



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

28th November 2025

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Introduction

Dear Reading School family,

I write today with immense pride at the end of our 900th Anniversary Commemoration Day. It was a privilege for the school to welcome so many parents, Old Redingensians, educational partners and guests to join our celebrations. We love opening the school to visitors, and it was an honour to have your company as we showcased our work together.

Today then, at the end of a week which included the most wonderful House Music Competition, a joyful 'partnership agreement' signing ceremony with our friends from Huawan School in Guangzhou, an incredible CCF Biennial Inspection and an historic Royal Visit, my words are few: I hope instead that photos of this occasion bring our heritage and our future into focus for you.

What a week!

What a school!

With thanks for all that has gone before, and excitement for all that lies ahead,

Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All Years

Have Your Say: Help Shape the Future of Reading School – a reminder

We are inviting all families to complete our annual **Parental Engagement Questionnaire**, a 10 – 15 minute survey that will directly inform how we support your son and strengthen our partnership with you.

This questionnaire goes far beyond routine feedback. It asks about what matters most to you: your aspirations for your son, your concerns, how you experience our communication, the value of school events, your views on our mobile phone policy, and the ways we can better support you at home as you navigate teenage life. It also seeks your ideas on the single change that would most improve your son's experience at Reading School.

Your voice genuinely shapes our decision-making. The insights you share will guide improvements in pastoral provision, communication, enrichment opportunities, parental involvement, and whole-school development in the year ahead.

We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the survey and help us ensure that Reading School continues to offer the very best for your son.

[Complete the Parental Engagement Questionnaire by clicking here](#)

Thank you for your partnership and ongoing support.

School Community News

Support for homeless veterans – an update



In the 12th September edition of the Headmaster's Bulletin, we featured news of Old Redingensian and chair of the Old Redingensians Association, Andrew Tuggey (OR 1958 – 1966), CBE, DL who made an appeal asking the Reading School Community to support his sleep out for charity in aid of homeless veterans. Andrew completed his challenge and has shared the following update:

Dear Reading School Family,

I write this on the eve of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Reading School to mark the 900th anniversary of the founding of the School, which will be preceded by the Combined Cadet Force's Banner Parade.

It will be a fantastic day of celebration and through HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's visit, a national recognition of all that Reading School has achieved through the centuries and still achieves today, and surely will continue to achieve for many years to come. My best wishes to everyone for a very happy and successful day.

You may recall that this Chairman of the Old Redingensians' Association participated in 'The BIG Sleep' on Salisbury Plain at Stonehenge on Friday 14 November to raise funds for [Alabaré](#), a charity based in Salisbury, to support its work to end the cycle of homelessness for veterans in SW England and Wales.

Through this article I give my BIG Thanks to the Reading School family for so generously supporting me and contributing to the mammoth **£18,420.00** on my JustGiving page, which, with Gift Aid, will increase to an amazing **£21,860.00**.

I am one of four Alabaré ambassadors in Wales and was to sleep out at the original venue of St Paul's Cathedral churchyard on 10 October. That later changed to Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain on 14 November, much to the glee of my military chums and my three sons.

Friday 14 November was a Storm Claudia day. Having driven from my home in Monmouthshire through all that Claudia was throwing down, the rain stopped as I arrived at Stonehenge, although it did resume later.

At the Visitor Centre I met the 119 other participants. They slept on concrete under the canopy of the Visitor Centre, but being a product of Reading School CCF, I felt duty-bound to sleep in the open with the elements. Having the right kit, I was probably more comfortable and warmer than the others.

The funds I raised will be split between the work of Alabaré in its homes in the Southwest and in Wales.

Here is a case study demonstrating the support Alabaré gives challenged veterans:

Mike joined the Army in 2007. He did a couple of tours and they were not good. Later on, he found himself homeless through addiction, and was in bad state. His sister referred him to Alabaré who provided the help he needed and a room in an Alabaré veterans' home.

Two years later, Mike is fit and healthy. *“Being in this house has helped me massively, because it helps people to get up and about. Everyone here is sort of like me. From where I was on the streets, to where I am now, it’s night and day. It’s like it didn’t happen, but it’s through people donating. It’s massive. It saved me, so it can’t be a bad thing.”*

Andrew Tuggey CBE DL



Reading School Events

Inspire the Next Generation – Careers Convention 2026



Reading School's **Careers Convention 2026** will take place on **Thursday 5th February 2026, 18:30–20:30** (delegates arrive from 17:00). This biennial event brings together universities, employers, apprenticeship schemes, and a diverse array of organisations to help students explore career options.

We are looking for delegates from a wide range of fields to share their experience and industry insights with our students - from creative arts and technology, to law, medicine, engineering, and beyond. Sharing your experience helps students gain insight into different career pathways, from real-world professionals, and opportunities for apprenticeships and higher education.

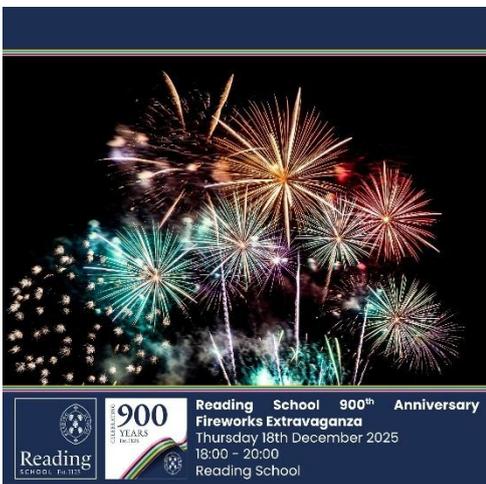
Last year, over **800 students and parents** attended, alongside **60+ representatives from 40+ organisations**.

We would welcome parents and professionals who are interested in participating, either via a stall or keynote talk to complete the **delegate registration form by Friday 19th December 2025**. Please feel free to share with colleagues and departments from your workplaces.

[Reading School Careers Convention Delegate Form Thursday 5/2/26, 18:30-20:30](#)

Don't miss this opportunity to inspire the next generation and share your career experience with our students.

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



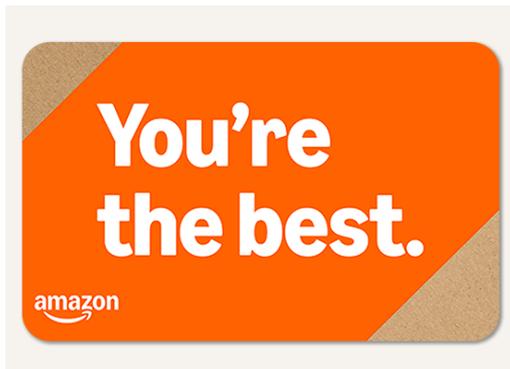
Our 900th celebrations began in March 2025, with eight major events showcasing your School while sharing reasons why its foundations remain strong, and what our exciting vision for the future looks like. From raising over £150,000 through the first ever Giving Day for the vital development plans of the 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' Amazon Wishlist 2025



It's HERE... it's LIVE... and it's, "DEEPLY FABULOUS"! The Teachers' Amazon Wishlist appeal – is now OPEN for the FIFTH year running!

Every department is given the opportunity to request items up to the value of £250. The list consists of a combination of much needed resources and some fun items to benefit the students overall learning experience. We cannot stress how much the Teachers appreciate this particular fundraiser, as these are items that are outside the budget that School otherwise have.

[The list can be viewed by clicking here.](#)

The list features a wide range of requests and costs of items (remember Play-Doh, anyone?) and hopefully something to suit every family who wishes to contribute. If you can't make your mind up then Gift Vouchers are most welcome. You are also welcome to add your own message to a particular Teacher, to thank them for their efforts...we forward every one!

Can we also kindly request that you first link to our RSPA account at EASYFUNDRAISING and choose AMAZON as your retailer, before purchasing. This raises further money for the students with no extra cost to you,

For existing members use [this link for a chance to win £5,000 for school if you purchase before Sunday 30th.](#)

For new Easyfundraising members [please use this link as we will receive £1 extra as soon as you register and make your purchase!](#)

We can also accept cash, particularly if you would like to Gift Aid your donation. (Please email Terri Lorrimore if you would like a Gift Aid form, at: treasurer@readingschoolparents.co.uk)

Name: RSPA No. 2 Account, Sort Code: 60-17-21, Account No:15309096

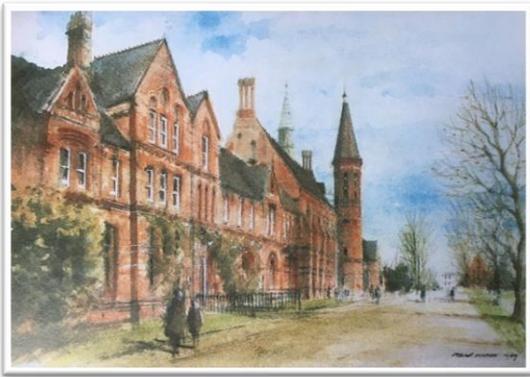
Please choose RPSA PARENT GIFTING WISHLIST TERRI LORRIMORE as the delivery address. Please don't deliver them to school as we lose track of who has received what.

The list will close on **Sunday 14th December 2025.**

If you have any queries please do email Julie Bellingham jbellingham@readingschoolparents.co.uk or Terri Lorrimore treasurer@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Happy Shopping and best wishes from all on the RSPA team.

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.

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

The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

Will be open on the following dates this term:

- Friday 5th December 3.30pm - 4.30pm
- Saturday 6th December 10.30am - 12.30pm

NO parking is allowed on site on **Friday** openings however parking is available on **Saturday** in the Walled Carpark. The Uniform Shop can be found in the back of the Walled Carpark.

Please note shop opening is weather dependent, in the event of a poor weather forecast the opening may be cancelled.

Please email shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk with any queries.

We would love donations of the following as our stocks are running low:

- All sizes of macron kit
- Ties in all houses and Sixth Form
- GCSE and A Level Revision books

Highlights of the week: Michaelmas Term Week 11

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.



Reading School Commemoration Day 2025

in the presence of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT GCVO





















House Music Competition 2025

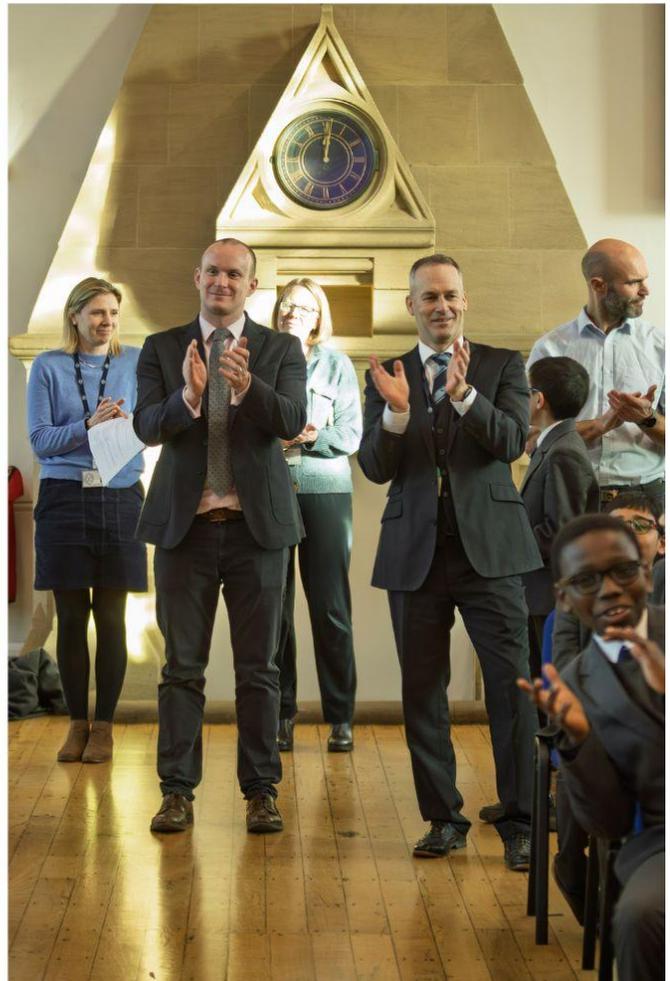
On Sunday 23rd November, The Hexagon was alive with music as all five Houses delivered unforgettable performances during our annual and highly anticipated event. From sweeping strings to bold brass, from breath-taking soloists to electrifying bands, our musicians gave us a show we'll never forget (*click images to view performances*)





Signing ceremony with our friends from Huawan School in Guangzhou







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