



Founded 1125

3 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Over the last week we have seen Black Friday, Cyber Monday and the most important one to us, Giving Tuesday. A global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organisations to transform their communities and the world. With that in mind this year I would like us to focus on our community – Reading School.

Firstly, I want to say a huge thank you to all those who continue to support Reading School, our current parents, former parents, grandparents and Old Redingensians who generously donate, volunteer or provide their expertise to our students. Just **thank you** never seems enough!

Secondly, academic excellence at Reading School is matched by a broad co-curricular provision and remains an integral part of the Reading Way curriculum. We offer activities to all our students every week day, across sports, creative arts, technology, languages and more. The vast majority of the activities are free, voluntarily run by our passionate and inspiring teachers who develop exciting and high-quality learning experiences, boosting self-confidence or by our senior students demonstrating collaboration, leadership, team work and many more life-long skills.

Now more than ever, co-curricular activities are extremely important for the health and well-being of our students. By providing variety and opportunity embedded through our co-curricular activities and electives where we aim to encourage all our students to be the best versions of themselves and take up opportunities completely out of their own comfort zones in order to stretch and grow our students.

We are proud that over the last year we were able to organise numerous remote Inspire Lectures and weekly online lectures through our partnership with Speakers for Schools. In addition, Sports participation has risen since the additional provisions for cricket, rugby and athletics, under the inspirational leadership of Mr Allen and his team. We have also seen exceptional results from students entered in academic Olympiads and other highly regarded competitions. Significantly, we continue to support our senior students with specialist UCAS advice, as well as mock interview arrangements which many other schools do not offer or charge additional fees for.

We are proud that our students perform exceptionally highly achieve places in the top universities here and abroad including highly regarded apprenticeships.

While the school's academic credentials are well-established, as demonstrated by the accolade as Top State Secondary School of the Year 2022 in the South East Region awarded by the Sunday Times. Crucially, we are committed to continue to match this with equally exciting co-curricular opportunities.

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Reading School is an Exempt Charity under Schedule 2 of the Charities Act 1993, and is recognised as charitable by HM Customs and Excise, ref. no. XT35863.
Registered address as above, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England no. 7475515.



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So much of what we offer goes above and beyond the delivery of the academic curriculum. All this wouldn't be possible without your contributions to our Building for the Future Fund.

Rugby, Cricket & Athletics

In addition, to the range of sporting activities offered in PE and Games, we have been able to offer additional sports opportunities and training in rugby, cricket and athletics.

We are proud to announce that our partnership with the Berkshire Cricket Foundation also led to bespoke cricket coaching from their coaches, enhancing our schools' provision.

We recently secured a scrum machine donated by an OR from Hong Kong, passionate to support Rugby at Reading School and already a committed giver supporting the provisions beyond his time at Reading School.

Badminton

Badminton club took place twice a week at the University of Reading with over 100 students taking part every week. This provision continues but requires continuous funding.

Tennis

Thanks to a kind recommendation from a current parent, we received a generous donation from Charvil Tennis Club to increase tennis opportunities at Reading School. As a result, we are able to offer weekly tennis sessions during the summer, recruit a tennis coach with the potential to enter LTA tournaments in the future. This has also enabled the Tennis provision to continue into the 2021-2022 Michaelmas term but funding has been stretched to enable this.

Floreat

All students in Year 9 & 10 took part in the Floreat Challenge either walking or canoeing during afternoon sessions.

Co-curricular opportunities also extended to inspirational guest lectures, inter-school debates designed to encourage pupils to broaden their intellectual and cultural horizons.

While the financial outlook remains uncertain over the next few years and we continue to experience a shortfall in government funding, we are still very much reliant on this vital additional income to support our academic, pastoral and co-curricular provision. We want to ensure we are in a position to offer the same 'Reading School experience' for each and every one of our students for this year and in the years to come. In 2018-2019 we set a target to reach £150K every academic year with the aim of reaching £900K over the next 7 years to tie in with reaching our milestone 900th Anniversary in 2025. However, no one had planned for the pandemic and this has seriously impacted contributions made to the school which we so heavily rely on.

Over the years the response to our fundraising has always been brilliant with the help of our wonderfully supportive community. But as we start another school year and set ourselves a new fundraising targets for 2021-2022 we are calling on the generous support of our parents, alumni and wider community to help us achieve the £150,000 we need to directly benefit our students, please help if you can, every contribution, however small, plays a vital part.

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I want to continue to build on what we have achieved last year through challenging times and I remain mindful not everyone's personal circumstances will permit support in this way and we offer extensive volunteering opportunities for everyone to be able to continue to pay it forward by supporting our pupils in one way or another.

We want to ensure we have enough resources for each student every year as there are perishable items that need replacing through repetitive use. We have online resources for specific subjects which have annual subscription fees that need to be maintained to allow all our students access. We need to book, in advance, for sports facilities to ensure we secure what we need and replenish stock such as sports equipment, books etc.

Through parent and alumni referral, we have been fortunate to secure some funding through matched donations or as a school nominated for a gift. One Year 8 parent recently nominated us and said:

"My son is in your school and he is in year 8. He really enjoys his school life and I would like to say thank you to all the staff and the Headmaster of Reading school to make it such a wonderful and safe place for the boys.

I really appreciate the regular communication with the parents, particularly during the pandemic."

In addition, another kind parent provided details of a company initiative on social mobility, enabling the school to successfully bid for funding to allow us to extend the Future Stories provisions to incorporate promoting the learning of stem subjects through Science & Me, which will not only allow our students to learn and lead on key parts of this project, but further extends our outreach work with primary schools promoting social mobility.

Lastly, I am sincerely grateful for our continued support and look forward to enhancing opportunities for all our boys. It is our belief at Reading School that every student deserves to fulfil their potential. Whether strengths lie in the classroom, on the sports field, in the concert hall or on the stage, we want to be able to provide opportunities which will enhance students' education, creating the leaders of tomorrow.

We seek to offer a quality of education normally associated with independent schools even though we only receive around one fifth of the funding per student. Our hope is that as many people as possible will be supportive of our Building for the Future Fund so that students can benefit from new projects every year.

I very much hope you share my sense of excitement for all that lies ahead at Reading School. We value your feedback and partnership and both have had a sustained impact upon our development. Our society office would be delighted to hear of ideas, links or suggestions that will aid our ongoing mission and I have no hesitation in highlighting three ways you can join in partnership with us.

1. Would you consider pledging £1 per day to help us build an even better school to continue to provide the opportunities we currently have in place and go some way to improving our facilities and co-curricular provisions? A donation of £30 a month or £365 a year makes a huge difference, and without your generosity we could not run a fraction of our sports, clubs or societies. These are integral to our provision of a world class education. We appreciate that not everyone is in the same financial situation and all contributions are welcome, however large or small.

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2. We also wonder if you might consider a one-off gift towards one of our more significant specific campaigns. In the next four years we hope to raise £10 million to create a Sixth Form Centre, a Maths Centre and to improve Sport, Art, Drama and Music facilities. Contributions will be of direct benefit to current pupils and to future generations. If you are in a position to make a pledge or a one-off donation please do get in touch directly with me or Jas Chhokar, Society Manager at development@reading-school.co.uk or by phone 0118 935 3505 ext: 249.
3. Finally, if you are able to volunteer your time to assist with providing a careers talk in your chosen profession or career path; to be a delegate at our Careers Convention in March 2022 or to offer a Year 12 student a work placement through your connections, please do complete the form at this link: [Parent volunteers](#).

If you feel you are able to support us with a regular or single gift that would be much appreciated, thank you. It is easy to donate by clicking as we accept [donations](#) in various way, see instructions below. By supporting our '*Building for The Future Fund*' you will be playing a significant part in the continued success of Reading School.

I look forward to working together with you all in maximising opportunities for your son to thrive.

To remain updated on Reading School news please follow us on the following social media channels:

[facebook.com Reading-School](https://www.facebook.com/Reading-School)

[Reading School on Twitter](#)

www.linkedin.com

https://www.instagram.com/reading_sch/

I thank you for your partnership and valued counsel.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A M Robson
Headmaster

Contributions on a monthly or annual basis can be made
by cheque, standing order, cash or via the [MyChildatSchool](#) app.

- To give you maximum control, we recommend arranging a **standing order** through your own online banking. Please see details below:

Bank	Lloyds TSB
Account Name:	Reading School Charitable Fund
Sort Code:	30-67-99
Account No.	40733560
Reference:	365 Fund and Pupil/OR name

- So we can thank you and confirm donations please complete: [365 Building for the Future](#).
- For cash and cheques, click on the link to the [Donation Form](#) and return it to the Society Office.
- If you would like to make an online payment you can do so via [Caf Donate](#)
- Please ensure you also complete the [gift aid form](#) to maximise your contribution, if you qualify.

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