



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

30 APRIL 2021

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Non-Uniform Day in support of Indian Covid-19 Relief

All of us at Reading School are very sorry to see the recent Covid-19 developments in India. From recent conversations with parents, students and alumni who have family and friends in India, we know how concerned many of our community are and saddened by the devastating loss occurring, with 243 cases reported every minute. Please know we are all praying and thinking of those in India.

Having spoken to some students this week I am grateful the Student Leadership Team, led by Ben Harrison (Charity Prefect) and Suyash Singh (Vice Prefect (Projects & Community)) have taken the initiative to support Medecins Sans Frontieres / Doctors Without Borders (MSF) who are the world's leading medical humanitarian aid organisation working in over 70 countries - in conflict zones, natural disasters and epidemics, providing medical care where it's needed most. Our students once again demonstrate integrity and commitment to supporting those most in need.

Médecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) or Doctors Without Borders, is one of the largest emergency aid organisations in the world. It has a philosophy of going where patients are – a strategy centred on the principle of serving those in need wherever they are. It has an international body, with a local heart as shown in its policy of hiring local staff to build solutions. It is independent with the priority being always the welfare of those suffering without recognition of borders (physical, political or religious). We are pleased to support the work of an organisation that has a values-centred approach. Power of purpose, organisational agility, commitment to high standards and resilience at an individual and institutional level.

At Reading School our core value of integrity requires us to demonstrate compassion and charity. Our core value of leadership is shown in the positive approach of our students who want to help others. Whilst our core value of community is demonstrated through the commitment to an outward facing approach that seeks to build solidarity rather than develop a silo mentality.

Last week in India, more than 350,000 COVID cases were reported in 24 hours – in excess of 2 million cases a week. Oxygen supplies are critically low, resulting in many hospitals turning patients away. The death rate has spiked as infections continue to rise.

With your support, we can help to ensure oxygen supplies reach critical areas; food and healthcare reaches those most vulnerable; and vital support is provided to communities.

If your son wishes to take part in this event and raise money for this worthy cause, please donate via our JustGiving page by clicking here: [Reading School is fundraising for Medecins Sans Frontieres / Doctors Without Borders \(MSF\) \(justgiving.com\)](#). Please state your **son's name and form**.

Ben Harrison (Charity Prefect) stated:

“India is being ravaged by the most severe Covid-19 outbreak in the world, with hundreds of thousands of cases reported each day and more than 2 deaths every minute. Supplies of oxygen to treat the infected are scarce, and hospitals are overwhelmed.

To do our part in helping India, Reading School is holding a non-uniform day on **Friday 7th May**. All donations will go to [Reading School is fundraising for Medecins Sans Frontieres / Doctors Without Borders \(MSF\) \(justgiving.com\)](#), who are on the ground in India providing Covid-19 relief and essential medical supplies.

This is our last Charity initiative before we embark on our exams and are keen to beat our first and second fundraising initiatives and aim to reach a goal of £5,000!”

I fully support this student-led initiative and hope that our fundraising target is achieved through the generosity of the Reading School family.

Mr AM Robson
Headmaster

Excellence

All Years – Lent Term 2021

Covid-19 Home Testing

This week tutors have distributed further Covid19 Home Test Kits to all students. These tests should be sufficient for twice weekly testing through until early next half term. If your son has not collected more tests this week and needs them then please email David Tridgell dtridgell@reading-school.co.uk to arrange a collection. Please continue to communicate results with the NHs and with school as per previous communications

Free Access to World Class Literature Festival

The Hay Festival is an annual literature festival broadcasting for free online from Hay-on-Wye to the world 26 May–6 June. Over 12 days, more than 200 acclaimed writers, global policy makers, historians, poets, pioneers and innovators join us to inspire, examine and entertain in events for all ages. All events will be closed-captioned and available to watch for free 24 hours from their live broadcast.

[Hay Festival – Wednesday 26 May to Sunday 6 June 2021](#)

There is also a specially curated programme for schools

[Programme for Schools - Hay Festival](#)

Free registration for each event is required

Modification to Lunch Break

With our Year 11 and 13 students going on exam leave from May 10th, our Year 12 and 10 students become the senior students in the school and gain a little from the extra space available on site. From this date we will be moderating their lunchbreak and tutor time slightly as follows:

Year 12 students will have tutor time at 13:05. Their lunch break will be from 13:10 – 13:45. They will have exclusive use of the refectory from 13:30. They will begin their RW3 lessons at 13:45.

Year 10 students will have lunch break from 13:05 – 13:30. They will have exclusive use of the refectory until 13:25. They will have tutor time at 13:30 and will begin their RW3 lessons at 13:35.

The last day in school for Year 11 and 13 students is 28th May.

