



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

11 September 2026

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Colleagues,

Welcome back to Reading School

A very warm welcome to all our staff, students, parents and families as we begin a new academic year. We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer and that our students are returning refreshed, excited and ready for the year ahead.

It was a real pleasure, as Acting Head, to welcome our new Year 7 and Year 12 students, as well as all our returning students, back to Reading School last week. We also had the opportunity to celebrate the Class of 2026 and Class of 2025 at Speech Day on Friday 4 September. It was a wonderful occasion for the whole School community, giving us the chance to recognise the achievements of our students and to wish our newest Old Redingensians every success as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

During Speech Day, I was reminded that education is not simply a journey for children; it is one for parents too. This summer, my young son learned to ride his new bicycle and like many parents, I worried that he might be too nervous, that he might fall off, or that he might decide it was not for him. Instead, he approached the challenge with determination and perseverance. Before long, he was spending his days whizzing around with a huge smile on his face. Watching him discover that newfound freedom reminded me that learning often begins with uncertainty, but the confidence, independence, and opportunities it creates are truly liberating.

Celebrating our students

I would like to begin the year by sharing the wonderful news from this summer's examination results. Our A Level students enjoyed an exceptional year, with a fifth of the cohort achieving straight **A* grades**. **Twenty-seven** students secured places at **Oxford or Cambridge**, while **15% of the year group are heading on to study Medicine**, with others progressing to **degree apprenticeships** and a wide range of exciting career pathways.

Our GCSE students matched that success, with **45% of all grades awarded at grade 9**, the highest possible grade.

These results do not happen by chance. They reflect our students' hard work and determination, combined with the dedication and expertise of our teachers and the breadth of support available throughout their time at Reading School. From outstanding teaching and academic enrichment to pastoral care, careers guidance and our highly regarded UCAS support, we work with each student to help them identify their strengths, pursue their ambitions and make informed choices about their future. Alongside this, our extensive programme of sport, music, drama, electives, societies and co-curricular activities helps students develop the confidence, resilience and character to make the most of those opportunities. It is this **combination of academic excellence, breadth of support** available throughout their time at Reading School and **wider opportunity** that enables our students to **achieve such outstanding outcomes**.

Yet, as parents, you will know that a Reading School education has always been about much more than examination results. Character is developed through the opportunities our students are given to challenge themselves, discover their strengths and learn from others. Through sport, music, drama, electives and our wide range of societies and co-curricular activities, students build confidence,

resilience, determination and the ability to work as part of a team. They learn to take responsibility, persevere when things do not go to plan and have the courage to try something new. These experiences are an important part of what makes a Reading School education distinctive, helping our students to grow into confident, capable and resilient young people.

Help us make this possible for the next generation

These results are a wonderful reflection of the talent, hard work and determination of our students and the dedication of our staff. But the Reading School experience extends far beyond the classroom and beyond examination results.

It's the moment a student takes to the stage, represents the School on the sports field, takes part in an Olympiad, discovers a new subject through an elective, hears an inspiring speaker, or gets the guidance that helps them choose their future. These are the moments that build character, curiosity, confidence and ambition, and they are what our students remember long after the grades fade.

The **365 Fund** helps make this breadth of opportunity possible.

State funding provides the core education, but it was never designed to cover everything that makes Reading School exceptional. The 365 Fund exists to fill that gap, supporting the enrichment, equipment and opportunity that a state budget doesn't reach.

We are inviting Reading School families to join the parents already giving to the 365 Fund, with just £1 a day, or £30 a month. If you pay UK tax, Gift Aid means that £30 becomes £37.50 to the School at no extra cost to you. [Gift Aid](#), [payroll giving](#), and [employer matched giving](#) schemes can all significantly increase the value of what you contribute.

Together, we can make sure that today's students, and the generations of Reading School students who follow them, have the chance to learn, lead and serve, and to make the most of everything this School has to offer.

£1 a day. A year of opportunity. A future shaped.

