

# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

16 DECEMBER 2022



# Contents

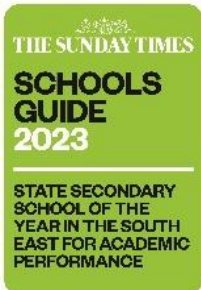
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Key information</b>	<b>4</b>
All Years	4
Lent Term 2023	4
Safeguarding	4
Co-Curricular Timetable – Lent Term 2023	4
Elective Programme – Lent Term 2023	4
Years 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13	4
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2023	4
Seeking parent views	4
Staff Vacancies	5
Reading School	5
Kendrick School	5
<b>Excellence, Belonging &amp; Community</b>	<b>6</b>
Sporting Excellence	6
Academic Excellence	7
Community	7
Reading School Choir performs for local residents in the community	7
Beserk Productions Christmas Musical	7
Air Ambulance Concert in partnership with Kendrick School	8
Cooking Elective	8
A parent and student puzzle for Christmas	9
Bebras 2022	9
<b>RSPA</b>	<b>10</b>
RSPA Chairs	10
Year 7 Disco / Parent Meet & Greet	10
Teacher's Amazon Wishlist	10
Second-Hand Uniform Shop & Reading School Hoodies	11
<b>Michaelmas Term Retrospective</b>	<b>12</b>

# Introduction

*“Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”*

Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.

As we reach the end of the Michaelmas Term, it is right to positively reflect and review some of the highlights of the calendar year, 2022.



We should celebrate the fact that we have, once again, been awarded the accolade of Sunday Times State Secondary School of the Year for the South East 2023, for Academic performance. Whilst we should take collective pride in our achievement that has taken consistent energy and dedication, I would encourage the school community to pause and reflect during the Christmas period. Consider what has gone well for students and families. Consider what can go better and what steps it will take to make it happen. Furthermore, I would like to congratulate Year 11s for applying themselves towards their mock exams and encourage Year 13s to use some of the festive period to prepare well for their upcoming mock exams.

In looking back on our year, I want to also highlight and remind our school community of our achievement of the National Character Association Kitemark Plus award, which is substantial evidence of our commitment to character excellence. Our investment in developing character in children and young people in partnership with the UK's leading Character Education organisation and renowned global education network, A School for tomorrow means we can continue to ensure our students flourish. Real world and recent evidence of what this looks like includes a member of public at Heathrow during a German Exchange Trip, commending our students for their considerate manner during a particularly busy flight. A further example is a partially sighted artist whose work was part of an exhibition held at Reading School posting on social media of how she was made to feel welcome by polite and curious students of our school.

By deliberately and strategically sharing and reminding the whole Reading School community of the school's purpose, values and goals, we seek to excel in all that we do. In the instances when we do not, we will learn, adapt and try again. By sharing what our values look like in action, through everyday behaviours, we also show our commitment to nurturing wellbeing. This week saw the start of a Mental Health Programme called OneGoal, led by Assistant Head, Mr D McGall and Boarding Housemaster and Head of West House, Mr J E Sanchez. The programme will enable our student Mental Health Champions to develop the skills and qualities required to support the development of positive mental health habits in themselves and their peers. Thus, by increasing our students' wellbeing along with listening to their lived experiences, we ensure they will flourish in the fullest sense and not just academically.



In closing, the words of our Poet Laureate, Rupert T (7C) are a fitting reminder for us all (click to view video).



**Mr AM Robson**

Headmaster



# Key information

## All Years

### Lent Term 2023

Term recommences for all students and staff on **Thursday 5 January 2023**

### Safeguarding

As we reach the end of the Michaelmas Term 2022, safeguarding all our students remains, as always, our top priority. With this in mind, please [click this link](#) to access a student safeguarding flowchart that highlights support, how to get in touch with the safeguarding team during the holiday period and ways to access support outside of the school. We would encourage all students and parents to familiarise themselves with the flowchart and support available.

### Co-Curricular Timetable – Lent Term 2023

Please visit [this link](#) to access the Co-Curricular Timetable starting from Monday 9 January 2023.

### Elective Programme – Lent Term 2023

Please visit [this link](#) to access the Elective Programme starting from Monday 9 January 2023.

## Years 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13

### The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2023

As originally communicated in the [11 November 2022 edition](#) of the Headmaster's Bulletin, the ballot and selection of students for the Bronze DofE program, starting in Jan 2023, has now been completed.

The students and parents successful in the ballot have been sent a consent, payment and email confirmation link this week and we have offered 63 places based on capacity as previously communicated.

Selection was based on the application completed by our students which was anonymised to ensure fairness, and the input of Heads of House and Tutors to ensure a robust process. We apologise to those students whom we have not been able to offer a place to at this point in time and thank you for your understanding and support.

### Seeking parent views



As a school, we are continually seeking the thoughts and views of our students and staff to help inform our approaches to ensuring we continue to remain a high-performing school and in 2023 we want to seek the views of our parent community. We are keen to start a conversation between parents which is facilitated by the school about our primary focus – our children. We are aware and understand that parents play a crucial role in supporting their children's learning along with social and emotional development. This could take the form of simply hugging and comforting a child after they have felt they could have done better in a test through to driving them to and supporting them during many out of school clubs, competitions and activities. Our collective aim is for our children to leave Reading School as successful, happy, well rounded young people who are able to navigate the next step in their lives.

By working in partnership with our parents, we are seeking to provide a safe and supportive space where parents can informally meet to discuss what's working well, worries and what could be better, while also hearing from school leaders. We realise that parents lead busy lives which is why we invite you to complete [a short 5-minute questionnaire](#) which seeks to establish the appetite of parents for such a meeting along with preferable times and content they would like to see included. The questionnaire can be accessed by [clicking this link](#) and we welcome your thoughts and views.

# Staff Vacancies

## Reading School

**Student Data Officer (SDO):** We have an exciting opportunity for a capable and compassionate administrator to join our Associate Staff Team at Reading School as a Student Data Officer. More information about the role can be found on our [website](#). All applicants must complete an associate staff application form to be considered for shortlisting. Application forms can be found in the vacancies section of our [website](#).

## Kendrick School

Required for January 2023, an **Exams Officer** who is enthusiastic, well organised and self-confident with good communication and inter-personal skills. For more information on the role and how to apply please visit our [website](#). Kendrick School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure check by the Disclosure & Barring Service. Kendrick School is an Equal Opportunity employer.

# Excellence, Belonging & Community

## Sporting Excellence



James Song (10C) recently competed in the [English National Badminton Championships](#) (under 15) which took part in Coventry over 2 days and he won in all three events - Boys Single, Boys Double and Mixed Double. We have recently featured several sporting achievements as we actively encourage the development of children and young people through sport. Allowing children to participate in indoor and outdoor extracurricular activities helps them to explore and develop skills which can be beneficial throughout their lives. By participating in activities, mental, social, emotional, physical and educational benefits are developed and as a school, we encourage all forms of sport and activities that will benefit children and young people.

We spoke with James this week and he shared:

### ***Can you tell us a little bit about last weekend's national competition?***

So it was the English National Championships for Under 15s that happens at the end of every year. You build up to it through the year of and all of the best players from England compete in it...it's sort of the most important domestic competition of the year so everyone wants to win.

### ***How did it make you feel when you won in not just one, but three different categories?***

I was quite happy with it because I proved to myself that I could dominate the Under 15s category...it was quite nice.

### ***How long have you been playing badminton for?***

Maybe 10 years now? When I was younger, I was playing for fun in the back garden and in 2019 I started playing in domestic tournaments...I'd never played in many before and found that I was at actually quite a good level. I worked really hard and won my first competition so that was really unexpected. It was really nice. And that was sort of the turning point, because that's when I saw that I could actually do pretty well.



### ***And how many hours of practice do you put in?***

Weekly around six hours, but sometimes higher, sometimes lower depending on tournaments.

### ***And do you find yourself practicing against people that are older than you or the same age?***

I like competing against older players because there's less pressure and you can sort of just go for it but it's physically a lot tougher. You learn a lot more from older tournaments, like under 17.

### ***What's the best part for you? Competing or winning?***

I think probably the competing because...the winning is just like a feeling of satisfaction after putting in training, that's cool.

### ***What general advice would you have for athletes and students who compete in sports and activities?***

I think you just have to like everything you do in training and do it well, to a good quality. Just give it 100% What kind of qualities do you need? Resilience, dedication and you have to have passion for what you're doing. You have to feel motivated.

## Academic Excellence

Sida Li (13W) has earned a coveted place in this year's UK Mathematics Trust International Mathematical Olympiad where the highest scoring students take part in a prestigious International competition. Sida's initial performance in the early stages were described by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) as 'exceptional'. The UKMT helps advance the education of young people in mathematics, encourages a love of problem solving and promotes teamwork and communication skills.

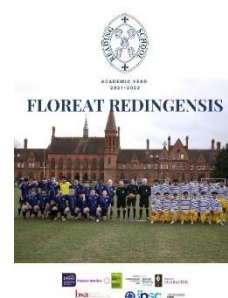
Sida will be travelling to a Training Camp in Egor, Hungary which will take place from 27 December 2022 to 4 January 2023 and we all would like to wish him the best of luck and we will update you further in the New Year.

## Community

### Floreat Redingensis 2021-2022

We are delighted to share with you a copy of [Floreat Redingensis 2022](#) covering the last academic year, kindly sponsored by the Old Redingensians Association.

This year has been a welcomed moment of joy, as we have come back to life and fully functioning, after the pandemic. We have seen the return of oversubscribed school events, reunions and school trips abroad. This demonstrates our innate need to belong and be a part of the Redingensians Community. We only regret that due to space or resource, sometimes these events and trips have to be limited. We have seen school concerts and a full spectrum of sporting activities return and electives embedded into our curriculum, building on character education and The Reading Way.



We are proud of what our School has collectively achieved. We have continued to improve our practice in delivering excellent education through our committed and dedicated staff and senior leaders. This magazine celebrates the achievements of our students as well as the success of our inspirational alumni. Being a part of the Old Redingensians Association and the Alumni Society, we connect our students to a world of opportunity, through people and knowledge. As we reflect on the last year there are so many things we can be proud of. #WeAreRedingensians.

