



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

11 JUNE 2021

# Contents

Introduction	3
Cultural Architects not Cultural Assassins	3
Surge Testing	4
Winston predicts	5
<b>Excellence</b>	<b>6</b>
All Years – Lent Term 2021	6
Internal Exam Schedule	6
Reading School Book Swap	6
Year 7 Only	6
Summer Camp for Year 7 Students:	6
<b>Integrity</b>	<b>7</b>
Safeguarding and Wellbeing	7
Online Safety	7
Exam Week & Safeguarding	7
Wellbeing Wednesdays	7
Additional Guidance and Useful links	8
Years 11, 12 and 13 Only	8
An invitation to participate in research concerning the safety and safeguarding of young people who attend events	8
<b>Leadership</b>	<b>9</b>
Apprenticeship Opportunity	9
STEM opportunity for Y11 and Y13.	9

## Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

### Cultural Architects not Cultural Assassins

We are committed to working in partnership with parents to ensure that our young people can learn to understand and respect boundaries, what is right and what is unacceptable. Working together we can turn words in to positive actions.



We are committed to nurturing a positive understanding of modern masculinity, enabling the nurturing of young people of substance. We must nurture healthy relationships based on respect. We can all be agents of positive change - building young people who are able to respond positively with purpose. Inspiring external speakers, such as Scott Davies, help to raise awareness of key issues potentially affecting young people.

We are committed to developing cultural architects not cultural assassins. Cultural Architects are people who are able to change the mindset of others. They exhibit self-confidence and are able to break down barriers. Cultural architects build culture, whereas cultural assassins are negative, and tell you why something cannot be done rather than how it can be done.

We want to create conditions where every person can learn, lead and serve. The culture of our organisation is concerned with the conduct and behaviour of everyone involved. It is about working together towards shared objectives.

I hope that we can redouble our efforts to work in partnership with parents and students to provide opportunities that will enable our community to flourish.

An inspiring example of how health and well being is promoted is through our provision of a landing space for the Air Ambulance service as shown in the photograph below, taken earlier this afternoon. Thank you to the governing body for supporting this and also to staff and students who ensure the safety of all.



Our plans to provide a Summer Camp, an opportunity offered to all students in Year 7, is one example of creating opportunities to build a culture of commitment based on collaboration.

We desire all our young people to be provided with the tools to make the right decisions so they are safe and protected from harm. I endorse initiatives that seek to protect our young people and one of our priorities for 2021-2022 is to further develop partnerships that promote the wellbeing and safety of all members of the Reading School family.

## Surge Testing

Of course in the current academic year we continue to prioritise the physical as well as the mental health of our community. Today your child should come home with a PCR Test. As per our previous communication, the test should be taken on **Sunday evening or Monday morning**.

To receive the test result, you must register your test. After you have completed your test, go to <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit-or-call-119>.

The test result will be then communicated directly to you.

If you test positive, have any symptoms, or are contact traced following contact with someone who tests positive, then you should self-isolate immediately in line with the guidance on GOV.UK.

The more cases we find, the better chance we have at stopping it spreading. Please help to keep our school safer by participating in the testing.

**Your son should then drop off the test in the boxes which will be on the crossroads between 7.45am and 10.00am on Monday morning. Senior members of staff will be facilitating the collection.**

The same national guidance continues to apply in areas where new variants have been identified and education settings can remain open. All pupils and staff should continue to follow national guidance, including **'hands, face, space, fresh air'** and take a rapid LFD Covid-19 test twice a week, even if you don't have symptoms.

You **should take the test** even if:

- you don't have symptoms
- you have received one or both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine.
- have been taking regular Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) or 'Rapid tests'

You **should not take the test** if:

- you have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days using a PCR test

You will get a text or email with your result within 3 days. If you do not have symptoms you can continue to go to work or school while you wait for your results.

If you **test positive from the surge testing** you must:

- self-isolate immediately along with your household for 10 days to stop the spread of the virus;
- engage with contact tracers when contacted;
- contact the One Reading Community Hub if you need extra help to self-isolate [www.reading.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-one-reading-community-hub-support/](http://www.reading.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-one-reading-community-hub-support/)

### About surge testing

Reading Borough Council is working with NHS Test and Trace to carry out surge testing to find and isolate as many cases as possible, and therefore prevent the spread of the virus further.

There is currently no evidence that this variant causes more severe illness.

You can find full details of the current Covid-19 guidelines at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

## Winston predicts



Euro 2020 commences tonight with the fixture between Turkey and Italy.

We are looking forward to a summer of sport including the Olympics and following the example of Paul the Octopus at the 2010 World Cup we have commissioned our own animal to be the official Reading School match predictor.

Winston, our 'staff therapy dog', a Miniature Schnauzer, will predict the results of all the forthcoming matches in the 16<sup>th</sup> UEFA European Championship.

His prediction for the opening fixture is for an Italy victory.

Whilst, as shown in the [attached clip](#), there is clear evidence of support for an England victory against Croatia on Sunday 13 June. We will continue to provide Winston's predictions via twitter @readingsch.

**Mr AM Robson**  
**Headmaster**

# Excellence

## All Years – Lent Term 2021

### Internal Exam Schedule

Please find links below to the internal exam schedule:

[Year 7 Timetable](#)

[Year 8 Timetable](#)

[Year 9 Timetable](#)

[Year 10 Timetable](#)

[Year 12 Timetable](#)

Please note that students will be given further information during next week in relation to where they will need to queue and roomings.

Year 10 students can leave school after session 2 if they have no further examinations on that day.

Year 12 students need only come in for their exams.

### Reading School Book Swap

Y10 Floreat pupils Tom, Sam, Harry and Adam are delighted to announce that next week (the week beginning the 14th of June), a book swap will run outside of the LRC. This opportunity is open to all years. Please bring in good books which you don't think that you will read again or any other book which you wish to trade in on Monday 14th of June. Your name will be recorded so you can return on Thursday during your break time to receive a new book. On Friday, all remaining books will be free for everyone during break times. Year group bubbles, social distancing and book quarantines will be in place to keep everyone safe.

## Year 7 Only

### Summer Camp for Year 7 Students:

We are pleased to announce plans for our summer camp which is offered to all students in Year 7.

The camp will build on the Reading Way philosophy; encouraging intellectual curiosity, enriching students with a range of activities and creating opportunities to take part in of sports, and teambuilding activities focussed on collaboration.

Please complete the form attached to register for a place.

[Year 7 Summer Camp Registration Form](#)

# Integrity

## Safeguarding and Wellbeing

### Online Safety

Now, more than ever, it is vital that we keep our children safe online. Are you aware of what your child is accessing online? Take some time to have open and honest conversations with your child about their online presence.



[TALK Checklist by Internet Watch Foundation | Home \(iwf.org.uk\)](http://www.iwf.org.uk)  
[Online safety home activity worksheets \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

### Exam Week & Safeguarding

We know that many of our students are feeling stress and anxiety at the thought of exams. Some may be more vocal about this and others may be keeping thoughts inside. It is important that the adults around our children help to reset expectations. Give the past year that our students have had educationally, it is of course important that boundaries are set and revision techniques are explored, but we must try to reset expectations that it is the process of getting through a full week of exams that is most important, rather than the outcome of each exam.

Many of our students will feel under pressure to perform well and achieve highly, but having conversations around the balance of exercise, eating well, sleep and school work is also vital. Please speak to your child's tutor if you have concerns.

[Help your child beat exam stress - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

### 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:

For Students

Make time to connect with nature [Nature's Calendar: June \(rspb.org.uk\)](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

Reset your expectations for exam week – it is to practice the process of taking exams! Try different revision techniques to see what works for you. It's normal to feel overloaded, so have a read to help yourself with some strategies [Exam stress - Student Minds](#)

For Parents

Make time to connect with nature [Nature's Calendar: June \(rspb.org.uk\)](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

Keep your family safe online [Online safety home activity worksheets \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

With exam week coming up, reset expectations with your child – set some boundaries of effective revision but focus on the process of getting through the week, and not the outcome. [Help your child beat exam stress - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

### 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](http://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

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.

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)

## Years 11, 12 and 13 Only

### An invitation to participate in research concerning the safety and safeguarding of young people who attend events

I am pleased to be able to tell you that working through the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership and with Festival Republic, the music promoter who organises Reading Festival, we are organising a series of webinars to help support young people attending this and other festivals. This is part of a wider research project involving a number of local schools in Berkshire. We want to gain the views of young people on the issues they face in relation to personal safety and to look at the safeguarding arrangements in place at events they attend, particularly Reading Festival. The focus of the workshops will be 'sex, bodies, consent and assault' and 'substances, alcohol, risk and choices' at events.

We are asking for participants to complete an anonymous survey using the link below. This information will be used to inform the content of a webinar for students to attend in July. There will also be a follow up survey, after the summer, to gather information about what 'actually' happened and where there were any gaps in support and information. This data will then be collated and shared among schools so they can provide accurate and relevant information and advice to students going to events next summer. We would strongly encourage any students planning to attend a festival this year or in future years in Years 11, 12 & 13 to consider participating. The content will include lots of practical advice and information about how to stay safe at Festivals.

The anonymised survey link can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/readingschool>

In order for us to know who has participated to attend the follow up Webinar, once you have completed the survey, please complete the Microsoft form below. All other data you have submitted will remain anonymous.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QKRT3Wr9XkC75lKx5h6C28vhJlSLKqFGk8NF480xmJJUNjBLN0NZTUZPOTNUNjNXVkkMMTM2TzNQRS4u>

**The Deadline for submission is Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 9am**

# Leadership

## Apprenticeship Opportunity

Nexus Planning have an exciting opportunity for an apprentice to join its busy team and study for a planning apprenticeship with South Bank University, further information can be found at the following link: [Nexus Planning Apprenticeship](#) or via the governments apprenticeship website. The desired person will be completing their A levels or BTEC National Diploma and once the apprenticeship is complete will have secured the equivalent of a masters degree.

## STEM opportunity for Y11 and Y13.

**Opportunities, Diversity and Sustainability at Verizon: Join us for a STEM careers day and a virtual tour of our 5G innovation center– live from the USA!!**

**Insight Day (this event is open to all students in Years 11 to 13) – Opportunities, Diversity and Sustainability at Verizon 23 June 11:30 – 16:30.**

“A career in STEM”. What do you think of when you hear that phrase? And what exactly does it mean? Join us on this interactive, virtual insight day to find out about the exciting and diverse opportunities that we can offer at Verizon!

At Verizon, one of the largest communication technology companies in the world, we set-out to deliver the promise of the digital world by enhancing the ability of humans, businesses and society to do more, and do more good. We transform how people, businesses and things connect with each other through innovative communications and technology solutions.

Employees work with purpose. And, find success. Here, passion finds purpose. Drive finds success. And anyone who wants to make a difference can create an impact. Our teams span many cultures, communities and continents, and we are committed to supporting growth and development both inside and outside of Verizon.

We are committed to making the world a better place. When it comes to the digital world, access is only the beginning. We want to promote technology as a tool to improve communities, education and the workforce. We’re committed to becoming fully carbon neutral in our operations by 2035 and make products and services that are safe, sustainable and improve customer’s lives. We’ll be covering a variety of topics including:

- Looking at the future of technology, via a virtual tour of our 5G lab, live from the USA!
- Giving you a snapshot of different departments and roles available; such as Sales, Marketing, Product Management, Solution Architects, and Finance
- Setting a sales pitch challenge - discuss in small groups how you could use technology to enhance/solve a problem in one of three key areas: sustainability/education/local community and present your solution back to our team of judges!
- Join us to hear from, and ask questions of, a series of panelists including our Talent and Acquisition team, current Graduates and different specialists within Verizon.

Students are able to sign-up to this event via the Speakers for Schools website, which I understand your school is registered with (Opportunity ID: 1804):

<https://www.s4snextgen.org/>