



Note from the Principal

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our second newsletter of the term and do please see our recently re-launched website for further news and information. We are pleased with the design and feel of it and would welcome any feedback or views you may have. This term has been typically busy with a host of events fresh in the memory and some very special Christmas events coming up. I would like to commend all who took part in last week's House Music Competition which took place at the Concert Hall. In the opinion of most, this was one of the best yet. Thank you for all your support of your son's music and also to Heads of House and House Prefects for the vast amount of work that went in. Well done to all Houses, but to East in particular. As you will see later in this newsletter, there is a Concert and Carol Service yet to come this term which promises yet more musical excellence.

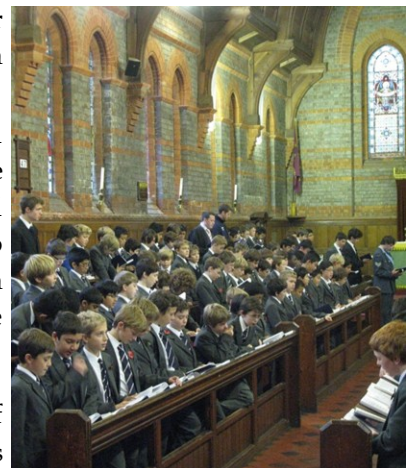
Other items of news include the rapid progress of the Refectory project. The addition of the glass recently has really started to bring the building to life.

I will shortly be going to Governors with proposals for the next phases in the School's Development Plan and very much look forward to sharing these ideas with you imminently.

Generations unite to mark Remembrance Day

The chapel at Reading School was filled with pupils on the 11th of November for the Service of Remembrance. The Old Redingensian Association also gathered on Remembrance Sunday, to pay respects to the fallen of the school.

Three new names were added to the World War Memorials after research carried out by the Rev'd David Weeks. Brigadier -General F.J. De Gex died on active service in World War I and was recognised twice in despatches by Field Marshall Haig for "distinguished and gallant service and devotion to duty". Also recognised were Colonel G.L. D'Oyly-Lowsley, who was killed on active service in India in 1944, and Flying Officer A.R.S. Davies, who died in an accident on home turf whilst serving in the Administrative and Special Duties Branch.



Reading School Principal Mr John Weeds says "This is always a moving time of year given the number of Old Redingensians that fell in the two world wars. This year's remembrance was particularly poignant because three additional names were added to our memorial boards. We honour all those that give their lives for the freedom of the world, especially those Reading School produced".

Wear something red for World Aids Day

Year 10 boys, Sohumi Shah and Christian Shaw, have organised a themed uniform day to mark World Aids Day on 1st December. This will raise awareness and funds for the National Aids Trust, a charity that provides practical support and resources for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

Christians says: "At a time of the year when people are thinking of presents, it is good to think of people who are less fortunate, and this is a very worthy cause." Sohumi says: "National Aids Trust help people not just in the UK, but children and adults throughout the world who need support and resources. So we hope that people will give generously on the day."

On December 1st, they are asking students wearing one item of clothing with their normal school uniform. For example, this could be a red tie or a red shirt. **Students are asked not to dye their hair!**

Everyone is asked to make a donation of £1 in a sealed envelope and place it in the collection box in school reception. Red Ribbons will also be available for purchase around the school.



News from the LRC

The Book Club goes wild over The Hunger Games!

This term the boys chose to read *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. This is the first book in a trilogy and is currently being made into a film (release date 23/3/2012). Amazon describe the book as 'The Hunger Games is a searing novel set in a future with unsettling parallels to our present. Welcome to the deadliest reality TV show ever...'

The boys really enjoyed the book and there is now a display up in the LRC. Laurence Bashford (11S) describes the book as 'really gripping, exciting read that leaves you desperate for more'. Ian Scott (7C) says 'I would recommend this book to boys and girls in secondary school'.

I contacted the film distribution company, Lionsgate Films who very kindly sent us some posters and badges. Each member of the book club was given one of each and they have proved very popular. The boys really enjoyed this experience and being able to tie it in with another form of media has made it appeal to a wider community in the school.