Please click the link to view the digital version: [Floreat Redingensis 2021-2022](#). Hard copies have been distributed to pupils to take home today.

### Reading School Choir performs for local residents in the community



On Wednesday 14 December, The Reading School Choir, led by Director of Music, Mr O Griffin, was invited to perform at the Whitley Community Association Development Association Café (WCDA) for local residents and the elderly. The WCDA was formed in 2013 with the aim to bring together local talent, ambitions, skills and energy from its local residents, organisations, businesses and groups. Originally funded by Local Trust, it is now a self-sustainable organisation that supports and encourages local people to get involved, makes changes and improvements they want to see. The Community Café is known as, "the beating heart of Whitley".

Over 40 local residents got to hear Reading School's Choir sing a variety of Christmas carols over Christmas afternoon tea and we thank Community Relations Manager at the University of Reading, Mollie Cleaver, Community Development Coordinator, Dr Trisha Bennett and WCDA Business Manager, Lisa Alloune for making us feel so welcome and sharing gifts with the choir after their performance.

### Beserk Productions Christmas Musical

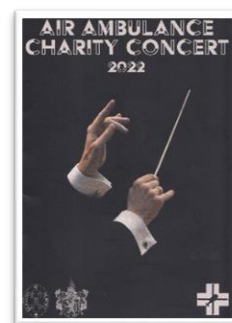
Please see information from Berzerk Productions in relation to the Lent Term and their Christmas musical, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr showing at the oakwood centre from 15th – 18th December. Please click [this link to book tickets](#).

## Air Ambulance Concert in partnership with Kendrick School

A music concert will be taking place on Friday 24th March 2023 at Kendrick School in aid of Thames Valley Air Ambulance following the successful 2022 concert. Rehearsals for the concert will begin after the Christmas break on 17 January 2023, to be held at Kendrick School between 16:00 – 17:00 and ensembles will include:

- Concert Band – Grade 4+ (*Rehearsals on Mondays*)
- Orchestra – Grade 4+ (*Rehearsals on Tuesdays*)
- Choir – All year groups, any standard (*Rehearsals on Wednesdays*)

To express an interest in joining, please contact Autumn W A (12L) by emailing [t00140@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:t00140@reading-school.co.uk)



## Cooking Elective

Our Elective programme contains a wealth of content from which our students gain valuable life-skills. To highlight just one of our weekly electives led by my Teacher of German, Mrs H Majorossy is a Cooking Elective for Year 7s and 8s. Not only have they learnt how to cook and bake a variety of dishes from scratch, they have also learned about putting together healthy meal plans and adapting recipes to use from what's available in a fridge.





# RSPA

## RSPA Chairs

This term we have been managing the transition from the out-going Chairs, Kirsty MacInnes and Kirsta Rizzo, to the incoming Chairs, Veena Baggle and Vee Nenguke.

On behalf of the RSPA we would like to say a massive thank you to Kirsty and Kirsta for all their hard work, dedication and commitment to driving the RSPA forward in supporting the School in the best way we can. They have managed this with good humour and humility throughout. Veena and Vee have big shoes to fill and look forward to taking the reins after Christmas. The RSPA committee members and volunteers make it the success it is; we could not do any of the fantastic fund raising we do without them. If you have any spare time or would like to find out more about how you can get involved, please contact us at: [contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk)



## Year 7 Disco / Parent Meet & Greet

The RSPA are delighted to invite all Year 7 students, parents and carers to a Welcome Event at the School on Friday 20th January 2023 from 7-8.30pm.

Please click here to book your child's ticket by [clicking here](#) and only one ticket to be purchased per Year 7 student, (parents/carers do not need to book a ticket). We hope to see as many Year 7s there as possible!

## Teacher's Amazon Wishlist



To the parents and carers of Reading School. Your incredible generosity coupled with a donation from the RSPA ensured that all teachers received everything they asked for this Christmas. We would like to thank Jo Wyles, Jane Amole and Kirsty MacInnes for running this initiative. An incredible 350 gifts were purchased and delivered to some very happy teachers. Here is what they had to say about it!

*"Thank you so much for the visualisers and anemometers. It means that the students can all gain experience with fieldwork equipment and the visualisers are helping greatly during feedback lessons. So, thank you and Merry Christmas."* - GEOGRAPHY

*"Christmas came early! Thanks to the RSPA and our generous school community for our LRC Wishlist gifts. We are so lucky, thank you for these amazing items and for your kind words."* – THE LRC

*"Dear Parents of Reading School; thank you so much for the wonderful Physics gadgets and gizmos. Mr Elmore is particularly excited about our band of mechanics monkeys for use in projectile motion investigations. The Physics staff look forward to integrating the new equipment into our freshly refurbished labs. Merry Christmas!"* – PHYSICS

*"Just a note to share my enormous gratitude at the generosity of the RSPA and parents of Reading School, the Drama Dept gifts have really filled a void – in a playing Bridge way – and I know it sounds silly but I'm disproportionately excited to finally have every colour of electrical tape! Seriously though, a Drama dept needs these things so thank you, thank you, thank you."* – DRAMA

