



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

12th September 2025

Contents

Introduction	3
Key information	4
A note for new parents	4
Year 13 only	4
Expectations Evening	4
Year 12 only	4
Expectations Evening	4
Year 11 only	5
Expectations Evening	5
Year 9 only	5
Expectations Evening	5
School Community News	6
Living out values to support homeless veterans	6
Could you be Reading School's next Poet Laureate?	7
Creative Writing Club	8
Reading School Events	9
Saturday 13 September – Reading School Rugby Festival 2025	9
Tuesday 16 September – 900th Anniversary Public Lecture	9
Sunday 21 September - The Old Redingensians' House Music Competition – Last call!	9
External Events	10
Abbey School ARCH: Meet the Musicians	10
Reading School Parents Association (RSPA)	11
Who we are	11
Interested in finding out more?	11
Interactive Whiteboard Fundraiser – Rugby Event, Saturday 13th Sept	11
Highlights of the week: Michaelmas Term Week 1	13
A week of orientation, new friendships, collaboration and team building	13
Rugby Festival 2024	23

Introduction

Dear Students, Parents, Carers, Colleagues and Friends,

Thank you for a fantastic start to the year!

It has been a great joy to get back into classrooms this week, to see students asking questions, groups collaborating effectively and teachers nurturing thought. Indeed, just ten minutes ago, I was stopped in my tracks on the School Terrace by the depth of detail in a conversation between two of our students, earnestly arguing about John Stuart Mill's famous maxim that "It is better to be a human being dissatisfied than a pig satisfied."

"Knowledge," one said, "Is always better than ignorance."

The other one was less convinced, reflecting that it depended very much on the cost spent on the acquisition of that fruit.

What value then, do we place on thinking? Why do we insist that so much of the energy of adolescence is spent on brain activity? How should we price a thought?

I don't begin to have an answer, but I live in the hope that changes in our minds can change our behaviour, and that changes in our behaviour can change the world.

My own Year 13 students this week were wrestling with exactly this. We recognised that no amount of thinking about red, or blue or green changes the colour of our brains from grey. The stuff of thought is somehow different from the stuff of cells and neurons. Thus, thinking about pineapples never makes us greengrocers! Despite this, even the smallest seed of an idea can totally change us. Somehow, beyond diagnosis or explanation, thinking transforms us.

We must therefore ensure that this year is filled with deep thinking. That our classrooms spark contemplation. That the field, the library, the chapel and the playground all provoke wonder. That curiosity is one of Reading School's hallmarks. Indeed, it's my hope that this weekend will be filled with animated conversation in your home about new ideas, new topics and new questions. Even though we are all tired from a very full first week back, I hope that we find we are still thinking as the day ends, as the weekend passes and as the term grows old.

I wish Year 13 every blessing as they use their freedom to make brave decisions for their future, and build on the learning of last year. I apologise to Year 12 that timetables were muddled for so many on the first day of term – and hope this hasn't impeded the excitement of starting new courses. I wish our Year 11 students every success as they contemplate their goals this year. I hope all of our Year 8-10 students will continue to find their thinking refreshed and their minds renewed, and I pray that, in the midst of all the other adventures, our Year 7 students will find the stuff of thought to be a source of great joy! With thanks for your partnership,

Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

A note for new parents

Welcome to the Reading School Community. Each week, you will receive the Headmaster's Bulletin, each and every Friday afternoon and it is designed to keep you informed and connected with life at the School.

We are aware that everyone is busy, and your time is precious, so the Bulletin is structured in the following way:

- Essential information you need to be aware of features in the first section, and to help you, this section is split up by year groups. If you want essential information only, this is the section to read.
- Nice-to-know information follows essential information. This will include information about events, student achievements, careers information, clubs, and news from the Reading School Parents Association. If you want to stay updated and be aware of all the exciting events, developments and news at Reading School, this is the section to read.
- Finally, a regular photo gallery including highlights of the week which can be found at the end of the Bulletin. From lessons and electives, to House events, trips, music, sport, visits, and all the moments in-between that capture the life of your School.

Previous Headmaster's Bulletins can be found on our website by [clicking here](#).

If you have any positive news stories, as parents or a student, please get in contact by emailing communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk

Year 13 only

Expectations Evening

Following this week's Expectations Evening for parents of Year 13 students, please click the links below to access:

[Year 13 Expectations Evening Presentation](#)

[Year 13 Expectations Evening Slides](#)

Year 12 only

Expectations Evening

Following this week's Expectations Evening for parents of Year 12 students, please click the links below to access:

[Year 12 Expectations Evening Presentation](#)

[Year 12 Expectations Evening Slides](#)

Year 11 only

Expectations Evening

Following this week's Expectations Evening for parents of Year 11 students, please click the links below to access:

[Year 11 Expectations Evening Presentation](#)

[Year 11 Expectations Evening Slides](#)

Year 9 only

Expectations Evening

Following this week's Expectations Evening for parents of Year 9 students, please click the links below to access:

[Year 9 Expectations Evening Presentation](#)

[Year 9 Expectations Evening Slides](#)

School Community News

Living out values to support homeless veterans

At Reading School, we are deeply committed to living out our values of **Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, and Community** not only within our school walls but also in the wider world. Our community, made up of students, staff, parents, Governors, and alumni – regularly supports those in need through a range of charitable initiatives, which the Bulletin features throughout the academic year. From fundraising events and food collections to volunteering and awareness campaigns, we are proud to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others at home and abroad. This spirit of service reflects our belief that education extends beyond academic success, fostering empathy, responsibility, and active citizenship.

This week, we shine a spotlight on Old Redingensian and chair of the Old Redingensians Association, Andrew Tuggey (OR 1958 – 1966), CBE, DL. We spoke with Andrew this week about his aims to support homeless veterans:

Q: Can you share a little about your connection to Reading School



I am a former soldier and was at Reading School from 1958 – 1966, in East House. My younger brother Nick and I lived with our parents very close to the School off Upper Redlands Road. Our father was Headmaster of Cintra Secondary Modern School which used to be on Basingstoke Road, a school now long gone. After Reading School I entered the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in January 1967, commissioning into the Royal Engineers in December 1968.

I had a fantastically enjoyable military career, picking up a civil engineering degree along the way, marrying my wife Clare, with whom I have three sons with, in 1974, and serving all over the world – Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Northern Ireland, and finally eastern Europe with the Foreign Office. We have been privileged to have spent six years serving with Gurkhas, which has led to our lifelong links with the Gurkhas and Nepal. When I left the Army in May 2003, we had settled in Monmouthshire in the Welsh Marches.

Q: Where has your career also taken you?

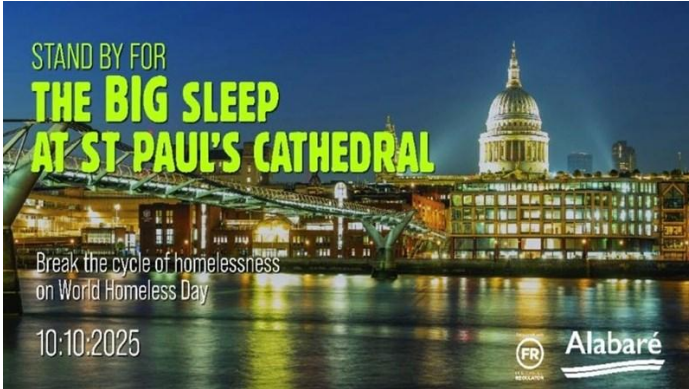
In January 2004, I was appointed Chief Executive of an interparliamentary association, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK in the Houses of Parliament. For the next 13 years I led, and learnt from, a team of young, enthusiastic and dynamic people working with parliamentarians across the Commonwealth in the fields of parliamentary strengthening, legislation, human rights, climate change, the representation of women, the alleviation of poverty, violence against women and girls, modern slavery, and parliamentary diplomacy.

During my time at Westminster, I also had the honour to be appointed a Deputy Lieutenant, later Vice Lord-Lieutenant, of Gwent and in 2015 I was appointed High Sheriff of Gwent. Very excitingly, in Her Majesty The (late) Queen's Birthday Honours in 2016 I was awarded the CBE for the Commonwealth work and my support for communities in south-east Wales.

Q: How do you still support Reading School?

In 2019 I was invited to join the Old Redingensians Association Council (ORA), and in 2020 was elected President of the ORA for two years, after which I was elected Chair.

Q: What can the Reading School Community do to support you?

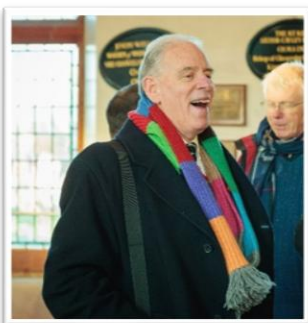


On 10 October 2025, I shall be sleeping out in St Paul's Cathedral Garden in London to help raise funds to support homeless veterans. The BIG Sleep is organised by [Alabaré](#), and I am an ambassador for the charity which supports homeless veterans. On 5 March 2021 I slept out on a hill in Wales to raise funds for the same cause. Thanks to the generosity of family, friends, colleagues I raised £8.6K, but sadly the need remains and so I am having another crack, this time with the aspiration to raise £10K. If you are in

a position to donate as a parent, student or staff member, [please donate via my Just Giving page by clicking here](#).

It is an indictment on society that there still remain many homeless veterans in the UK, veterans who served to keep our society safe. I and many other participants on 10 October are also veterans. It will be our small act of compassion to help break the cycle of homelessness for veterans. After what may be an uncomfortable, cold, and perhaps wet night, we shall return to our warm homes and they will not. All the funds raised on Friday 10 October will directly support Alabaré's work with homeless veterans across SW England and Wales, helping them off the streets and into homes for veterans. Beyond providing shelter, Alabaré offers tailored support in employment, training, and education to help veterans rebuild their lives and live independently. Their homes for veterans are more than shelter - they are places of healing, growth, and hope.

Q: In closing, how has Reading School impacted your life?



Looking back, I recognise, appreciate and value how the core values of Reading School – excellence, integrity, leadership and community – sustained and supported my personal journey.

Other values, such as understanding the importance of appreciating and celebrating the work of others, and thanking them for what they do, fold into those core values, values that were so clear on the happy smiling faces of all of us who attended the wonderful celebration of Reading School's 900th anniversary on Saturday 12 July 2025.

Could you be Reading School's next Poet Laureate?

The Poet Laureate has been a tradition in the UK since 1996 when the first Poet Laureate was appointed by the Monarch to write verses for significant national occasions. Poets such as William Wordsworth, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Carol Ann Duffy and Ted Hughes have all held the position; Simon Armitage is the current Poet Laureate for the nation.

Applications for the post of Reading School's Poet Laureate are now open for any student across the school community from Year 7 up to, and including, Year 13. The position will be for a fixed term of one academic year serving from October 2025 to July 2026.

The Reading School Poet Laureate will be expected to write at least one poem every half-term that is shared with the whole school community. Poems may be linked to school, local or national events; current affairs; or be on a topic that the poet wishes to explore. There is opportunity and scope in this position for the Poet Laureate to become involved in school-wide poetry initiatives, including National Poetry Day, as well as our Creative Writing Clubs.

If you would like to apply for this position, please write a poem based around the theme of **Hope**.

All poems should be no more than one A4 page and submitted to Ms Peoples by emailing speoples@reading-school.co.uk. Closing date for application is **25 September 2025**.



Creative Writing Club

Your favourite Reading School lunchtime creative writing club is back, and it is shinier, wordier and louder than ever. Find out more by reading our half-termly bulletin – [Words, Words, Words](#) – or better yet, come along to a meeting!

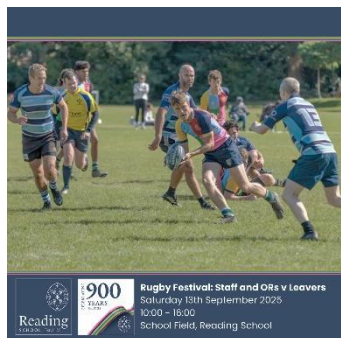
Senior Club convenes each and every Friday during lunchtime in A2.

Junior Club gathers each and every Tuesday during lunchtime in A1.

You are welcome to bring your lunch (we have lunch passes available for members). Please see Ms Ellis for more information.

Reading School Events

Saturday 13 September – Reading School Rugby Festival 2025



We're thrilled to invite you to the annual **Rugby Festival** on **Saturday 14th September from 10:00 - 16:00**.

Last year's festival was a fantastic day, with over 50 players taking to the pitch and supported from the sidelines by families and friends cheering on the action under the sunshine.

This year, we're making it even bigger and better! Enjoy **live music, delicious food stalls, and refreshments** throughout the day.

We especially extend a warm welcome to **our new Year 7 students and their families**. This is a wonderful chance to meet other students, parents, a chance to make new friends, and get a taste of the Reading School community.

To register, please click here: [Rugby Festival 2025: Staff & ORs vs Leavers | Events | Reading School Alumni Society](#)

Tuesday 16 September – 900th Anniversary Public Lecture

900th Anniversary Lecture Series
Reading Abbey and Reading School
Presented by Lindsay and John Mullaney
Tuesday 16th September, 3:30pm to 4:30pm
Big School, Reading School

What is Reading School's connection to Reading Abbey and is it really 900 years old? Is there evidence to suggest it could be even older?

Join local historians John and Lindsay Mullaney for the first of three special 900th Anniversary lectures marking Reading School's historic milestone. They will take the audience on a fascinating journey looking at the evidence of its earliest existence, and its later development up to the time of Henry VII - while answering the questions of why, where and when Reading Abbey was founded.

Lindsay Mullaney holds a BA in French/Italian and an MA in Applied Linguistics, both from the University of Reading. John Mullaney holds a degree in Philosophy and Theology from the Marianum Faculty of the Pontifical University in Rome, a BA in History and Italian and an MA in Education, both from Reading.

Henry I and his Abbey

Lindsay Mullaney

What is Reading School's connection to Reading Abbey and is it really 900 years old? Is there evidence to suggest it could be even older?

Join local historians John and Lindsay Mullaney as they take the audience on a fascinating journey looking at the evidence of its earliest existence, and its later development up to the time of Henry VII - while answering the questions of why, where and when Reading Abbey was founded.

Lindsay Mullaney holds a BA in French/Italian and an MA in Applied Linguistics, both from the University of Reading. John Mullaney holds a degree in Philosophy and Theology from the Marianum Faculty of the Pontifical University in Rome, a BA in History and Italian and an MA in Education, both from Reading.

This is a lecture open to the whole school community and members of the public so please share details and the link to sign up with friends and family.

[Click this link](#) to sign up.

Sunday 21 September - The Old Redingensians' House Music Competition – Last call!

The Old Redingensians' House Music Competition
Time of Music

Kindly sponsored by the Reading Foundation, The Old Redingensians Association & The Sir Thomas Birtwhistle Trust

Concert Hall, Town Hall, Reading RG1 1QH
Sunday 21 September 2025 | 6:45 PM - 10:15 PM

Alumni from four Houses - East, School, West, and County, take to the stage on Sunday 21 September from 6:45pm at the Concert Hall, Reading Town Hall.

This year is extra special, with distinguished alumni returning to perform alongside current students, some for the first time in decades, to celebrate their musical roots at Reading School and share the stage once more with fellow ORs.

Date: Sunday 21 September

Time: 6:45pm

Venue: Concert Hall, Reading Town Hall

Tickets: £25 Adult | £15 Concession

Ticketing: [The Old Redingensians' House Music Competition | What's On Reading](#)

All ticket proceeds will support **Reading School's Beyond 900 Campaign**, contributing to the redevelopment of Expressive Arts facilities, a new Sports Hall and improved Sixth Form provision.

Highlights include:

- East House alumni reuniting after 40 years to perform **Vivaldi's Double Trumpet Concerto**, plus a cappella, big band and Les Misérables' "Do You Hear The People Sing."
- School House with a thrilling mix of **Ed Sheeran, Back to the Future** and dazzling **Piano 8 Hands** performance.
- West House presenting **Bob Dylan classics, John Williams' Raiders of the Lost Ark**, and jazz standards with alumni and current students.
- County House blending everything from **Slovenian folk music** and **classical chamber duets** to "**Smooth Operator**".

A show packed with variety and talent - a night not to miss! Bring your children to listen, learn and be inspired by the beauty of musical live performance. Grab your tickets now and join the celebration.

External Events

Abbey School ARCH: Meet the Musicians



Join The Abbey School as they welcome a panel of talented, professional musicians who will share their passion for music, career journeys, and insider advice. Discover the paths these musicians took to turn their passion into a profession. Learn what drives them, the challenges they've faced, and what it truly means to live a life in music.

After the panel, students will have the chance to join breakout sessions and dive deeper with the musician of their choice – ask questions, seek advice, and learn from their experience.

Whether you enjoy composing, performing, or want to pursue a career in the music industry, this is a unique opportunity to be inspired by those who've done it.

Thursday 2 October, 17.30 to 19.00 at The Abbey Senior School, Kendrick Road.

Register for your ticket [here](#) by 30 September.

Reading School Parents Association (RSPA)

Who we are

RSPA

READING SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The RSPA would like to extend a warm welcome to all new Reading school families and a welcome back to all returning ones.

We are a charity managed by the parents and carers of Reading school students and we work alongside the School to provide a community for all the parents and carers. The RSPA has been in operation since 1946 and we raise funds to improve the experience of students using several methods like the Preloved Uniform Shop, a School lottery, Events and your generous donations.

Over recent years we have funded minibuses, cricket nets, outdoor seating refurbished toilets, and most recently AV equipment. We are always looking for new members to help make a real and lasting difference to children across all years and all volunteers are welcome.

Interested in finding out more?

We are preparing for our forthcoming Annual General Meeting (date tbc) and are looking for new members to become involved with the committee. There are so many ways in which you can become involved depending on your interests and available time. You can view our current roles by clicking the following link > [Meet the Team — Reading School Parents' Association](#). To get in contact to find out more about current volunteering opportunities, please email contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk.

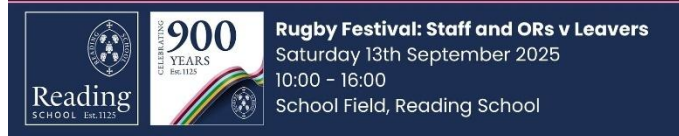
Interactive Whiteboard Fundraiser – Rugby Event, Saturday 13th Sept



Thanks to our fundraising initiatives, and parents' generosity, the RSPA have now gifted 3 interactive whiteboards to the science department, at the cost of £12,070.

These are installed, in use and significantly enhance teaching and learning within the classroom by making lessons more engaging, collaborative, and accessible. They also bring the science department up to a consistent level across the three subjects – Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

We have recently received a further request from the Computer Science department, to cover the cost of their own interactive whiteboard, which has become obsolete. In order to fundraise, the RSPA will be running a Drinks & Samosas stall at this Saturday's Rugby event at Reading School.



We look forward to seeing all parents both attending the event and any new parents that may want to drop by either to volunteer some time, to meet other parents, or to help boost our sales!

If you wish to donate to this fundraiser, please use [this sum-up link](#), (even if it is to donate the price of a cake to sell at the event), OR, you can transfer your donation to:

Account Name: **Reading School Parents Association**

Sort Code: **60-17-21**

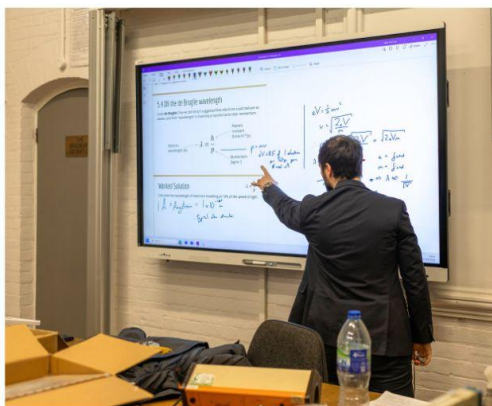
Account Number: **04619919**

Reference "**COM-SCI**" and your name.

To claim GiftAid on your donation please email our Treasurer Terri Lorrimore by emailing tlorrimore@readingschoolparents.co.uk to confirm your Gift Aid status.

Thank you.

The RSPA Team



Highlights of the week: Michaelmas 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.

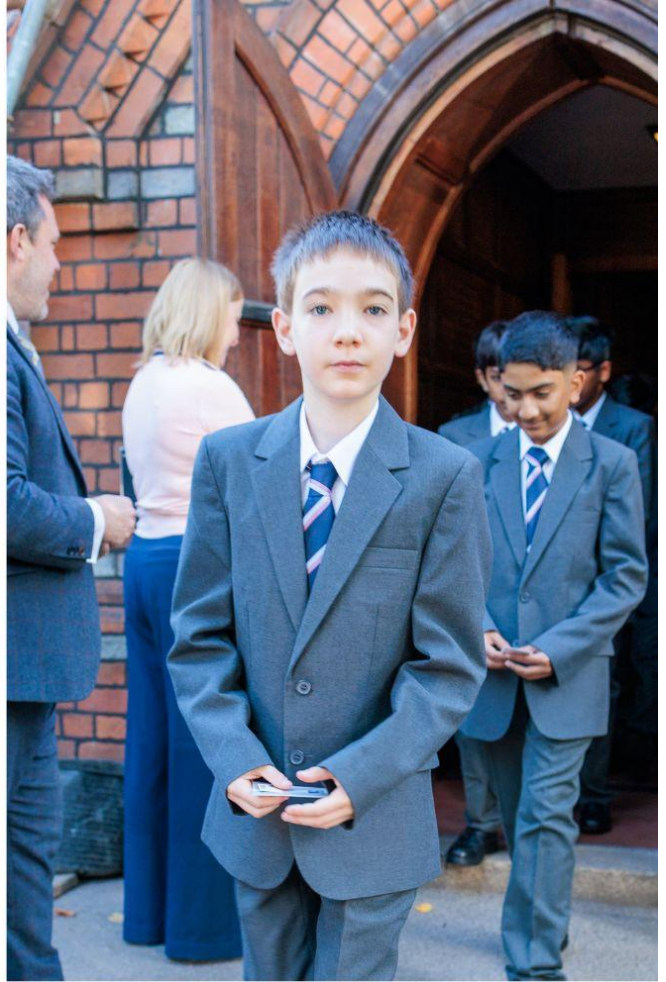


A week of orientation, new friendships, collaboration and team building

This week has seen new and returning students being given opportunities to reflect on their new journey ahead and positively settling into a new term.

















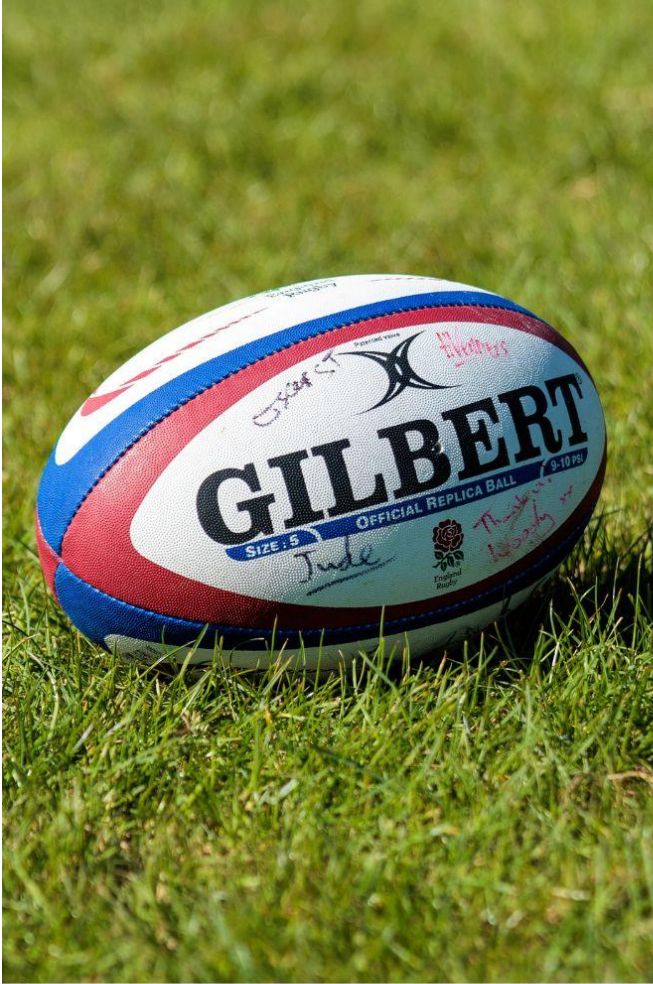




Rugby Festival 2024

Join us on **Saturday 13 September** from 10:00am [and sign up here.](#)











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