



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

21 OCTOBER 2022



Contents

Introduction	3
Key information	4
All Years	4
Get Ready for Reading Week 2022 – a reminder	4
Year 11 only	4
Mathematics	4
Safeguarding	4
Staff gratitude	5
Annual Report to Parents	5
Parent Governor Election 2022	5
Reading School Vacancies	5
Teacher of English – Maternity cover	5
Alumni and Development Assistant – Maternity cover	5
Excellence, Belonging & Community	6
Combined Cadet Force Biennial Inspection 2022	6
Drama Production	8
The Changing Room by Chris Bush	8
Donations for Ukraine – a thank you	9
RSPA	10
Reading School Parents' Association AGM - Tuesday 8th November 7:30pm, The Refectory.	10
Michaelmas Term – Week 7	11

Introduction



In 1975 Muhammad Ali was invited to talk to a group of Harvard students. Someone in the crowd shouted, 'Give us a poem, Muhammad'. He paused for a moment, looked up and said: 'Me. We'. This couplet suggests two fundamental questions: *Who am I?* *Who are we?* Also, it helps us to consider how we can move from *me* to *we*, from individualism to a sense of community. When presenting to prospective parents on Thursday this week, I emphasised that Reading School sought to support the development of our students from *me* to *we*. This is achieved through our emphasis on 'Learn, Lead and Serve' along with our commitment to providing opportunities for our students to be the best version of themselves.

If in the words of a Year 11 student being at Reading School is like 'riding a wave' we need to ensure that there is support to help students safely make progress on their development journey. Being the best version of ourselves does not require anyone else to be put down. On the contrary, as evidenced by the joyous Year 7 Music concert in Big School on Tuesday, led by Mr Griffin and Mr Newman, the event brought us together as a community and strengthened our sense of belonging. Personally, I would have preferred a greater emphasis on the Style Council! However, Queen, Van Halen, Michael Jackson and my favourite Rick Astley were well represented.



It is right and proper that we seek to continually improve and also share the Reading Way with other organisations. This week we welcomed teachers from Chelmsford County High for Girls and Colyton Grammar School to share best practice. We look forward to working with not only other schools but organisations that promote sustainable cultures.

As Head of Reading School, it is important to not just consider the question '*who am I?*', but more importantly '*who are we?*' What makes us different from previous generations of members of Reading School? How will we make an impact? What will our legacy be?

Certainly, this week has showcased Reading School at its best, with an emphasis on Music through our Year 7 'Back to the 80s' concert where every member of Year 7 played a role, a CCF Inspection, hosting two sharing best practice visits and a Commemoration Service. By focusing on the transition from *me* to *we* it is possible to work together, as students, staff and parents to create a positive legacy.

We can commemorate the past traditions of Reading School and show gratitude to our ancestors

We can reconfirm our commitment to leadership development and a culture of teamwork, character and excellence through the CCF.

We can also experience the joy of communal singing that brings together students, parents and staff.

I hope that all members of the Reading School family have a restful Half term break, to those celebrating Diwali we wish you a joyful celebration and I encourage all to be motivated by Reading Week.

Thank you,

Mr AM Robson

Headmaster



Key information

All Years

Get Ready for Reading Week 2022 – a reminder

Use Oliver to find out which Reading Week books are available in the LRC. To make it even easier the LRC Team have created Year group lists which can be clicked to view and reserve books. Simply login with your student Oliver account details. If any assistance is needed, please email Ms Kesteven on lkesteven@reading-school.co.uk

Please click relevant links as below:

[Year 7](#)

[Year 8](#)

[Year 9](#)

[Year 10](#)

[Year 11](#)

[Year 12](#)

[Year 13](#)

[Physics](#)

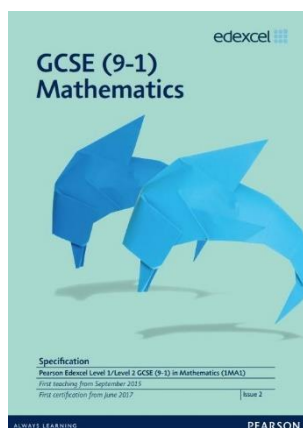
[Physics Bonus](#)

[Year 7 and 8 LRC
Historical Fiction](#)



Year 11 only

Mathematics



As students start to prepare for their upcoming mock exams, the mathematics department would like to remind students of resources available to support their studies, but also to reiterate that their GCSE mock result in mathematics is the most important outcome at this stage in their mathematics education. Students should be working hard in lessons and in their revision to gain their best mock result in December so they can build on this to achieve top grades in their summer exams.

For best outcomes, students who are securing a strong Grade 8 or 9 in their December mocks will be given an opportunity to continue with their Additional mathematics studies. Any individuals who are not guaranteed a secure grade 8 or 9 in their mocks should be focusing on developing their understanding and problem-solving skills to increase their GCSE grades. This will be their main focus for the remainder of Year 11, as securing the top GCSE grades in mathematics will have a positive impact on future university applications and the opportunity to study the A levels of their choice.

Students who have secured the grade 8 or 9 in their mocks and will be continuing to study the Additional Mathematics qualification, there will be a second progress check point, an Additional Mathematics mock exam in their lessons on Monday 6th February 2023. The outcome of this exam will contribute to discussions as to which students will be entered for the Additional Mathematics examination in the summer.

Students in Year 11 are currently studying the Edexcel GCSE 9-1 mathematics specification [Edexcel GCSE and GCE 2014](#) and the OCR Free Standing Mathematics Qualification: Additional Mathematics specification. [OCR Level 3 FSMQ: Additional Maths Specification](#). Students can access a range of past exam papers and check lists to support their mock preparation through the student sharepoint page [Reading School Sharepoint Site - Student](#), under the mathematics icon.

Safeguarding

As we enter the half-term period, 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, ways to get in touch during the holidays 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 (listed on page 2).

Staff gratitude



Why not share your thanks for any member of staff at Reading School towards the end of this term? Has a staff member at Reading School made your life easier during this term? Have they shared 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 challenging 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 your chosen member of staff, via an email using information you provide.

Annual Report to Parents

Every year, an annual report to parents will be shared which contains information about the school's governing body, the school's achievements and direction, along with challenges the school is facing and how the governors propose to address them. We would encourage all parents to access and read the report by [clicking here](#).

Parent Governor Election 2022

There is a vacancy for a parent governor on the Governing Body from 1st December 2022. Full details of the vacancy and an invitation to submit nominations can be found [by clicking here](#). Nominations are required by **4th November 2022**. If more than one nomination is received there will be an election in November, and full details of this will be sent in the weekly e-mail to parents on **11th November 2022**.

Reading School Vacancies

Teacher of English – Maternity cover

Reading School is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and talented English Teacher to provide maternity cover from January 2023. All applicants must complete a teacher application form and submit it to: hr@reading-school.co.uk. Forms can be downloaded from the vacancies section of the Reading School website. Early application is advised as we hold the right to close the application process early if a suitable applicant applies and is appointed. We will make every effort to ensure a recruitment decision is made before the end of October. For further information please see the information pack: [Link to Information Pack](#)

Alumni and Development Assistant – Maternity cover

Reading School is seeking to appoint an organised Alumni and Development Assistant to provide maternity cover from November 2022. All applicants must complete an associate staff application form and submit it to: hr@reading-school.co.uk. Forms can be downloaded from the vacancies section of the Reading School website. Early application is advised as we hold the right to close the application process early if a suitable applicant applies and is appointed. We will make every effort to ensure a recruitment decision is made before the end of October. For further information please see the information pack: [Link to Information Pack](#)

Excellence, Belonging & Community

Combined Cadet Force Biennial Inspection 2022

Reading School CCF had its Biennial Inspection this Thursday 20 October, after a 4 year wait due to COVID. During this inspection, students from Years 10 - 13 from both Kendrick and Reading School attended vital training events at RAF Benson (RAF Section) and Bramley Training Area (Army Section). Whilst at these locations, the inspecting officer Brigadier Nevil Holmes MBE, who is the Deputy Commandant for cadet forces, visited them and spoke with cadets and staff about the training recourses, facilities and why the enjoy doing CCF.

Once back at school, the Year 9 students from both schools joined us for a parade where the Brigadier spoke with cadets to find out more about why they joined the CCF and to award a number of promotions to:

Promotion from Flight Sergeant to Cadet Warrant Officer (RAF Section) - Ishika Jain (Kendrick School)



Promotion from Sergeant to Flight Sergeant (RAF Section) - Daniyal V (13C)



Promotion from Sergeant to Staff Sergeant (Army Section) - Tarun B (13W)



Promotion from Corporal to Sergeant (Army Section) - Declan C (12W)



The Brigadier then joined a conference with Headmaster, Mr. Robson, Sergeant Villaverde (CCF Adjutant), Lt Col Flexman (Contingent Commander), Mr. Jeremy Chadwick (Kendrick Governor and President of ORA). During the conference, the CCF's three senior cadets, Ishika J (Kendrick), E Lawrence (Kendrick) and Daniyal V (Reading) gave presentations about their experience of being members of the Combined Cadet Force.



Drama Production

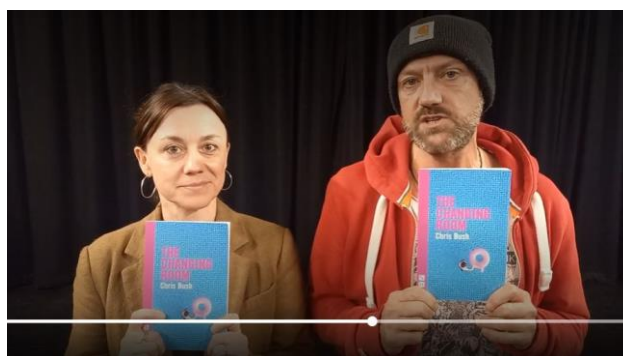
The Changing Room by Chris Bush

The Drama department are very excited to announce Reading School's first co-production with The Abbey. The two schools will be collaborating together to stage a production of The Changing Room by Chris Bush to be performed in March 2023.

The production is open to Year's 10 - 12 and will be directed by Mr B Sandiford and Miss Friend from The Abbey.

This is an ensemble piece so availability for ALL rehearsals is essential as we are working for a short and focussed 6-week period. Students need only attend one of the audition sessions and no preparation is necessary, just bring your talent.

The show has three songs in it, but there is no need for singing acumen.



[Click image to view introduction video \(41secs\)](#)

Details:

Auditions on Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 November after school at The Abbey from 4pm - 6pm.

Rehearsals every Tuesday and Wednesday between Jan 24 - 8 March at The Abbey 4pm - 6pm - (6 weeks)

Sunday 12 March, 10am - 4pm (Extra rehearsal - tbc)

Dress rehearsal on Wednesday 15 March 10am - 6pm at South Street Arts Centre, 21 South Street, Reading, RG1 4QU

Shows on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 March 2023, 7pm at South Street Arts Centre.

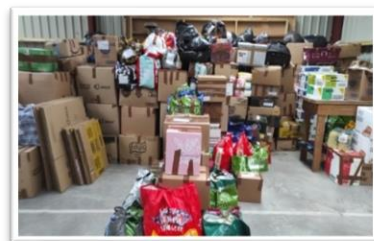
There will be potential for an invited matinee on Friday afternoon for schools.

If parents or students have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Sandiford by emailing bsandiford@reading-school.co.uk or in person in the Drama Studio

Donations for Ukraine – a thank you

Mrs Jo Pullman, organiser of convoys of donations from Reading School to Ukraine has shared an update in relation to how the donations made to Reading School by the school community, have benefited those in need.

“After summer months collecting aid for Ukraine, such as warm winter clothes, the majority of which came from the RS Community, followed by non-perishable food and bedding, the load was ready for departure from UK in mid-September. Three weeks later it was in the hands of the first Ukrainian people providing warmth and sustenance but, very importantly, also encouragement for those who find themselves in unimaginable situations. Since then it has been moving across country to trusted individuals in 7 distinct locations who distribute it to families.



This is what happened to the amazing mound of bags stored in the school chapel:

- Boys helped load them for the short trip south to a dry barn near Winchester
- Thirteen people came once, twice, several times, to whittle away at the mound sorting it into types and ages, packing it into boxes, zip bags and sacks
- As summer went on the initial amount was joined by more donations of non-perishable food and clothes
- They were loaded into an ‘artic’ in early September which had already called at our northern hub where similar activities had been taking place.
- Unexpected last-minute financial donations at both these locations meant a lot of 11th hour running to Costco and Booker to convert the cash into much-needed tinned food.
- The ‘artic’ left the south coast on a ferry on 16th arriving in south-east Poland 4 days later. The driver deposited the load at storage in a village church where we have made co-worker friends since war began.
- Local people began the mammoth task of familiarising themselves with the load; even though items were labelled in 3 languages and they knew an artic would arrive, they were still amazed by the quantity.
- They split it to be transported in smaller vehicles to trustworthy contacts in the 7 locations, including 2 recently liberated, and two weeks later the aid was on the move again, going east towards needy people.



In summary, thank you from the old folks who have a hand knitted blanket to ward off the cold, from the grandmother who wears your old coat as she tends her vegetable patch, from the man who wears your old boots as he searches for fuel, from the boy who has a new hoodie, from the girl with the sparkly socks to show her friends, from the premature baby with a tiny woolly hat that helps her survive and from the many, many others who have clothes from you.

We don't want this to be our last effort; the war is not over. Planning is on-going, more help is needed for practical tasks. If anyone wishes to make a warm or waterproof or edible or financial donation please contact me.”

We would like to thank Jo Pullman for her update which the school community will appreciate.

RSPA

Reading School Parents' Association AGM - Tuesday 8th November 7:30pm, The Refectory.



We are delighted that so many people have shown an interest in supporting the RSPA. We are looking for an additional person to assist with developing Corporate Matching within our organisation. If you have any experience in this area or the company you work for provides this scheme then do please get in touch - contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk

The nominations received are as follows:

Veena Baggley – Chair

Vee Nenguke – Vice Chair

Marina Hannaford – Secretary

Terri Lorrimore – Treasurer

Julie Bellingham – Uniform Shop Manager

Nish Moody – Summer Fayre Chair

Kajal Mathur – Digital Manager

Monika Maheshwari – Online Hoodie Manager & Digital Support

Jaideep Das – School Lottery Manager

Rohini Luthra – Communications Manager

Pallavi Chube – Membership Administration Manager

Subha Krishnasamy – Membership Support Coordinator

Menaka Murthy – Events Coordinator

We wish you all a very happy half-term and Reading Week.

The RSPA Team.

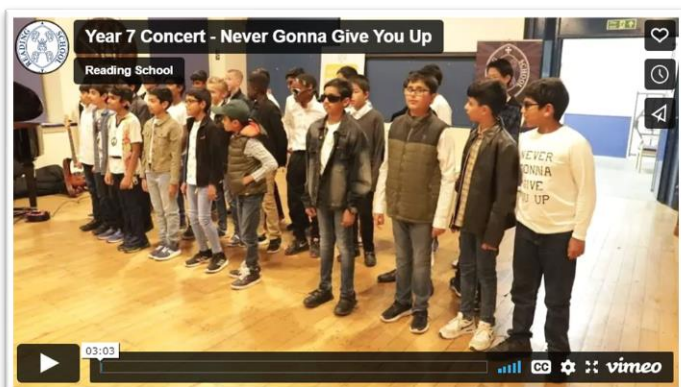


Michaelmas Term – Week 7

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



Year 7 Concert Day – Back to the 80's (click images to view videos)







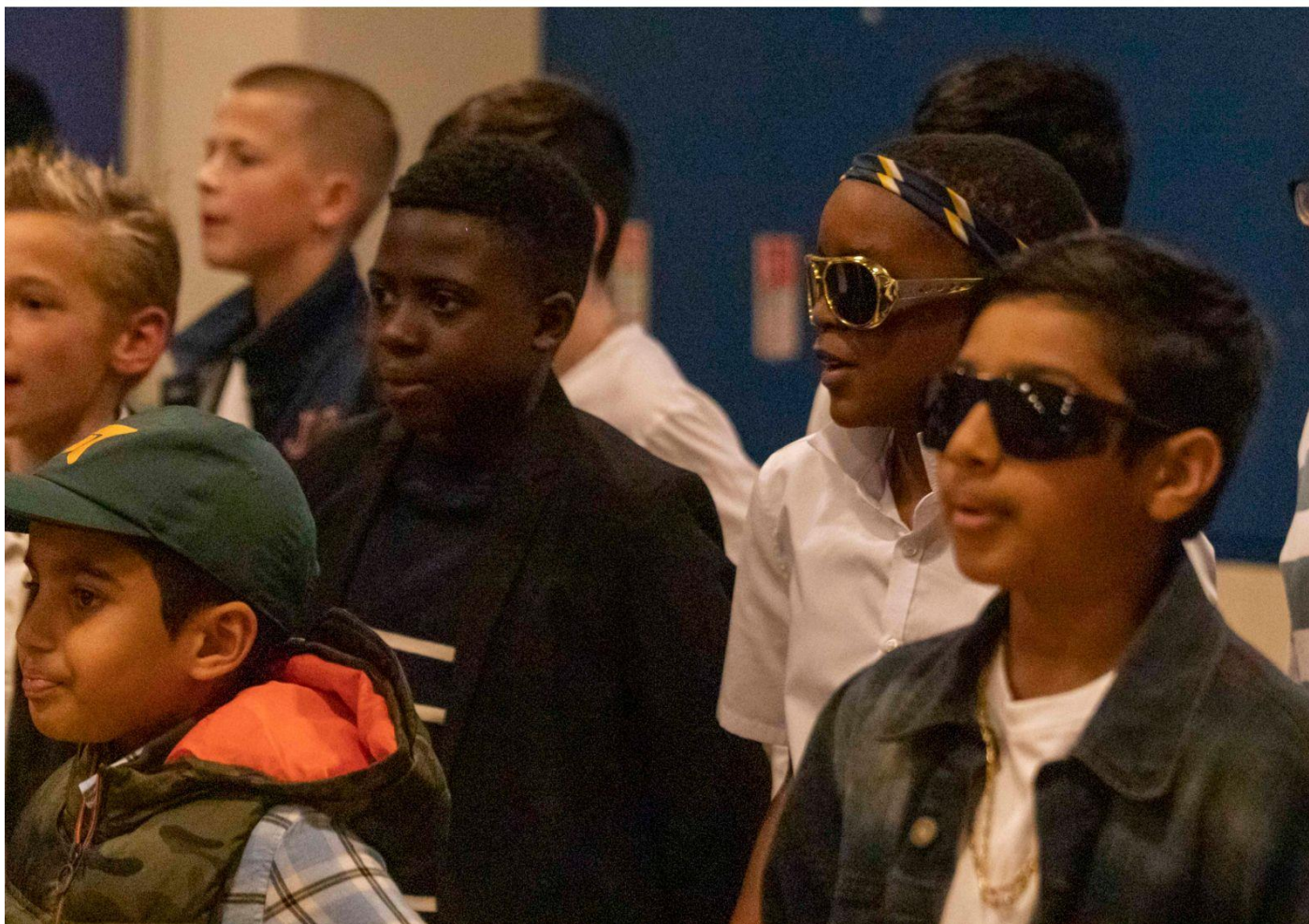


































Parent feedback is important to us and if you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the Community Relations Office by emailing communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk