



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

26 MARCH 2021

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

The poet T.S. Eliot in the Wasteland stated that 'April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land.' But I would argue that he is wrong. Easter, the most important feast day in the Christian calendar is on Sunday and there is a partial easing of lockdown restrictions. Therefore, we should celebrate the positive aspects of life, especially focused on family and community. We need to look forward and act with courage and integrity to maximise opportunities for the rest of the academic year. It is crucial that we work with parents to promote positive attitudes and behaviours based on respect so that our students can develop as people of substance.

Start of Term Arrangements

School re-opens for all students on Monday 19th April. Boarders can return to the boarding houses from 6.00pm on Sunday 18th April. A reminder to all students to ensure they have taken their Lateral Flow Covid Test before returning to school.

Summer Curriculum update

As published last week, please find below the timetable structure for the summer term.

From **Monday April 19th Afternoon timetables** will include the structure and content, which replaces all previous structures and represents a moving towards the provision which we hope to sustain in a post-pandemic landscape.

Therefore, all students, apart from Year 12s completing three A Levels, will be in School every day until 15:25.

All students in Years 7-10 and Year 12 will have a week of Assessments in the week commencing June 21st. These represent an important checkpoint for reviewing students' progress, and generating adjustments to schemes of work within the curriculum with effect from September 2021.

Year 12

All Year 12 students will be timetabled for two full afternoon per fortnight for each of their A Level Options. They will have Games options on Friday afternoons, but will be in school until 15:25 for three or four afternoons depending on the number of A Levels they are studying towards.

Year 10

Per Fortnight, all Year 10 students will be timetabled for 2 lessons for each of their options, 2 English lessons and 2 Maths lessons. They will also have 1 x Philosophy, 1 x Biology, 1 x Chemistry, 1 x Physics lessons and a double games session every Thursday. After tutor time, and before afternoon lessons begin, we are considering giving Year 10 an extra 15 minute break because of the gap between first break and the end of the day.

Year 9

Per fortnight, all Year 9 students will have 2 x HPQ taught skills sessions, 2 x HPQ supervision meeting, 2 x Philosophy, 2 x English, 2 x Maths and 2 x Modern or Classical Language lessons. They will also have 1 x Biology, 1 x Chemistry, 1 x Physics and 1 x Revision Skills session. They will also have a double games session every Tuesday.

Year 8

Per fortnight all Year 8 students will be timetabled for 2 x Computer Science, English and Maths lessons and 2 lessons of each of their languages. They will also have 1 x Classics, 1 x Geography, 1 x History and 1 x Theology and Philosophy lesson per fortnight. They will have a double Games session every Wednesday. They will also have a single elective session on Monday afternoons, where all students will be able to choose between one of nine extension activities.

Year 7

Per fortnight all Year 7 students will be timetabled for 2 x Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English, Maths, Geography and History lessons. They will have a double games session every Monday. They will also have a single elective session on Friday afternoons, where all students will be able to choose between one of nine extension activities.

2021-2022 Timetable

We are pleased to inform all parents and students that we are planning a return to significantly longer lessons from September 2021, in line with the reduced risk identified across the country. We may maintain elements of break and lunch staggering, a slightly later start in the morning for sixth form students and some flexibility for increased student support and differentiation. We will be publishing full plans after the Easter break.

Re-introduction of confirmatory PCR Testing for positive lateral flow tests

From today, NHS Test and Trace is reintroducing confirmatory PCR testing for positive LFD tests conducted at all assisted testing sites, including schools and colleges. This means that all staff, pupils and students who get a positive LFD test, whether at home or supervised at their school or college, should get a confirmatory PCR. The PCR test should be booked immediately either [online](#) or by calling 119 and should be undertaken within 2 days.

Staff, students and pupils who had a positive LFD test result, and their close contacts and other members of their household, should self-isolate immediately in line with [NHS Test and Trace guidance](#) and while awaiting the PCR result. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the LFD test and the staff member, pupil or student can return to school or college, and their close contacts can end their self-isolation.

If your son receives a positive test within 2 days of him being in school (Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd April), then please email headspa@reading-school.co.uk so that contact tracing can take place.

Job Vacancies – Exciting Overseas Opportunities at Suzhou Reading School

Suzhou Reading School seeks to appoint enthusiastic and innovative staff to join our professional community. If you, or anyone you know is interested in any of these posts, please do get in contact:

[SRS – Teacher of Drama](#)

[SRS – Teacher of English](#)

[SRS – Teacher of Humanities](#)

[SRS – Teacher of Physical Education](#)

Wishing you a safe and relaxing Easter break.

Mr AM Robson

Headmaster

Excellence

All Years – Lent Term 2021

Lent Term issue of the LRC Magazine

The Pupil Librarian Team are delighted to bring you this term's issue of the LRC Magazine, which includes LRC news, events, competitions, book recommendations and lots more. Thanks to our editors, Matthew C. (12BSA), Archie T. (12VGG) and Matthew G. (12VGG).

[LRC Magazine](#)

Year 11 and 13 only

Teacher Assessed Grades

Further to the details published last week regarding Teacher Assessed Grades we are pleased to remind all students that departments have started to publish the details of the specification areas, style of questions and paper lengths for Summer Assessment. All of these details will be published on Teams no later than April 21st. We had hoped that content from exam boards would be useful for these assessments. Most subjects however, have found that the content released yesterday is less helpful than had been hoped. We urge all students to listen carefully to the guidance coming from their teachers rather than paying too much attention to 'background noise' in the media.

All Year 11 and 13 parents should remember that:

- Grades this year should be no harder or easier to achieve than in previous years
- We are continuing to assess evidence produced in class and the broadest possible range of other evidence
- Summer Assessments are one measure out of many that are being used by departments and are not a replacement for A Level or GCSE examinations
- Our commitment is to collecting data accurately, recommending grades equitably, and defending our judgments robustly.

After the Easter break we will publish a full guide to the draft weightings placed on different assessments being used in each subject and a new policy regarding Teacher Assessed Grades.

JCQ Guidance relating to how Grades will be awarded

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) have produced guidance for students, parents and guardians which can be found here:

[JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf](#)

This JCQ document provides an overview of the most important information that students and parents or guardians need to know about how grades will be awarded this summer. It includes a timeline of what is happening and when, how teachers, schools and colleges will determine grades, and when results will be received.

Congratulations

Thomas Kirby (9 East) has been selected to train and play for the London Irish Rugby Club Academy from September. The London Irish Academy is the cornerstone of the development programme and success at London Irish. The role of the London Irish Academy is to identify and develop talented young athletes from age 13 to 23 and engage them in a High-Performance development programme. This is a huge honour for Thomas and an opportunity to put his teamwork and leadership skills in practice. Exciting times ahead!

Inspire Lectures

In partnership with Speakers for Schools they will be returning from the 19th April with more talks from leading figures from a wide range of industries including, Green Finance, film, sustainability, and content creation! As usual, students will have the opportunity to ask the speakers questions via a moderated Q&A. See [Live Broadcasts Schedule](#).

Please encourage your child to tune into these opportunities!

Week commencing Monday 29th March 2021

Mon 19th April 5-6pm

SPONSOR BROADCAST- National Grid, Speaker to be confirmed

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

Hear from one of our sponsors for Green Skills Week, National Grid! National Grid employs over 20,000 people! Don't miss out on the opportunity to hear from one of their Directors.

Tues 20th April 11am-12pm

In collaboration with Penguin: How to dare to change your life, with Lawrence Okolie and Harry Pinero

WBO world cruiserweight champion and author of Dare to Change Your Life, Lawrence Okolie, joins entertainer, host and content creator, Harry Pinero, to discuss Lawrence's incredible journey from obesity to professional boxer, and his lessons for how young people can make their dreams a reality too.

To register for this event, please email communications@reading-school.co.uk if you would like to attend so we can inform Speakers for Schools beforehand and we can send you the link to join.

Wed 21st April 5:15-6pm

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

Want to know what the Green Economy is and more about the future of the world of work? Don't miss out on the Speakers for Schools Broadcast with The Lord Mayor of London. You'll hear from The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell about his career journey, how green skills will have an impact and get the opportunity to submit your questions!

Thurs 22nd April 5-6pm

Lord Richard Chartres & Baroness Rosie Boycott, Peers for the Planet

[LINK TO JOIN](#)

Hear from two speakers from the House of Lords' climate action group, Peers for the Planet! We will be joined by Lord Richard Chartres who led the Church of England's campaign to shrink their Carbon footprint between 2006 and 2017 when he retired as Bishop of London. We will also be joined by Baroness Rosie Boycott who served as Chair of the London Food Board from 2008 – 2017, advising the Mayor of London on sustainable food policy implementation in the capital, and is active in the Lords speaking on a range of issues from food and health to the importance of tackling biodiversity loss. This is a must watch for students who are passionate about tackling the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss!

Thurs 29th April 2-3pm

WRAP Panel event with Julie Hill, Chair, Emma Hallett, Team Manager Collaborative Change Programme, Maria Stapleton, Behaviour Change Project Manager & William McManus, Sector Specialist – Food

Wondering how business' can become more eco-friendly? WRAP is one of the globe's leading sustainability charities. Don't miss out on the opportunity to hear from our panellists from WRAP, who help drive change and create a better world. WRAP work with businesses, governments, citizens and charities to make the planet a healthier, safer place.

To register for this event, please email communications@reading-school.co.uk if you would like to attend so we can inform Speakers for Schools beforehand and we can send you the link to join.

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.](#)

Integrity

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Building Good Men

Our PSHE, Floreat and Tutor curriculum embraces our values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership and Community, with an emphasis on character. As a School community, we appreciate the support of parents when echoing the message of character at home. With several safeguarding issues in the media of late, we would like to remind parents of the safeguarding channel on the student team (Microsoft Teams) where students can go to find support, including the flowchart of how to disclose information or concerns. We are always proud of our students who reach out and ask for help for themselves or others. Alongside this, the NSPCC has set up a dedicated helpline for sexual abuse [helpline for sexual abuse](#) .

RSE Curriculum

An integral part of our Building Good Men programme is Sex and Relationships Education, as part of our PSHE programme. This statutory curriculum covers a broad range of age-appropriate topics to be discussed by our students with staff in a safe space. Please link to letter regarding the lessons for next term.

[RSE Letter for Parents](#)

E-safety

Please ensure you have conversations with your child about staying safe online [Instagram announces new AI tools to stop 'suspicious' adults from messaging children | The Independent](#)

CEOP have developed some guidance for parents:

- [In-game chat: a guide for parents and carers](#) .
- [nude selfies: a parents guide](#).
- [having a conversation with your child](#).
- [Supporting your child with reporting unwanted content online](#)
- [Is your child ready for social media?](#)
- [Teens and the sexual content on social media](#).

Water Safety

As (hopefully!) the weather begins to warm, please ensure that you and your family know the water safety code [Water safety for children and young people - RoSPA](#)

Healthcare

Please see the attached newsletter from Berkshire Healthcare.

[School Nursing Newsletter](#)

World Autism Awareness Week

[World Autism Awareness Week](#)

This week is World Autism Awareness Week. As with all differences, we encourage our students to be ambassadors for change and acceptance and to help make the world a better place for all, regardless of race, gender, sexuality or indeed how our brains work.

Please see link below to the reading list for any support for Autism.

[Spectropolis – Pay it Forward](#)

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

- [Childline | Childline](#) Offers 1:1 support and a guide to staying safe online for adults and children.
- www.refuge.org.uk Help for women & children – for support against domestic violence
- <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> Referring concerns over online communication including sexual abuse
- [Find help - for parents \(youngminds.org.uk\)](http://youngminds.org.uk) Guidance on how to support a young person's mental health

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)

Students also have access to a safeguarding flowchart on the student channel on Microsoft Teams, to talk them through options for disclosures about themselves or a friend or classmate, and what the outcomes and support possibilities might be.

Leadership

The Invisible Hand – Economics Magazine

The Invisible Hand is the brand new Economics magazine and we are proud to bring you the first edition. Our year 10 and year 12 writers have been working hard since September to put together a series of interesting and thought-provoking pieces on a wide range of topics including asteroid mining, Tesla, pill prices in the USA, and much more!

[Home | The Invisible Hand \(the-invisible-hand.netlify.app\)](https://the-invisible-hand.netlify.app)

All articles have been written by year 10 or year 12 Economics students and each Year 10 pupil was assigned to a Year 12 editor who helped them to create and refine their article. After that, all of the articles were sorted into their respective sections, ready for the logistics team to form the final magazine. We now have a spectacular website coded by Uriel Kerestey, where we will continue to upload articles written by students.

Editors

Features – Vishal Srinivasan

Opinions – Harish Raghu

Politics – Daksh Ahuja and Uriel Kerestey

International Affairs – Oliver Liles and Ansh Aggarwal

Business – Vivan Vasudeva and Shaunak Satish

Finance - Pushkal Ahluwalia, Ali Batley and Akhil Darukumalli

Logistics – Eesh Misra, Ali Batley

Website – Uriel Kerestey

STEM

Get Involved

[Earth Optimism Cambridge \(cambridgeconservation.org\)](https://cambridgeconservation.org)

Earth Optimism is a worldwide movement aimed at fundamentally shifting how we frame the environmental narrative, from one of doom and gloom to one focused on solutions and success. Earth Optimism has emerged from two key realisations: that fear without hope leads to apathy rather than action, and that conservation successes are numerous but largely invisible to the general public. The last few years have seen an unprecedented groundswell of concern for the future of our planet.

Earth Optimism 2021 will respond to the call for positive change, and help translate activism to action. Led by the [Cambridge Conservation Initiative](https://cambridgeconservation.org), this online celebration will bring people together to share our understanding of what works in conservation and how we can make the changes we know are needed on the ground, in the workplace, and in our everyday lives. Across generations and across the world people are calling for action, and asking for that action to be evidence-based. Earth Optimism 2021 will showcase some of the extraordinary efforts already being made, explore why they are working, and consider how they can be scaled up.

Wild about Gardens

Over Easter, get back to nature with your family in your garden [homepage | Wild About Gardens](https://www.wildaboutgardens.com)

Opportunity for Year 9 and Year 10

[Virtual Routes into STEM](#) is an innovative course that provides **Year 9 and Year 10** students with a clear understanding of the amazing opportunities offered by STEM based careers. The course allows students to recognise the variety of opportunities available to them after taking their GCSEs, it will provide access to key information on **different pathways: College and University and Apprenticeship** routes through industry. The course is suitable for **all academic abilities** – all that is required is a **genuine interest in STEM subjects**. Click on the link for further information.

Online Competition 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)
- Sustainability Challenge - Trust for Sustainable Living
- bp educational service | Ultimate STEM Challenge
- The Bright Ideas Challenge | Shell United Kingdom

Reading School Combined Cadet Force

Throughout Lent Term our Cadet Force Adult Volunteers, with the support of Cadet NCOs, have continued to provide weekly virtual training of the Cadet syllabus to all cadets in Years 9-11. We have successfully inducted our new recruits who were all given the opportunity to participate in a virtual training day focussed on developing their fieldcraft knowledge. They also enjoyed an end of term quiz, which was put together by our Cadet NCOs.

Cadets in Year 10-13 were given the opportunity to attend a virtual battlefield tour of Pegasus Bridge given by Major Simon Burgess AAC, a qualified Battlefield Tour guide, which was really well received. They were also able to participate in a further Virtual Communications Training Day fine tuning their military signals skills. Our Cadet NCOs have benefitted from a Virtual Leadership Training Weekend with a focus on diverse aspects of leadership and people management.

Congratulations to four of our RAF Section Cadet NCOs, Cpl Matthew G, Cpl Arran J, L/Cpl Daniyal V and L/Cpl Ishika J, who have been allocated places on the RAF Headquarters Air Cadet Leadership course, which is a much sought after and prestigious course.

The CCF Command Team are now planning for the Summer Term and the next academic year. The aim is to prepare for the complexities of returning back to face to face training. Our biggest challenge will be how to enable face-to-face training in a safe and secure fashion in order to ensure the continued engagement of cadets and retention of both cadets and adult volunteers.

Community

Appointment of Parent Trustees to the Reading Foundation

The Reading Foundation is a charity that supports Reading School and owns the School site and buildings. The Foundation Trustees are stewards of funds intended to support each generation of Reading School pupils. Working closely with the Headmaster, they provide support through making significant financial grants to programmes for which public monies are not available and funding a substantial annual awards scheme. In addition, the Foundation provides funds to help the School improve its facilities and maintain the Grade II listed school buildings. The Trustees are responsible for the investment strategy of the charity and employ a wealth manager to help them decide upon and monitor that strategy and to manage the charity's investments. Working closely with the School governors, the Foundation funds the school development office with the objective of enhancing the school community and establishing a tradition of giving to the School and the Foundation amongst this community. Further information can be found in the [Foundation's annual report](#).

The Trustees of the charity are alumni, current parents, parents of alumni, current and retired staff – all have a love for the school, have a great respect for the wishes of those who have left bequests to the school and wish to see current and future generations benefit from their kind gifts.

There are openings for parent trustees to join the Foundation and we are looking to appoint trustees from our current parent community.

We follow Charity Commission recommended best practice and recruit trustees based on skills, knowledge, and experience relevant to our charity.

Accordingly, we would particularly welcome applications from parents with any the following skills

- Legal knowledge (particularly in relation to land and building)
- Budgeting and accountancy/finance
- Investment knowledge and experience

Most importantly we value the input of positive committed members who can think clearly, investigate, and contribute to decision making processes.

The commitment required for meetings is of the order of three to six times a year, plus a willingness to take on and progress actions outside the meeting process. If you would be interested in applying to become a trustee of the Reading Foundation, please complete the following form.

[The Reading Foundation - Parent Trustee Application](#)

Deadline for the completion of the above form is **1st May 2021** with the selection process taking place until mid-June. The first meeting for new trustees will take place in July.

Reading School Parents' Association

2nd Hand Uniform Shop

In line with government lockdown easing the 2nd Hand Uniform Shop's next opening is:

- * Friday 16th April 2021 1pm to 3pm
- * Saturday 17th April 2021 9:30am to 11:30pm

The Shop will be running from the Gym to ensure good social distancing, which is located at the back of the main building.

We are also looking for a few more kind parents who would be willing to help out at a couple of opening during the term, openings are either a Friday afternoon or Saturday Morning. If you would be happy to do so please drop an e-mail to Jacqui at shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk