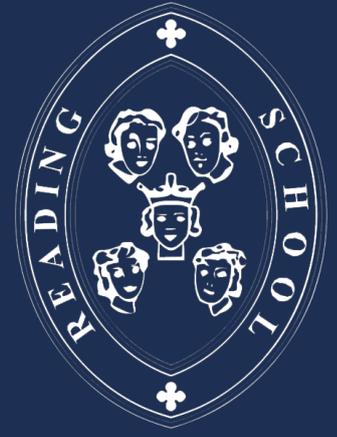


Floreat Redingensis

The Magazine of Reading School



September 2020



Looking Back . . .



Looking Forward . . .



Edited by Mr T Kensington



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The Headmaster's Words

“We will champion a culture of wellbeing, courage and resilience. We will seek to foster a community that collaborates for the common good and enables enhanced social mobility through education. This will, essentially, be through a team-first approach which emphasises respect.”

Looking forward, we seek to be a flourishing organisation that builds good people and champions excellence, including academic excellence. We seek to enable the advancement of knowledge and working with others in partnership to develop the character of our people, strengthening our community. According to the Sutton Trust, grammar schools nationally do not educate enough Black students or students from disadvantaged backgrounds. We are committed to reversing this through our Future Stories programme.

The success of Liverpool F.C might enlighten us. Last year they replaced images of what they had won previously with what they aimed to win for the season - a constant reminder to the players what they were aiming for. It seems to have worked. If we can turn values into action, with a focus on behaviours that emphasise respect for ourselves, our environment and our community vision can turn into reality. If we are to emerge from the coronavirus pandemic, and if we are able to respond to the challenges of terrorism and extremism as seen by tragic events in Forbury Gardens, then we need to safeguard our people and prepare them for the challenges of the modern world. This can only be achieved if we work in partnership and focus on both short-term operational challenges and longer-term perspectives. We can go beyond crisis and flourish, but there is a long way to go.

What is clear is that we are committed to being a school for tomorrow that builds on our historic strengths. This cannot be done if we do not have a vibrant contemporary Reading School family or community that not only seeks to pay back but also to pay forward. We need to be strong and resilient, bouncing back from the contemporary existential challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic. Moving forward, we should have high expectations of all members of the Reading School family.

Now is the time to be effective stewards of the organisation: mindful of the 900-year past and cognisant of the need to respond to current challenges to secure future sustainability. We must look to the future with passion and purpose. Strategic thinking will be critical, but everyday behaviours from all members of the school community will be just as necessary. Everyday behaviours, with respect at the forefront, will shape a positive culture of commitment.

We will champion a culture of wellbeing, courage and resilience. We will seek to foster a community that collaborates for the common good and enables enhanced social mobility through education. This will, essentially, be through a team-first approach which emphasises respect: respect for yourself, respect for others, respect for Reading School, and respect for property.

I have worked at Reading School since September 2005 and been the Headmaster since 2012, and I have never been prouder of the School community than now. The response to the Coronavirus from governors, staff, alumni, parents and most of all, students, has been inspirational.

Our work with the Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust has been a model of partnership, and it has had a positive impact. The generosity regarding the setting up of the Future Stories Support fund has also been exceptional. We can build on our recent accolades and successes. We can acknowledge the importance of working together to overcome adversity. We can bounce forward so that we flourish as a school for tomorrow, mindful of our past. If we are resilient, overcome present setbacks and make the most of opportunities, if we have compassion, hope and empathy for self and others, if we think flexibly to adapt and respond to current and future challenges, then we can flourish as individuals and as a community. If our people flourish, then the future of our organisation is assured. By looking back and looking forward, we can be in a strong position to prosper.



Old Redingensians' Association LTD

President's Report 2019-20



Dear Members of the Reading School Family,

It has been a great honour for me to be President of the ORA this year, but what an extraordinary year it has been! I do hope that everyone has coped in these difficult times. My condolences to those who have lost loved ones or been impacted by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

I have been actively involved with the ORA since moving into semi-retirement a few years back. I decided to organise a reunion for members of South House from my era (1971-84) using the spare time. I was ably aided and abetted in that endeavour by Michael Barrott, who subsequently persuaded me to join the ORA Council. The following year I turned my attention to organising a reunion for the 1977-84 cohort, which was a little bit smaller, but similarly enjoyable.

I wish to pay tribute to all those on the Executive, Council and Association members who give up so much of their time to make the ORA what it is and ensure that its charitable objectives are met. Without their efforts the support afforded to the School and its current pupils would not be possible.

The role and activities of the ORA remain constant: to provide a focal point for old boys of the School; to support the education and experience of the current pupils and to support those ORs in need. In the last year we have allocated financial support for the library, the School magazine, the 150th Anniversary Celebrations and sponsored both book week and a number of musical enrichment activities. Some of these funds have been diverted to assist with the Covid-19 response, where

activities have had to be cancelled, at the discretion of the Headmaster.

The AGM and Annual Dinner were well attended, with a reunion of the 1969-76 cohort running on the same day. The return to Big School as the dinner venue was much appreciated and the food provided by the School Catering Manager, Michal Zakrzewski, and his staff was excellent. Our guest of honour and speaker for the event was Vinodha (Vin) Wijeratne (County 1977-84) who provided an entertaining speech covering his memories of attending the School and delivering wisdom from a rich and varied career, which had led him to become the Chief Finance Officer of the Royal Mint.

I have had the pleasure of attending a number of School events as President, before Covid-19 reared its ugly head. The Remembrance Service is always a highlight of the ORA calendar, and this year was no exception. It was great to have the support of the School choir and provided me with a rare opportunity to turn up in uniform, as I am a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer. The Music Competition held at the Hexagon was a joyous celebration of the pool of talent and enthusiasm contained within the student body. It certainly compared favourably to competitions from my era, although the expansion in pupil numbers at the School made for a very full programme. The Senior Prize Giving in December gave me the opportunity to award a number of prizes with historical connections to the association. It was a privilege to play a small part in celebrating the excellence nurtured by the institution.



Clearly there are a number of events that have had to be cancelled as a result of the ongoing pandemic. Sadly the 150th Anniversary celebrations, along with two reunion events have fallen victim to lockdown. With the risk associated with the virus appearing to be directly proportional to age, it is essential that the ORA exercise caution, as many of our members are of advancing years. We wouldn't want to take unnecessary risks and jeopardise the increase in membership achieved over the last few years. The fact that these events have been cancelled is sad, but we want as many as possible to join us when life is finally taken off "pause".

It has also been a real privilege to be involved as an observer at Parents' Association meetings. The energy and drive exhibited by the whole team is laudable. A special mention should go to the current chair, Clare Shandling, whose involvement with the RSPA has been transformational. The meetings have provided me with an insight into the minutiae of the day to day issues faced by the School, from which most of those within the ORA are blissfully unsuspected. It has certainly been extremely useful to see the great work of the RSPA, albeit from the periphery.

I feel the need to make a special mention for those in Year 11 and Year 13, who have suffered greatly as a result of lockdown. Whilst exams were always an enormous milestone in young lives, they seem to have grown in significance since I faced them 30 years ago. I know how hard both pupils and staff work to achieve the best results, so to have the opportunity to test their academic capabilities taken away is both deflating and disorientating. As ever, the true test is not enduring adversity, but how one responds and grows as a result of it. I'm sure that all those who support the pupils affected will do their best to help each and every one bounce back stronger, so they can focus on the next challenge, whatever that might be.

At the risk of coming over all Lemony Snicket, there is another unfortunate event which has befallen the School in

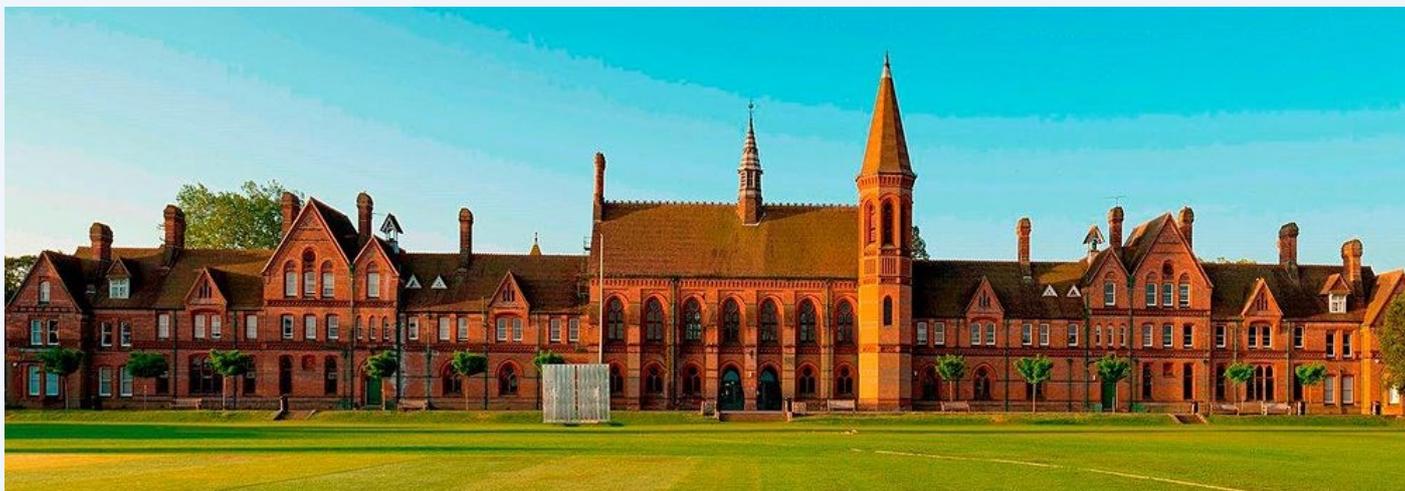
this year – the loss of the School Boat House to fire. When news of this broke, I was compelled to point out, for the sake of full disclosure, that I was a coach at the Reading University Women's Boat Club when the Men's Boat House burned down in 1989. The fact that Reading School Boat House burned down during my term as President is entirely coincidental. Although some of my colleagues on the Exec could not help but paraphrase Wilde - "To lose one boat house, Mr McKinnon, may be regarded as misfortune, but to lose two looks like carelessness".

Finally, we are exploring options, in consultation with the Rams RFC, for the Old Bath Road ground, which the Association owns. This is a complex, time-consuming and lengthy process, which is being ably led by our immediate Past-President John Short, with assistance from a select few from Council who are sufficiently experienced to deal with such issues. I am incredibly grateful to John and all those involved for their time and effort. I am hopeful that we are laying the groundwork which may bring about a step change for the ORA and enhance our ability to deliver on our charitable objectives.

I will leave you with an attempt to put the current Covid-19 pandemic into perspective. Since its founding in 1125 the School has persevered despite many calamitous world events including: H1N1 Swine Flu (2009-2010), AIDS (1981-ongoing), H3N2 Hong Kong Flu (1968-69), H2N2 Asian Flu (1957-58), Spanish Flu (1918-20), Russian Flu (1889-90), The Great Plague of London (1665-66), all the way back to The Black Death (1346-53). That's an awful lot of "new normal" to react to. I am, however, convinced that whatever "normal" looks like as we all emerge from this pandemic that the School and its pupils will flourish.

FLOREAT REDINGENSIS

Ian D McKinnon ORA President (South House 1977-82)





THE FOUNDATION STONE IN THE CLOISTERS



Reading witnessed a great Victorian pageant on 1st July 1870, when Edward, Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VII) arrived in the town to lay the Foundation Stone for Alfred Waterhouse's magnificent new buildings for Reading School, in Erleigh Road.

After 750 years in the centre of town, the School was to find renewed vigour on the splendid new 10 acre plot that had been acquired from the Redlands Estate for the purpose, and the citizens of Reading were proud; not least the Mayor, the six Aldermen, and three Councillors who, together with the Vicars of the three parishes constituted the Trustees – the School's Governors of the time.

A general holiday was declared, and the town turned out in force; in London Road alone arrangements were made for three thousand school children and their teachers to line the route.

At 12.30 the Prince and his Princess, Alexandra of Denmark, were received at Reading Railway Station and they progressed through the town to the School grounds, where seats had been erected around the stone beneath a large tent capable of accommodating two thousand persons, who bought tickets at either 21 shillings or 10/6d, no trivial sums in those days.

Ticket holders had been admitted from 11 o'clock (and

were debarred from entry after noon). They entered via Craven Road, with empty carriages returning via Addington Road.

At the Railway Station members of the Royal Berkshire Militia formed a guard of honour whilst the 1st Berkshire Volunteers waited to provide the same on the School Terrace. The Berkshire Yeomanry Cavalry were the escort from the Station to the School, where there was also waiting a choir made up of members of the Reading Philharmonic Society; and where from 11 o'clock the Band of the Grenadier Guards performed a selection of music in the tent.

The arrival of the Royal Party at the Station was signalled by hoisting the Royal Standard on the tower of St Lawrence's Church and firing the gun then situated on Forbury Hill. The guard of honour saluted, the band played the National Anthem and the Mayor presented their Royal Highnesses with an address of welcome and conducted them, preceded by the Mace bearer to the Royal Carriage.

The procession set off through Friar Street, Market Place, High Street, Duke Street, London Street and London Road, headed by a detachment of Yeomanry Cavalry. Then came a band, members of the Philanthropic Society; the Foresters, the Oddfellows and another band. Then came the carriages, all sixteen of them; three containing



members of the Town Council, three with School Trustees and visitors; the Mace Bearer preceded the seventh carriage in which rode the Mayor, his Chaplain, the Recorder and the Town Clerk; then Sergeants of Mace following ahead of the Royal Carriage with escort either side; in the ninth and tenth carriage were the members of the Royal Suite. The Yeomanry Cavalry rode ahead of the eleventh carriage which contained the High Sheriff, Lord Lieutenant, Lord Bishop and Archdeacon. In the twelve and thirteenth carriages came Members of Parliament and in the fourteenth Justices of the Peace. The fifteen and sixteenth carriages carried Mayors of local boroughs and the Yeomanry brought up the rear of the procession. What a sight for the cheering crowds it was!

On reaching the School Drive the Friendly Societies, marching in front, peeled off to line the Drive and the Volunteers formed line on the Terrace, with their band, as the receiving Guard of Honour.

The ceremony itself was masonic on a grand scale; not unusual in those days though the Reading Mercury reported that 'the whole demonstration was, without doubt, one of the grandest viewed in a Masonic light which has ever been witnessed in the County'. The intricacies were ably described by S J (Simon) Oliver (1969-76) in an article in The Old Redingensian of Spring 2011.

After a presentation of addresses to the Prince and Princess, the Prince's reply, a ceremonial presentation by the Provincial Grand Master (Sir Daniel Gooch MP) and prayers, came the reading of the inscription on the stone. Then the Provincial Grand Treasurer 'deposited a vessel containing all the gold, silver, and copper coins of the present reign' and the Town Clerk a hermetically sealed vessel containing various records.

A hymn, especially composed for the occasion (and set to music by the late Prince Albert, Prince Consort) was joyfully sung and during that rendering the stone, with three distinct halts, was brought down. Cement, Square, Level and Plumb were brought into play and then the Prince 'set

the stone', with an appropriate declamation.

More procedurals followed, including a purse of gold given to Mr Parnell of the firm appointed to build the School.

After prayers and The Hallelujah Chorus, the procession reformed, in somewhat different order, and travelled to the Town Hall, by way of Eldon Square, Eldon Road, King's Road and a circuit of the town centre, for a reception and luncheon: guests wearing morning dress and officials in either uniform or robes of office.

It is now 150 years since that great ceremony of "Setting the Principal Stone" took place with such pomp and excitement and even the children of those who were in Reading that day have passed away.

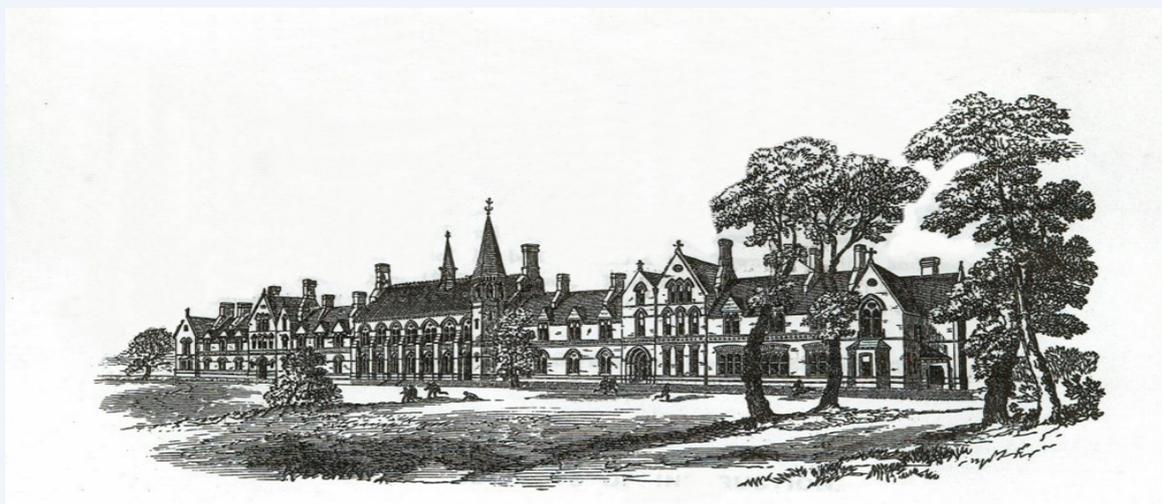
The Stone, of course, remains – the polished granite pillar in the centre of the cloisters, with an inscription that has been read by generations of Reading School boys:

“THIS SHAFT WAS SET BY HRH ALBERT EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES 1ST JULY 1870. PETER SPOKES . MAYOR . THOMAS ROGERS . TOWN CLERK”



Right: Prince of Wales; Left: Princess Alexandra

Ken Brown, OR 1955-63





RICHARD GRIFFITHS – DEPUTY LIEUTENANT & SENIOR PARTNER AT BLANDY & BLANDY



Reading School Career

Richard Griffiths attended Reading School between 1957 and 1964 as a boarder in South House. He well remembers the strict approach of his Housemaster, Martin Savage and the more liberal approach of his successor Rex Bowley. Academically, he recalls

the stimulating English teaching of John Periton. Outside of the classroom he was occasionally picked for the 1st XV but was a regular member of the 2nd XV. He especially enjoyed rowing and rowed in the 1st VIII for three years, and was Captain of Boats in his last year, rowing at regattas in Reading Marlow and Wallingford. In order to experience rowing on the Tideway in London he arranged a fixture against Emanuel School only to be soundly beaten. Richard was a School Prefect.

Career – Senior Partner at Blandy and Blandy

Following school, Richard joined Blandy and Blandy, signing 5 year articles in 1965 and attending the College of Law – now the University of Law. He qualified in 1971, the same year as the implementation of the Industrial Relations Act which for the first time gave a remedy to an unfairly dismissed employee. This sparked an interest in Employment related matters and a substantial part of his practice involved employment-related cases. This led in 1993 to his appointment as a part time Employment Judge sitting in Reading London and Southampton. He became a partner in 1974 and served as the Firm’s Senior Partner from 1993 to 2010.

Public Service – Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire

Richard continues to serve as Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire, a role to which he was appointed in 2011. This role involves assisting the Lord Lieutenant– the Queen’s representative in Berkshire with his duties and, along with the other Deputies, occasionally deputising for him. His work in this role has included assessing the applications for the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, an award considered broadly equivalent of the MBE.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Remembrance Sunday 11 November 2019

In the five years from 2014 to 2018 those OR’s known to have been victims of the First World War in the corresponding year a century ago, have had their names read out with details of their lives and careers at School.

This year the Archivist, Ken Brown OR (1955-63), after he had read the Act of Remembrance, concluded these readings with those who died in 1919; after the Armistice, but as a result of their wartime service.

The Chapel was again pleasingly full and Revd Clive Windebank OR (1952-59), ORA Chaplain, conducted the Service with his customary acumen and esprit.

Chris Widdows OR (1955-62) in the preparations for the day had secured the services of the School Chaplain, Pastor Gert Cornelissen, as the guest preacher and the congregation had the privilege of hearing an excellent sermon.

The President of ORA Ian McKinnon OR (1977-82) read the Lesson, James Tunstill, Director of Music at School, again played the organ, provided a band and also conducted the Chapel Choir in the Anthem.

As has become usual of late, the School Cadet Force supplied the wreath-laying party. John Spence, now of Form 13AC, once more sounded the Last Post and Reveille quite splendidly.

After the Service, refreshments were served in the Refectory.

Ken Brown, OR 1955-63



Small congregation outside the Chapel

150 YEARS AGO TOGETHER



The 2021-22 academic year and football season will mark the 150th anniversaries for Reading School at Erleigh Road and the founding of Reading Football Club. The connections of that time go further than the coincidence of dates.

The first recorded football match for each institution was the one played on Reading Recreation Ground (King's Meadow) on Wednesday 21 February 1872 and which resulted in a 0-0 draw, as did the return game a month later. Finally there some goals to report on 16 October 1872 when the 'town' team triumphed over the school on the school field by three goals to nil, all scored by Brownlow Haygarth an 18 year-old who two years later would be an England international. As part of the football club's 150th celebrations it is planned to re-stage a version of this match in October 2021 to the rules in force at the time and, as before, on the school field.

This particular match looks to have been a local hybrid: 13 a-side with the town team lining up in an unusual 5-3-5 formation, yet the match was reported in *The Field* (only) as being scored as football rather than rugby. The two codes were far closer then to the extent that the *School Magazine* of September 1972 claims the centenary as for the rugby club and that then 'the master in charge of ruggger was Mr A J Hayll (sic). Mr Kayll also played several times for Reading FC as did a number of other masters in the 1870s and 1880s. Having opposed the school in their first three

matches Reading FC were found wanting in their knowledge of the association rules in their next at Henley and were penalised for too frequent handing of the ball!

However lacking in their precise understanding there is no question that Reading FC was always allied to the soccer code. The Reading FC minute books states at one point that the only challenge it would accept from another Reading club would be that from the school. The link between the two continued as late as 1894 with Reginald van Wart, a Thomas White scholar, occasionally keeping goal for Reading FC in the year before it turned professional. Ashley Robson recently showed me three Reading School soccer team photographs dating between 1884 and 1900, a period when soccer was the main winter sport at the school.

The growing professionalisation of the soccer in the 1890s, and its divergence from its amateur roots, which top class rugby union maintained, led to a distancing from the sport by many upper and upper-middle class groups (though not schools such as Eton and Westminster). After WWI, Reading School continued on this route and it is not until a more inclusive 21st century that soccer has come back on to the school playing field alongside rugby.

Roger Titford (1966-74), author of *The Lost Years of Reading FC*.



50 YEAR REUNION



From right to left: Nick Bion, David Froot, Nick Burrows, Jerry Vive, Graham Cook, Nick Hubbard, and Toby Thacker.

With a mixture of excitement and a modicum of trepidation, some of the 1969-76 cohort retraced their Freshman steps to the Big School Terrace for the long awaited 50 Year Reunion. How had the school changed in the intervening years since we left? How had we changed? We were soon to find out.

The alumni soon began chattering as if we had never been away. No sooner had we started reminiscing about the 'good old days', it was time for our guided tour of Reading School, led by the current Headmaster Mr Ashley Robson. The first shock was his announcement that even he wasn't able to access all the rooms and areas on campus due to the weekend security lock downs that were in place. Gone were the days when we could roam across all areas of the school like carefree wildebeest, ignorant of any dangers lurking around the corner. The second and subsequent shocks came in quick fire soon after. What had happened to the vast quadrangle we had played on during our class breaks and which the CCF had used so regularly? Where balls had zipped around years ago, there was now a wonderful, fully staffed refectory. Built as a large glass atrium style dining area, it seemed a welcomed addition to the estate: Central and airy.

What had been the Prefects Lodge was now an IT hub and nerve centre. Beyond this, the old prefab buildings (C1/C2) had long gone, but we all had fond memories of the 'speakables' and 'unspeakables' that occurred in the classes held there in our time. All in good humour for us,

but perhaps less so for a few of the hapless Masters involved. The new labs were stunning. Mr Robson advised us that we could emulate one of our own cohort, Nick Bion, and sponsor a laboratory classroom. It was comforting to know that at least one of our year had made it successfully through the years of austerity!

We were shown all the current science laboratories and the lecture hall. A mix of new and not so new. Sadly, the Tuck Shop had gone, which might explain why the School Captain and his fellow students had such pearly white teeth. As we journeyed past South House, we heard that Bouders Hall had been sold off to help finance the building of the new Library. A fine building it is too. The Head Master was quite animated in his description of how the Library had quickly become a focal point for the community of Reading School boys.

The chapel hadn't changed. The modern style building next door had been used as a squash court in our time, but we couldn't enter it on this occasion. So, we headed back to the Cloisters. Our route allowed us to take in the distant views of The Music School, and East Wing and West Wing of old. We were advised that West Wing was no longer a Boarding House and that there were now two new Houses (Laud and School). Finally, thanks to Ken Brown (1955-63), we had a chance to visit the pop-up archive in what had been the Monitors Common Room in our day. An incredible detailed history unfolded in front of our eyes, including our 1969 Year Book.



50 YEAR REUNION

Then it was off to the refectory for tea and cakes and a chance to catch up with years of news.

The day was rounded off for some of us, by attendance at the formal Old Redingensians Association Annual Dinner in Big School that night. As the delicious food was washed down with a splendid choice of fine wine, we gazed at the famous bust of Henry VII. We wondered why there was no similar bust in recognition of Henry I, as he was the original founder of the school in 1125? Our eyes were soon distracted by the numerous memorial hanging tea-trays in honour of the Great and the Good from years gone by. I believe Archbishop William Laud was the only “tea-tray OR” to have lost his head in order to gain tea-tray recognition in Big School. What sacrifice!

In the magnificence of Waterhouse’s Big School, we heard speeches from the new OR President, Ian McKinnon (1977-82), the Head Master, Ashley Robson, the guest speaker, W V S (Vin) Wijeratne (1977-84), the School Captain, Hugo Rompani and two prefects, and also from Dr Jerry Vive (representing the 1969-76 cohort). After the formality of the speeches, those of us in the 50 Year Reunion group continued to reminisce. We were saddened to hear of the loss from our cohort of Bill Foley, Rick Malpas, Simon Freeland and Jamie Matthews. Also, the various Masters from our era that had passed away (RIP).

So, it was time to bid farewell to friends and colleagues of several decades standing. Some of us met again with partners for Sunday lunch at The Little Angel in Henley, to continue the reunion more informally. So it turned out to be a very congenial and agreeable weekend for us all.

Our thanks are offered to The Head Master, Ashley Robson, the President and Officers of the OR Association, Michael Barrott (1966-73), Nick Burrows (1969-76), archivist Ken Brown (1955-63), and to photographer Chris Widdows (1955-62) for making the reunion possible and so memorable. Our gratitude also to the School Captain, Hugo Rompani, and to his fellow Senior schoolboys, who gave up their time to support the event. Their presence at The Annual OR Dinner in the Valhalla of Big School, reminded us all of the importance of a fine education as an investment for the future, as it has been at Reading School for nearly 900 years. Floreat Redingensis!

Jerry Vivé , OR

The following attended the tour and/or Big School Dinner, all from the 1969-1976

M Alder	NRA Bion	D Bowell	NC Burrows	Dr GP Cook	JM Dray
AW Everett	G Ford	DG Frod	NR Hubbard	MB Jackson	C Lethbridge
IR Noble	Judge SJ Oliver	R Taylor	ET Thacker	Dr JU Vivé	



IN MEMORIAM

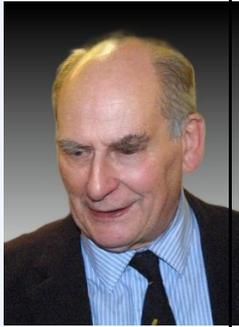
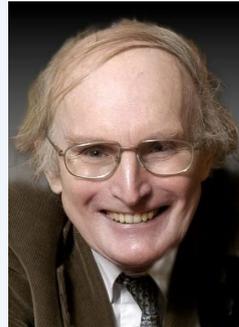
Since the last issue of Floreat Redingensis we have received notification of the deaths of the following Old Redingensians. Full obituaries will appear on the ORA website. Overleaf there is some additional information on a few of the ORs listed

D R (Dan) Airey (1987-94) Airline Executive	D J (Dennis) Russell (1937-45) Building firm proprietor
Prof T H D (Tom) Arie CBE (1943-52) Psychiatrist and Geriatrician	M R (Mike) Sales (1946-52) Estimator and surveyor
A P (Tony) Brown (1958-59) Army Officer and Management Consultant Died 22 November 2019 aged 77	J (John) Sansom (1948-55) Publisher Died 6 August 2019 aged 82
B T (Barry) Clouting Former RS governor Died 9 April 2020 aged 86	Dr G W (Gerald) Smallcombe (1930-37) General Practitioner Died 10 September 2019 aged 97
K W (Ken) Doe (1939-41) Telecoms Engineer	The Revd K V G (Ken) Smith (1948-55) Clerk in Holy Orders
D R (David) Farmery (1964-71) Architect Died 4 December 2019 aged 67	D J (David) Steer (1955-63) Civil Servant Died 6 April 2020 aged 76
R B (Roy) Green (1940-45) Engineer	P G (Peter) Steer (1939-45) Accounts Clerk
M D (Matthew) Hale (1995-2002) Physics teacher	R J (John) Symonds MBE (1942-50) Local Government Officer
R A D (Rex) Hora (1959-65) Laboratory Technician	S W (Stephen) Taylor (1967-75) Accountant
R G (Roger) House (1947-52) Civil Engineer	W E B P (Wally) Taylor (1958-66) Businessman
J M H (John) Lee (1935-45) Barrister and Parliamentarian	S P (Stephen) Turner (1956-61) Businessman
R F B (Richard) Orton (1958-65) Businessman Died 28 May 2020 aged 73	M J (Michael) van Brugen (1942-53) Lawyer Died 19 January 2020 aged 85
C J (Chris) Palmer (1950-58) Businessman and Entertainer	R J (Richard) White (1971-78) Surgery Practice Manager
N D (Neil) Rothnie (1968-75) Oncologist	<i>Floreat Redingensis!</i>

Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.



IN MEMORIAM

				
John Lee was in West Wing contemporary with his lifelong friend and political opponent Sir Richard Body. He was a lawyer and became an MP for Reading from 1966-70 and later for Birmingham Handsworth.	The second of four successful East Wing brothers, Neil Rothnie, was an admired, and loved, surgeon and medical director of South-end Hospital. He specialised in breast cancer and chaired the National Breast Screening Audit for the last five years.	Once the head of PR for Bristol & West Building Society, John established Redcliffe Press in 1976, an Art Book publisher which became a prestigious alternative to Thames & Hudson and helped 'put Bristol on the national publishing map'.	Michael van Brugen, Captain of Shooting and a stalwart of the operatic and dramatic societies at School, played rugby for Oxford University Greyhounds and became a soldier, lawyer and inveterate traveller. He was an ever-popular presence at OR gatherings.	County House Captain who studied Classics at Balliol, switched to medicine and became 'one of the founding fathers of old age psychiatry', Professor Tom Arie CBE, as a six-year-old, was a refugee on the penultimate train out of Prague on 17 August 1939.

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE ORA

Current members of the OR Association		
Council & Executive Committee		
<p>President: Ian McKinnon ian@cybore.demon.co.uk</p> <p>Vice President: Andrew Tuggey andrewtuggey@bopenworld.com</p> <p>Chairman of Council: Ned Holt nedholt54@gmail.com</p> <p>Past President: John Short jhshort@btinternet.com</p> <p>Secretary: Jeremy Chadwick jeremychadwick@icloud.com</p>	<p>Treasurer: Richard Taylor richard.taylor@lpi2.co.uk</p> <p>Membership Secretary: Chris Widdows 0118 962 3721 cwiddows@aol.com</p> <p>Archivist: Ken Brown 0118 327 9917 kcbrown11@aol.com</p> <p>Careers Lead: Ray Sawyer raysawyer33@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p>Events Co-ordinator: Michael Barrott michael.barrott@btinternet.com</p>	<p>Other Members of the Council:</p> <p>Nick Burrows Aaron D'Souza Mike Evans Richard Griffiths Simon Lambert Ashley Robson, Headmaster Arthur Truslove Rev Clive Windebank</p>

SCHOOL CAPTAIN AND THE PREFECT TEAM 2020-2021



Daniel Nicoll
(School Captain)

It was with both shock and joy that my family, friends and I discovered that I was appointed to this prestigious role. On my first day last September, when on a tour given by Hugo Rompani, his accolades seemed far out of my reach, and although I joked, I could have never foreseen being his successor. The fact that I have been granted such trust and responsibility after my short period at Reading School only goes to show the sense of community embodied in every member of the school and I am extremely grateful, if a little wonderstruck.

At first, I was worried my late arrival may hinder me as School Captain, but, in the short time since being appointed, the support of my peers and fellow captaincy team has inspired me with such confidence that we are going to have a successful year, despite current affairs and the world's recent state of disaster. More critical than ever in these tough times is our community spirit that previous prefect teams have strived to build and develop. As everything begins to return to a new normal, I am, in conjunction with the prefect team, excited to strengthen this bond within the student body, but also give back to the wider community of Reading.

My extremely strong captaincy team have already helped compile a list of numerous bright ideas which we look forward to implementing in and around Reading School (ranging from Christmas Hampers to a school science fair), in a hope to leave a lasting legacy.

Leadership team	
School Captain	Daniel Nicoll
Vice Captain (Projects and Community)	Suyash Singh
Vice Captain (Sixth Form)	Ross Hickman
Vice Captain (Student Body)	Charles Carter
Vice Captain (Events)	Aditya Krishna
Projects and Community team	
Charity Prefect	Ben Harrison
Community Service Prefect	Neville Irani
Future Stories Prefect	Timothy Hinckley
Environment Prefect	Alejandro Carrasco Tams
Careers Prefect	Swapnanil De
Sixth Form team	
Year 12 Integration Prefect	Zubayr Ali, Saket Patil and Ruilang Qin
Legacy Prefect	Edward Bruun
Common Room Prefect	Saaketh Nerellakunta
Attendance Prefect	Brandon Zerkhfaoui
Student Body team	
Sports Prefect	Marek Webb
Student Voice Prefect	Paul Saunders
Mentoring Prefect	Jonathan Croos and Mikhail Chebotar
Well-being Prefect	Reuben Sandiford
Senior Subject Prefect	Nikolai Khutoryanskiy
Events team	
International Prefect	John Spence
External Relations Prefect	Fiyinfoluwa Ilesanmi
School Events Prefect	Kieran Coldwell
Junior Social Prefect	Beck Walker
Social Prefect	Marcel Yidjeu
Communications Prefect	Rohan Chikkam
House Leadership team	
County House Captain	Rayaan Ashgar
County House Vice	Jake Melhuish
County House Vice	George Lauchlan
School House Captain	James Weir
School House Vice	Marek Webb
School House Vice	Himesh Patel
East House Captain	Laurence Young
East House Vice	Suyash Singh
East House Vice	Aditya Krishna
Laud House Captain	Hector Williams
Laud House Vice	Sanskar Dasoondi
Laud House Vice	Timothy Hinckley
West House Captain	Lucas Kirby
West House Vice	Thomas Bruce
West House Vice	David Calder

THE PREFECT TEAM 2020-2021

I look onwards to my final year at Reading School, and although we may face increased adversity, I believe the desire of our community to achieve greatness means we will still be able to have an extremely positive year. Once again, I would like to reiterate my sincere gratitude for my appointment as School Captain and I recognise the honour it is to work alongside my Vice-Captains and Prefects as I anticipate the year ahead.



Daniel Nicoll (School Captain) and Ross Hickman, Aditya Krishna, Suyash Singh and Charles Carter (Vice Captains)



Congratulations to the Prefect Team who were carefully selected through a rigorous application process.

