



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

13 March 2026

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# Introduction

Dear Parents, carers, colleagues, and students,

There's been so much going on this week, that I hardly know where to start. Instead of listing remarkable achievements and describing the business of author talks, Film Days, Chess fixtures, Maths Challenges and Language exchanges, perhaps I can share a poem?

I'd like to thank a wonderful Year 8 English student for his incredible effort, written in response to a question about what grades he thought he might deserve in this half term's report for his Curiosity, Collaboration, Reflectiveness and Independence.

In terms of Curiosity,

I think I deserve at least three.

My endless questions

Are also suggestions,

Or perhaps aspire to be.

Collaboration may be a four.

In groups I try not to ignore

The suggestions of others,

Whose ideas might cover,

In my logic a possible flaw.

Reflecting upon my score,

I could give a two or a four,

So maybe a three

Would be better for me,

If I don't want to ponder it more.

As a school we believe Curiosity, Collaboration, Reflectiveness and Independence are key attitudes students need if they are to flourish in the classroom. They aren't the only virtues, and there are other things that matter too. Creativity, Integrity, Self-discipline, Courage and Tenacity are all significant too for example.

Nevertheless, we have prioritised Curiosity, Collaboration, Reflectiveness and Independence because we know that in this season and at this point in human society, students leaving Reading School will all need these in no small measure.

When students show these virtues in poetic form, or manifest them in a group task, or demonstrate them in revision activities, or go above and beyond in their thinking and their reading, we teachers jump for joy! Our excitement isn't only driven by the fact that we love poems, and Bunsen burners and translations, but because we see in these endeavours evidence of people who are learning how to make the world better.

That, in the end, is what we are here for, and we would not say no to another verse or two.

**Chris Evans**  
**Headmaster**

# Key information

## All Years

### Year 7 Open Day - Wednesday 25 March 2026

We are looking forward to welcoming families with a son currently in Year 5 during our Year 7 Open Day on Wednesday 25 March. This will be an opportunity for families to tour the school, meet with staff and students, as well as their son getting to participate in a carousel of exciting activities. If you know any family or friends with a son currently in Year 5, please do let them know about the event. We would love to meet with families from our local community, to explore how we might help their son in Year 5 flourish, assist with shaping their talents, as well as encourage their curiosity.

[Tickets can be booked by clicking this link](#)

The school day will run differently during Open Day.

Years 7-10 will be in school from 8:20 - 3:15pm, but will not be attending lessons. The Refectory will still be available for purchase of food and drink at break and lunch times as usual.

**Year 7:** Will be leading prospective families around the school site on a tour. Students should go to chapel for 8:20am to be registered.

**Year 8:** Will be running activities in classrooms. Students should go to their activity room for 8:20am. Details to follow next week.

**Year 9:** Will be running activities in classrooms. Students should go to their activity room for 8:20am. Details to follow next week.

**Year 10:** Will be running activities in classrooms. These students should go to their activity room for 8:20am. Details to follow next week.

**Year 11 - 13:** *Will not be on school site or involved in the open day.* Work will be set in advance by subject teachers for students to complete at home independently.

### Attendance Reminder during Eid Celebrations

Regarding Eid celebrations, we would like to inform parents that one day of absence will be authorised for students observing Eid. This will be either Thursday 19 March or Friday 20 March, in line with the confirmed moon sighting.

Please note that only the day of celebration will be authorised. Any additional days taken before or after this date will be recorded as unauthorised absence. We ask parents to ensure their child returns to school promptly the following day.

We wish all families celebrating Eid a wonderful and joyful time with their loved ones.

### Digital Edition of School Magazine

The digital edition of Floreat Redingensis 2025 is now available on the school website, providing an additional opportunity to revisit and share this special publication: [2025 Floreat Redingensis- School Magazine](#)

All students will have received a printed copy of the 2025 School Magazine earlier in the year.

This year's edition forms part of our 900th anniversary celebrations in 2025, capturing the stories, achievements, and community spirit that have shaped the school across nine centuries. It is a fitting tribute to this historic milestone.

Previous editions of the school magazine can be found here: [Reading School - School Magazine](#)

### **Lockdown Drill – a reminder**

In the week commencing Monday 23 March, we will be practising our school lockdown procedure.

Prior to the drill, tutors will speak with students to explain what the procedure involves and what to expect. Students will be reassured that this is simply a practice, designed to ensure that, in the very unlikely event of a real situation, everyone knows how to stay safe. Further information for parents can be accessed [by clicking here](#).

## **Year 11 and Year 13 Only**

### **Exam Timetables**

The summer exam timetables have now been shared with Year 11 and Year 13 students and are also available on MCAS. To help ensure a smooth and stress-free exam period, we encourage families to print off the timetable and place it on the fridge or another visible location. This will help everyone stay organised and ensure all students arrive on time for each exam.

We wish all our students the best of luck as they prepare for and complete their exams. With the support of families, we are confident they will do their very best. For the June 2026 exam series, the standard contingency day remains at the end of the timetable being scheduled on Wednesday 24 June 2026. Students should factor in this date when making plans for the summer, ensuring they are available on this date should they be required to sit a postponed exam.

## **Current School Vacancies**

**Teacher of Chemistry** - We are looking for an enthusiastic and inspiring member of staff to join our Chemistry team from September 2026. We offer an exciting opportunity in an exceptional team and a School that is passionate about Chemistry as a subject.

To find out more details and submit an application, please [visit our recruitment portal by clicking here](#).

**Science Technician (Biology & Chemistry)** - We have an exciting opportunity for a suitably qualified Science Technician to provide effective support to our Biology and Chemistry departments. Reporting to the Senior Science Technician, you will ensure a safe and efficient laboratory technical service is provided for students and teaching staff in both departments.

To find out more details and submit an application, please [visit our recruitment portal by clicking here](#).

# School Community News

## Three Instruments, One Stage



Most musicians spend years mastering a single instrument. George S (7C) is working on three simultaneously, and winning competitions in each. A finalist in this year's Berkshire Young Musician Competition string section, George has already won his category in piano and percussion. He sat down with us to talk competitions, practice routines, and what Reading School means to him.

### **For those who don't know, what is the Berkshire Young Musician of the Year Competition?**

It's open to students of any age up to 18. There's a three-year cycle where they focus on different instruments each time, and entries are split into age categories, for example, nine and under, ten to twelve, thirteen to fifteen, and sixteen to eighteen. My category this year is ten to twelve.

### **You've won your category in piano and percussion in previous years, and now you're in the string final. What drives you to keep adding instruments?**

I started with piano and cello and my dad is a percussionist as a hobby, he taught me some techniques. And I thought I might be quite good at it, so I explored more into the wider percussion world from there.

### **So music runs in the family?**

My brother and sister have picked up a couple of instruments and my mum's side of the family is also quite musical.

### **The string final takes place at Old Court Windsor in March. Have you been there before, and how are you preparing?**

I have been there before and it's a very nice place to perform. The acoustics are really good. I've been preparing by practising my pieces, focusing especially on the sections I find most difficult, working through them slowly and then building up the speed.

### **What piece will you be performing, and why did you choose it?**

The main piece I'm performing is Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, though I'm playing just one movement. I chose it because it has a lot of contrast, fast runs alongside slower, more beautiful passages. You really need to be able to show that range. I felt that if I could demonstrate that contrast convincingly, it would make for a strong performance.

### **How would you describe the standard at this level of competition?**

The standard is very high and it'll be a very tough competition.

### **You recently passed ABRSM Grade 8 Piano with distinction which is exceptional at any age. What does a serious practice session look like for you?**

I practise for about ten to twenty minutes when I can. I'll play through the piece normally first, and then focus on the parts I can't quite manage, working through them a few times slowly and then gradually building up the speed until I can play them properly.

**You're a member of six orchestras. How do you manage the different repertoires and rehearsal schedules?**

There are so many opportunities available, and I enjoy performing with different groups. Playing alongside more experienced musicians, including adults, teaches you things that are harder to pick up in a youth-only setting.

**Has being at Reading School shaped your musicianship in any way?**

Yes, there are a lot of great musicians in the school, and there are so many opportunities. I'm very happy about that.

**What's something about you that would surprise most people at Reading School?**

That I also really enjoy athletics outside of music, particularly park runs and long-distance running.

**Time for some quick-fire questions. If you could only keep one, cello, piano, or percussion?**

Piano.

**Favourite composer?**

Mahler.

**Concert hall or outdoor performance?**

Concert hall. Definitely.

**If you weren't a musician, what would your thing be?**

Coding.

**Reading School in three words?**

Fun, happy, adventurous.

On behalf of the whole School community, we wish George the very best of luck at the Berkshire Young Musician final on 22 March.



