



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

19 MARCH 2021

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Covid-19 Testing – Success in school and next phase at home

I must pay tribute to the superb leadership and organisation of the on-site LFT scheme by Mr J. Hitchinson and Mr D. Tridgell. Crucially, the process would not have been possible without the inspirational support of our team of volunteers. Their commitment has been inspirational. Thank you.

3242 tests were completed with no positive cases. This took 63 hours with approximately 17 tests per hour, per day.

Following the success of the Testing regime in school, it is important that we continue to be vigilant and follow all the rules and regulations as decreed by the government. A gentle reminder, for 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.



Taking delivery of the Covid Test Kits



3242 completed tests

As we now move on to the phase of Home Testing, all parents should have received an email yesterday in relation to home testing. We will be sending out reminders, but for information, please find below see below for an amended testing schedule (please note that the test can be taken the evening before the dates below):

- Test 1: Monday 22nd March
- Test 2: Thursday 25th March
- Test 3: Monday 29th March
- Test 4: Thursday 1st April
- Test 5: Monday 5th April
- Test 6: Thursday 8th April
- Test 7: Monday 12th April
- Test 8: Thursday 15th April
- Test 9: Monday 19th April
- Test 10: Thursday 22nd April
- Test 11: Monday 26th April
- Test 12: Thursday 29th April

Safeguarding

With the news of the tragic murder of Sarah Everard, we want to encourage our students and staff to stand up for what is good and positive in society. We want all members of the Reading School community to feel safe, be safe and be free from fear. A crucial element is respect and we will continue to champion an ethos and a positive approach based on respect. This is especially important in ensuring positive, healthy relationships and the treating of women and girls with respect. Anything else would be against our core values and expectations of behaviour. Building an effective culture of safeguarding remains a crucial priority and I thank our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Ayres for her excellent work in this regard.

Logo Competition

At Reading School, we are committed to promoting positive narratives and providing opportunities. We are looking at rebranding and introducing some new electronic logos for our Future Stories programme and our new Futures Stories Community Enterprise. Therefore, we are asking all students, parents and members of our community to devise some designs that could be used going forward. The two separate logos should incorporate in some way:

- 1.Future Stories
- 2.Future Stories Community Enterprise

The deadline for submission of all entries is Friday 2nd April 2021. Please submit your entries to: cmole@reading-school.co.uk. We look forward to seeing what creative ideas you may have.

Job Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a Director of Music with effect from 1st September 2021. Below you will find the advert and details of the post. If you, or anyone you know would be interested in this vacancy, please do forward to them. If you require any further information, please contact hr@reading-school.co.uk in the first instance.

[Director of Music Advert](#)

[Director of Music Details of Post](#)

Wishing you a safe weekend.

Mr AM Robson
Headmaster

Excellence

All Years – Lent Term 2021

Deci-Tourists Ride Again

Congratulations to Deci-Tourists James Brown, George Lauchlan, Seth Payne, Ben Silvester-Ratcliffe, Tom Silvester-Ratcliffe, Paul Stromdale, Oliver Clement and John Spence who have completed the entire tour in the target time. Here are the current 2021 running totals:

James Brown	1430	km	(	412%)
George Lauchlan	1168	km	(	337%)
Seth Payne	934	km	(	269%)
Ben Silvester-Ratcliffe	558	km	(	161%)
Tom Silvester-Ratcliffe	547	km	(	158%)
Paul Stromdale	494	km	(	142%)
Oliver Clement	453	km	(	131%)
John Spence	357	km	(	103%)
Joseph Petty	243	km	(	70%)
Sam Phillips	88	km	(	25%)
Samuel Amos-Osebeyo	81	km	(	23%)
Malik Djotni	46	km	(	13%)
Harry Pilkington	35	km	(	10%)
William Millmore	12	km	(	3%)
Adityaraj Saswade	11	km	(	3%)
Felix Pilkington	8	km	(	2%)
Matthew Grove	6	km	(	2%)

Keep an eye on the Deci-Tour on Microsoft Teams using the Team code **horp7v3**. A new challenge is starting when the spring weather returns.

Senior Physics Challenge

Twenty nine Y12 Physicists took part in the BPhO Senior Physics Challenge which took place on Thursday 4th March 2021. We would like to congratulate them on a splendid performance in this national competition for able physics students. Nationally, 15% of students gained a Gold Award; our students managed a remarkable 20 Gold Awards or about 4.5 times the achievement nationally. Well done to all of you who took part.

Anirudh	Khaitan	Gold	34
Nihal	Mahajan	Gold	33
Vaibhav	Mahajan	Gold	32
Max	Barbour	Gold	32
Mannan	Karwa	Gold	32
Ebinezer	Rajaram	Gold	32
Arjun	Judge	Gold	32
Eashan	Ray Chaudhuri	Gold	31
Rishabh	Ramesha	Gold	30
Alexander	Flann	Gold	30
Karan	Baishkiyar	Gold	29
Roshan	Patel	Gold	28
Jacob	Hathaway	Gold	28
Aaryan	Purohit	Gold	28
Viraj	Nerkar	Gold	27
Stratos	Voudouris	Gold	27
Saharsh	Anand	Gold	27
Joshua	O'Donoghue	Gold	27
Ewan	Azlan Luk	Gold	27
Liam	Devine	Gold	26
Finbarr	Sheedy	Silver	25
Adedeji	Balogun	Silver	25
Oluwaseun Joshua	Kayode - Aliu	Silver	24
Matthew	Grove	Silver	24
Jacob	Atwal	Silver	22
Dev	Mohan	Silver	22
Jacob	Merchant	Silver	21
Toby	Caswell	Bronze	19
Ansh	Aggarwal	Bronze	19

AWARD BOUNDARIES:

Grade	Award Boundaries	Percentage of Students	No of students
Gold	26 - 40	15.0 %	790
Silver	20 - 25	30.7 %	1618
Bronze	12 - 19	44.2 %	2329
Commendation	0 - 11	10.1 %	533
		100 %	5270

Year 8 Only

Curriculum Guide for GCSE

Further to the Options Outline you received last month, we are delighted to now send you the full Curriculum Guide for GCSE at Reading School. 'Key Stage 4' is the name given to the GCSE years, which at Reading School are Years 9-11, however they are a continuation of the challenging curriculum your son has already encountered in Years 7 & 8 (Key Stage 3).

We recognise the importance of exams for students' next steps, but equally are proud that our GCSE curriculum goes far beyond simply exams, and is composed of far more than what is taught in the academic classroom.

The 'options' subjects have produced short presentations to help students make informed choices, and these will be released directly to you in the coming days.

As previously announced, the deadline for options choices is April 21st (after Easter), so we would urge you not to rush decisions - they are not 'first come first served', and the Form for making these decisions will be released on Monday 29th March.

[Curriculum Guide for GCSE](#)

Integrity

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Time to talk

The responses from the safeguarding survey so far are very promising in the fact that students feel they have an adult they can talk to if they feel the need. We must encourage our children to continue to talk about their feelings and difficult subjects to normalise anxiety and depression. Students are regularly encouraged to ask their friends how they are and actively listen. Meal times can be a safe space at home to be able to do this.

A recent hard-hitting, challenging documentary on [BBC Three - Roman Kemp: Our Silent Emergency](#) explores the hard hitting truths around suicide. Please be advised that very sensitive issues are discussed. Therefore, parental discretion is advised.

A variety of support helplines can be found [here](#)

Safeguarding Survey

[Safeguarding Survey](#)

The voice of our students is always 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.

Wellbeing Wednesdays

Make sure you follow us on Twitter to get weekly updates and inspiration for a healthy dose of wellbeing, for students as well as parents.

Additional Guidance and Useful links

- 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.

[Refuge Against Domestic Violence - Help for women & children.](#) – for support against domestic violence

Use the guidance in the Supporting Parents Helpfinder ([youngminds.org.uk](#)) If you are concerned about a young person, talk to their tutor, Head of House, Mr D McGall (Assistant Head) or Mrs L Ayres (Assistant Head).

Leadership

STEM opportunities

There are a variety of projects available to get involved with online. Talk to Miss Ayres if you have an idea and would like to take part, as an individual or a group.

[Starting your project \(thebigbangfair.co.uk\)](http://thebigbangfair.co.uk)

[Sustainability Challenge - Trust for Sustainable Living](#)

[bp educational service | Ultimate STEM Challenge](#)

[The Bright Ideas Challenge | Shell United Kingdom](#)

British Science Week 2021

We are currently celebrating 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. Please find link to information in relation to careers in STEM.

[Careers in STEM](#)

Community

Using the LRC

Opening Hours

In order to maintain year group bubbles, LRC use during the day is managed using the following pattern:

Years 7-9: 1.30pm to 3.30pm – only if pupils do not have RW activities and are unable to travel home after tutor time. They should book a table by emailing lkesteven@reading-school.co.uk

Years 10-11: 8.25am to 9.00am and from 1.30pm - only if pupils have to arrive at school early e.g. travel by coach or they do not have RW activities and are unable to travel home after tutor time. They should book a table by emailing lkesteven@reading-school.co.uk

Years 12 and 13: 9.35am to 1.05pm

Pupil Printing, Photocopying and Scanning

Pupils who have access to the LRC can print, scan and use the photocopier. Pupils who do not fall into the categories above can ask for permission to visit the LRC during tutor time. Print credit is sold in units of £1 and can be purchased from the LRC with cash (correct change please). It is 1p for A4 Black and White printing and 3p for Colour. Scanning and photocopying is also available.

Borrowing Books

The LRC operates a weekly **Click and Collect Service**. Books should be reserved through the library catalogue, called Oliver <https://reading-school.oliverasp.co.uk/library/libraryHome.do>

Requests can also be made by emailing lkesteven@reading-school.co.uk.

The LRC operates a weekly **Grab and Go service**:

Year 7: Tuesday 9.35 – Science Playground

Year 8: Thursday 10.10 – Science Playground

Year 9: Wednesday 9.35 – Outside the Chapel

Returning Books

Although the LRC is not charging overdue fines at the moment, we would like to encourage all pupils to check at home and to return any LRC books that they no longer need. Pupils have until the end of term to do this.

Books can be returned via the Click and Collect Service, the Grab and Go Service and by using the Returns Boxes at the main LRC entrance

Reading School Parents' Association

Urgent: Uniform donations needed

Please can you help the RSPA 2nd Hand Uniform Shop restock. We are in need of any school uniform that your sons have outgrown during lockdown. After an all time high demand last year, our stocks are low and any support is greatly appreciated because, in donating, you are not only supporting other parents, but also supporting the school and our boys.

We are looking for any good quality items:

- daily school uniform (including ties)
- games & PE sports kits (both old and new styles)
- trainers
- football/rugby boots
- cricket gear
- outdoor wear (base layers, school hoodies, coats)
- labcoats & goggles.

Students can, at any time, drop off any bags of uniform donations to the Students' Services office in the Cloisters.

Note - this call is for Uniforms only. No Bags2School donations at this time. Thank you.

Once Government guidelines allow retail shops to open, we are planning to hold a shop opening. Provisionally, this will be the last week of the Easter Holiday in line with the current restrictions easing.

The RSPA Uniform Shop
shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk