



HOW TO DONATE TO THE 365 FUND

A suggested donation of **£1 a day (£30 per month or £365 annually)** can make a **significant difference** to the **opportunities and experiences** available to our students, your children.



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

12 June 2026

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Colleagues,

This week I want to ask for your help directly, and I have recorded a short video to explain why.



(Click the thumbnail above to view video)

Reading School receives some of the lowest per-pupil funding of any state school in the country. Next year, that figure falls further: we will receive £11 less per student in Years 7 to 11 and £48 less per student in the sixth form. These are not abstract numbers. They translate directly into the activities and opportunities that, if you ask your son tonight, he will almost certainly tell you are the things he values most about this school.

The coaches to fixtures. The minibuses to Olympiads, national finals, chess competitions and debating contests. The chapel choir. The orchestra. The ensemble rehearsals and lunchtime electives. The Inspire lectures and careers provision that we have, until now, absorbed through our central budget. None of these are funded by the Department for Education. They are sustained by this community.

Please would you consider [donating to the 365 Fund](#). A pound a day. A specific, practical, and meaningful way to help us protect what makes Reading School what it is and sustain the experiences that shape the lives of your sons.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents, alumni, former parents, staff, and friends of the School who already support us. Your contributions make a tangible difference to the lives of our students and help ensure that Reading School continues to provide opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom.

Ten days from now we'll be lining up chairs on the School Field and praying for fair weather for our speech day. I hope you can join us on June 23rd as we celebrate all of our students' achievements. As we gather, I hope you will give thanks, and if you are able to, you might play a part in sustaining the things your son will remember long after he leaves.

Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All Parents

The 365 Fund – more information

Today, Dr Evans has shared a short video outlining the case for philanthropic support at Reading School and why community contributions are now more important than ever.

The 365 Fund helps sustain the co-curricular programme, electives, enrichment activities, events, trips and transport that go beyond what government funding covers. Like many schools across the country, we face significant financial pressures. Despite our strong reputation and exceptional outcomes, Reading School receives one of the lowest levels of per-pupil funding among selective schools nationally. Rising costs, increasing expectations, and the ambition to provide the very best opportunities for our students mean that we must look beyond government funding alone to maintain and enhance the breadth of provision that defines a Reading School education.

Next week, we will be running a focused 365 Fund campaign to showcase the impact of philanthropic support across the School. We will share stories that demonstrate how donations enhance the educational experience of our students and create opportunities that would not otherwise be possible.

The campaign will help raise awareness of the growing need for additional support and investment at Reading School. We hope it will encourage those who are able to do so to play a part in helping us continue to provide exceptional opportunities for current students.

If your family circumstances allow, parents and carers can make a contribution via the link below or by scanning the QR code.

[Click this link](#)

NOTE: When donating, please use the same contact details and email held on our school records (where you receive the weekly Headmaster's bulletin). Our system will attempt to match these against the records we hold for you. If a match is found, simply confirm to proceed.

Or scan the QR Code to donate to the 365 Fund:



A short step-by-step guide to donating can [be viewed by clicking here](#).

Year 12 Only

Year 12 - Entrance Test Support

7 years ago, your son will have queued up for their entrance test at Reading School. That day, they were welcomed warmly by the Year 12s at the time, who put them at ease and showed them the way.

It is now the turn of your son to repay the favour.

While the last day of teaching happens on Wednesday 15 July, the school and staff are still working on Thursday 16 July for Reading School's Entrance Test. We therefore need approximately **80 Year 12 students** to volunteer for either a morning or afternoon session, where they will be supporting the smooth running of the day.

The Events Prefects will be in touch directly with your son to get his choice of session, but your encouragement for him to give back to his younger counterparts is welcomed as part of his Service.

School Community News

Learning from the inside: two Kendrick students join the Redingensians Office



This week, Reading School welcomed Alexandra B R and Alka V, both Year 12 students from Kendrick School, for a week of work experience within the Redingensians Office (Development and Alumni Relations). We asked them to reflect on what they did, what they discovered, and what they are taking away.

In a job market that is shifting faster than at any point in recent memory, the ability to step inside a working environment, observe professionals at close range, and build transferable skills before leaving school has never been more valuable for young people navigating their futures. We asked Alexandra and Alka to reflect on what they did, what they discovered, and what they are taking away:

Alka V, Year 12, Kendrick School · Aspiring lawyer or international relations specialist

Alka arrived at Reading School with more work experience than most Year 12 students can claim, having already completed placements at a legal chambers and a traditional law firm. Yet she was drawn to the Redingensians Office for a specific reason: in law, she explains, understanding how networks are built, maintained, and operated is not peripheral - it is central. *"This placement offered a unique opportunity to see how communication and community engagement function behind the scenes to support an institution's long-term vision."*

During the week, Alka worked on inputting and managing alumni records, tracing historical data and filling in gaps to ensure the network's information remains accurate. She also assisted with organising Speech Day certificates and coordinating the distribution of former junior school prizes - unglamorous work, perhaps, but precisely the kind that reveals how an institution actually functions.

Her most significant shift was in understanding the scale and purpose of alumni relations. *"I didn't realise how linked the Old Redingensians are to the current students, or how dedicated the alumni are to supporting the school's community,"* she said. She was also struck by how much legal and institutional history is actively preserved within the department - a dimension she had not anticipated. *"Before starting, I thought the role would be mostly standard office administration. I now understand that development and alumni relations are truly the foundation of the school's long-term outreach and sustainability."*

"Knowing how to connect with people is invaluable — regardless of the specific industry."

For a student with an eye on Law or International Relations, the week offered unexpected parallels. Observing how inter-generational networks function at an institution founded in 1125 reinforced, for Alka, the importance of social responsibility and community. Her advice to any Year 12 student considering a similar placement is characteristically direct: *"Keep an open mind. The skills you build: networking, managing complex data systems, tailoring communications for different audiences - are completely transferable. Knowing how to connect with people is invaluable."*

Alexandra B R, Year 12, Kendrick School · Maths, Chemistry, Geography, Art · Aspiring architect



Few Year 12 students arrive at a work experience placement with a story quite like Alexandra's. Born in Lebanon, she was educated in French and Arabic before moving to the UK in 2020 during the pandemic, joining The Wren School in Year 7 while not speaking English. Through additional lessons, determination, and what she describes simply as extra practice, she not only caught up but went on to achieve strong GCSE results and earn a place at Kendrick School for sixth form, where she is now studying Maths, Chemistry, Geography, and Art with a view to reading Architecture at university.

With work experience in architecture proving difficult to secure, Alexandra came to Reading School with an open mind - and found a placement that offered more than she expected. Her main task involved updating and cleaning alumni records, work that developed her attention to detail, database skills, and confidence working within a professional team. "No two days are the same," she observed.

"I was constantly surprised by the amount of care, planning, and dedication that goes into supporting the school."

For Alexandra, some of the most memorable moments came from the school itself. Learning that Reading School's buildings were designed by Alfred Waterhouse, the Victorian architect, also responsible for the Natural History Museum, resonated with her architectural ambitions. She was equally taken by the work of local artist Theresa Lawlor, whose drawings of the school have been used to create Christmas cards. Above all, she was struck by the people. "Everyone was welcoming, supportive, and always willing to help," she said.

Reading School at the UK Maths Trust Team Maths Challenge National Final

Congratulations to our Team Maths Challenge squad, who represented Reading School with distinction at the [UKMT](#) National Final in Manchester, finishing 19th overall in the country. The team was comprised of: Ethan A (8W), Arjun Balaji (9W), Austin H (9L), and Ethan L (8E).

Reaching the National Final is a significant achievement in itself, with teams qualifying through regional rounds against strong competition from schools across the UK.



To then place in the top 20 nationally is a testament to the talent, preparation, and teamwork of the boys involved.

We are grateful to Ms Clarke and Mr Betteridge who gave their time to organise and accompany the team, and Mr Betteridge shared, "It was an incredibly long day for the boys, meeting at 5:30am and returning at 9:30pm, but they did incredibly well and represented the school with pride and passion. Their collaboration was put to the test and the feedback from the teacher marking their table was they were 'calm, considered and efficient in their communication'. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and achievements."

Registration for next year's Team Maths Challenge opens in October, and we look forward to seeing more Reading School teams flying the flag on the national stage.

A Warm Welcome



Rehan Pasha has been appointed as the new Contingent Commander of Reading School's Combined Cadet Force, following John Flexman standing down after nine years of dedicated service to the contingent. Bringing fifteen years of experience with the Cadet Forces, and a background as both a Regular and Reserve soldier, Rehan joined Reading School CCF in 2023 and has since been a committed presence within the contingent. He takes on the role with a clear philosophy: that the strength of a contingent lies in its people, not its commander, and that his purpose is to build on the strong foundations already in place. In his own words:

I am both honoured and humbled to have been appointed Contingent Commander of Reading School CCF, succeeding John Flexman.

This appointment is one that I accept with a deep appreciation of the responsibility it carries and with gratitude for the trust that has been placed in me. Having worked alongside some of you over recent years, I know that the success of our contingent has never rested upon anyone individual. It has always been the product of dedicated volunteers, supportive school staff, and a shared commitment to providing exceptional opportunities for our cadets.

By way of introduction, I have worked with the Cadet Forces for the past fifteen years, following service as both a Regular and Reserve soldier. My first experience as a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer was at the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, where I also taught History. Those years impressed upon me the unique value of the cadet experience in developing character, resilience, self-discipline, and leadership in young people. Since joining Reading School CCF at the beginning of 2023, I have been continually impressed by the quality of our cadets, the commitment of our adult volunteers, and the support provided by the wider school community.

I am particularly conscious that I follow a line of dedicated leaders who have invested considerable time and effort in building the contingent into what it is today. My ambition is not to change what is working well, but to build upon those strong foundations and support the continued development of both our cadets and our adult volunteers. Keeping the development of the cadets as our North Star.

I firmly believe that leadership is first and foremost an act of service. The commander may occupy a particular position, but the strength of a contingent comes from the collective efforts of its people. As Contingent Commander, my role is to support, enable, and coordinate the talents and dedication that already exist within our team, ensuring that together we provide the very best opportunities for our cadets.

The achievements of our young people are a reflection of their professionalism, expertise, and willingness to give their time in service of others. I look forward to working alongside all of you as we continue to develop Reading School CCF, uphold its traditions, and prepare the next generation of young leaders and responsible citizens.

Thank you for your continued commitment, support, and fellowship. It is a privilege to serve with you.

Rehan Pasha
Contingent Commander
Reading School CCF

Reading School Events

Speech Day 2026 – Update

Speech Day 2026 will take place on Tuesday 23rd June 2026.

- **Junior Celebration (09:00–12:00)** for Year 7–10 students and their parents/carers
- **Senior Celebration (13:30–17:30)** for Year 13 and Class of 2025 students and their parents/carers

We are pleased to confirm strong attendance, with **over 490 parents/carers registered for the Junior Ceremony** and **over 450 for the Senior Ceremony**. All Year 7-10 parents are warmly welcome to attend the morning and all Year 13 and Class of 2025 parents are warmly welcome to attend the afternoon, *regardless of whether your child is receiving a prize*.

If you have not yet registered, please RSVP using the link below:

[Speech Day 2026 - Junior Celebration](#)

[Speech Day 2026 - Senior Celebration](#)

Registration will close at 16:00 on Monday 15th June for final planning and seating arrangements. For every successful registration, a **confirmation email** is sent automatically (**please also check junk/spam folders**). To ensure we can safely accommodate everyone, **we are limited to two tickets per student and unfortunately no additional tickets are available**.

Some further notes:

1. Parking

We encourage the use of public transport where possible. There will be **no parking on the school site**, except for Blue Badge holders or those with specific accessibility requirements. If you require parking support, please contact: events@reading-school.co.uk

Alternatively, parking is available at **Car Park 1A, University of Reading**, approximately a 15-minute walk from school. This is a paid car park via the RingGo app.

2. Arrival times and seating

Open seating is available for parents and carers. Students will register as normal and will be organised on site before parents are admitted. We appreciate your understanding as we need time to organise students safely. Please arrive within the following times:

- Junior Celebration: 08:45 – 09:00
- Senior Celebration: 13:00 – 13:30

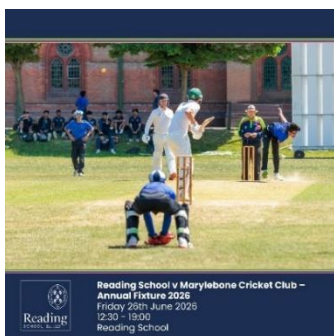
3. Junior showcases and refreshments

During the Junior Celebration, after the prize giving ceremony, there will be a short break during which refreshments will be available to purchase from the RSPA food station on the school field. We are very grateful to the RSPA members and helpers for their continued support.

Following this, students will take part in a range of year group showcases and activities between **11:00 and 11:35**. Your child will be involved in one of these activities, organised by their activity leads. Students will be contacted directly with further details. Please do check with your child nearer the time for more information and you will be able to visit them during the event.

If you have any queries regarding the Speech Day that are not answered above, please contact Mrs Chong at events@reading-school.co.uk.

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](#)

External Events

Brazilian Festival – Save the Date



Date: Saturday 18 July

Time: 11.00am – 17.00pm

Venue: Reading School Refectory

Tickets: Free Entry

Enjoy authentic Brazilian food, live music, traditional dancing, family entertainment, bingo, games and much more.

RSPA

Year 13 Replica Tutor Group Photos...£860 raised!

This was a special fundraising project for the Year 13 cohort, with the RSPA working with Reading School to recreate the tutor group photographs taken when this cohort first arrived in Year 7. Images that place the same group of students side by side, seven years on, with all proceeds going directly to the RSPA to be used for the benefit of students and the School.

Your incredible response has made this a huge success, raising £860! Thank you to all Year 13 parents & carers for your continued support.

If there are any late requests, please do contact Kerry at kerryobrien2004@yahoo.co.uk, indicating your son's house. All photos will be printed over the exam leave period and can be collected in School on Speech Day, taking place on Tuesday 23rd June 2026. See you all for a lovely afternoon's celebration!

Committee role vacancy

We're looking for someone to take over from the wonderful Jayne Sturge as our Hoodies Manager. Jayne has done a brilliant job over the years, and we'd love to find someone to carry on her great work. The role involves taking and distributing hoodie orders online and at school events, and can mostly be done from home around other commitments, making it a flexible and rewarding way to contribute.

You'll be joining a warm, welcoming group of parents who meet regularly and enjoy the occasional social get-together too. With some of our boys leaving this year, we're especially keen to welcome new faces who'd love to help keep this special community thriving for years to come. Get in touch by emailing contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk or come and find us at an upcoming school event. We'd love to hear from you.

Request for Volunteers

We would like to ask for volunteers for forthcoming School/RSPA events which are being held between now and the end of term. There are several committee members already volunteering at these events but we would like a few more. So, if you can please spare the time we would very much appreciate it. If you can help, please do get in touch with us at contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk.

Speech day – Tuesday 23rd June 2026 morning and/or afternoon

MCC Cricket Event – Friday 26th June afternoon

The pre-loved Uniform Shop opening dates for the summer term

Please note our next planned openings are on:

- Saturday 13 June, 10.30 – 12.30pm (**this weekend**)
- Wednesday 24 June, (Year 7 Induction Day) 3.00 – 4.30 pm
- Saturday 1 August, 10.30 - 12.30pm
- Wednesday 26 August, 6.00 -7.00 pm

If you have any questions and want to get in touch with the shop team then please email us at shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk. Should you have any unwanted items of uniform, please consider donating them to us. All donations can be left at Student Services in School. Thank you for your continued support.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Highlights: Summer Term Week 8

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



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

The Lab as a Crime Scene

Year 12 students took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry Schools' Analyst Competition 2026 this week. The competition frames practical chemistry as forensic investigation. Students work through timed analytical tasks using real lab technique, under competition conditions, with an external assessment framework. The regional winner will be announced in due course.









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