



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

17TH JUNE 2022

Contents

Introduction	3
Developing academic and character excellence	3
Key information	4
Year 7 only	4
All Years	4
Excellence, Integrity, Leadership & Community	5
Biology challenge award winners 2022	5
Community	7
LRC – Higher Project Qualification (HPQ)	7
LRC – Wreck This Journal Competition	7
LRC – Diversity, Inclusion & Equity	7
LRC – Trial access to books	7
LRC – Reading School Book Award 2022	8
The Great Walk Together	8
Cogito	8
England Rugby Introduction to Refereeing	9
Calling all Reading School writers	9
Clothing Collection for Ukraine	9
RSPA	10
The Great Reading School Bake Off	10
Just Giving Campaign	10
Uniform Shop Updates	10
Uniform Shop donations needed	10
Reading School Hoodies	10
Summer Term – Week 8	11

Introduction

Developing academic and character excellence

The A B C of the Reading Way – Academic Excellence, Belonging and Community is a way of remembering our operational priorities for 2022 and beyond. We welcome the views of members of the Reading School family regarding what actions we should take to build for the future and put our core values into action, striving to deliver sustained high performance. Furthermore, we should respond to three key questions:

- What do we want to accomplish?
- What kind of impact do we want to have?
- How do we want to be remembered?

As a member of the Reading School community, we need to believe that we can accomplish great things, if we have the right attitude. We can have a positive impact based on being team players, who put values in to action. We strive to be remembered as an organisation that puts people first and supports people to nurture one another.

Our core purpose is enabled through a focus on the Reading Way, characterised by:

- a high performance culture
- a sense of belonging and
- a focus on community and partnerships

Thus, our operational, short-term actions are underpinned by our core values and are aligned with our strategic priorities.

We are committed to **Academic Excellence**. This operational priority is achieved through a focus on providing a high quality, rich curriculum supported by committed professional staff, demonstrating leadership at all levels. The quality of education is enhanced by the breadth and depth of our Electives programme, which places academic excellence within the context of a holistic education which promotes scholarship and character development. In addition, crucially, we value the development of attitudes and behaviours that aspire to high performance, individually and as part of a team.

We are committed to developing a sense of **Belonging**. This is achieved through effective onboarding and induction, the House system and our focus on character through the Floreat programme and Belonging weeks. Working with parents and governors, a culture of safeguarding, integrity, respect, teamwork and wellbeing is developed in both Boarding and the Day School. We are committed to social mobility, diversity, inclusion and maximising opportunity. For instance, through the Reading promise, Future Stories programme, a refreshed admissions process and the nurturing of a culture of engagement.

We are committed to sustainable high performance as a **Community** that is underpinned by a culture of leadership as service. We are committed to nurturing leadership at all levels, including the Community Relations Office, the Society Office and the Governing Board. It is shaped by sustainable financial stewardship and effective estate management. We seek to develop a positive culture shaped by a focus on partnership development locally, nationally and internationally. We build relationships and community working with the Reading School Parents' Association, the Reading Foundation, the True Athlete Programme, Future Stories Community Enterprise (FSCE) and FSI (Ukrainian Institute). Furthermore, we learn from best practice as evidenced by SLT visits to Westminster School, IBSC Conference along with engagement with experts in safeguarding and behaviour such as RW Consulting.

It is also valuable to listen to parents and students. What role can you play in the operation of Reading School? Over the next few weeks, the Governing Board of Reading School will be considering the actions required to ensure sustained high performance for 2022-2023. Please let me know what actions we can take to ensure that the Reading Way enables us to become a powerhouse of academic and character excellence, by emailing the Headmaster's PA, cmole@reading-school.co.uk.

Mr AM Robson

Headmaster

Key information

Year 7 only



There is still time to sign up for an extended relative to attend a taster day sitting alongside their grandchild at Reading School by clicking the following link [Grandparents and Relatives Day 2022 Sign Up Form](#)

Following enquiries from parents, please be reminded that we wish to extend this particular opportunity to our wider community only and therefore this is regrettably not open to parents / carers. We hope that parents / carers will understand that they will have ample opportunities to support their child in their Reading School activities throughout their school lives.

As a grandparent of a student(s) at Reading School, you are an important part of our wider community and we are always excited to welcome you to our school in order to share in part of your grandchild's journey while at school.

All Years

As you may have seen in the media, the National Network Rail will be on a strike next week. This means rail services that run will start and finish earlier, from 07:30 to 18:30.

It was announced that the rail lines will be closed on the 21st, 23rd and 25th of June 2022. A timetable for the 20th of June until the 26th of June is still being finalised, but expected to be published today, Friday the 17th of June 2022.

Bearing this in mind, we strongly advise that you be mindful in journey planning and seek alternative means to commute to school if the rail disruption affects you. This is especially important for students sitting Public Examinations as the expectation would be for students to organise alternative transport to school if they have exams on 21st or 23rd June.

Undoubtedly the roads will be much busier than normal and it is not possible to change the timings of the start of examinations.

Could we also kindly ask that any lateness or absences be reported to our Attendance Team on: attendance@reading-school.co.uk

Excellence, Integrity, Leadership & Community

Biology challenge award winners 2022

Congratulations to Year 9 and 10 Biologists, who achieved an impressive 27 Gold, 52 Silver and 75 Bronze awards in the [2022 Biology Challenge](#) run by the [Royal Society of Biology](#). 41,000 students from 550 schools worldwide participated this year. To achieve a Gold award, a score of 78.69% was required, which was awarded to the top 5% of participants.

The competition consisted of two, twenty-five-minute multiple choice papers to be taken online under staff-supervised exam conditions. Questions were set on the school curriculum, but the competition also rewards those students whose knowledge of the subject has been increased by reading books, magazines, watching natural history programmes, taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest, and are generally aware of our natural flora and fauna.

The Biology Challenge stimulates students' curiosity for the natural world and encourages them to take an interest in biology outside of school. Well done to all who took part.

Year 9 Gold award winners

- Ali Muddassar
- Elliot Perry
- Aryan Kumar
- Ben Hart
- Raghav Nirupama Srinivas
- Zi Han Zhang
- Aaryen Labana
- Vighnesh Uttamkumar

- Srivallabh Sabnivisu
- Anish Koduri
- Avaneesh Ramasubban
- Kanishk Kothari
- Arjit Das
- Imtiyaz Basher
- Madhuhaas Gudipati
- Milan Gupta
- Mohammed Youssef Dahoui
- Arhan Chitre
- Paarth Goswami
- Elias Mirza
- Alexandru Postolache
- Archie Matthews

Year 10 Gold award winners

- Arnav Asthana
- Finlay Garib
- Bharat Jasti
- Yoghan Jawahar Kaliraj

This year's percentage boundaries are as follows:

Award	Percentage score	Percentage of students who took part in the Biology Challenge 2022
Gold	78.69%	5%
Silver	71.72%	10%
Bronze	65.54%	15%
Highly Commended	60.43%	15%
Commended	55.08%	15%

All participants are entitled to a year's free membership of BioNet, please follow the instructions below:



How to claim your free membership of the Royal Society of Biology

As you have recently taken part in the **Biology Challenge**, you are entitled to receive a year's free membership of the Royal Society of Biology at our BioNet grade designed for 14-19 years olds. To join, please follow these quick and easy steps which should only take a few minutes to complete:

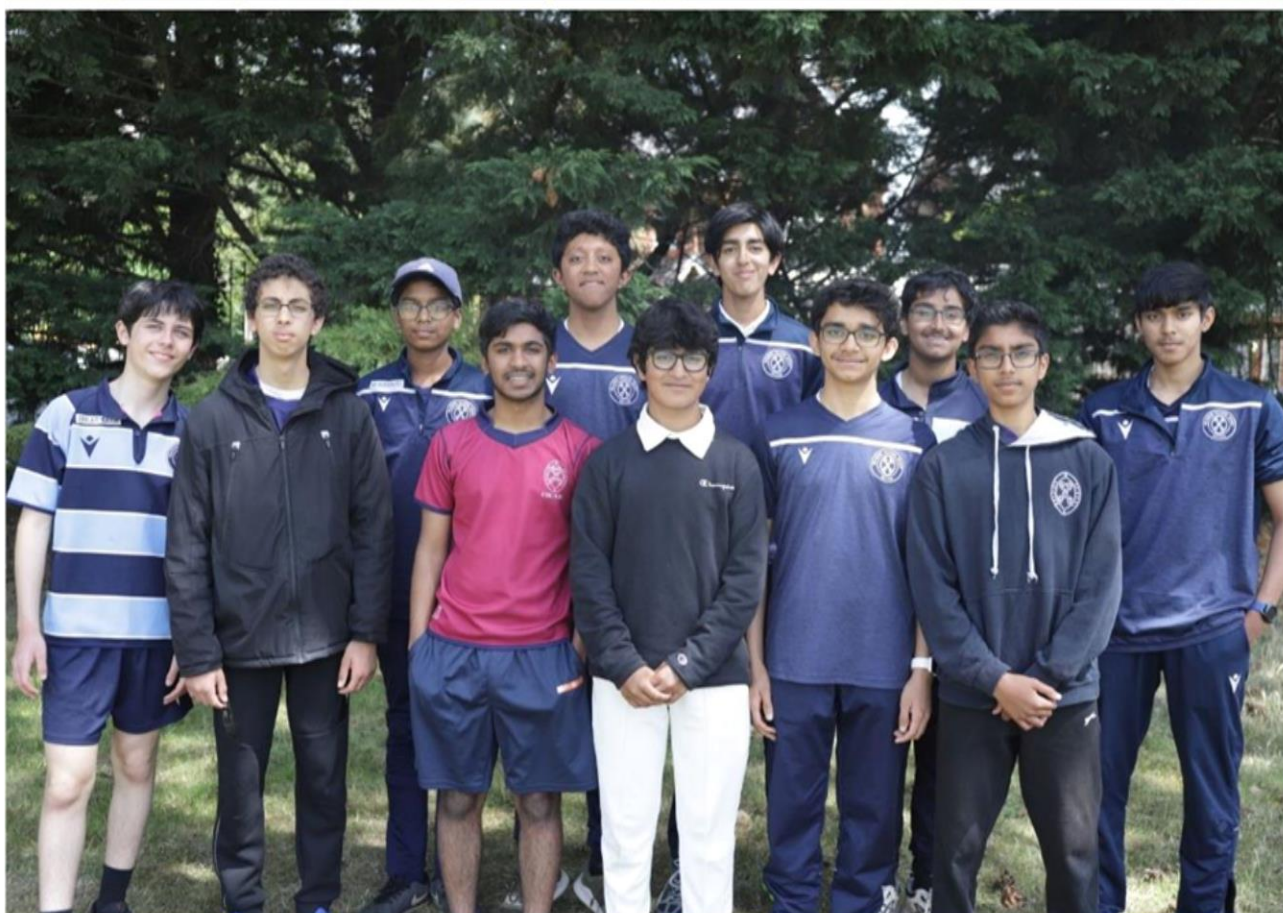
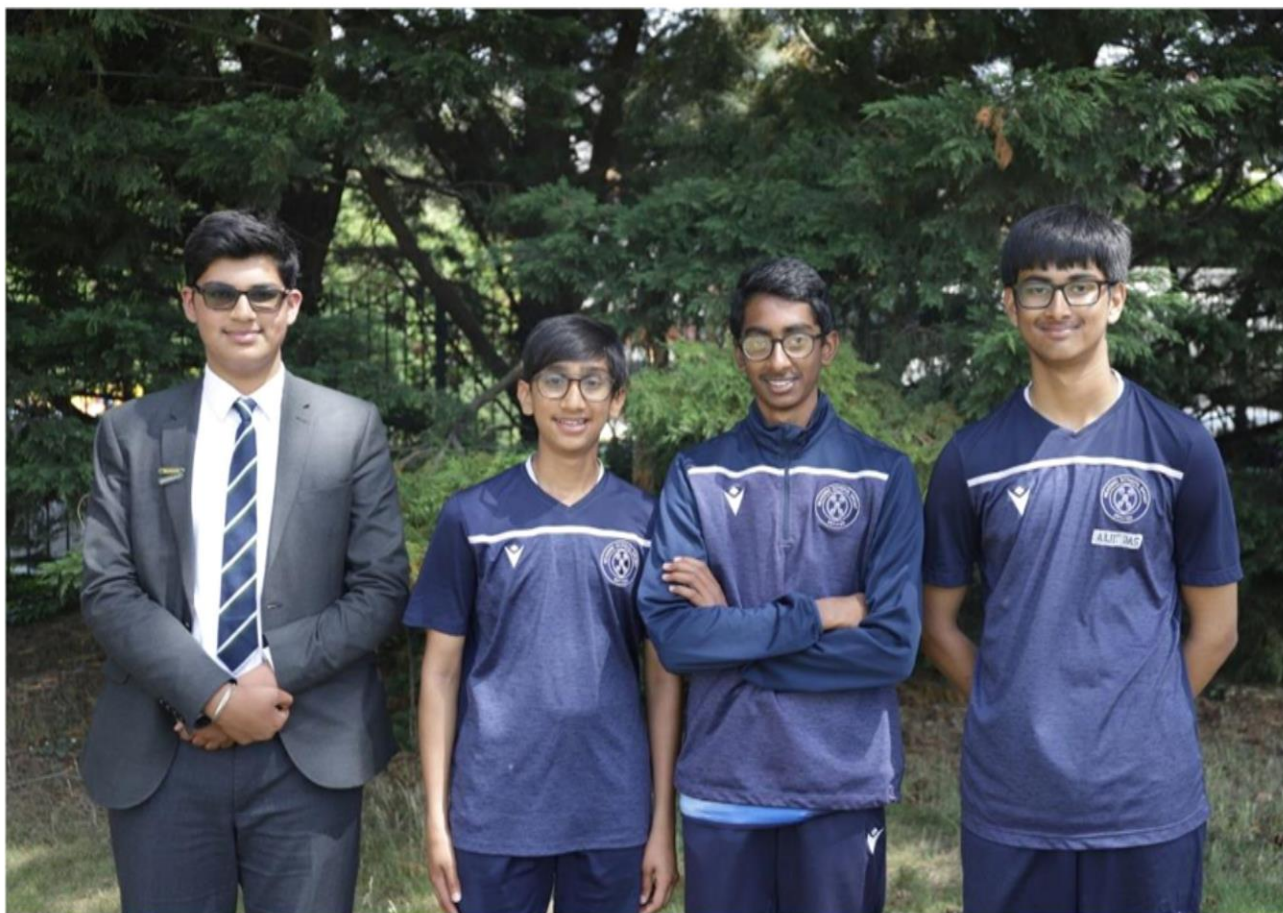
- Step 1.** Go to <https://my.rsb.org.uk/BC22> or scan the QR code
- Step 2.** Input the required details such as your name, email and date of birth
- Step 3.** Select the BioNet grade of membership
- Step 4.** Insert your school name and city
- Step 5.** Submit your application

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch at membership@rsb.org.uk
We look forward to welcoming you soon.

All applicants using this link will be verified, so please ensure the link is not circulated



Some of our Year 9 & 10 Gold Award Winners



Community

LRC – Higher Project Qualification (HPQ)

Students who have completed their HPQ were asked for their top tips and advice for new Year 9 students and the Student Librarian Team have produced helpful and valuable resources that can be found in the LRC for all those looking for support around the HPQ.

The HPQ is an AQA Level 2 qualification that is the equivalent of a GCSE and taking part allows students to discover the value of independent learning, taking responsibility for their own study and developing new life and study skills.

We encourage all Year 9s to visit the display which can be found on the first floor in the LRC.



LRC – Wreck This Journal Competition



The LRC would like to challenge pupils to Wreck This Journal! This competition is inspired by Ms Creegan's recommended read "Wreck The Journal" by Keri Smith which encourages the reader to fully engage with the creative process and to overcome the fear of a blank page. Pupils can pick up a page from the book in the LRC and will be asked to "Wreck It". The "Wrecked" page and any accompanying evidence should be submitted to the LRC by July 8th. Judges will award points for creativity of mind and final product. Challenges range from squirting liquid onto a page to turning the page into a shoe and from selling the page to freezing it. We are looking forward to seeing your creativity.

LRC – Diversity, Inclusion & Equity

Ensuring that all people feel seen and heard is an ongoing journey and one that is marked in diverse ways. By taking steps to educate and celebrate diverse or marginalised groups, while creating a sense of belonging and community is our aim and this week has seen a display within the LRC which highlights [Pride Month](#). Research shows that more than 7 in 10 British people support the LGBTQ+ community and 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the first Pride march in the UK.

The display within the LRC contains books, resources and further information about LGBTQ+ inclusion and all are welcome to find out more, whether you identify as LGBTQ+ or not.



LRC – Trial access to books



The LRC will be trialling access to ePlatform by Wheelers Books until Friday 8th July.

Pupils are now able to borrow eBooks and Audiobooks from the exciting new eBook and audiobook library, found here: <https://readingschool.eplatform.co> using their Office 365 login.

The library catalogue is full of bestselling, popular fiction titles and will offer students 24/7 access to a digital library in addition to the print library in school. Students can have 2 books out on loan at any one time, and they will automatically return after 2 weeks, or students can return them early in order to loan a new book. The eBooks can be read on a computer, laptop, or through the free App on your tablets or smartphones.

Reading through your web browser on a laptop or computer

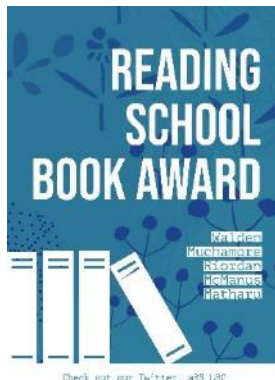
Students can browse the collection or search for a specific book title, author or publisher and loan the book they choose. It is then assigned to them for the 2-week period.

Reading through the App

To download the App, search “ePlatform” in the App store and download. Click on the app and you will then need to search for the library which will be Reading School. Once you start typing, it will bring up the school on the list.

Click the 3 little lines in the top left corner and select sign in. Using the App, the books will be temporarily downloaded to the device so students will not need internet connections once the book has been loaned to read, great for travelling. We will ask for feedback after the trial ends to find out what students think of the ePlatform.

LRC – Reading School Book Award 2022



The Reading School Book Award is an annual prize recognising excellent recent Young Adult Fiction. The books shortlisted by the Pupil Librarian Team this year are:

- The Champion by Taran Matharu
- You'll Be the Death of Me by Karen McManus
- Robin Hood: Jet Skis, Swamps and Smugglers by Robert Muchamore
- Daughter of the Deep by Rick Riordan
- Bloodline by Mark Walden

You can check our library catalogue by click [this link](#). Pupil Librarian Aden C (10C) is co-ordinating the Book Award this year and has created an “Initial Impressions” presentation for tutors to discuss during tutor time.

Each tutor group will be asked to choose their favourite front cover, first line and summary from the back cover. This is a great way to get staff and pupils buzzing about the books.

Does your child have a question they would like to ask Taran Matharu, Mark Walden or Robert Muchamore? Aden and his Team will be interviewing these authors during the summer and they would love to ask the questions you have been dying to ask! To submit a question, please complete [this form](#)

The Great Walk Together

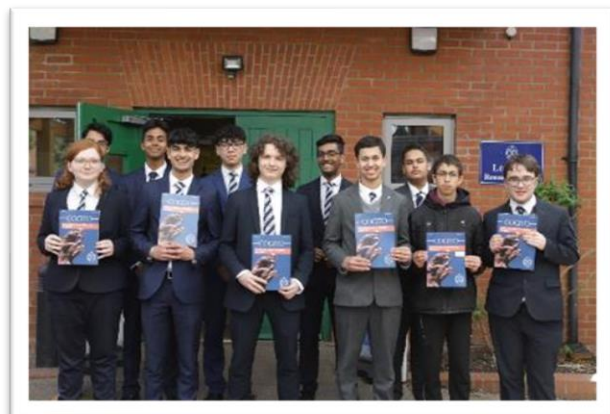


The Clerk to the Governing Body, Mr S Vale will be leading a walk run by [Loddon Valley Ramblers](#) in support of The Great Walk Together organised by the Jo Cox Foundation next Saturday 25th June.

The [annual event](#) brings together people from all backgrounds around a common cause in their area and the theme for this year is ‘Welcome’. The [Jo Cox Foundation](#) has partnered with [Refugee Week](#) and Ramblers to walk from Sutton Bowls Club, Chalfont Way, Reading to Arborfield and back. The walk will include visits to the British Museum extension, Shinfield Film Studios and the ruins of the old Arborfield Church.

The walk is a great opportunity to meet others during a relaxed, welcoming local walk and for more details, please [click here](#).

Cogito



The school philosophy magazine 'Cogito' can now be borrowed and read with physical copies available from the LRC. We would like to thank all the writers and editors for their sustained hard work this academic year, which has enabled this project to encourage the Reading School community to think deeply, ask and engage with important philosophical questions.

Electronic copies are also available and Issue 2 can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

Issue 2 (dyslexia friendly version) can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

England Rugby Introduction to Refereeing



A free introductory course in refereeing rugby is available and useful for any student wanting to create and build on their understanding of rugby along with refereeing a sport. There are only ten spaces available on a first come, first serve basis and in order to sign up click the following [link here](#).

For any questions, please contact Mr Kearle by emailing mkearle@reading-school.co.uk

Calling all Reading School writers

The Reading school creative writing club, The Wordsmiths' Guild, is accepting submissions for its upcoming creative writing magazine. We are particularly interested in any pieces written during Belonging Week, or inspired by ideas related to Belonging Week. However, any pieces you are proud of (which have been written on your own, rather than for a class) are welcome as submissions.



Please email (carefully edited) submissions to Siddhant M (10L), with the subject line *Magazine Submission*. Submissions are due by **Friday 24th June**. Please direct any questions to Siddhant M, Ms. Eggers, or Mrs. Ellis and we look forward to reading your contributions.

Clothing Collection for Ukraine



Firstly, a thank you to everyone who responded to our previous appeals for food, toiletries and sleeping bags for Ukraine. We are in no doubt about the benefit and value they have provided to those in need in Ukraine.

As the Russian Army retreats it is often leaving very little behind. Buildings and infrastructure have been destroyed and goods, food and clothes have been taken leaving the inhabitants of villages and small towns with almost nothing.

We have received a specific request from a Senior Pastor in the major city of Kharkiv in the North East of Ukraine for an emergency shipment of autumn clothes and shoes for adults and children. These will be distributed to refugees who have moved into the city from the so called 'left behind' villages, as well as distributed from this pastor's church in the village.

Shortly, another aid convoy will be leaving to head to Lviv in Western Ukraine where we have trusted contacts who will supervise onward shipment to the requesting pastor.

We are looking for donations of clothing of any size suitable for autumn and winter, including t-shirts and underwear (not shorts, swimwear and summer dresses), shoes, wellingtons, trainers and slippers (not sandals).

Donations of any of these items would be welcome between now and Monday 4th July. Students can drop off any donations in the Chapel at any time and parents are welcome on site on Tuesdays and Fridays between 11am and 6pm. Anything you can contribute will make a real difference.

The Great Reading School Bake Off



We are excited to announce The Great Reading School Bake off, a student led initiative to raise funds for the school cricket nets.

The bake sale and bake off will take place on **Thursday 23rd June 2022** at break and lunch. Full details can be found by [clicking here](#). Please support the event which will be judged by our very own Paul Hollywood, Mr Robson and guests. Please direct any queries to Milan G 10E who would like to raise £500. We hope that this will be a fun event for all to be involved in, whether it's simply to buy or donate or take part in the bake off.

Please click this link to read about [the positive benefits of baking on mental health and well-being](#).

Just Giving Campaign

Our Just Giving Campaign continues and we are so grateful to all of you who have contributed so far. Every penny counts and if you are able to please tick the gift aid box to provide a great boost to your donation.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/RSPA2022CricketNetCampaign>

Uniform Shop Updates

Thank you to everyone who has donated to, bought from or helped run the Uniform Shop this term. You have helped us raise over £800 at the last two openings.

We have two openings planned for August- dates will be notified closer to the time on ClassList, Facebook and WhatsApp groups- we look forward to seeing you there!

Uniform Shop donations needed

We are in desperate need of donations of Macron Kit and House Ties.

Donations of the above, and any good quality school uniform and revision books, can be handed into reception, by students, during the school day.

Reading School Hoodies

We now have new stock of every size of hoodie available. Hoodies may now be purchased via PayPal on our website:

<https://www.readingschoolpa.org.uk/store/reading-school-navy-hoodie>

Sizes from XS-XXL. Limited availability and first come first served, so please act fast!

Once your order has been received you will be sent a confirmation email informing you when your hoodie is available for collection from Student Services. Orders can only be serviced during term time and we aim to have your hoodie ready for collection within 7 days.

If you have any questions, please write to us at - hoodies@readingschoolparents.co.uk

The RSPA Team

Summer Term – Week 8

To keep up to date with student life at Reading School, click the icons below to follow and stay connected.



Congratulations to Emlyn LJ (9S) who has been promoted as Reading School's official Student Sports Photographer. Please enjoy some of his images from this week's cricket match.







Due to the volume of images from Belonging Week, some were not able to be included during the last 2 issues, however due to popular parental demand please enjoy a further selection.











Student feedback from a Year 7 trip to Operation Encounter:

"On Tuesday, we went to operation encounter where we did teambuilding outdoor activities. My favourite activity was the rafting with a group of people in our form. In the activity, the instructors gave us a raft to use as a team and paddle it around the lake. The difficulty was to get the raft on the water and making sure everyone gets on it safely, and also making sure the raft doesn't capsize with vigorous movements. Our instructor set us challenges to do whilst on the water.

One of the hardest ones was to swap places with a person of your team on the other side of the raft but the dilemma was that there was only one thin beam connecting either side of the raft. When we attempted to do the challenge, it really connected us all together as we were always trying to help someone across safely and encouraging them. Another challenge was to make sure if anyone did fall overboard, help them come back up safely. I think this really brought us together as we were looking out for each other and making sure no one was left behind.

It created a great sense of camaraderie and not only just this activity but all of the events. To me, Belonging week is making sure everyone feels like they belong in this form group, community and school community. It's also a way to know that a lot of people have your back and will support you in hard times and will also bring out the best in you."
Ojas M (7E)



