



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

10 MARCH 2023



Contents

Introduction	3
Key information	4
All Years	4
Road closure	4
Parental Survey	4
Year 7 only	4
Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 only	4
Belonging Week 2023 - update	4
Years 11, 12 and 13	4
Regulating your nervous system – exam anxiety support sessions	4
Current Vacancies	5
Teacher Vacancies	5
Excellence, Belonging & Community	6
Excellence	6
Fundraising for Ukraine	6
Cogito – Issue #5	6
Community	7
Drama Production	7
Changing the Face of the Maternity Experience for Women from BAME Groups	7
Building Berkshire Better	7
RSPA	8
Lost Property & Uniform Labelling	8
Lent Term – Week 10	9

Introduction

We want to develop people of character and integrity. Therefore, as an organisation we are committed to championing equity and a sense of belonging. Reading School should essentially be a place of sanctuary where all can feel safe and valued.

We value all members of our diverse community and continue to strive for excellence in all areas.

We want to contribute to a fairer, more compassionate society through our core school values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership and Community.

Crucially, words are one thing and turning them into action and being able to evidence this is another.

Thus, I am proud of the student leadership shown this week for fundraising for International Women's Day 2023, in order to purchase generators for women and children in Ukraine without power. As of Friday 10 March, we have raised £2,131, which will cover the cost of a generator to be driven to Ukraine imminently and further details are shared later in this Bulletin.

We were also pleased to receive a visit this week from Charlotte Wilshire, Fundraising Manager at Brookfields School, an Ofsted Outstanding specialist SEN School in West Reading. Charlotte visited with the Society Office and Community Relations Office on a knowledge sharing and best practice visit. During the visit she shared that the Reading School Sixth Form Charity Committer had previously fundraised for Brookfields School in 2019. The funds went towards the purchase of an 'Eye Gaze' machine which has positively and profoundly impacted the lives of children and young people with multiple additional needs. Charlotte shared, "*The hard work of the Sixth Form Charity Committee makes a tremendous difference to our pupils as the Eye Gaze gives them the opportunity to communicate and interact with the wider world as well as having some fun along the way.*"

Compassion, kindness and parent involvement have been evident this week, with the 'own clothes day' and upcoming charity concert for Turkey and Syria, both being led by parents and Reading School students. Working together as a community, great things that impact the lives of others and ourselves, can be achieved.

Thank you to all members of the Reading School community for supporting our drive to shape a more compassionate society based on equity of opportunity, so that all can feel that they belong and subsequently can thrive and flourish.

Mr A M Robson
Headmaster



Key information

All Years

Road closure

Please be aware that Addington Road will be shut from 8am until 4pm on Monday 13 March. This will be due to tree works along the road. We have been advised that if the work overruns, Addington Road will also be shut on Tuesday 14 March.

Parental Survey

We have recently completed Student Focus Groups with Year Groups to seek the thoughts and views of our students in order to continue to meet their needs. We would also appreciate feedback from our parent community as part of our commitment to continuous improvement. What do we do well? What could we do better? What makes you proud to be a member of the Reading School family? Please can we ask parents to complete the survey by visiting the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/1a8f1pGGvs>. Your views are important to us.

Year 7 only

Students in Year 7 are currently studying a number of topics on sex and relationships. The Biology curriculum includes the male and female anatomy, fertilization and pregnancy, as well as menstruation. PSHE (Personal, social, health and economic education) covers health, puberty, relationships, the developing body and emotional responses.

We would encourage parents to develop and keep an open dialogue at home regarding these conversations, and we would recommend visiting [this website](#) which includes guidance for parents on talking to children and young people about sex and relationships.

More details about the PSHE programme of study is available in our [Relationships and Sex Policy](#) featured on the Reading School website. For support, discussion or suggestions with any of these topics, please speak with Ms Lizzie Ayres, Assistant Headteacher. We are always looking to engage parents with regards to supporting the development of our students and all ideas and comments are welcome. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who responded to a recent parent survey focussing on creating a parent focussed event to be hosted at Reading School facilitated by staff. Details of the event/s will be featured in an upcoming Bulletin very soon.

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 only

Belonging Week 2023 - update

We are awaiting final booking confirmations from some of our trip providers. As soon as we receive this information from all of our venue providers, we will be in a position to issue trip allocation confirmations through Evolve early next week.

Years 11, 12 and 13

Regulating your nervous system – exam anxiety support sessions



Y11, Y12 and Y13 students are welcome to attend upcoming sessions designed to improve anxiety experienced in preparation for and during exams. We invite students to consider attending one or all 3 sessions, on Monday 13, 20 and 27 March 2023. The sessions will run in Big School from 3:45 – 4:30pm and to sign up, [please click here](#).

Please make sure you arrive promptly and you are welcome to bring kit, or remain in your school uniform as the sessions will not be strenuous.

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 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.

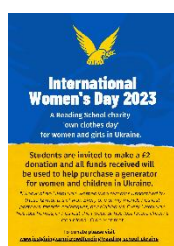
Excellence, Belonging & Community

Excellence

Fundraising for Ukraine

The following is a report shared by Luke H (12W) who has led on the recent 'Own Clothes Day' fundraiser to coincide with International Women's Day 2023:

In February 2022 Ukraine had a population of 42 million people who had struggled over the previous three decades to gain freedoms that we wake up with in the UK every morning. Over the last year, they have seen an incredible attack on civilian life that has not been seen in Europe since WW2. Families have lost loved ones. It is estimated that 8 million people have left the country to find safety and another 8 million have been displaced internally*. Tens of thousands have perished. They endure power outages for days, lack of running water, lack of indoor toilets, no internet or heating or cooking facilities. These are now the norms for many across the country. The future for the Ukraine will be their young people, many of them without families now or the basic comforts that we all take for granted and in a country that is driveable within a few days from the UK.



I approached Reading School Headmaster, Mr. Robson, hoping to help those most affected by the war. His idea was to organise a fundraiser so that the school could purchase a generator to be donated to the displaced women and children. With the assistance of the Make A Difference (MAD) Foundation charity, the Naguevytsk Special School** was identified as particularly vulnerable to the effects of the war because it is situated in a smaller village. The orphanage is located 90km from Lviv and now provides shelter and education for 120 children who have lost their parents and homes in the East of the country. The battery will provide clean, efficient energy to keep the lights on in the dormitories and heat their accommodations.

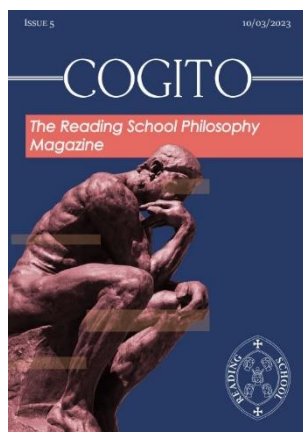
I and my father, ex-Reading School Governor, Keith Holland, will drive the battery, and other items to Poland during the Easter Break where they will be met by my godfather, Mr Ted Mizuhara, who will continue the journey to Ukraine. Ted has worked with the MAD Foundation's Operation Safedrop mission previously and has provided the transport vehicle, fuel and his time-off for free. He has also donated a solar panel which will attach to the battery to convert light directly into electrical energy for use.

We would like to thank all those generous students and parents who have kindly donated to the 'Just Giving Fund' so far. It will remain open for further donations until next Friday 17 March, if you have not yet had the chance to donate and would like to do so.

*Statistics from UNHCR

**[Link to Naguyevychi special \(orphanage\) school](#)

Cogito – Issue #5



Cogito is Reading School's student-led, philosophy magazine. It brings thought provoking, intriguing, rational articles covering some of the most enthralling topics within philosophy. It is not confined to a syllabus, requiring no prerequisite knowledge to read. It covers a variety of intellectually engaging topics, using reason to answer the most fundamental questions about existence and reality.

"Welcome to Cogito issue 5, I hope you enjoy!" - Ryan Lin.

The Reading School Theology and Philosophy department would like to thank Ryan Lin for serving as editor-in-chief of Cogito for the past two years and for his leadership and vision in founding and encouraging philosophical writing and interest across the school. He has been ably supported by a great team of editors and contributors and Cogito will continue to flourish next year under the leadership of three new editors-in-chief - Josha G (12C), Branson R (12S) and Siddhant M (11L).

[Click here to download Cogito Issue #5](#)

[Click here to download Cogito Issue #5](#) (Dyslexia friendly version)

Community

Drama Production

It is with great excitement that Head of Drama, Mr Sandiford can announce the release of tickets to the wider school community for the upcoming school production in collaboration with The Abbey School.

Fifteen students from Reading School have been rehearsing twice weekly for the last six weeks to create 'The Changing Room' by Chris Bush – a true ensemble piece (no-one leaves the stage!) with sixteen girls from The Abbey.

Directed by Cassie Friend the Abbey's Theatre Artist and Mr Sandiford, they are both extremely proud of all the students and what they have achieved in making a dynamic, physical and poetic piece of work.

The show takes place at South Street Arts Centre on Thursday 16 March and Friday 17 March at 6:30pm and swift booking is advised as there is a cast of thirty one who have already booked and availability is running low.

Tickets are organised through The Abbey and there are separate ticketing links for each performance:

[Tickets for Thursday 16 March](#)

[Tickets for Friday 17 March](#)

Changing the Face of the Maternity Experience for Women from BAME Groups

We strive to share information and events that may be of interest and value to our parent community and networks. On 23 March 2023, an online event, '*Changing the Face of the Maternity Experience for Women and Birthing People from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups*' will take place between 12:30 – 14:00. The event has been organised in response to issues raised by women and families impacted within BAME Groups and aims to highlight, advocate and improve the lived experiences of women from these communities. For more information, [please click here](#).



Building Berkshire Better



Our neighbours and partners, Royal Berkshire Hospital are seeking the views of our students via a short questionnaire that will contribute to the development of a new hospital. 3,250 people have responded to the survey so far; however, they are seeking more views from young people and your views can play an important part in having a say in whether the Royal Berkshire Hospital remains on its current site or moves to a new location. All students are welcome to participate and Programme Co-ordinator for 'Building Berkshire Together', Amelia Athendriou shares, "*This is such an important piece of work and we want to ensure that diverse voices are heard – this will be our once in a generation opportunity to improve hospital and healthcare services in Berkshire. Staff and parents are of course also very welcome to fill it in and have their say.*" The survey can also be provided in Easy Read.

Please [click here to access the survey](#).

Lost Property & Uniform Labelling

As parents and carers most of us have experienced the frustration of lost uniform, PE Kit and a whole range of other items. In order to try and increase the chance of their safe return please ensure that ALL items are labelled.

We recommend www.easy2name.com and if you nominate Reading School Parents' Association as your charity, RSPA gets a 20% cashback which goes towards projects to enhance the experience of the pupils at Reading School.

Please advise your child to retrace their steps and check at **Student Services (SS)** for any misplaced items.

Please join the **Lost Property Group** on Classlist. This is only available to RSPA members. If you are yet to join then please contact our Membership Administration Manager, Pallavi Chube, who will be delighted to help you – memsec@readingschoolparents.co.uk

The current pile of lost property is estimated to be of the value of **ONE THOUSAND POUNDS!**

To gain some further insight into the world of Lost Property at Reading School, please take a few minutes to read this story from our incredibly hard-working Lost Property Co-ordinator. Her dedication towards this role has ensured that many items have been reunited with their owners and we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank her for all she does.

"My name is Helen. My son is in Year 9 and has a talent for losing stuff. His many achievements include losing a violin, a huge box of Warhammer models and at least four lunch boxes. Because of this I decided to take on the role of Lost Property Coordinator. For his penance I make him help me sort through the lost stuff, for which I am grateful.



Each half term I collect lost property from as many places as I can around the school. These include; outside Student Services (SS) in the big box in front of the office and hanging on the back of the main SS door, under the table in the gym, on the field and in the bins by the bike sheds. I sort through the piles and create a great big list. The wet, stinking stuff, I wash, dry, and fold before dividing it into tutor groups.

With each item I look for the name tag in the back of the neck, on the front or on the care labels. I hope to see a full name which I can then track back through the system. You will be amazed how many children have the same initials, or even the same surname. Something written in biro or permanent pen is great as long as the name is readable. So often the name has blurred and is difficult to decipher. You have to remember I don't know your child's name and so if I can't read it I can't get it back to you.

Then I message any parents who are part of the Class List group. If I get hold of the parents, (they don't always reply) I can get items back to their child. Usually this is done by delivering it back to SS in a carrier bag marked with the child's name. Just for the record, SS has an amazing collection of glasses, house keys, lunch boxes, phones, calculators and pencil cases in their drawers. If your child has lost anything valuable he should ask in the SS office.

I pack the other clothes into bags marked with the tutor group name. These bags get taken back to SS where the Tutor is supposed to pick them up and distribute them. Quite often Tutors forget or delay in picking up the bags. If you know that there is something coming back to your child then I recommend they take the initiative and go to look for the marked bag. Maybe they could even take it to tutor time so that other children could benefit.



Unnamed items I try to post on the Lost property section of the Class List app. Unlabelled Coats are displayed at the Uniform Sale on a special rail. Any other unnamed uniform is sold to raise money for the pupils. There is no way we can tell which child it belongs to. All I can ask is please label your child's ties, gloves, shirts, shoes, trainers, shin pads, bags, shorts, bags, blazers, trousers, school socks and hoodies. You would not believe the number of new hoodies that come to us unnamed. I hope that helps to solve the mystery of Lost Property although there is much we still never find."

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Weekend.

The RSPA Team

Lent Term – Week 10

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



During the 'Social Entrepreneurs Elective' led by Teacher of Geography, Mr K Luteijn, Year 9 and 10 students were tasked with creating a business plan for a social enterprise that seeks to solve a local social or environmental issue. Students spent the last half-term refining their ideas, carrying out market research and writing their business plans.



During this week, student teams had to launch their businesses by delivering a 5-minute pitch to the rest of the group and taking questions. During this term, the teams will either start to run their enterprises or if they are digital, will work on their technical development. At the end of the term, each team will write an impact statement to show the positive social or environmental impact their enterprise has had.





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