



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

18 NOVEMBER 2022



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Introduction

It is important that we listen to our students. We need to learn about their feelings, thoughts and views, in order for us to lead better and serve their needs more effectively. Our ABC operational priorities for 2022-2023, namely academic excellence, belonging and community must be more than words on a page and need to be put in to action.

We recently surveyed our students regarding the idea of Belonging. One of the questions was to write down the words, phrases and thoughts that came to mind when 'belonging' was thought of at Reading School.

Some of our student responses are provided below:

"Connection, Community, Collaboration"

"Feel like you have a place, not like you don't want to be there"

"Acceptance of opinions and beliefs"

"I think about its history and all the new friends I have made"

"Friends, teachers, freedom, equality, respect"

"Kind people, kind staff"

"Happiness, Collective, Being together, activities"

"Family, Friendship, Community, Responsibility"

"Being able to fit in, being appreciated, being welcomed with open arms. Being a part of a community."

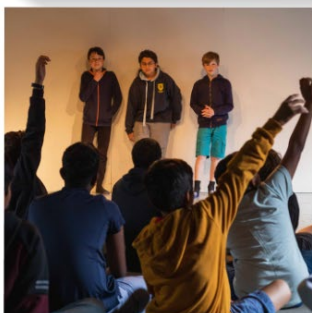
"Being able to trust people, being acknowledged as a part of the school"

"Group Activities Teamwork Friendship Community"

"Having the school and its culture as a part of your identity"

"Trust between friends. Being included in activities outside of school, not just inside."

"House events, competitions, house pride"



In addition, we asked our students to share a time when they felt a real sense of belonging at Reading School and what it looked like. Some examples of responses are provided below:

"Participating in House Music"

"When we were cooking food in Floreat we were working well as a team"

"When we won House Competitions and celebrated as a team"

"Being part of the rugby team in Y10 made me feel a strong sense of belonging"

"When I was in my elective and I was able to make everybody laugh"

"Interacting with many people above and below my year group."

"Supporting activities that help others and also my teachers."

"During this year's house coding competition, I tried to communicate with all the attendees and tried my best to treat them with respect and listen to what they have to say."

"During Commemoration"

"When I play rugby with the school team"

"Whenever I can do something to help other students, these make me feel proud to be part of the school"

"Belonging Week last academic year - got to know other people in my year in a new environment"

This week has seen many instances of our excellence, belonging and community. I am so grateful for the commitment, compassion and sense of community shown by our students and staff in so many ways this week. Whether it be supporting our four Year 7 Rugby teams in a tournament, acting as guides for our Sixth Form open day, attending the annual Frank Terry Memorial Lecture or participating in Character Education research with Dr Phil Cummins. Thank you to all staff for their professionalism and commitment to ensuring that we maximise the opportunities for all our people to flourish.

However, it is important to consider how we can continuously improve how we learn, how we lead and how we serve. I look forward to sharing with all members of the Reading School community our renewed and refreshed commitment to excellence in all areas for 2023 and beyond, as a result of our partnership with Dr Phil Cummins and our emphasis on character excellence and championing opportunity. In the immediate term, I look forward to seeing many of you at the forthcoming Inter-House Music competition at the Hexagon on Sunday 20 November. Undoubtedly a superb example of belonging in practice.

Mr AM Robson

Headmaster



Key information

Parent Governor Election 2022 – Ballot Arrangements

A reminder that the ballot to elect a new parent governor will be held next week. It will be an electronic ballot and will be open from 10am on Monday 21st November until 4pm on Friday 25th November 2022.

Instructions for voting will be sent to all parents and carers in a separate e-mail on Monday morning.

The candidates nominated are listed below:

Saritha Arunkumar

Pallavi Chube

Shaifali Gaba

Dozie Nnabuife

Supporting statements from the candidates have already been circulated (in last Friday's Headmaster's Bulletin) but will be re-circulated with the instructions for voting.

The results of the poll will be announced to the candidates on 29th November, via e-mail, and to all parents on 2nd December.

All Years

House Music Competition – Sunday 20 November 2022

Please find below links for further details on House Music.

Please note there are a few tickets still available in the Balcony, please click here to purchase [ticket sales](#).

IMPORTANT: If your child is participating in House Music please read and complete consent form: [House Music rehearsals and event details](#). Thank you to everyone that has completed the form. However, we have over 400 students participating, *but only 250 consents have been completed*. Please can this be done by the end of today.

[A link to the order of the day](#).

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday for the musical extravaganza.

Road safety – a reminder

Following last weeks' notice reminding parents and carers who drop off children to school by vehicle, to be conscious of not stopping on the yellow zig zag lines located on Craven and Addington Roads, we unfortunately continue to see students being dropped off at these locations. For the avoidance of doubt, yellow zig zag lines advise motorists not to wait or park on them in order to keep the space outside a school free from vehicles so that children are safe. We encourage parents and carers who drop off children by vehicle to find safer places one step further from the Addington or Craven Road entrances.

Parental Careers Survey

Thank you to all parents and carers who have completed the Reading School Careers Survey 2022-23. Your views are valuable in being able to shape careers support for our students and for those parents who have not yet had the opportunity to complete the short survey, it can be accessed by [clicking this link](#) and will remain open until Friday 25 November.

Year 11 only

Mock Exams

Year 11s will be sitting their mocks in a few weeks' time, please see the schedule by [clicking here](#). The mocks will be held from Monday 12 – Friday 16 Dec, with just two exams scheduled in the previous week (Monday 5 and Friday 9). The exams finish on Friday 16 December in the morning, to match the early finish to the school day for the Christmas holidays. Year 11s only need to be in school when they have exams during the main exam week (12 – 16 Dec), but need to be in as normal the week before. Year 11s have been sent their individual mock exam timetable, which just includes the subjects they study, and where they will be sitting their exams.

Years 11, 12 & 13

Guest speaker



This Monday 21 November, we welcome Peter Higgins to Reading School. Peter co-founded Charles Thrywhitt Shirts and many other online/retail businesses and will be discussing entrepreneurship with our sixth formers. Peter is also on the Board of the charity Mary's Meals and will be telling its story to one of our houses. This will be recorded and shared with everyone afterwards.

Mary's Meals serves nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest countries. The promise of a good meal attracts these hungry children into the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future. Mary's Meals started feeding 200 children in Malawi in 2002 and now twenty years on, is feeding more than 2 million children every school day. To learn more about the work of Mary's Meals, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk or watch this beautiful ½ hour film [Love Reaches Everywhere](#).

Staff Vacancies

Reading School are seeking to recruit to the following positions:

[Chief Operations Officer \(starting Jan / Feb 2023\)](#)

[Teacher of English \(Maternity Cover\)](#)

[Assistant Exams Officer](#)

If you know someone who might be interested in these exciting opportunities, please pass on the details.

All applicants will need to complete a Teacher or Associate Staff Application form (as appropriate for the role). Forms can be found on our [website](#).

Excellence, Belonging & Community

Student Excellence



Every week we are impressed by the breadth and diversity of student achievements across all years that we have the privilege of celebrating and sharing with our whole school community. Akaaldeep K (7L) recently competed in the World Kickboxing Championships in Cardiff and he achieved a Bronze medal after representing England in his age category. The World Kickboxing Championships included participants from over 23 countries and took place over 4 days across 4 disciplines. We spoke with Akaaldeep earlier this week who shared during his interview:

How long have you been kickboxing and what skills has it allowed you to develop?

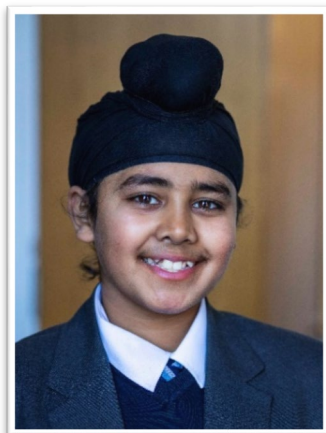
I've been learning kickboxing since the age of 5 years old. I was a very active child, and my parents wanted me to channel that energy into something more productive and that is why they enlisted me into a kickboxing class. The skills this has allowed me to develop are channelled aggression, calmness and self-discipline. In addition it has enhanced my physical abilities and flexibility.

How did you feel about competing in a high-profile world competition?

My first thoughts of the competition were, 'wow this is a big leap from the usual British championship or regional competitions which I usually do with my club'. As well as being anxious and nervous I felt proud representing team England.

How often do you train?

Every morning I used to get up at 4:30am and go for a half an hour run before school starts. I also did the 3-day squad training sessions with my club. Furthermore, for 5 continuous Saturdays, my father took me to Margate, which is a 2.5 hour drive each way, where I trained against other competitors from Team England. In addition to this, I was training at home with a punch bag.



What advice would you have for someone thinking about taking up the sport?

I would recommend a teacher who has the experience in elite competitive fighting and the ability to teach too. My teacher (or sensei) as we call them, is called Sensei Peter Felix. He was born, raised and educated in Reading itself. He is a fifth dan back belt but also, he is an internationally known competitor fighter in competitions, achieving over 7 world titles.

What's next for you?

Competition wise the next thing I want to do is compete again in next year's World Championships held in Canada and hopefully achieve a gold medal. I will also compete in other regional and European competitions such as the Europeans and the British championships.

Community

Our programme of opportunities and aspirations

Future Stories



Future Stories is the culmination of the students journey of learn – lead – serve and supports and encourages social mobility for young people through raising aspirations and through specific targeted activities that have both increased the number of disadvantaged students attending Reading

School, increasing the size of the cohort from 4 students to 18 students starting at Reading School, in Year 7, over the past 4 academic years.

The program provides SATS support, Maths Mentoring, Cultural Capital programs, immersive Science activities and a wide variety of sporting activities.

Our current schedule involves 15 students in year 10, 50 in year 11 and up to 80 in year 12 delivering and supporting sessions and activities with local primary schools. These students will on average give around 60-90 minutes of their time per week. Our program aims to provide a range of opportunities for the recipients generally in Year 4, 5 and 6.

Most sessions are now face to face, but we still run 2 sessions a week online, providing mentoring into local schools that are unable to resource transport for the pupils.

In this past week, we have run 10 sessions with students from outside of the school, supported over 300 pupils, with over 150 of our students contributing to the varied program. We would like to thank all students for their efforts to contribute and support the Future Stories program and also recognise the outstanding contribution of the staff involved; notably Mrs Heston, Mrs Dimmick, Ms Drummond, Ms Pravda, Mr Ginger, Mr Robertson, Mr Stromdale and Mr Luteijn.

Monday

- Maths mentoring session – face to face at Reading School for 15 primary school students from Geoffrey Fields at Reading School
- Maths mentoring sessions for 30 students from English Martyrs Primary School online

Tuesday

- Maths mentoring sessions for 15 students Whitely Park Primary School at Reading School
- Maths mentoring sessions for 30 students from Battle at Reading School

Wednesday

- Maths mentoring sessions for 30 students from Rhaniket Primary School online
- Cultural capital session for 15 students Geoffrey Fields Primary School at Reading School
- Football session for 60 students at English Martyrs Primary School
- Ukrainian Support Session for 40 Ukrainian Refugees

Thursday

- Science Club for 15 students from Geoffrey Fields at Reading School

Friday

- 15 students coaching and supporting a football tournament in partnership with RFC

We continue to work in partnership with Reading Football club and Berkshire Cricket club and are grateful for the support they provide our students and our program and continue to look for new partners and new opportunities to develop our program and increase the positive impact our students make to other in our local community.

Do please contact tevans@reading-school.co.uk if you would like to explore opportunities to support Future Stories, either as an organisation or as an individual.

Reading School and Reading Family Aid Christmas Appeal



Reading Family Aid is a charity helping children living in poverty and with other disadvantages. They may be young carers, living in a family affected by drug taking, physical abuse, chronic illness or disability; or they may have a disability or illness themselves.

Reading Family Aid's Christmas Toy Appeal has become a key annual event and last year, we provided gifts for over 2,500 children. With the cost-of-living crisis hitting, we expect demand to be higher than ever before. We've also noticed that gifts for teen boys in particular have been one of the harder categories to collect for.

Which is why we're thrilled to be partnering with Reading School on this Christmas Toy Appeal for 2022.

About the Appeal

Our Reading Family Aid Christmas Toy Appeal will take place w/c 31st November.

We're asking boys to bring in thoughtful gifts for this collection so that teenage boys across Reading have a gift to open at Christmas. Gifts will be given to Reading Family Aid directly for distribution apart from toiletries which we will make up into mini gift packages.

Items can be things that the boys already own - but as new- something they'd be pleased to receive. For new items, we'd recommend around £2-£5. Please avoid more expensive items as it makes it difficult to distribute items fairly.

We'd love to receive one item from each boy and welcome the following gifts:

- Y7 and 8 – fidget spinner/rubix cube/ book for teen boy/ Lego gift (as new – clean, complete + working)
- Y9 – shower gel/ hair gel
- Y10 – 11 – toiletries – e.g. Lynx items/ skincare
- Y12-13 – drawstring sports bag/ wallet/ hat/ gloves/scarf (as new) sports socks (new)

What happens next?

On Friday 2nd December, we will take the items to a church hall. The following week, social workers, health visitors and other charities will come and choose items for the families they work with. These items are then wrapped up for children to open on Christmas Day.



Last year over 2,500 children received a gift!

If you'd like to find out more about Reading Family Aid, please visit: www.readingfamilyaid.org/

Reading Family Aid would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the school for everyone's support!

Community outreach

Community outreach and engagement is central to a Reading School education. We aim to ensure that our students are connected in a meaningful way to the world, developing a strong sense of belonging to, and serving, their local and wider communities, and becoming well-rounded, outward-looking and compassionate young people.

We are delighted to confirm that £2731 was raised from 429 supporters and approximately £250 from the Charity Committee's cake sale for the DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal – Wear It Green Day in October, led by Jai Goyal (Charity Prefect Year 13) and his excellent team.

"We felt passionately about this initiative and wanted to do something for the millions of families devastated by the crisis. I was really happy with the funds our school raised - we ended up going way over the target thanks to the generous donations of students, staff and families. Thank you so much."

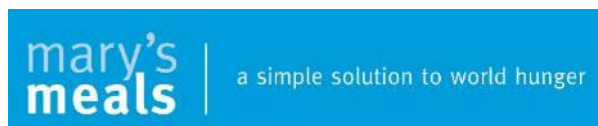
In addition, the Charity Committee supported local charity ReadiFood – Reading's Food bank for the Harvest Festival in October and 252kg in food aid was collected to support those most vulnerable at this time. Please see [thank you letter from ReadiFood](#).

Jai Goyal added:

"The Charity Committee arranged food bank donations for ReadiFood for the Harvest Festival. I was in chapel, with the rest of the Charity Committee, collecting the donations and packaging them into boxes that the charity later collected. It was great to see so many students bring food and toiletries for local people in need. We would like to thank the Community Relations Office and Society Office for their support and guidance in helping to make arrangements. All the students involved in helping to plan and coordinate this day found the experience really rewarding. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and families who supported us."

This certificate is awarded to
Reading School
For collecting
252kg
Of food in aid of
ReadiFood
Reading's Food Bank
Harvest 2022

Friday 25th November 2022 - Non Uniform Day for Mary's Meals



The Charity Committee, would like to build on the success of their community outreach and are supporting [Mary's Meals](#). Reading School is holding a non-uniform day on Friday 25th November 2022, the launch of supporting Mary's Meals.

Mary's Meals serves nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest countries. The promise of a good meal attracts these hungry children into the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future. Mary's Meals started feeding 200 children in Malawi in 2002 and now twenty years on, is feeding more than 2 million children every school day. To learn more about the work of Mary's Meals, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk or watch the beautiful [½ hour video here](#).

As the world faces a hunger crisis of unprecedented proportions brought about by conflict, climate change and Covid-19, please give what you can to. It costs just £15.90 to feed a child for a whole year and so by raising £3000 this academic year, we could feed 188 children for a whole year. Any donations received up to 31 January 2023 will be doubled (up to £1.5m) by a generous group of generous supporters.

Please help us reach the next hungry child waiting for Mary's Meals by making a minimum suggested donation of **£2.00 per student**. To make a donation, please click here: [Reading School is fundraising for Mary's Meals \(justgiving.com\)](#) and **include your son's full name and form group in the notes section** when submitting a donation, so we can verify donations against students participating.

Unfortunately, we CANNOT accept any cash payments on the day.

We thank you for your support.

Student Club - Twisty Puzzles / Speed cubing



Would you like to know how to solve the Rubik's Cube? Can you already solve it and want to improve in a fun and friendly environment? Then twisty Puzzles club is for you! We meet every Tuesday 11:55 – 12:30, with an after-school meeting time soon to be arranged. So, what are you waiting for? Come and join us!

Microsoft Teams code: 76u9k4r

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 23 November:

1st XV League Semi Final - Away vs Leighton Park – 2:30pm kick-off.

Yr11B National Cup Football v Winston Churchill School 2:30pm kick-off.

Thursday 24 November – Year 8 Berkshire Festival @Bluecoat school – all day

Friday 25 November - Ultimate Frisbee v Windsor Boys Home 2.30pm (Mr Whitehorn)

Saturday 26 November - Block fixtures vs LVS:

Year 7 A & B – Home

Year 8 – Away

Year 9 – Away

Year 10 – Home

Away fixtures 8am meet for 8:15 departure. 9am meet if going direct to LVS for 9:30 kick-off. School return by 11:30am.

Home Fixture 8:45am meet for 9:30 kick-off.

Teacher's Amazon Wishlist

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1YCE2Y0HUT3UZ?ref_=wl_share



Your amazing generosity has seen the parcels start to arrive. Thank you so much to all of you who have made purchases to date. The list closes on Wednesday 30th November.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the impact this initiative had on the teachers last year!

This is all "Deeply Fabulous" - Drama

Thanks to all the parents, this is really appreciated and will get plenty of use - Floreat

We are delighted with the books we received. We would like to thank the Reading School community for their tremendous generosity. - The LRC

Thank you so much for your generosity in purchasing the items. They are already being enjoyed by the boys and are enabling us to bring them even more engaging and inspiring lessons in the classroom (plate boundaries model, rock types), in the field (anemometers, meter rulers and fieldwork kit) and at home if learning remotely (visualiser). - Geography

We're so grateful for the wonderful festive gifts you bought for our department. These books are really useful, and will provide us with excellent new resources for classes in all year groups. - English

We are very grateful for all the wonderful gifts which will be put to good use across the key stages. I have to say I was just as excited as if Santa had just turned up! - French

We have now received the wishlist items! Thank you so much for these; they will really help us in our department. - Student Support.

We were bowled over all by the gifts, particularly as they were so unexpected! Pupils have been really excited to see the new books, and they have already been used by both staff and pupils to learn from and find inspiration, making a direct, positive impact. - Art

I cannot thank you all enough for the kit we have received from the Amazon wish list. When I was told we had been bought some of the kit it made my Christmas. Then to find out we had received EVERYTHING I simply couldn't believe it. - PE

Thank you for the gifts, they will be much appreciated over time and provide benefit to our inquisitive students. - Computer Science

We wanted to thank you all for your kind donations. The boys will benefit from all the equipment and will surely enjoy it. We are very grateful for your continuous support. - Boarding.

A massive thank you to the parents who purchased the chemical model sets for the Chemistry department. They will be really useful when teaching the A level students, helping the students to visualise the molecules we are studying. - Chemistry

Deep gratitude to parents who contributed to the generous gifts we have received as part of the Christmas Wishlist. The stationary will be used not only in lessons but also to update all the displays in the Maths classrooms and corridors and to start a new Artful Maths club. Thank you also to yourself for organising this initiative, it is much appreciated by our Department. - Maths

On behalf of all my colleagues in the Classical Studies and Languages department, thank you so much for all the wonderful resources for our departments - it was like Christmas morning in the office 😊. This was such a wonderful idea - thank you!!! - Classics

Thank you so much for your kind gifts; we very much look forward to using the equipment to further liven up our lessons and increase the frequency with which we can incorporate student-led practicals! - Physics Department

Thank you very much for all the resources gifted for Spanish lessons!! The students will appreciate them as it will help them with the vocabulary build and consolidation with fun competitions. The GCSE students will make the most of the exercise books during Support Session in preparation for the exams. And the films will be the Hispanic Cultural input to enjoy and learn altogether. – Spanish

Black Friday 25th November 2022

With many shops now starting to offer their Black Friday deals, please could we request that you consider shopping via the online sites that we are affiliated towards. It takes a minute or two to set up and you don't need to provide any bank details. By shopping via these sites you raise money for the pupils at no extra cost to you. If you have any queries around the sites please contact our Treasurer, Terri Lorrimore – treasurer@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Amazon SMILE - <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

Easyfindraising - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rspareadingpa>

The Giving Machine.- <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/reading-school>

Uniform Shop Opening & Donations

The next planned opening for the shop is **Friday 9th December 2:30pm – 4:00pm** and **Saturday 10th December 10:30-12:30pm**, please note the following requests.

The shop relies on donations of good quality uniform during the year. Items can be daily school uniform (especially blazers and ties), as well as games and PE sports kits (old and new styles, particularly the Macron kit), trainers, football/rugby boots, cricket gear, outdoor wear, labcoats and goggles.

Revision guides and non-school text books

We will also happily take good quality English Literature books, personally purchased text books, GCSE and A Level Revision guides and Workbooks.

Donations Drop-off

Students can drop off donations of uniforms and books at Student Services (located in the Cloisters) or on a Shop Day.

Shop Helpers

If you can give a couple of hours to help out at any of the shop openings, please contact our uniform shop manager Julie Bellingham – shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk

We wish you all a very Happy Weekend.

The RSPA Team

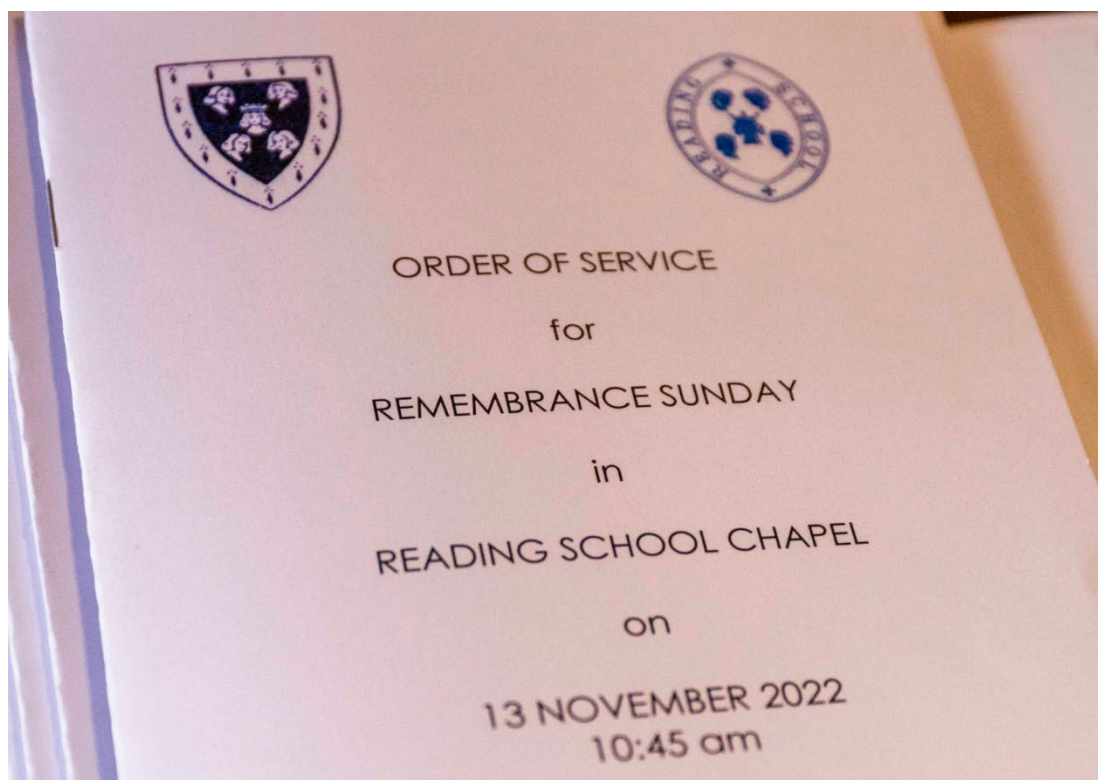


Michaelmas Term – Week 11

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



Remembrance Sunday Service 2022















The Frank Terry Memorial Lecture is an annual lecture series in memory of the late Frank Terry (History Teacher and Boarding Headmaster from 1946-1982).

We were delighted to welcome Ned Holt (OR 1966-1972) as our guest speaker for this year's Lecture.

After studying History at the University of Oxford and beginning his teaching career in Plymouth, OR Ned Holt (1966-1972) returned to Reading School as Head of History upon the retirement of his own old teacher, the late Frank Terry.

Forty years on, he will consider the changes over the years in the teaching of History and share his thoughts on what it might be expected to look like today.





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