



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

13th February 2026

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Introduction

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Colleagues,

This week I am pleased to celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of a significant number of students.

In no particular order,

Well done to our Year 7 football team, who have shown exceptional camaraderie and team spirit. Beating local rivals 5–0 is always encouraging. What really excites us, though, is when teams play for each other; when players trust, encourage, listen to, and coach one another. We have also seen these attributes in the last fortnight in our handball teams, debating groups, and UKMT Team Challenge participants.

Well done to our 27 Oxbridge offer holders. We are thrilled that your intellectual curiosity and capability have been recognised. We note, however, that with your joy comes disappointment for an equal number of equally exceptional students whose applications were no less courageous; whose GCSE grades were equally spectacular; whose passion was equally significant; and whose interviews were no less prepared. We celebrate each of you for your endeavours. Affirmed or disappointed, we are proud of you and believe in your exceptional potential.

Well done to our RAF contingent Royal Air Squadron Trophy team, victorious this weekend at the regional competition and now crowned the best RAF Cadets in the South of England. You have demonstrated exactly the gumption, grit, and resilience that will propel your careers, alongside the solidarity, empathy, and commitment to one another that will form the foundations of your relationships throughout life.

Well done to our Scholarship Programme award winners. 60 of you across all year groups have been awarded certificates for the curiosity, independent thinking, and intellectual ambition you have shown beyond the classroom curriculum. You have done this not because you had to, nor because you were rewarded, but for the intrinsic value of learning and the joy of enquiry. Your work may one day feel over-simplistic in its assessment, but your academic virtues will last a lifetime.

Finally, having celebrated so many students, may I also thank the Redingensians, neighbours, friends, and parents who showed such passion, commitment, talent, and care in supporting last week's Careers Convention. We do not think we could have had a better range of delegates or keynote speakers, and your support far exceeds our capacity to thank you. We remain indebted for your extraordinary generosity.

Look what happens when we work together - doors open, teams flourish, and we all grow.

With best wishes for the half-term holidays,

Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All Years

Working Together for a Safer and More Considerate School Run

At Reading School, we are proud of the strong relationships we maintain with our local community. Our neighbours are an important part of the environment in which our students learn and grow, and we take seriously any concerns raised by residents.

Recently, a local resident contacted us to describe the challenges experienced on Addington Road during afternoon pick-up times. The issues highlighted, including parking on double yellow lines, blocked driveways, reduced visibility at junctions, and difficulties navigating narrow sections of road, are not unique to our school. However, they are matters we must continue to address together as a community.

Most importantly, these behaviours have implications not only for residents but also for the safety of our students.

Why This Matters

The school run is often a busy and pressured time of day. We fully understand that parents and carers are balancing tight schedules, work commitments, and family responsibilities. Nevertheless, the way we drive and park around the school has a direct impact on:

- Student safety – Obstructed sightlines and congested roads increase risk.
- Emergency access – Blocked roads or driveways can delay essential services.
- Neighbour relations – Our community's goodwill is something we deeply value.
- Role modelling – Our students observe adult behaviour closely.

Respect, responsibility, and consideration are values we actively promote in school. Extending these beyond the school gates is essential.

Key Reminders for Drivers

We kindly ask all vehicle users to keep the following in mind:

Double yellow lines and zig zags mean no parking or waiting at any time.

These markings are there for safety and visibility.

Do not block driveways or access points.

Even a short stop can cause significant inconvenience.

Avoid creating congestion near junctions or performing three-point turns.

Clear visibility is critical for pedestrian and vehicle safety.

Practical Ways to Help

Small adjustments can make a significant difference:

Park further away.

A few extra minutes on foot eases congestion and improves safety.

Consider walking or cycling where possible.

Active travel reduces traffic and benefits wellbeing.

Make use of public transport options.

Many families successfully avoid the peak traffic entirely.

If feasible, vary pick-up times slightly.

Even minor staggering helps reduce pressure points.

A Shared Responsibility

The local streets are a residential neighbourhood, not an extension of the school site. By working together, we can help ensure:

- A safer environment for students
- Less stress for drivers
- Greater consideration for residents
- A positive example for young people

We are grateful to residents who engage constructively with us and help bring these matters to our attention. Equally, we thank the vast majority of parents and carers who already demonstrate patience and courtesy during busy times.

Mobile phone national guidance

We are reviewing our approach in School in relation to mobile phone use, and are eager for feedback from parents and carers. Please [complete this survey form](#) or contact Ms Ayres by emailing layres@reading-school.co.uk if you have any questions or comments.

Parent Workshops

The NHS Berkshire Healthcare Mental Health Support Team (MHST) will be delivering a series of online workshops for parents and carers of secondary-aged children focused on understanding low mood and anxiety.

The sessions will help parents to:

- Recognise how low mood and anxiety can present in young people's thoughts, feelings, physical responses, and behaviour
- Understand the factors that can contribute to and maintain low mood and anxiety
- Explore practical strategies to support your child
- Learn when and how to seek additional support if needed

[Understanding low mood Workshop for parents February](#)

[Anxiety Workshop for parents in March \(am\)](#)

[Anxiety Workshop for parents in April \(am\)](#)

[Anxiety Workshop for parents in April \(pm\)](#)

[Understanding low mood Workshop for parents May](#)

Year 10 Only

Please note that Reading School will close at 2.40pm on **Thursday 5 March**, prior to Year 10 Parents Evening.

All students will miss period 8 and additional information for CCF students will be communicated separately.

If you have queries regarding Year 10 Parents Evening, please contact Ms Ayres by emailing layres@reading-school.co.uk

School Community News

Beyond the Curriculum: The Power of Scholarship at Reading School



Reading School has long championed intellectual curiosity, encouraging students to explore ideas beyond the confines of the taught curriculum. This week, Head of Classics and Scholarship Lead, Mr Cooper, reflected on the remarkable scholarship, independence, and academic enthusiasm demonstrated by students through their research and presentations, following the Scholarship Presentation Event held on Wednesday 11 February:

It is always a pleasure to see students making the most of the opportunities that Reading School offers. One particularly rewarding example is the willingness of students to demonstrate intellectual curiosity beyond the curriculum - not because they are required to, nor for immediate reward, but simply for the genuine satisfaction of scholarship for its own sake.

I have been consistently impressed by both the depth of research and the quality of production evident in the research videos submitted. I readily admit that there are many I do not fully understand; however, colleagues with subject expertise are invariably effusive in their praise for the rigour, insight, and intellectual ambition displayed.

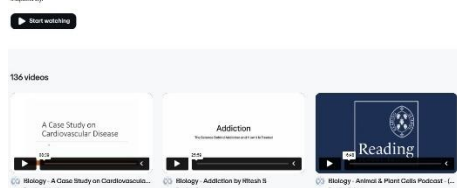
While the work itself is rightly celebrated, the true reward lies in the apparent pleasure students derive from exploring ideas, pursuing lines of enquiry, and venturing down academic “rabbit holes” driven purely by curiosity. In doing so, they develop skills of research, presentation, and communication, qualities highly valued at university, in the workplace, and in life more broadly. It is especially encouraging to see students from Year 7 through to Year 13 refining and showcasing these capabilities.



As a vivid illustration of this spirit of enquiry, I have the privilege of leading the Year 11 Seekers programme. Here, students investigate any topic of interest beyond their taught curriculum, culminating in a fluent live presentation - often lasting between 15 and 30 minutes and delivered confidently before their peers. Armed only with a presentation and their own understanding, they respond to questions, interruptions, and discussion with impressive command. It quickly becomes clear that their knowledge far exceeds the confines of the presentation itself, with genuine passion shining through.

Reading School Scholarship Programme

A student-led digital research library for all students (present and future) to access and be inspired by.



At the time of writing, the school now hosts 136 scholarship videos in a digital library that all students can access, spanning a remarkable breadth of subjects, with new submissions arriving regularly. I strongly encourage all students to explore these examples and, perhaps, find inspiration to contribute to the Reading School Scholarship Programme.

Submissions may be sent to mcooper@reading-school.co.uk via wetransfer.com.

National Year of Reading – Student Survey Invitation



National Year of Reading 2026

The [National Year of Reading](#) aims to address some concerning research. Only one in three young people read for enjoyment, and only one in five read regularly. While reading tends to dip during adolescence due to increasing demands on time, the decline is greater than ever, and boys show less recovery in adulthood.

Why is this concerning? Reading is not only linked to accessing the curriculum and future academic attainment, but it also helps young people understand themselves and others. There are additional mental health and wellbeing benefits as well. The good news is that research shows teenagers still enjoy stories, reading about topics that interest them, and reading to learn new skills. They value social connection and prefer the autonomy to choose what they read.

We would like to invite your child to complete our [Know Your Students survey](#)*. It is important for us to understand our students' interests so we can provide access to a wide range of resources - including books, e-books, audiobooks, and online materials, that support their intellectual curiosity, love of stories, and desire to connect with others.

The deadline for completing the survey is **Monday 2 March**, and we aim to publish key findings in time for [World Book Day](#) on 5 March.

*The survey is based on guidance from the School Library Association, research from the *Go All In – National Year of Reading* initiative, and input from our Pupil Librarian Team, led by Head Pupil Librarian, Edward Y.

Berkshire Book Award Shortlist Launch Event



Reading School welcomed 100 guests from schools across Berkshire for the Berkshire Book Award (BBA) Shortlist Launch event last week on Wednesday 4th February. The BBA is unique because it is young people who live and study in Berkshire who have the power to nominate and vote for books.

Nominations were made by students in October, with the Longlist announced in November. Students were then invited to vote for the books they believed should make it to the Shortlist. At Reading School, all of Year 7 and Year 8 participated in the process.

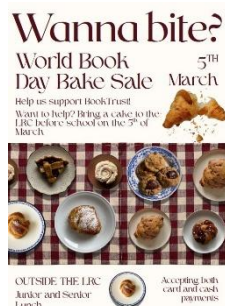
The Shortlist of eight titles was revealed at the Launch Event, followed by a talk from BBA 2025 winner, Mark Illis. During his talk, Mark explained that for his award-winning book, *Running Away for Beginners*, he wanted to draw upon his own experience of being diagnosed with cancer as a teenager. However, he also aimed to write something fun, uplifting, and, most importantly, about friendship. He shared his top tips for writing a book, inspiring the students to explore their own creativity.

Guests were then invited to the LRC for refreshments, a book sale, and a signing, and had the chance to chat about books with other avid readers. The BBA provides a fantastic opportunity for young people to make a positive social impact through books and reading.

Students can now vote for the winner via the BBA website until 6th May.

Books, Authors, and Baking: Celebrate Our 13th Book Festival

Our 13th Book Festival launches after half-term with the arrival of our Scholastic Book Fair and the distribution of [World Book Day vouchers](#). Students in Year 7 and Year 8 have been timetabled to visit the Book Fair during English lessons, while students from all other years can visit during break/lunch and after school until Monday 2 March. The books are selected by the specialists at Scholastic and the more we sell, the more commission we receive to buy new books for the LRC. Students can pay by cash and we are also going to trial card payments too. This is a great way for students to discover new authors.



We will celebrate World Book Day on 5 March with a book themed cake sale. Money raised will go to the [BookTrust](#) charity and the event has been organised by Deputy Pupil Librarians Daniel N and Ritvik G. We would like to invite parents, staff and students to get creative with their bakes, which can be left in the LRC on the morning of 5 March.

Finally, we finish the Book Festival with a selection of fantastic authors talks. The talks will be held at Reading School during the school day, as detailed below.

- Professor Nicolas Tredell will deliver an online sixth form lecture on Tuesday 3 March (organised by Mr Baldock)
- Crime and mystery author, [Sue Wallman](#) will be speaking to all Year 8 on Monday 9 March.
- Bestselling author, [M.G. Leonard](#), will be speaking to all Year 7 on Tuesday 10 March. She will be focusing on her incredibly popular Time Keys series.
- Dystopian fiction author, [Sarah Govett](#), will be speaking to all Year 10 about her career and her writing on Wednesday 11 of March.
- Polar explorer [Alex Hibbert](#), will be speaking to all Year 8 and all Year 9 on Thursday 12 of March.

There will be a cash book sale and signing after each in-person event.

Reading School and the Learning Resource Team would like to thank the Old Redingensians Association for their support.

Careers Convention 2026 Feedback



Thank you to all who attended the Reading School Careers Convention 2026 on 5 February. We welcomed over 70 professionals from diverse industries, drawing more than 940 attendees in total. The keynote talks were particularly popular and thanks again to all speakers for their time and effort.

We hope you and your child found it informative and inspiring, with opportunities to explore career paths and chat with delegates.

We're committed to improving these events, therefore we would appreciate your feedback via our short form: [Attendee Feedback Form](#).

Where Competitive Spirit Meets Personal Growth

Following last week's celebration of Reading School's national sporting recognition and Taksh C's remarkable achievements in the pool, this week we turn our attention to another example of excellence shaped by passion and sustained commitment.

Reading School's recent ranking among the nation's leading state schools for sport reflects not only competitive success, but the mindset, character and habits developed through consistent effort. From county championships to national arenas, our students continue to demonstrate that high performance is driven by determination, focus and a willingness to keep improving, with the support of their School, their coaches, and most importantly, their parents.

Today, we share the reflections of a student whose dedication to table tennis has seen him compete at an exceptionally high level. His experience offers insight into the demands of balancing elite sport with academic life, the lessons learned through competition, and the personal qualities required to perform under pressure.



Prayrit A (12S) has carved out a remarkable journey in table tennis - one that began with friendly competitions in primary school and has evolved into a high-level competitive career. Now in Year 12, Prayrit combines intense discipline with a genuine love for the sport, balancing regular training, weekend tournaments and academic ambition with the same focus and resilience that defines his game.

Through this interview, he reflects not only on the challenges and rewards of elite sport, but on the mindset that drives him: a blend of competitiveness, enjoyment, and resilience. His journey speaks to both the rigours of athletic development and the transferable skills that Reading School champions - discipline, time management and a balanced approach to performance and personal growth.

Q: When and how did you first get into table tennis? It started in primary school, when tables were set up for friendly competitions. We were all very competitive, and I quickly became drawn to the challenge. Later, I joined Kingfisher Table Tennis Club, and I never imagined how significant the sport would become in my life.

Q: Tell us a little about Kingfisher Table Tennis Club. It's based in Woodley and also operates at Reading School on the weekends. It's produced many outstanding players and is widely recognised as one of the strongest clubs in the country for developing young talent.

Q: What made you stick with the sport over the years? My competitiveness and perseverance played a large role. I've always been driven to improve, and I'm incredibly grateful to my coach for continually pushing me to develop my game.

Q: Tell us more about your relationship with your coach My coach Ajay has had a significant influence on my development. Over time, our relationship has evolved, and I greatly value the trust and guidance he gives. I've also been given opportunities to take on leadership roles within training sessions.



Q: Have you always been competitive? Yes - I've never backed down from a challenge.

Q: How does that competitive mindset influence your school life? It motivates me academically. Whether preparing for tests or managing my workload, the same desire to push myself and improve carries across from sport into my studies.

Q: Do you play any other sports? Previously, I played tennis and cricket, but my primary focus is now table tennis.

Q: What do you enjoy most about table tennis? I enjoy both the creativity and the tactical nature of the sport. Table tennis allows for enormous variety, different spins, shots, and strategies, which makes every match unique.

Q: How would you describe table tennis to someone unfamiliar with the sport? Table tennis involves an extraordinary amount of precision. There's great freedom in how you can play, experiment, and develop your own style.

Q: What does your training schedule look like? I currently train around four days per week, with sessions typically lasting between one and a half to three hours. Competitions frequently take place at weekends, depending on the season.

Q: What is the toughest aspect of competing at a high level? Maintaining consistency and motivation. Like any pursuit, there are periods of highs and lows, and managing the mental side of performance is crucial.

Q: How do you prepare mentally before important matches? Preparation involves both physical warm-up and mental focus. I visualise scenarios, maintain composure, and aim to stay confident regardless of how a match begins. I've learned to manage pressure more effectively and developing balance has been key - focusing on performance rather than outcomes.

Q: What's your current ranking? I'm currently ranked number nine in England in the Under-17 category.

Q: How do you respond to setbacks or losses? Losses are an inevitable part of sport. Experience has taught me resilience, perspective, and the importance of long-term progress.

Q: Which achievement are you most proud of? I've won medals on the national and international stage for England as well being ranked 2 in England, and 98 in the world, but I value more everything I've done to help grow the sport, such as helping and building connections with children at Kingfisher and helping people take up table tennis, and improving the sport's popularity.

Q: What is the biggest lesson table tennis has taught you? Enjoyment is fundamental. Performance improves when you genuinely enjoy the process of learning and competing.

Q: How do you balance school and sport? Effective time management! Prioritising, structure, and maintaining focus...and deleting social media apps!

Why has that been important to you? It allowed me to reclaim time, improve focus, and maintain better balance between academics, sport, and personal life.

Q: What are your goals moving forward? While continuing to enjoy table tennis, my academic focus is now on preparing for university - in economics or finance.



Favourite shot? Forehand counter.

Hardest opponent faced? Kwon Hyuk, South Korean national champion and world number 1 at the time.

Pre-match ritual? Music, warm-up, and visualisation.

Favourite pre-match song? Can't Hold Us by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis

Singles or doubles? Singles.

One word to describe table tennis? Fluid.

Q: If you had to describe table tennis in one sentence to someone who has never played? It's remarkable how many possibilities and variations exist within such a small space.

To find out more about [Kingfisher Table Tennis Club](#), please visit their website.

Entrepreneurship, Coding, and Creating Impact

At Reading School's recent Careers Conference on Thursday 5 February, students were encouraged to think boldly about future pathways, innovation, and the evolving world of work. Akshaiyan S (12S) brings this mindset to life by balancing academic study with running an international clothing brand, leading an Entrepreneurship Society, and developing software projects. Akshaiyan represents a growing culture of student initiative where ideas are not simply discussed, but built, tested, and brought to life.

In this interview, Akshaiyan shares the experiences, habits, and mindset that underpin his ventures, offering valuable insight into entrepreneurship, problem-solving, and the realities of pursuing ambitious goals alongside school life.



What's your origin story and motivation behind the Entrepreneurship Society? I've always pushed myself to attempt what feels beyond expectation. In Year 8, I built my first paid coding project and used the earnings to buy my parents a gift. That experience made me realise that if you commit fully, you can create things no one expects at your age. The Entrepreneurship Society grew from that belief — I want other students to see how much is within reach.

Real-world application – tell us about Life of Tamil. Life of Tamil began as sketches in my room but has grown into a brand worn across five continents. It wasn't just about clothing; it was about bringing

identity and history into the present. Building it taught me design, logistics, and marketing, but more importantly, how to turn setbacks into momentum.

What have you learned from running a business alongside school? The biggest lesson has been energy management. Both A-Levels and business require focus, so knowing when to push and when to reset is crucial. It's made me far more deliberate with my time and clearer about what truly matters.

What software projects have you worked on? I've worked on nearly 30 projects, all focused on solving real problems. From financial tools running Monte Carlo simulations to platforms managing influencer campaigns, coding appeals to me because of its independence and scalability — you can build something from nothing that helps thousands.



How has coding shaped the way you think? Coding has changed how I see problems. Instead of obstacles, I see inefficiencies. You break things down, test solutions, and improve constantly. That mindset extends far beyond software.

What has been most rewarding about the Entrepreneurship Society? Watching younger students realise what they're capable of. Many start with ideas but doubt their ability. Seeing that confidence shift is incredibly rewarding. Working with Ben has strengthened the programme — our strengths balance each other well.

How has Reading School supported your interests? The school's trust has been invaluable. I'm especially grateful to Ms Senflechtner for her encouragement, Ms Chong for opportunities to showcase my work, and Mr Dimmick for his support of my coding. The school gave me space rather than limits.

What has been your biggest challenge? The days when motivation disappears. Those moments taught me that discipline matters more than inspiration. You show up regardless - that's where real growth happens.

What's next? Growth. I want to expand Life of Tamil with a larger team and continue building new software ventures. My advice to younger students: don't wait to feel ready. Start early, learn fast, and raise your own standards.

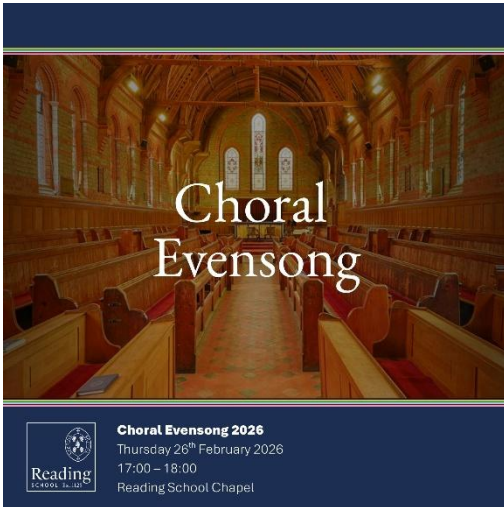
The Dozen – Love Is in the Air

Reading School's student cultural magazine with a Valentine's Day theme can be [downloaded by clicking here](#). Highlights include:

- Analysis of love in music across decades (Tom C)
- Examination of romantic comedy tropes and their potential harms (Jamin H)
- Michelangelo's passion for art through the Sistine Chapel (Amanuel Y)
- And much, much more.

Reading School Events

Choral Evensong – Thursday 26 February 2026



The Music Department is delighted to invite you to a traditional Choral Evensong in the School Chapel on Thursday 26 February 2026.

This event is free and open to all. Register via the link below to reserve your seat and enjoy a serene break from your day in our tranquil chapel, accompanied by the beautiful music of the Reading School Chapel Choir.

Book now - <https://alumni.reading-school.co.uk/events/view/choral-evensong-2026>

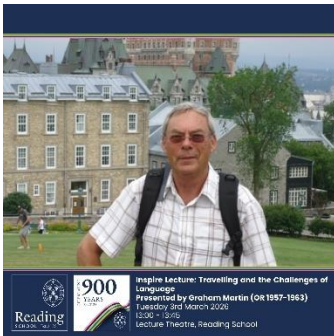
Location: Chapel, Reading School, Erleigh Road, Reading
Time: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Programme:

- Introit: *Drop Drop Slow Tears* – O. Gibbons
- Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis: Walmisley in D minor
- Psalm 150: Stanford
- Anthem: *Set Me as a Seal upon Thine Heart* – W. Walton

We look forward to welcoming you to this special musical occasion.

Inspire Lecture - Travelling & the Challenges of Language



We are delighted to welcome back Old Redingensian Graham Martin (1957–1963) for an engaging Inspire Lecture exploring the realities of travelling, working abroad, and the challenges of language in international settings.

Graham studied Accounts and Economics at A Level at Reading School before completing an HNC in Civil Engineering and qualifying as an Incorporated Engineer (I.Eng). His career has taken him around the world, giving him first-hand experience of international work beyond the classroom.

During the lecture, Graham will also reflect on his time as a pupil at Reading School, offering an insight into how school life has changed over the decades. The talk will be followed by 10–15 minutes of audience questions.

This lecture will be particularly relevant for students interested in engineering, economics, international careers, or global travel.

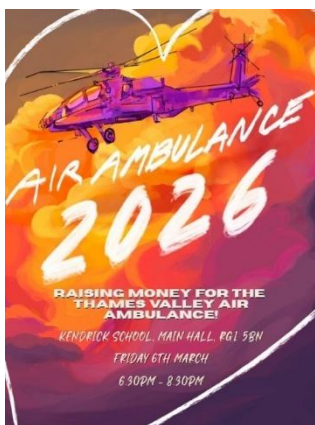
Date: Tuesday 3 March 2026

Time: 13:00-13:45

Venue: Lecture Theatre, Reading School, RG1 5LW

RSVP here: [Inspire Lecture: Travelling and The Challenges of Language | Events | The Redingensians](#)

Student-Led Charity Concert in Support of Thames Valley Air Ambulance



Parents and carers are warmly invited to a student-led charity concert hosted by Reading School and Kendrick School, raising funds for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance (TVAA).

Enjoy a wonderful evening of music from soloists and ensembles, featuring everything from Bruno Mars to beautiful choral classics such as O Nata Lux (Tallis).

The concert has supported TVAA for over a decade, inspired by the rescue of a Reading School student following a cycling accident. All proceeds help fund TVAA's vital lifesaving work across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

Date: Friday 6 March

Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Venue: Kendrick School, Main Hall, RG1 5BN

Book now: [Air Ambulance Charity Concert 2026 Tickets, Kendrick School Main Hall, Reading | TryBooking United Kingdom](#)

Soloists Concert - Tuesday 10th March 2026



Organised by Mr J Newman, Teacher of Music, our talented students are taking the stage to showcase their skill, passion, and artistry in an inspiring evening of music.

From classical masterpieces to contemporary favourites, this concert promises a wonderful celebration of young musical talent.

Date: Tuesday 10 March 2026

Time: 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Venue: Music Department Recital Hall, Reading School, RG1 5LW

Tickets: £5 per person; [Book your spot by clicking here](#)

Vocal Platform - Tuesday 24th March 2026



Do you want to see your child take the stage and shine as a star singer? This is your chance!

Organised by Mr J Druce, Director of Chapel Choir, our Vocal Showcase celebrates the passion, dedication, and talent of our student singers. Each performer will present a carefully chosen piece, highlighting their unique voice and style. From stirring solos to captivating performances, the evening promises to inspire, delight, and celebrate the joy of music.

Date: Tuesday 24 March 2026

Time: 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Venue: Music Department Recital Hall

Tickets: Admission Free; [RSVP by clicking here](#).

Faith and Reason Lecture – Thursday 26 March 2026



Hosted by the Reading School Chaplaincy, we are inviting students to the upcoming Faith and Reason Lecture on **Thursday 26 March 2026, 3:30 – 4:30 PM, Reading School, RG1 5LW.**

Lecture: *What Does It Mean to Be Human in an Age of AI?*

Speaker: Jeremy Peckham, Commissioner at the AI, Faith and Civil Society Commission

In this engaging talk, the speaker will explore how artificial intelligence is shaping our understanding of humanity, ethics, and society, and the opportunities and challenges this presents for individuals and communities.

The lecture is part of Reading School's Faith and Reason series, which explores the interplay between religion and science. The event has been promoted to students and we encourage parents to support them in attending. Parents are also warmly welcomed to join; however, space will be allocated to students as a priority.

Please register by clicking this link: [Faith & Reason Lecture](#)

External Events

The Historical Association Lecture



Historical Association
The voice for history

The Historical Association is a United Kingdom–based charity dedicated to promoting the study, teaching, and enjoyment of history. Founded in 1906, the Reading branch has delivered lectures at Reading School for over 18 years.

The Lectures are open to members, and students can attend free of charge.

Lecture: The German Peasants' War and 1525 – Why you should care about it...

Speaker: Professor Lyndal Roper, Oriel College, Oxford and hold of Regius Chair in History

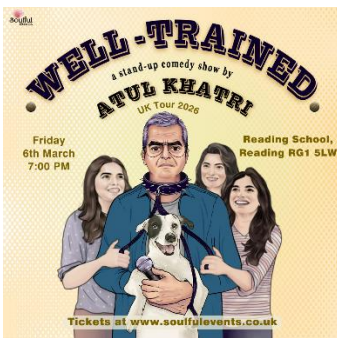
Date: Friday 27 February 2026

Time: 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Venue: The Lecture Theatre, Reading School

Anyone wishing to join the Historical Association can email Ralph Houlbrooke at r.a.houlbrooke@reading.ac.uk

Stand-Up Comedy Night



Following the successful stand-up comedy event brought to you by [Soulful Events](#) on Saturday 31 January, the second event will feature [Atul Khatri](#), ex-CEO turned comedian, who quit his job in 2016 and now makes a living making people laugh.

Featured on Netflix's 'Comedians of the World', Atul brings his 55+ year old perspective on attending the 'Wedding of the Century', emigration, the USA, children, grandchildren and 30+ years of marriage in his new stand-up comedy show, 'Well Trained'.

Date: Friday 6 March

Doors open: 6.30pm (show starts 7.00pm)

Age guidance: 16+

Language: The show is mainly in English

Tickets: [Book Now](#)

Soulful Events would like to thank all those who attended their first event at Reading School on Saturday 31 January.

The Abbey Careers Fair

Following our Reading School Careers Convention on Thursday 5 February, don't miss The Abbey Careers Fair by The Abbey School, Reading.

Hosted on Thursday 19 March from 5:30pm to 8pm, this event features industry professionals, universities and a keynote from Baroness Ruby McGregor-Smith CBE. Open to Year 9+ students and parents.

Register [by clicking here](#).

Summer Coding Club



FunTech is a summer coding club for children that has been hosted by Reading School since 2024 and they will be returning to School again this summer 2026. FunTech has been teaching Tech & Coding for 30 years and will again be offering a range of courses, including Game Development, Python, Roblox, Minecraft, Cybersecurity, and AI.

There are three camp formats to choose from:

- In-Person (at Reading School)
- Live online
- Flexi (the ability to keep the same expert tutor and peers, but join either from home or the centre, giving parents maximum flexibility)

Camps to support Computer Science programming:

- GCSE: [Python Coder \(ages 10 to 16\)](#)
- A Level: [Python OOP \(ages 11 to 16\)](#)

Explore all camp options by [clicking here](#).

Developed entirely in-house and supported by a dedicated student support team, FunTech's camps focus on building real understanding to leave your child feeling confident in their skills, all while making sure learning stays fun and engaging from start to finish.

Over [14,000 reviews](#) and [to book, please click here](#).

External Events Disclaimer: Events listed under "External Events" are organised by third parties and are not Reading School events.

RSPA

The Team

Over the next few weeks, RSPA will introduce the committee members who represent and support our community, and this week we hear from Mrs Jayne Sturge.

Introducing the Hoodies Manager



During my children's time at Primary School, I was a member of the PTA and we raised around £20k every year for the school. The sense of community and achievement is great for the soul. As time went on this money was not just for improvements to the school but helped with vital things the teachers required just to do their jobs.

When my eldest son joined Reading School, I wanted to carry on supporting his academic journey, and so I choose to be part of the RSPA. The position of Hoodie Manager came available, and as I work, I thought this was a position I could manage around work and family.

Hoodies are often ordered online and when I receive the order, we bag up the hoodie, fulfil the order, and my son (now in Year 11) takes the hoodie into student services for collection.

I will also attend the pre-loved uniform shops and fundraising events with a stock of hoodies on hand.

Helping in the RSPA allows me to contribute to something bigger than myself - something that directly shapes the experiences, opportunities, and wellbeing of the students in our community.

For me, volunteering is about connection. It's a chance to come together with teachers, parents, and carers, and enjoy the sense of achievement and joy when the children have a great time or receive equipment that will assist in their education. Most importantly, I volunteer because it shows my children investing time and care in their school, and education, and joining a community can make a difference.

Helping the RSPA isn't just about giving back - it's about being part of a team, and most importantly having fun!

New Committee Member – New Members Always Welcome!

New appointment of Neil Devanad as RSPA Vice Chair.

Just a quick update on RSPA personnel. We are always looking for new members to grow the committee and take on an active role, be it for fundraising or administration of our Charity.

So, we're delighted to announce that Neil Devanand has recently joined our team! Neil will be assisting us with various things, such as helping out on our Lottery team, supporting Kerry with the Chair role, and to help keep our RSPA website updated, part of which is to enable any other interested persons to reach out to us to see if YOU can help - contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Any help is always gratefully received, and we wish to thank Neil for stepping forward.

We also have a few members on the team who over the years have created and ran their own fundraising initiatives, so please do contact us if you would like to share your own fundraising ideas. No idea is too small, and we could be the volunteers that you need to support your project!

An Invitation – RSPA Social Gathering

If you would like to volunteer or are thinking about volunteering with the RSPA and would like to meet Kerry and the other RSPA team committee members you are welcome to join us at our first social gathering of the year on **Monday 23 February 2026**.

Please email Kerry at kerryobrien2004@yahoo.co.uk for venue details and time. We look forward to seeing you!

Uniform Shop – Next opening time – TBC

Anya and Jas are anticipating good weather after 'February Half term'. Hence the RSPA team are planning for next Uniform shop on 20 March or 21 March 2026 after February Half term. We will let you know details in the next Headmaster's Bulletin.

Have a lovely relaxing Half Term everyone!

Best wishes

RSPA Team

Highlights: Lent Term Week 6

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.



Exploring Ideas, Expanding Minds: Scholarship at Reading School

Certificate Ceremony on Wednesday 11 February for students who submitted a research project.



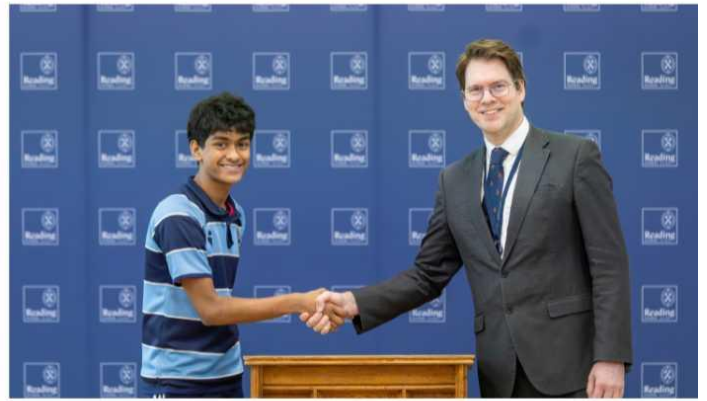












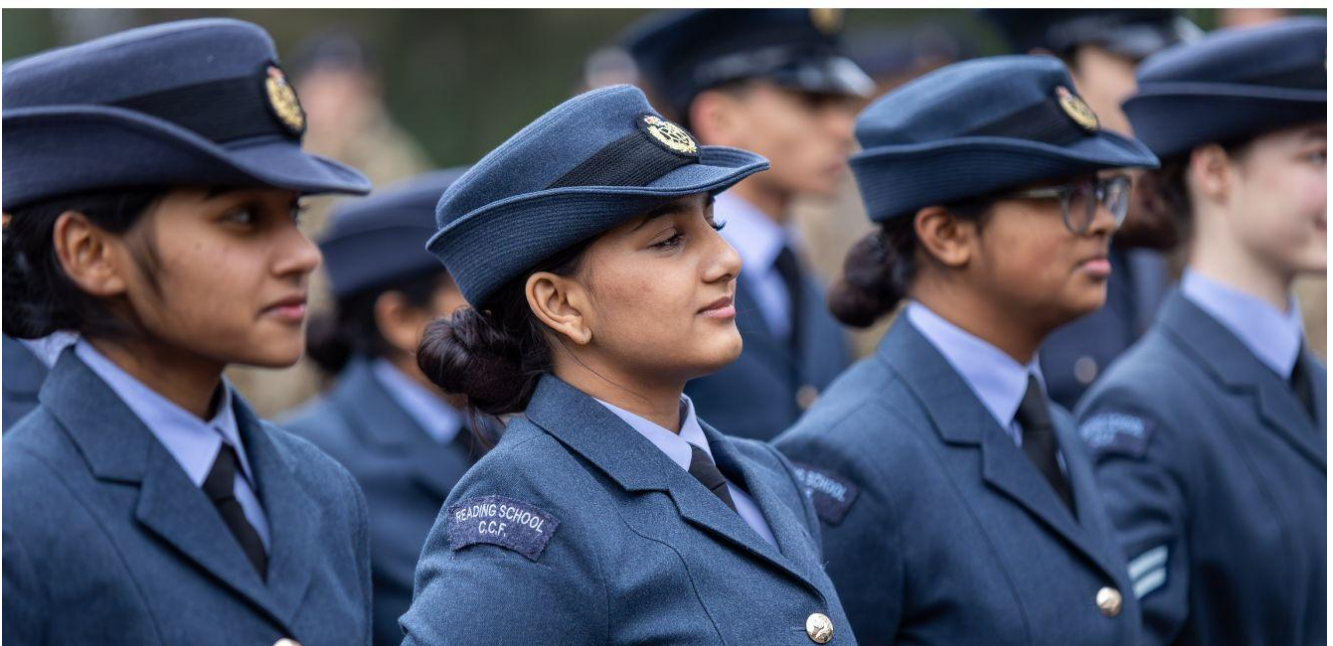
Royal Air Squadron Trophy Team Presentation

Reading School CCF's Royal Air Force Section recently competed against 14 other schools in the first round of the RAF Air Squadron Trophy competition, held at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire.



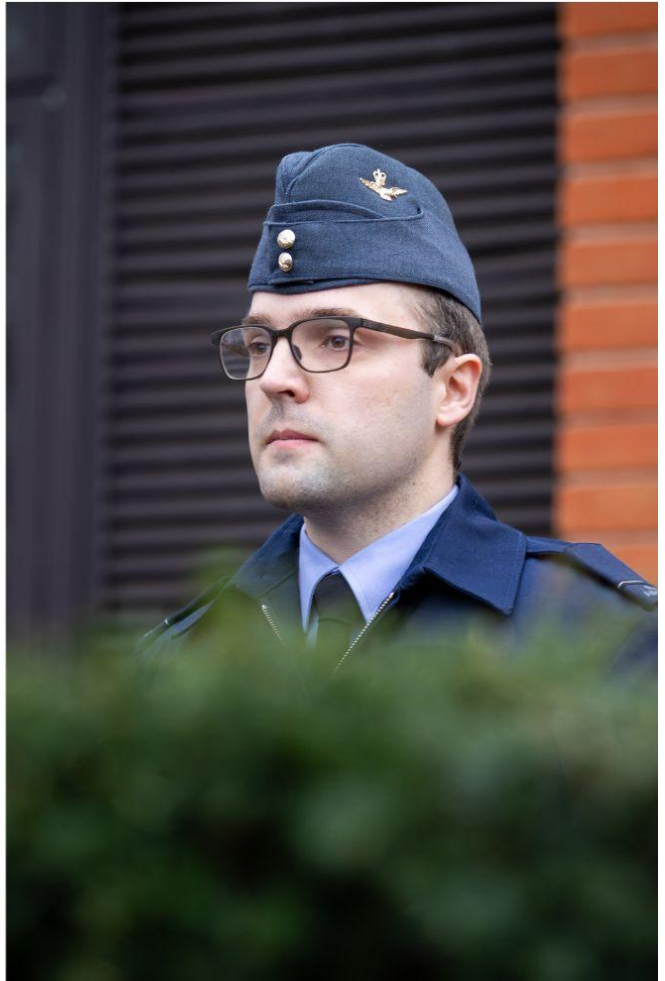
After a demanding and challenging day of competition, the team were crowned Regional Champions for the second year in a row.





The team were presented with their trophy on parade this Thursday by Sqn Ldr C Bridgeman RAFAC (Officer Commanding, Cadet Training Team) and Dr Evans.





The Contingent is extremely proud of their achievement and of the dedication and hard work shown by the team in preparation for the competition. The team will now go on to compete in the National Finals in June, where they will represent both the CCF and the school. We wish them every success as they continue their journey.



Berkshire Book Award Shortlist Launch Event

Photo credits: Student Photographer Emlyn L-J (13S)









Oxbridge Offer Holders

Success is admired, while effort and courage are equally valued.

“Affirmed or disappointed, we are proud of you and believe in your exceptional potential.” Dr Evans



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