*"Many thanks for the fantastic gifts you have provided the Theology and Philosophy department this year. The books and religious artifacts you provided will continue to help our students develop their understanding and appreciation of the richness of the various religious traditions represented in the students and staff at Reading School!"* - THEOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY

*"The PE department are so grateful for everything we have received! The music speaker has already been used so much, especially when performing gymnastics routines and more recently the odd Christmas song on the PE corridor! All the coordination equipment will be put to good use next term and we are really looking forward to using it. Thank you so much!"* – PHYSICAL EDUCATION

*"The East Wingers were keen to open their gifts that were so kindly gifted by Reading school parents. The items received will definitely keep us all busy on the cold winter evenings! Please pass on our thanks to all the parents from the boys and boarding team. We are very lucky to have an amazing RSPA team and such generous parents! Thank you all very much!"* – EAST WING BOARDING

*"Please pass on our thanks to parents that were kind enough to donate the lovely gifts that South House received."* – SOUTH HOUSE BOARDING

*"On behalf of the Floreat department please accept our thanks and gratitude for our gifts this year. The students will use these items to enjoy outdoor experiences that give them a chance to develop their character as an individual and as part of a team. We can't thank you enough for helping us provide these opportunities."* – FLOREAT & ELECTIVES

*"The Art department is absolutely delighted to once again be the beneficiary of the generosity of our parents, carers, and wider school community. So exciting to receive boxes and boxes of wonderful books! As a department we are keen to open students' eyes to the breadth of possibility in regards diverse forms of art, craft, and design; the continued efforts of the RSPA are hugely appreciated in enabling us to support learners in this regard. Thank you."* – ART

*"On behalf of the Mathematics department I would like to say a massive thank you for all of the items we have received. The 3 posters are already up in classrooms and the textbooks are being used for planning exam style questions for our key stage 4 lessons. Your support is hugely appreciated and we wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."* – MATHEMATICS

*"Thank you all so much for your generosity in purchasing the English Grammar books for each our Ukrainian guest students, as well as the two reference books which are now available for them to use in the LRC. All the students were hugely grateful and touched to receive the books and I am sure they will prove invaluable to them going forward as they seek to try and continually improve their English to enable them to achieve as much as they can here."* - KEES LUTEIJN UKRAINIAN SUPPORT LEAD

*"A massive thank you to the parents who contributed gifts to the Chemistry department this year. We have already made good use of the heater to make a water bath for our Y7 solubility practical. The additional textbooks have been put to great use by A level students in their lessons. We really appreciate the parents' contributions to the department. Thank you!"* – CHEMISTRY

*"What is this ... wow charging cables, Raspberry Pi cases. Aarr, a little Santa, oohh chocolates. We love chocolates 🍫. Raspberry Pi Computing here we come!! Thank you from Computer Science and all the students who will have an amazing deep learning experience."* – COMPUTER SCIENCE

## **Second-Hand Uniform Shop & Reading School Hoodies**

Thank you to all who attended last weekend's uniform shop opening and particular thanks to Julie Bellingham and all the volunteers who braved the cold to help out. A fabulous £717 was raised which will go towards items for the pupils to enhance their time at the school. The next shop opening is on Friday 3rd February and Saturday 4th February 2023.

Online ordering for hoodies is now suspended for the Christmas break and will resume in the New Year.

On behalf of everyone at RSPA we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The RSPA Team



# Michaelmas Term Retrospective

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



## The Annual Reading School Year in Review 2022 - January

The following retrospective represents a snap-shot of the life of Reading School. It illustrates the diversity of our education, curriculum, co-curricular activities and events that have contributed to helping to make 2022 such a productive one. It further evidences the strength of our Reading School Community and our drive to provide opportunities for all our people to flourish.





## The Annual Reading School Year in Review 2022 – February

A restaging of an [1872 football match](#) between Reading Football Club and Reading School.





The Annual Reading School Year in Review 2022 – March

House Eisteddfod Competition (*click to view videos*)

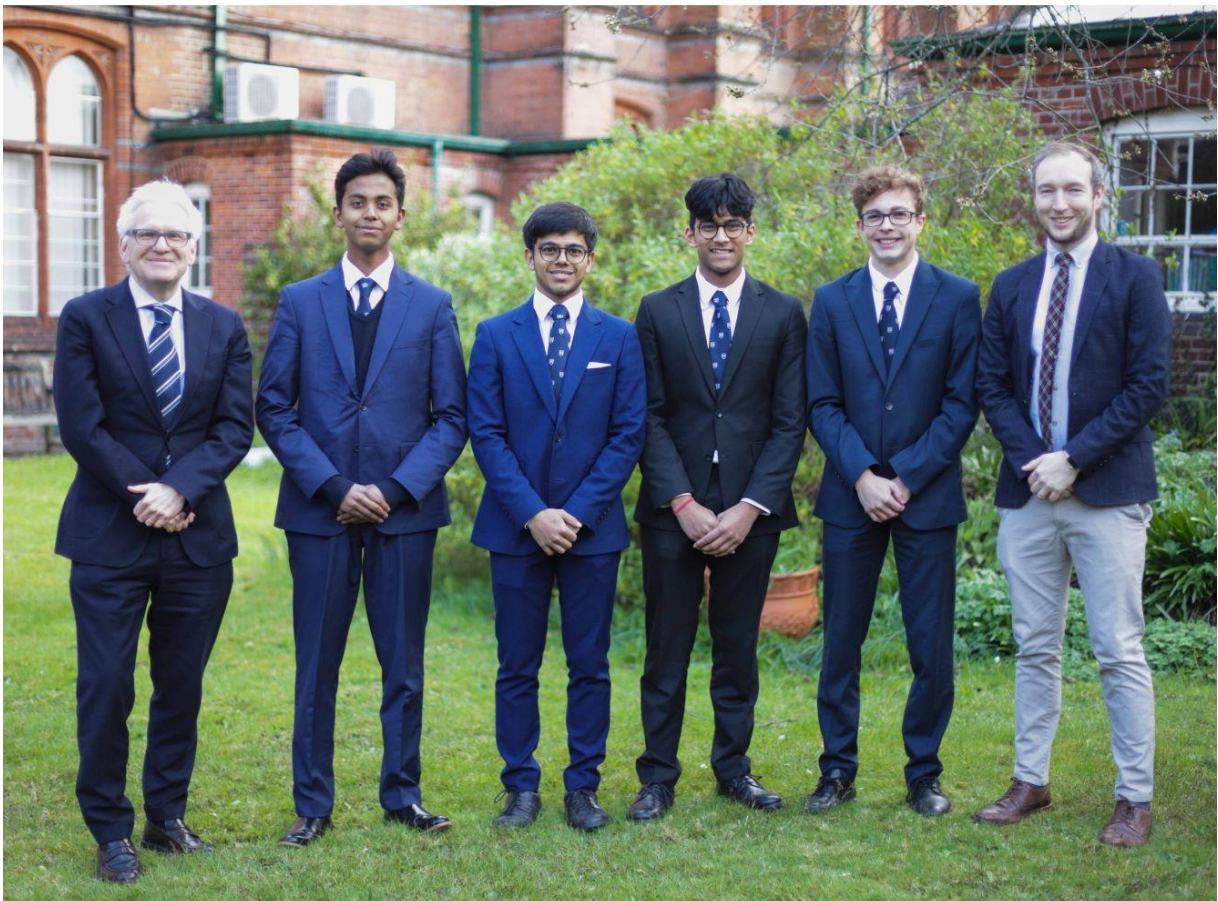
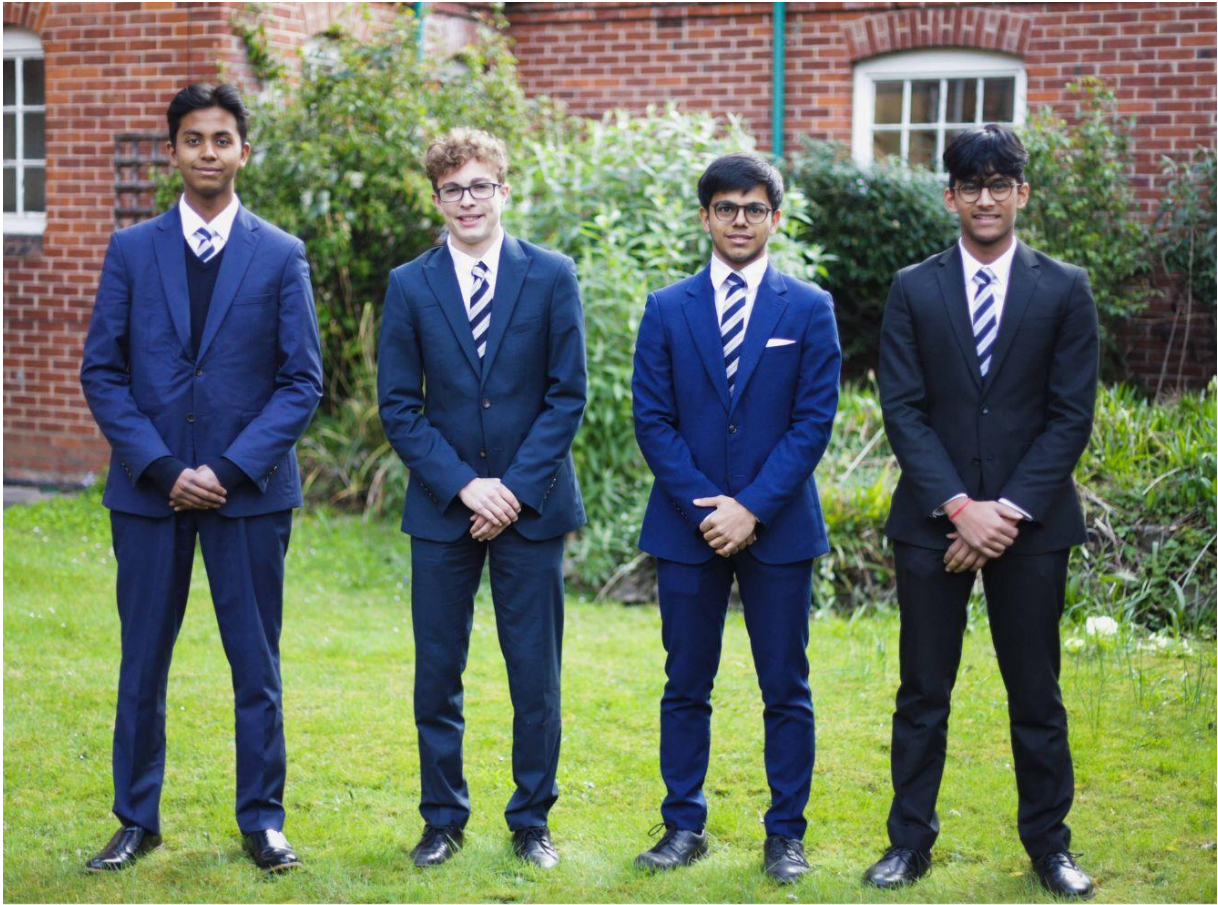


No et Moi – French Drama Production (*click to view video*)



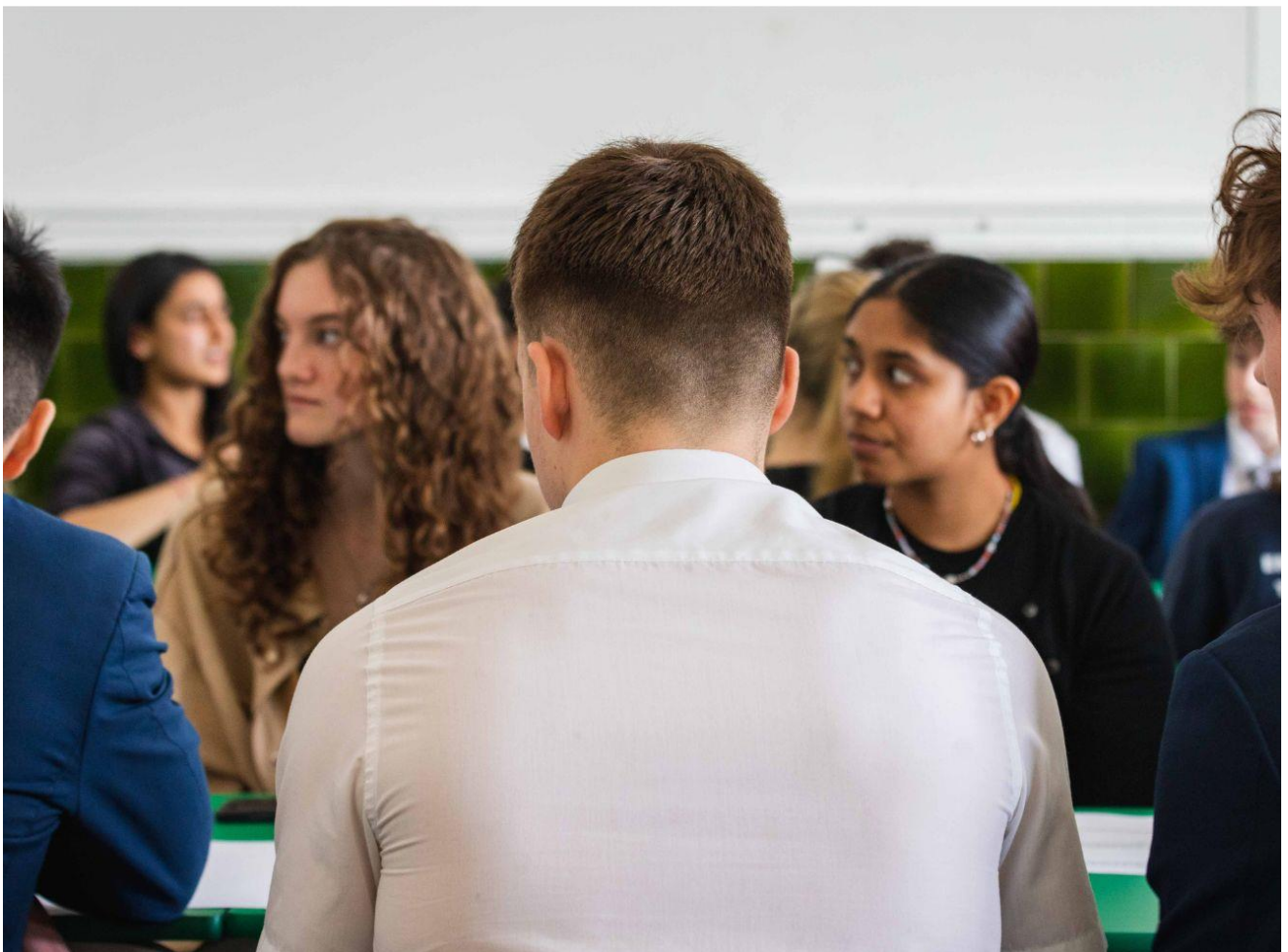
The Annual Reading School Year in Review 2022 – April

School and Vice Captains awarding of ties



Joint partnership work between Reading School and The Abbey School begins







The Annual Reading School Year in Review 2022 – May

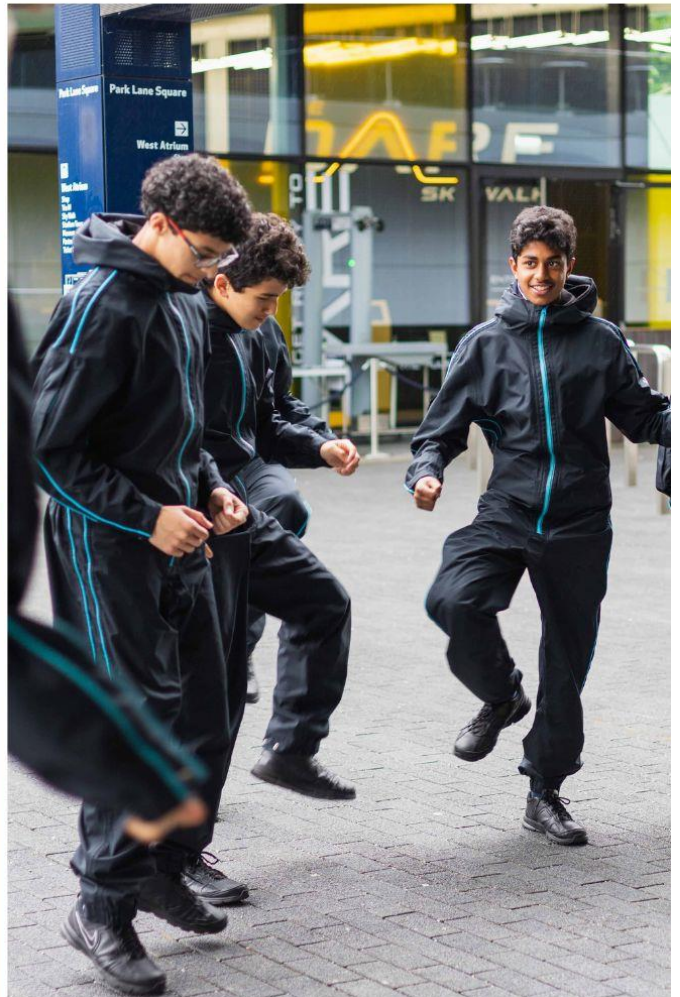
The Class of 2022 ([click to view video](#))



Belonging Week 2022









The Annual Reading School Year in Review 2022 – June

Year 13 Leavers Service and BBQ







The Annual Reading School Year in Review 2022 – July

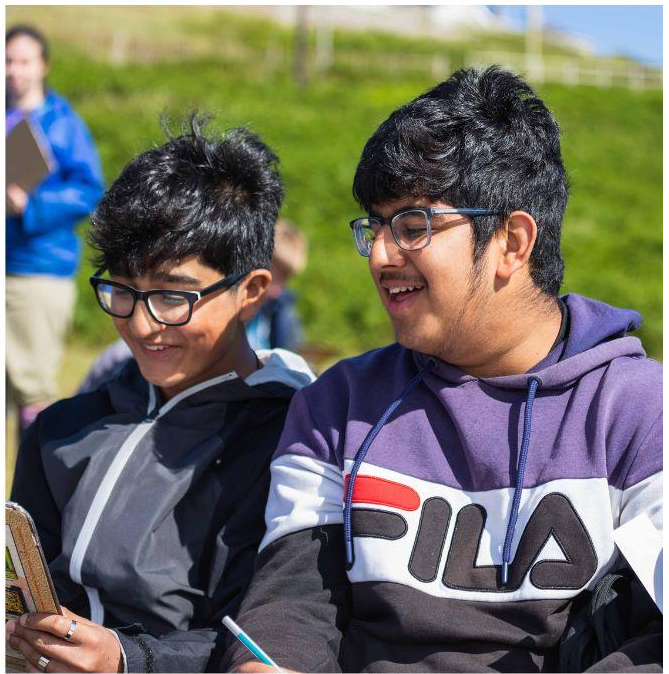
Year 7 Open Day





## Year 10 Geography Field Trip – Wales









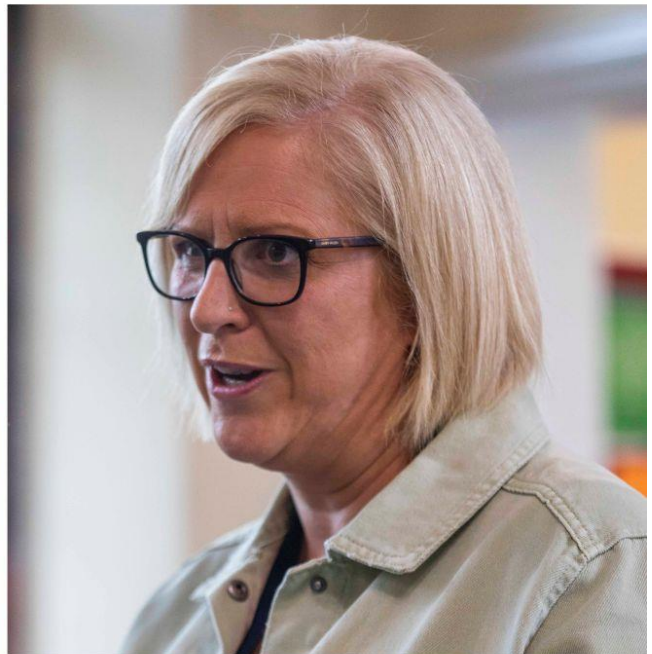
The Annual Reading School Year in Review 2022 – August

A level Results Day





Reading School Staff Day





The Annual Reading School Year in Review 2022 – September

The Michaelmas Term begins







The Annual Reading School Year in Review 2022 – October

Commemoration Service 2022





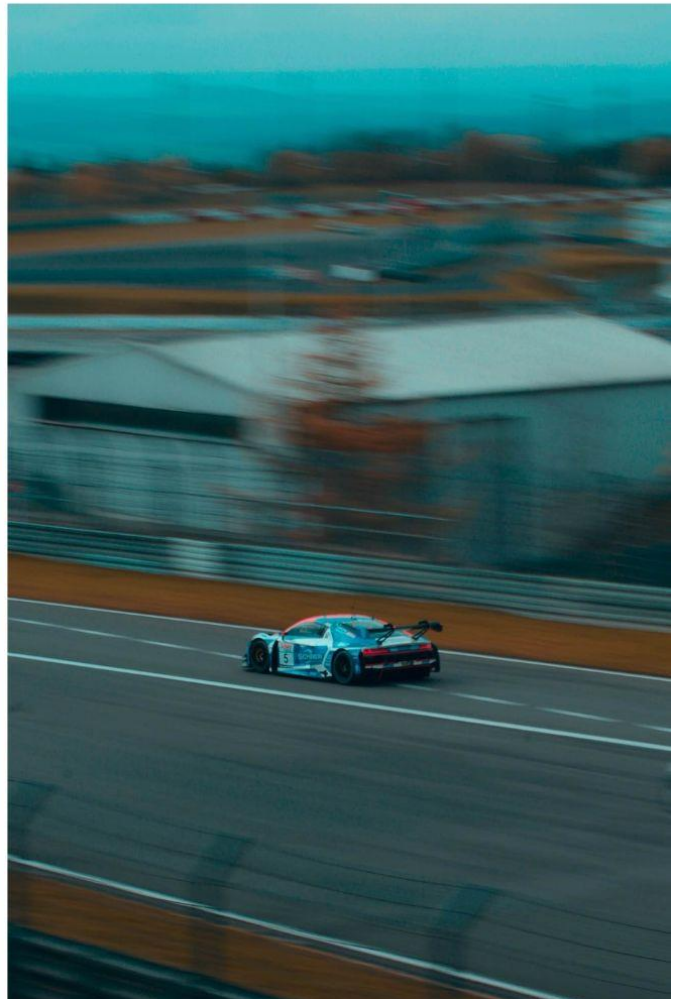


The Annual Reading School Year in Review 2022 – November

Year 10 German Exchange Trip – 3 days in Munich







*“The first of December 2022 saw our Year 9s on their first visit abroad, to Munich. We had a packed agenda, with a combination of the lovely Christmas markets which allowed the boys to explore independently and sample some specialities, the fascinating exhibition at the BMW Museum about the past, future and sustainability of the Bavarian motor industry, the site of the 1972 Olympics, and the history of the Olympic games in Germany, as well as a guided tour of the home stadium of the Bayern München Football Team.*

*A highlight of the trip was a visit from a former student, Charlie Harding, who after completing his A-Levels in German, Maths, Further Maths and Computer Science, and a degree in Computer Science, is now working as a software engineer for a company that does contracts for BMW. It was great to hear about his life in Germany.*

*Another proud moment was receiving compliments from members of the public on the busy flight for the polite and considerate manner of our lovely Reading School boys!”*

Sixth Form Academic Intervention Lead &  
Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages, Mrs H Majorossy

*“Our visit to the Allianz Arena (home to Bayern München) was one of the highlights of the trip for me. Our guide explained to us how the seating prices work, with some seats costing just €15. This ensures that everyone of every financial status can turn up to a game (if they book a seat in time, for they sell out extremely quickly!). We went close up to the pitch, and sat down in the seats that were normally reserved for the players! Despite being -4°C, the tour was superb.”*

Tom C (9E)

*“On the trip we visited a Christmas Market a day, testing our German and trying out the food, including a friend taking a large bite out of a knife, ... a chocolate knife!”*

Ashish G (9S)

*“I really enjoyed the trip to the Munich Christmas Markets. Due to Covid, it was the first trip abroad for us in Year 9, so I wasn't really sure what to expect, but what I enjoyed the most was being given the freedom to wander around and explore the markets, giving us more time to enjoy the place. Despite the short duration of the trip, it was well organised, and we managed to get lots done, and visit some very cool and interesting places.”*

Rafa S (9L)

The Annual Reading School Year in Review 2022 – December

Year 12 A level Drama Performance of Richard III (*click thumbnail to view performance*)



The official Reading School Christmas Single (*click thumbnail to view performance*)



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