



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

10 July 2026

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Colleagues,

This term approaches its end the way most good terms do: with the important work having gone largely unannounced. It has been a productive and fruitful term, and much of what made it so will never appear in a newsletter.

As always at this point in the year, we say goodbye to colleagues who have given part of themselves to this school. Alice Stratford leaves us as Deputy Housemistress and Sixth Form Pastoral Lead, and Lewis Dowle as Head of County House, Assistant Chaplain and Teacher of Mathematics. Between them, they have quietly shaped the pastoral life of boys who will never fully know how much thought went into their wellbeing. In Mathematics, we lose James Travis and Paul Robson. In Physics, Simon Hu. In Chemistry, Emma Steedman. Joshua Ho leaves the Science department as Technician, and Luyao Wang concludes his placement teaching Mandarin. Beyond the classroom, Esther Chong leaves her role as Events and Development Coordinator, Siew Wong completes her maternity cover as Finance Officer, and Gordon Cowell moves on from his work as FSCE Customer Relations Manager. We will mark all of this properly, and with the warmth it deserves, at a staff gathering on Tuesday 14 July.

In September we officially welcome eight new colleagues into departments and boarding houses across the school. Markus Orgill joins as Head of School House and Head of PSHE, teaching PE. Holly Duxbury takes on Head of County House and Careers Lead, teaching English. Jack Rushton arrives as Head of History. Mathematics gains Sophie Kilian and Jack Mould, both also Boarding House Tutors. Physics welcomes William Quinton, Chemistry welcomes Nicky Wright, and Jane Brener joins our Science department as Technician.

A school is not a building or a timetable. It is the accumulated judgement of the people who choose to work in it, and we are grateful to those leaving for the judgement and dedication they have lent us, and hopeful about what these new arrivals will bring.

Now, the summer break. Families have six weeks ahead with no school timetable, and I hope time to spend outdoors rather than in front of a screen. Whatever your household does with it, I hope some of it is unstructured.

We return for the Michaelmas Term on Thursday 3 September, with boarding students returning the evening before, Wednesday 2 September. Until then, my thanks to every member of staff, every parent, and every student who made this term what it was.

With my very best wishes to all for the summer ahead.

Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All Years

End of Term Arrangements – Wednesday 15 July

08:20	Tutor Time: Years 7-10				
08:30	Period 1				
09:15	Period 2				
10:05	Breaktime for Years 7-10, Y12 lessons continue to 10:15				
10:20	County Chapel	Break	Tutor time	Tutor Time	Break
10:40	Break	East Chapel	Tutor time	Tutor Time	Break
11:00	Tutor Time	Tutor Time	West Chapel	Break	Tutor Time
11:20	Tutor Time	Tutor Time	Break	School Chapel	Tutor Time
11:40	Depart	Depart	Depart	Depart	Laud Chapel
12:00					<i>Depart</i>

- No students may leave the site before 11:40
- Food will be Grab and Go only.
- Boarding dismissal – 12:15 from each boarding house
- Boarding Houses will be closed at 13:00

Change to end of term date for Summer 2027

Students are now finishing half a day earlier than previously published – the date has been changed to Wednesday 14 July (pm).

The updated term dates can be found on our website: [Reading School - Term Dates](#)

Safeguarding – A Guide to Parental Controls

As young people spend increasing amounts of time online, parental controls can play an important role in helping families create a safer digital environment. While no filtering system is completely effective, parental controls can reduce the likelihood of children encountering inappropriate content and provide valuable tools to support healthy online habits.

We are sharing a comprehensive [Parental Controls Guide](#) for parents and carers. The guide explains how to set up parental controls and privacy settings across a wide range of devices and platforms, including smartphones, computers, gaming consoles, broadband providers, streaming services and social media. It also signposts trusted organisations that offer further advice and support.

We encourage all parents and carers to take a few minutes to review the guide and use it as an opportunity to have regular conversations with their child about staying safe online.

Residential and Overseas Trips 2026-2027

The [provisional calendar of residential and overseas trips](#) for the 2026-2027 academic year is now available. It gives an overview of the trips on offer, along with indicative costs.

These costs are estimates only. The final figure for each trip can rise or fall depending on travel prices and group sizes.

Some trips do not yet have dates against them. These are trips we have run before and intend to run again, but we are still confirming dates and staffing. While we aim to run everything listed, each trip depends on cost, travel arrangements and take-up. Where demand is low, the cost may rise or the trip may not go ahead.

We will confirm details as they are settled, so please refer to the Headmaster's Bulletin for updates. For queries, please contact trips@reading-school.co.uk.

If your son receives Pupil Premium funding, please get in touch to discuss financial support towards trips.

School Community News

Sports Day 2026

The earliest record of Sports Day in our archive dates to 1880, when it was known as The Athletic Sports, and the tradition was almost certainly running before then. Nearly a century and a half on, the shape of the day is the same: every House out together, every year group represented, a shared afternoon that says something about who we are.

The Head of Sport and PE spent the day with a 2-way radio in hand, holding every track and field event to its schedule. A sixth form crew moved speakers, mic stands, a keyboard and a drum kit across the track so the live music performances could happen between races. A parent and her son ran a refreshment stall from start to finish, raising money for charity. The Student Support Team set up a dedicated zone so that students with additional needs could take part on their own terms. And parents attended to watch, support and cheer their sons on.

The winners of this year's Sports Day? Congratulations School House. Outgoing Head of School House, Mr C Betteridge, shared: *"The energy in the stands, the leadership of the prefects and the effort from every single boy carried the house to the top. It was their win, earned together. Well done, School House."*



External Events

Musical Youth Festival



Swaram, a teen band led by Reading School students alongside peers from neighbouring schools, takes the stage on Saturday 18 July at Furze Platt Theatre, Maidenhead. Expect an array of popular musical genres from Indian rock to Western contemporary.

The trio, Siddhant D, Bhrgu H and Abhiram G, build their sound on an unusual pairing: violin and bansuri (Indian flute) woven through guitar, drums and piano, and carried by strong vocals.

Abhiram G says: *"We've been playing live together for over three years, and collaborating has sharpened our musicality and helped us grow as a band. If you enjoy live music, this is one you won't want to miss. Come and support us for a night of great music."*

Event details:

- Event: Swaram Youth Festival 2026
- Venue: Furze Platt Theatre, 101 Furze Platt Road, Furze Platt Senior School, SL6 7NQ
- Time: 4.15pm – 8.30pm (doors open 4.00pm)
- Tickets: [Click here to book tickets](#)

RSPA

Pre-loved Uniform Shop – opening times

Please zap the QR link 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. 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

- 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!

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. All monies raised will go back to the school for the benefit of all the boys!

School Lottery

The RSPA was delighted to launch the Reading School Lottery in February 2021. It is a simple and effective way for our community to support the school while also having the chance to win exciting prizes.

We warmly invite parents, carers, alumni, and supporters to purchase tickets and help raise valuable funds for the school. Proceeds contribute towards our Small Donations Fund, which has previously supported initiatives such as the USB Book Projector for the Classics Department, sound cables for Drama, and resources for extra-curricular projects and clubs.

Tickets cost just £1 per week, with draws taking place every Saturday evening. The more tickets sold, the larger the prize fund becomes. From every £1 ticket purchased, 40p goes directly to the school, providing year-round support for our fundraising efforts.

Each week, there is a guaranteed prize worth 30% of all Reading School ticket sales, along with the opportunity to win a Grand Jackpot Prize. Winners are notified directly by email.

You can [buy tickets by clicking here](#).

Highlights: Summer Term Week 12

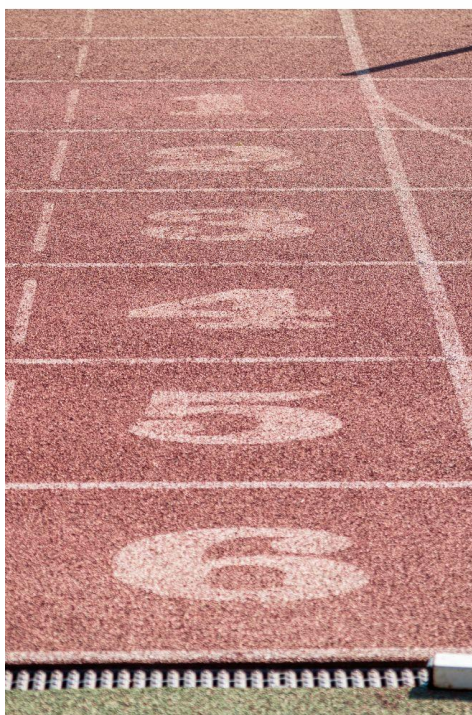
Join the Reading School community online and never miss a moment.



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

Sports Day 2026

"We don't turn back. We leave no-one behind. We pull each other up."















Success on the badminton court

Congratulations to Jack L (7C), who won two gold medals at the Badminton England National Under 13 Shires Tournament finals, taking both the boys' singles and the boys' doubles.



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