



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

13th June 2025

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

Today, in the midst of our busy-ness, I stopped to ask some Year 10 students what they thought the most important messages to share with the community might be. Having completed end-of-year assessments, having enjoyed trips and Belonging Weeks' activities, I wanted to know what Year 10 students were taking into the summer term.

"Don't go brain dead in the summer," one said, "you can't switch off and just stop thinking because there are no assessments in front of you."

"Enjoy the Summer," said another, "now's the perfect time to be more active, get outside and enjoy the fresh air."

"Go over your mistakes," said a third, "it's when you get feedback that you can improve the most."

"Your test results don't define you," said about nine of the class.

"You should still be studying throughout the summer, especially in the holidays," said Baharldin, though most of the class disagreed.

I was pleased to receive such varied stimuli and inspiration. I have no idea how you are feeling about the weeks of term ahead, but I hope you will be encouraged by the remarkable range of accomplishments covered in today's bulletin. Moreover, I hope you will take seriously our invitation to the Community Carnival on July 5th. We really want you to be there.

Arthur Schopenhauer (apparently) once said, "Ordinary people think merely of spending time, great people think of using it."

I suspect that means I'm an ordinary person, and not a great one! Time always feels like the most elusive resource, and the hardest thing to keep hold of. There are still so many things to fit into the term, and so much to try and invest in. With Art Exhibitions, Flying, Cricket matches, shared lessons with the girls at the Abbey School, Drama performances, the Grand reunion and Sports Day still ahead of us, I have no idea how we're going to fit it all in.

Whether you agree with Baharldin, or are looking for the most sunshine and outdoor fun in the months ahead, I hope you can appreciate each moment. Spent or used; the time we have together is a gift.

I hope you can fit in all the things that matter most to you and enjoy life in all its fullness.

With best wishes,

Dr C Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All years

Community Carnival

There are three weeks left for Reading School's one-day celebration for the School community and people of Reading on **Saturday 5th July, from 11am – 4pm**, and you are all invited. Whether you are looking to unleash your inner artist, compete in sports, feast on international cuisine or enjoy live performances from local musicians, DJs and choirs – there will be something for everyone.

The Community Carnival is part of the calendar of 900th Anniversary events and one we warmly invite you to attend to soak up the festive atmosphere and make it a memorable occasion. Mark your calendar, save the date and bring your friends, family and neighbours.

Want to sign up for 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 for free](#)



COMMUNITY CARNIVAL
A FREE ONE DAY CELEBRATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF READING!
SATURDAY 5TH JULY FROM 11AM - 4PM
Reading School, Eleigh Road, RG1 5LW

- All day live music and dance
- Food and drink from around the world
- Street dance
- Graffiti workshop
- DJ sets
- E-sports arena
- Wellbeing area: yoga, massage, sound therapy, mandala art and more

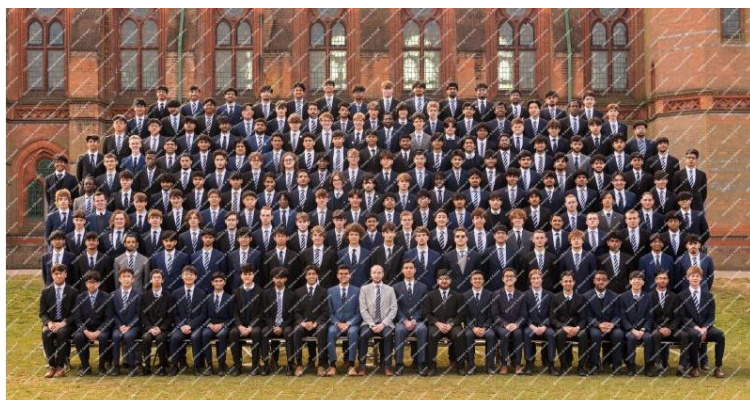
- Sports showcase: penalty shoot out, badminton, fencing, table tennis, rowing, boxing, cricket, rugby and more
- Karaoke
- Escape room
- Inflatables and climbing wall
- Arts and Crafts
- Story telling

Register your interest by scanning the QR code



Year 13 only

Year 13 Class Photo Still Available to Order - reminder



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.

Excellence in English

2025 Mcllroy Essay Competition

We are pleased to announce that Joel A (10E) and Sri R V (9C) have together won the annual Mcllroy Essay Competition, with their responses to this year's task-title "What I want to celebrate...". Judges were not able to separate their two submissions, so have decided for the first time to split the prize between two winners.

The essays were anonymously judged by the panel, drawn from the Reading School staff, to be a terrifically inspiring and well-expressed pieces of writing. They will be published in a future edition of "Floreat Redingensis" and also available on the school's website and via our social media channels.



Joel says:

I am absolutely delighted to have won the Mcllroy Essay Competition. I decided to take part after my mother pestered me to do something useful in frightening amount of free time I had in Easter, so I decided: why not enter? After all, not only was it a chance to hone my essay writing skills, but also a great opportunity to win £250. But in all seriousness, this essay was a rare opportunity to talk about something I think is deeply important, that being resilience, something that my mum and dad, who both work in the NHS, show every day, and I think should be celebrated. As for the competition itself, I think that everyone reading this (if you're a student) should enter it next year. Don't worry about winning, just take it as a chance to write about something you care about, as well as practising an essential skill.

Sri says:

I'm ecstatic to have won the Mcllroy Essay Competition! I entered because I saw it as a unique opportunity to showcase my skills in a different way (and because it sounded like a fun challenge). What made the experience so rewarding was the freedom it gave me to think creatively and develop an idea that truly stood out. Through the process, I learned how to transform a simple concept into something detailed and original. It was a fantastic opportunity to grow as a writer, especially since I'm usually more interested in fiction, so the shift to a more non-fiction style was a refreshing challenge. The skills that I gained will be incredibly useful for my English Language GCSE, any of my future A Level selections, or even an EPQ if I choose to pursue one. Winning also comes with a generous cash prize, which is a great bonus! Overall, I highly recommend entering as there's so much to gain and absolutely nothing to lose.



Once again, students from across all the year groups took up the challenge, and the panel enjoyed carefully reading each one of the submissions to this special 2025 900th Anniversary edition of the competition. Thank you to every student who invested time, thought and skill in crafting an essay.

The Mcllroy Essay Competition has been running in its current format since 2013, and the English Department would like to thank the school and the Reading Foundation for its continued generous support by funding the £250 prize.

We all passionately believe in providing a wide range of opportunities for Reading School students to express their thoughts and feelings in a creative and reflective way, and this is just one such outlet.

The competition will open again in the 2025 – 2026 academic year.

[Click here](#) to read Joel A's essay and [click here](#) to read Sri R V's essay.

Young Geographers

Recycling Revelation: Students Go Behind the Scenes

On Tuesday 10 June, nine lucky students took part in an enrichment visit to the Recycling Centre at Aston Clinton near Aylesbury.

The objective of the visit to the Centre and the tour, led by the Education Manager, was to create a better understanding about what actually happens to the household products that we throw away. To prepare the students, each had been asked to complete a pre-trip questionnaire designed to explore their awareness of and attitudes and behaviours towards recycling at school and at home, including a diary to record and measure what they did and didn't recycle at home over half term.

Maulik S (10L) summed up the experience from the students' viewpoint:

'Earlier this week, a group of students across Years 7 to 10 took part in an educational trip to the Aston Clinton recycling centre, accompanied by Ms Thomas, Dr Young and Mr Edwards. The visit aimed to deepen our understanding of what happens to the waste we throw 'away' and to highlight the importance of recycling in reducing environmental impact. It also served as a chance to reflect on how everyday actions at home and school contribute to wider environmental outcomes.

From the moment we arrived, we were struck by how organised and methodical the site was with clearly marked zones, signage, and separate areas for different materials. Our guide, Ms Breen, gave us a thorough walkthrough and provided in-depth insights into the centre's operations, answering questions from students with both knowledge and enthusiasm.

