



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

15 JULY 2022

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Introduction

The last edition of the Headmaster's Bulletin for the current academic year presents an opportunity to wish you all a safe summer holiday.

Thank you for all your support throughout the year, it has been much appreciated.

The last week has seen a plethora of events that have illustrated our commitment to building a sense of belonging and community.

For instance, the Grand Reunion 2022 event on Saturday and the Mike Evans Memorial Service, followed by a T20 Cricket Match in his memory, has been complemented by the Senior Prize Giving celebrations for the Classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022. This was in addition to the very successful Junior Prize Giving event this week. My sincere gratitude goes to all staff, governors and parents involved in making these events possible. Furthermore, the refreshed Sports Awards, hosted on the School Field saw an audience of over 650 enjoy a celebration of sporting commitment. Well done to all those who took part.

It was a celebration of teamwork, a celebration of commitment and a celebration of belonging. Thank you to Steve Allen, Amy Coates, the Society Office and the Coaching team for the organisation. An especial thank you to the superb support of parents and students. An audience of over 630 ensured that there was a positive, sporting festival atmosphere to the celebration. It was also helped by the provision of drinks and refreshments courtesy of the RSPA and our wonderful catering team.

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Society Office and the Community Relations Office for their work in relationship and partnership building in 2021-2022. The work of Jas Chhokkar, Piatrice Hutchinson, Chris Harty Dal Singh and Jamal Springer-Lynch is much appreciated. One of our priorities for 2022-2023 is to build even stronger relationships and partnerships locally and further afield, that will benefit our school, students and community.

Please find below a list of some of the key points from this year that exemplify some of the areas we are proud of:

- 2022 Sunday Times State School of the Year for the South East
- [Association for Character Education's School of Character Kitemark Plus award](#), which praised explicitly the Reading Way that valued character education as much as academic results, evidencing a healthy, holistic view of education.
- Introduction of Belonging weeks
- 2022 as a Year of Reading at Reading School
- Extensive electives programme (100 electives)
- 2021 National Finalist in Social Mobility Award scheme for our Future Stories programme
- Continue to have 25 students per year gain places at Oxbridge colleges.
- Over 70% of Year 13 to Russell Group Universities
- Increasing number of students to top US Colleges.
- U13 Table Tennis Schools National Runners Up and Individual Finalist in Senior competition
- Two Top Five finishers in U14 English Schools Athletics field events
- County Cup Winners in 3 age groups in Cricket

Please note that the above list is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather a brief summary or snapshot of positive features of Reading School. I hope that it is appreciated that we cannot always mention every student and their achievements, but we do try and be inclusive. I would ask parents, students and staff to look back at the ways in which we have celebrated our school, staff and students through not only the weekly Headmaster's bulletin but also the school twitter feed, website, Facebook and Instagram. Our refreshed focus on images is renewed in the 15 July edition of this Weekly Bulletin. Images that show the vibrancy of the school community.

Over the Summer holidays I would urge all members of the Reading School community on how they can develop a mind-set that encourages long win thinking rather than short term thinking, linked to the thinking of Cath Bishop.

Short Term Thinking

- Narrow short-term focus, not willing or afraid to explore or look beyond
- Narrow measures matter the most
- Values left on one side for short term gain or when pressure is on
- Short Term results and short-term decision making constantly prioritised
- Culture is skin deep
- Success is about results whatever the cost

In contrast Long Win Thinking is characterised by:

- Broader perspective helps to see bigger picture
- Broader view of definition of success e.g., experiences, lived values, collaboration, progress towards our purpose, health and wellbeing.
- Values matter in good times and bad
- Deeper culture matters most
- Willingness to learn from mistakes, adapt or change in order to thrive in the long term.

