



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

20 March 2026

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Introduction

Dear Parents, carers, colleagues, and students,

My thanks this week go to all those who have represented their house in our Eisteddfod on Tuesday. A remarkable range of speeches, poems, creative writing and performances [filled the Chapel with wonder](#).

My thanks, too, to all those who contributed to our inaugural Creative Arts Eisteddfod strand, in which each house had 36 hours to build a full theatrical piece, with music and props, from a single word. County House took the overall Eisteddfod title. Laud House won the new Creative Arts format, taking the theme of 'Pressure' and answering it with 'What Pressure?'.

Equally, my thanks go to all those students who have hosted German exchange students. We are so appreciative of your commitment and hope that you have gained from these new friendships and exposure to cultural diversity.

I can't thank the German hosts without also thanking those students who have hosted guests from Denmark. They had such a wonderful time with you that a number said they didn't want to go home! Thank you for being so open and receptive to these guests, whose teachers have given us lots to think about.

I must also thank our team of eight students who took part in the Panathlon Challenge at Bisham Abbey on Tuesday, finishing third - this was an amazing accomplishment.

Thanks, too, to the 137 students who have represented the school in football fixtures this week.

Thanks to those who asked such erudite questions at the local Tudor History Symposium yesterday, and to those who threw themselves into the Year 7 & 8 Maths Olympiad Intermediate Challenge!

What remarkable young people you are.

What remarkable staff, too, for delivering such an incredible range of opportunities.

Perhaps I can finish by noting that we might have to bin all of these activities next year.

The government has just informed us of our grant funding for 2026/27. We have been awarded 0% additional funding and anticipate unavoidable cost increases of 3% for staffing because of inflationary pressures.

At the moment, this means we expect a £324,000 deficit. Our finance team will be working non-stop to try to mitigate this preposterous position, but I thought I should flag how many of the things we organise, run, and value are not funded by the Government. They have even stopped funding any student's fourth A Level choice unless it is Further Maths.

Perhaps, parents and carers, you might join me in thanking your sons for all they do and for all they grow into. Perhaps you might join me in thanking their teachers. Perhaps you might join me in my indignation too?!

With best wishes - not least to all those families celebrating Eid today!

Chris Evans

Key information

All Years

Last Day of Term – Friday 27 March

08:20	Tutor Time: Year 7-11				
08:30	Period 1				
09:15	Period 2				
10:05	Breaktime for Years 7-10, Years 11-13 lessons continue to 10:15				
10:20	East Chapel	Break	Tutor time	Tutor Time	Break
10:40	Break	West Chapel	Tutor time	Tutor Time	Break
11:00	Tutor Time	Tutor Time	School Chapel	Break	Tutor Time
11:20	Tutor Time	Tutor Time	Break	Laud Chapel	Tutor Time
11:40	Depart	Depart	Depart	Depart	County Chapel
12:00					Depart

No students may leave School before 11:40am, food will be from Grab & Go only, Boarding dismissal will be at 12:15 and closed at 13:00.

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

Panathlon Challenge at Bisham Abbey

The Panathlon Challenge is a national charity providing competitive sports opportunities for children with disabilities and special educational needs. Events include tailored activities such as polybat, boccia, and adapted athletics, all designed to promote inclusion and self-belief.

Eight of our students took part in the Panathlon Challenge at Bisham Abbey on 17 March, finishing third in the competition.

Student Support Assistant Ms Mitchell said:

“It was a great afternoon, built around getting involved rather than any pressure to perform well. They welcomed our boys and understood them beautifully. All the events were very accessible, and the students from The Willink School, who were running the different stations, were brilliant in wanting to include everyone, however that looked. It was a fantastic event, and I was especially proud when the boys placed third overall. They supported each other, got involved, and had fun, which was the most important thing.”



The group was led by team captain Aaryan K, with Alfie C, Ash P, Ethan L, Thanish J, Raja-Ali Y, Hanwen L, and Aidan L completing the team. Competing in an event of this kind requires composure under pressure and a willingness to work together, and all eight students demonstrated both.

House Eisteddfod 2026

County House are this year's House Eisteddfod champions, claiming top place in Junior and Senior performance and finishing the day with the strongest combined record across all six categories. Laud House were the first ever winners of this year's new format which included Creative Arts Eisteddfod element which required Houses to create a theatrical performance in 36 hours.

On Tuesday this week, the School Chapel hosted students from every year group, competing across performance and creative writing in three age groups: Juniors, Colts and Seniors. East House won the Junior and Senior creative writing categories, with School House taking the Colts creative writing title and East House also winning the Colts performance category.



Creative writing winners were Arnav B (East, Juniors), Akarshan S (School, Colts) and Dylan B (East, Seniors).

'It's such a privilege to see students from across all year groups collaborating on projects and celebrating their engagement with the arts,' said Mr R Baldock, Head of English. 'It's also a lot of fun to read, watch and listen to how much they have enjoyed responding to the challenges.'

The Creative Arts House Eisteddfod concluded on Thursday and all Houses are commended on an incredible effort. Juniors, Colts and Seniors across all five houses were assigned a single overarching theme and given the task of building a three-act, six-scene theatre piece from scratch, incorporating original drama, music and art.

The themes this year were: Deception (School), Destiny (West), Pressure (Laud), Unlearning (East) and Silent Voices (County). By Thursday afternoon, five complete performances had emerged from those five words with Houses choosing one of the themes to interpret as they wished.

County presented 'A Tale of Tempests.' East presented 'The Choice.' School House presented 'Disordered' and West constructed 'A toilet-based fortune teller...who tells people what they want to hear.' And Laud, handed Pressure as their theme, answered with 'Pressure, What Pressure?' and won.



Ms A Cregan, Head of Art, shared:

“It was a privilege to observe the intense creative process of the two-and-a-half days of the Visual Arts component of the Eisteddfod. In Art, we often define boundaries to work within to help give us focus when making. Of course, sometimes we break these boundaries, or rules, to create, but the very tight creative brief opened up true creative freedom in the outcomes.

The visual contributions were assessed on their creativity and originality of design, scale and ambition of artwork, synergy with performance, utilisation of recycled materials, and the involvement of team members in making process. I was so proud of all the artists and makers. They supported each other effectively throughout, uplifting peers so that people enjoyed themselves, made safely, and were able to make creative contributions that added positively to the ensemble approach.”

The event was student-led throughout, with Sixth Form prefects taking responsibility for planning and coordination early in the week. Visual art teams began work from Tuesday and all five houses were in full rehearsal by the end of Wednesday. By Thursday, they were performing.

Congratulations to Laud House, and to all students who took part in House Eisteddfod 2026.

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. 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](#)

RSPA

The Uniform Shop

The pre-loved 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.

If you have any questions and want to get in touch with the shop team then please email us at shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk.

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

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. Thank you.

The Team

Confessions of a Lost Property Parent, Mrs Helen Sturk



Back in what now feels like the dark ages, when I was still taller than my sons, I remember feeling completely disconnected from my child's new secondary school. In my naivety, I was still hoping for cheerful chats with teachers at classroom doors and the opportunity to poke around the cloakroom to track down wandering coats and hats. Secondary school felt like a big, scary place, and it wasn't me who was attending.

I'd always been the parent who helped with School reading and volunteered at PTA events. Supporting the school felt like the natural thing to do, and when the RSPA asked for help, it seemed the perfect way to ease myself into this new chapter and meet the parents and staff behind the scenes.

If I'm completely honest, I also wanted to see inside this real-life Hogwarts I'd heard so much about.

As a parent of a child who joined during lockdown, I had only seen a limited amount of the school. No Year 7 welcome evenings for us, just wishful thinking and a lot of imagination. So, when I began helping with uniform sales, I was relieved to be warmly welcomed by Jacque and her team of long-experienced helpers. We would sort through mountains of shirts and trousers while discussing the mysterious ways a teenager can grow four inches over a couple of weeks.

One day, I was asked to collect a few donations from the student services office. What I found blocking the doorway was not a small pile of lost property, but a towering mountain of wet, muddy PE kits that could have walked away on their own. It's a mercy this magazine isn't scratch-and-sniff, the smell was something truly mythic. When I asked where the donations were, the answer came: "*Under that lot!*" And just like that, I volunteered to help sort things out. Some missions choose you.

Since then, I've been able to run lost property fairly independently with detective work, and industrial-strength laundry detergent. I've reunited countless students with their belongings, often with heartfelt thanks from relieved parents. What most people don't see is the sheer volume of items that get washed and donated to the uniform shop. The truth is, we can't return anything unless it's labelled. I seem to start every conversation with the same question: "*Was there a name in it?*"

The lost property pile has shrunk lately, thanks to our wonderful new student services team and a properly organised office. We've even started a new project where DofE students volunteer to help reunite items with their owners, earning hours towards their award. Meanwhile, I look after the nameless strays, washing and sorting them before they head to the uniform shop. Every year I marvel at the number of perfectly good coats that never find their way home.

My son is in sixth form now and towers over me - useful when I need someone to carry the heavier bags of unclaimed kit. Last year, while sorting through a pile swept up from around the school, I spotted a tiny pair of waterproof trousers perched on top. I laughed at how small they were and checked for a name...only to discover they belonged to my son, from Year 7.

Never underestimate the power of a label.

Best wishes

Helen and the RSPA Team

Highlights: Lent Term Week 10

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



Facebook: ReadingSchoolOfficial **Instagram:** @reading_sch **LinkedIn:** school/reading-school

House Eisteddfod 2026

Where Houses Meet the Arts

[Click here to view highlight reel](#)



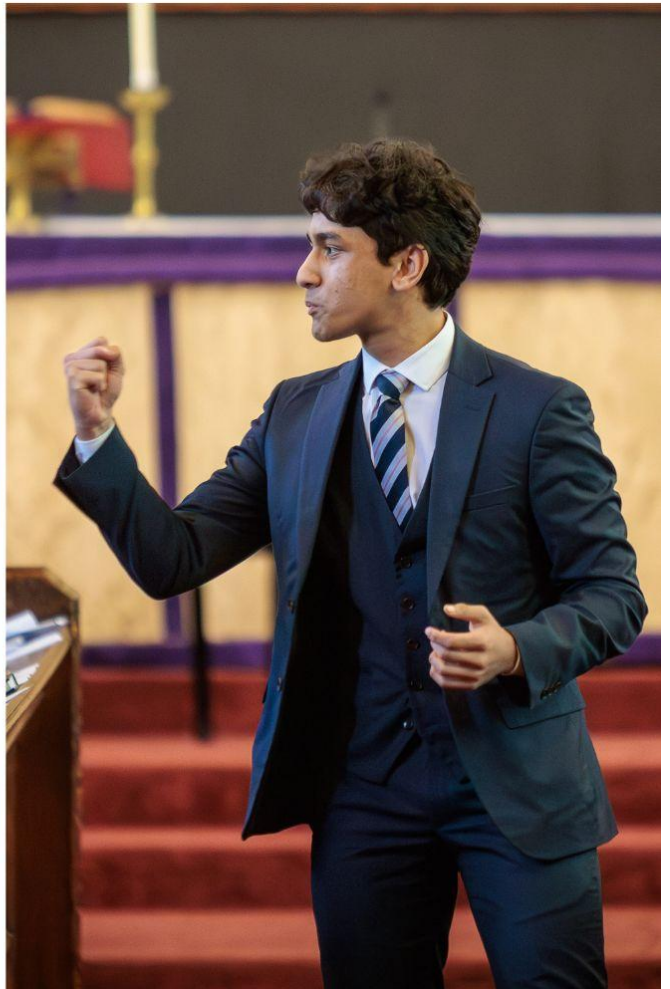






























LUKE
 (sighs, shrugging)
 Great suffering... still applies.

ACT 3 - SCENE 1 - Fortune Teller reveal

LUCA
 Alright... I need to know... how do you know all this stuff?

FORTUNE TELLER
 (smiling, casually)
 Ah... Luca... the truth is... I don't.

LUCA
 (confused)
 Wait... what?

FORTUNE TELLER
 I don't *actually* know the future. I just tell people what they hear.

(LUCA raises an eyebrow. FORTUNE TELLER gestures hands, speaking normally.)

FORTUNE TELLER
 Destiny isn't fixed. People believe, they act. I can make someone believe they can see coins under a toilet door—they might a

LUCA
 But... isn't that a little sneaky?

FORTUNE TELLER
 Maybe. But also kind. I re

think. And... well... I've g

destiny. Sliding a few

see flowing, the





National Cross-Country Success

Congratulations to James T (2nd from right) and Josh H (1st from right) for finishing first and second for Berkshire at the National Cross-Country Championships in Liverpool on Saturday 14 March.



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