



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

8 SEPTEMBER 2023



Contents

Introduction	3
Michaelmas Term 2023	3
GCSE, A Levels, Sports Aptitude and Entrance Test update	3
A positive start to the new term	3
Expectations	3
Key information	4
All years	4
Safeguarding	4
Year 12 only	4
Year 12 Expectations Evening	4
Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (Raac)	4
Associate Staff Vacancies	4
Careers Advisor Role	4
Excellence, Belonging & Community	5
Our dream is opportunity for others	5
Excellence in Astronomy & Astrophysics	5
RSPA	6
RSPA AGM	6
School Lottery	6
Second-hand Uniform Shop	6
Official Reading School Hoodies	6
Michaelmas Term – Week 1	7

Introduction

Michaelmas Term 2023

I would like to warmly welcome back the whole Reading School Community, including our new Year 7s and Sixth Formers, staff and parents. You are all members of the vibrant and diverse Redingensians Community and I am excited to share news of what the academic year holds.

As a reminder, during 2023 we have been working on the development of a Reading School manifesto, in collaboration with Dr Jacob Naish from Right to Dream and our manifesto commitments include:

- We nurture a purpose driven culture
- Our dream is opportunity for others
- We lead through service
- Flourishing with compassion
- Healthy high performance
- We build for sustainable excellence

The commitments make up the heart of who we are and none is more important than the next – all connect to each other. Reading School is an institution that has survived and thrived for nearly 900 years and it has done so through seeking constant development to achieve further success and we encourage all our community to be part of our journey.

GCSE, A Levels, Sports Aptitude and Entrance Test update

Our students who celebrated their external examination results in August, in their [GCSEs](#) and [A Levels](#), demonstrated a commitment to high performance and sustainable excellence. I would like to thank our dedicated Examinations Team and supporting staff for all their work. Thank you also to all members of staff and governing body who ensured the smooth, successful administration of the Sport Aptitude Test on Saturday 2 September and the Year 7 Entrance Test on Wednesday 6 September.

A positive start to the new term

On Thursday, it was very pleasing to see the collaborative changes that Year 8-11 students participated in. The aim of the varied activities was to encourage the practical application of our core values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership and Community. This was achieved through a series of challenges that required collaborative high performance in an engaging environment. There was emphasis on the value of collective effort, moving teams forward through encouragement, seeking the best from others, the concept of fair play, integrity and the value of kindness, empathy, inclusion and consideration.

Our drive and passion for learning both inside and beyond the classroom has already been evident in a number of noteworthy activities that are opportunities for our students to flourish. For instance, the Senior Rugby Tour to Swansea University, the German trip to the Rhineland and the variety of Future Stories camps held in August. Furthermore, Miss Lizzie Ayres, Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead was selected by ITV as a role model for the teaching profession this week. It has been a diverse and positive start to the new term in many respects.

Expectations

We value the support of our parents and carers in ensuring that all students wear the correct uniform, are punctual and have high levels of attendance. Holidays in term time and extended periods of absence will not be authorised. We have high expectations of parents to support Reading School's approach in order for our students to continue to flourish.

Mr A M Robson
Headmaster



Key information

All years

Safeguarding

Every month, we share an online safety newsletter for parents, carers and students so that they can remain informed and up to date. This month's [September 2023 issue](#) features:

- Information and advice about the 'W' app
- A comprehensive guide about social media platforms along with what you need to know
- The law around inappropriate selfies
- Information and advice about the 'Threads' app

Year 12 only

Year 12 Expectations Evening

To access Head of Sixth Form, Mr A Lloyd's talk for Year 12 students and parents, [please click here](#).

Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (Raac)

Following on from the recent media coverage around Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in schools and public buildings, Reading School can confirm that none of our Buildings contain this material. All of our buildings are therefore open as normal.

Associate Staff Vacancies

Careers Advisor Role

A fulfilling and rewarding opportunity for a member of the extended Reading School community currently exists in a Careers Advisor Role. Reading School is committed to providing the very best careers advice and information to our students and we currently have a vacancy for a new Careers Advisor.

Over the past seven years, we have benefitted from the services of two outstanding advisors and the vacant role would suit someone willing to be self-employed and ready to work between two and three days per week, advising students about their career and life choices. The careers advisor must provide independent advice and therefore cannot be a direct employee of the school.

There is a national shortage of careers advisors, and whilst we could contract a local provider to support us, we first wanted to open this opportunity to those who already know something about the school and its students, and are looking for the next step in their own career journey.

Funding is available for training to the appropriate level, and willingness to qualify and to keep learning about the dynamics of Further Education and the employment market is a pre-requisite for this role. We would be keen to offer this role to a parent or carer who is already a part of our community. Our ideal candidate would themselves have had a range of life experiences and would have their own knowledge of the crucial junctions in education and employment that we all experience.

The appropriate person would be passionate about young people and their futures, committed to supporting students to achieve their own potential, and keen to further their own professional development and ready to work closely with our established and experienced careers department.

The role would suit someone returning to work or looking for part-time work and we would be ready to be flexible for the right candidate. Previous work experience as a careers advisor is not necessary.

If you would like to know more about the role and the opportunities that come with it, please speak with Ms Lizzie Ayres (Careers Lead), by emailing layres@reading-school.co.uk

Excellence, Belonging & Community

Our dream is opportunity for others

At the end of the summer holiday, 42 Year 5 pupils from local Future Stories' partnership primary schools attended an exciting 2-day summer camp at Reading School. Future Stories is Reading School's recognised flagship social mobility programme which is now in its seventh year. Sessions were led by Mrs C Heston, Mrs L Dimmick, Mr O Thomas, Ms K Avedisian, Miss K Rosser-Evans, Mr Z McAllister, Mrs R McAllister, Mr T Evans, Mr S Till and Mr S Miller, who were assisted by Reading School student volunteers from Years 11-13.



During the summer camp primary school children completed mentor-led sessions in English, Maths and 11-plus exam familiarisation. In addition, pupils had the exciting opportunity to complete a hands-on Chemistry practical session; making an acid/alkali indicator using red cabbage. Two busy days were rounded off with a sunny afternoon of sports on the school field.

Throughout the summer camp refreshments and meals were provided by Reading School's in-house catering team who kept everyone well fed and watered. Prior to the summer camp Mrs P Hickman worked tirelessly, communicating with primary schools and parents ensuring that pupil participation ran smoothly. The summer camp would not have been possible without the time, enthusiasm, dedication and commitment of Reading School students and staff. Thank you to all of the students and staff involved for their support of the Future Stories programme.

Additional thanks to Ms J Postlethwaite for her support with the English resources used during the summer camp.

Excellence in Astronomy & Astrophysics



During the summer holidays, Ryan Lin (OR 2016-2023) competed in the 16th [International Olympiad on Astronomy & Astrophysics](#) (IOAA) in Katowice, Poland while representing the UK alongside others. 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.

Ryan accepted his place at Oxford this year to study Philosophy and Physics.



RSPA



The Reading School Parents' Association (RSPA) would like to warmly welcome all those who have joined the school this week. The RSPA is a very active organisation which works alongside the school to provide a community for all of the parents and carers. At the same time, we work hard to raise funds for projects that directly benefit our children and enhance their education and environment at the school.

Thank you to all who have applied to join our organisation and we welcome any further applications via the following link [Membership Application Reading School Parents' Association](#)

RSPA AGM

We are preparing for our forthcoming AGM (date tbc) and are looking for some new members to become involved with the committee. There are so many ways in which you can become involved depending on your interests and available time. You can view our current roles here <https://www.readingschoolpa.org.uk/meet-the-team-current>

If there is any aspect of our organisation that you would like to have a no obligation chat about please do not hesitate to email contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk

School Lottery



Joining the official [RSPA school lottery](#) is very easy and one RSPA participant wins a guaranteed prize every Saturday night. Tickets cost £1 each and can be bought as a one-off or on a regular basis.

This year our new Super Draw gives you all exciting ways to play – instead of committing to weekly tickets, you can also choose to buy tickets just for the Super Draw week, meaning more flexibility and less commitment, whilst still supporting the school.

You might have also seen our 'Refer a Friend' feature, introduced during the summer term – any ticket holder can *Refer a Friend *using their unique referral link, and BOTH of you will get an entry into our exclusive draw for a £200 Amazon voucher. There's no limit to the number of entries you can get either – the more people you refer, the more entries into the draw.

We will also let you know about our amazing October Super Draw prize too – and it's an old favourite, back for another year so please watch this space.

To join, [please click this link](#) and if you have any questions, please contact Lottery Co-ordinator Jaideep Das by emailing JDas@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Second-hand Uniform Shop

Our shop volunteers would like to say thank you for all the kind donations that were sent in for the last Uniform Sale. In the last week's sale, we raised **over £1100** and kitted out many new Y7s ready for September. We will share the dates for this academic year as soon as they have been confirmed by the school so keep an eye on upcoming posts.

Official Reading School Hoodies

With some children and young people just starting their journey at Reading School and others having had a growth spurt during the summer break, now is the perfect time to order the very popular [Reading School hoodie by clicking here](#).

After ordering, you will receive a notification as to when your child may collect their hoodie from student services. Please can we reiterate the importance of labelling these hoodies as soon as you receive them. They are lost on a very regular basis and it is impossible to reunite them if we don't know to whom they belong.

We wish everyone a wonderful weekend!

The RSPA Team

Michaelmas Term – Week 1

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



Welcome to the #ReadingSchoolFamily and #ReadingSchoolCommunity















New Year 7s spent the day being inducted into the school and their respective Houses. They listened to the Headmaster, Mr A Robson and Deputy Headmaster, Dr Revd C Evans about expectations and the culture of the school. Year 7s also got to spend time with their Heads of House to learn more about what responsibility, belonging and culture looks and feels like. The day included lots of time to get to know one another and staff members during team building activities and challenges to set the tone for the coming term.









Returning students in Year 8 also had the opportunity to hear from Heads of House and Tutors about the expectations for the coming year while taking part in practical collaborations and culture challenges ('Pillars in Practice'). Activities included, 'Log Pile Tower', 'Firesteel Relay', 'The Longest Line', 'Gutter Pipe', and 'Jigsaw Challenge'















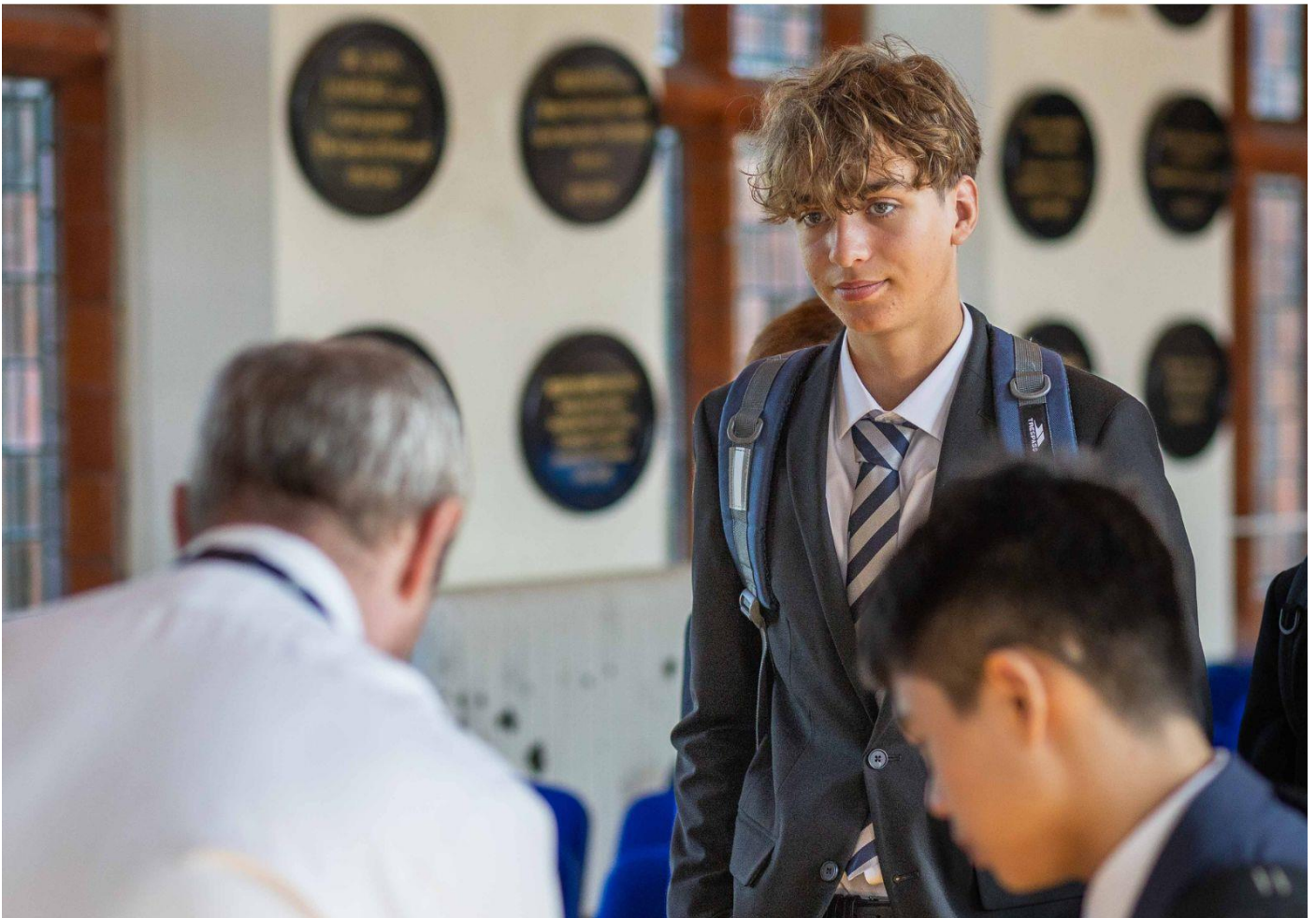






Head of Sixth Form, Mr A Lloyd joined Head of PE & Sport, Mr S Allen, in welcoming our new Year 12 cohort in order to share expectations for the academic year. Sixth Formers were asked to consider what change, reinvention and self-improvement could look like as a determiner of personal success during Sixth Form, as well as setting expectations and reminding them that younger years would be looking up to them as role models.





Sixth Form Induction Morning





Future Stories Summer Camp 2023

Year 11 student volunteers: Joel P (11C), Rujul N (11S), Jack S (11E), Dylan B (11E) and James C (11L)

Year 12 student volunteers: Paarth G (12W), Taz B (12S), Prabhav B (12W), Yash P (12W), Aryan H (12W), Shaheer T (12L), Milan G (12E), Avaneesh R (12W), Aditya K (12S) and Rohan G (12S)

Year 13 student volunteers: Samuel J (13S), Michael L (13L), Aslan H (13L), Adityaraj S (13S), Dhian S (13W), James P (13C), Isaac B (13L), Freddie S (13W), Tarith A (13L), Yousuf A (13S), Woody P (13L) and Darsh K (13L)



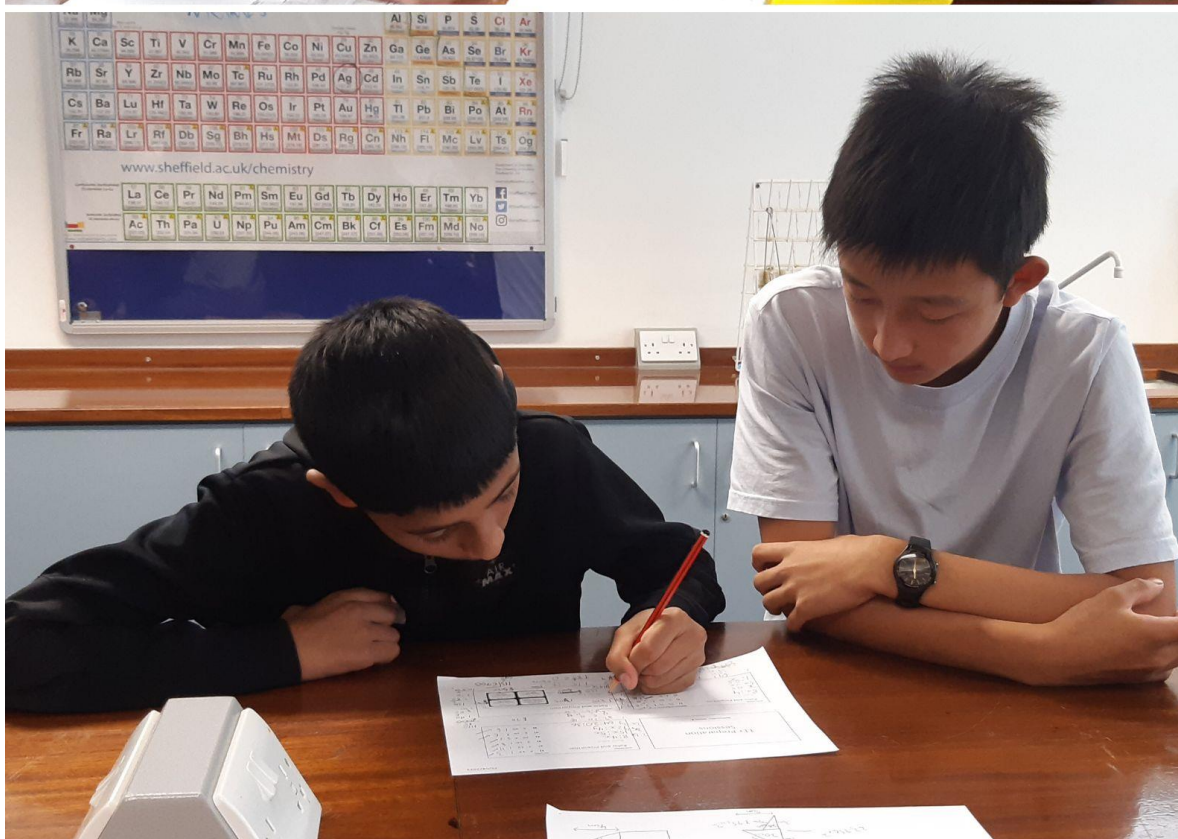
"In my opinion, the summer camp was really good as it gave Year 5 students an opportunity to further their Maths and English skills. I think that the Year 5s enjoyed the 2 days of the camp, especially because they had the opportunity to be in a Chemistry Lab rather than a normal classroom. As well as this we did a Chemistry practical with them which they found interesting, and I hope it has made them look forward to joining Secondary School next year. I volunteered at the summer camp because I remember how nervous I was during the days leading up to my entrance test, so I felt that by signing up, I would be able to help and reassure them before theirs." Joel P, Year 11.



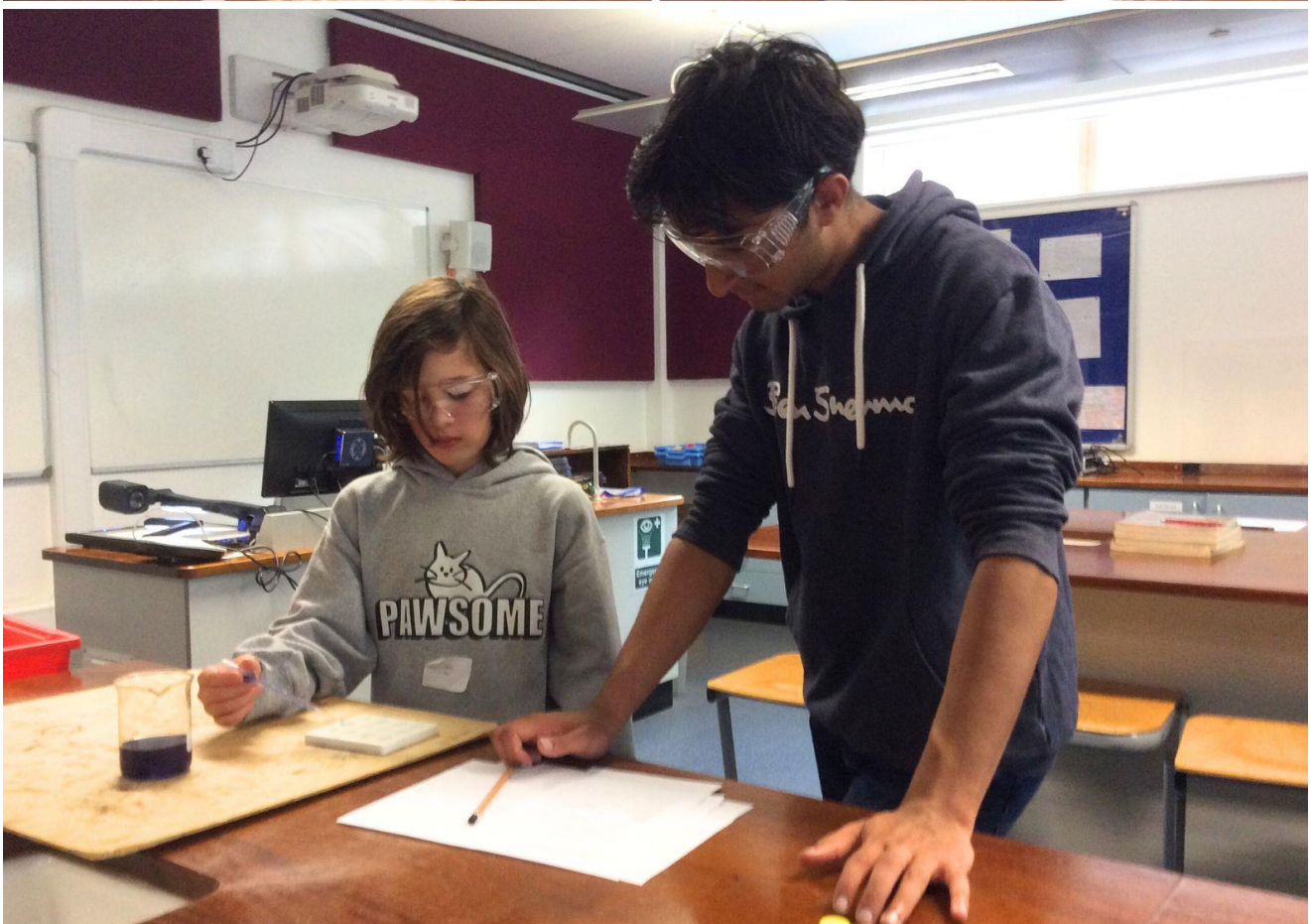
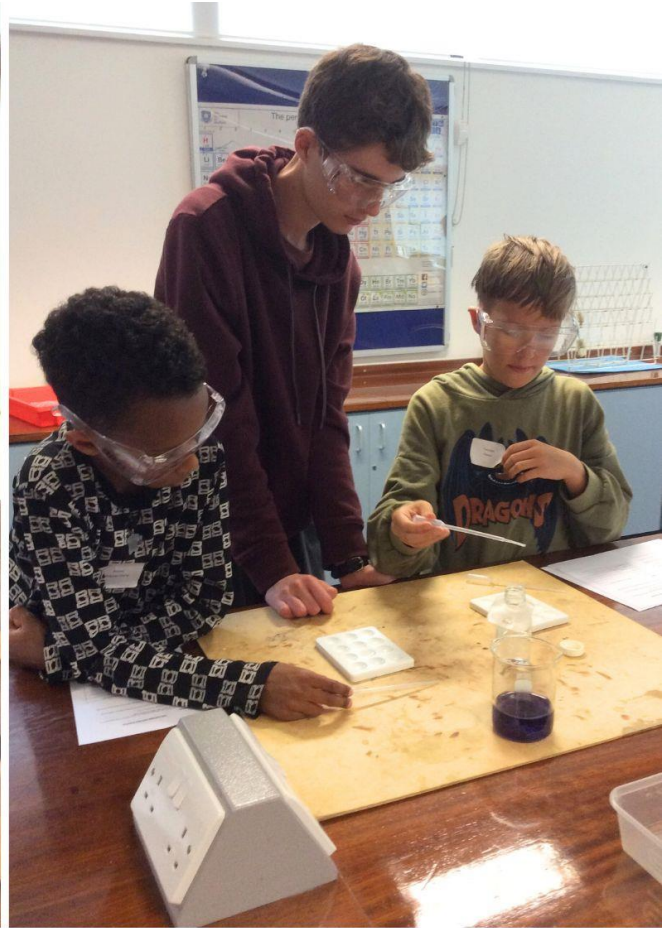
"I was delighted to be a part of the student volunteer team this summer. Both days were very well planned, filled with enjoyable, interactive, fast-paced lessons that left the Year 5 students more than prepared for what was to come in the 11+ exam. They all clearly valued the experience as much as I did! It was rewarding personally to see the significant impact of the Future Stories programme first-hand. This, along with the excellent opportunity to develop character, is why I hope to continue to partake in the programme in the future." Milan G, Year 12



"I really enjoyed volunteering at the summer camp. We covered some unfamiliar maths and science topics unfamiliar to the Year 5s, and it was great to see them explore some new concepts. Learning about pH and making red-cabbage indicator was a highlight. Having tutored exclusively Maths throughout Year 12, the inclusion of science practicals and English made for a nice change, and sessions being teacher-led made our jobs much easier! It was great to help with some new and exciting activities – especially the sport and teambuilding session, which was a really fun way to end the camp. It really highlighted the breadth of volunteering opportunities Future Stories has to offer. Overall, the Future Stories summer camp was the perfect capstone to the program's successful year, and I'm incredibly proud to be part of such an amazing program." Sam J, Year 13, Future Stories Prefect







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