



FLOREAT REDINGENSIS

ACADEMIC YEAR | 2022-2023



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Floreat Redingensis is distributed to the Reading School community to communicate events and news with the whole school community.

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FOLLOWERS**



**4 K+
ALUMNI**



**1.8 K+
FOLLOWERS**



**3 K+
FOLLOWERS**

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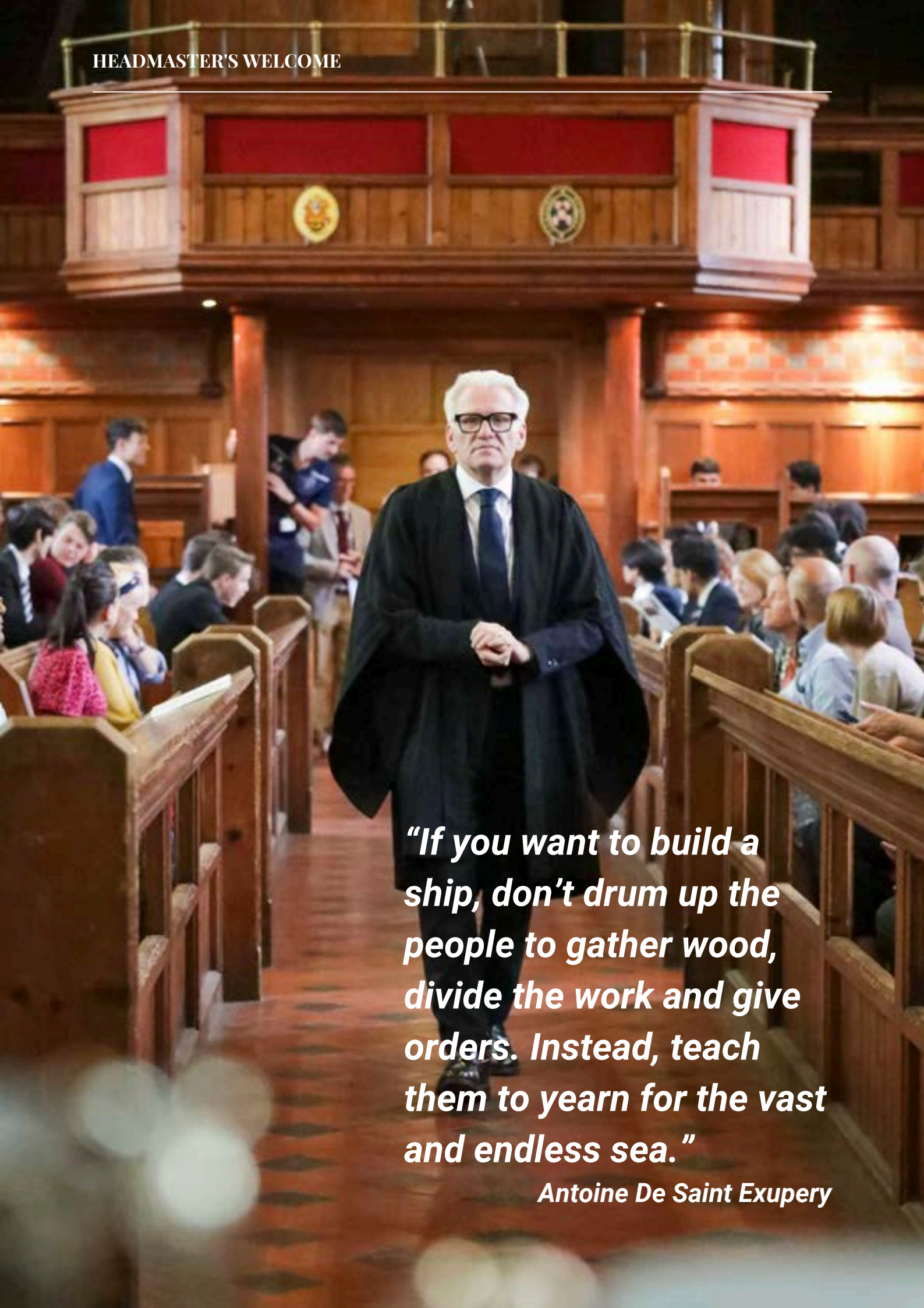
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A headmaster with white hair and glasses, wearing a black academic cape over a suit and tie, walks down a central aisle in a large, ornate school hall. The hall features wooden paneling, a balcony with red cushions and crests, and rows of wooden desks where students are seated. The lighting is warm and focused on the headmaster.

“If you want to build a ship, don’t drum up the people to gather wood, divide the work and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea.”

Antoine De Saint Exupery

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

Reading School is in the business of opportunities. It is in the business of creating dreams where we support children and young people to be the best versions of themselves. To be given opportunities to be the next generation of leaders while demonstrating compassion. We are shaping a positive future story that continues to emphasise academic excellence whilst also prioritising a culture of belonging and community.

A shared sense of purpose can be a guide to taking an organisation beyond the mediocre. An effective purpose will engage at an emotional level and energise people to act. Arguably one of the defining characteristics of organisations with sustainable high performance is a shared purpose. Ours is to provide opportunities for others to flourish.

I am increasingly convinced that an organisation, such as Reading School, is shaped by culture. Indeed, the dominance and coherence of culture is an essential quality of a high performing organisation.

Our school culture includes academic excellence which it is known for, however it includes so much more. Research shows that there is a strong and significant correlation between an organisation's culture and performance. By understanding what makes up our own culture, allows us to share this with our whole school community, so that it becomes tangible and can be evidenced within the day to day life of the school.

The many overlapping connections between our staff, students, governors and stakeholders results in our distinguishing character. While providing a high quality, rich curriculum supported by committed professional staff, the quality of education is enhanced by the breadth and depth of our Electives programme, that places excellence within the context of a holistic education. Crucially, the positive impact is evidenced by the development of attitudes and behaviours that aspire to healthy high performance, individually and as part of a team.



Our school culture is also demonstrated through our commitment to partnership development locally, nationally and internationally and this has been demonstrated in our work with:

- Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust
- Ukrainian students and their families
- The True Athlete Programme
- The Right to Dream organisation

All these partnerships and ones currently being developed, contribute towards providing our students with valuable opportunities to demonstrate their leadership, service and compassion, along with personal development opportunities that will prepare them for life after Reading School.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Robson".

Mr A M Robson
Headmaster

Restructure of Executive Leadership

Appointments of CEO and Headmaster of Reading School



In December 2023, **The Governing Board of Reading School**, voted to restructure the Executive Leadership of Reading School, ushering in a new era of strategic vision and innovation.

We are pleased to report that **Ashley Robson** accepted the role of **Chief Executive Officer** effective from January 2024. As CEO, Ashley will become Executive Director of the Future Stories Community Enterprise Company and will ensure that the social impact of this school is extended even further. Additionally, he will serve as Executive Director of the Reading School Overseas Partnership Company and will drive forward international opportunities for the school.

As CEO, Ashley will be able to underpin the school's strategic planning with a firm research base, ensuring that the school builds a rigorous strategy for 2025-2035 and beyond, that is founded on the best practice of world-leading institutions. Ashley will visit and build partners, research effective strategies and foster social impact in his important new role.

The transition is underpinned by the capability and capacity within our organisation, evidenced by effective Department leaders, dedicated staff and a cohesive Senior Leadership Team.

In addition, the **Governing Board** has appointed **Revd. Dr. Chris Evans as Headmaster**, effective January 1st, 2024, following his exemplary service as Deputy Head for 8 years.

In his new role, Chris will continue to nurture the school's vibrant community, prioritising the well-being of students and staff while upholding the standard of excellence and building of character that defines Reading School. Under his leadership, we are poised to embark on a journey of renewal and transformation, guided by a collective commitment to academic rigour, foster a culture of inclusivity and diversity, and empower future generations of students to reach their fullest potential.





Leading with Excellence: Chris Evans takes the helm as Headmaster of Reading School

The new Headmaster of Reading School, Chris Evans, brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his role. Having been a student at Reading School from 1990 to 1997, Chris has a deep appreciation for the school's ethos and values. During his time as a student, he immersed himself in various extracurricular activities, including Hockey, Rugby, Music, and Drama, while excelling academically in Biology, Classics, and History.

After completing his education, Chris ventured into youth work projects in Caversham, founded a charity, and established a gardening business aimed at rehabilitating offenders. His journey led him to teaching roles at Highdown School and Waingels College before embarking on a career as a prison chaplain.

In 2008, Chris returned to Reading School as Head of Religious Studies, later taking on the role of Housemaster of South House in 2010 and Deputy Head in 2016. Alongside his professional endeavours, Chris has also achieved personal milestones, including becoming ordained as a minister in the Methodist Church and obtaining a PhD from Kings College London.

During his tenure as Deputy Head, Chris has witnessed significant changes and growth within the school community. Under his leadership, the school has expanded its student body, enhanced its facilities with the construction of the Refectory and the Philip Mitchell Science Centre, and diversified its curriculum to include new qualifications such as GCSE Electronics and A Levels in PE and Philosophy. Additionally, Chris has played a pivotal role in fostering local and international partnerships and promoting the importance of character development alongside academic excellence.

As he transitions into the role of Headmaster, Chris expresses profound gratitude for the support and encouragement he has received from colleagues, parents, students, alumni, and the Governing Board. He is inspired by the collective spirit and sense of purpose that defines the Reading School community and is committed to continuing the school's legacy of excellence and positive impact for generations to come.

As Reading School approaches its momentous 900th Anniversary celebrations in 2025, Chris stands poised to lead the institution into a new era of excellence and innovation. With a profound understanding of the school's rich history and a vision for its future, Chris embodies the spirit of resilience and progress that has defined Reading School.

As preparations for the milestone anniversary gather momentum, Chris is steadfast in his commitment to honoring the school's legacy while embracing opportunities for growth and advancement. He envisions the 900th Anniversary celebrations as a time to reflect on the remarkable achievements of the past, celebrate the accomplishments of the present, and chart a course for continued success in the years ahead.

ORA PRESIDENT'S REPORT



JEREMY CHADWICK
OR 1979-1986
PRESIDENT OF THE OLD REDINGENSIS ASSOCIATION
2022-2023

Dear Old Redingensians , members of staff, students and everyone in the extended Reading School family...

898 Years and counting...

It is a tremendous honour for me to remain your Old Redingensians Association President for the year ahead, representing the wider ORA Council. The Council is made up of the full range of generations of boys who attended our School ; we serve to promote the School, and do all we can to support and provide a social network for all Old Redingensians.

We are all very much looking toward our School's 900th anniversary of its foundation in 2025, and to supporting the Headmaster and the wider School community for this keynote year. After 898 years, we had better do a good job of this together!
With regards to this last year specifically, 2023 has been a solid year for the ORA, rebuilding our events programme and planning our way forward after the Covid pandemic.

By way of a more detailed update, the ORA have been busy on several key fronts. We have held face to face reunions and informal gatherings across the year, restarting more fully after the pandemic years led by Events Secretary and Vice-President, Fraser Peck. For example there was a very successful evening get-together

across the generations at the Royal Ocean Yacht Club in St James, drawing many from across the London area.

Do look out for more upcoming events as a way to stay connected with old School friends, make new connections and to support your Association. I would like to highlight Fraser's energy leading in this area and on behalf of the Association pass on our particular thanks.

"[Future Stories] is a truly wonderful way we can all help others and make sure that a Reading School education can benefit as many people from across society as possible."

Elsewhere, your Executive and Council have been equally very busy, not least considering how we might better support the School. John Short and Richard Griffiths continue to make sterling progress considering our options regarding disposal of certain property assets which will release significant funds for our charitable purposes going forward. This is a slow process due to the necessary planning cycles but will bear fruit soon we think. We hope to be able to use such funds released to help fill gaps and add

OLD REDINGENSIS ASSOCIATION

to Reading School's extra-curricular programmes such as a wide sports offer while maintaining secure funds to ensure the ORA's longevity and relevance.

Again, I would like to recognise here both John and Richard's expertise and continuing contribution in this regard.

One of the School's pivotal efforts is the Future Stories initiative. While this is led by the Headmaster and School, immediate Past President Andrew Tuggey champions this for the ORA. In this way we who have been lucky enough to attend School can help others with less advantage come to Erleigh Road to give them the same opportunities we have had in life.

This is a truly wonderful way we can all help others and make sure that a Reading School education can benefit as many people from across society as possible. The ORA supports the programme as widely as we can include financially, mindfully using your membership donations then to support the next generation of Old Redingensians and the wider community. Thanks should be passed on to Andrew in this regards therefore.

We are lucky also to have other long-standing members and Officers of the Association who continue to give their time freely to support all these causes ; Chris Widdows (Membership Secretary), Ken Brown (Archivist), and Richard Taylor (Treasurer) are again notable. I would like to also especially thank here the stalwart Ned Holt for his lifelong commitment to the School and to your Association. On the back of their hard work, we just have had a

successful Remembrance Day Service in School Chapel, enjoyed an ORA golf day and other events, and kept the right side of our necessary financial and regulatory obligations.

As we come toward the end of 2023, the luminary date of 2025 feels very close : nearly 900 years of our School's heritage to celebrate and honour together. As I sat in the Chapel for Remembrance, I was reminded how many 'good men', including former Cabinet Ministers, MPs , high-ranking public servants, notable scientists, churchmen and members of the armed forces walked the corridors and studied in the same classrooms as the current boys at School.

We are very fortunate to be part of this same family. It is perhaps not fully in-tune with modern thinking to say you are proud of history and heritage these days. These are not necessarily bad things to be proud of. I look to the principles I learned at School of using our privilege to give back, serve others, strength in community, and teamwork to make things better. This is why I joined the ORA. Please do consider membership – there is of course more strength in increased numbers and it is a great way to stay in touch with School friends. Contact membership secretary Chris Widdows via memsec@oldredingensians.org.uk for more details.

Finally, the ORA are pleased to again support the costs of producing the School magazine and so I do hope you enjoy the read this year.

Floreat Redingensis!

Jeremy Chadwick OR 1979-1986
President, Old Redingensians Association



Sunday Times Southeast State Secondary School of the Year 2023-2024



The acknowledgement we received of being named the State Secondary School of the Year South East by The Sunday Times' Parent Power Schools Guide 2024, is a testament to the relentless dedication and tireless efforts of every member of our school community. It speaks of our shared commitment to nurturing a school environment of academic excellence, a deep-seated sustainable culture and continued collaboration. It follows on from our 2023 award for academic achievement.

The achievement serves not only as a milestone in our journey towards our 900th anniversary but also as a reminder of our collective endeavours, fuelled by an unrelenting sense of moral purpose. Building people of character should be viewed as an essential mark of our authenticity. Our focus on the nurture of character, deeply respectful relationships between staff and students, the value of autonomy and the significance of curiosity, enables Reading School to achieve remarkable academic success, without ever making this our exclusive focus. When compassion, integrity and authenticity are priorities, then excellence follows.

A heartfelt thank you to each member of our community for contributing to this achievement. Together, we have proven that, when united by a common purpose, we can continue to learn, lead and serve.

EXCELLENCE



Ofsted Inspection



In the realm of education, an "outstanding" rating from Ofsted is akin to receiving a glowing accolade. It signifies that a school has not just met but surpassed the rigorous standards set by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. Achieving such a status is a testament to the dedication, innovation, and unwavering commitment of the entire school community.

Reading School welcomed the Ofsted inspections on a three-day inspection (including boarding) from 21st - 23rd November 2023. We are pleased to announce that, upon the conclusion of the inspection, Reading School was awarded "outstanding" in all areas.

When a school receives an "outstanding" Ofsted report, it is both a cause for celebration and also reflection. It validates the hard work of teachers, administrators, students, and parents alike. It underscores the effectiveness of teaching methodologies, the richness of the curriculum, and the overall ethos of the institution. Reading School is not defined solely by academic achievements but also by its development of character through initiatives such as Floreat and Belonging Week.

Receiving an "Outstanding" Ofsted report is not the culmination of a journey but rather the beginning of a new chapter. It is a reminder of what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared vision and a common purpose. It is a catalyst for continuous improvement and an affirmation of the transformative power of education.

"It is through the staff's collective efforts that we have achieved the remarkable milestone, and I am immensely proud to be part of such an exceptional team. Reading School's commitment to fostering a culture of continuous improvement, dedication to success and well-being of our students is invaluable."

Mr Bob Kenwick - Chair of Governors

School of Character

Being a school of character entails fostering an environment where integrity, respect, responsibility, empathy, and other essential virtues are not just taught but deeply ingrained in the fabric of the institution. It goes beyond academic achievements to prioritise the holistic development of students, nurturing their moral compass and emotional intelligence. Educators in Reading School serve as role models, embodying the values they aim to instill in their students. They cultivate a sense of community where diversity is celebrated. Students are encouraged to embrace challenges with resilience, to show compassion towards others, and to act with integrity even in the face of adversity.

Following Reading School's accreditation of becoming a **Regional Character Hub School by the Association for Character Education**, we welcome visits from schools across the UK in order for us to share what our school's Character Education programme looks like.

We recognise that character education is not a one-time lesson but a continuous journey that requires collaboration between educators, parents, and the community. Through meaningful relationships and purposeful experiences, students learn not only how to succeed academically but also how to lead fulfilling lives guided by principles of decency, honesty, and empathy. Ultimately, being a school of character is about shaping not just scholars, but compassionate and principled individuals poised to make positive contributions to society.

In May 2023, we were honoured to host a visit from **Professor James Arthur, Director of the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues (University of Birmingham)** and **Mr Jim Rahn, President of the Kern Family Foundation (Wisconsin, USA)**, led by **Head of Theology and Philosophy, Mr B Miller**. Our guests met with both staff and students and got to see first-hand our character education provision, which included the character journeys of some of our students along with Floreat lessons. We hope that their visit will act as a catalyst for further inspirational developments relating to personal development, flourishing and positive character formation.

Thank you to the following staff for participating in the visit; **Ms. K Rosser-Evans (Head of House)**, **Mr D Tridgell (Head of County House, Reading Way lead)**, **Mr C Betteridge (Head of School House)**, **Mr T Evans (Assistant Headteacher - Personal Development, Pupil Premium Director and Future Stories)** and **Ms. A Stratford (Teacher of History, Sixth Form pastoral lead)**.



School of
CHARACTER



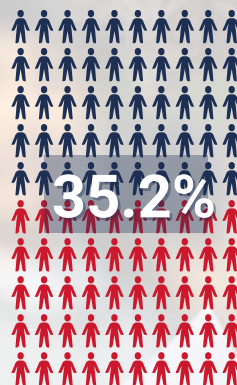
ACE
**Regional
Character Hub
School**

A LEVEL RESULTS & UNIVERSITY OFFERS

Students and parents collected A Level results on Thursday 17 August, and we congratulate the Class of 2023 for attaining a strong set of results, marking a triumphant return to pre-pandemic performance levels. The exceptional achievements of our students have paved their paths to prestigious universities and exciting career opportunities.

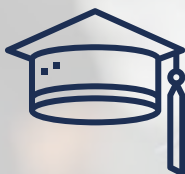


of students achieved A*-B



of all grades awarded being A*

85%



Students attained the requirements for their first choice university.

20+



Students will read medicine or dentistry and have secured places at top universities.

20+



students secured a place at Oxbridge.



"Our students' resilience and adaptability are qualities that will undoubtedly shape their future endeavours. At the heart of our educational ethos lies character development, exemplified by our recent national accolade for character education. It's this personal growth, underpinning academic achievement, that truly fills us with pride. The unwavering dedication of our Sixth Form team, led by Mr. D Whitehorn, Miss A Stratford, Mrs. H Majorossy-Young and Mr. O Thomas, alongside the support of Miss J Pickering, our Sixth Form tutors, the Exams Team and Society Office, has been instrumental in making this year's successes possible.

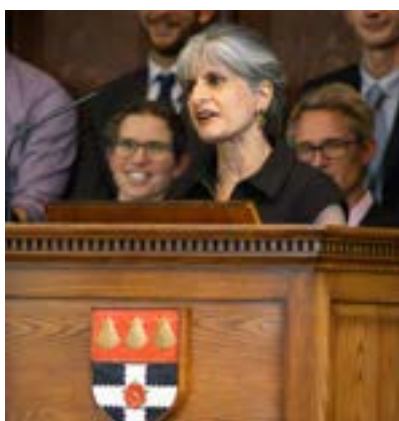
Mr A Lloyd, Head of Sixth Form and Boarding Housemaster



EXCELLENCE



SENIOR PRIZE GIVING 2023



Celebrating Excellence and Milestones

The echoes of academic triumph, vibrant camaraderie, and heartfelt farewells resonated throughout Reading School's annual Senior Prize Giving Event in June 2023. This cherished tradition stands as a testament to the remarkable achievements of our senior students, honouring their academic prowess, co-curricular endeavours, and personal growth.

Under the theme of the "ABC of Academic Excellence, Belonging, and Community," the event underscored the school's unwavering commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who excel not only academically but also as active and engaged members of society. Throughout the academic year of 2022-2023, this focus was palpable in every facet of school life, and it was reflected in the diversity of prizes awarded.

A highlight of the afternoon was the inspiring address delivered by **Professor Parveen Yaqoob OBE**, whose words resonated deeply with students, parents, and staff alike.

Furthermore, **Reading School** was honoured to welcome the **Mayor of Reading (2023-2024), Cllr Tony Page**, whose support and partnership with the school embody the strong ties between education and civic responsibility.

From academic achievements to sporting triumphs, artistic endeavours, leadership initiatives, and community service, the Senior Prize Giving event celebrated excellence in all its forms. Beyond the realm of academic accolades, the event also shone a spotlight on the values of character, integrity, leadership, and community through the prestigious Floreat prizes.

As we bid farewell to our Year 13 students, the Senior Prize Giving event served as a poignant culmination of their journey at Reading School as well as inviting back first year undergraduates to collect A Level certificates and celebrate success. It provided an opportunity for students, teachers, parents, and family to reflect on the cherished memories and meaningful connections forged during their time here.

EXCELLENCE

Yet, amidst the bittersweet farewells, the event also marked a new beginning—a springboard to the future filled with boundless opportunities and untapped potential. As we navigate the challenges that lie ahead, let us cherish this milestone, drawing strength from our shared experiences and embracing the journey toward long-term success.

In commemorating the achievements of our seniors and celebrating the vibrant spirit of our school community, the Senior Prize Giving event reaffirmed Reading School's unwavering commitment to excellence, unity, and the pursuit of knowledge. Together, let us continue to flourish, empowered by the lessons learned and the bonds forged at Reading School. Floreat Readingensis!



Reading School extends its heartfelt gratitude to **The Reading Foundation** for sponsoring this ceremony, prizes and refreshments; **The Old Redingensians Association** and **Sir Thomas Beecham Trust** for sponsoring prizes and the **Reading School Parents' Association** for drink refreshments and support on the day. This prestigious event would not be possible without their support and the **generous individuals who fund prizes for our students.**



*Pay it
Forward*

The Leavers' Gratitude Gift is a departing gift from the families of Upper Sixth Leavers in support of the Building for the Future - 365 campaign. The gift is a collective effort to ensure that opportunities are afforded to all Redingensians in the future and aims to continue the long-standing tradition of giving back at Reading School. All gifts big or small are welcome.

**SCAN QR CODE TO
DONATE TODAY**

Please reference "Leaver 2023-NAME" when making a donation



MEET THE PREFECT TEAM



Reading School Prefects exemplify the core values of leadership and integrity within our school community and we welcome the new team for the 2023-24 academic year. Our School Captain, Josha Gupta, speaks about what he is most excited for in his new role:

Why did you want to become a Prefect?

"I had always enjoyed helping out. Whether it was on open evenings, or prizegiving events or match fixtures I always liked to make the time to give back to the school. I wanted to become School Captain because I thought this would only facilitate this - I'd be able to organise these open evenings and fixtures rather than just attending or helping out. I'd be able to give speeches to large audiences rather than simply having smaller conversations. I'd be able to encourage younger students to get involved and help out just as I had done. Above all, I knew that I would enjoy my role as Prefect, and I hope that others thought the same too about their own roles."

What changes would you bring to the school in your new role?

"As School Captain, I want to nurture the academic excellence that already exists at Reading School through access to societies and super-curricular activities, so students can be placed in good stead for university applications well in advance. I also recognise the merit of the ideas of other prefects, including the Vice Captains, so I'd like to facilitate the success of all four prefect departments: Projects and Community, Student Body, Sixth Form and School Events, creating an inclusive and productive atmosphere where ideas can be shared, discussed and implemented."

What legacy would you like to leave behind?

"Having drawn much inspiration from previous prefect teams and School Captains, I hope to set a good example for those occupying this role in the future. I am committed to being transparent about my experiences - both successes and setbacks - to young aspiring prefects, and I hope to foster an environment in which each successive generation of prefects learns from the lessons of previous teams, ultimately enhancing the school community as a whole."

2023

Leadership Team

School Captain
Vice-Captain
Vice-Captain
Vice-Captain
Vice-Captain

Joshua Gupta
Harry Aldred
Rio Thomas
Yash Singh
Rajan Dhanjal

Student Body Team

Sports Prefect
Junior Sports Prefect
Student Voice Prefect
Mentoring Prefect
Well-being Prefect
Electives Prefect
Fixtures Prefect

Kamran Seal
Neilraj Randhawa
Henry Barry & Lloyd Singleton
Alessandro Mercante
Harry Chester & Jonathan Hall
Shaan Sachdeva
Maaz Salman

School Events Team

External Relations Prefect
School Events Prefect
Junior Social Prefect
Social Prefect
Community and Partnerships Prefect

Declan Crawley
Tom Silvester-Ratcliffe & Freddie Shaw
Harry Langdon
Ethan Addae
Emek Dinctop

Sixth Form Team

Year 12 Integration Prefect
Legacy Prefect
Common Room Prefect
Common Room Prefect
Careers Prefect
Attendance Prefect

Bobson Mansaray & Nikolaos Argyropoulos
Aadith Chandra
James Follen
Chanuka Witana
Adam Maybury
Aslan Hussain

Projects & Community Team

Charity Prefect
Community Service Prefect
Future Stories Prefect
Environment Prefect
Equality Prefect
Social Development Prefect

Yaman Entabi
Ben Silvester-Ratcliffe
Benji Foster & Sam Johnson
Joe Marsden
Adithya Athipotta Variem
Dhian Singh

House Leadership Team

County House Captain
School House Captain
East House Captain
Laud House Captain
West House Captain

Lucca Khanghura & Siddhanth Tekurkar
Branson Rizzo
Joss Heddle Bacon
Sean Awoseyila
Manan Kumar

Boarding Team

East Wing Captain
South House Captain

Harry Aldred
Oscar Smith Turton

2024

LEADERSHIP



Photos above: Vice Captains - Harry Aldred, Rajan Dhanjal, Yash Singh and Rio Thomas
 Photo below: House Leadership Team - Sean Awoseyila (Laud), Joss Heddle-Bacon (East), Branson Rizzo (School), Manan Kumar (West), Lucca Khangura and Siddanth Tekurkar (County)

"As Vice-Captain for the projects and community team I'm looking forward to being involved with a number of student-led developments within the school. We're looking most into areas where we can offer something for our community both in school and the local area. I'm particularly excited to see where the Future Stories program is able to go this year. Inside of school, we're looking at ways in which we can create a more welcoming and supportive environment, addressing issues of inclusivity and equality as well as providing as much opportunity as possible to everyone in the school community."

Harry Aldred - Vice Captain (Projects and Community)

"I hope I am able to support student development through sporting and social events across all years. With my team, I will ensure that all student led events are managed well and coordinated with staff. I am eager to increase interaction between the senior and junior school by increasing our approachability and making juniors aware of their opportunity to contribute. I look forward to developing the school's relationship with others, such as the Abbey School, with social events across years to develop key life skills not taught in an academic setting."

Rajan Dhanjal - Vice Captain (Events)

"As Vice Captain of the Student Body team, I hope to enrich students' school lives by expanding and developing the opportunities available to everyone. With my team, I am pushing for an ever-growing sense of community and fulfilment (through sports and electives), which perhaps took a hit for many students in younger years due to the pandemic.

We also are keen to provide platforms necessary for students to flourish and maximise their potentials in ways that they see fit, by revamping mentoring and student voice schemes."

Yash Singh - Vice Captain (Student Body)

"The sixth form prefect team aims to cultivate student life for those in higher years. Whether it's developing the sixth form common room, making it the perfect spot to study and relax or providing opportunities such as the careers fest to inform students about life after school, the sixth form team ensures that every student makes the most out of their sixth form journey. Our prefects are also responsible for organising social events moving into sixth form (for example, an inter-year football match) easing the transition into this new and exciting period of student's lives. As Vice Captain, I am very privileged to support the prefect team in achieving our goal of making Sixth Form at Reading School a safe and productive place."

Rio Thomas - Vice Captain (Sixth Form)

House Leadership Team 2023/24



Sean Awoseyila (Laud House), Joss Heddle-Bacon (East House), Branson Rizzo (School House), Manan Kumar (West House), Lucca Khangura (County House), Siddanth Tekurkar (County House)



HOUSE NEWS

HOUSE UPDATES



County House
Dave Tridgell
Head of County House

The County House mantra is 'Be the best at things that require no talent'. This may take some unpacking and may look like a strange focus. However, my starting premise is that every **County House** student has huge potential, intellect and talent. It isn't yet anywhere near where it could be but the House must be a place that nurtures it.

Our focus should be on creating an environment that allows every student to feel valued, cared for and excited about the endless possibilities. For me, this is about developing character virtues with the belief that who you are is maybe even more important than what you can do. Or maybe, who you are should allow you to make the most of what you can do.

Imagine what you could do if you were always on time, always well prepared, always focused, always attentive, always determined, always kind and always considerate. Merge this with the undoubted talent and intellect **County House** has in abundance and the sky is the limit.



Many of you will know that **County House** came 5th in the House Cup this year (big congratulations to **Laud House** on winning). Would I have wished we'd placed higher – certainly. Does this show that we've got this wrong, definitely not.

If you watched **House Music** as I did, watched the performances and were aware of the work that went into it you'd be hard pressed to conclude that we failed in any way – it was utterly superb. When we came 2nd in **House Eisteddfod** we did it with true leadership and community behind us. It was a joy to behold how we behaved and celebrated and contributed on **Sports day**. We had fabulous contributions right across every competition and I could not be prouder.

As ever I'd like to thank every **County** student for their contribution to the House this year with particular thanks to the prefect team and those who helped them lead and organise. When we look after each other and bring out the best in each other we must recognise just how wonderful that is, and cherish it.

HOUSE UPDATES



Laud House
Laura Clarke
Head of Laud House

As we say goodbye to another remarkable academic year, I believe it's important to take a moment to reflect on the inspiring achievements of **Laud House**. With sheer determination and an unwavering sense of House pride, we soared to the pinnacle of success, clinching the coveted **House Cup**. This remarkable feat stands as a testament to our collaborative spirit, resilience, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Throughout the year, we have strived for excellence throughout all House competitions. Our talented cohort of musicians clinched a commendable 2nd place in the **House Music** competition. To see the dedication and commitment to excellence from all year groups involved was a genuine pleasure, and special thanks go to our music prefects for their organisation.

Laud House shone brightly in the fiercely contested **House Eisteddfod**, securing 1st place in the competition. Our performances exuded passion, creativity, and a profound appreciation for the arts, captivating the audience and judges alike.



Turning our attention to the sport, our prowess was on full display as we secured a commendable 2nd place in **House Cricket**, showcasing our athleticism, teamwork, and competitive spirit. Additionally, our dominance extended to the courts, where we emerged triumphant in **House Badminton**.

But our achievements transcend the realms of music, sports, and cultural expression. Our year group also showcased its prowess in the digital domain, emerging victorious in the **House Coding competition**. This triumph underscores our aptitude for innovation, problem-solving, and technological fluency.

As we reflect on the past year, let us cherish the memories, celebrate our victories, and draw inspiration from our collective achievements. Together, we have demonstrated the power of collaboration, resilience, and unwavering determination. Here's to another year of excellence, camaraderie, and boundless possibilities!



West House **Jesus Escribano- Sanchez** **Head of West House**

The academic year of 2022-2023 heralded yet another remarkable chapter for **West House**. An extraordinary community was moulded through Sida's astute leadership, resulting in a vibrant House.

Exemplifying the core values of our school, **West House** manifested its commitment through actions. The best illustration of our unity emerged during **House Music**, where the sagacious guidance of senior students culminated in a breath-taking performance at the Hexagon. The journey leading to this pinnacle moment was as enriching as the performance itself: juniors collaborated with seasoned musicians, each radiating not only musical prowess but also remarkable character. The result was a series of performances that left the audience suspended in awe, a testament to the exhaustive preparation preceding the big day.

Throughout the year, I've engaged in countless conversations, perhaps numbering in the hundreds if not thousands, with many of you. This facet of my role remains deeply cherished; the ability to forge connections and share my passion for fostering interpersonal relationships shows how important these bonds are for developing character.



In our changing world, I really hope that we keep having face-to-face conversations because they help us understand and empathise with each other.

I extend my commendations to those who are making **West House** something to be proud of. Westies, Prefects, and Tutors, your collaborative spirit enables us to achieve amazing things. I express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering commitment to this remarkable community.

Remember to be kind, be generous, and uphold integrity even when the gaze of others eludes us. Strive to be the beacon of change, whether within society, our neighbourhoods, or even within the confines of our form groups.

Let us continue to embody the values that define us, nurturing a legacy of excellence and community.



School House **Chris Betteridge** **Head of School House**

School House feels like the place to be. After my first year, a successful year as **Head of School House**, I have powered on with the House. More importantly, the students have powered on. We welcomed in our new year 7s, who have taken to the house like a duck to water and love being in School House. We have expanded leadership opportunities, adding in Year 10 prefects and look forward to their involvement and establishing the role of a prefect in the lower school. While we haven't had the most successful start to the year in terms of the House Cup, the boys are certainly invested in working together to achieve the best they can in the remaining events. My best moments as Head of House include watching House Music, cheering on at Sports day and indeed walking around the school, getting to know the boys.

One moment captured what it means to be in **School House**...

In practicing for **House Eistedfodd**, a year 8 student asked if there was a chance we could progress in the **House Cup**. I told him, if we smash it, we could win. He turned to the 60 year 7s and 8s around him and said, 'Alright lads, come on then'. Under superb leadership of Charles and Nic last year, we finished 3rd in the **House Cup** last year. We loved it. We loved every opportunity to compete as a unified front, to laugh together and to create memories that will last. Nic and Charles left a legacy. They handed a



book over to Branson and his team that will share the moments of joy and family for the years to come. Hopefully, in 20 years time, we will see time, we will see these men do their **School House** ties at a reunion to inspire the new **House Captains** and in turn, the House.

As we look ahead, we look forward to the growing of relationships, the strengthening of our culture and belonging and the success of each other. We look forward to finishing the year off strong with a talented group of students who work hard together. I am School House, we are **School House**, long may our legacy last.



HOUSE UPDATES





KATIE ROSSER-EVANS

TEACHER OF CHEMISTRY
HEAD OF EAST HOUSE (From 2023)



East House
Liam Green
Head of East House

Miss K Rosser-Evans (Teacher of Chemistry) on becoming Head of East House:

Stepping into the role of **Head of East House** fills me with a profound sense of excitement and anticipation. My overarching goal is to foster an environment where every student not only succeeds academically but also feels a deep sense of pride, respect, and demonstrates accountability. I am dedicated to ensuring that each member of **East House** understands the importance of respecting themselves and others, as well as taking ownership of their actions.

I am looking forward for the opportunity to witness **East House** students flourish, not only in the spirited competitions in the house cup but also in the day-to-day experiences of school life. Together, with the fantastic **East House** tutors and prefects, we will work to strengthen the house spirit, and work to ensure a supportive and inclusive atmosphere where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and make meaningful contributions. One which will enable the students to reach their fullest potential, whilst creating lasting memories. A House that the students are proud to be a part of.



Head of East House, Liam Green will be leaving Reading School in June 2023 after 5 years at the school. We caught up with him about his time at Reading School:

What or who inspired you to become a teacher?

I've always had this need to be in some way serving. One of favourite book quotes was, "strength does not make one capable of rule. It makes them capable of service." I've always had that in my head that if I had the ability to do something, I should use it in a way which benefited society and culture, and then I just stuck with it.

What did you enjoy most about being Head of East House?

As Head of East House at Reading School, I've relished the opportunity to foster a sense of community and support among students. Witnessing their growth, achievements, and camaraderie has been immensely rewarding. Whether organising events, mentoring younger students, or resolving conflicts, every moment has been a chance to make a positive impact. The role has allowed me to develop leadership skills, empathy, and a deep understanding of teamwork. I see it most during the Year 7 Belonging Week. From the outset of their time here at the school, house members are collectively on a shared journey of learning, resilience, and shared aspirations. Being a Head of House has been a privilege.

What do you like most about teaching at Reading School?

I think for me it's been the ability to specialise in chemistry. You go to other schools, and you have to be like a specialist in chemistry, biology and physics. I love all the sciences, chemistry is always been like the one for me; It's always just got my brain going a bit more. You can really hone into your passion at Reading School and get to grips with the topics that you love and you can share your enjoyment with them. It's really, really special.



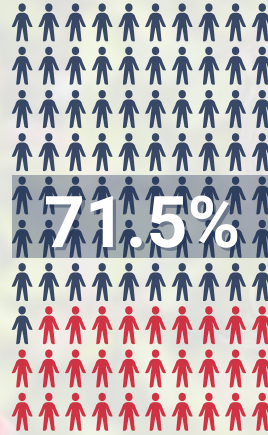
DEPARTMENT NEWS

At Reading School, we empower every student to pursue, discover and explore their interests and passions within each subject, supported by their committed teachers. The following pages showcase the academic achievements within each department.

GCSE RESULTS

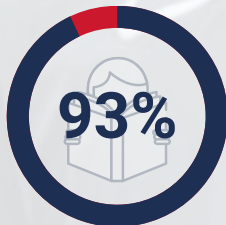


of GCSE entries were awarded grades 9-7



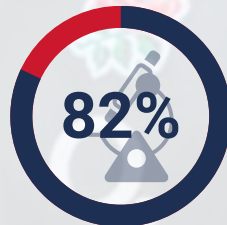
of GCSE entries were awarded grades 9-8.

English Baccalaureate



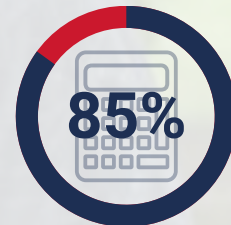
of students achieved the English Baccalaureate.

Science



of students achieved grade 9-8 in Physics, 79% Chemistry and 75% in Biology. 70% of pupils gained grades 9-8 in Computer Science.

Maths



of students achieved GCSE Maths at grade 9-8.



We are proud of the way in which students continued to excel simultaneously in a wide variety of subjects, as demonstrated by the fact that 92% of students studied for 10 or more different qualifications.

Our students demonstrated a commitment to high performance and sustainable excellence.

Mr A M Robson (Headmaster)

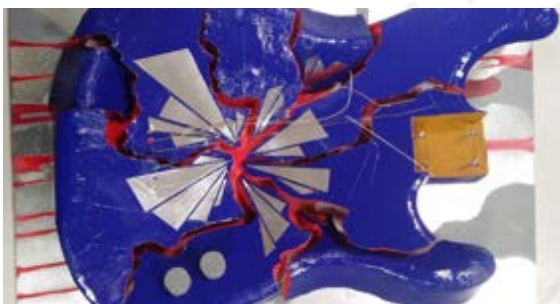


5 of our students achieved grade 9s in 12 different qualifications



ART

Reading School artists continue to produce outstanding work throughout 2022-2023. Below you can see projects from GCSE and A level students exploring 'the nature of Black identity', the music genre 'metal', with a sculptural outcome, 'fabrics' and 'patterns seen in nature'.



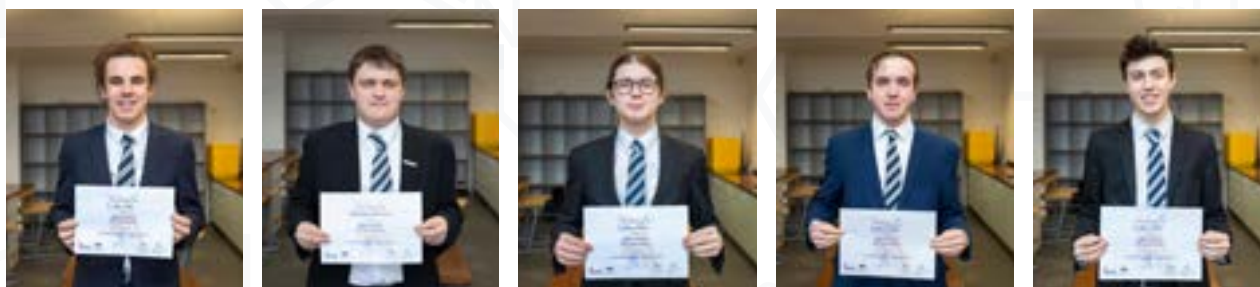
BIOLOGY



Success at British Biology Olympiad

Our **Year 13 Biologists**, gained an impressive tally of accolades: **8 Gold, 10 Silver and 14 bronze medals** in the competition organised by the **Royal Society of Biology**. Receiving a gold medal in this competition demonstrates that a student is one of the most talented young biologists in the country. This year over 10,000 students from over 700 schools competed, the competition was fierce, with a gold medal being awarded to the top 5% of students, a silver medal to the top 15% and a bronze medal to the top 30% making the accomplishments of our students all the more remarkable.

The success of our Year 13 Biologists in the **British Biology Olympiad** is a testament to their hard work, perseverance, and passion for the subject. It also reflects the exemplary guidance and support provided by our dedicated teachers and mentors at Reading School, who inspire and empower students to reach their fullest potential.



Congratulations to the Gold Award Winners (pictured above): Daniel H-T (13W), Jonny R (13E), Harry J (13W), Finn T (13W), John J (13S) and Luke S (13S). Congratulations also to Vivek D (13C) and Ivan P (13S) (not pictured).

We extend our congratulations to each medalist for their outstanding achievement. Your dedication, intellect, and commitment to excellence serve as an inspiration. May this accomplishment be a stepping stone to even greater heights in your academic and professional pursuits.

35th MiSAC Annual Competition 2023

Congratulations to Devayan C (8L) for achieving Joint First Prize in the Key Stage 3, Secondary 1/2 group at the **35th MiSAC Annual Competition**. His success reflects the dedication and talent of our students, supported by the guidance of our Year 13 Biology Mentor, Aazim A (13E). We also commend participants Rahul R (11L), Rayan S (11E), Siddharth D (11E), Srivallabh S (11E), and Shaheer T (11L) for their contributions. At Reading School, we remain committed to fostering scientific curiosity and excellence among our students.



Year 10s excel at the National Scientific Thinking Challenge

For the second consecutive year, Reading School proudly participated in the **National Scientific Thinking Challenge**, a prestigious nationwide competition designed to test the analytical skills and scientific reasoning of Year 10 students. The challenge encompasses a range of questions that mirror the tasks encountered by research scientists, including deduction, trend-spotting, data interpretation, and graph analysis.

In our commitment to academic excellence, we enrolled our entire Year 10 cohort in the competition, joining approximately 17,000 students from across the country. The rigorous evaluation process involves marking and ranking students' responses, with distinctions awarded to the top performers nationally.

We are thrilled to announce that our Year 10 cohort has achieved outstanding success, with an impressive 71 students earning the coveted Gold award. This remarkable achievement not only reflects the dedication and diligence of our students but also underscores the effectiveness of our academic programs in nurturing critical thinking and scientific literacy. Congratulations to all participating students for their commendable performance a testament to their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to academic excellence.

CHEMISTRY

RCF Chemistry Olympiad 2023 achievements



Photo above: (From left to right) Karthik D (13L), Kabinesh G (13W), Liam K (13L), Daniel T (13S) and Thomas S (13E)
Not pictured: Joshua C (13E), Ryan L (13L) and James M (13C)

Head of Chemistry, Mr D Wheal, was very proud of the student success in the **RCF Chemistry Olympiad**, which aims to stretch and challenge students interested in Chemistry. This prestigious competition aims to stretch and challenge students with a passion for chemistry, providing them with an opportunity to hone critical problem-solving skills and think more creatively.

Aspiring chemists from Reading School embraced the challenge, demonstrating their dedication and aptitude in the field. The Olympiad presented them with a rigorous two-hour written paper, designed to push their knowledge beyond the confines of the A level curriculum and into real-world scenarios.

Congratulations to all students who participated in the RCF Chemistry Olympiad. Your commitment to academic excellence and passion for chemistry are commendable, and we are proud to see your achievements recognised on a national stage.

CLASSICS

A Taste of Ancient Greece

In a captivating journey back in time, forty-seven, Year 9 students studying Latin, got a taste of what life would have looked and felt like, within an ancient classroom during a visit to the **Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology** at the **University of Reading**. The museum of Mediterranean Archaeology from ancient Greek, Egyptian, Etruscan and Roman civilisations, contains one of the most important collections of ancient Greek pottery in the United Kingdom.

Guided by their curiosity and a thirst for knowledge, the students embarked on a journey of discovery, exploring the '*Reading ancient schoolroom*'—an immersive replica of an ancient classroom meticulously crafted to replicate the ambiance and tools of learning in antiquity. Donned in Roman costumes and equipped with replica ancient writing materials such as wax tablets, styluses, reed pens, inkwells, ostraca, and papyrus, the students were transported back in time to experience firsthand the methods and techniques used by ancient scholars.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Excellence at The Oxford University Computing Challenge



The Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge is an annual event designed to inspire and challenge students who have demonstrated exceptional aptitude in computational thinking. Participants are tasked with producing programmed solutions to complex problems, showcasing their problem-solving skills and creativity.

With two rounds of competition each year, only the top 20 students from each year group are invited to compete in the second round.

This year, Reading School is proud to congratulate several outstanding students for their remarkable achievements in the **Bebras Challenge**. **Luke H (12W)**, **James M (13C)**, and **Isaac B (12L)** have been recognised as **Elite National Finalists**, with Luke and James both achieving an impressive 6th place. **Rujul N (10S)** has been awarded the **Senior National Finalist award**, securing 6th place in his category, while **Maxwell L (7W)** has earned the **Junior National Finalist award** with a remarkable 9th place finish. Such dedication and enthusiasm are emblematic of the spirit of excellence that defines Reading School.

Empowering Future Innovators: The Perse Coding Team Challenge 2023

In our inaugural year of participation in the **Perse Coding Challenge**, Reading School proudly demonstrated its prowess in computational thinking and problem-solving. This rigorous competition, known for its complexity and syntactical challenges, saw our students excel as they submitted short code solutions to a diverse range of problems, each increasing in difficulty. Making it to round 2 with multiple teams, our Computer Science enthusiasts showcased their exceptional abilities, with our top team achieving a remarkable joint 10th place nationwide.

This Challenge not only highlights the technical proficiency of our students but also underscores the importance of promoting computational thinking skills. As we navigate an increasingly technological world, fostering these skills among students is paramount to enhancing problem-solving abilities and preparing them for the challenges of tomorrow.



Photo above (From left to right): **Rujul N (10S)**, **Akshaiyan S (9S)** and **William W (9S)** presented with **Certificates of Distinction** by Headmaster, **Mr Robson**.

Well done to all students who participated in this year's challenges.

DRAMA

Richard III - A-Level Drama

In an A-level performance of Richard III, the complexity of Shakespeare's character-driven drama is skillfully brought to life. Through nuanced portrayal and interpretation, the student actors convey the intricate layers of ambition, deceit, and manipulation woven throughout the play. Richard's journey from charming villain to despised tyrant is depicted with depth and authenticity, engaging the audience in his morally ambiguous world. The small ensemble cast effectively captured the political intrigue and personal vendettas driving the narrative forward, creating a dynamic and compelling theatrical experience.



The Changing Room - Collaborating with The Abbey

The Drama department at Reading School was thrilled to announce its co-production with The Abbey School. Together, they staged Chris Bush's *The Changing Room* in March 2023, open to Years 10 - 12. Directed by **Mr. B Sandiford** and **Miss Friend** from **The Abbey School**, the production unfolded within a mere six weeks. Throughout this brief period, the ensemble piece demanded collaborative learning and unwavering dedication from all cast members to deliver an outstanding performance. Their collective efforts fused seamlessly, showcasing the power of teamwork and commitment in the pursuit of theatrical excellence.



ENGLISH

Rupert Turnbull (7C) becomes Poet Laureate



Rupert T (7C) has been our Poet Laureate for 2022-2023. Not only has he provided regular suggestions of inspiring poems which have been shared regularly with the school population, he has also written verses to celebrate special occasions (such as King Charles III's coronation, World Oceans Day, National Limerick Day, the Spring Equinox). Here's his poem which marked the end of the summer term in July, as well as International Friendships Day.

'A New Year Of Friendships'

As daylight dawned that bright September morn,
Anticipation rose from deep within,
Goodbyes all said a chapter new was born,
With fresh and hopeful faces to begin-

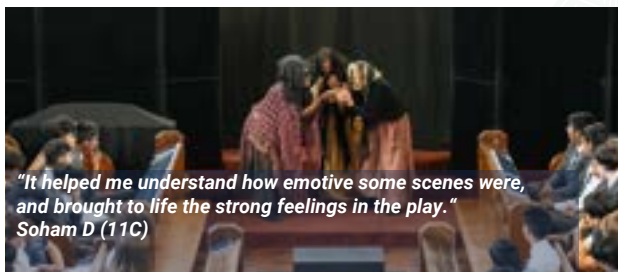
A journey through our first exciting year,
At Reading School to which we'd each aspired,
In these surrounds we grinned from ear to ear,
At once our sense of nervousness expired-

As with each smile camaraderie began,
Together we united in one goal,
Supporting each as part of this grand clan,
As many parts but forming one great whole.

And so we felt community at heart,
And thus true friendships here we know did start!

GCSE English Literature "Macbeth" performance

We hosted a production of "Macbeth" by the touring theatre company "The Globe Players" in the summer term. Year 10 students were able to experience the play in the chapel, and seeing it live enhanced their understanding of the characters and themes.



"It helped me understand how emotive some scenes were, and brought to life the strong feelings in the play."
Soham D (11C)



"I loved the delivery of the Porter scene, and it made me realise the importance of voice. Seeing it is a lot better than reading it."
Jet D C (11C)

Writing from this year's *Gazette*

From "Experiences" by Ojas (9E)

I have not heard the sound of harmonious tropical birds,

But I have heard the lion's roar of celebration from my teammates when we win the match, my heart overflowing with pride and my mane waving in the wind.

I have not tasted Michelin star food in America,

But I have savoured food made with love, devotion and purity from my relatives in India; the ancient recipes passed down from generations; the taste perfected by centuries of hard work, the aromas and tastes an exquisite delight to the senses.

I have not met an acclaimed speaker,

But I have listened to my grandfather's wise, soothing words.

His words, a waterfall

and me,

A stream seeping in the knowledge.

From "Where I'm From" by James (Y13)

I am from...

The few yet fierce friends I follow.

Their well fought loyalty I've strived for.

The fear of finding they felt unlike to myself.

The cold comfort that life continues onwards.

I am from...

The aching fingers of a day spent speaking

An affixed gaze on the fortune-finding double ticks

The power held in another's opinion

And the swift shutters drawn when opportunities die.

I am from...

The rush, the joy, the high of adrenaline.

Found in perpetual pronunciation and paronomasia.

The smug sesquipedalian speeches uttered to a selected audience.

My own false laughter to show others to feel the 'same'.

I am from the bottom of my heart to the furthest corners of my carapace.

From "The Manifencil" by Noah (Y11)

Nay, I say! The title Lead Breaker or The Burning Pencils is to show the passion we put into our work, and the Spark of creativity that resides inside us, ready to rise to the hottest of infernos the moment we put our pen to paper, burning away the crisp white of paper with the flowing figures of the story. Our story flows through the pencil that we use, our torch with which we delve into the unknowns of our imaginations, and the hearts of our readers. When the final spark disappears, and the last of the ink runs dry, we're left in darkness, fumbling for the next tool. But in that brief respite in the darkness of the story, where the tale has stopped for all but us, we stare at that unfinished word, the moment of passing, and give it thanks for bringing them to where they are now: the normal day turned darkest nightmare, the normal kid morphing into a destined hero. We place its corpse to the side, close enough to the others to show a group of the fallen, enough apart to show the unique flame in every one of them. And though it may be dead, the ashes in these pens are the cartridges, empty of regret, and their smoke the mark they left on the page, the reader, and you.

2022 Reading Foundation Mcllroy Essay Competition

Noah Hussain (10C) won the annual **Mcllroy Essay Competition 2022**. He wrote a piece called *"The Precarious Future Of The Art Of Reading"* in response to this year's task-title *"How Reading Makes Life Better"*.

Noah's essay was anonymously judged by the panel, drawn from the Reading School staff, to be a terrifically inspiring and well-expressed piece of writing.



"Winning the Mcllroy Essay Competition is an experience, to say the least. I was first introduced by my friends pestering me to put my creativity to use over the summer, and sending me this. However, having nothing but time on my hands in the sweltering Malaysian heat, I thought I'd give it a go. While I could talk about its pluses, like how it's obvious EPQ practice and develops essential essay writing skills, what really hits home is how much of a journey it is (especially for fiction writers such as myself) into informative writing. It shows that non-fiction writing does not have to be limited to a GCSE mark scheme."

Noah Hussain (10C)

House Eisteddfod 2023

House Eisteddfod is a celebration of our student's cultural potential and talents. The long-running annual competition is made up of two elements: performances of well-chosen non-fiction and fiction texts (speeches, prose passages, poetry, drama extracts), and creative writing, all based on a unifying theme chosen by the students.

It is a student-led competition, organised by House prefects and involving as many students from each House as possible. During the last 2 years, performances have been recorded virtually and we are pleased to be able to return to being able to perform in front of whole year groups.

"It was terrific to see the students in action, live, in front of appreciative audiences, this year. The effort invested by all of the House teams has been exceptional, and the judges along with the watching crowds got a chance to hear and read some powerful

words presented with conviction. We are very lucky to have so many talented performers, writers and team managers amongst the student population, and I hope this event inspires their peers."

Mr R Baldock, Head of English

This year's results are:

House	Points
Laud	22
County	21
East	18
West	15
School	14

GEOGRAPHY

Reading School Weather Station

The Geography department are very pleased to announce that we have had a new digital weather station installed on the roof of the **John Kendrick Building** (JKB). It shares live weather data with a global sensor network made up of over 250,000 weather stations called Weather Underground.

Through the **Weather Underground** website you can track live weather data as well as compare it to historical data that it has collected. We have already started using this data in our lessons to provide the students with real examples of the phenomena they are learning about. For example, Year 8s have been looking at data to understand the impact of air pressure on temperature.

Geographical Association WorldWise Quiz

Students from Reading School took part in the annual **WorldWise Quiz** in partnership with the Geographical Association, organised and led by **Teacher of Geography, Mr J Ginger** and the Geography Department. Years 8, 9 and 10 represented Reading School in a University Challenge style competition, that put their geographical knowledge of flags, capitals, countries and much more to the ultimate test, against schools across Berkshire. It was fantastic to see such a great turnout from students and parents, and the Geography department were proud to see the wonderful geographical minds we have in the school at work.



Congratulations to Isaac L (10W – pictured centre), Martin W (9S – pictured far right) and Tobias L (8W – pictured far left) for collecting first place, and to Oscar Z (8W), Prayrit A (9S) and Akhilesh S (10W) for second place.

Year 9 Geography Trip to Lulworth Cove

The Geography department took our Year 9 geographers to **Lulworth Cove** to explore coastal landscapes along the Jurassic Coast. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to explore real life examples of coastal theory they have learned as part of their GCSE.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

UK Linguistics Olympiad (UKLO) May 2023

Reading School continues to excel in the **UK Linguistics Olympiad (UKLO)**, a competition where students solve challenging linguistic data problems.

Over 1,000 students from across the UK sat this year's exams which tested their ability to decode information about various languages including Albanian, Lardil and Meroitic. We are pleased to announce that Daniel T (13S) has been chosen as part of this year's UK Team and travelled to Bansko in Bulgaria in the summer of 2023 to compete in the International Linguistics Olympiad.

We congratulate three other A Level students alongside Daniel who achieved Gold certificates in the Advanced competition of the UK Linguistics Olympiad. We were impressed by the efforts of all the candidates. We would like to congratulate all our students who participated in the UKLO:

- Daniel T – Gold**
- Luke H – Gold**
- George J – Gold**
- Edward W – Gold**
- Joshua G – Silver**
- Manan K – Bronze**
- Sidh G – Bronze**
- Joshua H – Bronze**
- Saikrishnan D – Bronze**
- Dylan C – Bronze**
- Joseph M – Bronze**
- Jacky C – Bronze**
- Matthew D - Bronze**



"A couple of weeks ago I got to visit Edinburgh to participate in a training camp to pick the members of the UK team for the International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL). During the weekend, I met some amazing people and learnt a lot of interesting things about linguistics, from high and low vowels to Papuan number systems. Having then qualified for the UK team, I now have the incredible opportunity to go to Bulgaria over the summer to take part in the IOL. I am really looking forward to going and I would encourage anyone to have a go at the UKLO competitions because you never know where it might lead!"

Daniel T (13S)



Photo above (from left to right): Mr A Robson, Luke H (12W), Daniel T (13S), George J (13S), Mrs J Haugvik and Mr M Cooper

MUSIC



House Music 2022

The annual **House Music 2022** returned to its traditional venue of **The Hexagon, Reading**. Led by a senior prefect team, each House was responsible for presenting a 25 minute showcase of their House’s musical mastery.

The breadth of planning, recruiting, rehearsing and executing a **House Music** showcase is an impressive feat and it was fantastic to see so many pupils involved from all year groups. The judging panel was pleased to have two music professionals, **Miss. N Killick** and **Mr. E Miller (ORA 2014-2019)**, joined to help adjudicate the competition.

House	Position
East	1st
County	2nd
Laud	3rd
School	4th
West	5th

Music Excellence

The Woodley Festival of Music & Arts

Avaneesh R (11W) - winner of the **Joan Taylor Trophy** and gold medals in the U15 piano recital class AND gold medal for woodwind solo.

Raphael N (10E) - 2 gold medals, 1 bronze and a trophy "best U14 recital" in the vocal section

Nandan K (9C) - 2 silver medals in the vocal section

Dishanth G (7E) - Piano Solo Under 12 and Jazz (Piano) Solo Under 12 and won Gold (Distinction and Outstanding respectively) medal in both.



Pro Corda Chamber Competition

National Chamber Music Festival for Schools

Reading School entered their Advanced Guitar ensemble, fending off some excellent ensembles from schools around the UK to progress to the national finals, where they won Best Newcomer - The Advanced Guitar Ensemble is comprised of **San C (11S)**, **Anish K (11C)** & **Patrick D (10C)**.



Berkshire Young Musician of the Year

Joseph M (12L) – progressed through to the string categories finals. We look forward to following his progress during 2023-2024.

Music Events

Summer Music Festival 2023



Oh what a night! The **Reading School** community came out to support our **Summer Music Festival 2023** and brought the festival spirit, while being entertained by the stellar line-up of student (and staff) musicians.



Our talented school ensembles included the Junior, Senior, and Chapel Choirs, Big Band, Junior Jazz Band, and Orchestra. It was an evening of appreciation and let us not forget the immense pride and joy that our community brought to the event. We thank all parents, students and families for their encouragement and support of our talented performers and sharing in the magic of music. We can't wait to return to entertain in 2024!

Year 7 Concert

The annual **Reading School** Year 7 concert transported this year to music from the 1980's, with each year 7 class performing music of Bon Jovi, Bryan Adams, Michael Jackson, Rick Astley & Toto. The concert finale was Bohemian Rhapsody from the entire year group. The Year 7 cohort made a great effort with 80's inspired fancy dress.



Service of Nine Lessons and Carols and Evensong



PHILOSOPHY

The Ethics Cup

During January 2023, five of our Year 12 Philosophy A level students matched their wits against students from five other schools during The **Ethics Cup 2023 at UWE Bristol**. The tournament involved teams of students discussing current and diverse ethical issues and our team, **Joshua G (12C), Branson R (12S), Lucca K (12C), Jonathan H (12C) and Luca Z (12C)** won the Ethics Cup regional stage with 2 wins and a draw against the schools they competed against. The team went onto progress to the finals at the **University of St Andrews**.

Reading School was victorious in the **Ethics Cup 2023**. The team competed in two debates of 45 minutes each per match with the day beginning at 7am and finishing well into the evening. The team spent over 3 months preparing for the final after winning the regional finals and we congratulate them on their dedication and hard work.

Joshua G , shared on behalf of his team:

"I think I speak for everyone when I say that this was an invaluable experience. Coming from the regionals, we knew we had to up our game, and the standard was definitely much higher, but we had been preparing for months and that paid off in the end. We started with a tough match against a school that had previously won the competition, and that win fueled our confidence, which allowed us to eventually progress through to the finals. This was the biggest match, tackling heartfelt issues regarding addiction and liver transplants. I don't think anything quite comes close to the suspense felt in the moments before the judges announced the winner, as it really could have gone any way! We are immensely grateful for the opportunity not only to engage in complex moral issues, but also to experience the character of a city which we may not have otherwise had the chance to visit."

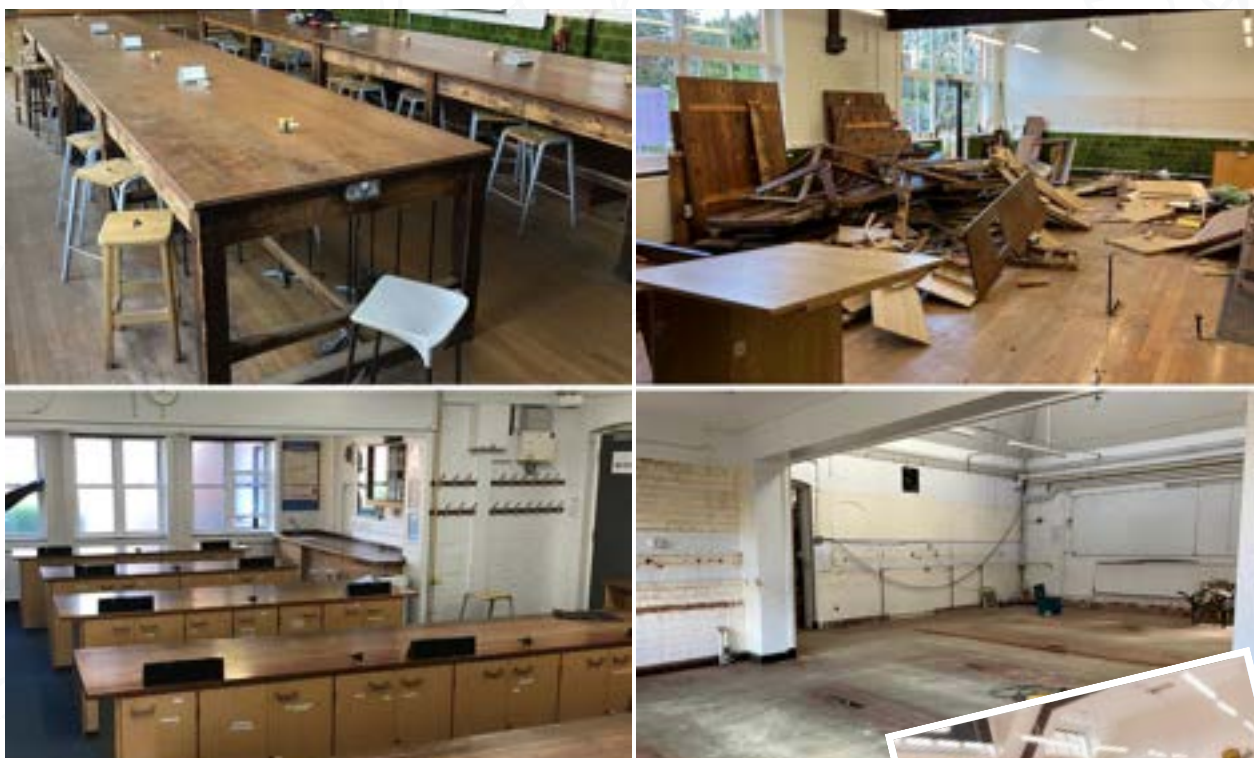
We would also like to thank **Geraldine Ng** from the **Department of Philosophy at the University of Reading** for her support.



PHYSICS

Opening of refurbished Physics Labs 2023

In July 2022, Reading School secured funding for the major refurbishment of our three historic Physics laboratories made possible by a generous grant of £100k from **The Wolfson Foundation** (and £50k from Reading School). These works were completed on time and our students are now using these refurbished facilities.

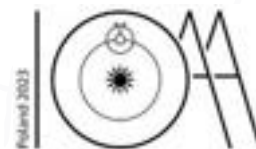


"It was a moral imperative as a school, where we provide a world leading education, to provide our students with updated facilities, especially when Physics is a core subject studied by all students up to Year 11 and our second most popular A level subject. I feel privileged as a Head of Department to have been able to work in collaboration with my colleagues, in order to reach our goal to secure funding in order to augment our facilities with state-of-the-art laboratories which brings parity with Chemistry and Biology and which will have a huge impact on student learning."

Mr P Stromdale
Head of Physics, Data and Standards Lead



Exploring the Cosmos: A Journey to the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics



Embarking on a journey that traversed the vast expanse of the universe, **Ryan L (Year 13)** had the privilege of representing the **UK in the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA)** held in Poland.

Selected through a rigorous process that tested his knowledge and problem-solving skills, Ryan found himself immersed in the fascinating world of astrophysics, exploring phenomena on a scale that transcends human comprehension. Delving into the depths of the cosmos, Ryan underwent a transformative experience, from the initial stages of preparation to the exhilarating days of competition. Inspired by former Olympiad participants and fuelled by his passion for physics, he dedicated himself to rigorous training and relentless learning, pushing the boundaries of his knowledge and abilities.

The team collectively won 5 gold medals, the highest ever achieved in the Olympiad. During the IOAA the UK Team faced a 5-hour theory exam, a 3-hour data analysis exam and an observational test.

Approximately 250 students from 50 countries took part in the competition, with only 27 given gold medals, showing the incredible level of success of the UK team as their result also meant they topped the country medal table, with India and Iran in 2nd and 3rd place, respectively.



Reflecting on his journey Ryan shares:

"The best part of this entire process has been getting to know so many new people – everyone I've met at the camps and at the competition have been inspirational and motivate me to work harder. Meeting people from all across the world at the competition was a unique experience. The toughest part was the training before the competition – I had to consistently learn new theory and solve tough problems every day. On some days I spent hours trying to figure out how to solve a problem, and it was always disheartening when I never managed to figure out a solution. All and all though, I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to go through this process, as it has pushed me to my limits and taught me valuable life lessons."



Ryan's resilience, determination, and thirst for knowledge serve as a beacon of inspiration, reminding us of the boundless possibilities that await those who dare to explore the mysteries of the universe. Ryan accepted his place at Oxford this year to study Philosophy and Physics.

Particle Physics Masterclass



Science & Technology Facilities Council
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

A group of Year 12 physics students were able to have the valuable opportunity to take part in a physics masterclass at **Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL)** in March 2023. The day included our students being able to benefit from lectures by world-leading particle physicists in the research group; a tour of the X-ray synchrotron in Diamond Light Source; and a workshop where they analysed real data from the Large Hadron Collider, deducing the mass of mysterious particles hidden within the data.



"The Particle Physics Masterclass was enjoyable and thought-provoking, and it was great being able to see and learn about Physics beyond our course. There were a variety of talks during the day, on a wide range of topics – we learnt about the Standard Model of Particle Physics and its limitations; the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) and how it manages data from its collisions; and the research done at RAL. It was great to learn more about modern physics research, and have some questions answered.

There were also a variety of tours and activities during the day – our group got to visit Diamond, the huge particle accelerator at RAL which accelerates electrons, and uses radiation from them in imaging. It was so incredible to visit such a large, cutting-edge machine, and learn more about the engineering behind it. There was also an activity using Python coding to identify rare particles from real LHC data, and it was amazing how much you can learn from very little data. Overall, it was a very exciting and fascinating visit."

Sam J (12S)

SPORT

British School Karting Championship (BSKC)

The British School Karting Championship (BSKC) offers the thrill of motorsport for a school without major expense.

BSKC is an exciting and rewarding opportunity for students that brings STEM to life, builds motivation and achievement, develops organisation, teamwork and management skills along with increasing confidence.

Reading School entered it's first team of students, **Vinay V (11W), Mitansh N (11E) and Anuj A (11L)** with the support of **Head of Sport & PE, Mr S Allen** and assisted by **Ms A Coates**.



Sporting Excellence

We would like to congratulate **Amine A (11E)** who achieved 2 Gold medals in the International **Taekwondo Federation English Open Championships 2023**. Amine tells us about the competition:

"This was an English Open ITF competition open to anyone to enter from the United Kingdom. It was held in Guildford on the 13th of March and it was a very daunting event, especially because it was a combat sport. Daunting because there's hundreds of people watching you, and when you get on the mat, all eyes are on you so it's quite nerve wracking. But once you get into that one, it just comes down to instinct and what you've trained for.



There are three events. One event is 'patterns'. They are demonstrating a pre-arranged set of patterns and you are assessed on the accuracy of your pattern and how well you perform it and deliver it. I got gold in the 14 to 17 category. And similar to many other combat sports there's free flow...the use of any technique you desire and I managed to also achieve a gold in that category. The highest belt is black belt and I currently am on a 'black tag'. So that's a red belt with a black tag so I have one more grading until I become a black belt."

Q & A

WITH JAMES SONG

James Song (10C) 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 spoke with James and he shared:

Can you tell us a little bit about the national competition?

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.

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%. The qualities you need...? Resilience, dedication and you have to have passion for what you're doing. You have to feel motivated.



Celebrating Generosity - Sponsored Rugby Kit

Reading School extends its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to **Mr. J Fulwell (OR 1998-2005)** for his generous sponsorship support. His support provided a new student designed sports kit, new rugby balls and a scrummaging machine (with all staff fully trained in its use). The innovative sports kit, meticulously designed by **Yedige Y (12E)**, embodies the spirit of unity and community among players, seamlessly integrating the colours of all houses into a cohesive jersey. Yedige's design reflects our commitment to fostering a sense of camaraderie and teamwork within our sporting community. Yedige shared, *"I tried to integrate all the house colours into one jersey to convey a sense of community among players."*

Director of Rugby, Mr M Kearle shared, *"We want to show the school community and the teams we play against that we take Rugby seriously and that Rugby at Reading School is in the first steps of creating a more competitive and positive environment and culture for our students."*



Q & A

WITH RUPERT O'REILLY

Reading School's Lacrosse Team competed in their first tournament in the SEMLA 6-a-side men's lacrosse tournament on Saturday 22 April 2023. The team got the opportunity to play against a range of experienced teams, which included teams at the top of their divisions in South England.

We spoke with Rupert R (11C), who is part of Reading School's Lacrosse Team.

Congratulations on being chosen to play for the men's South England regional lacrosse team, what was it like taking part in an international lacrosse tournament?

It was incredibly exciting and of course I was also quite nervous at first, as I've never played at such a high-level event before. However, everyone on the team was very friendly which I've definitely found to be quite a common theme in lacrosse. The South team won a trophy for their section which was a great achievement, and I scored a goal against Scotland White.

How long have you been competing/training?

I picked up lacrosse in October of 2021, when it was run as an elective with Coach Till during games at Reading School. Soon after, I joined the Reading Wildcats junior club, which is open to Reading School students. I practiced at home as much as I could, and played my first match for the Wildcats men's team once I turned 16 (the minimum age) last September.

What has your experience been since joining a team?

I found it quite daunting when I joined the Wildcats and the South England team, but everyone has been incredibly welcoming and helped me to feel as though I'm part of the team - which is one of the many things I love about lacrosse.

What's your favourite part of playing lacrosse?

It's hard to pick just one part, as I think all aspects contribute towards lacrosse being such a wonderful sport. If I had to pick one, I'd probably say the physical contact. Enough is allowed that the game doesn't stop every 30 seconds for a foul, but it's also not the core focus of the game - you can definitely be a good lacrosse player without going into too much contact.

What advice would you have for students interested in taking up lacrosse?

It's absolutely worth trying if it's an option for you next year in games. We're very lucky at Reading School because there is lacrosse kit which can be used during games, and therefore it doesn't cost anything to try it out. We're definitely hoping to increase the popularity of lacrosse in school, and I can't recommend it enough!



LRC

Book Festival 2023



March 2023 saw the 10th Annual Reading Book Week, a celebration of literature's power to inspire, educate, and unite students. Over the past decade, Reading Week has evolved into a cherished tradition, igniting passions for storytelling and nurturing a love for books among students at Reading School.

Thank you to School Librarians, Mrs L Kesteven and Mrs A Jackson for their hard work and commitment to providing opportunities for our students to learn. I would also like to express my gratitude to the **Old Redingensians Association** for their sponsorship of this week's events.



"Our 10th Annual Book Festival has been a wonderful opportunity to listen to bestselling authors talk about their work and life as writers, academics, screen writers and poets. From bodyguards to samurai swords and dystopian futures to far off worlds, this book Festival had something for everyone. All years 7 to 10 received a year group talk and workshops were offered to senior pupils in years 11 to 13. I would also like to thank parents and pupils for supporting the Scholastic Book Fair. We sold £422 worth of books, which raised £168 for us to spend on new books."

Loralie Kesteven, School Librarian

Chris Bradford



Author, **Chris Bradford** captivated Year 7 & 8 students with his storytelling wisdom, blending personal anecdotes with literary insights. His passion for literature and martial arts inspired budding writers, emphasising perseverance and discipline in crafting compelling narratives. Encouraging students to embrace challenges and explore diverse perspectives, Bradford's guidance on character development and plot structure sparked lively discussions. His lecture served as a beacon of inspiration igniting a lasting passion for storytelling among the audience.

"The talk was very exciting. I loved seeing Chris Bradford wield the katana and when he showed us the different moves and techniques he used as a bodyguard it was very interesting."

Sarah Govett

Author, **Sarah Govett**, renowned for her dystopian novels, enlightened Year 10 with her insights during a captivating lecture. Govett shared her writing journey and offered invaluable advice on storytelling. Her passion for literature ignited inspiration among the audience, as she delved into themes of societal structures and human resilience. Govett emphasised empathy and authenticity, encouraging students to challenge conventions and confront uncomfortable truths in their narratives.



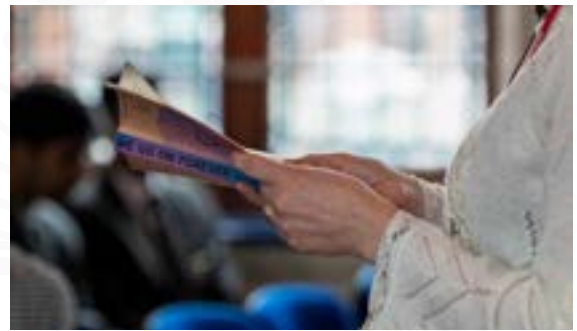
"I think it was interesting how Sarah Govett explained the creative process for creating a long piece of writing such as a novel and also provided some insight into effective dystopian fiction that is helpful for GCSE."

Lewis Dartnell



Author of 'The Knowledge: How to Rebuild Our World After an Apocalypse', **Lewis Dartnell** delivered a lecture to Year 9 and Sixth Form on his writing process.

"The talk and the concepts of his latest book was very interesting. Whilst its branded as a way to rebuild society after an apocalypse, it really opens up interesting ideas about the core of human society. I like how he made quite fun, with references to games etc., to what would have been quite a serious topic."



We are grateful to the Old Redingensians Association for sponsoring Book Week and providing these opportunities to our students.

JUNIOR PRIZE GIVING 2023

In July 2023, parents of our Junior students were invited to the 2023 Junior Prize Giving to recognise the hard work and academic achievement of their children. The ceremony began with the welcoming words from the Headmaster and awards were handed out by the **Mayor of Reading (2023-24), Tony Page**. A special thank you to the **Reading School Foundation** who kindly sponsored the prizes and refreshments for this event.



COMMUNITY





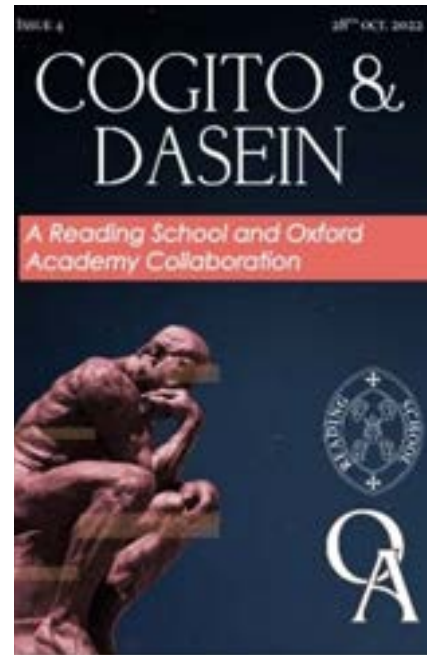
CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Cogito & Dasein

The student-led team behind Reading School's philosophy magazine Cogito are proud to announce the international collaboration between Reading School in the UK and **Oxford Academy in the USA**, for a special edition of '**Cogito & Dasein**'.

In the edition, Cogito's 4th, the teams delve into the topic of applied philosophy and the use of philosophy to tackle practical, real-world issues. The joint teams introduce the myriad of important debates within philosophy as well as the practical implications of these debates to a broader audience.

In this partnership with Dasein, the teams showcase diverse international perspectives and encourage young people from all around the world to engage with philosophy. The latest edition can be found on the Reading School website.



Chess Club

"If you wish to succeed you must brave the risk of failure." - Garry Kasparov

Chess has become more popular than ever at Reading School, with weekly chess club meetings, online tournaments and two chess electives. The school will be entering a team into the **UK Schools Chess Championship** next year.



Speedcubing

Reading School's first speedcubing event was organised and launched by **Seth B (9W)** and **Sumi S (9W)**.

The objective simple - solve a conventional Rubik's cube in the fastest time possible. The competition saw over 50 Reading School students take part to see who could execute their algorithms flawlessly under time pressure.

Seth and Sumi will be looking to host more speedcubing clubs and competitions throughout the year.

INSPIRE LECTURES

Inspire Lecture with Dr Andrew Sentance CBE

We welcomed **Dr Andrew Sentance CBE** to Reading School in January 2023 to deliver his lecture, '**The UK and Global Economic Outlook**' to over 60 aspiring Economists from **Reading School** and **The Abbey School**. His lecture gave students the opportunity to reflect on the causes and effects of the inflation surge, the outlook for interest rates, causes and consequences of sluggish productivity growth and the UK's growth prospects for 2023 and beyond.

Dr Andrew Sentance CBE is currently Senior Adviser to **Cambridge Econometrics**. From 2011 until 2018, he was Senior Economic Adviser to **PwC** and an external member of the **Monetary Policy Committee** of the **Bank of England** from 2006 to 2011.



"Dr Sentance's talk was very insightful, giving a holistic view of the economic situation in the G7 and other major economies. Coupling the long-term data on globalisation with that on productivity growth in the UK helped me understand the key reasons why the rate of economic growth in the UK has been slowing down over the last few decades."

Yash S (12E)

Dr Andrew Sentance, was born in the Wirral and grew up in south-east London. He was educated at **Eltham College**, **Clare College**, **Cambridge**, and the **London School of Economics**. At **Eltham College**, he studied economics, mathematics and history at A Level, and at Clare College gained a Bachelor of Arts with honours in economics, graduating in 1980.

His postgraduate studies were carried out at the **London School of Economics**, completing a Master of Science in economics in 1982, and a Doctor of Philosophy in 1987 with the thesis 'The Government as employer: a macroeconomic analysis.'

Dr Sentance is married with two children. His main interest outside work is music. He plays the piano, organ, guitar and bass guitar and he is a former member of a band called 'Revelation'. Dr Sentance also has a keen interest in environmental affairs and also in charity work: he is a former trustee of '**Build It International**' a development charity, and a former trustee of the charity **Harvest Help** (now known as **Self Help Africa**) as well as a former trustee of the **Anglo-German Foundation**.

Thank you to **Mr T Flowerdew (Teacher of Economics)** for arranging this Inspire Lecture.

Geography Inspire Lecture

Three former students returned to Reading School to share how A Level Geography has contributed to their diverse careers, from Investment Management to Research to Transport Planning.



Samuel Steventon (OR 2015-2017) spoke of how geography has enabled him to study and make an impact within his organisation, Green Investment Partners.



Edmund Lea (OR 2011-2018) shared how his current research project has collected data from satellites which have been used to map mountain ranges that lie beneath the Antarctic Ice Sheet using GIS.



Matt Dapré (OR 2011-2018) spoke of how real-world environmental issues can be tackled with the creative and ambitious use of geography.



The 'A Level geography & beyond' Inspire Lecture was led by **Head of Geography, Dr K Young** and supported by Teachers of Geography, **Mr Kees Luteijn** and **Mr Jack Ginger**.

On behalf of the Geography Department and Reading School, we thank Sam, Edmund and Matt for returning to their school, in order to share their experiences and to inspire current students.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Biennial Inspection

Reading School CCF had its Biennial Inspection on Thursday 20 October 2022, 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 they enjoy doing CCF.

Once back at school, the Year 9 students from both schools performed a parade and the Brigadier spoke with cadets. After, a number of awards and promotions where presented:

- Promotion from Flight Sergeant to Cadet Warrant Officer (RAF Section) - **Ishika Jain (Kendrick School)**
- Promotion from Sergeant to Staff Sergeant (Army Section) - **Tarun B (13W)**
- Promotion from Sergeant to Flight Sergeant (RAF Section) - **Daniyal V (13C)**

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.



Excellence in CCF

The **Champion Cadet Competition** is an annual selective event bringing together cadets from regions across the UK to compete against each other in a range of challenging activities which include physical and mental challenges. Cadets are judged on their teamwork, communication, physical fitness and problem-solving abilities. Skills and qualities that can serve young people in their chosen future careers and personal lives.

We would like to congratulate **Benji F (12L)** who came second in the Champion Cadet Competition after representing Reading School's Combined Cadet Force.



During an interview with Benji earlier this week he shared:

Can you tell us more about the competition?

*38 cadets took part at the **National Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park** for the week of events. We were straight into the competition, with a personal first-aid scenario followed by a physical challenge: approximately 2km across boggy and demanding terrain around the outskirts of Frimley Park. After dragging myself and my webbing around the various obstacles in knee-deep mud, my group of 4 was rewarded with a surprise 40-meter finale carrying two full jerry cans. Drenched and shattered, I'd managed to win the event in my group.*

What was your highlight of the competition?

Probably during the drill competition. In pairs, we memorised and executed a drill sequence with one person commanding and one person executing, before switching over. This may have been my strongest performance of the week. After everyone was done, I was taken to the side with five other cadets for an extra interview. The top staff from Frimley Park, including the chief instructor, were there to talk to us individually. The results and debrief followed, in which I found out I had come second in the CCF competition. This was an honour and an amazing end to the week.



The Champion Cadet Competition 2023 Benji F (12L), 3rd from right, middle row



**BELONGING
WEEK 2023**

Learn, Lead and Serve

We foster both the pursuit of excellence by our people of character and the sense of belonging to and engagement with Reading School, through the inspirational Belonging weeks. Belonging week enables our students to flourish so that we can help them to become, and keep becoming, the best version of themselves. Belonging week is concerned with enabling a life of purpose.

Filling young people up with knowledge might help them pass examinations, and that is important as it provides a gateway to opportunities, including places at prestigious Universities. However, that is not necessarily going to help them to adapt and be resilient in tomorrow's world, so that they are equipped to deal with the things that come at them. They need to get the basics right in terms of their personal organisation. They need to be able to show up and communicate in person. They need to be sure of themselves, authentic in terms of who they are. They need to be able to look after themselves and then be able to look after other people. Certainly, we need to help them to become the best versions of themselves.



Significantly, Belonging is not a comfortable but inessential luxury. It has potent, wide-ranging effects. We want to emphasise the far-reaching benefits of experiences of belonging. For instance, the raising of a sense of well-being and self-worth, improvements in performance and the lessening of defensiveness and hostility.

A sense of belonging is arguably a condition of success, part of a 'secret sauce' in school, the workplace and home. Being disconnected from our community and society can invite a discourse of despair rather than hope and ambition. This is why we have prioritised Academic Excellence, Belonging and Community during 2022-2023.

We prioritise situations that foster belonging that is a feeling that we are part of a larger group that values, respects and cares for us – and to which we feel we have something to contribute.

BELONGING WEEK



Belong literally means 'to go with', and a feeling of connection can decrease vulnerability. One of the most effective ways of fostering understanding and uniting people is to rally them around the pursuit of a common purpose. The process begins with the equipping of a "secret sauce" of aspiration, collaboration and a climate of inspiration, support and challenge.

"Winning is important, but belonging is everything."

**Sean Fitzpatrick,
All Blacks Captain (1992 - 1997)**

This climate empowers both the pursuit of excellence by young people of character and their sense of belonging to and engagement in a school that enables them to flourish.

The plethora of inspiring activities during Belonging Week and evidence of 'Learn, Lead, Serve' could not have been possible without the leadership of **Mr T Evans, Assistant Head** and his superb team. Gratitude is about noticing and appreciating the positives in life. We would like to show my gratitude to all staff, students and parents who have supported Belonging week. Their superb contributions do not go unnoticed or unrecognised and we could not have arrived at where we are and what we have achieved without their active support.



BELONGING WEEK



GRANDPARENTS DAY 2023



We were delighted to welcome over 70 relatives of over 30 Year 7 students to Reading School on Tuesday 4th July 2023.

Grandparents day at Reading School is a day dedicated to acknowledging and celebrating the important contribution made by grandparents to their families. Year 7 students can invite Grandparents or another relative to school to experience what a typical day at Reading School looks like. It is an opportunity for families to show their appreciation, gratitude and respect.

In the morning, **Mr Robson (Headmaster)** kicked off the day with a warm welcome. The rest of the day was filled with three hours of lessons including Chemistry, Biology, art, Physical Education and English. As the day wound down, the Deputy's address was accompanied by a song and a Q&A session in the Chapel. Now in our sixth year of celebrating Grandparents day, we know the love and pride they have for their grandchildren and we encourage students to cherish these precious moments.



Be the Difference



Building for the Future- 365 Campaign

The Building for the Future Fund was established to support our academic, pastoral and co-curricular provisions as well as meet immediate refurbishment requirements. Donations to the Building for the Future Fund help the school to provide opportunities that enable our students to extend their aspirations, skills and range of interests beyond the classroom whilst helping to create a challenging and engaging experience for all our students.

We believe that every child deserves to reach their full potential and we strive to offer exceptional opportunities in academics, arts, drama, music, sports, CCF and electives, allowing our students to stretch themselves. Creating a diverse and inclusive community that enriches our shared experience and sense of belonging.

Have you been meaning to contribute but have not had the opportunity yet?

Every contribution you make to Reading School makes a significant difference to our pupils. Reading School will be 900 years old in 2025. We are proud of our traditions and rich history as an outstanding school. Any gift, large or small, is hugely appreciated. We welcome regular donations providing Reading School with the additional assurance of security and forward planning for the future.

When you give...



£365 a year or
£30 a month = £1 a day

+



Gift Aid
25% of donation

=



£456.25
a year



COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS

FUTURE STORIES

Partnerships play a crucial role in secondary education and beyond and this week we have witnessed the benefits for not only our own students but those from neighbouring primary schools. Fostering collaboration between schools, organisations, parents, families, businesses and the community allows us to fulfil our aims and define who we are as individuals, a school, community and organisation.



In June 2023, **60 students** from **Whitley Park Primary School** joined their first Year 6 Residential at Reading School. Collaborating with **Level Up Outdoors**, they erected teepees and enjoyed activities like archery tag and team building. Guided by **Mr O Griffin, Director of Music**, they excelled in choir performance before bonding around a campfire. This event marks Reading School's inaugural residential for a local primary, advancing social mobility through the **Future Stories** initiative.



Future Stories

Future Stories Support Campaign

Our Flagship 'Futures Stories' Social Mobility Programme for Pupil Premium and Looked After or Previously Looked After Children, is now in its sixth successful year and has been shortlisted in the 'School/College of the Year' category as finalists for the 3rd year running.

The main objectives of the Future Stories programme are:

- 1. To develop the leadership skills, capacity and capability of students currently at Reading School, by working in partnership with state primary schools.***
- 2. To raise aspirations and widen access to Reading School for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.***

Our target is to substantially increase the number of pupil premium pupils and looked after pupils who apply to take our entrance test. In order to gain admittance to Reading School all children must achieve the qualifying score to be eligible for entry.

The COVID-19 crisis has focused our attention – this year we are determined to do more and do it better, using the creativity of students and staff to find new ways to engage students and schools in the productive learning and online mentoring activities on offer.

The **Future Stories Support Campaign** is a collective fundraising effort made each year by all members of the Redingensians community – alumni, parents, current and former staff and other friends of the school. By supporting this campaign, you are helping promising students from disadvantaged families access a wealth of co-curricular opportunities. We are grateful for our key supporters of the Future Stories Programme making this change possible.

For further information about our **Future Stories Programme**, please email development@reading-school.co.uk



Fundraising for Ukraine

The Rucksack Project

The Rucksack Project came to Reading School on 21st January 2023 to support families who have been displaced in the Reading area by working through their experiences of war trauma in a safe environment.



The event was organised in collaboration with the New Roots Initiative (Нові корені), where they welcomed over 50 children and parents for a reading of the book by the iconic children's writer Di Redmond (who has written over 100 children's books, including Bob the Builder and Postman Pat). Each child was given a copy of the Rucksack book, along with a therapy booklet with key anxiety-reducing exercises to work through with their parents.



Di was joined by the team of **Children and the War UK**, who have been working in Ukraine since 2014: **Professor William Yule (King's College London; founder of Children and War UK)**, renowned **Ukrainian psychologist, Kateryna Yavna** and **Professor Dennis Ougrin, professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at Queen Mary University of London**. The team of experts led a session with the parents to allow families affected by the war in Ukraine to process their emotions and learn to make new memories.



The event was attended and supported by the **Mayor of Reading, Councillor Rachel Eden (2021 - 2023)**, who not only listened to the reading of the book with the children, but also spoke to the Ukrainian mothers attending the session to hear their stories of being displaced and how the Rucksack Project has helped them.

The Rucksack is a story both about Ukrainian children and for Ukrainian children – written by **British writer Diane Redmond** and illustrated by **Ukrainian artist Lilia Martynyuk**, the story takes the children through devastating loss and trauma; they receive empathy and support from other children, alongside help from adults. The book has been designed to have an accompanying booklet for the parents, developed by Children and War UK, who have been working with families in Ukraine since 2014.

RUCKSACK is a project created in partnership with Children and War UK and its aim is to create a series of children's books that will create healing with the expertise of Dennis Ougrin and Ukrainian psychologist Kateryna Yavna (who has worked with Children and War since 2014).

Winter Appeal for Ukraine

The Reading School community had been prodigiously generous in our first appeal for Ukraine in April 2022. With winter weather deteriorating in Ukraine, and the energy crisis intensifying, families of the School community flooded the school Chapel with blankets, duvets, sleeping bags, hats, coats, gloves and much more. After the appeal concluded on 28th November, all donations were shipped to Chervonohrad in Eastern Ukraine.



International Women's Day

Luke H (12W) leads on fundraiser initiative to coincide with International Women's Day 2023 and demonstrate support for Ukraine

Luke H (12W) spearheaded an appeal in response to the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Ukraine, coinciding with **International Women's Day 2023**. Moved by the dire situation facing millions of Ukrainians, Luke took proactive steps to make a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by the conflict.

Luke highlighted the plight of the Ukrainian people, emphasising the stark realities they face on a daily basis. With a population of 42 million, Ukraine has struggled for decades to secure basic freedoms, and recent events have plunged the country into an unprecedented crisis reminiscent of wartime struggles. Luke's awareness of the urgent need for assistance prompted him to approach **Reading School's Headmaster, Mr. Robson**, with a proactive plan to offer aid to those most affected by the conflict.

Luke's vision centred around organising a fundraiser within the school community to procure essential resources for those displaced by the war. With the invaluable support of the **Make A Difference (MAD)** Foundation charity, Luke identified the **Naguevytsk Special School** as a focal point for their efforts. Situated in a smaller village and housing 120 children who have lost their parents and homes in the East of the country, the school was particularly vulnerable to the ravages of the conflict.



The primary objective of the fundraiser was to acquire a generator that could provide clean and efficient energy to the school, ensuring that essential facilities such as dormitories remained illuminated and habitable. Recognizing the urgent need for such resources, Luke's initiative aimed to alleviate the suffering of those enduring the harsh realities of displacement and conflict.

Luke's dedication extended beyond his fundraising efforts. Alongside his father, **Keith Holland**, a former Reading School Governor, Luke pledged to personally transport the generator and other essential items to Poland during his Easter Break. This hands-on approach exemplifies Luke's commitment to making a meaningful impact and underscores the ethos of service and compassion instilled within the Reading School community.



Commitment to ESG

In the ongoing pursuit of our environmental, social, and governance (ESG) objectives, **Reading School** remains steadfast in its commitment to sustainable practices and community engagement. Building upon the success of the **Climate Youth Fair** in September 2022, the school has taken proactive steps to further integrate ESG principles into the school.

Reading School welcomed **Design Nature CIC**, a local Reading-based Social Enterprise, to conduct a series of workshops for all Year 8 students. Led by **Erica Purvis** and **Mark Mason**, these interactive sessions centred on the pivotal role of renewable energy in combating climate change, fostering collaborative problem-solving, and inspiring students to envision a greener future. The invaluable contributions of external partners like **Design Nature CIC** enrich our students' learning experiences and deepen their understanding of pressing global issues.

Special recognition is extended to **Mrs. Clara Heston (Teacher of Chemistry)** and the Chemistry Department for their instrumental role in facilitating this impactful initiative, which serves as a catalyst for further ESG-focused endeavours at Reading School.

Take Back the Night International Conference

School Captain (2021-2022), **Daniyal V (13C)** recently featured as a panellist at a global virtual conference seeking to address sexual, relationship and domestic violence in all forms. The organisation, Take Back the Night, is the largest foundation aiming to end sexual violence, with its roots stretching back to popular protest movements in the 1970s.

"It was incredibly poignant hearing about the experiences and initiatives expounded by the other speakers, from the importance of portraying sexual violence in film to local community initiatives in India designed to encourage group responsibility and a culture of accountability.

The biggest take-away for me from the conference was the importance of the role that we can play as responsible and supportive third parties – as young men it's our responsibility to not be perpetrators of misogyny but rather pillars of support for others, doing our own part in whatever way we can to help end sexual violence."

Daniyal V (13C)

Learn, Lead and Serve

Berkshire High Sheriff recognises Reading School Staff for community contributions

On March 16, 2023, Reading School had the honour of hosting **Berkshire High Sheriff, Ms Alka Kharbanda**, in a momentous visit. **The office of High Sheriff**, dating back to Saxon Times, holds a distinguished position as the oldest secular office in the United Kingdom after the Crown. The **High Sheriff** serves as the King's representative for Law and Order in the County, undertaking a one-year term with a dedicated theme. Ms. Kharbanda's current focus lies on education and 'Hidden Heroes' within the County, individuals who selflessly contribute to their communities without seeking recognition.

In a heartening recognition of their outstanding contributions, two esteemed members of Reading School's staff were honoured by the **Berkshire High Sheriff** with prestigious awards on behalf of the citizens of the **Royal County of Berkshire**. **Deputy Headmaster, Dr. C Evans**, and **Assistant Head, Mr. Tom Evans**, were acknowledged for their unwavering dedication to enhancing community life. Their tireless efforts, marked by quiet consistency and a steadfast commitment to service, embody the ethos of '*Hidden Heroes*' celebrated by the High Sheriff.

This commendation stands as a testament to the profound impact of Reading School's alumni, as both **Dr. C Evans** and **Mr. Tom Evans** are former students who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence and service that resonates deeply within the Reading School community.

In celebrating the recognition bestowed upon Dr. C Evans and Mr. Tom Evans, Reading School reaffirms its dedication to nurturing leaders who not only excel academically but also embody the spirit of civic responsibility and community engagement. Their achievements serve as an inspiration to current students and alumni alike, showcasing the enduring legacy of excellence that defines Reading School.

PSHE Symposium Fosters Collaboration and Innovation Among Single-Sex Schools

Reading School is on journey with many strands, in order to develop and shape happy, healthy and informed children and young people. An additional and related strand to this work was the recent and inaugural **Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) Symposium** for single-sex schools held on Wednesday 19 April 2023. The event allowed Heads of PSHE from single sex-schools to come together in order to discuss the challenges faced in symposium discussed curriculums and compared how topics are taught in boys' and girls' schools respectively. The opportunity to learn from practice was effective in enabling the Heads to consider how to tailor PSHE and wider character development provision to achieve its aims. The event was led by **Sixth Form Pastoral Lead, Head of Partnerships and Teacher of History, Ms A Stratford** and schools attending included; **Kendrick School, King Edward VI School, Queen Anne's School, The Abbey** and **Wilson's School**.

COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS



LONG SERVICE AWARD 2022-2023

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Karen Andrews, Boarding House Matron for her exceptional dedication and care in nurturing the boarding community at Reading School for 25 Years celebrated in June 2023. Her unwavering support and commitment have undoubtedly enriched the lives of countless students, creating a welcoming and supportive environment that fosters growth and wellbeing. We are grateful for her invaluable contributions to the school community and extend our warmest wishes for continued success and fulfillment in her role.



Spotlight on Karen Andrews.

What are your earliest memories when you first started in your role as Boarding House Matron?

How much fun it was and still is! The boys were hard-working, but a lot of fun. And they were very polite, very courteous. They were also quite protective. When I got here, this was the first school I'd worked in and boarding was very odd to me, having not worked in a boarding environment. I came from a hospital environment as nursing staff and I didn't think I'd be here for 25 years.

What does the role of Matron look like?

Absolutely not what people think? It's varied and different every day. I can be unblocking sinks one day and wiping someone's tears on another. I never know what I'm coming into but by the end of a day, I'm can think, 'where's the time gone?'

What's kept you in the role for 25 years?

Caring about the boys. I always said once I stopped caring about the boys it's time to go but at the moment, I still care, which I think keeps me going.

What's been one of your highlights?

Having the opportunity to go to Kenya with the school, to see Sure24, which was definitely a highlight. And there's been a few boys' weddings I've been invited to...and seeing the old boys come back to visit.

Is there any Boarder that you remember more than others and why?

Yes, there is one. HM had a difficult upbringing and he came to Boarding which acted as his second family. He really thrived and succeeded. He now happily lives in New Zealand and has a family of his own and I went to his wedding. He shared he got a lot out of boarding and that it contributed to who he had become as a man. I'm happy we made a positive difference in his life.

If you had to give your successor advice, what would it be?

To simply be kind, compassionate, consistent and caring.

STAFF LEAVERS 2022-2023

We bid farewell to the following staff who have worked at Reading School. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to the community of Reading School and we wish them all the very best for the future:

Tom Casemore	Teacher of Philosophy and Theology, Boarding House Tutor
Tom Flowerdew	Head of Economics (KS4)
Clíodhna Kennedy	Teacher of Biology
Stephen Ling-Winston	Head of Computer Science
Tom Pollard	Teacher of Mathematics
Karen Wray	Careers Advisor
Christa Sikkel	Teacher of Mathematics
Graham Wheeler	Teacher of Mathematics
Liam Gree	Head of East House, Teacher of Chemistry
Paul Holloway	Teacher of Physics
Sol Villaverde	CCF Adjutant
Jennifer Jemmott	Student Services Administrator
Tania Lima Student	Student Services Administrator
Benedict Owen	Teacher of Mathematics
Paul Stromdale	Data and Standards Lead, Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Georgia Pravda	Student Support, Future Stories & Staff Wellbeing
Jonathan Hitchinson	Compliance Officer
Michał Zakrzewski	Catering Team - Head Chef

Interview with Paul Holloway



What or who inspired you to become a teacher?

I was not inspired so much as persuaded. The things that persuaded me were that I had enjoyed working as a tutor and was looking for a profession that was going to enable me to best use the abilities I had to make a difference to people and to support my wife and family.

What achievement fills you with pride so far in your career?

There are a number of students I can remember for whom I think I have made a real difference through doing my job well. They are usually students who are somewhere in the middle of the class in terms of grades, but decide that they are going to work hard, keep this up over a year or two and end up doing really well. They to me are a real indicator of a job well done.

If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share?

Keep your aspirations ruthlessly realistic – base your assessment of your own abilities on concrete evidence from reliable sources, base your goals and aspirations on a realistic idea of what opportunities there are and what the chances are that you will succeed in taking them.

Can you describe a particularly memorable day at Reading School?

After some deliberation over whether or not it was worth doing, I sent an email to Chris Evans to advertise the need for volunteer drivers for an aid trip Ukraine. By the end of the day had I over 50 responses – I had to make a spreadsheet to keep track!

That was the beginning of a particularly memorable phase where I saw Reading staff and parents respond with great conviction and commitment to the need for support for Ukrainians, both refugees and those still in Ukraine.

JOIN THE

READING SCHOOL ALUMNI SOCIETY

The Society Office have launched Reading School's OR alumni website.

We value our Redingensians community immensely where we have seen generations of families pass through Reading School.

The Society Office offers several resources to leverage the strength and ingenuity of this network.

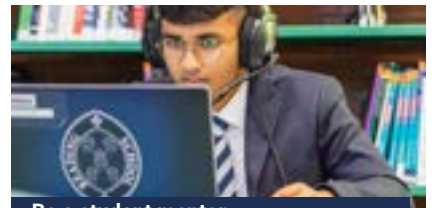
Parents and carers are welcome to register their details if they wish to remain a part of this growing community.



Floreat Redingensis
Read the latest issues



A global network
Connect with ORs around the world



Be a student mentor
Provide careers advice and support



Events and reunions
Sign up to attend an event



Be an Alumni Ambassador
Represent your cohort



Reading School's achievements
Catch up on school news



Volunteer
Your time, expertise & knowledge



Clubs and Societies
Join our various OR clubs and societies or create a new one

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Ian's Journey from Bishop Wordsworth to University Professor

In April 2023, we were delighted to welcome **Old Redingensians, Ian Adamson (OR 1962-1965)** and his wife of 52 years, **Jackie Adamson**. Ian has been an Associate Professor of Accounting for the past 36 years at **Brock University in Canada** and returned to visit his old school during a trip to the UK.

In an interview with **Dal Singh, Community Relations Manager** in Big School, Ian reflected on his transformative journey from Bishop Wordsworth School to his current role as a university professor in Canada.



Ian's educational odyssey began in **Salisbury at Bishop Wordsworth's School** before he joined **Reading School** in 1962. Although his time at Reading was brief, lasting until 1965, it left an indelible mark on his trajectory.

Following his departure from **Reading School**, Ian emigrated to Canada in pursuit of better opportunities in medicine, eventually transitioning to a career path that led him to academia. Ian's academic pursuits saw him earn an undergraduate degree in biology and subsequently pursue a career in the **Canadian Armed Forces** as a medical officer. However, it was his pivot towards academia that proved to be the most fulfilling. Ian obtained an MBA, followed by a PhD in information systems engineering, and embarked on a career as a university professor.

Ian's journey underscores the importance of remaining open-minded and embracing diverse opportunities. Today, Ian finds fulfillment in imparting knowledge to the next generation of students, instilling in them the importance of broadening their horizons and giving back to their communities. Through his dedication to education and service, Ian exemplifies the spirit of excellence and lifelong learning instilled by Reading School.

While touring the school, Ian took time to speak with students about their interests, along with sharing his experiences of a career within accountancy and his interests, which included sharing his bowling techniques with some students along the driveway during break time. Both Ian and his wife shared that the visit was an enjoyable one.

We welcome the return of ORs to the school throughout the year and it gives our **Society, Alumni and Careers Office** the opportunity to share, first hand, the positive changes that have taken place that continue to contribute to the development of children and young people. It also allows us to share the ways in which **Reading School** has evolved over time, while still retaining some of our core values and traditions. Being able to meet with and hear about the lives of ORs can be very inspiring for current students, and can help them think about their own future paths. OR visits can be beneficial and memorable for both ORs and students.

A recording of the interview undertaken in Big School with Dal Singh, Community Relations Manager can be found on the Reading School Vimeo.

If you would like to take part in the Voices of ORs please contact Jas Chhokar at alumni@reading-school.co.uk

GROW YOUR NETWORK



Business Directory

As part of our efforts to foster a strong network and grow our partnerships, the Society Office is proud to launch the Redingensians Business Directory as a complimentary service to support and promote the wide variety of amazing products and services on offer, from the Redingensians community (ORs, current and former parents and staff) and our local community.

The goal of the Redingensians Business Directory is to celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit of our vibrant community and encourage networking and enhance connections between professionals as well as provide the advantage of exclusive discounts, offered by this network.

Promoting your business on with our Business Directory is free of charge for a limited time only. If you are a business owner and would like to be listed in the Redingensians Business Directory, please visit the [Alumni Society](#) and fill out our short online form. Following submission and approval, your post will appear on the directory.



The UK labour market has become very challenging with high numbers of job vacancies being advertised. Reading School's high-calibre students, undergraduates and alumni are highly sought after in the global recruitment markets. If the organisation you work for or your own business would like to attract the finest talent, consider sharing job vacancies at the [Reading School Alumni Society](#) (scroll to jobs at bottom).

You can also share opportunities on Reading School LinkedIn with a network of nearly 5000 Old Redingensians working in a range of sectors across the world.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Jas Chhokar at alumni@reading-school.co.uk.



Jack Husbands (OR 2005-2012 and Alumni Ambassador) with the Class of 2012 for their 10 Year Reunion

**VOICES
OF OLD
REDINGENSIS**

2023

**THE OLD
REDINGENSIAN
ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
(Subject to Election)**

President	Jeremy Chadwick (OR 1979-86) jeremychadwick@icloud.com
Past President	Lt Col Andrew Tuggey CBE DL (OR 1958-66) andrew.tuggey@outlook.com
Vice President	Dr Fraser Peck (OR 1999-06) fraserpeck@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary	Ned Holt (OR 1966-72) (Staff 1982-12) nedholt54@gmail.com
Chairman of Council	Lt Col Andrew Tuggey CBE DL (OR 1958-66) andrew.tuggey@outlook.com
Membership Secretary	Chris Widdows (OR 1955-62) cwiddows@aol.com
Assistant Membership Secretary	Aaron D'Souza (OR 2002-09) aaronajhds@gmail.com
Treasurer	Richard Taylor (OR 1988-95) richard.taylor@lpi2.co.uk
Archivist	Ken Brown (OR 1955-63) kcbrown11@aol.com
Events Co-ordinator	Dr Fraser Peck (OR 1999-06) fraserpeck@hotmail.co.uk
Estates Advisor	John Short (OR 1956-64) jhshort@btinternet.com
Work Experience & Careers	Ray Sawyer (OR 1967-74) raysawyer33@yahoo.co.uk
Other Councillors	Nick Burrows (OR 1969-76) (Legal) Richard Griffiths DL (OR 1957-64) Ashley Robson (Staff 2005-) (Headmaster) Arthur Truslove (OR 2003-08) (Magazine) Peter Whitehead (OR 1966-73) Rev Clive Windebank (OR 1952-59) (Chaplain)

2024

READING SCHOOL AND THE SCIENCE OF LIFE

The teaching of biology at **Reading School** achieved great strides in the last 70 years notably under the direction of **Harry Thomas (BSc M.I.Biol University of Wales)** who headed the department from 1949 to 1964; his successor **Cyril Leeke (BSc M.I.Biol University of London)** departmental head 1964 to 1981; and **John Oakes (Cert.Ed St Lukes College, Exeter)** who had joined the staff in 1971 and was head of biology from 1981 to 1997. But the subject was not taught at all until after the Second World War.



Mr H M Thomas



Mr C J Leeke



Mr J V Oakes

In 1949 **D M Bruton, B G J Upton and H W F Bunce** were in the Science 6th Form A Stream (and all in **County House** together). It was these three who made that enlightened Headmaster from 1939 to 1966, **Charles Edward Kemp (MA Late Scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford)** realise that modern requirements for some budding scientific men included a subject, notably biology, that was not catered for in the School syllabus.

Dudley Bruton, a latecomer to Reading School, recalls (not without, in hindsight, some embarrassment) that when Mr Kemp told him that Reading School did not teach biology, let alone botany and zoology, as separate subjects and asked him what he was going to do about it, Dudley replied: "Find a school that does..". CEK's response was: "Well, while you are here you will take chemistry, physics and maths."



Mr C E Kemp

Dudley (who was to become Vice Captain of the School) had only come to the School in 1948 (from Aberdare County School) and was anxious to enter the Upper VIth to continue his studies in botany and zoology that he had started at Aberdare. Mr Kemp's reply was not what he had wanted to hear (and the Headmaster was not a man to argue with). What Dudley did not know was that Upton and Bunce had previously also asked for biology to be introduced to the curriculum. Whilst CEK gave Dudley no hint at the time of his interview that he was considering the introduction of biology, he clearly must have realised that these three senior boys were being eminently reasonable in their requests. Of course, Reading School had

produced many scientists over the years including a number of medical doctors, some of them very eminent; **Sir George Pinker KCVO (1935-42 East) Surgeon Gynaecologist to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and William Donald Wykeham Brooks CBE**, distinguished consultant physician, to name but two. They had not studied Biology at school.

In those days all UK Medical Schools had a foundation year studying chemistry, biology and physics with exemptions from any or all those subjects previously attained as 'Highers' (A levels from 1951).



Bruton as a prefect



Upton as an actor



Bunce in the Boat Club

Mr Kemp grasped the situation and brought in the distinguished **Frederick Henry Gravely DSc**, who was then on the **Reading University** staff, to give the boys specific instruction. **Dr Gravely** had studied zoology at the **University of Manchester** and **Dr F H Gravely** subsequently become prominent in his field whilst at the **Indian Museum, Calcutta** (now Kolkata) and subsequently as Superintendent from 1920-40 of the **Indian Government Museum at Madras** (now Chennai). He was an enthusiastic teacher and Brian Upton even recalls 'wonderful' bicycle expeditions around the heavily wooded Aldermaston area.

Dr Gravely kindly gave his services for the 1948-49 school year enabling Mr Kemp to find a permanent appointee which he did in **H M Thomas** who had previously been senior biology master at **Hull Grammar School**. In 1949-50 he established the departmental teaching of biology, including botany and zoology to Reading School pupils.



Dr F H Gravely

Dr Hubert Bunce (top left) died in 2013. After studying at **University of Wales, Bangor** he emigrated to Canada in 1955 to practise forestry. From an early interest, Hubert became a leading authority and active member of a number of national Forestry committees and a consultant to the industry in Canada and world-wide. He was married to Jill for more than 50 years: she outlived him by five years.

Brian Upton (top right) won the **Sir Thomas White Scholarship** to **St John's College, Oxford** and is nowadays **Emeritus Professor of Geology at the University of Edinburgh**. His life's work has been on igneous (volcanic) rock in a range of territories though predominantly in Greenland. He has published prolifically. He has a special affinity for Iceland, is a Fellow of the **Royal Society of Edinburgh** and has been married to Bodil for over 50 years.



Photo above: Dr Gravely with acknowledgments to the Madras Government Museum Centenary Souvenir.

Dr Dudley Bruton (middle) studied medicine at **The London Hospital** after which he held a short service commission in the **RAF**. He worked in occupational medicine in the steel and aviation industries. In the 1970's he was the Honorary Secretary of The Society of Occupational Medicine and played a key role in the establishment of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine at The Royal College of Physicians. He retired in 1993. Dudley has been married to Joan for over 67 years. He was President of the Old Redingensians Association in 2002.

ORA GOLF SOCIETY AUTUMN MEETING

2nd October 2023

15 members of the OR Golf Society assembled at the Leatherhead Club for bacon rolls, coffee, randomised team establishment and gossip at around 8.30am on a warm, cloudy and muggy morning. We had two runners withdrawn overnight with something akin to stable cough so we set off in 5 groups of 3 starting at 9.20am. **John Terry** (yes, that John Terry) was left sipping his early morning latte in the club bar, reminiscing about Chelsea teams that used to win football matches.

The course was in fine condition, greens and tees immaculate, and the dry spell which preceded our meeting meant that the fairways were firm and co-operative for long drives. As the morning wore on the temperatures rose so that those who opted to wear shorts felt vindicated in their choice of clothing. The last group finished their round at 1.45pm and lunch (lasagne and green salad, followed by tarte tatin and ice cream) was served as scheduled at 2.15pm.

Trophies and prizes were distributed by Michael Barrott, the Society Secretary



Michael awards The Lunn Trophy
Lowest Gross Score Steve Barton (82)



Steve Johnston, Derek McAllan, Tony Richards
Team prize (£25 each)



Tim Smith (42)
Best Stapleford
score
(and Longest drive)



Chris Manning (41)
2nd best Stapleford



Tony Richards (38)
3rd best Stapleford
(on countback)



Richard Hunt
(9th Hole)
Nearest the pin



A lasting legacy



1125 Legacy Campaign

A legacy to Reading School is one of the most meaningful and enduring gifts you can give to Reading School. All legacies, whatever their size, will directly benefit the School and its pupils. Pupils of today, as has been the case in the past, are the beneficiaries of previous generosity and now, over 900 years on in Reading School's history, it is our responsibility to ensure that the children and young people of tomorrow are equally provided for to ensure that Reading School retains its place as one of the leading schools in the country.

If you are considering or have left a gift to Reading School in your Will, please do contact us. We want to ensure we understand your wishes and are able to use your bequest in the best way possible. We also want to thank you during your lifetime, and celebrate your generosity.

We hope that the following information will be useful to you.

Please do work with your Solicitor and Tax advisor.

Taking care of loved ones is an important priority when planning your Will but including a bequest to charity can also lessen the burden of inheritance tax on your executors. By including a provision in your Will to support Reading School, you will be leaving a lasting impact on future generations.

Thank you for thinking of Reading School at this important time, and we look forward to discussing your bequest in due course.

Please contact Jas Chhokar (Alumni, Careers & Society Manager) at development@reading-school.co.uk

All those who have pledged will be invited to join the 1125 Society.

IN MEMORIAM

By Ken Brown (OR 1955-63) ORA Archivist & Chris Widdows (OR 1955-62) ORA Membership Secretary

Since the 28 deaths reported in The Old Redingensians Association April 2023 Newsletter we have received notification of the deaths of the following (full obituaries will appear on the ORA website):



P H (Paul) Adams
(1954-58 West)
Died 2 July 2023
aged 83
United Nations
Translator
Rep Athletics Colour
School 3rd XI, School
3rd XV (Capt)
School Soccer 1st XI
Survived by his wife
Angelica and
their two daughters



C H (Chris) Ball
(1941-51 East)
Died 21 April 2023
aged 89
Chartered Accountant
School Rugby Colour,
Rep Athletics Colour,
Rep Tennis Colour
Survived by his wife
Elizabeth and their two
sons



I M (Ian) Cleminson
(1958-64 West)
Died 19 May 2023
aged 76
Director of H R West
Midlands Health
Authority
House Colours for
Boxing and Rugby
Survived by his wife
Jenny and eight children



C (Clive) Cousins
(1972-09 Staff)
Died 28 October 2023
aged 74
Taught Chemistry at RS
for entire career.
Wing Commander, OC
RS CCF
He was unmarried



R J (Ron) Kellman
(1939-44 East)
Died 7 August 2023
aged 95
Industrial Banker
OTC and
Philatelic Society
Widower



J R (John) Hobbs
(1947-53 East)
Died 10 November 2023
aged 87
Accountant
Operatic Society, Junior
Debating Society, House
Music, House Elocution
Survived by his wife
Pauline



D C (David) Pollock
(1952-62 West)
Died 20 June 2023
aged 78
Solicitor
Laud Travel Scholarship
House Elocution Initials
Survived by his wife
Janet and their three
sons



N (Norman) Truscott
(1955-61 East)
Died 22 December 2022
aged 79
Accountant
House Cross
Country Team
Single

IN MEMORIAM



A W (Tony) Jackson
(1953-59 West Wing)
Died 30 June 2023
aged 83
Schoolmaster
BSES Expedition to
Labrador 1958
CCF Staff Sergeant
School 2nd XV (Capt)
Rep Colour
Rowing School 2nd VIII
School Choir,
Seekers Initials
Survived by his wife
Joyce and their two
sons



M D (Malcolm) Ross
(1951-58 County)
Died 8 May 2023
aged 82
Solicitor
School Soccer 1st XI,
School 2nd XV,
Magazine Sub Editor
Survived by his two
daughters



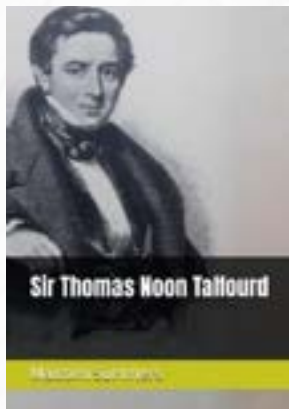
D D (Dale) Thomas
(1957-64 East Wing)
Died 4 May 2023
aged 77
RAF and Airline Pilot
Hockey and Tennis Rep
Colour
He was unmarried

Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

If you would like to report the bereavement of an Old Redingensians, please email Ken Brown at kcbrown11@aol.com and C J (Chris) Widdows at cwiddows@aol.com.

Please also contact the Society Office by emailing alumni@reading-school.co.uk so we can inform the school community.

THE OR BOOKSHELF



Malcolm Summers Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd

This book is not written by an OR – but is about one; indeed one of the most distinguished, and a leading light in 19th century Britain. Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd was Captain of Reading School in 1812, a favoured pupil of Dr Valpy, and who went on to a glittering career as lawyer, dramatist, writer, orator and politician. This is the first published full biography of a most remarkable man. Very well written and very highly recommended.

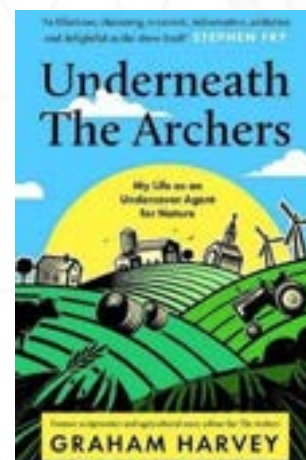
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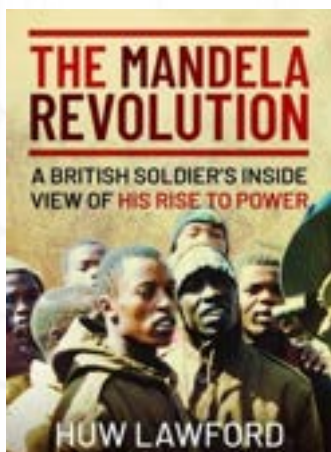
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