



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

12 MARCH 2021

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Return to School

This week we saw LFD testing delivered across all year groups and to staff, efficiently co-ordinated by Mr D Tridgell and Mr J Hitchinson along with staff and parent volunteers, to whom we are extremely grateful. This is no small operation and has required everyone coming together, to ensure our pupils are kept safe and well. Thank you for your support.

It has been inspirational to welcome back to the school site staff and pupils, day and boarding. There is a separate communication for the Boarding community published today. Working together we can consolidate high quality learning and ensure that all pupils thrive and flourish – that their future stories are characterised by opportunity. By showing resilience, character we can collaborate together to build young people of substance.

Inspirational Women

This week marked International Women's Day and the theme this year is #ChooseToChallenge, which asks everyone to address gender bias and inequality, to seek out and celebrate women's achievements.

Being from a family of women, as an only son, I have been surrounded by inspirational women in my life, including my mum, wife, two sisters, and daughter. My mum inspires me through her love, resilience, character and commitment to everyone in her family. My wife, for her love, patience and understanding and my two amazing sisters for their positive can-do attitude. Whilst my daughter inspires me because of her passion for what she believes in, her energy and vitality. I am blessed that I have so many female role models.

This week we have been sharing information regarding the impact of Berkshire's inspirational women, but I would also like to celebrate the inspirational women teachers and associate staff at Reading School, who continuously rise to challenges. We all have a social responsibility to drive a positive change through education. Therefore, I challenge students to share with me: Who are the most inspirational women in their life and why? This can be a family member or someone famous. Please email communications@reading-school.co.uk.

Road Safety

As we come out of a period of lockdown it is paramount that students are reminded of the importance of road safety, especially to and from school, when travel is at its peak. It is crucial that all pupils take care as they leave school, either as pedestrians or cyclists. Boys must not cross roads in between parked cars without due care and attention. Cyclists must leave school with helmets on and have due regard for other vehicles and pedestrians.

Therefore, please can I remind students and ask parents/carers to reiterate the following:

- Pupils should be reminded of their responsibilities as pedestrians, cyclists and passengers.
- Understand what is acceptable behaviour on public transport - be courteous and ensure that a face covering is worn.
- Plan journeys effectively - so you are not rushing.
- Do not be distracted by gadgets as you walk or cycle.
- Understand the risk and the effect of risky behaviour on safety.
- Develop strategies to cope with potentially dangerous situations caused by the behaviour of a driver they travel with, or people they walk or cycle with.
- Cyclists should always ensure they are wearing protective gear and helmet and exit the school using the Craven Road exit.

Please see for additional resources please click here: <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>

In addition, we have also been informed that some parents are parked on the zigzag lines and on double yellow lines outside the Erleigh Road, Craven Road and Alexandra Road entrances. Parking unsafely and driving without due care and attention puts members of our community at risk.

The uncomfortable truth about road safety around schools is that road traffic injuries are the biggest cause of death among young people worldwide, and six children are killed or seriously injured on roads every day in the UK according to [Brake](#).

I thank you for your support on this.

Please see [All Years – Lent Term 2021](#) section below for additional information on Covid Survey; Masks; Educational Visits and Data Collection.

Book Week

Please see [Competitions](#) and [World Book Day 2021](#) to read about all the exciting things that have taken place to celebrate World Book Day as well as a new initiative led by Igniting Writing, the Wokingham Library teen creative writing club run by Alex Baker, who has worked with our students in the past.

British Science Week 2021

The week is National Science Week a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths and we are very grateful for the profiles that have been shared with us from our parent and alumni community to enable us to share these stories with our pupils.

Wishing you a safe weekend.

Mr AM Robson
Headmaster

Excellence

All Years – Lent Term 2021

Covid Survey

We have agreed to help again with a survey in conjunction with Public Health England, The Office for National Statistics and the London Schools of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Please find below link to letter for your son to take part:

[Covid Survey \(March 2021\) Letter to Parents.](#)

Masks

A gentle reminder, students who do not have a mask or forget theirs, these can be purchased at a cost of 50p per mask, from Student Services based in the Cloisters.

Educational Visits

The current advice and guidance states that Educational Visits are only allowed within the local area as part of the PE curriculum.

The PE department are working with local providers to clarify access to facilities such as Tennis courts at Reading University and the Athletics track at Palmer Park.

According to the current government Roadmap from 12 April, groups of up to 15 students are allowed offsite for visits with school staff. As such we will be planning to extend the range of opportunities available to students in Years 7-10 during the summer term, both within the school day, as part of the PE curriculum and after school, as part of the extra-curricular elective program.

For students in the CCF, or taking part in DofE, 17 May is the earliest potential date that residential activity can be allowed, and therefore DofE expeditions and Cadet training camps may take place after May half term, assuming the timelines laid out in the DfE guidance remain the same.

Data Collection – checking personal details.

In order for us to comply with GDPR regulations, we ask that you use the MCAS (MyChildAtSchool) App (which can be used as a web based app as well as a smartphone app for Apple and Android devices) to check contact details, dietary requirements, and medical information. This is particularly important for the school to have the correct information ahead of your son attending any school trips.

<https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin>

As a reminder, the features of the MyChildAtSchool parent portal:

- Provides you with a secure platform to view personal Information about you and your son.
- Allows you to make online changes of address, contact details, and dietary and medical information via the **Data Collection Form** button.
- Allows you to send absence notification messages to the school which are retrieved by the attendance officer allowing them to update attendance marks accordingly.
- Provides secure access for you to view your son's school attendance and behaviour.
- Provides instant electronic online reports and online timetables.
- Provides the option to purchase Items and top up dinner money.

If you are not familiar with the Portal or are having trouble accessing the site, please email the IT department via support@reading-school.co.uk.

LFD Testing Schedule

Testing has commenced for all year groups on site. Details of the exact timings are included here: [At a glance - LFD Testing Schedule](#).

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.

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

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](#)

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge Feb 2021

Further to the success of [the British Mathematics Olympiad](#), we are delighted to announce that 85 students in Year 9, 10 and 11 achieved 34 gold certificates, 25 silver certificates and 13 bronze certificates. 85 students took part in the UKMT intermediate Mathematics challenge online.

[The British Mathematics Olympiad](#) is a national competition and is a follow-on round to the [Senior Mathematical Challenge](#). It combines mathematical, communication and teamwork skills and offers pupils another way to express and develop their enjoyment of mathematics and promotes mathematical dexterity, team working abilities and communication skills.

This is an excellent set of results and all those who took part should be very proud of themselves. Following this, 10 students scored enough marks to qualify for the first round of the British Mathematics Olympiad and we have high hopes for further success. In addition, 34 boys qualified for the [Junior Kangaroo papers](#), a follow-on round to [the Junior Mathematical Challenge](#), which are differentiated by year group. Both papers will take place in March.

A special congratulations goes to Shlok T (10T), Sida L (11W), Johnny S (11E), Hashim I (11W) and Ryan L (11L), who all scored 100%. Well done to Aditya K (9) for achieving top marks in Year 9.

An exceptional achievement from all our students that have risen to this challenge. We are incredibly proud of the academic excellence displayed by our students in achieving these awards.

A special thank you to the Maths Department, particularly Mr B Owen (Teacher of Mathematics) and Mrs K Avedisian (Teacher of Mathematics) for co-ordinating this activity to take place remotely. Reading School is especially grateful to all our parent and alumni donors who continue to donate to the '*Building for the Future Fund*' which enables these sorts of competitions to continue to take place.

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!

Next week Speakers for Schools is proud to launch Green Skills Week offering young people valuable insight days, practical experience and access unique training and recruitment opportunities to equip them for roles in the growing Green Economy.

Week commencing Monday 15th March 2021

Mon 15th March 4-4:45pm

Lisa Holland, Climate change correspondent, Sky News

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

We are looking forward to hosting a Green Skills Week broadcast with Lisa Holland, Climate change correspondent at Sky News. In this broadcast, students will hear from Lisa as well as be introduced to Sky's The Edit: Be the Change, Shape It competition. The Edit is a unique opportunity for budding reporters to learn more about climate change and use their digital storytelling skills to take action. There will also be an opportunity for you to submit your questions to Lisa too!

Mon 15th March 5-6pm

Patrick Hutchinson, Co-founder of UTCAL, Personal trainer, Athletics Coach & Author

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

We are pleased to be hosting a broadcast from Patrick Hutchinson. Coventry born, London bred Co-founder of UTCAL, Personal trainer, Athletics Coach & Author. Patrick Hutchinson has been motivating people and uplifting his community long before he became a national hero. Join Speakers for Schools and Patrick for an interview focusing on his work in the community and what we can all do to have an impact and create positive change. Students will have the opportunity to submit their questions for Patrick too.

Tues 16th March 5-6pm

Experience Nursing: Professor Dame Donna Kinnair DBE, Chief Executive and General Secretary, Royal College of Nursing

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

We are delighted to be joined by Dame Donna Kinnair, Chief Executive and General Secretary, Royal College of Nursing. Donna joined the RCN as Head of Nursing in 2015, providing leadership to the Nursing departments. Donna was then promoted and joined the RCN Executive Team to Director of Nursing, Policy and Practice in 2016, where her key role is to work with UK-wide RCN staff to drive and implement the future RCN professional nursing, policy and practice strategy. Donna will be reflecting on her career journey, highlighting key misconceptions about nursing and the importance of protecting our nurses.

Thurs 18th March 4-45pm

Lord Mayor of London

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

We are thrilled to be hosting a broadcast with **Alderman William Russell**, Lord Mayor of the City of London. His mayoral theme for the year is Global UK: Trade, Innovation and Culture, aiming to grow global trade, champion innovation and promote a rich and vibrant cultural and creative economy. Alderman Russell has over thirty years' experience in the financial and business City including holding senior positions in the national and international Banking sector. As part of Green Skills Week, Alderman Russell will be speaking about his role as Lord Mayor and is looking forward to answering your questions.

Thurs 18th March 5-6pm

Millie Banerjee CBE, Chair of NHS Blood and Transplant

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

We are looking forward to hosting a broadcast with Millie Banerjee CBE, Chair of NHS Blood and Transplant. Millie has had a long and varied career in the private and public sectors. Millie is a UCL Zoology graduate who has spent most of her working life in telecoms and programme management with companies such as BT. Millie has extensive experience in corporate governance having held a number of non-executive appointments including non-executive director of the Cabinet Office, Channel 4 TV, the Prisons Board, Ofcom and Barts Health. Millie will be sharing her career journey, experiences of working for the NHS and will reflect on the importance of transferable skills.

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

Online 'Write with an Author' Session for Teens for free



Teen Writing Group

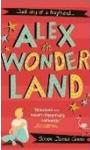
'WRITE WITH AN AUTHOR'
SIMON JAMES GREEN
EXPLORING COMEDY WRITING



SATURDAY 10 APRIL 2021
10:30AM – 12NOON

EVER WANTED TO WRITE HILARIOUS STORIES THAT SPARK LAUGHTER?

IF SO, JOIN IGNITING WRITING, WOKINGHAM LIBRARY'S TEEN CREATIVE WRITING CLUB, FOR OUR ONLINE WRITING SESSION WITH TALENTED AUTHOR SIMON JAMES GREEN.



THE SESSION IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL 11-18 YEAR OLDS. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO SHARE STORY IDEAS AND BUILD FRIENDSHIPS WITH OTHER YOUNG WRITERS.



SESSION WILL INCLUDE:
AN AUTHOR Q&A
USEFUL WRITING TIPS
FUN WRITING ACTIVITIES

TO REGISTER, EMAIL LIBRARIES@WOKINGHAM.GOV.UK



There's a new initiative led by Igniting Writing, the Wokingham Library teen creative writing club run by Alex Baker, who has worked with our students in the past.

"With our regular face to face creative writing sessions out of action due to the pandemic, we've been running online creative writing sessions for several months now, but to help inspire more young writers we've just launched our new interactive 'Write with an Author' online sessions!

To explain, the Write with an Author sessions are held once a month and for each one we're joined by published writers as guest speakers. Each of them will be running a session on a different writing topic, so there's something for everyone - session topics will cover everything from genres like fantasy and sci-fi through to guidance on some of the building blocks of writing, such as creating characters and developing settings. The sessions will all include an author Q and A, useful writing tips and a chance to write alongside the author with some fun writing activities. The sessions are completely free to join and they're a great way for any

creative pupils out there to unlock their imagination, share story ideas and spark friendships with other young writers.

We have some big names lined up in the next few months for our Write with an Author online sessions, including Sarah Hagger-Holt, Simon James Green and Lesley Parr."



Teen Writing Group

'WRITE WITH AN AUTHOR'
SARAH HAGGER-HOLT
EXPLORING FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIPS



SATURDAY 13 MARCH 2021
10:30AM – 12NOON

EVER WANTED TO WRITE STORIES WITH STRONG BONDS BETWEEN THE CHARACTERS?

IF SO, JOIN IGNITING WRITING, WOKINGHAM LIBRARY'S TEEN CREATIVE WRITING CLUB, FOR OUR ONLINE WRITING SESSION WITH TALENTED AUTHOR SARAH HAGGER-HOLT.



THE SESSION IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL 11-18 YEAR OLDS. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO SHARE STORY IDEAS AND BUILD FRIENDSHIPS WITH OTHER YOUNG WRITERS.



SESSION WILL INCLUDE:
AN AUTHOR Q&A
USEFUL WRITING TIPS
FUN WRITING ACTIVITIES

TO REGISTER, EMAIL LIBRARIES@WOKINGHAM.GOV.UK



World Book Day 2021



World Book Day was created by UNESCO nearly 26 years ago as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. Each year, students and staff at Reading School participate in Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R) whereby everyone stops and pulls out a book and begins to read.

To celebrate our fantastic love of reading, we asked the children to take photographs of themselves at home during lockdown. Congratulations to Milan G (9E) and the LRC Lockdown Team for winning the D.E.A.R photo competition.

The Lockdown Team of boys working hard in the LRC wanted to participate as a group with a tribute to our wonderful NHS for their D.E.A.R challenge. In a socially distanced way, they created the letters NHS in their own distinctive way.

This year, we were delighted to see so many Departments celebrating recommended reads.

Mrs A Cash (Head of Economics) shared some recommendations for Economics from our Year 13 students.

- Utopia for Realists by Rutger Bregman.
- The War on Normal People by Andrew Yang.
- Narrative Economics - How Stories Go Viral and Drive Major Economic Events Robert J. Shiller.
- Thinking Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman.
- The Undercover Economist by Tim Harford.



We 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.

To wrap up Book Week 2021 celebrations, the LRC hosted a virtual World Book Day Quiz.

Congratulations to James T (8S) who won the quiz.



Integrity

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Anxiety

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 great 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.

Health and support

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

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 \(youngminds.org.uk\)](#)

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 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.

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.

- [Genesis](#) is a market-leading advisory helping clients on their journey to a sustainable energy future. Genesis believes in the importance of inspiring the future generation of engineers and hence we are hosting a Work Experience Week. This year's theme is Energy Transition, helping students understand knowledge and ambition required for creating a world of low carbon energy. Unlike our usual set up where students come into the office, this year we would be hosting this event virtually. Students aged 14/15 years (GCSE Year 10) or older are eligible to sign up. Further details to follow. Thank you to Mrs A Bose for advising us of this opportunity.
- [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:

- [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
Thank you to Dr Garcia for highlighting this opportunity with Johnson Matthey.
- [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.
- [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

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 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.

Reading School Parents' Association

The Results are in for the Reading School Lottery draw on the 6th March 2021.

Congratulations to this week's winner:
Ms H who won £43.20.

So far we have raised £269.20 for the school in just 5 draws.

Please sign up today and support your school. If you have signed up but not yet purchased any tickets please go in and complete your purchase..

Click [here](#) and make a real difference!

Any questions please contact Susie Gupta on treasurer@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Good luck!!