



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

23 APRIL 2021

Contents

Introduction	3
Shaping Future Stories	3
A Day of Celebration	4
Covid Home Testing	5
Job Vacancy	5
Excellence	6
Year 11 and Year 13 only	6
Teacher Assessed Grades	6
All Years – Lent Term 2021	6
Reading Way Summer Term Co-Curricular opportunities:	6
2021 Biology Olympiad	6
Year 8 to Year 12 only	9
Smallpeice Trust Summer Engineering Online Courses	9
Integrity	10
Safeguarding and Wellbeing	10
The Big Ask Survey promotion	10
Support for students during Ramadan	10
E-Safety	10
Water Safety	11
Supporting your child through the teenage years	11
Wellbeing Wednesdays	11
Leadership	12
STEM	12
Community	13
Appointment of Parent Trustees to the Reading Foundation	13
Reading School Parents' Association	14
RSPA Committee Meeting – Thursday April 29th @8pm via Teams.	14
Urgent: Uniform donations needed	14
Uniform for Games & PE Days in Summer Term 2020/2021	14

Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,



Shaping Future Stories

The giant wall painting, displayed in the gym and created by street artists associated with MurWalls, was revealed on Monday as Adebayo Akinfenwa becomes the latest Future Stories Ambassador for Reading School. It symbolises our commitment to maximising opportunity, breaking down barriers, character development and inspiring others to shape a positive narrative for the future.

Akinfenwa aka “*The Beast*” currently plays for Championship side Wycombe Wanderers, slotting home an injury time winning penalty on Wednesday. He holds the record as their top goal scorer and was the strongest player in FIFA between 2010 and 2020. He has also played for the likes of the [Doncaster Rovers](#), [Swansea City](#) & [AFC Wimbledon](#), to name a few. Throughout his career he has worked tirelessly to prove his critics wrong and has displayed character and fortitude to complement his talent. The mural is part of the [Future Stories Programme](#), a social mobility project working in partnership with local primary schools. The Future Stories programme, supported by the Reading Foundation, aims to ensure that Reading School supports high-ability students from a full range of social and economic backgrounds, who are eager to reach their future story goals.

During his visit, students and staff were captivated by his down-to-earth nature and witty charm. They had the fantastic opportunity to speak to the role model in a Q&A session. Akinfenwa discussed stories from his footballing career as students were keen to find out about his training sessions, his all-time favourite goal and head-to-heads on the pitch. They even made sure to get his opinion on the latest European Super League controversy. As the session moved on, Akinfenwa discussed the importance of hard work and dedication in all aspects of life as well as his perspective on the significance of mentoring and character.

Adebayo Akinfenwa emphasised the importance of character and resilience. In addition, he noted that talent can get you as far as the dressing room but attitude determines how long you remain there. Adebayo gave clear examples of the need to be a team player and mentor others. His positive 'Beast Mode' philosophy makes him a suitable Ambassador for our flagship Future Stories programme.

We are proud to work in partnership with MurWalls Ltd, Marc Silver and his team of talented street artists and look forward to future collaborations. We welcome suggestions for artistic representations of other inspirational figures that will inspire the Reading School community. Adebayo Akinfenwa has kindly agreed to be an ambassador of our Future Stories Programme. We are keen to address social mobility. We want our school to represent the full diversity of backgrounds that children come from. We believe that there are able, clever children in our designated areas who do not have the same opportunity to succeed as those from more privileged backgrounds and at Reading School we want to attempt to do something about that.

We are committed to building constructive relationships and partnerships based on our core values. At Reading School, governors and staff are committed to creating a future, for ourselves and others, which affirms humanity and establishes a creative and sustainable approach to education and to living. Our ambitious and challenging goals of delivering academic excellence and building good men cannot be accomplished alone. We need to work together to enact beneficial change and to ensure that barriers to accomplishment are removed. We are inspired to unlock possibility, in place of despondency and replace resignation with accomplishment. Crucially we maintain that high performance and wellbeing, far from being opposites, can actually reinforce each other.

Our road map to excellence is illustrated in our strategic development plan up to 2025, and operationally in the 2021-2022 Annual Operational Plan that will be shared with parents this term, for comment. We have an ambitious focus on ensuring a positive trajectory, achieved through the delivery of agreed actions. We are the stewards of an organisation, with a rich and varied history of 900 years. We need to demonstrate educational, social and environmental integrity that rises above self-interest; where as individuals and as an organisation we seek to find fulfilment in being part of something bigger than ourselves. For the Reading School community accomplishment should be the completion of something that inspires people, contributes to long-term individual and social wellbeing and affirms humanity.

Periods of threat and confusion can lead to renewal. We need to work together and show determination to make a difference. Our shared purpose should be to add to our positive legacy.

Like Adebayo Akinfenwa, we need to ensure that character rises out of our values, our purpose and the standards we set ourselves and our commitment, but it is primarily defined by the contribution we make, the responsibility we take and the leadership we show. As staff and as parents, we all have the responsibility for finding the potential in people and the courage to develop that potential.

During the Summer Term, we seek to demonstrate refreshed purpose and find the level of collective energy, creativity and focus to create the momentum to ensure we thrive and flourish in the future. Therefore, we are committed to offering opportunities to flourish, in line with government advice and prudent leadership. Our purpose is to add to the positive legacy. We accept that no one is bigger than the team and that we are committed to leaving the jersey in a better place. Senior Leaders and governors are committed to answering the stewardship question in the affirmative – are we able to accomplish our goals while leaving things better than we found them? We should look for a path that enables academic excellence and the development of the character of all our people in a sustainable, combined manner – that is the foundation of effective stewardship of Reading School. Staff, Governors, Parents and students all have a responsibility to build a community that emphasises belonging and wellbeing so that we can thrive and flourish.

A Day of Celebration

23 April is a day of celebration, linked to cultural values, history and literature. For instance, William Shakespeare was born on 23 April 1564 in Stratford-Upon-Avon. The greatest writer in the English language. He also died on the 23rd of April in 1614, when he was 52 years of age. Celebrations of his 457th birthday can be followed on www.shakespearescelebrations.com.

In addition, today is the Feast of St George, the patron Saint of England. Born in 280, George was a soldier and rose through the ranks of the Roman Army, eventually becoming a personal guard to the Emperor Diocletian. He was executed for being a Christian on 23 April, 303. I hope that we can celebrate in a positive way St George as the patron of this country, as suggested by English Heritage www.english-heritage.org.uk

Covid Home Testing

By the end of next week students will have collected more COVID home tests kits during tutor time so that they can continue to self-test twice weekly. We are waiting on a delivery of further tests from the government so how many your son receives will be based on the volume that we receive at school for distribution.

Please continue to test your son twice weekly on a Sunday evening/Monday morning AND Wednesday evening/Thursday morning.

Please see below for guidance on what information needs to be passed on to school:

NEGATIVE: No action – the school does not need to know

VOID: Please use another test and try a second time to get a result. Please also email dtridgell@reading-school.co.uk to arrange to collect replacement tests

POSITIVE: Please inform school by emailing cmole@reading-school.co.uk as soon as possible following a positive test. You will need to book a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible and keep your son home from school.

There have been some instances of tests kits missing specific items. If this occurs please follow the VOID procedure above and ensure your son collects further tests from school so he can continue testing.

If you have any further questions then please contact David Tridgell dtridgell@reading-school.co.uk

Thank you for your support and commitment to keeping all our staff and students safe.

Job Vacancy

We are seeking to appoint enthusiastic and innovative Finance Manager/Management Accountant to our professional staff. If you, or anyone you know is interested in this post, please do get in contact or complete the application form on our website:

[Finance Manager/Management Accountant Details of the Post](#)

Mr AM Robson
Headmaster

Excellence

Year 11 and Year 13 only

Teacher Assessed Grades

Over the last few weeks staff have been working hard to provide students with as much clarity as possible regarding assessment criteria for the summer assessments, and to propose draft weightings for the range of data being used to recommend grades.

We are pleased to provide Year 13 students (and their parents and carers), with the following guide to weightings and summer assessment criteria:

[A Guide to Teacher Assessed A Level Grades at Reading School](#)

Likewise, Year 11 students (and their parents and carers), can find all the detail they need regarding weightings and summer assessment criteria here:

[A Guide To Teacher Assessed GCSE Grades at Reading School](#)

Illustrative Summer Assessment Schedules for Year 13 students may be found here:

[Illustrative Summer Assessment Timetable for Year 13](#)

And for Year 11 students here:

[Illustrative Summer Assessment Timetable for Year 11](#)

Please note, these schedules will change over the coming week, due to inevitable logistical adjustments. Final versions will be sent next Friday.

We are working tirelessly to collate reliable data, to codify professional judgements, to assess as broad a range of evidence as possible and to ensure that the grades we recommend are fairly and are firmly based on evidence.

We wish all our Year 11 and 13 students the very best in their final two weeks of lessons, and in their upcoming assessments.

All Years – Lent Term 2021

Reading Way Summer Term Co-Curricular opportunities:

Please find attached details of extra-curricular activities that Students in Years 7 to 10 have been signing up for and that will be starting next week.

KS3: [Reading Way- Co-curricular opportunities KS3](#)

KS4: [Reading Way- Co-curricular opportunities KS4](#)

Students in Year 12 have already started their additional PE Electives and will be leading additional activities and contributing to Future Stories mentoring sessions in the weeks ahead.

2021 Biology Olympiad

The Biology Department would like to congratulate the year 13 students who participated in the 2021 Biology Olympiad. **Reading School students achieved 14 Gold, 9 Silver and 7 Bronze awards.** The Biology Olympiad is an online competition run by the Royal Society of Biology. It consists of two online 45-minute papers with questions on the topics covered in most general A level biology courses but also rewards those students, whose knowledge of the subject has been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes and taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest. **8476** students from **622** schools worldwide had participated this year.

This year's percentage boundaries are as follows:

Award	Percentage score	Percentage of students who took part in the British Biology Olympiad 2021
Gold	64.77%	5%
Silver	58.82%	10%
Bronze	55.52%	10%
Highly Commended	49.75%	25%
Commended	45.65%	20%

Certificates

We will be posting certificates to UK schools in May for students who have achieved a Gold, Silver, Bronze, Highly Commended, or Commended award.

The following Reading School students achieved:

Gold awards

Swapnanil De
Faiq Anis
Nikhil Kadambadi
Jonathan Croos
Ayush Sinha
Sammith Raj
Joshua Chapman
Edward Bruun
Yash Sharma
Yusef Bentahar
Michael Bullock
Alexander Holden-Crowther
Marek Webb
Haaris Akram

Silver Awards

Angelo Augustine
Neville Irani
Maximilian Finlay
Andres Jimenez
Sammy Murdoch
Alex Dillingham
Kaiwen Li
Shubhang Thirumalesh
Hedley Ruegg

Bronze awards

Zubayr Ali
Abisheik Lafir
Aden Noronha
Vishal Jayaram
Benedict Carless
JeeHwan Ahn
Shubham Pareek

In addition to encouraging and rewarding pupils in their studies, the BBO is the first stage in selecting a team to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad (IBO). The IBO seeks to challenge by both theory and practical tests some of the top pre-university biology students in the world, with over sixty countries taking part.

The top-scoring students in the BBO will be invited to complete further practical and theoretical training and assessments in order to select a team to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad (IBO).

<https://ukbiologycompetitions.org/british-biology-olympiad/>

Year 8 to Year 12 only

Smallpeice Trust Summer Engineering Online Courses

The Smallpeice Trust is an educational charity which inspires young people to pursue careers in Science and Engineering through events and workshops. They have recently launched the 2021 Summer Engineering online courses enabling young people to find out more about different engineering careers, get hands on with interactive projects and learn live from industry experts and University academics. There are 15 courses covering a wide range of subjects for Year 8 to Year 12 students. This year all the courses are at a subsidised price of £200. For all courses available in the summer course programmes, please find link to the timetable:

<https://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk/timetable>

As always, if you are a pupil premium family or require some financial support and are interested in applying for one of these courses, please email: headspa@reading-school.co.uk in the first instance.

Integrity

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

The Big Ask Survey promotion



Get your child's voice heard and make a difference

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, is launching a once-in-a-generation review of children's lives.

It's called 'The Childhood Commission' and it will identify the barriers preventing children reaching their full potential and propose policy solutions to address them.

At its heart is 'The Big Ask' – the largest ever consultation held with children.

In this survey the Children's Commissioner is asking children and young people what they think is important for their future and what is holding young people back. The Children's Commissioner will use what children and young people tell her to show the Government what they think and what they need to live happier lives.

It's an exciting opportunity to help us think big and it's a chance for every child in England to have their voice heard.

[Find out more and take part](#)

Support for students during Ramadan

Please can all parents of students who are observing Ramadan email studentservices@reading-school.co.uk. This will allow us to inform their class teachers so we can be empathic and mindful whilst planning lessons in particular for any practical subjects.

E-Safety

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](#)

Supporting your child through the teenage years

An interesting read for parents to support our teens through some challenging times. [How can we understand more about the 'moody teenager'? | Clare Cogan](#)

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.

The following link [calming strategies](#) is one example that families can use and practice together.

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

STEM

6th form opportunity – Syngenta Apprenticeships

Please see the link to flier for Syngenta: [Degree Apprenticeships](#)

Sustainability and Ecology

Are you doing your bit for [World Earth Day?](#) To celebrate Earth Day, we would like to start a weekly “Eco-Invitation”: a recommendation on what we can do as individuals or as a community to become more committed to the environment.

This week, we’d like to invite all Reading School families to try one new alternative to dairy or meat. You may end up really liking it!

Have you made your No Mow May Promise? [No Mow May Promise](#) ?

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

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

RSPA Committee Meeting – Thursday April 29th @8pm via Teams.

We will be running our next virtual Committee Meeting next Thursday via teams and we would like to focus on new fundraising ideas for this virtual world, discuss ideas that have been kindly raised and get everyone's input around any ideas on how we can continue to support the school. We would also like to cover off some of the existing Fundraising ideas and how we can all help to promote these.

The Committee Meetings are an open invite to anyone who would like to become involved in the Reading School Parents' Association, see what we are doing or even just input ideas, we are grateful for any amount of help Parents and Carers can offer and with more parental help we can obviously help the school and boys in so many more ways, please do come along and join us.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

If you would like to join us please drop an email to rspa-secretary@readingschoolparents.co.uk and we will get an invite e-mailed to you early next week.

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.

Uniform for Games & PE Days in Summer Term 2020/2021

We have spoken with Mr Allen in the PE Department and he has stated that, with social distancing still in place, the locker rooms will remain closed this term.

Therefore, the school asks for students to continue to wear their Games Kit as their school uniform on both Games and PE days, just like last term.

For the boys in the older years who do not have the new Macron tracksuit (mandatory for Year 7) then smart professional or plain black or navy hoodies and tracksuit bottoms are to be worn.

This term, there will be athletics on PE lessons and cricket on Games afternoons.

Smart cricket whites may be also worn for Games afternoons.