countries represented from around the world including Australia, Iran, Peru, Libya and Iraq. After 10 long rounds over 7 days the tournament was won by the favourites Russia, after a tightly fought battle with the strong Iranian team. The England team consisted of 5 players, two of whom go to Reading School: Daniel Noel (12E) and Roy Zhang (11S). They both finished with very respectable results with Daniel scoring 4.5/8 and Roy scoring 4/7. Roy deserves special praise for only losing one game in his 7 rounds. Overall, the England team achieved 19/40 points and finished in 24th place out of 39.



Also, Roy and Matthew Wadsworth (8E) will be competing for England at the forthcoming World Youth Chess Championships in November in Slovenia. Having 4 representatives at 2 of the world's most prestigious junior chess events is a great achievement for the school.

Daniel Noel (12E) and Roy Zhang (11S)

Future Engineers begin to materialise

From 9th to 12th July, Shabarish Sriraman spent the week enjoying a unique learning experience at The University of Manchester. The four day residential course was designed to give students a taste of this exciting and rapidly expanding subject. Lab sessions provided a hands-on opportunity for students to discover the fundamentals of Materials Science and the breadth of the subject. Working on different group tasks, students solved engineering challenges including a 'Straw Towers Construction', a Demolition Derby and an 'Advanced Composite Beam Project'. The course also included a trip to Airbus and a presentation from Rolls Royce, both of which enabled students to speak to real-life engineers and learn more about their journey into engineering.

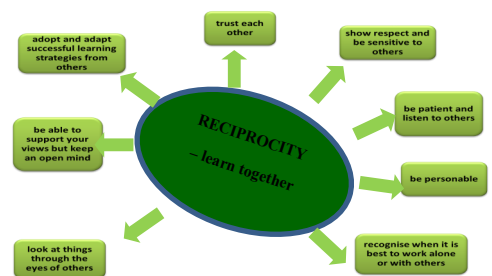
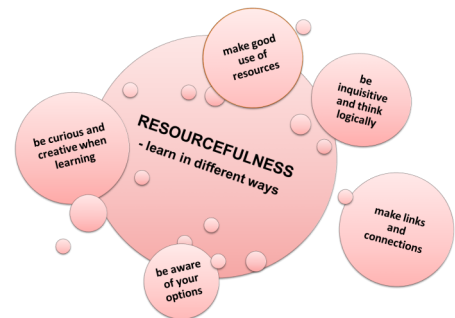
Students also developed and improved their team building, communication, time management, problem solving, planning and presentation skills, whilst experiencing university life. Social activities included a film evening and a sports night. On the final night, The Smallpeice Trust hosted a conference style dinner, where students and supervisors had the opportunity to socialise and share their experiences of the week.

The new course timetable for 2013 will be launched in the autumn school term. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. To find out more, visit www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk or telephone The Smallpeice Trust on 01926 333200.



Ready for Learning

This term has seen the launch of the 'Ready for Learning' initiative with posters showing mind maps of the 4Rs, Resilience, Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness and Reciprocity, on display in classrooms around the school and also printed in the front of pupil handbooks. The aim is to add a new dimension to learning which encourages pupils to think about their habits and attitude to learning and in doing so help them to develop into better, more reflective learners.



Mr Cottam opens Economics Forum

On the 10th October, Mr Cottam, from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), opened the Reading School Economics Forum for an enthralled audience of year 11 students. A veteran of the pharmaceuticals industry, Mr Cottam gave students a unique insight into how his area of business works and what his company delivers to the developed and developing world.

Following a path through university via a degree in social services (a particular point of interest for pupils) Mr Cottam then gained his qualifications to become an accountant, before embarking on his business career, and almost 18 of those at GSK. Talking on subjects ranging from GSK's values to lymphatic filariasis, he put across his love for the industry in which he works.

GSK, the fifth largest company in the UK, employs over 97,300 employees and has a commercial presence in more than 115 countries, Mr Cottam told students in a presentation. But, to him, these are just impressive numbers and the real reason why he works for them is because of their core values of performance with integrity and a passion for achievement.

Talking to pupils afterwards, they were impressed with Mr Cottam's depth of knowledge, especially when quizzed by pupils about animal testing, the impact of corporate fines on GSK's reputation and the BBC Panorama Programme which shed light on GSK's supposed irregularities with tax.

The next speaker at the Reading School Economics Forum would do well to follow Mr Cottam's outstanding performance.





News from the LRC

Introducing the new Library Forum

The new Library Forum will be run by pupils and will allow students to have a direct impact on library services. Library representatives from each form in KS3 and 4 will meet once a term to discuss the library and hot topics such as eBooks vs. hardcopy books. Vijay Gida, Head Pupil Librarian, is co-ordinating the Forum and the Library Representatives so far are:

7C—Fred Newbold and Sushrut Toyyuru
7S—Merlin Dillingham and Harry Manocha

8C—tba
8S—tba

9C—Sulaiman Ali, Sean Neale, Tom Henderson and Yousef Mohamed-Ahmed
9E—Dominic Lobo, James Woolaghan and Sam Miller
9W—Ruben Beecham and Nikunj Paliwal

10C—tba
10S—Matthew Le Croisette

11C—Matthew Graham, Elliot Jewitt and Matthew Bastiman
11E—Shabarish Sriraman
11W—tba

7E—James Williams
7W—Anujan Kiruparakaran and Patrick Sharman

8E—Dom Cooke Oliver Mead
8W—Caleb Berney and James Sun

10E—Matthew Hunter and Dominik Young
10W—Richard Sharman

11S—Robin Wilson

This is a really exciting project and I am extremely pleased with the huge interest students have shown towards the idea. The first meeting will take place at lunchtime within the next few weeks.

New Pupil Librarians and Promotions

The Pupil Librarian Team is going from strength to strength. This year we have introduced a career progression structure that will enable Pupil Librarians to develop a wide range of transferrable skills that will benefit them at school and beyond. In the new structure, Pupil Librarians can expand their role to include a subject responsibility. This role will involve promoting hardcopy and online LRC resources and identifying any areas where we can improve our provision. They will have an important role liaising with their peers and their teachers so we can continue to provide good quality resources appropriate to the school's needs.

Congratulations to Head Pupil Librarian, Vijay Gida and to the following new Senior Subject Librarians:

Uzayr Mahmood	Maths
Conor Black	History
Adam Weller	Chemistry
Hyun Park	Biology and Economics
Soham Bandyopadhyay	Biology
Laurence Bashford	MFL and English Literature
Alexander Johnstone	History and MFL
Samuel Wood	Geography and Music
Matthew Greaves	Maths
Pranav Bharadwaj	Economics
Jasper Hughes	Technology
Vineet Naik	Physics

I would also like to welcome new Pupil Librarians Jonathan Machin, Lawrence Sarsam, John Richardson and Christopher Warby.



Soham Bandyopadhyay

"It's nice to see a replica of the prefect system being done in the library, with senior librarians leading the changes that will occur in the LRC". Soham Bandyopadhyay (12JM)



News from the LRC continued...

And the LRC Book Awards 2012 go to...

James Sun, now in form 8W, for borrowing 235 books

Last year's form 7W (now 8W) for collectively borrowing 764 books

Oliver Roth, Eben Dombay-Williams and Vijay Gida (LB) for jointly winning Pupil Librarian of the Year

The award for Pupil Librarian of the Year goes to the pupil who has gone above and beyond to help in the LRC. The winners this year reflect the wide range of work undertaken by the LRC Pupil Librarian Team. In particular, Eben helped to prepare for a visit by author Mark Walden and made an outstanding contribution to the smooth running of the event on the day itself. Oliver Roth designed and contributed to a LRC Classic of the Week display, raising the profile of classic titles such as A Farewell to Arms by Hemingway. Vijay Gida made an excellent contribution to the set-up, clean-up and book sale for an author event with Alex Scarrow. Vijay has also been voted this year's Head Pupil Librarian, so a double congratulations to him!

The LRC Awards this year have already started, with winners due to be announced mid-June 2013!



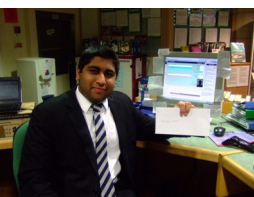
Eben Dombay Williams

"Working as a pupil librarian this year has been a very rewarding experience. Not only has it been enjoyable but it has been a useful addition to my CV and to my personal statement in applying to university. I had a really great time here and will be very sad to leave". Eben Dombay Williams

"I have really enjoyed working as a pupil librarian this year, especially writing for the classics of the week section (although I didn't keep this up as long as I had hoped!). The library will definitely be one of the things I miss most about this school". Oliver Roth



Oliver Roth



Head Pupil Librarian Vijay Gida Yr 13 (LB)

Vijay Gida awarding 7W (now 8W) with a certificate for borrowing more books than any other form in the school





Year 9—Run a City State for a Day

The Year 9 - *Run a City State for a Day*, which took place on Wednesday 17th October, was designed to introduce students to the different social and cultural systems that existed in the Classical Greek world. The event would introduce to students how cities made decisions, the importance of religion and the process that needed to be gone through for sacrifices, the planning and investment needed for military campaigns, how Greek plays were performed, town planning and possibly most crucially the importance of working together for the good of the state.



The day was conceived, planned and led by a group of Year 11 students (Tom Gavin, Benjamin Ratcliffe, Matthew Hankins, Matthew Graham, Ross Grewal, Charlie Bucknell and James Foran), who wished to inspire a younger year group with their love of the Classical World. These students threw themselves into the occasion by dressing in traditional costume for the day.

Starting with an introductory presentation for each of the four city states, Year 9 plunged into the excitement of running an Ancient Greek city state for the day. Whilst they adjusted to the new ideas put forward to them about the different forms of ruler-ship such as monarchy and democracy they were put into groups (religion, administration, citizenry and obviously the most popular: war...).

The Year 9 students soon found their feet as they progressed in their understanding of the Greeks' society through the battles they fought, the decisions they made, plays they devised and put on, brochures they produced, military drills they enacted, the sacrifices performed and many, many more activities. The citizenry groups were in charge of the construction of the model plans of the city, the administration groups searched the school site for the specially devised QR codes, whilst the war groups designed their own armour, performed military drills and were engaged in tactical battles using the 'Rome Total War' computer software to expand their empire, whilst the religion group conducted sacrifices and put on a Greek play. 9C left my ears ringing as they recreated perfectly the loud and ferocious Spartan voting system in every decision they made—he who shouts the loudest wins the vote. Meanwhile 9S and 9E performed excellent sacrifices the latter even included their own national anthem! Argos (9W) managed to build a spectacular model of their city far superior to all the other states.

In conclusion the day was a success, the groups got stuck in and really enjoyed themselves. Each group learned all about the different states and took away knowledge thanks to this unique and special day when they ran a Greek city state for a day.

James Foran (11S) and Mr Cooper, Head of Classics



Reading School Cadets have an outstanding biennial Inspection



Learning the basis of First Aid in the Field

On Thursday 18th October, Reading School Combined Cadet Force undertook its Biennial Review in the field on Aldershot Training Area B6. This is the most important event in Reading School CCF's calendar, being the culmination of the two yearly inspection process of all our administration and training as well as being a major occasion in the life of Reading School. This year there was an added dimension because the inspecting officer, Air Commodore Michael Jenkins is himself a former member of Reading School Combined Cadet Force and an OR, as are the two high ranking colleagues who accompanied him, Colonel Huw Lawford and Group Captain David Lester-Powell. In fact, the number of ORs present on the day, including three members of the class of 2012, Mr. Ian Judd and Ken Brown and Chris Widdowes of the Old Redingensians Association, came to a total of nine! Representatives of HQ Air Cadets, HQ 145 Brigade and 17 Cadet Training Team were also present. All in all, there were nearly a hundred people, cadets and adults, involved in various capacities.

The visitors were able to tour the training area where senior cadets ran a series of activities - signals, command tasks, first aid, campcraft, fieldcraft and an ambush - in order to instruct and test their more junior colleagues who were divided up into sections and had to navigate their way from stand to stand using map and compass - adding another layer of challenge! Fortunately, everyone's navigation skills were well honed! At the end of the exercise, all three visiting senior officers addressed the whole contingent, having thoroughly enjoyed their day. They commented on the enthusiasm of the younger cadets and the outstanding standards of leadership and instruction demonstrated by the cadet NCOs, comparing them favourably to officer cadets at Sandhurst. Everyone returned to school uninjured, dry (mercifully!) and in high spirits, all having behaved as outstanding ambassadors for our cadet unit and the School as a whole. Thanks are due to all the cadets for their enthusiasm, commitment and excellence and also to Wing Commander Tom Walter, without whose hard work over the summer the day could not have run. Look out for our photos on the new CCF Sharepoint site!



Air Commodore Michael Jenkins, OR, and members of the CCF at the end of the exercise.

Capt. P.F.E. Hurst

European Day of Languages

On the 26th of September, Reading School celebrated the **diversity of languages** with activities in different languages and about languages throughout the day such as quizzes and videos and a **special lunch** in the refectory of *Beef Scotch Broth served with Oat Bread, Bratwurst served with Braised Cabbage, Diced Potatoes & Curry Sauce, Spanish Paella, Spinach & Feta Cannelloni and Kolaczki (oven baked jam doughnut)* which was enjoyed by all. *Thank you to the catering staff.*



Madame Ciais



Years 8 and 9 trip to Tours, France

As we embarked on our journey, we knew something great was going to happen. On entering France, we were startled already by the incredible scenery put in front of us, which I hasten to add is a lot better than the scenery seen in England. Our journey took almost 12 hours, but knowing what was to come, no-one was complaining (well, just about!).

Evening had come. The sky was turning darker as inch by inch sunlight began to depart, making way for the moon and sparkling stars. At this late hour, you'd usually be tired, sleepy, slumberous. But the atmosphere inside our coach was one of excitement and anticipation.

And then, one by one, the cars came, and parked by the roadside. The host families had arrived!



Jack with Francis the First's Salamander emblem representing his motto 'I eat and extinguish'

Naturally, we were all rather nervous. After all, this would be our first night with a proper French family! In our heads, we were all thinking the same things: "How would you say.... in French?"; "Would they understand....?" We all knew that this would be the ultimate test of our French skills. And what an experience it was! We all stayed with incredibly nice and welcoming families. Over the 4 or so days that we lived with them, we learned plenty of commonly-used French vocabulary and had a chance to speak French outside the classroom. Two of us stayed with each host family. We either shared a room or had separate ones; I got my own room upstairs. In the mornings, we would have a delicious breakfast after (finally!) waking up. This was the perfect time to practise our knowledge of the French near future tense – *Qu'est-ce qu'on va faire aujourd'hui?* – "what are we going to do today"? In the evenings, we would have supper, and talk about what we saw and did that day, and what we loved about and hated about it. The families were extremely forgiving – as long as they understood you, it wasn't like they'd criticise you for using the wrong auxiliary verb in the *passé composé*!

Staying with a host family has been immensely beneficial to my French speaking skills. I have learned some everyday French expressions, as well as plenty of pronunciation and grammar points! To be honest, it was really sad to have to say farewell to them on the last day of our trip. As a goodbye present I bought them a little toy from Futuroscope to say thank you for everything they had done. They parted us and waved, calling out to us, "On ne va jamais vous oublier!!"

Day 2 of our visit (day 1 of our tour of France) saw us visit the Chateau de Chambord, Clos Lucé (Last home of Da Vinci) and an aquarium near Tours. Despite the weather on arrival at the castle, I have to say that the view of the castle definitely sparked all of our minds. This incredible, immense, historic and simply breath-taking 'chateau' dates back to the times of Henry VIII and includes features that you would have never seen before. Marvels included were literal double staircases, secret passages and extraordinary panoramas of the scenes surrounding us. Our guide explained how the king visited for a mere 20 days during his reign and how many rooms were never able to fulfil the purposes they set out to fulfil.



James making French sweets at La Livre Tournais

With the Chateau fully explored and the secret passages closed up again, we continued our journey onwards to Clos Luce, the last home of Leonardo da Vinci. The garden here had to be the highlight with what seemed like acres of land filled with copies of his last inventions, available for the public to use and examine.



Years 8 and 9 trip to Tours, France cont.

At the end of the tour, we all were getting ready to return to our host families, and it took a while for us to remember we had one more stop before our final destination. The aquarium from the outside didn't seem much but from the inside, it was more than what I expected to see. Several zones of contrast were included, featuring sharks, jellyfish, starfish, tiny fish, electric rays and manta rays. In fact, pretty much every kind of fish I could imagine was represented in some way or another. Knowing finally that it was time to leave, some of us chose to sit back and relax whilst others recapped their French basics to ensure that they knew how to talk to their host families. However, on this second night, many of us found new confidence and I was very happy to explain successfully to our host family about my family and about where I live. The tour was by no means over though, there was a lot more to come...

"Ah, c'est super, le Futuroscope. Vous allez adorer ça!" said our host family. They couldn't have been more right. To be honest, at first, after the amazing events of day 3 (a tour of Tours (!), a visit to a craft museum, and a visit to chocolate and alcohol factories) we couldn't imagine what else could be better. Answer: le Futuroscope, a theme park full of 4D and 3D cinemas and some of the most awesome rides we'd ever been on! The first ride that we went on was the teacher-recommended 4D adventure film/ride named Arthur, l'Aventure 4D. Depicting a bumpy journey through what seemed like an insect kingdom, the moving chairs and 3D effects were simply too cool! We all agreed it was one of the best 4D rides we'd ever been on, and one of the most exciting attractions in the park. We split up into groups of 3 or more and roamed around the site, going on anything which took our fancy. Other amazing attractions included L'Imax 3D, Le Petit Prince, and Monstres des Mes. What our group really loved, however, were the self-operated rides in the Le Monde des Enfants region! I mean, a merry-go-round upside-down-turning spinning thing which you could start and run at the touch of a button – how cool is that?!

For roughly 5 hours we enjoyed ourselves to the fullest, while buying mouth-watering Nutella crepes and waffles from the small shops scattered around the site. The souvenir shops were pretty good as well: full of techy toys such as an upside-down egg timer which worked based on density. It really was a sad occasion to have to finally depart this park of wonder. The next day, we would leave Tours and head back to England, taking with us memories which we will cherish for a lifetime.

William Clennell 8E and Ming Yin 9W



The group in front of Chateau de Chambord