



Andrew's Tips for Success

Andrew Scola, OR (1990-97), presented prizes to recognise the achievements of our senior students at Senior Prize Giving on December 18th. Boys receiving prizes included our 2014 leavers, fresh from their first term at university, as well as current Year 12 and 13 students.

In his address, Andrew, who has built a business in international mergers and acquisitions, gave some of his top ten tips for success. They include the advice that you have a plan, you will achieve your goals more quickly; to never stop learning; to dare to be different. Andrew also advised the boys not to be afraid of failure, as with each failure, you learn and improve.

Mr Robson outlined key achievements over the last year, including outstanding success by boys taking GCSE, AS and A Levels. In the case of GCSE and AS results, they were the School's best ever.



Boat Club take Santa to the river

Reading School Boat Club members entered into the Christmas spirit by doing one of their recent training sessions in Santa costumes.

Their coach, **Mr Longstaff**, has other plans in mind, as the Chemistry Department prepare to move into temporary classrooms during the building of the new Biology and Chemistry Laboratories during 2015.

If you haven't had a chance to support the 2014-15 Appeal yet, you can still do so using the donation form on the back page of this newsletter or by visiting the Development Section of the website. Your donation could provide a vital piece of laboratory equipment for chemistry or biology students.



Thanks to Rory McBride, 13C, for use of photograph

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Headmaster's Note

Reading School continues to flourish because of the commitment of students, staff and parents to excellence and character. Undoubtedly, Reading School is characterised by an ethos that celebrates outstanding achievement and also the personal enrichment and development of its students.

The 2014 Michaelmas newsletter showcases many of the accomplishments of Reading School boys illustrating the range and depth of opportunities on offer.

Enrichment and co-curricular activities are an integral aspect of a well-rounded education. The last week of term symbolises the ethos of the school as exemplified by the successful Reading School Sports Personality of the Year Award and the inspirational speech at Senior Prize Giving by OR, Andrew Scola.

I wish you and your families a happy, holy and restful Christmas break.

A. Robson



School Council

The work of the School Council has been gathering pace this year, helping to bring student ideas and engagement to the process of improving life at Reading School.

The Council consists of 16 House Prefects from Years 10 and 11, which meets weekly under the leadership of the School Captain and Vice-Captains. Issues under discussion in the Michaelmas Term have included:

- Improving outdoor play facilities during break and lunch periods, including exploring the best location for outdoor table tennis equipment
- Encouraging good behaviour
- Improving student welfare

One of the key roles of the council is getting feedback and ideas from the whole student body. To this end, they have been making presentations to house assemblies and form groups recently, and have created a website, due to go live soon, where students can leave suggestions.

The Student Council Bulletin, is produced fortnightly, under the editorship of Year 10 student, William Clennell. William feels there are lots of things happening in the School that are not covered extensively in the newsletter or website that people may be interested in hearing about.

This includes publicising clubs that people may not be aware of, and a regular round-up of sports results and the outcome of house competitions.

To date there have been three editions of the Bulletin, distributed fortnightly via Sharepoint and by email to parents.

The Student Council is keen to receive feedback from students

and parents. You can have your say by completing the online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5YJMR9K>. All responses are anonymous and all suggestions will be taken into account for bulletins in the New Year.



Sports Personality of the Year Awards



Tom Henderson (right) and Ben Loader, with their awards

There was a packed house in the Refectory for the *Reading School Sports Personality of the Year Awards* on Wednesday, December 17th.

Ben Loader, 11W, was crowned Reading School Sports Personality of the Year for his contribution on the rugby field this year. As well as being a key player for his school, Ben is also a member of the London Irish U18 AASE Squad.

Ben thanked the PE staff for all their support, saying: *"I had never played rugby before I came to Reading*

School, so I really appreciate all their help."

Squash player, **Cameron Ward**, 13S, was in second place, and British U16 Trampolining Champion, **Tom Henderson**, who won the award in 2012, came third.

The Award was presented by **Dom Sandy**, OR (2005-10), who talked about his experiences as a French International Lacrosse player, and the challenges of balancing competing at an elite level with study and work. Dom said: *"Being able to manage this really helps you stand out when it comes to demonstrating your skills to employers!"*

Mr Pedlow was the very popular winner of the *Bob Lewis Coach of Year Award*. During his 15 years at Reading School Mr Pedlow has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty in supporting sports teams. This year he has coached a Berkshire Cup Winning badminton team, the Bridge Club and the Basketball team, and also supports the Chess Team, on top of teaching Maths.

The U16 Football Team won the title Team of the Year, for their outstanding performance in winning the Berkshire Cup at their age level.

The Nominees

Tom Henderson, British Trampolining Champion, and placed third at the European Championships

Ben Loader, a member of the London Irish U18 Elite Squad



Joe Wilson, 10C, Reading Football Club Elite Academy Squad



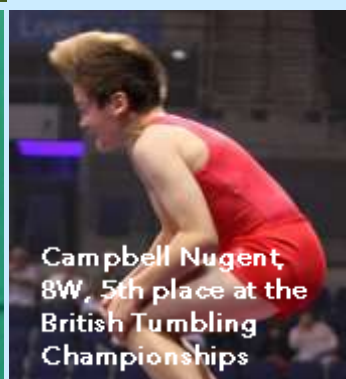
Joe Barraclough, 9C, Berkshire Champion in rugby and table tennis



Felix Stansfield, 12W, 8th at the British Fencing Championships



Max Heaven, 13C - member of the England U17 Hockey Team and of Reading Hockey Club 1st XI



Campbell Nugent, 8W, 5th place at the British Tumbling Championships



Cameron Ward, 13S, ranked in Top 10 British Squash Players



Ewan Walker, 9C, British Bouldering Champion

Remembering a local hero



There was a chance to handle some of the weapons and equipment used in World War I after the lecture, courtesy of the Berkshire Yeomanry Museum

As part of the Inspire Lecture Series, Reading School boys had the opportunity to listen to not one, but five speakers discuss the story of Trooper Potts, a young soldier coming from Reading who saved the life of a fellow Private during the Gallipoli campaign, and winning a Victoria Cross for valour.

