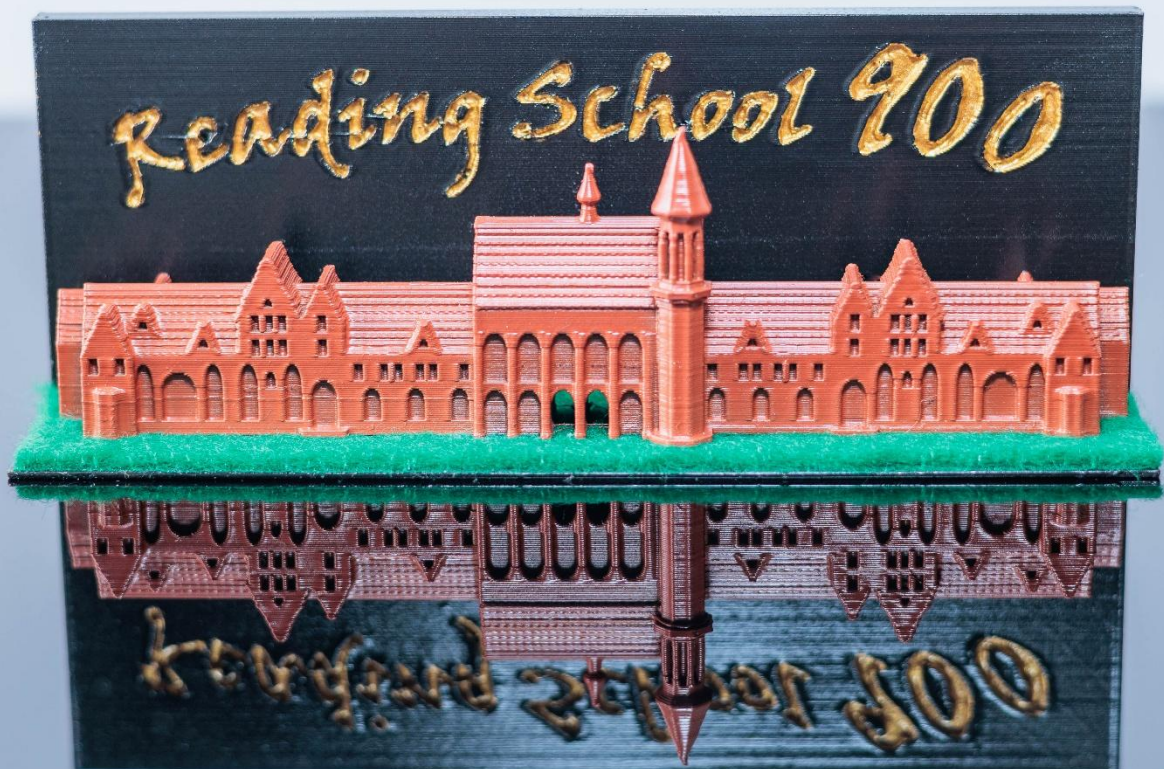




Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

4th April 2025

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Introduction

Dear Students, Colleagues, Parents and Carers,

After all the joy of our Giving Day last week, this week has been no less exciting or eventful.

I was exceptionally proud of our junior students as they led tours and showcased activities during our Open Day on Tuesday. Once again, staff and students came together to showcase what matters most to us, with a remarkable range of activities from Shakespearean Insults to Chromatography, and from Spikeball to Calligraphy.

It is a joy to be part of a community that somehow juggles a common purpose and profoundly diverse talents. Indeed, I feel really gratified that in the last few weeks we have shown how deeply we share the same mission, and how greatly we value the remarkable range of skills and personalities within the school.

If our shared goal is to make society better, and our desire is to encourage all of the young people in this school towards fulfilled, happy and purposeful lives, then education at Reading School must be a mountain with many paths.

For some, excellence looks like a Badminton Quadruple – with Mr Pedlow leading our exceptional U16 and U18 Badminton teams to victory at the Badminton England Schools Finals, having already won the School Sport Magazine National Schools U14 & U16 Badminton Cups two weeks before.

For some, it means standing in Chapel, and evoking the spirit of Churchill or Henry V in the wonderful House Eisteddfod, so carefully managed and organised by Mr Baldock.

For some, under the careful and expert tutelage of Dr Hu, it means building neurological pathways that allow for incredible mental gymnastics and the remembrance of 511 digits of Pi.

For some, it means welcoming and hosting a German exchange student and ensuring the best possible conversation and exchange of ideas. For some, it means expertise in French Cinema, or scholarship applications to American Universities. For others, it means ethical debate or learning to fly.

What's clear as this term ends is that it is the wonderful range of interests and the incredible depth to which they are pursued that make our community so extraordinary. So, as we break for the holidays, I hope that each of you will have the time to do the things you love, the room to do these things wholeheartedly, and the desire to do so for the benefit of others as well as for yourself. Steve Jobs put it this way, "The only way to do great work is to love what you do" and John Wesley this way, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." Perhaps though, this term, the final word belongs to Oscar Wilde:

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."

Chris Evans

Headmaster

Key information

All Years

Save the date – Community Carnival, Saturday 5th July 2025



As part of the calendar of events marking the School's 900th Anniversary, one event not to be missed and open to all is the anticipated [Community Carnival](#) at Reading School. The spectacular celebration will welcome the entire community (including general public) to the free event which will feature live on-stage performances, world cuisine, a dedicated wellbeing area, exciting E-Sports area, Urban Street Dance showcase, arts and crafts, workshops, lectures, bouncy castles, climbing walls, and so much more (all are confirmed).

More details and updates will be released in the weekly Bulletin and across our social media channels.

The event is a celebration for everyone in our community – a day where families, friends, and neighbours come together to create some lasting memories. So, save the date for [Saturday, July 5th 2024](#) and please join us for an unforgettable day.

Years 11 and 13 only

Exam Contingency Days

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, further resilience was needed within the exam timetables. A single contingency day was not felt to be sufficient if a national event or incident had a significant effect on the exam timetable. For example, summer exams could be affected by extremely high temperatures.

For the June 2025 exams, the awarding bodies have therefore introduced an additional half day contingency session. This is on the afternoon of Wednesday, 11 June 2025. The standard contingency day remains at the end of the timetable being scheduled on Wednesday, 25 June 2025. Students should factor in these dates when making plans for the summer, ensuring they are available on these dates should they be required to sit a postponed exam.

Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 only

PSHE Update

This term, students have been exploring and discussing topics covering health and wellbeing. We encourage parents and carers to be inquisitive as to what your children have learnt about this half term.

Year 7 - Health and puberty

Year 8 - Emotional wellbeing

Year 9 - Healthy lifestyle

Year 10 - Exploring influence

Year 11 - Independence

Students have also been delivered racial literacy training through their PSHE sessions. This was delivered via an online platform called Hemisphere. Some students were not able to complete this and we request parents encourage and ensure they have done this before their return. The information they need is on their PSHE Microsoft Teams, or they can contact layres@reading-school.co.uk.

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

April's edition of our online safety newsletter is available to [download by clicking here](#). This month's edition shares information for parents and students about:

- Screen time – benefits, risks and resources
- Group chats – risks and how to make chats safer
- Emojis – stay up to date with meanings
- Three things to consider before giving your child a smartphone

Reading School Vacancies

Teacher Vacancy - Teacher of Spanish, starting September 2025

Please see our recruitment portal for full details: [Teacher of Spanish at Reading School](#)

Deadline for Applications - 8am on Tuesday 22 April 2025

School Community News

3D Printing for a Cause: A Creative Tribute to Community & Legacy

Leveraging a passion for 3D design, Andrey D (10W) transforms Reading School's iconic Waterhouse building into a fundraising masterpiece for the school's 'Beyond 900' campaign, uniting technology, creativity, and a deep sense of community. We spoke to Andrey this week more about his project and motivations:



Q: How did you come up with the idea of creating a 3D model of Reading School's Waterhouse?

So, in the beginning, I heard about the Giving Day fundraising, and I thought that it's not enough to just donate say £10, because it's such a large amount that we need. And I thought 'I have a passion for 3D printing' and 'I enjoy being creative' so I decided to combine those two things to create something interesting so that it can be sold with the proceeds going to Reading School's 'Beyond 900' fund.

Q: What originally sparked your interest in 3D printing?

I've been into it for a pretty long time, since primary school, when my parents bought me a 3D printer, and now I'm just 3D printing interesting things and modelling them using free software. So, for the model, first I created a virtual version of Reading School using 'Tinkercad', using shapes like a pyramid, a cube and a sphere, which you can manipulate and combine into one cohesive object. And for the writing on the top, I had to learn how to convert a Word document into the 3D model, so that was an interesting process.

Q: How long does a model take to 3D Print and where will it be sold?

A: A couple of hours and then a few more hours to build the final model on its base. The online shop front idea came from my dad, who didn't think that a physical storefront would do very well, because it relies on people passing by and seeing it. The online store will launch soon.

Q: Can you share some of your thoughts on the School's 900th Anniversary and the redevelopment plans?

The sheer scale of it amazes me. I think that's the biggest project I've seen the school do so far. And I think that there hasn't really been a chance to give back to the school in any substantial way yet, since Year 7 and I thought this would be a good chance to give back.

Q: You seem to have grasped very well the School's values – can you share some of your views about them?

I think the values are very important because they put an emphasis on something apart from just Excellence...like Community. During Giving Day, I felt a real sense of community because I found donors, told them about our Giving Day, and when the days came, I felt a real sense of community during them. We were all doing something for one common cause. My challenge was debating for 900 minutes. Debating is another one of my interests. I think that it's a very good way to find out other people's views and enlarge your own perspective.

Q: Are there any other ways you've felt a sense of Community at School?

During Electives – which are when you and the other people in your class discover something new together, such as cooking, starting fires, survival skills, canoeing, for example, canoeing was probably my favourite

because I'd never done it before, and the other people in my elective also hadn't done canoeing before, so discovering that together gave me a real sense of community.

Q: Last question, is there a teacher that you can think of who's had an impact on you and if so, how?

I think Mr. Evans, because he constantly drills into us during Floreat lessons, that there is something apart from test scores and academic excellence. I think he has helped me on my journey away from focusing on just tests.

Well done Andrey and we look forward to sharing details of where the model can be purchased when your digital shopfront is launched.

House Pi Memorisation Competition 2025

Did you know:

- Pi is an irrational number, meaning it cannot be expressed as a simple fraction and its decimal representation goes on forever without repeating.
- Mathematicians have calculated pi to over 100 trillion digits, but only about 39 digits are needed for NASA-level accuracy in space calculations.
- Pi shows up in waves, rivers, DNA structures, and even the shape of planets.
- The world record for reciting pi digits is 100,000 digits, achieved by Rajveer Meena in 2015.



Led by Dr Hu (Teacher of Physics), this year's Pi Memorisation Competition saw even more participants than 2024. The competition showcased advanced memory techniques beyond rote learning, with competitors using the Pi song, pattern recognition, mental imagery, and storytelling to enhance recall by engaging different parts of the brain.

While top participants aimed for over 1,000 digits, the competition's rules prioritised accuracy over sheer quantity. In the end, joint winners Prayrit A (11S) and Pragnya K (7S) each achieved 511 digits. Last year's champion, Sumi S (11W), placed third, followed by Ethan L (7E) in fourth.

Congratulations to School House for winning overall, and to all participants for their outstanding achievements!

Reading Youth Council

Applications are currently open

Yatharth P (9C) is a current member of the Reading Youth Council and he is eager to canvas students and encourage them to consider joining. The Youth Council provides an excellent opportunity for those students who want their voice to be heard, and represent the youth of Reading. It is a valuable opportunity for students interested in politics, debate and making a difference.

To apply, please [click here](#), and to find out more, please [click here](#).

House Eisteddfod 2025 – update

Congratulations to last week's winners of the annual [House Eisteddfod 2025 Competition](#) – East House! Please click the links below in order to view some highlights of the competition that celebrates music, poetry, creative writing, and performance. This year's competition chose themes that align with the School's 900th Anniversary: Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, Community, Participation and Celebration.

East House	School House	County House	West House	Laud House
Macbeth (Act 4, Scene 3)	Integrity	The Man in the Arena	Julius Caesar (Act 3, Scene 2)	Give me Liberty or Give me Death
Henry V (Act 5, Scene 3)			The March of the Women	
The Hill We Climb			Song to the Men of England	

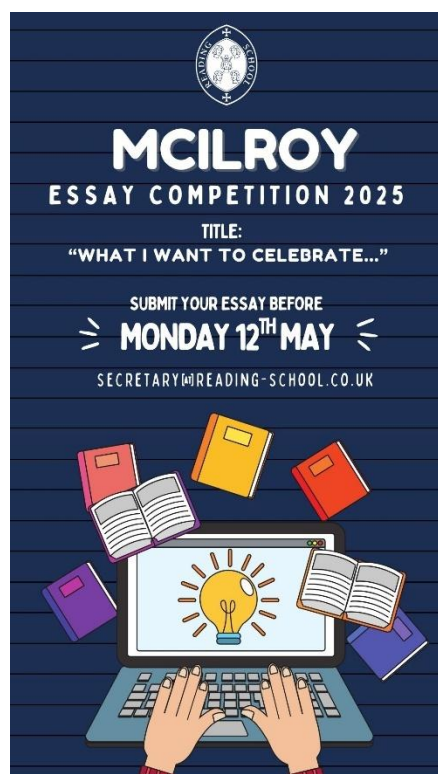
2025 Reading School / Reading Foundation McIlroy Essay Competition

Take up the challenge

To win a £250 cash prize, take the challenge and write an essay with the title:

“What I want to celebrate...”

Some ideas to help you start planning and writing:



You have the opportunity to be inspired by the title: “*What I want to celebrate...*” and apply to it anything you feel is of value which you’ve learned in your study of an academic subject, your pursuit of hobbies, pastimes and sports, or your general knowledge and interest in current affairs.

Have a think about whether any of these questions could act as a stimulus for you: what is there in your life that you can celebrate? Is it a person, a place, an event, a skill, a privilege, an achievement? And is it something personal to you, or something you recognise in someone else, that you are celebrating? How do you define ‘celebration’: a literal party, a quieter tribute to what you are grateful for, a philosophical show of thanks for the good things in your life? What role does celebration have in 2025: do current world events make celebrations inappropriate? What lessons can be learned from history about celebrations of the past?

What might celebrations look like in the future? What has been your favourite celebration to witness or participate in? Do the people and moments we celebrate these days deserve the same acclaim as those which were celebrated 100 years ago...or indeed 900 years ago? What does it mean to you be involved in the Reading School community as it celebrates a significant anniversary? What do you think deserves to be celebrated but perhaps isn’t recognised as much as it should be?

Objectives and criteria:

This competition aims to reward one essay written by a Reading School student which, in the opinion of the judging panels, displays the best combination of:

- Flair for expressing complex ideas about a subject in simple terms.
- A logical and well-developed argument: it must have a starting idea, develop over a series of topic paragraphs, and reach some kind of clear resolution.
- Evidence of verve: a spirit of enthusiasm for the subject and the task, and the process of writing about them.
- Passion for sharing a love and understanding of the subject in question.
- Ingenuity in coming up with exciting and original ways to tackle matters of current affairs and general knowledge.

Who can enter:



Any student, from any year group (current Year 7 to current Year 13), who has studied at Reading School during the 2024 - 2025 academic session can enter.

How students enter the competition:

Essays must be no fewer than 800 and no more than 1,500 words long. They must be word processed and saved as a Microsoft Word document and feature a specific word count. When entrants email their essay to Mrs Lidbetter, they must ensure they have not put their name on the actual Word document.

Entrants must email their essay to Mrs Lidbetter in the School Office at: secretary@reading-school.co.uk. Each entrant will receive back from her a random identification number, and the essay will then be forwarded anonymously to the judging panel. This is the only way essays can be entered for the competition. The deadline is 8.25am on Monday 12th May 2025.

Judging process:

All submissions will be marked anonymously to guarantee impartiality.

A panel of school staff is responsible for the initial judging process. Depending on the number and quality of the submissions, that panel will then submit a short-list of nominated essays to go forward to a final judging group. The final judging panel will then assess the nominated essays to choose the overall winner.

The judges' decisions are final and not negotiable. The judging process will be subjective and based on collective opinions regarding rank order. No 'marks' will be made on, or awarded to, any essay, and all submissions will be retained by the school for further use. Entrants should not expect a specific personalised response to their submission.

Regulations:

Entrants must write their submissions entirely independently. No consultation with, or involvement of, staff at the school is permitted.

All use of research and academic sources and materials must be correctly referenced and credited in a bibliography (use the Harvard referencing guide available on the LRC SharePoint page). Plagiarism of any kind will result in disqualification.

For additional guidance, please contact Mr Baldock at rbaldock@reading-school.co.uk. No other member of staff will be able to offer advice on how to enter.

Failure to follow these guidelines could result in your submission not being considered by the judging panels.

Follow this simple procedure:

- Decide “What I want to celebrate”
- Word process a response on your own.
- Write no fewer than 800 words and no more than 1,500 words; clearly state your total at the end of the essay.
- Make sure any external sources have been correctly referenced and credited in a bibliography.
- Do not put your name on the Word document, but do clearly state the word count.
- Email your essay to Mrs Lidbetter (secretary@reading-school.co.uk) before the deadline of 8.25am on Monday 12th May 2025.
- Collect a unique, random, identification number and wait for the opinion of the judging panels.

Giving Day – update

An incredible Giving Day for Reading School

We are thrilled to share the phenomenal success of Reading School’s first-ever Giving Day on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th March, held as part of our 900th Anniversary celebrations! Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our alumni, former and current parents, staff, and wider community, we united to support the future of Reading School and the results speak for themselves.

We invite all parents to take a moment to read the wonderful messages left on our [Donor Wall](#) and explore the [Donor Map](#), showcasing the incredible global reach of our Reading School community. 🌍💙 Your generosity and heartfelt words truly reflect the strength of our school community.

Important reminder: To help your donations go further, if eligible, please click to complete the Gift Aid Form here (if not completed at the time of making your donation): [Gift Aid Fund | Fundraising | Reading School Alumni Society](#).



Key Achievements:

- ✓ **£141,330K** raised so far and still growing.
- ✓ **1767** donors from across the world.
- ✓ Over **1000** students participating in sponsorship activities. Well done to all involved.
- ✓ Support for **key projects**, including sports facilities, expressive arts, sixth form centre and expanding Future Stories.
- ✓ Countless inspiring stories shared by our incredible community.
- ✓ All Challenges unlocked.

This Giving Day was about more than just fundraising, it was about strengthening the bonds of our community, forming a sense of belonging, creating a culture of philanthropy and ensuring that future generations continue to benefit from the excellence and opportunities that define Reading School.

A huge [THANK YOU](#) to everyone **who contributed, shared, and championed** this cause (click link to view video). Your generosity will leave a lasting impact as we begin to raise funds to create the facilities that match the abilities of our students.

For those who have not had the opportunity to make a gift, please note that our Giving Day page will remain open as we have had requests to keep it open for longer, especially with the new tax year starting: [Reading School's Giving Day 2025](#).

Many UK employers offer **Payroll Giving schemes** and **matching gift programs** to encourage charitable donations by their employees. Payroll Giving allows employees to donate directly from their gross salary, providing immediate tax relief, while matching gift programs enable employers to match their employees' charitable contributions, effectively doubling the donation. We are immensely grateful to all those who have initiated these corporate responsibility gifts, demonstrating their commitment to philanthropy and community support.

While a comprehensive list of all UK organisations offering these programs isn't readily available, several notable companies are known for their participation (but please double-check) by consulting your HR department to see if your organisation might participate in this way.

Allen & Overy	Clifford Chance	General Electric	Octopus Energy	Unilever
Asda	Deloitte	John Lewis	PwC	Visa
Barclays Bank	Ernst & Young	KPMG	Reed	Vodafone
Bank of America	Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	Linklaters	Royal Bank of Scotland	
BBC	Goldman Sachs	Lloyds Banking Group	Sainsbury's	
BP	Google UK	Marks & Spencer	Shell	
British Council	Grant Thornton	Microsoft UK	Standard Chartered	
BT Group	HSBC	National Health Service some Trusts)	Tesco	

Giving Day Challenges

Congratulations to West House who led the way in donor participation during our Giving Day campaign! Their incredible support and generosity exemplify the true spirit of House pride and community at Reading School. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed; every donation has made a difference.

House Leaderboard - No. of donations		
Rank	House	Donations
1st	West House 	400
2nd	County House 	370
3rd	East House 	350
4th	School House 	344
5th	Laud House 	301
6th	Other	70

And congratulations to School House for raising the most during our Giving Day campaign. Your generosity and dedication have made a real impact, helping to shape the future of Reading School. One anonymous generous donor helped take the top spot for School House.

House Leaderboard - Amount Raised		
Rank	House	Total
1st	School House 	£29806.00
2nd	County House 	£28430.00
3rd	West House 	£24506.00
4th	East House 	£19690.00
5th	Other	£15330.00
6th	Laud House 	£13326.00

Careers

Your Money, Your Future – Financial Awareness & Upcoming Opportunities

In February, we hosted 'Your Money, Your Future hosted by Rathbones Financial Awareness Course', which was well received by parents and senior students eager to enhance their financial knowledge. The event even gained traction on social media, where an alumnus recommended the *Rebel Finance School* as a valuable resource for young people and their families.

Following this, we have been in conversation with Katie and Alan Donegan, founders of [Rebel Finance School](#), who are exploring the possibility of delivering an *Inspire Lecture* for our students and parents. Their free financial education programme, recently [recognised by the King](#), is designed for adults but also offers useful money management insights for younger audiences.

For those interested, you can meet Katie and Alan at the *Financial Freedom Tour* in Reading on **Thursday, 1st May 2025**. More details and tickets are available here: [Financial Freedom Tour: Reading Tickets, Thu 1 May 2025 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#).

Please note: Reading School has no affiliation with Rebel Finance School or the Financial Freedom Tour.

RSPA

The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

Thank you to everyone who supported the Pre-Loved Uniform Shop on Saturday 29th March.

In preparation for new students arriving in September 2025, we would love donations of the following:

- Ties
- Macron games and PE kit
- Trousers (up to age 13)
- Shirts (up to age 13)
- Blazers
- Lab coats
- Science goggles

Should you have any unwanted items, please hand donations to Student Services (located next to Reception), in a bag marked 'Pre-Loved Uniform Shop'.

Thank you for your support

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

Have a lovely break.

The RSPA Team

Lent Term – Week 13

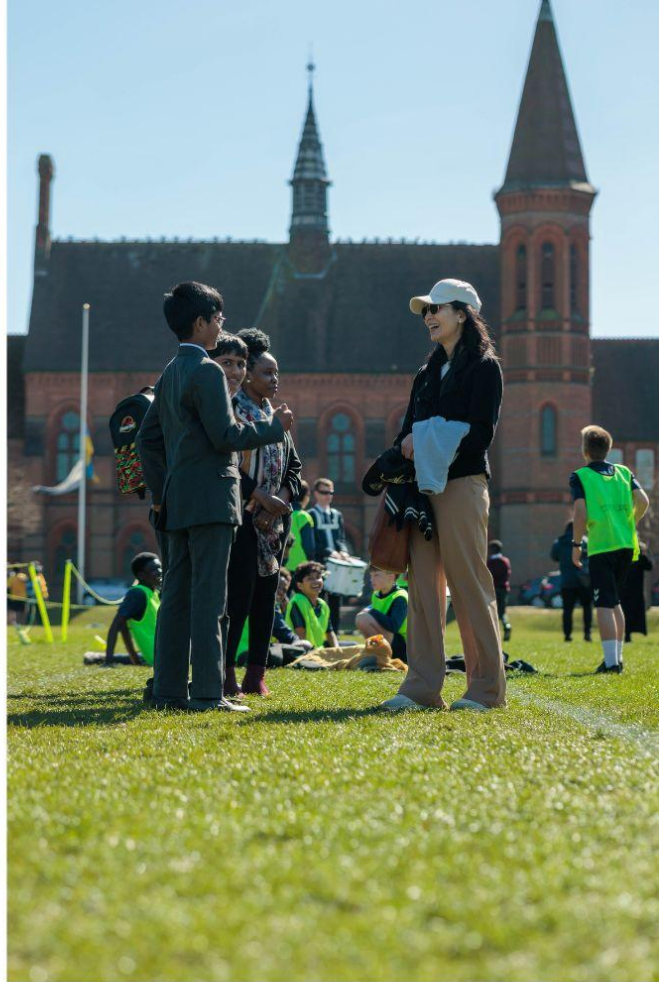
To keep up to date with student life at Reading School, click the icons below to follow, be part of, and stay connected with the Reading School community.

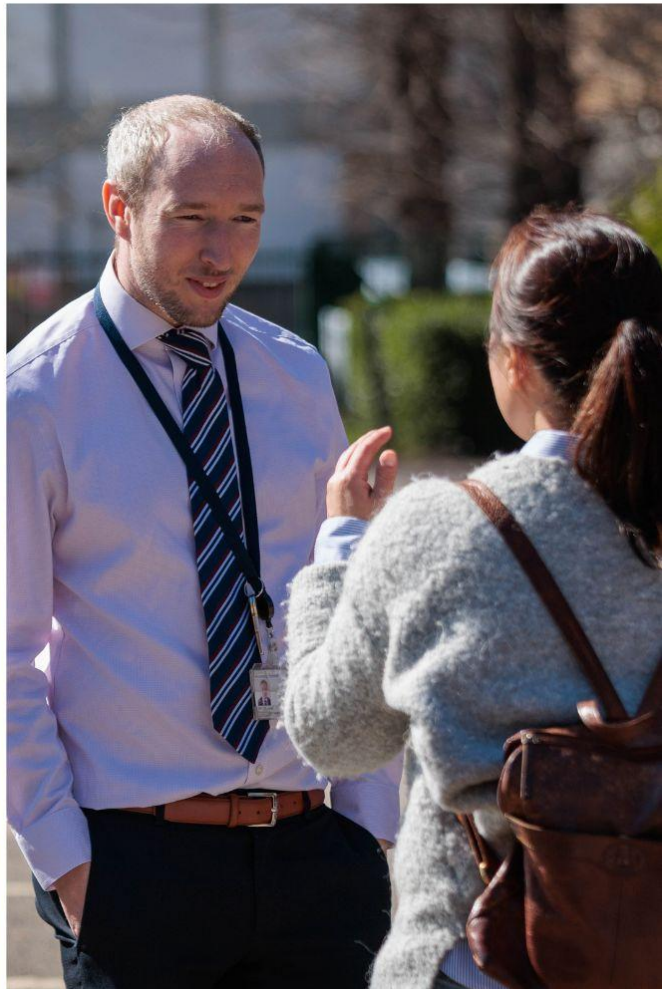


Reading School Open Day 2025

“We’re committed to creating opportunity and nurturing young people who enhance society by serving others. Therefore, ensuring that we are a school for Reading, and not just one based in Reading, is fundamental to the vision that we share.” Dr Evans

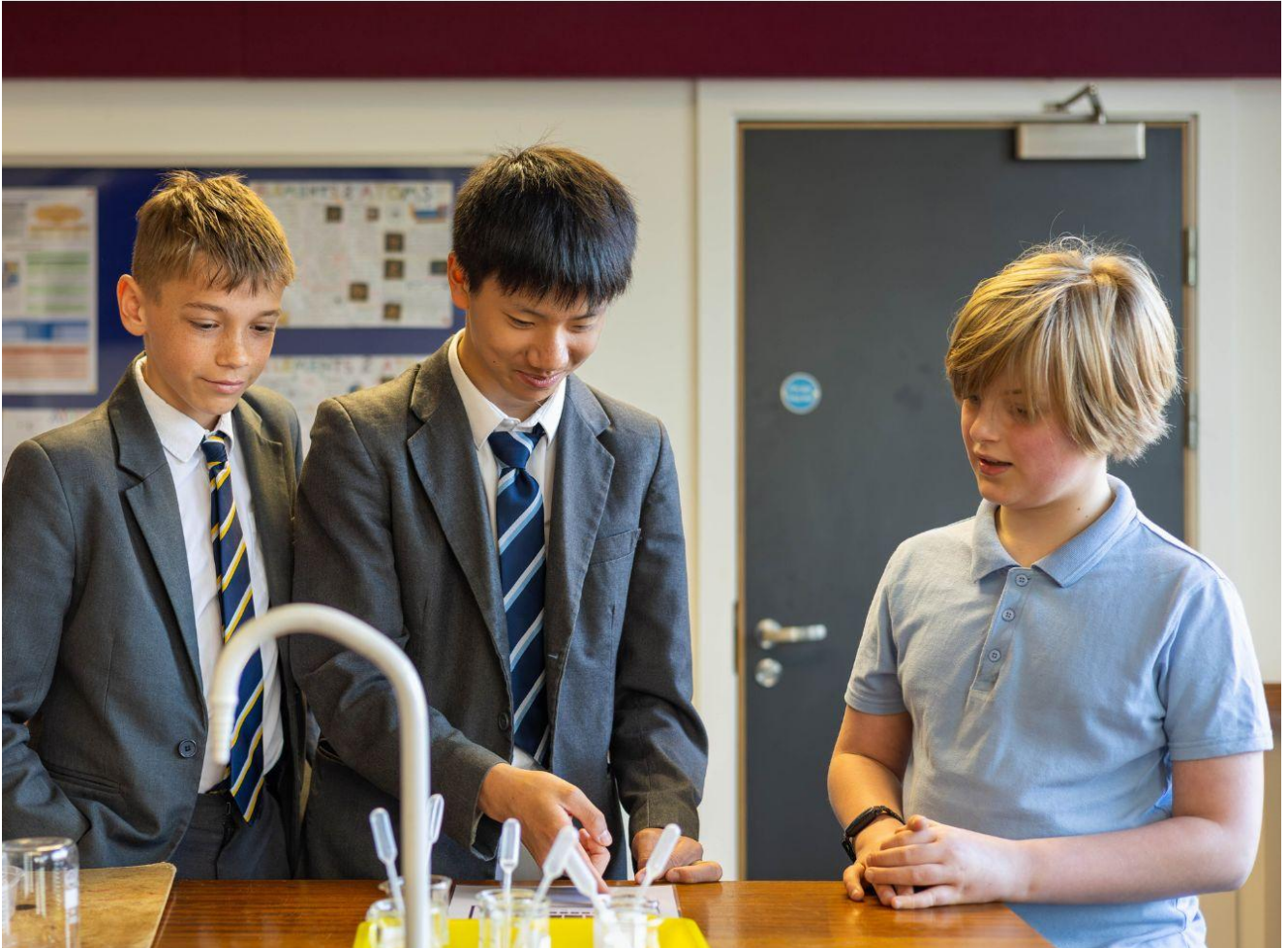
































Badminton England National Schools Championships Double Winners

On behalf of the entire Reading School Community, we congratulate the incredible achievement of Reading School's Badminton champions: Kaushal N, Akhil G, Aditya V, Jimmy B, Emin B, Advait N, Nived N, Arhant Y and Vihaan G. A special mention is made to Mr Steve Pedlow who has led the team to success for a number of years, along with the support of all parents.



Staff vs Prefects Football Match

At the end of last week's monumental Giving Days, which raised £125,218 in 36 hours, there was still plenty of fuel left in the tank for our Reading School Staff vs Prefect Football Match!

Credit: Guest Student Photographer Prabhav B



The 7-goal thriller was end-to-end action from kick-off, with a 4-3 win for the Prefect Team, with goals from Achintha R (2), Armaan C (1) and a stunner from Aryan Hawaldar (1).



Mr Lawal, Mr Allen and Mr Griffin grabbed a goal each for the teachers' side.



It was a great way to close out our Giving Days.





Winner of the Brunel Trophy – Woodley Festival of Music & Arts

Congratulations to Raphael N who was recently awarded the Brunel Trophy by [Woodley Festival of Music & Arts](#) for best performance in recital classes. He is also a previous winner during 2023.



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