



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

14th November 2025

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Introduction

Dear Students and Staff,

I write today asking you to pause and give thanks for your families. We are very lucky to work so closely in partnership with so many parents and extended families, and today I give thanks for these partnerships. Perhaps I can illustrate a few of the things that make me grateful for the parents and carers of Reading School students!

Five wonderful parents have volunteered for election to the Governing Body, and I want to thank each of them: Jagadeesh, Satyajit, John, Margaret and Lakshmanan. Thanks to each of you for putting your name forward in order to meaningfully shape the School's direction and development with your professional-level leadership experience.

Our incredible Parent's Association have once again started work on our annual Amazon Wishlist – we are so grateful! Please note that they are also looking for a new Membership Secretary, a Communications Officer, and Committee Fundraisers – I wonder if anyone reading this could be tempted to serve in this way?

On Sunday, the School and Old Redingensians' Remembrance Service was very well attended, and I thank those parents who came to support, to remember, and to give thanks.

On Tuesday, during a whole-staff meeting, our attendance data for 2024-25 was published, and I am pleased to report that, with parental help, we achieved 96.6% attendance, reducing unauthorised absences considerably - thanks go to all of those who prioritised their son's presence in school.

On Thursday, we had a wonderful time with parents attending our first parents' coffee morning – thank you so much to those who came along and shared ideas, asked questions, and gave feedback. It was lovely to be able to spend time with you all.

I have also had some challenging conversations this week around behaviour, and want to thank the parents involved for their commitment to promoting positive behaviours, and for understanding how difficult it can be, and how hard the School works to restore relationships when things go wrong.

There can be no doubt that we are a School blessed by supportive parents who consistently show commitment and care. Even when families face safeguarding crises or bereavement, we give thanks for those of you who make protecting your children your first priority.

In this week of Remembrance I have been asking students in Chapel, *“If you were born in Germany in 1929 do you think you would have grown up to be an enthusiastic Nazi?”* Many students reflected that their values and views are deeply shaped by their parents, and that *“If my Mum and Dad were fascists, I probably would've been too.”* I've been reminding them that, whilst they so often get praised for obedience, aspiration and compliance, these character strengths could well have been disastrous if they were brought up in a totalitarian, nationalistic, violent and racist society!

Perhaps then, parents and staff, we also need to give thanks for the young people of this community: *especially when they challenge us, when they politely disagree with us, and when – with the energy of youth - they argue and strive for things to be different!*

Thank you to all who play a role in the life of this School, and for all who have gone before, making our freedom possible.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All Years

Non-Uniform Day – Tuesday 16th December

Initiated by Jiji W (13 JTe) and supported by Charity Prefects Vashisht K (13 JTe), Yadveer G (13 SHu), Benjamin H (13 FHo), and Vivaan C (13 JPi), students have led on organising a **Christmas Jumper Day** on **Tuesday 16th December** to support **Alzheimer's Society** - working towards a world where dementia no longer devastates lives.

The event is also supported by Mandy Smith (Deputy Operations Manager) and echoes Jim Jones's remarkable 7-day trek along the South West Coastal Path in memory of Alan Jones and Alan Cartwright, both lost to Alzheimer's.

How parents can help:

- Students are invited to wear blue or a Christmas jumper.
- We kindly ask for a minimum suggested donation of £2.00 per student, which can be contributed via the JustGiving link HERE: [Reading School is fundraising for Alzheimer's Society](#)
- Please ensure your child's full name and form group are included in the notes section.
- Cash payments cannot be accepted on the day.

Every donation makes a real difference to families affected by dementia and helps fund vital research. Thank you in advance for supporting our students and helping make this day a success.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual nationwide campaign designed to raise awareness about bullying, promote kindness, and encourage schools, organisations, and communities to take action against bullying in all its forms. It takes place every November and aims to:

- Highlight the impact of bullying on children and young people
- Promote positive relationships, respect, and inclusion
- Encourage schools and organisations to take practical steps to prevent and respond to bullying
- Empower students to speak out and support each other

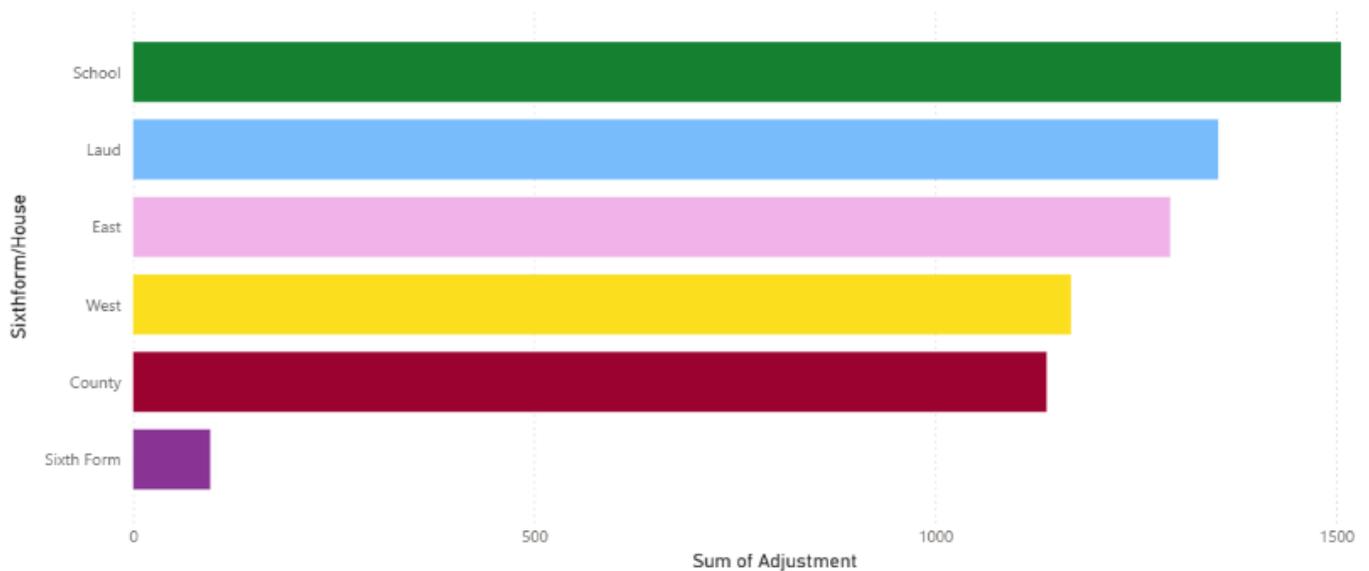
This week in Year Group assemblies, we have been reflecting on Anti-Bullying Week and how each and every one of us has the power to do good.

We have also been celebrating and recognising positive behaviour across the School, with the winning House in each year group receiving a tutor group prize (front cover image). The top three individuals in each year group have also been awarded certificates and thanked for their contributions to the School community.

We are delighted to share that the number of positive behaviour points issued across the School has increased from **5,886 points** in Autumn Term 1 (2024) to **6,582 points** in Autumn Term 1 (2025).

From a whole-school perspective, here are the current standings by House:

Net Dare Points by House/Sixth Form



Thank you to all our students for demonstrating the values that make Reading School such a strong and supportive community.

Parent Governor Election

Five nominations have been received for the upcoming parent governor vacancy.

The nominations were from:

- Jagadeesh Ratnala
- Satyajit Sinha
- John Alderslade
- Margaret Antony
- Lakshmanan Kuppaswamy Chokkalingam

There will therefore need to be an election, and the supporting statements from each of the candidates are [available to read by clicking here](#).

The timetable for the election will be:

- 24th November (am) – voting instructions for online ballot will be sent to all parents/carers, along with the candidate supporting statements
- 24th – 28th November – online ballot:
 - 10.00 on 24th November – ballot opens
 - 16.00 on 28th November - ballot closes
 - Monday 1st December – Counting of ballot papers
 - Tuesday 2nd December – Results of poll announced to candidates
 - Friday 5th December – Results of poll published in Headmaster’s Bulletin

As indicated above, the ballot will be an electronic one, and voting instructions will be sent out by e-mail on the morning of Monday 24th November 2025.

School Community News

Excellence in Martial Arts



We congratulate Akaaldeep K (10L) for his success in the WKU World Championships which took place in Trier, Germany during the half-term break. The event brought together athletes from around the world to compete in a wide range of disciplines including full contact Kickboxing to Karate.

We spoke with Akaaldeep earlier this week about his thoughts and feelings on winning a Bronze in an international martial arts event:

Q: How do you prepare for a major competition?

