



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

20th June 2025

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Introduction

Dear parents, carers, students and colleagues,

Today is the last day of A level exams. Apart from a pigeon attempting to sit the Further Maths paper today, everything has gone very smoothly! My thanks go to Ms Povey, our exams officer, for her incredible work. Without her calm approach and careful planning, students' experiences of their external assessments would be very different indeed. I am grateful to Ms Povey and the wonderful team of invigilators who have joined us this term. All that remains for the Class of 2025, and our Year 11s now, is a test of their patience, as they wait for their results in August!

I'd also like to thank Mr Blade and the First XI for a wonderful fixture with the MCC on Wednesday. Though beaten, the team gave an excellent account of themselves – particularly through their energy in the field on a stiflingly hot day. A full match report is available to read by using the link in the Photo Gallery section.

Finally, I would also like to thank Mrs Dimmick, Dr Brookings, Mr McGall and our Heads of House for making our newest families welcome over the last two evenings. It has been a joy to meet those whose journey is just beginning here. I have promised them that we will always have in mind the man that their son will become, not just the child that they are right now. It feels appropriate today to reiterate this commitment to all our students; regardless of runs scored in House Cricket, of marks scored in End of Year Chemistry, of piano grade or swimming level, we will always be most interested in your character and your attitude. We'll be most interested in who you will become.

The biggest adventure is discovering who you are going to be, and so we will always be more interested in how you encourage your teammates when you are losing than how many wickets you get. How generously you share your learning with others, rather than exactly how much you can recall. How you create harmony with others, rather than how you fill the auditorium.

Skills and character don't exist in tension. They're not mutually exclusive! Character strengths enable us to maximise our skills, and skills allow our character strengths to shine.

As internal exam results come back then, may I invite all students to think on that pigeon in Big School, watching the fevered industry of our Year 13s with bemusement!

You might well be jealous of his lofty perch, and his exam-less existence, but you must never lament the trials and challenges of being human – or of being you. What a joy to grow, to learn, to love and be loved. To contemplate. To choose.

Best wishes,

Dr C Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All years

End of Term Arrangements – Wednesday 16th July 2025

Please see the end of term timings below. Students will be able to get food from the ‘Grab and go’ area only on this day. Boarding dismissal will be from 12:15pm, and the boarding houses closed at 12:45pm.

08:20	Tutor Time				
08.30	Lesson 1				
09:20	Lesson 2				
10:10	Lesson 3				
11:00	School Chapel	Break	Tutor time	Tutor Time	Break
11:15	Tutor Time	Laud Chapel	Tutor time	Tutor Time	Break
11:30	Tutor Time	Tutor Time	County Chapel	Break	Tutor Time
11:45	Break	Tutor Time	Break	East Chapel	Tutor Time
12:00	Depart	Depart	Depart	Depart	West Chapel
12:15					Depart

Community Carnival

There are two 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, choirs or guest speakers – there will be something for everyone.

The Community Carnival is part of the calendar of 900th Anniversary events and 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 – it is open to all.

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

Reading School Vacancies

Biology and Chemistry Science Technician at Reading School

We have an exciting fixed-term opportunity for a suitably qualified Science Technician to provide effective support to our Biology and Chemistry departments. Reporting to the Senior Science Technician (Biology & Chemistry), you will ensure a safe and efficient laboratory technical service is provided for students and teaching staff in both departments. To find out more about the role, [please click here](#).

School Community News

Excellence in Music



Parents and students who attended the House Music Competition in 2024 may recall the outstanding performance by Sergey D (7W) – pictured far right with his family. For those who could not make it, or for those who simply want to enjoy his performance again, please [click here](#) (at 3mins 22seconds).

Sergey has recently returned from Geneva, having taken part in the semi-finals of ‘Geneve Musicale’, an international competition for young musicians. The aim of the competition is to support and encourage young talented musicians and took place from 11 – 13 June 2025.

We would like to congratulate Sergey, who made it to the finals while also experiencing his first time performing with a professional orchestra. Sergey came home with 2nd prize and, according to his mother, ‘the experience was hugely valuable for his development.’

We spoke with Sergey earlier this week, who shared: ‘It was such a nice experience, as I have never been to Geneva before. I got to meet so many wonderful pianists and people from all over the world. Playing with an orchestra for the first time made me feel a little bit nervous, but it was fun to work with them all the same. Thank you, Reading School for supporting me!’

To watch Sergey’s performance at the Geneve Musicale finale, please [click here](#) (performance starts at 5mins 33sec).

Sergey will also be performing live on stage during the Community Carnival on Saturday 5th July!

Taking Fundraising to New Heights: Tandem Skydiving as a Family



Adi A (12S) is gearing himself up for an exhilarating adventure for a worthwhile cause on behalf of Berkshire Youth, a local charity that improves the lives of young people through the use of role models, sport and activity.

Adi will be leaping out of a plane at 10,000ft on July 20th to raise funds for Berkshire Youth during a year that marks their 85th Anniversary. Adi shared:

‘My family and I and wrapping up the first half of 2025 on an incredible high, literally! My parents are also celebrating their 21st wedding anniversary and I believe that together, we can make a difference and help improve young lives by fundraising for Berkshire Youth.’

If you would like to cheer on Adi’s fearless family and contribute to this daring fundraising effort, please visit their [fundraising page](#) – let’s help Adi and his family soar beyond 10,000ft!

Events

Senior Prize Giving and Leavers BBQ for Class of 2025 & Celebration of Class of 2024



Date: Friday 27 June 2025

Time: 13.30 - 19.00

- 13:30 - 14:00: Arrival and seating
- 14:00 prompt: Ceremony
- 15:45 - 19.00: Leavers Canapés and drinks

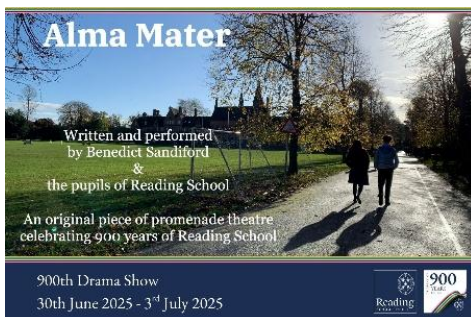
Venue: University of Reading, Great Hall (Ceremony) and Reading School (Canapés and drinks)

Class of 2025 (Year 13 leavers) will be chosen to receive a range of prizes (sponsored by the Reading Foundation) based on their performance as a student overall. Class of 2024 (Year 14) will be invited back to collect A Level Certificates (if they have not already done so) and celebrate their achievements with teachers. Parents/carers will also be invited to attend this ceremony. The buffet is sponsored by the Reading Foundation and beverage refreshments are sponsored by the RSPA. Communication to Year 13 students has been sent out to register places for **themselves and their parents**. Those nominated for prizes have received separate communication as well.

Please note:

- That School will **close at 13.00** to students in **Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12** on this day unless they are involved in the above event.
- All students can register with their tutor and purchase food at the **Grab and Go**, which will be open until 13:15.
- **Year 7 and 8 students** can remain in the **LRC** if there is no alternative to leaving earlier that day.
- Any **boarding students** not involved in Senior Prize Giving can remain at school until the end of the day if they cannot leave earlier. They will be supervised in boarding by the matrons and/or boarding staff.

900th Anniversary Drama Performance: Alma Mater - update



Dates: Monday 30 June – Thursday 3 July 2025

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:10 PM

Venue: Reading School (Promenade performance)

Tickets: £8 – Limited to 25 per evening

Booking link: [900th Drama Show - Alma Mater | Events | Reading School Alumni Society](#)

We've had an overwhelming response to the event, thank you!

Thursday 3 July is now fully booked and Monday 30 June is almost full. There are still spaces available for **Tuesday and Wednesday**, so we encourage you to book soon to avoid disappointment.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported the show so far, your enthusiasm has been incredible and we can't wait to share this special event with you!

Event Details:

Written and directed by Benedict Sandiford, award-winning theatre-maker and Reading School's Head of Drama, *Alma Mater* is an original promenade performance that takes you on a journey through nine centuries of Reading School's story.

Follow *The Oldest Boy* through the halls, classrooms and hidden corners of our historic school site, meeting the characters—heroes and rogues alike—who've shaped our legacy. From medieval scholars and war heroes to Headmasters past and present (and yes, even the Mayor's stipend!), this show mixes humour, drama and heart.

What to Expect:

- A 70-minute walking performance led by Year 12 Theatre Studies students and Mr Sandiford himself
- Rich storytelling, music and movement that bring Reading School's history to life
- A mix of comedy and insight – irreverent, moving and utterly unforgettable
- Limited audience per night to ensure an intimate, immersive experience

Tuesday 1st July – Music School Recital Hall

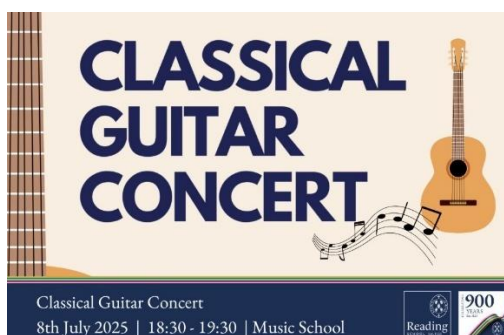


Vocal Platform, hosted by Mr. Druce (Director of Chapel Choir)

Join us for an unforgettable night celebrating our talented vocal students of Reading School at a showcase of vocal talent! Each performer will perform a carefully selected piece, showcasing their hard work, passion, and unique artistry. Experience a variety of musical styles and voices that will inspire and delight. Bring your friends and family and support these rising stars! Don't miss this celebration of music, talent, and community.

[Click this link to book.](#)

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.

RSPA

Upcoming School Events – Volunteers required

The RSPA will be supporting and attending two exciting upcoming School events:

- The Community Carnival on **Saturday 5 July**
- The Sports Personality of the Year (SPOTY) ceremony on **Wednesday 9 July**

These wonderful School events will offer a fun and celebratory way for our community to enjoy, while raising essential funds for our School's needs.

It's a time to support and help the RSPA and whatever time you can spare, your contribution will make a significant difference to the Association.

Please sign up using this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/xwNgHuXiPz>

Your support is what makes these events possible.

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 9

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.



Marylebone Cricket Club vs Reading School's 1st XI

The MCC was founded in 1787 and, from the early 19th century, began to field “Club” XIs against a variety of opponents beyond the county game, including schools.



This year's annual fixture took place on Wednesday 18 July
and [a full match report is available by clicking here.](#)







Former Head of History & Head of Sixth Form, Ned Holt (OR 1966-1972) with MCC Cricketer, Joel Walker (OR 2006 - 2011) and Headmaster, Dr Chris Evans.









David Cox (OR 1951 - 1956) with his wife and Headmaster



A changing of the guard

Head of County House & Director of Character, Mr Tridgell, handed over the baton on Friday afternoon to the new Head of County House, Mr Dowle.



‘It is a tremendous joy and privilege to be joining County House as the new Head of House. Mr Tridgell’s dedication, hard-work and big heart has been, and will continue to be, a source of inspiration for all in this school, and County House in particular. The values that Mr Tridgell has put in place are strong and longstanding. Celebrating character and integrity, collaboration and leadership, humility and excellence, each of these virtues has been kindled and modelled by Mr Tridgell and his passion for the House. I am grateful to be inheriting a House built on these strong foundations. Let us not ask what County can do for us, but what we can do for County.’ Mr Dowle



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