



### Note from the Headmaster

Reading School is characterised not just by academic success, but by the personal qualities that are nurtured. This is evident through the spiritual leadership of the Chaplain, Mr Evans, through the house system, sporting and cultural activities, the ethos of boarding and involvement in leadership and development. The integrity, dynamism and qualities of our students is symbolised by the approach undertaken by sixth formers this term to raising funds for one of the school's charities, Daisy's Dream.

In addition, this term has seen varied evidence of commitment of both students and staff to enrichment activities that are a fundamental part of a well rounded education. This week has been the culmination of Michaelmas Term which has seen the students of Reading School participate in a myriad of activities. Musical performance in the shape of the Boarders' Family Carol Service and the School Carol Service have been excellent finales to an inspirational term. In addition, the celebration of excellence in the Reading School Sports Personality of the Year awards and the Senior Annual Prizegiving, with guest speaker Sir David Bell were both inspirational. Our first Christmas lunches in the Refectory were a resounding success and well attended by both staff and students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students for their hard work, improved behaviour, punctuality and attendance. Thank you also to parents for supporting the School in our drive to improve standards..

I hope that this newsletter provides you with an interesting review regarding the excellent opportunities at Reading School and also information relating to future events and developments.

I wish you and your families a restful Christmas break and wish our Year 11, 12 and 13 students well during this revision period.

*A. Robson*

Mr A Robson  
Headmaster

### 'The Reading Generation' Competition

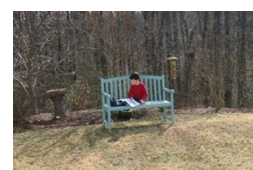
Following on from our hugely successful 'Extreme Reading' summer challenge, Reading School would like to set you a photographic task over the festive period. We'd like you to get the whole family involved by taking photos of you all reading. These photos MUST include books - maybe you and your Granddad reading the instructions of how to put up the new pool table? Take photos of younger brothers or sisters reading recipe books as they do baking with dad? Maybe snap the whole family reading, whilst on a winter stroll in the countryside?

As with the 'Extreme Read' – please do NOT take any risks whilst taking these photos. Remember how cold it is, that paths can be slippery and frozen water extremely dangerous. – we DO NOT want any accidents to happen in the taking of these entries.

The closing date will be the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 – prizes will be awarded to the best family entries. Please ensure that your family members are happy for these pictures to be used around the school in displays.

All entries can be emailed to [readinggeneration@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:readinggeneration@reading-school.co.uk)

If you need any clarification please speak to Mrs Harden in the English Department or Mrs Kesteven in the LRC.





## National Schools Chess Championships

On Thursday 13th December, Reading School convincingly beat Wellington College in the first knockout round of the National Schools Chess Championships. All six of our players won their matches, so well done to Roy Zhang (11S), Matthew Wadsworth (8E), Daniel Noel (12SP), Alfred Wong (10E), Ryan Wong (8E) and Alex Vanlint (8S). We're all eagerly awaiting news of our next opponents.

Mrs J Readings



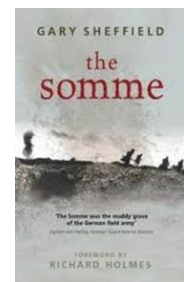
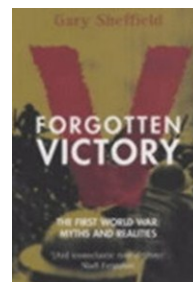
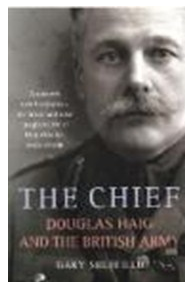
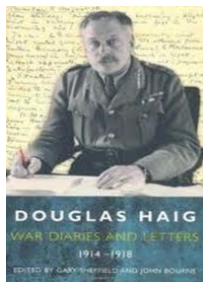
## Winston's Best-Kept Secret: Churchill & the First World War



By Dr Gary Sheffield (Professor of War Studies at University of Birmingham)

On 15 January 2013, Gary Sheffield will be coming to Reading School to give a lecture about Winston Churchill during the First World War. Gary Sheffield is one of the world's foremost military experts on the First World War, having edited Douglas Haig's *War Diaries and Letters*, and written *The Somme: A New History* and *Forgotten Victory: The First World War - Myths and Realities*. He regularly contributes to BBC programmes (where he was recently heard talking about the research from this lecture) and [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) articles, as well as a number of other documentaries and popular publications.

The lecture, one of a series of inspirational lectures supported by donations from an OR, will take place 4.00pm-5.00pm in the refectory and we would love you to join us. It is completely free and there will be some refreshments available after the event. After the lecture there may be an opportunity for budding historians to ask questions about the lecture and the First World War in general. As we anticipate this will be a very popular event with staff, students, parents and friends of the school, we ask that you confirm your interest by emailing William Bailey-Watson (Head of History) at [wbaileywatson@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:wbaileywatson@reading-school.co.uk).



## Reading School Rowing

We are very pleased with our latest acquisition as shown in the photograph for the Reading School Boat Club.

We would like to express our thanks for all the support both from the ORs and the Annual Fund as this is going to give us the opportunity to expand the number of boys on the water at each session.

Mr S Longstaff





## Loving Literature in London

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of November, Year 13 English Literature students took part in a study day at London University. With hundreds of other sixth formers from around the country, we enjoyed a number of lectures on some of the key texts we are studying this year for A Level.

Our first lecturer highlighted how “Paradise Lost’s” verse lines reveal that the fall of man is an event that is to be repeated cyclically for eternity. Following on from this, Brunel’s Professor James Knowles illustrated how the play “Tis Pity She’s A Whore” was a production deliberately set in Italy so that it could discuss matters of controversial contemporary interest without fear of offending a London audience. As Professor Knowles pointed out, by setting plays in Italy (‘a field of fantasy’) playwrights could discuss illicit matters which may have reflected public feeling or scandal in England at the time. Our third lecturer illustrated how Shakespeare’s writing in plays such as “King Lear” is crafted to show actors how they should perform all of their lines.

