



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

19th September 2025

A Special Announcement

After two decades of exceptional leadership, unwavering loyalty, and dedicated service, as Deputy Head, Headmaster, Head of Boarding and latterly, CEO, we bid farewell to Ashley Robson, who is retiring from Reading School.

Over the past 20 years, Ashley has played an integral role in shaping the school community. Through his steadfast commitment, wisdom, and passion for education, he has made an indelible mark on the lives of students, staff, and families alike. His leadership has helped guide the school through challenges and successes, always with integrity, vision, and a deep sense of purpose.

Ashley's retirement marks the end of a remarkable era, and while we are sad to see him go, we are filled with gratitude for all he has contributed. His legacy will be felt for many years to come, both in the traditions he upheld and the progress he inspired.

We wish Ashley every happiness and fulfilment in the next chapter of his journey. May retirement bring new adventures and time to enjoy the things he loves most.

With sincere thanks and warmest wishes,

The Reading School Community

Ashley Robson has had a positive impact on so many of us and I am sure you will wish to join us in contributing to a gift for him. Here's a link where you can leave a message and contribute to a gift: [Ashley Robson Gift Contribution](#)

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Introduction

Dear parents, carers, colleagues, staff and students,

If we live long enough, we all have the privilege, eventually, of looking back, and realising we owe a remarkable debt to one or other teacher or role model in our lives. For some, it was the Chemistry teacher who patiently explained a concept after class when we were struggling. For others, a PE teacher who worked tirelessly and well beyond their required hours to ensure that our team were coached. For many, a form tutor who became an advocate or inspiration. Whether a music teacher, CCF officer, learning support assistant or classroom teacher, each of us have debts to those who have most supported us.

My greatest professional debt is undoubtedly to Ashley Robson.

Mr Robson has been responsible for placing character at the heart of the School's curriculum. For ensuring social impact is key to our mission. For sustaining excellence, demonstrating leadership, building community and modelling integrity. In addition to the very brief announcement on our first page, I add my personal thanks, and express my awareness of the unpayable debt I feel for all that Ashley has taught me.

Today, therefore, I ask each of us in the Reading School community, to bring to mind a role-model, mentor or inspiration for whom we should be grateful. Perhaps some of our senior students might come back on Monday to say thank you to the staff member who has helped them most in recent years? Perhaps it's time for Year 7 students to write a thank-you letter to their favourite primary school teacher and let them know that you are enjoying secondary school? Perhaps right now, some of you in Year 9 need to thank your parents for the patience and wisdom they offer? Perhaps next week, colleagues might take a moment to thank those who line-manage, care or support them?

Gratitude and humility are sure foundations that are absolutely essential if any of us are to grow or if the school is to flourish.

It's always the right time to say thank you. It's always the right time to learn from masters.

Wishing you all a happy weekend, and wishing Mr Robson every blessing for the adventures ahead.

Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All Years

Co-curricular clubs and activities 2025

Please find details of [this term's co-curricular program by clicking here](#).

Our co-curricular programme is a core part of the student experience and plays a significant role in the school's ethos of developing future leaders and well-rounded young people. There are over 20 diverse clubs and activities that take place during the week, and we would encourage all students to take part in co-curricular activities in some way.

Beyond the co-curricular programme there are 74 sports fixtures currently planned for this term. These are detailed in the PE department on the fixtures board.

Please note that the costs of running after-school provision, facilities hire, coaching, and transport for fixtures, are covered by parental donations via Reading School's **365 Annual Fund**.

If your family circumstances allow, we'd be hugely grateful for any contribution to this vital fund that sustains our co-curricular provision, electives, sports fixtures and other experiences. The breadth and depth of this provision is only sustainable with parental support. If you are able to contribute even a small amount regularly, you can do so via this QR code:



Thank you for your valued support.

Mathematics Calculators

To support their mathematics education at Reading School, all students are required to have a scientific calculator.

Recommended models:

- **Years 7 – 9:** *Casio FX-85GTX* (identified by a **blue button**)
- **Years 10 – 13:** *Casio FX-991CW* (identified by a **gold button**) – *essential for A Level Mathematics*

Please note:

- Year 10 or 11 students **not planning to take A Level Mathematics** can continue with the *Casio FX-85GTX*.
- Students studying **A Level Further Mathematics** may find the *Casio FX-CG100* beneficial, though it is optional.

Ordering through the school:

Calculators can be purchased via **MyChildAtSchool (MCAS)**. The **deadline for orders is Wednesday 24th September**. Calculators will be distributed through maths lessons by early October.

Alternatively, calculators can also be purchased independently online or from other retailers.

Prices:

- Casio FX-85GTX – £11.60
- Casio FX-991CW – £22.30
- Casio FX-CG100 – £81.00

Protective Security Procedures

Reading School is introducing a **new safety procedure called a security lockdown**, which will be **practised during the week commencing Monday, 22nd September**. The drill will take place with minimal disruption and is designed to prepare staff and students for a very unlikely emergency situation.

A **security lockdown** would be used if it is safer for students and staff to stay inside the school rather than evacuate. Examples include a dangerous person or animal on site, a local disturbance, a chemical incident, or a terrorism-related threat.

Please [click this link](#) to access a protective security procedures information letter for all parents and carers.

Year 7 only

Expectations Evening

Following this week's Expectations Evening for parents of Year 7 students, please click the links below to access:

[Year 7 Expectations Evening Presentation](#)

[Year 7 Expectations Evening Slides](#)

Year 8 only

Expectations Evening

Following this week's Expectations Evening for parents of Year 8 students, please click the links below to access:

[Year 8 Expectations Evening Presentation](#)

[Year 8 Expectations Evening Slides](#)

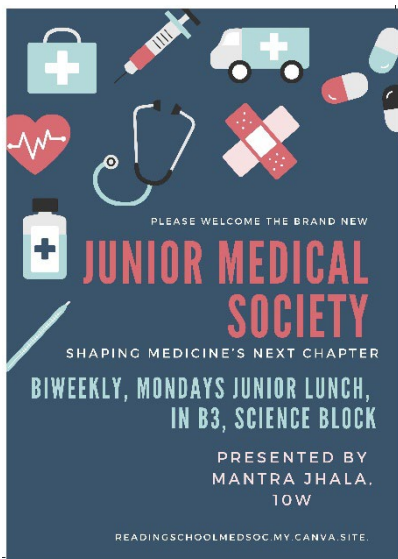
Year 10 only

Expectations Evening

Following this week's Expectations Evening for parents of Year 10 students, please click the links below to access:

[Year 10 Expectations Evening Presentation](#)

School Community News



Interested in Medicine and Health?

If you're in **Year 9 or 10** and curious about medicine, healthcare, and the latest advancements in the field, the **Junior Medical Society** is the perfect place for you.

Meeting **fortnightly on Monday lunchtimes** in **B3**, the society offers a chance to explore different areas of medicine, learn about specialisations, and hear from guest speakers. This year, we'll also be hosting a variety of exciting events and **Years 7 and 8** may be invited to selected talks that are suitable for their year group – details will be shared closer to the time.

Join the **next meeting on Monday, 22nd September, in B3** to find out more.

The Junior Medical Society is a student-led society.

Call for Volunteers: Support Our Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) Circuits – November 2025



We are seeking **medical, nursing, dentistry, and veterinary medicine professionals, graduates, and students (Second-year and above)** to support our upcoming Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) practice circuits.

By volunteering, you will play a vital role in preparing aspiring students for their university applications by leading short, five-minute mini-interviews and offering valuable feedback.

Event Dates (via Zoom):

The circuits will run on **two** of the following dates (**final dates will be chosen based on availability of volunteers**):

- Tuesday 11 November 2025
- Thursday 13 November 2025
- Tuesday 18 November 2025
- Thursday 20 November 2025

Session Times:

Session 1: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Session 2: 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

How to Get Involved:

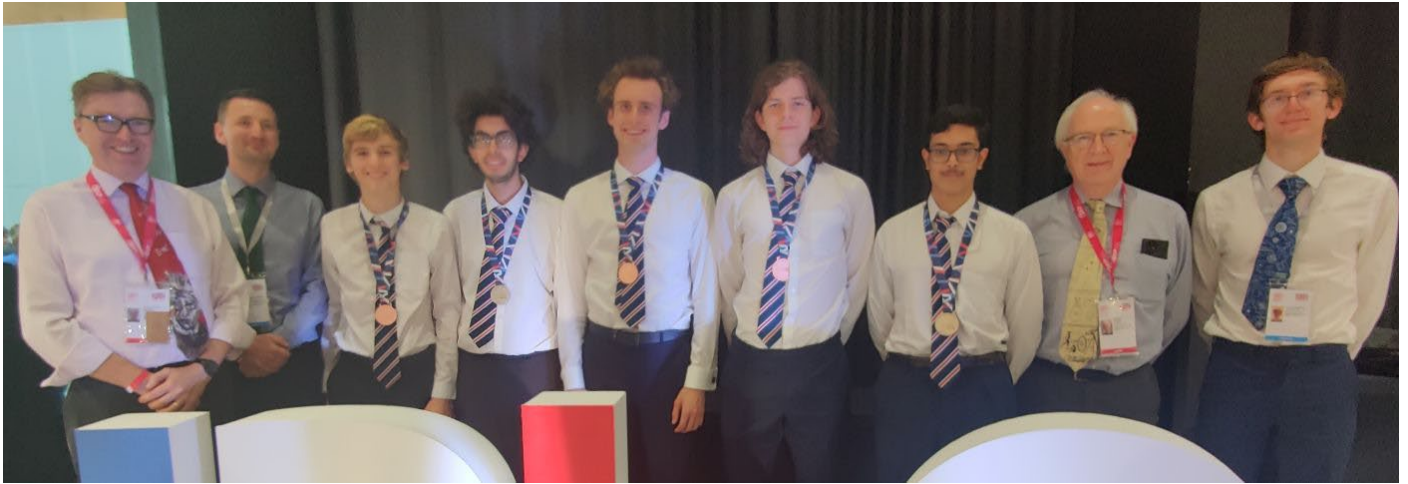
If you, or someone you know, would like to volunteer, please click the following link and complete the form by Monday 20 October 2025 [MMI Circuits 2025](#)

Once the dates are confirmed, we will provide you with additional details.

For more information, please email us at alumni@reading-school.co.uk

International Physics Olympiad

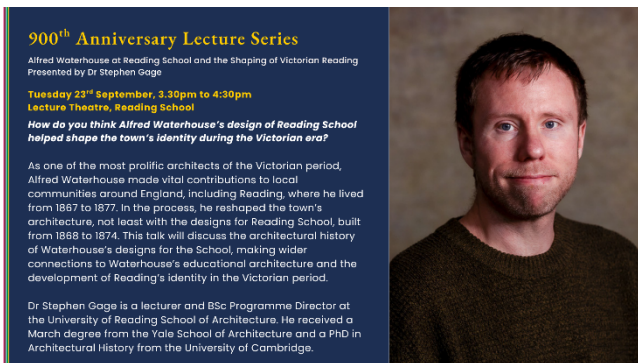
Congratulations to Henry Kemp, one of last year's year 13s, who was a part of the British team that competed in the International Physics Olympiad held in Paris in July 2025. The competition included a 5-hour practical exam as well as a 5-hour theoretical paper, and Henry did exceptionally well, achieving a bronze medal. To read a report of the event, please [click here](#) and Henry has gone onto the University of Oxford as an Engineering undergraduate.



Henry Kemp (4th from the right)

Reading School Events

Tuesday 23 September – 900th Anniversary Public Lecture



How do you think Alfred Waterhouse's design of Reading School helped shape the town's identity during the Victorian era?

As one of the most prolific architects of the Victorian period, Alfred Waterhouse made vital contributions to local communities around England, including Reading, where he lived from 1867 to 1877. In the process, he reshaped the town's architecture, not least with the designs for Reading School, built from 1868 to 1874. This talk will discuss the architectural history of Waterhouse's designs for the School, making wider connections to Waterhouse's educational architecture and the development of Reading's identity in the Victorian period.

Dr Stephen Gage is a lecturer and BSc Programme Director at the University of Reading School of Architecture. He received a March degree from the Yale School of Architecture and a PhD in Architectural History from the University of Cambridge.

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!



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.

900th Anniversary Gala Dinner: Get Your Tickets & Donate to the Auction



Join us for the continuing celebrations of Reading School’s 900th anniversary at our Gala Dinner on **Saturday 29 November 2025 at Reading Town Hall**.

Enjoy an unforgettable evening of fine dining, live entertainment, inspiring moments and the chance to support the school’s future through the [Beyond 900 Campaign](#).

Date: Saturday 29 November 2025

Time: 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Venue: Reading Town Hall, Blagrave Street, RG1 1QH

Tickets: Single £150 | Table of 10 £1,400

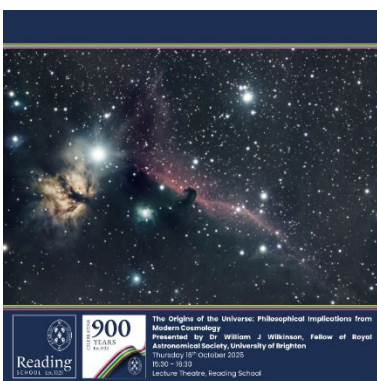
Tickets include:

- Welcome drink
- Three-course gala dinner with wine
- Keynote speech and live entertainment
- Silent/ live auction
- Luxury raffle draw

Ticketing: [Gala Dinner - 29th November 2025 | Events | Reading School Alumni Society](#)

The occasion will also have a fundraising auction, so if there is any chance you could contribute an **auction prize**, please email events@reading-school.co.uk with a brief description and a photo. We’ll follow up with delivery details.

Faith and Reason Lecture Series



The Reading School Chaplaincy Team is delighted to host the first termly Faith and Reason Lecture, exploring the relationship between science and religion. This lecture will be presented by Dr William J Wilkinson, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and Lecturer in Mathematics at the University of Brighton, whose academic interests span physics and cosmology.

Dr Wilkinson will consider modern cosmological insights into the origins of the universe and reflect on their wider philosophical and theological implications, offering an engaging perspective on how science and faith

intersect in addressing some of life's most profound questions. Light refreshments will be served after the lecture and all students and staff are welcome.

The Origins of the Universe: Philosophical Implications from Modern Cosmology

Date: Thursday 16th October 2025

Room: Lecture Theatre

Time: 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Click here to RSVP: [The Origins of the Universe: Philosophical Implications from Modern Cosmology - Thursday 16th October 2025 | Events | Reading School Alumni Society](#)

Reading School Parents Association (RSPA)

Interactive Whiteboard Fundraiser – Rugby Festival 2025 Update

We just about managed to avoid the rain at last Saturday's annual Rugby Festival, but we still sold enough food and drink to take over £500 in sales and donations!

The RSPA will be covering the excess required to fund the replacement interactive whiteboard for the computer science department, and we are already looking forward to planning our next fundraiser, the Year 7 Welcome Disco.

A huge thanks again to our committee volunteers, and also a special thank you to Catherine Haines, one of the Year 12 Class Reps, who turned up with her family to offer support and a fabulous cake.

To everyone that bought from the stall, donated, or helped organise behind the scenes, we also send our thanks. For anyone else that would like to be part of the RSPA community, please do reach out to us as we are always looking for volunteers for events and for people willing to take on small tasks within our committee.



If you wish to donate to this fundraiser, please use [this sum-up link](#), 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.

School Lottery

Our lottery draw takes place every Saturday evening and there is always a lucky player who wins approximately £30. Tickets cost £1 each and you can play regularly or as a one-off. Simply click here to play: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

Win a £1,000 Aldi Gift card

The summer holidays are over, the days are getting shorter - but we've got something to brighten your day as we head into autumn! Play the Super Draw this September, and you could win a £1,000 Aldi gift card! Stock up on groceries, or splash out on those unexpected treasures in the middle aisle – who knows what you'll come home with? Get your tickets before **Saturday 27th September** to be in with a chance to win!

Refer a friend and enter our exclusive draw!

Want to help our School raise more money AND get an extra chance to win on Your School Lottery? If you refer a friend to Your School Lottery and they buy a ticket, we will give you and your friend a free entry into our exclusive referral rewards draw where you can win a £200 Amazon gift voucher. *Terms and conditions apply*

Annual General Meeting

We are preparing for our forthcoming AGM (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 here [Meet the Team — Reading School Parents' Association](#)

If there is any aspect of our organisation that you would like to have a no obligation chat about please do not hesitate to email contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Have a lovely weekend.

The RSPA Team

Highlights of the week: Michaelmas Term Week 2

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.



Rugby Festival 2025

It was a fantastic day in the sun on Saturday 13th September, with alumni, staff, family, friends and the Reading School Parents Association all enjoying an exciting match between Staff & Old Redingensians vs Leavers.



Organised by Mr M Kearle, Director of Rugby, and Miss K Rosser-Evans, Rugby Ambassador, and supported by the Society Office, the annual Rugby Festival was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends, a chance to make new ones, and celebrate together.





















900th Anniversary Lecture Series

The first of three special lectures took place on Tuesday 16th September.

Reading Historians, John and Lindsay Mullaney took an audience on a journey using historical and documentary evidence for schools in Reading at the time of Reading Abbey's foundation. What was Reading School's connection to Reading Abbey? Is there evidence to suggest Reading School could be even older than 900 years? These questions and more were answered during an engaging lecture that was attended by students, alumni, parents, friends and members of the general public.



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