



Note from the Headmaster

Undoubtedly the Lent Term has been an extremely busy one. Not only has extensive learning taken place in the classroom, but also there has been a plethora of school educational visits, exchange programmes, sporting fixtures and other enrichment activities.

Recently we have been inspired by the wit and wisdom of the renowned poet, Simon Armitage, along with the knowledge of Professor GW Bernard and the precision of Old Redingensian, Nick Bion. In addition, staff and students alike have been involved in the successful 'Great Debate til Eight' supported by our local MP, Rob Wilson.

Whilst the highlight of the Lent Term for the prefects may have been the recent 4-3 victory over the staff football team, personally it was the inspiring world premiere of Harry Davidson's composition Type II in the Spring Concert. World Class indeed!

I hope that our students in Years 11-13 preparing for external examinations ensure that they spend time with their families as well as undertake extensive revision.

I wish everyone a very Happy Easter.

Mr A Robson, Headmaster

Simon Armitage Visit

Poet Simon Armitage visited on Friday March 22nd, bringing the snows of Yorkshire on his shoes. He read from some of his prose and poetry for Sixth Form English Literature students, and later read and talked to Year 11 students about some of his best known poems.



In the process, he talked of how his love of poetry was inspired by reading Ted Hughes's work at the age of 15. He also discussed the influence of music - punk and David Bowie - on his work, and how writing poetry enabled him to deal with the violence he encountered while working as a probation officer in Manchester.

Simon had originally planned to be a cartographer, and studied for a degree in Geography. His three week walk along the Pennine in 2010, chronicled in his book "Walking Home", was he said a test of both his map-reading skills and his reputation as a poet. He set out on his journey with no money, relying on the hospitality of strangers and the money collected at the poetry readings he gave each evening.

Simon's visit was made possible through the support of the Reading School Parents' Association, who have generously funded the Reading Generation project.

Distinguished Historian shares his controversial views on Henry VIII



Year 12 history students had a rare treat on Monday, March 11th when one of the world's most prominent Tudor historians, Professor GW Bernard, came to talk to them about Henry VIII.

Professor Bernard, who is Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Southampton, first fell in love with history while attending Reading School from 1961 to 1968. He won an Open Scholarship to study history at St Catherine's College Oxford, and has published several books on Tudor history, including "The King's Reformation" (Yale University Press, 2005).

Professor Bernard spoke about his controversial views on the centrality of Henry to his Reformation and government. He then fielded several perceptive questions, leading him to suggest that some of the Year 12 students were more impressive historians than his current university students!



'The Reading Generation' Project Update

Thanks to the support of the RSPA, 'The Reading Generation' Project is now fully up and running and we are very excited about what we have managed to achieve so far this term.

The Family Book Club is a great way for the whole family to enjoy books and reading. Multiple copies of the same book are available for mum's and son's and dad's and lads to read together. Books are loaned for 4 weeks and can be renewed if no other family is waiting for them. To join **The Family Book Club**, please email readinggeneration@reading-school.co.uk



New collections of **inspiring reads** are now available for classroom use during English lessons. The LRC has three themed collections, selected by a specialist children's book supplier, to support the following KS3 topics: Detective Fiction, Gothic Fiction and Travel Writing. These books will encourage students to go 'beyond the classroom' and independently read more titles from a particular genre, something the new KS4 curriculum demands. All the books bought for the **Reading Generation Project** include a special book plate, so please look out for these when you next visit the LRC.

All KS3 students can now use a coffee shop style reward card to collect library stamps each time they visit the LRC to borrow books: 10 stamps = 1 DARE point. There has been a lot of enthusiasm for this new reward card, which was created using photos from **The Reading Generation** photo competition.



One of the country's leading poets, Simon Armitage, came into school on the 22nd March to speak to an invited audience of 6th formers about his most recent book 'Walking Home'. These students have studied his poetry at A-Level, and were very excited to be given the opportunity to meet him and ask him questions about his work. In the afternoon all Year 11 were given a talk by Simon Armitage, specifically tailored to the GCSE poems they are studying, and again given the chance to ask him questions. This fantastic enrichment opportunity will help our students engage more fully with his poems and ensure really good answers in their GCSE English Literature poetry paper in the summer.

We have also welcomed Carnegie Medal winner Tim Bowler to school on Tuesday 26th March. The author of LRC favourites such as "Starseeker" and "Storm Catchers", spoke to Year 7 and Year 8 students about his novels, their themes, and how he goes about his job. Tim has visited Reading School before and is a tremendously exciting and friendly guest.

Both of these authors are highly respected, exceptionally popular, and will provide our students with fantastic literary inspiration. That Reading School is able to offer such experiences is a spectacular privilege.

Coming soon... the school 'Biography Challenge', where we hope to set a new school record for the most biographies borrowed; we are also looking forward to the arrival of the new LRC cube seating, as selected by the library class representatives.

Thanks again to the RSPA and to Loralie Kesteven for all their hard work with this project.

Mrs C Harden





The LRC celebrates World Book Day



To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 7th March, students in KS3 were invited to the LRC for a special library lesson. Activities included talking about good books, playing a book related game and watching book trailers. Pupils received their World Book Day vouchers, a booklist of recommended reads and a bookmark. We were also pleased to be able to congratulate The Reading Generation photo competition winners, who received an Amazon voucher and an A4 copy of their winning entry.



Other activities to celebrate World Book Day included our contribution to the Berkshire Book Festival ebook challenge for Year 8 pupils. Pupils are given the first line of a story. This year we had the task of writing Chapter 1 of ebook D. This chapter was then forwarded to another school to be continued. Year 8 pupils: Pranav Shyam Prasad, Finlay Griffith, Ryan Caesar and Oliver Lewis worked with Ms Postlethwaite to create a story from the first line

"Alex had only been asked to join the team at the last moment to make up the numbers, but...

You can find out what happened next here...

http://www.berkshire-els.gov.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=256&Itemid=49

The winners were:

First Place: Alex Fisher (7C)

Second Place: Stefan Darling (7E)

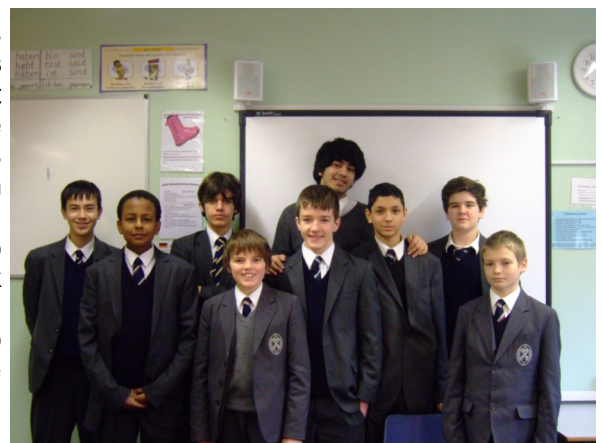
Second Place: Thomas Wilkinson (7E)

Third Place: George Archer (7C)



Library Reps reveal the 'Author Factor'

This term's Library Forum hot topic question explored the factors that influence pupils' book choices. Class Library Representatives asked their forms to rank a number of different factors that influence book choices. Initial indications reveal that pupils are most influenced by whether or not they have enjoyed other books by the same author. Other items raised at this term's Forum included a very informative debate on how ebook devices could be used in the LRC and a discussion of the Library Video Project. In general most Forum members were in favour of ebook readers being made available in the LRC for use at break, lunch and afterschool. The feedback we have been given is essential to ensure the LRC supports reading and learning effectively and we have been given lots of avenues to explore.



Elliot Jewitt, Yousuf Mohamed-Ahmed, Ruben Beecham, Oliver Mead, Sulaiman Ali, Peter Drew, Dominic Lobo, Sean Neale, James Williams



AS and A2 Drama Showcase



Last week saw the resounding success of our senior drama students. With a varied line up of scripted pieces from the AS boys and an original, devised piece from the A2 cohort, school staff, friends and family of the boys were entertained in an evening of high quality acting and design.

Extracts from 'American Buffalo', 'Dealers Choice' and 'The Dumb Waiter', all complex and challenging texts, allowed the Year 12 boys to show off not only their exceptional acting skills, but their hard work and dedication, having worked on the pieces from before the Christmas holidays. 'The Hyacinth Diamond' devised, scripted and technically designed by the Year 13 boys themselves was a true demonstration of the creative ability here in Reading School. A witty, imaginative and precisely performed piece that had the audience laughing the whole way through. Unsurprisingly the external examiner agreed and none of the boys achieved anything under an 'A' grade for this element of the course!



A huge well done to the boys and thank you from the drama department to everyone who helped out with the performances.

Berkshire Book Award and CILIP Carnegie Children's Book Award

This term, members of the Book Club have been shadowing the annual Berkshire Book Award (BBA). 'The Award is for books written for 11-14 year olds and participation is open to all young teens in Berkshire through secondary schools and public libraries'. Members of the Book Club voted for *Gangsta Granny* by David Walliams in first place, closely followed by *The Sacrifice* by Charlie Higson in second place and in joint third place, *The Fault in our Stars* by John Green and *Wonder* by R J Palacio. To our delight, our votes cast mirrored the winners chosen by the participating 28 schools and in addition, Book Club member, George Archer, 7C had his nominating review published on the BBA website.

We now turn our attention to the CILIP Carnegie Children's Book Award. **The CILIP Carnegie Medal** is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book for children and young people.

The shortlist of eight books is as follows: *The Weight of Water* by Sarah Crossan, *Maggot Moon* by Sally Gardner, *In Darkness* by Nick Lake, *Wonder* by R J Palacio, *Midwinterblood* by Marcus Sedgwick, *A Greyhound of a Girl* by Roddy Doyle, *A Boy and a Bear in a Boat* by Dave Shelton and *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein. Members of the Book Club will be reading, discussing and voting for their favourite book. The winners will be announced in June. Meanwhile, please encourage your son to come and read from the shortlist or indeed the original longlist to enhance their enjoyment of reading.



Members of the Book Club with some of the shortlisted CILIP Carnegie Medal books



French Exchange and Work Experience in Fougères



Matt Perry at his primary school placement

Five French students from Year 12 spent a week taking part in an exchange trip to Brittany, in partnership with five other local schools.

After a journey lasting over twelve hours (we were all overjoyed to meet on Saturday 2nd February at 5am at Kendrick School!) we arrived at the Lycée Jean Guéhenno, Fougères, the school with which the exchange was organised. We had each been allocated a host family to stay with around the town of Fougères. It was very interesting to meet our exchanges and their families (as we had been in contact with them already) and to see where we would be living for the next week. On the Sunday, we all enjoyed trips to the surrounding area, notably to St Malo and in and around Fougères. The French towns in this area of Brittany are very old, mainly built in the Middle Ages, and this was clear from lovely cobbled streets and old buildings. Thankfully throughout the week the food was excellent, with lots of Breton traditional cuisine – though we may struggle when they come here to think of quite as many dishes typical of Reading!

One of the main purposes of the trip is to do some work experience in France, and this took the form of working in one of the various primary schools dotted around the town. All of us spent Monday and Tuesday in our allotted schools, helping teach several subjects, but mainly basic English. We taught them some English nursery rhymes - "Baa Baa Black Sheep" for me especially went down a treat! It was a real challenge to understand the children, especially the very little ones, but it definitely helped because we had to speak their language to make ourselves understood.



Laurence Bashford during work experience

On Wednesday, we spent half a day in the actual French sixth-form college, or "lycée". All week we had been surprised as the French students start at eight in the morning and go till six in the evening, which is a far longer school day than we have! We all went to a Philosophy lesson (all French students have to study it) which was very interesting, and several of us managed to contribute and make ourselves understood during the debate.



Class debate for or against school uniform

The rest of the week was spent in the primary schools, enjoying our time bonding with the children and then after school meeting up with the French people of our age. We all went out "au bowling" on the Friday evening, which was a great way to end the week and to spend some last time together. We were all sad to say goodbye to our exchanges on Saturday morning, as everyone had made really good friends throughout the week. Overall, the trip was a fantastic opportunity both to improve on our language skills and practise that which we had already learnt, and we gained valuable experience and made good friends in the process!

Domenico Cullura

Biology Olympians

Congratulations to the Year 13 students who took part in the UK Biology Olympiad this year. Five students received gold awards. They are Liam Johnstone; Benjamin Jones; Joe Moneim; Tadhg Piotrowski; and Jack Roe. Four achieved silver – Max Baologac; Harsha Matura; Dheeraj Narendra and Matt Roberts, while three others - Sebastian Culter, Yusuf Karmali and Mana Narula, received bronze awards.

Open to all post-16 students in the UK, the UK Biology Olympiad challenges the most talented young biologist to expand and extend their talents. It allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and to have it recognised, and to encourage them to continue to study biology beyond A-level.

2012 Leaver, Robert Starley, was chosen to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad in Singapore, where he achieved a silver medal. Robert is now studying Natural Sciences at Cambridge.





Public Speaking & Debating

Aleksandr Stepanyan and Jacob South-Klein will be representing the UK in Durban, South Africa at the World Individual Debating Public Speaking Competition, flying out on 29th March. They have to compete in all four sections of the competition – After Dinner speech (or Persuasive), Debating (partners and motions drawn 40 minutes before speaking) Impromptu Speech (two minutes to prepare and five minutes to speak with no notes!) and Interpretive Reading – you can imagine the work we've all had to do!



Domenico Cullura and George Prové with some of the luscious cakes parents made!

FUNDRAISING FOR ALEKS + JACOB

Thank you for all your support! We've had donations, bucket collections, a cake sale, the Great Debate Till 8 and a 5-a-side Football Tournament ... and with all that, we've raised just over £1,000 to cover the registration fees for the boys.

LAMDA

LAMDA examinations this term are on Sunday 24th March and Saturday 30th March. 48 boys are taking the exams. Letters and application forms for the summer term exams will go out to all parents of boys in years 8–13 in the last week of term. Forms are due in by Monday 15th April.

DEBATING SOCIETY

Debating on a Thursday continues to flourish and skills are being developed all the time ... the Year 9s (James, Ming, Ryan and Sam) stunned us with the quality of their debate, "This House Believes that Scenes of Terror should be allowed to Disintegrate".

We were thrilled to have Mr Baldock and Mr Beahan team up for the Big Debate in the Lecture Theatre this term, "This House Believes that the Physical Book should be Consigned to the Dustbin of History" ... they were opposed by Niko and Nick Qiu – and the motion was won!



Some of the Autumn Term examinees with their medals and certificates

Valentine's Day debate



On Valentine's day at Reading School, love was certainly in the air. However, some people bucked the trend - the motion at debating was that 'This House Believes Love Is Only Chemical', with Messrs Prové and Henderson proposing the demise of romance. George (Prové) opened with a fusillade of chemicals and biology, showing off his research and deep love of lovelessness. Ironically, he delivered an impassioned start to what was becoming a furious debate. Niko Ciecierski-Holmes stood up for the opposition, and overwhelmed with his urging from the heart for us to remember our souls. His raw emotion bled through, and his words I hope convinced many a steely scientist to ask - where indeed is the love. George (Henderson this time) gave a stunning riposte, telling us that love was by no means cheapened by its chemical nature, showing that love can be found

even in a seemingly hopeless place. Yet now came Julian Sutcliffe into the foray, opening with a reference to the love-fodder-providing Taylor Swift, which brought the house down in gales of laughter. He described different kinds of love, illustrating clearly how love for the family is not purely hormonally based, and how we must consider that chemicals aren't always the answer. By invoking the pertinent example of Harry Potter's use of the power of love to conquer the Dark Lord Voldemort, we really felt his belief in the everlasting meaningfulness of the soul. After we opened up the floor for questions, the audience were on the edge of their seats, enjoying the back and forth banter and wordplay between the two teams of debaters. We finished with an emotive plea from our Public Speaking Captain, Niko, for us to listen to our souls, and vote for love over the empty world of science. The vote was lost by a narrow margin, and the proposition carried the day.



Public Speaking continued.

PUBLIC SPEAKING COLOURS were awarded this term to Nikolai Ciecierski-Holmes, Nick Qiu, George Prové, Soham Bandyopadhyay and George Henderson with an Honorary award to Mr Hurst.

GREAT DEBATE TILL 8

The Great Debate Till 8 on Friday 15th March was a great success, both financially (it was a fundraising event for Aleksandr Stepanyan and Jacob South-Klein, who are representing the UK at the World Individual Debating Public Speaking Competition in Durban, South Africa at the end of the month) and in terms of debating, declaiming (from the soapbox) and delivering. And the tiger chairman was huge fun – and guided the whole event very smoothly and professionally. Congratulations to all speakers.

We raised £485 – a really good contribution to our target of £1,000 (which will almost pay the registration fees for both boys). On top of that, one parent was so impressed that she sent in a donation of £50 the next day! We've already had an anonymous donation of £100, made £180 on the cake sale, £100 in bucket collections – thank you to everyone who's helped so much. The boys will report back next term!

The Debates were stimulating and challenging ones that the girls from The Holt School and Kendrick School joined in with ... Rob Wilson opened the event and set the bar high for the speakers the rest of the evening. Here's some feedback ... and in the interests of making next year's Great Debate Till 8 even better, do please let us have your ideas and suggestions too. Speeches, format, atmosphere all great!

A really nice, fun, talented, relaxed and informative "speak'athon". We enjoyed it very much.

I enjoyed my unfortunately short attendance at the Great Debate - the boys were amazing (Liz Oyler, then offering a donation).

We loved it! I liked the relaxed, warm atmosphere, the way people drifted in and out and there was a great range of activities- a mix of 'heavy duty' debate with 'soap box' from such a variety of students. And the quality of speeches was utterly breathtaking ... and all the boys were so enthusiastic!

I was really impressed with the boys. We particularly enjoyed the debating sessions – very interesting topics and opinions.

I thought the way that all the different years and schools interacted was very magical and to see even the very youngest pupils having a go at public speaking was wonderful

A big thank you to the Reading School Public Speaking Policy Team who worked very hard to make this event happen and to parents who worked on refreshments and in many other ways.

POLICY TEAM

The Policy Team of 9 boys from years 10–13 continues to look at ideas and development for the Public Speaking & Debating department. The team is headed up the Public Speaking Captain, Niko Ciecierski-Holmes, ably supported by Nick Qiu Domenico Cullura, George Prove and Julian Sutcliffe, Aleksandr Stepanyan, Jacob South-Klein and George Henderson & Ritvij Singh.



ESU PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

We hosted the 1st round of the ESU Public Speaking competition in the LRC on Wednesday 16th January. We won (the team being Jacob South-Klein, Aleksandr Stepanyan and Ritvij Singh) and went on to the Branch Final in Maidenhead Town Hall where we came 2nd with Jacob South-Klein winning Best Chair and Best Personality.

Ms P Williams

Kendrick and Reading Air Ambulance Charity Concert

Following the success of last year's concert, do come along to the second student-run Kendrick and Reading Air Ambulance Charity Concert. This year, the event will take place on Friday 19th April at 7.30pm in Big School and will feature various pieces sung, played and conducted by students of the schools. There will be representatives present from the Air Ambulance service itself, as we celebrate the work they do for our community. There is a recommended donation of £5 for tickets, which can be ordered by emailing reading.kendrickconcert@yahoo.com with your name, the number of tickets you require, your son's name and form and whether you have any hard of hearing or partially sighted persons in your party. Payment will be collected when the tickets are given to your son unless you indicate that you wish to reserve tickets and make the payment on the door. Please email with any inquiries.

We hope you will help us in supporting this fantastic service.

Samuel Wood 12SD



Music Department News

The Music Department have had an extremely busy half term, with three concerts and participation in two competitions.

This included the Junior Concert on March 28th, which featured the Junior Jazz band and Junior Choir, as several talented soloists and ensembles drawn from Years 7 to 10 students.



The Junior Jazz Band also had a chance to shine on March 4th, when they participated in the Big Band Concert, along with the Senior Jazz Band and the Innovations of Jazz Orchestra. The Refectory was transformed for the evening into a Jazz Café.



For the Senior Jazz Band, the event was a warm up for their participation in the Chipping Norton Junior Jazz Band Challenge, where they were joint runners up. On the same weekend, they also participated in the regional heat of the Youth Music competition, and are eagerly awaiting news as to whether they have been chosen to participate in the national finals in July.

On Thursday, March 21st the School Orchestra and several smaller ensembles were joined by musicians from Queen Anne's School Caversham for the Spring Concert. One of the many highlights of a fantastic evening of music was the world premiere of Harry Davidson's (13C) composition Type II. It was so good, they had to play it twice.

Thanks to all the students who took part in concerts over the term, and to their parents and families for generously supporting the Music Department.

Inspire Lecture on Britain in the EU

Students from Years 7 to 13, and other guests, were treated to a fascinating talk on Britain's membership of the EU on Tuesday the 19th of March at Big School. This was one of Reading School's series of inspire lectures, which aim to engage students in thinking more deeply about current issues.

Andy Lebrecht, who was until very recently the UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, explained in detail the arguments for and against membership of the Single Market, as well as giving an overview of possible future options for the United Kingdom.



Touching briefly on the EU's history and his own experience working on behalf of the UK in EU negotiations, he went through the pros and cons of key features of the EU. These included free movement of labour and goods, and the thorny issue of membership of the Euro. The lecture proved both intellectually stimulating and topically pertinent for all who attended, particularly for A Level Economists and Geographers, whose respective courses were directly related to the ideas Lebrecht discussed.

Afterwards, he took questions from visitors, teachers and students from all year groups. These ranged from political implications of EU membership to more detailed economic queries. So many people were willing to participate in the Q&A session that even the experienced Mr Lebrecht may have been stretched once or twice!

Colm Murphy, Year 13



OR Launches career in Classical Music



2007 Leaver, Alex Otterburn is embarking on a career in classical music. Whilst studying for a first class degree in economics at the University of Manchester, he met a singing teacher from the Royal Northern College of Music, who having heard him sing, suggested that he start classical training.

Having finished his economics studies, Alex moved to Dublin to study at the DIT Conservatory of Music & Drama. Whilst there, he sang baritone roles for several opera companies. Now back in London, Alex is studying for an MA at the Royal Academy of Music.

On Saturday, April 13th, Alex will take part in a concert at the Royal Academy, in aid of Alkionides, a charity that provides accommodation in London for under-privileged Cypriot families whose specialist medical treatment has been funded by the Cypriot government, but who don't have the means to pay for food and accommodation during their stay.

Further details of the concert, and how to obtain tickets can be found at www.alkionides.org

Student Achievement

Congratulations go to Alex Ekins who has been offered a place on KPMG's School Leavers' Programme! This is a 6-year fully sponsored programme, which will enable him to gain an accounting degree from Exeter, Birmingham or Durham University during the first 4 years. Alongside education for his degree, Alex will gain valuable work experience across many different industries and go on to become a fully qualified Chartered Accountant.

Alex has chosen to study for his degree at Exeter University and work at KPMG's office in Theale. KPMG will pay him a salary during the whole 6 years, as well as all his tuition and accommodation costs.

There were four main stages to the application process. Firstly, an online application form with a reference from his tutor. The next stage involved online verbal and numerical reasoning tests. Third, a face-to-face 45-minute interview with a senior KPMG manager, followed by a written analysis test and further discussion. The final stage was to give a presentation to one of the partners, followed by another interview.

Alex is looking forward to meeting the other successful applicants and heading off to Exeter University in September.



Punching holes is a precision business



Nick Bion, an ex-student of Reading School and Managing Director of Bion & Co, visited the Economics Forum to discuss with a class of Year 11 economists the inner workings of his business on Monday.

Bion & Co is one of the UK's leading companies in perforating. Recent projects have included the ceiling of Heathrow Terminal Two, where over 87km of metal is required; Aston Martin speakers grills; the exhaust tubing for Nissan cars and much more.

"My company only does the holes", says Mr Bion.

However, it plays a crucial role in the world of UK manufacturing. It employs highly skilled workers producing specialist products and uses extremely sophisticated software and machines capable of working to precisions of 1/10th of a mm and punching 250,000 holes per minute. The company made £4 million in revenue last year by punching over 30 billion holes. Work out how much each hole is worth!

Fast delivery times, flexibility and customer satisfaction are key ingredients to Bion & Co success. With no shareholders to satisfy, the company is also able to re-invest its profits back into the firm. High barriers to entry in the sector ensure that the company has few competitors, as each new production line requires an investment of around £1m.

Mr Bion encouraged us to take more of an interest in the manufacturing industry, to challenge the perception that a factory is where school drop outs go. The truth is that UK manufacturing counts for over 50% of UK exports and offers great challenges. So think again!





1125 Campaign Priority Projects during 2013

Reading School urgently needs to raise £90,000 to enable us to make **immediate** and much need improvements to several of our classrooms. This is equivalent to £100 for each student attending the School.

The money will enable us to ease pressure on classroom space throughout the school by:

- **Constructing two new classrooms and a staff work area** within an under-used part of the school
- **upgrading three out-dated classrooms** - two Technology laboratories and the Physics lecture theatre



This will have an **immediate and direct benefit for every student in the school**, because it will ease pressure on classroom space throughout the school, and it will enable us to introduce an improved curriculum, in computer science and electronics. It will also improve the effectiveness of our teachers by enabling them to prepare lessons away from the classroom, and to share resources across departments.

Why do we need to do this?

The decision to make this project a priority this year was due to the scarcity of teaching and preparation space within the School, and the need to provide a curriculum that meets the needs of our students.

Improving the availability of classroom and preparation space

Students and teaching staff contend with a shortage of appropriate teaching space on a daily basis. For instance, our three physics laboratories are used 100% of the timetable, which leaves insufficient time for staff to design and set up experiments. The same is true in chemistry, and biology. However, the three technology laboratories and the physics lecture Theatre are under-used. This is due to the decline in the number of students taking design and technology, and the difficulty in using the laboratories to teach other subjects, because of the current design and layout. The lecture theatre, one of our few large teaching spaces, is under-used because poor lighting, uncomfortable seating; inadequate equipment; and low heat-retention make it difficult for students to learn effectively.

Updating the school curriculum

From September 2013, we will begin offering computer science and electronics to students at all levels. We are doing this now, because demand for the design and technology subjects we currently offer is decreasing, and because of an announcement by the Secretary of State for Education that computer science will eventually replace the current Information Technology curriculum.

Computer science and electronics play to our students' strengths. They are high achievers in Maths and Science, and the practical experience that computer science and electronics will offer, will enhance their skills and experience. With Computing and electronics increasingly prevalent in the modern world, all of our students will benefit from this experience, even if they don't specialise in these subjects at A Level or GCSE.

With your help, we can make major improvements to classrooms and the curriculum this year.



What do we need to do?

We plan to refurbish and re-equip the following areas during summer 2013.

Aim: Transform one under-used wood workshop into two multi-use classrooms and a staff work area

The false ceiling will be stripped out so that we can use the full height of the building. We will install a mezzanine floor to create two computer science classrooms and a staff work area. This will give us classrooms that can be used for teaching physics when not in use for computer science and safer work areas for staff teaching computer science and physics.



Result: Better classrooms and preparation areas that will be used by more students and staff, more frequently each day.

Aim: Upgrade two laboratories to create two up to date classrooms with an independent study area

We will refit the two existing technology laboratories to enable us to introduce an improved new electronics curriculum. We will improve the layout of the rooms by installing new benches. We will also open up two under-used storage areas to create an area for manufacturing printed circuit boards, and an independent study area for older students that can also be used for lunchtime and after-school clubs and enrichment activities.



Result: two classrooms where students can design, build, and test electronic projects and a small area for independent study

Aim: Modernise the Physics Lecture Theatre

We will repair water damage to the internal fabric of the lecture theatre, repaint it and fit better lighting. We will also install an air curtain for better heat retention, and fit more comfortable seating. Finally, we will install new audio visual equipment, and white boards, so that students can see and hear clearly, even if they are sitting at the back of the room.

Result: A large, warm, comfortable university-style lecture theatre where large groups of students can learn, debate, and meet.





How you can help

The generosity of donors has enabled us to allocate £275,000 from our charitable funds to cover the most of the refurbishment costs. However, **we still need to raise around £90,000 to cover the cost of equipment and materials.** That's £100 for each of our 900 students.

We are approaching the Department for Education and charitable trusts and companies for support. However, we really need the help of members of the school community in order to lever support from these funders. Being able to demonstrate that we have a substantial level of funding from the school community is crucial to building their confidence that the project will be completed within the timescale.

Can you make a one-off gift of £100 before the start of the summer term? It could enable us to raise matching donations from other sources such as companies and charitable trusts.

Simply print off and complete this donation form, and return it to the Development Office with your donation

Your Details

Title: First Name/s:

Surname:

Address:

.....

Post Code:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Student Name:

Form Group:

Gift Details

I/We am/are delighted to pledge a donation of

£ (Amount)

Please make cheques payable to **Reading School**

Method of payment: (Please tick one)

☐ **Cheque** (Please make payable to:
Reading School)

☐ **Bank Transfer**

Please pay to: Lloyds TSB, Broad Street
Reading, RG1 2BT

Account name: Reading School Charitable Fund

Sort Code: 30 67 99

Account No.: 40733560

Please quote ref:

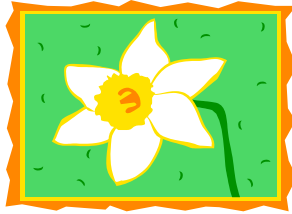
☐ Please Gift Aid my donation

By ticking this box you will enable Reading School to claim an extra 25p from the Government for every £1 that you donate – and it doesn't cost you a penny!

Please treat this and any subsequent donations to Reading School as a Gift Aid Donation. To be eligible you must pay enough tax in the UK to equal the amount that we can reclaim from HMRC on your donation.

Signature:

Date:/...../.....



Reading School Spring Fayre

Saturday 11th May 12 – 3pm 2013.

Thank you to everyone for your support last year, the Spring Fayre was again a huge success raising a fantastic £7,500 towards the outdoor classroom.

We are starting preparations for this year's event and would like to ask you for your help with the following donations and help:

Items for the Silent Auction – e.g. tickets for an event or activity.

Please email san@roddy.clara.net as soon as possible so that your item can be included in future publicity

Tombola

Any unwanted Christmas presents or good quality gift items

Plant Stall

When you are planting your seeds or taking your cuttings or even buying your spring flowers at the garden centre could you plant or buy a few extras and donate them for the stall?

Books & Bric-a-Brac

Time for that spring clean! Any donations of books, DVDs, games, toys and general bric-a-brac that you think someone else would buy are all very gratefully received.

Help On The Day

We always need lots of help setting up, running stalls and then clearing up. Even an hour of your time will make a big difference. Please email raru@btinternet.com to volunteer.

Every pound we raise benefits your son's education.

Thank you very much for your support!