



### Note from the Principal

So much has happened in recent weeks, the challenge is knowing where to start in writing this introduction to the last Newsletter of the year.

I am delighted to report that building work on the Refectory has started in earnest. We are getting used to new routes around the school site and the Quad being out of action. It will be worth it! Thank you for your cooperation in not using the Addington Road entrance for the time being. Our new-found Academy status continues to prove very beneficial; we were able to apply to the YPLA - a government funding agency - for capital funds to help us progress our Masterplan for development of the school site. We have now been awarded £890,000 of capital funds to this end. This puts the School in a very good position to take on major projects to improve both Sport and Science facilities in the coming months. The Academy Trust is seriously considering how to proceed even as we speak. I am grateful to Year 10 students who have already been involved in this process, Fraser Drew and Ethan Kenwrick in particular. Watch this space for more developments!

Lastly - numerous congratulations: well done to all our IB candidates who achieved an average points score of 36/45, with Peter Swallow achieving an incredible 44/45; our Chess team lost only to Manchester Grammar School in the National Championship Final held recently at Uppingham School; our Cricket 1<sup>st</sup> XI has had an outstanding season with 11 wins out of 12, including a stunning victory over the MCC by 9 wickets. Stuart Parsons' double century and Govind Nair's five-wicket haul were notable highlights.

I am sure parents will want to join me in thanking our teachers and support staff for their immense hard work this year. Without their dedication we would not have achieved examination results which led to our award as Best State Secondary School of 2010, as judged by The Sunday Times. More recently, our English Department was judged Outstanding in all categories by Ofsted - an extremely noteworthy accolade. We are lucky indeed to have such a dedicated team.

All in all, an excellent start to the summer and may you all have an enjoyable and well-earned break.

### School celebrates IB results

This year saw our first group of International Baccalaureate students complete the course and receive their results. We are delighted with their success and their average point score of 36 will undoubtedly place Reading School in the top few schools in the country when the league tables are published in August. Two boys did extremely well with Peter Swallow scoring 44 points out of 45 and Charlie Hayward 41. Peter's result places him in the top 0.6% of candidates around the world and we are all very impressed with his achievement.

The International Baccalaureate is a broad based course covering 6 subjects: 3 at standard level and 3 at Higher level. Students also have to write a 4000 word extended essay; study a module on the Theory of Knowledge and complete and reflect on a variety of extra-curricular activities.

All ten boys who took the course have benefitted tremendously from its academic rigours and are very well prepared for university life. It has not been easy for them to pioneer a new course in a school which has such a strong record of success at A-Level and we are very proud of the way that they have stuck at it and supported each other to achieve this success. Whilst they have many friends within their year, they are, as a group, very close and I certainly hope that the friendships they have forged will survive for many years to come. I personally feel privileged to have been part of their special educational journey and look forward to hearing of their further successes.

Mrs J Honickberg, IB Diploma Programme Coordinator



## Sport Update

Please note the following dates for rugby next term:

Saturday 10th September	Old Boys 7	Monday 17th October	Gillotts
Saturday 17th September	Claire's Court	Saturday 5th November	Shiplake
Wednesday 21st September	Desborough	Saturday 12th November	Bluecoat
Saturday 24th September	Desborough	Saturday 19th November	St. Barts
Saturday 1st October	Windsor	Saturday 26th November	St. George's
Saturday 8th October	KES	Saturday 3rd December	Cokethorpe
Saturday 15th October	St. Barts	Saturday 10th December	Forest

Please note that the Old Boys 7's tournament is an open event and you are welcome to come and support our staff who will be playing in this tournament.

