



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

25th April 2025

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students,

At the start of this term I write with sad news. I regret to inform you that our colleague Andrew Lenaghan passed away at the beginning of the holidays. Much loved by all he worked with, and appreciated by students, Andrew served us as Chef de Partie. He cared greatly for the school, and loved feeding our students! He will be sorely missed. I have also been informed this week of the sad passing of one of our parents – who was a wonderful father, and a good man in every sense. As we give thanks for his life, even though we are all of different spiritual sensibilities, I thought that for some, these traditional words might be of comfort.

*Support us, O Lord, all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over
and our work is done.
Then, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging, and peace at the last.
To the living, grace.
To the departed, rest;
To all humankind peace and concord.*

Finally, in honour of Andrew, who was a Leeds United fan and a Yorkshireman through and through, a poem which reminds us of what it means to live with integrity.

Badge Of A Yorkshireman - Author Unknown

*With a nod of the head, or a grip of the hand,
He will give you his bond, that for ever will stand,
And nothing much safer you'll find in the land;
For that is the badge of a Yorkshireman.*

*He may be reserved in his manner and speech,
And hide the fine graces of which pedants preach;
But he is kind and sincere when his heart you once reach,
For that is the badge of a Yorkshireman.*

*In his pastimes and sports he will try all the way,
And, back to the wall, make his greatest display;
He asks not for favours, but only fair play,
For that is the badge of a Yorkshireman.*

*I have met him away from his own native dales,
In cities and lands where strange language prevails;
Yet a breath of his county he always exhales,
and thus you will know he's a Yorkshireman.*

With best wishes for the very short term ahead, and thanks for all each of you contribute to this community.

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 2025](#) and please join us for an unforgettable day.

Refectory Prices

With effect from 6th May, the price of a main meal (meat and veg) and grab and go items will increase to £2.80. This reflects inflationary pressure on ingredient and labour costs and is the first price increase in over four years. Daily allowances for boarding students and students who are eligible for free school meals will be increased accordingly.

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

Allergy reminder

We would like to remind parents, carers, staff and students to be mindful in relation to allergies and what food students bring to school. Both children and adults with severe nut allergies can suffer from life threatening reactions if they eat, smell, or touch any foods containing nuts. We are therefore grateful for your cooperation in helping to keep our students and staff safe.

Although we are not a 'nut free' school, we would like to raise awareness of the impact that bringing nuts into school can have on students and staff who may have allergies. Packaged nuts, peanut butter, chocolate spreads containing nuts, cereal, granola, chocolate bars containing nuts, cakes or biscuits containing nuts, peanut based sauces (like satay) and any food made with sesame seeds can cause severe allergic reactions for those affected by allergens. This list is not exhaustive.

[Allergy UK](#) is a nationwide charity for people living with an allergy and has resources for parents to access further information.

Please take the time to [watch a short video](#) (4min 25sec) produced by the BBC featuring first-person testimony from children suffering from anaphylactic allergies.

Reading Festival 2025

#LookOutForEachOther is a campaign promoted by Reading Festival that promotes safety around drugs, alcohol, consent, and encourages those planning on attending to look out for each other's well-being. To view the video, [please click here](#) (7mins 51sec).

School Community News

Full Speed Ahead – A Cadet’s Journey to Powerboat Certification



Congratulations to Edward K (10E) on successfully earning his Powerboat Level 2 qualification over the Easter holidays. His achievement showcases both his initiative and the opportunities available through the Combined Cadet Force at Reading School and we spoke more with Edward earlier this week:

How long have you been a CCF Cadet and how your interest in sailing started?

I've been a Cadet here at Reading school for just over a year and a half now. My interest in sailing and boats really started when I completed my Level One Powerboat course in Year 7. What I didn't realise is the sheer number of extra courses I can access with that.

In the future it can take me to many different places. The course I just completed was in Liverpool and I've driven powerboats down in Fowey, Cornwall as well. It can also help me find better jobs and give me an edge when applying for them too as very few people will have this qualification - commercially you can't access it until you're 16. However, due to being a cadet at Reading School, I've been able to get the qualification a year early.

How did it feel to represent Reading School CCF as the sole participant on the course?

I felt proud to be able to represent Reading School CCF at this event and I was also the only Army cadet on the course. I got to meet a whole host of new people that I grew to be very good friends with that I wouldn't have been able to meet unless I was part of the CCF.

What were some of the challenges you faced during the three and a half days, and how did you overcome them?

My main challenge was the weather as we were driving the boats in Beaufort level 6 winds and due to health and safety regulations we have to stop when it gets to level 7. This proved to be a challenge as the wind would blow the boat about while completing manoeuvres, so it was a struggle to keep the boat on the correct course especially when practicing man overboard drills and mooring to a buoy.

How has your time in CCF prepared you for this experience?

The CCF has helped me embrace new experiences and step out of my comfort zone and explore as much as possible.

What was the highlight of the course?

Probably the social time in the evenings with all the other cadets playing pool and table football while listening to music. This was the highlight because it was just a nice atmosphere, to be able to spend time with friends, making jokes, and having a good time.

What advice would you give to other students who might be thinking about joining the CCF or taking on similar challenges?

Take all the opportunities you can as the level of instruction and help you will get is on another level. Then throw yourself at every challenge as you will get much more out of it and make unforgettable memories while having fun with your mates.

What does it mean to you to represent Reading School in opportunities like this?

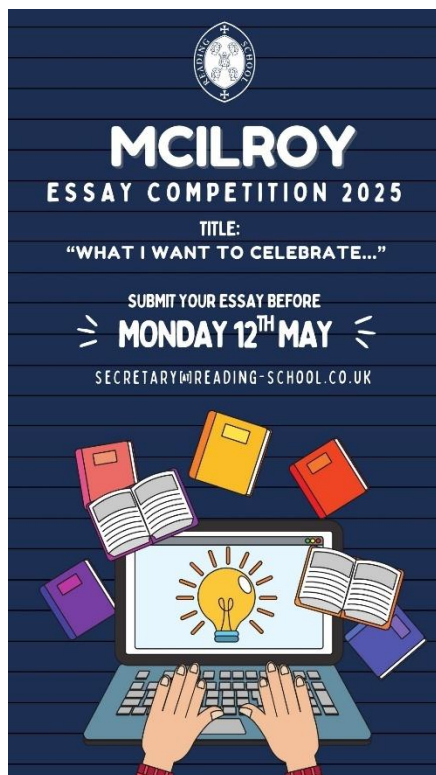
It gives me a great sense of pride to be able to represent the School in this way as it is not in just an academic or school environment, which shows for me that you can take what you learn in school in lessons like Floreat, and apply it to real world experiences. So, in that sense it means much more to me than just the qualification as I feel as if I've done the school justice as one of its students and future Old Redingensian.

McIlroy Essay Competition – a reminder

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?

All competition rules and regulations were featured in the Headmaster’s Bulletin dated 4th April 2025 and the deadline for submissions is 8.25am on Monday 12th May 2025.

RSPA

Goring Gap Run – Raising funds for Reading School 2025



Would you consider becoming a marshal for the RSPA during the annual Goring Gap Race event on Sunday 18th May 2025?

The RSPA is looking for volunteers to assist with marshalling duty at 'The Goring Gap race' and in return for your time and help, the RSPA receives £60 per marshal (with most slots requiring two people, paid as £120) and we should raise over £780 to assist our School with their current fundraising targets.

Currently, the slots are based in Caversham, Tilehurst, Purley, Pangbourne, Whitchurch-on-Thames, Goring and also near to Wallingford.

Last year we raised **£1,080** from taking part in the event, as we were offered more slots close to the event date, which may make it possible to beat this total for 2025 if we can get lots of volunteers.

Please visit <https://goringgaprun.com/> to find out more about the event and previous volunteers have described the day as a lovely event and advise those interested to take a deck chair, a flask of coffee, a newspaper or book, 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 contact us immediately, to register your interest. The more interest we have the more slots we can apply for. Kindly email Terri at t_lorrimore@hotmail.com or text 07810 445474. Terri will co-ordinate a slot for you and then you'll be given the race organiser's email and a location map nearer the time.

Lottery update

Do you fancy winning a luxury city break? Or a £1000 cash prize? Then look no further! Indulge yourself by taking part this Saturday April 26th in a fantastic Super Draw, where one lucky supporter will win a luxury city break worth £1,000, or £1,000 cash alternative!

Whether you want to hit the West End for a weekend, see the architecture and nightlife of Barcelona, sample the art and food of Florence, or soak up the culture in Paris, this prize is simply not to be missed.

It's easy to buy a ticket and all you have to do is [click this link to enter](#).

Any ticket holder can invite their friends and family using the "Refer a Friend" process. For every person that signs up using their unique referral link, BOTH of you will get an entry into the exclusive £200 prize draw. There's no limit to the number of entries you can get, either the more people you refer the more entries into the Draw!

Lost and found property

As this is the last term for our Year 13 and Year 11 boys the RSPA would like to wish them 'Good luck' for their GCSE and A level exams. We know our sons are working hard and focussed in achieving their goals.

Please do check the 'Lost and Found' in Student Services and claim your belongings as it will free up space for incoming year groups.

The RSPA Team

Summer Term – Week 1

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.



Belonging Week 2025 – only 4 weeks to go!

A retrospective of Belonging Week 2024.

The programme provides a unique platform for students to grow as individuals, foster collaboration, and demonstrate leadership in diverse and engaging ways while building on the skills they learn at school.



Belonging Week aims to nurture students' personal development, enhance their abilities to work within a team, and cultivate a strong sense of belonging within the School community.



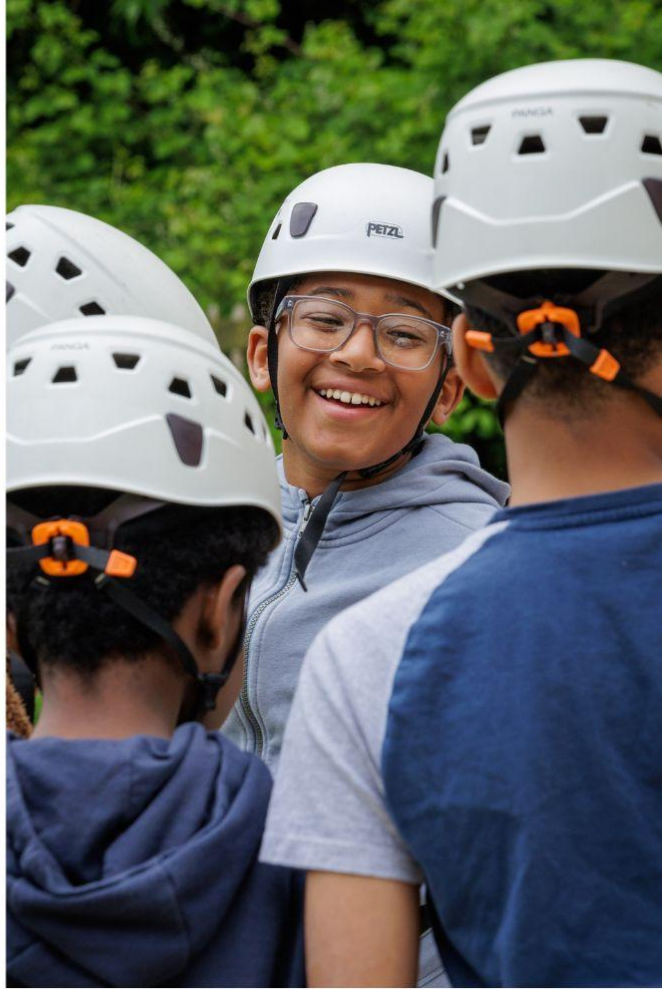
"Such a wonderful initiative to connect students, build relationships and build the character traits that Reading School does so well with its students. Belonging is so important - thank you for sharing." Dr Beth Reynaert, Senior Leader, The Linacre Institute





"It's most impressive how Reading School creates memories!" Grandparent of Year 7























Student adventures during Easter

Thank you to those who have submitted news of what students have got up to during the Easter break. From scaling Scafell Pike in Cumbria to being on their way to becoming a Sailing and Windsurfing Coach – there has been a wide array of achievements to celebrate.

Top left and bottom: Oliver L (8L) scaled England's highest mountain and war memorial, Scafell Pike, alongside his family.

Top right: Aarav R (9W) achieved an Assistant Instructor Certificate in Sailing and Windsurfing as he hopes to coach children this coming Summer 2025.



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