# Reading School Events

## Vocal Showcase - Tuesday 24 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 26 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 8 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](mailto:michael.barrott@btinternet.com). For any other queries, please email [alumni@reading-school.co.uk](mailto: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

## Sanctuary and Solidarity: A Fundraising Concert for Reading's Refugees



On Saturday 25 April, Reading Minster will host *Sanctuary and Solidarity*, a fundraising concert in support of [Reading's Refugee Support Group](#). The evening has been organised by Rev. Amy Sykes, who has extended a personal invitation to Reading School families.

The programme features SANSARA Choral Collective alongside soprano Ruby Hughes, and includes music composed specifically in response to themes of displacement. Reading's Ukrainian choir, Kryla - formed to support the mental health of Ukrainian refugees, will also perform, with an opportunity for community voices to join a 'Come and Sing' element earlier in the evening. Male voices are particularly welcome for this rehearsal.

Rev. Sykes describes the evening as one that seeks "*to interrupt divisive narratives, fostering community and nurturing curiosity and compassion*", values she felt Reading School would recognise.

For students interested in international affairs, choral music, or simply in understanding what their town looks and sounds like when it comes together, this is worth attending.

Tickets are available via the QR code on the poster. Cash tickets may also be available on the door, subject to availability. The concert begins at 6pm.

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

# RSPA

## The Uniform Shop

The uniform shop will be opening at **3:30 - 4:30pm on Friday 20 March** and at **10:30am - 12:30pm on Saturday 21 March**.

We would also love donations of any Macron kit, ties of all houses and sixth form (currently we have plenty of shirts and trousers). Donations can be given in at the shop opening or given in to Student services.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Bag 2 School Collection – a reminder

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.



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	

## RSPA needs YOU! - New committee members needed

It's hard to believe that the RSPA are already thinking of the end of another academic year but come September we will need to add some new members to our team.

Please do step forward and take on a role.

The committee needs parents in place to assist with fundraising and decision making that affects the current and future generation of students, working their way through years 7 to 13.

Roles available/becoming available are Secretary, Vice-Chair, Vice-Treasurer and also as Fundraisers, for which all new ideas are welcome. Our next AGM will be October, at which new committee members are officially appointed.

We also need to send our thanks and appreciation to Deval Gujrati, who has stepped down as Secretary, but is remaining onboard as a volunteer for our future events. Deval will be much missed for her cheerful, regular and long-standing contribution to the RSPA committee team.

Details of the RSPA upcoming events for 2026 are to follow in due course.

If you wish to volunteer either to be a part of our next RSPA committee, or for any upcoming events, please do email us on [contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk). Thank you.

## The Team

### Introducing our Preloved Uniform Shop Team, Mrs Anya Alderslade and Mrs Jaspreet Dhanjal



Hi all, I'm Jaspreet (on right), and I've been a member of the RSPA since 2018. I served on the committee as Secretary for a couple of years when my eldest son (Rajan) was at the school. I have volunteered in the Shop and at various events on an ad hoc basis. Being part of the committee has given me an insight to the workings of the school and an opportunity to make a difference by supporting the fundraising that we do. It's also provided a group of friends and it's lovely to be working towards a common goal of enhancing the school experience for our boys.

The Shop has been a function of the RSPA that I have enjoyed supporting over the years. There's always something constructive to do during the openings and I enjoy being able to provide advice and chat to parents and students. As a busy mum, the flexibility of being able to volunteer at some openings and not others made this really accessible to me.

Now that my youngest son Vijay (Y8) has started his journey at Reading School, I wanted to contribute in a more substantial way. However, with priorities to support my daughter Ameya (Y13 at Kendrick), run my business and volunteer at the Gurdwara, it was hard to make another commitment. So, when I heard that Anya was looking for a co-manager I jumped at the chance! This was an opportunity for both of us to make a commitment and have each other to lean on when life, inevitably, gets busy.

I'm now delighted to be running the Shop with Anya, building on the legacy provided by Julie and Jacqui before her. I enjoy providing such a useful service of supplying pre-loved uniform items at such good prices. It's quite a responsibility to run the Shop, as we know how important it can be to replace items of uniform and kit, shoes and trainers, especially when things get lost and the boys grow so fast. A big part of our job is predicting the weather, as sadly we're unable to open on rainy days.

We look forward to meeting you at future openings.

Hi, my name is Anya Alderslade (on left). I'm mum to three children: Rowan (Y11) and Cameron (Y7) at Reading School, and Bethany (Y9) at Kendrick School. Outside of school life, I work as a Veterinary Surgeon in Veterinary Pharmacovigilance within the Animal Health Pharmaceutical sector.

My first experience of the RSPA Uniform Shop was just before Rowan started Year 7 in 2021. We visited the shop and planned to pick up a spare blazer. The parent volunteers at the shop were so friendly and we were amazed at how much high-quality uniform was available - much of it barely worn due to lockdowns and growth spurts. We ended up leaving with almost everything Rowan needed, buying only the new Macron PE and games kit bundle.

After such a warm and helpful introduction to the school community, I volunteered to help at the shop and have taken part in most openings ever since. Through this, I've met many parents and learnt so much more about the school than I ever would have otherwise.

## **How I Became a Uniform Shop Manager**

With the previous manager, Julie, approaching the end of her son's time at the school, the shop needed new volunteers to take on the management. With other commitments already on my plate (including helping at the Kendrick uniform shop and being a Scout Trustee for our local unit), I wasn't sure I could take it on. However, when my youngest son also joined the school, and Jas volunteered to run it with me, it felt right to give something back.

## **What the Uniform Shop Means to Me**

Being involved with RSPA has enriched my experience as a parent. I've met people I might never have crossed paths with and formed new friendships within the school community.

I also feel strongly about the importance of reusing and recycling uniform in today's disposable culture. Taking on the shop responsibilities has pushed me outside my comfort zone and allowed me to model the values I think are important for our children. To me, this role (and contributing to RSPA more generally) reflects three of the Reading School values: Integrity, Leadership, and Community. With time, Jas and I hope to add Excellence to that list as we continue to take the shop forward in the coming years.

## **Can you get involved**

Please do pop by the RSPA Uniform Shop and say hello. If you'd like to join our lovely team of volunteers, we would be delighted. There is **no obligation** to help at every opening - simply volunteer if any of the time slots suit you.

**Email** (to volunteer or for questions): [shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk)

Best wishes

RSPA Team

# Highlights: Lent Term Week 9

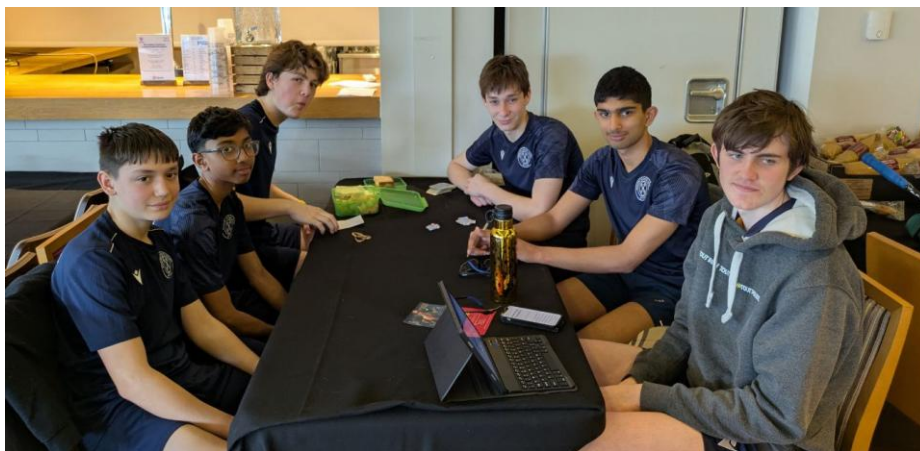
Join the Reading School community online and never miss a moment.



**Facebook:** ReadingSchoolOfficial **Instagram:** @reading\_sch **LinkedIn:** school/reading-school

## Reading School Squash reach the National Finals

Before half term, the Reading School KS4 team competed in the second round of the National Schools Squash Championships and did exceptionally well, beating Berkhamsted and Bedford Modern schools and qualifying for the national Plate finals as the strongest second place finisher.



Subsequently, the team headed to Birmingham last week to play some of the best squash players in the country. The team of Henry R (11E), Abraham S (11C), Mayur J (8E), Kaushal N (9S), Maxim H (10S), and Oscar Z (11W) represented the school with distinction, showing their ability and their character against some very strong opposition. They ultimately finished in 8<sup>th</sup> place, with the highlight being a narrow 3-2 loss to Barnard Castle school, where even the opposition could not help but compliment the team on their determination to run down every single ball.

Photo credits: Dr C Lewis-Brown



## The Sun Came Out for Rounders

Year 11s enjoyed their time in the sun this week







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](mailto:communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk)