



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

1 May 2026

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Key information</b>	<b>4</b>
Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 only	4
Internal Exams Weeks	4
All Years	4
Cycles and E-Scooters	4
Current Reading School Vacancies	5
<b>School Community News</b>	<b>6</b>
Captaincy Team 2026-2027	6
National Champions at the 2025-26 Ethics Cup Finals	7
Winners of the House Cup – County House	9
Butterfly Schools National Tournament 2026	9
<b>Reading School Events</b>	<b>11</b>
Faith & Reason Lecture – What Does It Mean to Be Human in an Age of AI?	11
Reading School v Marylebone Cricket Club 2026	11
<b>RSPA</b>	<b>12</b>
RSPA at the Goring Gap Race Event – Marshals wanted	12
The Team	12
<b>Highlights: Lent Term Week 14</b>	<b>14</b>
Eight students. One trophy. A day of arguments that mattered.	14
Flying the Flag	16
Chinese Bridge Speaking Final	20

# Introduction

Dear parents, staff, students and carers,

This week, we announced the Prefect Captaincy Team for 2026 to 2027. The rigorous selection process drew on the views of both students and staff, and we are confident in the new team that will lead with integrity, enthusiasm and heart.

It is also a moment to acknowledge those who are stepping down, extending our deepest thanks to our outgoing Prefect Team: James T, Rabin D, JiJi W, Karan S and Aaryen L, who have led during a significant year for the school. The 900-year celebrations asked a great deal of those in leadership roles, and they met that with consistency and good humour. They have all set a high-bar for those who follow and I personally found working alongside them a genuine pleasure.

Their professionalism, humour, and commitment have shone through in everything they have done. We look forward to their final announcements in the coming days, a fitting and characterful farewell from a team that has given so much.

To the incoming team: the bar has been set thoughtfully. We look forward to seeing how you make the role your own.

Next week's Bulletin will feature the House Captain and Prefect announcements, ahead of assemblies where students will hear the news in person. The standard of this year's applications was high. Many more students could have filled these roles than there were positions available, and that says something worth noting - leadership at this school is not confined to those who hold a title. We expect that to continue to be true this year. To those appointed, we look forward to seeing what you do with the opportunity.

There was also a further reason to celebrate this week as, Indiana S, Jaden L, George G, Sumi S, Mickhail C, Remi S, Aashmit G and Tejas P travelled to the University of St Andrews to compete in the National Ethics Cup Finals. They came home national champions. The team also received the Most Courageous Fighters award, given to those who defend a position with conviction while remaining genuinely open to the complexity of the other side. The judges recognised something in how this team argued: not just that they won, but how. Congratulations to all eight of them and who were supported by Ms G Ng (Ethics Cup Team Coach), Mr J Clack (Head of Theology & Philosophy) and Mr A Lloyd (Assistant Headteacher).

Both the Ethics Cup achievement and the appointment of the new Captaincy Team is worth sitting with. One is about what comes next. The other is about how a room of judges noticed something that mattered more than the result. Neither outcome was accidental.

Mr D McGall  
Assistant Headteacher

# Key information

## Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 only

### Internal Exams Weeks

Internal exams will take place in the following weeks:

- Week commencing **18 May 2026** – Years 7, 9 and 12
- Week commencing **1 June 2026** – Years 8 and 10

The documents relating to the End of Year Exam Information have now been published on our website and can be found here [Internal Exams Documentation](#).

For each year group, there are three documents available:

1. Timetable for the week
2. Exam week guidance
3. Revision guidance - including subject specific guidance on exam content and resources

These exams serve three important purposes:

- to celebrate students' learning and consistent hard work throughout the year,
- to practise revising for and sitting exams, and
- to provide opportunities for reflection and improvement.

If questions arise about timetables or guidance, please encourage your son to speak directly with his form tutor or subject teacher. This is exactly the kind of independence that Reading School boys develop early, and it serves them through their journey into sixth form, university, and beyond.

While many students will understandably want to showcase their best during this period, we would like to emphasise that revision should be approached in a calm and balanced way. Maintaining healthy routines, including time for rest, relaxation, and exercise, is just as important as academic preparation. A well-rounded approach supports both learning and wellbeing. We strongly encourage parents and carers to reassure students that these exams are part of the learning journey, not a source of undue pressure. Good preparation, steady effort, and looking after themselves are what matter most.

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing during this time, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Tutor, Head of House, or email [safeguarding@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@reading-school.co.uk).

## All Years

### Cycles and E-Scooters

We want to remind parents and students that e-scooters remain illegal on public roads, pavements, and cycle lanes. This means that students riding to school on e-scooters are breaking the law. They are also not allowed on school grounds.

There have also been recent reports from members of the public about students cycling dangerously, specifically on roads close to school. Although cycling is an excellent way to travel to and from school – how you ride also matters. Dangerous cycling puts you, other road users, and pedestrians at risk. Please follow the Highway Code at all times, slow down and give way to pedestrians, ride at an appropriate speed, and wear a helmet.

If you are unsure about any aspect of the Highway Code as it applies to cyclists, the [full guidance is available by clicking here](#).

## Current Reading School Vacancies

**Head of History** - We are seeking to appoint a dynamic and inspiring Teacher of History who is ready to share their passion for their subject. The successful candidate will be an outstanding practitioner who can nurture wisdom, curiosity and perspective in our students.

For more information about the role and to make your application, please [visit our recruitment portal by clicking here](#).

**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

## Captaincy Team 2026-2027



### School Captain - George G

Warm greetings to all. I am truly honoured and deeply humbled to have been chosen as our School Captain for the upcoming year 2026-2027. When I was told this week, my mind was cast back to the first time I set foot on the grounds as a Year 7 student, walking up the long drive, where I was taken aback by the iconic view of Reading School over the field. It is with deep gratitude that I am now writing as a Year 12, having just been offered the privilege of student leadership.

I am thrilled to be collaborating with such a phenomenal group of peers, both from my student cohort and the incredible team of staff and cannot wait to begin forging even closer connections whilst we develop as a team. My praises go out to the four dedicated vice captains - Isaac, Nandan, Akshaiyan, and Ryan - who will make an extraordinary squad as we take on school roles. Furthermore, I would also like to thank James T, our outgoing current captain, for all the time and effort he has put in during our spectacular 900th anniversary - I am keen to keep up the momentum he has built up!

My role as School Captain is to act as a point of call between staff and students, represent the school in day-to-day life and at events, and to lead the prefect team into Reading School's tenth century. I look forward to promoting our character values throughout the community, encouraging our students to approach every challenge with courage, and ensuring that our school is inclusive and welcoming to all.



### School Vice-Captain - Ryan C

I'm honoured to be part of such a motivated captaincy team. As the Vice-Captain of Events, I aim to ensure that every Reading School initiative leaves a lasting impact - after all, it's the events that create timeless memories.

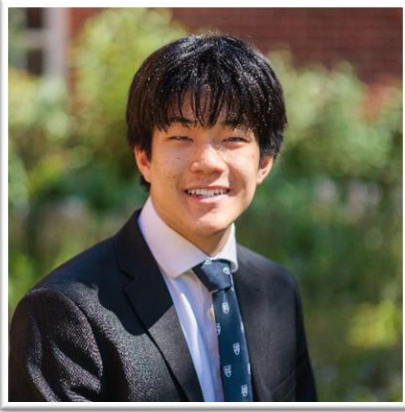
I look forward to working with everybody to ensure that Reading School is a place where everyone can flourish.



### School Vice-Captain - Nandan K

I'm really excited to work with such a supportive and driven leadership team. As Sixth Form Vice-Captain, my role is to advocate for the needs of Sixth Formers, helping to strengthen the community and make sure every student feels valued.

I look forward to working alongside peers I've worked with for almost six years in a new capacity, ensuring that students at the top of the school are empowered, and that the Sixth Form experience at Reading School is inclusive and inspiring for all.



### **School Vice-Captain - Isaac L**

I am excited to be taking on the role of Student Body Vice-Captain, and I feel incredibly privileged to be part of this year's School Captaincy team. Within this group, my role is to act as a clear and reliable link between students and leadership, ensuring that pupil voices are heard. I aim to represent the interests of all students, making sure their ideas and concerns lead to meaningful change within our school. Working alongside the other dedicated members of the team, I hope we can ensure that student suggestions lead to tangible improvements across the Reading School community.



### **School Vice-Captain - Akshaiyan S**

For me, the school community is what people remember long after they've left. Not the grades, the legacy you leave on your last day of Year 13. As Community Vice Captain, I'll be chairing the Charity Committee, leading events that create real impact for the people of Reading and beyond. I'll be overseeing our Future Stories and External Relations Prefects, making sure the story we tell the outside world reflects love, care and excellence. To every student reading this - a community isn't built by a leadership team alone. Every one of you has the power to leave your legacy.

### **School Prefects**

- Quasim A & Yicheng L (Events)
- Sudhish D & Daniel P (External Relations)
- Nag V (Careers)
- Conall C (Sustainability)
- Abdul A & Ollie W-Y (Future Stories)
- Tom C (Chaplaincy)

### **National Champions at the 2025-26 Ethics Cup Finals**

Following their victory in the regional finals this past January, the team - comprising Indiana S, Jaden L, George G, Sumi S, Mickhail C, Remi S, Aashmit G, and Tejas P, travelled to the University of St Andrews in Scotland to face the country's most formidable ethical thinkers.

The National Finals demanded incredible resilience. Throughout a day of rigorous competition, the team tackled a diverse range of complex cases, from the ethics of economic practices to the societal challenges posed by the rapid integration of AI.

What set the Reading School team apart was their commitment to growth; by constantly reflecting and implementing judges' feedback after each round, they steadily climbed the leaderboard. This determination saw them earn a spot in the Grand Final against Leeds Grammar.

Beyond the overall victory, the team was also honoured with the prize for the Most Courageous Fighters which recognised their ability to commit to and defend a viewpoint with conviction, while simultaneously demonstrating remarkable empathy and diplomacy toward their opponents. The

judges noted their skill in establishing nuanced philosophical positions that moved beyond simple binaries to address the true complexity of the cases

The final was held in the prestigious, packed main hall in the St Andrews Quad. The proceedings were overseen by a distinguished panel led by Professor Dame Sally Mapstone FRSE, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of St Andrews.

In this high-pressure environment, Reading School delivered a masterful performance. Their presentation was noted for its professionalism and stature, specifically in how the students handled intense scrutiny and questioning. Their ability to balance sophisticated ethical theory with calm, professional delivery ultimately secured them the national trophy.



[Click this link to read reflections from the Ethics Cup Team](#)

## Winners of the House Cup – County House



On Wednesday this week, Dr Evans presented County House with their first House Cup in seven years. The House Cup, earned through each of the five Houses competing in events ranging from debating and humanities to music and creative arts, saw students of all Houses, across all years, competing in numerous events.

Dr Dowle (Head of County House) shared words with the House on the hard work and effort that each and every boy had put into winning the House Cup. The County House Captains, Eshan J and Raghav S, shared words of celebration and encouragement for the House too. Following this, Dr Evans shared that all students of all Houses should be celebrated when they give their very best, before presenting the

trophy to the House Captains to raise the House Cup.

The County House flag will now be flown for the coming year.

## Butterfly Schools National Tournament 2026



Reading School's Table Tennis Team travelled to WV Active Wolverhampton on 25 and 26 April for the Butterfly National Schools Championships, competing against schools from across England in both individual and team events.

On the opening day, three students entered the individual draw in their respective age categories. Rishaan S won Gold in the U13 boys' event, producing a composed and controlled performance throughout. Prayrit A reached the semi-finals of the U19 draw before being eliminated by the eventual champion, taking Bronze. Soumyajit D advanced from the group stages of the U16 competition before being knocked out in the next round.

The second day brought the team events, in which Reading School was the only school to enter two sides. The U16 team finished third overall. The U19 team reached the final, where they faced Grantham College. The match finished 4-4, with Reading School narrowly losing on countback by a single set to take second place.

*Competition Report courtesy of Mr Sawant and all players are members of [Kingfisher Table Tennis Club](#).*



Prayrit A, Rishaan S, Ethan Z and Sahil T

# Reading School Events

## Faith & Reason Lecture – What Does It Mean to Be Human in an Age of AI?



Due to unforeseen circumstances, the planned Lecture in March was postponed and a new date has now been confirmed. The Faith & Reason Lecture is confirmed for Thursday 7 May, 15:30–16:30.

As artificial intelligence increasingly shapes how we live, work and make decisions, fundamental questions about humanity, ethics and society come to the fore.

Join us for a thought-provoking lecture by **Jeremy Peckham**, Commissioner at the AI, Faith and Civil Society Commission, as he explores how AI is reshaping our understanding of what it means to be human and the opportunities and challenges this presents for individuals and communities.

The Faith and Reason Lecture Series, hosted by Reading School Chaplaincy, explores the dialogue between science and religion in the pursuit of truth.

**Date:** Thursday 7th May

**Time:** 15:30 – 16:30

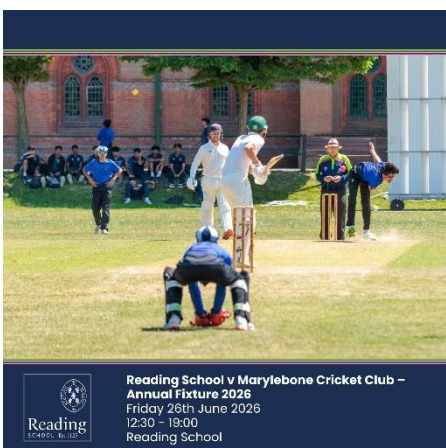
**Venue:** Lecture Theatre, Reading School

[RSVP by clicking here](#)

### About the speaker

Jeremy Peckham is a technology entrepreneur and AI pioneer with over 30 years' experience in research, innovation and business leadership. He has led major international AI projects, founded multiple tech companies, and now serves as a Commissioner working to ensure human values remain central in the development of AI.

## Reading School v Marylebone Cricket Club 2026



Now in its 129th year, this historic fixture has been proudly contested since 1898, making it one of Reading School's most enduring sporting traditions.

Come along for a fantastic afternoon of cricket. Parents are invited to join us **from 3:15pm for the second session**, where you can watch the match and enjoy pizza and ice cream from on-site vendors. From around 5:00pm, there will also be friendly taster cricket sessions for anyone who would like to take part.

Simply bring a blanket, settle in and enjoy a relaxed picnic while watching the cricket.

**Date:** Friday 26 June 2026

**Time:** 12:30pm – 7:00pm

**Venue:** School Field, Reading School

**Booking:** [RSVP by clicking here](#)

# RSPA

## RSPA at the Goring Gap Race Event – Marshals wanted



We still need lots of Marshals at the Goring Gap Race Event – mostly Saturday 9th with a few also Sunday 10th May 2026. Please volunteer to assist with marshalling duty and in return for your help the RSPA receives £60 per marshal (with most slots requiring 2 people, paid as £120).

Currently the slots are based in Caversham, Tilehurst, Purley, Pangbourne, Whitchurch-on-Thames, Whitchurch Hill, Goring, North Stoke, Wallingford, Shillingford, Little Wittenham and Moulsoford. Last year we raised £900 and

the previous year £1,080. There are a lot more slots this year, we could raise £2,200 if we can fill all of them... but we need to be quick before they are taken elsewhere!

Please email Terri at [t\\_lorrimore@hotmail.com](mailto:t_lorrimore@hotmail.com) or text to 07810 445474. Terri will co-ordinate a slot for you and then you'll be given the race organiser's email and a location map nearer the time.

It's a lovely event. Take a deck chair, a flask of coffee, a newspaper or book, and enjoy 3 to 4 hours of basically cheering people on as they run (or walk) past you. Secondary school age children count as Marshals, if accompanied by a parent, so this is also a way that your child can be with you to help raise funds.

Please see <https://goringgaprun.com/> if you're interested in the event generally.

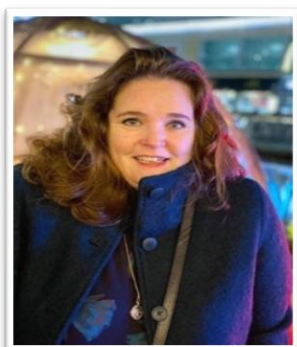
Please contact us immediately, to register your interest. Many thanks again for all your support, from all on the RSPA team.

## The Team

### Introducing our Committee Fundraiser Claire Kirby

Hello,

I'm Claire, Mum to Edward in Year 11 and Thomas who is now an OR - did you ever feel old?



My career history is Corporate Banking however I also have experience in the worlds of Estate Agency and Personal Financial Planning. I was also a Special Constable for 6 years. These days I am an exam invigilator for GCSE's and A Levels.

I joined the RSPA 8 years ago in Tom's first term at Reading. I was a member of his Primary School PTA with responsibility for their major fund-raising event which was a public fireworks display and raised over £40,000 over the years that I was in charge. I wanted to continue to fundraise for the benefit of my son and his fellow students.

Although my role is a Committee Fundraiser, I end up being involved in one way or another in nearly all events. In 2018 another member and I organised the first year 7 Disco that has now become a staple in the RSPA and Year 7 event calendar.

I also initiated the Bag2School fundraising campaign, a way in which schools can raise funds through textile recycling and at the same time raising awareness of the importance and benefit of recycling unused/unwanted textile items. We all like & need to have a good clear out from time to time and what

better way to do this than via this initiative organised by the RSPA whilst raising money at the same time. You may have seen me today at School for the latest collection!

As a group the RSPA has had its challenges most notably fund raising during a pandemic. We had success with moving events on-line and apparently my husband, who played quizmaster to our online quiz event, has a voice as admired as Tom Hardy! Rumours have it he will be making his next quiz outing at our special 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary quiz in the Autumn term.

As a family we are keen supporters of the school especially the sports department. In the winter months I can often be found (and heard!) on the front field enthusiastically supporting rugby matches.

We always welcome new members with enthusiasm, you don't have to have specific skills just a pair of hands and a willingness to get stuck in whilst raising much needed funds for the benefit of all the boys in their time at our wonderful school. It is also a great way to meet other school parents, not necessarily in your year group, and grow your knowledge of school life especially if you are choosing options or thinking about further education and ask questions of those who have experience. You can give as much or as little time as you have available, it's all gratefully received.

Best wishes

Claire and the RSPA Team

# Highlights: Lent Term Week 14

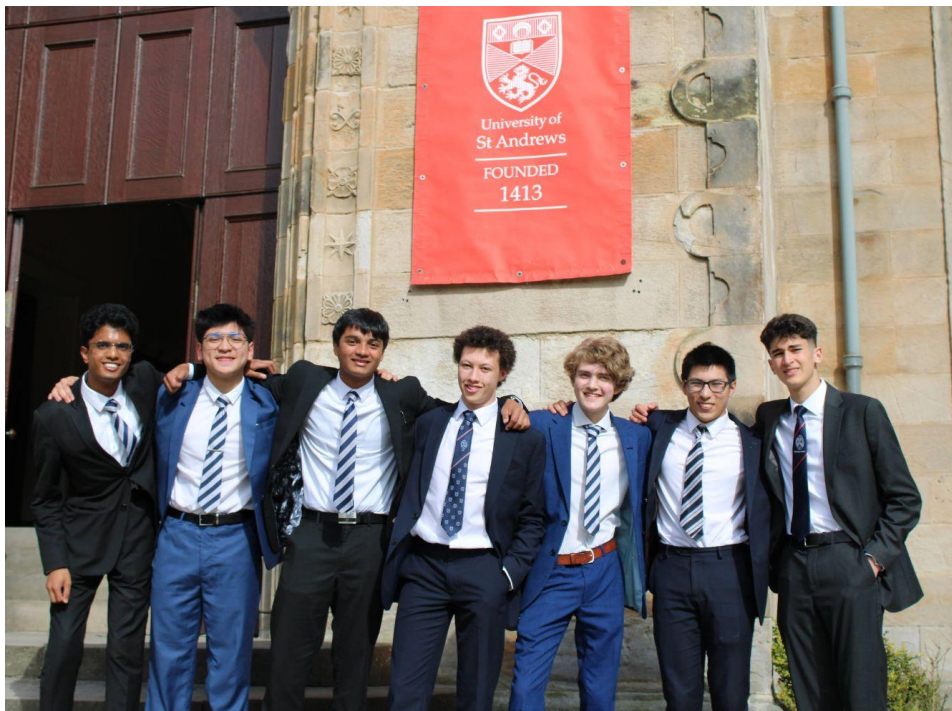
Join the Reading School community online and never miss a moment.



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

**Eight students. One trophy. A day of arguments that mattered.**

Ethics Cup Final 2026

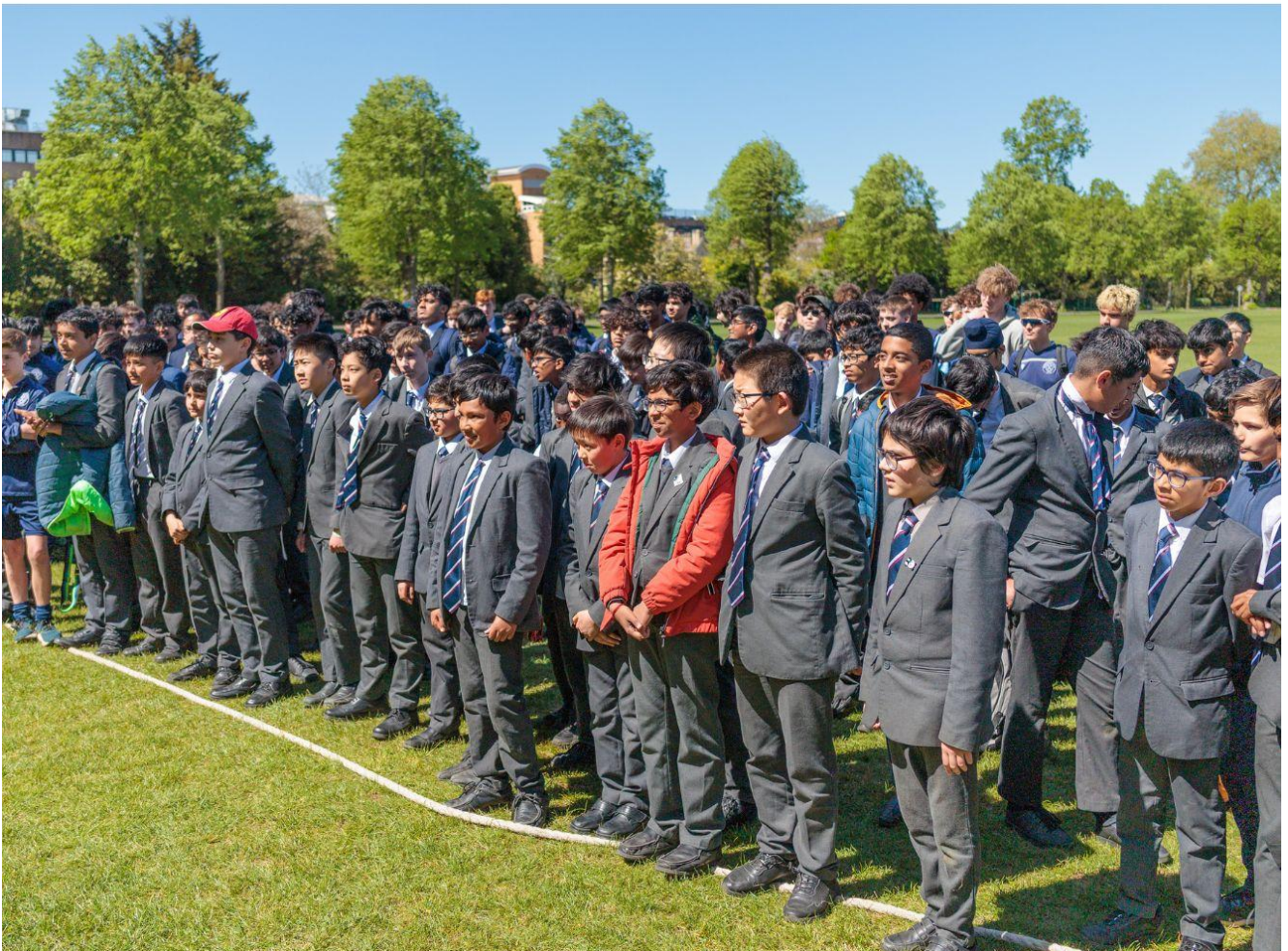




## Flying the Flag

County House Claim the House Cup After Seven Years









## Chinese Bridge Speaking Final

It's been a week of finals and cups with Year 8s and 10s taking part in the Chinese Bridge Speaking Final in London on Thursday 30 April. According to Mr Wu (Teacher of Mandarin), "they all performed to an exceptionally high standard and each student demonstrated impressive language skills and confident communication, representing the school with great pride."



A special congratulations goes to our Year 10 group video team: Yatharth, Bhanuteja, Grigory, Aarav, and Evangelos, for their outstanding achievement in securing second place. An excellent result and a testament to their hard work and collaboration.



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)