The journey begins many months earlier and preparing for a world championship means training harder than ever before. My routine involved hours of practice every week - perfecting techniques, building strength, and improving my focus. Some days were exhausting, especially when I had to balance schoolwork, training sessions, and rest. But even on the toughest days, I reminded myself why I started: to push my limits, to test my skills, and to make everyone who supported me proud.

Q: What's been your key learning during your preparation?

Discipline was one of the biggest lessons I learned along the way. It wasn't just about turning up to training; it was about giving my best every single time, even when I didn't feel like it. It meant choosing to train instead of relaxing, to review techniques, instead of scrolling on my phone, and to trust the process when results weren't immediate. Over time, I began to see how consistent effort really pays off.

Q: What or who are your motivations?

My motivation comes from so many places - from my amazing coaches (namely Master Peter Felix 8th Dan, owner of Nemesis Martial Arts and Fitness club in Reading) who guided and challenged me, to my teammates who trained alongside me and kept things fun, to my family who encouraged me to never give up. Every bit of support made a huge difference.

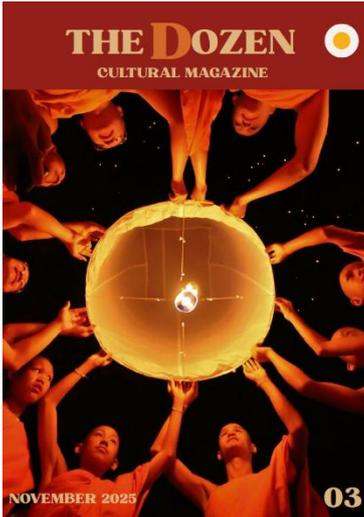
Q: What did winning a Bronze feel like?

When my name was called at the medal ceremony, it felt surreal. Standing on that podium in Trier, hearing the cheers and seeing the flags of different nations, I realised that the medal wasn't just a piece of metal - it was a symbol of everything I had learned and overcome. It reminded me that success is not about being perfect, but about being persistent.

Q: Closing thoughts?

This experience taught me that hard work, discipline, and passion lead to achievement. I'm proud of how far I've come, but I'm even more excited about what's ahead. I'm already back in training, setting new goals, and looking forward to my next competition - ready to aim even higher and continue this amazing journey

The Dozen – Issue 3



Issue 3 of *The Dozen*, a student-produced cultural magazine, centres on global festivals, celebrations, and cultural expression, exploring how traditions shape communities and evolve over time. The edition blends cultural analysis, history, art, sport, and science, all viewed through the lens of celebration.

We encourage our community to delve in to read more about:

Music Festivals – Outdated or Evolving? Tom C examines whether modern music festivals stay true to their countercultural roots.

The Origin & Evolution of Halloween Costumes - Daniel N traces Halloween costume traditions from Celtic disguises during Samhain to modern pop-culture-inspired outfits.

Singles’ Day – China’s Hidden Celebration - Richard W tells the story of Singles’ Day (11/11), from its humorous beginnings among university students to its transformation into the world’s largest shopping event, outpacing Black Friday and Cyber Monday combined.

Diwali/Deepavali: One Festival, Many Forms - Nandan K explores the theological and cultural differences between Northern and Southern Indian traditions of Diwali.

The Art of Celebration – Chinese New Year - Amanuel Y dives into the artistic symbolism behind Chinese New Year.

Underdogs of the 2026 World Cup - Evan M & Tom C profile Uzbekistan, Cape Verde, and Pakistan, exploring how investment, national pride, and diaspora recruitment have shaped their football journeys.

And much, much more – [click here to enjoy The Dozen Issue 3.](#)

Reading School Events

Year 7 Music Concert - Tuesday 18th November 2025



Music plays a pivotal role in education at Reading School, fostering creativity and personal growth both in and out of the classroom. We invite you to an evening of performances that showcase the remarkable musical talent of our students.

Organised by Director of Music, Mr O Griffin, this special event will shine a spotlight on our Year 7 students as they present the pieces they've worked diligently on this term. Impressively, they will be performing on instruments they only began learning recently, including strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass), trumpets, trombones, and clarinets.

Date: Tuesday, 18th November 2025

Time: 18.30 - 19.30

Location: Big School, Reading School

Tickets for this concert are open to Parents of Year 7s and priced **£6 per person (performers do not require a ticket)**. To ensure that all parents have the opportunity to attend, tickets are strictly limited to **1 per performer**.

Register **HERE:** [Year 7 Music Concert - Tuesday 18th November 2025 | Events | Reading School Alumni Society](#)

Note: We recommend registering for the event using the email address you have shared with the School in our records.

Come and experience the joy and dedication our young musicians bring to the stage!

Commemoration Day 2025

To honour our 900th Anniversary Year, we will be hosting a special Commemoration Day Service on Friday 28th November 2025 which parents and carers were invited to, and we thank you for your responses received. The ballot has now closed and shortlisted parents will be informed by 21st November with further details.

House Music Competition 2025 – Tickets Now Available



We are delighted to announce that tickets are now on sale for one of the most anticipated events of the Reading School calendar - the 90th Annual House Music Competition.

Date: Sunday 23rd November 2025

Time: 15:00 – 19:30

Location: The Hexagon, Queens Walk, RG1 7QF

This spectacular celebration of music and creativity will see our five Houses compete across a range of ensemble

performances, as well as feature exceptional solo performances from our talented Junior (Years 7–10) and Senior (Years 11–13) musicians.

We are currently opening **Arena and Stall seats** for the event. **Balcony seats will only be released once these have sold out**, to ensure the best audience experience, as performers moving between the stage and the balcony could otherwise affect sightlines.

Book early to avoid disappointment HERE: <https://whatsonreading.com/book/708402>

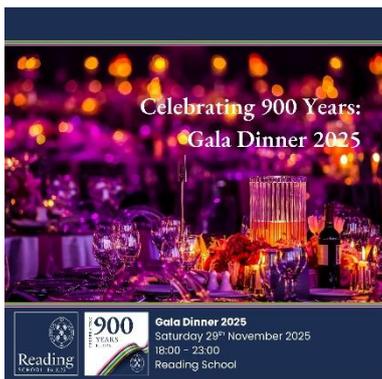
Students performing do not need to purchase tickets.

Pupil Premium Support: Families in receipt of Pupil Premium may request two discounted tickets for seats in the Arena Centre, Arena Left, or Arena Right. Please email events@reading-school.co.uk for further details.

Further details regarding rehearsals, drop-off and pick-up arrangements, backstage access, catering, and parking were shared in the letter sent to parents on 5th November.

It promises to be an unforgettable afternoon. Don't miss this inspiring celebration of student talent and school spirit.

900th Anniversary Gala Dinner – Saturday 29th November 2025



We are delighted to announce that our 900th Anniversary Gala Dinner will now take place **at Reading School**, making this special celebration more accessible for everyone. Join fellow parents, Old Redingensians and friends of the School for an elegant evening of fine dining, live entertainment and lasting memories.

With a **reduced ticket price of £75 per person**, it's the perfect way to mark this milestone in true Reading School style before the festive season begins.

The evening will include:

- A welcome drinks reception to reconnect with friends and the wider community
- A three-course gala dinner with house wine provided at each table
- A keynote address from Tom Whipple (OR 2000–2007), Feature Writer at *The Times*, Science Writer and Special Correspondent
- Live entertainment from our talented students and Big Band
- A silent auction featuring exclusive prizes and experiences
- A luxury raffle draw in support of the *Beyond 900 Fund*

Venue: Refectory & Big School, Reading School

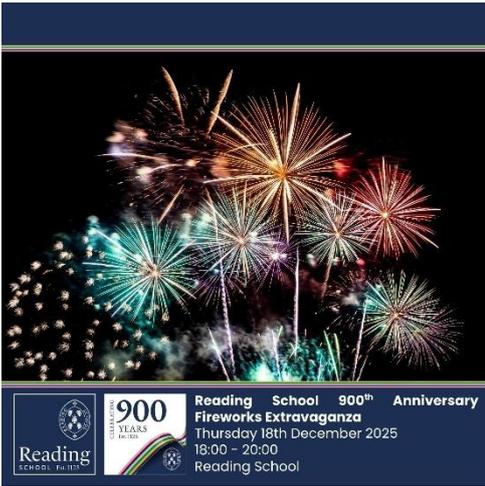
Time: 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Tickets: £75 per person

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

Ticketing closes at 4pm on Tuesday 18th November.

The Grand Finale – Reading School’s 900th Anniversary Fireworks Extravaganza



Our 900th celebrations began in March 2025, with eight major events showcasing your School while sharing reasons why its foundations remain strong, and what our exciting vision for the future looks like. From raising over £150,000 through the first ever Giving Day for the vital development plans of the School, to welcoming over 5,000 from our School Community and local residents during a free Community Carnival – what better way to cap off the year with a fireworks show to remember.

By partnering with Sonning Fireworks, award-winning experts with 25+ years’ experience, a spectacular fireworks show set to music will light up the sky above Reading School. Come and enjoy hot food and drinks from 6pm during a family friendly evening.

[Secure your tickets now to avoid disappointment by clicking here](#)

RSPA

Teachers' Appreciation - Amazon Wishlist 2025



Following on from the tremendous success of the previous Teachers' Wishlists – we are delighted to announce that we are bringing this back for the FIFTH year running! **The list is being compiled as we speak and will go live before the end of the month.**

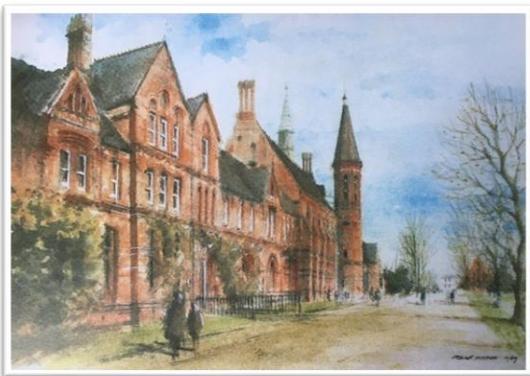
As with previous years, the Teachers choose gifts for you to purchase, being items to enhance the students experience and to benefit their departments. You can choose what to purchase directly from the list. If you can't decide what to buy you can instead donate an Amazon Gift Voucher or cash to contribute to one of the much-needed larger items.

Please take this opportunity to show your appreciation by purchasing a requested item. There are a wide range of requests and cost of items, so hopefully there is something to suit everyone who wishes to contribute.

We especially love the personal notes that accompany the gifts, thanking a particular teacher or department, from a student or family. Every single thank you note is forwarded on.

From gym equipment and science experiments, to books, games and fun resources; the Teachers are massively appreciative of your previous gifts, and we hope that you will support them again this year.

Limited edition "900" greetings card - order now for Christmas



The RSPA have created a special edition "900" greetings card to celebrate the 900th anniversary of Reading School. This limited-edition card has been designed using an original image by Denys Hinton, a former captain of the school from 1938-39.

These digitally printed A6 cards can also be used for all manner of occasions as they are blank inside.

We have created packs of 5 (with envelopes), and these can be purchased for £7 per pack or 2 for £12.

If you wish to make an order to use in time for Christmas, please email kerryobrien2004@yahoo.co.uk

The RSPA will be able to offer a further discounted price if you want to make a bulk purchase.

The cards will also be on sale at the upcoming 900th Anniversary Fireworks Extravaganza on Thursday 18th December at the RSPA stand located in the Refectory. We will also be selling the very popular School Hoodie in case any students or parents need an extra layer of warmth on the night!

Please do come and join us at the stand, to simply say hello and to support your RSPA, where all profits raised go back to the School for the benefit of all students.

Join the RSPA Committee – Help Shape Our Future

We are looking for new members to join our committee, bring fresh ideas and consolidate some of our existing roles.

We are advertising for a new **Membership Secretary**, a **Communications Officer**, and **Committee Fundraisers**, however, if there are roles that you would like to try your hand at, please do contact us via email on contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk by **19th November 2025**.

The existing RSPA committee:

Nishita Moody - Chair

Veena Baggley - Engagement Manager

Deval Gujrati - Secretary

Terri Lorrimore - Treasurer

Anya Aldersalde & Jaspreet Dhanjal –

Preloved Uniform Shop

Pallavi Chube - Digital Manager

Jayne Sturge - Hoodies Manager

Yogakshi Munjal - Notifications Officer

Jaideep Das - School Lottery Manager

Rohini Luthra - Communications Manager

Pallavi Chube - Membership Manager

Menaka Murthy - Events Co-ordinator

Helen Sturk - Lost Property Manager

Jo Wyles - Committee Fundraiser

Kerry O'Brien - Committee Fundraiser

Claire Kirby - Committee Fundraiser



Highlights of the week: Michaelmas Term Week 9

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.



Geography Photography Competition 2025

Over half term and Reading Week students across the school were challenged to combine their love of geography with photography. Students took photos of the geographical issues and processes they saw around them from their daily lives and their holiday. A great diversity of images from Taiwan, to Tenerife to Shinfield were entered alongside a paragraph explaining the concepts they showed.



The Geography department are happy to announce the three winners chosen are Aarav Gupta (8S), Oliver Lloyd (9L) and Yicheng Lim (12MKa). Well done to all!



Geographical Photographer of the Year Competition 2025

"This photograph was taken on the international waters of the English Channel, from a ferry travelling from Saint-Malo to Portsmouth, in between Guernsey and Jersey. disturbance of the waves and development of foam can be seen from the side of the ferry. This foam is from the mixing of air into water which has organic molecules like proteins and fats from algae and plankton inside creating this white foam. Some of this foam is naturally occurring and some is leftover ship wake from other ships/vessels. Ship wake is when the hull of the ship displaces water behind it, creating a trail of turbulent water and white foam. This affects sea life as it blocks oxygen and sunlight from reaching some parts of the water. As a result, sea organisms that photosynthesise get less sunlight to make food, and the oxygen concentration inside water is reduced as air gets trapped in the foam."

Aarav G (8S)



Aarav G (8S)



Geographical Photographer of the Year Competition 2025

"My photo was taken along Canford Cliffs, Poole and it shows a beach with rocks scattered along the shore and a headland curving around in the background, with a stack and stump visible in the distance. The coastline is discordant, with hard rock forming the headland and softer rock being easily eroded to form bays. Waves converge on the headland and diverge in the bays, creating low-energy environments where deposition occurs, building the sandy beach in the foreground. Erosion occurs along the headland as faults and cracks are worn away by the energy of the waves through hydraulic action and abrasion, forming caves that widen into arches, which collapse to leave isolated stacks and eventually stumps. Longshore drift moves sediment along the shore, redistributing material and shaping the coastline over time, which is visible in the arrangement of rocks and sand along the beach.

Oliver L (9L)





Geographical Photographer of the Year Competition 2025

"...the second, the dumping ground of the ocean, littered with scraps of plastics and strewn with waste, to be hidden, carefully overlooked and conveniently forgotten. Plastic pollution has deeply scarred Malaysia as well as many other countries in the "Global South", in a process known as "waste colonisation", plastic and other more toxic materials are being exported to countries, like Malaysia, under the guise of recycling or trade, countries that already struggle to handle their own waste, further burdening the local environment and waste management infrastructure."

Yicheng L (12MKa)



Yicheng L (12MKa)

Old Redingensians Remembrance Sunday Service – Sunday 9th November 2025

Reading School families and friends across generations joined together this morning for the annual ORA Remembrance Day Service to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

Tribute was paid to those fallen Old Redingensians and those that have lost their lives as a result of conflict, as well as to members of the Armed Forces and their families from Britain and the Commonwealth.



Wreaths were laid in the Chapel on the 1914-18 War Memorial, the 1939-45 War Memorial and the Kendrick Boys School War Memorial (Kendrick Boys was absorbed by Reading School in 1916).

The Last Post and Reveille was sounded by Calvin M (13C), with the School Choir led by Mr O Griffin, Director of Music and organ played by Sergey D (8W).





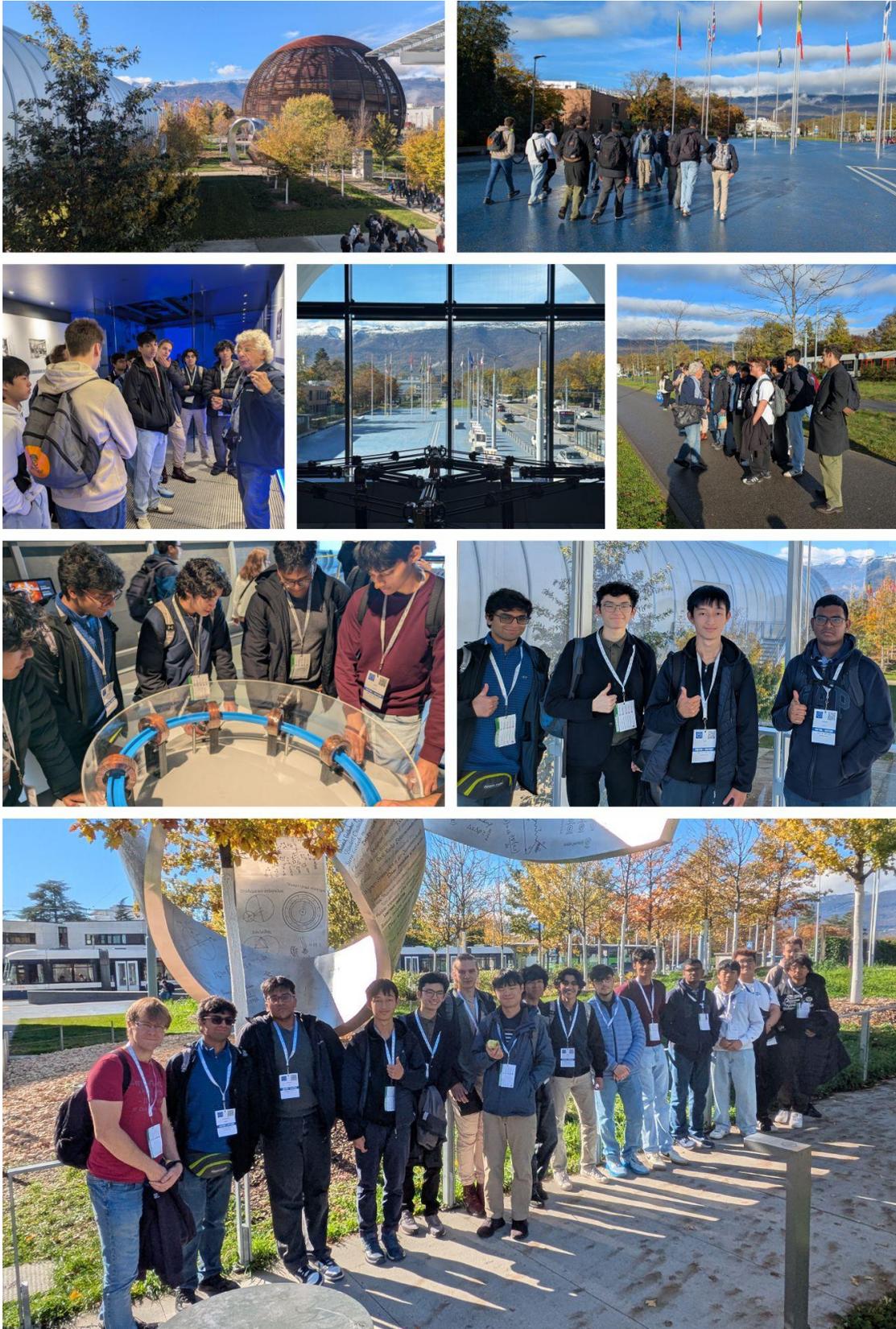






A trip to the European Council for Nuclear Research

Over half term, 15 Reading School Physicists travelled to Geneva, Switzerland, to see one of the world's largest and most famous physics experiments. CERN is the world's largest particle physics lab, home to the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), and famously responsible for the discovery of the Higgs Boson in 2012. The LHC consists of a circular tunnel 27km in circumference, round which two beams of protons (tiny particles found in the nuclei of atoms) are accelerated up to 99.999999% of the speed of light, before being smashed into each other in huge specialist detectors.



While visiting the laboratory, we received a guided tour of the facility from one of the scientists working there, seeing the Synchrocyclotron, the first particle accelerator built at CERN in the 1950s; the control centre, where scientists control the various sections of the underground accelerator; and ALICE, one of the four detectors where the protons are smashed together. We also took part in a hands-on PET tomography workshop, where the students were able to successfully identify the location of a tumour in a brain using the physics of positron emission.

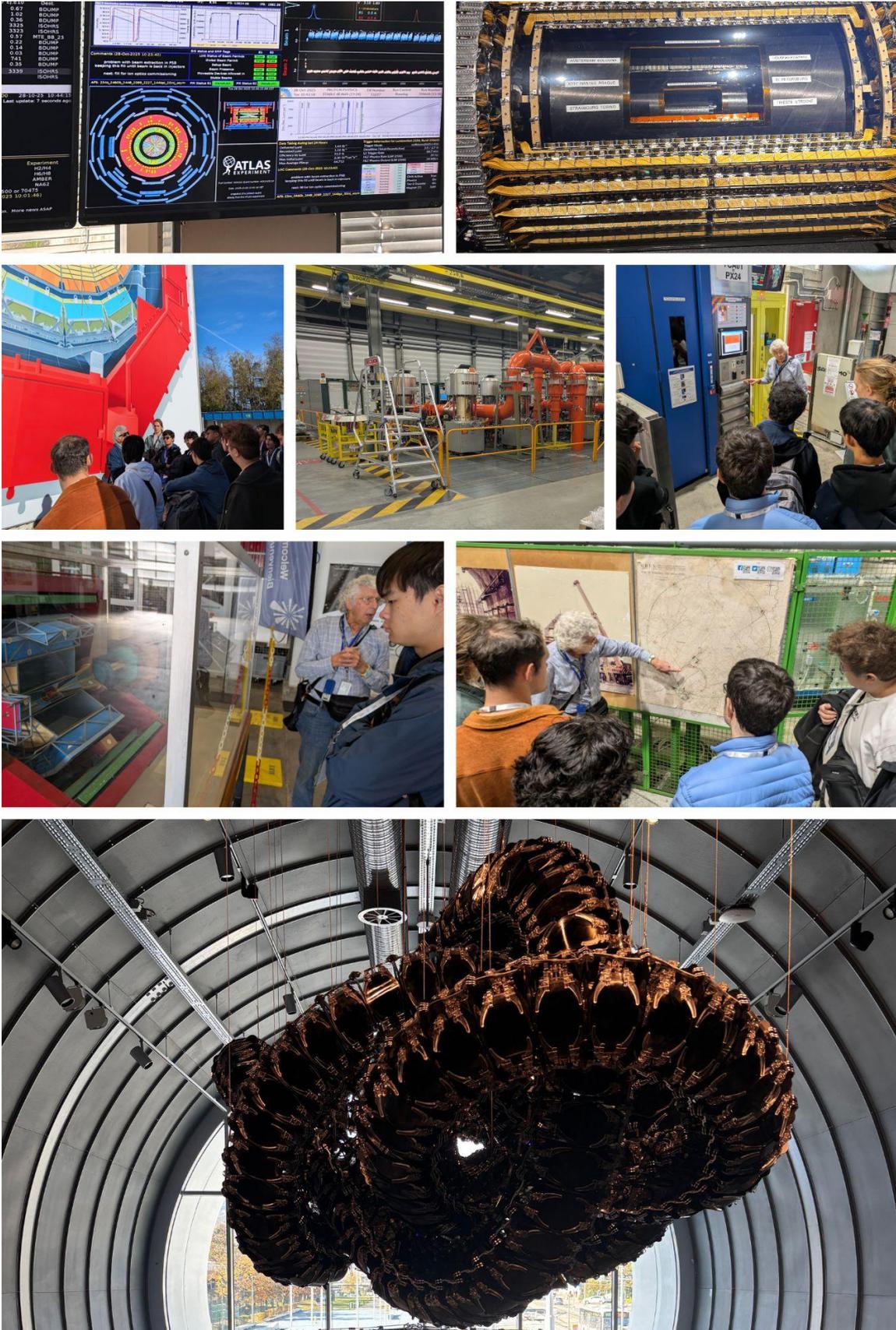


As well as visiting CERN, a tour of the tokamak at the Swiss Plasma Centre, a world-leading nuclear fusion research facility was also experienced. In addition to the scientific content, students spent time exploring Geneva, eating at a Swiss fondue restaurant, and being beaten at cards by Mr Till and Dr Lewis-Brown.



“It was amazing to visit a real tokamak in person and actually see it in operation, forming a plasma torus. It was particularly interesting to learn that the power for the reactor was taken from a 60t flywheel as opposed to directly from the grid due to the reactor’s high electrical power requirements. In addition to the interesting facilities we saw, I personally enjoyed seeing Geneva - I'd never really thought much about the geography of that area of Switzerland, but being able to see Mont Blanc in the distance from the shore of Lake Geneva was really cool.”

Zhun-On A (13ZMC)



“For the past few years, nuclear fusion has been an area of huge interest for me and so being able to see a tokamak in real life was really jaw-dropping. I really did enjoy being guided through the different parts of the fusion reactor in real life and witnessing the number of different people from different scientific backgrounds required to run and analyse the results from the tokamak.”

Lazaros D (13PEI)

Dr Lewis-Brown visits with Reading School's Alumni

During the half-term break, Dr Lewis-Brown (Teacher of Physics & Maths) met up with 12 Alumni currently studying at the University of Cambridge.

“I was surprised and delighted that 12 of my former students chose to give up their time on a Saturday afternoon to meet me and each other in the centre of Cambridge when I visited over half-term. I enjoyed hearing about their time at university and reminiscing about our time together at Reading School.” Dr Lewis-Brown



House Music Competition 2024

Click thumbnail to view trailer



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