Our trip was a fantastic experience allowing us to get a real flavour of all the works we will be encountering this year, and a taste of what a typical day of study at university will be like.

William Sandbach, 13PFEH

## Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip to Boxhill, Dorking

On 25 October, the Year 12 Geographers visited Juniper Hall Field Studies Centre in Boxhill where the Olympic Road Cycling Race took place. This was to investigate the River Tillingbourne as part of developing geographical techniques for the January exam.

After being briefed extensively about data methodology, sampling techniques, details of the river system and potential risks – ranging from the potentially fatal Weil’s disease to slightly less dangerous nettle stings, of which fortunately only the latter was realised – the determined students soon set off for the river site, where they were immediately plunged literally knee deep into cold, murky waters, to their intense enjoyment.

Through the mud and wet, data on velocity, width, depth and gradient were quickly gathered with precision, while pencils worked furiously to scribble down sketches and observations. Moving onto the next two sites, the geographers continued to harvest measurements feverishly, taking only a brief rest for lunch.

Once all the areas had been covered, it was back to Juniper Hall for a write-up of their work, with the records reaching such ridiculous details as, “... then I recorded the results with a pencil, to prevent smudging, and replaced the data collection sheet within a plastic holder to protect it.” Secondary information on the area was noted, and by the time the worn out group of students and teachers returned to the coach, they had each amassed a collection of notes and reached a new level of practical understanding of the skills they would need to demonstrate for their skills exam.

In direct contradiction to the views so many people seem to hold about geography, I feel obliged to point out that no colouring in occurred at any point in this visit.

Adam Weller 12GHC







## Non-Uniform Day for World Aids Day



After many weeks of organising, putting up posters and speaking in assembly... everyone finally knew – World Aids Day was on its way! The usual uniform rules weren't to apply on 30<sup>th</sup> December, as students and teachers alike brought in their minimum donations of £1 in order to raise funds on behalf of the National Aids Trust and increase the awareness of the life threatening virus: HIV-Aids.

Following a very busy morning collecting donations from all the tutor groups and organising who should do what and go where all over the school; the enormous task of counting laid ahead... with fantastic support from both teachers and students, a total of more than £908 was raised! All this money will help the National Aids Trust carry out their vital work in supporting those with Aids, promoting awareness and campaigning for those suffering abuse, help fund essential projects and research into treatment and cures. World Aids Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV

and to commemorate people who have died. More than 90,000 people in the UK are currently living with HIV, and globally an estimated 33.3 million people have the condition. More than 25 million people between 1981 and 2007 have died from the virus, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.

Today, many scientific advances have been made in HIV treatment, there are laws to protect people living with HIV and we understand so much more about the condition. But despite this, people do not know the facts about how to protect themselves and others from HIV, and stigma and discrimination remain a reality for many people living with HIV. World AIDS Day is important as it reminds the public and the Government that HIV has not gone away – there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice, improve education, treat those with the disease and find cures.

Many thanks to all the students and staff who made this event so successful and made it possible to raise so much money. If you would like to further contribute to our online fund raising, you can make a donation online at: <http://tinyurl.com/RSWorldAIDSDaycollection>

Sohum Shah (11E)

## Economics Forum hears from Oracle

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November, Mr Hill visited the school as the guest speaker of the Economics Forum from Oracle, one of the largest multinational IT companies. As an experienced director of Critical Accounts for the UK, Ireland and Israel, Mr Hill captivated year 11 students with ease by sharing insights about Oracle. Over the course of the Forum, we were introduced to the hardware and software giant via a quiz. We were surprised to learn that Oracle has 108,000 employees, 32,000 developers and a support team that answers customers' calls in 27 different languages.



Founded in 1977 by Larry Ellison, Oracle specialises in developing database software and computer systems, serving over 380,000 customers. Mr Hill explained to us the function of databases and how they are an integral part of computing since they allow one to store and manipulate unimaginable amounts of information. He also explained how Oracle had grown through a programme of acquisition of technology companies which both increases their market offer and reduces competition.

After the talk, Mr Hill made time for questions such as "Do Oracle have an active input in the companies they acquire or are they left to run themselves?" He gave more than satisfactory responses to our bombardment of questions, which pleased us inquisitive year 11 students.

What I have presented is the tip of the iceberg, as the content Mr Hill delivered in such a short time was massive and very engaging. To top off a successful Economics Forum, he kept us entertained for the rest of the day by giving us Oracle branded stress balls and miniature torches!

After speaking to Year 11 students, Mr Hill also took time to meet with Sixth Form students who are interested in careers in business or IT.

Daniel Eniade, Year 11



## Reading School CCF—in the air and on the ground

This has been a busy half term for members of the CCF. Since our very successful Biennial Inspection in October, our training programme has continued unabated both on Thursday afternoons and at weekends. Our Thursday afternoon parades continue to be well attended, especially by our very enthusiastic Year 10 recruits and weekend activities have also been popular – to the point where we have had to turn people away from the overnight exercise because it was oversubscribed!

Our proficiency training in school has been going ahead in a purposeful and enthusiastic fashion. Most of the Army Section recruits have completed their skill at arms training and some have been introduced to small bore shooting on the school range. The RAF Section recruits have been working hard at map and compass activities, drill and military knowledge as well as undertaking air experience flights. The REME, Signals, Advanced Infantry and RAF Advanced sections have also been busy and both Infantry and Signals have been able to put their training to good practical use in the field on our overnight exercise.

A number of cadets represented the CCF at both the School Act Of Remembrance on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November and at the Old Redingensians' Service on Remembrance Sunday itself where they were complimented on their standard of turnout and bearing. In addition to this, our two senior cadets, Ka Lok Cheung and Owen Wesley represented the School at the Innocent Victims Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey on November 20<sup>th</sup> where they laid a wreath in memory of children whose lives have been traumatised as a result of war.



Remembrance Sunday 2012.  
Also present- Squadron Leader E. J. Spurrier, RAF (South House 1991-98)

We have also been busy out of school. The RAF section cadets have been able to take to the air in Vigilant motor gliders with 612 VGS at Abingdon and in Tutors with 6AEF at RAF Benson. We will be running more flying and gliding trips after Christmas. The Army section undertook an overnight exercise in the grounds of Bearwood College on Friday/Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November - 1<sup>st</sup> December. Despite the very cold conditions, everyone managed to keep reasonably warm and much was learned about surviving in the outdoors as well as section battle drills in the morning phase. In addition, some of those who have passed their Weapon Handling Tests on the Cadet GP rifle attended a visit to Pirbright Ranges on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December where they were able to complete the classification shoot on the GP rifle as well as undertake training on the Light Support Weapon. As more cadets complete their weapon training, we will run more range days at weekends - hopefully in slightly warmer conditions!



Cadet Chris Butler of the RAF Section prepares to go up in a Vigilant for the first time at 612 GS, Abingdon.

Formal training this term concluded on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December with an information session on all the courses run by the three services for cadets during the Easter and summer holidays in 2013 followed by a mince pie familiarisation task which was enthusiastically received. Our Christmas Dinner took place in the Refectory on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December and was attended by some forty past and present members of Reading School CCF.



Overnight Exercise at Bearwood College- 30 Nov- 1 Dec 2012

We are very grateful for the support we continue to receive from visiting adult staff. Capt. J. Flexman and Lt. A. Ferguson have played an invaluable role in our fieldcraft training this term, as has Sgt. J. Astin of 17 Cadet Training Team. Mr. T. Le Lacheur, one of our PGCE students has been a great asset on Thursday afternoons. Two of our senior cadets from last year, Andrew Coombes and David Morris have returned to help us as civilian instructors, giving the current generation of senior NCOs the benefit of their sage advice. We have also welcomed a new officer into the fold Major S. Donegan, formerly of the Irish Guards and Sussex ACF and we hope to see much more of him as the year progresses. On the RAF side, our TEST NCO, Sgt. C. Williamson has continued to be of enormous help. Finally, Wing Commander T. D. Walter continues to remain calm at the top in the face of all crises! Of course, none of our activities would work were it not for the continued loyalty and enthusiasm of the cadets at all levels, all of whom deserve to have a very happy Christmas and a New Year filled with all good things.

Capt. P.F.E. Hurst



## Staff vs Boys Debate

Last Thursday saw the highlight of the Public Speaking calendar, The Staff vs Boys debate. Two avid Public Speakers, Julian Sutcliff seconded by Soham Badyopadhyay, faced fierce opposition from the History Department. Mr Bailey-Watson, seconded by the legendary Mr Hurst led the charge against the proposition with a resounding victory and effectively debunked the Motion: This House Believes History Has No Place In The Classroom.



Over 100 students as well as many staff rallied to Big School to witness this battle of wits and style. As the Debaters emerged, a clear favorite was chosen by the crowd. Roars could be heard from the edge of the school as Mr Hurst's name was called. And these roars refused to die down throughout the course of the debate but were tamed professionally by our Honorable Chairman, Domenico Cullura.

It was a heated Debate from the beginning with blows traded between both First speakers but in two very different styles. Julian proposed very clearly and eloquently; charming his way into the minds of the audience. However, Mr Bailey-Watson was having none of this! He mounted an all out attack upon poor Julian. Ignoring charm and sophistication, he projected pure passion at the proposition for even suggesting such a motion. The fire in his heart branded itself onto the audience and enthralled even those who were most sure of their beliefs.

It was the turn of the Seconders to secure the victory. Soham took to the gauntlet and presented his case with coherency and logic however the sheer power of Mr Hurst as a Speaker meant that, with the audience behind him, he wilted the proposition.

After the Speakers had finished, the debate took to the floor. The audience was allowed to raise queries and questions for either side to deal with. Both teams handled these with care and style, showing that both sides had vast knowledge in their chosen subjects.

The final stage was the summary speeches. Both First Speakers attempted to cement their case once and for all before being left to the mercy of the Judges and the crowd. The final verdict was a resounding win for the Opposition, however, great commiserations to the Boys as they fought an uphill battle from the beginning and held their ground against the Bailey-Watson assault. The Event was a massive success and has delighted all of those who were involved or came to watch. Stay tuned for next term's Big Debate and come along to G3 every Thursday Lunchtime for the hub of Reading School Debating.

Aleksander Stepanyan, 11C

## Mock EU Debate

On Thursday, November 22nd Harry Gosling and I travelled to London with Mr Beahan to take part in the EU Mock Council. This was held at the Locarno suite in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Whitehall. Two students from schools around the country represented each of the 27 EU member states, as well as two who acted as the EU Commission.

Our objective was to secure a budget for the next seven years which would be as beneficial as possible for the Republic of Ireland, the country we represented for the day. While Harry covered the 'Green Economy' proposals, I debated the size and allocation of the overall budget.

Even before we sat down, France informed us of her intentions regarding the Common Agricultural Policy. Most students made opening speeches. I delivered an introduction in French while Harry declared his position with a quote from Ghandi. Stubborn negotiations ensued and continued well into our working lunch, when hard horse-trading gave a little oral spice to the cumquat wedges and vol-au-vents.

Eventually, compromises were made and the budget agreed: a 3.5% overall increase, including a doubling of the budget for small and medium enterprises. Crucially, the education budget was protected, allowing schemes like Erasmus and Comenius (in which Reading School participates) to continue.

Our research and negotiating skills were tested and the event gave all the students a better idea of what the EU actually does, and indeed what a tough job David Cameron had last week! The day was considered a resounding success by all involved. For a flavour of the event, look at the following clip on Youtube:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=Cx3HYp5n5wM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Cx3HYp5n5wM)

Bramman Rajkumar, Year 12





## Innocent Victims' Memorial

After many years of lobbying for recognition of war children by Prof Martin Parsons (Governor of Reading School), the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey allowed a short service to be held of Remembrance at the Monument to the Innocents in the Precinct on 20th November. It was led by the Rev. Hugh Ellis, and the Rev. Canon Jane Hedges from the Abbey. Although only a few people were expected to attend, 40 turned up. Five schools, including Reading School, attended and laid wreaths, and some children who have fathers presently on deployment in Afghanistan also laid one on behalf of both their peers who find themselves in similar circumstances, and those who have been bereaved.



This was the first event of its kind ever to be held in the UK and it was a very moving experience.

The Reading 'boys' did the school proud and are to be commended on their turn out and their very mature attitude to the whole event. The Abbey authorities were very impressed and it is already in the calendar for next year.

Small though it may have been, the Innocent Victims' Memorial was a significant personal milestone for Reading University Professor Martin Parsons, whose research over 30 years into the impact of war on civilian children has convinced him they are the forgotten, invisible victims of conflict.

Prof. Parsons, who worked with the Abbey to hold the memorial service, said: 'There is so much evidence of war-related trauma in children that it simply cannot be ignored. The idea of this service is to make people more aware of the effects that war has on children and to get Parliament and local authorities to adopt November 20th as a War Child Remembrance Day as it is in some other countries.'

Bucks. CC. Chairman Marion Clayton, whose family was evacuated to Norfolk in 1939, was delighted to have been invited. Marion, who is also Champion for the Armed Forces in Buckinghamshire, said: 'The impact on children of war, the separation and the uprooting that happens to them in war, have been overlooked for far too long. I hope this is the beginning of an annual event recognising the gravity of this impact on young people.'

Prof M Parsons

## '....within this wooden O': an A Level English Literature and Language Trip to the British Museum

On Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> November I, along with the other students in Year 13 who currently study English at A Level, had the fantastic opportunity to explore some of the most exotic aspects of Shakespeare's plays.

'Shakespeare: Staging The World', a fantastic exhibition at the British Museum, gave us an opportunity to see how Shakespeare wanted his theatre to literally become a 'Globe', showing audiences far distant places and cultures. As the immortal bard himself put it: "All the world's a stage".

Each object on show in the exhibition reflected some of the influences that Shakespeare would have encountered in his life: from the female bear skull discovered buried a short distance away from the Globe Theatre which would have belonged at one time to one of the many bears being baited on the south side of the Thames, to a preserved eye of a persecuted Jesuit priest.



Following our time in the exhibition we listened to four lectures on how Shakespeare still has huge resonance globally to this day. Each of the lectures shed light on a different aspect of Shakespeare's lasting impression; the exhibition's curator linked each of the exhibits on display to the new world which was opening up all around early 17<sup>th</sup> century London, while an actor showed how Shakespeare's use of iambic pentameter can even now show thespians where to pause for breath.

All in all the study day showed for me that Shakespeare's London was a city just becoming aware of how vast and incredible the rest of the world was, and Shakespeare himself was keen to delve into this new and barely understood globe.

William Sandbach, 13PEFH



## News from the LRC

We have had another busy half term in the LRC supporting various departments throughout the school in order to enhance the boys learning.

KS3 boys were studying the Romans, so we created a display of resources that would help both within school and home.



Mr Bailey-Watson (Head of History) took a party of Year 7 boys to The Hexagon in Reading to see *Horrible Histories*. To complement their visit to the Hexagon, we created a Horrible Histories display in the LRC. The display included lots of "horrible" books for the boys to choose from and the odd poster of familiar "vile" characters from the TV series.

This half term in the book club, we have been reading *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien. One of the reasons the boys chose to read the book was that it has been made into a film which is being released this month. To complement the book, we have created a display which we hope will inspire the boys to try out our range of fantasy books in the LRC.



Book Club member Ben Holden-Crowther scoops exclusive interview with the best-selling author Charlie Higson.

Book club member, Ben Holden-Crowther (8C) writes as a Youth Reporter for the Reading Chronicle and he recently met and interviewed Charlie Higson. Ben was lucky enough to be able to interview the award winning author at the Windsor Festival as he was there to give a talk about his latest book, *Sacrifice*. Ben got to ask Charlie Higson a wide range of questions including 'How old were you when you first started writing?', 'What was your favourite subject at school?' and 'Why did you decide to write kids books?' Ben really enjoyed the experience and gave the school some exclusive reports and photos.

Finally, members of the Book Club wanted to do their bit for this year's BBC Children in Need appeal by holding an ex-library stock book sale.

The book club helped to organise and run the event by putting up posters and drumming up support in their classes. On the day the boys offered books for a donation and walked around the school with collection boxes.

Afterwards all the boys agreed that they had enjoyed running the event and raised £63.97 in less than an hour!

Laurence Bashford (12PFH) said 'An effective and inspiring way to make good use of extra library resources to raise money for a wonderful cause'. George Archer (7C) said 'I thought it was a really good idea that we could donate to Children in Need and surprising that we could raise £63.97 from such a small group of people' and finally Kieran Vernon (10S) said 'It was fun to be part of raising money for Children in Need and we raised a lot of money. It was good that everyone got involved, even the teachers!'



Thank you to all the staff and pupils who supported this event.

Finally the LRC staff would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Mrs Jackson, LRC





## News from the LRC cont.

### E-books, furniture and graphic novels in the LRC

The Library Forum, co-ordinated by Vijay Gida, met for the first time just before half-term. Representatives from each tutor group gave feedback on this term's hot topic, which concerned e-books. The results were really interesting, with the majority of pupils preferring normal books to e-books. Of those that read e-books, the majority used either Apple products or kindles. The Forum members thought it would be a good idea to trial a library e-book provider, which we will investigate further next term. Library furniture and graphic novels were among the other topics we discussed and I have since received feedback on the sort of furniture we should consider for the fiction area. The next Library Forum meeting will be in February.

### New and improved OLIVER

The school library management system, called Oliver, has been upgraded to the latest version. The improvements include:

- Enhanced book information, including book covers, summaries and reviews
- Access to over 11000 good quality websites
- Reservation and overdue notices emailed direct to student email accounts
- Improved access to the library catalogue (OPAC) while in school (not available from home at the moment)
- All students can now login to their library accounts, while in school, via the link to Oliver on the Sharepoint homepage using their network username and the password "password". This enables students to see what books they have out on loan, renew books and place reservations. This upgrade also puts us in a good position to consider further developments, such as offering e-books for loan via the library catalogue.

Mrs Kesteven, School Librarian

## Reading School student receives award for top result in Cambridge Chemistry Challenge 2012

Andrew Raison has received an award to acknowledge his outstanding performance, achieving one of the highest marks in a new competition called the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, which was taken by 4300 students in 300 schools across the country this year.

Andrew was amongst 39 students who achieved the highest marks in the Challenge. All award winners were rewarded with a crystal trophy depicting the electron density of an excited hydrogen atom at a ceremony at the Royal Institution in Piccadilly, London.



Supported by the University of Cambridge Chemistry Department, Cambridge International Examinations and OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations), the competition, which was taken by 30% more students than in its first year in 2011, aims to stretch and challenge budding chemists. The 90 minute written paper designed by experienced teachers and lecturers, takes Year 12 students in the UK significantly beyond the Chemistry syllabus, and encourages them to think about science in the way they would at university.

Dr Peter Wothers said: "It is encouraging to see this competition strike a chord with so many students. The competition allows students to apply knowledge of other subjects, think creatively and take their knowledge to the next level – these are exactly the kind of skills which are needed for university. It is therefore useful for students wanting to go on to study chemistry at undergraduate level because it gives them that outstanding flair!"

Ann Puntis, Chief Executive of Cambridge International Examinations said: "It's fantastic to see the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, now in its second year, going from strength to strength. More students across the country are seeing the benefits of a competition, which stretches their knowledge and prepares them for the challenges of university and beyond."

The Cambridge Chemistry Challenge will continue into 2013 due to popular demand from students and teachers. There will be new monthly competitions from November 2012 to June 2013. If you would like to find out more visit [www.c3i6.org](http://www.c3i6.org).



## Daisy's Dream Team



An idea that originated from the shower 18 months ago, the charity concert was given its second time to shine on the 13th December. Set in the magnificent theatre of dreams that was Big School, the students of Reading, Abbey and Kendrick Schools along with the unwavering support of relatives delivered a night to remember.

For three months, the original team of year 12s, including Chris Poon, Ben Doyle, Matt Perry, Tom Russell and Martin Shine canvassed the entire school for even the smallest donation, so much so that what started as a 10 man effort turned into the entire school, from year 7s to catering staff, pitching in and making a difference.

Daisy's Dream is a local charity which helps children overcome the greatest injustice conceivable in their minds: bereavement. The charity has become our Vice-Captain, Dan Brock's, charity of the year and the concert tied in with Dan's vision very nicely.

At the beginning a target of £1,500 was established, but the level of support and enthusiasm that met the idea of a concert was truly unexpected. In order to raise awareness students were approached every break and lunchtime in the refectory, asked for a donation or the purchase of a ticket. Speeches were made in house assemblies and chapels, twitter was alive with constant feeds of the progress being made. All this time performers from year 12 rehearsed behind the scenes, determined to make the show the best it could be. They did not disappoint. Excellent performances (especially the Manic Street Teachers) owed to a great atmosphere that really captured the team effort that came into making the concert happen the way it did. In the end a grand total of over £2,500 was raised, smashing the original target.

The final two weeks before the concert was one of the most exciting and uplifting weeks in some of our memories. The amount of times we were approached with donations, big or small, along with the words of encouragement from everybody moved us deeply, which shows just how inspirational, compassionate and world class the school is. Special thanks from the bottom of our hearts go to the Drama department for lending us staging, the Estates team and the Music department for lending us equipment we needed, Mr. Robson for allowing us to organise the event, the girls from the Abbey who performed with us and the teachers who supervised and gave the performance of their lives! (They know who they are).

Together we managed to help Daisy's Dream continue their great work, and hopefully during a time like Christmas where it's the hardest, managed to raise a little smile on the children's faces. Parents should be very proud of their sons because an event like this brings out the best that they can be.

Until next year (fingers crossed!), Merry Christmas.

Chris Poon 12MD

## Geographers romp to victory!



Reading School's team of Josh Blake (8E), Joe Grimmett (10C), and James Woolaghan (9E) emerged victorious in the local area Geographical Association Worldwide Quiz at Big School on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> time the School had hosted the event, and the boys defeated teams from 15 other schools to become champions for the second year running.

Having won in 2011, the boys knew what was expected. Their confidence paid off, as they raced into an early lead. Following rounds on topics such as European cities, Ordnance Survey maps, geography in the news, and flags, they claimed victory by a margin of 19 points over their nearest rivals. The boys demonstrated a wide range of geographical knowledge and fully deserved their prizes of £20 Amazon vouchers and, of course, the trophy.

Reflecting on the evening, a proud James Woolaghan described the event as 'very enjoyable', despite finding the rounds on physical features and Ordnance Survey maps very challenging. He also commended his teammates Josh and Joe, for their fantastic teamwork and thanked their teachers for their support.

As James said: 'All in all, it was a fantastic night, made better perhaps by the win.'

Mr Nicholas, Geography Teacher



## Computer Science is coming to Reading School

Reading School will be offering Computer Science and Electronics as curriculum options to students from September 2013. These exciting developments will be phased in and will eventually replace the current Technology curriculum at all key stages, including GCSE and A level.

Governors and senior staff made the decision for several reasons: -

- Our students need opportunities to develop applied science skills to enhance learning in Maths and Sciences.
- The majority of our students go on to study STEM subjects or subjects directly related to business at university. Having the practical experience of computer science will give them a competitive edge at university and job interviews
- There has been a steady decrease in recent years in take up of the technology subjects that we currently offer at AS and A Level, which indicates that students do not consider these subjects relevant to their proposed career paths
- Computer Science is increasingly prevalent in the world in which we live. Even if students do not study Computer Science at A level, a working knowledge of programming and electronics will benefit them, whatever career they eventually choose

Students will also have additional opportunities for enrichment and independent study, including opportunities to learn robotics, design software and to apply their creative skills to solve novel problems.

In order to be in a position to offer the new curriculum from September 2013, we urgently need to undertake a major refurbishment of our three existing technology laboratories. The work will need to begin in early summer 2013, at a cost of over £200,000.

We already have a proportion of the necessary funding in place and we are also submitting a bid to the Department for Education for further funding. However, we will need to raise a significant amount from other sources before May 2013.

We will be writing to members of the school community early in 2013 to let them know how they can support this important development. We will also have further information available at parents' consultation evenings during the Spring term.

In the meantime, the Development Office would love to hear from anyone with links to local technology companies, or charitable trusts that might be able to help. You can contact Frances Greaney at [fgreaney@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:fgreaney@reading-school.co.uk) or phone 0118 9015600 ext 264.

## Christmas Cheer in the Chapel

### Boarders' Carol Service

The last week of the Michaelmas Term got off to a festive start in the Chapel on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December with the annual Boarders' Family Carol Service. Boys, staff and parents all took part, leading the congregation through a series of readings, carols and prayers looking forward to the end of Advent and the coming of Christmas.

In his address, Rev. Chris Evans, the Housemaster of South House reassured all present that in spite of ICT related problems, Christmas 2012 would eventually arrive! Buoyed up by these tidings, everyone convened in the Refectory for more seasonal cheer in the form of mulled wine and mince pies.

We would like to thank Mr. Meehan, Director of Music for accompanying the carols on the organ. We are also very grateful to all who contributed to the collection for the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice which raised £140.

Mr Hurst, South House

### School Carol Service at St Luke's

Mr Meehan and the chapel choir and brass band pulled out all the stops, and treated a packed St Luke's Church to a memorable performance of carols old and new. Prayers and readings were led by The Reverend Chris Evans.

Over 60 students were involved in the service this year. They performed 14 carols during the service, including old favourites like *In the Bleak Midwinter*, and *Once in Royal David's City*. There were also some newer carols, including *When Shepherds Careful Vigil Kept*, with music composed by Stuart Emmerson, 13W.

Thanks to the organist, Richard Parkinson (OR 2005-12), who accompanied the choir throughout. The retiring collection raised £409 for the Sachin Trust, a charity that provides humanitarian, financial, and educational support to underprivileged children and young people in poor areas of the world. The Sachin Trust, along with Daisy's Dream, is one of the School's Charities of the Year for 2012-13. Thank you to all the parents and friends who contributed.





## Public Speaking and Debating



In November 2012, 12 of us went to an Intelligence Squared debate at Emanuel Centre in Westminster. The motion was: This House Believes that Western Liberal Democracy would be wrong for China. The speakers were impressive, the arguments clear and there was good response from a full audience – and we all learned a lot about debating!

LAMDA examinations in the spring term are on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Letters and application forms have gone out to all parents of boys in years 8–13. Forms are due in by Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December. 49 boys took exams in the Autumn Term ... and the results were 26 Distinctions and 23 Merits – brilliant!

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 (year 13), Domenico Cullura, George Prove and Julian Sutcliffe (year 12), Aleksandr Stepanyan, Jacob South-Klein (year 11) and George Henderson & Ritvij Singh (year 10). (see photograph below)



*Debating on a Thursday continues to flourish and skills are being developed all the time.*

*We entered the Rotary Youth Speaks competition ...*



*... and hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the ESU Mace Debate competition. We had an inspiring evening with students from The Abbey, The Holt and Kendrick Schools. Louise Smyth of Field Seymour Parkes and Barrie Steele judged the competition. The 1<sup>st</sup> round of the ESU Public Speaking competition will be held in Big School on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January. You're welcome to join us.*



During the summer holidays, three boys went on ESU Debating courses – Aleksandr Stepanyan, Jacob South-Klein and Timi Zanus. Aleks has written a report of his 5 days on the World Debate course ... here are extracts ...

Coming out of the car after the hefty 3 hour drive, I was surprised at how such a small village can hold such an amazing event. We (my father and I) walked up to the registration desk and were greeted by young energetic mentors. The mentors were volunteers from the highest class of debating with various UK and World champions with massive experience.

After I unpacked and got comfortable in the accommodation (which was also top class), I said my goodbyes to my father. I went into the common room to find a collection of some of the most interesting people I've ever met. From musicians, to junior reporters and heads of NPOs, everyone had a story tell.

The lessons always had a clear goal, usually focusing on a single specific role or part of the debate. There were also more generic lessons, which focused on style and structure. These lessons were taught in a way which struck the perfect balance between informality and professionalism. After lessons there was a debate to put into practice the skills learnt in the lessons.

The debates themselves were great fun and allowed us to really get enthusiastic about our given topics. They were judged by the mentors and there was a feedback session after each debate to praise and to highlight any areas for improvement. Sometimes, you would be grouped up with people from the higher experience streams, which added diversity to the debates and allowed us to learn by example. There were also several show debates ...

Near the end of the course, we were offered a variety lectures to go to spanning from economics, law and philosophy to Africa and democracy.

All in all, Debate academy was the highlight of mine and many others summers and I will be sure to come back next year to experience the expert coaching, impressive debates and probably most importantly, the amazing people. (Also the food wasn't bad either).



## Sporting News

This Summer Joe Taylor joined the Wraysbury Skiff & Punting Club and competed at a series of regattas on the Thames. <http://www.wspc.org.uk/>

What is skiffing & punting?

Before the invention of the sliding seat, riggers and carbon fibre boats, rowing started in fixed seat, clinker built boats with tholes to hold the oars; these craft originated as ferrymen's boats, graduated to pleasure craft popularised in Victorian and Edwardian times by Jerome K. Jerome's Three Men in a Boat and eventually became the sport of skiff racing governed by the Skiff Racing Association, founded in 1901.

In the early days, all regattas had rowing, skiffing and punting events, but now the only regatta to still combine these sports with rowing is Egham Regatta.

The skiffing season runs from May through to October when some 20 regattas are held almost on a weekly basis at various locations between Wargrave and Teddington on the River Thames; it is similar to the rowing season starting and ending with long distance races and with town and club regattas offering sprint racing in the middle. Most of the town regattas are over 100 years old.

Racing skiffs come in two types; singles for one sculler and coxed doubles for two scullers; they are sculled with two oars, rather than rowed with one oar.

A typical sprint course is some 600-700 metres in length with the course taking 3-4 minutes to complete, depending on the competence of the crew. By contrast the long distance races can vary from 25 to 40 minutes in duration. Both have categories for men, women and mixed crews; there are status's at Novice, Junior, Junior Senior and Senior statuses, and increasingly, events are being offered for under 14's, 16' and 18's as well.

What is a punt? Most people will conjure up the vision of the undergraduate at Oxford or Cambridge, a girl with a parasol, a picnic hamper and champagne but, racing punts are as little as one foot wide and need tremendous skill and balance to propel them at surprisingly fast speeds.

The sport of punting is administered by the Thames Punting Club, founded in 1887.

Racing punts come in two types, defined by their width. There are 2ft wide racing punts that are punted by one or two people and then best & best punts punted by one person, which can be as little as 1ft wide and are all individually made, originally to suite the particular owner.

A typical sprint course is either  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile in length.

The sports are similar to rowing in that a competitor has a status and points are awarded for each win; there are open categories and categories for juniors and veterans. There is a 'league' for each category with the Club with the most wins being declared the winner.

Because Joe was 14 prior to the start of the season, he has been competing in the U16 category and often in the U18 category as well, as there was no suitable partner at U16 at his club.

Joe's wins during the season included the Wraysbury Long Distance Sculls, The U16 Mixed Doubles at Egham Regatta, where he also lost in the final of U18 Mixed Doubles, he lost in the final of the U16 Mixed Doubles at Sunbury Regatta and the U18 Mixed Doubles at Walton Reach Regatta, but went on to win the U18 Handicap Doubles at the Wraysbury Club Regatta, the Family Punting Doubles at Dittons Skiff & Punting Club Regatta and finally the U18 Singles at the Club Championships.

The family nature of the sport also enabled Joe to race with his father in the Family Skiff Doubles, coxed by mum and in the Family Punting Doubles at regattas where these 'fun', but competitive events are offered as well as the status events.

Joe's wins helped his Club retain the 'league' for Junior racing.

Joe's class mate Will Denham competes for the Wargrave Boat Club; Will won the U14 Doubles at Hampton Court & Dittons Regatta.



## Sporting News cont.

Congratulations to Matthew Wadsworth who finished 5th in the U12 section (from about 200 competitors) on 18th November at the close of the World Youth Chess Championships.

He was unbeaten over the 11 rounds of the event (the only England player from the team of 34 to remain unbeaten, also one of only a few of players in the entire U12 competition to achieve that milestone). He ended up half a point off the gold medal (i.e. if he had won one of his drawn games, he would have become the world champion). He was also the highest scoring member of the entire England team, and the highest-placed finisher. Amongst his victims along the way was the #2 seed in his section, with perhaps his finest game of the event.

The photo was from the prize giving, where Garry Kasparov (the former world champion) was the guest of honour (seen just behind Matthew).



Cameron Ward, one of our Sports Personality of the Year nominees has been celebrating notable success this year. He is currently ranked 20 in the England Under 15s, rising 17 places since the start of the year in Squash. In January he competed in the British Junior Open Under 15s placing 45 out of 64. This is the premier squash tournament on the junior circuit with the best juniors in the world competing. In April 2012, he was winner of the Hampshire Junior Team and in May 2012, winner of the Harrow Under 15s. Other notable achievements include runner up in both the South Regional Closed Under 15s and Hampshire County Closed Under 15s.

## Sports Personality of the Year Awards



2012 has been a fantastic year both for Reading School sports and for students competing outside of school. On Wednesday 19th December, the second Annual Reading School Sports Personality of the Year took place to celebrate the achievements, success, efforts and commitment of the students in sport.

Hosted by Captain and Vice-Captain of School, Matt Greaves and Dan Brock, the evening highlighted the diverse and talented sporting individuals within the school. The guest speaker, Chris Lloyd an OR who won gold medal in the Coxed Fours in the Manchester Commonwealth Games, spoke about making positive choices and not sacrifices for success to be achieved.

Sports colours were awarded to students in Rugby, Football, Cricket, Rowing, Lacrosse and Chess who have demonstrated success on the pitch and reliability and loyalty off the pitch. The individual sports performance of the year was awarded to Kene Obieniu for his four tries in the U13s Rugby County Cup Final against Bluecoat. The winners of the team of the year were the 2nd XI Football team, captained by Ben Morris who were unbeaten and won their league.

Mr Walder was given a lifetime achievement award for his services to school cricket in coaching the 1st XI and running four successful cricket tours to the Caribbean. Coach of the Year was awarded to Mr Roca for his dedication and commitment to school sport but especially Rugby this year.

The Sports Personality of the Year winners were:

- 1st Place: Tom Henderson for winning the U15 British Trampolining Championships
- 2nd Place: Jonathan Davies for winning English Schools' Cross County Championships and English Schools' Athletics 3000m
- 3rd Place: Harrison Phillips for Reading Wildcats Lacrosse and two time England trialist

Congratulations to all the winners, colour recipients and nominees for their outstanding commitment and success in sport during 2012. How great can you be in 2013?

Mr A Beckey, Director of Sport







## Football Fixture Information 2013

Date	Opponent	Team	Venue	Kick Off	Further info
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Gordon's School	U16	Away	10am	Friendly
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Gordon's School	U15	Home	10am	Friendly
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Gordon's School	U14	Home	10am	Friendly
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Gordon's School	U13 A	Away	10am	Friendly
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Gordon's School	U13 B	Away	10am	Friendly
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Gordon's School	U12 A	Away	10am	Friendly
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Gordon's School	U12 B	Home	10am	Friendly
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Desborough	U12 A	Home	2:45pm	County Cup
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Windsor	U16	Away	2:45pm	County Cup
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Windsor	U15	Away	2:45pm	County Cup
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Reading Bluecoat School	U15A	Home		Friendly
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Reading Bluecoat School	U15 B	Home		Friendly
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Reading Bluecoat School	U14 A	Away		Friendly
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Reading Bluecoat School	U14 B	Away		Friendly
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Reading Bluecoat School	U13 A	Home		Friendly
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Reading Bluecoat School	U13 B	Home		Friendly
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Reading Bluecoat School	U12 A	Away		Friendly
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Reading Bluecoat School	U12 B	Away		Friendly
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Forest School	U14	Home	3:30pm	County Cup
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Dr. Challoner's School	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	Home	2pm	Friendly
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Dr. Challoner's School	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Home	2pm	Friendly
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Forest	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	Away	2:30pm	Berkshire League
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Forest	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Away	2:30pm	Berkshire League
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Forest	U15 A	Away	2:45pm	Friendly
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Forest	U15 B	Away	2:45pm	Friendly
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Dr. Challoner's School	U16	Away	10am	Friendly
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Dr. Challoner's School	U15	Away	10am	Friendly
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Dr. Challoner's School	U14	Home	10am	Friendly
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Dr. Challoner's School	U13	Home	10am	Friendly
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Dr. Challoner's School	U12 A	Home	10am	Friendly
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Dr. Challoner's School	U12 B	Home	10am	Friendly



## Football Fixture Information 2013

Date	Opponent	Team	Venue	Kick Off	Further info
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Forest	U13 A	Home	3:45pm	Friendly
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Forest	U13 B	Home	3:45pm	Friendly
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Piggott School	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	Home	2:30pm	Berkshire League
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Bulmershe	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Away	2:30pm	Berkshire League
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Claire's Court	U16	Away	10am	Friendly
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Claire's Court	U15 A	Away	10am	Friendly
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Claire's Court	U15 B	Away	10am	Friendly
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Claire's Court	U14 A	Home	10am	Friendly
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Claire's Court	U14 B	Home	10am	Friendly
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Claire's Court	U13 A	Home	10am	Friendly
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Claire's Court	U13 B	Home	10am	Friendly
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Claire's Court	U12 A	Away	10am	Friendly
		U12 B	Away	10am	Friendly
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Forest	U12 A	Away	4:15pm	Friendly
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Forest	U12 B	Away	4:15pm	Friendly
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Forest	U14 A	Home	4pm	Friendly
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Forest	U14 B	Home	4pm	Friendly
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Emmbrook	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	Home	2:30pm	Berkshire League
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	St. Barts	U15	Home	10am	Friendly
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	St. Barts	U14	Home	10am	Friendly
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	St. Barts	U13	Away	10am	Friendly
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	St. Barts	U12	Away	10am	Friendly
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Oratory	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	Home	2.30pm	Friendly
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Oratory	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Away	2.30pm	Friendly
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Oratory	U15 A	Home	2.30pm	Friendly
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Oratory	U15 B	Away	2.30pm	Friendly
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Oratory	U14 A	Home	2.30pm	Friendly
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Oratory	U14 B	Away	2.30pm	Friendly
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Oratory	U13 A	Home	2.30pm	Friendly
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Oratory	U13 B	Away	2.30pm	Friendly



Reading School

Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LW.

Reading School Parents' Association  
presents the

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# Reading School's Barn Dance!



in the

Big School Hall

on

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 7pm ~ 11pm**

**Ticket price includes Supper, Live Band & Caller**

**Adults: £9 Children: £6 - Friends and family welcome!**

**A licensed bar (& Soft Drinks) will be available**

There are a LIMITED number of tickets so book early to avoid disappointment.

To purchase tickets please post the completed slip with payment to:

Simon Blake, 42 Prince William Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG31 5WD

Please also e-mail Simon so he can ensure receipt of slip at [simon.blake@sky.com](mailto:simon.blake@sky.com)

**or alternatively place in the RSPA box in the School Office**

Name .....

Son's Class .....

N<sup>o</sup> of Adult tickets ..... N<sup>o</sup> of Child tickets .....

Total enclosed £.....

Email Address (for return of ticket).....

Please make cheques payable to Reading School Parent's Association

For catering numbers last date of ticket sales is **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January**