



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

4th July 2025

Contents

Introduction	3
Key information	5
Year 8 only	5
Floreat Charity Challenge	5
All years	5
Community Carnival – last call!	5
School Community News	6
Reading Abbey: Past – Present - Future	6
Events	6
Tuesday 8 th July – Music School Recital Hall	6
Sports Day 2025 – Friday 11 July	6
Support Our 900th Anniversary Gala Dinner: Get Your Tickets & Donate to the Auction	6
External events	8
Coding & Tech Camp – Summer 2025	8
Art Club	9
Swim Club	9
RSPA	10
Limited Edition Reading School 900 th Anniversary Cards	10
Volunteers Required	10
Year 10 Tutor Group Photos	10
The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop	11
Summer Term – Week 11	12
Senior Prize Giving 2025	12
New Year 7 Induction Day	19
Grandparents & Relatives Day 2025	21
Reading Abbey: Part – Present – Future Art Competition	30
Service of Festal Evensong	33

Introduction

Dear Parents, Students, Colleagues, Carers and Friends,

Today is a pretty good illustration of what Reading School is. Under the direction of our CEO, our guests from Mariupol Lyceum, a secondary school in Mariupol, Ukraine, have given a presentation to our Year 10 students about their experience of learning through conflict. The ways in which their own character and resilience has grown through the horrors of war have been made abundantly clear. They, and their teachers, prove that, “suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope: and hope does not disappoint.”

With the help of our student support team and pastoral leaders, we have also hosted leaders from St Olave’s Grammar School who’ve been discussing character education, student support, admissions systems and curriculum development. Their visit has prompted the kind of questions that help us calibrate our progress and performance. As dialogue partners from whom we can borrow brilliant ideas, they remind us that we’re foolish if we don’t keep striving to learn and improve. After all, “Wise men learn more from fools than fools from the wise.”

Meanwhile, our Director of Music brought together a staff choir and band in the Refectory to fulfill our Giving Day promise that “If we reach £120,000, teachers will perform music as a band and students can suggest their playlist.” The playlist could, in fact, have been a list of new school rules: “Don't Look Back in Anger, Don't Stop Me Now and Don't Stop Believin'”! I don’t think I’ve ever seen our Director of HR or our Head of Physics having so much fun. The buzz from the gathered ensemble really showed that our staff have unbelievable energy: like a “shooting star leaping through the sky... like a tiger defying the laws of gravity.” You may be pleased to know that the final challenge that staff must fulfill is a day of fancy dress which we’ll attempt on the last day of term on Wednesday 16th July.

If the staff band and choir weren’t creative enough, Ms Creegan had our 70 House Artists working on projects as diverse as a Studio Ghibli homage and a Modern Foreign Language triptych. The incredible teamwork on display showcased Van Gogh’s assertion that “Great things are done when a series of small things are brought together.” Anyone who promenaded the school this week to enjoy the incredible production of Alma Mater by our Head of Drama and cast will certainly know this to be true.

Whilst Art and singing were going on, Miss Ayres, our Deputy Head, was building 25 gazebos for tomorrow’s Community Carnival. Our Head of PE, Mr Allen, was measuring out the markings for Sports’ Day at Morgan Road next Friday. Our Society Office were communicating with two prestigious OR Athletics Coaches in the USA who might pop in as guests next week. Our Sixth Form staff were welcoming new students into Year 12, and our Cadets have been camping in Hampshire – stretching their leadership and endurance.

“But where,” you ask, “is the learning?”

Learning is life itself. Every day is a school. Every person is a teacher. Every moment is a lesson. If you do anything long enough, you become a teacher of it. Our hope remains that Reading School students (and staff and parents too) learn from everything. Every. Little. Thing.

Gazebos, carnivals, choirs, camping, colleagues, classmates: all are invitations to learn and to enjoy a universe full of great and hidden things!

As one student put it today, “Everything’s a floreat lesson in the end, isn’t it?”

I hope to see you at the Community Carnival tomorrow between and 11:00 and 16:00, and that you have a wonderful weekend.

With warm regards,

Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

Year 8 only

Floreat Charity Challenge

Year 8 students have been busy in planning their annual 'charity challenge' competition as part of their Floreat lessons. The challenge feeds into the School pillar of 'Community', where students acknowledge the need to put others before themselves. This year, we are focussing on raising awareness only (rather than money), and therefore each tutor group has one day each next week to get as many members of the School community to engage with the charity of their choice through distinctive and relevant activities (no cake sales!). Each charity chosen is local to Reading, and was chosen by the tutor group. Through a range of activities at registration, break, lunch and tutor time, Monday 7th July will see 8C support the NHS through a health focus for the Royal Berkshire Charity, Tuesday night will see 8L sleep on the front field in support of the homeless charity Launchpad, and Thursday will see 8W support Sport in Mind, with a focus on getting active for our mental health.

All years

Community Carnival – last call!

We look forward to welcoming students, families, staff and the wider community to tomorrow's Community Carnival – a celebration coinciding with the School's 900th Anniversary.

[Click here to download the official programme](#)

[Click here to download a map](#)

The family friendly event will feature live music, dance, food and drink from around the globe, as well as sport, wellbeing sessions, guest talks, bouncy castles, climbing wall, obstacle course and so much more.

Want to sign up for guest talks happening on the day? TV celebrity Andrew Jenkins and Reading School student Indiana S (12E) will be delivering talks in the Chapel during the day.

About the speakers:

Andrew Jenkins - a finalist on BBC's The Traitors, is a motivational speaker and founder of Strength In You Ltd. After a life-changing car accident left him in a coma, doctors believed he would never walk or talk again. Andrew defied the odds—rebuilding his life, overcoming mental health struggles, and turning his story into a powerful message of resilience and hope.

Indiana S - leads you through a brief history of Reading School – 900 years of students, staff and surprises! Join Indiana on a fascinating journey through nearly a millennium of school heritage and discover the remarkable stories that have shaped our School.

[Click here to sign up to one or both of the talks happening at 12pm, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm.](#)

School Community News

Reading Abbey: Past – Present - Future



Year 10 artists recently visited the private view of winning works for the “Reading Abbey: Past – Present – Future” art competition; it was exciting to see their work on show, and get the full private view experience, including free refreshments. Tobias L (10W) won a workshop for our artists, and we were delighted to welcome Dr Martin Andrews to the department to run a workshop exploring the historical development of hand illuminated manuscripts and the earliest printed texts.

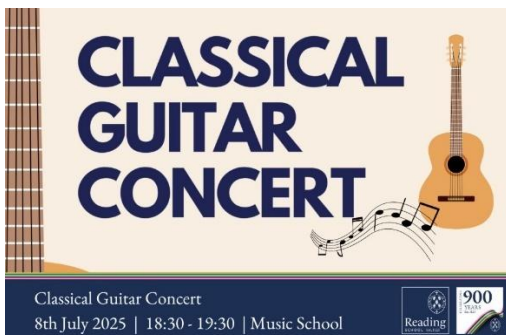
Dr Andrews is a printing historian and formerly Lecturer in the Department of Typography & Graphic Communication, University of Reading. A multidisciplinary artist working across painting, sculpture, and printmaking, he has written a number of books on local history and has extensive experience designing exhibitions, as well as being a printmaking consultant for period dramas.

A particular highlight was being able to directly handle illuminated texts from the Middle Ages that were written using gall ink on parchment (made from animal skins); looking closely artists could see the hair follicles on the pages!

Thank you to Dr Andrews, Professor Françoise Le Saux, and The Friends of Reading Abbey for giving our artists this illuminating opportunity.

Events

Tuesday 8th July – Music School Recital Hall



Classical Guitar Concert, hosted by Mr. Sibley (Classical guitar tutor)

Experience the enchanting sounds of classical guitar at our **Classical Guitar Concert**! Our talented guitar students will perform a selection of timeless pieces, showcasing their dedication, finesse, and musical expression. From delicate melodies to intricate compositions, enjoy an intimate evening of beautiful music.

Bring family and friends to support these passionate musicians as they share their artistry on stage. Join us for a night of exquisite guitar music and [click this link to book](#).

Sports Day 2025 – Friday 11 July

[Click this link](#) to sign up to our biggest sports event of the year.

Support Our 900th Anniversary Gala Dinner: Get Your Tickets & Donate to the Auction

As the final special event in Reading School’s 900th anniversary celebrations, we invite you to join us at our **Gala Dinner at Reading Town Hall on Saturday 29th November 2025**. This event promises an unforgettable night of fine dining, live entertainment, inspiring moments, and most importantly, the opportunity to support the future of our school through the **Beyond 900 Fund**.

We're also inviting you all to get involved by **donating an auction item** for the event should you be attending the evening or indeed as a way to contribute towards the celebrations and kindly support the school. The event is perfectly timed to launch everyone into the festive season, indeed the auction site going live in the run up to Christmas period it is also a superb opportunity for people to find unique and thoughtful gifts, all while supporting a great cause.

Some popular auction item ideas include:

- **High-end or vintage items** – such as watches, jewellery or antiques
- **Signed memorabilia** – like sports shirts, books or prints
- **Tickets or vouchers for local experiences** – including theatre, concerts, sporting events, restaurants, cafés or spas
- **A curated book bundle** – ideally special editions, limited prints, or themed sets (e.g. classics, cookbooks, or children's favourites)
- **A bottle of wine or small wine bundle**
- **Craft items, artwork or handmade gifts**
- **A gently used or collectible item in excellent condition**

If you have something you'd like to donate, please email us at events@reading-school.co.uk and include a photo of the item. We will then get back to you with details on logistics and delivery.

Additionally, if you think your company might be able to sponsor or donate an item or service for the event, we'd love to hear from you, we warmly welcome support from corporate sponsors.

Event Details

Venue: Reading Town Hall, Blagrove Street, RG1 1QH

Date: Saturday 29th November 2025

Time: 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Tickets:

- Single Ticket: £150
- Table of 10: £1,400 (ideal for groups or reunions)

Book by 31 August 2025 and receive 5% off, all tickets using the code GALA5 at checkout. *(Limited to the first 5 Group Table Packages and 50 Single Tickets)*

Tickets include:

- Welcome drink at the pre-dinner reception
- Three-course gala dinner
- Wine at your table (cash bar available)
- Keynote speech and live entertainment
- Silent and live auction
- Raffle draw with luxury prizes

To reserve your place, visit our booking page [Gala Dinner - 29th November 2025 | Events | Reading School Alumni Society](#) or contact events@reading-school.co.uk for group reservations.

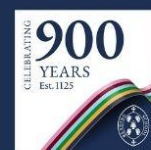
READING SCHOOL | 900TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Celebrating 900 Years: Gala Dinner 2025

Evening Highlights:

Pre-Dinner Reception; Three-Course Dinner;
Keynote Speaker; Live Entertainment;
Silent & Live Auction & Raffle Draw

900th Anniversary Gala Dinner
29th November 2025



External events

Coding & Tech Camp – Summer 2025



Looking for an engaging and educational way to keep your child busy this summer?

FunTech is a UK-based education provider specialising in technology and coding courses for children and teenagers. Founded in 1996, the company has over 29 years' experience in preparing children aged between 7 – 17 years for a digital future through fun and interactive courses.

The camp is hosted at Reading School and led by tutors who deliver day courses in coding, robotics, Minecraft engineering, game design and more – all in a safe and supportive environment.

To find out more about the courses, dates, fees and booking information, please [visit their website by clicking here](#).

The camps are independently run by FunTech.

Art Club



Do you want your child to explore their potential through art?

Arty Class is a dedicated school of drawing and painting that offers structured art classes for children aged 5-16 years. Their experienced art teachers nurture children and develop their love of art by bringing out their artistic potential.

Arty Class (in partnership with Artspiration) have been running regular sessions at Reading School each and every Sunday during term-time and they are taking bookings for the Autumn Term 2025:

September 14, 21, 28 / October 5, 12, 19, 26 / November 9, 16, 23, 30 / Dec 7, 14

5 to 8 years: 11.10am – 12.10pm / 8 to 12 years: 9.30am - 11.00am / 12 to 17 years: 12.20pm to 13.50pm

Fees from £10.50 per class and to find out more and book, please visit www.artyclass.co.uk

The sessions are independently run by Arty Class.

Swim Club

Do you want to make rapid progress in your swimming skills while gaining vital water safety awareness?



Early Swim School are a local swimming club running lessons for all ages, including parent and toddler classes, children, adults and ladies only. Accredited by Swim England and run by experienced swimming teachers, Early Swim School are holding a swimming crash course from Monday 28th July – Friday 1st August with 40-minute sessions running at 9am, 9.40am and 10.20am at Kendrick School, Reading, RG1 5BN.

To find out more about the crash course or other sessions available, please contact Mari by calling 07960 536 050 or [visit their Facebook page](#).

The sessions are independently run by Early Swim School.

RSPA

Limited Edition Reading School 900th Anniversary Cards

The RSPA have created a special edition greetings card to celebrate the 900th anniversary of Reading School. The card has been designed by using an original image by Denys Hinton (OR 1931 – 1939), a former captain of the school from 1938-39.

The digitally printed A6 cards are blank inside and can be used for all manner of occasions.

The packs contain 5 cards and cost £7 per pack, or two packs can be purchased for £12.

They will be available for sale at the Community Carnival on Saturday 5 July, at the RSPA stand. Alternatively, you can contact Kerry O'Brien by emailing kerryobrien2004@yahoo.co.uk.

Please do come and join us at the stand and support your RSPA, where the funds raised will go back to the school for the benefit of all the boys!

Volunteers Required

Do you have a few hours to spare in order to support your School? The RSPA is looking for parent volunteers during:

- Community Carnival on Saturday, 5th July, 11am – 4pm
- The Sports Personality of the Year (SPOTY) ceremony on Wednesday, 9th July.

These wonderful School events will offer a fun way to help raise essential funds while getting to know other parents. Whatever time you can spare will be greatly appreciated and your contribution will make a significant difference.

Please sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/r/xwNgHuXiPz>

Year 10 Tutor Group Photos

Following the huge success of last year's Year 10 tutor group photos that raised much needed funds for the RSPA, we will be offering photo prints of all Houses in order to continue to raise funds to provide three interactive whiteboards for the Science department.

Details

*Photos are available in 6"x 8" format for £10 or A4 for £20. Both in a matt finish.

*There are sample photos available which can be viewed in advance. The photos are lovely and the first group photos taken since Year 7.

*For further information, please contact kerryobrien2004@yahoo.co.uk

*Please indicate your name and your son's House.

Thank you in advance for all your support and looking forward to hearing from you.

The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

Will be open on:

- Saturday 2nd August from 10.30am – 12.30pm
- Saturday 30th August from 10.30am – 12.30pm

We would love donations of the following as our stocks are running low:

- All sizes of macron kit- particularly games tops
- Ties in all houses and Sixth Form
- Small size blazers
- Trousers up to age 13
- Shirts up to age 13
- A Level textbooks
- GCSE and A Level Revision books
- GCSE English Lit set texts

All unwanted items can be dropped to Student Services next to Reception in a bag marked 'Uniform Shop'. All donations will be gratefully received.

In the event of a poor weather forecast the opening will be cancelled- if this happens information will be sent out via WhatsApp groups and Classlist.

We are always looking for more volunteers to join our shop team. It is a great way to meet other parents and to find out about more about the school.

If you would like to join the team, please email shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Summer Term – Week 11

To keep up to date with student life at Reading School, click the icons below to follow, be part of, and stay connected with the Reading School community.



Senior Prize Giving 2025

Here's to the Class of 2025 and may you carry the spirit of Reading School with you wherever you go. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who made the day so special.















New Year 7 Induction Day

After wishing our Class of 2025 all the very best, we also welcomed our newest Year 7s who will be joining their new School from this September.

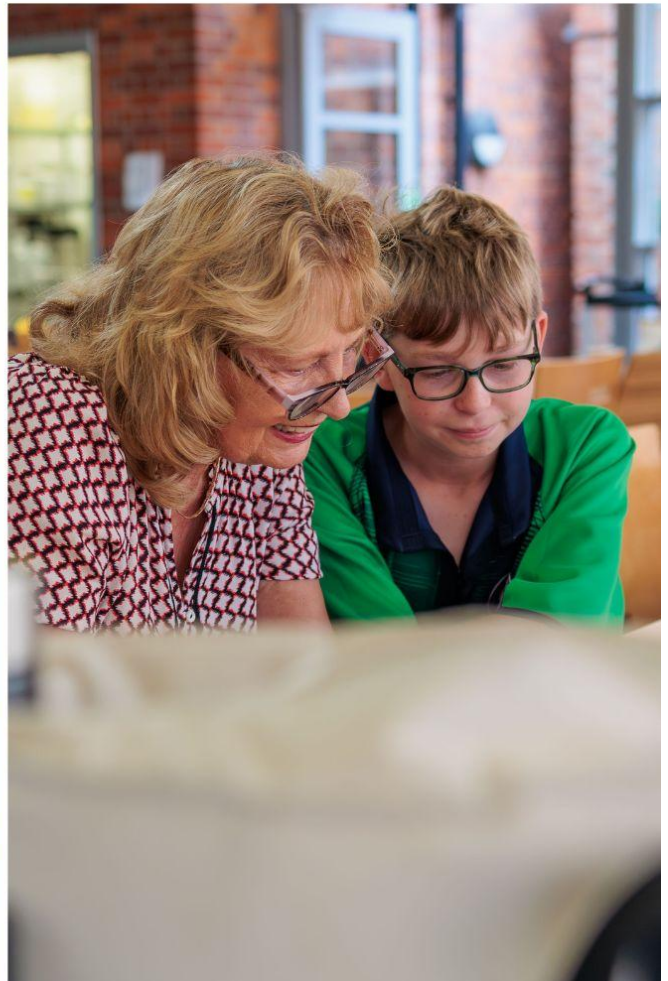




Grandparents & Relatives Day 2025

A welcome return of our special event where families are invited to spend a day at Reading School.











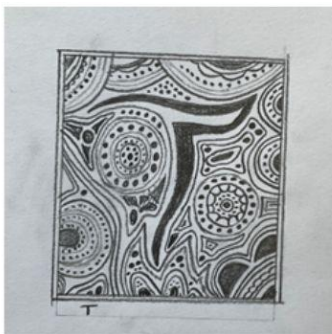
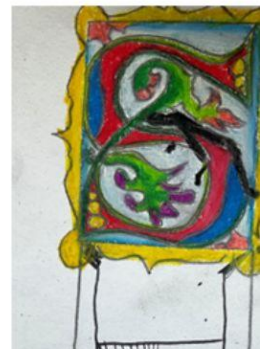
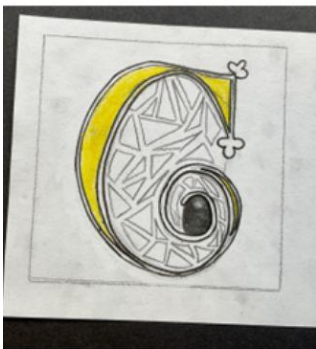


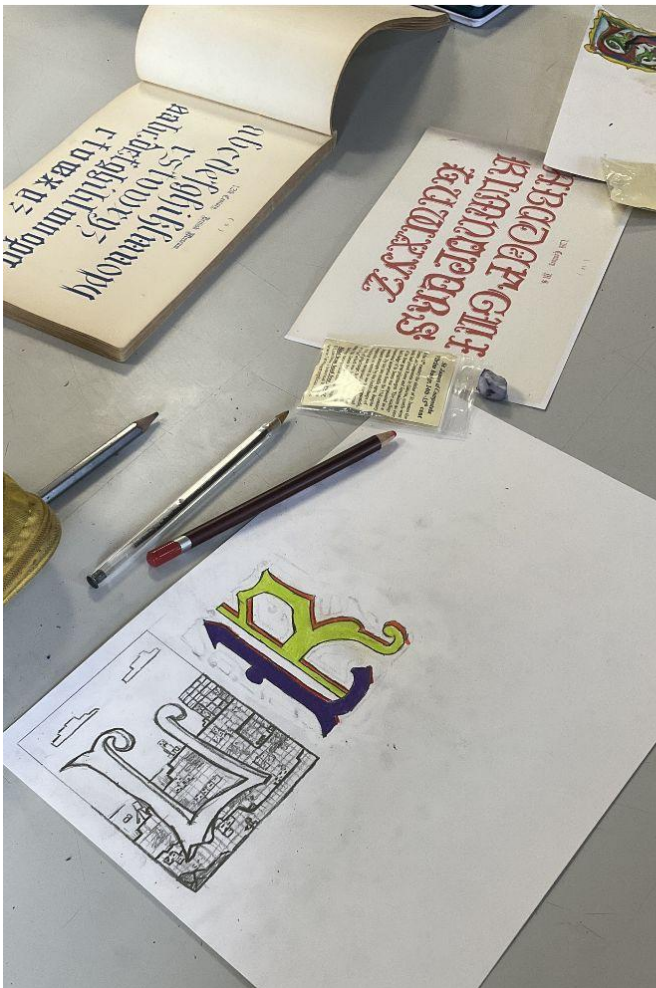


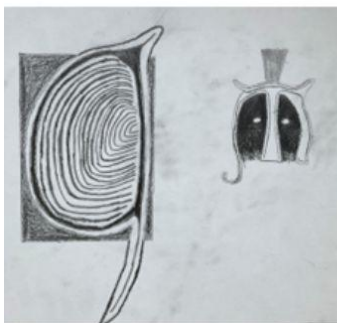
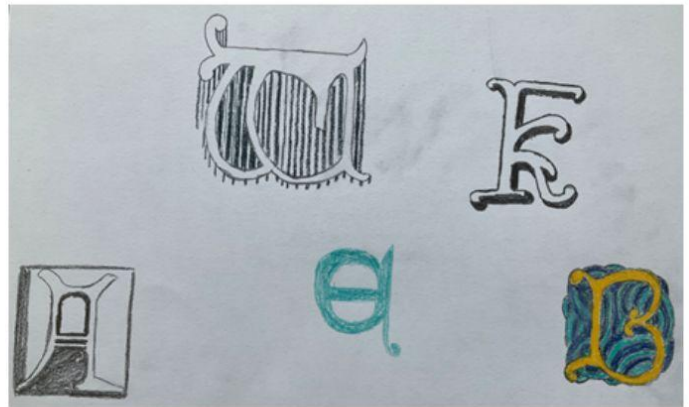




Reading Abbey: Part – Present – Future Art Competition







Service of Festal Evensong

“Thank you to Early St. Peter’s Church Choir for welcoming the Reading School Chapel Choir for the joint Service of Festal Evensong to celebrate St. Peter’s Day on Sunday 29th June. It was a pleasure to welcome Edward Nesbit, composition lecturer at King’s College, London to the service, having composed the anthem ‘Quem dicunt homines?’ for which this evensong was the piece’s world premiere. A fantastic opportunity for the boys, singing alongside an experienced choir who perform regularly. We look forward to working further with Earley St Peter’s Church in future.”

Freddie Shaw



Feedback is important to us and if you have any positive news, comments or suggestions, please contact the Community Relations Office by emailing communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk