



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

18 September 2026

Contents

Introduction	3
Key information	4
All Years	4
Mathematics Calculators - correction	4
Year 8 Only	4
Year 8 Online Expectations Evening	4
Finland Arctic Trip 2026	4
Year 9 Only	4
Year 9 Online Expectations Evening	4
Year 10 Only	4
Year 10 Online Expectations Evening	4
Reading School Events	5
Open Coffee Morning with the Headmaster – 2026/2027	5
Redingensians Golfing Society	5
Michaelmas Concert 2026 - Thursday 8th October 2026	5
RSPA	6
RSPA 81 st Anniversary Quiz	6
Year 7 parents/carers and families ONLY	7
Uniform Shop - exciting news!	7
Parent/Carer WhatsApp groups	8
RSPA at the Senior Speech day (September 2026)	8
Highlights: Michaelmas Term Week 2	9
122 Years Later	9
Surgeon. Parent. Coach	12

Introduction

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

This week's Expectations Evenings for Years 8, 9 and 10 gave parents the chance to hear directly from staff about the year ahead, in more specific terms than exam results alone.

At the Year 8 evening, Mr G Fairchild, Assistant Headteacher, set out a distinction that ran through the whole session: not what your son does, but how he does it. This year's first report home for Year 8 will make no reference to academic progress. It will instead grade four qualities the School has found matter more over time: curiosity, collaboration, reflectiveness and independence. Staff track these because the pattern holds up and students who score well on these measures in Years 7 and 8 go on to achieve strong GCSE results in Year 11, regardless of where they started.

The Year 8 evening also addressed a specific risk in a selective school: the idea that some students are naturally clever and others are not. Every boy has passed the same entry test. The advice to parents was to head off comparison between boys before it takes hold, since attitude, not a fixed idea of ability, is what carries a student through to Year 11. Information was also shared in relation to the practical side of the year: using the planner and Teams to track homework, encouraging sons rather than parents to be the first point of contact over lost property or forgotten kit, and using My Child at School (MCAS) to follow attendance and behaviour points.

The aims of Reading School's Expectations Evenings are to 'set out our stall' so that families are aware of what the year ahead looks like, what it means for your sons, and what the School focuses on. By sharing our expectations early, we aim to work alongside families from the same understanding, rather than parents receiving an end of year report and having many unresolved questions. Each year group's evening is pitched at what matters most at that stage of school. The aim, across all of them, is the same: to make sure you know what the School is doing and why, so you can back it up at home.

Wishing you all a restful weekend,

Ms L Ayres

Acting Headmaster

Key information

All Years

Mathematics Calculators - correction

Last week's calculator notice listed prices that mistakenly included VAT. The correct prices are below:

Casio FX-85GTX (Years 7 - 9): **£12.00**

Casio FX-991CW (Years 10 - 13, essential for A Level Mathematics): **£22.60**

Casio FX-CG100 (optional, for A Level Further Mathematics): **£81.00**

Anyone who has already ordered at the higher price will be refunded automatically.

All other details from last week's notice stand, including the order deadline of Wednesday 23rd September via MyChildAtSchool (MCAS).

Year 8 Only

Year 8 Online Expectations Evening

Assistant Head, Mr G Fairchild, leads an online session for parents and carers detailing: The Reading Way, Pastoral Support and Standards, Curriculum, Personal Development, Key Dates, and more.

Please [click this link](#) to access the online recording of the Year 8 Expectations Evening.

Finland Arctic Trip 2026

Year 8 students have the opportunity to take part in an Arctic Winter Adventure with Adventure Apes, the School's trip partner for the past seven years, based at their lodge on the edge of the Arctic Circle. Activities include igloo building with an overnight stay in it, ice skating, ice fishing, snow shoeing, cross-country skiing and a traditional Finnish sauna.

Two trips will run, with dates to be confirmed between either 10 to 15 February or 19 to 24 February 2027. Please [click here to find out more and to register your interest](#).

Year 9 Only

Year 9 Online Expectations Evening

This will be featured in next Friday's Bulletin.

Year 10 Only

Year 10 Online Expectations Evening

Acting Headteacher, Ms L Ayres, leads an online session for parents and carers detailing: The Reading Way & Culture, Pastoral Support, Standards, The Curriculum and Careers Support, Safety, Wellbeing, Happiness & Success, Supporting your son and working together, and more.

Please [click this link](#) to access the online recording of the Year 10 Expectations Evening.

Reading School Events

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.

Acting Headmaster, Ms L 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 a full day 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



Michaelmas Concert 2026
Thursday 8th October 2026
18:00 - 19:00
Big School, Reading School

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.

RSPA

RSPA 81st Anniversary Quiz

To celebrate the RSPA will be holding a quiz in the School Refectory on **Thursday 15 October 2026** **from 7pm** and all students, staff, families and friends are invited. Further details, including the QR code to book tickets are featured on the poster below:



RSPA
READING SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

81ST
RSPA
ANNIVERSARY

★ Brains optional.
Team spirit essential.
Fun guaranteed!

QUIZ NIGHT

The **RSPA** is excited to invite all our **parents, students, staff, alumni, families and friends** for a special quiz night to celebrate our **81 years of RSPA!**

Reading School Refectory

Thursday, 15th October 2026

7:00 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE

Click the link below or scan the QR code

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GZFD>

£8 pp
incl nibbles

Teams of up to 8

11+
Ages 11+ only

Unable to complete a team?
Let us do that for you!

On sale:
Soft and Alcoholic drinks

Nibble trays,
hot finger food,
Sweet treats

900th
Anniversary
Greeting Cards

Limited parking available on site

Enquiries: contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Year 7 parents/carers and families ONLY

The Reading School Parents Association (RSPA) would like to invite parents to our welcome introduction evening to be held online via TEAMS on **Wednesday 23rd September from 19.00 – 20.00.**

Find out how YOUR parent's association raises much needed funds, previous projects we have funded, recent/future projects in the pipeline, and an insight into the roles of committee members and much more.

As a committee we are here to represent you all, and maybe you may be inspired to find out more and want to help us going forwards to improve/better the opportunities for all our boys!

Join us on this evening and meet some of the RSPA committee and ask any questions!

To join please click on the link below. Any problems please email us at:-

contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Meeting link:

RSPA New Yr7 Welcome meeting 2026

Wednesday, 23 September 2026

19:00 - 20:00 (GMT)

Meeting link: [RSPA New Yr7 Welcome meeting 2026 | Microsoft Teams | Meet-up-Join](#)

Uniform Shop - exciting news!



The RSPA Uniform Shop has a new home next to Music School and we're excited to welcome you and your family during our next opening times:

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

Saturday 3rd October: 10.30am–12.30pm **“GRAND OPENING”**
(parking available in walled car park, opposite the chapel)

To find us, after entering the School from Erleigh Road, turn left immediately and walk past Music School. The shop is clearly labelled and in the next building on the left.

All parents/families and carers are warmly invited to our new well stocked shop to meet all your uniform requirements, including dozens of study guides/books for all subjects. Please note cash is preferred to avoid card transaction fees.

Please come and meet the RSPA team and Shop Managers Jas & Anya who have worked very hard to get the shop ready for you all. Some of our committee members will be there if you would like to have a chat about getting involved in some way.

There will be tea & coffee, cold drinks, cakes & cookies and other refreshments for sale on the day. All proceeds from the shop and refreshments go to support our boys and our school - please give generously!

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 via Reception or Student Services. All enquiries to: shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk.



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.

RSPA at the Senior Speech day (September 2026)



Highlights: Michaelmas Term Week 2

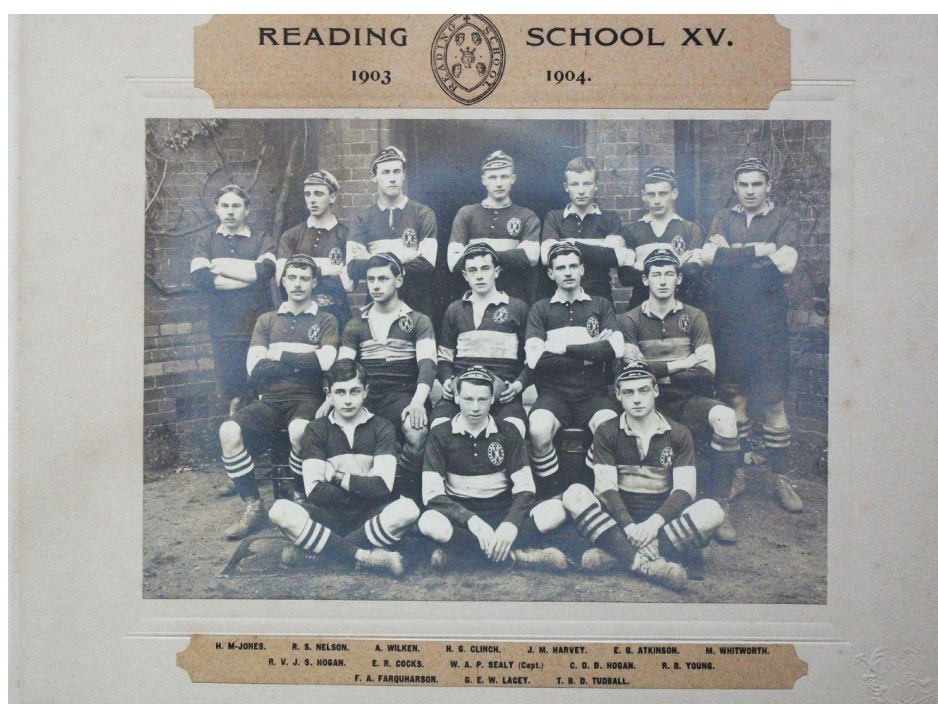
Join the Reading School community online and never miss a moment.



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

122 Years Later

In 1903 - 1904, W.A.P. Sealy captained Reading School's first XV. On Thursday this week, the next generation worked the tackle bags on the same field. The kit has changed. The game hasn't.



Year 7s working through contact skills on tackle bags, under the watchful eyes of Director of Rugby, Mr Kearle, and Assistant Head, Mr McGall - shoulder position, the wrap, then learning to go to ground safely. Rugby doesn't start with courage, it starts with control.



It looks simple from the sideline, but it's the technical groundwork that keeps boys safe once they're tackling each other for real. Patience before impact, and a coach correcting each boy individually rather than shouting instructions at a crowd.



Surgeon. Parent. Coach

This week's Inspire Lecture, organised by Mantra J (11W) and supported by Mrs J Pickering (Teacher of Biology), welcomed Mr Nev Davies FRCS (Tr.&Orth.) to the School's Lecture Theatre.



Known to his patients as "Nev the Knee," Davies has spent the past 16 years as a Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. He talked students through what it actually takes to train as an orthopaedic surgeon and what a working day looks like.



“I was really inspired by Dr Davies' work in ‘Power Up to Play’, and thought that it would be particularly relevant for our school's PE department. As a result, I decided to invite him to come. After learning more about his rich medical history, I felt that he could also give a talk to the medical society at Reading School.

I really enjoyed his talk, and particularly the case studies he presented from Australia, and his ideas on a medicine degree: a key, not a cage. Everyone that helped me organise the event, from The Redingensians Office to Ms Pickering, were all very collaborative and helpful.” Mantra J

Please check the Headmaster's Bulletin for future Inspire Lectures which all students and parents are invited to attend if of interest.



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