



Note from the Principal

Dear all,

Welcome back to what I hope will be another exciting and productive year. I am pleased to say that we have had another successful year in public examinations meeting our academic targets in full by gaining 90% A*-B at A-level, 80% A-B at AS-level and 80% A*-A at GCSE. We are also delighted that all 23 of our Oxbridge candidates achieved their offer grades and 16 students have been accepted into Medical School.

The Cricket Tour to St. Lucia was also a great success with excellent performances on the pitch matched by a thoroughly rewarding time off it. By all accounts a good time was had by all.

Our Refectory is now well under way – please see the photographs elsewhere in this edition. Many thanks to the Estates team for all the hard work throughout the summer in ensuring progress was swift and that a vast amount of improvement work was carried out on the Roof and in the Physics labs, South House Maths Block, the Sixth Form Common Room and the Staff Common Room.

I would also like to thank parents and staff who led on the extremely successful Golf Day held on 19th September – in particular, Richard Childs, Sultan Noori, Tony Sankey and Alan Walder. Without the hard work of the 1125 Campaign team there is no doubt that such events would not take place.

The fact that so much is happening to improve our environment is also a credit to the success of our fundraising efforts. A group of our Year 10 boys led by Ethan Kenwick and Fraser Drew have produced an excellent, hi-tec graphic of the shape of things to come. It is so important to talk with and listen to our students about what they would like to see change and improve. Here's to the next project(s)!



Some of our students on results day

Future Events

New Parents' Wine and Welcome Evening

Just a reminder of the New Parents' Wine and Welcome Evening in Big School on Saturday 1st October 2011 at 7.30pm.

Organised by the Parents' Association, this is a friendly, informal event that allows parents and guardians to meet each other and become more involved in Reading School life.

Please email the Community Relations Assistant, Anna Fowler - afowler@reading-school.co.uk - if you would like to attend to give us an indication of numbers.

We look forward to meeting you.

Inter-house Music Competition, Reading Town Hall, Tuesday 15th November, 7 p.m.

The Reading School Inter-house Music Competition is an opportunity to hear our talented musicians in the magnificent Concert Hall.

Tickets will be available soon, so save the date!



Update on Refectory Development



July 18 - Demolishing the old canopy in the quad



August 2 – Pouring the foundations



September 13 – Scaffolding is up

I am sure it is clear from these photographs that the Quad has been at the centre of some very intensive work over the summer. The foundations have now been laid and both upright girders and glulam crossbeams are in place. We are still on course for an opening in the second half of next term, but much depends on the weather over the winter. There has been minor disruption, but we are doing our level best to keep this to a minimum. Staff and students are to be commended for keeping going in such a business-like way. Sixth Form students are involved in the design and layout of some of the interior spaces and the Student Council will be given regular updates on progress.



July 20 – Digging out ceremony



August 26 – Roof supports are in place



September 16 – Roof beams are in place

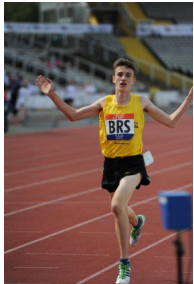


News from the Sports Department

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Mrs Russell (Mother of Tom Russell in 11S) who donated the Reading School Printed Cricket stumps used for senior cricket fixtures in the summer term. They were produced at Campbell Print which is a family run business in Reading. They use both traditional lithographic print processes as well as the latest digital print technologies to produce stationery, leaflets, brochures, posters and folders for marketing schools and businesses of all sizes.

STUDENT SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS



Congratulations to Jonny Davies, Year 12, who represented England in the 3000m race. He became the fastest U17 runner in the country and posted the 11th fastest time any Briton of that age has ever run. His time was 8 minutes, 25 seconds. An amazing achievement!

We would love to hear about your son's achievements in sport outside of school.

Please email Mr. Beckey directly at: abeckey@reading-school.co.uk.

HOME GAME HOSTING

A big thank you to all Parents who attended the hosting meeting on Saturday 10th September. We have had a great response of over 80 parents who would like to be involved in helping the hosting of refreshments at home fixtures on Saturdays. If you were unable to attend the meeting but would like to offer your services please could you contact Mrs. Horton or Mrs. Barker the parent representatives for hosting home fixtures.

OR RUGBY 7'S

On Saturday 10th September the annual Old Boys 7's Rugby event took place. It was a fantastically attended event with 90 Old Boys of the school taking part. The final was contested with the leavers of 2008 and 2011, with the 2009 leavers winning the cup. Mr. Lewis returned to award the player of the tournament, which was won by Alex Wright, and James Ephraim won the Rugby Player of the Season for last academic year. A big thank you to all parents and students who came to support the Staff team who won their very first game.

Mr A Beckey, Director of Sport

Reading School 2011 Cricket Tour to St Lucia

The Reading School Cricket Touring Group consisting of fifteen players (ages 16 – 18 years old) and two staff members arrived in Saint Lucia on Tuesday July 19, 2011, at Hewanorra International Airport, Vieux Fort. The tour lasted fifteen days, ending on Tuesday August 02, 2011, when the group departed for home (the United Kingdom) from the Hewanorra International Airport, Vieux Fort. The group was accommodated at the Bay Gardens Inn, Rodney Bay, Gros Islet.



This was perhaps the most packed cricket tour we have had for a while with activities filling up most of the stay in Saint Lucia.

Reading School, who previously toured Saint Lucia in 2004, was scheduled to play eight matches, but because of rain they ended up playing seven (one 40-over, three 35 overs, one 30-over and two Twenty20s), winning three, losing three and one being abandoned due to rain but Reading winning by the Duckworth-Lewis system.

They began their tour with a comfortable victory by 23 runs over Anse-La-Raye Under 19 team at the Mindoo Phillip Park but were beaten the next day by a Castries Under-19 team at the Beausejour Cricket Ground. Two days later they were brushed aside by seven wickets by the Dennery Under-19s at the Dennery Cricket Ground, but were frustrated the next day because rain caused play to be abandoned with 63 more runs required for victory from 18.4 overs with all wickets in hand against a South Castries Under-19 team at the Mindoo Phillip Park.



Reading School 2011 Cricket Tour to St Lucia cont.

Reading School's 5th scheduled match against a Gros Islet Under-19 team at the Gros Islet Playing Field was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to heavy showers. At that point the fixtures were revised and that meant playing matches (including two Twenty20 games under lights) on three consecutive days. In the first Twenty 20 match, Reading School defeated a Gros Islet Under-19 team by 5 runs, but the local team bounced back with a vengeance in the next game to be victorious by eight wickets with 28 balls remaining. A return trip to Dennery the next day produced the most exciting and closest encounter of the tour as the visitors (Reading School) won a nail-biting thriller by one wicket off the final delivery of the match. The memory of that match, I am sure, will last forever.

A tropical wave in the region produced heavy showers the night before, as well as on the day, causing the eagerly anticipated final scheduled match against a Senior Ladies National Team at the Beausejour Cricket Ground to be abandoned without a ball bowled.

While playing, the English lads never lost the excitement, enthusiasm, and joy of living and that made a huge difference on the tour. To them sporting and non-sporting ventures just provided opportunities to have fun and this attitude just became infectious.



When they were not engaged on the cricket field, the group took the opportunity to get a good mix of what Saint Lucia had to offer. They participated in the now popular **Gros Islet Friday Night Street Party**, which had an added flair because of carnival activities, the **Rainforest Sky Ride** in Babonneau, where they soared to great heights and glided among stoic tree trunks, **shopping at the Castries Market in the Capital City**, the **Half-Day Jeep Safari Expedition** which had them on an exciting ride to the island's interior in an open-topped Land Rover Jeep. They got the chance to see rural country life and fascinating scenery. Along the route to Micoud, where they enjoyed the cooling effect of an exquisite waterfall and a natural pool for a cold refreshing bath, they got the chance to sample a local farmer's freshly picked fruits (oranges, pineapples, five-fingers, ripe bananas, golden apples), coconut water and sugarcane. And last but not least, they were engaged in a **Catamaran Boat Cruise** along the west coast of the island down to the historic town of Soufriere. The boat cruise package included a cruise through Marigot Bay on the way down, a close-up view of the twin peaks (Gros Piton and Petit piton), a visit to the Sulphur Springs (the World's only drive-in volcano), a tour of the Coubrille Estate, a sumptuous buffet lunch, and swimming and snorkelling at the Anse Cochon beach. On the way back they encountered heavy showers which ironically injected more fun on the boat which they had to themselves. Sunday July 31st was truly a fantastic day.

Their final night was occupied with a Bar – B – Q dinner at the hotel. There was plenty to eat and drink and the overwhelming consensus was that the visit had been a successful and fun-filled one as was expressed during the final dinner at which the end of tour awards took place.



On tour the group experienced all kinds of weather conditions – heavy showers, high winds, very hot days, overcast skies and near perfect days on sea and land.

It was indeed a great experience being in the company of two wonderful gentlemen (**Alan Walder** – the tour manager, and his assistant **Tom Bellinger**) and fifteen exciting and interesting lads for two weeks.

Roland Cox (Ground rep for Gullivers on Saint Lucia)



BBC One Educational Living History Project

Wall to Wall Television have contacted the school advising that they are currently seeking families to take part in a new living history project. Last year, they produced BBC One's living history series 'Turn Back Time: The High Street' which saw families run shops through six key eras of British history and brought history to life for millions of viewers. They are currently producing a brand new series of 'Turn Back Time' which will explore changing family life in Britain over the 20th Century. Each week they will ask families to time travel and live by the rules of a different decade. The journey will often be based on their own family history so it is a wonderful opportunity for families with an interest in social and family history.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Caroline Miller at: caroline.miller@walltowall.co.uk.

London Irish Special Offer – Kids Go Free

As Rugby World Cup fever sweeps the globe, the Mayor is supporting a London Irish Rugby Club initiative to encourage more school children in Reading to take an interest in the sport by offering them a chance to watch London Irish in action free of charge* for the Club's next two 2011/12 season games at the Madejski Stadium:

Sunday 9th October London Irish vs Worcester Warriors, Aviva Premiership
Sunday 23rd October London Irish vs Newcastle Falcons, LV = Cup

Parents can book tickets by calling the Madejski Ticket Office directly on 0844 249 1871 and quoting reference MAYOR.

*Terms and Conditions: All children must be accompanied by an adult – maximum of three children per adult. Selected seating is available. Adult ticket prices are £10.

Reading Football Club

Reading FC tickets – get you tickets for the first game now!

Reading Football Club are generously supporting the school again this year by offering discounted tickets for selected home games. All profits will go to the 1125 Fund.

First match: **Reading FC -v- Birmingham City**
Date: **Sunday 6th November** (3pm kick-off)
Venue: **Madejski Stadium** (Junction 11 M4, RG2 0FL)
Tickets: **Adults - £15;**
Concessions (17 to 21 and 65 or over)- £10
16 and under £5

Deadline for Tickets: **Monday 3rd October**

Tickets can be booked using the order form sent previously, and returning it with payment to the Development Office. Please contact the Development Office, on 0118 9015600 ext 264, if you have any queries.



Privacy Notice

Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 1998

We Reading School are the Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect information from you and may receive information about you from your previous school and the Learning Records Service. We hold this personal data and use it to:

- Support your teaching and learning;
- Monitor and report on your progress;
- Provide appropriate pastoral care, and
- Assess how well your school is doing.

This information includes your contact details, national curriculum assessment results, attendance information and personal characteristics such as your ethnic group, special educational needs and any relevant medical information. If you are enrolling for post 14 qualifications we will be provided with your unique learner number by the Learning Records Service and may also obtain from them details of any learning or qualifications you have undertaken.

We will not give information about you to anyone outside the school without your consent unless the law and our rules allow us to.

We are required by law to pass some of your information to the Local Authority and the Department for Education (DfE)

If you want to see a copy of the information we hold and share about you then please contact Jo Lidbetter, School Administrator.

If you require more information about how the Local Authority (LA) and/or DfE store and use your information, then please go to the following websites:

<http://www.reading.gov.uk> and

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/ims/datamanagement/privacynotices/pupilsdata/>

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/ims/datamanagement/privacynotices/pupilsdata/thirdpartyorgs/>

If you are unable to access these websites, please contact the LA or DfE as follows:

Rajvinder Chima, Data Collections Officer, Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, Reading, RG1 7AE. Telephone: 0118 937 3737

Public Communications Unit, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT

Website: www.education.gov.uk ; email: info@education.gsi.gov.uk or Telephone: 0870 000 2288

In addition for Secondary Schools

Connexions Services - Once you are aged 13 or over we are required to pass on certain information to the Connexions services. Connexions is the government's support service for all young people aged 13 to 19 in England. We must provide both your and your parents(s) name and address, and any further information relevant to the Connexions services' role. However, you (if you are over 16) or your parents can ask that no information beyond name and address be passed to Connexions. Please inform Mrs Jo Lidbetter, School Administrator, if you wish to opt-out of this arrangement. For more information about Connexions please go to the LA website shown above.



Safeguarding and Promoting Welfare

The Principal and Governors of Reading School are aware of their responsibility for appointing appropriate teaching and associate staff, ensuring that all staff have the health and qualifications for the post and are proper and fit persons to be in charge of children and young people.

Reading School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. To assist in this, the school follows a formal recruitment procedure for the employment of all staff and adheres to the guidelines outlined in the 'Safeguarding Children: Safe Recruitment and Selection' DfES/15/68/2005 issued June 2005, the school's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures booklet which takes into account Ofsted recommendations from September 2009.

We believe that all pupils, regardless of age, special needs or disability, racial/cultural heritage, religious belief and sexual orientation have the right to protection from all types of harm and abuse. This policy will operate in conjunction with other related policies and procedures, such as whole school policies on Bullying and Equal Opportunities.

Our approach to child protection is based on, and reflects the current principles recognised in UK legislation, including those around maintaining confidentiality and reporting concerns about pupils likely to suffer significant harm to the child protection agencies.

We encourage the students in our care to raise any concerns that they might have and ensure that these are taken seriously.

We are committed to working in partnership with parents; child protection agencies and diverse communities, to continuously develop and improve the safeguarding culture within our school.

Our robust approach to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils aims to help keep pupils safe and importantly equip them to tackle the challenges and opportunities of daily life with renewed confidence and vigour.

The Child Protection Officer for Reading School is: **Mr JI Weeds, Principal**

The Deputy Child Protection Officer for Reading School is: **Mrs L Hall, Head of House**

The Boarding Designated Officer for Reading School is: **Mr B Coggan, Boarding Housemaster**

Request for Authorised Absence from School

The first few weeks of school have seen many requests for absence for holidays and other special occasions. All headteachers are under pressure from the government to reduce absence from school. However, my concern is simply that students are missing vital teaching time. Carefully consider the affects on your child when making any special application for absence as I am duty bound to be strict when authorising absences. I will not normally authorise absence for holidays or special occasions taken in term time. Thank you for your co-operation.

Mobile Phones

Students are reminded that mobile phones should not be seen in lessons. Please see the student planner for further details.



News from the LRC

Reading School recognises the importance of helping to maximise each boy's potential in whatever career path they choose once they leave the school by making available a wide range of material in our Careers section of the LRC.

We have updated the area to reflect the changing needs and requirements of the 21st Century and we have on display items such as:

- 2012 University prospectuses
- University Open Days information
- UCAS information
- University guides
- The Sunday Times University Guide display
- Books to help with the application process
- Gap year information
- Quick facts displays
- Subject related displays
- Promotional material from sponsorship companies
- Individual career information (e.g. careers in the Armed Services)

Our library staff are always on hand if additional information or help is required.

All boys are welcome to come into the LRC Careers section and we hope that they will make good use of the resources available whilst at Reading School.

Alison Jackson – LRC

Update from the Languages Department

'Bienvenue' to Ms Ancel, our new French teacher and another foreign language speaker in the department.

'Bon voyage' to those in Year 8 and 9 departing for Tours from 12th to 16th October to enjoy the delights of Northern France and practise their French on the French. We also wish our Year 11 and 12 Comenius study visit well as they depart for Beijing and Shanghai for two weeks of Chinese language and culture on 15th October.

Watch out for anything linguistic around school on 26th September, the European day of Languages. There will be quizzes and a prize draw. Some students will encounter language related activities in tutor time and some students may even turn up to their usual lessons to find that they will learn some Maths or Geography in French, Spanish or German!

The German department is also in the process of planning an outing for all Germanists to the German Christmas market in Birmingham at the end of November and a study visit for Year 10-12 students to Berlin. Watch this space for further details!

Ms Von Widdern

Parking

I would like to remind all parents of the need to park carefully and to consider our neighbours when dropping off or picking up boys before or after school. I would also like to remind all students that they are not allowed to drive into the School or park on the School site. Any car on site without a permit will be reported to the appropriate bodies.

Parents are reminded that they should not drop off or pick up students on the School site as this poses a health and safety risk for the many pedestrians on site.

Thank you for your co-operation with these issues.



Electronic Communication – Teacher2Parents

Can we please remind all parents to check that you have set your email inboxes to receive the teacher2parent emails? We are receiving a large number emails returned as 'undeliverable'. Teacher2Parents will be beneficial to you because:

- Messages will get to you reliably.
- We can send messages independently to a mother and father at the same time.
- You will quickly know about important or urgent messages, i.e. school closures due to snow.
- We can tell you more about what is going on at the school.

Please be assured that Teacher2Parents is registered with the Data Protection Registrar and guarantees that all information you provide will be kept private and will not be passed on to any other organisation.

IMPORTANT: the emails you receive will be sent from either: messages@teachers2parents.co.uk or secretary@reading-school.co.uk.

Please add these addresses to your email address books (or approved sender list) to prevent messages from being blocked by your SPAM/JUNK filters.

Change of email addresses/website: a reminder that staff email addresses have now changed. The format for all staff is first initial followed by surname @reading-school.co.uk. Please ensure that you are not sending emails to the old address as these will not be read. Our website address is now: www.reading-school.co.uk.

Congratulations

The 98th British Chess Championships 2011

Congratulations to Matthew Wadsworth (7E) and Roy Zhang (10S) for their superb performances at the 98th British Chess Championships in Sheffield on 25th July to 6th August 2011. Matthew won the Under-12 section and Roy won the Under-14 section, hence becoming the 2011 British Champion for their respective age groups.

Further congratulations go to Scott Proctor (8W) who played in the group final of the National Volvo Matchplay golf tournament.

Parental Monthly Drop-In Clinics

Please note that, as with last year, we will be holding drop-in clinics for parents on the second Tuesday of each month from 4.00pm – 6.00pm in the Conference Room. The first will take place on Tuesday 11th October.

This clinic will take the form of a

surgery providing information, guidance, advice and support and to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

A senior member of staff will be present with Mr Weeds, Principal. School Governors may also be available from time to time.

If there is something you want to talk to us about—just come in or contact Mr Weeds' PA on tel: 0118 9662966 or email: headspa@reading-school.co.uk.



Fundraising Golf Day at Sand Martins



The Truants Fore Team,
Sean and Gillian Sullivan
with Philip and Alix
Waldman.

Congratulations to all the boys, parents, alumni and staff who took part in our first Golf Day at Sand Martins Golf Club on Monday September 19th. Over 50 players took part, and raised an amazing £4,000 for the 1125 Fund, which will help us to upgrade facilities at the school.

The winning team was *Risk and Reward*, Old Redingensians, Andrew Bucknell and Derek McAllan, with their friends Gary Potts and Steve Netherton. Runners up were *Truants Fore*, a parents team which included Sean and Gillian Sullivan with friends Philip and Alix Waldman.

Year 12 student Duncan Toms beat stiff competition to win the prize for the longest drive. Simon Lidbetter and Peter Taylor were runners up. Gary Potts won the Nearest the Pin competition, with Richard Hunt and Steven Mew coming joint second.

We'd like to thank Richard Childs, Sultan Noori, Tony Sankey, Alan Walder and Caroline Beard, for organising such a successful event. Thanks also to students Tom Hayes, Jon Munns, Ehsaan Shivarni, and Jonathan Stancombe who helped out during the day.

We were lucky to receive generous support from several individuals and companies, who donated auction items, sponsorship and prizes, including:



The Shoosmiths Slicers,
Andrew Farmery, Michael
Baker, Steven Mew & Alan
Corcoran on the 9th Tee

Chris Hearn, Loddon Brewery
Harrison Catering
Bearwood Lakes Golf Club
Raza Rabbani, Penta Foods Limited
Nic Drew, Drews of Reading
Specsavers, Broad Street, Reading
Towry plc
Jacksons of Reading
Ian Jacobs, Jacobs the Jewellers
Ian Wilson, Barratt & Coe, Caversham
Peter Occleshaw, Second Serve Ltd
David Weiss, Gift Time Products
Rodney Huggins
Sylvia Sankey
David Staton
Robert Toms



Student Team, Kieran
Toms, Oli Williams,
Richard Sullivan and
Duncan Toms.

The following local companies provided refreshments and golf tees for participants:

Sainsburys – Broad Street, Calcot, and Friar Street Branches
Waitrose – Caversham and Oxford Road Branches
Tesco - Napier Road Branch
Boston Golf, Finchampstead
Golf Direct, Northumberland Avenue, Reading

Ms Frances Greaney, Development Director