



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

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## Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below my Headmaster's End of Term Message to students and parents.

[Headmaster's End of Academic Year Message](#)

## Start of Term Arrangements

Current DfE guidance regarding the Coronavirus testing for students returning to school in September can be found [here](#).

This guidance determines that: "As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. Settings may commence testing from 3 working days before the start of term and can stagger return of pupils across the first week to manage this."

We have drafted a testing and reintegration schedule for September which complies with the current guidelines though it remains subject to change and any adjustments, along with specific details of timings, will be sent to parents in the week of August 16<sup>th</sup>. As a summary:

All students will be invited to take a first test in School in the final week of the holidays (between Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday September 3<sup>rd</sup>).

All students will be required to take a test between Monday September 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Boarders will be required to take a test on Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Students will not be allowed into lessons without the completion of two tests.

The draft schedule for testing and the start of term is as follows:

	Week 0					Week 1				
	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	01/09/2021	02/09/2021	03/09/2021	04/09/2021	05/09/2021	06/09/2021	07/09/2021	08/09/2021	10/09/2021	11/09/2021
Year 7	T1 from 08:00				Boarders Test 2 upon return to school (17:00) or, test 1 for those unable to take this sooner	T2 from 08:00 followed by induction	Normal Lessons			
Year 8			T1 from 08:00			Remote Academic Preview	Remote learning AM T2 from 13:00	Normal Lessons		
Year 9			T1 from 10:30			Remote Academic Preview	Remote Learning	Remote learning AM T2 from 13:00	Normal Lessons	
Year 10			T1 from 13:00			Remote Academic Preview	Remote Learning	T2 from 08:00 followed by normal lessons	Normal Lessons	
Year 11		T1 from 13:00				Remote Academic Preview	T2 from 08:00 followed by normal lessons	Normal Lessons		
Year 12	T1 from 13:00					T2 from 10:30 followed by induction	Normal Lessons			
Year 13		T1 from 08:00				Remote Academic Preview + T2 from 13:00	Normal Lessons			
<b>TEST 1: On the day of testing students come in to School for test only (approximately one hour to include results)</b>										
<b>TEST 2: AM test - students go to lessons once negative result received</b>										
<b>TEST 2: PM test - remote learning in the morning, and return home after test</b>										
----- Boarders can all return from Sunday 5/9 if they have had test one on Wednesday/Thursday 1/9 or 2/9, otherwise they must return home after 5/9 test. -----										

If a student is not present for the first test date their return to lessons may be delayed.

### **Year 7**

Second tests will be taken on Monday September 6<sup>th</sup> - parents will be informed what time to send their son to School once final guidance on testing has been published. Testing will be followed by induction activities and school will end at 15:25 for all students. Normal timetabled lessons will begin on Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Year 8**

Remote Academic preview conversations will be held on teams on Monday September 6<sup>th</sup> throughout the day. Remote learning will be provided in the morning of Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup> and second tests will be taken in the afternoon of Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup> – students and parents will be informed what time they need to be in School once final guidance on testing has been published. Normal timetabled lessons will begin on Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Year 9**

Remote Academic preview conversations will be held on teams on Monday September 6<sup>th</sup> throughout the day. Remote learning will be provided throughout Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup>. Second tests will be taken on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon – students and parents will be informed what time they need to be in School once final guidance on testing has been published. Normal timetabled lessons will begin on Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Year 10**

Remote Academic preview conversations will be held on teams on Monday September 6<sup>th</sup> throughout the day. Remote learning will be provided throughout Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup>. Second tests will be taken on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> in the morning – students and parents will be informed what time they need to be in School once final guidance on testing has been published. Normal timetabled lessons will begin on Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup> once testing is complete.

### **Year 11**

Remote Academic preview conversations will be held on teams on Monday September 6<sup>th</sup> throughout the day. Second tests will be taken on Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup> in the morning – students and parents will be informed what time they need to be in School once final guidance on testing has been published. Normal timetabled lessons will begin on Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup> once testing is complete.

### **Year 12**

Second tests will be taken on Monday September 6<sup>th</sup> - students and parents will be informed what time they need to be in School once final guidance on testing has been published. Testing will be followed by induction activities and school will end at 15:25 for all students.