### SPORTS DAY

Sports day took place on Friday 8th July and was a huge success. New records that were set were:

- Kene Obieniu – 9.56m in Year 7 Shot
- Daniel Trussler – 5.81m in Year 10 Long Jump, a record that has existed since 1968
- Daniel Trussler – 11.46s in Year 10 80m Hurdles
- Andrew Smyth – 5.10min in Year 7 1500m
- Sean Neale – 19.59m in Year 7 Javelin
- Edward Smart – 19.91m in Year 8 Javelin
- Omar Uwais – 34.30m in Year 10 Javelin

### CRICKET UPDATE

It has been a particularly successful cricket season for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI under the management of coach Mr Roca and captain Govind Nair. Eight out of ten completed matches were won, but one in particular will live in the memory for some time.

Has there ever been a more astonishing MCC match? The Marylebone club have a formula for their games, and it is usually successful. They bat first, set a large total, and entice the schoolboys to lose their wickets in chasing their target. Thus, they declared with a score of 299-9, a huge challenge for a school side.

Or so it seemed. Stuart Parsons had had to keep wicket, but went straight out to open the batting, scoring the only double century in the School's history, and finishing not out with 212. We believe that this is only the second double century any schoolboy has scored against the MCC. His young partner, Harry Gannon, kept him company admirably almost to the end. The MCC reverted to more defensive field placing and reintroduced their quicker bowlers, but to no avail. The target of 300 was reached for the loss of only one wicket and with time to spare.

Mr A Beckey, Director of Sport



## National Schools Chess Championship 2010-2011 Report

The Reading School chess team made the long journey up to Uppingham School, Rutland on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July for the finals of the National Schools Chess Championship, with the team showing their dedication by preparing for the semi-final against RGS Guildford throughout the 3 hour journey.

When the match finally got underway, it was immediately clear that it would be very close as all the boards were very evenly matched. The first positive result came on board 6, with a win for Philip Archer-Lock and this was backed up by draws on boards 3 and 5 for Daniel Noel and Alfred Wong. Unfortunately, Roy Zhang was unable to hold a difficult endgame against a much higher graded player on board 1 but William Foo made up for this by winning a piece on board 2 and expertly converting it to win the ending. This meant that we needed a draw on board 4, the only game still playing, to win the match and progress to the final. After being slightly down earlier on, Robert Starley managed to exchange off into an opposite coloured bishop ending to give us the half point we needed to win 3½-2½.

In the other semi-final, Manchester Grammar had made a strong Norwich School team look like beginners, winning 5½-1½, so we knew they would be very tough. A disappointing loss on board 6 for Philip increased the pressure on the other boards and caused us to press hard for wins in equal positions. Despite this, William was unable to get more than a draw on board 2 but Roy won on board 1 bringing us level on points again. However, it was clear that Alfred was struggling on board 5 where he

was down on material. This meant that we were likely to need a win on board 3 or 4 and knowing this Daniel tried hard in a drawn position only to end up losing instead. Robert only managed to draw on board 4, leaving Alfred with the impossible task of trying to win when 3 pieces down. He duly lost, bringing the final score to 4-2 in Manchester's favour, who won the event for the fifth time.

So a slightly disappointing end but nevertheless finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 153 schools is still a great result but hopefully we can go one better next year.

All that remains is to thank you to Mrs Readings and Mr Robson for taking us and Mrs Smith, who unfortunately was not able to come with us, for organising everything.

By Team Captain Robert Starley



Reading School Finalists

## Drug Proof Your Kids

The six week course has just come to an end and all the parents who attended, appeared to enjoy the course immensely. The penultimate session was taken by Hope UK who specialise in drug education. We identified different types of drugs and had a look at drug paraphernalia. We were taught how to identify the signs of drug misuse. Another course is planned for parents of boys in Years 7 and 8 next academic year.

We thank the parents for their support and willingness to participate so enthusiastically.

Judith and Phil Green, (Course Leaders)



## OR walks for Help for Heroes

In the summer of 2011, James Raschen (OR) and Louis Reynolds, fellow adventurers, will walk from the summit of Ben Nevis to Cornwall, the full length of the nation. We are doing this in aid of the charity Help for Heroes, which provides rehabilitation for injured servicemen and women.

**WALKING THE NATION  
2011**

900 miles.

50 days.

IN SUPPORT OF  
**HELP for  
HEROES**

Travelling on foot, we will cover 20-25 miles a day over our 900-mile journey. Carrying all our equipment on our backs, we will sleep in tents and be eating military issue ration packs for the duration of our expedition.

Climbing Ben Nevis, we will begin our walk on the 14th of July and aim to be on the West Side of the Tamar Bridge in Saltash Cornwall by late August. Our journey should take around 50 days of hard marching.

We will cross such daunting terrain as the Cambrian Mountains, the Brecon Beacons, the Pennine Way, The Yorkshire Dales, the Scottish Highlands and of course, Ben Nevis.

Our goal, in undertaking this task, is to raise as much money for Help For Heroes as we possibly can in an attempt to give a little back to those who have given us so much. Our money shall come from sponsorship, the money we collect in our tins and donations from YOU, the generous public!

If you would like to know more, our website can be found at:

[www.walkingthenation2011.weebly.com](http://www.walkingthenation2011.weebly.com)

Or you can visit our donation page at:

[www.bmycharity.com/walkingthenation2011](http://www.bmycharity.com/walkingthenation2011)

**Thank you for your support!**

Yours sincerely,

James Raschen & Louis Reynolds.



## LRC Award Winners

Congratulations to this year's LRC Award winners!

Most frequent borrower: Jonathan Machin, 9W – 166 book loans

Pupil Librarian of the year: Alexander Johnstone, 10C

Class with the most book loans: 8W – 573 book loans

Did you know that "The Killing" by Robert Muchamore was the most borrowed LRC book this year? It was borrowed 77 times!

Mrs Kesteven, School Librarian



## Student Achievements

Congratulations to Jonathan Davies (11E) who came first in the Inter U17 3000m event on 2nd July at the English Schools' Track and Field Championships. Jonathan was representing Berkshire in this event. Following this, he has now been selected to run for England in the Home Countries' Schools' International Track and Field match in Cardiff on Saturday 16th July. We wish Jonathan the very best and look forward to receiving an update on his progress.

Well done also to Oliver Ekins (10S) who towards the end of last term passed his Grade 8 Flute exam with a very high Distinction—141 marks out of 150. Since then, Oliver has gone on to pass his grade 8 Piano exam, also with Distinction. A fantastic achievement!

## UKMT Junior Team Maths Challenge

Congratulations go to Roy Zhang (9S), Laimonas Ruksnaitis (9E), Alfred Wong (8E) and Chris Pegrum (8S) for a superb performance in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge held at the Royal Horticultural Hall in London. They were 9<sup>th</sup> out of 96 teams from all around the UK, including teams from Guernsey and Northern Ireland.

Earlier in the year they convincingly won the regional final, beating local schools. There were four rounds which tested not only their mathematical skills but also communication and team work. They worked exceptionally well together which was good to see. Well done boys!

Mrs J Readings

## News from the LRC

This term, the Book Club which meets on a Tuesday lunchtime have been shadowing the CILIP Carnegie Children's Book Awards.

In April, the shortlist of six books was published:

*Prisoner of the Inquisition* – Theresa Breslin  
*The Death Defying Pepper Roux* – Geraldine McCaughrean  
*Monsters of Men* – Patrick Ness  
*The Bride's Farewell* – Meg Rosoff  
*White Crow* – Marcus Sedgwick  
*Out of Shadows* – Jason Wallace



Members of the Book Club with all the shadowed books

Our group of boys spanning years 7 – 10, took turns in reading and reviewing the books and this proved interesting in terms of feedback for the group as a whole.

In mid-June, we posted reviews on the shadowing website and after some discussion, we voted *Monsters of Men* by Patrick Ness as our overall winner.

When the winner was announced on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, we were all delighted to find out that we had also picked the winning book/author.

As a result of the shadowing programme, the boys are now enjoying a greater field of authors/genre and look forward to the next book awards which are the Berkshire Book Awards that are announced in the autumn term.



## Formula One boss and OR, Ross Brawn helps student realise dream

Matthew James (9E) has been inspired by the town's close links with motor racing to propose an innovative and exciting partnership with Formula One supremo Ross Brawn.

Matthew James, has a lower arm deficiency which means that his left arm stops at his wrist. His current prosthetic limb allows him to perform only basic 'open and close grip' tasks. Research into a more functional alternative led Matthew to the i-LIMB™ Pulse, which although would give him much more control and freedom, is not generally available through the NHS.

Matthew, a big fan of Formula One, wrote to Reading School Old Boy and Mercedes Team Principal Ross Brawn proposing a unique sponsorship opportunity between the Formula One team and Touch Bionics, the company behind the prosthetic limb. He identified possible synergies in compatible technology used by both companies and particularly impressed Mr Brawn with his "amazingly funny, honest and mature" letter. The Mercedes team have agreed to sponsor Touch Bionics, and in return Matthew will receive his prosthetic arm for free.

Matthew says "Meeting Ross was amazing. I always really admired him as a role model. He obviously went to Reading School, so there's that link". Matthew's father Robert explains what the i-LIMB™ Pulse will mean to Matthew. "He always wanted to be the best he can. It's about having the best tool available to allow Matthew to live his life and get on with what he wants to do.

Since his visit, Matthew has been to Silverstone prior to the British Grand Prix for some PR and an update to the story that appeared on the Mercedes GP website. This it to help with the fund-raising efforts for the new bionic limb. Matthew met the drivers, including Michael Schumacher who took a real interest in his story.



*Matthew with Ross Brawn*

## Changes to school email addresses

Please be aware that all staff email addresses have now changed. The format for all staff is now first initial followed by surname @reading-school.co.uk.

If you wish to send a general email to the school, please use: secretary@reading-school.co.uk.

If you wish to make contact with the Principal, please use: headspa@reading-school.co.uk.

Our school website is also being updated and from September will be: [www.reading-school.co.uk](http://www.reading-school.co.uk).



## Term Dates & Dates for your Diary

Please note the term dates for the Michaelmas Term are as follows:

Monday 5th September	Staff Day (School closed for students)
Tuesday 6th September	Staff Day (Years 7, 9 and 12 induction)
Wednesday 7th September	Term 1 starts
Friday 21st October	Staff Day (School closed for students)
22nd October – 30th October	Half Term
Monday 31st October	Term 2 starts
Friday 18th November	Staff Day (School closed for students)
Friday 16th December	Term ends

Dates for your diary – Michaelmas Term: (first half term):

Tuesday 13th September	Year 13 Consultation Evening with Tutors Parent Monthly Drop in clinic – 4pm – 6pm
Monday 19th September	Inaugural Charity Golf Day – Sand Martins Golf Club
Wednesday 21st September	Years 7, 9 and 12 school photo
Friday 22nd September	Junior Prizegiving – 2.00pm
Thursday 29th September	Open Evening for Prospective Parents – 4.30pm
Saturday 1st October	Wine and Welcome Evening for new parents
Thursday 13th October	Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening with Heads of House
Thursday 20th October	Commemoration Service – 2.00pm

## Reading School welcomes 100 year old calligrapher Mr Zhao

On 12th July, we welcomed Mr Zhao to the school to give a talk and demo to 20 Year 10 boys. Mr Zhao started his talk with a brief introduction about the bird's calligraphy, which had been in Chinese history for nearly 3000 years. Unfortunately, most of the art work got burned during the Cultural revolution. What makes this style of calligraphy special is that every stroke is like a bird or a worm. Mr Zhao also told the boys a couple of his life stories and encouraged them that learning is a life-long habit. The talk ended with a birthday cake and song singing to celebrate Mr Zhao's 100th birthday. During the session, Mr Zhao wrote 'Reading School' in Chinese for the school to keep. Mr Zhao



was very impressed by our 900 years' history. Thank you to Mrs Hayes for acting as interpreter during Mr Zhao's visit. Mr Zhao is not only a distinguished calligrapher but also quite a legend himself. The Taiwan president has awarded him a few honours and he was treated as a national treasure. Here are some interesting facts about him:



- At the age of 74, he went backpacking in Europe for 5 months without speaking a word of English.
- At the age of 87, in order to encourage his grandson to study for the University Entrance Exam, he also did the exam with his grandson and got into a university to do an art degree.
- In his 90's, he tried to be a charity worker in a hospital but got turned down for being too old.
- At the age of 95, in order to encourage a friend's grandson to study in a graduate school, he also got into a graduate school and finished a masters degree in Art. Apparently, he is the oldest master degree holder and the Guinness Record is in the process of writing him into their book.
- He is currently learning English and how to use a computer. When one of his old colleagues asked him, 'You are about to die, why are you learning computers?', he answered, 'But I am still living'.



## Summer Clubs and Camps

### Reading RFC Summer Rugby Camp

Reading RFC is hosting a KWS Rugby Camp this summer. The week commencing Monday 8th August a team of top class rugby coaches from Australia and New Zealand will be putting young rugby enthusiasts, aged 6 – 16, through their paces. All our coaches are fully CRB checked.

The camp runs from Monday to Friday, 9.15 to 3.00 and is open to all players aged 6 – 16 at a cost of £120.

For those who will be playing TAG next season we have a weeklong programme designed to develop the Core Skills and build confidence. Lots of fun rugby games are used to teach those skills that form the foundation of great rugby players.

For those players who will be moving in to the under 9's next season we have full week's programme introducing contact rugby, starting with the basics and moving on to the more advanced lessons as the week progresses.

For the older players we have a 'Contact' focused camp that will keep each player motivated and learning throughout the week. Position Specific Coaching, Game Sense, Team Tactics and age appropriate skills such as Rucking and Mauling, Line Outs, Uncontested and Contested Scrums will all be covered during the week.

If you would like more information or to make a booking please visit [www.kwsrugby.com](http://www.kwsrugby.com)  
or call Richard on 01708 372425

### Starmaker Summer School

Running now for over 14 years and is renowned for its popularity and success, Starmaker are running its Summer School from 22nd – 26th August 2011 at Southlake Primary School. There will be five days of fun for £100. Have fun! Make new friends! Experience performing at Reading's Concert Hall! Book now by visiting [www.starmakeruk.org](http://www.starmakeruk.org) to register or for further information call: 0118 9887959.

In addition, if you are interested in attending the Starmaker Summer School Show, it will be taking place on Friday 26th August at The Reading Concert Hall at 6.00pm. Visit [www.starmakeruk.org](http://www.starmakeruk.org) or call: 0118 9887959 for tickets.

### The Time Machine Diaries – Young Artists Summer School

Help create a futuristic installation\*\*

15-19 August 2011

Using printmaking, sculpture, junk modelling, drawing and computer manipulation among others, participants will create a futuristic time machine installation.

The Time Machine Diaries - Young Artists' Summer School year groups 6 - 9 (ages 10 -14)

15-19 August, 10am-3pm, £100/£95\* for 5-day course

Course code: TMSS

\* discount is for sibling on same course.

Download booking form from our website: [www.maidenerlegh.wokingham.sch.uk](http://www.maidenerlegh.wokingham.sch.uk)

### Film Summer School

Want to work in the media or film or just have fun making a film? This is your opportunity to make a film in a week. Working together as a professional film crew, students will create their own stories, direct actors, shoot with professional cameras and film equipment and try their hand at key production roles. A copy of the finished short film on DVD will be given to each student after the course.

School year groups 10-13 (ages 14-18)

8-12 August, 10am-4pm – £150 for 5-day course. Limited places

Course code: FDSS

Venue: Maiden Erleigh School

Course leaders: Rob Birks (director, cinematographer, teacher) and Richard Horsefield (sound designer, scriptwriter, director)

Download booking form from website: [www.maidenerlegh.wokingham.sch.uk](http://www.maidenerlegh.wokingham.sch.uk)