



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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# Introduction

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Staff,

The next two school weeks mark highlights in our school calendar.

Students will be sitting 10,000 exam papers between them and will test their knowledge, understanding and memory in all sorts of fields. They will earn feedback, which provides the best possible stimulus for improvement. Assessments exist to give students opportunities for feedback which they can apply forwards. Indeed, the 2016 Teacher Workload Review criticised fixation on written feedback and excessive marking, and suggested that “ineffective feedback can be demoralising and a waste of time for teachers and pupils alike.” It went on, “If the hours spent on assessment, marking and feedback do not have the commensurate impact on pupil progress: stop it.”

Teachers and our heads of department have therefore been working hard this half term to create good tests. A good test is one that allows students to learn from mistakes and to refine their understanding of “threshold concepts” that help them proceed. A good test provides a lens for students to understand their own thought processes, and to gain mastery of the ideas that support rapid progress in the next phase of their education. A bad test is one in which everyone scores 100% or in which no-one can come close to scoring 100%!

More important than our internal exams though, are our Belonging Week activities. The reason we consider these of even greater importance is that it is our relationships that determine our progress, our fulfilment, our growth and our satisfaction. Our best cohorts of students are those year groups in which leaders include others. Geniuses are generous with their ideas. Experts encourage beginners. The strong support the weak. Those with questions feel safe to ask them. Those with aspiration feel inspired to give things a go. Those who are new feel welcome.

There is a popular adage which states, “Culture eats strategy for breakfast.”

Belonging Weeks then must be the weeks where we build our culture and learn to belong, moving us from individuals with goals, towards being people of purpose and character who know that we belong to one another. These are weeks that can remind us that our relationships are of pre-eminent significance. Indeed, I hope that our kayaking, music, walking, mentoring, camping, performing, cricket, climbing, cooking and jet-skiing are invitations which allow us to see each other differently and practice being-for one-another. These can be the most significant of weeks if through them we continue to develop commitment to one another, demonstrate teamwork that includes each other, and advance skills that allow us to grow side by side.

So, I ask all our students to remember that exams and tests are individual pursuits, and that individual brilliance is eventually always subsumed by bigger, shared quests.

The Fly Half on his own can't win the match. The maestro achieves no harmony playing solo. The school captain makes no impact alone. Wacky Races are no fun on your own. Mock Trials require many voices. The solo goose never makes it.

I hope therefore over the next few weeks, you have a deep sense of belonging and purpose – and that none of you score 100% in all of your tests!

With best wishes to all,

**Dr C Evans**  
**Headmaster**

# Key information

## All years

### Notice of extended closure of Craven Road

Please be advised that we have been made aware of a major road closure of Craven Road from **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June**. The closure of the road will mean an impact on traffic and access, especially on Erleigh Road and Addington Road. It also means that any vehicles entering Reading School, will not be able to leave via Craven Road, and will have to use the main entrance on Erleigh Road to exit. Please be aware that there will be a high likelihood of traffic congestion during the period of the works taking place on Craven Road.

Further details and updates will be featured in upcoming Bulletins.

## Vacancies

### Finance Officer – Maternity Cover

We have an exciting opportunity to cover the maternity leave of the Finance Officer, with responsibility for Purchase Ledger and ordering. Our ideal candidate will have Purchase Ledger experience, preferably in a school environment. Please [click here to find out more and apply](#).

# School and House Captaincy Team 2025

## Changing of the Guard

Following a challenging selection process, we are proud to present the 2025/26 cohort of Senior School Prefects, as listed below. School Prefects, House Captains, and Prefects play a significant role in the life of the school by demonstrating leadership through service and by acting as ambassadors and role models for the School.

Role	Student
<b>Leadership Team</b>	
School Captain	James T
School Vice-Captain	Rabin D
School Vice-Captain	Aryan L
School Vice-Captain	Karan S
School Vice-Captain	Jiji W
<b>School Prefects</b>	
Events	Aryan A
	Isaac L
External Relations	Tristan S
	Jaden L
Careers	Aryan K
Sustainability	Keegan B
Societies Prefect	Kussh M
Future Stories	Sam N
	Rishi S
<b>County House</b>	
House Captains	Raghav N S
	Eshan J
Mentoring	Chinmay B
Well-Being	Jet E D C
Integration	Lazaros D
Music	Joel P
House Prefect	James S/Vashisht K/Soham D/Chris D
Sport	Sriram S
<b>East House</b>	
House Captains	Kavish S
	Dylan B
Sport	Adhav S
Mentoring	Benjamin L
Well-Being	Indiana S
Integration	Arnab P
Charity	Yadveer G
Music	Raphael N
House Prefect	Akshith A

<b>Laud House</b>	
House Captains	Alexandru M
	Akshay B
Sport	Ollie C
	Daniel M
Mentoring	Parthiv V
Well-Being	Srujan B
Integration	Satyam K
Charity	Ben H
Music	Joel W
<b>School House</b>	
House Captain	Keith L
	Aryan P
Vice Captains	Akash R
Sport	Arjit D
Mentoring	Ritesh S
Well-Being	Reuben O
Integration	Ayushman Su
Charity	Liam G
<b>West House</b>	
House Captain	Pranav P
Vice Captains	Richard M
	Robert K
Sport	Seth P and Sainath J
Mentoring	Aarush C
Well-Being	Harvey M
Integration	Kenodh P
Charity	Vivaan C
Music	Zihan Z/Jesper D
House Prefect	Jeremy C
<b>Boarding</b>	
East Wing	Andrys L
South House	Jesper D

## Excellence in Law

### Mock Trial Competition 2025

13 of our students represented Reading School during the regional final of the Berkshire Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition which took place on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at Reading Crown Court. As featured in the 14<sup>th</sup> March edition of the Headmaster's Bulletin, the competition is an annual event where students take on the roles of magistrates, lawyers, legal advisors, defendants, witnesses and ushers in order to take part in a criminal case in a real court room. The cohort of students made it through to the finals after taking part in the heats in March 2025, led by Dr Stefan Fafinski (OR 1978 – 1985) JP DL and Dr Emily Finch while being supported by Head of History, Mr Whitehorn and Library Assistant, Ms Loft.



Mock Trial Heats, March 2025

Although the team did not go on to win the final, they finished third (with 10 schools from Berkshire, Hampshire, and Oxfordshire), behind Piggott (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Emmbrook (1<sup>st</sup>). Dr Fafinski shared of the team:

*'Our team went from a standing start to more than holding their own and this is something they should all feel rightly proud of. The boys gave it absolutely everything. There was very little more they could have done to raise their game. At this level, the margins are incredibly fine. Interestingly, we actually lost both our trials (meaning our defence saw a conviction, and our prosecution an acquittal) and yet we still finished above the two schools who 'beat' us in court. That underlines what this competition is really about: not the verdicts, but how you work with the facts and witnesses you're given. It's about poise, flexibility, and teamwork. And in that respect, the boys were truly exceptional - supporting each other throughout, congratulating, encouraging, and commiserating in equal measure. It would be unfair to single anyone out - but we were incredibly impressed by Rupert T (9C), who stepped in only last Wednesday to fill a vacancy and he got up to speed in just three days, and performed brilliantly.'*

Positively, and demonstrating our School values in action, this year's cohort have expressed a desire to help coach and support next year's team and we again would like to thank Dr Stefan Fafinski and Dr Emily Finch

for giving up their time in order to support (possibly) the next generation of aspiring young people who go onto thrive in a law related career.

Head of History, Mr Whitehorn shared, "I'm really proud of all of the efforts of the students throughout the mock trial process. Their dedication and meticulous preparation really came through on the day and they showed their legal mettle in the courtroom. Their passion and clarity came through in their work and they showed great calmness and confidence in a high-pressured situation. I hope that many of them have been inspired to potentially consider pursuing a legal career in the future."

Well done to all those who took part in the finals: Samarth M, Shreyas K, Rupert T, Neel K, Kacper L, Joshua O, Aarav K, Lucas Y, Toby B, Owen S, Rutwik B, Austin H and Dawood S.

## UK Chemistry Olympiad

Designed to challenge and inspire, the [UK Chemistry Olympiad](#) (UKChO) is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field. Budding chemists develop critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations. Participating students in this year's national chemistry competition completed a challenging 2-hour exam and achieved the excellent results of 3 bronze, 1 silver and 6 gold awards.

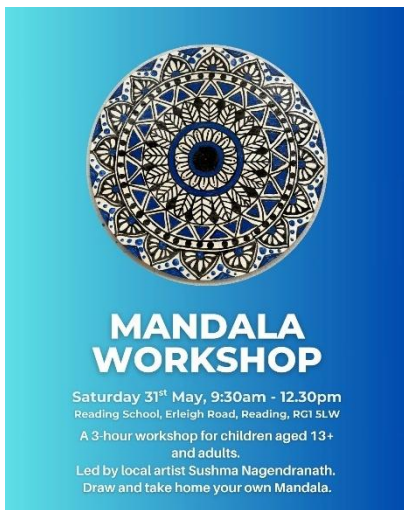
Congratulations go to Rupert O, Finlay G, Joel W, Joshua H, Max B, Keshanth R, Ojas J, Or M, Raymond W and Abdullah K.



## Events

### Mandala Workshop

*Are you a budding artist? Do you enjoy calm and creative experiences?*



Join local Rangoli and Mandala artist, Ms Sushma Nagendranath on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May from 9.30am - 12.30pm** where participants will get to design and keep their own unique mandala artwork. Participants will learn the techniques of drawing a mandala from basics and also create a design on a wood circle to take away

Whether you're looking to:

- Tap into your creativity (no art experience needed)
- Explore mindfulness through art
- Learn about the ancient symbolism of mandalas
- Unwind and reduce stress
- Take home something beautiful made by yourself

...then this workshop is for you.

**Date:** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May

**Location:** Reading School, Art Class 1

**Time:** 9.30am - 12.30pm

**Cost:** £20 (all materials are provided)

**To book:** email [sush.mn@gmail.com](mailto:sush.mn@gmail.com)

Ms Nagendranath is also a Year 7 parent who very kindly offered to run the workshop with all proceeds raised being donated to the School's Beyond 900 Fund. A heartfelt thank you to Ms Nagendranath for generously sharing her time, talent and creativity in support of [Reading School's Beyond 900 Fund](#).

*The Workshop is a third-party event and not one organised by Reading School.*

## Careers

### Work Experience Opportunities

A wide range of work experience opportunities are available throughout May – July 2025 for children and young people aged 14 – 19. Companies offering virtual work experiences include: Equifax, TATA, Leonardo Hotels, Qinetiq, Incredible Oceans, Morgan Digital, Social Change, Living Well UK, RSPCA, Wincanton, Home Office and many more.

Please [click here](#) to access the experiences available.

# RSPA

## Goring Gap Run – Last Call



Be a Marshal for the RSPA at the Goring Gap Race Event – **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May** and **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May**.

Hello everyone, the RSPA are still looking for volunteers to assist with marshalling duty at The Goring Gap race. In return for your help the RSPA receives £60 *per marshal* (with most slots requiring 2 people, paid as £120) and the money raised all goes to help our fabulous school.

The slots are based between Caversham and Goring. Please email Terri at [t\\_lorrimore@hotmail.com](mailto:t_lorrimore@hotmail.com) or text to 07810 445474 and she will co-ordinate a slot for you and send out a location map a few days before the event.

You can spend few hours with nature, take a deck chair, a flask of coffee, a newspaper or a friend, and enjoy 3 to 4 hours of basically cheering people on as they run (or walk) past you.

Secondary school age children count as Marshals, if accompanied by a parent, so this is also a way that your child can be with you to help raise funds. Please [click this link](#) to find out more about the event.

## The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

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

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](mailto:shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk)

## GCSE and A Level Students

Our best wishes to all our students who are taking GCSE and A level exams. They all are brilliant, and we all are proud of them. On behalf of all school community, we wish them a bright future.

Best wishes and have a lovely weekend.

The RSPA Team

## Summer Term – Week 4

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.



### Passing of the baton

We marked the changing of the guard this week as the new School and House Captaincy Team 2025 stepped into their leadership roles. We would like to thank the outgoing Captains for their dedication and welcome to the new team as they begin their journey of service.



Outgoing School Captain Paarth G with new School Captain James T

## Wacky Races

The spirit of Wacky Races (for all you Gen X'ers!) took over the Design Challenge Elective this week as students channelled their inner Dick Dastardly (minus the cheating of course) to design and create go-karts capable of going the distance. The Elective has seen students explore the iterative process required in designing, making, testing and amending to overcome obstacles through creative problem solving.



Working in teams, students were challenged to design, build, and test mini go-karts, aiming to see whose creation would travel the furthest. From sleek speedsters to Chug-a-Bug inspired designs, the variety and creativity was impressive to see.



Under the guidance of Mrs Bradley, students applied principles of engineering, friction, and momentum which led to some high-octane excitement and good-humoured competition.

The greatest distance recorded was 6.9 meters. Well done to all students for converting that potential energy stored in a rubber band into real movement!



## Belonging Week 2025 – behind the scenes

On Friday morning, Year 8 students took part in a Belonging Week focussed Floreat session with the aim of ensuring that they are prepared about what to expect, how to make the most of the experience, and how to lift one another up as a community. Through a range of team exercises, students learnt about how to deal with unfamiliar situations, ways in which to support one another and how to demonstrate empathy in success and struggle.



Framed as the 'end of year assessment for Floreat' and structured on our Learn-Lead-Serve philosophy, Belonging Week is an opportunity to apply all that students have discussed and practiced in class. In laying this groundwork ahead of next week's Belonging Week, we're confident that the annual event will be a celebration of our shared values where every student feels seen, heard and supported.

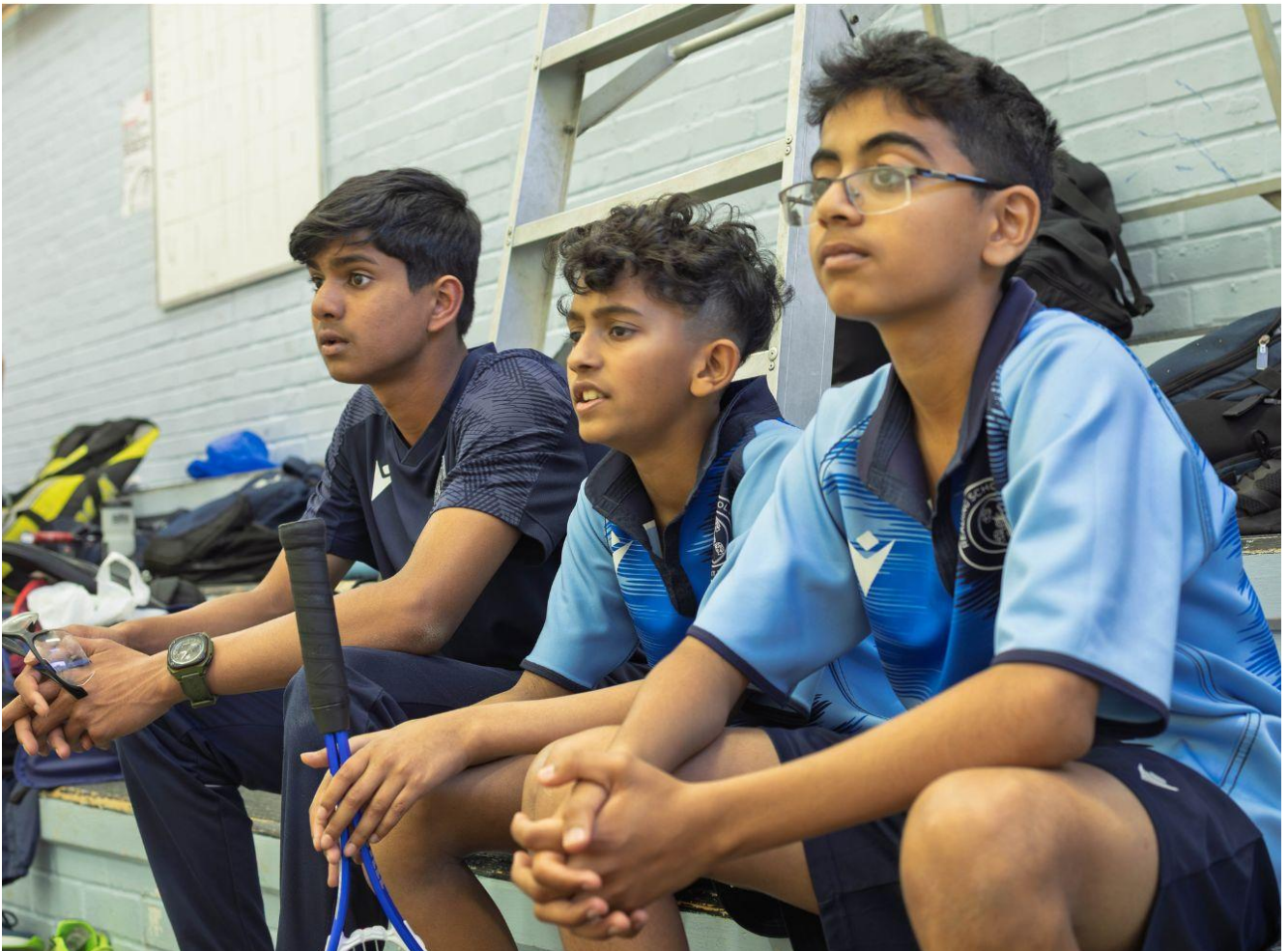


## House Squash

The Reading School House Squash Competition for 2025-2026 kicked off with Senior House squash on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and Junior House squash on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May. In senior house squash, East swept all before them, winning every single available match. Congratulations to the victorious team of Teo R, Dan S, and Henry R. In junior house squash, West were the dominant force, winning 18 out of the 20 possible games they competed in. Congratulations to the team of Vihaan T, Vihaan G, Aarav R, Joshua O, and Ethan A. Congratulations also to Svanik S (East house) for breaking West's monopoly and winning all his matches.







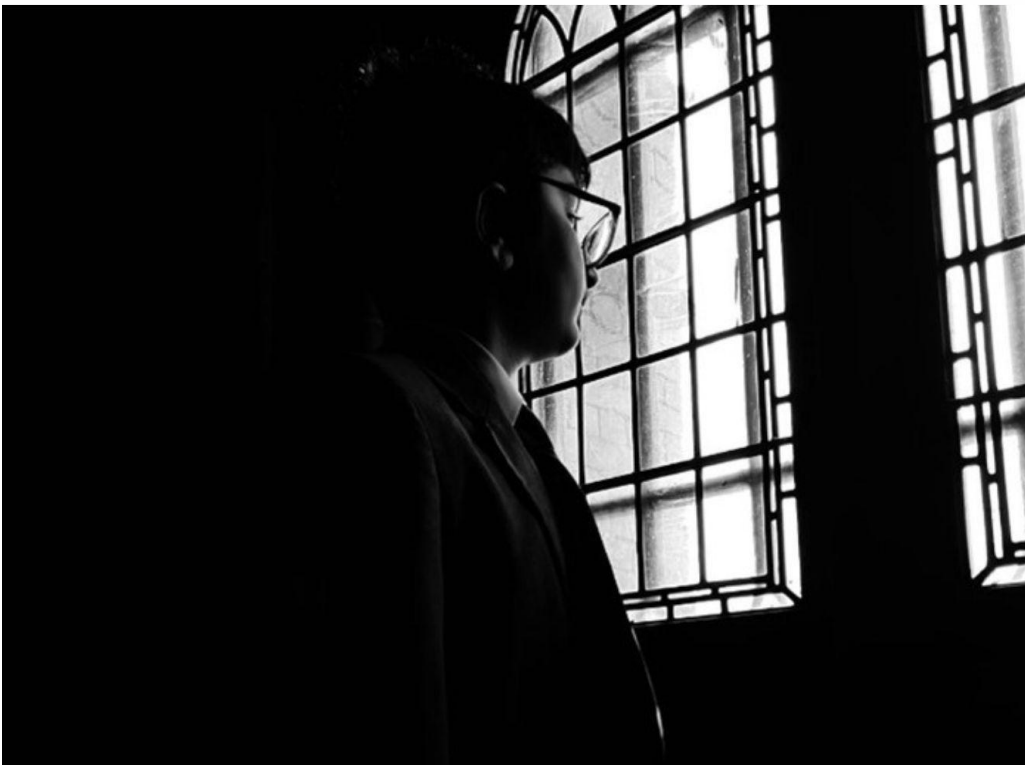


## Year 8 Photography

With the Art rooms being used for GCSE exams, an impromptu photography competition for Year 8s was organised under the guidance of Head of Student Support and Teacher of Classics, Mrs Rogers.

Developing, integrating and promoting creativity and the arts at Reading School enriches every aspect of learning and personal development. From developing problem-solving skills to strengthening critical thinking, to building self-expression and confidence to cultivating innovation and adaptability – the fruits of which can be seen in the examples of student work below.

Winning entry #1: Sriram G



Winning Entry #2: Nathan J, Suprakash P M, Ivan N

Winning Entry #3: Nathan J, Suprakash P M, Ivan N



Further entries:



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](mailto:communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk)