



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

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## Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It has been heartening to see our students participate in House Events such as cricket recently. The sense of belonging engendered is a clear indication of an ethos of community that we seek to celebrate.

Sport can be a superb vehicle for displaying positive behaviour linked to our core values and I was proud of the talent and character displayed by our Year 9 Cricket team this week in reaching the County Cup Final. They fell just short in a run chase to Eton College.

Thank you to all the Sport staff and coaches who display passion and commitment to providing opportunities for our players.

Thank you also for parents for their support of all our sports and activities.

I hope that you all enjoy the England game against Ukraine on Saturday. I have been informed that Winston, our pet predictor, suggests a 2-0 victory with goals from Sterling and Stones, both in the second half. For all his predictions please see the Reading School Twitter account.

I recently received a letter from a parent thanking staff for the way in which they have responded to the challenges evident this year. She also gave some advice that it is important that we, when handling ourselves should use our heads; whilst when handling others we should use our heart. Certainly, I would contend that this is valuable advice not just to staff but to students and indeed parents too.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the our community for their continued commitment to making Reading School a better institution, to our staff, our students, our parents, the Governors, Reading Foundation, Old Redingensians Association and the RSPA for their continued support of Reading School.

### Reading School Staff – Share some gratitude

*Has a staff member at Reading School made your life easier this week? Have they taught you something inspiring? Shared some words of wisdom? Do they deserve recognition for being positive, helpful or kind? Have they been supportive through a tough time or helped you to navigate a difficult situation?*

As the summer holidays draw close, you may be reflecting on things you have learnt or done during a very different academic year.

If you wish to show a member of staff gratitude at Reading School (not just the teaching staff!) please complete the [Reading School Staff Gratitude Form](#)

## All Years – Lent Term 2021

### End of Term Arrangements

Following Period 4, day boys will be dismissed when tutors are satisfied with the tidiness of rooms and the surrounding area. The format of the day on 14<sup>th</sup> July will be:

Period 1 – 4 as normal.

10.45am – Tutor time – clear up rooms and remove personal items.

11.00am – dismissal

11.00am – Boarders to clear rooms– boarding houses locked at 12.00pm

We will be communicating further regarding arrangements for the 2021-2022 Academic Year, mindful of forthcoming announcements from the government and the Secretary of the State for Education.

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

# Excellence

## Reading Foundation Mclroy Essay Competition

Please find below details of the Mclroy Essay Competition open to all year groups:

[Details of Mclroy Essay Competition](#)

## Berzerk Productions



**LAMDA**  
QUALIFICATIONS



[Berzerk Productions](#) have been providing [Reading School](#) pupils with bespoke **Drama and LAMDA** lessons at Reading School for over 12 years with remarkable results. We are delighted to announce that lessons will take place in room DS2 on:

- **Monday afterschool (Year 7 & 8)** Drama class 15.25 to 16.25 and LAMDA Class 16.30 to 17.30 (First refusal for LAMDA spaces will be given to students participating in drama)
- **Tuesday afterschool (Year 9, 10, & 11)** Drama class 15.25 to 16.25 and LAMDA Class 16.30 to 17. (First refusal for LAMDA spaces will be given to students participating in drama)

All Berzerk lessons commence from **Monday 20th September for a 10 week programme**. We have had some outstanding results from Reading School pupils prior to restrictions being implemented and we will continue to work towards such achievements.

If you would like to join or be included on the waiting list please complete the online booking form at <https://www.berzerkproductions.com/schools-private-classes/book-place-schools>. Those that have already sent information will be contacted by Thursday 13th September at the latest as we have had many enquiries already. We thank you for your patience.

The costs for these sessions are £84.70 for the LAMDA sessions and £84.70 for the Drama factory Workshops (£169.40 for both sessions 10 weeks). We recommend student take three terms of classes for full benefit of the programme.

Those taking both drama workshops and LAMDA are likely to see higher results in examinations. First refusal for LAMDA spaces will be given to students that participate in our drama workshops. We also encourage students to participate in other out of school projects around the subject.

Please note that once pupils have enrolled using the above options you will then be invoiced directly by Berzerk Productions and come under their terms and conditions for the classes; they can be viewed here - [Berzerk Productions Terms and Conditions](#)

**Please note, the provisional Autumn exam dates are 28th November (mock exam) and 5th December 2021**

All queries in relation to Drama and Lamda classes should be directed to Berzerk Productions at [info@berzerkproductions.com](mailto:info@berzerkproductions.com)

[Berzerk Production Flyer](#)

## 2021 Intermediate Biology Olympiad

The Biology Department would like to congratulate the year 12 students who participated in the 2021 Biology Intermediate Olympiad.

### Reading School students achieved 12 Gold, 9 Silver and 8 Bronze awards.

The Intermediate Olympiad is an online competition run by the Royal Society of Biology ([Royal Society of Biology \(rsb.org.uk\)](https://www.rsb.org.uk)). It consists of an online 60 minute paper with questions on the topics covered in most general AS 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. 8873 students from 449 schools worldwide had participated this year.

The following Reading School students achieved **Gold awards** (which places them in the top 5% of students who participated):

Thomas Masters  
Matthew Copeman  
Mustafa Chowdhury  
Brandon Koh  
Dinindu Witharana  
William Elliss  
Eashan Ray Chaudhuri  
Saleh Yasar  
Adedeji Balogun  
Daniel Dunbar  
Archie Thorpe  
Ciaran Shaffrey

The following students achieved silver awards

David Joseph  
Isaac Jackman  
Vishnunarayan Manickam  
Niran Arulkkumaran  
Jacob Holroyd  
Jacob Atwal  
Peter Dewdath  
Dominic Smith  
Rishabh Ramesha

The following students achieved **bronze awards**:

Matiss Cases-Falque  
Alexander McDonald  
Charlie Dixon  
Charlie McCarthy  
Eoin Rasmussen  
Umar Qubais Ashfaq  
Christopher Grzelak  
James Laynesmith

The following students were **commended or highly commended**:

Mithunrishikesh Sivakumar

Aadam Achar

Joedh Kang

Aditya Iyer

Omar Alkateb

Rayan Manzar

Humaid Shakir

Daniyal Thakur

Aditya Singh

Brahnan Naidoo

Vyom Malhotra

More information on the biology competition can be found here: [Intermediate Biology Olympiad – UKBC \(ukbiologycompetitions.org\)](http://ukbiologycompetitions.org)

# Integrity

## Safeguarding and Wellbeing

### Online Safety

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?**

<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>K</b>
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.
<a href="#">Start talking</a>	<a href="#">Agree rules</a>	<a href="#">Find out more</a>	<a href="#">Use settings</a>

[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.

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

### Returning to normality

FutureLearn have a great blog about social anxiety and returning to social situation.

[Overcoming Social Anxiety | How to Socialise After Lockdown](#)

### Summer Holidays Support

It may be that your child needs support over the summer. Please see the attached safeguarding flowchart and safeguarding signposting for students.

[Safeguarding Flowchart](#)  
[Safeguarding Signposting for Students](#)

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

# Leadership

## Reading School CCF

We are pleased to announce that Cadet Sergeant Matthew G has been appointed as CCF Lord-Lieutenant Cadet for 2021/22. Each year HM Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire appoints four senior cadets as Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets, one each from the Army Cadet Force, the Sea Cadet Corps, Air Training Corps and Combined Cadet Force. These cadets support the Lord-Lieutenant in his work during their year in office, accompanying him to royal visits, awards ceremonies and similar official events. We offer Matthew our congratulations in being awarded this role.

# Community

## Charity Project

Throughout next week a group of Year 10 students will be helping to support the homeless in Reading by donating food to ReadiFood - a local food bank dedicated to providing food to people who are in difficult situations in Reading.

A crate will be set up outside the refectory next week and we would be grateful if our community could donate non-perishable food items by leaving them in the crate.

If you access the [ReadiFood website](#), they give a list of foods which can be donated:

Tinned vegetables, Small Bags of Rice, Tinned Ready Meals, Tinned Soup, Tinned Meat, Tinned Potatoes, Instant Potatoes, Biscuits, Tinned Fish, Tinned Fruit, Coffee, Tea Bags, Tinned Pudding, Crackers.

Any donations would be much appreciated.

## Local Competitions

UCEM are running a competition for what to do with Reading Prison. Enter the competition here [https://www.ucem.ac.uk/competition/?fbclid=IwAR320I9qNC\\_VEKRMTybRPTCEOExs5PohWV2KFRnw8TqLYdHe0O4R1dYkss](https://www.ucem.ac.uk/competition/?fbclid=IwAR320I9qNC_VEKRMTybRPTCEOExs5PohWV2KFRnw8TqLYdHe0O4R1dYkss)

## Thinking of returning to your role as a healthcare professional? We can help you!

This message goes out to all parents, carers and members of the local community who may once have been a healthcare professional such as a nurse or midwife and now considering a return. Returning healthcare professionals have a key role to play in ensuring patients and service users have access to experienced and well-trained care staff equipped with the right skills.



Health Education England (NHS) provide funding to support the pathways to return and are keen to support or answer any questions you may have if you are considering returning to perhaps nursing, midwifery or If you trained as an allied health professional (AHP) or a healthcare scientist (HCS) but have since left the profession.

Please do contact us for more information on: 01865 932097 or email: [returntopractice.se@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:returntopractice.se@hee.nhs.uk)