



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

23 SEPTEMBER 2022

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Introduction

In recognition of Reading School's Year of Reading I have recently been seeking to improve personally and professionally through engaging with texts that challenge thinking. Working in a school full of students who demonstrate intellectual curiosity makes it doubly important to adopt an attitude to reading that is reflective and leads to improvement.

Can we thrive and flourish as individuals, families and organisations if we give more than we take? If we focus on We more than Me? How can we be net positive?

Paul Polman's work 'Net positive - How courageous companies thrive by giving more than they take' emphasises the critical traits that help create a net positive leader:

- A sense of purpose, duty, and service
- Empathy: a high level of compassion, humility and humanity
- More courage
- The ability to inspire and show moral leadership
- Seeking transformative partnerships

What inspires me about the staff and students at Reading School is that so many are 'net positive – they give more to the world than they take. But there is potential to do so much more. We are challenged to ensure that our values are put in motion. An example of this is the forthcoming Youth Climate Fair event hosted by our school on Saturday 24 September, details of which are included in this Bulletin.

Furthermore, duty, service and partnerships have very much been evident in several recent visits by ORs and their families who have felt compelled to return to our school. A common refrain often heard from those who return is, "I didn't realise just how much Reading School shaped me as a person." Are the frequent visits from returning ORs evidence of the success of our values and approach? Are they evidence of an unseen thread that ties into our commitment to belonging and community?

We are also looking forward to welcoming back old friends this Saturday 24th September during the annual [ORA AGM & Dinner](#) event from 7pm. The evening is a celebration of the accomplishments of the Reading School family which includes; ORs, current and former teachers, associate staff, governors, members of the Reading Foundation and members of the Reading School Parents Association. This year's Guest speaker is Tom Whipple OR (1993-2000), Science Editor at The Times.

In closing, during the coming Michaelmas Term, I look forward to seeing more evidence of thriving and flourishing in all its forms, within our Reading School community.

Thank you,

Mr AM Robson

Headmaster



Key information

All Years

Attendance

We would like to remind parents and students of the school policy with regard to notifying an absence from school. All student absences need to be reported by a parent by emailing attendance@reading-school.co.uk, and NOT by emailing teaching staff/tutors. The reason why this is important is because the attendance team receive all the data showing whether a student is on the school site or not, which is vital to safeguarding and fire alarms.

If a student arrives late to school they are required to sign in with Student Services, which is located in the Cloisters area. If a student is leaving school early, they should go to the Student Services office to sign out. In the unlikely event that there is not a member of staff in Student Services, they can go to the Medical Centre to sign out.

Students are required to attend timetabled lessons. Any student having lessons, other than the ones in their timetable, rely on teachers/tutors informing the attendance team of their presence.

We would like to thank our parents and students in advance for taking note of the official school attendance and absence policy.

Climate Youth Fair – Saturday 24th September



The first ever [Reading Climate Festival Youth Fair](#) hosted by Reading School in partnership with Reading Climate Action Network will be held on Saturday 24th September, 10am – 4pm at Reading School. The event aims to inspire young people to tackle the climate crisis and will feature an array of climate and sustainability related stalls, workshops, activities, presentations, food, drink and more.

The free event has been organised so that students from across Reading, parents and the local community can join together to learn more about climate and sustainability issues affecting us all and ways in which to act, in order to make an impact. Furthermore, it is part of [Reading Climate Festival 2022](#), a week of free live and online events from 24th September to 6th October.

“Practical opportunities to participate in activities to increase climate resilience, reduce carbon impact and enhance biodiversity will enable children and young people to translate knowledge into positive action to improve their local communities, their country and the planet.”

Sustainability and climate change, DfE 2022

To book your free tickets please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reading-climate-festival-youth-fair-tickets-404476228287>

Just some highlights of the event will include:

[Sustrans](#), a charity enabling and making it easier for people to walk and cycle.

[Reading Youth Council](#), a student-led council of elected representatives that campaign on issues affecting children and young people by influencing decision makers.

[Design Nature CIC](#), an organisation delivering creative projects, to support and empower young people to further participate in developing local climate action strategies and projects, feeding into the [Reading Climate Action Plan](#).