The talk opened with a look at the causes of the conflict, from Mr Bailey-Watson, who suggested that it was the "culture of empires" that set the framework, for the war after the death of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

Richard Duckett, from Reading College, brought our focus more specifically onto Gallipoli. The campaign was clearly doomed to fail and was, as Mr. Hurst offered, only successful in its evacuation.

We then heard from Brigadier Anthony Verey and

Captain Andrew French who brought the history to life by telling the stories of boys not only from Reading, but from Reading School. We were shown pictures of teenagers sprawled on a bench in uniform and heard extracts from their letters home. It was apparent how little difference there was between the young men being shot down in the salt lake of Gallipoli and those sitting in Big School looking at their photographs. This goes for Frederick Potts too.

On April 15th 1915, though wounded in the thigh, Potts remained for over 48 hours under the Turkish trenches with another severely wounded private, Trooper Arthur Andrews, who was unable to move. Eventually, he fixed the man to a shovel and using this as a sledge, dragging him back over 600 yards to safety, under fire all the way. He was awarded the Victoria Cross by King George V in December 1915.

Richard Bennett provided a history of the Victoria Cross before he wrapped up the lecture with a question and answer session and a chance to handle some authentic weapons used by the Berkshire Yeomanry in WW1.

Leaving the lecture, what we'd heard continued to resonate and as I cycled down the new 'Trooper Potts' Way', I continued to consider what we were left with - the story of Potts' heroism, but also a last word from Bennett; that when looking back we should always remember to question 'have we learnt from this?'

John Livesey, 12E

Music and the Brain

On the 4th of December Big School enjoyed a symphony of sound, thought and science. The Inspire Lecture 'Music and the Brain' was a marriage between psychological connection with musical patterns.

The aim was to explain why music could work with our emotions and how characteristics of any musical piece play a part in this. Paul Mossman, researcher for the European Brain Council, was accompanied by concert pianist Olga Bobrovnika, who played pieces to illustrate the ideas.

The biological effect of music was explored by examining how the brain reacts to different stimuli. The main idea was that of the motor reward path - the pleasure that the brain gained by recognising certain patterns in music.

Mr Mossman explained that the hippocampus had a lead role in this process. Music has the power to conjure up memories from this part of the brain, and this gives the greatest pleasure. The brain reacts automatically to

these patterns.

Characteristics of music, from pitch and pace to scales and harmonics, were examined in detail in terms of what effect they had on our emotions. A simple example was major and minor chords demonstrated on the piano, which could make the mood of the music happy or sad.

But by far the most enlightening fact brought up was that music is a language. It has the ability of translating the composer's emotion into notes, and expressing the performer's feeling into sound automatically. The two amalgamate with profound effects on the listener.

The talk rounded off with a memorable message: Music is the key to unlocking deep emotion and affecting others through the environment. Many thanks to Paul Mossman and Olga Babrovnika who gave us this enlightening talk.

Neil Shabong, 12C

What a fun and eventful half term it's been in boarding. While our senior boarders have been busy with UCAS applications and revision for mocks, the younger boys have been throwing themselves into activities and helping to decorate the houses so that everyone is in the festive spirit! Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas from all in boarding!

Mr Nicholas, East Wing Housemaster

Carol concert

Sunday 7 December saw the annual Boarders' Family Carol Service in the chapel. It was wonderful to see so many boarders there with their families, all joining in the harmonious singing of some festive favourites! The mince pies and cakes afterwards were a big hit with the boarders too!



Invite a friend for tea

Earlier this term, our Year 7 boarders were able to invite a friend from the day school to spend an evening in boarding with them. This is a great way for the boys to show off their new boarding home and develop friendships outside of boarding. The boys loved showing their new friends round the houses, taking them to clubs and giving them the experience of 'prep' in boarding. A big thank you must go to Karen Andrews, South House Matron for organising the evening.



Bowling and cinema

It was fantastic to see that the spirit of healthy competition remains within both houses during our bowling trip recently. All our boarders also thoroughly enjoyed the new Hunger Games film at the cinema.

Theatre Trip

On Tuesday 16 December, the boarding community took their annual trip to the West End to watch Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Boarders and staff alike really enjoyed the show and it was a great way to end what's been a long but enjoyable term.

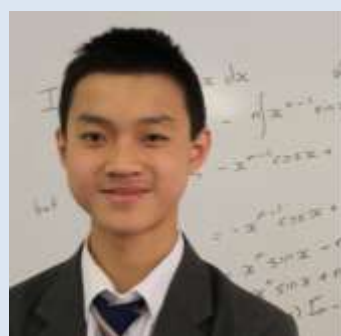


New staff and new clubs

Since the last newsletter, we've been very fortunate to have had Miss Ayres and Mr Tichband join the boarding team. They've brought with them some new clubs to which the boys have really responded. Senior cards, football golf and boxing club have been real 'hits' with the



Mathematicians win gold



Pupils at Reading School achieved 54 gold, 56 silver and 52 bronze certificates in this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, which was held on 6th November.

Alfred Wong achieved full marks in the challenge and was best in

school. He was one of only 59 boys in the whole competition to do so, placing him in the top .03% of mathematicians in his age group nationally.

Over 81,000 pupils from across the UK returned scripts for the Senior Maths Challenge with the top 10% receiving gold, the next 20% gaining silver, and the next 30% bronze. Approximately 4,000 of the top pupils are invited to sit the follow-on competition BM01 or the Senior Kangaroo. Twelve boys from Reading School have now sat BM01, and a further 23 the Senior Kangaroo.

Questions from this year's Senior Maths Challenge include:

1. December 31st 1997 was a Wednesday. How many Wednesdays were there in 1997?
A 12 B 51 C 52 D 53 E 365
2. According to recent research, global sea levels could rise 36.8cm by the year 2100 as a result of melting ice. Roughly how many millimetres is that per year?
A 10 B 4 C 1 D 0.4 E 0.1

Chess Team win first fixture

On 26th November, we played our first fixture of the year, after receiving a bye in the first round. We were paired up against Magdalen College School, Oxford, and since we were playing away, it was a very long evening.

We out-graded their players on every board, but it was not as easy as we perhaps thought; they played solidly and every point was hard-earned.

Roy was first to finish, after an opening inaccuracy by his opponent gifted him a free pawn, followed by Anthony and Alex who both won close but controlled wins. Ryan played very well, but unfortunately a minor oversight was enough for his opponent to capitalise and gain a much needed point, which left them with some hope.

But it was short-lived as Alfred cleverly turned his unclear position into a crushing advantage and won, securing us the win overall (we needed 3.5 points since our average ages were similar).

Matthew played up to the final minutes but he eventually had to accept a draw against a very under-graded player - a very well fought game.

So, a great start to this year, and again thanks to Ms Readings and Ms Hooker for taking us!

Roy Zhang, Year 13

More Mathematical Magic!

Hot on the heels of the Kangaroos, 12 senior mathematicians sat the BM01 test. Three were awarded a distinction—**Alfred Wong, Roy Zhang** and **James Sun**.

James, who is still only in Year 10 was the only one invited to the next round of the competition, which will take place in late January.

22 boys took part in the Senior Maths Kangaroo this year, and six were awarded merits. Only the top 25% nationally are awarded merits, so Charles Bucknell, Elijah Price, Sam Raines, Chris Pegrum and Simon Collier should feel very proud!



Geographical Association WorldWise Quiz 2014

The Geographical WorldWise Quiz, hosted annually at Reading School, is aimed at gifted and talented geographers from Years 8 to 10 competing for the trophy and accolade of being the best in the local area.

This year 13 local schools took part, including Bradfield College and The Abbey School, with 26 teams and over 80 students competing.

Reading School fielded two teams. Team one consisted of **Joshua Blake, 10E, Sanjay Arulcelmvan, 9E, and Tomasen Haley, 8W**. Team Two was made up of **Hariharan Subbiah Ponniah, 10C, Rohith Manikonda, 9S, and Andrew Yang, 8C**.

There were seven rounds of questions on the theme of Commonwealth countries, which tested contestants knowledge of physical and human geography, along with the dreaded individual oral round and culminating in a double points final round.

Initially Langtree School took the lead but at the end it was Reading School Team Two who took the trophy with Charters School Teams One and Two

taking second and third spots and Reading School Team One in fourth place.

It was a great contest, enjoyed by all. Thanks to scorers Miss Cavagan, Mr Hurst, Mr Walder and Mr Wheal for helping make it such a great success. Congratulations to our competitors for securing another Reading School victory! Next stage will be to apply for the Geographical Association WorldWise Challenge at the national level.

Mr Norgaard, Head of Geography



The Victors: Reading School Team Two, Hariharan Subbiah Ponniah, 10C, Rohith Manikonda, 9S, and Andrew Yang, 8C

Economists take on the Bank of England

The Reading School team of **Brendon Casey, 13W, Dan Binchy, 13W, Dan Mead, 13E, and Jon Richardson, 13C**, won the regional heat of the annual Target Two Point Zero - Bank of England and The Times Interest Rate Challenge.

The event, one of 42 regional heats, was held at the Hilton Reading Hotel on 28 November 2014. The competition involves teams of four students, aged 16 to 18, analysing UK and global economic data and their possible impact on inflation and the economic outlook for the UK. - just as the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee does each month.

The Reading School team recommended an interest rate of 0.5% compared with the Bank of England's official rate of 0.5% set by the Monetary Policy Committee on 6 November 2014. The team also recommended a total of £375bn of asset purchases under the Asset Purchase Facility, compared with the £375bn agreed by the MPC on 6 November 2014.

The team from Sir William Perkins's School, Chertsey

were runners up. The other schools in the heat were: Burnham Grammar School, Slough, St George's School, Ascot and The Downs School, Compton.

The boys will be competing in one of the six area finals of the competition in February.



Trips & Exchanges

Year 9 students CERN



Our first challenge for this trip to CERN was the 4am wake up call to ensure a 5am departure from the school terrace for the short coach journey to Heathrow. Going through customs was slow; two of our classmates were stopped and searched and so were their bags, even though the most threatening thing they had on them was a ham sandwich!

After a two hours and an early arrival at our youth hostel, we had a look around the main part of the city. Out of all eating places on offer in Geneva on a Sunday, we finally found a little known burger restaurant named "McDonald's", and ate a very un-traditional Sunday lunch. It is with sadness that I must report that the prices in Switzerland are far greater than those in England. Shockingly I had to pay SF 13 (£8.61) for a simple single burger - no fries or drink!

One of the glass models of marine life on display in the Natural History Museum in Geneva. They were created by Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka in the 19th Century



our cash resources at the gift shop. I acquired a massive plush synthetic python!

Next morning we hopped on a tram and headed straight for CERN. The first real indication that made us know we had arrived was our sight of "The Globe of Science and Innovation". We wanted to go straight inside, but unfortunately we had to wait until later in the day. We went into CERN itself, looked at the

museum and discovered numerous facts, including information of how the Large Hadron Collider, Proton Synchrotron (LHC) and Super Proton Synchrotron work. We also found out about LINACs (Linear Acceleration) which is another way to accelerate proton beams.

We finally were able to visit the Globe, which was far better than we all expected. It was a full immersive experience; talking about the big bang, how the Higgs Boson particle affects other particles and how we are looking for them. The lights then came on and we were let loose onto a group of interactive experiences, including sculptures, diagrams, a controllable Earth, and the most comfortable chairs I've ever sat on.

We then headed back to the main CERN building for another talk, before splitting off from the main tour group to have a look at Atlas, one of the many sensors attached to the LHC. We were given an in-depth explanation, including facts like "Atlas weighs 7,000 tons, the same as the Eiffel tower" and "Neutrinos are not detected because they do not interact with the sensors and most other particles."



Finally we watched a short 3D film about Atlas, showing how it works and what it is aiming to achieve. After a long day in CERN, most of us felt really interested in the subject and were excited to learn about how colliders actually work. We even found out that the next collider is going to be 100 kilometres long!

We had experienced a brilliant trip to a wonder of modern science and learnt a great deal in such a short time. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would recommend it to anyone thinking about going to CERN, be it with the school or with family.

Finally, thanks to our minders Mr Longstaff, Mr Webb and Mr Tucker for having the courage to take on the task and for getting their balance of authority and freedom just right.

Edward Davies, 9E

Tis Pity' we adored!



On the 27th November, twelve motley English Literature students descended upon the Sam Wanamaker playhouse - a small, Jacobean theatre governed by candlelight - to indulge in the magic of John Ford.

Standing upon the balcony, enjoying an authentic 17th century experience, we were enthralled by the shocking nature of *'Tis Pity She's a Whore'*, a play we shall be comparing to John Milton's *'Paradise Lost'* later in our A-level course.

It was illuminating to see the application of candlelight, restricted viewing boxes and live music (using all contemporary instruments) and the effect these traditional elements had on the performance.

The opportunity to watch the play performed in this manner bettered our understanding of the Revenge Tragedy style, which *'Tis Pity'* exemplifies and encapsulates. When it comes to studying the text itself, this will certainly prove invaluable. We will remember the whole experience as a series of sudden flights and drops: a balancing act between comedy, despair and violence.

Josh Janes, Daniel Gillett, Henry Smith, and Sam Dexter, Year 13

Legacy of the Iron Lady

A group of A Level historians and economists visited the Abbey School on Tuesday 25 November to hear a talk by Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite, a post-graduate student at Cambridge University. The lecture centred on Ms Sutcliffe-Braithwaite's research into interpretations of Margaret Thatcher and her significance in British politics and society.

While not straying into 'myth-busting' territory, she gave some fascinating perspectives on a range of key issues, including:

- 'Thatcherism' is an ideology but is not based on economics.
- Thatcher's greatest legacy was on the Labour rather than on her own party.
- Thatcher didn't win new converts to her way of thinking, nor did she radically change the economy, commonly assumed, but she did radically increase social inequality across Britain
- Thatcher's policies were part of a global movement in the 1980s, and were not specific to her or her government.

The talk touched on interpretations from a wide range of sources and showed the importance of studying economic patterns in history and understating the historical context of economics.

Thanks to staff and students at the Abbey School for organising such a worthwhile event.

Mr Bailey-Watson, Head of History

Networking Dinner at Queen Anne's School

On Friday 14 November, Queen Anne's School hosted a Networking Dinner with Reading School. Forty-five Year 13 boys and two members of Reading School staff joined forty-five Queen Anne's girls and ten members of staff.

Each student was asked to supply an interesting fact about themselves. During the first half an hour, everyone tried to identify the owner of their facts.

The food was delicious and, after the main course, all the boys moved round one table to their left so that they could meet a different set of girls.

A huge thank you to the students and staff at Queen Anne's for organising such a successful event.



Thanks to Mrs Smith and Mr Meehan for co-ordinating Reading School's involvement.

The Creative Space – A Music Concert for the Youth



"Many problems affecting the youth of today stem from one problem – inactivity. To resolve this issue, we will create an appealing area where activities will be run for young people."

With this vision in mind, over the past few months our National Citizen Service team has worked diligently on a community project called 'The Creative Space'. The National Citizen Service (NCS) is government scheme to encourage social action, and a number of Year 12s have taken part in it this year.

Our Project

For our project, we renovated **Norcot Community Centre** in a deprived part of Tilehurst. Our renovation work consisted of giving the community centre a facelift.

Although it was a formidable task, we repainted and redecorated the shabbiest areas and bought new equipment by raising funds. We received fantastic comments and recommendations from users! In

addition, a youth group will start up in 2015, and this could be put down to us starting the process.

Exciting Future – The Creative Space Concert

However, we chose to take the project further. In other words, our project had to be sustainable and have a long lasting impact. To give a real boost to **Norcot Community Centre**, we want to buy some big ticket items for the new youth group, including a TV and table football or pool table.

This requires significant fundraising and we found no better way of enforcing our idea of youth activity than a charity concert at our school. So on January 16th, 2014, all Year 11-13s are invited to the **Creative Space Concert** at Reading School. Performers will all be students from the local area. Anyone can attend but there has been interest from pupils from the Abbey, Kendrick, and Queen Anne's already so it's a great chance to meet up – bring your friends and support anyone you know who is performing! It should be an evening of fantastic entertainment!

All funds generated will go towards our community action project as well as **I Care For Development and Rights (iCFDR)** one of the school's charities for 2014-15, which is run by Year 12 student, Ritvij Singh.

iCFDR is a registered charity working on improving education, health and empowerment in developing countries. Their social work contains long running projects and short-term campaigns and events. Currently one of their projects is running a secondary school in rural Badaun, India with 450 pupils.

Details of the concert will be displayed in posters around the school.

For more information and to buy tickets, please contact, Neil Shabong 12C, Stanley Glendinning 12S, or Ritvik Singh 12E



Neil and Stanley with their team at the recent NCS graduation ceremony

Inspiring a love of reading



Over the past couple of months myself Rohan Tuli, Andrew Wilson, and I have taken part in the National Citizenship Scheme.

This led to us setting up a project which aimed to improve the motivation and engagement in education of primary school children.

Branding ourselves as IFP (Interest Fuels Progression), we raised money to fund the purchase of ten electronic tablets. Partnering with local charity, **ABC to Read**, these devices are now being used to teach 400 children with learning disabilities to read.

Tablets allow **ABC to Read**'s volunteers to carry more resources with them, without requiring dozens of heavy books. More importantly, the technology engages the children more effectively in their learning.

The progress of the children will be tracked over the next year in order to see just how much of a difference the tablets will make.

Whilst NCS has now finished for the three of us, IFP certainly has not. We already in talks with local primary schools, to introduce technology in the classrooms.

We are also starting the process of supplying technology to a newly founded school in rural Badaun, India in partnership with **iCFDR** (who built the school). The children there do not necessarily lack the engagement, however they do lack resources, hence supplying them with computers will help them develop skills useful in future careers (such as in India's rapidly growing IT sector).

Alistair Fleming, Year 12

Supporting education in rural India



I Care For Development and Rights (iCFDR) is a charity, registered in India, that works to improve education, health and empowerment in developing countries.

One of our biggest projects is running a secondary school with 450 pupils in the rural Badaun area of India. It is in a district where just 51% of the population are illiterate. The school is in desperate need of resources and investment, so it is currently the focus of our main fundraising efforts.

We also run various campaigns on issues such as gender equality and education. In recognition of both our campaigns and long term projects we were runners up in the eNGO challenge for South Asia.

The overall experience has been incredibly humbling and we hope to continue our work - in development especially - with great fervour.

To find out more about our work, please visit our website www.icfdr.org

Ritvij Singh, Year 12

Daniel helps Children in Need

Daniel Gillett's (13S) voluntary work with local charity CATSYPP was highlighted recently when Blue Peter presenter, Radzi Chnyanganya, visited the project as part of the 2014 BBC Children in Need Appeal.



Dan helps to support young people, aged from 8 to 16, with a diagnosis of ASD but who attend mainstream schools. While the children cope academically in school, they struggle with the social and emotional aspects of school life.

Each week Dan mentors a boy, helping him to improve his social, communication and general life skills, with the aim of enabling him to participate more fully in the wider community. Dan also helps out with regular group days out, and running activities during school holidays.

Dan says, "I enjoy getting involved in the local community. I really enjoy working with the children at CATSYPP. They are lovely and deserved to be able to enjoy school more."

As well volunteering with CATSYPP, Dan regularly teaches at his church Sunday school and volunteers another local children's charity.

CCF Michaelmas manoeuvres

The weather may have grown colder but there has been no cooling of enthusiasm among the members of Reading School CCF. Training has continued to be well attended on Thursday afternoon and we have had a busy programme of activities at weekends both on and off the school site.

The RAF Section has had two successful visits to 6AEF at RAF Benson. **WO James Roberts** is undertaking his Flying Schoarship training in Scotland, while on the ground, some of the first Year 10 recruits to pass their weapon handling tests have been able to use their newly acquired skills live firing on the GP rifle.

There is much to reflect on. **Flight Lieutenant Graham Jones**, of our RAF Section, completed over twenty two years of commissioned service and officially retired on 27th November. On the other hand, we hope that **Alasdair Matthews** will soon be commissioned into the RAF Section so that he can join his old partner in crime, **2Lt Morris** as a member of our adult staff. Major Simon Donegan was able to announce at our Christmas Dinner on December 12th (a hearty feast attended by past and present members of Reading School CCF) that the government has abandoned its proposals for the future funding of CCFs as a result of being made to realise just how damaging they could have been for the entire organisation.

As we move forward into 2015, we cannot but be aware that we live in an atmosphere of constant change and that we must maintain our efforts to provide all our cadets with safe and enjoyable opportunities to develop themselves.

Capt. P. F. E. Hurst

Christmas Crackers

We completed a weekend of training within School grounds, taking part in an event which we had not been involved in for some time: *Exercise "Christmas Cracker"*. This is a national cadet radio competition which ran from 0900 on Saturday 29th November to 1600 on Sunday 30th November.

Preparation involved rebuilding the antenna on the roof of the signals loft and sweeping out the plaster dust from within!

Using a Clansman PRC 320 with a centre fed doublet antenna designed for multiband use in the HF spectrum fed with an open wire feeder and a "home bru" ATU, we were able to generate a strong signal which impressed some of the contacts we made in North America and Germany - the first time that we have made international contacts as part of a cadet signals competition!

The team, **Cpls Le Croisette** and **Meerman** with



Cadets Lobo and Surridge succeeded in operating throughout the entire thirty one hour period and by the time the competition ended, the attic was like a second home.

Their hard work was rewarded, as they won third place in the competition nationally.

Overnight at Bramley



Our overnight exercise on Bramley Training Area on the first weekend back after half term was well attended by a mixture of cadets at different stages in their training. In

another example of excellent planning, the weather remained dry throughout and only really began to deteriorate after we left the training area on Saturday

lunchtime!

Everyone had a chance to sleep and eat in the field overnight as well as learning about night navigation and night noises. In the morning, there were lessons on camouflage and concealment, observation, target indication and the importance of handing in clean mess tins at the end of the exercise.

A week later on Ash Ranges, sixteen cadets, including some of the recruits who had passed their skill at arms training, were able to fire the full bore classification on the cadet GP rifle at one hundred and two hundred metres. Standards of weapon handling were high and everyone managed to pass the test at second class standard or better, including a healthy crop of passes at first class and marksman level.

Dystopian Debates!

As ever, this term has been packed with activity on the debating and public speaking front. We have had a full programme of lunchtime debates as well as taking part in and even hosting a number of competitions.



Boys taking LAMDA examinations have enjoyed tremendous success. 52 boys took their exams this term and 22 achieved Gold Medals.

The lunchtime debates have been well attended and after a politically focussed start where we tackled Scottish independence and the Middle East, we moved into the realms of science and technology with topics such as the colonisation of the solar system, the cloud, self aware robots and automated cars exercising our minds and attracting a lot of very sophisticated and well researched speeches.

It seemed fitting therefore that the "Big Debate" on Thursday 11th December should be on the motion "This House Believes That The Country Should Be Run By Scientists". Year 12 pupils, **Neil Shabong** and **Ritvij Singh** as proposers were ranged against returning pair **Julian Sutcliffe** and **George Prové**, who clearly had not allowed the world outside of Reading School (does such a place exist?) to dull their wits. A packed LRC, including no doubt many future scientists, decided that on the whole they were not in favour of the dystopian totalitarian future proposed by the Year 12 duo.

Debate training has been running on Monday afternoons for those interested in British Parliamentary style debating and we hosted a visit from the Abbey School for a "friendly" competition on October. We also helped some aspiring medics by training them to take part in a BP debating competition for aspiring doctors at St. George's School, Ascot.

Competition News

Two strong Reading School teams took part in the local round of Rotary Youth Speaks in Woodley on November 13th, where all the participating teams were of a very impressive standard. Year 9 students, **Josh Wallace**, **Vinay Patel** and **Ryan Woolaghan**, along with **Neil Kokkaparampil**, **Seth Peiris** and **Yousuf Mohammed-Ahmed** from Year 11, were unlucky not to go through to the next stage of the competition.



On December 8th, we hosted the first round of the ESU Churchill Public Speaking competition where again two Reading school teams took part. This was an uplifting evening and **Adit Rajeev** picked up the accolade for Best Speaker with his talk on whether Britain should apologise for its imperial past. However, three very accomplished teams from Reading Blue Coat School, Bradfield College and Aylesbury Grammar School progressed to the next round.

We also hosted a first round heat of the ESU Mace. Here, because of the need to field a reserve team at short notice, two Reading School teams of **Jacob South-Klein** and **Aleksandr Stepanyan** for the proposition and **Ritvij Singh** and **Neil Shabong** for the opposition fought it out over whether fines for criminal offences should be proportionate to the wealth of the offender. Jacob and Aleks have made it through to the second round which will take place after the Christmas break.

We bid goodbye to Patricia

All of the activities mentioned on this page would not have happened without the leadership and inspiration provided by Patricia Williams who has now left us.

She has given a huge amount of her own time over the last eight years and helped vast numbers of boys to achieve things that they probably only dreamed they might be able to accomplish.

We owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for her years of unstinting organisation, coaching and sheer enthusiasm. We are only too aware that her boots are really big ones for anyone to fill.

However, we will try to make sure that her legacy is maintained as we move into 2015, and we wish her every success in her future endeavours.

Mr Hurst



Enterprise Awards

Launch of OR Enterprise Awards 2015

In late January, the **Old Redingensians' Association** will be launching their 2015 Enterprise Award Scheme to support the projects of individual pupils of all ages.

The awards are of two types: **Major Awards of up to £600**, and **Minor Awards of up to £150**. These are for individuals, or groups of up to three students, who wish to pursue projects or activities that have an educational, scientific, charitable, sporting or cultural purpose. The money can be used for travel, course fees, equipment or anything that is directly related to a student's chosen activity. For example, an award could be used to help pay for: **tuition** on a course; **travel costs**; or **materials** for a project.

Full details will be available on Sharepoint from late January 2015. Forms must be submitted by no later than 12 midnight Wednesday 22nd April 2015.

As students think ahead to their goals for 2015 and beyond, an OR Enterprise Award may help. Here are a small selection of 2014 Award Winners.

Thanks to the OR Association for continuing to support the scheme each year.

Eton Choral Course

Year 13 students **Stephen Parkinson** and **Soham Shah**, each received an award to attend the Eton Choral Course in Summer 2014.

Stephen attended the course at Durham University and

writes: "I was able to get lots of useful advice on applying for choral scholarships as well as receiving excellent vocal tuition which I'm sure will improve my solo singing"



In the Debate Chamber

Edward Shorland, 12E, and **Donal Murphy**, 12S, attended the Debate Chamber Economics Summer School.

Edward writes: "I couldn't have known how useful it would be for expanding my knowledge of economics and I found it thoroughly stimulating."



Photographing the Night Sky

Naglis Ruksnaitis and Dominic Lobo worked on the challenging project of creating a series of time lapse photographs of the night sky.



Building Power

Richard Shen, 12E, built a solar panel system to provide renewable electricity. Richard writes: "Throughout this process I learnt a huge amount, with the assignment teaching me how to take responsibility to plan, manage and complete a large project."



Book Festival

Reading School Book Festival 2015 promises to be packed with interesting and varied events. It will take place during the first week of March 2015, to coincide with World Book Day on March 5th.

Activities will include author talks and readings, writing workshops, book signings, and competitions. Staff and pupils will also be able to take part in a Drop Everything And Read event during the week.

Authors confirmed to date include, Simon Singh, Chris Priestly, Jason Beresford and Damian Dibben. Their books are available from the LRC, so that boys can do some advance reading.



Best-selling science writer and film-maker **Simon Singh** will be giving a joint Inspire Lecture/Book Festival afterschool talk on Tuesday 3rd March.

As well as covering topics in maths, physics and alternative medicine,

Simon will be answering questions about his work and how he became a writer. He will also present prizes to winners of the Science Writing Competition.

Gothic fiction author and artist, **Chris Priestley**, will be giving talks and workshops to Y8 and 6th form English students on Friday 6th of March. Chris has been involved with the 'Terror and Wonder: The Gothic Imagination' exhibition at the British Library



Author, actor and screenwriter, **Damian Dibben**, will give a talk to Y7 and Y8 on Thursday 5th of March. His book series, 'The History Keepers', has been translated into 26 languages, in over forty countries, with a major film in development with Working Title.



Jason Beresford, author of the Fabulous Fish Fingers series, will spend a day with students on Friday, 13th March. He will lead a series of writing workshops and give advice on building a career in writing.

Hands On Puppetry

On December 11th, 7C and 7E were visited by the **Hands-On Theatre Company**, and took part in a workshop called '**Times of Our Lives**', supported by Reading and West Berkshire councils.

The workshop focused on raising awareness of

dementia using drama and puppetry to deliver the information in a creative and engaging way. The boys really enjoyed the experience and the company will visit again in January to work with 7W and 7S.



RSPA Project for 2014-15



During 2014-15, the RSPA will be fundraising to fund equipment and furniture in one of the laboratories in the new Biology and Chemistry Building, which is due for completion in early 2016.

These subjects are extremely important to boys at Reading School, as all study them up to GCSE.

They are also gateway subjects for boys wishing to study STEM subjects at university—over 60% of our leavers each year!

Spring Fayre 2015 will have a science theme, so look out for more news in the new year, as the hard working Spring Fayre Committee gets its plans in place.

Spring Fayre—get involved

Once Christmas is over it would be great to focus on the next BIG reason for celebration – The Spring Fayre. It will take place on **Saturday May 9th, 2015**

The Spring Fayre is the main fundraising event for the RSPA each year, and we need as lots of volunteers to ensure it is a success. We also need to start planning early in the New Year to get everything in place for a great family day out.

There are two main ways you can help to make the Spring Fayre lots of fun and to raise lots of money for the school.

Get involved on the planning committee – We need more volunteers to help. There will be 7 or 8 meetings between now and the Spring Fayre. These usually take about an hour (you don't need to make every meeting – we appreciate how busy people's diaries get). It is a great way to get to know other parents, help the school and have some fun for a good cause.

Use your connections – Any connections which can help with the costs of the Spring Fayre would be brilliant. We are particularly interested in anyone with connections in catering, publishing or the music industry. We also need donations for the silent auction and raffle. Is your company willing to donate a prize or can you use your own skills as a prize? Previous donations have included driving lessons, Indian cooking lessons, holiday cottage for a week, landscape gardening. Please be imaginative in how you can help. It is good to have offers of donations early so we can add them to the publicity material.

If you can help in anyway please email San (san@rod.dy.dara.net) or Patricia Fryer (p.c.fryer@gmail.com)

The Giving Machine



The Giving Machine enable the RSPA to raise around £1,000 for the RSPA's projects over the last year. It enables online shoppers to donate a percentage of their total shopping bill to their favourite charity, at no extra

cost. All funds come from the referral fee paid by online retailers, such as Amazon, John Lewis, Tesco, Asda, Sainsburys, Ebay, Boots, iTunes, Boden, Next, Virgin Atlantic, the Trainline, Argos and Currys. So whether its your regular grocery shop, or buying gifts, your shopping can generate extra cash for the School.

How it works:

1. Sign up for free at: www.thegivingmachine.co.uk
2. Remember to access your favourite online retailer via the Giving Machine website each time you shop and you will generate a donation to RSPA.
3. The donation will be used by the RSPA to fund its chosen project/s in support of the School each year.

Inspire Lecture –Tuesday, January 13th

Dr Andrew Lack of Oxford Brookes University will talk on **'Upsetting the Balance of Nature: are humans really to blame?'** Dr Lack will be focusing on the evidence that humankind has actually disrupted the ecology of the natural world.

The lecture is open to all students, parents, staff and governors, and will be of particular interest to biology and geography students and anyone who is concerned about man's impact on the natural environment.

The talk will begin at 3.45pm in Big School, preceded by refreshments in the Refectory.

Big Band Ball - Saturday, February 7th

The boys in the jazz band have been rehearsing vigorously for this extravaganza of music and dance. It was a very popular event last year, and tickets are already sold out for 2015.

The organisers, Reading School Friends of Music are now operating a waiting lists for tickets. Contact RSFOM, via their website (www.rsfom.co.uk) for details.

RSPA Ceilidh - Saturday, March 21st

If you prefer folk to jazz when it comes to dancing, Reading School Parents' Association will be holding a ceilidh in the Refectory on Saturday, March 21st. Details of ticket prices and time will be available from the RSPA in January.

How to Restore an Historic Train



Mr Fermor has had a book published. [The Castle Class Manual](#) (Owners Workshop Manual) is based on his experience as project leader of the on-going restoration of the locomotive *Pendennis Castle* at the Great Western Society at Didcot.

Restoration began in 2000 after the locomotive returned from a 23-year stay in Australia. Mr Fermor devotes much of his spare time to a hands-on role in the restoration and therefore has considerable knowledge of its engineering and

specification. He also leads a group of pupil volunteers who work on engineering projects at Didcot each Wednesday afternoon.

Castle Class locomotives were the pride of the GWR when introduced in the mid-1920s, and were heralded as Britain's most-powerful express passenger locomotives. 171 Castles were built or converted between 1923 and 1950, and eight preserved examples survive today.

Mr Fermor's book provides a fascinating insight into the design, operation and restoration of an iconic steam locomotive. It is available from all good booksellers.

DIARY

Tuesday, January 13th

Inspire Lecture "Upsetting the Balance of Nature: are humans really to blame?" by Dr Andrew Lack. 4pm, Big School.

Friday, January 16th

Charity Concert, 6.30pm, Big School

Monday, January 26th

Junior Concert, 7pm, Big School

Saturday, February 7th

The Big Band Ball, The Refectory, 7.30 pm 'til late

Monday, March 2nd to Friday March 6th

Reading School Book Festival, see website for details of all events during the week.

Monday, March 16th

Spring Concert, 7.30pm, Big School

Saturday, March 21st

RSPA Ceilidh, The Refectory, 7.30 pm to 10.30pm



2014-15 Appeal

Make your mark on Reading School

In 2014-15, we will build our new biology and chemistry laboratories and will refurbish four general purpose classrooms. We are fortunate in having received a substantial government grant, which will cover the cost of bricks and mortar. However, we still need to raise at least £250,000 by the end of December 2015 to cover the cost of equipment and furniture in the new laboratories and classrooms. We also need to raise around £100 per pupil to meet the expenses of running over 50 co-curricular activities throughout the year.

We are working within a funding environment where our revenue grant from government has been cut each year over the past three years, and we have been told that there are further cuts to come next academic year. We have made savings in as far as possible, and increased pupil numbers as much as our building space will allow.

If we are to continue to offer the best possible education to our academically gift pupils, we need the help of the school community. For instance, a gift of:

- **£5,000** would buy the equipment and furniture required for a standard classroom
- **£500** would buy a piece of specialist laboratory equipment in the new science building
- **£250** would cover the cost of materials and expenses for the public speaking team this year
- **£100** would cover the cost of providing co-curricular activities for one pupil this year

Any donation that you can give will help the School to continue to enable our pupils to achieve their personal and academic potential. **Thank you for your support.**

Yes, I wish to support Reading School

☐ **By making a regular gift by standing order**
(Please complete standing order mandate below)

☐ **By making a single gift of £ _____**
(Please make payment to Reading School Charitable)

My Details

Title: _____ First Name/s: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____

Post Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Standing Order Mandate

To The Manager: _____ (Your Bank)

Bank Address: _____ Town: _____ Post Code: _____

Please pay to: **Lloyds TSB, Broad Street,
Reading RG1 2BT**

Account name: **Reading School Charitable Fund** Account No: **40733560**
Sort Code: **30-67-99**

Please pay the sum of £ _____ On: ____/____/20____ and thereafter Annually / Monthly / Quarterly (as appropriate)

Until further notice or ____/____/20____ (as appropriate)

My Bank Details

Sort Code: ____ - ____ - ____ Account No: _____ Account name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/20____

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money that I have made:

Today ☐ In the past 4 years ☐ In the future ☐ (Please tick all boxes that apply)

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/20____

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