We learned how a wide range of household waste, including wood, metals, plastics, and garden waste is sorted, processed, and sent on for reuse or further recycling. What stood out most was how much of what we discard can actually be reused if handled properly, and how easily small changes in our habits can make a large difference. It became clear that recycling isn't just a routine task, it's a practical way to reduce waste and limit our impact on the environment. We left the site with a new appreciation for the systems in place to manage waste and a stronger sense of personal responsibility.'



Trip leader, Ms Thomas, says:

'I was so proud of our students in the way that they prepared for the trip and how they engaged whole heartedly with what they were being told by the Education Manager. They actively listened and asked insightful questions. On the minibus back to School, they all said they had really enjoyed the trip and felt it should be organised again in the future for other students to benefit from'.

Emily Breen, Education Manager was similarly impressed with students and shared:

'It was so lovely to have you all yesterday and the group were brilliant. I really enjoyed the enthusiasm and the excellent questions.'

Excellence in Chemistry

Schools' Analyst Competition

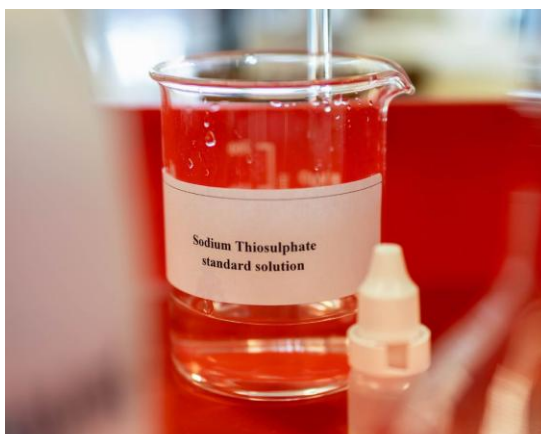
The [Royal Society of Chemistry's School's Analyst Competition](#) enables, 'students competing in Year 12...to demonstrate and expand on their existing chemistry knowledge, skills and aptitude for analytical science through practical analytical experiments based on relevant societal or industrial problems.'

This week, Year 12s worked in teams of three in order to complete three practical tasks which included analysing unknown samples in order to determine their composition. In previous years, the competition has taken place collaboratively with partner schools, Kendrick and The Abbey and we look forward to restarting the collaboration next year.

Miss Rosser-Evans, Teacher of Chemistry shared:

"I think it's a fantastic opportunity for our students to be able to broaden their knowledge of chemistry and be able to do practicals that they wouldn't normally get to do in this class. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, and I am so proud of how they've applied their existing skills to tackle real-world problems. Experiences like this not only deepen their understanding but also build the confidence and creative problem-solving abilities that will serve them exceptionally well in their A-level studies and future scientific careers."

We look forward to sharing updates on this round's outcome in the near future.



Events

Art Exhibition Private View: Thursday 19th June, The Blade, Reading

Fine Artists in Year 10 recently entered a competition run by [Friends of Reading Abbey](#) to create artworks that explored Reading Abbey in the past, present, and future. Tobias L (10W) won the year group category with Akshat S's piece (10W) being highly commended. The judges noted the good standard of the work seen across all entries and how impressed they were with the range of ideas, styles, and media used, and how the entries strongly reflected the individual creativity of the artists.

The artwork for this competition is being shown in the public foyer of The Blade building in central Reading, Abbey Square, RG1 3BE, with the private view on Thursday 19th of June (4pm - 6pm). Artists, parents, carers, and members of the school community are warmly invited to celebrate this achievement. Tea/coffee and soft drinks will be available. The artwork will then be on public display at the Blade on working days, 9-5pm, until the 26th of June.



Image: Winning entry by Tobias L 10W

Fundraising Update



We received an invitation to act as volunteers at The Green Park 10k race following our participation in the Goring Gap race in May. On the morning of Sunday 1st June, with the help of parents and students volunteered to help organise runners' kit bags and distribute medals and prizes at the finish line.

Our thanks go out to Pallavi, with her sons Aarav and Arnav from Year 9, Prasad, Hao, Anjali, Terri & Menaka.

We loved the positive feedback and smiles from both the organisers, runners and volunteers.

A further donation has been added with the total of the two events having raised **£1,150**.

To donate to this fundraiser, please use the following details:

Account Name: Reading School Parents Association

Sort Code: 60-17-21

Account Number: 04619919

Reference "SCIENCE" and your name.

To claim Gift Aid on your donation please also email our Treasurer at lorrimore@readingschoolparents.co.uk to confirm your Gift Aid status.

The 3 interactive whiteboards will cost around £12,000 and aim to boost how students engage with and learn from their biology and chemistry pursuits from the moment they enter Reading School. It will also bring the science department up to a consistent level across the 3 subjects.

Please do add your continued support if you can! With many thanks from all at the 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

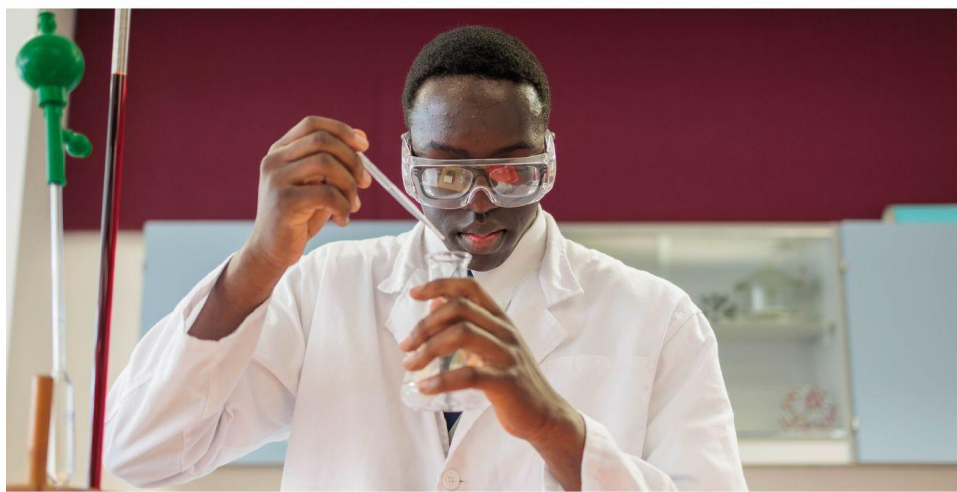
Summer Term – Week 8

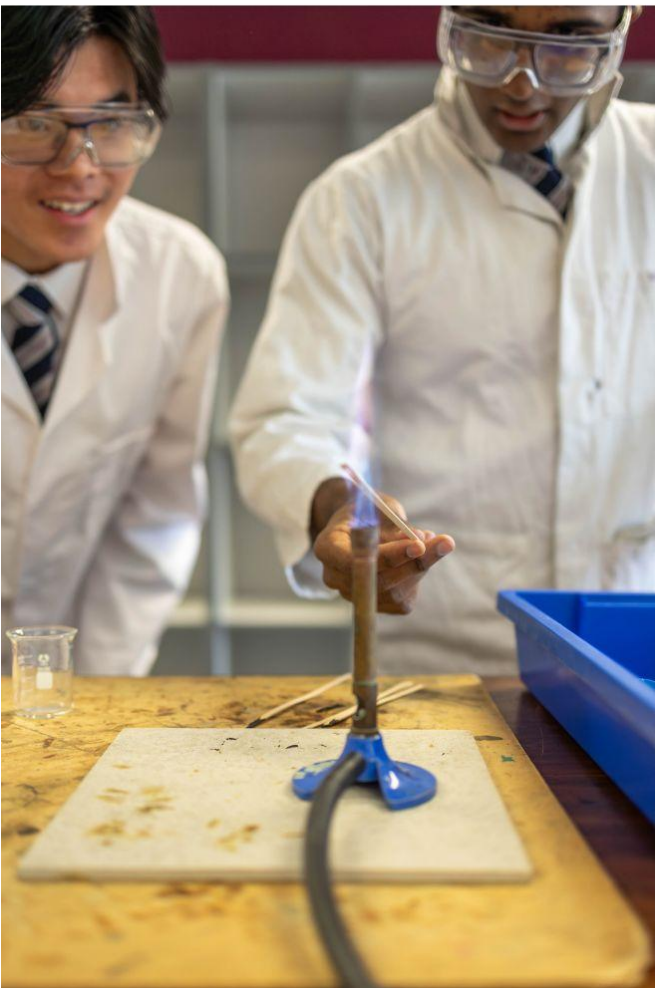
To keep up to date with student life at Reading School, click the icons below to follow, be part of, and stay connected with the Reading School community.



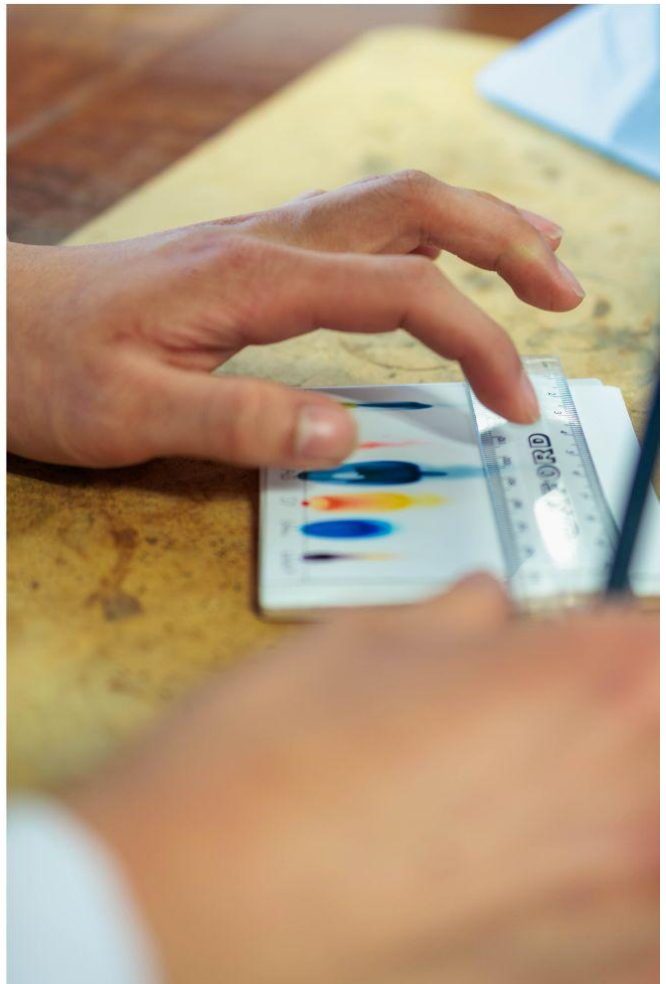
Schools' Analysts Competition

Teams of Year 12 chemists tackled real-world analytical challenges - testing unknown samples and honing practical skills in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Schools' Analyst Competition.









Year 7 Trip to Copenhagen, Denmark

Year 7 students embarked on an enriching adventure in Copenhagen, where every corner - from colourful harbour-side apartments to sleek design studios offered a window into Danish life. They cycled the city's famous bike lanes, sampled local cuisine, and tested their mettle in fencing session, all the while discovering how sport, design and everyday home-life reflect Denmark's values of community and balance.

[\(Click image to view video\)](#)



Through work with Dr Jacob Naish, Year 7s learnt about how nurturing meaningful relationships and embracing change can become powerful tools for coping with life's challenges. Mr Allen, Head of PE & Sport shared, "The trip was transformative and not only an enriching one but also one that re-informed our School's approach to encourage students on their own paths of self-discovery while learning about the value of relationship building."





Year 12 Spanish Debate

Our Year 12 Spanish students recently visited Maiden Erlegh School to take part in a debate on the influence of famous figures from Hispanic countries - one of the key topics in the A Level Spanish curriculum. This was the second meeting between the two schools, and students thoroughly enjoyed reconnecting with their peers. The experience not only encouraged lively discussion and collaboration but also gave students valuable practice in critical thinking, fluency, and engagement, all essential skills for their upcoming speaking exams.



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