



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

14th February 2025

Contents

Introduction	3
Key information	4
All years	4
Giving Days Update – 26 th to 27 th March 2025	4
Safeguarding, Health & Wellbeing	5
Health of Children and Young People	5
Reading School Vacancies	5
School Community News	6
Giving Day – Appeal for LEGO Bricks	6
National Squash Championships	6
Science in your Future Day	6
Calling all budding game developers	7
External events, clubs, and classes	7
BilinguaSing - Love Learning Languages	7
RSPA	8
Book Donation for the LRC – a reminder	8
The Pre-loved Uniform Shop	8
Lent Term – Week 6	9
Science in your Future trip	9
Williams Racing trip	11
A special farewell	19
National Squash Championships	24
An Arctic Adventure	25

Introduction

Dear students, carers, staff and parents,

At the end of a busy and productive term, I wish a happy holiday to all of those who have a break scheduled next week.

Today we said goodbye to one of our Chefs, Andrew Lenaghan. His commitment, humour, courage and good cheer in the face of profound adversity have been an exceptional source of encouragement to all those he worked with, and a valuable example to our students. Andrew retires today, and we will miss his humour and valued contribution to the life of the school.

Humour was also found in abundance in the refectory on Wednesday this week, after staff were challenged to bring their 'best joke' to Mrs Lawrence, one of our staff well-being leads. By her judgement, our esteemed Head of Physics, Mr Elmore, was found to have the best sense of humour in the school! I sense a rematch coming...

I finish the term by sending thanks to colleagues currently leading expeditions and educational visits, students who have signed up so enthusiastically for Giving Day challenges, and a number of parents who have given generously of their time for a range of important pastoral conversations this week.

"Time," said Theophrastus (who was Aristotle's successor in the Athenian Lyceum), *"is the most valuable thing that a man can spend."*

Grateful for Andrew's time with us, for all the time that colleagues give up, for the hours that parents invest in partnership, and that students throw into all sorts of incredible endeavours, I wish you all a purposeful and positive half-term break. May time be your friend and not your master!

Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All years

Giving Days Update – 26th to 27th March 2025



We thank all students who completed their Giving Day challenge selections. Students should have been informed by their tutors today about the exciting challenges they will be undertaking! If you have not, then you will be informed after half term. Where possible, students have been assigned their first-choice challenge (95%), while some have received their second choice and this will be due to a small uptake or capacity. For the few students who have not yet been allocated a challenge, this will be followed up after half term.

Challenge Days Overview

These two days are designed to develop essential skills such as leadership, teamwork, resilience, and problem-solving which are key competencies for future careers and personal growth.

Day 1 – Wednesday 26th March: Students will take on their individual or group challenges, focusing on independent initiative and collaboration.

Day 2 – Thursday 27th March: A House-focused challenge led by Heads of House, House Prefects, and senior students, reinforcing teamwork, leadership, and community spirit. From 1:30pm, parents and alumni are welcome to see some of the House challenges taking place on the school field and hear more from the Headmaster on the School's development plans. Click to register here: <https://alumni.reading-school.co.uk/event/giving-day>.

Next Steps: Sponsorship & Fundraising

The next important step is securing sponsorship to support their efforts.

Here are **three ways students can prepare over half term for Giving Days:**

1. Share the [Reading School Giving Day Sponsorship Form](#) link with wider family and friends to encourage them to support you in your challenge. Or QR code below. **Remember:** *Parents should not complete the form as they will be asked to give separately on the Giving Days.*
2. Set a fundraising goal and think of creative ways to inspire people to donate, such as sharing why this challenge is important to you and the School's ambitious plans.
3. Start preparing for your challenge, whether it's training, researching, or organising your approach, use this time to get ready to give your best effort.

These challenges are not just about raising funds they are an opportunity to showcase determination, teamwork, and leadership. Let's make Giving Days a huge success together!

Thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment.

Safeguarding, Health & Wellbeing

Health of Children and Young People

According to the [NHS](#), “1 in 11 children have asthma” and that, “90% of asthma deaths are preventable.” The Government estimates that poor air quality kills 28,000 to 30,000 people a year in the UK and is one of the top three causes of emergency admission to hospital.

Vehicle emissions can have significant health impacts on children and young people, particularly around schools, where exposure is often concentrated due to traffic congestion during school drop-off and pick-up times. With this in mind, we would invite all parents and carers who drop off and pick up their children to consider turning off their engines while waiting. By doing so, we would:

1. Reduce air pollution.
2. Contribute to improved respiratory health.
3. Lower your carbon footprint.
4. Reduce noise pollution.

By making this small change, we can all play a part in creating a healthier, cleaner, and safer environment for our children and others.

Reading School Vacancies

[Exam Invigilator \(May and June 2025 – Relief Contract\)](#)

School Community News

Giving Day – Appeal for LEGO Bricks



As part of our Giving Day celebrations, a team of talented student engineers, architects, and designers will take on the exciting challenge of recreating as much of Reading School in LEGO as possible!

We welcome any and all donations of spare LEGO bricks - whether it's 9 or 900, every piece will help bring this ambitious project to life. As a special touch, those who donate bricks will have the opportunity to place one of their own minifigures in the final display once the model is complete.

Donations can be brought to the LRC office anytime during the school day. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Rix-Drummond at sdrummond@reading-school.co.uk.

Please note: We will be unable to return donated bricks after the project is complete. Thank you for your support.

National Squash Championships

Reading School entered teams in all three age groups of the National Schools Squash Championships, and they all showcased their determination and skill on the court. All three teams competed in their respective plate competitions, representing their School with resilience and sportsmanship. The KS3 team delivered an especially impressive performance, coming tantalisingly close to securing a spot in the National Plate Finals.

KS3 Team: Vihaan T (9W), Vihaan G (9W), Aarav R (9W), Maxim H (9S), Kaushal N (8S)

KS4 team: Varnesh R (10W), Henry R (10E), Abraham S (10C), Oscar Z (10W), Maxim H (9S)

KS5 team: Henry R (10E), Oli B (13RW), Dan S (13RW), Teo R (13SP), Vighnesh U (12EL)

We also express our appreciation to Dr Lewis-Brown for leading the ongoing development of squash at Reading School.

Science in your Future Day



On Wednesday 5th February, 15 students in Year 10 were fortunate enough to attend the 'Science in your Future' day at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL). This event provided a valuable opportunity to explore exciting career paths available to students studying STEM subjects. Accompanied by Ms Steedman, Mr Hung, and Dr Lewis-Brown, the students attended a talk by early-career scientists from Boulby Underground Laboratory - a functioning research facility located 1 km beneath the Yorkshire countryside.

They also participated in two hands-on workshops: one on building solar-powered cars and another on using biological models. Additionally, they toured one of RAL's two particle accelerators, the Diamond Light Source.

Karthik V shared his experience of the trip to RAL:

“After a short lecture in the morning into what would happen over the course of an entire day, we split up, rotating over 4 modules, exploring various areas of science. The first one focused on sustainable energy and solar cells, looking at how we can utilise the sun's energy to fulfil the world's energy demands. We were lucky enough to be able to build a solar car using various materials such as cardboard, gears, solar cells and motors. These cars were then put to the test in a race.

The second module comprised of a career's convention, looking at various careers within science. We were able to talk with experts in fields such as nuclear physics, biochemistry and material science. After a lunch break, we moved onto a very interesting module on biological models, looking at the best species that we can use to test for cures/effects of human-related diseases. Lastly, we got to tour the diamond facility, where electrons were fired at incredible speeds, generating an x-ray that is estimated to be over a billion times stronger than the x-ray used by doctors. This day was a unique experience and one I will never forget.”

Trips are an integral part of our commitment to providing students with the broadest range of enrichment opportunities throughout the year, and it is through the professional commitment of Reading School staff that these experiences are made possible.

We hope all students who got to go are left with valuable insights into real-world applications of science and the exciting career paths available in STEM.

Calling all budding game developers

Launched by Liam G (12ZMC), the ‘Play and Win Gam Jam is an international competition where teams of students are invited to compete to produce a game within a week. All donations will go towards the charity, [Dogs for Autism](#), the ‘UK’s only charity to provide autism assistance dogs free of charge to people of any age, anywhere in the UK.’

For all details about the competition, [please click this link](#).

External events, clubs, and classes

BilinguaSing - Love Learning Languages



The image is a promotional graphic for BilinguaSing. It features a QR code in the top left corner. The main text reads "BilinguaSing" in a large, stylized font, with "Love Learning Languages" underneath. To the right, it says "Multi-Award Winning!". Below this, there are two main offerings: "Saturday Family French for under 5s" and "Saturday French Club for 4-7 year olds". A central tagline says "Have fun with languages". At the bottom, it states "Inspire a love for languages" and "Boost their confidence". A green box at the bottom contains contact information: "French & Spanish school clubs and nursery sessions also available", "BilinguaSing Reading, Twyford & Earley", "07963727677 fleur@bilinguasing.com", and "bilinguasing.com".

Is there a younger child in your family that would benefit from learning a second language? A new Saturday morning multi-award winning children’s French and Spanish language club will be starting from Saturday March 3rd, 2025. The 45min sessions help develop young children’s early communication skills, build their confidence, and enhance physical and emotional development through music, language, and sensory classes.

“Fleur is so kind, lovely, fun, and engaging with my son who has attended these classes since he was just 4 months old. I love that he has access to another language in his early years, especially in such an age-appropriate sensory and fun way. Would highly recommend! Thank you Fleur!” S. Haines

“Amazing effort by the team to teach a new language to children in a fun way. My daughter thoroughly enjoys the sessions at school.” A. Rani

To book a trial class and to view all further information, [please click this link](#).

For all enquiries, please contact Fleur by emailing fleur@bilinguasing.com or calling 07963 727677.

RSPA

Book Donation for the LRC – a reminder

Reading School will soon be hosting Future Stories sessions with pupils from a partner primary school. To support these sessions and to update the LRC, there are some extra books needed. If you are decluttering your home, please can we request that any of the following books are taken to reception marked "LRC Future Stories".

Books for the Future Stories sessions

- Peter Brown the Wild Robot series
- The Sad Ghost Club comics
- Michael Morpurgo, Kaspar Prince of Cats
- Dog Man
- Bunny vs Monkey
- Mega Robo Bros Real Pigeons
- Fact books about Sharks
- Ultimate Heroes (Ronaldo and Messi)
- Tom Gates series
- Wimpy Kid series

Books to replace old LRC copies

- The Cherub series by Robert Muchamore
- The Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan
- The Heroes of Olympus series by Rick Riordan
- The Murder most unladylike series by Robin Stevens
- The Young Sherlock Holmes by Andy Lane
- Anything by M.G. Leonard
- Simpsons comic books
- The adventures of Sherlock Holmes
- Agatha Christie novels

The Pre-loved Uniform Shop

The uniform shop will be open on the following dates:

- Friday 28th February from 3.30pm – 4.30pm
- Saturday 1st March from 10.30am – 12.30pm
- Friday 28th March from 3.30pm – 4.30pm
- Saturday 29th March from 10.30am – 12.30pm

In the event of a poor weather forecast the opening will be cancelled and 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

Have a lovely weekend.

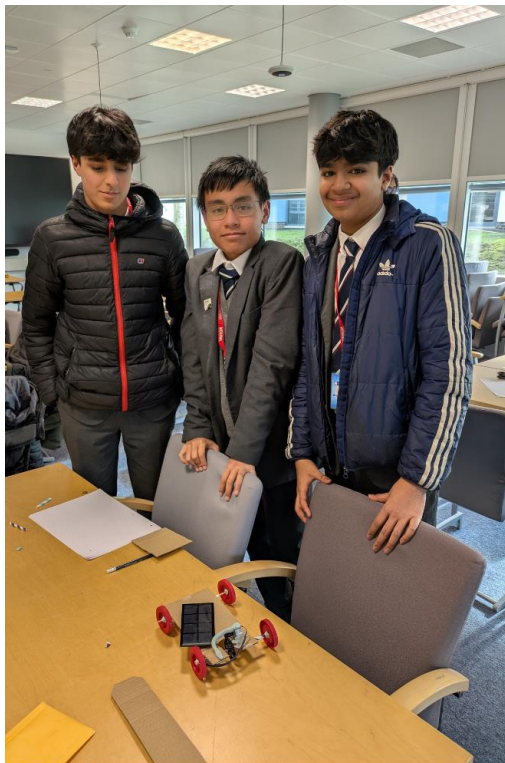
The RSPA Team

Lent Term – Week 6

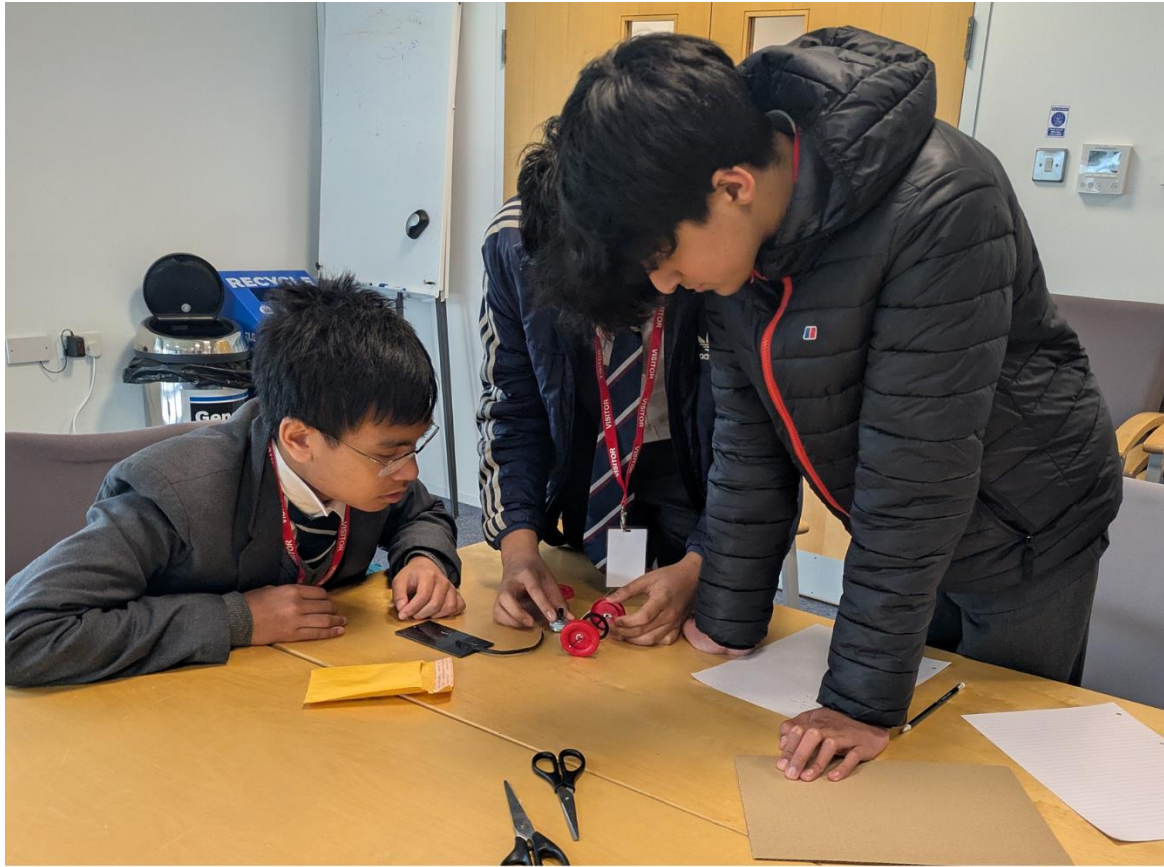
To keep up to date with student life at Reading School, click the icons below to follow, be part of, and stay connected with the Reading School community.



Science in your Future trip



"I really enjoyed the RA laboratory trip, as it was a fascinating introduction to the practical applications of science and engineering. The courses gave me engaging introductions to subjects such as biological modelling, and the importance of ethical considerations and requirements when choosing test species. We also were given the opportunity to attend a careers fair, and the range of professions on display was eye-opening: I had never considered many of the disciplines that this type of facility required, e.g., health officers, and radiation specialists. The highlight of the trip was the guided tour of the Diamond Light Source, where we got to see various research apparatus and areas. Overall, it was an interesting trip, and I hope to have more of these opportunities in future!" Edward Y (10W)



