



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

19 June 2026

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# Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Colleagues,

This week, we saw Year 8 vaccinations (the success of which hit national news headlines today), a range of brilliant sports fixtures, lots of lessons providing feedback on internal examinations, as well as warmly welcoming the class of 2033 at welcome evenings for new families joining the Reading School community.

Two other notable matters hit my diary at relatively short notice.

I had the honour of taking members of the Chapel Choir to Kent to sing at the funeral of an OR. Mark Harvey was East Wing Captain in 1994, read at Oxford, and passed away after a battle with cancer at the age of fifty. The eulogies said nothing of his academic record or professional achievements. Each one spoke of his steadfast, faithful love for his friends and family. The choir and the congregation were reminded, together, that we grieve because we first loved.

I was so proud of the boys, who learned two new songs on the minibus and sang them with real grace at the wake. My thanks go to each of them.

The second was a media conversation. The local press and BBC Berkshire asked for the school's view on the proposed social media ban for under-16s. My response: young people need to network socially. They do not need social networks. If we can offer genuine, in-person opportunities for young people to connect, we protect them from algorithmic dependency and the slow cannibalisation of real friendship by big tech. If we cannot provide safe spaces for youth clubs, for music, drama and sport - we risk driving young people towards AI relationships and far more harmful corners of the internet.

The government's answer to this challenge is £132.5 million for after-school clubs. That amounts to approximately £45 per school.

If any parent, member of staff or student would like to suggest how to make that budget cover 37 weeks of staffed enrichment activities, suggestions on a postcard please!

Perhaps the simplest response is the one in front of us. Put the phone down and show what real-life connection looks like. So, with this mind, here's to: the Dungeons and Dragons club, our athletics teams competing with determination and resilience, the cricket teams who enjoyed a full programme of fixtures against The Oratory School and the members of our Sustainability Group who visited the University of Reading as part of the Reading Schools Climate Education and Action programme, engaging thoughtfully with one of the defining challenges of their generation.

These opportunities do not happen by accident. They are made possible by dedicated staff, enthusiastic students and the generosity of those parents who have signed up to support the 365 Fund, helping to ensure that these activities are possible.

Good luck to the boys heading to the National Chess finals next week. The Year 9s off to Lulworth. The cadets leaving for CCF camp on Sunday.

Chris Evans  
**Headmaster**

# Key information

## All Parents

### The 365 Fund – update



Since launching the 365 Fund campaign last week, we have been encouraged by the support already shown by our school community - and one figure in particular stands out.

Following the New Year 7 Parent Welcome Evenings earlier this week, approximately 10% of our new Year 7 parent cohort have already signed up to the 365 Fund.

For families who have not yet started their Reading School journey, that early commitment is a remarkable show of confidence in what this community stands for. We are genuinely grateful.

To every parent who has already given, we thank you. Your support makes a tangible difference to the opportunities available to students across the school.

We would now like to extend that invitation to all Reading School families.

The strength of the 365 Fund is not measured by the size of individual gifts, but by the number of families who choose to participate. Last year, contributions from our community supported enrichment activities, sporting fixtures and transport, elective programmes, academic competitions, and student development initiatives - opportunities that sit outside normal government funding but have a lasting impact on your sons.

A contribution of **£1 a day, £30 per month**, is all it takes to be part of that. If you are not yet signed up, we would be grateful if you would consider joining the families who already give.

We would also encourage those who are already donating to consider whether they can maximise the impact of their gift at no additional cost. [Gift Aid](#), [payroll giving](#), and [employer matched giving](#) schemes can all significantly increase the value of what you contribute without increasing what you spend.

**To sign up or find out more [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, otherwise complete your details.

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



# School Community News

## British Physics Olympiad – Physics Challenge for Years 7 and 8, and 9 and 10



A number of our students have recently taken part in the British Physics Olympiad (BPhO) Physics Challenges. The entirety of Year 9 and 10, and the top 25 from KS3 (Years 7 and 8) were entered into the **Junior Physics Challenge 2026**, and **Year 7/8 Physics Challenge 2026**, respectively.

These nationally recognised challenges provide an excellent opportunity for students to extend their understanding of physics beyond the classroom through engaging and demanding problem-solving questions. The papers are intentionally more challenging than standard schoolwork and encourage students to think deeply and apply their knowledge in new ways.

Year after year, the Physics Department, under the leadership of Dr Lewis-Brown, arrange for as many of our year groups to compete as possible, trusting that our capable students can put into practice our rigorous class teaching and wide-reaching curriculum content.

This year we are proud to, once again, achieve *above the national statistics* in our results and subsequent award certificates. Mr Elmore, Head of Physics, states:

*"The Physics Challenges are one of many opportunities that we feel Reading School Students can excel at, and encourage them to do so to support their learning and glean an early sense of satisfaction in their hard work. I am very pleased, yet not particularly surprised, that our students have achieved excellent results. Well done boys!"*

We are very proud of all students who took part and embraced the challenge with perseverance and enthusiasm.

### Year 9

32 Gold Awards 🏆

78 Silver Awards 🥈

33 Bronze Awards 🥉

### Year 10

69 Gold Awards 🏆

70 Silver Awards 🥈

10 Bronze Awards 🥉

### Year 7/8

24 Gold Awards 🏆

# Reading School Events

## Speech Day 2026 – Final 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 delighted to have received an overwhelming response to join us for Speech Day on Tuesday. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Please find a few reminders about the event below:

### 1. Pedestrian Entrance

Entrance is via **Erleigh Road only** for crowd control purposes.

### 2. Junior student showcases

Following the main ceremony, 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. You are encouraged to visit your own son first, and then explore neighbouring showcases. **Please do check with your child for details and location in advance.** [Click this link to view showcase map.](#)

### 3. 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, **with approval granted in advance.**

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.

### 4. Arrival times and seating

Open seating is available for parents and carers. Junior students will register as normal in the morning 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:

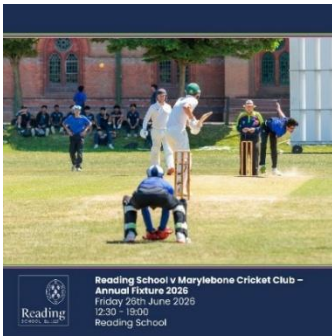
- **Junior Celebration: 08:45 – 09:00**
- **Senior Celebration: 13:00 – 13:30**

### 5. Weather

We want to ensure all guests can enjoy the occasion comfortably and safely. The weather is currently forecast to be very warm on Tuesday 23 June with temperatures forecast to reach 33°C. We strongly recommend you bring a refillable bottle (water will also be available on site), apply sunscreen and wear hats, wear light, loose fitting clothing, make use of shaded areas – particularly if you feel overheated.

If you have any queries regarding the Speech Day, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Chong at [events@reading-school.co.uk](mailto: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

### Summer Coding Club

FunTech will once again be returning to Reading School to deliver their summer technology camps, giving children aged 7 to 17 the chance to code, create and build exciting digital projects.

With over 30 years' experience, FunTech makes coding fun and purposeful, helping children design games, code robots and create digital worlds while developing real coding skills in small classes. From Minecraft and Roblox to Python, Java and AI, each course turns children's interests into valuable technical skills.

FunTech has also launched its new **AI Vibe Coding** course for students aged 13+, helping them use AI to turn ambitious ideas into impressive coding projects.

For families balancing summer plans, FunTech also offers:

### Flexi Camps

Designed for hybrid-working families, Flexi Camps keep the full week experience while allowing children to attend from the centre or home on different days.

### Camp Swap

Families can secure the Early Bird rate now and change the camp date, location or course up to two weeks before the camp start date.

[Explore courses and book here](#) - £100 off using code: 26REA100

# RSPA

## Help Restore Reading School's Playing Fields – Our Children Need Your Support

Reading School urgently needs to install a new irrigation system to restore and protect its playing fields and outdoor spaces - facilities that are essential for sports, physical wellbeing, outdoor learning, and the overall development of every pupil.

The reality is concerning: the main school field has been severely restricted in use since November last year due to safety concerns, significantly affecting outdoor sports and activities. As a result, several outdoor sports, including rugby, cricket, football, and PE activities, have been cancelled, moved indoors, or shifted to expensive paid venues.

This vital project requires £9,324, and the school has asked the RSPA to help raise these funds. A modern irrigation system will help create safe, all-weather playing fields, support year-round sports activities, improve student wellbeing, enhance learning experiences, and allow the school to develop better outdoor facilities for future generations of Redingensians.

At the RSPA, our mission is simple: to help fund essential improvements that school budgets can no longer cover -

especially those that directly support student wellbeing and education. This project is one of those critical needs.

Every donation, no matter how small, will make a direct difference to our children's school experience. Let's come together as a community to help give our children the safe, healthy, and thriving outdoor spaces they deserve.

Please donate generously using the QR code:



## **Pre-loved Uniform Shop...appeal for more uniform!**

We had a very successful shop opening last Saturday, which saw many new year 7 parents and children attend. It was so successful that we are now in need of smaller sized uniform items for the next opening on 24th June after the year 7 induction day.

We are appealing to everyone (especially Year 11 and 13) to have a clear out of any smaller uniform items (especially sports kit) that no longer fits or is no longer needed and donate them to the RSPA uniform shop.

Donations can be dropped off at student services and are all gratefully received.

We would also like any unwanted or unused text books and revision guides as these are always in demand.

Thank you for your continued support.

## **The pre-loved Uniform Shop opening dates for the Summer Term**

Please note our next planned openings are on:

Wednesday 24 June (Year 7 Induction Day) 3.00pm – 4.30pm

Saturday 1 August, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Wednesday 26 August, 6.00pm -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](mailto:shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk).

We look forward to seeing you there!

## **Committee role vacancy**

There is a vacancy coming up for the role of Hoodies manager, currently held by Jayne Sturge. We are seeking another member of the school community to take up this role preferably before the end of the school year whilst Jayne is currently in post. Jayne is responsible for taking orders for the popular hoodies online and at various school events and then distributing the hoodies accordingly. Jayne has had much success in this role in her years as Hoodies manager, but it would be possible to run this largely from home if you have other commitments...making it an easy way for you to help us raise funds for school.

You will be part of an active and friendly team, spending time with other parents in different year groups, which can be very beneficial for all. We have regular meetings and social functions, so it's not all work and no fun! For some of us, our boys will be leaving the school this year and so the focus must be on finding other parents/carers who would love to be involved in this wonderful group and keep this amazing community together for many more decades to come.

If you would like to find out more about this role then please get in touch at [contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk) or come and speak to us at one of our few school events before the end of term.

# Highlights: Summer Term Week 9

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



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

## Devised & Delivered

From Stimulus to Stage: Year 10 Find Their Voice



Year 10 have approached their devised drama performances with real drive and commitment, taking ownership of the creative process from the very beginning. Working from a shared stimulus, these boys have shown a willingness to explore ideas, test boundaries, and shape their own narratives. What has been most impressive is how they have transformed initial concepts into fully realised stories, layered with meaning and intention. Their ability to collaborate, take risks, and respond to each other's ideas has been at the heart of their success.



*“I am incredibly proud of the creative output they have produced. Each performance reflects not just a final product but a journey of discovery, experimentation, refinement, and growing confidence along the way. It has been inspiring to see them develop their voices as performers and storytellers, embracing both challenges and opportunities with enthusiasm. More than anything, this process has reminded us that drama is not just about the end result, but about the journey, and the dedication and creativity these students have demonstrated throughout have been truly commendable.”*

Mr Jenkins, Director of Drama





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)