[Green Bike Food Co](#), a sustainable electric tuk-tuk providing barista coffee, healthy snacks and baked treats. The company is committed to using entirely recyclable or compostable packaging with a portion of their revenues going towards the removal of carbon from the environment through their partnership with [Stripe Climate](#).

Reading School Bake Sale to raise funds for the Pakistan Floods Appeal led by Rahul G (Yr13) and Jai G (Yr13).

[Lets go Zero](#) – a nationwide campaign to support schools to be carbon neutral by 2030. Over 1,700 schools have joined the campaign which empowers teachers, students, parents and schools to work together to reach zero carbon goals.

[RAYS](#) – The Reading Adopt Your Street programme enables individuals, schools and others to select a street, open space or area to keep tidy through regular clean-ups. You choose the area to be adopted and get friends, family, neighbours involved in making your street one to be proud of by becoming a RAYS Community Volunteer.

A series of [rolling lectures](#) and presentations throughout the day.

Reading School Reading Week

Monday 31 October to Friday 4 November 2022 has been designated by the governors as a 'Reading Week', and is now set aside as time to promote intellectual curiosity and scholarship through reading.

If successful, this initiative will be an annual occurrence. It is a practice shared by the majority of UK Universities and is similar to the Autumn term pattern adopted by 20% of Local Authorities and nearly 30% of Academies nationally.

An area for focus in our Annual Operational Plan 2022-2023 is the manner in which we promote independent reading and research. We want to extend specialist subject knowledge, promote disciplinary literacy and encourage all our students to read.

The difference between A* and A grades at A Level, and the success rates for applicants to the most competitive universities may very well depend on the extent and effectiveness of their own reading around, and beyond, their academic subjects.

During the Reading Week (31 October – Friday 4 November) there will be no timetabled lessons for any students. The school site will be closed to all students apart from those in Year 13 sitting particular University Entrance Examinations.

Instead of normal timetabled lessons, all students will be provided with recommended reading lists in their subjects. These will be designed to support students who may wish to revise complex concepts and stretch those who are ready for challenge beyond the content covered in lessons.

This initiative will provide a clear benefit not only for Sixth Form students aiming for the most competitive University admissions, but also for students in Years 7 – 11, where boosting literacy, scholarship, an independent work ethic and intellectual curiosity can be of the most long-term gain.

We are keen to express our gratitude to parents of the Class of 2022 who have generously provided funding for books for all staff, so as to ensure that the whole school community can focus on academic, professional and personal development.

Every student will be provided with lists of recommended reading in each of their subjects. These will be communicated via this bulletin on October 7th.

Ahead of this, students and staff are already focussing on reading that stretches and supports learning and we would like to signpost students and their parents to the fantastic LRC (School Library). Here, there is access to both subject-related resources (books, magazines etc) and reading for pleasure.

Next week we will be releasing our newly updated Subject Reading Posters and subject-specific reading lists. We would encourage parents and their sons to discuss what area of the curriculum they would most benefit from exploring further. We hope, through local libraries, the LRC and online resources, that no families will have to purchase books or face unexpected costs.

Using the LRC Before Reading Week

- By the start of October half-term, all Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12 pupils will have been invited to the LRC to discover the range of resources available to them both within school and from home. New students should have received a Guide to Using the LRC and those embarking on research projects should have received our Eresources Guide.
- All pupils can borrow books from the LRC for Reading Week. Fiction holiday loans start from Monday 10th of October and non-fiction holiday loans start from Monday 26th of September. This means if you borrow a book from these dates, it will be due back when you return following Reading Week.

E-Resources Available From Home 24/7

- The LRC subscribes to a range of high quality e-resources that can be accessed from home. An alphabetical list, complete with links and login details can be found here <https://readingschoolco.sharepoint.com/SitePages/LRC%20E-Resources.aspx>

This includes two **ebook** platforms. Both platforms can be accessed using pupil Office 365 logins:

- **VLeBooks** is a small ebook library and provides access to both fiction and non-fiction ebooks. Books can be read online. You can access VLeBooks via this link www.vlebooks.com. This includes 6th form wider reader titles. You can also preview books we do not own. To request a book we do not own, please email lkeSTEVEN@reading-school.co.uk.
- **ePlatform** by Wheeler's is our new ebook and audiobook platform found here: <https://readingschool.eplatform.co>

The ePlatform library catalogue is full of bestselling, popular fiction titles. 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 hope all of our students will benefit profoundly from this invitation to invest time in scholarship, to follow avenues of intellectual curiosity and to read as broadly as possible around their subjects.

