



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

27 February 2026

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Introduction

In 1875, a Reading School student wrote a piece for the School magazine entitled, "A Plea for Games."

"What would a school be with its games?" he asked:

"Football, Cricket, Fives, Paper-chases? And yet objections have been made to most of these games. The first is too dangerous, and too rough... the game is looked upon as a brutal bear-fight or something like it. Cricket also falls under condemnation, because in it, too, the players are liable to serious, if not fatal accident; and for Paper-chases each boy must have a medical certificate that his health can stand it, before he is allowed to run."

"Though we have been one of these rash and irrepressible beings very much inclined to argue the point, we must, after cool consideration, confess, however unwillingly, that in the case of some Schools, there does seem some ground for the accusation laid against them, that they sacrifice work to play somewhat too much."

The author concluded, *"Manliness, self-reliance, courage and endurance, are the principal lessons taught by our games, rough and dangerous though they may be when indulged in without care or thought; and therefore, let us stick to our games, nor forget that health is the greatest of all possessions, and according to the old maxim, a "hale cobbler is better than a sick king."*

Presented with this argument from a student at the School 150 years ago, it is worth us reflecting that whilst much has changed, so much remains the same. It also appears we had students in 1875 debating whole-child education before it became government policy!

Arguments about health and safety endure.

Debates about core curriculum components and the value of enrichment persist.

Consent forms are still required for off-site activities.

Courage and endurance remain essential virtues for each of us.

Our health remains more precious and valuable than any other gifts we possess.

This week has seen the government publish a whitepaper which includes an argument for increasingly measuring schools by their enrichment activities. Our school has had an amazing Book Fair in the Library as it launched its annual Book Festival. We've had six football fixtures. The School choir led a wonderful evensong yesterday attended by staff, students, families and ORs. Students from Year 7 and 8 have returned from the arctic, others have gone on Duke of Edinburgh training, our Sporting Aptitude students got to try the fast-growing sport Padel, Senior House Squash is taking place as I write, along with a Year 11 Intermediate Physics Challenge.

We have also been informed by the local authority of the candidates who are going to be awarded places in the school next year, and we have held parents evening for some year 11 and 13 students in need of a particular boost towards the summer's exams.

This is a snapshot of the life of the school. We are perpetually and positively juggling, we do so such that our mental, emotional, physical, spiritual and social selves might be healthy, challenged, and fulfilled.

More cricket then. More Maths too. More French exchanges, and more Robotics. More Aerospace challenges and more handball. More Latin and more swimming!

I hope in all your juggling, you find some balance and a range of thinking and doing that sustains your health. With that, best wishes too, to all in our community who are unwell at this time. We know there are parents, relatives, colleagues, students and staff who would gladly swap their wisdom or wealth for being well, and we send them our thoughts and prayers this week.

Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All Years

Early school closure- Thursday 5 March

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

End of Summer Term 2026 – Wednesday 15th July

Please note that Summer Term 2026 ends for students on Wednesday 15 July, not Thursday 16 July as previously published on the [School website](#).

Relationships, Sex, Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

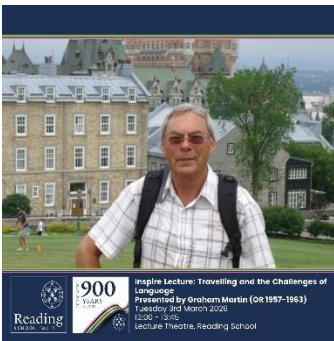
Reading School is committed to its statutory requirements of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education along with Relationships, Sex & Health education (RSE). We acknowledge how empowering and impactful these lessons and discussions can be in preparing young people to remain healthy, safe and prepared for life. Lessons are taught sensitively, with a focus on creating a respectful learning environment for all.

The schemes of work for content covered can be found here [Reading School PSHE](#) (where Government guidance can also be found as links) and in addition, each student has a work booklet with further information from their lessons.

Parents are also reminded of their right to withdraw from RSHE and should follow the guidance in the Relationship and Sex Education Policy (page 10) which can be found by [clicking here](#).

Reading School Events

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](#).

Redingensians Golfing Society Fixture – March 2026



The Redingensians Golfing Society warmly invites you to join their March 2026 fixture.

Mr A Lloyd (South House Boarding Master; Teacher of English) and Mr R Blade (Teacher of PE; Head of Cricket) will be leading a small group of current students to take part alongside former students.

It promises to be an enjoyable day of friendly competition and relaxed hospitality in beautiful surroundings.

Date: Thursday 26th March 2026

Time: 9:30 – 16:30

Venue: Henley Golf Club, Harpsden, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 4HG

Format of the day:

9:30 - Assemble

10.00 - Full English Breakfast

11:00 - First tee time

16:00 - Trophies, prizes, pudding and coffee

There will be plenty to play for on the day, with trophies awarded for:

- Best Individual Gross Score
- Best Individual Stableford Score
- Best Team Stableford Score (ORA Past Presidents' Salver)
- 2 × Nearest the Pin
- Longest Drive

Tickets can be booked via the registration page: [Redingensians Golfing Society Fixture - Mar 2026 | Events | The Redingensians](#)

Our next fixture is scheduled for 8th October 2026 at Newbury & Crookham Golf Club. Further information will be shared soon.

Kindly organised by Michael Barrott (OR 1966-1973) and the Redingensians Office.

If you have any queries about the golf fixture, please email Michael at michael.barrott@btinternet.com. For any other queries, please email alumni@reading-school.co.uk.

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

Summer Career Experience Opportunities – InvestIN Summer Schools



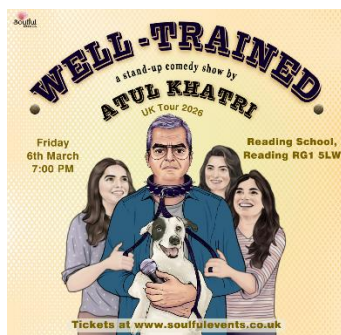
Following the Careers Convention earlier this month, we know many students are actively exploring future pathways and thinking about their next steps. Career planning can feel challenging and gaining first-hand experience can be a helpful way for students to understand different industries and make more informed choices.

InvestIN Summer Schools offer students an immersive, hands-on introduction to a wide range of professional careers during the summer holidays. Experiences include pathways such as Young Investment Banker, Young Doctor, Engineering, Law, Architecture, and many more. Each programme provides up to 65 hours of practical learning, including workplace visits, real-world projects, professional skills coaching and networking with industry professionals. Courses are delivered by leading professionals and are based at the UCL campus in central London. Students can choose to attend one-week or two-week programmes, with or without accommodation.

For students who are unsure which career path might suit them best, a short career quiz is available here: <https://investin.org/pages/career-quiz>

Reading School families can benefit from an exclusive 10% discount using the code READING10. For full details of available programmes and dates, please visit: <https://investin.org/collections/summer-schools>

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](#)

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 \(ages 11 to 16\)](#)

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 Menaka Murthy (Jasti).

Introducing the Events Manager



Hello, I'm Menaka Murthy (Jasti), and I've proudly been an RSPA member since September 2022. By day, I work as a Cyber Security Transformational Director in the public sector, spending most of my time focused on risks, threats, policies, and resilience. In my spare time, I choose my commitments carefully, and becoming the RSPA Events Manager felt like a perfect fit.

When my son Neil Jasti started Year 7 at Reading School in Sep 2022, it marked a significant and exciting change for our family. Having previously experienced private education, transitioning to a selective state school with its rich history, community spirit, and exemplary leadership inspired me to give back not just financially, but in practical ways. I wanted to roll up my sleeves and get involved, which led me to this role.

As Events Manager, I actively support every stage of event planning, from initial concepts to final cleanup. Over the past four years, I've organised the Year 7 Disco, where the energy is always incredible. I've also led events like the SPOTY Awards and Leavers' Farewell for three years and collaborated with committee members to participate in and champion fundraising initiatives that truly make a difference.

The sense of community is what I cherish most. Seeing students enjoying themselves, celebrating achievements, and benefiting from enhanced resources reminds me why our efforts matter.

Volunteering, for me, is about connecting and working together with teachers, parents, and carers who all have busy lives, yet come together to create something positive for our children. It's about showing them that community isn't just a group you belong to; it's something you contribute to.

Most importantly, I want my child to learn that investing your time, energy, and effort can make a meaningful impact. Helping the RSPA is about teamwork, laughter, shared achievement and sometimes managing a dance floor full of energetic 200+ Year 7s!

Honestly, I wouldn't change a thing. If you'd like to join this wonderful community, please reach out to me at mmurthy@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Bag to School

We are planning a collection for shortly after the Easter holiday, date to be confirmed. Our pesky children seem to grow like weeds and with the change of season we hope you will have lots to donate. Please start to collect your items, details of things we can take are listed below.

You can put them in any plastic bags as they no longer send them out for us to use. We are planning to make drop off super easy so the boys won't have to stagger up the drive under the weight of their donations.

Let's start building those piles in the garage.



BAG 2 SCHOOL

What we can take:	What we cannot take:
Clothes	Clothing with logos i.e. sports clubs
Paired shoes	Duvets
Handbags	Blankets
Hats	Pillows
Bag	Cushions
Scarves and ties	School uniform
Jewellery	Carpets/rugs
Bras	Corporate clothing and workwear
Socks	Textile cut offs
Belts	

Best wishes
RSPA Team

Highlights: Lent Term Week 7

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.



Marking the Lunar New Year

Earlier this month, we asked students celebrating Lunar New Year to share how they marked the occasion. Kingsley H (10S) sent us these photos from his celebration with family and friends.

"The New Lunar New Year symbolises a time to start fresh and celebrate with friends and family. It is also mainly looking forward for more prosperity and luck in the next year. Of course we are also looking very forward for the lucky money given to us by the adults!" Kingsley H



Thank you for showing us what Spring Festival looked like for you, your family and friends this year.

Find Your Vision

This week, we're sharing work by Evan M (12MKa) - three photographs taken as part of his A Level Photography project. The brief asked students to walk first, camera-free, then return to photograph what stayed with them. What Evan brought back says something about how he sees his school: a basketball hoop reflected in a rain-filled court; a signpost silhouetted against the sky; the roofline of the main building mirrored in a puddle. We think they're worth a longer look.



Reading School Book Festival

Our annual event celebrating reading and literature got under way this week with the pop-up Book Fair open to Year 7s and 8s. The next few weeks will be igniting students love of reading and broadening their literary horizons by giving them direct exposure to books and authors in an engaging schoolwide series of events.



“So far, we’ve sold 86 books this week, earning us a commission of £261 for new LRC books! It’s been wonderful to see so much joy and enthusiasm this week and we would like to thank parents for their support. The last day of the Book Fair is Monday 2nd March, so there’s still time to join in.”

Mrs Kesteven, School Librarian







Y8 VISIT

You will enter the Book Fair
one table at a time.
You will have 5 minutes to look!

While you wait....

- 1 In pairs
READ a Sue Wallman book (5)
READ an Alex Hibbert Book
RESEARCH Alex Hibbert
- 2 Report back!
If you have time, borrow a



A sport none of us had tried before

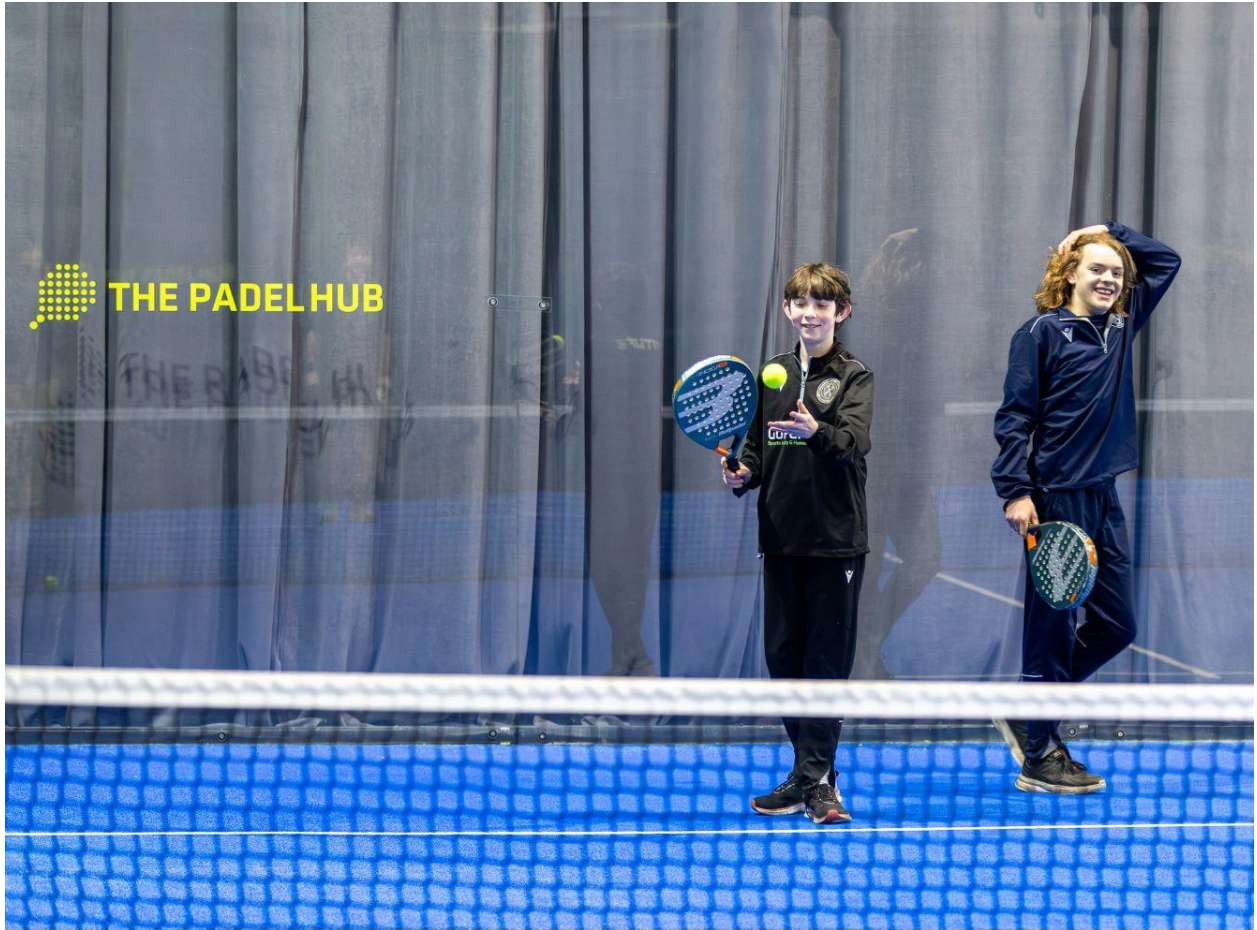
This morning wasn't about who'd played before. It was about playing together.

Our sporting aptitude students took on Padel - one of the UK's fastest growing sports, and the level playing field was part of the point. High energy, accessible, and a reminder that the best activities are the ones where everyone finds their feet at the same time.

A visit to [PADELHUB](#) in Reading, and a chance to meet comedian and presenter Jason Manford, made it a morning worth remembering.







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