



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

25TH JUNE 2021

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Leadership

His name is Simon Kjaer.
He is an international Danish footballer and A.C. Milan player.
He is not a superstar, he does not have golden boots, nor is he one of the most expensive players.
Although he has been capped over 100 times for his country.

But, against Finland in Euro 2020 he went into the history of the sport, as a modern-day hero.

Firstly, he saved his teammate, Christian Eriksen, who fell unconscious on the field, giving him first aid in the critical first seconds.



He then demonstrated leadership and asked his teammates to form a shield of protection around his fallen teammate to protect him.

And then he showed compassion and give comfort and courage to the wife of the unfortunate Eriksen, who was clearly shocked to see her husband and father of her two children, fighting for his life.

Parents, I would like you to consider not desiring your children to become the next Messi or Ronaldo. Rather please guide them and wish for them to become someone like Simon Kjaer.

For his character
For his leadership.
For his compassion.

Mr AM Robson
Headmaster

Excellence

All Years – Lent Term 2021

LRC News

Year 9 Author Talk

Author Sarah Govett will be giving a talk to year 9 pupils at 1.30pm on Wednesday 30th of June in Big School. Sarah is an Oxford graduate and author of the critically acclaimed dystopian trilogy, The Territory. Her latest dystopian novel, We Go On Forever, is described by her publisher, Marotte Books, as a 'timely and heart-wrenching love story set in a dark dystopian world with echoes of Never Let Me Go'. This is an excellent opportunity for y9 before they embark on exploring dystopian fiction for their English GCSE.

A small number of signed copies of We Go On Forever will be available to buy after the talk at a cost of £6.50. We can only accept the exact amount in cash, so please ensure your son brings this with him, should he wish to purchase a book.

If you pre-ordered and paid for a book, your son will be given this at the talk.

We would like to thank the ORA for their continued support.

LRC Book Amnesty

There are currently 837 overdue LRC books! It would be great if we could reduce this number to zero by the end of term!

Pupils can check what they have on loan by using our library management system, called [Oliver](#). To login, they need to use their computer username eg z00123 and the password is password. Alternatively they can visit the LRC from 3.30pm every day to check their accounts. We are not charging fines at the moment, so there are no overdue charges for late books. If your son thinks he has lost a book, we are happy to accept a replacement copy (used good quality items are fine). If you son thinks he has returned the book or if he has any other query, he should email lkesteven@reading-school.co.uk.

Photography/videography permission

Also, please mention that House Cricket and other sports events are taking place next week.

Over the next two weeks photography and videography will be taking place to cover the school day, activities and sporting activities taking place. This will be used solely for celebrating achievements with the Redingensians community and for the promotion and marketing of the school included on the website, publications and social media.

Could all students please ensure they are in smart full school uniform and/or PE kit.

If you **do not** wish your son to be included in any photography or videography images either with their name associated with their photograph or not, please could you email communications@reading-school.co.uk.

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.

WHAT CAN PARENTS AND CARERS DO?

T	A	L	K
TALK to your child about online sexual abuse. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.	AGREE ground rules about the way you use technology as a family.	LEARN about the platforms and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.	KNOW how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.
Start talking	Agree rules	Find out more	Use settings

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

We would encourage our parents to look at the devices and apps that their children are using, specifically Discord. This is a public chat room with public servers where your child could see comments or images which worry or upset them or speak to people they do not know. Please check [Discord: A guide for parents \(net-aware.org.uk\)](#) for more information. The site [Safety Principles and Policies | Discord](#) was created by Discord and is an essential read for parents whose children are using the servers. Childline also has some advice and guidance as to how to report and [Remove a nude image shared online | Childline](#)

Talking to your child about wellbeing

As a parent or carer, it can certainly be tricky to get the balance right to allow your child to open up and talk about how they are feeling. Choosing the right time for your child, using open questions and approachable language is often key but there is no doubt that teenage transition is difficult to navigate for all involved! Mind has some great resources for parents to provide support [Parents guide to support A-Z \(youngminds.org.uk\)](#)

Exam Week & Safeguarding

We are very proud of our students for getting through exam week. The change of routine and uncertainty can cause stress and anxiety. It is important we continue to normalise and validate these feelings, whilst acknowledging the need to reflect and learn from the process in order to improve for next time.

if you are concerned about how your child has felt during these exams, please talk to your child's tutor.

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://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)

Emergency Alerts

Tuesday 29 June 2021

Reading, Berkshire

The UK government will send a test alert between 1pm and 2pm.

If you have an iPhone or Android device you may get an alert. Your device may make a loud siren-like sound. You do not need to take any action.

The alert will say:

The UK government is testing Emergency Alerts in Reading, Berkshire.

Emergency alerts tell you what to do if there's a life-threatening event nearby.

To find out more, call 0808 1697692 or search for gov.uk/alerts

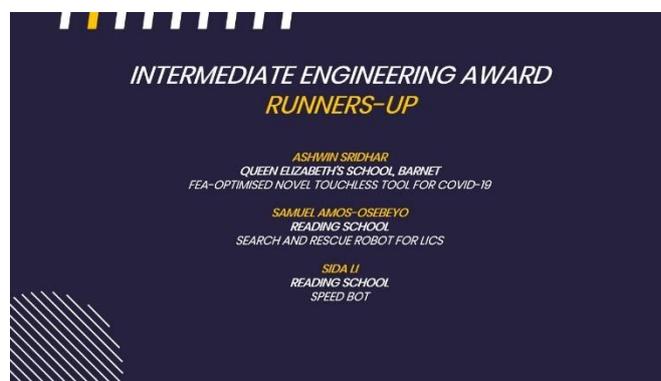


Leadership

STEM

Congratulations to Nidilan and Gaurav (9L) for winning their category in the Big Bang Competition!

Their project on Biomimicry was an independent task, fully researched and backed up by science. We also congratulate Samuel A-O (10W) on winning the Siemens Award for Digital Skills. In addition Samuel and Sida L (11W) were runners up in the Intermediate Engineering Award.



Judges at the Big Bang Competition were highly impressed. Mr Robson accompanied Nidilan and Gaurav at the finals event on Wednesday 23rd June.

We look forward to more of their exciting projects in the future!

If you would like to get involved in any science projects, please speak to Miss Ayres.



Community

Berzerk Productions

Recently, Berzerk Productions filmed a project in celebration of the Reading Abbey's 900th Anniversary featuring one of our students, R Nayak (8S). It is a series of four entertaining, immersive and educational walks to be taken at specific locations around the Abbey Quarter using a smart device and headphones. However, it can also be watched from home by using the link below:

[Reading Abbey's 900 Steps](#)

Reading School Parents Association Update

RSPA Face Mask Appreciation

Kerry Kingston is one of the Reading School community's pandemic heroes.

When the pandemic hit she swiftly asked how can I help the Reading School community stay safe.

She sprung into action offering her service to make face masks in school or house colours.

In her charitable self Kerry then went one step further and offered all profits to the RSPA.

Kerry has just presented a donation to the RSPA for nearly £500.

We commend her on her hard work and commitment to Reading school.

The service she provided helped reassure and mentally ease the fears of parents.

Kerry will no doubt feel embarrassed about our recognition of her achievement.

The RSPA absolutely ask the Reading school community to join us, in offering the warmest gratitude and thanks to her.

Kerry will continue to provide her service in these uncertain and challenging times.

Face Mask Appreciation

Face Masks – For Sale all profits to the RSPA

We wanted to remind you that Kerry Kingston, a Year 8 parent, has been making hundreds of face masks over the last year and has generously offered to make and sell them in support of the Reading School Parents Association.

These masks can be ordered in any of house colours or the Reading School Navy Blue.

The reusable masks are made with 3 layers and a sewn in filter, a wire for close fit over the nose and have adjustable ear ties, they are all cotton and machine washable.

The cost is £4 per mask or 2 for £7. All profit from these is going to the RSPA to further support fundraising projects at the school.

Please e-mail Kerry at kerryobrien2004@yahoo.co.uk Payment would be by bank transfer or PayPal and the masks can be posted or it may be possible to arrange collection at the student reception. The RSPA thank Kerry for her wonderful support and for helping us drive a culture of sustainability within the school.

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.

RSPA Executive roles available at the next AGM:

Available roles of the Executive Team include, but are not limited to: Chair, Assistant Chair, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, Membership Secretary, Assistant Membership Secretary, Digital Manager, Assistant Digital Manager.

Please email Contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk

If you ever have any questions, want to offer your support to the RSPA or have some new ideas for the RSPA please reach out to Contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk