



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

11 NOVEMBER 2022

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# Introduction

## Passing the baton

The word gratitude derives from the Latin *gratus*, meaning thankful or pleasing. Gratitude offers a way of embracing all that makes our lives what they are. The character strength of gratitude involves the feeling and expression of a deep sense of thankfulness. Gratitude also relates to generosity, compassion and humility and it is in this spirit that I would like to thank Kirsty MacInnes and Kirsta Rizzo for their committed, compassionate leadership of the Reading School Parents' Association.



They have both been purpose-driven women of integrity, who have inspired the parent community. We are grateful for their superb, valuable service characterised by passion, positive energy and a commitment to strengthening the school community. The highest form of leadership is service, and they have demonstrated that on many occasions. Furthermore, success can only be achieved through building high-performing teams and we are grateful for the sterling work of the band of volunteers who have proved that by working together, more can be achieved.

We welcome Veena Baggley and Vee Nenguke, the new Co-Chairs of the RSPA and I have no doubt that under their stewardship, the Association will continue to go from strength to strength, leading up to the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the school, which will be celebrated in 2025.

As parents and stakeholders, if you feel that you are able to demonstrate gratitude and build up the school community, then you may wish to complete the [Ofsted Parentview](#) or email [headspa@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:headspa@reading-school.co.uk), detailing what you think we do well and suggesting how we can work together to improve further. We are always seeking to improve and maximise the opportunities we offer for our students to flourish, and we cannot do that without your continued support.

## Reading Week

Thank you to all staff, students, parents and governors who participated so enthusiastically in our Reading Week. I hope that our initiative sparked intellectual curiosity, reflection and pleasure in reading. John F Kennedy stated that “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” So, I would like to encourage all students to continue reading and avail themselves of the superb resources managed by our superlative LRC team led by Ms Kesteven. I am grateful for all the work they do, including leading on ‘Empathy Action Month’, where empathy can develop through reading.



## Remembrance



It is only right and fitting that the 11 November 2022 edition of the Headmaster's Bulletin includes showing our thanks and appreciation for all those who fought and died for the cause of freedom since the beginning of the Great War in 1914. We have considered the importance of Remembrance in Chapel this week, recognised Armistice Day today with a two-minute silence at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month and also look forward to the ORA supported Remembrance Day service in Reading School Chapel from 10:45am on

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. In the novel ‘The Girl at the Lion d’Or’ by Sebastian Faulks, a character states “When you pass the memorial stop and look at the list of names. Try to imagine that they are not just letters chipped into rock but that each one has a face, a laugh, a look.”

## Staff farewell

Carl Jung maintained that *“One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.”* We want to unleash education’s potential as a force for good. Reading School can provide positive life-changing moments of joy and meaning. We believe that true education is about nurturing mind and body, and using our personal growth to positively shape the world around us.



I would like to express my personal gratitude to Ms Georgia Pravda, who is leaving Reading School today, for her compassion, positive attitude and inspirational commitment to Auxilium, student support and staff wellbeing. As a colleague and as a person, she has been a role model, always seeking to ensure that everyone felt they belonged and were welcomed. Indeed, she has epitomised compassion and been the embodiment of the positive pastoral approach at Reading School. We wish her well for the future.

I remain most grateful for being part of a school community that focuses on developing excellence and character anchored in the values of belonging and community.

## Mr AM Robson

### Headmaster



# Key information

## Parent Governor Election 2022

4 nominations have been received for the parent governor vacancy. The nominations were from:

- Saritha Arunkumar
- Pallavi Chube
- Shaifali Gaba
- Dozie Nnabuife

There will therefore need to be an election, and the supporting statements from each of the candidates are available by [clicking here](#).

The timetable for the election will be:

- 21 to 25 November – ballot
- 10.00 on 21 November – ballot opens
- 16.00 on 25 November - ballot closes
- 28 November – Counting of ballot papers
- 29 November – results of poll announced.

The ballot will be an electronic one, and voting instructions will be set out by e-mail on the morning of 21 November 2022.

## Women in Leadership



Reading School are leading a group that champions women in leadership in BASS schools. The group's purpose is one of sharing expertise and being a sounding board for colleagues focusing on the specific challenges' females may face working in all boys' schools. The forum has already been well received by members and the group aims to meet remotely once per half-term, to discuss a pre-arranged agenda item such as authenticity and assertiveness, empowering others, flexible-working hours, supporting young men's mental health, pupil premium strategies and negotiating with suppliers.

The group is looking for inspirational women to share their journeys along with men who work with inspirational women to also share their experiences. We would invite anyone from our whole school community, including parents and carers, who would wish to contribute to a meeting. For all enquiries, please contact Mrs Lizzie Ayres by emailing [layres@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:layres@reading-school.co.uk).

## All Years

### Safeguarding

This month's online safety newsletter for parents, features information about Anti-Bullying Week 2022, Discord and how it's use can be made safer, social network Yubo and what parents need to be aware of and how social media algorithms work. To access the newsletter, please [click here](#).

### Road safety

We would like to remind all parents and carers that they should not attempt to drop off or pick up their son/sons at the Craven Road entrance to the School site. Hospital entrances, taxi ranks and bus stops make this a busy and dangerous section of road. Road markings next to the school entrance are accompanied by signs which clearly state "No stopping Monday-Friday 8am – 5pm on entrance markings". Attempting pick up or drop off in this area, or in the entrances to the Royal Berkshire Hospital adds jeopardy to other road users and inhibits emergency vehicles. We would encourage parents to find safer places one step further from the Addington Road or Erleigh Road entrances, where there are limited parking spaces and safer side roads.

## Parental Careers Survey

In our efforts to listen to all views in order to continue to improve outcomes for our students, please can parents and carers take a moment to complete the short Reading School Careers Survey 2022-23 by [clicking this link](#).

## Health information



The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust (RBFT) has launched its winter campaign about coughs and colds in young children and, in particular, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). The campaign is focused on parents looking after young children at home and knowing when to seek help. [Advice about coughs and colds in children](#) can be found on the NHS website and there is a [short video](#) about RSV on the RBFT YouTube channel.

## Stevensons store closure

Uniform supplier, Stevensons have informed us that they have had to close the branch until early January, for essential maintenance works related to flooding.

Whilst we understand this will be an inconvenience to some, it has thankfully come at the time of year when demand for uniform it is at its lowest. That said, they are looking to ensure that uniform remains as accessible as possible during this period, and as such will be continuing with a click and collect service from the branch and will be continuing to fulfil online orders as they normally would. Please [click here](#) for more information from Stevensons.

## Notice of additional Bank Holiday 2023

In light of the announcement of His Majesty's coronation on Saturday 6 May 2023, an additional bank holiday has been announced on Monday 8 May 2023 and therefore Reading School will be closed.

## Years 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13

### The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2022 - 23



There have been a number of parent queries about our support for the DofE program.

Please find information below which details our provision for 2022-23 with rationale that explains why we are making some changes.

In recent years we have tried a number of different models to deliver DofE in school, but due to a combination of excess demand, the significant administrative burden required to chase and support students, in the completion of the award and a backlog of students wanting and waiting to participate, we have had to review our model and approach.

#### For Students currently in Year 9 & 10:

Students in Year 9 & 10 will be offered the chance to sign up for the DofE Bronze Award this term and we will be offering spaces to **42 Year 10 students** and **21 Year 9 students**. In Sept 2023, we will offer a further 21 places to this year's Year 9 cohort (as they enter Year 10) and 42 further places to this year's Year 8 cohort (as they enter Year 9).

This will ensure an equity of opportunity for these three specific year groups; 42 places per year being sustainable and proportionate to the number of students that currently complete the award each year.

Please note that students will be asked to apply for a place and will be given clear guidelines as to expectations. They will be sent a form on 25 November 2022 to apply, and places will be confirmed with students directly by 9 December 2022. If places are oversubscribed, they will be offered on the strength of the application made by the student and they should be clear that they will need to work independently with a group of peers, in order to complete the award.

*Limiting the number of students participating is the only way that we can sustain the administration of the program.*

Students will be charged a one-off fee of £90 which includes their log book, a contribution to the cost of the DofE license and towards the cost of administering their award. The cost will be subsidised for students in receipt of Pupil Premium.

Please note that whilst students will need to work independently to complete the award, we will support the allocation of groups to enable them to plan their expeditions. We are also working to tender for a 'preferred provider' who would be willing to run expeditions for groups of students. More information about a preferred provider will be confirmed in the New Year, but participants can access the [list of DofE expedition providers](#) in our local area on the DofE platform, which they will have access to once they start their award if they wish to drive this themselves from day 1.

Please note, the costs of taking part in the expedition are additional to the one-off fee paid to the school for registration and administration detailed above.

### **For students in Year 11 and up:**

Students in Year 11 and up, that have already started the award, will continue to be supported to sign off completed sections of their award, however, reminders to complete the award will no longer be sent to students. They are expected to be accountable for their progress and can continue to seek support from the Year 12 and 13 mentors they were set up with to encourage them in this regard.

Looking ahead, students will only be eligible to start the Silver Award once they have completed their Bronze Award, and we will be sending a Forms link to students in Years 11 and 12 only, inviting registration for the Silver Award in January 2023. The exact arrangements for students that would like to take the silver award will be confirmed once we have a clear idea of the demand.

Students already registered can access their DofE accounts to log completion of any sections.

## **Staff Vacancies**

Please see below for links to our current staff vacancies and forward on to anyone you think might be interested in these exciting opportunities:

- [Teacher of English \(Maternity Cover\)](#) – starting January 2023
- [Cover Supervisor \(Fixed Term\)](#) – immediate start (pending relevant checks)
- [Alumni and Development Assistant \(Maternity Cover\)](#) – starting November / December 2022
- [Chief Operations Officer](#) – starting January / February 2023
- 

All applicants for teaching roles must complete a Teaching Staff Application Form. Applicants for associate staff roles must complete an Associate Staff Application Form. Both forms can be found in the vacancies section of our website, [here](#).

Reading School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The successful candidate must be willing to undergo an Enhanced DBS Disclosure. Full details of our Safeguarding - Staff Recruitment Policy and Data Policy can be found on [our website](#).

If you have any queries regarding these roles, please contact [hr@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:hr@reading-school.co.uk).

# Excellence, Belonging & Community

## Student Excellence



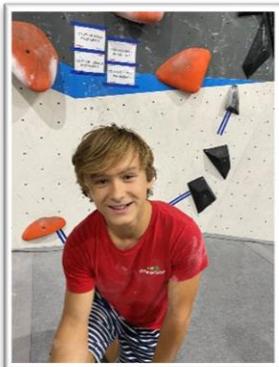
Harrison S (9C) competed in his first [British Mountaineering Council \(BMC\) Youth Climbing Series \(YCS\) competition](#) on Saturday 22 Oct at the Climbing Experience in Maidstone, Kent. The event is a climbing competition for young people which attracts hundreds of climbers from across England. Harrison gave an excellent account of himself while under pressure from watching crowds, ultimately topping seven of the eight routes, and scoring a zone in the eighth ('bouldering' is rock climbing stripped down to its raw essentials and scored using 'zones' to determine rank).

The Competition was competitive and strong and Harrison's performance was ultimately enough for seventh place. Harrison was spoken with following the competition and during an interview he shared:

*How long he's been climbing?* I've been climbing for around 3.5 years and was selected to train with Oakwood Youth Squad about 14 months ago.

*What led to your passion for climbing?* It's fun! I've always enjoyed climbing trees and frames in parks and used to set myself challenges when I was younger on the monkey bars and rings in our garden.

*What skills has he developed?* There are lots of specialist climbing skills, starting with how to use different types of holds such as crimps, slopers, volumes and arêtes. Then there's techniques such as heel hooks, toe hooks, dynos, knee bars and crack climbing. On top of this are the physical conditioning aspects. You need a lot of core, shoulder, arm and finger strength coupled with flexibility in the hips and ankles. When I'm not bouldering (free climbing) I've also had to learn rope work for tying in, lead climbing and belaying.

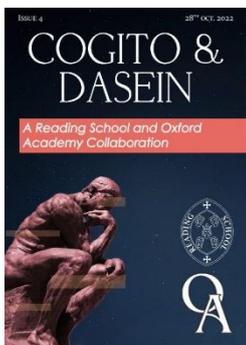


*What are some challenges you've had to overcome?* When you're high on a bouldering wall with a big drop, in an awkward position and with difficult holds, you need to hold your nerve and focus to have the courage to make the next move! Working on increasing flexibility takes time and commitment.

*How did you feel after the competition on Saturday 22 Oct.* I felt really pumped! I had a lot of adrenaline in the competition because I was climbing much better than I anticipated and it was exciting managing some really difficult climbs with people watching. My coach and dad were both really impressed.

Harrison trains twice weekly with the [Oakwood Youth Climbing Squad](#) based in Bracknell.

## Team Excellence



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 x 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. Readers will have the chance to read about a concoction of philosophical perspectives from students in the USA and in the UK and become immersed in philosophy's practical capabilities. The joint teams hope to 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 aim to showcase diverse international perspectives and encourage young people from all around the world to engage with philosophy. We hope you enjoy this edition which can be accessed by clicking the link/s below:

[Cogito x Dasein](#)

[Cogito x Dasein – Dyslexia friendly version](#)

# Community

## Winter Appeal for Ukraine

The Reading School community had been prodigiously generous since our first appeal for Ukraine last April. With winter weather deteriorating in Ukraine, and the energy crisis there intensifying, we wonder if families of the School community might be able to help once more via [Ukraine Relief](#). The appeal is seeking good quality used or new winter clothing and blankets. This will be sorted in Bournemouth and then shipped to Chervonohrad in Eastern Ukraine.

For this appeal we are requesting:

- **Blankets**
- **Duvets**
- **Sleeping Bags**
- **Hats**
- **Coats**
- **Gloves**
- **Scarves**
- **Warm socks**

These can be brought to the Chapel anytime until **Monday November 28<sup>th</sup>**.

We once again extend thanks to all of those who have given so generously to one of the many recent appeals for Ukraine, for Pakistan or for the local foodbank.



*Please click thumbnail to view video from earlier this year*

## Historical Association - Lecture Series

The Reading branch of the [Historical Association](#) is, 'The voice for history' and holds monthly historical lectures at Reading School (Lecture Theatre). All are welcome (no pre-booking required) and the next lecture will be 'Walpole and his critics' with Guest Lecturer Dr Perry Gauchi (Lincoln College, Oxford) on Friday 11 November, 7:30pm – 9:00pm. For a full list of upcoming lectures, please [click here](#) and for enquiries please contact Mr D Whitehorn by emailing [dwhitehorn@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:dwhitehorn@reading-school.co.uk).



## Christian Union (Junior and Senior)

The Junior Christian Union will be starting on Friday 18 November during junior lunchtime in Room 12 (T&P room) and meeting every Friday thereafter. The weekly meeting is a chance for discussion about faith and philosophy and will include a challenging question from the Bible each week, as well as games. Students are welcome to bring their own lunch.

The Senior Christian Union will be starting on Friday 18 November, 12:50 – 1:15 in Room 8 and meeting every Friday thereafter. The weekly meeting is a chance to read and discuss short passages from the Bible.

All are welcome to their respective groups and if you would like to find out more, please visit one of the groups from next week onwards. The groups look forward to welcoming you.

## LRC

### Remembrance Day



Armistice Day, or Remembrance Day as it is also known, marks the day that World War One ended in 1918. A two-minute silence is held at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month to remember those who have died in any conflict. Wreath-laying ceremonies, usually organised by local branches of the Royal British Legion, are observed on Remembrance Day at most war memorials across the UK.

The LRC Team have created a display for students which highlights the meaning of Remembrance Day, its history, what it means to Reading School and some recommended reads. We would like to thank our LRC team for ensuring that historical, cultural and inclusive events are marked throughout the school year.

Reading School's Remembrance Day Service which is organised by the ORA will take place on Sunday 13 November.

### ORA Remembrance Service - Sunday 13th November 2022

The ORA will be holding the service to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. Especially those fallen Old Redingensians.

The Armed Forces, and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth, the vital role played by the emergency services and those that have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism will be remembered.

The service will take place in the Chapel from 10:45 am.

The service will be led by the Rev Clive Windebank OR (1952-59) and the guest preacher this year is the Revd Simon Foster (East Wing 1968-75).

The Lesson will be read by the Headmaster and Reading School students will play the Organ and sound the Last Post and Reveille.

Light refreshments will be served after the service in the School Refectory at 11:30.

If you would like to attend the service, please RSVP here: [Remembrance Day Service 2022 | Events | Reading School Alumni Society](#)

Parking is available on-site in the main school car park opposite the Chapel. Please use the Erleigh Road entrance. Please note that photographs and footage may be taken and used for social media and in our school magazine and communications. If you (or your guests) do not wish to be photographed, please contact us at [events@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:events@reading-school.co.uk).

## Sports Fixtures

### Monday 14th

Yr7 B team football (National Cup) v Cranford House (away) 2.30 kick-off (Mr Allen)

Yr10 Rugby Final Reading Rugby Club 4pm (Mr Tridgell)

### Tuesday 15th

2<sup>nd</sup> XI football (National Cup) v Bradfield College (away) 2.30 kick-off (Sr Sanchez)

Yr11 Rugby Final Reading Rugby Club 4pm (Mr Tett & Mr Kearle)

Yr8 & Yr9 Basketball v Maiden Erlegh Wokingham 3.45 (Mr Allen)

### **Wednesday 16th**

Yr10 & Yr11 Basketball v Maiden Erleigh Wokingham (away) 3.45 (Mr Allen)

1st XV Rugby (away) vs LVS 2:30pm kick-off (Mr Kearle & Mr Tett)

2nd XV Rugby (home) vs Windsor Boys

### **Thursday 17th**

Yr9 B team football (National Cup) v Gordon's (away) 2.30 kick-off (Mr Robertson)

Yr10 Rugby (home) vs Maiden Erleigh 3pm kick-off (Mr Tridgell)

## Reading School Parents' Association AGM

The RSPA were delighted to have so many people attend the AGM on Tuesday evening. We received a very kind address from the Headmaster, Mr Robson, and reports from The Chairs and Treasurer. We are very pleased to announce the following team for 2022-2023.

Veena Baggley – Chair

Vee Nenguke – Vice Chair

Marina Hannaford – Secretary

Terri Lorrimore – Treasurer

Julie Bellingham – Uniform Shop Manager

Nish Moody – Summer Fayre Chair

Kajal Mathur – Digital Manager

Monika Maheshwari – Online Hoodie Manager & Digital Support

Jaideep Das – School Lottery Manager

Rohini Luthra – Communications Manager

Pallavi Chube – Membership Administration Manager

Subha Krishnasamy – Membership Support Coordinator

Menaka Murthy – Events Coordinator

We would like to give many thanks to the outgoing team for all their hard work and dedication over the last year: Kirsty MacInnes, Kirsta Rizzo, Neha Doorwar, Jane Amole, Dina Chima, Jo Wyles, Hiral Panchal, Swapna Thummala and Lena Alami Shehab.

## Teacher's Amazon Wishlist



Following on from the tremendous success of last year's Teacher's Amazon Wishlist – it is back again for 2022!

All departments and areas such as the LRC, Student Support, 6th Form and Boarding have been given the opportunity to request items.

The list has been compiled and can be viewed here via: [Check out my list on Amazon](#)

There are a wide range of requests and costs of items so hopefully something to suit everyone who wishes to contribute. If you can't make your mind up or just want to donate a small cash amount towards the items then this is possible by transferring to:

Name: RSPA No. 2 Account

Sort Code: 60-17-21

Account Nos: 15309096

If you would like to Gift Aid your donation and require a form, please email: [treasurer@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@readingschoolparents.co.uk)

Can we also kindly request that you set your account to AMAZON SMILE or EASYFUNDRAISING when purchasing. This will raise further money for the pupils with no extra cost to you <https://smile.amazon.co.uk>

You can set your account to e.g. SMILE once you are at the checkout stage or

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rspareadingpa/?invite=O42JE4&referral-campaign=s2s>

Please choose **RPSA PARENT GIFTING WISHLIST KIRSTY MACINNES** as the delivery address.

The list will close on **30th November 2022**.

If you have any queries please do email Jo Wyles – [jwyles@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:jwyles@readingschoolparents.co.uk)

## Hoodies

We have now taken delivery of the new stock of Reading School Hoodies

The hoodies are available on line via the following link <https://www.readingschoolpa.org.uk/store/reading-school-navy-hoodie>

We aim to fulfil orders within a week and 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 you all a very happy weekend.

The RSPA Team



# Michaelmas Term – Week 10

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



[UK Bebras 2022](#) - The Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge is underway this week. It is running for two weeks from 7 -18 November 2022. Results will be available w/c 28 November. Students answer questions online that focus on computational and logical thinking, which helps to improve memory, cognition, and creativity. Good luck to everyone, and we hope to see some of you in the next round, for invited students early in the New Year.







We would like to share our thanks and appreciation for the sponsorship support of Mr J Fulwell (OR 2005). 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 sports kit was designed by Yedige Y (12E) who 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."*







This Wednesday afternoon's fixture between Reading and Claires Court School made for an exceptional advert for school rugby, in what was a highly competitive and well played game. Director of Rugby, Mr M Kearle, shared after the game, "Everything we have been building towards in training all season finally clicked and paid off for us, leading to a fantastic performance in the second half." Thank you to parents and students who attend school fixtures to cheer and encourage their team on. The final score was 45-24 to Reading School.









Diwali was celebrated during half-term week by many of our students and their families. Students were invited to share what their Diwali looked like with the whole school community and thanks to Ojas M (8E), Khanishk T (9W) and Karthik D (13L) for sharing their images.

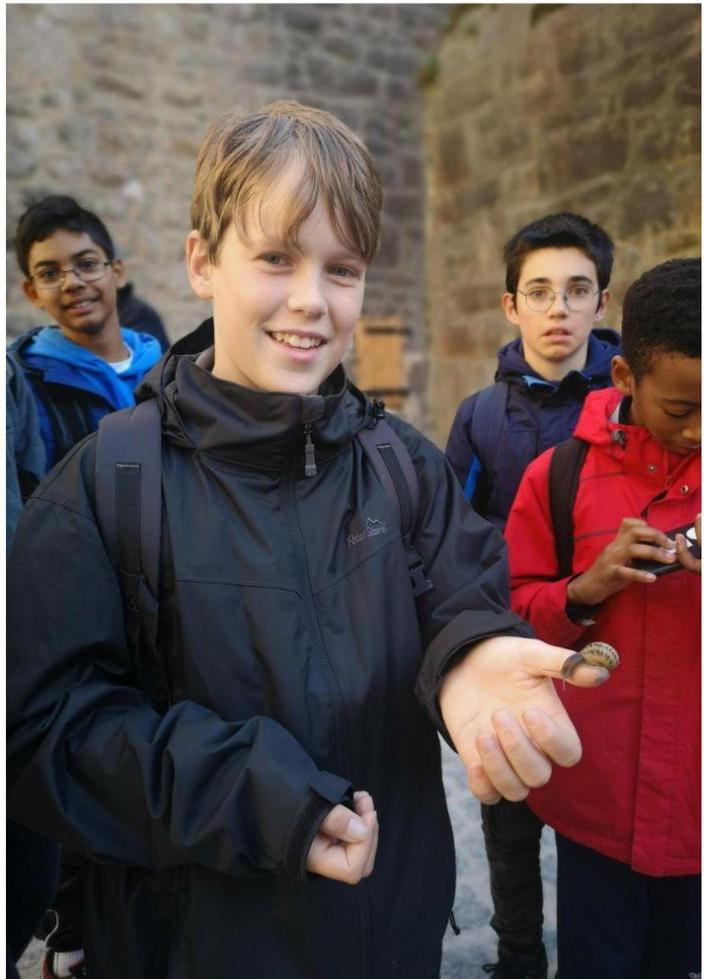




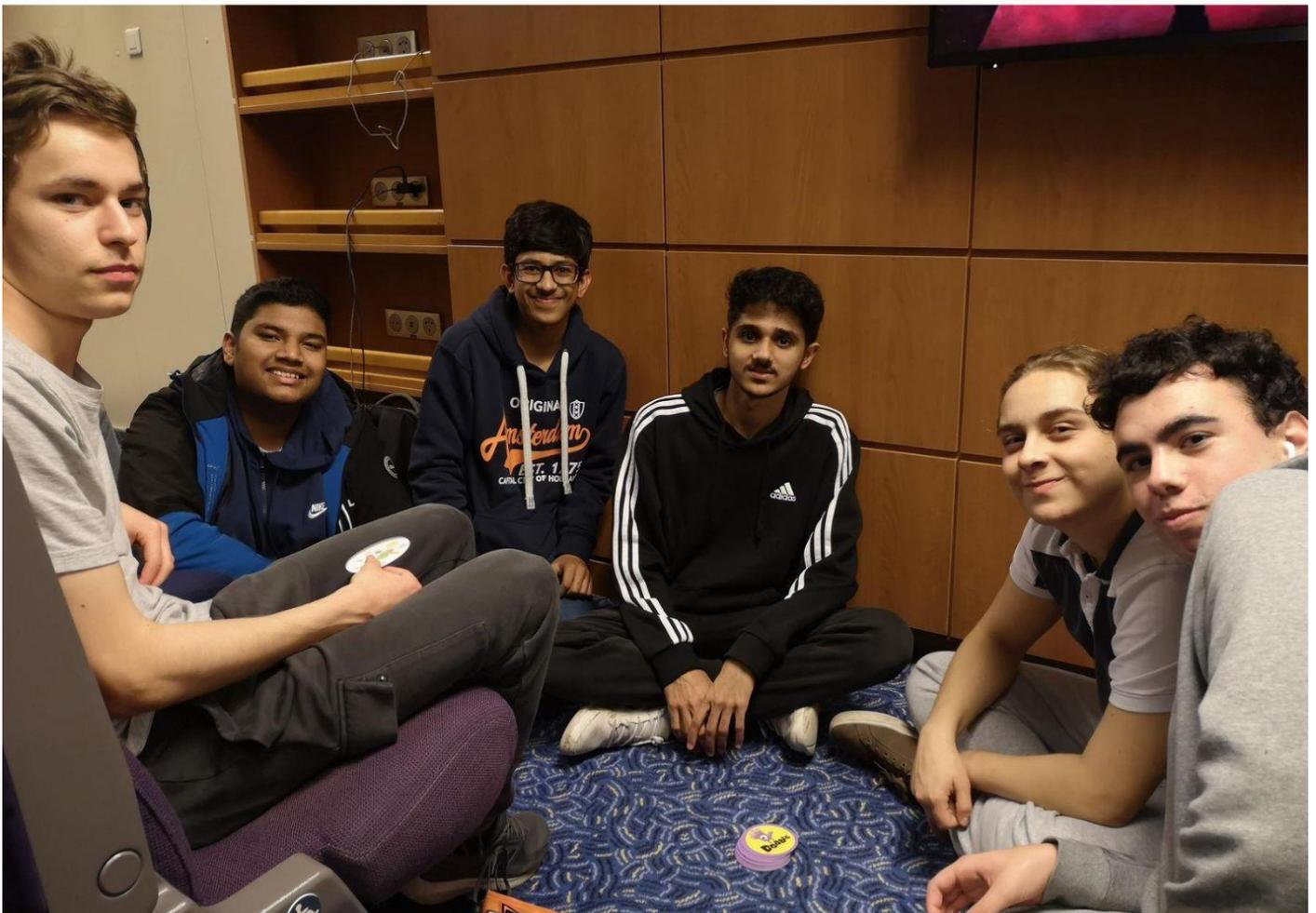
We welcomed the return of our school trips which saw multiple years visiting France and Germany with their trip leaders. School trips are beneficial in many ways including increasing independence, confidence, language skills, contributing to a sense of belonging and adding to life experience.

















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