YEAR 13 DEPART—CLASS OF 2020



READING SCHOOL
Year 13 2019 - 2020

Gillman & Son

Whilst this year has been truly unprecedented in our education system we are proud of the Class of 2020, who have showed commitment, flexibility and resilience in the wake of continuous changing circumstances.

This was supposed to be a time for celebration as the culmination of hard work and dedication came to an end in their final days at Reading School, but unfortunately this was unexpectedly cut short.

We are particularly proud of how each one of these young men responded to the challenges of Covid-19. With some volunteering their services to help the community and others offering support to the School.

The one thing that we can say with confidence is that this cohort excelled in the classroom, they took every opportunity to be involved with sports, co-curricular activities and educational visits either participating or leading, making the most of Via Redingensis. We have outstanding sportsmen and musicians, confident public speakers and above all emotionally intelligent and talented young people.

We are particularly proud of the Class of 2020 and know that they will always rise to a challenge in adversity. We wish them the very best for the future. #OldRedingensians #RSKeepInTouch

We would also like to thank all our staff and parents for their support during a very difficult year especially with all the uncertainty around examinations. We thank the Class of 2020 for their integral contribution to school life which has shaped Reading School. They will always be a part of Reading School, whether this as been across seven years or just two. #WeAreRedingensians

CLASS OF 2020—UNIVERSITY OFFERS

Reading School Sixth Form students celebrated a fine set of A level results in August 2020. These results reflected the quality of work undertaken by pupils and teachers who had worked hard to compile persuasive evidence to underpin calculated grades submitted. The cohort of 171 candidates, the largest ever, have shown resilience, exceptional understanding and a real sense of community.

Overall, 95.2% of all entries were awarded A*- B grades, with 40.7% at A* and 79.6% at A*-A. In addition, 82 of candidates gained at least AAB. English, Geography, Music and Languages had an impressive year.

English Literature, French, Geography German, Latin, Music and Spanish all achieved 100% A*-B. Also, 100% of historians achieved A*-B and 98.2% of Economics students gained A*-B.

In addition, the traditional strengths in the Maths and the Sciences continued with 43.8% of A Level Maths grades awarded A* and 91.8% at A*-B. Whilst, in Further Maths 50% gained A*. Furthermore, 81.1% of students of Biology achieved A*-A, 91.2% of students of Physics and 95.9% of students of Chemistry gained A*-B. In Computing 71.4% gained A*-A and 96.4% achieved A*-B.

We are proud that the majority of our pupils achieved their firm or insurance offers at top universities for courses which are amongst the most competitive globally. In addition, 21 students achieved Oxbridge places. As well as 22 medicine places and 2 places for Dentistry taken up.

Mr A Lloyd, (Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Head) praised the sixth formers: *'Our students have coped magnificently with the extraordinary circumstances they have faced this year. I am immensely proud of them for the way they have dealt with all of the uncertainty and know that had they been given the opportunity to sit their exams in the normal manner, they would have achieved exceptional results. As it is, they deserve tremendous credit for all of the successes they have achieved through this unusual process. We know they will go on to make hugely positive contributions to wherever they go next. We very much hope to be able to see them all again for a proper good bye sometime soon.'*



GET BERKSHIRE ACTIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL AWARD

Reading School is delighted to have won the Get Berkshire Active Award, for the Active Secondary School Award category 2020 Mr T Evans (Assistant Headmaster), Mr D McGall (Assistant Headmaster), Mr S Allen (Housemaster) and Mr J Steadman (Housemaster) were there to collect the award this year

Mr D McGall said:

“Many thanks to Sport England and in particular the Get Berkshire Team for organising the awards evening. It was an inspirational event and brilliant to meet a host of other nominees from diverse fields across Berkshire who share a passion for sport, physical activity and the role it can provide in mental and physical wellbeing. We are very proud that Reading School gained recognition through the award of “The Reading Way” and how sport can indeed play a central part in building good men.”

At Reading School, we offer a diverse range of sporting and co-curricular activities to our students. We are committed to maximising the value of activities beyond the classroom, therefore activities are overseen or led by sports coaches, staff and senior students to enhance leadership skills. To increase participation, we run popular House sports events as well as encourage students to be select from an array of

sports activities each term, from Rugby, Rowing, Basketball, and Badminton to Lacrosse, Table Tennis, and Climbing - active participation has hugely increased.



SUNDAY TIMES SOUTHEAST STATE SECONDARY SCHOOL AWARD

Reading School won ‘The Sunday Times Southeast State Secondary School of the Year award 2019 to 2020’.

The school takes 7th place in this year’s national league table of state secondary schools and continues to achieve well at A level and GCSEs.

Over 88% of A levels resulted in A*s, A’s and B’s with Reading School students achieving a third of a grade per A level better than their peers with similar GCSE grades. In addition, over 90% of GCSE entries were graded as 9-7 and our GCSE cohort achieved one grade better per subject than students with identical achievement at the end of primary school resulting in a Progress 8 score of +1.03. The top performing schools in the Southeast were revealed in Parent Power, The Sunday Times Schools Guide 2020, published in The Sunday Times and online from Sunday 24 November 2019.

Parent Power is widely acknowledged an authoritative survey of the country’s best schools. The rankings in the secondary school league tables are determined by the percentage of examination entries gaining A* to B grades at A level and the percentage of entries returning A* and A grades, and those graded 9, 8 and 7, at GCSE.

They are published several weeks ahead of the official Government tables for secondary school performance.

The Reading School Community are incredibly proud of this achievement, and aim to repeat this same feat in the years to come, despite the challenging year we have had in 2020.

Under unique circumstances the Class of 2020 have also achieved very well in both A Levels and GCSEs, ensuring that academic excellence continues to be a feature of Reading School. Both at A Level (40% A*, over 90% A*-B) and GCSE (over 50% grade 9 and over 90% grades 9-7) students have fulfilled their academic potential.

Thank you to our dedicated teachers and committed students and parents for their support.



EXCELLENCE: STUDENT EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION 2019



Congratulations to **East House** for winning the 2019 House Music Competition!

Our annual House Music Competition is a great example of Reading School at its best! This was a fantastic afternoon full of flamboyance, creativity and fun held at the [Hexagon Theatre](#).

Students had the opportunity to showcase a range of styles and talents as they performed covers of this year's featured artist, [Elton John](#), as well as solo and ensemble music from across the ages right up to 80's pop!

The House Music crown is always hotly contested, and this year was no exception. Whilst every house produced some superb performances, it was East who stole the show winning all but one category; Kyle R (9W) snatched the prize for Junior Solo for West.

Winners: 1st place: East House; 2nd place: West House; 3rd Place: County House; 4th House: School House; and 5th Place: Laud House.

Reading School boasts an impressive array of musical opportunities throughout the year, thanks to the dedication of the Music Department. It is undeniable that every pupil involved this year really gave it their all; none more so than the Music Prefects who dedicated many hours of leadership and coordination to the show.

House Music creates a unique bonding effect during the countless hours of rehearsals between both junior and senior pupils, as well as boarders with day pupils. Therefore, the whole event is a celebration of music, inclusivity and community.

Thank you to Mr James Tunstill (Director of Music), Mr James Newman (Teacher of Music), the Heads of House and Boarding Housemasters for their support, the Society Office, and the Hexagon Team. A special thanks to adjudicators [Caroline Clipsham](#) (Concert Pianist), [Mark Elvin](#) (Musician, Composer, Teacher and Author) and [Matthew Greaves](#) (Multi-Instrumentalist, Songwriter, Producer and West End Musical Director) for taking part in this event. Photo credit goes to Arvind A (Year 11) for assisting the Society Office with superb photography.

Reading School is delighted with its growing number of Old Redingensians who have gone on to excel as musicians and performers: Harry Davidson studied Music at Oxford, Alex Caballero, is studying Music at the [University of Oxford](#); Ewan Millar (OR 2019), again at the [University of Oxford](#), received choral and instrumental scholarships as well as reaching the final of Oxford's concerto competition and won the BBC Young Musician Woodwind Finalist; [Noam Rosenbaum \(OR 2009-2016\)](#) (a member of [St John's College](#) at the University of Oxford) was awarded the [Mapleton-Bree Prize](#) for his creative work. Following in their footsteps, this year Benedict Bradley who will join St. Anne's College, University of Oxford to study Music. In addition, [Joshua Grimmatt](#) (OR 2005-2012) has recently been nominated for a [Grammy Award](#) as a songwriter.

We are extremely grateful to the **Sir Thomas Beecham Trust** kindly sponsoring Ewan Millar, last year and Benedict Bradley, this year as they continue with their passion for Music.

HOUSE DRAMA 2019



For the first time, we featured Drama at the House Music competition under the guiding hand of our new Head of Drama, Mr Ben Sandiford. Performances included: Mitansh N and Jamie R (8E) - performing an extract from [Another Country](#); Matthew C (11S) - performing the monologue from the start of [The 39 Steps](#); Neil P (11W), Archie T (11C) and Adam P (11S) - performing the [Crofters Cottage](#) from [The 39 Steps](#); and Ollie B (11S), Toby C (11C) and Niran A (11E) - performing the Ballet of the Hats from [39 Steps](#)

This year's two day performance in March was a complete sell-out within 24 hours. Watch this space.... for more to come from the Drama Department.

2020 BRITISH BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD



Members of the Reading School Olympiad team are all smiles.

This year, a group of Year 13 students who participated in the 2020 Biology Olympiad achieved 10 Gold, 13 Silver, and 10 Bronze awards.

The Biology Olympiad is an online competition run by the Royal Society of Biology. It consists of two online 45-minute papers with questions on the topics covered in most general A level Biology courses but also rewards those students, whose knowledge of the subject has been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes and taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest. 9520 students from 668 schools worldwide participated this year.

The following Reading School students achieved Gold awards (which places them in the top 6% of students who participated): Siddharth S (13FS), Alex S (13TA), Sanchit A (13FEH), Daniel C (13AC), Tom R (13TA), Ali R (13JL), Vasu P (13MJK), Hamzah A (13JL) and Jack D (13DAW).

Special congratulations to Siddharth S (13FS) who has been selected to attend the UK Team Selection Final for the International Biology Olympiad 2020 at the University of Warwick, following his achievement in the British Biology Olympiad 2020. This places Siddharth in the top 16 biology students in the country!

BIO FINAL 2020

The Biology Department would like to congratulate the year 12 students who participated in the 2020 Biology Intermediate Olympiad. Reading School students achieved 7 Gold, 17 Silver and 9 Bronze awards.

The Intermediate Olympiad is an online competition run by the Royal Society of Biology. It consists of an online 60-minute paper with questions on the topics covered in most general AS level biology courses but also rewards those students, whose knowledge of the subject has been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes and taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest. 8500 students worldwide had participated this year.

Mr A M Robson (Headmaster) said:

“An exceptional achievement from all our Year 12 biologists that have risen to this challenge. We are incredibly proud of the academic excellence displayed by our students in achieving these awards. Opportunities like these are a brilliant platform to allow our pupils to extend their curiosity in biology as well as to spread their talents. This is also a testament to the impressive 33 offers from Russell Group Universities to read Biology-related degrees’ including Medicine, Dentistry, Natural Sciences, Biochemistry and Biological Sciences that our Year 13 students received.

A special thank you to the Biology Department for inspiring our pupils led by Mrs F Howson (Head of Biology).“

EXCELLENCE: STUDENT EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

MAGISTRATES' COURT MOCK TRIAL REGIONALS



Congratulations to the Year 8 and 9 students who won 1st place in the **Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition Berkshire regionals**.

On Saturday 14th March 2020, thirteen students acted as the prosecution lawyers, defence lawyers, witnesses, ushers, legal advisors and witnesses in a mock trial. Now in its 26th year, this event occurs across the UK to encourage students from non-fee-paying schools to improve their public speaking skills and to gain an insight into the legal system. The competition is part of the SmartLaw programme which aims to help young people to understand the justice system and how it touches every aspect of life. Berkshire Community Foundation (BHF) in partnership with the High Sheriff was proud to help fund Reading's regional heat of the competition.

A special thank you to Mrs A Cash and Miss G Pravda and Pump Court Chambers for their support of our students in the competition.



Future lawyers in the making?

NATIONAL COMPUTING CHALLENGE AND TEENTECH



We are extremely proud of Senior National Finalist **Sida Li (10W)** and **Luke H (9W)** who came 4th and 8th place respectively in the intermediate category of the **TCS Oxford Computing Challenge (TCSOCC)** national finals.

The TCS Oxford Computing Challenge is an invitation challenge for students in the UK aiming to help talented computational thinkers develop their skills by asking them to solve tasks with programmed solutions. Computational Thinking is a key part of the GCSE Computer Science course and this competition is based on computational thinking puzzles, starting with graphical logical problems, and then progressing to the higher-level coding assessments.

Nicholas L (9W) was also among the top 10% participants of the UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge and was invited to participate in the TSCOCC at Hertford College, University of Oxford. **Nicholas L** also performed extremely well in the competition.

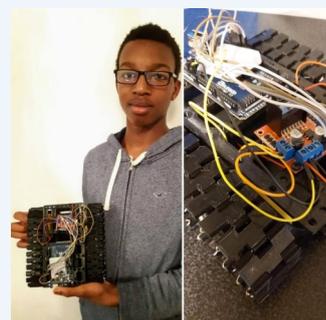
Mr Stephen Ling-Winston (Head of Computer Science) commented, *"It is so amazing to see the students achieve so much and to keep applying themselves to all the challenges they are set, never waiving in their desire to succeed."*

TeenTech genius

Samuel A-O (10W) was named winner of the TeenTech **Safety and Security Award 2020** for his Cost-Efficient Search and Rescue Robot design.

TeenTech is an organisation that helps young people to understand the opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM) industries.

His winning idea was to have cost efficient, easy to use, and reliable Search and Rescue Robots (SRRs) be used in Low-Income Countries (LIC) that have the potential to save countless numbers of lives in the event of a natural disaster. Congratulations to Samuel, who has continued to demonstrate exceptional innovation."



MATHS FEAST

Masters at Mathematics

10 Reading School students in Year 10 competed in the **West Berkshire Maths Feast**, organised by the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme (AMSP) held in February 2020.

There were several rounds requiring different skills and strategies for success. Each event took between two and three hours, and awards were given for good teamwork and the winning team of each round. Each year, the format

of the Maths Feast competition changes slightly so that the rounds remain interesting and exciting.

Our team selected to represent Reading School included **Audric T (10L), Surya H K (10S), Veer P (10L), Neel D (10L), Rahul G (10L), Siddharth B (10L), Rishi D (10W), Henry B (10E), Prakhar G (10C) and Aazim A (10E)**. Our teams scored highly coming 1st and 3rd and demonstrated excellent teamwork and communication.



SCHOOL PHYSICIST OF THE YEAR AND STUDENT INVESTOR CHALLENGE

In July 2019, students **Alex B (DAW), Hugo W (PFC), Mannan K and Shaunak S** (East House) were invited to the **School Physicist of the Year** event at the Royal Holloway University of London.

The event is run by the **Ogden Trust and** aims to reward enthusiastic students who have continued to show progression in Physics. The evening offered a taste of university Physics, with undergraduate's on-hand to talk to the winning students, as well as a range of hands-on science demonstrations. A very impressive achievement.

Future entrepreneurs

Anirudh G (12BSA), Dev Goyal (12AC), Rahul M (12JP), Sunny K (12VGG) from team QuantumFund on making it to the 2020 Student Investor Challenge final! **The Student**

Investor Challenge is an online investment simulation for students aged 14-19 years old run by The London Institute of Banking & Finance, challenges teams of school children to invest virtual money on the London Stock Exchange and trade stocks and shares to make a profit. Each year, more than 40,000 students take part and are challenged to research and anticipate market movements, by investing virtual money in FTSE organisations and through other asset classes.



MCILROY ESSAY COMPETITION

This competition aims to reward one essay written by a Reading School student, which, in the opinion of the judging panels, displays the best combination of:

- Flair for expressing complex ideas about a subject in simple terms.
- A logical and well-developed argument: it must have a starting idea, develop over a series of topic paragraphs, and reach some kind of clear resolution.
- Evidence of verve: a spirit of enthusiasm for the subject and the task, and the process of writing about them.
- Passion for sharing a love and understanding of the subject in question.
- Ingenuity in coming up with exciting and original ways to tackle matters of current affairs and general knowledge.

Daniel T (current 10S) won the annual **McIlroy Essay Competition**. His response to the title "This is how I am going to make a difference to world..." addressed current ecological and climate crisis issues in terms of making his own wildlife-friendly garden, and was anonymously judged by the panel, drawn from the Reading School staff and members of the Reading Foundation, to be a terrifically

inspiring and well-expressed piece of writing. It will be published in a future edition of "Floreat Redingensis".

The panel recognised the achievements of **Suyash S (12SP) and Adam R-C (9C)** whose entries deserve special mention.

There was a record number of submissions for the 2019 competition, and the essays covered a powerfully diverse range of topics. We had students writing about poverty, heart disease, plastic pollution, homelessness, child labour, veganism, the nature of friendship, and mental health. Thank you to every student who invested time, thought and skill into crafting a submission; taken together as a body of work, these essays prove how engaged Reading School students are with the world around them and how they would like to use their talents to play a part in shaping its future.

The English Department would like to thank the **Reading Foundation** for its generous support of the competition in funding the **£250** prize. The competition has opened again for our current cohorts with the deadline date of September 15th 2020. More details are available on Sharepoint, Teams and the School's social media.

COMMUNITY: HOUSES

Due to the circumstances that the school was met with this year, the Cock House Cup wasn't able to be completed. However, throughout the year there were a variety of competitions which were fiercely contested. County House was the current leader in March. Their impressive wins in athletics, art, rugby, basketball competitions allowed them to take a formidable lead in the standings.

Overall Position	House
1st	County
2nd	East
3rd	School
4th	West
5th	Laud

LAUD

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Laud House Tutors, without your guidance and kindness we wouldn't be able to achieve what we do year in, year out. With the 2019/20 academic year coming to a close, it is important to look back and reflect.

Laud House experienced a very busy and entertaining year in house competitions and societal events. A huge thank you has to go out to our Leadership Team of Joel Baby (House Captain), Corin Bertrand (Vice-Captain) and the Prefect team for their great commitment to the House and its students. There is no doubt that Reading School, our wider community and our global society faced massive challenges this year. More than ever, we now need to show resilience and togetherness to come out of this pandemic as stronger and more adaptable people. In a year with many notable group and individual contributions, it is nearly impossible to do all students who contributed to the House justice in a few paragraphs. Corin Bertrand and his passionate leadership of House Music was a personal highlight of mine. He showed us all what true commitment to the School and Laud House really looked like. Our Charity team, led by Ali Reza Akhbari, were also incredibly hard working. A special mention to Mayank Mittal who took it upon himself to raise money for Christmas presents for the patients at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. On the sports field, the Year 10 cohort again showed their prowess by taking out several competitions throughout the year, most notably, dominating the basketball tournament. Furthermore, our Year 7s showed the future is very bright on the sports field with our lads making up a large proportion of the Junior A football team. These Laudies were Ollie 'Heung Min Son' Crew, Daniel 'Dele Alli' Mahmood, Mohid 'Giovanni Lo Celso' Hasan and Sahil 'Toby Alderweireld' Cherukuru.

Looking forward, Laud House is in fantastic shape for the 2020/21 academic year. We are being led by the charismatic Hector Williams, our new House Captain. He is backed by the exceptional Timothy Hinckley and Sanskar Dasoondi as Vice-Captains. Laud House will, for the first time ever, be a full house and these young men, and their Prefect team, are determined to shake up the House Competitions and fight for victory. A huge thank you must go out to all Laud House Students for the commitment they have shown to the House. As a House, we talk a lot about 'keeping our standards high' and showing humility. Sometimes in our Reading School bubble we can forget what the real world is like. I hope all Laudies past, present, and future, remember that intelligence can only get you so far. When it comes down to it, a person is measured on, and remembered for, how they treat the ones around them.

Mr J Gunson, Head of Laud House

SCHOOL

After a school year that has been so very different and cut short, I'd really like to thank every student and staff member that has been involved in School House activities. Your help contributed to us approaching everything in the positive and enthusiastic way which we always do, and we continue to live by our motto: striving, believing, achieving. I'm certainly looking forward to seeing all the Reading School students again and obviously working with School House students to do the best we possibly can in the House competitions.

I've missed Reading School staff, students and parents so much, and I hope that people have missed each other and are looking forward to coming back with a renewed positivity and appreciation of each other. It's really made me appreciate working at Reading School. I'm looking forward to seeing my form group every morning and having some weird and wonderful conversations. For me, the best thing about being a teacher is seeing a student progress through the school, learning as they go.

Most of all, I'm looking forward to the day I can shake someone's hand in assembly when presenting an award, as again, this will mean we are safely through this challenging time. Until then, I'm looking forward to taking on this challenge together as a whole school community and not just a House!

Mr S Allen, Head of School House

COUNTY

Well, what an academic year it has been, and it has been fantastic to see how the members of County House have reacted to all of the changes and remote learning. This year Hugo has led the house superbly well, and the Prefect team have organised the house fantastically. This is a true reflection on the hard work, dedication and positive attitude that you have had towards the spirit of County House. This is not just a one-off, and they have displayed this enthusiasm towards the house right the way through the school having always won the house competition in their year group. Unfortunately, the house competition was stopped at an unfortunate time with County sitting top of the table and in a strong position to win back the trophy, something that was very clear in Hugo's manifesto for the year. The house were champions of athletics, art, rugby and basketball, and I am sure that the community would have gone on to win many more activities. A big go well to all the members of county house and a thank you to the students and staff that move onto pastures new in the next academic year, it has been a privilege to work with you. I wish you all the best of luck in the future.

Mr J Steadman, Head of County House

WEST

When I was asked to write about West House, its identity, past and future, I didn't know where to start, so I spent a good week writing notes in a piece of paper I had in my living room. I hadn't written anything that could be relevant and inspiring or unique and emotional. It was only when I was chatting with a group of boys in 8W when the inspiration came to me; "So, Mr Sanchez, we are missing the cricket term, right? We won't be able to play cricket this year due to the lockdown". My response was very obvious, but necessary, at the time; "Unfortunately, the summer term will not look like we planned I am afraid".

Sometimes we don't value the opportunities that we have just because they are routines. Today, I am missing 7W and their thousands of questions on a Monday morning. I am missing catching up with the Westies while running around the school site, and I miss our assemblies on Tuesday mornings. Representing your House in cricket, art, music or chess is more than a competition, it is more than winning or losing. Representing West House means doing something for others and not expecting anything back but sharing your time, energy and ambitions. West House and the House system empower leadership skills, and I am very proud to see young adults leading and thriving in their roles. I am very pleased and grateful with all the work that John Wellman and Aryan Dixit have done over the past year for West House, and I am sure that Lucas Kirby and his Prefect team will lead by example moving the House together in the right direction.

These are uncertain times, and we need to be together more than ever, supporting one another and working together. I hope that West House and the Reading School community has had a restful summer break.

Mr J Sanchez, Head of West House

EAST

This academic year will be a year to remember. Of course, firstly because of the impact of Covid-19 and the disruption to our school life but also thanks to our amazing contribution and performance in this House Cup, where we were a close second ahead of Eisteddfod. For my second year as Head of East House, I had the privilege to work with an amazing House Leadership Team who brought back the competitive spirit without losing sight of getting as many students involved as possible. After all, East House has always been about camaraderie and doing our best. Who will ever forget winning House Music? I sat with my family among the Easties on the balcony and was proud of the outstanding team effort from the new Year 7s singing in the choir. Overall, it was an amazing night, orchestrated by no other than Thomas Clennell. House music was not the only success this year as East House also came first overall in softball, cricket and chess. We owe a special thanks to Liam Ball, our House Captain, as well as Muhammed El-Beik and Alex Sutton, our Vice-Captains.

At school and remotely, I have been so proud of our House this year. The community feel is developing nicely through activities such as the vertical tutor group and the new buddy system, and I am witnessing more and more collaboration between the year groups. Let's not forget that the house system provides an opportunity for leadership, teamwork and competitiveness. I am looking forward to the next academic year and, as we say farewell to our Year 13s, we look forward to welcoming new Year 7 and 12 recruits to East House. The new leadership team has been voted in, and I am really looking forward to supporting Laurie Young, our new House Captain, Suyash Singh and Aditya Krishna, our Vice Captains, in their quest to navigate these uncertain times – I am sure the East House spirit will prevail.

Mrs N Williams, Head of East House

'Outstanding' Ofsted Boarding Inspection

We are proud to be able to share with you that following our Boarding Inspection, which took place from 4th to 6th February, the Ofsted Report, published, awards Reading School 'Outstanding'. This highlights many of the key features of Boarding at Reading School, one of only 34 state boarding schools in the country.

At [Reading School](#) we are extremely proud of our rich heritage. For almost 900 years the School has been educating generations of boys and striving to equip them with core values of excellence, integrity, leadership and community. The Reading Way (Via Redingensis) is a path of hope, optimism and aspiration which travels through each key stage allowing students to flourish in our care. This excellent report evidences our commitment to developing excellence and building good men. Boarding is integral to the school community and is built upon positive relationships between staff and pupils, and between the boarders themselves. Our students are our greatest ambassadors whilst at [Reading School](#) and beyond. Offering weekly Boarding at Reading School undoubtedly benefits both their educational and personal development ensuring the best of both worlds.

Congratulations to all the staff and Governors for their continued commitment, but with a special thank you to the Boarding Housemasters, Deputy Housemistresses, Boarding Staff, Boarding pupils, parents and Governors.'

East Wing Housemaster, Mr Jesus Sanchez, commented: *'I am proud to be part of our close-knit Boarding community which is fundamental to the Reading School Family. We instil a life-long love for learning through dynamic teaching during the day and this is complemented by an emphasis on independent learning by our dedicated staff who provide strong pastoral support. We have two Houses, with comfortable accommodation and communal spaces which provides a happy and homely atmosphere. All meals are served centrally, allowing for relationship building between peers and all boarding staff. We promote individualism and curiosity and support boarders in their intellectual growth through older pupils and Boarding Tutors mentoring the younger ones, during prep time. We promote personal development through many other activities provided through the School's House System which integrates both Day and Boarding pupils. Life-long friendships are formed*



here, with a pride and loyalty to the School, that lasts forever, as we see former OR Boarders return to join us for our annual Boarding Christmas Dinner.'

Whilst, Ms Amy Cash, South House Deputy Housemistress, maintained that:

'Our partnerships with [Rain Edge High School](#) in Kenya and [Auckland Grammar School](#) in New Zealand ensure that our boarders are challenged and given opportunities to take on leadership roles. In line with [Via Redingensis](#) our boarders are committed to service in local care homes as well as visits to local primary schools to raise aspirations through our [Future Stories](#) programme. If you want to be part of a community that 'learns, leads and serves' then boarding at Reading School is the place for you.'

Whether you join in Year 7 or in the Sixth Form, weekly boarding provides our students with the perfect opportunity to gain independence, self-motivation and academic discipline; skills which they can build upon and then utilise to ensure a seamless transition into university life. This is demonstrated by the top university destinations secured, often for courses which are amongst the most competitive globally.

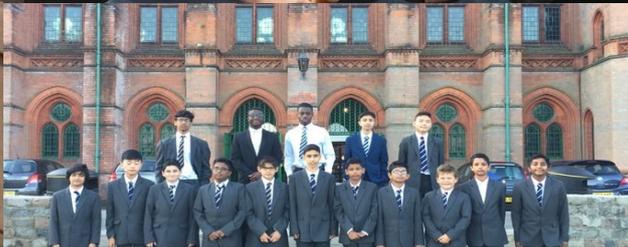
We are particularly proud that that relationships and integration of students into boarding life were noted, as well as the excellent academic development. Thank you to all our Boarding staff who are vital to making Boarding at Reading School a safe and secure community where our pupils can thrive.

BOARDING LIFE— charity, art club, cooking club and much more



Even though our school year ended abruptly, we have done so much—Thank you to all our Boarding Tutors and brilliant students.

BOARDING IN ACTION



BOARDING OLD REDINGENSIANS—#MakeaDifference #OldRedingensians



With so many former students pursuing careers in medicine there was no surprise that many Old Redingensians (as well as parents) would be working on the front line during this pandemic. Through our 'Building Good Men' strategy of embedding Learn, Lead and Serve strands to the daily life of every student's journey at Reading School, we aims to instil a sense of

responsibility and moral compass.

Matthew Oh (South House Boarder OR 2009-2016) a 3rd year medical student at Barts and The London and a healthcare assistant (HCA) in his local hospital. Matthew undertook his first HCA shift during the Covid-19 pandemic and shared his reflections on Twitter, which we followed with interest. Matthew, stated many junior doctors had to just get on with it, which was not an ideal situation, however everyone remained in high spirits. Matthew said:

"Masks are a serious barrier when interacting with patients. You smile as the patient tells you about his experience playing rugby when he was younger and grin as they crack a joke,

but they don't see that- all they see is someone which a mask, who may occasionally laugh or move their eyebrows in an attempt to show emotion. It doesn't feel like you can talk to patient human to human- that's so sad "

We were not surprised that Matthew had taken up this challenge, as he was always a very mature and conscientious student. Matthew stated that: *"Dr Rev'd Evans and Karen Andrews instilled important values such as respect and independence"*, which he still recognises today.

Thank you to our Redingensians community who demonstrated compassion and selfless qualities during the pandemic.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE AND CHAPEL



Our traditional daily Chapel service for students continues in our School Chapel but to celebrate the founding of the School our traditional annual Commemoration service takes place at the Minster Church.

On Thursday 10th October, Reading School's community gathered in the Reading Minster to celebrate the commemoration of the School and give thanks for the School's founders and benefactors.

The service began with the entrance of the Headmaster, along with Clergy and guest of honours to 'Floreat Redingensis,' a fanfare specially commissioned as part of the school's 150th celebrations and performed by Reading Fanfare Brass, led by Mr James Newman (Teacher of Music).

Reverend Judith Sumner gave a warm welcome and benediction on behalf of Reverend Stephen Pullin, Assistant Archdeacon of Berkshire, Vicar of Reading Minister of St Mary the Virgin. The service included a series of uplifting hymns, as well as an exceptional reading of Hebrews 13, by Vice Captain, T. Haley.

We welcomed Reverend John Fry, Vicar of the Theydon Parishes. He gave an engaging and inspiring speech on community, parodying the work of a selfish lifeboat club and encouraging everyone to live in a community that serves others. Reverend Fry related this call to community to the words of Hebrews 13, "Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

A special thanks to the Music Department for arranging the School Choir and Reading School Festival Brass. We would like to thank the organist, Mr Andrew Knowles MA FRCO and bell-ringers (organised by Mr Ian Judd).

We would also like to thank all the staff involved with coordinating the logistics to and from the Church as well as to all the prefects and Year 13 volunteers, particularly Hugo W and Siddharth S (on behalf of the Charity Prefect, Benedict C), who raised money for one of the nominated School Charities, Meningitis Now. For all the organising, we would like to thank the Society Office.

ART

The following are images taken from Year 11 sketchbooks, all impressive feats completed by hand! Credit must be given to **Will Lockwood, Ben Dowman, Shunya Fujimoto, and Aaran Johnson.**



ENGLISH

Let's start with a rather sobering but typically wonderful observation from Clive James, the magnificent journalist, cultural commentator and poet who passed away earlier this year. Writing about a Japanese maple tree in his garden, he decided that:

"Each glimpse of the tree reminds me of a beautiful Italian word my future wife taught me fifty years ago in Florence. The word was *scorcio*. It means 'a glimpse'. From one of our coffee bars we could look down a narrow street and see the spire of the abbey-church of the Badia outlined against the sky. The spire was a revelation of elegance, as my tree is now. Looking back, you realise that glimpses are all you ever get. There is so little time."

Each opportunity, text, idea, lesson we present to Reading School students during the course of any academic year is just that: a glimpse. We hope that each glimpse might inspire at least one of you to stare harder and for longer, but that's part of your job as you look forward to how you're going to build yourself better. Which of these fleeting glimpses, caught from the corner of your eye, will you want to pursue? Here's a brief guide to some of the glimpses we have offered during this academic year...

- The Oil And Ink Poetry Magazine was finally published in October 2019, featuring the work of Sixth Form students. If you would like a copy of this terrific compendium of Reading School creative talent, full of verse inspired by a visit to the National Portrait Gallery in London, then email rbaldock@reading-school.co.uk



Magazine front cover by Wei Den Wong / Poetry Club posing with the self-portrait of OR (1932 - 1935) John Minton at the NPG.

- Reading School's Literacy Ambassador Ms Geraghty Green has ushered in a new era of creative marvels, including the appointment of our first Poet Laureate (Leo O'Donnell...more from him later...) to record key moments in the school's year as it passed; the creation of the RS Recommended Reads podcast (episodes available via the school's media server at readingschool.planetstream.com); and the introduction of subject-related wider reading posters to provide students with plenty of opportunities to extend their interests and challenge their understanding.

- Reading School's English Department has also been behind the Quarantunes podcast, a way for staff and students to keep in touch and hear each other's voices and stories during the school closure. Again, you can stream all episodes from the Reading School media server.

- Our GCSE classes collaborated with the Reading Between The Lines theatre company (now called Rabble Theatre) in a series of directing and acting workshops based around their autumn production of "Macbeth". We then took the students to Reading Minster to watch an atmospheric and innovative interpretation of the play which involved gender-swapped roles and a lot of plastic sheeting.

Was any of it worth it? "I learned how to experiment with different feelings created by Shakespeare's words"; "I now appreciate how Shakespeare's characters can be portrayed in ways we might not traditionally expect"; "I have realised that Macbeth is far more ambitious than he (or she) first appears to be."

- Our A Level English Literature classes took a trip to Islington to watch the world-famous Almeida Theatre's production of "The Duchess Of Malfi", everybody's favourite C17th revenge tragedy involving incest, soricide and werewolves.

The students said: "This experience was important to me because it helped me think critically about how to interpret the play"; "It was entertaining, thought provoking and relevant to my future university course. I have never attended a professional production at a London theatre. If not for this trip, I doubt I would have done"; "It gave me a markedly different interpretation of the play to help stimulate my own opinion".

- The remote learning timetable we've been following since March has also opened up opportunities for the English Department to spearhead the Creative Collective Club, an online resource featuring a Daily Challenge which allows students to widen their creative experiences. English colleagues have led inspiring sessions on musical theatre, villains in Shakespeare, creative writing, illustration, sports journalism, our national museums, essential teen novels, DIY grammar and baking. There are now over forty Daily Challenge sessions available to re-live or catch-up at the Creative Collective Club's Team.

And that's just a brief *scorcio* of some of the activities open to Reading School students and devised behind the door of the English Office outside of the day-to-day academic inspiration on offer during lessons. Each partial view invites you to commit to exploring further, otherwise...

Looking back, you realise that glimpses are all you ever get. There is so little time.

GEOGRAPHY

The Geography Department experienced another hectic academic year in 2019/20. The year started very well, with our 2018/19 GCSE and A level students achieving impressive results. At A level, 33% of our students received an A*, with 72% of our students achieving A* or A, and 94% getting B or better. At GCSE, 83% of students achieved 8 or above, and 94% achieved 7 or above.

The department also welcomed new teachers, Miss Baker and Mr Johnston, at different times throughout the year. Both teachers were very valuable additions to our team, bringing incredible depths of knowledge and different areas of experience. We additionally welcomed back Dr Young from her maternity leave early in 2020. Sadly, we did say goodbye to Mr Nicholas just before Christmas, an incredible, intelligent, and engaging teacher. Mr Nicholas gave his all in his ten years of service to the school, and we thank him for his time. We also say goodbye to Miss Baker and Mr Gunson at the end of this year. The Geography staff and students have a lot to thank Miss Baker for: she brought in a fresh view on Geography and valuable experience into how Geography is studied at Oxford University. Mr Gunson's wealth of expertise that he brought with him from New Zealand will also be sorely missed both in Geography and South House Boarding.

As a department, we pride ourselves on providing several different clubs, field trips, and challenges to keep all our students engaged with our subject outside of the classroom. One of the biggest field trips we ran this year was the Year 13 trip to Somerset, staying at the Nettlecombe Field Studies Centre. The group of students that went away on the field trip were a fantastic bunch. They were exceptionally well behaved and appreciative of the work of both the teaching staff and the staff at the FSC. It was a pity they were so bad at the quiz set by the staff! We wish our Year 13 Students leaving school all the best for the future; please keep us updated on your adventures.

In January, we invited 11 schools to compete in our Geography Association Quiz. The evening was a great success, with all teams (comprising of Years 8, 9 and 10 students) enjoying themselves and competing hard for the title. To cap a brilliant night off, one of the two Reading School teams managed to take home the title with our other team finishing third. A big thank you has to go to the Geography staff who devised the quiz rounds and ran the quiz on the night.

Other activities we have run this year were the Geography Club, the Climate Change Conference and the Sixth Form Discussion Group.

Geography Discussion Group

This year, a Geography Discussion Group was created where a number of keen Year 12 students had the opportunity to discuss the breaths of complicated geographical issues currently facing our world. Using the Oxford tutorial style, a small group of us each week investigated some of the academic conundrums presented to geographers and looked at different interpretations of how we should perceive our world.

One of the most interesting ideas we encountered in the discussions was the idea of place studies and Zomia: an overlapping region transcending ten countries' borders, uniting people not by the political systems they live within, but rather by a common heritage and culture. In this way, certain place study geographers argue that countries are not the right way to perceive different groups of people, but common characteristics of a place can shape a population towards similarity as well.

Having the opportunity to discuss different intellectually stimulating topics each week has allowed all of us to expand our geographical horizons. Thank you to Miss Baker for leading the group each week, and aiding the seamless transition to online discussion following the closure of schools.

Beck Walker, Year 12 Geography Student

Geography Club

Geography Club is a great club to attend as you can do fun activities whilst learning more about our planet, and you can represent the school in the annual GA quiz which Reading School currently holds the trophy for. In Geography Club, we do a range of things from charity bake sales, making paper mâché mountains and much more. It has been a place where us students have been able to grow our understanding of the subject, and we've been able to find plenty of enjoyment within it as well.

Armaan C 8W

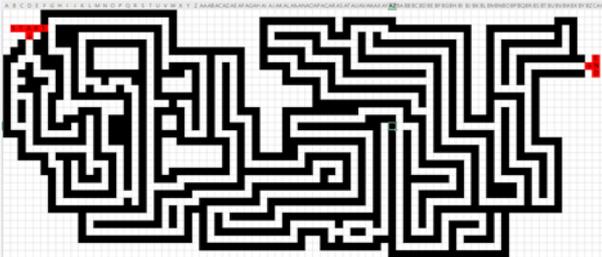


Students out enjoying the view!

LANGUAGES

Classics

During lockdown, several KS3 classes took part in the Amazing maze competition. Their challenge was to create a labyrinth worthy of the Minotaur! The department were amazed by the creativity of all the students who took part, with students using lego, Minecraft and even Excel to design their entries. The winners were Max Mellor (8C), Felix Cooper (7S) and a joint entry from James Song and Patrick Diplock (7C).



Runner-up Rujul Nayak's innovative use of Microsoft Excel



Winner Max Mellor went on to design this maze with Avi Gupta (8C)

French

In 2019, our Year 8 students were given the opportunity to spend a few days at the Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy where everything was run in French. All of the boys tried the different activities which made tremendous progress in their French vocabulary and understanding. Eating snails and visiting the Mont Saint Michel were both memorable experiences in their own way. Our Year 13 boys came along too, following an A level focused programme targeting the speaking component of the examination. Our Year 11 cohort was very lucky to be given an interactive lecture about the speaking component of their examination too, and this highly academic day proved very useful to prepare our boys for their mocks. The rest of the school year did not quite follow our plans, but our Year 12 students still made the most of our link with Kendrick through a Year 12 film club and a Year 13 debating club. These really showcased our students' excellence and progress throughout the sessions. Our KS4 students were unfortunately not able to take part in the Lyon exchange, but could share their experiences through an online 'lockdown journal' in French that we sent to our French partners.

German

Once again last September, twenty students from Year 9-12 had the fantastic opportunity to visit our partner school, the St. Joseph Gymnasium in Rheinbach, Germany. Our students forged long-lasting connections with their German exchange partners and their host families. Everyone enjoyed the experience of school life in Germany and putting their language skills into action. Reading boys also took part in a competitive football game against their German opponents, managing to recreate the success of 1966. The several excursions, such as visiting the Effelsberg Radioteleskop, the largest telescope in Europe, sightseeing in the nearby city of Bonn, and playing football on a rooftop football pitch after visiting the Sports and Olympic Museum in Cologne, were amongst the highlights! A big thank you must go to Jon Hornby who will be sorely missed as he departs Reading School this year.



Students enjoy a relaxing lunch in Rheinbach

Mandarin

For the previous two years, Reading School has collaborated with the Mandarin Excellence Programme with a mission to share the art of the Chinese language and to widen the cultural learning experience for our Year 7 and Year 8 students. We have been delivering topics with assessments that are designed to be used for everyday conversations ranging from greetings, family, weekend plans, food, and holiday travels. We have also hosted various of after school interactive activities which included dumpling making, handcraft lanterns, as well as informative sessions such as Chinese History and Music. We look forward to their future endeavours and hope that they will take what they have learnt and share it with the wider community. 加油! (Keep up the great work!)

"I really enjoyed the Mandarin Excellence Programme because it pushed me to work hard throughout my first two years at Reading School. Even though I am not continuing with it for GCSE, I am sure it will help me to work hard for my other GCSE subjects, as I have already had a taste of a rigorous course." **Year 8 student**

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics intelligence Group 25

This academic year, MiG25 (Mathematics intelligence Group 25) was successfully led by the Team Leaders Shreyas and Tom and their Support Team. The club continued to thrive under their expert guidance and leadership. Some of the highlights include the incredible presentations on Calculus by Alex, Orthogonality by Tom, the Pigeonhole Principle and Combinatorics by Andy, Euler's Theorem and Graph Theory by Shreyas, Batman Equation by Sida and the Riemann Zeta Function by Rene. Sida continued with leading more MiG25 Maths Challenge training sessions in which he shared many techniques and skills essential in problem-solving, his training focused on using all the information given, to think systematically, ensure understanding of the questions and to look for patterns.

This year, we have had the continued success of the MiG25 mentor-paced programme, where younger students work through extremely advanced mathematics with their paired mentors from the MiG25 Leadership Group. The mentors' focus has been on developing higher-order thinking skills that can potentially transform the range of maths problems which can be solved.

Interestingly, I came across this e-mail sent to the MiG25 Team Leader Daniel in 2015: 'Is it possible for you to work with Tom in tomorrow's session? Tom is in Year 8, he has been attending MiG25 regularly since Year 7, and he is the student who continuously asks you many probing questions. You have also discussed with him many of the solutions to the maths problems you have presented as well as awarding a prize to him for successfully solving some of the problems. He is a gifted and talented student who will benefit enormously from your individual input. Is it possible for you Dan to mentor Tom on some advanced topics in tomorrow's and future sessions at the club?' Roll on to 2019 and Tom himself becomes a MiG25 Team Leader, a mentor and now has an offer to study Mathematics at New College Oxford.

Then, March arrives and a new world for us all. Due to these historic and unprecedented times, MiG25 transferred over to being run remotely, but we can still be optimistic, as in the words of Johnny, "I think that the lockdown presents a great opportunity to get more people interested and excited about maths and MiG 25, and the Teams channel is a great outlet for that."

Christa Sikkel founded our MiG25 club in 2007. Since then, she has managed and coordinated the club.

She will be retiring this year after being linked to Reading School since 1993 and as a Mathematics teacher at Reading School for 20 years. She will bow out now, and happily hand over the role of MiG25 Teacher Coordinator to Mr Kenwick.

Junior Maths Club

As Reading School moved to online learning, the Mathematics Department Prefects, along with Mrs Williams, created a new strand to our already successful set of clubs - the Junior Maths Club. Aimed at Year 7 to Year 9, the club is run on Microsoft Teams. Here Juniors, with a keen interest in mathematics, will have access to a challenging weekly set of questions.

Challenges so far have included using mathematical skills learnt in class to solve everyday problems, with examples including getting to the bottom of a magic trick or adapting a burger recipe to different requirements.

Q5. The ratio of sweet potatoes to mixed beans to red onion in a *quarter pounder* burger is 12 : 9 : 2

Use this to decide which of these statements are true or false.

Statement	True	False
There is a greater amount of beans and onions in total than sweet potato in the quarter pounder.		
Sweet potato makes up over half of the vegetables in the quarter pounder burgers.		

If there are 180 g of mixed beans in a quarter pounder burger recipe, what would be the weight of the sweet potatoes needed?

An example of a question presented in the Junior Maths Club

The Maths Prefects have also started running a weekly live session where they will challenge the keen young mathematicians to answer tough questions, such as questions from the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. Once attempted, the Maths Prefects team will then walk through the answers with the Juniors on a video lesson, as well as answering any burdening questions. There are also original and fun activities in the pipeline, so watch this space.

New HoD Maths: Sarah Parker

Having recently started at Reading School as the Head of Mathematics, I have been blown away by the opportunities offered to our students. There are so many talented mathematicians who are willing to share their passion and skills with others, leading this school community into the future. There are an incredible amount of amazing activities that are available, and they have, undoubtedly, all had impact they have had a positive impact on the department itself.

SCIENCE

Chemistry

A future where chemists can synthesise any realistic molecule bond by bond is increasingly near. Research into catalysts in chemistry can be for many reasons, such as finding a way to use CO₂ as a fuel or creating a reaction pathway to produce a new medicine in fewer stages. However, recent research from the University of California about a catalyst which breaks strong and unreactive primary C-H bonds caught my eye. This catalyst in question was Iridium based, so expensive, and was required to be vastly in excess, so inefficient, but the reaction being done was extremely useful in chemical synthesis.

I am looking forward to the future of chemistry where research into catalysts has got to a point where, bond by bond, scientists can practically engineer many more organic molecules.

Joey Kaufman 13VGG

Biology

It is safe to say that Covid-19 has changed the landscape of education as a whole. Despite the circumstances, the Biology Department at Reading School has risen to the occasion and continued to provide an excellent learning environment through a brand-new medium. To further enhance the experience of online learning, the department has brought in ORs and world-leading experts to deliver informative lectures, giving students the chance to look at biology from a new perspective.

At the start of the year, the department successfully pulled off an open day for prospective sixth form students looking to join Reading School this year, and we also created a new video to advertise the wonderful department. This can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFKSNM7OmSc>

We encourage students to go beyond the constraints of the curriculum, and this year the Prefects have aimed to do this through the creation of the Reading School Biological Journal, named 'Aperture', which provides students with an opportunity to shed light on a range of biological topics through the utilisation of the written word. Redingensians are able to establish a legacy through their published work, which is showcased in this wonderful journal we have created. This can be found here: <https://readingschoolco.sharepoint.com/SiteAssets/SitePages/Home/APERTURE%20edition1.pdf>

Biology mentoring has also been a huge success both at school and online. We saw the creation of the Biology Mentoring team, where Year 12 mentors assist the online learning of Year 10 students. The mentors have quickly adapted and as a result, have greatly enhanced the mentees' knowledge of the subject.

Physics

The Physics department has recently taken many opportunities to modernise Physics and are excited about the benefits for those presently at Reading School and also those we look forward to meeting in the future.

There is a drive across the School to review the curriculum, with a focus upon Key Stage 3. We have a new assessment framework and all students will now enjoy regular and consistent assessment and formative feedback. Furthermore, with thanks to the generosity of Reading School Parents Association, students will now benefit from our new contemporary and engaging class textbooks, replacing the previous, near twenty-year-old publication.



*Left: The fresh look of our new textbooks.
Right: Brand new electric circuit equipment
generously funded by Ms C Mulley.*

We are currently making significant investments in apparatus. We were most grateful to receive a generous donation (via the Society Office) from Ms Clare Mulley in memory of her late father, Mr David Butler. This allowed us to equip both of the main Physics laboratories with a full set of electric circuit equipment, housed on attractive and secure trollies. To show our gratitude for this generous donation we were only too pleased to name a Senior Prize Giving award in memory —'The David Butler Physics Achievement Award' to be awarded every year to students achieving the most significant attainment and progress in Physics.

The Physics laboratories are also undergoing a transformation. Mr D Taylor and Mr J Roberts have worked hard to bring refurbishment of the laboratory lighting and entrances forward, and they will be more attractive and comfortable spaces for our students. The lecture theatre also remains a jewel in the crown of the school, the care for which is adopted by the Physics department.



DEPARTMENTS AND CLUBS

COMPUTER SCIENCE

At this point in history, Computer Science is advancing in such diverse ways and at an exciting rate, we all just want to be involved. With the advent of faster and faster processing devices and the relatively recent development of algorithms for machine learning and artificial intelligence, we are evolving in School to include further innovative curriculum and club activities. The lunchtime technology club activities are driven by the students' thirst for knowledge and we have had some amazing recent competition successes because of this desire they have to learn.

During the time of remote learning, we have seen many successful individuals showing their maturity and desire to learn independently. We were also fortunate to have previous Computer Science students (Matthew Baugh and George Ordish – who are studying at Imperial College) provide lectures on Machine Learning and functional programming, as well as a lecture on 3D graphics modelling by Joe Iddon, a Year 13 student. Dr Michael Edwards from Swansea University also joined us to provide advice for students in Year 12 applying for a Computer Science degree at university.

Over the last year we have seen individual student success in the Teen Tech and Raspberry Pi competitions as well as the Cyber Discovery adventure, driven by students' curiosity and their ever-expanding knowledge.

Samuel A.O (9W) and Ryan L (8L) were winners in the 2020 Raspberry Pi competition with their 3D printed pollution monitoring IoT device, where PA Consulting challenged young innovators to create the sustainable city of tomorrow, in its 8th annual Raspberry Pi competition. The pair worked independently to put together their environmental air-sampling entry, working from home and during lunchtimes at school.



Samuel and Ryan - Raspberry Pi Competition

Robotics First Lego League Club

In February, Black Thunder went to compete in the National Championship for England and Wales, at the University of the West of England. When the nine of us, along with four mentors and coaches, arrived, we unloaded our minibus and headed to the pits. We then attended the opening ceremony and a member of our team proudly carried out banner proclaiming us to be the Champions of the North London Regional. The first event in our timetable was our first Robot Game at 10o'clock and though we went in with high hopes, we only scored 120 points. This was disappointing, but we still had more events to compete for and had more opportunities to improve our robot score.

Next, we had our Innovation Project, which was the Parking Bot app (available on the Google Play Store). Our presentation went quite well and we received some feedback that would come in very useful for internationals. Following that, we had our second robot game, in which we managed to double the score of our runs to 240 points! Though this was not what we were aiming for, we were still encouraged by this change in score. Just before our lunch break, we had Robot Design, and it went extremely well. The judges were immensely impressed with our well thought-out structure and attachment efficiency, and were quite very impressed with our MicroPython code. What really left a mark though, were our documents. The Pseudocode, Robot Design Executive Summary and early stages documents left the judges amazed, and they told us that they would show our documents to the other judges when deciding the results. We left extremely confident and enjoyed our lunch break, finishing it with a practice session at one of tables.

Throughout the day, were all so amazed that we had won the best Robot Design; when we walked off of the stage, we were met by an official who told us we would be going to Internationals. A successful outing for the Robotics First Lego Club.



One happy Robotics First Lego Club!

THE LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRE

Book Club

Book Club, which meets every Tuesday lunchtime, has grown from strength to strength in recent years. The boys like the inclusivity of the group – it's more like a family who look out for each other.

It's very rewarding running the group as we see the younger boys grow in confidence as the year progresses. This has become more evident this year with the club being included as part of the Asynchronous Afternoons sessions from April running on Microsoft Teams. The students have taken on more responsibility with helping to run the club on Teams, creating and running their own quizzes as well as suggesting and introducing the Reading School Book Award which commenced in May.

In early March, we once again ran our hugely popular and beneficial Book Festival. This is a great way for all boys to meet and learn from a real-life author. Members of the Book Club had the opportunity to take part in an exclusive question and answer session with authors Sarah Govett and Chris Bradford.



The LRC Book Club with Chris Bradford

The boys also selected and promoted a fiction and non-fiction book that was advertised on the school digital display screens. They chose *The Territory*, by Sarah Govett, for the fiction category and *Physics of the Impossible*, by Michio Kaku, for the non-fiction. This encouraged a wider range of reading for the school community and *Physics of the Impossible* was nominated and chosen as a shortlisted book for our Reading School Book Award lockdown non-fiction read.

The club has thrived in these uncertain times, adapting to the changing circumstances and uses of technology. The successful transition to remote Book Club meetings has made the club accessible to a wider audience as meetings are recorded.

Free Books and New Laptops

The *Goldfish Boy*, by Lisa Thompson, was gifted to all Year 7 students from the English Department during their LRC induction at the start of the year – thanks to the RSPA for funding this

The RSPA also supported independent study in the LRC by generously funding a total of 27 new laptops and a new secure laptop charger cabinet. The LRC laptops have been loaned 11,411 times this academic year, an average of 368 times for each laptop.

Thank you to the Reading School Parents' Association for all of their support.



7E with their new books and laptops

World Mental Health Day

Pupil Librarian, Ammar (10E), and Wellbeing Prefect, Shaan (13MK), ran a complimentary tea and exam tips lunch time drop-in for World Mental Health Day on the 10th of October. Pupils were invited to give a friend a compliment as they enjoyed some relaxing herbal tea, and everyone agreed that they felt good afterwards.



Students mix and mingle to discuss mental health

SPORT

BADMINTON

Badminton at Reading School has continued to flourish. Thanks to generosity through the 'Building for the Future Fund', we have been able to have dedicated sessions for the KS3 and KS4 teams, which has paid dividends in their development; many thanks to Mr Keith Godfrey for his tireless efforts in this.

The KS4 team continued the Reading School tradition of being both deep and skilled; each of the members could beat the other (on their day), and that depth proved crucial in the County round, from which we emerged unbeaten.

The KS3 team are more spread in standard and experience, but full of potential; this they proved in County round, where they overcame some early nerves to triumph; they joined their KS4 fellows in the Regional round.

Here each team showed how much they had learned, passing through the group stage and the semi-finals with confidence. Alas, here KS4 met the favourites and though they were able to win the 3/4 doubles and compete admirably in all games, they couldn't overcome the plethora of nationally ranked players in the opposition.

KS3 fared well, winning their group and meeting a strong team in the final. It came down to sudden death in the deciding game, and fate was with our opponents; they won the match and left with a bittersweet second place.

A big thank you must go to both Mr B Owen and Mr P Stromdale for their contributions to badminton this year. We are grateful for all the support we have received and hope that we can return to the courts next year.

FOOTBALL

Resplendent in their new team kits, fashioned with a striking diagonal stripe emblazoned on the front, Reading School's footballers were on course for a successful season before being curtailed.

Prior to Christmas, all year groups had been entered into the English Schools FA National Cup competitions with the 1st XI, Year 10s and Year 8s all progressing to the third round before suffering narrow defeats to some strong opposition.

As a curtain-raiser to the Reading Schools Leagues, a series of 5-a-side tournaments took place, with the U18s taking the plaudits by finishing as joint winners of their event, closely followed by the Year 8s who were runners-up in theirs.

In the new year, perhaps some of the most pleasing performances of the season came from Year 7.

After a chastening exit from the County Cup, they won seven successive matches by playing some intelligent and creative

football. Oliver Crew led the way with 16 goals, but Joseph Rogers, Daniel Bose-Mason and goalkeeper Kai Trust all defended with discipline and excellent positional awareness to form the foundations of that winning spree.

Year 8 were looking like potential County Cup winners after reaching the quarter-finals and were also unbeaten in the league after conceding only one goal in four games.

For Years 9, 10 and 11 there was a mixed bag of results, and inclement weather meant that there was no local derby with Reading Blue Coat this year.

For the seniors, it was the 2nd XI who had the most success, finishing as runners-up in the Berkshire FA League and the emergence of one or two players who will hopefully go on and shine for the 1st XI next season: Hector Williams, Oluwatobi Adekola and Tony Xu were the stand-outs. We are certainly excited to see what next season has to come and for the future of football at Reading School.

2019-20 Season Stats (all competitions)

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against
1 st XI	11	3	1	7	27	24
2 nd XI	10	6	2	2	34	21
3 rd XI	4	3	0	1	14	8
4 th XI	3	2	0	1	8	8
Year 11	2	0	0	2	5	9
Year 10	8	4	0	4	16	13
Year 9	7	2	1	4	15	22
Year 8	11	10	0	1	41	10
Year 7	11	9	0	2	70	17
Overall	67	39	4	24	230	132

RUGBY

Rugby has been in the fortunate position this year as the only major sport to have been played for an entire term, and what a full-on and fantastic term it was. This year we saw a shift towards more midweek fixtures before half-term, the introduction of leagues to Year 8 and Year 11 to complement the senior leagues, as well as the normal Saturday block fixtures after half term.

The First XV were led fantastically well led by Alex Sutton with support from Tomi Sanusi, James Waite, Robbie Usher and Tom Jeffreys who all added leadership qualities on and off the pitch at various points throughout the season. The team finished second in the league playing all the team's home and away. The biggest learning curve came against Forest, losing by 20 points in the first game of the season up at Rams RFC, to bring them back to Erleigh Road and reverse this deficit and win by 20 points in the second half of the season. A number of Year 12s (Bruun, Obieniu, Osbourne, Small, Ilesamni, Stinson, Abanna and Bokari) really stood out in this game and displayed physical strengths as well as an intellectual game. The first XV also made it through to the County Cup semi-final losing to the old enemy Blue Coat 8-5 with some refereeing decisions not quite going our way. Joe Kennedy, who has been ravaged by injuries over the last couple of years, deserves mention as he has often been watching, supporting and helping with the coaching. He helped Mr McGall at the start of the season, but he was finally able to pull on a senior rugby shirt, and he certainly made up for the lost time when he got onto the pitch for the final two matches.

The Second XV also had a great season with School Captain Hugo Rompani leading by example with his organisation of the team. The side was able to make it to the semi-finals of the league, losing by one score to Reddam House. There are a few students in this group that will be looking to make the

step up to the first XV next season.

The Year 11s/3rd XV on their day could blow anyone away with their mix of pace, power, determination and the ability to outwit oppositions by adding of skills and attacking variety into their game. As Dr Evans would vouch for, it is a shame that they were not able to regularly put all of these elements together, often relying on only one or two rather than working together as a team, something that they will develop over the next couple of years as they integrate into the 1st XV and 2nd XV. With such variety to their game-play and attitude they just missed out on the league finals play-offs, finishing 5th in their league.

The Year 9 and 10 team really benefited from having mid-week fixtures. It meant getting more experience out onto the pitch, with a number of students playing their first representative games of rugby for the school. This was reflected in losing to teams in the early rounds of the cup but then beating them later in the season in friendlies. Their renewed team spirit and dedication to one another also transferred to greater commitment to Saturday fixtures after half-term.

The Year 8s had a fantastic league campaign and are certainly one of the strongest sides in the area, displaying this at the festival of rugby day at Blue Coat losing just one game all day. It will be interesting to watch this side progress into the County Cup. It will be exciting to watch this year group as they progress through the years.

The Year 7s made a positive start to school rugby life and were able to add to their rugby experiences throughout the year. They have had over 40 players represent the A and B teams with a real 'give it a try' attitude, and it is promising for this year group to emulate the years above and make their own mark on the rugby history of the school.



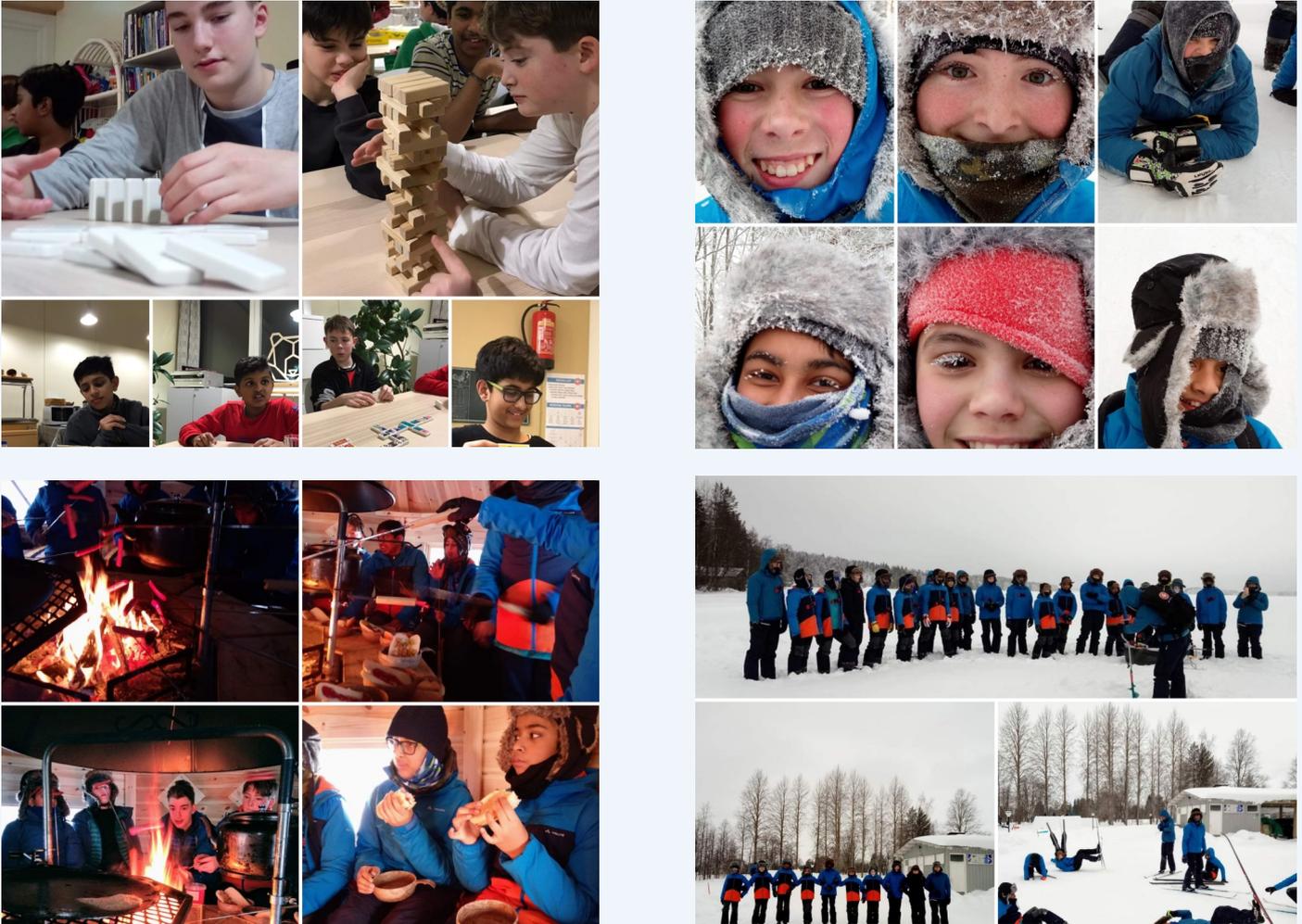
1. Y8 team line-up;
2. A strong carry by the team in pink;
3. Senior rugby crafting their set-plays; and
4. Y8 team pose after their win with Mr J Steadman.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

FINLAND — ICE FISHING AND MORE

This year for the first time ever, Reading School was delighted to introduce two trips to Finland, due to popular demand for Years 7 and 8 only. The two expeditions were overseen by Mr T Evans (Assistant Head) and required extensive planning. The pupils and staff found this experience both extremely challenging and rewarding undertaking ice fishing, igloo building and skiing. All the participants displayed great resilience and took up each challenge with positivity building team skills and collaboration techniques — skills essential to ‘Building Good Men’ whilst embedding independence.

Thank you to the team of staff that led and enabled these trips to go ahead, providing individual expertise in developing our boys.



TRIP TO BERLIN

Year 12 History students visited Berlin in March 2020. The purpose of this educational trip is to visit a range of sites related to World War II and the Cold War and give students deeper understanding of life under Communism, an area which is studied in Year 12.



EXCHANGE TRIP TO SPAIN



During February 2020 Reading School students had the chance to put their language skills to the test during an exchange trip with our partner school, [Colegio C.E.D.E.S.](#), a private bilingual school in [Albacete, Spain](#).

The Spanish exchange provided an opportunity for students in Years 9, 10 & 12 to become immersed in Spanish language and culture. The exchange was the last leg of a two-way exchange with Colegio C.E.D.E.S. which included students being hosted by families, spending the weekend with them, attending lessons at the school with their partners and sightseeing with staff.

Thank you to Mr J Escribano-Sanchez and Mrs E Humphries for successfully leading this trip for the second year in a row. We would also like to thank Mr L Green and Miss P Hutchinson for accompanying the students, the staff in the school office for their extensive administration and of course all those at Colegio C.E.D.E.S for helping to make this possible.

YEAR 8 TRIP TO NORMANDY



40 Year 8 pupils embarked on a week long trip to Le Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy for many fun activities and interaction exclusively in French. To enhance the vocabulary learned in French lessons and learn about the French cuisine and culture.



The boys embarked on assault courses, fancy dress competition, cooking French cuisine and thoroughly enjoyed making some life time memories as they enhanced their French vocabulary. Thank you to Miss E Fondou, Miss Stratford, Miss Baker and Mr Hornby for successfully leading this trip for the second year. It is the one trip that Year 8's look forward to every year.

COMBINED CADET FORCE



Reading School Combined Cadet Force saw significant growth in 2019-20, recruiting around 100 cadets from both Reading School and Kendrick School. This is the largest intake of recruits we have had and they have now completed the core theory elements of their training. Our Cadet Force Adult Volunteers are now trying to develop ways in which more practical elements of training can be achieved in adherence to current COVID guidelines. Like many school activities, CFAV staff worked hard to maintain a full programme of cadet activities which were facilitated virtually through the Summer term and we have been really pleased to see many cadets engaging fully in this training. We celebrated rank promotions for seven NCOS at the end of the Summer Term and are looking forward to announcing the new Senior NCO appointments in the coming week.

LEAVING STAFF



As the academic year concludes, we say goodbye to one of our long-serving members of staff. **Christa Sikkel** leaves the Mathematics Department, and Reading School, after 19 years of service. Christa has had a long association with Reading School, as a parent and as a teacher. As a parent, She has been with Reading School since 1993, when her eldest son **Markus (OR 1998)** joined, followed by her younger son **Constandinos (OR 2005)** (usually called Dino) who joined the school in 1998. Christa started teaching at Reading School in 2000, so there was also some overlap with being teacher and parent. Christa's youngest son, Dino is now a Lawyer and is a Senior Associate and eldest son Markus is now a Consultant Cardiologist specialising in Clinical Electrophysiology, Cardiac Device Implantation and Research.

As she departs, we have the following from Christa:

"It has been a surreal end with some great challenges. This new world of teaching was so different at first that it took me a while to get my head around it. I am such a people person, and I prefer real teaching to students in a classroom! I did get used to it, and I even managed to use my personal iPad Pro with it's online whiteboard and an iPencil to write with.

So, I finally decided to retire this year. In fact, I did think that I was going to continue for another year or so, but the Covid-19 pandemic was the catalyst that led to me retiring now! I will miss many of my colleagues so much, and I will especially miss the students. Since hearing about my retirement, so many of my students have sent me such wonderful comments—it has been so overwhelming. They certainly said such kind words that I will treasure their words in the years ahead.

Of course, I would love to keep in touch with Reading School as it has been so much a part of my life for the past 20 years as a teacher of mathematics, but it has been a part of my life since many years before that as both my son's attended Reading School. The eldest son is now 40 years old.

Please reach out to Reading School should you wish to get in touch with me - they have my details. I hope that you and your family keep safe and well and that you have a great summer holiday. Christa"

We are grateful to all the Old Redingensians who contributed to memorable messages that we could share with Christa as we said farewell during these unprecedented times. Christa was genuinely surprised to hear from so many of you.

This sums up Mrs Sikkel's passion and impact on students at Reading School....

*"I just wanted to extend my gratitude and best wishes to Mrs. Sikkel as she finishes her long career at Reading School. Mrs. Sikkel played a pivotal role in my formative years in Mathematics at Reading School, and was an excellent teacher and mentor. She had a great passion for the subject and encouraged myself and many others to be involved in learning beyond the curriculum, as well as teaching and presenting interesting Maths to other students. Her enthusiasm and dedication to making Maths interesting and accessible will be very much appreciated. Thank you! - **Shubham Gantayet (OR 2009-2016)"***

*"Thank you for your kindness and warmth throughout my years at school as my original form tutor. I still remember my first day at school in Year 9 when you warmly welcomed me into the class. No doubt, we were a challenging bunch in school house, but I hope you remember us as fondly as I'm sure we all do for you. All the best for the future." - **Jonny Bryant) OR 2014)***

From the Redingensians Community we wish Christa a well deserved healthy and safe retirement.



LEAVING STAFF



At the end of the Michaelmas Term we were sad to see **Mr Christopher Nicholas** leave us to join another highly competitive Grammar School, after 10 years service at Reading School. Chris had been a huge part of the Boarding Community with his family for a very long time as Boarding House Master of East Wing for six years, as well as Assistant Head, Head of Admissions and Head of Teaching and Learning as well as an outstanding Teacher of Geography and he brought a wealth of innovation and inspiration to Reading School.

We also see **Joe Gunson** return home to New Zealand after two years with us. A member of the Geography Department, South House Boarding, and Head of Laud House, Joe will be sorely missed. His enthusiasm, hard-working attitude, love of sports and humour will not be forgotten. Because of the strong relationship which we have with Auckland Grammar School, we have been able to secure high quality teachers such as Joe. We wish him all the best for his future endeavours, and we hope that we can continue to build on the positive relationship which we already have with **Auckland Grammar School**.

We want to say a heartfelt thank you, to each one of our leavers and wish them the very best of luck in their next chapter, whether this is retirement, a new adventure or new teaching role. Thank you for your contribution to Reading School life.

ALL STAFF LEAVING ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020

Surname	Forename	Role	Start Date	Date of Leaving
Tahan	Tristan A	Teacher of Physics	1 September 2019	31 August 2020
Baker	Amy	Teacher of Geography	1 August 2019	31 August 2020
Cornelissen	Gert	Chaplain and Teacher of Religious Studies and Philosophy	1 September 2016	31 st August 2020
Chan	Carrie	Teacher of Economics and Mandarin	1 September 2018	31 August 2020
Gunson	Joe	Teacher of Geography & Head of Laud House	1 September 2018	31 August 2020
Hornby	Jonathan	Teacher of German	1 September 2019	31 August 2020
Kensington	Thomas	Teacher of English	1 January 2020	31 August 2020
Lammerding	Jessica	Teacher of Biology	1 September 2016	31 August 2020
Nicholas	Christopher	Assistant Head, Director of Admissions, Head of Sixth Form and Teacher of Geography	1 September 2010	20 December 2020
O'Reilly	Tiernach	Teacher of Mathematics and Music	9 July 2018	31 August 2020
Sikkel	Christa	Teacher of Mathematics	5 March 2001	31 August 2020
Tahan	Tristan A	Teacher of Physics	1 September 2019	31 August 2020
Thoseby	Cristianne	Teacher of Computer Science	1 July 2019	31 August 2020
Tunstill	James	Director of Music	16 April 2018	31 August 2020

Auckland Grammar School Gap Year Students 2019-2020

Goldstein	Alexander		Walden	Ben
Crook	Ross		Draper-Griffiths	Oliver

COMMUNITY:SUPPORTING READING SCHOOL

THE READING FOUNDATION



In the early part of 2020, the Reading Foundation was the fortunate recipient of the residue of the estate of **Miss Evelyn Mary Aust**, who died on 4 July 2019 aged 96. She was a lifelong supporter of Reading School, as has been most abundantly demonstrated by her generous legacy of approximately £500,000 in memory of her brother, Henry.

The Reading Foundation

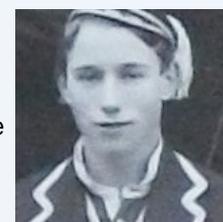
Five members of the Aust family attended Reading School;

Henry Ernest Aust (1908-14), Evelyn's uncle. He had been a prefect and a rugby colour and was killed in action in 1918, at the age of 22, serving as a lieutenant in The Yorkshire Regiment.



Ernest Arthur ('Bunny') Aust (1922-30), Evelyn's eldest brother was an engineer who emigrated to Australia and died in 1996 aged 83.

Henry Charles Aust (1929-1937), Evelyn's other brother, was a shooting colour and captained the 1st XV. He joined the Royal Navy in 1938 and in 1941 he died, aged 20, fighting an air raid on Plymouth where he was attending a course at The Royal Naval Engineering College. His parents Mr and Mrs A W Aust endowed, in perpetuity, 'The Henry Charles Memorial Prize' which has been awarded annually at School since 1944.



John B (Jack) Aust (1930-32) was Evelyn's cousin.



Henry Stephen (Harry) Aust (1957-58) is Evelyn's nephew and Bunny's son. He lives in Australia and is a mechanical engineer.

At the time of receiving the legacy there was a pressing need to renovate parts of the Waterhouse building, which for 150 years has been an integral part of every Reading School boy's experience. By funding the repairs **Miss Aust's legacy** has ensured the continued use of the iconic building well into the 21st century. The legacy is also funding a small donation to Reading School's archives.



Legacy giving, alongside donations from living benefactors, grant-giving organisations and support from parents, alumni and their families, funds many vital projects at Reading School, that would not be possible without the generosity of the whole Reading School community. In the last decade, significant bequests from ORs including **Peter Townsend (1944-48)**, **Bill Knight (1928-37)** and **John Haines (Master at School 1952-88)** have contributed to major projects for instance the Refectory and the Physics Laboratories.

Equally, major donations from **Neil Thomason (1966-73)** and **Nick Bion (1969-76)** and **Philip Mitchell (for many years Chairman of Governors)** have generously contributed to the Philip Mitchell Science Centre which houses our state of the art Biology and Chemistry laboratories. By improving these facilities we continue to develop the scientists, doctors, engineers and technical innovators of the future.

Thank you for continuing to support Reading School with your kind generosity.

A special thank you to **Ken Brown (1955-63)** and **Chris Widdows (1955-62)** for kindly providing photos and information to enable us to accurately share the Aust legacy.



COMMUNITY SUPPORTING READING SCHOOL

THE READING FOUNDATION

As we embark on ambitious plans for our School leading up to the 900th Anniversary celebrations in 2025, fundraising is crucial in order both maintain existing buildings, as well as planning for future projects. These include ground-breaking innovation centres both for Sixth Form and Mathematics, as well as sports and creative arts areas in order to support our growing school. Support from you will enable us, not only to be an academic powerhouse, but propel our facilities and resources for teaching, learning and innovation into a world class institution.

Reading School continually strives to deliver teaching of the highest quality, often winning high accolades and praise. Although rich and varied in many ways, Reading School is not an affluent institution. We do not have any endowments and therefore rely on the generosity of our donors to continue to deliver outstanding education for future generations.

The Legacy Society has been created to recognise and honour those individuals who have acted to provide support that will ensure Reading School's future through bequests in wills or trusts, life income gifts, retirement plans, life insurance designations, and other vehicles. The School publicly recognises members who have given permission to list their names. However some members wish to remain anonymous and the School respects their wishes.

If you have decided to include Reading School in your estate plans, please let us know. We would like to thank you for your generosity, make sure the purpose of your gift is understood by the School, and include you as a member of the **Reading School Legacy Society**.

To find out more about joining the Reading School Legacy Society or if you wish to discuss leaving a legacy further, please do not hesitate to contact Mr A M Robson (Headmaster) or Mrs J Chhokar (Society Manager) at development@reading-school.co.uk to arrange a convenient time to meet or speak.

Further information can also be found at: <https://www.reading-school.co.uk/page/?title=Make+a+Donation&pid=39>.

As we move towards the 900th Anniversary celebrations in 2025 the Reading Foundation is keen to support the maintenance programme which is required to preserve the Grade II listed buildings. To this end the Reading Foundation kindly provided a grant of £62,000 for renovation or replacement of all external doors, window repairs and guttering to the Physics Department. The work was carried out over the summer.



THE READING FOUNDATION— PRIZEGIVING CEREMONIES

The Reading Foundation annually sponsors key events such as the Junior Prize Giving and Senior Prize Giving ceremonies which take place annually in July and December. Such events are an integral part of Reading School celebrating the achievements of our pupils during the academic year.

Michaelmas Term ended by celebrating the success and achievements of senior students as well as welcoming back the Class of 2019, at the Senior Prize Giving Ceremony held on 19 December 2019, at the Great Hall, University of Reading.



This prestigious event is a celebration where we recognise the excellence, progress and commitment of our senior school students, taking pride in their individual and collective achievements.

We were honoured to invite **Ben Loader (OR 2010-2015)** as our guest speaker. He delivered a moving and inspirational keynote speech, resonating with every person in the hall, in particular all the students. Ben plays as a winger for the London Irish Rugby team and spoke of his time at Reading School and the impact it has had on his career, crediting the School's support and encouragement, both in academic and the various sporting activities offered. Ben unequivocally spoke about making the most of all the opportunities that are offered as well as acknowledging the support of his parents is what has helped him to reach his goals, although humbly said he is still very much at the beginning of his career and has far to go.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTING READING SCHOOL

READING SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The [RSPA](#), led by current Chair, Clare Shandling and a supportive team of parents, provide valued support to Reading School and its pupils through continued partnership and collaboration with the School led by the Headmaster and Chief Operating Officer.

The RSPA hold events which enable parents not only to socialise with each other, but also generate income each year through fundraising activities, all of which is available to provide extra equipment for the students, over and above that which the school is able to provide.

The RSPA has successfully recently raised funds for:

- The Summer Fayre 2019 raised over £22,000, providing new textbooks to support boys for the new curriculum.
- Minibus campaign February 2020 - A total of £8,940 (plus gift aid totalling £10,981.25) towards two new minibuses.
- In July 2020 the RSPA donated £6,380 towards new outdoor gym equipment for 2020, utilizing money raised via the School Uniform Shop, a 2nd hand clothes drive and selling unwanted items including the old school lockers.
- LRC laptop campaign in October 2019 Quiz night raised over £3000 including matched funding, with an additional £1640 (plus gift aid totalling £2,023.75) via a Virgin Giving page providing 9 laptops and a 32 dock charging station storage cabinet.
- In 2020 an additional 10 Laptops were donated for the Science Block from parental corporate matching and our ongoing online fundraising platforms. These corporate matching and online charity shopping platforms enables the Reading School community to sign up to additional fundraising online platforms that generate income for the RSPA to be able to support the school and **costs you nothing!**



We are also grateful for the additional support provided by the RSPA via the Uniform Shop, Lost Property sorting, Classlist Portal, Facebook year groups and new starter welcome and membership.

The support from the RSPA is key to the school and this is also further exemplified with volunteers taking part in #RSCares—community action via the Society Office.

We are all concerned by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, not only for our health and safety, but also on the impact on our organisations and the effects on fundraising during a time when we cannot carry on as 'normal' and hold events in the usual way. Therefore, during this time we urge you all to sign up to [Amazon Smile](#), [The Giving Machine](#) and [EasyFundraising](#). These sites provide donations when purchases are made at **no extra cost** to the purchaser via their web browser. They just require sign up (for those with digital copies can click the link below to sign up or visit our website to sign up: <https://www.readingschoolpa.org.uk/free-donations-1>. Please select Reading School Parent's Association as your preferred charity for donations to directly benefit Reading School pupils.



Current Executive Committee (AGM is held in October and everyone is welcome to join and new elections are held).

Chair	Clare Shandling
Treasurer	Susie Gupta
Secretary	Teresa Haynes
Assistant Secretary	Jaspreet Dhanjal
Membership Secretary	Kirsty MacInnes
Digital Managers	Jane Amole & Kirsta Rizzo

Our aim is to do what we can to advance the education of our children by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for education at the School – this means lots of fundraising which in turn needs lots of volunteers and support.

If you are not a member of the RSPA and would like to join, please email rspamemsec@gmail.com who will always provide a warm welcome to the Association.

Thank you for your continued support with special thanks to the Executive Committee.

OLD REDINGENSIS ASSOCIATION



READING SCHOOL BOOK FESTIVAL
2-6 MARCH 2020

Sponsored by the Old Redingensians Association

The Old Redingensins Association continue to support core initiatives at Reading School such as:

The annual Book Week – March 2020 which saw a host of author’s deliver inspiring talks and workshops.

This included inspirational talks and interactive workshops from: **Chris Bradford; Alex Hibbert; Professor Tredell; Matthew Cuthbert; Paul Dowswell; Holly Webb; Alex Baker and Sarah Govett.** There was something for everyone.

Power to the 9s—a new initiative launched this year but due to Covid-19 the ORA kindly agreed to reposition funds to the Future Stories Support Fund as these activities were no longer going ahead in the wake of the Pandemic.

Books provided to the LRC and The Annual School Magazine – Summer 2020.



The Music Masterclass

In February, Reading School welcomed rhythms from Africa, South America, Israel/Palestine, and India in musical workshops throughout the day.

GCSE Music students attended workshops that explored rhythms from all four corners of the world with guest musicians and percussionists Oliver Tunmer, Yaron Engler, Johnny Kalsi, and Lucky Moyo.

Students were split into four groups to explore the different musical styles of each culture.

“The first music culture we attended was the African one, which was led by a man called Lucky. This session was mostly body percussion taught by Lucky – who is from Zimbabwe. “We were all given djembe drums (African drums that are similar to the ones used in Israeli), plus an extra percussion instrument for us to play. We were then taught some simple rhythms to play on the drums. “We got to learn about his life in Africa and the culture there. It was a fun session and we learnt that there are many ways to make music, not just with instruments.” **Rishabh C 9W**



Thank you to the Old Redingensians Association for sponsoring our Annual Book Week and Music Masterclass

COMMUNITY SUPPORTING READING SCHOOL



The Society Office

Redingensians Community Making a Difference

Thank you from the Headmaster and the Society Office

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our wholehearted thank you, for your contributions to the school life at Reading School. Sometimes it is felt that we do not say these two simple words, 'thank you' often enough and we want you to know, that every donation, whether this is money or time, is genuinely appreciated. We are striving to be better, as we put in place processes to recognise every contribution, thank you for bearing with us. Each one of you are a valued member of the Redingensians community.

This year we have been extremely humbled to see the spirit of philanthropy and togetherness throughout the Redingensians community and during very trying times.

As lock down was enforced Reading School flew into action by working in partnership with the **Royal Berkshire Hospital** to fight Covid-19.

We saw the construction of mobile containers taking place at the end of March on the Reading School Field and the Redingensians community came together to support an array of initiatives either through donations, volunteering time or students taking personal challenges to raise funds.

The whole school community has been honoured to be able to support the NHS, keyworkers, vulnerable families and the wider community through our #RSCares initiative launching projects to support those most vulnerable during the pandemic, the following has taken place over the last few months.

Future Stories Support Fund - #RSCares

Reading School launched the **Future Stories Support Fund** extended to support families connected to Reading School during the Covid-19 Crisis to include:

- supporting children and families of key workers and vulnerable families
- families who are in self-isolation
- families who are struggling financially
- families of NHS staff and NHS staff based at the RBH – including nurses, cleaners, and porters at RBH making the country proud and deserve everything we can give them.



We set a target of £10,000 and exceeded this, reaching £15,000 because of your kind generosity.

Reading School's leadership team and Society Office were increasingly aware of difficulties families may be facing both financially and emotionally during this time.

Support has been offered to those families self-isolating, caring for family or struggling to afford their weekly shop led by **Mr T Evans (Assistant Head)**.

We have delivered weekly mentoring sessions for around thirty Year 5 students led by three staff with a team of Sixth Formers running up to seven separate sessions to different groups of boys; Maths mentoring throughout lockdown, led by a group of three staff and Year 12 students to support vulnerable students in Year 6; as well as providing laptop devices to students from these cohorts that lacked access to the internet.

Support has been offered to those suffering emotional difficulties either by connecting them to professionals during this period as well as specialist guidance from **Ms S Drummond** who led on this.

THE SOCIETY OFFICE

The Reading School Community including **Old Redingenisans, parents and current pupils, Governors and the Reading Foundation and ORA** have provided support in a myriad of ways over past few months. There has been a genuine outpouring of offers of support in different ways, which demonstrates the deep connection we feel with each other and Reading School.

During this time, we have seen an increase in social media engagement and the Redingensians community has grown across all platforms. As we have all had to become more tech savvy please join or follow us by clicking on the links below.

Inspire Lectures



Reading School Year 13
2000 2010

Thank you to all the Old Redingensians and parents that contacted the Society Office to provide Inspire Lectures remotely. We have seen the highest number of attendance, with our pupils remoting in to listen to various career options via our Teams platform.

If you have not yet had a chance but would like to participate, please do get in contact with **Jas or Piatrice at events@reading-school.co.uk**.

Virtual Reunions—Class of 2010

We were delighted to hold our first ever virtual reunion for the Class of 2010 mid-August via Zoom. It was important to us to

mark the 10-year milestone for the Class of 2010, which was originally planned to take place in June with our 150th anniversary celebrations, before the Coronavirus outbreak. Special thanks to Alumni Ambassador, Adam Wright (OR 2003-2010) in working with the Society Office to ensure we could mark this occasion.

It is clear, that former classmates and friends were eager to catch up with one another and reminisce about their nostalgic times at Reading School, with the Class of 2010 gathering lasting nearly 2 hours and we are sure this could have lasted longer!

Classes that end in a **1 or 6**, who will be celebrating reunions in 2021, please do get in touch so we can start to help plan these events whether this is remotely or in-person (if permitted). We really hope that we can invite Class years ending in **0s, 5s, 1s, and 6s** to celebrate their milestone reunions together during 2021 next year.

Unfortunately, during the current pandemic we cannot encourage any unnecessary visits to the School, however we look forward to welcoming you back when our beautiful Reading School is fully accessible and we are able to provide in-person reunions and/or School tours. In the meantime, if anyone is interested in meeting over Zoom, we would like to help arrange a virtual reunion for your year group, then please do get in touch with Jas or Piatrice at alumni@reading-school.co.uk.

We encourage all Old Redingensians to join the [Reading School Alumni Society](#) to keep updated on news, events, mentoring, careers and networking opportunities (details on the back of this publication for printed copies, otherwise you can click the links below).

As the Old Redingensians community continues to spread further and wider around the globe, we are delighted that several ORs have kindly agreed to be 'Alumni Ambassadors' to help bring us closer together. They have offered to be a point of contact for ORs either living, moving, or visiting those regions/countries. Whether you are in the UK or live abroad, please keep a look out for emails.

If you would like to get in contact with one of our Alumni Ambassadors or offer to be one yourself, please contact **Jas Chhokar (Society Manager)** or **Piatrice Hutchinson (Society Assistant)** at alumni@reading-school.co.uk.

With a growing community of over **1700 Reading School LinkedIn alumni**, please join or follow us at:



*Special thanks to **Lucas O, Jakab Z and Weiden W (OR 2019)** for the 900th Anniversary logo designs.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTING READING SCHOOL

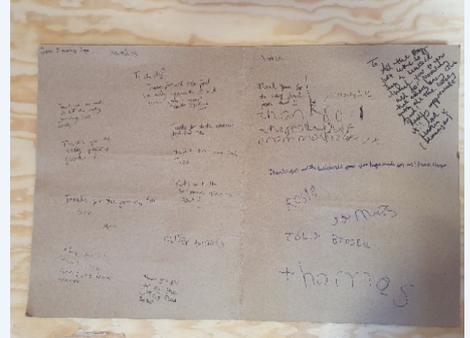
#RSCares



60 food parcels of essential items delivered to Reading School families most affected by the crisis and food parcels will continue to be delivered until school resumes.

Over **850** meals provided to children of NHS staff and key workers and this service continued daily at St Luke's Church.

Continuing to provide education and care for vulnerable children and children of key workers at school.



Ensuring vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils had immediate access to digital learning from home, so that they were not hindered in their online learning as the whole school moved to remote learning.

In addition, Reading School has...



rightly been concerned for the safety and welfare of the Old Redingensians community. In light of the social distancing guidelines that were introduced and being aware that this could have had an adverse effect on some of our ORs, the Society Office set up a remote calling programme 'Covid-19 Telephone

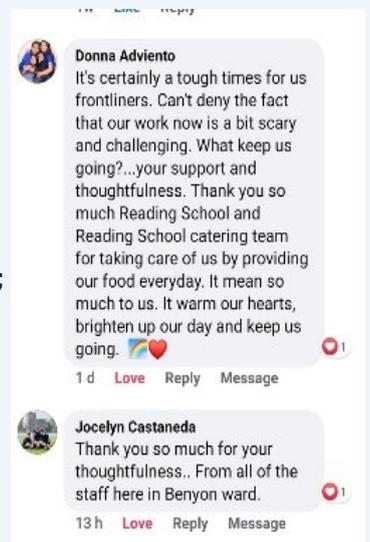
Affinity Campaign' to connect with over **300** Old Redingensians over the age of 65. The calls provided relief to those in isolation and allowed the School to check in with those who are the most 'at risk' group in our community and to ensure they were not in any undue difficulty. The calls were extremely welcomed, and we had many positive responses. The sharing of stories and reminiscing has been a brilliant insight. As well as sharing of items that belonged to family members in relation to the school allowing us to grow our archive. There appears to have been a ripple effect, with peers spreading the good work the School has been doing amongst the community.

Special thanks to **Alison Jackson, Susan Bell, Jas Chhokar, Piatrice Hutchinson (staff) and Sean Laing (OR 2019)** in providing this service during a difficult time.



350 meals served daily at the Royal Berkshire Hospital to frontline NHS staff provided by Reading School catering team with help from OR and parent volunteers.

Special thanks to the continuous service by: **David Burgess (OR 2006) and partner, Lucy; Andrew Poon (OR 2012); Sean Laing (OR 2019); Helen Garforth (Parent); Biswajit Chakraborty (Parent); David Fisher (Governor and former Parent) and daughter, Julie; John and Caroline Holland (Parents); Vikhyat Mudita (Parent); Minal and Kiran Sharma (Parent & daughter).**



COMMUNITY SUPPORTING READING SCHOOL

#RSCares...continued

Over **60** volunteers put themselves forward to assist during this time either with the NHS village or in other areas.



5000 donated masks to the Royal Berkshire Hospital kindly provided to Reading School by **Lunhua Education, China**.

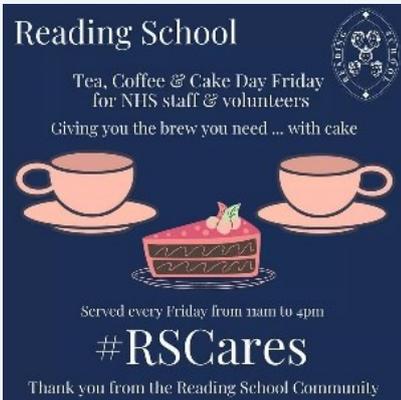
44 accommodation units hosted on the Reading School site for NHS staff. Each accommodation unit sleeps two NHS workers.

Free parking offered to those connected with Reading School who were working at the RBH or onsite.



Help NHS Heroes marquee accommodated on the Reading School Field to provide essential food items to the NHS staff.

We launched the **#RSCares 'Tea, Coffee & Cake Day Friday'** to enable our community to say thank you and lift the spirits of our critical workers by donating cakes and sweet treats every Friday.



More than **1000** baked cakes and confectionaries delivered to the **Royal Berkshire Hospital** and four local care homes over a period of six weeks. Including cakes created by pupils. The appreciation from the NHS staff and care homes has been overwhelming.



Over **1000** postcards were written by the Reading School student body as part of our 'Words for Wellbeing' initiative just as the school was informed it would need to lock down.

Through PSHE discussions took place around the need for solidarity and communication in a period of isolation and anxiety. Students were then invited to write and send postcards to the oldest members of their family, or vulnerable neighbours of the wider community. Many chose to write to the local care homes that they or their peers ordinarily visit as part of the school's inter-generational project, while others took the postcard home to post through a neighbour's door. The cost of postage was covered by The Reading Foundation.



Approximately **450** hours of volunteering time devoted by the Reading School community assisting the **Help NHS Heroes** and supporting the initiatives above.

Thank you to the **60** plus volunteers that put themselves forward to assist during this time either with the NHS village or other areas.



We are blessed to have an enormous amount of support. A special thank you to everyone for their incredible support – Via Redingensians.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTING READING SCHOOL

#RSCares Feedback

<p>"I have seen on the news and social media the extraordinary work that has been going on at Reading School".</p>	<p>"I'm touched you have got in contact with me after 50 years."</p>
<p>"Well done to all the teachers and staff who have been working with those children and families that most need us and the support to the NHS workers at RBH."</p>	<p>"Well done to the leadership team of the school. You are setting a great example to our boys."</p>
<p>"So proud and grateful to be part of this wonderful community. Thank you to all of the wonderful staff and teachers at Reading School."</p>	<p>"Great initiative Reading School, proud to be Reading School family. Thank you!!!!"</p>
<p>"Thank you to Reading School teachers and staff for leading by example and providing such invaluable support to those in need during this crisis. Building Good Men. Stay safe."</p>	<p>"Thank You for Everything you do. I left the School in 1959. Have retained fond memories of my time there. Am keeping abreast of how well the School is doing through the Class of 52 who all started at the school in September 1952. Well done for creating this initiative. Well done Reading School!"</p>
<p>"Very proud of RS for supporting the RBH in this manner. Well done Reading School."</p>	<p>"Keep up the good work. Very impressed with what you are doing in these difficult times."</p>
<p>"Very best wishes to all the RBH staff & hospital staff everywhere - for their continued specialist support for the communities we all live in. In lieu of the next Class of 52 lunch!"</p>	<p>"Best wishes from Nelson, British Columbia, Canada - "Proud of Reading school and its unwavering support for the community."</p>
<p>"I am proud to be an Old Redingensian and very proud of the School's response to the Coronavirus."</p>	<p>"I'm so glad to support Reading School even after all these years—continuing to support my school where I spent my formative years."</p>
	<p>"Reading School's support has made us feel relevant and important during this crisis and our residents have welcomed the lovely cakes and plants delivered. We are very grateful for your support."</p>
<p>"Amanda and Ellie also mentioned the accommodation provided by Caboose & Co. is extremely comfortable with the bonus of being set on beautiful grounds. They both had to stay in the cabins to save travelling long distance after shifts. Thank you or the lovely cakes the Emergency Dept. will love these."</p>	
<p>"The amazing Reading School chefs preparing meals to give around departments for NHS staff! Can't thank these guys enough for spending extra time during their day to help our NHS! @rbhtherapyteam"</p>	<p>"Thanks guys, your breakfast is very welcome at the end of a night shift!"</p>

Student led initiatives to raise funds for the NHS have included:

We are pleased how the students have been inspired and responded to #makeadifference with their own actions in the community.

Sam Ou (10L) and his family arranged for **1200** masks to the **Royal Berkshire Hospital**,

in addition to **200** masks to the School, to assist those working with children of keyworkers and other staff undertaking duties at the School.

Further, pupils have led on their own fundraising initiatives from '**Brave the Shave**', '**Sing a Song**', **running, cycling, selling art** to name a few.

Pupils have created video messages to share with the community requesting support and thanking the NHS.

Grandparents have donated plants to the NHS and Nursing homes as well as children of staff fundraising to create self-care packages for NHS staff.

Local primary school (**Whitley Primary**) joined in as had other community groups in order to provide cakes for 'Cake day Friday'.

Johnson Matthey supporting Future Stories Support Fund

We were honoured to be contacted by Johnson Matthey (Sonning) where the board had voted that they would like to support a local charity after hearing about all the excellent work that Reading School had been doing to support communities through the Coronavirus. We are one of their many charities they support. Any donations made by JM employees will be matched. Thank you to Dr S Garcia for putting forward Reading School's Future Stories Support Fund.

The sense of community has been immense, and we are proud to be a part of a caring community.

Events

Due to School closures and the government guidance, unfortunately we have had to cancel or postpone planned events until further notice. Please continue to check <https://alumni.reading-school.co.uk/homepage> and our social media pages for further event updates.

This was deeply regrettable as a full schedule of events had been planned for the 150th celebrations. However, we will not be disheartened and will work to integrate these celebrations into our 900th Anniversary in 2025 and convert some of these to virtual events.

Whole school events and key events (with large gatherings) for 2020-2021 are postponed until further notice. We are working to see which events can go ahead possibly virtually.

We thank you for your patience and understanding.



COMMUNITY SUPPORTING READING SCHOOL

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

There may be new needs that emerge as the Covid-19 crisis continues to unravel and how we recover. With the continuous support of students, staff, parents, ORs, Governors and the Reading Foundation we will continue to be able to respond to the needs of our school community and to offer proactive support.

Reading School is often listed in the top 10 State Grammar Schools nationally. Reading School consistently delivers a high level of secondary education to all the young men that embark on their time with us embedding the Reading School values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership and Community. Some of our recent achievements include:

- The **Sunday Times Southeast State Secondary of the Year 2020** and ranked 7th Nationally - national league table for achieving the best GCSE and A level results.
- **Ofsted 'Outstanding'** in its Boarding Ofsted Inspection of the School in February.
- The **Get Berkshire Active Award**, for the 'Active Secondary School Award' category after being shortlisted as the final three schools in Berkshire.
- Reading School has been shortlisted in the 'School/College of the Year' category as a part of the **UK Social Mobility Awards 2020**. We are both honoured and humbled to be recognised for our work in advancing Social Mobility through our [Future Stories programme](#) working with local primary schools to raise aspirations.
- Reading School is awarded **Gold Status as a TeenTech Centre of Innovation 2020**.
- Academic excellence is part of our mission, along with the aspiration to build good men. 23 students were offered places at **Oxbridge colleges** for a wide range of highly competitive courses as well as many achieving places in Russel Group Universities or highly regarded Apprenticeship Schemes.
- 19 Medical and 3 Dentistry applicants will embark on a career in medicine which we know are so vital to our society.
- Our pupils consistently achieve highly in national competitions such as: **Biology Olympiad, Mathematics Olympiad and UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, First Lego Championships, Raspberry Pi Competitions as well as Chess and sports** competitions.

Reading School is fortunate to have talented students, dedicated and experienced teachers, and robust academics, with co-curricular activities extending the arts and sports programs. Through contributions of time, wisdom and financial resources, our community supports the School's mission and enables Reading School to flourish as a leading State Grammar School, now and in the future.

TESTIMONIALS



"It was fantastic to be able to enjoy Rugby in the new season on the School Field with training at lunchtimes and after school with our excellent Coach, Mr J Steadman. I am grateful for the generous donations from parents and alumni who support our traditional sporting activities of Reading School."

Year 8 on Rugby 2019-2020

"My passion was Rugby when I was at Reading School and therefore, I would like to make a monthly contribution towards Rugby, and I will keep rooting for some wins via Social Media" **OR 2005**

"See the introduction of water sports and canoeing in Year 9 has been fantastic. It is challenging and I'm glad I had the opportunity to experience this sport."



Year 9 on Rowing 2019-2020

"Thanks to the generous donations from parents and alumni we have been able to participate in competitions and ensure we have resources to offer our students the practice required to achieve the high standards our pupils are capable of in competitions such as Biology Olympiad, Junior Biology Olympiad, Mathematical Olympiad and the UK Linguistics Olympiad to name a few."

Mrs F Howson, Head of Biology

COMMUNITY SUPPORTING READING SCHOOL

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Reading School recognises the importance of providing a fully rounded selection of activities in our co-curricular programme.

It represents a substantial part of the educational experience, involving activities that take place beyond the academic curriculum – and usually outside the class.

These projects enrich the experience of many students by enhancing the academic and personal development opportunities we are able to provide. None of them could happen without your generosity – gifts of all sizes have a direct impact on the Reading School experience.

It costs approximately **£365** a year per student to cover costs such as resources, materials, venue hire, specialist coaching, travel, hospitality, competition fees, mentoring schemes, as well as Inspire Lectures.

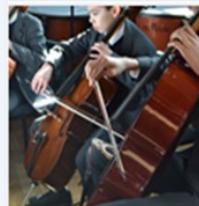
Unfortunately, our limited and diminishing government funding does not cover this vital area of our work and therefore we struggle to keep up with activities and clubs offered by our Independent counterparts. We continue to work on extending our offering, but these are limited due to insufficient resourcing.

How can you help?

Over the last 12 months, there have been many generous voluntary contributions made and this year funding has helped to introduce new activities and support a fantastic array of co-curricular clubs and activities offered at lunchtimes and after school. We have introduced additional options during sports for pupils to select specific sports from basketball, climbing, cycling to canoeing.

During lockdown we swiftly adapted our offering in a range of stimulating afternoon activities including cooking, chapel choir, kitchen chemistry, cycling and chess club, to name a few. There were approximately 45 clubs taking place weekly.

We request **voluntary annual donations of £365 or £30.00 per month which equates to £1.00 a day**. This will allow our students to participate in a large number of activities, therefore helping them develop new skills and expand their knowledge and interests. Regular gifts are incredibly valuable as they enable us to project our funding income and budget more effectively allowing us to offer new and fresh opportunities.



TESTIMONIALS

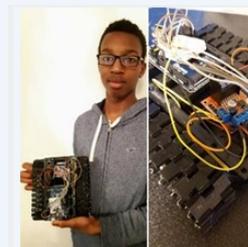


“It has been great to train and play competitive sports in the ESFA National Cup and our new kit helps make me feel like a pro. Thank you for supporting Football at Reading School and thank you to our coaches.”

Year 13 on Football 2019-2020

“The students enjoy developing their skills together and extend their knowledge exponentially, as they strive to solve the challenges, they set themselves! The funding enables the purchasing of components that enhance the students’ projects and provide them with a ‘no-limits’ opportunity to use their imagination and make something amazing.”

Stephen Ling-Winston (Head of Computer Science) & Raspberry Pi Club



“To be able to turn up to Book Club on a Tuesday lunchtime to meet new students with the same passion for reading as me, is just brilliant. I joined Book Club and love how we get to discuss different genres. I also have thoroughly enjoyed the author talks during Book Week arranged by the LRC and sponsored by the ORA.

Thank you for supporting reading and the author talks.”

Year 7 on the LRC and Book Club

COMMUNITY SUPPORTING READING SCHOOL

WHY DO YOU GIVE?



"Giving back to the school will help instil the same spirit of service in the next generation so they continue the tradition of supporting the institution that has given us so much."

Alumni of 1982



"I give to Reading School because the school provides such an excellent education for my son. I feel it is my duty to supplement the gap in annual funds and help make up this difference."

Year 7 Parent

"Opportunities made available to us came about due to selfless acts of giving from others – our parents, teachers, friends, family and, at times, even complete strangers."

Alumni of 2007

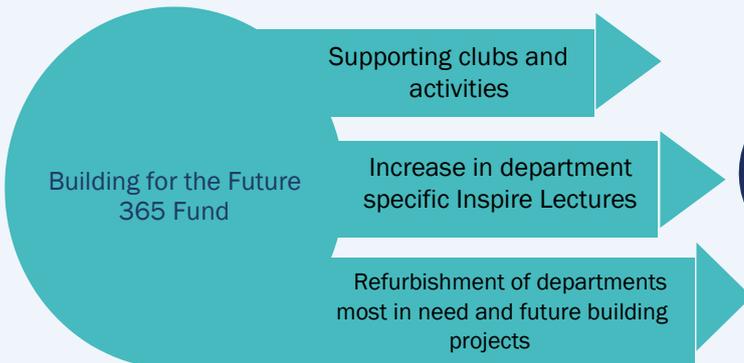


"I give because my son is offered an array of clubs and activities that keeps him busy and engaged. I am very grateful that the school arranges them for a small contribution."

Year 8 Parent



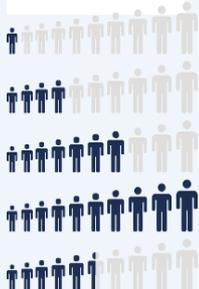
FOCUS ON NEXT YEAR



£ We are working together towards our 900th Anniversary in 2025
Help us reach a target of £150,000 annually

Alumni network around the world with valuable expertise

1074 pupils



thank you



To the generous support of our current and former parents, alumni and supporters for their direct donations to Reading School.

In addition, we would like to thank The Reading Foundation, Reading School Parents Association and Old Redingensians Association who have donated and supported specific projects from which our pupils directly benefit.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTING READING SCHOOL

YOUR CONNECTIONS MATTER

Reading School is a growing network who have gone onto pursue a diverse range of careers across the globe. As a part of our core value "Community" our mission is to help **Old Redingenisans** connect with each other and unlock growth opportunities as a part of the "Reading School Family".

Take steps to join the **Reading School LinkedIn**

- With over 1700 alumni members and with over 1650 followers
- Reconnect with friends, classmates and teachers
- Enhance your professional network
- Reading School news items shared, and reunions formed

HOW CAN YOU HELP MAKE AN IMPACT?

Every donation, of every size helps to make a difference. Find a way to support the school that suits you, from a monthly gift, offering support where the school needs it most, to remembering us in your will with a legacy gift, or helping to advance our flagship Future Stories programme. However, you choose to support, you will be helping transform the lives of Reading School boys now, and in the future.

Regular gifts can be made by Standing Order on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. Please see details below to set up a Standing Order and email development@reading-school.co.uk to confirm your regular gift and record gift aid or matched funding.

ONLINE: VirginMoneyGiving.com

BANK TRANSFER or SET UP A STANDING ORDER:

Bank: Lloyds TSB
Account name: Reading School Charitable Fund
Sort Code: 30-67-99
Account No. 40733560
Reference: student name/donor name

CHEQUE: Made payable to "Reading School" and complete the [Donation Form](#) and return to the Society Office at Reading School

EMAIL: Contact Jas Chhokar at development@reading-school.co.uk if you wish to discuss your contribution.

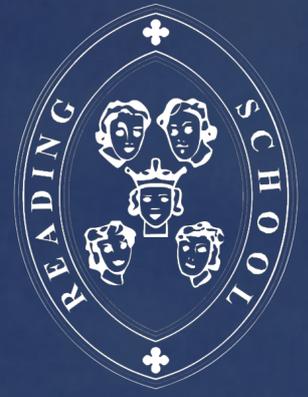
Reading School welcomes supporters from all over the world and international bank transfers can be made. If you would like to contribute to a specific area or subject, or consider our sponsorship opportunities, or leave a legacy, please contact

Mr A M Robson (Headmaster) or Mrs J Chhokar (Society Office)
at development@reading-school.co.uk



Key Dates for the Michaelmas Term 2020

Please note that all large gatherings and events are postponed until further notice.
Please check the school website calendar and social media channels for any updates



School

Monday 7th September: Term commences

Friday 25th September: CCF Biennial Inspection, scheduled to take place between 14.00 and 16.15 - TBC

Friday 9th October: Staff Day

Saturday 24th October - Sunday 1st November: Half term

Friday 18th December: Term ends

ORs

For more key dates, as they are confirmed, please visit
www.oldingensians.org.uk/

To keep up to date on news about Reading School follow us or join us at:



<https://www.linkedin.com/school/reading-school>



<https://twitter.com/readingsch>



<https://www.facebook.com/ReadingSchoolOfficial/>



Old Redingensians join our Alumni Network at
<https://alumni.reading-school.co.uk/homepage>

Twitter:

@RSPAReading - Parents' Association

@RSSportandPE - PE & Games

@RSBoarding - Boarding

@RSMaths - Maths

@RSHistory - History

@RSGeography - Geography

@RSChemistry - Chemistry

@RSLib - LRC

@RSPhysicsandCS - Physics & Com Sci

@FloreatReading - Floreat

Instagram: Rdg.art - Art Department

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