



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

24 JUNE 2022

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Introduction

Excellence, Belonging and Community

It is a truism that there is never a dull day at Reading School and yesterday I had a very varied one which included judging a cake baking contest which included cup cakes with my facial image on them (3rd place), running in the 4 x 100m Boarding staff relay (1st place) and undertaking boxing training, inspired by our Year 9 boxers.

In addition, I led Chapel, had a meeting regarding my performance management/appraisal with a committee of governors, worked on a final version of the Annual Operational Plan and witnessed our writer in residence, Will Burns weave his creative writing magic with our own Wordsmiths Guild.

This week's Headmaster's Bulletin illustrates the fact that Reading School is a place that encourages excellence, belonging and community.

In Chapel this week I emphasised the importance of 'leaving the shirt in a better place', and emphasising that all of us have a responsibility to add value through having a positive impact and leaving a positive legacy. Our challenge is to worry less about the level of individual prominence we have achieved and focus more on the individuals we have helped to become better people.

I am enthused by the potential of the True Athlete Programme which will commence on Thursday 30 June, initially involving a group of students in Year 9 and Year 12.

Our drive to nurture a positive commitment culture, shaped by relationships, compassion and community remains a priority. There is clear evidence of student leadership as service, as exemplified by the activities shown in this bulletin. The engagement of parents, students, staff and governors in maximising opportunity is a crucial feature of the life of Reading School. As a school community, we are determined to provide opportunities to thrive and flourish. Indeed, the commitment culture evident in our 1st XI Cricket team against the MCC and the team effort led by Milan G (10E) involved in the Bake Sale in aid of the RSPA cricket nets campaign has been worthy of note this week.

The passion and commitment of our Year 9 boxers and their inspirational coach, Mr Thomas Jarvis has influenced me to raise money for Cancer Research through training for a Boxing exhibition bout on 16 July. Many families, including my own, have been affected by cancer and, through the example of our students committing to helping others, I am motivated to ensure that I undertake more physical exercise and also help a deserving cause. If you would like to support me in my fundraising efforts, please donate using the link below:

[Mr Robson's Fundraiser for Cancer Research](#)

After speaking with staff, a suggestion has been made for music tracks for my 'ring walk'. Thank you to Ms Mole for her suggestion of Gloria Gaynor's '*I Will Survive*', however I would welcome further suggestions from the school community by emailing cmole@reading-school.co.uk.

The Keeton Pavilion



The Keeton Pavilion, located on Reading School's front field was originally built in 1895 and it represents a historic and recognisable landmark. Named after former Headmaster, George Keeton (1916-1939), he was a Cambridge and England rugby player who realised a major improvement in the quality of the school's sports infrastructure at the time.

The history and heritage of cricket at Reading School is a long one. Records indicate that it was probably played during Headmaster, John Spicer's time (1750-71) and certainly played under Dr Valpy (1781-1830).

The well-known Havell landscape of 1816, of which copies hang at Lords and the MCG, shows Reading Schoolboys playing cricket in the Forbury, where the school was situated at the time.

"I can never decide whether cricket is a disease or a religion"

H M Thomas, Biology Master at Reading School (1949-64)

Cricket has continued to be played following the school moving to its present site on Erleigh Road in 1871 and continues to host Berkshire County games and local cricket teams.

Throughout the years, the Keeton Pavilion has seen changes and development, with the most recent during 2022 with a much-needed refurbishment of the internal and external infrastructure of the Pavilion. The work has been formally completed as of June 2022 and is now open for use so that the Reading School community can continue to benefit from regular sporting events while having access to high quality facilities.

Reading School would like to express its gratitude to the Reading Foundation for its demonstration and commitment of care towards a valuable and well-loved part of Reading School's heritage.

Thank you to Reading School's Archivist, Mr K C Brown for providing photos and information from the Reading School archives.



Mr AM Robson

Headmaster

Key information

All Years

Safeguarding

As the school community may be aware, the [BBC's Panorama](#) programme screened an episode on Monday night, focussing on Reading teenager Olly Stephens who was murdered in January 2021. In the events leading up to the tragic event, Olly left his home and was stabbed to death by two teenage boys after planning the attack online with a female known to Olly.