In addition, develop a fighter mentality rather than a victim mentality will help build character, needed to enhance personal development:

Fighter or Victim Mentality

Fighter

Takes responsibility

Needs to achieve

Stays in control

Enjoys the challenge

Stays positive

Loves being coached

Focuses on strengths

Deals with uncomfortable

Seeks friends who challenge

Loves the game

Victim

(Always seeks excuses)

(Comfortable with losing)

(Gives up control easily)

(Endures the challenge)

(Hides under pressure)

(Can't take criticism)

(Dominated by weakness)

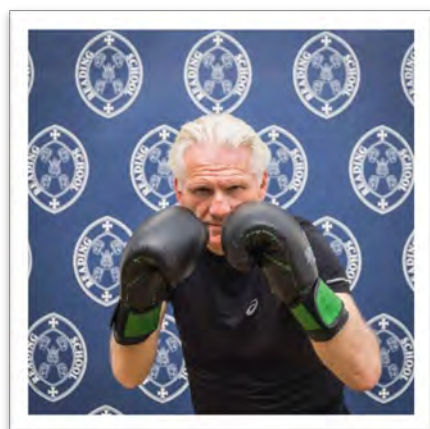
(Returns to 'Comfort Zone')

(Chooses 'victim Friends')

(Loves the sideshow)

This Saturday 16th July, I will be evidencing a fighter's mentality by taking part in a charity boxing match in aid of Cancer Research UK. Please wish me luck and should you wish to support me please do visit my Just Giving Page by [clicking this link](#).

Thank you,



Mr AM Robson
Headmaster

Key information

All Years

Safeguarding during the Summer Holidays

As we enter the holiday period, safeguarding all our students remains as always, our top priority. With this in mind, please see [this flowchart](#) that is also being posted on Teams for all students so they know how to access safeguarding support over the summer holiday (self-referral signposting information is contained on the second page).

The email addresses safeguarding@reading-school.co.uk or layres@reading-school.co.uk should be used if students and/or staff need advice or help.

Excellence, Belonging & Community

Excellence

Year 12 Chemistry Challenge

Congratulations to James M and Thomas S for achieving a gold award in the University of Cambridge's Chemistry Challenge. Congratulations also to Padmanaban A, Amin B, Aryan B, Jacky C, Karthik D, Kabinesh G, Jai G, John J, Nirbhay K, Ryan L, Daniel T who achieved a silver award and Aazim A, Omar A, Alistair B, Francis C, Joshua C, Harsha K, Rishav R and Siddarth S who achieved copper.

This competition aims to stretch and challenge students interested in chemistry and provides an excellent experience for anyone considering taking their studies further. Set by an experienced team of teachers and university chemists, it is designed to be accessible to Year 12 students but will take them significantly beyond the syllabus and encourage them to think about science in the way they would at university.



Public Speaking



A LAMDA exam is the speech and drama equivalent of a music grade, which begins at basic levels and culminates at Grade 8 (Gold) and skills developed during public speaking include self-confidence, physical presence and a strong speaking voice.

Kanishk K (10C) has recently been awarded a mark of 100% in his Grade 8 exams in communication where participants were required to prepare three speeches lasting three minutes. One of Kanishk's speeches titled, 'Are global priorities bigger than climate change' was highlighted and appreciated by the examiner who shared, "Your passion as well as your compassion shine through clearly in your delivery."

Kanishk's father shared of his son's achievement, *"I believe this has been possible not only because of the efforts of the pupil but also the values instilled by the school. The focus is on not only the school curriculum but the overall development of the pupil. We can see that in the last four years Kanishk has acquired new life skills through sports, volunteering and the school curriculum."*

Well done for your faultless public speaking examination Kanishk.

Poetry Performances

Mrs Romano's English class recently featured performances of poetry which Year 8 students had written and performed in front of their class. They were asked to create pieces focussing on Reading School culture and the following two examples are both engaging and noteworthy poems that capture the essence of culture.

Reading School Culture Rap (Qasim A, 8W)

Welcome all to my poem full of glory
It's not really a poem but it does tell a story
And that story is about Reading School Culture
But nothing rhymes with culture except perhaps vulture.

I wake up every morning, get out of bed,
Pray in my room, get dressed, wash my head.
Put my bag on, take the bus to school and
I enter the classroom looking real cool.

First up Chemistry, lab coats and goggles.
When I look under the microscope, my eye boggles
Break time approaches and as we're Reading Boys
We play lots of sport, we don't play with toys!

Latin up next, our teacher Mr Cooper
He's so sick, he ain't no party pooper.
And after a tiring session of P.E
We have English with Miss, and it fills us with glee.

Now as we are halfway through the day
I'm starving, hungry, not feeling okay.
Lunch time approaches, and as we're Reading Boys
We eat lots of food, we don't play with toys!

In the refectory, sometimes it's a disaster

Queues and queues and queues, but no injuries, no plasters
After we eat, we go play in the hard court
We don't care who you are, black/white, tall/short.

German up next, ist das wunderbar?
Mostly it's good, but sometimes it's below par.
In tutor time, I'm allowed to pray.
Then it's Maths, we're near the end of the day.

Badminton is next, having lots of fun
Already so sweaty, from the heat of the sun.
Now it's the end of the day and as we're Reading Boys
We don't do our homework, we play with toys!

But actually, there is a deeper meaning to our school
It's not all about sports, or shoes that look cool.
There's something about this school which is quite unique,
And that's what puts this place at the peak.

Reading School is all about building good men.
They don't care if you don't get ten out of ten
They would rather a behaved and honest man than
A selfish rude geek; that's not the plan.

KFC stands for Korean Fried Chicken (8E)

Culture!

Quick, my teacher wants my poem!
Is it the colour of my skin?
I'm beige, what does that mean?
And what about those who are cream?
Perhaps it has something to do,
With my parents' roots and ethnicity?
Does that mean my mom is actually a tree?

Culture!

Oh no, Miss's eyes rest on me!
Could it be the clothes I wear?
Maybe it's the way I do my hair?
Hold on, my dad's not got that much,
Perhaps he's culturally unaware!
Is it my choice of friends?
Maybe it's when I follow trends?

Culture!

Mrs Romano wants an answer!
Surely, it must be my religion,
And the fact that I was christened.
But suddenly, it comes to me,
Like a lightning strike from nowhere.
"Miss" my hand is waving in the air.
"Could I do my poem please?"

Now listen up, or at least lend me an ear,
As my mum comes from a country called Korea.
And before you say, "Holy smokes, Kim Jong-Un and the North"
It's only the very country Britain defended in 1954.
The South, of course.

At that time, no-one knew about BTS,
Or Squid Game, or anything from that cut of the dress.
But as time passed, South Korea became famous,
If you haven't heard of them, *breathe in*. You might be an ignoramus!
Oscars 2020, Parasite won Best Picture,
Beat Joker, JoJo Rabbit, Tarantino, and Scorsese, so you know it's the victor.
Sorry, I'm a film buff, heard of them you may not,
But that's part of my culture, some things you can't blot or swat.
So, I do that a lot!

But the message of my poem is that,
I can't educate every racist or phobe,
But I know, deep down,
My mum's cooking is number 1 on the globe!

Community

LRC – Book Borrower of the Year 2022



At the end of each academic year we love to reward our most regular borrowers of books with prizes.

The tutor group who borrowed the most books was 7L. They borrowed a total of 2,010 books – smashing the old record 1480!

Our overall top book borrower was Callum N (7L) who borrowed a whopping 832 books this year. Prizes were also awarded to Yin-Chuan C (7E) who borrowed 352 fiction books; Rishav R (12RC) and James M (12PS) who both borrowed 19 senior fiction books and Edward Y (7W) who borrowed 28 non-fiction books. Winners were given Amazon gift cards and 7L were awarded a selection of treats.

LRC – Wreck This Journal Competition Winners



During June, the LRC Team challenged students to enter a competition inspired by Head of Art, Ms Creegan's recommended read, "Wreck The Journal" by Keri Smith. The book encouraged readers to fully engage with the creative process and to overcome the fear of a blank page. Students were invited to pick up a page from the book and asked to 'Wreck It' with judges awarding points for creativity of mind and final product.

The winners were Joel A (7S) and Seth B (8W). Edward Y (7W) and William A (10C) were runners-up. We enjoyed watching paper boats float and pages full of scribble.

Poetic Tapas

Poet Laureate, Dan T, has penned a poem for the end of term. In it, he explores the nature of creativity in all its forms:

Monday

Baked myself a fish pie today.

Used the 360C setting as the recipe instructed.

Realised when I smelt fire it meant 360F...

Not the sort of smoked salmon I was looking for.

Tasted alright, pastry a little flaky.

Tuesday

When beating the dough for my choux

I mixed up the milk and shampoo.

They came out all puffy

And anti-dandruffy

And tasted of lavender bloux.

Wednesday

I wanted to showcase my talent for boundless creativity

so I decided to make a poem in the shape of a flapjack.

It is a work of genius. I don't know if you understand that.

It could probably do with a little more flavour, I think.

Thursday

Tried making sushi
but it accidentally
became a haiku.

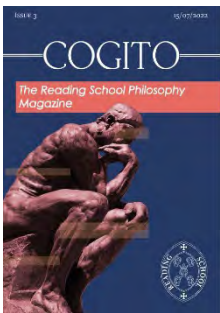
Friday

Woke up determined to make this a bacon-eggs-and-fry day,
A full-English-and-pork-pie day,
Maybe even a curry-and-Thai day.

Ended up being a you-need-oil-to-fry day,
Chilli-flakes-in-the-eye day,
A sit-down-and-cry day.

Perhaps I'm just not cut out to be a chef.

Cogito – Issue #3



Reading School's Philosophy magazine has grown from strength to strength and brings though provoking, intriguing and rational articles covering diverse topics from within Philosophy. Ryan L (12L) from the editorial team shares:

"When I founded Cogito at the start of this academic year I had no idea how successful and prosperous this project would grow to become. Cogito was founded on three key principles - to allow writers to eliminate their cognitive biases and develop independent thinking skills, to deliver a relatively niche and misunderstood subject to the wider school community, and to exemplify the value of philosophy. Cogito's editorial and writer team has grown to currently 21 members, spanning a variety of years, from all sorts of philosophical backgrounds.

We have published 3 editions this year, with content ranging from existentialism to the philosophy of economics. Cogito has exceeded all my expectations and I am excited for the developments and progress we will make next year. This project would not have been possible without the extended hard work of the Cogito team. I would like to thank all the editors for being the glue of the team. I would like to thank the writers for constantly exceeding expectations in the quality of their articles. I would like to give a special thanks to Mudit for his continual hard work put into designing the magazine for every edition. I hope you enjoy this edition of Cogito!"

To access Cogito Issue 3 [click here](#).

To access Cogito Issue 3 (dyslexia friendly version) [click here](#).

The Wordsmiths' Gazette

Please enjoy in the inaugural collection of work, The Wordsmiths' Gazette, from our newly created Juniors creative writing club - The Wordsmiths Guild. Written, edited and designed by a talented team of Reading School writers, we hope you share our delight at the exceptional range of creativity in this publication. With many thanks to Sid M, and the dedicated team of student editors. You can read the [online edition of the Wordsmiths' Gazette here](#).

If you are interested in joining the Wordsmiths Guild, please email Ms Eggers segger@reading-school.co.uk or Ms Ellis pellis@reading-school.co.uk



Dear All

As the academic year comes to a close, we would like to wish all the staff, parents and pupils a very happy summer holiday.

This has been an incredibly busy year for RSPA. Our initial efforts included refurbishing the 6th Form Common Room, providing a Christmas Tree in The Refectory and treating our Y7 & Y8's who had missed out during the Covid pandemic.

We have been able to restart our in-person events which has been wonderful, (although we did still have a lot of fun at our online quiz). Our inaugural disco and meet and greet for the Year 7 & 8 parents was a lovely evening and we look forward to hosting more in the future. We have also supported the school in events they have held including the careers convention, the leavers BBQ and most recently SPOTY.

Our uniform shop continues to flourish and a particularly successful opening was held this week dedicated to our new Year 7's starting in September. We have bolstered the sale of our very popular hoodies by making it possible to purchase them online.

We have made donations to every single department via our Amazon Wishlist. We have paid particular focus on supporting the development of sport at Reading School raising funds via our Christmas Card sales, Bags2School collection, Silent Auction and various online shopping platforms. We continue to raise funds for our cricket net campaign which ends on Sunday 17th July. If you are yet to contribute and can spare even a pound this is so gratefully received. Please make contributions via the link below.



2022 Cricket Net Campaign

The RSPA are raising funds to replace our cricket nets. Cricket is not only part of the curriculum at Reading School, but a passion shared by parents & students. The school achieves excellent results - we want to continue to build on these successes.

www.justgiving.com

None of the things we do at RSPA could happen without the tremendous goodwill and support from all our volunteers. There are so many people involved in making this such a great organisation and it's not just the names you see that make it all happen. We would like to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to this wonderful year.

Our AGM is scheduled for the 29th September and we need some new people to come forward and help develop and maintain all the things we do. If you are interested in discussing how you can help please email contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Happy Holidays

Kirsty MacInnes & Kirsta Rizzo

RSPA Chairs

Summer Term – Week 11

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



Grand Reunion 2022











Our wonderful catering team who have catered all our events this week







Mike Evans Memorial Service and T20 Cricket Match played in his honour

















Junior Prize Giving Awards 2022



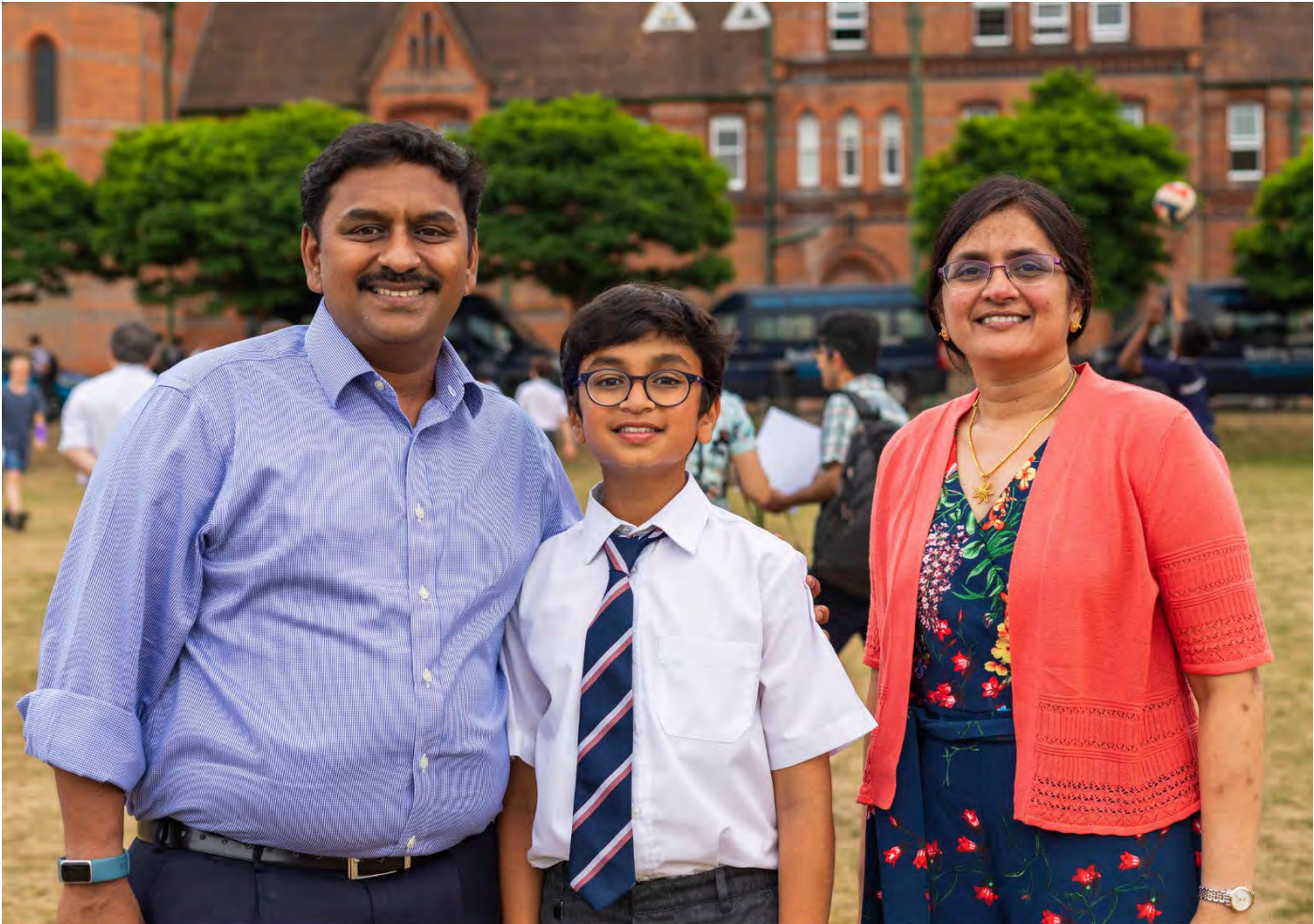














Sports Awards 2022































Senior Prize Giving 2022 (Class of 2021 & 2020)









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