Normal timetabled lessons will begin on Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Year 13**

Remote Academic preview conversations will be held on teams on Monday September 6<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Second tests will be taken on Monday September 6<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon - students will be informed what time they need to be in School once final guidance on testing has been published. Normal timetabled lessons will begin on Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Boarders**

All Boarders will be invited to attend school for testing only on Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup> or Thursday September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Maximal flexibility will be provided for those travelling from a distance for this test. Second testing for boarders will be undertaken from 16:00 onwards on Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup> - parents will be informed what time they need to arrive on the School site once final guidance on testing has been published. All boarders who have received two negative tests will then be provided for in boarding until normal routines resume. Any boarders who cannot complete a first test on Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup> or Thursday September 2<sup>nd</sup> must complete their first test on Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup>. They will be expected to return for a second test in the evening of Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup>, but must remain at home in the intervening period. Further specific communication to boarding parents will be sent in the week of August 16<sup>th</sup>.

## 2021-2022 Timetable

Following considerable consultation and review, and with thanks to a number of parents for their input, the School is returning to timetable model that is very similar to the pre-Covid structure. This model retains some of the things we have found most valuable in 2020-21 including: flexibility to provide targeted support for some students, room to stagger break and lunch times and a delayed start for Sixth Form students. Through the provision of seven 45 minute periods we have created some space at each Key Stage for additional lessons in departments that most need room to remedy possible deficit in skills or knowledge that may have accrued over the past 18 months.

Apart from start of term testing and academic preview, we have no plans for blended or remote learning and look forward to providing the fullest possible school day for every student.

### Start of the School Day

All students in Years 7-11 must be in school ready for lessons to begin at 08:20.

Sixth Form students do not need to arrive on site until their first lesson, unless required to do so for the sake of academic intervention.

For most Sixth Form students this means a start no earlier than 09:10, though support lessons for our larger A level subjects will be scheduled for some students in period 1.

### Timings

There is 5 minutes of movement time between all lessons that are not separated by a break.

The length of the school day has not changed and runs from 08:20 to 15:25.

### Break and Lunches

Junior and Senior break times and lunch breaks have been separated to help us manage continued public health risks, and to ensure maximum access to outdoor play space for all students during these break sessions.

Period 3 contains both a lesson and a 20 minute breaktime. The break is staggered so that it is at the start of this Period for Years 7-10 and at the end of this Period for Years 11-13.

Period 5 contains both a lesson and a 45 minute lunch break. The break is staggered so that it is at the start of this Period for Years 7-10 and at the end of this Period for Years 11-13.

We will publish our full list of lunch clubs and societies in September.

### Pastoral Time

As per the School's pre-Covid schedule, per week, all students will have three tutor periods, one house assembly and one house chapel service. These are scheduled for 13:25 to facilitate the new arrangements for start of the day of Sixth Form students.

### Electives

We are delighted to have had such high rates of return from next year's Year 7, 8 and 9 students signing up for our elective programme. Year 7 and 8 students have made four choices and Year 9 students have made one choice. This component of their curriculum will stretch them beyond the normal boundaries of a Key Stage three education and we will be working through the summer to try and fulfil as many preferences as possible.

As per our bulletin on July 8<sup>th</sup>, more information can be found [here](#). We are proud to be able to offer such a rich and stretching curriculum and hope that through this elective programme every student will find curriculum strands that encourages their curiosity and broadens their horizons.

## Year 10 & 11 Support sessions

	Period 1 (45 min)	Period 2 (45 min)	Period 3 (45 min + 20 minute break)		Period 4 (45 min)	Period 5 (45 min + 45 minute lunch)		Pastoral Time	Period 6 (45 min)	Period 7 (45 min)	
	08:20-09:05	09:10-09:55	09:55-10:15	10:15 - 11:00	11:05 - 11:50	11:50 -12:35	12:35-13:20	13:25 - 13:50	13:50-14:35	14:40-15:25	
Y7	Lesson	Lesson	Break	Lesson	Lesson	Lunch	Lesson	Tutor/ Chapel / Assembly	Lesson	Electives	
Y8											
Y9											
Y10											
Y11			Lesson	Break		Lesson	Lunch			Lesson	Lesson
Y12											
Y13			Support lessons when required								
	08:20-09:05	09:10-09:55	10:00-10:45	10:45-11:05	11:05 - 11:50	11:55 -12:40	12:40-13:25	13:25 - 13:50	13:50-14:35	14:40-15:25	

## Student Expectations

### Uniform

In advance of uniform purchases that families may be planning in the holidays we would like to remind all parents and students, of the School's uniform policy which can be found [here](#). There are three things we would like everyone in the school to pay particular attention to:

1. "No...trainers (including branded and/or black leather trainers) are permitted."
2. "Top coats should be plain and dark in colour."
3. All students should wear the appropriate Reading School PE kit, not just 'any old sports kit'. PE kit must only be worn on days when students have PE/Games. As with 2020-21, students are expected to wear PE kit throughout the day on the days when they have PE or Games.

We want all our students to be proud that they belong to Reading School, and we hope this will be reflected in the year ahead, at least in part, through standards of uniform.

### Punctuality

After a challenging 18 months we would like to maximise learning time in 2021-22, and we are therefore asking for parents' support in ensuring that learning is not interrupted at the start of the day because students are late. To be clear, a student will be marked as late if they are not in the classroom at the scheduled start of the lesson time. We would appreciate the efforts of the whole community in getting the School day started promptly.

## Mobile Phones

Since May half term we have worked hard to keep the site entirely mobile phone free for Year 7-11 students and believe this has worked well. We have loved seeing students diversify interests, keep active and use space imaginatively. If you have ideas for equipment that the School could purchase, we would love to hear them. Students should communicate with their Head of House and parents with Tom Evans, Assistant Head, [tevens@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:tevens@reading-school.co.uk).

## Homework

We anticipate setting and marking more homework tasks next year than we have this year. The circumstances of the year have led to a focus on tasks in class and a breadth of discussion activities to offset the sustained periods of independent remote learning students have been through. In the year ahead all Year 7-11 students will be issued with a homework planner which must be used in class time to record an outline description of each homework task, and the deadline. Homework tasks will also be published on Microsoft Teams. Once everyone has settled into the new routine, students in Years 7- 9 should expect no more than 1.5 hours of homework per day, and those in Year 10 and 11, slightly more.

In preparation for the independence required at university, Sixth Form students are expected to build their own system of keeping on top of their homework. The Sixth Form team will intervene where students need support with this.

## Key Dates

We are pleased to confirm the following key dates for the Michaelmas term and beyond.

Parents may note that dates for some of our most important community events, such as House Music, Prize Giving ceremonies and our Commemoration Service remain unconfirmed whilst we await further evidence of the public health situation in the Autumn. We anticipate that it is most likely that we postpone these until the summer term of 2022.

<b>Whole School Events</b>	
Saturday / Sunday September 11th / 12th	Year 7 Entrance Test
Friday December 3rd	School Carol Service
w/c Monday December 13th	Year 11 Mock Exams
w/c Wednesday January 5th	Year 13 Mock Exams
<b>Reporting Schedule</b>	
Friday September 17th	Academic Preview Reports published
Friday October 15th	Year 11 Report published
Friday October 22nd	Year 13 & Year 7 Reports published
Friday December 10th	Year 8,9,10 & 12 Reports published
<b>Parents' Evening Schedule</b>	
Monday September 6th - Friday September 17th	Expectations Evenings led by Senior Leaders
Thursday September 16th	Year 12 Tutor Meetings
Thursday September 23rd	Year 13 Tutor Meetings
Thursday November 4th	Year 7 Tutor Meetings
Thursday November 11th	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday December 2nd	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Thursday January 27th	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Thursday February 3rd	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thursday February 10th	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Thursday March 17th	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Thursday May 5th	Year 10 Parents' Evening

## Thank you and Good Luck

As is usual at this time of year, we sadly say goodbye and good luck to colleagues who are moving on to new roles, are retiring or trying out new ventures. I am sure you will wish to join me in giving good wishes to the following staff:

Mr S	Barraclough	Teacher of Computer Science
Ms M	Belcher	Finance Director
Ms V	Caine	Teacher of Music
Ms A	Cash	Head of Economics, Deputy Boarding Housemistress (South House)
Ms C	Coates	Teacher of Art
Mrs S	Ellingham	Receptionist
Mrs L	Hall	Teacher of English
Mr N	Harvey	Teacher of PE & Games
Mrs D	Janes	Finance Assistant
Mr E	Kenwick	Teacher of Mathematics
Dr J	Matthews	Teacher of Mathematics
Mrs E	Munday	Student Support Administrator
Ms L	Percival	Teacher, Student Support and Sixth Form Administrator
Mr M	Phillips	Boarding Tutor
Mrs F	Smith	Teacher of Economics
Mr J	Steadman	Head of County House, Teacher of PE and Games
Mr P	Teixeira	Boarding Housemaster (South House), Teacher of Chemistry, Biology, PE

Finally, we are very grateful to our existing staff who show such commitment to all our students and we are delighted when our talented staff wish to stay at Reading School to progress their career path. I am therefore happy to announce the following appointments and changes to responsibilities from September:

Steve Allen	Head of Sport and PE and Head of House
Matt Kearle	Teacher in Charge of Rugby
Alun Lloyd	South House Boarding Housemaster
Kees Lutejin	Acting Head of Geography
Steph Phillips	Reading Way Administrator and Receptionist
Jayne Pickering	Deputy Housemistress – South House
Georgia Pravda	Student Support/Future Stories Extended Provision Support Worker and Staff Wellbeing
Dave Tridgell	Head of County House
David Whitehorn	Temporary Head of History

## School Lockers

If you currently hire a locker from the external company Locker Rental you will need to renew your locker for the new year. You can do this by logging into their portal <https://locker.rentals/>

## Job Vacancy

Please find below link to job vacancy from September 2021. If you know of anyone who is interested then please forward on:

[Student Services Administrator](#)

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

# Excellence

## All Years

### Poet Laureate Final Musings

Please find below our Poet Laureate's final musings in anticipation of the upcoming break. George R in 12AC has wonderfully served as this year's Poet Laureate and he's thoroughly enjoyed it. We will be starting our search for next year's Poet Laureate in the new academic year so please look out for this opportunity in September.

#### Summer Holiday

*We've seen it in the adverts  
So let's see if it's true.*

Under the omniscient eyes of our patron Saint Alice  
We drive the four miles to the out-of-town retail park  
And pitch our tents on the verge of the dual carriageway  
In amongst the nature that nature forgot.

A traditional camper's lunch awaits on the grill  
Of the fast food drive-thru, along with beverages  
From the UK's fourth largest supermarket and we eat  
From the boot of our four-by-four estate, sinking slightly.

We spend the afternoon in a hardware store marvelling at the cultural difference  
Between us and those who partake in "DIY",  
Before eventually plumping for a random paint tin  
Because it's all Greek to us.

Resolving to try discounted sushi for dinner, we discuss  
What to do tomorrow: car counting? walking around  
The asphalt plaza? playing in the drain-shaped water fountain?  
And decide to learn about Hawaiian fashion.

## Year 11 only

### Sixth Form Induction Booklet

Please find link below to the Sixth Form Induction Booklet for those who are planning to return to Year 12 in September:

[Sixth Form Induction Booklet](#)

# Integrity

## Safeguarding and Wellbeing

### Summer Holidays Support

It is natural for students to feel isolated or need some help during the summer holidays. Please see the attached signposting and flowchart for students. For safeguarding concerns during the summer holidays, please email [safeguarding@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@reading-school.co.uk) which will be monitored by a safeguarding lead.

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

### 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**  
TALK to your child about online sexual abuse. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.  
Start talking

**A**  
AGREE ground rules about the way you use technology as a family.  
Agree rules

**L**  
LEARN about the platforms and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.  
Find out more

**K**  
KNOW how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.  
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.

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

Students can also access the [Little Book of Sunshine](#) produced by Berkshire West CGG. The book offers practical and useful advice and aims to help young people by sharing many tips on how to deal with many problems, such as anxiety, stress, body image, relationships, and anger. It also includes information about where to get help when they need it.

## Responding positively to life's more difficult moments

[The Upside of Struggle - with Grace Marshall Tickets, Tue 20 Jul 2021 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#) a free online event on how to cope with struggles.

### 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)

# Leadership

## TeenTech Awards 2021

Congratulations to Samuel AO (Year 10) who was a winner of the TeenTech Awards previously who was one of the hosts in this weeks' competition. You can see the link to the competition at the link below. Samuel is seen from 14 minutes and 30 seconds onwards.

[TeenTech Awards Final 2021 - 12th July 2021 #TeenTechAwards - YouTube](#)

# Community

## Careers

[The Parent Perspective Podcast - Amazing Apprenticeships](#) a new podcast series is available for parents and carers, helping them to support their children with careers advice and guidance.

## The Cowshed Urgent Appeal

We have been contacted by Care4Calais who have been made aware of 150 refugees in Reading with very minimal possessions. They are currently in a hotel and desperately need clothing. Any donations would be gratefully appreciated for men women children and babies. Our donation centre is 4 Kings Street Lane, RG415AS, open Monday-Thursday 10-3.

## Thumbs Up Club Charity Event

Oliver C (10E) will be cycling the length of the Thames from source to mouth in August with his dad. This will be ~400KM, all off-road, which the experienced say is twice as hard as on road. If that wasn't enough, they will be doing it in just 4 days!

They are doing this for charity, specifically the Thumbs Up Club charity which helps many families through tough times. They provide childcare for children with special needs throughout the holidays, and Oliver knows from personal experience, that this is a great help, as at home they cannot be given the environment they need, so this childcare is a massive help to parents' mental and physical well being.

Oliver has created a just giving page and would be most grateful if you would donate to this very important cause:

[http://www.justgiving.com/oliclement?utm\\_id=27](http://www.justgiving.com/oliclement?utm_id=27)

Good luck to you both!

## Reading School Parents' Association

### RSPA 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Uniform Shop

**Opening – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

The RSPA Second-Hand Uniform Shop will be opening on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July from 10am until 1pm in the Walled CarPark**. We have lots of shirts, trousers (2 for £5), base layers, rugby boots, trainers, outdoor coats and more in the Shop. There are also some new School hoodies still in stock (sizes - XS, S, L, XL). Please come and take a look.

**Note:** From September 2021, Years 7-9 will be expected to have the Macron PE Kit. Years 10 -11 will be allowed to wear the current PE kit but any replacement items should be purchased from Macron as outlined in the Uniform Policy.

All money made from sales is utilised to purchase additional resources for the school and benefit all our boys.

### Donations Drop Off Drive Through Area on 17th July only

There will be an area at the top of the driveway for a Drive-Thru Drop-Off where Shop volunteers will collect your donations from you.

### Urgent Uniform Donations Needed

The shop relies on donations of good quality Uniform that your sons have outgrown during the year. Items can be daily school uniform (especially blazers and ties), as well as games and PE sports kits (old and new styles, particularly the Macron kit), trainers, football/rugby boots, cricket gear, outdoor wear, labcoats and goggles.

### Revision guides and non school text books

We will also happily take good quality English Literature books, personally purchased text books, GCSE and A Level Revision guides and Workbooks.

**Returning School Sports Kit, Text Books & Library Books**

If you still need to return any School Sports Kit, Textbooks, Library Books to the school, we will happily take these on the 17<sup>th</sup> and make sure they are returned to the appropriate departments. Please bag separately to any donations and mark for return to school.

**Covid Awareness**

All parents are asked to wear masks on the school's premises at all times and to maintain Social Distancing.

**Parking**

On these two Saturdays, parking will be allowed on the school's grounds. Entrance only at Erleigh Road and Exit only onto Craven Road. Parking spaces are located near to the Walled Carpark. Please see Site Map posted on ClassList, Facebook and WhatsApp year groups

**Shop Helpers Needed**

We are also looking for more kind parents who would be willing to help at future openings during the school year which are held on either a Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. If you would be happy to be contacted to see if you have availability to do so, please drop a message to Jacqui Follen via ClassList or email [shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk)