



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

5 MARCH 2021

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Goals for 2021

I passionately believe that If we work together over the rest of the academic year we can ensure that we meet our shared goals:

- To improve the physical and mental wellbeing of all members of the Reading School Community through focusing on the effectiveness of safeguarding and Covid security.
- To ensure an effective, fair and professional approach to Teacher Assessed Grades for Year 11 and Year 13.
- To continue the implementation of a high-quality curriculum which enables the nurturing of young people of substance through an emphasis on both academic excellence and character.
- To further explore with vigour our approach to partnerships locally and globally so that we can play a more positive outward facing role in wider society.

The above goals have dimensions on different levels, personal, professional, institutional and community and provide purpose, focus and clarity. They are aligned with our Annual Operational Plan 2020-2021 and the Strategic Development Plan 2020-2025.

As we continue to navigate the road map, we are aware of the need to provide clarity and detail, regarding next steps. It is the intention of this communication to provide that.

It is also important to provide reassurance that we remain committed to putting our core values in to practice. We expect all pupils, staff and parents to share our commitment to academic excellence and building good men within the framework of our shared values and positive behaviours.

I am looking forward to welcoming all pupils and especially pleased to welcome back our boarders, who are at the heart of our school community.

Return to School

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure all members of the Reading School community that we have been working hard to put in place the necessary measures to mitigate, where possible, risks and ensure we are up and running of all testing to take place next week with the support of our excellent staff and kind volunteers. As part of these risk mitigation measures, we will be undertaking asymptomatic testing of all staff and pupils who have consented.

We will phase the return of pupils during the first week to facilitate Asymptomatic Covid testing. As we ease out of lockdown, we will continue to stagger start times to keep groups apart as they arrive, and we will continue to stagger breaks.

We look forward to welcoming our students back next week and to offering LFD tests to those of you who have consented, to precipitate a safe return to school. Testing will be an important element of the return, with students in secondary schools needing to do three tests on-site, each three to five days apart, before moving to home testing.

A few final points to note:

- Do not send children to school if they show symptoms or test positive. They should self-isolate and follow guidelines.
- All children are required to wear face coverings, unless exempt.
- Please ensure that you and your child know when your first test is scheduled and put plans in place to ensure your child is on time.

- Please take some time to discuss the process with your child and ensure they are ready and calm about the process.
- Please encourage your child to adhere to strict social distancing (2m space) as we would like to ensure that any positive tests during the 'Test 1' phase do not incur close contacts.
- All tutors have shared the key information with students this week and have aimed to ensure all children are well informed and have had the opportunity to ask questions.
- **Important:** When your child returns from their test, they will have a 'test card' with them with an individual test barcode on it. Please use the QR code on the card to register the test to receive confirmation of the test result from the NHS. **Our test site ID is: RRBS.**
- Your child should avoid eating anything **30 minutes prior to the test** as this can affect the accuracy of the result.
- Please note that we will contact parents/carers immediately in the event of a positive test result and advise on further actions.

In addition to the above points, please ensure you have read the following updated sections:

- [LFD Testing Schedule](#)
- [RW March Afternoon Schedule](#)
- [Year 11 and 13 - Centre Assessed Grades](#)
- [Year 11 and 13 - Mock Examinations with venues](#)

I can assure staff, parents and pupils that essential control measures, in line with the updated government guidance, are in place to minimise Covid-19 transmission on the school site.

Please see the [Anxiety](#) section for some useful tips and guidance help your child transition back to school.

Please see the updated section below "[All Years – Lent Term 2021](#)" with details of the return to school also shared earlier this week.

The Roadmap

The first phase of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown begins on Monday. It is vital that we all continue to follow the rules, which will enable the conditions to be met to allow future steps to take place on the provisional dates set out by the Government.

With schools returning next week, we encourage the whole Reading School family to avoid social mixing such as meeting at the park or each other's houses after school. If we all work together, we can continue the phased return towards normality.

We will be sending fuller details of our Curriculum Roadmap to each student and parent in the coming weeks.

As a summary:

For Year 11 and 13 students, we anticipate that once mock exams are completed, afternoons will be structured to facilitate revision for final summer assessments which will be undertaken in the three weeks before the May Half Term. This remains subject to change, especially whilst we await further advice from examination boards.

Once final assessments are completed, we anticipate all Year 13 students being provided with a bespoke, remotely delivered, pre-university curriculum. All Year 11 students will be given remote bridging work to facilitate their Sixth Form induction and the commencement of their A Level courses.

After a consolidation phase over the next three weeks, Year 10 and 12 students will receive the maximum possible support, with Year 12 students benefiting from two hours per week for each of their A Level subjects and Year 10 having one hour per week for each of their options and at least one hour per fortnight for each of their core-subjects.

After Easter Year 7-9 students will be in School in full every afternoon until 15:25. We are currently finalising the timetable for the term and, in addition to providing extra hours for as many subjects as possible hope to include one session per week of the most popular elective activities.

Whilst these details are not yet finalised, and still depend somewhat on the final details that emerge from Examination Boards we hope that the diagram below may help parents and students sense how the remainder of the year may feel.

Eating Disorder Awareness Week

This week, Miss L Ayres (Assistant Head) and Year Group Tutors have been sharing information and discussions have taken place around eating disorders. Estimates vary, but it is believed that a quarter to a third of those struggling with an eating disorder are male and this rate is growing faster in males.

Eating disorders often manifest themselves differently in boys, they are harder to detect by parents as well as healthcare providers. Stigma is one of the main issues. Men may not want to be associated with a problem that is considered to primarily affect women and are therefore less likely to admit weakness and seek help.

It is crucial, for parents/carers and the school to raise awareness of eating disorders being as much of a potential issue for boys. As awareness grows the stigma will decrease. Please see additional information provided at [Safeguarding and Wellbeing](#) section.

Thank you to the students who have completed the Safeguarding Survey posted by Mrs L Ayres (Assistant Head) on Teams. If you have not yet had a chance to complete this please click the [Safeguarding Survey](#) section to complete, over the weekend.

I would also like to direct parents/carers to the [Health and support](#) section where you can find the Berkshire Healthcare's School Nursing Newsletter which includes information regarding immunisations. Please check your child's immunisations are up to date. [Safeguarding and Wellbeing](#)[Safeguarding and Wellbeing](#)[Safeguarding and Wellbeing](#)[Safeguarding and Wellbeing](#)

Finances

Last week I expressed that the financial impact on the school is now being felt. I would like to thank those parents/carers who have been in contact with Mrs J Chhokar to offer donations to the 'Building for the Future' fund pledging the suggested £30.50 per month (more or less) and of course, voluntary support.

If you wish to pledge your support to the school, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs J Chhokar (Society Manager) at development@reading-school.co.uk.

Contributions help us to make plans to put in place co-curricular provisions for our students.

GSL Project

Please take the time to be able to support the young men behind the 'NoEmissions' endeavour. Please see [English Chess Federation \(ECF\) Club](#) Master

Congratulations to Gaurav K (9L) who has just been awarded the title of English Chess Federation (ECF) Club Master. He is currently the 12th in the UK. This is an outstanding achievement from such a young and dedicated player. Chess is known to result in increased cognitive abilities and strategic thinking, but it also improves attention and teaches patience, all of which are essential skills we try to develop within our students to make them well-rounded individuals. Old Redingensians who have continued to prosper in Chess include University of Cambridge student, Matthew Wadsworth (OR 2011-2018). Congratulations to Gaurav and his family on this success.

We strongly encourage students to lead and participate in our Chess Society. There is also a Microsoft Teams page with all the announcements and some great chess discussions: Join the Reading School Microsoft Teams Channel.

Global Social Leaders (GSL) Project section. Congratulations to the Team Lead, Vedhant A (8L) on leading this project.

Book Week

Please see the **Book Week 2021** to read about all the exciting things that have taken place this week to celebrate Book Week and World Book Day as well as a truly inspiring story of bravery from an Old Redingensian.

British Science Week 2021

The week of 5th-14th March is National Science Week a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths and we would like to share with our pupils and wider community those who have been working tirelessly during this pandemic and before. If your mum, dad, guardians or siblings have been working in the field of medicine, science or research please provide us with a photograph and short bio of their role and responsibility and what challenges they have faced during the pandemic and how they overcame this. This will be added to our virtual wall so we can promote science and healthcare during the week of 5th-14th March. Please email your contributions to communications@reading-school.co.uk.

Celebrating Science Week!

For competitions and entries, such as the **The Big Bang Competition** and **2021 TSL Sustainability Challenge**, please see the science challenges Team or speak to Miss L Ayres (Assistant Head) for further details. There are several online events taking place – book your space here [Event Details \(rtcnorth.co.uk\)](http://rtcnorth.co.uk).

Wishing you a safe weekend.

Mr AM Robson
Headmaster

Excellence

All Years – Lent Term 2021

The Department for Education (DfE) have published updated [operational guidance for schools](#) in preparation for full reopening from Monday 8th March 2021. We will therefore, at all times, be guided by the advice in the current government publications.

LFD Testing Schedule

From the 8th of March testing will commence for all year groups on site. Details of the exact timings are included here: [At a glance - LFD Testing Schedule](#). The sessions are organised by tutor group for students in Years 7-11, and by surname for students in Years 12 & 13.

Students should arrive in time for the designated slot, on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, arriving no more than 10 minutes early and leaving the school site directly after testing.

After students have taking their first LFD test; subsequent tests take place during the school day with students leaving lessons, or remaining on site for their designated testing slots. Updated

Thank you for your co-operation in this essential process which is a vital step in managing a safe return to school for students and staff.

RW March Afternoon Schedule

Please see link for an updated afternoon schedule for the weeks until Easter, which includes details of which sessions are being offered to all students in a year group, and those which are invitational. Students will receive electronic notification of the 'Invitational Catch up sessions' they should be attending in the course of next week.

[At A Glance – March afternoons - sessions updated](#)

Year 11 and Year 13 only – Teacher Assessed Grades

Our approach to Teacher Assessed Grades is likely to involve collating data on six or seven standardised measures per student in each of their subject. This process may include:

- Classwork and the Interim Assessments,
- September's Collection exams, the upcoming mock exam and a final summer assessment,
- Non Examined Assessment,
- All other assessed work.

These measures will be variously weighted, depending on the subject. It may be that a student's lowest grades out of the above measures are elided to create a clear 'best-fit' recommendation. This way, students working brilliantly all year but having a terrible day in May will not be disadvantaged by this, nor will those who are now picking up momentum but struggled in September. Practical subjects will involve different processes. All parents and students must understand that where a subject has a Non Examined Assessment component, this must be completed and must contribute to the final grade recommendation.

We ask students and parents to trust that we will be as fair and transparent as possible. We also ask parents to respect the professional judgement of all our staff and not to push for clarity regarding a definitive recommended grade during consultation evenings.

Significantly, it may be a few weeks before final clarifications are provided by examination boards, and in this time we will continue to refine our approach. Students should be confident that all the work

they undertake between now and May half term can contribute to their teachers' recommendations and there will not be a single piece of work upon which their whole grade depends.

Year 11 and Year 13 only - Mock Examinations with venues

Please see links below for the Year 11 and 13 Mock Examination timetables **which now include venues for all exams**.

[Mock Examination Timetable – Year 11](#)

[Mock Examination Timetable – Year 13](#)

Year 11 and 12 only – National Citizen Service (NCS)

National Citizen Service (NCS) is a programme that allows you to get back out into the world with your mates, get some skills, make even more friends AND make a difference by getting your communities back on their feet.

If your son is interested in the NCS summer residential programme, please see attached additional information.

Please see click the [link](#) here for more information and for the Parent Information Pack click here: [NCS Summer 2021 Parent Guardian Pack.pdf](#)

Year 11's please contact Mr Miller bmiller@reading-school.co.uk and Year 12's please contact Miss Stratford astratford@reading-school.co.uk

English Chess Federation (ECF) Club Master

Congratulations to Gaurav K (9L) who has just been awarded the title of [English Chess Federation \(ECF\) Club Master](#). He is currently the 12th in the UK. This is an outstanding achievement from such a young and dedicated player. Chess is known to result in increased cognitive abilities and strategic thinking, but it also improves attention and teaches patience, all of which are essential skills we try to develop within our students to make them well-rounded individuals. Old Redingensians who have continued to prosper in Chess include University of Cambridge student, Matthew Wadsworth (OR 2011-2018). Congratulations to Gaurav and his family on this success.

We strongly encourage students to lead and participate in our Chess Society. There is also a Microsoft Teams page with all the announcements and some great chess discussions: Join the [Reading School Microsoft Teams Channel](#).

Global Social Leaders (GSL) Project

Four of our students from Laud House Year 8 have been taking part in the [Global Sustainable Goals Competition 2020-21](#). The Global Social Leaders (GSL) Competition is focused on the United Nations' [Global Goals for Sustainable Development](#).

The aim of the competition is to develop students' understanding of global citizenship and to turn their ideas into reality. We support young people to develop and action projects that help to achieve the United Nations' Global Goals.

Aaryan A (8L), Neerav S (8L), Siddhant D (8L) and Vedhant A (8L), started a project to help people understand the impact of rising CO2 emissions on themselves and change their mindset about climate change called NoEmissioners supported by Mr Green (Teacher of Chemistry) and Mrs Eggers (Teacher of English).

I am proud of these students who have taken steps to help educate our approach to achieve the [Sustainability Development Goals](#) and create a more sustainable world for all. Let us help support these boys spread the word and be the change we want to see.

Congratulations to the Team Lead, Vedhant A (8L) on leading this project.

To support an issue that affects us all and to learn more about this excellent campaign please support these four boys in the following:

- Complete the '[Make the Switch](#)' Survey. A survey on "Making the Switch" to electric/hybrid cars to date they have had 130+ responses and we can help increase this. The students will then review all responses and if there are enough responses submitted, they can go the extra mile to send the community feedback to car companies as feedback on how to improve and peoples' opinions on it.
- Please follow their campaign on:
- Instagram - <https://instagram.com/noemissioners?igshid=qy0c5f0u0ivg> tagging #GSLGoals as well as #GLobalsocialleaders
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/no.emissioners> where we share all campaign content.
- Website - <https://noemissioners.wixsite.com/home>
- YouTube - https://youtube.com/channel/UC3FADNp0f9CFSc_hHNxwQFw - containing Minecraft Immersive Experience (VR), A fusion 360 Electric Car design and many more interviews with experts in the field of climate change.

The boys also plan to have a series of interviews with professionals in the community as Podcasts and ask their opinions on Making the Switch to electric/hybrid vehicles including the Eden Project.

Thank you to the Team Leader of NoEmissioners, Vedhant A for sharing this tremendous work with the Reading School community.

Inspire Lectures

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

Week commencing Monday 8th March 2021

Mon 8th March 5-6pm

Carol Cooper, Head of Equality, Diversity & Human Rights, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust & BME Expert Mental Health Forum

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

We are delighted to be hosting a broadcast with Carol Cooper, Head of Equality, Diversity & Human Rights, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust & BME Expert Mental Health Forum. Carol has been actively engaged in the implementation of the Workforce Race Equality Standard and creating a systemic approach to addressing racism in the workplace which is driven by data, expertise and equitable leadership to achieve cultural change. Carol will be sharing her insights into nursing and is looking forward to answering your questions.

Wed 10th March 5-6pm

Elaine Tyler, Founder, Venatrix in conversation with Nadine Myers, Senior Sales Development Representative at Citizen and Elliott Parris, Manager of Europe (Data-as-a-Service) & Co-Founder of Embrace at Elsevier

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

We are looking forward to hosting a broadcast with Elaine Tyler, Founder of Venatrix, London's No1 SaaS sales talent partner, supporting some of the fastest-growing companies in the world. In 2015 she received investment from James Caan, former Dragon's Den Investor and his recruitment venture firm, Recruitment Entrepreneur. Venatrix have been one of the top-performing businesses in his portfolio and expect to double headcount and turnover in the next 18 months. Elaine will be talking to Nadine Myers, Senior Sales Development Representative at Citizen and Elliott Parris, Manager of Europe (Data-as-a-Service) & Co-Founder of Embrace at Elsevier about their experiences in education and how it led them to their current role.

Thurs 11th March 5-6pm

David Purdue, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals at Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

We are looking forward to welcoming David Purdue, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals at Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. With almost 30 years of experience within the NHS, David qualified from the Nottingham School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse in 1990, working initially within cardiology at Queen's Medical Centre and before specialising in coronary care at City Hospital. Following a second spell at Queen's, the local resident set up a number of cardiac nurse-led services before going on to work at the NHS Modernisation Agency. After returning to a patient-facing position in 2004, leading the specialities of Cardiothoracics and Emergency Medicine, David joined what was then Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in October 2008 as Divisional Nurse Manager for Medicine, before rising to the position of Chief Operating Officer in July 2013. David became chief nurse in 2019. David will be sharing his insights into nursing and will be answering your questions.

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 and more

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

Competitions

Junior Bake Off: Open for Applications 2021



The Casting Researcher at Love Productions - the company behind The Great British Bake Off, The Great British Sewing Bee and The Great Pottery Throw Down was in touch this week to share that applications have now opened for the 7th series of Junior Bake Off.

The Junior Bake off is a Channel 4 programme that celebrates the culinary talent and ambition of the younger generation in Britain.

Calling all baking enthusiasts aged **between 9 and 15 years old**.

Filming would take place from July 2021, but applications close on Sunday 28th March 2021.

Interested bakers can apply online at - WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK.

Any enquiries should be directed to:

applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk

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**.

The Big Bang 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.

Book Week 2021

On Friday, we saw the launch of our 8th Book Week 2021 with Author, [Chris Bradford](#) opening with a zoom author talk with over 60 pupils present.

I would like to congratulate the three winners, for their creative short story, titled, The Climb which were announced by Chris Bradford live during his talk. Well done to you all.

- James T (8S) won 1st Place : [Click here to read his story](#)
- Ankush S (9L) won 2nd Place: [Click here to read his story](#)
- James F (10S) won 3rd Place: [Click here to read his story](#)

This was followed by bestselling author and Parent, [Holly Webb](#) who joined the LRC Book Club for an intimate virtual talk and engaging Q&A session.

Thank you to both Chris Bradford and Holly Webb as returning authors who provided inspiring talks to our students and insights into becoming successful authors and most of all igniting the love of reading.

Please click [here](#) to read about the opening of Book Week with bestselling Author, Chris Bradford with student reviews.

Please click [here](#) to read about bestselling author and parent, Holly Webb and the LRC Book Club.

I would like to thank the [Old Redingensians Association](#) for sponsoring this event and a huge thank you to both, Mrs L Kesteven and Mrs A Jackson (Librarians) on arranging and co-ordinating this week and having to change plans halfway through, to move some activities online. As always, the Book Week has been a great success.

Acts of heroism

I was recently contacted by an alumnus who shared the fascinating story of how a book has been published about an Old Redingensian, Jan Zwartendijk, a lesser-known hero of the Holocaust.

The remarkable story of how a consul and his allies helped save thousands of Jews from the Holocaust in one of the greatest rescue operations of the twentieth century.

In May 1940, desperate Jewish refugees in Kaunas, the capital of Lithuania, faced annihilation in the Holocaust — until an ordinary Dutch man and former Reading schoolboy became their saviour.

Over a period of ten feverish days, [Jan Zwartendijk](#), the newly appointed Dutch consul, wrote thousands of visas that would ostensibly allow Jews to travel to the Dutch colony of Curaçao on the other side of the world. With the help of Chiune Sugihara, the consul for Japan, while taking great personal and professional risks, Zwartendijk enabled up to 10,000 men, women, and children to escape the country on the Trans-Siberian Express, through Soviet Russia to Japan and then on to China, saving them from the Nazis and the concentration camps.

In [The Just](#), renowned Dutch author [Jan Brokken](#) wrests this heroic story from oblivion, and traces the life of Zwartendijk from his childhood at Reading School to his post-war life as a businessman who rarely acknowledged his remarkable impact. This epic narrative shows how, even in life-threatening circumstances, some people make the just choice at the right time. It is a lesson in character and courage.

You can purchase this book at [this link](#). It is highly recommended.

Integrity

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Eating Disorder Awareness Week

This week we have been supporting the [Charity Beat](#) with increasing awareness about the effects of binge eating and how to build healthy eating habits and body image. The website [Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2021 \(adobe.com\)](#) and [NHS](#) have some excellent resources. If your child has an eating disorder or you are supporting a family member with an eating disorder, do reach out and let our pastoral team know. Always seek professional help from your GP.

Anxiety

As we look ahead to the wider opening of schools to all children, we are sharing advice for parents on preparing their child for the transition from home learning to school environment with their peers. Your child will have been able to talk to their tutor about any concerns, but to help you prepare for sending them back please [click here](#) for resources from Trauma Informed Schools UK. Some children may display some puzzling changes in behaviour after so long in lockdown. These may indicate anxiety. Even those keen to return may experience this. Some signs for parents to look out for and how to respond please [click here](#).

As we begin a transition from lockdown, it is understandable to experience some feelings of anxiety. This article from Future Learn is very informative [What is anxiety, and how can you deal with it? - Future Learn](#). You can also use the mindful march [Mindful March](#) action calendar to set small targets each day to stay present in the every day.

[Reading Well \(reading-well.org.uk\)](#) is also a useful resource for mental health reading.

If your child is feeling particularly anxious about returning to school, do contact your child's tutor for reassurance, in the first instance.

Safeguarding Survey

As we return to school site, the voice of our students continues to be important. We are very grateful for the students who have already completed the [Safeguarding Survey](#) and would encourage more students to take up this opportunity to be heard. Please note this is only accessible with a reading school email account. We would encourage students to do this in their own time without any external influence.

Health and support

Please see Berkshire Healthcare's [School Nursing Newsletter](#) (February edition) for Secondary Schools. This covers recent information and signposting.

Domestic Violence

Next week is an opportunity to raise awareness around the issues of domestic violence. If you or someone you know is suffering, reach out. [UKSAYSNOMORE | Together we can end DV & SA](#).

Additional guidance and useful links

Please see below additional guidance:

- [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.

- Use the guidance in the [Supporting Parents Helpfinder \(youngminds.org.uk\)](https://www.youngminds.org.uk)

If you are concerned about a student, talk to their tutor, Head of House, Mr D McGall (Assistant Head) or Mrs L Ayres (Assistant Head).

Leadership

Debating Society

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

- Wednesday 10th March: THS a more secular society- [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Wednesday 17th March: THB that we are spending too much on Space Exploration- [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Wednesday 24th March: THS selective schools- [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Wednesday 31st March: (Historical Motion) THB that Britain has not been held accountable for its actions during the British Empire- [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.

Wood Virtual Careers Talk

Interested in a career in engineering?

Wood plc has kindly provided a video of their Virtual Careers Event which consists of a number of engineers talking about their careers, routes into engineering, etc. Spanning multiple disciplines and industries from renewable energy to water treatment. Click [here](#) to download and listen.

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. So, tutors are aware that a personal reference may be required.

- [Virtual Work Experience](#) and Exploring the Veterinary Profession from University of Nottingham via Future Learn.

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

- [Being Green Insight Day – Thames Water](#) 14 – 19 year olds interested in financial inclusion and the environment. Date: 7 April 2021, 10am – 1pm. Application Deadline: 7 March 2021
- [Green Skills in the Construction and Engineering Industry](#) - interested in the 'green' plans for the construction and engineering industry. Dates: 6 - 9 April 2021. Deadline 7 March 2021
- [Santander and sustainability](#) 14 – 19 year olds interested in financial inclusion and the environment. Date: 8 April 2021, 10am – 3pm. Application Deadline: 8 March 2021
- [Anglian Water 'App in a Day' Insight Day](#) Year 10 students interested in a career in creative design, IT and innovation. Date: 7 April 2021. Application Deadline: 8 March 2021
- [Anglian Water 'App in a Day' Insight Day](#) Year 12 students interested in a career in creative design, IT and innovation. Date: 9 April 2021. Application Deadline: 10 March 2021
- [British Airways Virtual Insight Day - Sustainability Workshop](#) Year 14 - 19 year olds keen to find out more about a career in the airline industry. Dates: 7th April 2021. Deadline: 15 March 2021
- [Engineering Green Skills Insight Day - Sir Robert McAlpine](#) 14-19 year olds interested in sustainability and the engineering sector. Date: 9 April 2021. Deadline: 12 March 2021
- [Architecture + Design Work Placement – Carmody Groarke](#) 16-19 year olds who are keen to gain insight into architecture and design. Dates: 12 - 16 April. Deadline: 12 March 2021

- [STEM Challenge VWEX with Johnson Matthey](#) Year 14 - 19 year olds keen to find out more about a career in sustainable technology. Dates: 6 - 8 April 2021. Deadline: 12 March 2021
- [Green Careers in the Build Environment – Morgan Sindall](#) 16 - 19 year olds interested in a career in environmentally friendly engineering. 6 – 9 April 2021. Deadline: 15 March 2021
- [British Airways Virtual Insight Day - Sustainability Workshop](#) Year 14 - 19 year olds keen to find out more about a career in the airline industry. Dates: 7 April 2021. Deadline: 15 March 2021
- [Insight Day for Careers in Music – British Army](#) Year 15 – 19 year olds interested in a vocation with music performance at its heart. Dates: 14th April 2021(10am -12am) Application Deadline: 14th March 2021
- [Green jobs in the construction industry - Graham Construction](#) Year 14 - 19 year olds interested in a career in the construction industry. Dates: 8th April 2021. Application Deadline: 19th March 2021
- [Keeping Nottingham Green through sustainable travel](#) Year 15 - 19 year olds considering a career in government. Dates: 14th April 2021. Application Deadline: 7th April 2021

Apprenticeships

- [Situational Judgement Test \(SJT\)](#) which is now live with Virgin Media and can be practiced as many times as students wish.
- [Insight to VMware](#) - Business & Technology Event 11th March, 4:30pm – Year 12 and 13s only. 100 spaces only book asap if interested in career in Technology.
- [Deloitte – Festival of Opportunity](#) explore opportunities from wherever you are, a month-long online festival features a line-up of inspiring, live [interactive events](#).
- [KMPG apprenticeship programmes](#) - for information and to apply for apprenticeship/school leaver schemes at KPMG in audit and software engineering

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.
- [Loughborough University](#) – Engineering experience is an annual residential offering Year 12 students an opportunity to visit and stay overnight at one of the UK's leading universities for engineering.
- [University of Nottingham](#) – Series of webinars on offer from law, veterinary medicine, medicine and engineering from March to May.
- [New College of the Humanities](#) – online taster lectures for a whole range of subjects.
- [World Skills UK – Spotlight Talks](#) – Inspiring Careers excellence - Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 March 2021
- Interested in careers in Law - Year 12 students looking for work placement and insight opportunities, check out the two schemes available with Slaughter and May at [School students \(slaughterandmay.com\)](#).
- [University of Cambridge Festival](#) takes place from 26 March to 4 April 2021, with a series of free online events and activities for everyone. Please click the link [here](#) for the full programme for the Cambridge Festival now available and open for bookings! With over 300 events it is hard to pick a favourite.

Community

Reading School Parents' Association

Reading school lottery update.

The Results are in for the Reading School Lottery draw on the 27th Feb 2021. Congratulations to this week's winner:

Ms G (Tadley) who won £45!

So far we have sold 529 tickets and raised £211.60 for the school in just 4 draws.

If you have signed up but not yet purchased any tickets please go in and complete your purchase.

It is so easy to support the school...If you have not yet signed up please click here:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/reading-school>

Any questions, please contact susiegupta@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Summer's Bag 2 School Collection.

Following on from the success of last Summer's Bag 2 School collection we are proposing to hold another one as soon as circumstances permit.

So please feel free to occupy yourselves during what will hopefully be last stretch of lockdown by having a turn out. It would be great if you could ask family friends and neighbours too as we would like to make this a really huge collection.

As with most things we have been constrained in our fund raising for school this year so every bag will help.

Donations do not have to be in special Bag 2 School bags as it is not possible to distribute them.

We are also hoping to distribute some flyers to the local community (walking distance to school) to maximise our collection once we have booked the exact date.

At the same time we will be collecting uniform for the school second hand shop and text books that need returning to school. Please would you bag these items separately to your Bag 2 School donations.

Thank you for your support.

Below is the list of items that can and cannot be donated below.

We accept the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE*:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Household curtains
- Household towels

- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

We DO NOT accept:

- Duvets and blankets
- Pillows and cushions
- Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
- Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- School uniforms with and without logo
- Corporate clothing and workwear
- Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material

After the government publication of the road map out of lockdown, RSPA hopefully can run the Reading school summer fete this year.

Because we know the Government roadmap out of lockdown, the RSPA committee will definitely discuss doing some online activities.

RSPA hopes that the Reading school community stay safe during this period.

RSPA Chair.

Motivation Webinar

Elevate's free parent webinars available to be watched at this link: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/replay>. You can also download a summary sheet of the main points [here](#).

Future Webinars by Elevate Coaching

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 parents on how to support young people, including the 'i am me' app recently listed as a useful resource for young people which is easily accessible.