During the investigation and reviewing seized mobile phone content, police noted that 13 and 14-year old children were presenting an online persona of themselves at odds with their suburban reality. This meant images being shared of children holding knives, showing them off, wearing balaclavas and sharing videos showing children attacking one another.

Thames Valley Police shared that social media played a major role during their investigation and DCI Andy Howard stated on BBC Panorama, "There is certainly a very unhealthy attraction to filming, recording acts of really quite serious violence." The videos or photos shared online of attacks are known as 'Patterning' and are created in order to humiliate or embarrass the victim. Furthermore, children and young people regularly exposed to violent online content will become desensitised to it.

The murder of Olly Stephens was a tragic and shocking one and everyone can play a part in reducing the likelihood of a similar incident happening again. From students sharing a worry or concern with a parent, trusted adult or member of Reading's Safeguarding Team to parents and carers speaking with their children at home and monitoring their online presence.

We would recommend parents and carers visiting [NSPCC's social media page](#) which provides information about the benefits and risks of social media, along with tips to support children and young people staying safe. We would also recommend the [following website](#) which contains advice and practical tips to support children and young people by age range.

We have built a [culture of safeguarding](#) at Reading School to ensure the [safety and wellbeing](#) of all our students and staff. Our pastoral and student support teams also work hard to provide an exceptional level of care and our students are regularly reminded of how to raise a concern and who they can go to in order to do this.

Safeguarding is at the heart of Reading School and we would like to continue working alongside our parents and carers in order to keep our community a safe one.

School closure

As previously advised during a February issue of the Bulletin, the school will be closed on Friday 1 July. The DfE amended the Education (School Day and School Year) Regulations to reduce the school year 2021/22 in order to allow schools to close on a chosen day. As the additional bank holiday during The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations fell during half-term, we identified Friday 1 July 2022 as the additional day off.

Excellence, Integrity, Leadership & Community

Excellence - creative writing



The Wordsmiths Guild was formed in 2022 to bring together writers from across the school. The group meet weekly during Thursday lunchtimes to discuss, write, edit, share recent pieces of work and to get inspiration for their creations through various writing games. This week we had the privilege of welcoming Writer-In-Residence, Will Burns, who ran an afternoon workshop for some of The Wordsmiths' Guild writers. The students were guided through the creation and development of original characters, description of real and imagined settings, and being given the opportunity to write some poetry which explored ideas of belonging.

Why? by Ojas M

Questions, answers,
Are things we say everyday.
The art of questioning,
Asking why,
Can make every being very wise.

You are brave if you can ask why,
You are not pressured by the wrath of peers.
You show that you have freedom,
And not bend over to rules that are evil.

Remember this throughout your life,
It doesn't mean you are weak,
If you ask why.
The art to question,
Your right to ask why,
Will save you from what's not right

*

Be by Tom C

To be or not to be?
That is not the question.
Questioning why one is and why one does.

What is it to be?
How should one be?
Should we be asking questions?

That depends on what you do.
Not what you will be,
But what you do now.

This very moment will be gone soon.
As I pass through the day, I think,
"How should I be now?"

Losing time all the time;
Spending too much time
On how to be and not being.

Taking one's chances,
We live in the now.
Carpe diem!

But be cautious.
Plan little but plan well -
Even ask questions.

Enjoy being!
Enjoy the current moment!
Enjoy life!

*

So by Henry R

So many people will leave a sentence hanging,
A new English has stretched old into half the words,
Gossip is just "he said", "she said",
So what, if you haven't heard,
That it's been so long since "he did", "she did",
Had so much time to think this through,
Have you thought about what "he did", "she did",
We had old English shortened to new,
So?

Excellence - internal exams

Well done to Aryan H (10W) in his recent internal end of year Physics exam. His answer was highlighted by his teacher for evidencing clarity of understanding and attention to detail while offering a comprehensive answer to a complex question. Full marks were awarded for his answer.

19

- measure spring constants
- limit of proportionality - when to stop
- Hooke's Law

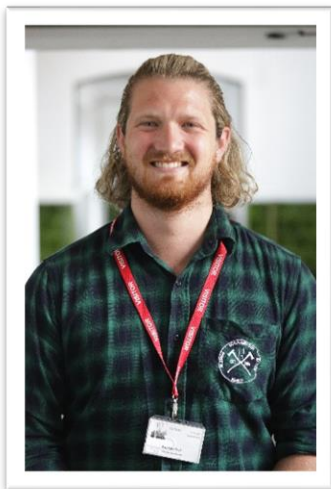
Describe and explain the behaviour of spring A and spring B.

Use data from the graph and calculations in your answer.

Spring A and B follow Hooke's Law, which is that the force on a spring is directly proportional to the extension. The spring constant is the extent to which a force is required to extend the spring by 1 metre. For Spring A, this is:
 $5 \div 0.2 = 25 \text{ N/m}$ calculated using force/extension = spring constant. This results in a steep gradient because it is a high spring constant and a higher force is required to stretch the spring. For Spring B, the spring constant is 12.5 N/m , calculated in the same way. This means there is a less force required to stretch the spring than Spring A, resulting in a less steep gradient. However, the spring constant can only be followed as long as Hooke's Law applies, and after a certain point (0.2m for Spring A and 0.32m for Spring B) the limit of proportionality is crossed. This means that as the spring is stretched, if the force is released, the spring does not completely return to its original point of extension at various extents. This is where, in the graph, the lines have curved and extension increases faster than force.

Community

Visit by Alex Mortlock OR (2003-2010)



This Monday 20th June saw Old Redingensian, Alex Mortlock visit the school in order to speak with a Year 8 class about his experiences since leaving Reading School. Alex currently lives and works as a safety officer at Whistler Blackcomb, a ski resort located in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada.

Mountain related non-fiction literature is currently the focus for Year 8 and this was a valuable opportunity for the class to hear from an OR whose professional experience has included mountain rescue. Alex's talk enhanced the students' understanding of their texts by presenting them with the practicalities of real-life scenarios, how to keep safe in risky situations and even how to consider a similar career within the industry.

We warmly welcome visits and contributions from our alumni and parent communities, especially the sharing of professional and real-world experience. If you would like to find out more about visiting and sharing your experience, please email communications@reading-school.co.uk.

Computer Science

A puzzle for our Computer Science community or for those who relish a challenge. Have a go at decoding the message below (the answer will follow in next week's Bulletin).

Compression codes

Repeatedly replace the characters in the following compressed messages by those from the corresponding codebook (the characters between the square brackets) to reveal a computing quotation and a poem credited to Augustus De Morgan, the great mathematician and tutor of 'first programmer' Ada Lovelace.

Message a

76FB5D
7CCCF0B9D

Codebook a

0 [...]
1 [,]
2 [aim]
3 [approach]
4 [development).]
5 [fast]
6 [fire,]
7 [Ready,]
8 [software]
9 [slow]
A [to]
B [(the]
C [21]
D [3A84]
E []
F [2E]

Message b

9JI
D8CA
37 JI
35AE

369IB
K40F8A
G6HK41A
341A 35 8.

Codebook b

0 [fleas]
1 [still]
2 [have]
3 [and]
4 [greater]
5 [so]
6 [those]
7 [lesser]
8 [on]
9 [great]
A [,]
B [themselvesA in turnA]
C [their backs to bite 'em]
D [up]
E [ad infinitum.]
F [to go]
G [while]
H [again]
I [0A]
J [0 K7]
K [2]

Cricket Net Campaign 2022

Please take a moment to watch our video which explains the importance of cricket at Reading School and contains a lovely contribution from the PE Department.



If you are able to spare a contribution towards this campaign, please click on the link below and don't forget to add gift aid if you are able to, as it significantly increased the amount raised.

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

The Great Reading Bake Sale

Thursday's bake sale was a huge success and raised a fantastic £500 towards the cricket net campaign. Well done to Milan G and all the boys who helped organise this student initiative. There were some incredible entries. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed.

Leaver BBQ Uniform & Textbook Donations

The RSPA will be in attendance at the Year 13 Leaver's BBQ on Wednesday 29th June running the bar. We would like to kindly request your donation of school uniform and A' level text books and revision guides. If you still have some GCSE books and revision guides we would love to have them as well.

Have a lovely weekend

The RSPA Team

Summer Term – Week 9

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



The Great Reading School Bake Off (raising funds for new cricket nets)





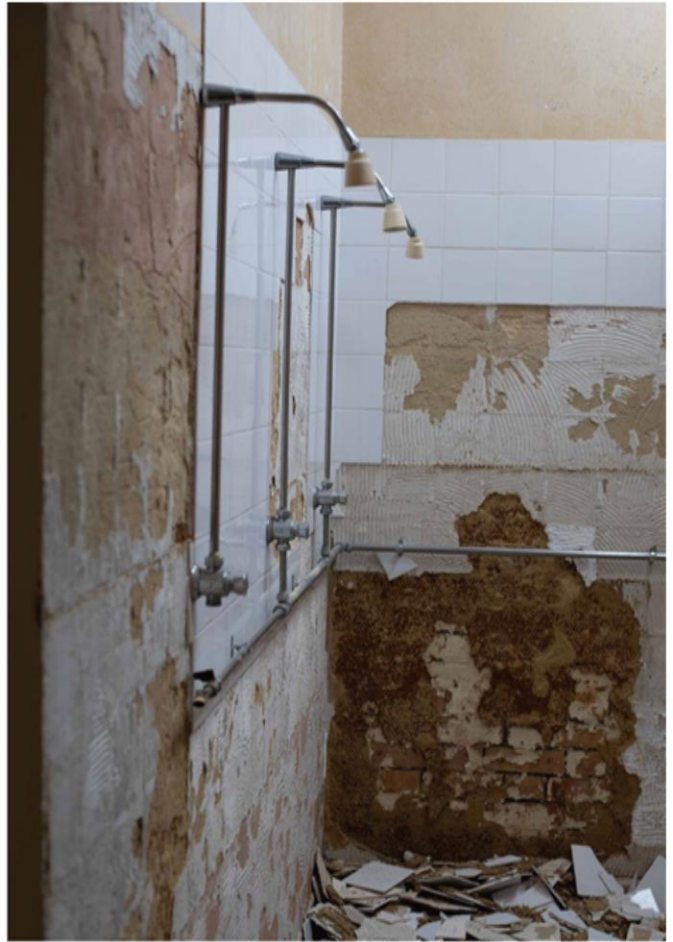




The judging became incredibly hard due to the quality of the cakes being tasted, which led to Writer in Residence, Will Burns having to come and adjudicate.

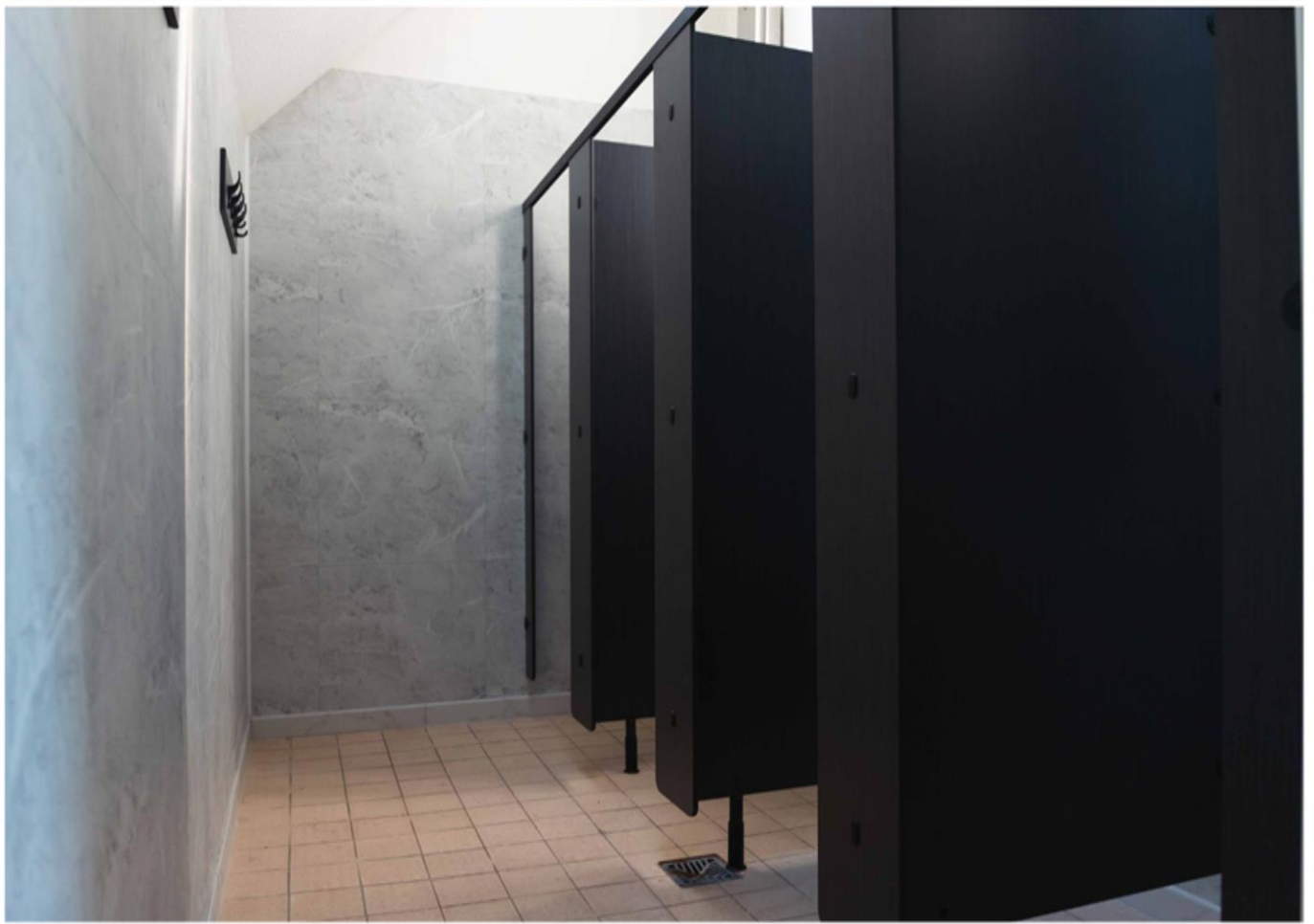
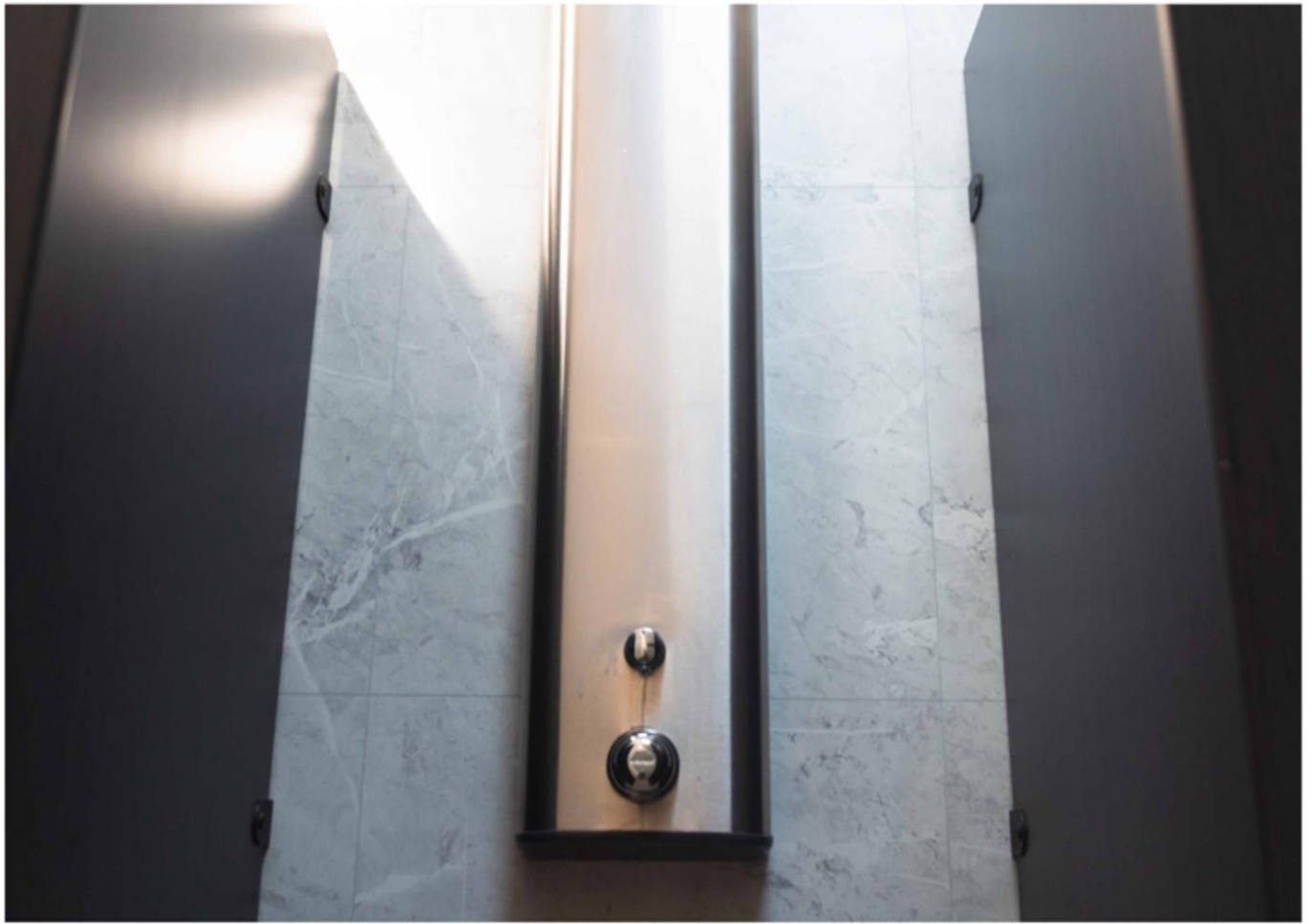


The Keeton Pavilion during refurbishment



The Keeton Pavilion after refurbishment





The Reading School First Team (1877) in front of the Pavilion.

Those shown are thought to be (left to right) (1) not known; (2) A Stehn; (3) C W Tribe; (4) not known; (5) H F Easton; (6) H R Stokoe; (7) not known; (8) T Hall; (9) R D Proud



The Reading School First Team (2022) in front of the Pavilion.

From (left to right) (1) Siddarth S (12W); (2) Jamie G (12C); (3) Adityaraj S (11S); (4) Rahul G (12L); (5) Aditya K (12S); (6) Veer P (12L); (7) Aarav S (12C); (8) Anirudh U D (10L) and (9) Yuvraj D (10W)

MCC vs Reading School

"The game between Reading School and MCC was our most awaited fixture this season. Mr. Robertson, our coach, arranged the match to uphold this age-old tradition and test the team's ability by putting us up against some of the best players from MCC.

We had a solid bowling performance, notably Rahul's 4 wickets and Yuvraj's 3 wickets, and a mighty effort from our batsmen, including Anirudh's 69 runs which saw us primed for a win but unfortunately the MCC prevailed as the day's play ended. Picking our wicket in the last over of the day, meant Reading School lost by just 26 runs, with 5 balls to try and survive.

The day, from start to the end, was thoroughly enjoyable and it was great to see so many teachers and students come and support us. Ultimately, playing a timed test match against such a prestigious club was a memory that the team will never forget. We all want to thank Mr. Robertson for arranging so many fixtures this summer and wish future first team's good luck in future matches between Reading School vs MCC." Captain of First Team Cricket, Jai G (12W)









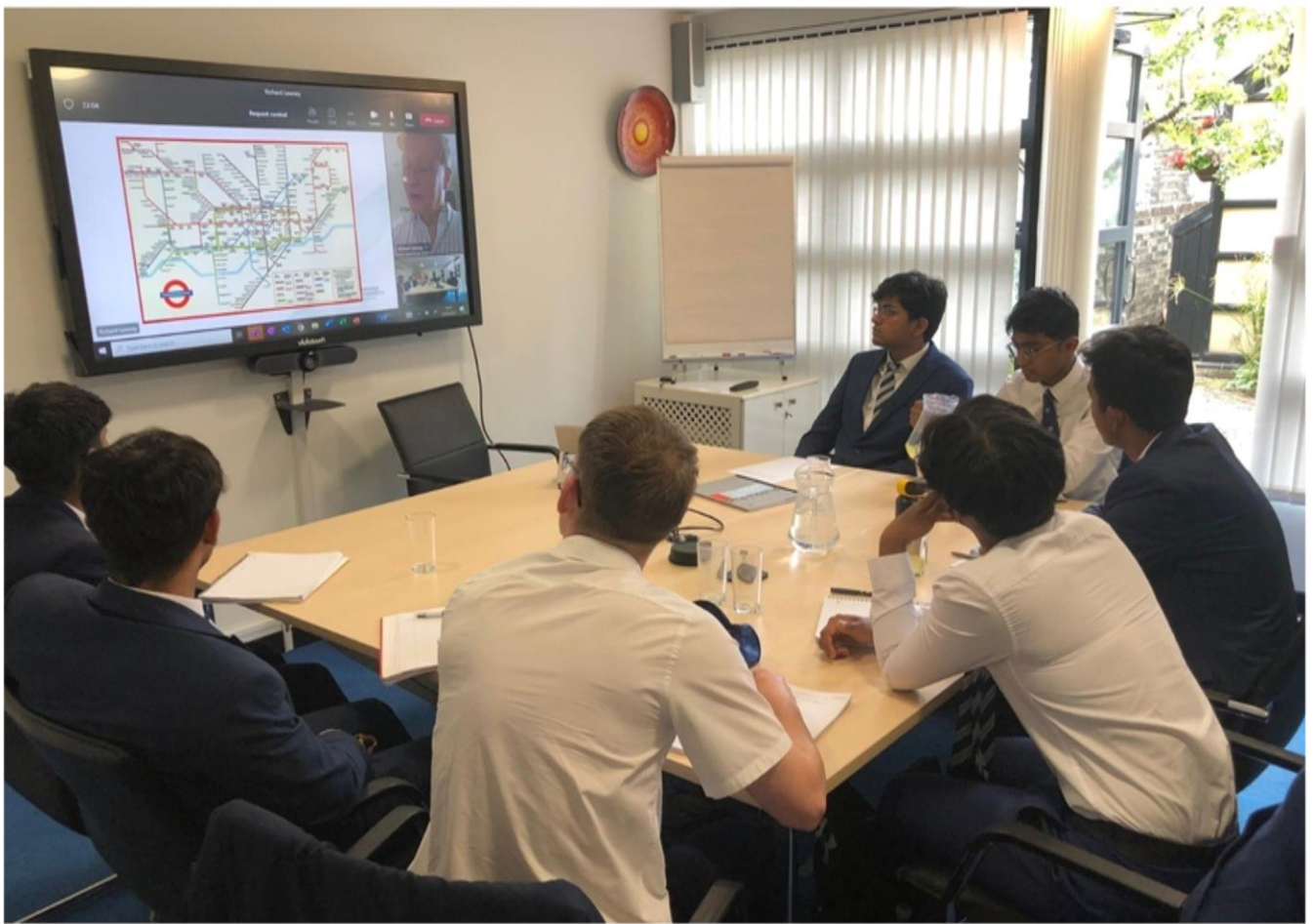




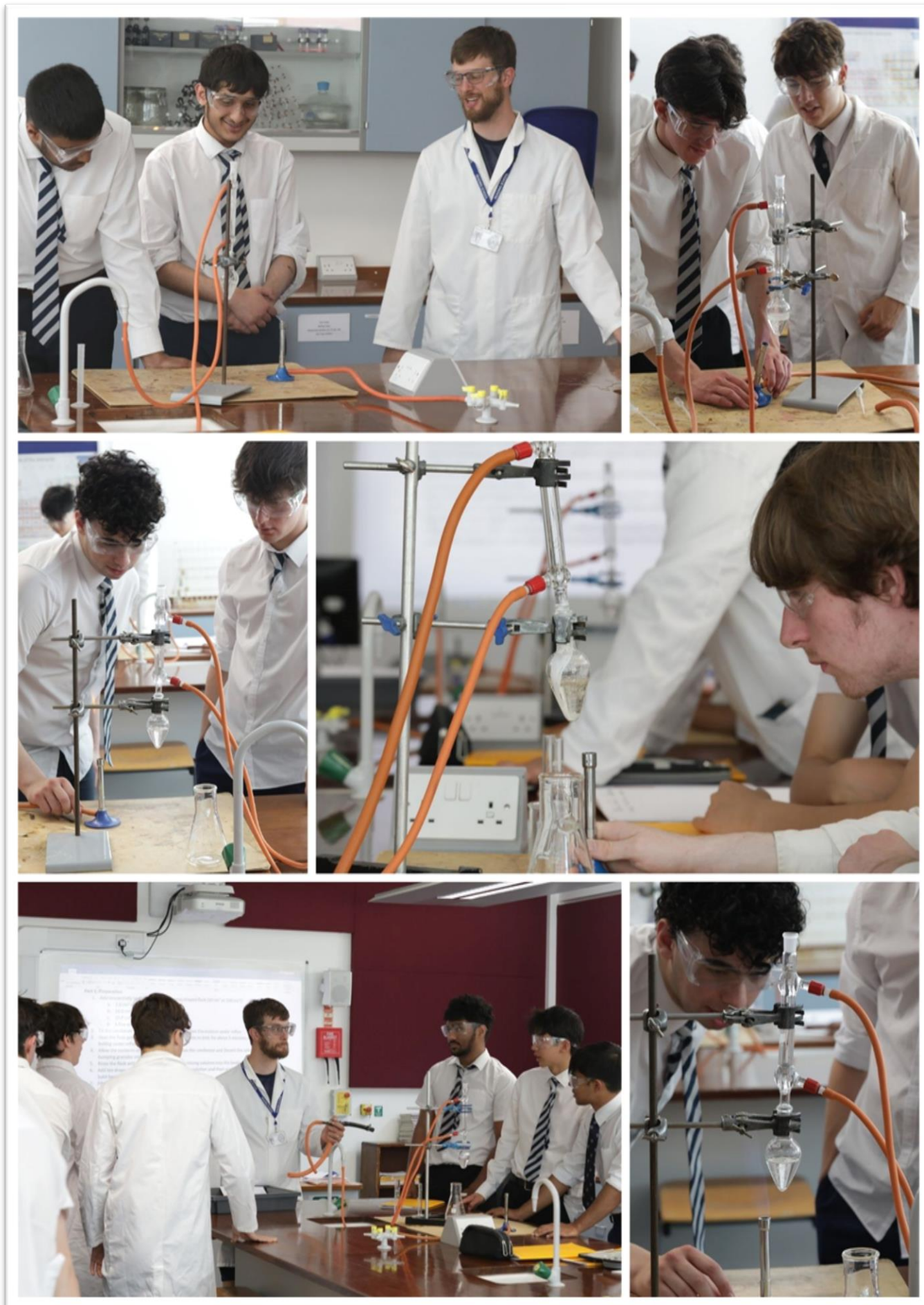
On Thursday 23 June, a group of A Level Economics students led by Teacher of Economics, Mr T Flowerdew, were kindly hosted by Cambridge Econometrics for the day. The students were given the opportunity to participate in a range of talks and workshops, providing them with insight into what it is like to pursue a career as an economist and the important role played by economists in supporting decision-makers to understand complex problems and find effective solutions. Students also heard about how economics is applied to the important topic of climate change, and were given the opportunity to shadow economists during their working day.







Year 12 Chemistry students completing an assessed practical by synthesising benzoic acid from methyl benzoate using a reflux setup. Benzoic acid is an important material in industrial chemistry and occurs naturally in many plants.





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