



# Reading School

Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LW

## School Newsletter Issue 6

1st June 2012

### Note from the Acting Principal

Dear Parents,

The contents of this newsletter illustrate the fact that we aim to be a 'World Class School.' The sheer range and quality of the achievements and endeavours of Reading School pupils and staff is evidence of the importance we attach to the idea of a 'healthy mind in a healthy body.' We believe that education in the Twenty First Century should be about both academic achievement and personal development. I believe that this is exemplified in our partnerships with schools in Copenhagen and Shanghai.

Our project with Denmark is ably led by Mr Jan Norgaard and Mr Chris Nicholas and involves twenty four Year 9 pupils in an exchange funded through the British Council. Regarding our links with China, we welcome eight students from Shanghai High School from 5-14 July. If you are interested in hosting a student from one of the top schools in China please contact Mrs Hannah Hayes ([hhayes@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:hhayes@reading-school.co.uk)) for further details.

Any successful school is based on partnerships, especially with parents and it was a pleasure to see so many parents at the May Fayre recently. We are grateful for the ways in which parents support the ethos of the school. We are also proud of the ways in which the Old Redingensians Association and the Reading Foundation support Reading School in our drive to become a 'World Class School.'

I am writing this as Acting Principal and I look forward to formally take up the post of Headmaster of Reading School with effect from September 2012!

Mr A Robson, Acting Principal

## Reading School wins the overall GA WorldWise Challenge 2012



Reading School hosted and won the Geographical Association (GA) WorldWise Quiz in November last year beating off over 50 other G&T geographers (including Wellington College). We have just returned from the GA WorldWise Challenge 2012 held in Blencathra, Keswick where there were over 40 G&T geographers all of whom had won their regional rounds.

I am very proud to announce that Reading School A, John Livesey, Ed Clennett and James Woolaghan, won the overall prize following their presentation on 'What makes the area around Blencathra special?' James also went on to win the Individual Fieldwork Competition which is fantastic as being in Y8 he was competing against

Y10s! Reading School B, Paddy Byfield, James Messer and Tadeusz Ciecierski-Holmes also had many positive comments made on their performance.

We will be awarded with the trophy by the President of the Geographical Association in the near future here at school. Congratulations to all involved!

Mr J Norgaard, Head of Geography



## New School Captain and Vice-Captain



Matthew Greaves and Daniel Brock have been elected School Captain and Vice-Captain for the 2012-13 academic year. They were voted in by their Year 12 peers and staff. Over the next year, they will lead a team of twenty one Prefects, who will play key roles in the operation of the School.

Matthew and Daniel will participate in School public events during the 2012-13 academic year, including Commemoration and Remembrance Services. They will also represent students at meetings of the School's Governing Body, and crucially, will organise Prefects for the smooth running of many school activities, including open days and lunchtime cover in the new Refectory.

Matthew sees his new role as a great opportunity to give something back to the School. He is looking forward to doing some public speaking, which he hasn't been able to do since Year 8. He says: "I always get nervous beforehand but it's a great feeling when a speech goes well."

Daniel is looking forward to being in a leadership role. He was a House Prefect this year and helped organise several house events. In his spare time, he also ran an after-school running clubs at two local primary schools. He says: "I hope we can help make improvements to School life, especially helping to make the first year of the new refectory a great success."

The biggest challenge, Matthew feels will be getting the team of Prefects organised so that everyone is clear on their roles. He says: "We have a fantastic team, and I'm sure everyone will make a great contribution."

The best piece of advice that they have received so far, from the outgoing School Captain, and Vice-Captain, Jonathan Stancombe and William Oster, is "to bring yourself to the role"

## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 20th June—Open Afternoon for Prospective Boarders, 2.00pm  
Saturday 30th June—Refectory Open House Event 2.30pm-4.30pm  
30th June—1st July—Annual Old Redingensian Cricket Weekend  
2nd—4th July—Open Air Shakespeare at Reading School  
Tuesday 3rd July—Junior Prizegiving  
Wednesday 4th July—Open Afternoon for Year 5 students and parents, 2.00pm  
Friday 6th July—Benefit Gala for Simon Waller, Basingstoke Ice Arena  
Tuesday 17th July—Term ends  
Thursday 16th August—A Level Results day  
Thursday 23rd August—GCSE Results day  
Wednesday 5th September—Year 7 and 12 induction  
Thursday 6th September—Term 1 starts  
Tuesday 25th September—Reading School Golf Day  
Friday 28th September—Commemoration Service, Minster Church of St Mary-the-Virgin, 2.00pm  
Thursday 18th October—Reading School Lecture: Julie Summers—Everest Needs You Mr Irvine



## Reading School Spring Fayre

The 2012 Reading School Spring Fayre took place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May and the event proved to be another huge success. The Fayre is always the main fund raising activity for the Parents' Association and initial indications are that takings will be close to £11,000. This money will go towards the completion of the observatory gardens and construction of an outdoor classroom.

After what seemed like endless weeks of below average temperatures complimented by rain, hail and even unseasonal snow, we were blessed with an interlude of wonderful clear blue skies and not a drop of rain in sight. Pupils, parents, staff and the general public turned out in their hundreds to enjoy a fabulous, fun, family day out. There was something for everyone, from a bungee run and assault course for the energetic, to local real ale, paella and burgers for the more relaxed. Bidding on the silent auction was steady all day with careful crowd control required during the final countdown as punters frantically made their last bids for some superb prizes donated by both businesses and parents. There was an impressive Taekwondo display on the field and regular origami demonstrations, as well as lots of traditional stalls. Mr Weeds drew out the tickets for the Grand Draw for his final time leaving lucky winners with some amazing prizes, including an iPad and a Kindle reader.

For many parents it was their first chance to see and take a wander round the brand new refectory and the response was overwhelmingly positive. It's great to see that the boys have somewhere dry and comfortable to eat at long last, after 887 years it was certainly worth waiting for!

To make this event such a success takes a massive amount of hard work both behind the scenes and on the day and I'd like to sincerely thank all the stall-holders and helpers who volunteered to give up their time to help as well as the Principal and members of the school staff who gave their support. I'd also like to thank our sponsors listed below without whom so much of the fundraising would not be possible. Finally, I'd like to pass on a big thank you to the Spring Fayre committee who have been working since last November to bring everything together. This small team has given up countless hours to make the Fayre into an enjoyable and rewarding day for all, thanks guys.

Adrian Drew  
Chair Spring Fayre Committee

### Sponsors

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Warings Bakery  
Wellington Country Park





## Refectory Open for Business



Over the last couple of weeks, students have been making great use of the new refectory, which opened for business on May 8<sup>th</sup>. It is heavily used at lunch and break times, and examination students are also finding it an excellent place to revise.

The Refectory, is open all day for breakfast, break and lunchtime food. As well as hot foot, students can buy salads to eat in, or snacks from the "Eat & Go" area at the back.

The snack and lunchtime menus are available on the school website at:

<http://www.reading-school.co.uk/uploads/document/Reading%20Lunch%20Tariff.pdf>  
<http://www.reading-school.co.uk/uploads/document/Cafe%20Bar%20Tariff.pdf>

The cost of building the refectory was met through the 1125 Campaign, which started in 2009. It has been generously supported by many parents, and alumni, and received a number of large bequests, and donations. As the school has recently become an academy it was also able to apply for a government grant through the Young People's Learning Agency.

Principal, Mr John Weeds says: "The refectory is a warm and sheltered place for students to eat. In the future, we hope that it will be used for many other activities and events that will benefit everyone in the School community. I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the achievement of this major amenity for our students."



For parents who haven't yet had a chance to see the refectory, we will be holding an Open House event on Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. There will be some excellent cakes on offer. If you are interested in coming along, please email: [events@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:events@reading-school.co.uk) to let us know.

Thanks to James Foran, 10S, for his help in gathering information for this piece

## Reading School Golf Day—25th September 2012



The next Reading School Golf Day will be held on Tuesday September 25<sup>th</sup> at Sonning Golf Club, and will raise funds for the 1125 Campaign.

The inaugural event was a fantastic success last year, and raised over £4,000 towards the cost of the new refectory. So get your clubs out, and start practising!

The cost of entering as a team is £240, £65 as an individual, or £40 per student. For more details, please contact [development@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:development@reading-school.co.uk).

We are also seeking items to auction at the event dinner, so if you or your company can donate any items, please let us know.



## 1125 Fund Update

The completion of the new refectory marks the completion of the first phase of our master-plan funded by the 1125 Campaign.

Governors are now considering the findings of the feasibility study that was recently conducted by David Morley Architects. This is looking at options for delivery in the next phase of the 1125 Campaign, which will provide significant improvements to our Science and Sports facilities.

The plan for Science is to provide **more laboratory teaching space** with improved and extended buildings to ensure the School continues to deliver outstanding results for many years to come. This will mean that we will have four laboratories each for Biology, Physics and Chemistry, instead of only three currently, and create some additional classroom space.

For sport, the plan is to build better and **more modern indoor facilities**, including changing room, teaching areas and sports hall that will enable students to balance their academic work with fitness and fun. These will also provide better facilities for school events such as concerts, prize giving and parents evenings.

More details on the plans for the next phase will be available over the coming months.

## Open Air Shakespeare at Reading School

GB Theatre will be performing two of Shakespeare's greatest plays, **The Taming of the Shrew** and **The Tempest**, from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> on the playing field at Reading School. These are acted and directed by an ensemble of experienced professional actors and directors, including Jack Shepherd, who will direct **The Tempest**. The proceeds will be divided between the 1125 Campaign, and the PE Department.

There will be two performances of **The Taming of the Shrew** on Monday July 2<sup>nd</sup> and on Wednesday July 4<sup>th</sup>. **The Tempest**, directed by Jack Shepherd will play on Tuesday July 3<sup>rd</sup>. All performances start at 7pm, and running time will be approximately two and a half hours, including interval.

**Tickets are available from** [www.gbtheatrecompany.com/bookings](http://www.gbtheatrecompany.com/bookings).

**Prices:** Adults - £17  
Concessions - £8

## Reading School Greeting Cards

We will soon take delivery of a range of beautiful cards. They feature four professionally taken photographs showing two windows in the school chapel, and two images taken with the equipment at Reading School Observatory. The inside is blank for you to insert your greeting.

They will be available in packs of five, at a cost of £5 per pack. All the proceeds will go towards the 1125 Campaign and the Observatory.

You can pre-order by emailing [development@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:development@reading-school.co.uk)





## British Biology Olympiad



Year 13 student, Robert Starley, has secured a place in the UK team which will compete at the International Biology Olympiad in Singapore in July. Robert was one of just sixteen finalists who took part in the UK Biology Olympiad recently at the University of Birmingham.

In Singapore, he will face three days of intensive practical tests as well as a demanding written examination.

Robert, who has been offered a place to study natural sciences at Cambridge this Autumn says "Taking part in the Olympiad so far has been great fun. It is much more challenging than our usual exams. I am really looking forward to the trip to Singapore."

The British Biology Olympiad challenges Britain's most talented students and rewards them for their success. 217 students were awarded a Gold medal as a result of their first round scores, these students were also invited to take a second, more demanding paper.

Five other Year 13 Reading School students won a gold medal in the Biology Olympiad this year. They are Alexander Bretton, Josh Gemmill, Matt Halligan, Sam Hutchison, and Amar Nanda. Matt has also been offered a place at Cambridge to study natural sciences, while the other four students have all been offered places to study medicine at the Universities of Oxford, London, Sheffield and Birmingham.

Year 10 student, Matthew Hankins also achieved a very high score in the Biology Challenge and has been invited to receive his certificate at the Royal Society – along with year 13 students who achieved medals in the Biology Olympiad.

## Football Teams are over the moon!

Reading School's 1st and 2nd football teams are celebrating the end of a very successful season.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI came good in the Gibbs Cup by reaching the quarter finals, where they lost to the eventual winners of the competition. They also matched last year's performance in the league, by retaining second place. They were led this year by Michael Chiang and John Crawford, who show great leadership in guiding the team through a difficult set of fixtures. Chris Allen was top scorer for all competitions and scored some memorable goals.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI competed in the West Berkshire League this year, and their performance was outstanding. They won five out of six games, and, with a final goal difference of 19 they secured the league title. Well done to Ben Morris who led the team through a successful campaign, and to Josh Billings who was their top scorer.

Football is a relatively new sport at Reading School, having been established in 2004. In its brief time at the School it has proved extremely successful. This year was no exception, with a large uptake of senior students. The PE department would like to thank all of the boys who gave up their time to participate, especially the year 13's. We wish them continued sporting success at university.

Mr T Bellinger, PE Teacher and Football Coach





## OR Cricket Weekend



The Annual Old Redingensian Cricket Weekend will be held on Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st July.

The traditional School 1st XI v Old Redingensians XI will take place on the Saturday and this is the last time that Ned Holt will be organising the match before his retirement. To mark the occasion, arrangements are being made for extra cricket lunches to be available for those who wish to come and have a have chat (and drink!) with Mr Holt before he leaves. The cost of the lunch is expected to be in the region of £5 per person. In order to know the numbers to cater for, and make your reservation please contact the Social Secretary, Barrie Shelton, on 01491 573431 or [barshel@talktalk.net](mailto:barshel@talktalk.net) before 16th June.

The Sunday event will again be the "all action Six-a Side Knockout competition". Although this is only a couple of years old it has become an instant success, to such an extent that this year entries have been over-subscribed! The Barbeque and Bar will again be available from 1.00pm onwards on the Sunday, until demand ceases.

## Year 10 Geography Trip to Pembrokeshire



During the last week of April, a large group of year 10 geographers travelled to Oriulton Field Study Centre in Pembrokeshire as part of their GCSE controlled assessment. After a long journey, during which McDonalds was overrun by a herd of boys, we arrived at the centre for our two night stay. Following a small pilot study on the first evening, the next day was spent out in the field collecting the data needed for our controlled assessments.



The aim of our study was to investigate the changing characteristics of the Afon Syfynwy from its source to mouth. At each of the four sites visited, the students were able to get in the river and use equipment - ranging from simple tape measures to sophisticated apparatus such as a hydroprop and impeller - to collect the data needed. A mixture of rain and river led to some very wet Reading School boys at the end of the day!



Once back at the centre, the rest of the time was spent writing up our methods and collating all that we had found so that we were ready to start our reports back at school. A fun, if slightly damp, time was had by all!

Edward Clennett 10W and Mr C Nicholas





## Benefit Gala for Simon Waller—Friday 6th July at Basingstoke Ice Arena

The Friends of Simon Waller are holding a Benefit Gala on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July at Basingstoke Ice Arena to raise funds to enable Simon to obtain urgent medical treatment in the United States.

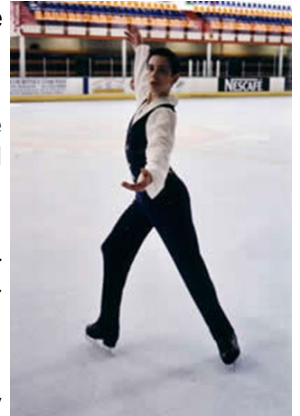
The event has been described as Dancing on Ice with ten times the speed and thrills! The show features professional ice skaters, Fiona Zaldia and Dmitry Sukhanov, who have toured with "Holiday on Ice", current UK Ice Dance Champion, Monica Brown, and "Disney on Ice" professional, Daniel Aggiano. It should be a great family night out.

Tickets are being offered for a special rate of £10 per person, for parties of 10 people or more. Family tickets are also offered at £44 for a party of 2 adults and 2 children aged 14 or under. **For tickets, please contact [teamsimonuk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:teamsimonuk@hotmail.co.uk)**

Simon Waller is an old boy of Reading School, having left in 2004. He is a talented athlete, having competed at elite level in figure skating, as well as representing Berkshire at archery and hockey. In recent years, Simon's health has been severely affected by a number of complex and debilitating conditions, including Addisons Disease and Crohn's Disease, as well as Ehler Dahler and Postural Disautomnia syndromes. These mean he is often in a great deal of pain, and has severely affected his ability to pursue his sporting and other ambitions.

In order to get the treatment he needs, Simon will need to travel to the Mayo Clinic in the USA, where there is a group of specialists who should be able to help him dramatically improve his quality of life. Friends in America will be able to help him with his travel and accommodation costs. However, he needs to raise around £10,000 to pay for the treatment.

Your support of the Benefit event will help him to get there. You can also show your support by logging on to the Friends of Simon Waller Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/238243306283417/>.



## Chess Team in National Finals

Reading School's chess team has reached the semi-finals of a national competition for the third time in 4 years. They achieved this remarkable feat by winning through to the last four of the Plate Section of the Yately Manor National Schools Chess Championships. The team, which includes pupils from year 7 through to year 13, defeated a very strong team from Norwich School with a 3½ - 2½ victory recently.

In July, they will travel to Uppingham School to compete for the Plate against three other schools from around the country. Special thanks are due for Mrs Readings and Mr Norgaard for driving the team to and from Norwich, and for Mrs Smith for her organisation and support.

Chess success is not just limited to the School team. Several players have also had success on an individual level recently. Of particular note are Matthew Wadsworth (7E), William Foo (9W) and Roy Zhang (10S), who have all been invited to play in the World Youth Chess Championships in Slovenia in November. This is a fantastic achievement for all of the boys – particularly Matthew, who is the highest rated under 12 player in the country. Also deserving of congratulations is Alex Vanlint (7S), who is currently representing England at the World School Individual Chess Championships in Romania after he was the top 10 year-old in a UK-wide competition last year.

We wish all of these boys the best of luck in their chess, both ongoing and upcoming.

Ben Vanderluis, Captain of the Chess Team





## British Mathematics Olympiad

Congratulations to Robin Elliot, who scored an Olympiad double recently. He has been selected to represent the UK at both the International Informatics Olympiad, and the Balkan Mathematics Olympiad.

Robin won his place in each team following an intensive week of mathematics at Trinity College Cambridge over the Easter holidays. He now goes on to compete as part of a team of four for a week at the International Informatics Olympiad in Italy in September.

Head of Maths, Alan Walder says: *"These are wonderful achievements, and a recognition of the high ability and work ethic that Robin has shown throughout his years at Reading School."*

Another year 13 student, Daniel Richman, also qualified for the UK Informatics Olympiad Final. It was an excellent achievement, as Robin and Dan were two of just sixteen finalists. Special thanks go to Mr Walder and Mr Mogridge for supporting them and other participants in these Olympiads this year.



## More Mathematics students strike gold!

An amazing 94 Reading School students, from Years 7 and 8, were awarded gold certificates in the recent National Junior Maths Challenge. A further 68 were awarded silver certificates and 37 students received bronze awards.

Of the boys awarded gold, 19 have qualified for the Olympiad, which is the next round of the competition. They include Year 8 students Ming Yin, James Messer, Freddie Gingell, Pranav Kanade, Ruben Beecham and William Kenyon, and Year 7s Karthik Neelamegam, Jack Lawrence, Ragan Jain, Saket Koti, Minh Bradshaw, Ryan Wong, Edmund Lea, Zohaib Lone, Matthew Wadsworth, James Sun, Yukon Limbu, William Clennell and Anthony Nicolaides. Particular congratulations are due to Ming Yin who also scored the best mark in school.

A further six students were awarded merits, as a result of achieving scores in the top 25% of their National Kangaroos. They were Year 9 students Shubham Gantayet, William Jefferies and William Foo, and Year 11s Vieran Nijjar, Joe Morris and Harry Gosling.

Well done to these boys and all who took part.

Mr Walder, College Leader in Mathematics

## Reading School Signallers keep rolling on

Congratulations to the Signals section of Reading School Combined Cadet Force, who recently won the National Cadet Signals Competition for the second year running. The team consisting of Sgt. A. Coombes, Sgt. J. Munns, Sgt. A. Matthews, Cpl. H. Phillips and L/Cpl R. Sullivan, accompanied by Capt. P.F.E. Hurst, took part in the competition, Exercise "Rolling Thunder", at Blandford Camp over the weekend of 30 March -1 April 2012.

The team tackled a variety of challenges, including practical stands on antennas and propagation, line laying, the National Radio Net and voice procedure as well as theoretical knowledge. There was also a march and shoot on the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer.



Having won the competition for two years running, Reading School CCF is not eligible to enter in 2013. However, the organisers were so impressed by the levels of enthusiasm and teamwork displayed by the team, that they have invited them to help with the running of next year's event.

Mr P Hurst, CCF Teacher



## Enterprise Awards 2012—Promoting Creativity, Adventure, Leadership, Science, Personal Initiative

Over the last two decades the Old Redingensians Association has sponsored students to achieve personal projects and realise specific ambitions, thus enhancing their Reading School experience.

To date, well over 500 students have benefitted and the total sponsorship expenditure exceeds £45,000.

The ORs launched Enterprise 2012 in January and once again sought individuals or small teams proposing projects or activities which would benefit their personal development. No restrictions were placed on the applications other than the fact that they had to demonstrate enterprise, creativity and personal initiative.

Should the project benefit a third party and make a worthwhile social contribution to an impoverished individual or group, then this would positively influence the OR Awards Panel.

Pupils were advised that they were expected to raise funds through their own initiatives, not just asking parents for money, and the OR Enterprise Award would top up rather than cover the complete cost of the activity.

Additionally the quality of the on-line application, together with a personal undertaking to provide the ORs with a full report within two months of completion, was factored into the value of the award.

Reading School Principal, John Weeds, together with his team, continued to support the Enterprise Awards and ensured that the January 2012 launch was successful.

A classroom poster campaign and on-line prompts aimed to raise pupil awareness, ensuring continued visibility, and a series of four House assemblies were held in Big School organized by OR President Martin Parsons and Past President Michael Maule.

This year a total of 33 students from all age groups achieved Enterprise awards amounting to £4100, with one notable applicant receiving £500.

The OR panel was also made aware of a 34 student team travelling to Tanzania this summer and agreed to provide £2000 towards the cost of a group safari which was not part of the original expenditure.

Mr M Maule, Old Redingensian

## Kieran Toms is Berkshire Golf Handicap Champion



Kieran Toms won the Handicap Competition at the annual Berkshire Schools Golf Competition on Friday April 13th. Kieran, who is in year 10, was one of six Reading School students to take part in the competition. He won the Handicap Competition by a total of four shots over thirty six holes medal play against a very strong field of competitors.

Congratulations to Kieran and to the other Reading School students who took part. They were Kieran's older brother Duncan, Robin and Richard Sullivan, Scott Proctor and Tom de Oliveira. They all put in excellent performances and were great ambassadors for the School.

As part of their warm-up, four of the boys had played a thirty six hole stableford match against a staff team two days earlier, with the staff winning a close game.



## Reading School Lecture -Julie Summers- Everest Needs You Mr Irvine

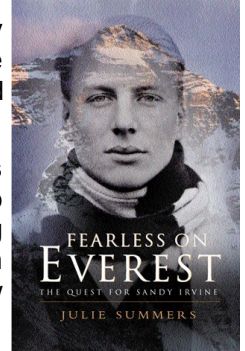
We are proud to announce the first event in the Reading School lecture series on Thursday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This will be given by historian and broadcaster, Julie Summers, who will be speaking about her great-uncle, Sandy Irvine who accompanied George Mallory on his ill-fated expedition to Everest in 1924.

The disappearance of Mallory and Irvine close to the summit of Mount Everest in June 1924 is perhaps the most compelling unsolved mountaineering mystery of all times. What happened to the two men, last seen going strong for the top, has never been resolved. Were they coming down from the summit or had they turned back, defeated? The discovery of Mallory's body in 1999 answered none of these questions but it excited speculation and enthralled a new generation.

At twenty-two Sandy Irvine was the youngest member of the 1924 Mount Everest Expedition but he was far from the inexperienced ingénue that history has suggested. He had crammed into his short life what few men achieve in a lifetime: from outstanding mechanical inventions during the First World War, via a double blue in rowing at Oxford and exploration in the Arctic, to a passionate love affair with his best friend's stepmother, and, perhaps, standing on the summit of the world.

This beautifully illustrated talk by Julie Summers brings to life one of the most enthralling stories linked to Mount Everest. Set in the Edwardian era, when the conquest of the mountain represented the last, great challenge of exploration after both the poles had been discovered, it evokes the mood of the early twentieth century and of British climbing at the time of the First World War.

**Tickets cost £5, and include a glass of wine.** Please email [events@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:events@reading-school.co.uk) if you are interested in attending. All proceeds go to the 1125 Fund.



## Drama Success



Year 11 Drama students are celebrating double success with great performances in GCSE exams and one student, George Prove, being accepted into the National Youth Theatre.

The GCSE Drama candidates performed devised pieces with great success on Thursday 29th March for their moderated examination. The work which was written and developed by the students was an eclectic range, including a piece about haunting and a farcical chase for a swan named Betsy!

George Prove, who also participated in GCSE assessments, has just been accepted into the National Youth Theatre. George was chosen from thousands of applicants, and had to undergo a challenging series of auditions. During the summer holidays he will participate in a 10-day National Youth Theatre workshop in London. On completion, he will be a fully fledged member of the company.

Congratulations to George and all the other year 11 Drama students who have worked so hard. Their success is well deserved.





## Uniform Shop

Has your son grown out of his school uniform or sports kit? Is he leaving Reading School soon?

The Uniform Shop urgently needs donations of uniform and sports kit in good condition. Please bring your items to the School Reception in a bag labelled "Uniform Shop". All money raised is spent by the Parents' Association for the benefit of the boys. Thank you very much for your support.

Parents' Association

## Uniform Shop Donations

We have a selection of lost property in reception which includes mobile phones, glasses, keys and wallets. There will be an opportunity for your son to reclaim items that they may have lost. This will be over a three day period, at break time only from Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

Your son will need to provide a written description of the lost item and the office staff will respond via tutors if the item is amongst the lost property.

From Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June, any unclaimed items will then be passed to the School Uniform Shop.



## News from the Observatory

The recent lack of sun and heavy cloud cover have made observations difficult. However, on the day of the Spring Fayre we managed to put together the necessary components to convert to a solar observatory. In addition, we managed to use our portable telescopes to display sunspots. These attracted a lot of attention and we had little time to actually take any photographs of the displays. However we did manage to capture a 40 second video of the sun's activity. The specialist filters we use help us to see what is going on on the sun's surface, and our video camera briefly captures prominences or flares at the edge, and sunspots in the middle. At the end a cloud blots out everything. The astro imaging team, were Tom Hayes, Matthew Collins, Jacob Parker, and Robin Elliott and Mr Tucker with help from other individuals from time to time. Thanks to all who helped.



We are hoping to observe the transect of Venus on 6th June. This may, however, be challenging as the transect will be complete by the time the sun is 8 degrees above the horizon. Buildings and trees may obscure the view, assuming no further issues with cloud cover. We will have to wait another 117 years to see it again. We are moving towards a Solar maximum in 2013, and fortunately will be able to observe myriads of sunspots, prominences and CME's (Coronal Mass Ejections).

Mr T Tucker

## James Smith Ice Skating update

Congratulations to James Smith (10W) who has recently competed in the regional ice dance competitions achieving three 1st place rankings, two 2nd place and one 3rd place. Having recently started training with a partner, James and Chloe also competed in two couples events and achieved 1st place in both events. The next stage is for James to compete in the British Solo Ice Dance Championship in June—we wish him every success in his endeavours.



## News from the LRC

This term in the LRC we have been commemorating the centenary of the sinking of RMS Titanic.

All members of the school community were encouraged to come and see our factual display. We were particularly commemorating the loss of Frederick William Edge who was a Deck Steward on board the ship. He was the great-grandfather of Mrs Lidbetter who works in the school office.

We had many positive comments from pupils regarding the informative display such as 'What I liked about the Titanic display was its relevance to the time i.e. current issues/media topics are particularly interesting to find out more about' (James Daly 11S). 'The comparison of a car to the Titanic' (scale) (Rhim Shah 7S) and 'The 3D of the pictures and cool graphics' (Will Jefferies 9S).



*The Titanic display and members of the Book Club with the display*

We have now moved onto a display celebrating the Diamond Jubilee. We hope the school community will come and take a look, and some tutor groups will be having a 'fun quiz' that goes with the display. Part of the display commemorates the visit of the Queen in May 1986, she was here to unveil a window in the chapel on the occasion of the school's quincentenary.



*Her Majesty the Queen with the then Head Master John Bristow  
(19<sup>th</sup> May 1986)*

The pupils were keen to feedback on the Jubilee display. Kieran Vernon (9S) liked 'the big bright numbers and pictures' and several others liked the fact that it was colourful and caught your eye.



*Members of the Book Club with the Jubilee Display*

After half term, we will be concentrating on the Olympics. We will have a good selection of books for pupils to take out of the LRC whilst we will be linking our display with the school's Specialisms Week. We will also be focusing on the local aspect of the Olympics so please encourage your son(s) to visit us. You may also be interested to know that there is an exhibition on at Reading Museum entitled: Bikes, Balls and Biscuitmen – Our Sporting Life which you may like to see.



## Bestselling Author visits Reading School English Lessons

The Sunday Times bestselling author A. L. Berridge visited Reading School English lessons on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April to give hints and tips to A Level English Language and Literature students as well as the whole of Year 10.

Her new book, a historical fiction set during the Crimean War, was published in early May, and she spent two and a half hours in a writing workshop with our Year 12 ELL class showing them how she crafted its plot lines, characters, and narrative perspectives. Mrs Berridge was also the executive producer in charge of *EastEnders* between 2002 and 2004, so she worked on script-drafting exercises with the students and helped give them ideas for creating their own original writing coursework folders.

During her visit to Reading School she spoke to the whole of Year 10 about the business of being a professional writer, and how to go about the detailed historical research required to write the kinds of novels which have proved to be so successful in recent years.

The official A. L. Berridge website describes the event as having been “wonderfully stimulating”, and she says that our AS candidates are “frighteningly talented”. Not a bad recommendation from the woman who brought *Dirty Den* back to the BBC One screens, and nurtured the early careers of the writers of programmes like *Hustle* and *Shameless*.

Mr R Baldock, Head of English

## Governor Vacancies

Reading School seeks to fill vacancies on the School's Governing Body. The Governing Body has a key strategic role in setting the aims and objectives for the School, in setting School policies and targets, and in monitoring and evaluating the progress the School is making towards achieving its aims and objectives. We wish to recruit Governors from a variety of backgrounds, reflecting different cultures, communities, work skills and life experiences. At Reading School we are especially concerned to improve the gender and ethnic minority balance of the Governing Body. Anyone with links to the local area, and the time to commit, is eligible to be considered for the role of Governor.

Although the school governor role is voluntary; it does require a commitment of time and the ability to attend evening meetings. It can be very rewarding as you help to shape the future of Reading School. We want to continue to provide the very best possible educational experience for our students, and the Governing Body plays a key part in helping the School to achieve that vision.

The Governing Body looks forward to hearing as soon as possible from anyone who is interested in becoming a Governor. To find out more about the role, or to apply, please leave a message with your contact details for Miss A Snow, the clerk to the governors, (tel 0118 9015600 or email: [Govsclerk@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:Govsclerk@reading-school.co.uk)).

*Reading School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and expects all governors to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) clearance.*

## Messing about on the River

The Annual OR v School Rowing event will take place on Saturday 7th July. All are welcome to view this premium rowing event, with a riverbank barbeque afterwards.

Venue: Reading School Boat House

Start time: 2.00pm





## The Allotment Club Grows



Whilst the school's astronomers have been looking to the heavens, something more terrestrial has been going on at their feet.

Some might have been sceptical that a gardening club at a boys' school would flourish but since its founding the new Allotment Club at Reading School has been a resounding success.

Originally conceived several years ago, as part of the project to redevelop the school and secure Green Flag status, the gardens are now off the ground. However, much hard work went into their initial creation with parents, students and staff all giving up their free time to muck in together, working to build raised

beds, weed the ground and weave a willow fence for the garden.

When the club first opened in March work began on planting vegetables and other crops to harvest later in the year, and we also worked to prepare for the seemingly imminent drought, although (with hindsight) that may not have been entirely necessary!

But, although extremely damp, the recent weather has had significant benefits and now the plants (both in the beds and in the greenhouse at the back of the school) are doing well, and it's not merely the plants that are growing. When the club first began the majority of the members were boarders, but in recent weeks a surge of interest from day pupils has helped even out the numbers.

Miss von Widdern (who helps run the club) is exceptionally pleased with this interest expressed by day pupils, although she says that there is much work and weeding still to be done. One of the day pupils who recently joined the club comments that he has already learned much about gardening and is looking forward to putting his new knowledge to use in his patch in the garden. The club has also expanded to run on a Wednesday lunch as well as on a Monday after school, and though there is still much work to do we can easily say that the seed of success have definitely been sown.



Ben Teall

## Work Experience energises pupils

From 26th March - 30th April, Shabarish Sriraman, enjoyed a unique work experience course at the National Grid Training Centre near Newark, Nottingham. Run in conjunction with the UK's largest utility company, National Grid, this residential learning opportunity gave 47 students an insight into the future of energy and the industry as a whole. Over the five days, the students worked with engineers to see first-hand how the supply of energy works. This included learning about the anatomy of the nation's energy networks and taking a close up view of high-voltage substations, lines and cables. Social activities included a film evening and a sports night. On the final night, The Smallpeice Trust and National Grid hosted a conference style dinner, attended by Les Adams, Electricity Maintenance Manager at National Grid. Students and supervisors heard Les speak about his career based on engineering and had the opportunity to socialise and share their experiences of the week. Bookings are now being taken for Smallpeice summer residential courses. Visit [www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk](http://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk) or telephone: 01926 333200 for further details.