All students in Year 11 that are returning for Sixth form, will be in school for sixth form induction during the week commencing 21st June.

Year 11 and Year 13 only

Summer Assessment Schedules

Year 11: Please see the final summer assessment schedule for Year 11 below. All assessments are scheduled for 9.30am between 10th and 28th May, except Drama and Music which will take place at 1.30pm:

[Year 11 Summer Assessment Schedule](#)

Year 13: Please see the final summer assessment schedule for Year 13 below. All assessments are scheduled for 1.30pm between 10th and 28th May.

[Year 13 Summer Assessment Schedule](#)

Year 9 only

Year 9 Immunisations

The NHS team will be visiting the School on Friday 7th May to carry out 3 Immunisation , Diphtheria/ Tetanus/Polio, Meningitis ACWY and the second HPV. Information is attached which also includes the link to consent if you have not provided one yet.

If your child has a short sleeved shirt, could this please be worn on Friday.

Integrity

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Domestic Violence

FLAG DV, a free legal advice group for domestic abuse victims, now has a dedicated phone line the number is 01635 015854.

FLAG DV provide a free appointment with a Family Law Solicitor to any victim of domestic abuse in the Thames Valley. All referrals come through the website, www.flagdv.org.uk, however the lack of a phone line has meant that victims of domestic abuse who didn't have access to the internet have been left with limited options of reaching out for support. The phone number has limited hours, but victims are encouraged to leave a message for our team to get in touch if they call outside opening times.

E-Safety

Please see the link for useful guidance for parents to support online issues.

[Protecting Your Child Online](#)

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](#)

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 attached 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 \(youngminds.org.uk\)](http://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

Sporting opportunity

The past week has seen the return of the full range of extra-curricular sport for students and it has been exciting to see them getting stuck into activities and taking the lead.

Thanks to all the students that have taken responsibility, signed up and participated. There have been over 250 participants in after school sport this week and 21 activities running after school for students in Year 7-10 and 12. This week has seen the return to the tennis courts, to basketball, to ultimate frisbee and to athletics. It has also been exciting to see the boys padded up and working with our partners from Berkshire Cricket developing their cricketing skills.

Floreat and Adventurous Activities



Year 9 students have been working on leadership skills in Floreat, and this week the first group 9L, took to the woods around Mapledurham to develop their navigation skills. No one got lost, although the horses did cause some confusion (see photo) when they tried to eat the maps. Everyone in Year 9 will get out in the next few weeks and we look forward to building on these skills and giving students more opportunities in the months ahead.

We have also enjoyed seeing students in Year 8 and 10 working together in the canoes this week. The year 8 students got treated to some gale force squalls but they stood up to the challenge and managed to stay on course!



Future Stories

We would also like to thank our Year 12 students who have been involved in Future Stories: this week online mentoring for students in Year 5 began again and on Wednesday our team of sixth formers, supported by Mrs Postlethwaite and Mrs Heston began the program of familiarisation for students from local primary schools that we hope will set the entrance test next year.

STEM

6th form opportunity – Syngenta Apprenticeships

Please see the attached flier for [Syngenta](#).

Sustainability and Ecology

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

Get up early to take part in [Dawn Chorus Day | The Wildlife Trusts](#) on 2nd May.

Use this handy guide [this handy guide](#) to help you identify the birds.

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

LRC News

LRC Clubs

We are delighted to be able to offer the following LRC after school clubs this term:

Monday Y7 Book Club 3.30 to 4.30 - Please contact Mrs Kesteven lkesteven@reading-school.co.uk to join

Wednesday Y10 and Y12 Dungeons and Dragons Club – Please contact James r00207@reading-school.co.uk to join

Friday All Years (Alternating Weeks) Warhammer Club – Please contact Arran r00204@reading-school.co.uk to join – YEAR 7, please see a special message below from Arran.

“Warhammer is a tabletop model war game for 2 or more players. Build and paint your models before deploying them to the battlefield and fighting your opponent’s collection in a setting based in the grim darkness of the far future.

Warhammer club meets on Fridays from 3:30pm to 5pm in the LRC. Whether you’re an experienced player or are simply interested in learning more about Warhammer, we would love to welcome new students to our club for an introductory session **on Friday 7th May**. Please email Arran at r00204@reading-school.co.uk if you would like to attend.”

Reading School Book Award 2021

The Reading School Book Award is an annual award recognising excellent, exciting and engaging YA fiction published between the 1st of May and the 30th of April. We would like to invite students to nominate books for this years’ award, using this form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QKRT3Wr9XkC75lKx5h6C2wChu-XfAilGohLXizarqYVUM1ZRU0Q4RVISTVM2SUhDRFAzMkc5UVpaRC4u>

Students can make one nomination per form. Students may nominate more than one book (one per form). Please see our Book List of recently published books for titles that meet our criteria (see attached). You can nominate books not on this list as long as they are first published in the UK between 1st May 2020 and 30th April 2021.

The deadline for nominations is the 14th of May. The shortlist will be revealed on the 24th of May together with details of a poster competition.

The winning book last year was Nightshade by Anthony Horowitz.

LRC Outdoor Loans Desk for Y7-10

The LRC is offering a weekly outdoor service run by Student Librarians, which replaces the Grab and Go service. The Outdoor Loans Desk, located in the canopy area outside the LRC, enables access to a wider range of LRC books and also offers IT access and printing. Congratulations to Jamin (7E), Seth (7W), Mirzo (8E), Raphael (8E), Paarth (9W), Sid (9L) and Yoghan (9S) who have completed their Student Librarian training and will be running the service for their year group. The LRC Outdoor Loans Desk will be open at the following times:

Tuesday 9.35 for Year 7

Tuesday 10.45 for Year 10

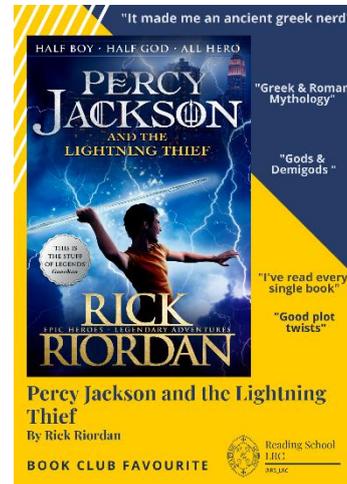
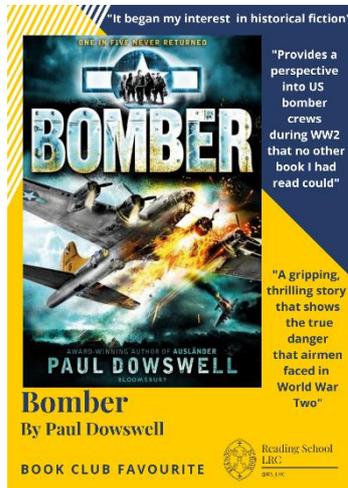
Wednesday 9.35 for Year 9

Thursday 10.10 for Year 8

This service will run in addition to the weekly Click and Collect service for y7 to y10 and both services require books to be quarantined and equipment sanitised in between use.

LRC Book Club Favourites

The LRC Book Club have lots of recommendations that we are excited to share with the rest of the school community. Posters will appear in classrooms and Department teaching rooms shortly. Thanks to Matthew G (12VGG) and Mrs Jackson for creating the posters and thanks to the LRC Book Club members for their recommendations and quotes.



Community

East House is raising money for StreetGames

East House Charity and Sport prefects have organised a Charity event. The target is to raise £750 for a charity called StreetGames, which has been chosen by the students. In this country, there are 3.5 million children living in poverty. StreetGames harnesses the power of sport to create positive change in the lives of disadvantaged young people right across the UK. StreetGames' work helps to make young people and their communities healthier, safer, and more successful. Here is a link to their website: <https://www.streetgames.org/>



Each East House form are completing a marathon (collectively) and are using Strava to record their walking between the 26th and the 30th April. Students have been asked to raise money by asking family, carers and friends for sponsorship, aiming for £5 per student, before the 30th of April. Of course, any donation, big or small, would help us achieve our Target and make a big difference for our chosen charity.

Here is a link to donation page if you would like to help and donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/reading-school>

Reading School Parents' Association

RSPA Volunteers Required

RSPA volunteers needed please do get in touch at contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk for more information if you are interested. Available roles on the Executive Team include: Assistant chair, Assistant Digital Manager, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Membership Secretary.

Second hand Printer Sale

Looks as though we still have nine printers left to sell to anyone currently needing to obtain or replace a printer.

It's also been suggested that maybe boys in year 13 would benefit if they need to take to one with them to University?

I've attached the list of remaining printers below, and will try to also attach some photo's. If you're keen to buy or view then please do let me know before we break for half term holidays. Please do also mention it to family, friends, etc if the possibility arises.

We can now only ask the School to keep them for a short time, but the RSPA would rather these be of benefit to parents first before we try to sell them externally.

Many thanks also to everyone who has either helped organise, or bought a printer!

Make and Model Price (£)
HP Color Laserjet 400 £60 (2 available)
HP Laserjet p2055dn £40
HP Laserjet p2035dn £50 (2 available)
HP Laserjet p2015dn £20 (2 available)
HP Laserjet 3015 £40 (2 available)

Please get in touch with at contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk