



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

27th June 2025

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Colleagues,

I am grateful that Dr Evans has stepped aside and given me the opportunity and the immense privilege of being Headmaster of Reading School for today.

I have a greater appreciation for the responsibility and, at times, stress that is involved with the leadership and smooth running of our school, so I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who work hard outside the classrooms. Though many students and parents may never meet or even see all these people, they are certainly just as valuable as our subject teachers.

This week, like any other, has been a busy week with all the different activities and House competitions taking place. A highlight for me is always House Cricket, during which, at any point in the day, you will find more students watching and supporting them than actually playing. And like most things, cricket is vastly improved in the sunshine, which we have been able to enjoy again this week!

Today is also Senior Prize Giving, where we celebrate the achievements of our Year 13s, and we welcome back our Year 14s to present them with their A-level certificates. It is something special to reach the end of your journey at Reading School and to be able to look back with pride on your achievements and your development through the years.

As end-of-year reports also begin to be sent out this week and next, I encourage you to look beyond this year, towards the achievements that are possible and the prizes you may win in Year 13. More importantly though, remember that the memories you make and the experiences you have along the way will be cherished more deeply than an Amazon gift voucher you once won.

With that said, I sincerely hope that your reports this year are glowing.

Thank you also to Rabin D, Aaryen L, Karan S and Jiji W, Reading School's Vice Captains who have shared with me in the experience of being Headmaster today. And thank you again to Dr Evans for this opportunity.

With warm regards,

James T
School Captain

Key information

All years

Community Carnival

There is just 1 week 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.

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

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.

[Click here to download a map](#)

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.](#)

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 the Oxford University Computing Challenge



The Oxford University Computing Challenge (OUCC) is an online coding competition run by the University of Oxford in partnership with the UK Bebras Challenge and the Raspberry Pi Foundation. It is designed to extend and deepen the computational thinking skills of students who score in the top 10 percent of the Bebras Challenge. Recently, Akhilesh S (12W) has achieved a Distinction after taking part in this year's challenge and we spoke with him earlier this week.

Tell us more about the online coding challenge

You have an hour to complete the challenge which has to be done at school. It starts off easy but progresses onto tougher challenges. For example, one of the challenges is starting off with a grain of rice on a squared board and the grain of rice has to double in amount with each consecutive square. The challenge was calculating how many rice grains in total, given the number of squares filled as an input. There were actually 10 challenges and you have a problem statement and a space to write code and run it, and the website gives back how many points (0-4) you got based on how many test cases were correct.

What sparked your passion for Computer Science?

I've always been interested in coding since I was young and want to go onto study it at university. In my spare time I'll read about coding outside of the curriculum and continue to improve my coding skills. I've got a collection of personal projects I research and work on in my spare time.

Can you describe what Computer Science at Reading School looks like

It's really varied as there's lots of Computer Science content to get involved with – especially outside of the classroom. We've got student-led coding club and competitions, House Coding Competitions as well as Coding Challenges. During Year 7, you're introduced to the basics, during Year 8 you learn through creative exercises, Years 9 and 10 you explore machine learning and during Year 12, you're encouraged to explore more and more. I really enjoy how you're not limited. Often you are given freedom to explore topics yourself and show off your findings to the teacher through talking to them or in the given OneNote space for us to write about findings. Many people will start their own websites in Year 12 to display the things they've learnt. The NEA also encourages looking at parts of computer science you enjoy instead of sticking to the syllabus.

What opportunities have you had via work experience to develop your interest?

I recently completed 5 days of work experience with Visa in early June. They've got lots of products in relation to AI and low-level assembly code products. It's really interesting how they all link together and how hyper specific they are. I loved the games room and quiet space they had – the office was a lot more laid back than I'd imagined.

What are your plans post Reading School?

I'd like to go to University of Warwick to study Computer Science or Discrete Mathematics.

Peer Mentoring Club

The Peer Mentoring Club is a new student-led club that fosters community and leadership through allowing members the opportunity to gain insights from older students. The club is currently looking for older students to act as tutors in order to support younger students.

What can you gain from joining this club as a tutor? Cementing your own knowledge, valuable experience, and a qualification.

What can you gain from joining the club as a student? Developing your knowledge and skills and taking a step towards becoming a future leader.

'This scheme has given me a great leadership opportunity, not only with those I am tutoring but with the tutors themselves in meetings and discussions. Peer tutoring gives opportunity for leadership, community and excellence.' (Vihaan T)

'Through structured academic support and collaboration, the club enables all students to strengthen their understanding and take ownership of their learning.' (Adhvik R)

Students admitted to the club will also gain access to competitions and tasks, one of which carries a 10 dare point prize!

In order to be eligible to become a **tutor**, you must be in Year 9 or above, and have completed the Microsoft Form by [clicking here](#).

Tutors are selected based on the quality of their application, however there is no fixed limit to the number of candidates who can join.

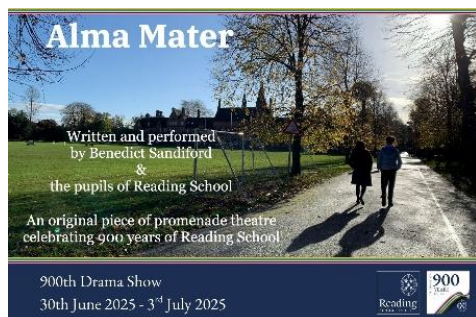
In order to become a **student** (open to all from Years 7-13), please join the Team by [clicking here](#).

If you have any questions, please post on the Teams channel.

The Peer Mentoring Club has been founded by Joshua O (9W).

Events

900th Anniversary Drama Performance: Alma Mater – nearly sold out



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

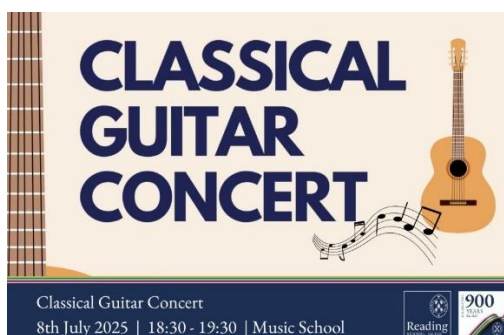


Vocal Platform, hosted by Mr. Druce (Director of Chapel Choir)

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.

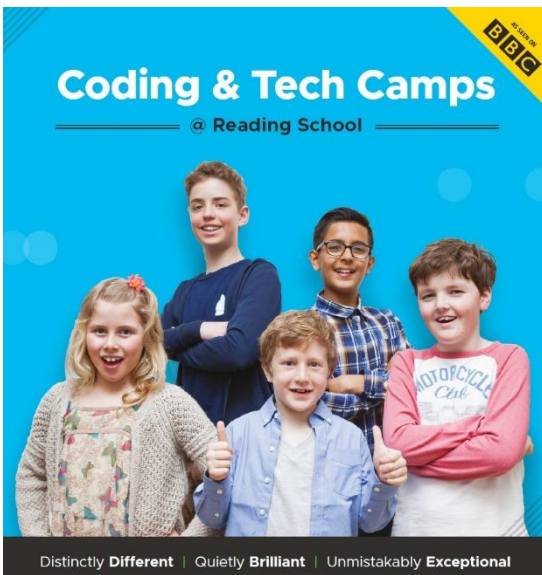
Bring family and friends to support these passionate musicians as they share their artistry on stage. Join us for a night of exquisite guitar music and [click this link to book.](#)

Sports Day 2025 – Friday 11 July

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

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. Reading School has hosted FunTech's popular coding camps during the summer, and will do so again this 2025 from July – August.

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.

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 10

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.



House Reading Quiz

This week, House Captains and Prefects from County House, East House, Laud House, School House and West House teamed up with a student from each Year in order to take part in a quiz on five books they were all asked to read ahead of the Quiz. The list included: Skulduggery Pleasant / Landy, Gone / Grant, What If? / Randall, The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe, Inheritance and Barnes.



Round one was general book knowledge and determined the order for Round two. Round two was based on 4 of the prescribed books, with questions worth 1,2,3,6 and 8 points. Round three was one difficult question based on the 5th book. Teams could choose to gamble points - a test of strategy and resilience!



The quiz was organised by Head Pupil Librarian Edward Yan with support from the rest of the Pupil Librarian Team.

Final results: 1st place Laud House, 2nd place School House, 3rd place East House, 4th place County House and 5th place West House.



Pupil Librarian Team

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