[Click here to join other parents contributing to the 365 Fund](#)

Thank you.

Lizzie Ayres
Acting Headmaster

Key information

All Years

Co-curricular Programme – Michaelmas Term 2026

Please find details of this term's co-curricular program by [clicking here](#).

Our co-curricular programme is a core part of the Reading School experience and plays a significant role in the school's ethos of developing well-rounded young people.

This term's programme covers 40+ clubs and ensembles running before school, at lunch and after 3.30pm, grouped into the categories of Music, PE & Sport, and Other Clubs & Activities. Music spans Junior Choir through to audition-only groups like Big Band. Sport runs from lunchtime strength training to rugby, badminton and squash. Other Clubs & Activities is the broadest section including: Combined Cadet Force, Community Rowing, LAMDA drama workshops, Philosophy Lab and Debating, plus Dungeons & Dragons, Warhammer and Rubik's Cube.

Most clubs are free and open to all abilities with no booking needed. Some, marked **, carry a charge or run off-site and a link to book is included.

Mathematics Calculators

To support their mathematics education at Reading School, all students are required to have a scientific calculator.

Recommended models:

- Years 7 – 9: Casio FX-85GTX (identified by a blue button)
- Years 10 – 13: Casio FX-991CW (identified by a gold button) – *essential for A Level Mathematics*

Please note:

- Year 10 or 11 students not planning to take A Level Mathematics can continue with the Casio FX-85GTX.
- Students studying A Level Further Mathematics may find the Casio FX-CG100 beneficial, though it is optional.

Ordering through the school:

Calculators can be purchased via MyChildAtSchool (MCAS). The deadline for orders is Wednesday 23rd September. Calculators will be distributed through maths lessons by early October.

Alternatively, calculators can also be purchased independently online or from other retailers.

Prices:

- Casio FX-85GTX – £14.10
- Casio FX-991CW – £26.72
- Casio FX-CG100 – £89.94

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

Click [this link](#) to watch a short 2 min video highlighting reminders about family tech rules and AI tips during a new school term.

Year 7 Only

Year 7 Expectations Evening

Assistant Head, Mr D McGall, leads in in-person session for parents and carers detailing: The Reading Way, Key Stage 3, Attendance, Familiarisation, The School's Priorities, Electives, Standards and Behaviour, and more.

Please [click this link](#) to access the online recording of the Year 7 Expectations Evening.

Year 11 Only

Year 11 Online Expectations Evening

Assistant Head, Mr D McGall, leads an online session for parents and carers detailing: The Reading Way, Pastoral Support, The Curriculum, Careers Support, GCSEs, Next Steps and more.

Please [click this link](#) to access the online recording of the Year 11 Expectations Evening.

Year 12 Only

Year 12 Online Expectations Evening

Head of Sixth Form, Mr D Whitehorn, leads an online session for parents and carers detailing: Key Dates, Subject Choices, Foundations for Academic Success, Pastoral Support, Sixth Form Life, Planning for the Future and more.

Please [click this link](#) to access the online recording of the Year 12 Expectations Evening.

Character & Service Programme

From September, every Year 12 student takes part in Character & Service, a programme built around genuine contribution to the life of the School. Students choose a strand, from peer mentoring and sports coaching to creative arts support and mentoring younger children through Future Stories, rank their preferences, and are matched with a staff lead and training for the year ahead. The time commitment is modest, around one 45-minute session a week, but the intention behind it is not: building, early and repeatedly, the habit of showing up for people beyond yourself.

Please [click this link](#) to find out more and all enquiries can be emailed to dtridgell@reading-school.co.uk

Year 13 Only

Year 13 Online Expectations Evening

Head of Sixth Form, Mr D Whitehorn, leads an online session for parents and carers detailing: Exams, University and Apprenticeship Applications, Attendance, Effective Study Skills, Coursework, Utilising Effective Support and more.

Please [click this link](#) to access the online recording of the Year 13 Expectations Evening.

School Community News

Two Redingensians selected for South of England XI at Lord's



Congratulations to Rishit P (11L) and Rohit K (11W), who represented the South of England XI at Lord's on Thursday 10 September, playing in the Barclays Knight-Stokes Finals Day T20 fixture against the North XI on the Nursery Ground.

Both boys were nominated following Reading School's participation in the Knight-Stokes Cup earlier this year and were selected by the MCC Foundation to take part alongside a tour of Lord's and a players' lunch.

The South XI won the match, with Rishit's bowling putting the North XI under significant pressure throughout. A fantastic achievement, and a proud moment for Reading School cricket.

Reading School Events

Registering for events and making donations via the Redingensians Website

For a number of years now, we have used [The Redingensians](#) website, so we wanted to clarify how it works for new (and current) parents.

The Redingensians website is primarily an **alumni platform for Old Redingensians (ORs)**, providing a way for former students and staff to connect and keep in touch. **Current parents cannot log in to an alumni account and do not have personal online profiles.**

We also use the website for **event registration and donations**, and current parents can access these services **without creating an account or having an online profile.**

Registering for an event

If you are registering for an [event](#), please select **“Continue as guest”** when prompted.

You **do not need** to create a profile or sign up to the alumni network. Guest registration is completely separate from having an online alumni account.

When registering, please use the **same details the School holds for you**, including your **full name, email address and relevant contact information.**

If we find a **matching record** for you, please select it from the list. If none of the options match, please select "none." This helps us link your registration to the correct record.

Making a donation

The website can also be used by current parents to make [donations](#) to the [365 Fund](#) at School. **You do not need an alumni profile or account to make a donation.**

If you experience any difficulty registering for an event or making a donation, please contact Piatrice at events@reading-school.co.uk.

During particularly busy periods, we may not be able to respond to every event-related enquiry individually. **Registering directly through the website is therefore the quickest and most reliable way to secure your place at an event.**

Thank you for your understanding and for your continued support of Reading School.

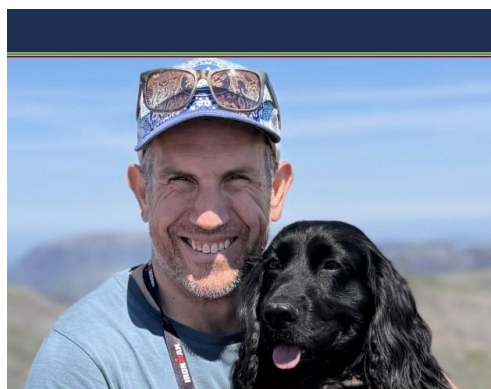
Michaelmas Term Events – Dates for the diary

As we settle back into the new school year, please find below what's in store for the Michaelmas Term. From September through to December, there's a busy and exciting calendar ahead.

We hope this gives you a clear overview of key dates and events so you can plan ahead and join us wherever possible. Your support and involvement mean a great deal to our school community and we look forward to seeing many of you throughout the term.

Read on for full details below:

Inspire Lecture - Mr Nev Davies FRCS (Tr.&Orth.)



Inspire Lecture - Mr Nev Davies FRCS (Tr.&Orth.)
Wednesday 16th September 2026
15:40 - 16:40
Lecture Theatre, Reading School

Wednesday 16th September 2026

15:40 - 16:40

Lecture Theatre, Reading School

Mr Nev Davies, better known to his patients as “Nev the Knee,” is a Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, where he has worked for the past 16 years. In this talk, Nev will share what it actually takes to become an orthopaedic surgeon, what a day in his working life looks like, and why the most important work he does happens nowhere near an operating table.

Organised by **Mantra J (11W)** and **Mrs J Pickering (Teacher of Biology)**.

RSVP Here: [Inspire Lecture: Mr Nev Davies FRCS \(Tr.&Orth.\) | Events | The Redingensians](#)

Open Coffee Morning with the Headmaster – 2026/2027



Open Coffee Morning with the Headmaster
Thursday 24th September 2026, 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Thursday 21st January 2027, 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Saturday 15th May 2027, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Refectory, Reading School

Thursday 24th September 2026, 8:30 – 9:30

Refectory, Reading School

We are continuing to host our Parents' Coffee Morning once every term this year.

This informal gathering is open to all parents and provides a relaxed setting for parents to connect with one another and engage with staff members.

Deputy Head, Lizzie Ayres, will welcome parents and be available to answer questions on all aspects of school life.

We warmly invite you to join us and look forward to seeing you there!

Michaelmas: Thursday 24th September - [Open Coffee Morning with the Headmaster \(Michaelmas Term 2026/2027\) | Events | The Redingensians](#)

Redingensians Golfing Society - October 2026 Fixture - Thursday 8th October 2026 8:30 - 15:30



Redingensians Golfing Society - October 2026 Fixture
Thursday 8th October 2026
18:30 - 15:30
Newbury & Crookham Golf Club

Newbury & Crookham Golf Club

Join the Redingensians Golfing Society at the Newbury & Crookham Golf Club on Thursday 8th October for an afternoon of golf, a sit-down lunch and a prize presentation to crown the day's finest performances.

Cost: £75 per person, including a bacon roll and coffee on arrival, 18 holes of golf, and a two-course lunch.

If you wish to join the Redingensians Golfing Society for this fixture, please email alumni@reading-school.co.uk for more details.

If you wish to spectate, RSVP here: [Redingensians Golfing Society -](#)

[October 2026 Fixture | Events | The Redingensians](#)

Kindly organised by Michael Barrott (OR 1966-1973) and the Redingensians Office

Michaelmas Concert 2026 - Thursday 8th October 2026



18:00 - 19:00

Big School, Reading School

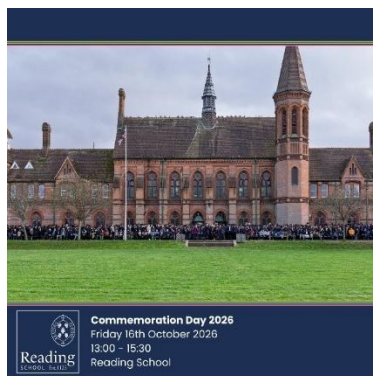
Join us for a fantastic evening of classical music performed by the talented students at Reading School.

Buy your tickets here:

[Michaelmas Concert 2026 | Events | The Redingensians](#)

Organised by Mr O Griffin (Director of Music) and the Music Department.

Commemoration Day 2026 - Friday 16th October 2026



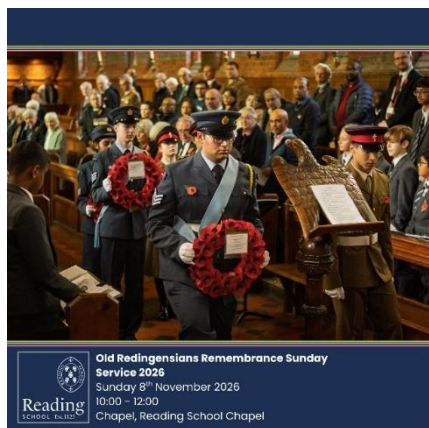
13:15 - 15:30

Reading School

Commemoration Day returns on Friday 16th October 2026 bringing together students, staff, parents, alumni and friends of Reading School. The afternoon includes tea and coffee, a welcome from Headmaster Chris Evans, a student-led learning walk through lessons in action and a closing service in the School Chapel.

A separate invitation to register to attend will be sent in the near future.

Old Redingensians Remembrance Sunday Service 2026 - Sunday 8th November 2026



10:00 - 12:00

Chapel, Reading School

Join us as we honour the service and sacrifice of those who have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life, with a special tribute to fallen Old Redingensians. We pay tribute to the Armed Forces, their families, and all who have played a crucial role in emergency services, and we remember those who have lost their lives due to conflict or terrorism.

The service will be led by Reverend Dr Chris Evans (Headmaster), with a sermon from Mark Amos (School Chaplain), and will include

readings, music from Reading School students, and a Guard of Honour from the CCF. Following the service, light refreshments will be available in the School Refectory.

We warmly invite you to join us in this act of remembrance and reflection. You can RSVP here: [Old Redingensians Remembrance Sunday Service 8th November 2026 | Events | The Redingensians](#)

Organised by Chris Widdows, ORA Membership Secretary (OR 1955 -1962)

Year 7 Music Concert 2026 – Wednesday 11th November 2026



Year 7 Music Concert 2026
Wednesday 11th November 2026
18:30–19:30
Big School, Reading School

18:30 – 19:30

Big School, Reading School

Music plays a pivotal role in education at Reading School, fostering creativity and personal growth both in and out of the classroom. This special event showcases our Year 7 students as they present the pieces they've worked diligently on this term. Impressively, they will be performing on instruments they only began learning recently, including strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass), trumpets, trombones, and clarinets.

In addition to ensemble pieces, we are excited to feature soloists from within the year group, adding a unique and personal touch to the night. Come and experience the joy

and dedication our young musicians bring to the stage!

Tickets for this concert are priced **£7 per person (performers do not require a ticket)**. You can buy your tickets here: [Year 7 Music Concert - Wednesday 11th November 2026 | Events | The Redingensians](#)

Please note that this event is **exclusively open to parents of Year 7 students**. To ensure that all parents have the opportunity to attend, tickets are strictly limited to **1 per performer**. Unfortunately, we won't be able to accommodate requests for additional tickets via email.

The Frank Terry Memorial Lecture 2026 - Thursday 19th November 2026



The Frank Terry Memorial Lecture
Presented by Rt Hon Mark Field
Thursday 19th November 2026
13:45 – 15:30
Big School, Reading School

13:45 - 15:30

Big School, Reading School

Where Now for the Rules-Based International System?

Presented by Rt Hon Mark Field

The Frank Terry Memorial Lecture is an annual event honouring the legacy of Frank Terry (1917 – 2014), who served as a History Teacher and Boarding Headmaster from 1946 to 1982. Since its inception in 2014, this lecture series has hosted a diverse array of esteemed keynote speakers covering subjects such as music, history, poetry, and politics.

This year's distinguished guest speaker will be Former MP and FCO Minister of State under Theresa May, Mark Field (OR 1976 - 1983). Mark represented Cities of London and Westminster (2001–2019) after careers as a solicitor and entrepreneur. Drawing on his diplomatic experience, he'll examine why global turbulence is the new normal, and how the rise of China, Middle Eastern powers, and a changing US role are eroding the post-war rules-based order, making urgent UN reform essential.

RSVP here: [Frank Terry Memorial Lecture 2026 - Presented by the Rt. Hon. Mark Field | Events | The Redingensians](#)

House Music Competition 2026 - Sunday 22nd November 2026



House Music Competition 2026
Sunday 22nd November 2026
15:00 - 19:30
The Hexagon, Queens Walk, RG1 7QF

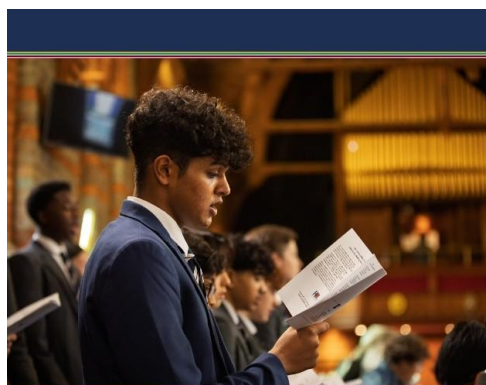
15:00 - 19:30

The Hexagon, Queens Walk, RG1 7QF

Our annual House Music Competition is set to take place on Sunday 22nd November 2026, from 15:00 to 19:30 at The Hexagon, Queens Walk, RG1 7QF. Anticipation is high for this eagerly awaited event, promising stellar performances from all five Houses. Ensembles, both large and small, will captivate the audience with music from films, while solo acts will showcase the talents of Senior soloists (Year 11-13) and Junior soloists (Year 7-10).

Tickets will be available to purchase early November 2026: [Reading School House Music Competition 2026 | What's On Reading](#)

Service of Nine Lessons & Carols 2026 - Monday 7th December 2026



Service of Nine Lessons & Carols 2026
Monday 7th December 2026
19:00 - 21:00
Chapel, Reading School

19:00 - 21:00

Chapel, Reading School

We look forward to welcoming the Redingensian community to an evening filled with Nine Lessons and Carols and a joyous display of Reading School's musical talents. After the service, we invite you to share the warmth of the season together over (non-alcoholic) mulled wine and minced pies.

RSVP here: [Service of Nine Lessons & Carols 2026 | Events | The Redingensians](#)

For any queries, please contact Piatrice at events@reading-school.co.uk

RSPA

Uniform Shop - exciting news!

The RSPA Uniform Shop has a new home! We're busy settling in beside the Music School, and we're excited to welcome you and your family during our next opening times:

Friday 2nd October: 3.30pm–4.30pm (no parking on site)

Saturday 3rd October: 10.30am–12.30pm

Join us on Saturday 3rd for our Grand Opening! *More details will be included in next week's newsletter.*

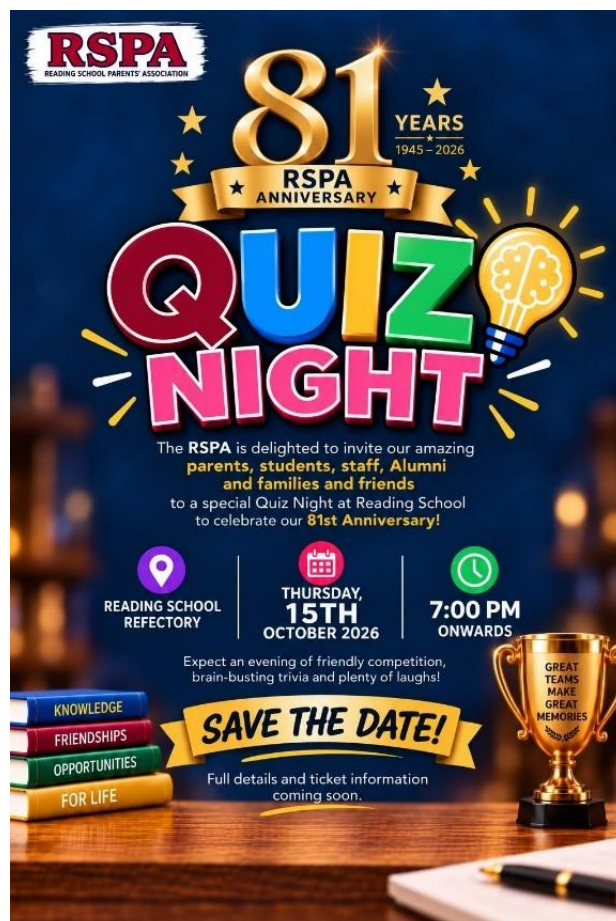
From Anya & Jas, RSPA uniform shop managers (shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk).

Note: Please zap the QR link below 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.



RSPA 81st Anniversary Quiz

To celebrate the RSPA will be holding a quiz in the School Refectory on **Thursday 15 October 2026** for students, staff, families and friends with further details to follow. Please save the date!



Parent/Carer WhatsApp groups



To those parents/carers who have joined the Reading School community recently and are interested in joining their year groups WhatsApp group then please see below. This has proven/continues to be a very useful way to communicate with fellow parents/carers within your own year group.

If you would like to join/access your own year group please get in touch with us via contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk indicating what year group you are in.

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 this link.](#)

Thank you for your support.

Highlights: Michaelmas Term Week 1

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



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

Welcoming our new students to Reading School

The journey begins here.







Speech Day 2026

"May the students become the masters"













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