



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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# Introduction

Dear colleagues, parents and students,

In the New Year, the Senior Leadership Team and Governors will be bringing together a ten-year strategy for our school. As we enter our tenth century of teaching and learning, we hope to plot a course that enables us to do more of the things that matter most, and to focus our energy and effort on making this school even better.

To get the ball rolling, I have had the pleasure this week of having first conversations with some of our teams about how they see the future, and to hear about the skills and knowledge that they think students graduating ten years from now will need. I had an absolutely amazing time yesterday talking these questions through with our English, Art and Theology/Philosophy team, and their sense of mission and purpose has reinvigorated me at the end of this week. Our wonderful English team summed up some of their thoughts as follows:

“We want to live in a world where young people think for themselves... The whole point of our subject is about communicating effectively, and understanding other viewpoints. We want to nurture creativity, independence and critical thinking.”

The conversation made me think of how lucky we are to have educators in this community who will challenge the things that are synthetic and superficial and will search for that which is authentic. A similar passionate picture was painted by our wonderful Head of Art who said,

“We teach art because it is a fundamental part of being human. Discovery and creative expression are prerequisites for self-understanding. That’s why there’s never been a culture that hasn’t used artistic expression, and why art is the best medium to challenge norms and prejudices.”

I think Ms Creegan is absolutely right, and am sure that education must be about self-discovery as well as about understanding the world. The blend of the interior and exterior were (unsurprisingly) also at the heart of the conversation with Mr Clack and Mr Amos about Theology and Philosophy. They see their department’s purpose as the nurture of a love of wisdom which develops the art of thinking well and encourages an open heart. They suggested that,

“The work of an educated man is that he can entertain thoughts he does not himself hold to. Learning is ultimately only meaningful if it does something interior...Our class rooms must be points of contact for deep and lofty thoughts.”

I hope you can imagine how exciting it is to have these sorts of conversations, and how exceptionally encouraging to spend time with colleagues who love their subjects, who love our students and who love the open horizon in front of us!

When students listen to Mr Dawes, to Dr Hu and to Ms Geraghty Green; when they discuss things deeply with Mr McAllister; and when they debate things with each other over lunch, they lay the foundations for lives of enquiry, and for a deeply joyful depth of understanding and range of skills. That’s why this year students from Reading School were awarded the top GCSE Physics and Economics grades in the country. That’s why five of the top 100 A Level computer Scientists in the UK came from Reading School, and that’s why the two highest A Level English candidates in the country were both from Reading School.

When we move beyond shortcuts, beyond dependence on being told, and beyond a view of learning as a means to an end, we discover a love of learning that transforms us, shapes the world, and lasts a lifetime.

**Chris Evans**  
Headmaster

# Key information

## All Years

### Online Safety Event for Parents

In partnership with Knowsley CLC, all parents and carers are invited to a virtual Online Safety Information Session on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 4:00pm – 4:45pm. The session will cover all aspects of children's online lives and the associated risks, latest trends and guidance on how you can support them to remain safe.

Please [click this link](#) to join on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October and attendees do not need to register.

Cameras and voice/audio will be switched off for all attendees. Attendees can ask questions by typing in the Q&A box.

The event will be streamed using Teams and attendees can watch the live event in:

- Teams app - desktop (Windows or Mac) or mobile. (The Teams app is free to download if attendees would like to do that beforehand).
- Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Firefox.

The session will be recorded and will be subsequently shared in the Bulletin post event.

# School Community News

## Celebrating British Triathlon Championships Success



We are delighted to share the fantastic news that Toby S (8C), one of our talented students, recently competed in the [British Triathlon Super Series](#), proudly representing the South-Central region.

Toby's journey into triathlon began through his love of cycling and running. Inspired by watching the triathlon at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, he decided to join Reading Rascals, a local triathlon club, which has provided both a competitive challenge and a welcoming community.

We spoke with Toby earlier this week as he shared some of his thoughts:

### **Q: How did your interest in the Triathlon start?**

I liked cycling and running, so I looked for a club which would cover both and triathlon fit the bill! In 2021 I watched the Tokyo Olympics and really enjoyed the triathlon with the different sports in one event.

### **Q: Can you tell us how you felt when you found out you'd been selected to represent the South-Central region?**

Really happy and relieved because all the hard work and training I had put in over the past year had paid off.



### **Q: Which part of the event did you enjoy the most?**

The running because I overtook so many other competitors!

### **Q: Who has inspired or supported you the most on your triathlon journey?**

I have been inspired by Alex Yee and was very lucky to see him winning the Olympic triathlon last year when I went to Paris with my family.

### **Q: What's next for you?**

Training again for next year is going to include a focus on more running and swimming races before triathlon competitions begin next May 2026.

We wish Toby continued success in his sporting journey and look forward to following his continued progress.

## A new student-led cultural magazine



*The Dozen* is a dynamic, student-led cultural magazine created by and for the Reading School student community. This debut issue, titled “Our Shifting World,” explores the passage of time, cultural shifts, and the evolving relationship between tradition and modernity. Its central theme reflects on how trends, technology, and society move forward while often circling back to earlier eras, from the resurgence of vinyl records to nostalgic fashion revivals like Y2K aesthetics.

The magazine positions itself as a fresh, authentic voice for students and aims to be diverse and inclusive, covering a broad spectrum of interests, including:

- Music, Fashion & the Arts
- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Science & Technology
- Sports and Current Events

The editorial team, led by Editor-in-Chief Daniel Nenguke, emphasises originality and student expression. Each article is written and designed by students, showcasing a balance of creativity and journalistic ambition.

[Click here to access Issue 1](#)

# Reading School Events

## 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, Blagrove 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](mailto: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)



## Help the RSPA to raise FREE funds for the School

Our best recommendation for raising FREE DONATIONS is by asking you and your family to sign up to Easyfundraising.

Here are the details from our website, below, and if you join NOW using this link you will raise a free £1 bonus as soon as you first use Easyfundraising, PLUS receive free entry into this month's £250 donation prize draw!

[Easyfundraising – click here](#)

Easyfundraising enables a percentage of your purchase price to be donated to the Reading School Parents' Association. These donations will be used as part of our fundraising efforts to support all students.

There are over 2000 retailers participating in the scheme and whatever you buy will cost exactly the same if you buy directly from the retailer or through Easyfundraising. Companies participate in the scheme because it creates loyalty amongst their customer base and helps promote their business models of Corporate Responsibility.

There are sometimes promotional offers or discount codes to be had, or competitions to enter to boost funds, so it is worth remembering to check if you can also benefit from using the site. Every time you make an online purchase all you have to do is sign up and remember to use the website or App when you do your online shopping.

Signing up requires a name, email address and password (chosen by you) – you DO NOT have to provide any bank details.

We've raised over £2,525 in the last few years and warmly encourage all unsubscribed parents and carers to join us! Many thanks again, from all at the RSPA

We also hope that all new and existing parents and carers have discovered that the RSPA has its own [website](#); detailing what we do, how we raise money, and what we raise it for.

Have a lovely weekend.

The RSPA Team

# Highlights of the week: Michaelmas Term Week 3

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.



## Bringing Shakespeare to life

The Globe Players are a touring theatre company specialising in bringing Shakespeare's works to schools across the UK and their aim is, 'bringing live professional theatre to children, opening up for young people a world of theatre and literature'.



One of Shakespeare's most famous works, Macbeth, was brought to life in the School's Chapel by professional actors for our students who had the opportunity to experience the tragedy about ambition, power, and the consequences of moral choices.



*'Tis safer to be that which we destroy than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy.'* Act 3, Scene 2

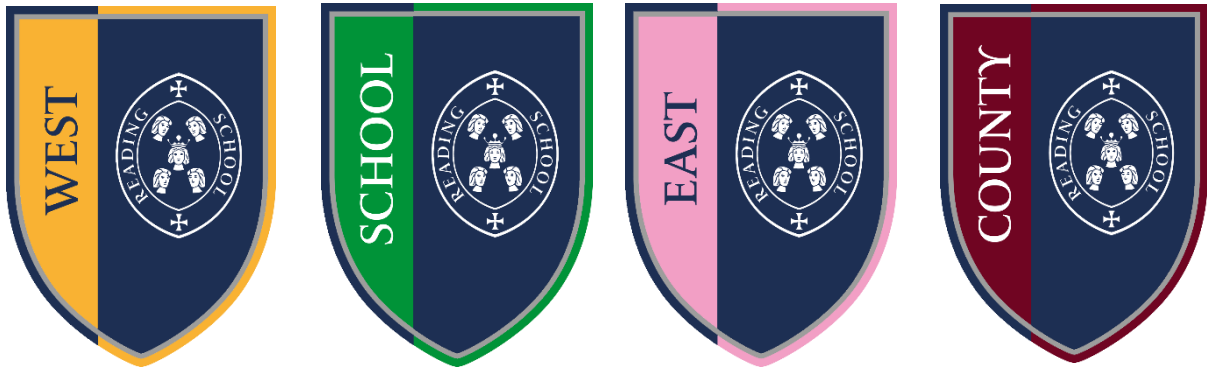


## OR House Music Competition

The magnificent Reading Town Hall was filled with incredible talent, passion, and House Spirit on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September as we celebrated the Old Redingensians' House Music Competition as part of our ongoing year-long 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

Front cover image: The winners as voted for by the audience - West House!

Click the flags and logo below to watch highlights of performances on the night:



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)