



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

7 MAY 2021

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Today marks the last day before Summer Assessments for Year 13 and provided an opportunity to thank the students for their commitment to the values and ethos of Reading School. Our Sixth Formers and Year 11 students, have responded to our commitment to enabling our young people to flourish and achieve their desired outcomes through perseverance and reflection. We are proud of their character and proud of their attitude. I have every confidence that they will excel in the forthcoming assessments if they continue to apply themselves.



Indeed, they have demonstrated, and continue to demonstrate, many of the following characteristics:

Excellence

- Demonstrate sustained high performance accompanied by personal development so that academic excellence is complemented by an emphasis on well-being
- Understand the aspiring to be the very best version of yourself
- Reveal creativity and adaptability in exhibiting the competencies required to succeed in their global future.
- Strive for achievement based on talent, ambition and curiosity in the academic sphere, in cultural endeavours and in sport.
- Seek to hold themselves to account, and to fulfil their potential for the benefit of others as well as themselves.

Integrity

- Sustain a positive attitude throughout their endeavours
- Young men who are authentic and earn respect, put their heart and soul into everything, and can be trusted to do the right thing
- Sustain a positive attitude and become a champion of character
- Understand the importance of honesty
- Seek to align actions, words and behaviours with positive values.

Leadership

- Trust in and enhance each other's abilities and expertise
- Focus on continuous improvement
- Demonstrate accountability complemented by a sense of compassion and consideration for others
- Understand their responsibilities to others
- Provide service that benefits the school and the community.

Community

- Build networks and partnerships
- Develop deep pride in boarding, their school and the broader community
- Demonstrate an outward-facing outlook
- Understand the need to be committed to learning from others
- Share ideas across the community.



I was pleased to be able to attend the function organised by the Sixth Form Team for the Year 13 cohort today. It was a positive event which illustrated the best about the Sixth Form at Reading School. Thank you to all Reading School students who are leaving the school this academic year, transitioning to the next stage in their personal journey. I wish them well for the future.

Mr AM Robson
Headmaster

Excellence

All Years – Lent Term 2021

Covid Trial #5

The Office of National Statistics will be in school on 17th & 18th May to conduct Covid trial #5. They will advise us of participating students on Thursday 13th May, and the schedule will be issued on Friday 14th May. This involves teachers who have previously signed up and students from years 7 – 10 only.

Bus Service update:

From Monday 10th May, Reading Borough Council is putting on an additional dedicated bus for Reading School duplicating the 1535 leopard 3 service from RBH South Wing to the town centre.

This additional bus will be numbered **908** to make it easy to identify and we would encourage students to use this dedicated service rather than other public buses.

Year 7 only

Extended after school provision for Year 7 students:

We are excited to confirm the details of our additional after school provision that will be running from the 17th of May for students in Year 7. This provision will offer a range of exciting activities and opportunities for students to develop a range of skills and builds on our Future Stories model and the Reading Way values.

Thanks to parents that previously feedback and do please register your interest to secure a place. Places are limited and to be considered for a place, please respond by 12 noon, on Monday 10th of May.

Places are offered free of charge to those in receipt of Pupil Premium and to other designated students.

Please see the details in the attached document which includes a link to the registration form.

[Future Stories After-School Extended Provisions May 2021 \(reading-school.co.uk\)](https://www.reading-school.co.uk/future-stories-after-school-extended-provisions-may-2021)

Please contact tevans@reading-school.co.uk with regards to any queries.

Year 7 Reports

Please accept my apologies for the delay in publishing the Year 7 progress reports. These will be published as soon as possible and you will receive notification on the MCAS app.

Year 11 Only

Year 11 –Bridging Work and Transition to Sixth Form

Following Year 11 exams over the next three weeks, the School are looking to provide some additional support for our Year 11 students in preparation for starting their A-levels in September. As a result, there are two provisions we will be extending to all students.

1. **Bridging Work** – each department has put together a series of resources, exercises and reading for students to undertake in advance of starting the A-level course. All students in Year 11, going into Year 12 are expected to complete this work, in readiness for the start of Sixth Form. By doing this work, they will be well-placed to hit the ground running when they step up into Year 12. This document will be sent out as soon as all of the information is finalised. No student needs to consider working on this until they have finished their exams, as this should be their single focus at the moment.

2. Sixth Form Transition Week – in the week commencing June 21st, all students who are joining the Sixth Form will be invited in for a series of transition activities and information related to the Sixth Form. This will include:

- i. A talk from the Head of Sixth Form about Sixth Form life
- ii. Meeting form tutors and mixing with their new tutor groups
- iii. Communal activities to get to know the rest of the year group, including the external students joining the school for Sixth Form
- iv. An introduction to Unifrog, which will help students prepare for the end of Year 12 when they will begin the process of applying to university
- v. Subject taster sessions
- vi. Student led sessions from current Sixth Formers to give advice and support
- vii. A collection exam for setting Maths and Further Maths sets for students who have selected these subjects. Students will have plenty of notice in advance of this, so they know what to expect and how to prepare.

We hope that these two provisions will mean all students in Year 11 will be very well-prepared for the upcoming year and will transition successfully into Sixth Form life.

More details with specific timings for the Sixth Form Transition Week will follow in due course.

Year 11 and Year 13 only

GCSE and A Level Exam Retakes

On Wednesday, Ofqual announced some key information related to the programme of retake examinations for Autumn 2021. These exams will be available to all students who receive a Teacher Assessed GCSE or A-level Grade in the summer or who would have entered for the summer exams, had they taken place.

It is hoped that the TAG process generates grades reflective of each student's abilities, however, if a student feels they would have been capable of achieving a higher grade if they'd sat an exam, these exams provide that opportunity.

Ofqual have stated that all subjects will be available for examination (technical subjects like Art will have a slightly different approach) and that the exams will be in their normal format, with no adaptations. NEAs (which normally are factored into grade calculations in some subjects) will not be a factor in the outcomes of these assessments. All grades will be determined wholly by students' performance in the examinations.

More information about these examinations can be found here: [Ofqual Exam Consultation](#)

Summer Assessments Schedule

Below are the summer assessment schedules for 10th – 28th May.

[Year 11 Summer Assessment Schedule](#)

[Year 13 Summer Assessment Schedule](#)

Please note the music recital has moved from Friday 28th May to Tuesday 18th May. This is the only change to the schedule sent out on Wednesday.

Integrity

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Mental Health Awareness Week

[Mental Health Awareness Week](#) is taking place between Monday 10th and 14th of May

We are always proud of our students, who openly and readily talk about mental health and its importance in ensuring our overall health.

Along with the 5 ways to wellbeing, during this week we will be asking our Reading School students to do three things:

- Experience nature
- Share nature
- Talk about nature

KS3 tutor groups will be invited to take a walk around the school site with their tutor during this week to spot nature on the school site. This wellbeing walk will be facilitated within tutor groups on a day suited to their and their tutors timetable to experience and talk about the nature they observe. We also invite each tutor group to produce an A5 poster of their nature experience on school site, to be delivered to the LRC to produce a display for mental health awareness week.

KS4 and KS5 will have access to resources to support them during exams, readily available in the LRC. We also encourage open conversations within peer groups, as well as finding time to sit with each other to notice nature around them.

Staff are also invited to three nature walks around the school site.

Parents, carers and families are invited to share any of their nature experiences this week by tweeting Reading School.



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: [Parent Online Toolkit](#).

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.

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 attached flier for [Syngenta](#).

Have a look at the insight into university opportunities [EDT Insight into University \(Headstart & Inspire\) \(etrust.org.uk\)](#) for

See also the below:

[Routes into STEM flyer](#) for Y9 and Y10 students

[Insight into University flyer](#) for Y11 and Y12 students

[Year in Industry Placements](#) for Y13 students

Sustainability and Ecology

Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week. Make some time to connect with nature. Try making a [wildlife pond](#) at home with your family. Tweet any photos to Reading School.

Have you made your [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

We are committed to developing a community spirit and an outward facing approach which shows compassion and generosity to others locally and globally. This is illustrated clearly in recent student fundraising initiatives as shown below.

Student Fundraising

Non-Uniform Day

Reading School Students took part in non-uniform day, to support, Medecins Sans Frontieres / Doctors Without Borders (MSF), in response to the recent spike in Covid-19- related deaths in India.

This is the third charitable initiative this year, led by Ben H (Charity Prefect) and Suyash Singh (Vice Prefect (Projects & Community)), having previously raised a total of **£7851.25** (including Gift Aid) for the charities *Sure24* and *Rain Edge High School* in Nakuru, Kenya and *Young Minds*.

Our students have smashed the £5000 target set for the MSF appeal and raised a total of **£6,435** (including Gift Aid) with over **390** donors donating via our [JustGiving Page](#) set last Friday.

Thank you to everyone that has donated the minimum of £2.00 and the many who have contributed more than this, we are touched by our communities generosity for such an important appeal.

It is not too late! If you would like to support this cause, please make your contribution via: [Reading School is fundraising for Medecins Sans Frontieres / Doctors Without Borders \(MSF\) \(justgiving.com\)](#).

A special thank you to Ben H (Charity Prefect), the Society Office and the Student Prefect Leadership Team.

Also, congratulations to **East House** for raising over **£1,200** (including Gift Aid) for their sponsored marathon to support **Street Games**, a charity that aims to help children in poverty through sports and running events that provide meals, encourage activity and promote equality.

If you would like to support this cause, please make your contribution via: [Reading School is fundraising for StreetGames \(justgiving.com\)](#)

A special thank you to Mrs N Williams (Head of East House), Ewan A-L, Rishav R & William L (House Charity Prefects) & the Society Office.

Fundraising for Cricket Community

Congratulations to Milan G (9E) who has been busy fundraising for Reading School, The Ruth Strauss Foundation and Theale and Tilehurst Cricket Club as part of the Young Cricket Leaders Programme. Please see link for further information: [Fundraising Initiative](#)