



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

6 JANUARY 2023



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# Introduction

## Welcome back

I would like to welcome you all back to the new Lent Term 2023. I hope you all have had a restful and peaceful holiday period and New Year and we had much to celebrate at the end of the Michaelmas Term and I would want us to have a positive start as we mean to go on, while building on our collective achievements and development.

This week has already been a productive one, with our Year 7 and 8s travelling to Finland and being lucky enough to witness the northern lights, along with Year 13 mock exams getting underway from this Thursday 5 January. I also wish our Year 11 Football Team luck during today's 3rd Round of the National Cup in Bournemouth. Finally, December's warm clothing appeal for Ukraine has started to make its way to those in need in partnership with Logistics Director, Stefan Bomok from Reading's Ukrainian Community Centre. I would like to thank all those who donated new and pre-loved warm clothing and we were overwhelmed with the response.

## The next 100 days

The creation of an authentic and clear organisational purpose that drives educational and sustainable impact, in line with our core values, is a priority for the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) over the next 100 days, working in partnership with Right to Dream Purpose Lead, Dr Jacob Naish. Our strategic priorities and strategies will evolve, but our purpose is more of a constant. Like the North Star, it should be our guiding light and a compass for decision making. Reflecting on our reason for being, ensures that we draw on our past and look confidently to the future.

What purpose and strategy should shape the future of Reading School so that we continually develop?

Over the next 100 days, the SLT and governors will be working with staff, students, parents and stakeholders to consider the priorities for the 2023-2030 Reading School Strategic plan. A plan that seeks to further unleash the talents of our students and staff. As many new Year 7 parents would have been reminded during our welcome day, we want our students to be rounded and grounded.

During the consultation phase, we will consider the following, linked to the 4Ds of appreciative inquiry:

**Discover** – What is exceptional about Reading School? What strengths and assets do we have?

**Dream** – What could be? What if the entire Reading School community works together to create positive impact in order to make a substantial difference?

**Design** – What should be? How can we work in partnership to create the future?

**Deliver** – What will be? How can a plan be devised and delivered with measurable objectives?

How can actions over the next 100 days add to our culture of commitment?

This first Headmaster's Bulletin of a new year, showcases aspects of our ecosystem of opportunities and seeks to invite students, staff and parents to continue to be inquisitive, positive, generous and open. How can we create moments to reflect, to do more, give more and share more? I would ask us all to consider the following statements:

**Inquisitive** – What more can I do?

**Positive** – What is my opportunity?

**Generous** – What can I give?

**Open** – How can I share ideas?



Sometimes we can be overwhelmed by fear. Dr Pippa Grange, Group Chief Culture Officer from one of our partners at the [Right to Dream Group](#), emphasises the widespread nature of 'the fear of not being good enough.' Dr Grange is an expert on fear, anxiety and perfectionism and she contends that 'you don't have to choose between being either wholehearted, loving, kind and soulful **or** winning. You can do *both*, but the bridge you must cross is vulnerability.'

How can we embrace our fear? Firstly, we can ask for help. Striving for [high performance](#) can be lonely, but solutions often come from people we trust. In addition, believe in yourself. Remember how far you have come and how much you have achieved. Then be courageous and look fear in the eye – perhaps we cannot eradicate our fear of failing, but we can embrace it.

*'Fear is a really motivating force, if you don't approach it as fear – but as something that gets you to do the thing you need to do.'*

Angela Ruggiero, four-time Olympic ice hockey medallist

Over the next 100 days we should focus on the steps that acknowledge our vulnerability and seek to overcome our fear of failure. Excellence is earned through consistency, disciplined effort and the building of character. Excellence requires resilience, grit and commitment. What can you learn about character, culture and leadership?

For those of you who think that it is not possible to achieve a great deal in 100 days, I would ask you to reflect on the following quotation from the historian Arthur M. Schlesinger in 'The Age of Roosevelt: The coming of the New Deal'

*'During his first 100 days in office, President Franklin D Roosevelt sent 15 messages to Congress, guided 15 major laws to enactment, delivered 10 key speeches, held press conferences and cabinet meetings twice a week, conducted talks with foreign heads of state, sponsored an international conference, made major decisions in domestic and foreign policy, and never displayed fear, fright or panic.'*

Do not let the fear of failure, the fear of not being good enough, result in inaction or blaming others whilst you procrastinate. For instance, if academic results need to improve, what specific actions are you going to take to improve matters? Wishful thinking is not good if it is not backed up by action to get to your goals. How can you improve outcomes, strengthen culture and support growth?



So, I invite you to consider what your 3 priorities are for the next 100 days. What will your actions be to meet these priorities? Your 100-day goals should be ambitious and the most effective goals are focused on behaviours rather than outcomes. Try and make your goals concrete. If you want to perform well you need to commit.

*'You can have all the talent that God provides you – but without attitude, you won't achieve anything.'*

Mauricio Pochettino, former manager of Tottenham Hotspur and Paris Saint-Germain

Consider the outcome you would like to achieve within 100 days. Then note the behavioural goals that you think will help you achieve them. A great deal can be accomplished in 100 days, but there needs to be a sustained commitment. Working together, we can facilitate both organisational and individual progress. All members of the Reading School community should strive for high performance in their own context – that you do the best you can, where you are, with what you have got.

**Mr AM Robson**

**Headmaster**

# Key information

## All Years

### Advice for children and young people testing positive for COVID-19

According to the latest advice from the Government, it is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.

If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.

Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

### Government health advice

Parents, staff and students would have been aware of the rising cases of flu, COVID-19 and scarlet fever before the holiday break. As of January 2, and according to the UK Health Security Agency, *“Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.”* In being able to provide our school community with the most up to date information and updates on the management of illness we would encourage all to review [this link](#) which contains the latest [Government advice](#).

# Excellence, Belonging & Community

## Academic Excellence

During the last week of Michaelmas Term, Year 9 students taking part in the 'Launchpad' elective, led by my Teacher of Mathematics, Miss H Record, were tasked with considering what it takes to create a business. In doing so, students were asked to reflect on what success looks like, their definitions of success, along with considering examples of great businesses with the aim to identify a real-world issue related to the theme of 'Connection', in order to design a business or social enterprise which seeks to have a real-world impact on the identified issue.



Please click the links below to view some of the notable presentations which tackled real world issues identified by individual teams:

[Community across Classrooms](#)

[To the Pitch](#)

[Together](#)

## Community

### Social Enterprise Partnership Project

Calling all social entrepreneurs and people working in social enterprises. Whether you are a business owner, passionate about social enterprise, or someone willing to offer business advice to students, we are seeking support from any parents or their networks.



As reported at the start of October, the Social Enterprise Hub project is well underway with 24 Sixth Form students from Reading School and The Abbey in collaboration with the Henley Centre for Entrepreneurship, with the aim of empowering young people to develop social enterprise businesses of the future based around the principles of the Triple Bottom Line - People, Planet and Profit.

With term one's focus on theory coming to a close, the students will move to The Abbey School in term two where they will continue to develop their business ideas and start building their business pitch (to be delivered in term three).

It is during the Spring term we are looking to invite business experts and professionals connected with social enterprise to talk to the students, and offer words of wisdom as they begin to hone their own business plans.

Any offers of support would be greatly appreciated, and as Charles Lovibond, Head of Business Management at The Abbey explains, *"the project aims to engage with the wider community and we are keen to develop the students' knowledge of business, in particular around social enterprise. As they are tasked with creating a viable and sustainable business which can be handed over to their chosen local community by next September 2023, introducing our young entrepreneurs to individuals who want to create positive social change, or who work in business and have valuable advice to offer, will be instrumental to their success. So, we are looking to build a network of like-minded individuals - be they social entrepreneurs, working with or are beneficiaries of social enterprise - to support our project and help these students with their business plans. During each of the five sessions in the Spring Term we wish to invite a guest speaker to excite, encourage and empower the students, as well as utilising the knowledge and experience of others to advise and guide the teams."*



If you are interested in getting involved, please complete the [Google Form](#) and we will be in touch early in the New Year. As a thank you, we will look to promote your involvement (and business) via social media throughout the term.

# LRC

## Pupil Librarian Book Sale

The Pupil Librarian Team are running a Book Sale at lunch outside the LRC on 12 and 13 of January. The books are old LRC books and prices are as low as £1. Pupils need to bring cash if they would like to buy a book.

## Reading School Book Festival 2023

The Scholastic Book Fair will be set up in the LRC on 22 to 24 of February. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to discover new authors and the more books we sell the more money we raise for the LRC.

Book Week Authors and Events confirmed so far:

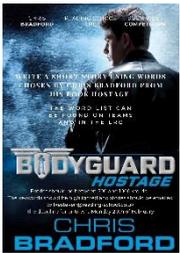
Monday 27 February - Chris Bradford will be giving an author talk to all Year 7 and Year 8

Tuesday 28 February - Lewis Dartnell will be running workshops with 6<sup>th</sup> Form students and delivering a talk to all Year 9

Wednesday 1 March - Sarah Govett will be giving an author talk to all Year 10

Thursday 2 March - Drop Everything and Read (a whole school event to celebrate World Book Day)

## Book Week Chris Bradford Competition



Chris Bradford has a challenge for pupils at Reading School! He has chosen 14 words from his book *Bodyguard: Hostage*. He would like you to write a short story using at least 10 of them. You are allowed to use the words more than once and the target word count is 500-1000 words.

Freedom, Resource, Obscured, Glare, Surveillance, Opportunity, Silhouette, Confidential, Soundproof, Overt, Surfer, Disintegrate, Rescue, Exchange

Entries should be emailed to [lkeSTEVEN@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:lkeSTEVEN@reading-school.co.uk) by Monday 20 of February.

# RSPA

## RSPA Chairs

We would like to start the year with a Happy New Year message, welcoming back all our community, to what looks like an amazing year of fixtures and fun ahead. In January we are looking forward to our soon to be annual Year 7 Disco on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. We are looking forward to meeting new Year 7 parents at our 'Meet and Greet' during the Disco, where tea, coffee and cake is served.

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet other Year 7 parents face to face to encourage links and lifelong friendships during your son's tenure at Reading School. It is also an opportunity to hear from us and see us at work. We are always looking for new members who want to be involved within the school community in raising the vital funds that help support the school in their endeavours. Your help, small or large, would be most appreciated during this event and events to follow. Wishing you a wonderful and prosperous year!

## Year 7 Disco

In the upcoming Year 7 Disco, organised by the Reading School Parents Association, we are running a raffle to raise funds for the school. We welcome unwanted and unused Christmas gifts as donations to widen our prize selection. We are also available to chat and may be able to answer some of the questions that you may have big or small.

We have also extended invitations to Kendrick School's Year 7 girls to join our boys to embrace their new journey into secondary school and welcome in the New Year with their grooves and moves. It is an excellent opportunity for the Year 7's from both schools to socialize, build fond memories, and meet and greet in a safe and supervised space. The RSPA team will do everything we can to make this a memorable night. Tickets are selling fast and details of how to book can be found below:

**Date:** Friday 20th January 2023

**Time:** 7:00pm to 8.30pm

**Location:** Reading School (Refectory)

**Ticket price:** £6 (first come, first served basis)

**Link to ticket:** <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/CBAT>

*Please note: This is a year 7 event only (unfortunately family, friends & siblings are not allowed)*

## Second Hand Uniform Shop

Our uniform shop is open on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2023. Good quality uniform is available at a fraction of the purchase price. We continue to urge parents to label clothing and items so that once lost, they can be returned via the appropriate channels within the school. Please continue to look out for our Second-Hand Uniform Shop opening times on Facebook, Classlist, Instagram and the Headmaster's Bulletin.

Hoodies update: Thank you so much to everyone who has ordered a hoodie. Please note that we will be able to deliver any hoodies on order next week.

## RSPA Funding News

We are starting the new year with the fantastic launch of two new picnic tables and table football which were purchased by funds raised by the RSPA through your generosity. The RSPA would like to thank you for all your wonderful donations and continued support and we are sure the students will make good use of them.

## Membership and Ad Hoc Volunteering

Please contact our membership secretary for further information on membership or your class reps for help at the upcoming Year 7 school disco and events to follow.

The RSPA Team



# Lent Term – Week 1

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



Year 8 and Year 9 students visit to Finland where they followed their north stars







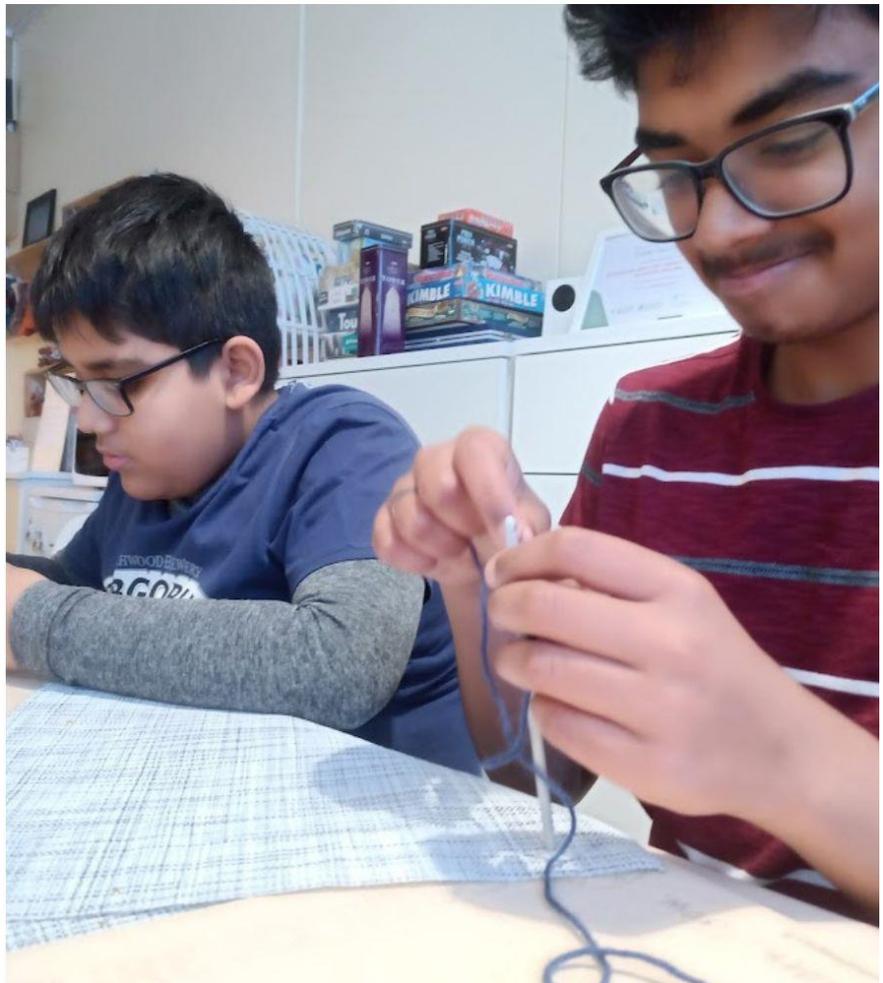












Our appeal for warm clothing starts to make its way to Ukraine with the support of the Ukrainian Community Centre





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)