



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

08 JULY 2022

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# Introduction

As we move towards the end of the 2021-2022 Academic Year it is fitting to review our progress and celebrate how our students are flourishing. Furthermore, it is also an opportunity to look forward and consider how we can continue to champion high performance and excellence with compassion. In awarding the prestigious Kitemark plus, the Association for Character Education emphasised 'Reading School's exemplary and inspirational commitment to values-led character education for all.' The award should act as a catalyst for further improvement and provide an impetus for further opportunities for staff and students to flourish. The award is a validation of the inspirational leadership of Tom Evans (Assistant Head Personal Development), Ben Miller (Head of Philosophy and Theology) and Mr Bob Kenwick (Chair of Governors), along with recognition that our approach is a team effort which has produced what the assessor, Mr Gary Lewis, termed 'A heady mix of the theoretical and the practical which characterises an inspirational approach.'

As the Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin is simplified to incorporate an emphasis on Academic Excellence, Belonging and Community, some key aspects of proposed priorities for 2022-2023 are shared with the Reading School community below.

## **Academic Excellence**

Reading School continues to prioritise a holistic approach to education, the Reading Way, that values academic and character excellence, ensuring the development of a sound mind and a sound body. The importance of developing scholarship and independent learning should be emphasised in all subject areas, in line with our focus on 'Learn, Lead, Serve.' The prize giving events scheduled for next week exemplify how we value academic, character and sporting excellence.

## **Admissions**

Reading School continues to prioritise students from disadvantaged backgrounds through commitment to the levelling up goals architecture (Dec 2022).

## **Belonging and Boarding**

The concept and reality of Belonging be strengthened further through:

- Belonging Week (June 2023),
- Reading Week (October 2022), and
- Review of Boarding best practice linked to NMS (September 2022)
- Celebration of belonging through 'Grand Reunion' Alumni events coordinated by the Society Office working towards the 900th anniversary of the founding of Reading School.

## **Cultural Capital and Character Leadership**

The development of cultural capital and character is prioritised so that all students, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, are afforded opportunities to develop character, shaped by the findings of the Cummins Review and the National Character Association Kitemark scheme criteria. (October 2022). This is to include characterful leadership in the Sixth Form.

## **Commitment, Compassion and Community**

The Klitschko programme will be developed further, linked to the Future Stories International funding stream provided by the Reading Foundation. (December 2022)

Further, the positive influence and impact of parents and different generations of families associated with the Reading School community must be acknowledged. The leadership of Miss Lizzie Ayres in this respect is especially worthy of note.

In addition, the strategic direction of Reading School should be explicitly reconsidered with particular focus on the development of a Parenting Engagement one-year programme, a plan for the development of community relations and partnerships, as exemplified by our emerging local partnerships with Berkshire Vision (and the Royal Berkshire Hospital) should be a key feature of a refreshed emphasis on place and relationships (December 2022) and a refreshed Strategic Development Plan 2023-2027, (July 2023).

**Mr AM Robson**

**Headmaster**

# Key information

## All years

### End of Term Arrangements

In preparation for the end of Summer Term 2022 on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July**, please see the timetable below:

<b>08:20</b>	Lesson 1				
<b>09:10</b>	Lesson 2				
<b>10:00</b>	Lesson 3				
<b>10:45</b>	<b>West Chapel</b>	Break	Tutor time	Tutor Time	Break
<b>11:05</b>	Tutor Time	<b>School Chapel</b>	Tutor time	Tutor Time	Break
<b>11:20</b>	Tutor Time	Tutor Time	<b>Laud Chapel</b>	Break	Tutor Time
<b>11:40</b>	Break	Tutor Time	Break	<b>East Chapel</b>	Tutor Time
<b>12:00</b>	Depart	Depart	Depart	Depart	<b>County House</b>
<b>12:20</b>					Depart

Refreshments will be served for staff in the Common Room from 12:00 with Staff Goodbyes scheduled at 12:20.

### Early Closure – Thursday 14 July 2022

Due to the Senior Prize Giving event taking place on Thursday 14 July, there will be an early closure for all students with school finishing at 1.30pm (Tutor Time). Hot food via “Grab and Go” will be available for students between break time at 11am, including a selection of sandwiches. Parents of younger students may wish to change their childcare arrangements.

Horseman Coaches have been notified of the change, and students who use this bus service can travel home at the earlier time of 13.35pm.

Boarders who are not involved in the Prize Giving Ceremony will be supervised for the remainder of the day.

### End of term staff gratitude

Why not share your thanks for any member of staff at Reading School towards the end this academic year?

Has a staff member at Reading School made your life easier during this term? Have they taught you something inspiring? Shared some words of wisdom? Made you smile? Can you think of someone who has been positive, helpful or kind? Has there been a staff member who has been supportive through a tough time or helped you to navigate a difficult situation?

Please use [this form](#) to share your praise with a member of staff at Reading School. The Senior Leadership Team would love to hear of even the smallest act, so we can recognise and thank them, via an email using information you provide.

## Year 13 only

### University Admission Tests 2022

Cambridge Assessment have announced revised dates for the University admission tests in Autumn 2022. This affects some Year 13s, particularly those applying to study Medicine, or applying to Oxford/Cambridge University. The exams will be held at school, and students will be asked to register in September.

- BMAT and TMUA – 18th October
- University of Cambridge pre-interview assessments – 19th October
- University of Oxford admission tests – 2nd November (reading week)



# Excellence, Belonging & Community

## Excellence

### Reframing Pain

Mrs J Pickering, Teacher of Biology, EPQ & Medical School Applications Coordinator led eleven Year 12 students who all attended the 'Reframe Pain' Conference, hosted at Queen Anne's School earlier this term. The conference welcomed aspiring healthcare professionals who got to hear about new advances and the complexities of pain medicine and the latest physiotherapy, psychology and neuroscience research.

As part of the conference, a challenge was shared with all attending schools, which included Edgbarrow School, Leighton Park School, Queen Anne's School, Alton School and Kendrick School. Students were challenged to create and submit a creative form of media to help communicate the best pain management techniques aimed at patients and first prize was awarded to Padmanaban A (12W) for his informative and engaging animation which can be viewed by clicking the thumbnail below.



### Character Education



*School of*  
**CHARACTER**

Our school has been on a journey that has seen our values and ethos being made explicit and shared with the whole school community in order to develop and strengthen good character in young people. Our collective efforts have led to Reading School being awarded the ACE Kitemark Plus Award following a visit this week by Gary Lewis and Carole Black from the [Association for Character Education](#). Gary and Carole spent a day observing

all aspects of our school's character education provision and meeting with students and staff to discuss the work that goes on in promoting character development along with investigating what this looks like. Gary and Carole met with staff and students as well as spending time in lessons and observing our future stories program.

We are very pleased to announce that Reading School has been awarded the 'Character Education Kitemark Plus'. This accreditation is awarded by the Association for Character Education to schools that take an explicit, planned and reflective approach to the cultivation of positive character in their pupils, in the interest of creating well-rounded individuals. The award, which considers the culture, ethos and practical examples of character development across the school, has been developed in response to growing recognition of the role of character education in successful schools. It is therefore indicative of the huge breadth of academic and co-curricular opportunities that Reading School offers its students and the enthusiasm and hard work of all Reading School staff in cultivating a thriving school community in which our students can flourish.

The School of Character Kitemark is a quality mark of the educational charity Association for Character Education (ACE), first established in 2015 to respond to the growing interest in character education in Britain. It was established by a group of well-known head-teachers, academics and other educationalists who recognised the desire of many schools to enhance their character education provision.

## Excellence in the Community



Our partnership work has included recent efforts to build stronger links with the University of Reading and this has seen guest lecturer, Professor James Reade present his 'The Economics of Sport' lecture to Year 12 Economics students in June. Furthermore, we also supported the [Reading Community Cup](#), a charity football event organised by the University of Reading to celebrate [Refugee Week 2022](#). Our student, Prabhav B (10W) attended the event in order to put his photographic skills to use and he shared:

*"The event was definitely worth a Saturday morning of work. Thoroughly enjoyed being there. The players asked whether I do photography full time and was pretty funny considering they didn't seem to understand I was 15 and doing this as volunteering! Getting to do volunteering work at the University of Reading was an incredibly satisfying and fulfilling experience - even more so because photography, being at community events and working with people, are things I've always enjoyed doing."*

*I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working with other photographers, players, and event organizers to capture and take photos of the support shown for the Reading Refugee Support Group. I enjoyed the experience of volunteering immensely, and I'll be looking out for future opportunities."*



Molli Cleaver, Community Relations Manager at the University said, *"He was absolutely awesome, such an amazing reflection on the school and the type of men you are sending out into the world."*

Well done Prabhav on evidencing what volunteering can offer, for representing the school and making a valuable contribution within the local community.

## Correction

In the Headmaster's Bulletin dated 24<sup>th</sup> June, an example of Student Excellence in relation to an internal Physics exam was credited to Aryan H (10W). This was in error and thank you to Aryan H for pointing this out.

The credit for the exemplary answer to the Physics exam question should go to Aadityan S (10S).

## Belonging & Community

### Making an impact

#### Future Stories



Future Stories is our school's social mobility project which works in partnership with local primary schools and the community, to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Recognised as a Finalist in the [UK Social Mobility Awards](#), over the past 12 months our Future Stories programme has improved, developed and expanded so it benefits more children and young people, while levelling the playing field for those from lower-income families. We wanted to celebrate some of the achievements of the past year along with celebrate the contribution of our inspirational team of students and staff who give up their time to serve our local community in a powerful and meaningful way.

#### Future Stories - Mentoring

Our Maths mentoring program has developed in scope and is now supported by schools who bring young students to Reading School on a weekly basis to take part in developmental mentoring sessions. This year, over 60 of our sixth form students have delivered weekly mentoring sessions in Maths and English to disadvantaged students in Years 4, 5 and 6 who all attend primary schools in our local community that we have partnered with. The sessions focus on Maths but are also catalysts for improving the self-esteem of primary school students. In addition to improving their level of attainment in Maths, students are also more positive and engaged in their learning and more confident in their problem-solving skills.



Thank you to the following students and staff for their hard work, time and commitment.

Student mentoring team: Alec L, Hashim I, Nirbhay K, Ahmad S, Karthik D, Abu-Bakr A, Mayank M, Liou Y, Imaad R, Jinseo A, Dylan S, Aarav S, Gautham K, Joshua C, Siddarth S, Lily H, Christopher X, Rahul G, Hayden Y, Padmanaban A, Ved C, Soumil M, Rishi D, Zachary A, Rishabh L, Dylan C, Jonathan C, Rohan D, Daniel T, Arjun S, Harsha K, Srikar N, Shivansh P, Jack J, Aniket K, Bhargav G, Saumil S, Aryan B, Shubham K, Yuvraj G, Abhishek P, Thomas G, Umar A, Chris P, Omar A, Francis C, Harvey Z, Sohan C, Ryan L, Ciaran M, Finn T, Alfio B, Jae-Young C, Jacky C, Emad R, Benjamin D, Oskar V K, Jacob H, Eashan B, Joe H, Dhroov P, Vaibhav M, Omar A, Joshua O and Ewan A L.

Student resource planning team: Rovi H, Rishi D, Nirbhay K, Saumith P, Rishabh L, Joshua K-A, Roshan P, Dhroov P, Surendra R, Vaibhav M, Umar A, Omar A, Arvind A and Archie T.

Thanks particularly to Mrs C Heston for leading the mentoring programs and also to Mr T Evans, Mrs P Hickman, Miss G Pravda, Ms J Postlethwaite, Mr O Thomas and Mrs S Parker.

## Future Stories - Science and Me



We also piloted a science program this summer in partnership with [Johnson Matthey](#) which saw over 200 primary school students, who may face barriers to participating in science, taking part in STEM sessions. The collaboration contributed to transforming how young people engage with science-related subjects so that inspiration and attitudes could be shaped.

Thanks again to the student mentors in Year 10, and to Mr O Thomas for leading the delivery of this program (click the thumbnail to view the video).

## Future Stories - Sports Programs

Over the course of this term's Belonging Week, we also ran a series of sporting sessions, tournaments and competitions at Reading School and within local primary schools.

We are looking forward to expanding these programs in 2023 and thanks to Mr S Allen, Mr M Kearle and Mr A Robertson for leading these exciting programmes that create leadership opportunities for our students as well as inspiring younger students through their participation.



Future Stories also contributed to a program led by The Cowshed, Care4Calais and 52 Lives which saw families seeking asylum being supported during the May half term. Thank you to Mr K Luteijn and Mr T Casemore for leading this and to all the students that willingly gave up their time during their holidays.

During August this year, the Future Stories Summer Camp will take place on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st August. This 2-day summer camp will support disadvantaged Year 5 students with their preparation for the Reading School entrance exam. Activities will include opportunities to develop skills in confidence, leadership and team work and the camp will be led by Mrs C Heston and Mrs P Hickman. Sessions will be run by Reading School sixth form students and staff.

## Partnerships within our local community



**Berkshire  
Vision**  
Supporting The  
Visually Impaired

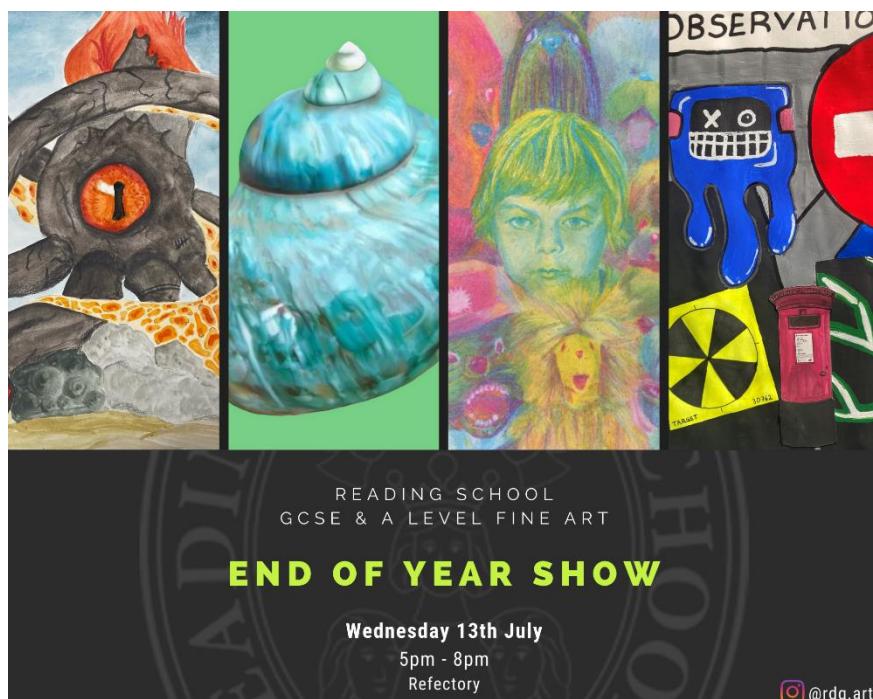
As part of our ongoing work in partnering with local organisations within our community, we hosted an art exhibition this week organised by Berkshire Vision, a charity established in 1910 in order to provide support for visually impaired children and adults. The charity, based opposite our school on Erleigh Road offers a range of support including social activities, a befriending service, adapted sports, employability services and remote activities.

The art exhibition offered an opportunity for Berkshire Vision members to share and talk about their experiences of creating art with limited vision, along with helping to change perceptions of sight loss. The French Impressionist artist, Edgar Degas said, *"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see"* and we hope this is the first of many events that we can support our new partners with in order to contribute to a sense of belonging, community and possibility.



## GCSE & A Level Art Exhibition - Wednesday 13th July

Members of the school community are warmly invited to an exhibition of artwork by our GCSE and A Level Fine Art candidates. Work will be shown in the Refectory from 5pm – 8pm, with refreshments provided. Please drop in and see some wonderful examples of individual excellence, creativity, and self-expression.



## Summer Activities

### Boxing Camp



We are pleased to share an opportunity for our students during the summer, with our partner Impact Boxing who run our school Boxing program and sessions.

If you would like to know more please click the thumbnail or [this link](#) for more information.

Free places are available for students in receipt of Pupil Premium: please contact [tevens@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:tevens@reading-school.co.uk) for a promotional code to be used when booking.

### Kickboxing

STMA (Shaolin Tigers Martial Arts) Academy Reading are offering a 20% discount for their young people friendly classes. The academy is part of the British & International Kickboxing and Martial Arts Association, is open seven days a week and all ages and abilities are welcome. For more information, please visit [www.shaolintigersacademyreading.co.uk](http://www.shaolintigersacademyreading.co.uk)



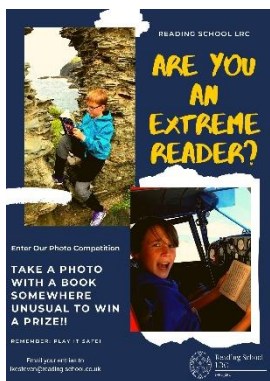
### Summer Reading

LRC books can be borrowed over the summer. Books borrowed or renewed during the last week of term will be due back on the 6th of September. Year 12 pupils can use this opportunity to read around their subject for their UCAS applications.

### Ebooks and Audiobooks

We are delighted to be able to offer your child access to ebooks and audiobooks 24/7 over the summer. VLeBooks provides access to fiction and non-fiction and can be accessed by your child here [www.vlebooks.com](http://www.vlebooks.com) using their school Office 365 login. Wheeler's ePlatform provides access to fiction ebooks and audiobooks and can be accessed by your child here <https://readingschool.eplatform.co> using their school Office 365 login.

### Extreme Reading Photo Competition



Our much-loved Extreme Reading Photo Competition is back! We would like to challenge your child to take a photo reading in an unusual location during the summer break.

Entries should be emailed to Mrs Kesteven by the 6th of September [kesteven@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:kesteven@reading-school.co.uk)

### The Reading School Book Award 2022

Are you looking for inspiration? You could try one of these books. Copies are available in the LRC.

Shortlist:

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

The whole school will vote for their favourite book after the summer holidays

# RSPA

## Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be open in the summer holidays on the following dates:

Saturday 6th August 10.30am to 12.30pm

Saturday 27th August 10.30am to 12.30pm

## Donations Needed

We are urgently in need of the following:

- Ties
- Science safety goggles
- Macron kit

We would also welcome any good quality blazers, trainers, boots and revision books.

Donations can be dropped into Student Services anytime during the school day in a bag marked Uniform Shop, or brought to a Uniform Shop opening.

We will be collecting donations of Y7-11 uniform, games kit, revision books and other school items on GCSE and A Level results day. No black suits please.

## Cricket Net Campaign

This week saw another tremendous set of cricket results across Years 7-10. There were 3 wins out of 4 fixtures in the league. The pupils all displayed great form and skill in their play.

We would really like to give them all the best opportunity possible next year with the introduction of the new cricket nets. The nets will allow the PE department to vastly improve the quality of cricket education.

On behalf of the RSPA and PE Department we kindly request that you make any donation you are able to via our Just Giving Page. If you are eligible please also tick the gift aid option which significantly increases your donation.

The campaign is closing on **Thursday 14th July**.

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

With many thanks.

RSPA & the PE Department

## Summer Term – Week 10

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



Winner of first prize of the 'Reframe Pain Challenge' Padmanaban A (12W)





Reading School is awarded the Association for Character Education's Kitemark Plus Award.

(From left to right) Assistant Head Mr T Evans, Head of Theology & Philosophy Mr B Miller, Chair of the Association for Character Education, Deputy Head of Dr Challoner's Grammar School and Member of the ACE Ms Carole Black, Chair of Governors Mr B Kenwick and Headmaster Mr A Robson.



# *School of* **CHARACTER**



## Grandparents Day 2022

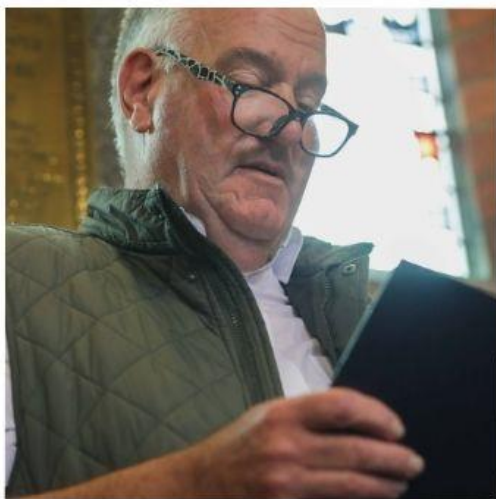
Reading School welcomed over 65 relatives with over 30 Year 7s, to experience three hours of lessons, alongside live music, supporting House Cricket and the Deputy Head's address in Chapel all with the support of 40 wonderful Year 10 Ambassadors.

A very big thank you to all staff and students for making this such a memorable and enjoyable day for all involved.



*"I would like to offer a huge vote of thanks to you and all of Reading School - staff and pupils - for a totally memorable and inspiring day last Monday. It exceeded all possible expectations and I had a wonderful time."*



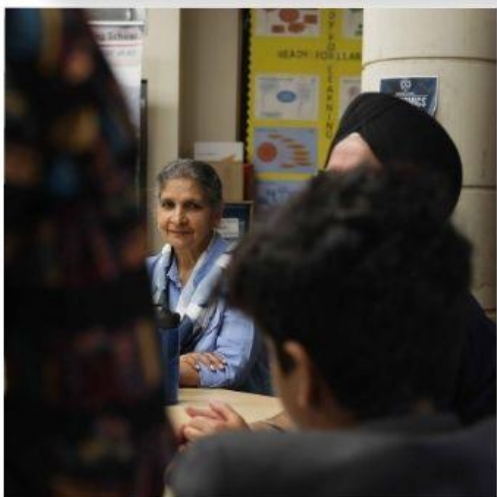


*"I would like to offer a huge vote of thanks to you and all of Reading School - staff and pupils - for a totally memorable and inspiring day last Monday. It exceeded all possible expectations and I had a wonderful time. I had been concerned - before B started at your school - that it would be an academic hot-house, totally focussed on exam results, where pupils who were struggling would be left behind and abandoned. I was delighted to learn that this is by no means the case.*

*My favourite phrase of the day was the Deputy Headmaster's, in his closing address: "these boys are not just brains on legs". That ethos of caring, comradeship, thoughtfulness and support permeated the atmosphere throughout the school and was evident in the way everyone - again, staff and pupils - interacted with each other. The Year 10 ambassadors for our group were a case in point. They were delightful. Completely self-confident and self-assured, without being in the least bit arrogant. They were friendly and helpful and talked to all of us, and seemed genuinely concerned that we had had a good day. A credit to the school.*

*I am grateful for all the time and effort and planning that went in to the day. A triumph!"*





*"I wanted to say a huge thank you to you personally for what you did for our family today. C and I had a brilliant day and I feel privileged to have had the chance to participate."*

*Everyone was so kind and welcoming to us and it honestly feels like we are part of the school community. The lessons were well planned, inclusive and fun and the timings gave us enough time to get around and enjoy the grounds. The general school atmosphere was buzzing including the house cricket and the year 10s were excellent ambassadors. They showed knowledge, compassion and understanding in a mature and welcoming way. They acted as though they wanted to do this as opposed to having been forced to.*

*The music welcome in the refectory was lovely as was the pupil playing the organ and the pupil led PE lesson where the knowledge and enthusiasm of the boys was fantastic. Again they were receptive to the audience and our needs or restrictions and adaptable to assist and encourage where possible. The boys assisting in chemistry were again supportive and knowledgeable and entered into the spirit with the costumes. It was great fun using the microscopes with the boys and being able to see more about what they have been learning."*



### Year 10 Geography Field Trip to Margam, South Wales

From Sunday 3rd – Wednesday 6th July, 99 year 10 students visited the Margam Discovery Centre situated in the beautiful Margam Park near Port Talbot to undertake their GCSE Geography fieldwork. Over the four days, the students visited the Cardiff Bay regeneration and travelled the length of the River Ogmore to undertake two geographical enquiries. At the river sample sites all the students got stuck in wandering about the river in their wellies collecting data such as velocity and sediment size. In Cardiff Bay they worked in groups to carry out an environmental quality survey and questionnaires with members of the public.

The students represented the school impeccably and overall, the trip was a great success thoroughly enjoyed by all.













(From left to right) Teacher of Physics and Maths Mr C L Brown, Teacher of Geography Mr K Luteijn, Assistant Head and Teacher of Geography Mr G Fairchild, Teacher of Mathematics Ms M Hooker, Teacher of Geography Mr J Ginger and Student Support, Future Stories & Staff Wellbeing Officer Ms G Pravda.

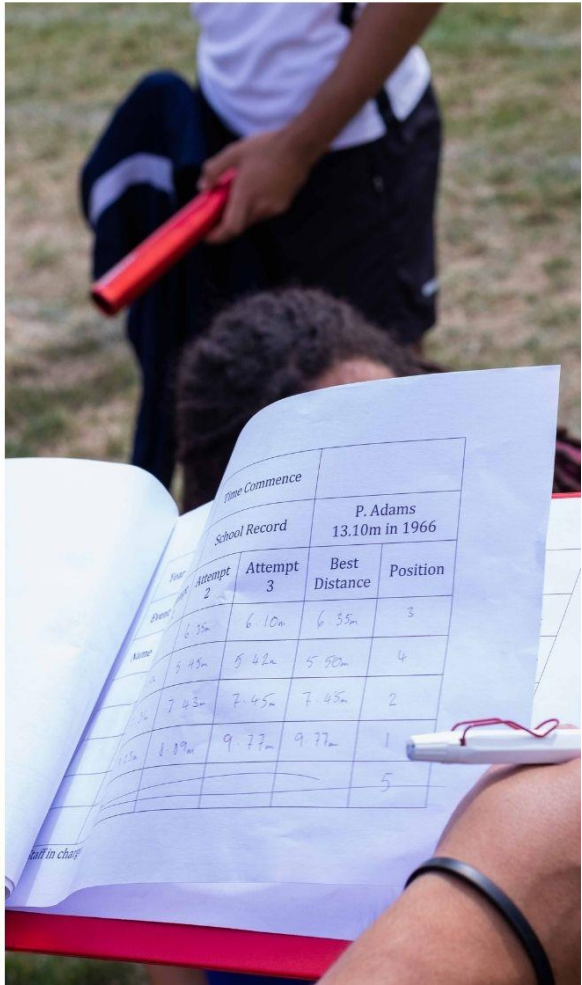




## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Sports Day













### **Berkshire Vision Art Exhibition in partnership with Reading School**

*“There were two boys from your school who came and chatted to me about my art and my sight loss. They were interested and polite, engaged and encouraging. They were probably year 7 or 8 and I wanted to let you know how impressed I was with them.” Artist, Emma Majors*













## Year 10 House Cricket Competition















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](mailto:communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk)