



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

24 FEBRUARY 2023



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Introduction

We all need to be Future Shapers

I would like the school community to reflect on Niamh O’Keefe’s work in ‘Future Shaper’ as she suggests that the following traits are needed to be a person who positively shapes the future. It is important not to be intimidated by the traits or characteristics, as we should set the bar high for all who choose to be Future Shapers.

Fearless – be bold and brave

Unconventional – be creative

Tenacious – show dogged determination, do not be easily discouraged

Unifying – Be skilled in bringing different groups together to pursue common goals

Resilient – build capacity to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

Empathetic – Nurture the ability to appreciate the other person’s context and understand their feelings.

Super adaptable

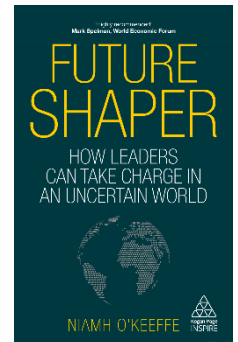
Hard-working – develop a work ethic and value self-discipline

Authentic – focus on the real you, with both your strengths and your flaws.

Pro-active – take charge of situations. Stop waiting. Start creating

Energising – transmit positive emotions and energy to others. Be positive and optimistic.

Resourceful – creative ability to overcome problems and seek a solution.



Our future depends on what we do today



Last week I had the privilege and opportunity to be part of the Reading School Tennis Tour to Cape Town, South Africa. On one of the days, we spent time in lessons (and meetings) at Bishops Diocesan College, one of the most impressive schools in South Africa. The Principal, Mr Tony Reeler, told me that every member of their Matric class (equivalent of Year 13) was given a Leadership portfolio. It was an expectation that they would demonstrate leadership in some way to other students. He also stated that they did not want to create students who were just ‘school boy heroes’ but rather, develop the characteristics to be future leaders in their families, in their careers, in their community and society as a whole.

Thus, academic success and sporting achievements enabled them to flourish in the future – rather than defining their identity that was fixed permanently by the age of 18. How sad would it be if we peaked at the age of 11 or 14 or 18? Where would that leave us as parents and adults?

‘Many now fear the future, visualised more readily in the dark terms of the apocalypse than as a place of hope. Yet this is a time when we desperately need more creativity to cope with the multiple crises swirling around us.’

Geoff Mulgan, ‘Another world is possible – How to reignite social and political imagination’

We should look for antidotes to fatalism and remind ourselves that other worlds are possible. The contrasting beauties of Finland and Cape Town, as experienced by our young people, recently illustrate how we develop the characteristics required to help shape a more positive future. Our approach to our refreshed strategic development plan can help provide a roadmap that can recharge our collective imagination to achieve a better future. Together, we can nurture future leaders who go beyond the concept of schoolboy heroes to become leaders in their families, community and society at large. We are committed to providing opportunities for our people to learn, lead and serve so that they thrive now and flourish in the future.

Mr A M Robson
Headmaster



Key information

Year 7 and Year 10 only

The scheduled Parents' Evenings for Thursday 2 March and Thursday 16 March have been postponed. We are re-scheduling these Parents' Evenings to **Thursday 9 March for Year 10** and **Thursday 23 March for Year 7**.

Further communication about how and when to book these appointments will be forthcoming shortly and any queries about Parents' Evening should always be directed to parentsevenings@reading-school.co.uk

Years 7, 8, 9 & 10

Belonging Week 2023

We are delighted to share detailed arrangements for this year's Belonging Week available to download via the links below. Next week, we will be publishing the full list of Educational Visits planned during 2023-24.

[Year 7 Belonging Week](#)

[Year 8 Belonging Week](#)

[Year 9 Belonging Week](#)

[Year 10 Belonging Week](#)

We would encourage parents and children to click the Microsoft Forms link found in each document in order to rank your preference of trip/activity (the allocation is not made on a first come, first served basis) by **Friday 3 March**. Those in Year 7 *do not* need to make any choices, as all get to take part in the same programme of events.

Current Vacancies

Below is a list of our current opportunities at Reading School. Please circulate these to anyone you think might be interested in the roles.

Teacher Vacancies

[Teacher of Chemistry](#) - deadline 9am, Monday 27 February

[Teacher of Physics](#) - deadline 9am, Friday 3 March

[Teacher of Computer Science](#) - deadline extended to 9am, Friday 17 March

[Teacher of Theology and Philosophy](#) - deadline 9am, Monday 20 March

Pay scale dependent on experience with potential for TLR / responsibility allowance if combined with a leadership role.

Associate Staff Vacancies

[Kitchen Porter](#) - deadline 12pm, Monday 20 February

[Site Controller](#) - deadline extended to 12pm, Thursday 9 March

[Attendance and Reporting Officer](#) - deadline 9am, Wednesday 1 March

Excellence, Belonging & Community

Excellence

The Royal Institution Masterclasses in Computer Science are for students from Year 9 upwards from state-funded schools across Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Swindon, Gloucestershire and Buckinghamshire. They are a series of hands-on and interactive extracurricular activities that are designed to encourage, inspire, and engage young people in the creativity and practice of computer science, helping to highlight the links between this wide-reaching discipline and other subjects.



The purpose of the masterclasses is to build a cohort of engaged and inspirational young people who are likely to consider Computer Science at a higher level at the University of Oxford, or another higher education institution. Aryan K (10W) was selected as part of the programme and he shared:

"I was selected to join the masterclass last year and this was my second year, with a mixed group of Year 9 and 10. There were a series of lectures to start with, although overall the sessions have been varied and mixed in with practicals. Lectures included cyber security; self-driving cars how they are secured and why we need to secure them; mathematics and the Prisoner's dilemma, explaining how to make a matrix.

Other sessions were practical, such as creating a Caesar cypher; discussing the Enigma machine and demonstrating its operation with a homemade example that someone had created. Steganography was shown in a practical way with a program provided to debug in Python. Sphero, a mini robot was programmable, and we coded it to traverse a maze, being as accurate as possible. There were several mazes and the main sensor in Sphero was a gyrometer, although it was quite difficult as the robot often kept hitting the edge.

In the final session of 2022 the Sponsor (Morgan Stanley) of the Masterclass gave a talk and challenged students with riddles. We were given a certificate of completion and had a tour of one of the Colleges at the University of Oxford. The several sessions I attended were six hours long, packed full of fun activities and knowledge. I made some friends and will see them again as I will be invited back next year. Using my free time, I found making programs and taking courses on Computer Science a novelty. I am taking a course on Android Security, Cloud Computing and AI and Network Security. My next course will be Python for Black Hat Hackers and I would recommend anyone with an interest in technology to sign up for a course they would enjoy."

Well done Aryan and we wish you the best on your Computer Science journey.

Community

An invitation from The Abbey School



From 27 February to 2 March, The Abbey School is hosting the 'Write On Festival' and is inviting Reading School students to be part of the series of events which aims to promote written expression in forms not necessarily explored by children and young adults. Its core objective is for students to develop their voice as writers, and to share that voice with the wider community in which they live. Event details are as below:

Poetry Café – Tuesday 28 February, 18:00 – 20:00, The Abbey School (Kendrick Road)

Zannah Kearns and Vic Pickup of Reading Stanza's South Street Theatre Poetry Café will be MCs in charge of the evening's events. The main reader will be Daljit Nagra, who will also give time for Q&A at the end of his reading. The evening will also feature jazz from the Abbey School musicians and student performances of poetry. Performances by students, should they wish to read their own work or a favourite poem, is also welcome.

This event is open to students in Year 10 upwards and to book a free ticket, please [visit this link](#)

Sports & Documentary writing workshop – Wednesday 1 March, 16:00 – 18:00, The Abbey School (Kendrick Road)

For students in Years 9 to 11, we would encourage you to consider attending a Sports and Documentary writing workshop, *Get the Story*. The workshop will be led by journalist Rita Green, from BBC and Radio Berkshire; Mitch Parris, from Reading Women's FC; Jo Jolly, award-winning journalist, producer and author; and Rachel Steinberg, award-winning Press Association sports journalist. Each of the speakers will share a brief overview of their life and career and students will then have the opportunity to work in break-out groups with a panel member on documentary-writing and/or sports reporting. To sign up for a place, [please click here](#) and email Mr Robertson arobertson@reading-school.co.uk who will escort students to The Abbey School.

Inspire Lecture with Dr Andrew Sentance



We welcomed Dr Andrew Sentance CBE to Reading School in late January to deliver his lecture, *'The UK and global economic outlook'* to over 60 aspiring Economists from Reading 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. Students attending the event shared:

"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)

"This talk gave probably the most insightful and informed look at the causes of the country's current economic situation, providing coherent and clear explanations when it came to understanding economic events." Emek D (12S)

"In particular, I was intrigued by his argument that offering public sector workers higher real wages is unlikely to create a wage-price spiral due to the greater contribution of rising private-sector pay to current inflation." Ansh B (13C)

"The issue of low productivity growth highlighted by Dr Sentance was stark – his scepticism over whether the political appetite to deal with this underlying shortfall currently exists fascinated me, with current political events serving in part to validate this view." Daniyal V. (13)



Physics Equipment Appeal 2023 – a further update



In just over three weeks, we have reached over **£10,800** made by 220 donors, with one parent and one Old Redingensian very generously contributing over £1,000 each. Thank you to every parent and OR who has contributed to our appeal.

We are just £2,700 short of our target now. Every contribution is valuable, and we are requesting a minimum contribution of £27.00, if you can help.

In addition, if you have kindly donated and your gift is eligible for gift aid, please complete the gift aid form emailed to you to make your gift go further, helping us reach our target.

To assist us in creating an optimal learning environment equipped with essential equipment and crucial resources used for experiments, please click here to support: [Physics equipment appeal 2023](#).

We were delighted to welcome back our Year 7 students after half term, undertaking an engaging Physics lesson with Dr C Lewis-Brown this week (pictured).

Family research participants needed

DEPARTMENT OF
**COMPUTER
SCIENCE**



The Department of Computer Science at the University of Oxford is seeking families with at least one child between 8 – 11 years, who is a regular user of an Android tablet and willing to try out a new mobile app, KOALA Hero, on their tablet at home.

The trial of KOALA Hero will take place in your home, in your own time, although a short visit to the university may be required in order to set up the app on your device. It does not require any visits to your home from the researchers.

The trial is expected to take approximately 3 weeks and families will receive an Amazon Gift Voucher as a thank-you gift and additional compensation for any travel costs.

For more information, please go to: <https://koala.web.ox.ac.uk/participants-wanted>

For more information on research, please go to <https://hcc.cs.ox.ac.uk/>

Historical Association Lecture

The Reading Branch of the Historical Association have been hosting lectures at Reading School for the past 16 years and they are open to all. The next lecture will be on Friday 10 March from 7:30pm till 9:00pm. The lecture, '[The Origins of Wessex – recent archaeological perspectives](#)' will be delivered by Professor Helena Hamerow from St Cross College, Oxford and to book, [please click here](#).

LRC

World Book Day – Thursday 2 March

World Book Day is a national celebration of books and reading.

Each year, schools distribute tokens to pupils up to the age of 18, with the aim of enabling all children to buy a book of their own. These tokens can be used in participating book shops. They can be exchanged for the special £1 World Book Day books (while stocks last) or they can be used to receive a £1 discount on books worth £2.99 or more. You will need to check with your local book shop to see if they have the special World Book Day books. This year the tokens are only available in a digital format. Your child can download their token [here](#)

Drop Everything and Read

Reading School celebrates World Book Day with our annual Drop Everything and Read event. We would like to encourage pupils and their families to Drop Everything and Reading during Thursday 2 March. Feel free to take a photo while will be featured in a future Headmaster's Bulletin and email to lkestevan@reading-school.co.uk

Author Events

There will be a small book sale after each author event next week. If your child would like to purchase a book, please ensure that they bring cash with them.

- Monday 27 February, Year 7 and Year 8, Chris Bradford: books are priced from £7
- Tuesday 28 of February, Year 9 and 6th form, Lewis Dartnell: books are priced at £10
- Wednesday 1sMarch, Year 10, Sarah Govett: books are priced from £7

RSPA

Committee Meeting Wednesday 1 March 2023, 7:00pm – 8:30pm



READING SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Committee Meetings are an open invite to anyone who would like to become involved in the Reading School Parents' Association, see what we are doing or even just input ideas. We are grateful for any amount of help Parents and Carers can offer and with more parental help we can obviously help the school and boys in so many more ways. Please do come along and join us. You can Join the meeting by [clicking this link](#).

School Lottery

We would like to remind you about the School Lottery. There is a draw each Saturday night at 8pm (all tickets purchased by this time will be entered) and every week an RSPA participant wins a guaranteed cash prize. At the same time funds are raised for the pupils, enriching their experience at Reading School.

As an added bonus, if you buy a ticket for the 25 February draw, you have a chance of winning a WHOLE YEAR of HelloFresh. Helping you to keep to new year healthy eating resolutions!

Tickets cost £1 each and you can play regularly or as a one-off. Simply click here to play: <http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/> and search RSPA.

If you have any queries about the lottery, please do not hesitate to contact Jaideep Das who will be delighted to help you - JDas@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Amazon Wishlist

A few weeks ago, the RSPA created an Amazon wishlist in order to assist the LRC in their refresh of stocks of books. We can now report that a total of 57 books have been delivered successfully to Ms Kesteven at LRC. Thank you so much to everyone who has generously contributed by purchasing a book for the LRC!

The Second-Hand Uniform Shop

The Second-Hand Uniform Shop will be open on Friday 3 March from 2:30pm – 4:00pm.

The shop is located at the back of the walled car-park (opposite the Chapel). Please come along to purchase blazers, trousers, shirts, base layers, rugby boots, trainers, outdoor coats and more.

Please note:

Buyers are not allowed to drive onto site, access is via the pedestrian gates only.

Please email shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk for further information.

We look forward to seeing you there.

The RSPA Team



Lent Term – Week 8

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



Following the two powerful earthquakes that devastated southern Turkey and north-western Syria, on 10 February 2023 the Reading School Charity Committee, led by Jai G (13W) and Yaman E (12S), held a bake sale to fundraise for [Action for Humanity](#), who are providing an immediate emergency response.

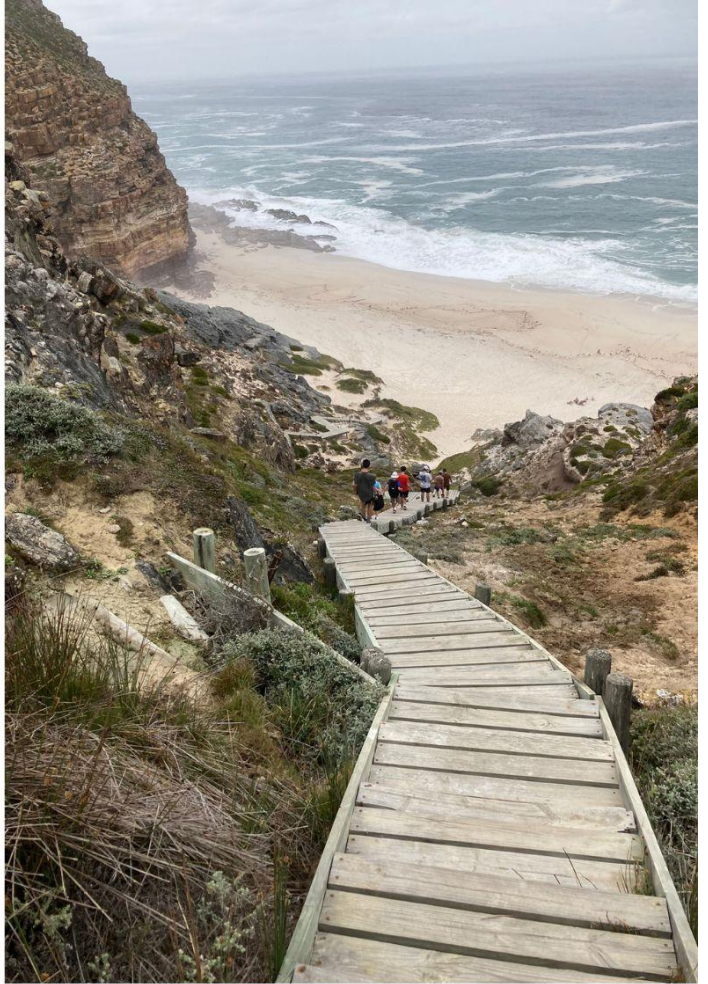
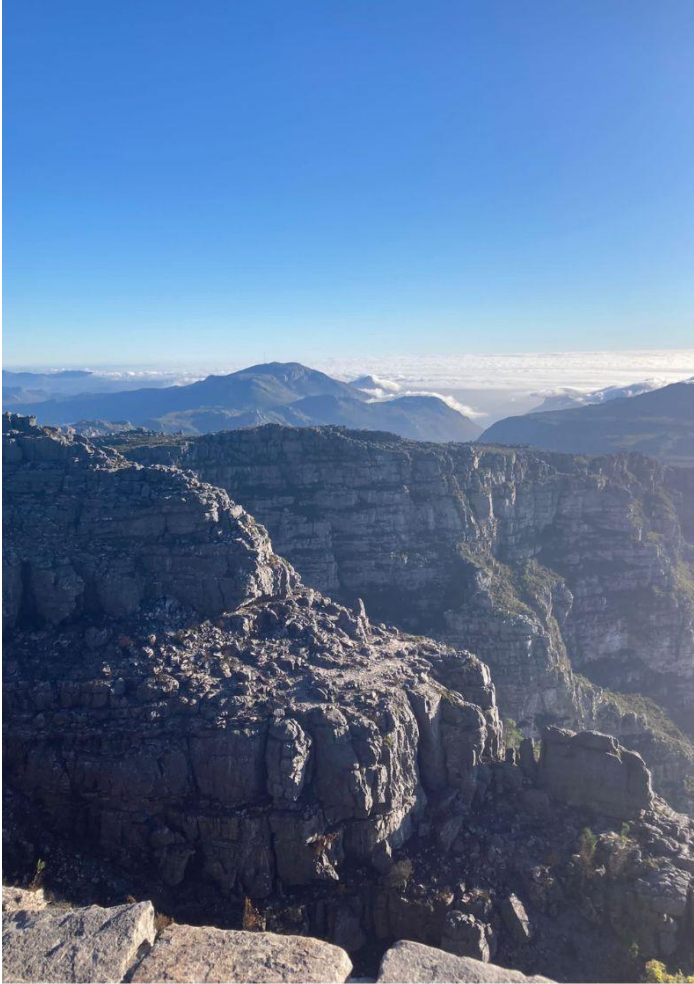
By way of an update, £575.16 was raised through the bake sale, which was a fantastic response from the school student community. Thank you to all who contributed during the sale.





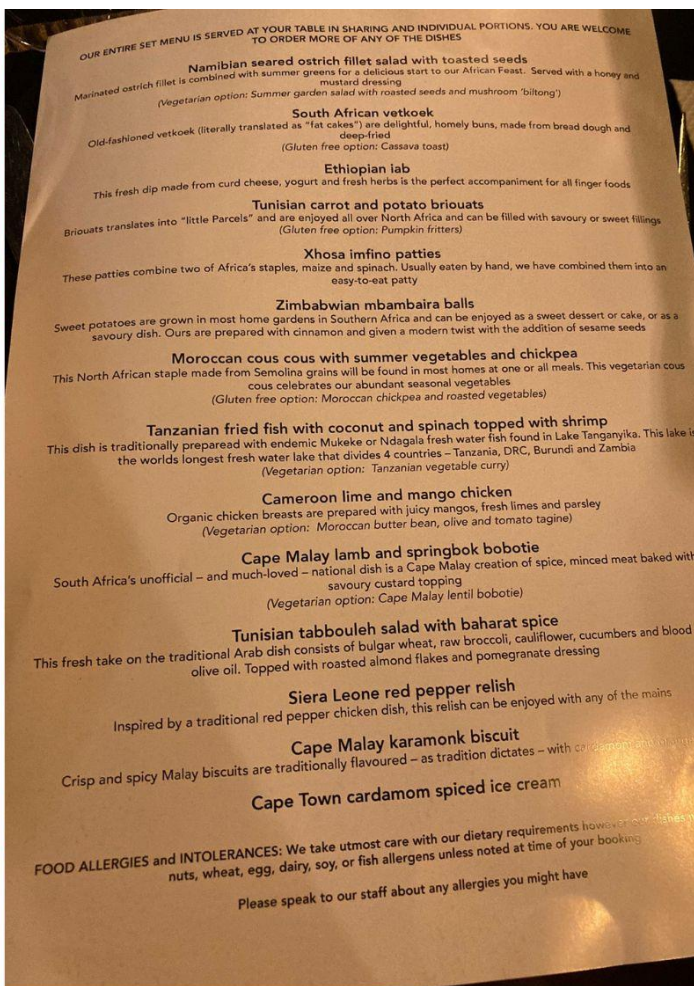
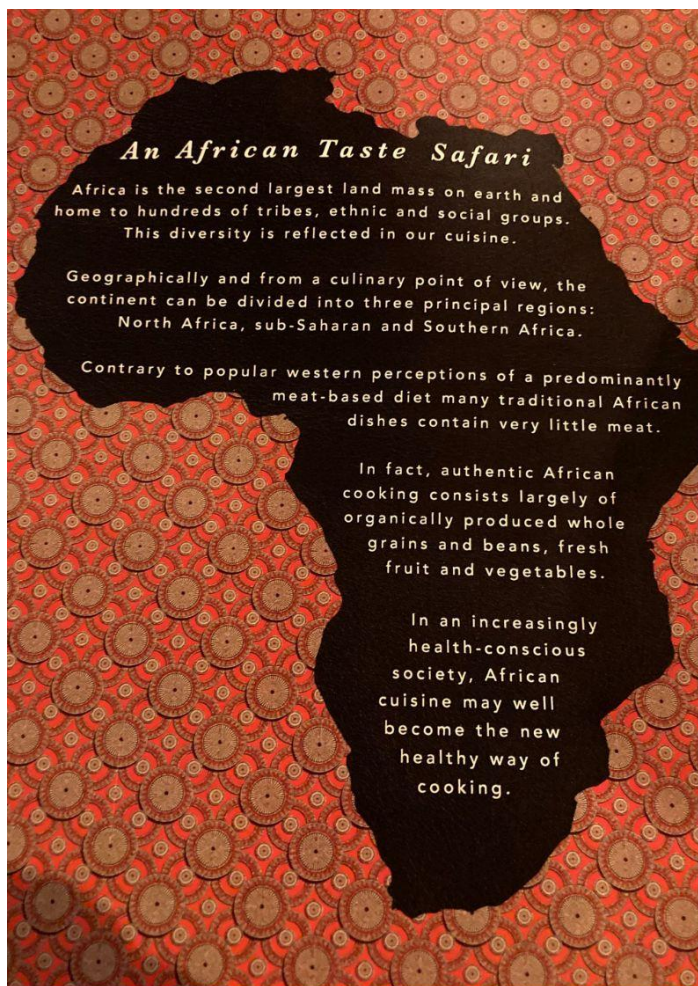














During the Summer Term 2022, the Reading School Mandarin Programme had two intensive study weeks which consisted of online lessons with Shanghai Foreign Language School (SFLS). To make up for the missed school trip to China due to Covid, our students had the chance to virtually visit Chinese cities and families. Our students also impressed the SFLS teachers and students with their singing and introduction of our school in Mandarin.

This week, the Chinese teachers from SFLS sent some gifts for the students who took part as a belated thank you.







Reading School Year 7 and Year 8 trip to Finland













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