[eResources in LRC 2022](#)

[New Student Guide to using the LRC 2022](#)

Job Vacancies

The Reading School governors seek to appoint an enthusiastic and talented Mathematician to join our thriving Mathematics department from January 2023. If you know someone who might be interested in this role, please share this [information pack](#) with them. The deadline for applications is Monday 10 October 2022.

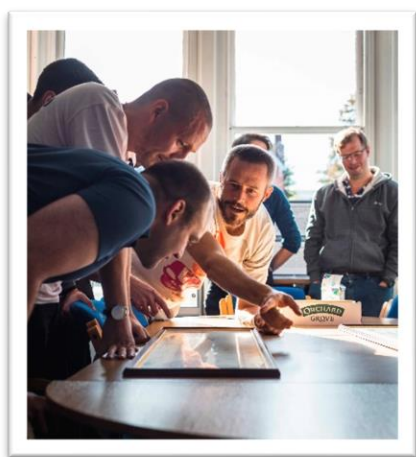
Excellence, Belonging & Community

Belonging & Community

We have had numerous recent visits from ORs and relatives of ORs which we have welcomed back to Reading School. Ms Katrina Mautner (granddaughter of Frederick Mautner) who lives in the USA, reached out to our school's [Alumni Office](#) to share her grandfather was student and boarder during the late 1940's. Frederick Mautner (OR 1945-1946) was born in Berlin to Austrian parents and attended Reading School where he won chess initials (colours) for West House and was also part of the Debating Society.

After 8 years in the UK he moved to the USA in 1947 as a qualified CPA, graduating from UCLA and subsequently sitting on the boards of a number of companies including Wilshire Bancorps Inc. He was also a leading soccer coach, inducted into the American Soccer Organisation Hall of Fame. Frederick was married for 59 years to Margie and they had two sons and a daughter who gave 7 grandchildren between them. Frederick lived in Los Angeles and died on 7 February 2013 aged 83.

Katrina's visit was to see where her grandfather went to school, spent his time and investigate whether there were any historical archives she could access. Katrina shared her grandfather often spoken about his time and memories of Reading School.



On Saturday 17th September, we welcomed back the Classes of 2003, 2004 and 2005 during a school tour and Rugby 7s match organised by Reading School [Alumni Ambassador](#) Raghuv Bhasin (OR 2003-2010). During the day, the ORs enjoyed a tour of the school while they shared fond memories and they were particularly impressed with the Refectory and The Philip Mitchell Science Centre, both of which had not been built during their time at the school.

The 2nd half of the day saw the ORs take part in a Rugby 7s game between them and it appeared their respective careers in government, education, law enforcement, real estate and health care had not dulled their fitness levels in what was a competitive match.

Thank you to Estates Manager, Mr Roberts and Head of Sport and PE, Mr Allen for facilitating during the tour.

Sports Fixtures

Tuesday 27th September

National Cup Football Yr10B v Weydon School (away) 3pm

Wednesday 28th September

National Cup Football Yr11A v John Hampden (away) 2.30

Rugby U13 v Desborough (home) 3pm

1stXV Rugby v Holyport (home) 3pm

2ndXV Rugby v Leighton Park (away) 3pm

Thursday 29th September

National Cup Football Yr10A v Charters (home) 4pm

Rugby U12A and U12B v Desborough (away) 3pm

Friday 30th September

London Lions Basketball Trip, Copper Box Olympic Park

LRC



Bookbuzz is a reading programme from Book Trust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading in 11 to 13-year olds. Participating schools give their students the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 17 titles. They are all carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure. We will be inviting all year 7 pupils to the LRC next week to find out more about each book and to place their order. The books will arrive later this term, hopefully in time for Reading Week!

We would like to thank the Old Redingensians Association for funding this programme.

If your child misses their visit to the LRC next week, you can email with their book choice at kesteven@reading-school.co.uk. The deadline for orders is 5pm on Thursday 29th of September

Please click [this link](#) to view the books selected by the experts for Book Buzz 2022.

RSPA

Committee Meeting

We are scheduling a committee meeting for Thursday 6th October 7pm online (link to follow). The purpose of this meeting is twofold.

We wish to discuss the new committee structure after our forthcoming AGM. We really need some new members to join, to ensure that the RSPA continues to flourish as many of the current members are coming to the end of their time at Reading School. There are so many ways in which you can become involved and we look forward to discussing this with you and answering any questions you may have.

Secondly, the School's Chief Operating Officer, Mr Dominic Taylor, will be in attendance to discuss a request from the school for the RSPA to make a contribution towards the refurbishment of the Refectory Toilets.

If anyone would like to discuss either of these points, in advance, please send an email to contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Hoodies

The sales of Reading School hoodies are available on line via the following link
<https://www.readingschoolpa.org.uk/store/reading-school-navy-hoodie>

We aim to fulfil orders within a week and you will receive a notification as to when your child may collect their hoodie from student services.

Please can we reiterate the importance of labelling these hoodies as soon as you receive it. They are lost on a very regular basis and it is impossible to reunite them if we don't know to whom they belong.

We wish you all a very happy weekend.

The RSPA Team

Michaelmas Term – Week 3

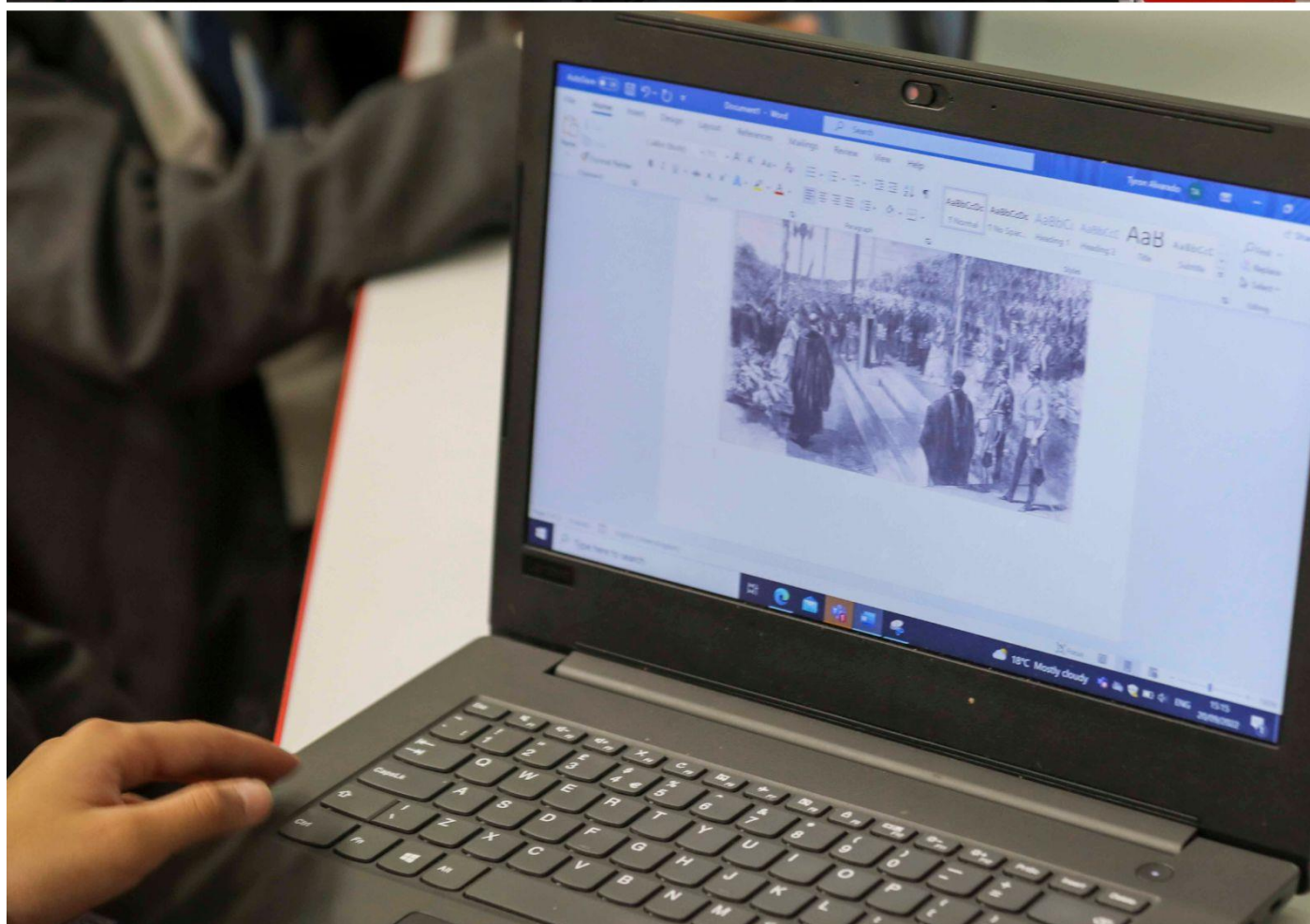
To keep up to date with student life at Reading School, click the icons below to follow and stay connected.



Year 8 Elective – Geography Fieldwork







Year 9 & 10 Elective – The Great Outdoors.
Students preparing for next week's canoeing and paddle boarding sessions.



The Class of 2003, 2004 and 2005 during a return to Reading School on Saturday 17 September



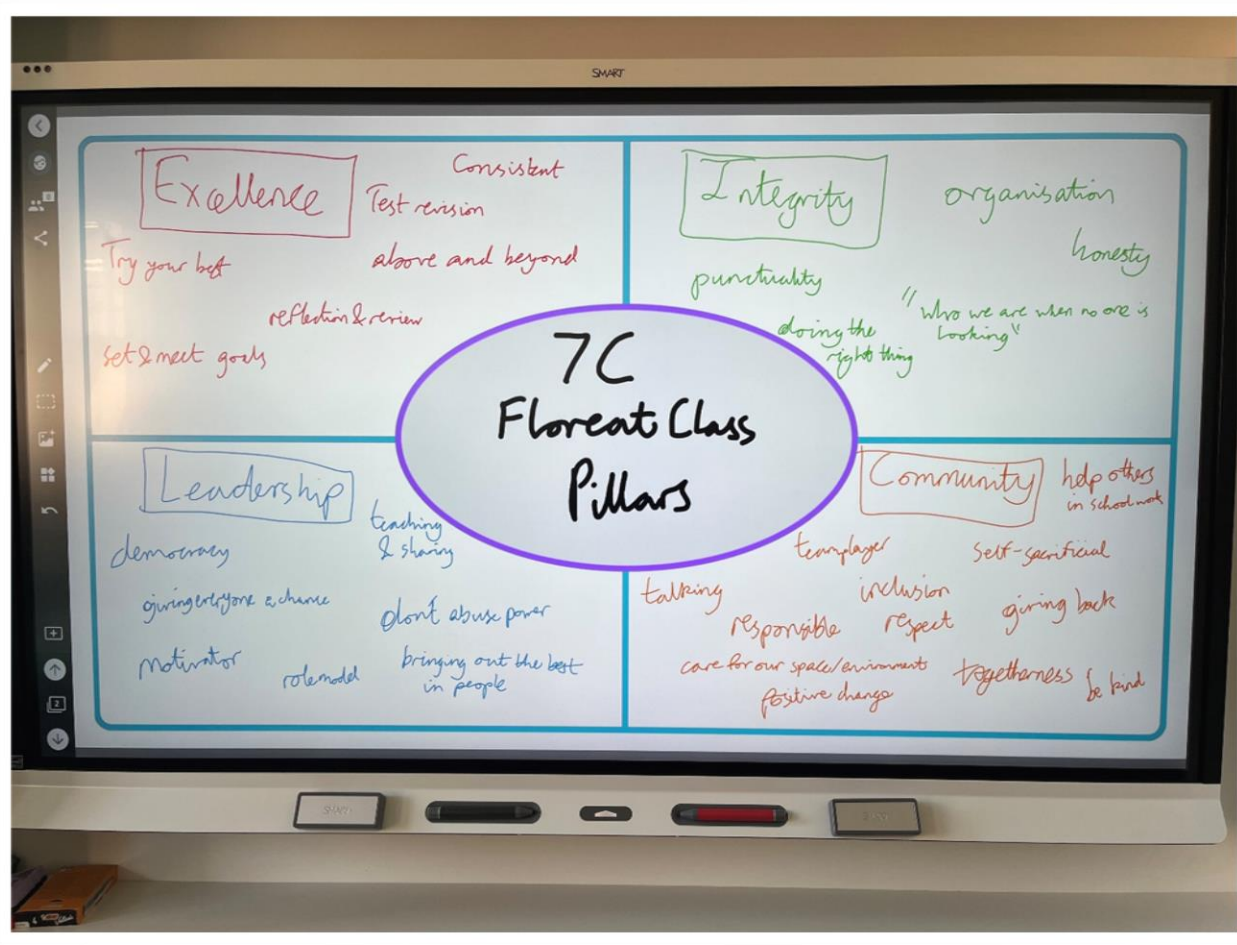




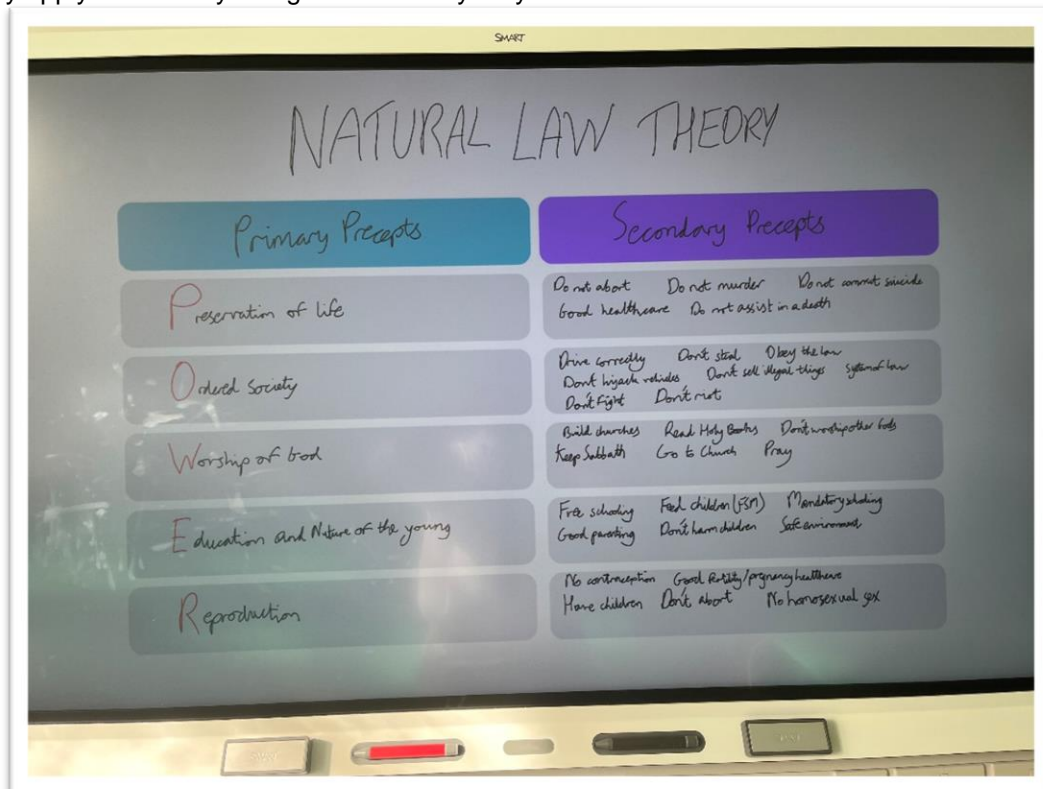




Year 7 Floreat Lesson led by Teacher of Philosophy & Theology, Mr Casemore. The lesson, using new smartboards in refurbished classrooms, focussed on Reading School's '4 Pillars' and what they mean within a school context.



A Year 10 Theology & Philosophy lesson focussing on Natural Law Theory. Students were asked to consider the 5 primary precepts of natural law as given by Aquinas and then asked to work out from these the ways in which Catholics may apply them today along with how they may conflict with modern views and ideas.







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