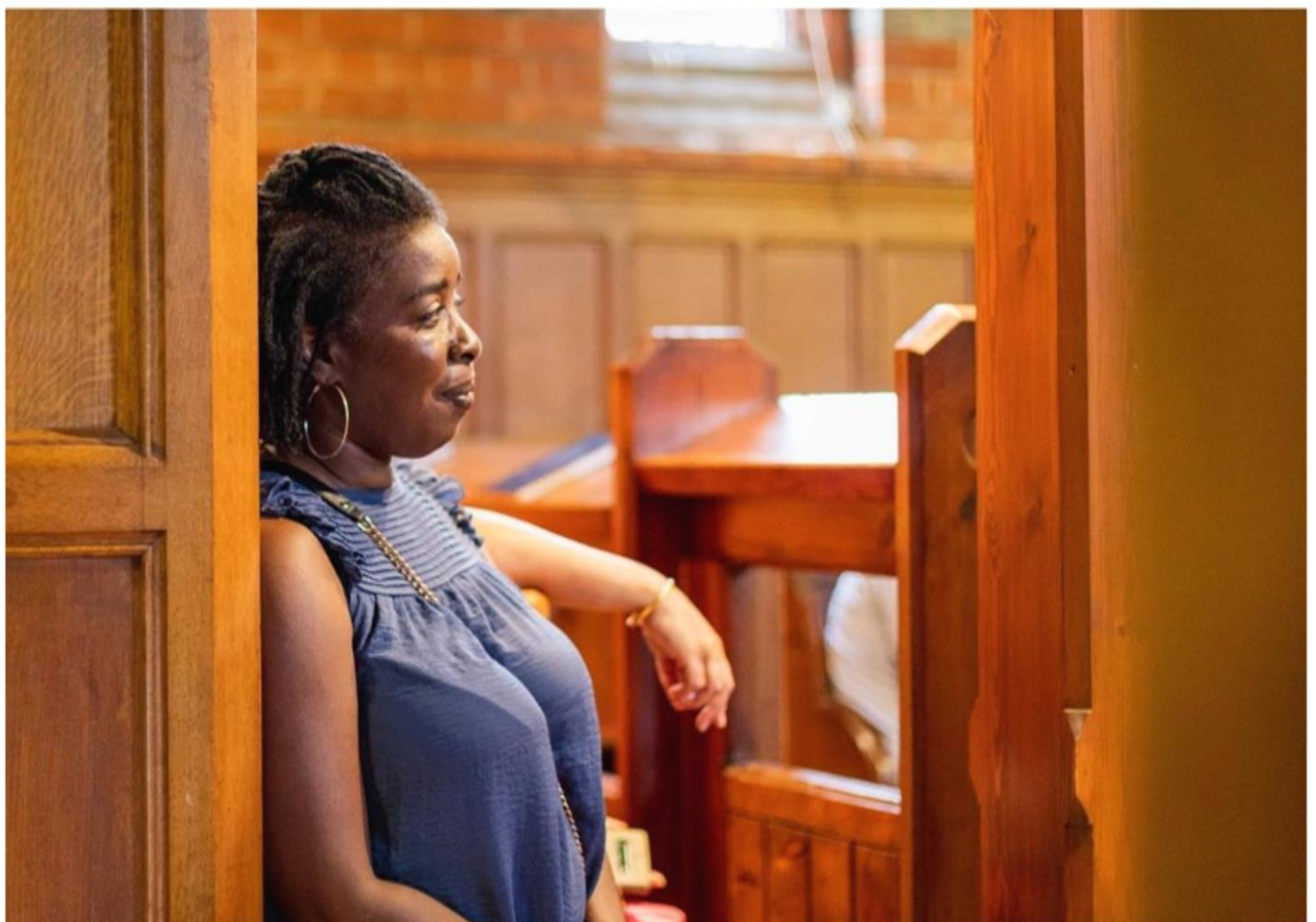
Year 10 Mandarin students (Raymond W, Joshua L and Rohan O) travelled to Oxford Brookes University, led by Teacher of Mandarin, Mr Wu this week, to attend a one-day intensive study trip. Five schools across Berkshire and Oxford delivering the Mandarin Excellence Programme took part during the study trip, which included two workshops and a mini-lecture. Students are required to record a video in which they need to use Mandarin to introduce a place in the UK with our Year 10s, creating a video about the London Eye and taking part in Chinese Folk dance.





Our new Year 7 Welcome Evening took place this week with a new cohort of Year 7s attending with their parents, to hear and see what they have to look forward to from September 2022. Thank you to Adam P (13S) for being an inspirational speaker during the evening, sharing his 7-year journey at Reading School with the audience.













Parent feedback is important to us and if you any comments or suggestions please contact the Community Relations Office by emailing communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk