



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

6th June 2025

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Introduction

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Staff,

There will be many tired Reading School students this evening!

Waking up on the School Field this morning with the dawn chorus at 04:45, I discovered many of our Year 7 students were already awake and having a whale of a time in their tents! Others are in Copenhagen and will be pushing themselves physically on their exciting trip. I know our Year 9s have stretched themselves too - many will be weary from a 60km paddle and today's 20km walk in the Chilterns. Year 11 and 13 have had full weeks, again, with some long and taxing GCSE and A Level papers.

Nelson Mandela once said, "*Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.*"

Whilst we hope everyone will finish this week encouraged that "the right" exam questions came up in Biology and Economics, or buoyed by the joy of walking in the Chiltern Hills, we also know that sometimes Fridays can just feel hard. Indeed, there are some colleagues who have slept in tents for three consecutive nights, others on their third international trip in three weeks, and still more marking their 500th exam paper.

Bounce-back-ability is therefore key for all of us, isn't it?

To all my colleagues, to the Year 7 students whose behaviour has been impeccable, to the Year 13s who greeted me with smiles just before going into Big School (when they had every right to feel anxious and to hide), and to the Year 9s clocking up the miles, I therefore extend sincerest thanks.

We salute your resilience, and want you to know it's ok to feel tired!

I hope very much that those who have been practicing perseverance – whether physical, intellectual, emotional or personal, will now spend this weekend being refreshed and renewed, that we might all bounce back on Monday! As an ancient Hebrew poet once wrote, "They will soar on wings like eagles; run and not grow weary, walk and not be being faint."

With thanks again to all of those who are such examples of tenacity and character: Students and Staff alike.

We are so proud of you!

Dr C Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All years

Change to break and lunchtime timings from Monday 9th June

As we have done in previous years, with Year 11s and 13s on study leave, we will be moving to a single breaktime and lunchtime from Monday 9th June until the end of term. Rather than have a Junior and Senior break, we will have one breaktime for all year groups from 10:55 – 11:15, and lunchtime from 12:45-13:30. Form time will be after lunch at 13:30-13:45.

Students have been advised and we encourage parents to remind them of this change.

Year 13 only

Class of 2025: Yearbooks and Hoodies – Orders open

We would be grateful if parents could remind their sons that if they have requested to purchase a Yearbook and/or hoodie, that the deadline for online purchase is **23:59 on Sunday 8th June 2025**, before the storefront closes.

Details of how to purchase have been posted on Teams by Eli T (Legacy Prefect) and Ellias M.

If they haven't already done so, this is their last opportunity to secure these keepsakes or you might like to purchase one.

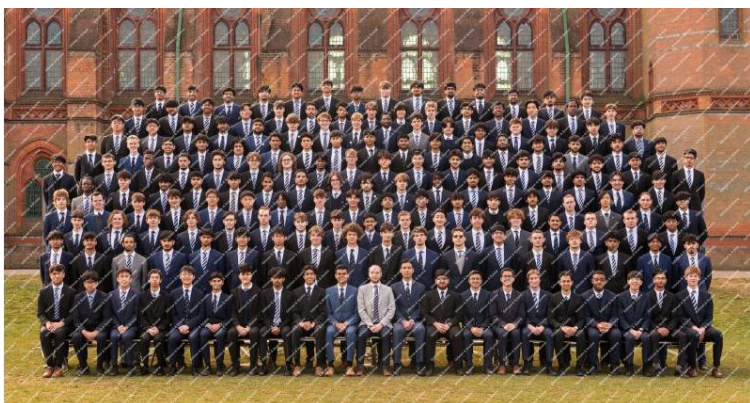
Yearbooks capture the essence of the secondary school journey, filled with candid snapshots, memorable events, and messages from classmates and teachers. It's a treasure trove of memories that you or your son will cherish for years to come. Similarly, our custom-designed hoodies are a symbol of pride and unity, representing the graduating class of Year 13.

To ensure that your son does not miss out, please ask them to visit <https://yearbook.com/store/reading-school-2025-leavers-yearbook-and-hoodie> today to place their order (if they haven't done so already). Your prompt action is greatly appreciated.

Students will be able to collect their orders at the Leavers celebrations on Friday 27th June.

If you have any questions or need assistance with your order, please don't hesitate to contact Miss Hutchinson at phutchinson@reading-school.co.uk.

Year 13 Class Photo Still Available to Order



We are sharing a reminder that the Year 13 group photographs taken recently are still online and available to order with delivery direct to your home address.

Please [use this link](#), and your email address when prompted, to view and order on the Gillman & Soame website.

If you have any queries, please contact Gillman & Soame directly by emailing: enquiries@gillmanandsoame.co.uk.

Belonging Week

Week Two comes to an end

It was all about Year 7s and Year 9s during Belonging Week #2.

Week two is all about looking within and going away with peers that you don't necessarily know well to take part in exciting and diverse activities in totally different contexts, in order to give students an opportunity to work out what they've got within themselves. According to, Mr Tom Evans, Assistant Head, *'It's about being courageous, considerate, generous, and recognising that when you pitch in with your unique skills and contributions to a group, that group becomes better. It's about our boys working out what they're good at and also sharing their gifts with each other through activities and conversation.'*

Belonging Week can be a pivotal moment in the lives of our students, when they go from being young boys being led, to leading themselves and others. Regardless of whether they can at this stage verbalise it, they will walk away from their experiences with the tools to make their school better, their classroom richer and then take that out into society - and hopefully they have great fun while doing it.



Mrs Clarke, Head of Laud House, shared, *'I spent Belonging Week one with Year 10s who all went off to work on different activities including sports and life-skills. What I observed was that they not only worked on improving their own skills, but they also improved their coaching and leadership skills through encouraging others to be able to participate in that activity or sport. I spent a lot of time with the footballers in Week 1 and we engaged with around 240 primary school students with the boys leading on all of the activities planned and adjusting for different abilities and SEN needs. It was fabulous to see our boys really owning their sessions and making sure that everybody got something out of it. It was really special.'*

We would like to thank each and every staff member for their contributions to two incredible weeks of activities and experiences. You have made a real difference in the lives of our students.

Events

Mandala Workshop – an update

Last Saturday 31st May, local artist and Year 7 parent, Ms Sushma Nagendranath led on an arts workshop hosted at Reading School in aid of the Beyond 900 campaign. The workshop allowed participants to design, create and keep their own unique mandala artwork, and it provided an opportunity to explore mindfulness through art, tap into creativity and learn more about the symbolism of mandalas.

We would like to thank Ms Nagendranath for giving up her time and experience in leading the event, and in speaking with her earlier this week she shared:

'Thank you to the team at Reading School for allowing me to facilitate a workshop last Saturday. After watching the Beyond 900 masterplan video earlier this year, which shared the plans for the building of new facilities for the benefit of our students, along with seeing the efforts in the organising of the 900th Anniversary events, I was motivated to help. I wanted to support my son's Giving Day Challenge in March and proposed running a fundraising art workshop. Now, I'm really looking forward to holding another workshop during the School's Community Carnival on Saturday 5th July.'



RSPA

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 7

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.



Belonging Week – Week 2

A Celebration of Community and Belonging

Week 2, Day 1





Team Reach

'From the outside looking in, Belonging Week may simply appear to be a series of trips but all of the activities and the way that the trips are planned are intentional and have purpose. They have all been developed to build on the work that has already taken place since Year 7 through character education and Floreat.'



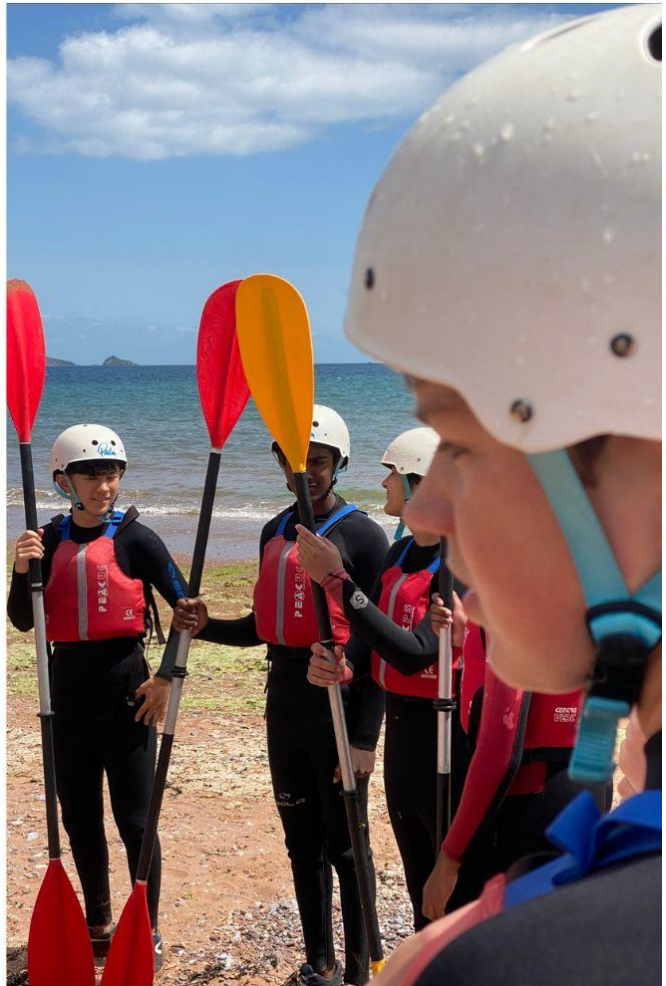
'I'm always inspired taking part in Belonging Week. You never get to see the whole picture as there's so much going on and there is a huge amount of work that is done in the background by all staff in order to deliver the programme while exams take place. I always come away inspired by how enthusiastic and willing students are to learn and to develop as young people.'





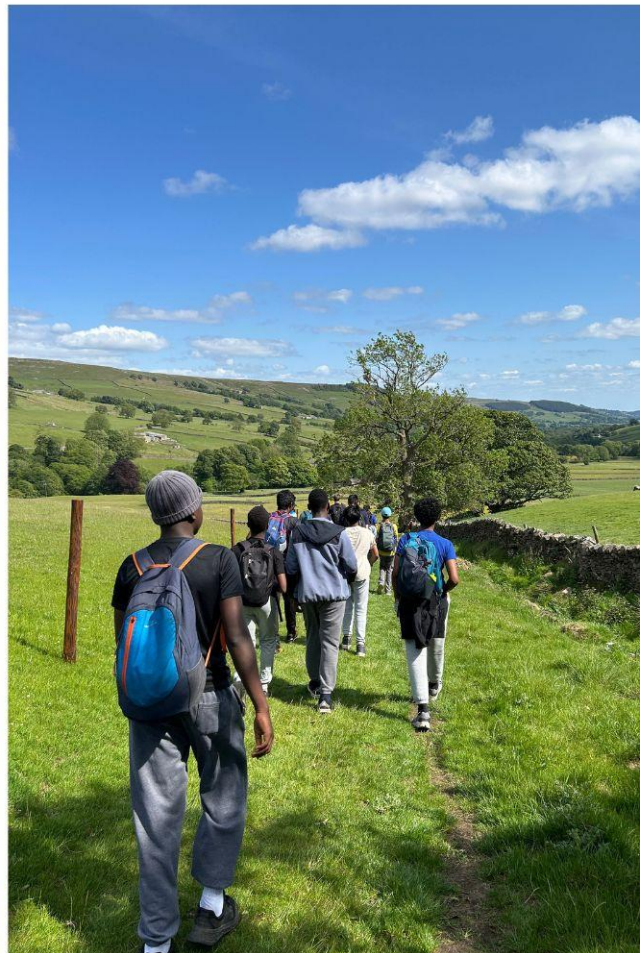








Team How Stean



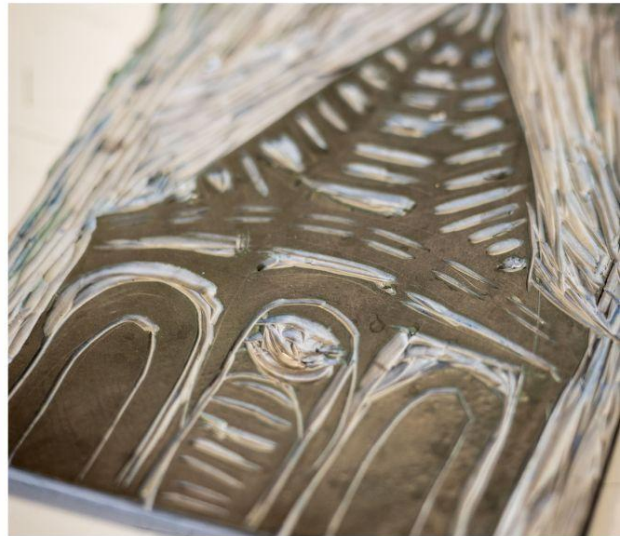


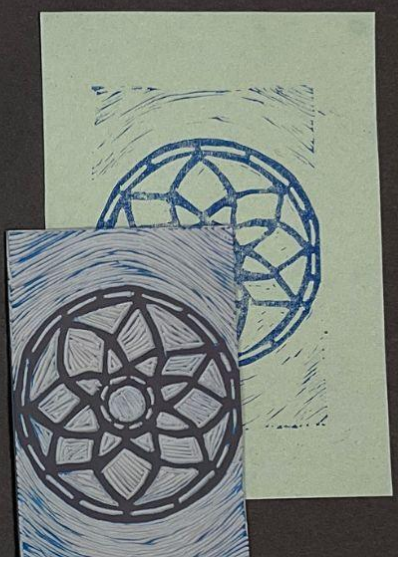
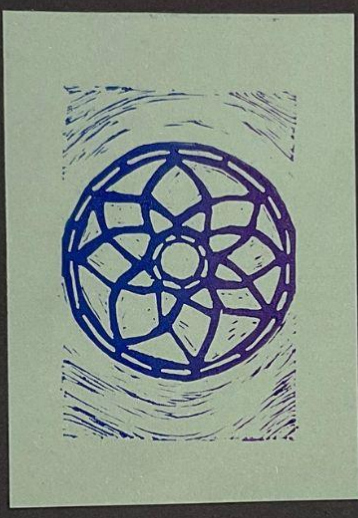
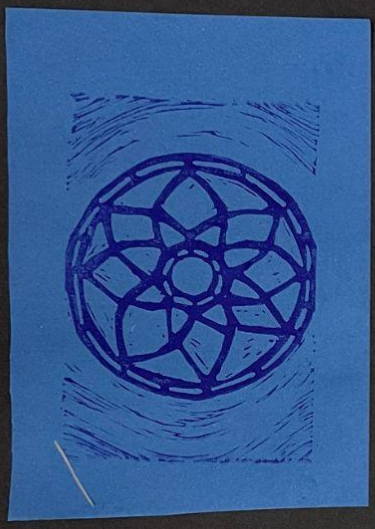
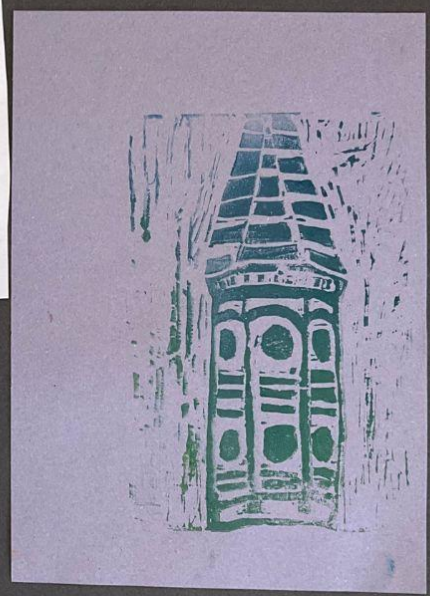
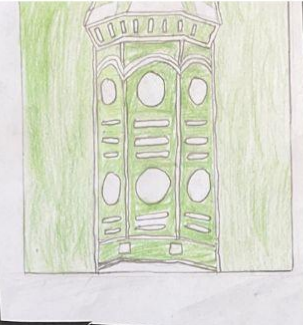
Team Thames



Creative Carousel

Art, Music & Drama















Science Museum

Year 7s got to explore space, find out more about human biology, genetics, psychology, gain insights into the role of technicians and engineers as well as take part in an interactive gaming experience featuring video games and consoles from the past 50 years.

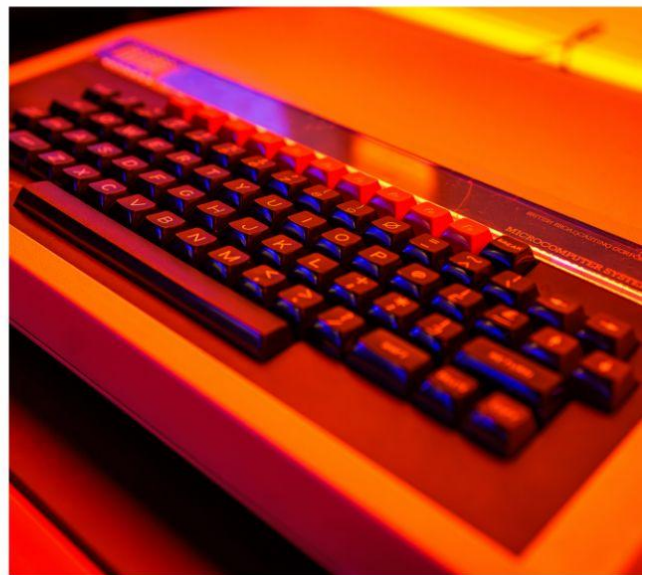






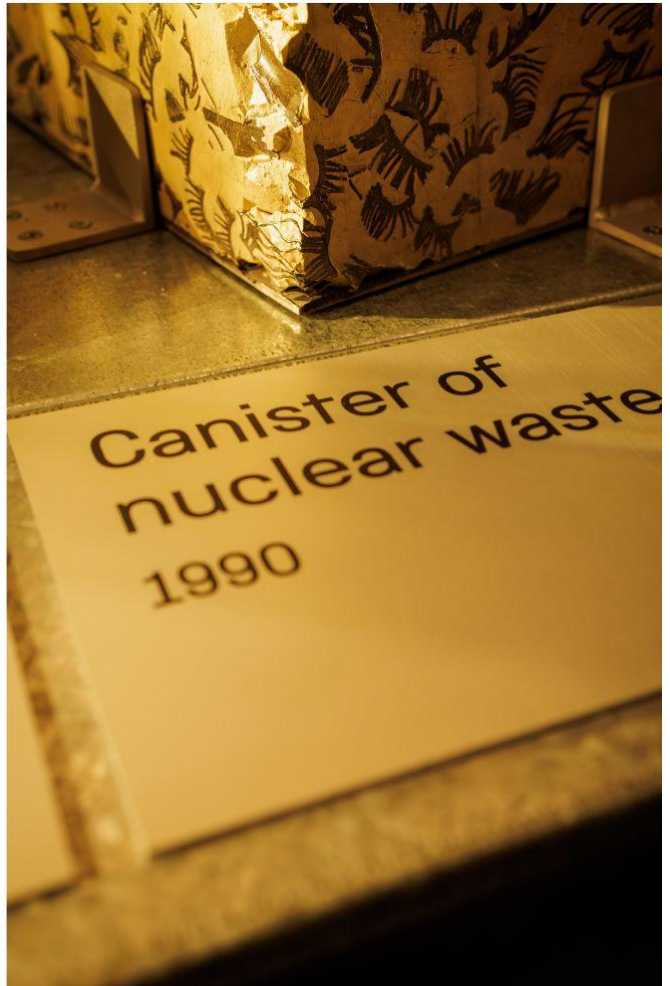












Dinton Pastures Activity Centre

‘As a Head of House, my highlight has been spending time with Year 7s who have been on a real journey that has included building on the sense of belonging and the strength of bonds...something they may not realise at the time when they’re having fun. I see how far they’ve come from their first day at Reading School and in how much they’ve developed - I can’t wait to see how they continue to develop during the rest of the year.’

















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