



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

3 July 2026

Contents

Introduction	3
Key information	5
All Parents	5
365 Fund: The House Race	5
School Community News	7
Welcoming Two Old Redingensians Back to School	7
National Royal Air Squadron Trophy Competition	8
Army Cadet Annual Camp	9
RSPA	10
Reading School Parents Association in its 80 th year	10
Pre-loved Uniform Shop – opening times	10
Highlights: Summer Term Week 11	11
Reading School vs Langley Grammar School	11
Redingensians Golfing Society	15
Army Cadet Annual Camp	19

Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Colleagues,

It's been a great week in School, and I thought you might be interested to hear of a few elements of the week that you might not have known about.

On Monday our Year 10 Cricketers were crowned County Champions, our Boarders went to Thorpe Park, and the Department for Education's Statutory guidance banning mobile phone use for children in school came into effect. Meanwhile, our Golf team beat the Old Redingensians team in a wonderful display of inter-generational fraternity.

On Tuesday I met with nine Old Redingensians who have volunteered to lead our inaugural interdisciplinary academic conference. Held on October 23, 2026, it will explore Failure, Disaster and Near Misses, helping doctors, engineers, policymakers, bankers and alumni from all walks of life work with our recent leavers and Sixth Form students to reflect on the ways in which they might navigate challenges in the years ahead. We'll be sending invites to Sixth Form students in September.

On Wednesday, in addition to exploring whether we might be able to run summer holiday sports camps (an expression of interest form will be shared with parents directly), more than 50 Old Redingensians met in London to discuss the school's future and the ways in which they might help us in the years to come. It was a pleasure to be reunited with Ollie Lee from the Class of 2014, who had married just four days before and brought his wife along for the meal, and Colonel Peter Hale from the Class of 1997, who had just been appointed OBE for his services to first aid.

On Thursday, we celebrated the RAF Contingent of the CCF being named national Drill Champions. Two Old Redingensians from Canada came to visit us, Mike Thomas (2007–2012) who is Clinical Professor of Musculoskeletal Radiology, and Thomas Santram (1976-1978) who is Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Cineplex Inc and Chair of the board of directors for the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television. Both had amazing stories to share about their time here at the School.

Finally, today, I had an amazing meeting with our architects reviewing initial plans for the revival of the swimming pool and the creation of a new theatre. I can't wait to share these plans with you once we have narrowed down the options.

None of the above even mentions the wonderful week of cricket we have enjoyed (we are all rooting for our team competing in the Barclays Knight-Stokes Cup), the fun of welcoming new Year 12 students for induction, or the pleasure of welcoming two new pupils who are children of staff members.

But the term isn't finished. Here's a foretaste of the week ahead:

Tomorrow, on Saturday 4 July, the Class of 1976 are coming back for their 50 year reunion, and our Year 9 mandarin students head to China with Mr Wu and his team. On Monday our governors are discussing our Strategic Development Plan for the decade ahead. Our Year 12 students are working on their UCAS applications and their own career plans. On Wednesday we'll be celebrating Sports Day at Palmer Park. On Thursday our new Year 7 students will join us, and their parents will be enjoying a picnic on Friday. Years 7 and 10 will have Shakespeare workshops, and then over the

weekend, students will be heading on a Geography coursework trip to Wales, a Year 12 Physics and French trip to Paris, and a Year 11 and 12 Canoeing expedition in Finland.

Nevertheless, perhaps we can finish philosophically:

"It is not enough to be busy. So are the ants. The question is: What are we busy about?" (Henry David Thoreau)

With our very best wishes to all,

Chris Evans

Headmaster

Key information

All Parents

Parking and Consideration for Our Neighbours

We would like to ask all parents and carers to reflect carefully on how they use the roads and car parks surrounding the School at the beginning and end of the school day.

Despite previous requests, we have received a number of concerning reports about inappropriate parking, including parents using the Royal Berkshire Hospital Endoscopy Unit car park for student drop-off and collection. The hospital has made us aware that this is causing significant difficulties for patients attending appointments, relatives collecting vulnerable family members, and ambulances requiring access to the area.

This is not simply a parking issue. It is an issue of community values.

As a School, we speak regularly about respect, kindness and responsibility. These values should extend beyond our gates and into the wider community. When convenience is prioritised over consideration for others, particularly elderly, unwell or vulnerable members of our community, we fall short of the standards we expect of ourselves and our students.

The Endoscopy Unit serves patients who may be anxious, elderly, recovering from procedures, or attending important medical appointments. Having to search for alternative parking because spaces have been occupied by parents collecting children is unacceptable and creates unnecessary distress for those who need these facilities most.

We are fortunate to have strong relationships with our neighbours, including the Royal Berkshire Hospital, local residents and businesses. We ask all parents and carers to help us maintain those relationships by parking legally, safely and considerately at all times. Please do not use hospital car parks or private facilities unless you are entitled to do so, and be mindful of the impact your actions have on others.

We appreciate that parking around the school can be challenging. However, that challenge cannot justify behaviour that inconveniences or disadvantages some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that our actions reflect the values we seek to instil in every Reading School student.

365 Fund: The House Race

Four weeks in, **County leads on parent participation with 29% of families signed up**, East follows at 23%, School and West are tied at 17%, and Laud sits at 15%. The house with the highest share of parents on board by Sports Day next week takes the title.

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](#).

School Community News

Welcoming Two Old Redingensians Back to School

On Thursday 2 July, we welcomed not one, but two Old Redingensians back to Reading School as part of our Voices of Old Redingensians programme, which captures the stories and experiences of alumni for future generations.



The morning began with a visit from Thomas Santram (OR 1976–1978), accompanied by his wife Suzie, who travelled from Canada to revisit his former school almost fifty years after leaving Reading. During his visit, Thomas enjoyed a tour of the school, met with the Headmaster, Dr Chris Evans, and reflected on his time at Reading School in a video interview for the 'Voices of ORs' programme.

Now Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at Cineplex Inc., one of Canada's largest entertainment and media companies, Thomas spoke warmly about the lasting influence Reading School had on his life. He reflected on the school's emphasis on character, integrity and belonging, recalling that while academic excellence was expected, pupils were also encouraged *"to be a better person."* His thoughtful reflections on leadership, reputation and following a career that brings fulfilment will undoubtedly resonate with current students and families. Sharing his thoughts on parenting, Thomas stated:

"It's their life. Although parents should guide their children, they shouldn't choose their career. I wouldn't pick a career for them any more than I'd pick a partner for them."

Later in the day, we welcomed Dr Mike Thomas (OR 2007–2012), who has recently completed specialist musculoskeletal radiology training at the University of Calgary and will shortly take up a new appointment as Assistant Clinical Professor of Musculoskeletal Radiology at UC Davis Medical Center in California.

Following an interview and meeting with the Headmaster, Mike toured parts of the school that held fond memories for him, including the Chapel, Music School and Science Block, before delivering an inspiring talk to members of the Student Medical Society. Drawing on his own journey from Reading School to an international medical career, Mike encouraged aspiring medics to embrace opportunities beyond the classroom, to look after their wellbeing and to remember that medicine is *"a marathon, not a sprint."* He also shared why he felt it was important to return to Reading School to give back by supporting the next generation of students.

"I feel it's important for Reading School alumni to give back to their community...I want to give the boys some tools so they stay motivated - not just now, but throughout medical school."



Both visits served as a powerful reminder of the lifelong connection many Old Redingensians maintain with the School. We are extremely grateful to Thomas and Mike for giving their time so generously and for sharing their experiences, wisdom and encouragement with our community.

National Royal Air Squadron Trophy Competition

Following their win at the South West Regional competition in February, cadets from the Combined Cadet Force RAF Section attended the National Royal Air Squadron Trophy competition at RAF Wittering on Sunday 21st June to compete against teams from other CCF units throughout the country, testing their abilities in drill, air rifle shooting, leadership, first aid, cyber and space.

As always, the competition was very stiff, with the added challenge of being right after GCSE's and A-level exams. However, the team rose to the challenge, placing 1st in the Drill, 2nd in the First Aid and 3rd place overall - the first top three finish the unit has ever seen in the National Finals.

"We are so very proud of the team and their achievements at the National Finals, with a challenging set of circumstances (given the competition was moved from March to straight after their exams) they rose to the challenge as we knew they would. To rise from not even reaching Nationals four years ago to being in the top three, and the best at Drill in the country, is nothing short of amazing and the team should be very proud of themselves."

Flt Lt Cox, Officer Commanding RSCCF RAF Section



Army Cadet Annual Camp



Reading School Combined Cadet Force enjoyed an action-packed and rewarding week at Annual Camp during the end of June, with cadets challenging themselves across a wide range of adventurous and military activities. Throughout the week they took part in mountain biking, climbing, paddle boarding, canoeing, live firing, Training in Built Up Areas (TIBUA), Laser Quest, paintballing, archery, and an overnight camp under canvas.

The exceptionally high temperatures presented an additional challenge, and some activities had to be moderated to ensure everyone's safety. Thanks to careful planning and the outstanding efforts of the staff and cadets, everyone remained well hydrated, safe, and fit throughout the week.

The final day featured a series of competitions, recognising the skills and effort demonstrated by cadets over the course of camp. Reading School CCF achieved an impressive medal haul, winning two Gold Medals - one for First Aid, managing a mass casualty scenario, and one for Best Kept Accommodation, as well as two Silver Medals, awarded for Survival Skills and Tactical Observation.

Annual Camp was a tremendous success, providing invaluable opportunities for cadets to develop leadership, teamwork, resilience, and confidence, while creating memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. The contingent can be immensely proud of its achievements and the exemplary manner in which it represented Reading School throughout the week.

RSPA

Reading School Parents Association in its 80th year

To celebrate this amazing achievement a beautiful greetings card has been designed using an image taken by one of the current committee members.

These digitally printed A6 cards can be used for all manner of occasions and are blank inside.

We have created packs of 5 (with envelopes) which can be purchased for £7.50 per pack or 2 for £14 or 3 for £20.

The cards can be purchased by emailing Kerry at kerryobrien2004@yahoo.co.uk and also will be on sale at future RSPA events, including our autumn 80th anniversary quiz.

Please support your RSPA, where all monies raised will go back to the school for the benefit of all the boys!

Pre-loved Uniform Shop – opening times

Please zap the QR Code and save the link so that you always have up-to-date information about the next opening dates. Donations of good quality uniform items, particularly sports kit and ties, are welcome anytime via Reception or Student Services. In particular, we are in need of smaller sized uniform items for the next opening on 9th July. 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.



Thank you for your continued support. We are very grateful.

Summer term opening times

- Thursday 9 July (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.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Highlights: Summer Term Week 11

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



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

Reading School vs Langley Grammar School

Reading School beat Langley Grammar School this week in the Barclays Knight-Stokes Cup - the first national hardball cricket competition run exclusively for state schools, organised by the MCC Foundation.



Winning the Berkshire Boys section means the squad are another step closer to playing at [Lord's Cricket Ground](#) in September.



Before a ball was bowled this morning, the [365 Fund](#) had already done its job - covering transport so the full squad could make it to Newbury. The 365 Fund exists to make sure that fixtures like this one - away from school, against strong opposition, are accessible to every boy in the squad regardless of circumstance.



If you give regularly to the 365 Fund, this is just one of the opportunities your contribution makes possible.



Redingensians Golfing Society

The 2nd fixture of 2026 at Calcot Park Golf Course









Army Cadet Annual Camp

CCF Cadets Test Their Mettle Across Land and Water at Annual Camp









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