



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

17 SEPTEMBER 2021

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Working together we can ensure that we are able to meet the current challenges and remain committed to developing a positive culture and sense of belonging to our school community, thereby enabling all to thrive and flourish.

We can strive to be the best version of ourselves and nurture a school community that is shaped by core values of excellence, integrity, leadership and community.

How can we work together to ensure that we feel a sense of belonging?

We want all members of the Reading School community to be safe.

We want all members of the Reading School community to be well.

We want all members of the Reading School community to be happy.

This can be achieved if we work together to learn, lead, serve and work effectively.

Working together as staff, students, parents and governors we can successfully achieve sustained high performance.

Working together we can build people of substance, character and integrity.

What is possible for us this year?

The continuing challenge of COVID-19 presents an operational challenge

This is why we need to work together, to be flexible and be supportive.

We are committed to seeking to comply with Health and Safety law and put in to place proportionate control measures as illustrated in our Covid-19 specific communications.

We all need to put our heart and soul into everything.

We need to trust our people to do the right thing, even when it is difficult.

We expect all members of the Reading School family to collaborate for the common good and act in order to benefit the school.

We expect that all members of the Reading School family support an ethos of high performance that emphasises the aim to be the best version of ourselves.

Our expectations events this week with parents in Year 7 and Year 12 were positive examples of how staff can work together with parents to enable our students to flourish.

Importance of Role Models

We all need role models and I would like to emphasise two members of staff in particular who demonstrate qualities that embody the Reading School core values in particular ways.

Congratulations to Dr Kennedy who represented Great Britain in the 2021 World Long Distance Aquabike Championship last weekend in the Netherlands achieving her personal best. As part of the gruelling event, Dr Kennedy cycled 180.2k along with swimming 3.8k through the flat open dykes and polders of the Netherlands in challenging conditions. Dr Kennedy also recently completed the Hamburg Ironman in late August 2021, where an international 17-strong Elite Women's field competed the coveted prize. We are immensely proud of Dr Kennedy and having started with the school this September 2021 as teacher of Biology, her recent achievements have demonstrated that she has brought with her values that Reading School embodies: excellence, integrity, sustained high performance and championing character.





Ms Thorne, is in her second year at Reading School and is the Adjutant for our CCF. We are delighted to see the increasing number of students from both Reading School and Kendrick School signing up to be part of our CCF. With over 6 years of experience in the Met Police, Ms Thorne is also our Anti-Drugs Co-ordinator and HR Administrator.

The Reading Way is personified by Ms Kesteven, our amazing School Librarian, who embraces our drive to develop a love of learning through reading. Mr Kesteven and her team have created a hub of energy, enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity that continually inspires our community.



We are committed to celebrating the high performance of all members of the Reading School family as illustrated by our Twitter feed and School website:

www.reading-school.co.uk

<https://twitter.com/readingsch>

Chapel Service



We were pleased to be able to host our weekly Chapel Service for the first time in over 18 months this week and hope to continue to do so into the remaining Michaelmas Term. The Chapel Service is led by Deputy Headmaster Rev'd Dr C Evans who creates a space for Reading School students outside of the traditional classroom to reflect, feel a sense of belonging and inspiration, in what is a unique and historic building. Reading School's chapel is a Grade II listed building (designated by English Heritage) and where the school's Christmas, Remembrance and Easter services take place. To view a video highlight of this week's inspiring service please visit the following link

<https://vimeo.com/606740454/ebb9c367e6>

Mr AM Robson
Headmaster

Excellence

All Years

Extended Day after school provision:

We are delighted to announce that the Extended Day after school provision will commence from Tuesday 28th September.

Parents who registered interest will be sent booking links next week to confirm registrations.

The program for the 4 weeks until half term will focus on specific activities including trampolining, independent study supported by Year 12 mentors and group work activities and games.

Tea will be provided in the refectory as previously and the sessions will run from 1540 - 1800.

For any queries please contact gpravda@reading-school.co.uk

Staff Excellence

Biology

This week we were able to capture Year 10's in their GCSE experiments (PAG3) lesson with Mrs M Kang (Teacher of Biology).



Kaval S (10L) explained: "We were sampling the distribution of Pleurococcus around trees using a light meter, a sampling square, a compass and a piece of string. We tied the string around the tree, ascertained N, S, E and W and then used a mini quadrat to sample its abundance around the string at regular intervals and made a table of our results. After that we drew a graph and suggested how the distribution of Pleurococcus was related to compass direction and light intensity as well as the biological reason for it."

It was great to see our students outside whilst the weather is still good.

Poetic Excellence

Congratulations to Aden C (10C) on winning the Year 10-13 category in the Poetry Competition run by the [University of Reading](#) on submitting his poem on 'I Am Water' as a part of the [Climate Education Summit](#) which took place this week in promoting climate education in schools and colleges.

Aden entered this competition during the Summer and has demonstrated that students who pursue external opportunities, they are likely to benefit their studies from the wider reading and learning offered both by Reading School and other institutions.

The poem is as follows:

Title: I Am Water

I put out fires,
I knock down houses,
I keep everything alive,
I destroy habitats,
I flow gracefully,
I crash destructively,
I swirl around playfully,
I suck you into my depths,
I fall from above,
I rise from beneath,
I can cool you,
I can burn you,
I Am Water

This can also be heard at: https://twitter.com/UniRdg_News/status/1438175058992697344?s=20

Aden's message about action against climate change is:

"I am delighted to have won the competition; it feels great! I wanted to convey in a very simple way the contrasting effects of water to show how it can be both beautiful and destructive at the same time.

Everyone has a role to play in taking action against climate change. If we all make small changes in our everyday lives, it could make a difference. We have to do it now because our future is at stake."

Reading School's Poet Laureate 2021-2022

We would like to draw your attention to this opportunity for students.

Applications for the post of Reading School's Poet Laureate are now open for any student across our school community from Year 7 up to (and including) Year 13. The position will be for a fixed term of one academic year serving from October 2021 to July 2022.

The Reading School Poet Laureate will be expected to write at least one poem every half-term that is shared with the whole school community. Poems may be linked to school, local or national events; current affairs; or be on a topic that the poet wishes to explore. There is opportunity and scope in this position for the Poet Laureate to also develop and lead a school wide poetry / writing club if they wished.

If you would like to apply for this position, please write a poem based around the theme of 'Belonging'.

All poems should be no more than a page of A4 and submitted via email to Mrs Ellis (pellis@reading-school.co.uk). The closing date for applications is Friday 1st October.

Please find below George's (current School Poet Laureate) most recent poem:

Pictures of Autumn

Decaying beetle -
Spindly sticks hugging nothing
But storm clouds of flies.

The summer sun is fading as the year grows old.

Practice shot: Kari
Snipes red. Confetti proclaims
Wind's marriage to death.

Those fallen leaves lie undisturbed now.

Condensation blurs
My vision. Double glazing
Cannot keep me warm.

My life will be forever autumn.

(*italicised text from 'Forever Autumn' by Jeff Wayne)

Year 7 Only

Feedback from Year 7 Expectations Evening

We continue to look at ways of improving our practices and processes and to celebrate our successes. For this reason we ask Year 7 parents to complete the Year 7 Expectations Evening feedback form which can be found at the following link:

[Year 7 Expectations Evening Feedback Form](#)

Integrity

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Safety of Students – Driving on the School Site

A reminder to all parents that they are not allowed to drop off or pick up students on the school site. Doing so causes a potential health and safety risk. The only exception to this is for boarding parents picking up their sons on a Friday afternoon and for those whose sons have had an accident resulting in mobility issues.

Leadership

Eco-Anxiety Workshop

Shared by Kathleen Hamilton, Partnership & Programmes Director at Forces of Nature

Are you a parent or educator who is seeing eco-anxiety at home or in the classroom? Are you worried about the mental health of young people in your life in the face of climate change?

You're not alone. Over 70% of young people feel hopeless in the face of the climate crisis, and 3 in every 4 teachers feel ill-equipped to teach on the subject.

Join us at Force of Nature on the 23rd of September for a FREE 1 hour webinar with Q&A to talk about how you can mobilize the mindsets of young people at school and at home, to move from climate anxiety to agency.

- 👤 Learn from youth experts on climate psychology including the rise of eco-anxiety;
- 🌐 Connect with a community of likeminded educators and parents;
- 🔗 Get access to an eco-anxiety crash course in climate change and mental health to help you safeguard and support the young people in your life.

Register for the webinar below to attend live on the September 23rd at 5pm UK time.

<https://lnkd.in/diuHDqKC>



Community

Fundraising Target met

Congratulations to Milan G (10E) on reaching his fundraising target slightly earlier than he had expected. Milan set out to raise funds for three excellent causes last academic year and exceeded his target raising a total of £1500 by completing 52.5 hours of volunteering over the last few months at school, as Captain for house and year.



- £500 [Ruth Strauss foundation](#) for counselling for your people
- £500 [Reading school](#) cricket provision
- £500 to [Theale and Tilehurst Cricket club](#) which receives match funding for the pitch upgrade and becomes £1000.

Milan raised this by asking friends and family to sponsor his hours, embarking on a corporate sponsorship campaign and by undertaking some video editing work. He has received £5 a match wicket and has taken 32 match wickets this season. Mr and Mrs Gupta paid all fees and wicket money to ensure every penny went to these good causes.

Milan and Mr & Mrs Gupta have been extremely supportive in Milan's efforts and of the School and we commend them on all their efforts and they sincerely thank the Reading School community who have supported Milan.

Annual Dinner of the Old Redingensians Association

Sent on behalf of the President of the ORA, Mr Andrew Tuggey (CBE DL) (OR 1958-1966).

ORA AGM & Dinner 2021- Saturday 25th September 2021

Join us for the ORA AGM & Dinner (you do not need to attend the AGM dinner as this takes place at 18.00)

Saturday 25th September 2021

19:00 Pre-drinks and Dinner at 19.30

Big School, Reading School

Continuing with the theme of community, the ORA Dinner on Saturday 25 September is an excellent opportunity for us to bring together all parts of the Reading School family to celebrate the achievements of the past 18 months by sitting down and 'breaking bread' together. We are delighted to be able to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of Reading School and its community as it emerges from some of the restrictions of the last two years. Preceded by the ORA Annual General Meeting, this is an evening intending to celebrate the Reading School family; all those connected with the Reading School community and their partners are warmly welcome. We were proud of the success of the last ORA Annual Dinner, held in 2019 and hope you come and enjoy the festivities of the evening.

The Reading School Alumni Society does great work in connecting alumni across the work place and providing a means of keeping in touch with each other as ORs make their way in the world. The Old

Redingensians' Association enables ORs to give back to the school, to attend sporting and social events, including the very popular reunions and to support each other.

This year, we have the pleasure of welcoming [OR William McCallum \(1999-2006\)](#) as our guest speaker. William was School Captain from 2005-6 and went on to study Persian & Arabic at the University of Oxford.

Currently, William is Head of Oceans at Greenpeace UK. Given the hugely important focus on climate change and the coming COP26 in Glasgow in November, his talk will be immensely interesting.

Tickets for parents and carers are £48.00 per person (no children except prefects that are formally invited). Please note that tables are limited please book early.

To RSVP your attendance: <https://alumni.reading-school.co.uk/.../old-redingensian...>

Further details and to buy a ticket: <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../or-assoc-annual-dinner...>

As students leave Reading School students are invited to formally join the ORA membership for their sons. For details on how to do this please visit: www.oldredingensians.org.uk/membership.

Floreat Redingensis!

Careers

Gresham College

[Gresham College](#) offers free over 400 lectures that students can register for online topics that interest them, discover degree courses, learn about an array of career options from creative arts, finances, law and medicine to name a few.

We encourage that you register for courses that are outside of school hours or watch under the section marked "all past lectures".

Today the College upholds its founding principle in maintaining the highest possible academic standards for all of our appointed Gresham Professors, Visiting Professors and visiting speakers. In recent years three additional Professorships have been added in Business, Environment and Information Technology.

The College's 130 annual lectures and events are free and open to all. The College has been recording its lectures since the 1980s and we live stream all lectures for those unable to attend in person. There are now over 2,000 lectures freely available online on this website and on [YouTube](#).

Investin Education

Last week we announced our partnership with Investin Education. Please see letter to parents: [Reading School Partnership Letter](#). This includes a short summary of the programmes with the Partner School code for all courses and for the Summer. The summer courses there is a discount of 15%.

We understand that some parents/students have already taken up some of these courses and we would be grateful if you could complete the form here when you sign up to one of these courses:

[Investin Education Form - please only complete if you have registered or a course](#)

*At InvestIN, we aim to enhance the career prospects of students, aged 12-18, by providing **immersive** and **tailor-made** career experiences, spanning across [28 industries](#). Students work alongside **industry professionals** to give their first-hand insight and replicate the workplace through interactive simulations, seminars, Q&A panels, and trips to industry landmarks. Our students are able to get a true flavour for their dream career and maximise their potential, as we equip them with the ultimate **knowledge, experience, advantage and network**.*

We have a wide range of Programmes available, from Live Online Weekend Programmes in the Autumn to high-impact 15-day Summer Experiences over the summer months, taking place in five different cities across the UK. Successful students will also obtain a personalised certificate which can

act as a 'gold star' on any university or job applications. Beyond this, students will gain exclusive access to our state-of-the-art tech platform **AmbitionX**, in which they will be able to register an unlimited number of Live Online experiences across all 28 careers. Reading School is a Partner School of InvestIN, meaning that students are eligible for a range of benefits, including a 10% discount using the code **READING10**, furthermore, they are entitled to a 15% discount across all Summer Experiences for a limited time using code **SUMMER15**. For more information, and to register your place, please visit www.investin.org or direct any questions to info@investin.org.

Herbert Smith Freehills / EY and Allstate NI

Your Child Their Future

21 September 2021

17.00 to 18.00

Join us alongside Allstate NI and EY at this event designed to help your child take the first steps into their career. As parents or guardians, your focus is on helping your children achieve their full potential. That's why we've created the 'Your Child: Their Future' series of virtual events – this is our fifth event all about how you can help your child take their first steps into their career, including what they are, and how they could be beneficial to your child's career.

Join Caoimhe Powell from our market leading international Disputes practice in Belfast, [Neil Gibson](#) from EY and Darren Henry from Allstate NI to learn about their thoughts on helping young people enter the workplace.

The event will be held virtually between 5.00pm – 6.00pm BST on Tuesday 21 September 2021. To learn more and to register, visit <https://lnkd.in/e2D55gAU>