



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

5 FEBRUARY 2021

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Introduction

Dear Parents, carers and students,

Captain Sir Thomas Moore RIP

As we begin February, we remain optimistic as we approach the spring with just three weeks to the beginning of March. However, the loss of Captain Sir Thomas Moore this week touched a chord with us all.

He opened the hearts and became a beacon of hope for many during the first lock down. A true hero and inspiration, he fought for freedom in the Second World War and then came out as a ray of sunshine at the age of 100 to walk 100 laps of his garden to go on to raise £33 million for the NHS.

It just took one man to make all the difference in lifting spirits and pulling us together during adversity. A true example and reminder of integrity and remaining resolute during times of adversity. RIP Captain Sir Thomas Moore.



Inspiring Interview with Old Redingensian

Shakespeare wrote in Much Ado about Nothing

Why, what's the matter,

That you have a February face,

So full of frost. of storm, and cloudiness.

It is important that we look at the positives, January is behind us, Spring is just around the corner and the vaccine programme is gathering apace. Now is the time to support each other as we need to be inspired.

This week, I was delighted to be joined by School Captain, Daniel N and Vice-Captain, Charles C to interview, possibly one of our most senior and inspiring Old Redingensians, Alan Johnson (OR 1940-1949), now based in the USA (via Zoom).

Alan was joined by his lovely wife Barbara, and he answered questions from Dan and Charles prompting moments of nostalgia and fond memories of being at Reading School, as well as sharing his first-hand account of school life during World War II.

We hope to share a podcast or video of the interview with the wider community in the coming weeks.

Daniel N (School Captain) commented:

"It was an absolute pleasure to talk with Mr Johnson and get a glimpse of Reading School's immense history. I enjoyed drawing parallels with my own experiences at Reading School, especially our shared interest in physics. Mr Johnson emphasised the long-lasting impact that friends and peers had on his life, and the importance of the many role models he met at Reading, conveying the great community spirit and integrity of the students in his time, which now aligns brilliantly with our school's key pillars."

Charles C (Vice Captain) said:

"It was a great pleasure to have the opportunity to talk with one of the oldest Redingensians in the world. Mr Johnson provided very interesting insight into life at Reading School during the war and surprised me with funny anecdotes of eccentric teachers and interesting stories of German fighter planes and tunnels under the school field! Furthermore, his personal life experience was fascinating to hear and learn from and I will certainly remember his one chosen piece of advice to Reading School boys, to maintain integrity. I'd like to thank Mr and Mrs Johnson for their time and wish them all the best."

I would also like to praise both Daniel and Charles on their smart presentation, professionalism and courteous manner in which they conducted the interview. In addition, we are grateful to the Society Office for arranging this unique opportunity.

Children's Mental Health Week

[Children's Mental Health Week](#) was a reminder of the effects of the pandemic and what we can all do to remain supportive of one another. We continue to be committed to actively supporting our students stay mentally fit and physically active through another difficult Covid-19 lockdown.

The NHS highlighted how in 2020, one in six (16%) children aged five to 16 were identified as having a mental health disorder compared to one in nine (10.8%) in 2017.

We recognise that the pandemic will result in more young people struggling with their mental health and we are prepared with an excellent pastoral team who are regularly checking in with pupils through Tutor Time. We are also increasing social interaction through form time and lessons by making use of breakout rooms. In addition, to help our students develop resilience we are discussing physical, mental and emotional wellbeing as well as keeping safe online during PSHE sessions and Tutor Time.

We strongly encourage students keeping a consistent daily routine, getting enough sleep, taking regular exercise and enjoying activities away from the screen.

Please refer to the [Integrity](#) section for useful resources on [Safeguarding and Wellbeing](#).

Whilst it is challenging not seeing your friends or being out with your friends, time and time again our students demonstrate resilience and flexibility, quickly adapting to change.

Last week's student challenge as a part of Mental Health Week was to 'express yourself' and through the week, 5 challenges were set:

- Be Active
- To Connect
- To Learn
- Be Creative
- To Give

Well done to all those who actively participated in these activities, in particular I would like to commend: Thomas K who participated in the 'Be Active' challenge cycling 16km in 1 hour and 12 mins; Zaid F who also cycled outdoors; Nicholas A who connected with his grandma by telephone which was indeed, a lovely surprise; and the very artistic Minecraft world created by William W in the 'Be Creative' challenge.

Despite being unable to get together in person, staff and students have rapidly adapted many existing activities virtually via Teams, so they can still interact with friends and pursue some hobbies and interests remotely.

This week's [Community](#) section at [Lockdown PE](#) highlights how students can join peers in being active. As well as how students can get involved with the [Community Support for the RBH](#) we have listed additional [External Resources](#), from educational tools to virtual shows and tours to quizzes directed at secondary students and younger siblings.

Our Prefect Senior Leadership Team, led by School Captain, Dan N, acting as role models to support the junior pupils, have created a '[RS Mental Health 2021](#)' short film offering suggestions on how to cope during this difficulty time.

Vacancies

Please find below current job vacancies. If you know anyone who might be interested, please forward to them:

[Biology Teacher](#) deadline 19 February.

[Economics Teacher](#) deadline 19 February

[Chemistry Advert](#) and [Chemistry Details of the Post](#) deadline 5 March.

In addition, please find below link to a vacancy at Kendrick School

[Cover Assistant – Application Pack](#)

Lunar year

We are focused on celebrating our cultural diversity, including in respect of ethnicity, religion and language. We are committed to a culture which values difference in all its forms and promotes inclusion, integrity and community.

Next week marks the Lunar New Year on Friday 12th February, also regionally known as the Chinese New Year or Spring Festival which typically falls between 21st January and 20th February each year depending on the lunar calendar. It is the most important annual event for many east Asia countries from China to Vietnam.

This year is the [Year of the Ox](#), one of the twelve Chinese zodiac signs often associated with hard work, intelligence, humbleness, and reliability.

The Lunar New Year is a celebration lasting anywhere from a week to 15 days with the 15th day celebrated as the Lantern Festival. Whilst this year celebrations taking place around the globe will very different, given the many restrictions still in place, we do hope that you all have a safe and happy time.

We wish our partners at Lunhua Education, Suzhou, and our staff, pupils, parents and community celebrating the Lunar Year a Happy Chinese New Year.

I wish you all a safe and well weekend.

Mr AM Robson
Headmaster

Excellence

All Years – Lent Term 2021

Please click the [‘At A Glance’](#) document which outlines the timetable for all years during the Lent Term.

All Years – Reports and Parents’ Evenings

In order to provide enough time for teachers to mark the Year 11 & 13 interim assessments, and publish reports to parents ahead of Parents' Evenings, please see the following amendments. Please see the calendar on the School website for further updates, where dates regarding other year groups will be updated in due course. Thank you for your patience as we continue to adapt to changing circumstances.

	Report Publication	Parents' Evening
Year 11	w/c 1st March	11th March
Year 12	Before Easter	25th February
Year 13	w/c 8th March	25th March
Year 8	Before Easter	-

Year 8 only

Please see link to the outline information concerning the GCSE options process. We urge all Year 8s to focus on continuing to set themselves high standards in all subjects, as they are still only 4 terms into their time at Reading School, and Year 8 is a crucial year for setting solid foundations for what is to come. Please contact your son's form tutor if you have any queries which are not answered in the guide.

[Year 8 Options Guide](#)

Year 10 only

Careers appointments for Year 10 Students - Our careers advisor, Clare Desai is offering Careers appointments to students in Year 10. Students should liaise with their tutors in the first instance if they would like more information about the process and in order to book their 30-minute consultation.

Oxbridge offers

Academic excellence is part of Reading School's core purpose, and I would like to firstly congratulate every student who applied for Oxbridge or medical related courses. This is a highly competitive and rigorous process, under normal circumstances, and I particularly admire you undertaking this under the current conditions, demonstrating resilience and determination.



We are celebrating another strong year of Oxbridge applications, with 22 students in receipt of offers across a wide range of competitive subject disciplines ranging from History to Chemical Engineering.

This success extends beyond just Oxbridge, as 79% of our students have received offers from Russell Group universities, with many still awaiting decisions.

Competition for places at Oxford and Cambridge is notoriously fierce and I want to congratulate each student who has been offered a place at Oxford or Cambridge as well as medical schools. You should be rightfully proud and celebrate this achievement, after months of preparation.

University of Oxford

Kiran. B	Mathematics and Computer Science
Daniel. H	Computer Science
Hussain. I	Mathematics
Alexander. L	Music
Ayush. S	Medicine
John. S	French and Beginners' Russian
Conrad. S	Music (Organ Scholarship)
James. W	Geography
Laurence. Y	Ancient and Modern History

University of Cambridge

Daniel. C	Mathematics
Sanskar. D	Engineering
Arkin. F	Mathematics
Dev. G	Economics
Jack. H	Natural Sciences
Peter. I	Computer Science
Ethan. J	Classics
Aditya. K	Engineering
Eugene. L	Chemical Engineering
Apoorv. P	Mathematics
Shreyas P	Mathematics
Abiel. T	Mathematics
Beck. W	History

In addition, we are also delighted by the 336 offers currently received from top universities including some unconditional offers. Currently, University of Exeter has offered 29 places; University of Warwick 26 places; and University of Bristol 42 places, to name a few. We continue to wait patiently with our Year 13 applicants for medical courses, who are still awaiting offers and from universities that send out offers slightly later than others.

These results are testimony to the talent of our pupils and the expertise and dedication of our Sixth Form Team and staff, led by Mr A Lloyd. We owe a real debt of gratitude to our alumni as well as former parents who continue to support our candidates. I am extremely pleased that we maintain this level of connection with Old Redingensians who continue to want to return to support existing students in this way via the Society Office.

In the Careers and additional opportunities section please see the opportunity for Year 12 students considering options for study beyond school. You can register for the [Oxford and Cambridge Virtual Student Conference](#) which is aimed at current Year 12 students only.

Physics Olympiad

Congratulations to Ruilang Q (13SP) and Swapnil D (12DAW) who achieved Gold and Siyuan L (13KY) and Oliver T (13MRC) who achieved Silver in Round 1 of the [British Physics Olympiad](#) 2020-2021. This is an exemplary result and would have required immense commitment and devotion from each of you. Well done.



The British Physics Olympiad (BPhO) aims to encourage the study of Physics and recognise excellence in young physicists. The competitions are designed to test understanding and problem-solving skills and are open to able young physicists in school years 11-13 (GCSE to A2 or equivalent).

This year 1,768 students from over 297 schools participated from the UK and a few schools overseas (and a further 2,000 students in China). This paper is to challenge a range of student knowledge, preparation and ability, whilst aiming at stretching and challenging the top young physicists in the country in a national competition.

Every question requires a different perspective to get the measure of it. This fluency in recognising topics and linking ideas is, in part, what develops the physicist's confidence and mastery. It takes time and perseverance to master this challenge, both in terms of understanding the problem and presenting the answers in a readable layout. These are about particular skills, which we try to develop in our students over time, here at Reading School.

A special thank you to Mr I Sharma (Teacher of Physics) for supporting the next generation of physicists.

Mclroy Essay Prize Winner

We are pleased to announce that **Mannan Karwa** (12MD) has won the annual **Mclroy Essay Competition**. His response to the question: "*How can a community come together and turn a difficult circumstance into a positive experience?*" was anonymously judged by the panel, drawn from both Reading School staff and members of the Reading Foundation, to be a superbly inspiring and well-expressed piece of writing. It will be published in a future edition of "*Floreat Redingensis*" and on the school's website.

Mannan commented: "I am honoured to have won the Mclroy Essay Competition. I decided to participate because I had plenty of free time on my hands during the first lockdown and I needed something challenging to occupy myself. This essay competition fitted the bill perfectly because it was a way for me to discuss a pertinent issue whilst also brushing up on my essay-writing skills. I implore everyone to enter the competition next year as the title of the essay is very open-ended, allowing you to write about something you are passionate about (not something you get to do often) whilst also practising an essential skill. The best part is that anyone can win; I don't study English A Level and it was never my strongest GCSE subject, but the teaching of the English Department ensures that everyone has the necessary skills to write a winning essay!"

The panel enjoyed reading all the of the submissions to the 2020 competition. Thank you to every student who invested time, thought and skill into crafting an essay.

The English Department would like to thank the Reading Foundation for its generous support of the competition and funding the £250 prize.

We all passionately believe that if ever there was a time for Reading School students to express their thoughts and feelings in a creative and reflective way, then the current circumstances demand that kind of response and present the perfect opportunity.

The competition will open again for our current pupils during the Summer Term 2021.

Reading School's Young Reporters pick up the tricks of the TV trade.

Reading School's BBC Young Reporter Team, made up of a dozen budding Year 8 journalists, have been given the chance to peek behind the doors of the TARDIS.

The students have been working together with the English Department since November, learning about how to report news and current affairs, and taking advantage of the training resources offered by the BBC Young Reporter project.



This week, members of our team were offered the chance to join up with other Young Reporters from schools around the country and participate in a live webinar presented by the producers of "Doctor Who".



Peter Levy and Natalie Reid have won Emmy awards and been nominated for Oscars for their work in visual effects, and they shared their expertise during the session, revealing to our students how they put together the stunning look of one of the world's most famous science fiction shows.

The pair aimed to spark an interest in behind-the-scenes career options, as well as letting fans of all things Gallifreyan ask questions about how

they make the Timelord's adventures look so exciting.

Reading School's reporters learned a lot from the experience. Yadveer felt that "I could relate to Natalie's story because my interest in how VFX works and how to do VFX was started by watching the first ever *Jurassic Park* movie", just like her! Perhaps in twenty years' time Yadveer will also have a Television Academy statuette sitting on his shelf?

Akshith enjoyed the talk: "It was very interesting to discover so many jobs from pre-production to post-production and get a feeling of what it's like to work in the *Doctor Who* production team with famous personalities," while Satyam added: "It also made me realise that to see the wondrous feats on television, someone is working hard behind a screen."

Both Adi and Mirzo agreed that they learned there is a lot more going on in TV production than they initially thought: "Just designing one character can take months even with a large crew of people working on it."

The BBC Young Reporter project has been running since 2007. Thousands of students from secondary schools are involved, and Reading School is proud to be one of only a handful of institutions which has participated every year since the scheme started. Over the past fourteen years our reporters have broadcast live from the school site on BBC Radio Berkshire's Breakfast Programme, visited New Broadcasting House in London to learn from BBC Radio Four presenters, and even interviewed the Deputy Prime Minister in Downing Street.

The English Department currently supports the **Young Reporters on Wednesday afternoons during RW3**. If you want to join, please let Mr Baldock know.

Competitions

Next Generation Economics Competition

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) invites UK students in **Year 10 to Year 13** or equivalent to write about big economic challenges by 25 April 2021. Thank you to Mr D Mead (OR 2015) for sharing this opportunity with us.

Write about the biggest economic challenges facing your generation between 15 February and 25 April 2021 to enter our Next Generation Economics Competition. You could win £250.

Click the link here for more details: [Next Generation Economics Competition](#)

We strongly encourage participation from **Year 10 to Year 13 Economics students**.

2021 TSL Sustainability Challenge

Theme: Protecting biodiversity

The Sustainability Challenge provides a platform for voices to be heard and recognises and rewards the sustainability ideas, actions, and leadership of participants of all ages.

The overall winner will be awarded the 2021 Challenge Trophy and a cash prize of £500 or equivalent. The winning entry for each age category will receive a special e-medal and gift.

The winners will be announced on 1 May 2021, as part of the lead-up to the next Conference of Parties (COP 15) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The winning videos will be sent to UN Secretary General António Guterres and other leaders in the international community.

- 28 February 2021 Deadline for Challenge video entries
- 9 April 2021 Top entry winners from each age category notified.

Click the link for entry details and more information: [Sustainability Challenge - Trust for Sustainable Living](#)

We encourage **participation from Biology and Geography students**.

Historical Fiction Competition 2021

[The Historical Association](#) historical fiction competition has gone from strength to strength. Pupils can set their stories in any period or place in the past, so the story can fit in with and extend any historical topic you may be studying. Click here for more details: [The Historical Association](#). A recommended minimum story length of 400 words with a maximum word length of 3500 words.

Deadline: Friday 28 May 2021

Prize winners will be notified in writing in September/October 2021. All queries should be addressed to Olivia Dent on olivia.dent@history.org.uk

The results of the competition will be posted on the Historical Association website: www.history.org.uk

We encourage participation from **Year 7 to Year 13 History students**.

The Big Bank Competition

[The Big Bang Competition 2021](#) – showcase your STEM projects. This will take place online this year. The Competition is open to all year groups 7 to 13. They can enter any project work they have completed, be it at school or through a STEM club or at home! Deadline: March 2021

Inspire Lectures

In partnership with Speakers for Schools here is next week's full [Live Broadcasts Schedule](#). Please encourage your son to tune into these opportunities!

Week commencing Monday 8th February 2021

Mon 8th February 10-11am

Tom Toumazis MBE, Former Media, Entertainment and Tech Executive, now investor in start ups

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

We are delighted to be hosting a Broadcast with Tom Toumazis, Former Media, Entertainment and Tech Executive, now investor in start-ups. Tom is a public speaker, sharing his work/life experiences and encouraging young people to explore a career in the world of media and entertainment. He was awarded an MBE in 2015 for services to children. Tom will be sharing insights into the 'art of nudging' and how to get noticed in a world of noise!

Mon 8th February 2-3pm

Milo Beckman, Author, Maths without Numbers

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

Join us here to hear Milo Beckman, a maths prodigy from New York. Milo's projects and independent research have been featured in The New York Times, the Huffington Post, the Economist and others. He has worked for a US Senator, three tech companies, two banks and taught mathematics in New York, China and Brazil. His debut book, Math Without Numbers, is an illustrated guide to shapes, dimensions, infinity, symmetries, proofs, and more. Milo will be talking about a famous question in abstract maths: Is there anything bigger than infinity? He is looking forward to answering your questions.

Wed 10th February 2-3pm

Jean-Patrick Cheylan, Head of Entertainment Partnerships, Europe, Twitter

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

Speakers for Schools is delighted to be hosting a Broadcast with Jean-Patrick Cheylan. Jean-Patrick is in charge of supporting the leading European entertainment content creators to grow and monetize their audience on Twitter. He leads a 5 people team based in London, Madrid and Paris, which covers partnerships across Tv, cinema, music, fashion, lifestyle, food. Jean-Patrick will be sharing insights into his career journey and where to gain relevant work experience. He will be providing advice on how we can develop our resilience.

Thurs 11th February 10-11am

Panel Broadcast with Flipbook Studio

David Cordon, Head of TV and film, Jo Wilkinson, Head of Production & Yuval Turgeman, 3D Artist

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

Join us for a panel discussion with Flipbook Studio, an innovation production studio who provide Visual Effects, Animation, Digital, Immersive and Film for their international client base. David Cordon, Head of TV & Film, Jo Wilkinson, Head of Production and Yuval Turgeman, a 3D artist will be sharing an insight into their careers and will be providing tips for students who are interested in a career in Film and TV. Students will have the opportunity to ask the panel questions.

Thurs 11th February 2-3pm

Penguin Talks in Partnership with Speakers for Schools

Lit in Colour: Why Empire is Relevant Today, with Sathnam Sanghera and Zawe Ashton

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

Award-winning author and journalist, Sathnam Sanghera, joins actress, playwright and director Zawe Ashton, to discuss the impact of Empire on modern Britain, its absence from the school curriculum and why it's relevant to young people today.

HOW TO JOIN THE LIVE BROADCASTS

- Join 10 minutes before the broadcast to be ready.
- You can join without needing an account – [Watch how here](#)

LIVE BROADCASTS LIBRARY & MORE

- Watch pre-recorded broadcasts from our library [here](#)
- Please see our [Schools Guide here.](#)

Book Week 2021

Book Festival Writing Competition

Write a short story of no more than 500 words based on this story starter by Chris Bradford

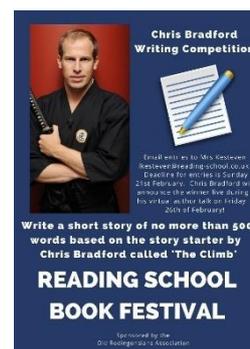
The Climb

Jason could feel his fingertips slipping off the slick rock. Every muscle tense in his arms, he desperately tried to pull himself up. But he had no strength left after the two-hour climb. 'Hold on! I'm coming!' cried Layla, scrambling across the cliff face. Jason saw the panic in her eyes. They both knew she was never going to reach him in time. His left hand lost its purchase on the rock and he dangled like a leaf in the wind. Glancing down at blackness beneath him, Jason wondered if all the sacrifice had been worth it. Henry dead. Jayde missing. Arthur killed. And now it was his turn...

Email entries to Mrs Kesteven lkesteven@reading-school.co.uk

Deadline for entries: **Sunday 21st February**. The winner will be announced live on 26th of February!

Author, Chris Bradford, will be giving a virtual talk to pupils at Reading School on **Friday 26th of February at 2.30pm**. To book click here: <http://bit.ly/ChrisBradfordTalk2021>. Chris will be talking about his brand-new book, The Soul Hunters.



Harry Potter Book Night Quiz



The magic of Harry Potter is normally celebrated globally in schools, libraries and bookshops during February each year. This year, although the official date has changed to June, we have decided to go ahead with our first virtual Harry Potter Quiz. **The Quiz will be run on Teams from 3.30pm to 4.30pm on Thursday 4th of February.**

Booking is essential and pupils should form Teams of between one and six. They will be required to give the name of their Team Captain when they sign-up and all participants must complete this form <https://bit.ly/HarryPotterQuiz2021>.

The quiz questions this year have been written by previous winners Samuel J, Saikrishnan D, and Sidh G from 10S with technical support from Head Pupil Librarian Matthew G and Pupil Librarians Matthew C and Rajan D. This is always a much-loved event from the LRC calendar, so we are delighted to be able to run it virtually.

Reading School's Read for Good Readathon 2021

Reading School has a tradition of running an annual sponsored read for Book Week and we are delighted to announce that this year the 'Read for Good Readathon' will run from **15th February to 15th March**. It is open to all years and those in Years 7, 8 and 9 can also try their brand new digital '[Track My Read](#)' feature.



The Read for Good Readathon helps to raise money for children in hospital. The school also benefits by receiving vouchers for new books. This is a great activity for those who love reading and those who are looking for some extra motivation.

Please click the [Readathon Parent letter](#) for more information. Read for Good have produced a short film which you can access [here](#).

There is also a Team that pupils can join to find out more. The 'Read for Good Readathon Team' code is se870gc.

Integrity

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Now more than ever it is important we look after ourselves and others' mental and physical wellbeing. Please see below guidance during remote learning.

- [Remote Safeguarding for Students](#) and [Remote Safeguarding for Parents](#)
- [CEOP](#) - Worth being aware that this is where you can refer concerns over online communications or sexual abuse.
- [Childline](#) offers 1:1 support and a guide to staying safe online for adults and children.

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day takes place on **Tuesday 9th February**.

At Reading School, we want our students to be three things whilst online: [Safe, Kind and Thoughtful](#).

Please see the [attached poster](#) for more information and we encourage conversation amongst families about staying safe and being kind online, by using these resources:

- [Staying safe online | Childline](#)
- [Safer Internet Day 2021 | Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Safer Internet Parents & Carers](#)

#ItsNotOK

This week is sexual abuse and sexual violence awareness week. For support with these issues visit [The Survivors Trust](#).

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

The Duchess of Cambridge highlights the importance for the mental health of parents and carers currently, click to see the short video: [Children's Mental Health Week 2021 - a message from our Royal Patron - YouTube](#)

Lockdown inspiration, look no further than [How to Stay Healthy During Lockdown - Blog - FutureLearn](#)

Wellbeing & Good Mental Health

- [The Happiness Lab](#) - Include podcasts specifically to help deal with the Coronavirus pandemic - free on apple downloads.
- [Headspace](#) - Free meditations, sleep, and movement exercises are currently available from this app that promotes mindfulness and meditation.
- [Government guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health](#)
- [NSPCC](#) - A range of resources available if you're worried a child may be struggling with their mental health or has anxiety about coronavirus (COVID-19).
- [BBC Bitesize](#) - Five ways to support children's mental health.
- [How to build resilience in your child](#) - Clinical Psychologist Dr. Hazel Harrison has some top tips on BBC Bitesize.

Special Educational Needs

- [Government SEND support resources](#)
- [National Autistic Society](#) - has a range of specific tools and advice to support households with family members with autism.

- [Twinkl](#) - A variety of different types of Inclusion SEN resources available that help with Autism, Dyslexia, ADHD, hearing impairments, anxiety, attachment disorder, and more. You can use their [visual timetable](#) for daily routine at home, learn how to [support mental illness](#) in children, or [help Dyslexic students](#) with reading.

Parental Supports

- Vox covers [7 big questions children have](#) for parents during this crisis and how to answer them.
- [Thinkuknow](#) - worksheets offering online safety advice for the current situation - covering both primary and secondary age children, as well as [Jessie and Friends videos](#) for 4-7-year-olds.
- ['Safer Internet'](#) offers advice and tips on safe remote learning.
- [LGfI](#) offers advice on safe remote learning for students and parents.
- [Increasing data allowances on mobile devices](#) to support disadvantaged children. This government scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted.

Leadership

Debating Society

Join us in discussions and debates on current and topical issues. Led by Arvind A (President), Alex N (Vice President) and Malhar D (Committee member Year 12).

The committee will host a debate every Wednesday at 2.30pm via Microsoft Teams. Over the forthcoming weeks, the motions include:

- Wednesday 10th February - THS the censorship of music lyrics (Drill music etc.) - [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Wednesday 3rd March – Motion to be confirmed – Joint Debate with Queen Anne’s School - [Click here to join the meeting](#)

All students are encouraged to participate in Debating Society gaining broad, multi-faceted knowledge, increasing confidence, poise and self-esteem and improving critical thinking skills.

Work Experience opportunities

Students are reminded that when applying for virtual work placements to please ensure you inform your tutor of the details of the opportunity you are applying for, in advance. This is so that tutors are aware that a personal reference may be required.

- [Springpod Medicine Virtual Work Experience](#) - February 2021
- [HSBC work experience programme](#). A great opportunity deadline **21 February 2021**.

Virtual Work Experience opportunities available via **Speakers for School** for students aged 14-19 years old include:

- [Haworth Tompkins Architecture Insight Evening](#) - keen to find out more about a career in architecture on 2nd March 2021. Deadline: 15th February 2021
- [VWEX: Construct your Career with Kier](#) - interested in design, finance, Health & Safety, Sustainability, Planning or Community Engagement. Dates: 1st – 5th March 2021. Deadline: 17th February 2021
- [East West Railway Company - Building a New Railway](#) - interested in Technology, Engineering, Planning, Business Studies, Design and/or Customer Services. Dates: 6th -9th April 2021. Deadline: 28th February 2021.
- [Green Skills in the Construction and Engineering Industry](#) - interested in the ‘green’ plans for the construction and engineering industry. Dates: 6th -9th April 2021. Deadline 7th March 2021

Apprenticeships

- [PWC Flying Start degree](#). This combines work and university and is an excellent opportunity.
- [UCAS National Apprenticeship Week](#) – Monday 8 Feb to Friday 12 February.
- Sign up for [Young Professionals](#) event about apprenticeships with IBM, EY, PwC, BP, CIMA, CGI, Vodafone on Monday 8th February at 3pm.
- [University of Hertfordshire virtual events](#) ‘Apprenticeships: Work, Earn, Learn on Monday 8th February at 11am.
- [EY](#) school leaver and work experience schemes - virtual Schools Insight event on Wednesday 10 February.
- [Deloitte – Festival of Opportunity](#) explore opportunities from wherever you are, a month-long online festival features a line-up of inspiring, live, [interactive events](#).

Careers and additional opportunities

Students are reminded that careers and additional opportunities are posted to Teams. An example of these are set out below:

- [Oxford and Cambridge Virtual Student Conference 2021](#) - live from 23-25 March 2021

The Oxford and Cambridge Virtual Student Conference are aimed at Year 12 students (or equivalent) who are studying for their A Levels/IB/Scottish Highers (or equivalent) in the UK and are beginning to consider their options for study beyond sixth form.

The conferences offer:

- Webinars on applying to Oxford and Cambridge (including Student Experience)
- Opportunities to chat live with course academics and current undergraduate students
- Videos of current undergraduate students from your region talking about their experiences of applying, settling into life at both Universities and their course of study
- Information for teachers and HE advisors

Students have the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into what living and studying at Oxford and Cambridge is like, an understanding of how both universities assess applications and the opportunity to ask any questions they may have.

- Invitation for Parents from InvestIN-Ed click to register: [Success Beyond School](#)

Free expert advice on guiding your child to a successful career from @InvestIN_Ed.

- The Skills Surgery - 24 February 7-8pm
- The Power of Networks - 3 March 7-8pm

- [Virtual Hospital Work Experience from Education Projects](#) – 15 February 2021 from 10am to 4pm
- [PWC - employability skills toolkit](#) – See learning resources for students aged 13-18, PwC's employability skills toolkit. Covering topics such as technology, wellbeing and how to manage money provides lessons which can be delivered at home with additional guidance from parents and carers provided.
- [Classics or Ancient History Lectures](#) from Kings College London **aimed at Year 12 and 13**. A free series of lectures on **3rd February** from 1pm to 3.30pm.
- [University of Plymouth](#) - free webinar on mathematical proofs on Friday 5th February at 12pm
- For all of you Star Wars fans out there, you have a kindred spirit in ICE President's Future Leader Rachel Hopson! Find out more about [Rachel and her journey into Civil Engineering](#).
- ['Meet the Russell Group'](#) event on afternoon of **Wednesday 10th February**.
- [University of Leicester](#) - Short introductory videos explaining what studying a wide variety of subjects is like at University of Leicester. This could help with subject choice.
- [Lancaster University](#)- Series of webinars and an essay competition for anyone interested in studying Sport Science.
- [New College of the Humanities](#) – online taster lectures for a whole range of subjects.
- [Target Oxbridge](#) - Rare have launched a Year 10 Target Oxbridge programme in partnership with Trinity College, Cambridge. To engage with Black students earlier to improve the representation of Black students at Oxbridge. Please [click](#) to apply. Deadline: Sunday 7th February 2021
- [World Skills UK – Spotlight Talks](#) – Inspiring Careers excellence - Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 March 2021

Community

Community Support for the RBH

Building on the success of supporting our neighbours last year at the start of the pandemic, we would like to show our gratitude to the Royal Berkshire Hospital once again. We have been in contact and they would really appreciate letters, poems, motivational quotes to individual wards to help lift spirits. Therefore, each House has been assigned a Ward to create personalised messages of support and motivation led by Head of House and House Captains. More details will be shared next week of how your son can be involved. The RBH has also agreed to display some in the Wellbeing Centre at the RBH.

Lockdown PE

In addition to taking part in live PE lessons and challenges set by the PE team, the PE department would like to encourage all students to be doing regular exercise in their free time and afternoons.

Join one of the afternoon electives to stay active, to get fit and to connect with your peers and the Reading School community.

- Start the week with a fitness frenzy and join Mr Evans and Ed Roy for bootcamp on Monday at 2pm in the Fitness Boot Camp team.
- Log your weekly runs and walks on Strava and join Mr Steadman's exclusive 1125 club - 4 students attained the 112.5 km weekly benchmark last week! Log any of your activity and take part in your own time: Club – PE Department / Strava
- For the cyclists amongst you, join Mr Stromdale on the Deci-tour - can anyone keep up with Oliver Clement? Join in your own time 'Deci-Tour' de France 2021 team.
- Join the What Three Words team at 1.30pm on Thursday's for a weekly walking challenge, great for clearing the mind and getting fresh air.

For weekly PE challenges watch out for our videos and challenges uploaded to the Reading School PE Twitter page. Follow @RSSportandPE. Email Mr Allen your challenges or videos of your best efforts.

Stay active, get fit and connect with your peers.

We have compiled a list of useful external resources to help with keeping your children entertained and learning - sometimes without even knowing that's what they're doing.

Whatever you need support with - from pro-active educational tools and fitness activities, to arts and crafts, virtual performances and exhibitions, as well as wellbeing and SEND support and parental and safeguarding guidance. We hope you'll find them useful to keep you and your loved ones occupied, entertained, and in good mental health.

External Resources for Home Learning and Entertainment

Please see below a range of external resources which our pupils or those with younger siblings might find useful:

TED-ed

Discover video-based lessons by age/subject to help with home schooling and to keep children engaged and learning during the pandemic. Access the resource [here](#).

Educational Tools

- [Twinkl](#) - Primary and secondary teaching aid with a multitude of resources, including special needs differentiation. There is also a [Parent Hub](#) containing activities and games, Early Years activities, a health and wellbeing section, and a [Home Learning Hub](#) which is completely free and includes ready-made timetables of age-appropriate content that you can use at home.
- [The Maths Factor.com](#) - Carol Vorderman's site with free access to maths that follow the National Curriculum for 4-12-year-olds.
- [Oak National Security](#) - Three hours of daily learning resources and video lessons, worksheets, and quizzes for primary children (four hours for secondary).
- [Scholastic](#) - Check out the resource bank with a host of teaching resources and education aids.
- [TES](#) - Over 100,000 resources split into early years, primary, secondary and special needs, and free home learning packs.
- [Royal Shakespeare Company's Learning Zone](#) - Resources for plays, live lessons, activity toolkits, and behind the scenes information.
- [Audible](#) - free 30-day trial of the Amazon-owned online book library.
- [Storicise](#) - British doctors, TV presenters, and identical twin brothers, Dr. Chris and Dr. Xand have created an online platform to bring together knowledge, resources, and fun and innovative activities designed to support children through the impact of Covid-19.
- [Duolingo](#) - Duolingo is a free language-learning website and mobile app with content tailored for kids.
- [Dance Mat Typing](#) - Found on BBC [Bitesize](#), Dance Mat Typing offers a fun way to learn touch typing.
- [Collins](#) - As well as having lots of really useful targeted practice workbooks available to buy online, Collins also offers some free resources online to help with children's learning at home, from ages 3 to 16 years.
- [National Geographic Kids](#) - packed with information, resources, and quizzes.

From the BBC

- [BBC Bitesize](#) - Free to use. Offering home learning for all ages and subjects. Small, easily digestible lessons with extra resources for parents with practical advice and activities. Supports the National Curriculum.
- [Bitesize Revision app](#) - For 14-16-year-olds, this app includes GCSE Flashcards for Maths, English, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Combined Science, Geography, History, and PE.
- [BBC Teach: Live Lessons](#) - Bringing subjects to life with fun and interactive curriculum-linked lessons featuring some of the BBC's biggest brands and presenters. BBC Teach Live Lessons are available for both primary and secondary aged children.
- [Bitesize Support](#) - Offering advice and tips for starting primary or secondary school, and looking at options when it comes to uni, college, and apprenticeships. There are life and wellbeing tips including advice on starting a new relationship and advice from Young Minds on dealing with loneliness when you're social distancing.
- [BBC's Education Offer](#) - BBC Two will cater for secondary students with programming to support the GCSE curriculum, with a least two hours of content each weekday.

Virtual Shows, Programmes, Performances, and Tours

- [Operation Ouch!](#) - Dr Chris, Dr Xand and Dr Ronx explore the ins and outs of the human body in a variety of eye-opening experiments. Available on [CBBC](#), [BBC iPlayer](#) and [YouTube](#).

- [Horrible Histories](#) - A hit CBBC show, Horrible Histories covers the funniest, yuckiest and most gruesome bits of history, from Vicious Vikings and Awful Egyptians to the Slimy Stuarts and Terrible Tudors.
- See Shakespeare on-demand at The Globe with these free-to-view [performances](#).
- Check out the weekly play from [The National Theatre's](#) productions.
- [The English National Ballet](#) - Showing a weekly performance hosted on YouTube.
- [Wigmore Hall](#) - Watch live-streamed concerts for free.
- Pretend to travel the world. Go on a virtual tour of these [12 famous museums](#).
- [Edinburgh Zoo live cam](#)

Youtube/Facebook Activities

- 'PE with Joe' on [The Body Coach TV](#) - Fitness instructor Joe Wicks takes a PE lesson for children 3 days a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 am.
- Live daily questions with Dr. Chris and Dr. Xand are available on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) at 2.30 pm each day.
- [Oti Mabuse](#) (from Strictly Come Dancing) has fun, free family-friendly dance classes on YouTube.

Arts & Crafts

- [The National Portrait Gallery](#) - Over 150,000 pictures online including the digital exhibition 'Hold Still'. Spearheaded by The Duchess of Cambridge, Patron of the National Portrait Gallery, [Hold Still](#) is an ambitious community project to create a unique collective portrait of the UK during lockdown.
- Artist Kristjana S Williams has provided a [free collage kit](#) to print out, cut out and use to create a collage in her unique style.
- Open Culture - [113 free downloadable colouring books](#) from different museums amongst many other resources including over 1,000 free movies.

Science & Space

- [NASA](#) - explore activities, podcasts, videos, and more, their whole library is now free to the public.
- [Phet](#) - Interactive simulations to help with sciences, earth studies, and maths.

Quizzes

- [Quizizz](#), [Kahoot!](#), [Quizlet](#) - Online resources to create or use ready-made quizzes and games as well as live versions that enable group quizzes.

Supporting Older People Through Lockdown

The challenges you may face may go beyond parenting – others may have eldercare responsibilities or be struggling with their mental health.

Please see 14 top tips and ways to help support self-isolating elderly loved ones, friends and neighbours. Access the resource [here](#).

Motivation Webinar

Increasing and sustaining student motivation at the forefront during the pandemic, please see Elevate's free parent webinar held this week, now available to be watched on this link: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/replay>. You can also download a summary sheet of the main points [here](#).

Stress and Wellbeing Webinar

The next free webinar is on **Stress and Wellbeing**, focusing on how to establish and maintain good routines during lockdown, how to manage stress levels, and what to do when stress gets overwhelming. The details are below:

Managing Student Stress & Wellbeing

Date: Tuesday 9th February 2021

Time: 6:00 – 7:00pm

Registration link: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

This webinar is suitable for parents of Years 7 to 13.

Future Webinars by Elevate Coaching

Tuesday 2nd March: Preparing for Assessments in Covid

Tuesday 23rd March: Managing Technology and Distractions

Wellbeing

<https://www.reading-school.co.uk/page/?title=Wellbeing&pid=90>

[NHS every mind matters - covid-19 Staying at home tips](#)

[Princes Trust](#) - Supporting young people through COVID-19, pulling together some of the most helpful online resources for teachers and parents on how to support children and young people through this challenging time. Including the 'i am me' app recently listed as a useful resource for young people which is easily accessible.

RSPA

The RSPA are very excited to launch our new school lottery for Reading School. It is extremely easy to join and will make an incredible difference to our fundraising efforts during these difficult times where we would normally run our many successful events.

Tickets are £1 per week and the draws take place each Saturday evening. For every £1 ticket sale, 40p goes to our school so we will be benefitting for 52 weeks of the year! There will be a guaranteed prize each week amounting to 30% of all Reading School ticket Sale plus the chance of a Grand Jackpot Prize! Winners advised by email. Please see the attached leaflet for everything you need to know about how to buy a ticket.

Do look out for further marketing on our Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter Sites. Thank you so much for supporting the boys at Reading School. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with Susie Gupta at Treasurer@readingschoolparents.co.uk.

RSPA Committee Meeting Cancellation

Please be advised that, due to unforeseen circumstances, next week's RSPA Committee Meeting on the 11th February has been cancelled.

We will be in touch as soon as we are able to reschedule with a new date and time.

RSPA Secretary