Some of the members of the book club with *The Hunger Games* book proudly wearing their prized badges.

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

Top Author visits the School



We were very kindly offered a session talk to all Year 8's by the author Mark Walden, author of the H.I.V.E. (Higher Institute of Villainous Education) series of books. Mark accompanied by his publisher, Ian Lamb spent the first period on 19th October with the boys in Big School. Mark entertained the boys with a talk about his experiences of being an author and describing how he got his ideas for the books. It was very much a two way session with the boys being able to ask any question they liked. At the end, Nigel Gough from the Book Centre in Caversham was on hand to sell the books at a reduced price. Mark very kindly signed all the books purchased that day and also gave the boys a wrist band (to be worn out of school).



Mark Walden signing books for Year 8 and standing with his display of his books.

Quotes from year 8: 'The whole year really enjoyed the talk ... He had us in fits as he said 'Justin Bieber... Instant death'. 'The year 8's left Big School with a much better knowledge on writing. A very exciting day' - Ben Lewis - 8E

James Woolaghan in 8E says 'Mark Walden explained that one of the reasons he liked villains is that they have all the best lines!' '...a very enjoyable event, with an excellent author' 'I haven't read any of the books... but I will make sure to reserve H.I.V.E. in the LRC'.

Sebastian Young and Dominic Lobo (8E) wrote 'Mark Walden's visit was very enjoyable and we think we speak for all of year 8 when we say it was brilliant and very interesting to find out about the author of one of our favourite series. We really hope the school arranges more visits from authors because Mark Walden's visit made our day and many others we are sure'. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day especially Eben Dombay Williams (yr13).

Alison Jackson - LRC



Parsons knows the Score

Stuart Parsons (Year 13) is the inaugural winner of the Walter Lawrence Trophy for the highest score by a school batsman against the MCC. He collected his prize, £250 and a special medallion, from former England captain Michael Vaughan at the presentation dinner in The Long Room at Lord's.

Stuart scored a phenomenal double century, when the School played the MCC in July this year. Chasing an MCC total of 299 for 9 declared, the 17-year-old went on to make an unbeaten 212, scored off 182 balls and including 40 fours, out of his school's winning total of 300 for 1. He is only the second school batsman ever to score a double century against the MCC and recorded the highest ever score by any batsman against the elite team.

Stuart is now concentrating on his A-levels, but hopes to continue playing cricket at university. He has his sights set on a place, studying microbiology at either Cardiff or Oxford.



Annual Fund

Thank you to all those parents who have contributed so generously to the Annual Fund this year.

It enables the school to provide such a rich range of enrichment activities enables them to develop as fully-rounded individuals, ensuring the best possible preparation for later life.

If you haven't had time to make a donation to the Fund yet this year, you can still do so by emailing development@reading-school.co.uk.



Reading FC Tickets

Christmas Treat – discounted Reading FC tickets!

Reading Football Club are offering discounted tickets for their home game with Ipswich Town on December 31st. All profits will go to the 1125 Fund.

So if you are stuck for a great Christmas gift idea or want to treat someone special to a day out, shout those mid-winter blues away by cheering on the Blues.

Full details of the fixture and booking are as follows: -

Fixture:	Reading FC -v- Ipswich Town
Date:	Saturday 31st December (3pm kick-off)
Venue:	Madejski Stadium
Tickets:	Adults - £15; Concessions (17 to 21 and 65 or over)- £10 16 and under £5
Order by:	Friday 2nd December, to ensure you get your tickets in good time

Tickets can be booked by contacting the Development Office, on 0118 9015600 ext 264, or email development@reading-school.co.uk.



Changes to the Uniform Shop



The Uniform Shop, run by the Reading School Parents Association (RSPA), sells second-hand school uniform and PE kit in good condition at reasonable prices. Thanks to the generosity of parents who donate items to sell, and the commitment of the volunteers who run it, the shop raises money for the benefit of all the boys.

The RSPA is proposing to change the way the Uniform Shop operates, in order to cut down on administration and to maximise the amount of funds raised. At present, while many items are donated for us to sell outright, parents can opt to receive 70% of the sale price of their items, with 30% going to the RSPA. This means that commission needs to be calculated and cheques need to be written and posted after selling items that can raise as little as 30p for school funds.

From January 2012, the RSPA proposes to retain 100% of the sale price of all items sold in the Uniform Shop. Parents who have donated items that are still for sale in the shop may wish to collect them to sell elsewhere.

For this reason, the Uniform Shop will open on 2nd December (2.30-3.30pm) and 3rd December (9.30-11am) for items to be collected. If you cannot make either of these dates, please contact Anne Harding, the RSPA Uniform Shop co-ordinator, on 07824 345653 or at anne@thehardings.me.uk to make alternative arrangements.

We will assume that donors of all items in the shop after 3rd December are happy for the proceeds to go towards supporting the boys.

Thank you very much for your continued support of the Uniform Shop.

RSPA

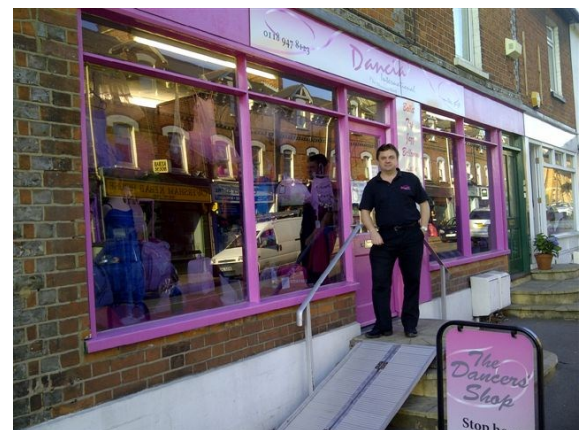
Franchising: Real Life Learning Experience

Students often wonder whether or not what is taught in class is actually practical in the real world. We were fortunate enough to have Mr Chapman, father of Sam Chapman and owner of the 10th UK franchised shop of Dancia International, located in Caversham, visit our GCSE Business Studies class to teach us a little something about the real world of competitive business and franchising. The multi-awarded 'Big Pink Shop', as it is known locally, opened three years ago and has achieved significant and recognisable success since earning both profit and respect for the Chapman couple.

As Mr Chapman explained one of the key features of this highly successful business i.e. the eye-catching pink paint which adorns the shop is in fact an effective marketing strategy rather than a simple expression of the owner's love for the colour.

In addition to this, Mr Chapman taught the students essential pieces of knowledge that compose the core of a successful enterprise such as financial forecasting, pricing strategy and stock management. "Always remember" said Mr Chapman, "If it's not on the shelf, you can't sell it".

On behalf of the entire class, we thank Mr Chapman for providing us with a rich insight of business and franchising and an enlightening learning experience for us all.



Charlie Chen & Martin Chak, Year 11 Business Studies.



Student Success

Congratulations to Dan Richman, Year 13, who achieved an outstanding result, coming in the top 1% in the country, in a Chemistry competition run by Cambridge University at the end of last term. Dan has now been asked to go to the Houses of Parliament to celebrate his achievement.

Good Luck and Congratulations to William Foo who is currently attending the World Youth Chess Championships in Caldas Novas, Brazil from 17th to 26th November. William was selected from a highly competitive and strenuous process that resulted in him being the only player to represent England in the Under 14 Open section. The team of 9 England players, each competing in different sections in this world championship event, appeared in top form, poised and determined to engage formidable challenges in Brazil. Please join us in celebrating William's tremendous achievement and wishing him and the rest of England's team well in the World Youth Championships. William should be congratulated for developing his exceptional capacity for critical analysis, concentration, problem solving, decision making, confidence and sportsmanship. If you wish to follow William's progress in Brazil, periodic reports will be posted on the following website: www.englishchess.org.uk.

Thank you to all the students who kindly donated to the Disaster Emergency Fund, East Africa Crisis Appeal following our recent Chapel Services. We managed to raise £109.86.

Reading School student reaches final of 'Has Reading Got Talent 2011'

Sam Chapman from 11S made it through to the final 11 of Has Reading Got Talent 2011 with his renditions of classic "swing" songs such as "Ain't That A Kick In the Head" and "Have You Met Miss Jones?". Sam was one of over 500 acts that took to the stage in the Broad Street Mall during one week in August. Judges included Sir John Madejski and X-Factor star, Danyl Johnson.

Having being put straight through to the semi-final after his initial audition, Sam was then chosen to be one of 40 finalists that performed in front of a huge crowd on Saturday 20 August. In true X-Factor style, there was nail-biting suspense as the judges named their final 11, and relief all round when Sam heard his name called.

Although the competition was won by a deserving comedy dance act, Danny & Dan, Sam's achievement meant that he was able to perform at the prestigious Has Reading Got Talent Showcase event at the Penta Hotel in September. He performed 3 songs to a very appreciative audience. In the interval, he was even sought out by Sir John Madejski for an autograph!

Sam plans to follow a career in the performing arts. He is currently the lead singer of Reading School band Dazed, which has been formed with Jack Dunnigan and Alexi Spyrou, also from Year 11. The band recently raised a substantial amount of money for cancer research by performing free gigs at local venues.



Student Absence

A reminder to all parents that if your son is absent from school due to illness, please ensure that on his return, a letter/email is sent to the school office advising of the reason for absence and the relevant date(s). Thank you in advance for your co-operation.



Battery Recycling

Redlands GLOBE (Go local On a Better Environment) have installed a container for used battery recycling at school reception.

If you currently dispose of your batteries with your general waste, perhaps you could consider giving them to your son to drop off, instead of adding to landfill. It will benefit future generations.

Educational Visit to China – 15th – 31st October 2011

15-31 October the school conducted a trip taking eleven students and six members of staff to China for a cultural exchange visit. It was a most enriching and successful educational experience for both students and teachers. Through our educational links with two top schools in China, Beijing National Day School and Shanghai High School, we not only saw various tourist sights but also stayed with the local families and experienced the language and the rich Chinese culture at first hand. We also got to see a very different teaching practice and discipline, which we found could complement the Western style of instruction.

We arrived at the Beijing National Day School on 16 Oct 2011 and met with a warm welcome from the school. James Daly presented a speech in front of 4000+ Chinese students and teachers. He impressed the audience with his eloquent Chinese.



James Daly presented a speech in Chinese in front of 4000+ students and teachers at BND

The students stayed with local families. They practised their Chinese language and tasted a great variety of Chinese cuisine and also experienced many aspects of Chinese culture and family lives. We participated in BNDS' annual British Culture Day celebration. The theme was Harry Potter this year. We sang "Double Trouble" from the film and also danced with fans to Laurence Bashford's beautiful singing.

We were also fortunate to visit many famous tourist attractions: the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, The Great Wall, the Peking Opera House, The Olympic Bird's Nest, Water Cube and many good restaurants.



Ben Doyle with his host family



Meeting with local students

After an enriching week, we arrived in Shanghai High School. All of us were impressed by this world-class school. The school has a beautiful campus. It is well-known for its great academic achievement. We did more Chinese craft and attended a few more academic subject lessons. The level of Maths for their students were unbelievable. We were also impressed by their science labs, with a chemistry lab alone cost a million pounds!



Life was not only work. We also went to many beautiful places: a night cruise on the River Huang Pu, the Fu Garden, Town God Temple, West Lake, and Zhu Jia Jiao, etc.

On 30 October, we went back home with our luggage packed full with souvenirs, Chinese hospitality and many unforgettable memories. It was a fantastic trip for we were not just ordinary tourists. Staying with the Chinese families and studying with local students has made for a wonderful and life-enriching experience.

Mrs H Hayes, Trip Leader



On the platform for the flag raising ceremony



Our fan dance for the British Culture Day celebration



Samuel Hayes delivered a speech in Chinese to thank the host families at the BNDS farewell party.

Leighton Park School seeks lost Harris Hawk

We have received a plea from a teacher at Leighton Park who has had her Harris Hawk, Maverick, stolen from his aviary in Binfield. She uses him for her physics lessons and although not a valuable bird, he is part of the family and is very well trained.

If Maverick is still being kept locally, you may have noticed him. He has a loud, penetrating cry if he is in captivity and hungry. If he has been released, he will be sitting somewhere in a tree or on a telegraph pole. He has a distinctive silhouette with two leather straps hanging from his ankles and a bell on his right ankle. If he is recovered, there is a cash reward or if any of our students find him, then the teacher concerned would be very happy to bring him into school for some lessons.

He has his own email address: helpfindmaverick@gmail.com and if you google 'Maverick, Harris Hawk' there are several references to him. If you can help, or have spotted Maverick, please call Robert on 07710 613 980.





Year 8 and 9 trip to Tours

In October, year 8 and 9 pupils had the chance to experience a French way of life, to pick up some vital French vocabulary, and of course to have a lot of fun on a Trip to Tours, France, where we lived in a French family's home for four days.

Early on Wednesday morning, we got on our coach that took us through the Euro tunnel and towards Tours. It was a long journey but we came prepared with everything from magazines and playing cards to game- consoles and portable DVD players.

Once we had finally arrived and been driven home by our families in groups of twos or threes, we had dinner before having some sleep. Once up in the morning, we all met at our coach for the day's activities.



Outside Clos Luce, Leonardo da Vinci's house



Making candy canes sweets in the chocolate factory.

A visit to a castle, an excursion to the house of Leonardo da Vinci, a day- trip in Tours and a chocolate- maker's shop were some of the activities enjoyed, not to mention the aquarium where we met some very friendly fish and a very a fascinating underwater lizard. But the highlight of the week was the theme park Futuroscope, which had many 3D movie simulators as well as rides.

Overall, everyone had a great time and learned a lot (hopefully) on the trip. I would recommend to anyone to go and be in France with their friends.

Dominik Young 9E

Future Events

Thursday 1st December – Michaelmas Concert

The Michaelmas Concert will take place on Thursday 1st December beginning at 7.30pm. This will involve all boys who play in a whole school ensemble, including the Concert Band, String Orchestra and Jazz Band. It will also feature some of the smaller groups and a small number of solos by the school's most advanced players. Tickets cost £5 for adults (children are free of charge) and are available from Ms Fowler, Development Office or by contacting afowler@reading-school.co.uk.

Saturday 26th November – OR Annual Dinner, 6.00pm, Big School

Tuesday 6th December – Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening, 4.30pm – 7.00pm

Sunday 11th December – Boarders Family Carol Service

Monday 12th December – School Carol Service, St Luke's Church – 7.30pm

Tuesday 13th December – Senior Prize Giving, 2.00pm, Reading University Great Hall

Tuesday 13th December – South House Christmas Dinner (Boarders)

Wednesday 14th December – East Wing Christmas Dinner (Boarders)

Friday 16th December – term ends



Mock Council of the European Union

Will Oster and Nick De Mulder (Year 13) became EU Councillors from Malta at the British Council-run Mock EU Council of the European Union Debate Day at the historic and prestigious venue of Lancaster House, London. The participants (from 27 schools around the UK) were split into two working parties in the morning – Will Oster joined the group discussing the question: ‘How will the EU achieve stable + long-lasting economic growth?’ while Nick De Mulder’s theme was: ‘Following the Arab Spring, how should the EU conduct its foreign policy towards the Arab countries of MENA (Middle East + North Africa)?’



Discussions were chaired by genuine Brussels Eurocrats, with proceedings being conducted along authentic Council lines. In the afternoon, the two groups came together in a joint session to agree and ratify a series of proposals which, in turn, would be presented to the European Council Heads of State. After much debate (some quite passionate) two detailed joint statements were agreed unanimously. Our two boys were in the thick of it, turning Malta – despite its small geographical size and restricted voting rights – into a highly significant player on the Euro-national scene, holding it up as a model of innovative and environmentally-friendly economic initiative, as well as the venue for a future joint conference involving the EU Council and MENA country representatives vetted by the Arab League.

Much was discussed and learnt about the future of Europe and its importance to the UK’s future. Highlighted also was the need to recruit highly-qualified personnel (Modern Languages to the fore!) to the European Secretariat and the benefit of fostering productive and positive relations via organisations like the FCO and British Council. Nick and William enjoyed the day hugely, garnering much credit for themselves and the School with their articulate, coherent and well-researched contributions.

Mr G Beahan

Family Information Service

The Family Information Service is a FREE individually tailored, impartial service offering independent quality information on any family matter. The Family Information Service is for families living and working in Reading & West Berkshire and is provided by the Family Resource Centre UK on behalf of Reading & West Berkshire Councils. The Family Information Service is available to any family member taking care of children aged from birth-19 years of age inclusive up to 24 for children with special needs.

The Family Information Service can help with many different enquiries including:-]

- **OFSTED Registered Childcare – including childminders, day nurseries, after school clubs, holiday clubs – we are the ONLY organisation that holds OFSTED registered childcare information for your local area (Reading & West Berkshire)**
- **Support Groups/Services – signposting to relevant organisations**
- **Leisure Activities – sports, after school activities, brownies, swimming, football etc**
- **Education – pre-schools, funding, maintained nurseries, schools, higher education etc**
- **Family Finance – Benefit support/better off calculations, benefit outreach sessions to Children Centres, etc**
- **Health – Information on baby clinics, doctors etc**
- **Special Needs – GO! project, quarterly news letters, support groups, signposting to relevant organisations**
- **Childcare Brokerage Service – To assist clients who are having difficulty finding suitable childcare to meet their needs, matching the childcare provider with the client**

Up to date information can be found on the Family information Service website www.fisfrcuk.com, you can also contact us on the FREE phone number 0800 328 9148 or 0118 9509499, email: enquiries@fisfrcuk.com.



Does fluency in a foreign language help you in your career?

Our languages teachers are keen to encourage more boys to continue to take languages at A-level. They wish to show that even if you aren't planning a career as a linguist, fluency in a foreign language can put you at an advantage in the workplace. They would like to make contact with a few people who use a foreign language in their day to day work, with the aim of arranging brief talks for the boys either face to face or via skype.

So, if you, or someone you know, regularly uses another language for work, please get in touch with Mrs Hardwick at ahardwick@reading-school.co.uk or Mrs Pang H pang@reading-school.co.uk. You could be helping a boy on the road to a successful international (and multi-lingual) career!

Progress on New Refectory

As you will see from the photographs, the mild weather for this time of year has helped the construction of the refectory. The installation of the glass walls and doors has transformed the building and gives it a much awaited identity.

There is a buzz of excitement amongst the school community as they watch the project evolving. Discussions with furniture suppliers are now underway, and we have obtained a selection of samples. We are now consulting with staff and students about their preferences and requirements, before finalising the interior décor. We are all very much looking forward to utilising this much awaited space.



September 23 – Pouring the concrete flooring



October 11 – Beginning to board out the roof



October 13 – Boarding out completed



November 11 – Insulating the roof



November 11 – Glazing and doors in place



November 18 – Roof almost watertight



Inter House Music Competition



East House Choir sing "I'll be there for you"

Inter-house Music 2011, on Tuesday November 15th, was a showcase for the many virtuoso musical talents at Reading School. The Town Hall was packed with proud parents, as each of the four houses presented a 25 minute musical programme.

The overall winners were East House under the direction of Music Captains, Richard Parkinson and Jon Munns. West House, led by Tom Hayes, Peter Munday and Steven Tilbury, were runners up.

East House also won the award for best ensemble performance for their barbershop performance of "Bleeding Love" by the Baseballs. Anthony Tat from East won the prize for best solo performance with "Piano Toccata" by Francis Poulenc.

The adjudicator, Edward Goater, praised all the performers saying that "It was a very difficult choice, and all the boys did so well."



School House Orchestra get ready to play The Pink Panther Theme



Calling all Gardeners and DIY Experts!

Help us to transform an untidy and underused area into a beautiful garden

Over the past year, the Parents Association, together with a committed band of students, parents and teachers have been busy helping to create a new garden at the rear of East Wing. The area, previously unused and unsightly, is being transformed into a multi-use amenity for learning and recreation.

This will incorporate an area for quiet reflection, an outdoor classroom and some raised beds where boys can grow vegetables. The area also contains our wonderful new observatory, funded by the Wolfson Foundation, which is now the centre of star-gazing activities, under the direction of Mr Tucker in the Physics Department.



The current untidy mess



The vision for the future

The Parents Association have raised money this year to enable us to carry out the work, and several members are rolling up their sleeves and providing practical help. Parents, Aaron and Maggie Berney, have produced the plans above, based on designs originally drawn up by Matthew Greaves (year 12) and other members of the school eco-committee. Together with Wendy Holden, Hugh Mahony and other parents, they also held a gardening session in early November, weeding, tidying up and planting spring bulbs under the trees.

On Sunday 29th January, they will be building raised beds at the back of the plots. They need volunteers to help out for a few hours, so that the boys will have a gardening area in good time for spring planting. **Do you have carpentry, gardening skills, or a strong interest in this project? Could you spare a couple of hours to help out on 29th January?**

If so, please contact Frances Greaney at fgreaney@reading-school.co.uk to express your interest. It will make a dramatic difference to the enrichment activities and to the amenities available to the boys.



Working towards Green Flag status

The observatory garden project is part of the school's wider aim to improve the sustainability of the school. Thanks to the hard work of Mrs Maunder with the Commenius Project, we achieved bronze status within the Ecoschools environmental scheme a few years ago. We now have paper recycling in every classroom as well as an onsite compactor, and these are very well used by boys and teachers.

The new refectory will incorporate rainwater recycling, for use in the toilets within the building and will have high levels of insulation. This enables us to apply for silver status soon.

Mr Norgaard has now taken up the baton, having done sterling work to improve energy and water conservation throughout the school. With the help of Matthew Greaves in year 12, he is steering the student eco-committee, who provided the initial inspiration for the garden project.

The garden project will take us a step closer to our ultimate goal of attaining green flag status. We will recycle several of the benches and canopies from the outdoor dining area in the garden. This will not only provide a rich learning environment for the boys, but also enables us to make maximum use of resources.



Lost and Found Clearout

Continuing the green theme, the eager volunteers at the Parent Association's uniform shop are proposing to clear out the lost and found cages soon. They will wash and resell any unclaimed items for the benefit of boys at the school.

If your son has lost any PE kit or other items of clothing, please ensure he has a look in the cages by the quad and in the PE department in the before the end of term. Anything remaining after that date will be taken away for re-sale.

Careers Convention



Many thanks to the Parents' Association Careers Committee, who with the guidance of Miss Cavagan, organised another very successful Careers Convention on Wednesday 16th November.

There were over 50 stands giving students, and their parents, advice on careers as diverse as Architecture, Engineering, Journalism, Medicine, Armed Services and Space Science.

Advisors included alumni, Tom Whipple, Oliver Shah, and Max Sloper. Tom works as a journalist on The Times, while Oliver writes for the Sunday Times. Max, who left the school in 2008, was on the Royal Navy stand. He joined after leaving school, and is training to be a pilot. Year 9 parent, Dr Liz Cave, who works as a radiologist at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, was one of five medical professionals,

on hand for boys contemplating a career in medicine.

The school is particularly grateful to many advisors, and local organisations who gave their time to help the boys with their career choices.



Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip to Slapton Sands in Devon

In preparation for the Geographical Investigations exam in January the Y12 geographers visited Slapton Sands in Devon on a residential fieldtrip from 26th to 28th April. A day spent beach profiling and undertaking bi polar analysis on sea defences along Beesands ensured the geographers had a lot of primary data from which to undertake written investigations. The views along the coastline were spectacular especially standing on the tip of a headland, called Start Point, and being able to see the sea on both sides.

Back in the classroom differing aspects of investigations were examined and Google Earth was used with overlays to show visually the threat and severity of coastal flooding in the local area. On a lighter note, enduring memories are of a few of the pupils being in fancy dress with Devon



Sanders interviewing residents in Slapton on the promenade dressed in a fancy dress cow outfit, visiting the Sherman tank that was involved in Operation Tiger, a practice exercise for the D-Day landings and on the last night quiz whether the pupils could identify, from a series of interesting facts, which teacher was being described. Back at school we have been working through practice questions and applying the learning from the fieldtrip and the geography department wishes them well in the upcoming exam.

Geography Department

Year 13 Geography Fieldtrip to Leeson House in Swanage

With the upcoming Geographical Investigation exam in January the Y13 geographers travelled down to Swanage on a residential fieldtrip from 3rd to 5th October. Field investigations considered the flood defences of Swanage with a talk from a member of the Environment Agency followed by a full day examining the changing characteristics of the River Piddle. In class the geographers got to grips with writing up their investigation to enable further examination, evaluations and skill testing in practice for the January exam. The pupils enjoyed fish and chips in Swanage Bay overlooking Old Harry and his wife! Mr Hurst chaired a tremendous game of charades that the 18 year olds partook with gusto and the two geography classes fought a very close game of football on the final day. Back at school focus continues on the January exam and the geography department wishes them all well.



Geography Department



Commemoration Service

Over 700 boys and local dignitaries, including Mayor of Reading, Cllr Deborah Edwards, and Rob Wilson MP filled the Minster Church of St Mary-the-Virgin on October 20th to sing the praises of Reading School.

The annual Commemoration Service is used to give thanks to the school's benefactors and pray for continued success. It was not just an opportunity to celebrate the past, but also a chance for the boys to look towards the future and consider how they might serve their school and community.



School Chaplain, The Rev'd Chris Evans, says: "The School's commemoration service this year was a delight. The sense of worship, reverence and remembrance was palpable."

The address was given by the Rev'd Dan Heyward of Greyfriars Church. Lessons were read by Dr Martin Parsons, incoming President of the Old Redingensian Association, and by School Captain, Jonathan Stancombe, and Vice-Captain, William Oster.

There was a collection at the end of the service for local charity Home-Start Reading. Jill Lake from Home-Start says: "In these difficult financial times we are delighted that Reading School is organising a collection for us. The money will help us to continue our service of supporting parents in situations as diverse as isolation, bereavement, multiple births, illness, disability or who are just finding parenting a struggle."



Friends of Reading School

Thanks to the Friends of Reading School who have been serving refreshments at parent-teacher events for several years, as well as supporting the school in other ways. The Friends group is an association of former parents who are strongly supportive of the school. They meet a couple of times a years for social events and to keep in touch with what is happening in the school.

If you are a parent of a boy in year 13 and are interested in staying in touch with the school in an informal capacity after your son leaves the school, please consider joining the Friends.

To find out more about the group, please contact Marjorie Briggs, Secretary of the Friends of Reading School, "Avignon", Ranelagh Drive, Bracknell, RG12 9DA

Maths Team Challenge

On Wednesday 16th November, Robin Elliott and Henry Gardner of Y13, and Daniel Brock and Joseph Moneim of Y12, represented the school in the Reading area heat of the National Maths Team Challenge, and out of over 20 schools, we came second to Eton College. Eton qualify for the National finals and we are currently waiting to see if we qualify as one of the highest second place teams so that we can try to outdo them in London. Congratulations to all those involved.