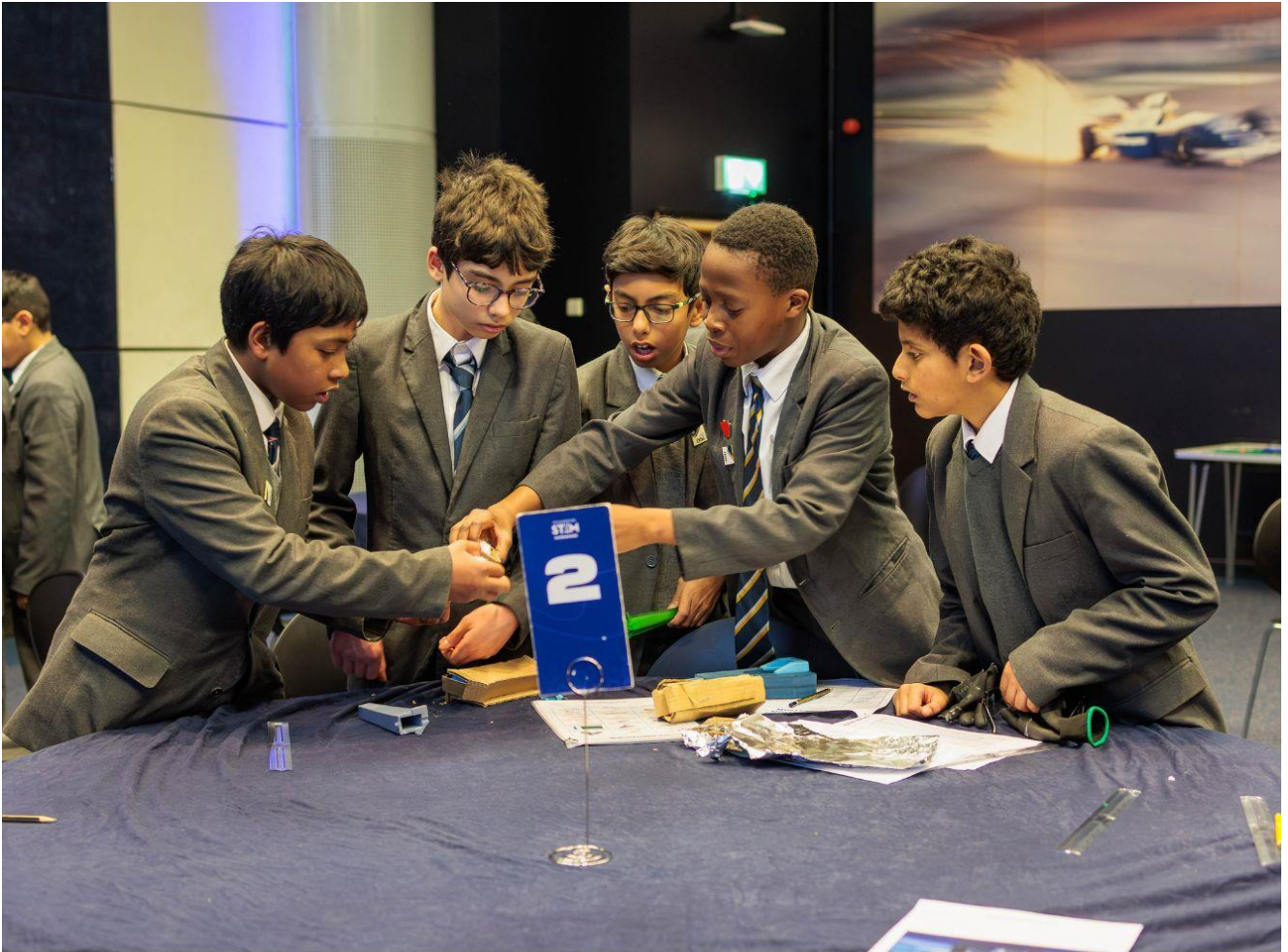
Williams Racing trip

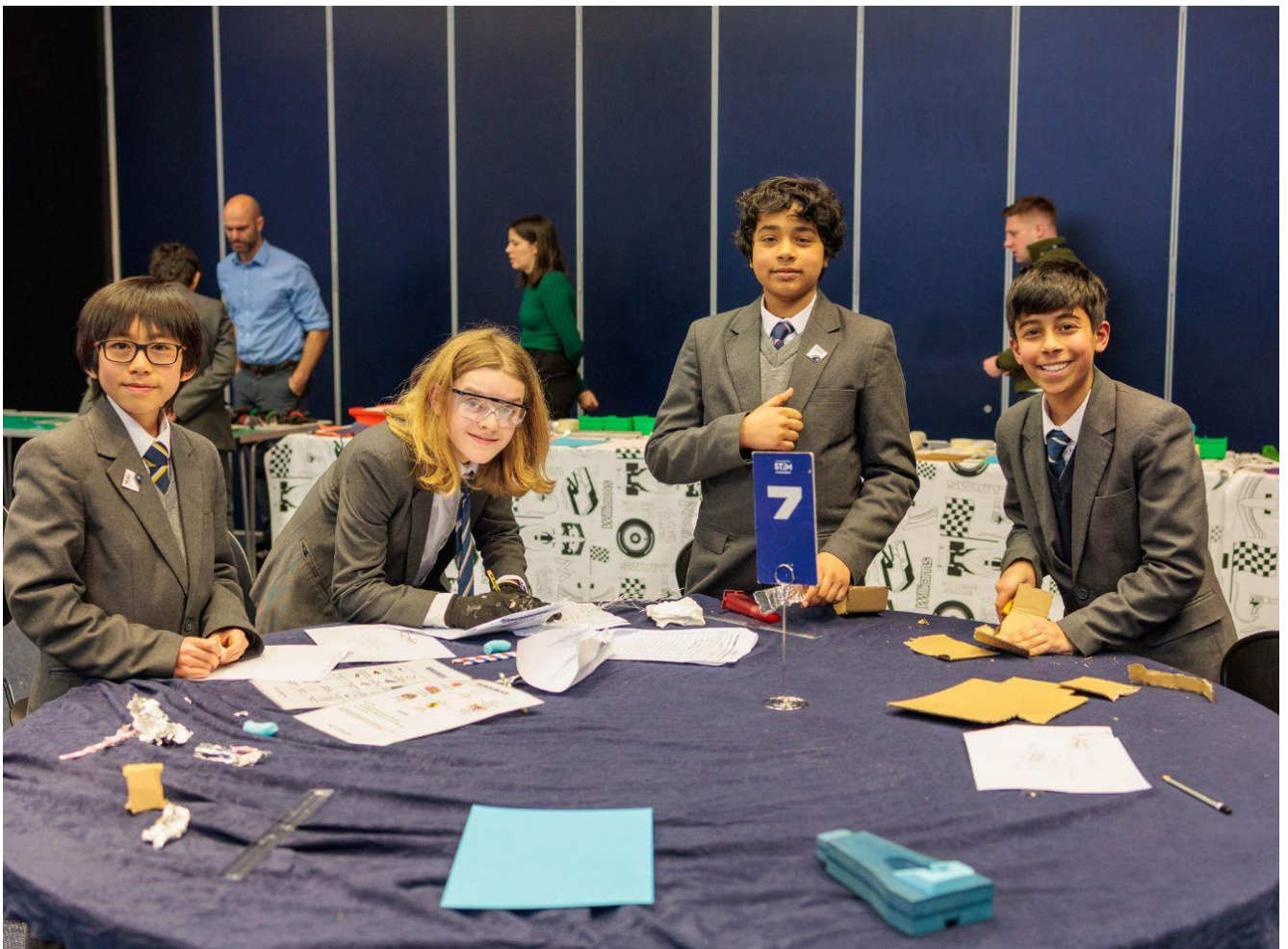
"The William's F1 STEM Experience was absolutely incredible. The staff were helpful and engaging and I thoroughly enjoyed the activities such as the e-sports lounge. I also learned a lot about potential careers that involve STEM by taking part in a STEM workshop. We were put in groups of five and we had the task to create a nose made from different materials that could withstand an impact. We all had allocated roles in our groups, and we were given a budget for the materials. This challenge tested our teamwork, creativity and engineering skills."

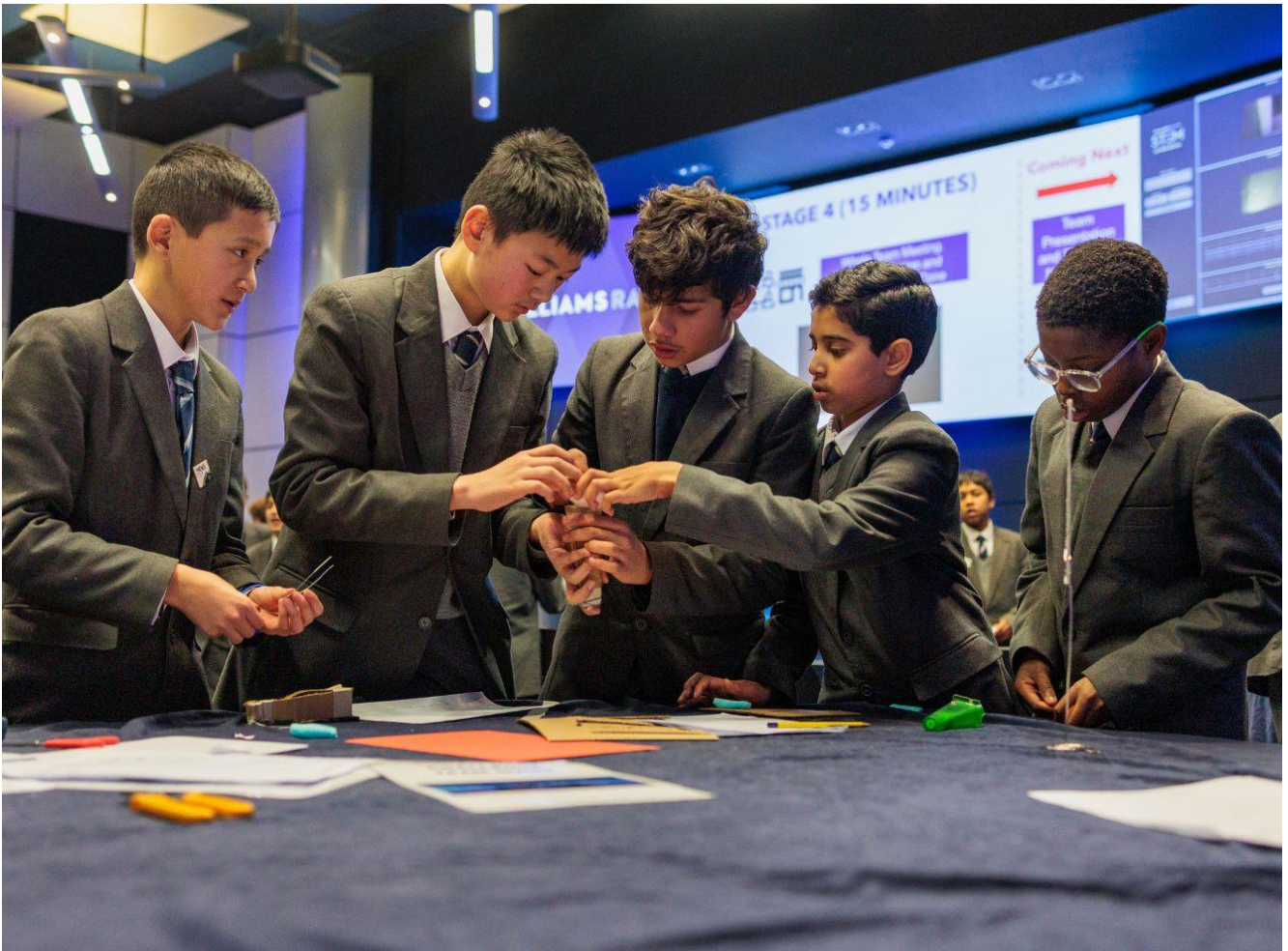
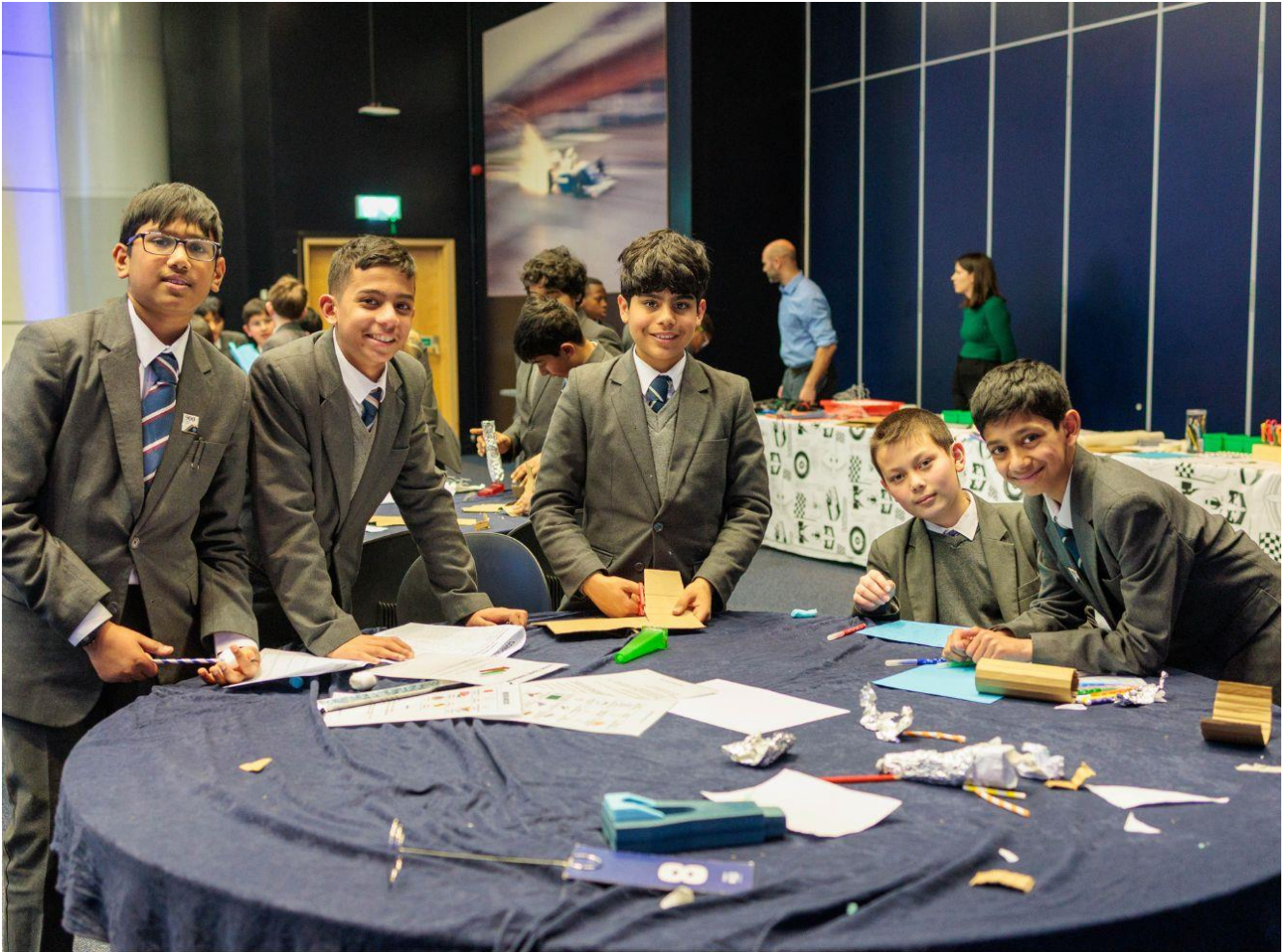
















A special farewell

We wished our highly regarded colleague and Chef de Partie, Mr Andrew Lenaghan, a special farewell today as senior students and staff lined the drive this morning to honour Andrew, who has been with Reading School since 2022.

Speeches were delivered by the Headmaster and Catering Manager, Mr Woodley, and a 900th Anniversary badge, along with other gifts, were shared with Andrew.











National Squash Championships



An Arctic Adventure

Lucky Year 8s travelled to Finland on Wednesday to immerse themselves in the Finnish language and culture. This week, they started writing their learning journals and constructed the 'Quinzee' (snow constructed style of igloo), which required expertly piling a big mound of snow and then carving out the inside to make a shelter. Students will be sleeping in their Quinzees in the evening.

This will be a real challenge to their character as the temperature was only -13 degrees and will drop further overnight! But do not worry, as they're wrapped up warm and well prepared under expert guidance.





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.