



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

25 NOVEMBER 2022



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Introduction

We are committed to nurturing a culture that is values-led and characterised by a commitment to building a sense of community. This emphasis on culture is informed by a number of key questions including:

- How can we purposefully make a difference?
- How can we demonstrate character excellence?
- How can we work for the common good?
- How can we add value to our community through small acts of love?

I suggest that we are on this positive pathway already, as demonstrated during the superb House Music competition that took place last Sunday at The Hexagon theatre, which exemplified the importance of collaboration, student leadership and striving for excellence. Positive feedback from parents and participants alike, illustrates the value of the House ethos at Reading School. Thank you to all involved in ensuring that the event was a magnificent success.



Click thumbnail to view



In addition, on Monday 21 November, we welcomed Mr Peter Higgins, co-founder of renowned menswear outlet Charles Tyrwhitt, and non-executive director for [Mary's Meals](#), one of Reading School's charity partners for 2022-2023. Peter came to deliver two talks during his visit, to share his insights and experience in entrepreneurship, leadership and charity. He spoke of the importance of making a service or product different and learning from mistakes, while describing how the first million is the hardest but to persevere; focus on quality, value and service; surround yourself with great people; and with a bit of luck too, a business will grow. While running a business can be stressful, it can also be rewarding and fun. One of the students who attended said: *"Mr Higgins gave a fantastic talk that highlighted the struggles of a start-up in a competitive environment. He articulated how he learnt to be determined, gain 'on the job' experience and learn from his mistakes."*

Peter is also on the Board of the charity Mary's Meals and spoke to School House about their story. You can watch the recording by [clicking here](#) and more information on Mary's Meals can be found in the Community section within this Bulletin. We look forward to our sixth formers putting their entrepreneurial skills into practice by raising money for Mary's Meals this year, which, Peter says, can help when applying for jobs, as you stand out from the crowd by evidencing leadership, teamwork and beating a target. Our school's response to Black Friday is to give to others rather than spend our time searching for a potentially spurious bargain for something that we do not actually need.

We have set a target of raising £3000 for Mary's meals through our non-uniform day today and other activities led by our Charity prefects. We want love to reach everywhere and support the vision of Mary's meals that every child should receive one daily meal in their place of education. The charity is named in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own son in poverty. Every day, the charity feeds over 2.2 million hungry children every school day across twenty countries, including Malawi, Kenya and Haiti. It costs £15.90 to feed a child for a whole year, so our generous donations can go a long way to making a difference. I would like to thank both Peter and, Engagement Manager at Marys Meals, Catherine Haines for making it all happen!



The importance of doing the right thing and building relationships, partnerships and communities cannot be underestimated. Our purpose is to provide opportunities to flourish in both academic excellence and character excellence and in this spirit, I would like to take this opportunity to share a letter that I recently received from the Head teacher of one of our Ukrainian guests (*translated from Ukrainian to English*):

Dear Mr Robson,

Our School, as well as all the Ukrainians, are grateful for your support of the education system of Ukraine through your initiative, aimed at temporarily displaced Ukrainians, who were forced to leave the country due to the Russian invasion. We are grateful for your welcome to our student; we highly appreciate that he can attend your school within the exchange programme. Your contribution to the support of the educational process is massive, as this is important for the future of Ukrainians and Ukraine as a nation. We are aiming at establishing the links between our school and partner schools all over Europe.

We appreciated the report and the programme that you shared with us. We are sure that once the war is won, our school team will happily visit Reading School and we would really like to welcome your school team to visit Ukraine and our school, to exchange best practices, which will definitely lead to the implementation of joint educational projects.”

Thank you to our whole school community for supporting our initiatives to provide opportunities for young people to flourish and supporting our commitment to adding value through acts that build relationships and community.



In closing, at the end of last term, 100 Reading School students in Year 8 and Year 10 took part in a research project with [Professor Andrew Peterson](#) from the [Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues](#) at the University of Birmingham to conduct some primary research for the ‘[Civic Virtues Through Service to Others](#)’ project being conducted by the university.

The final report has been published by the Jubilee Centre and can be found here [Schools, Civic Virtues and the Good Citizen](#).

The Civic Virtues Through Service to Others project examined the meaning of civic virtues in contemporary public life and education in the UK. The *Schools, Civic Virtues and the Good Citizen* report presents findings from the project and tells us how school leaders, teachers and pupils understand civic virtues, the idea of the good citizen and the approaches and experiences involved in schools. Some key findings of the report include:

- School leaders viewed preparing pupils to be good citizens to be a core and important part of education and schooling.
- Teachers perceived the teaching of all categories of virtues – including civic virtues – to be very important.
- Intellectual, moral, civic and performance virtues were all considered to be important for being a good citizen – but particular emphasis was placed on moral virtues. Moral virtues were viewed as both central to good citizenship and as foundational for developing civic virtues.
- Where school leaders, teachers and pupils perceived a very close relationship between the good person and the good citizen, the reasons given focussed on either the mutual connection of these virtues and/or on the idea that being a good person acts as a precursor for being a good citizen.
- Though still regarding intellectual virtues as important for being a good citizen, teachers and pupils viewed them as less important than moral, civic and performance virtues in that regard.

The Jubilee Centre sends its thanks to the students from Reading School involved in the research. “*Your involvement in this research has not only contributed significantly to our wider understanding of civic virtues in education and the virtues of a good citizen but will also support policymakers and the third sector with their endeavours to design a policy environment that cultivates civic virtues and an active civic citizenry*”.

Mr AM Robson

Headmaster

Key information

All Years

End of term arrangements - Friday 16th December

Period 1 – 3

Lessons as normal, with Junior Period 3 starting at 10:00 rather than 10:15.

Tutor Time, Chapel and Break

	County	East	Laud	School	West
10:45	Chapel	Break	Tutor	Tutor	Tutor
11:00	Break	Chapel	Tutor	Tutor	Tutor
11:15	Tutor	Tutor	Chapel	Tutor	Tutor
11:30	Tutor	Tutor	Tutor	Chapel	Break
11:45	Tutor	Tutor	Break	Break	Chapel

Tutors from each House to supervise the refectory and outdoor spaces during their break time. No students to leave the site before 12:00.

Food will be grab and go only.

Boarding dismissal – 12:00 from each boarding house.

A polite staff request is made to not park vehicles outside of the boarding houses on the last day of term.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be available in the Refectory on Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 December. The cost of this will be £5:00 per student and will include Christmas Dinner, Cake, Drink and a cracker. Other options will still be available.

Winter Appeal for Ukraine - reminder

Following the appeal for good quality used or new winter clothing and blankets featured in the 11 November Bulletin, the deadline for any of the requested items below in this coming Monday 28 November and items can be dropped to the Chapel:

Blankets, Duvets, Sleeping Bags, Hats, Coats, Gloves, Scarves and Socks.

After School Club Notice

Unfortunately, after school Badminton club will not be running on Monday 28th November and Monday 5th December.

Excellence, Belonging & Community

Excellence

Year 7 have been working on improving their observational drawing powers recently, selecting leaves with interesting shapes, patterns, and textures to photograph, then working through a series of observational works using different media and techniques. This piece by Peter in 7C is outstanding, showing high levels of skill and refinement, as well as being a beautiful piece of work.



Community

Support for those seeking asylum



On Monday 21 November a group of our Boarding students visited with the [Reading Refugee Support Group](#) to present money that had been raised for them during student led charity events. The group was met by Fundraising and Communications Manager, Jonjo Warrick who gave our students a tour around their offices.

Reading Refugee Support Group (RRSG) is committed to reducing poverty, suffering and social isolation of people who have faced persecution and hardship. It also supports individuals and families seeking asylum along with those given status to remain in the UK. RRSG has less than 10 employees however the organisation helps between 1,500 - 2,000 refugees a year.

Our students would like to thank all those who supported the recent events that raised money for Reading Refugee Support Group and have shared this update in order to update you on the work of the charities that funds are given to along with the impact it makes to the lives of vulnerable people and families.

Marys Meals



Following the launch of the Just Giving page for today's non-uniform day, we would like to thank everyone who has generously donated to Mary's Meals. As of today, 25 November – you have raised an incredible £2,383 out of a £3000 target for the year. If you've not had a chance to donate the suggested £2 for non-uniform day, please visit the Just Giving page by [clicking here](#).

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 a [30min video by clicking 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. 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.

Cowshed Elves Delivering Christmas Sacks



The Cowshed is seeking adult volunteers to help deliver Christmas sacks to vulnerable families in local areas. Use of your own vehicle and an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service clearance is required and to sign up please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eaca823a1fec25-cowshed> or email queries to info@thecowshed.org.

Sports Fixtures

Monday 28 November

Yr8 Rugby v Desborough (home) 4pm

Tuesday 29 November

Yr7 A and B v Desborough (away) 3.30pm

Yr11 Rugby league finals at Reading Rugby Club 4pm

Wednesday 30 November

1st XV v Holyport (away) 2.30pm

RSPA

Teacher's Amazon Wishlist

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to the [Wishlist](#) so far. This is the last few days in which you can purchase a gift with the list closing on **Wednesday 30th November**.

If you can't make up your mind on what to purchase then we have added in an option of a £10 Gift Card which will be used to buy any unpurchased items.

Thank you all so very much, we are going to have a lot of very happy teachers!

Refectory Toilet Refurbishment

As you may be aware the Refectory toilets were refurbished during the October half term. RSPA were delighted to support the school in this project with a 50% contribution towards the costs. We were able to review the finished installation at the AGM and they are looking super smart.

Communications update

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of all the ways in which RSPA communicates.

[Reading School Parents' Association](#) – This is our website where you can find a lot of information around the RSPA. It is also how you can e.g. [order a hoodie online](#)

contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk – This is the main email address to use if you have any queries around RSPA or wish to contact us regarding helping out and being part of the team. We would love to hear from you.

Classlist – This is our main means of communication to our members. It allows you to communicate with other parents in your child's class, set up groups for e.g. trips and receive notifications about all our activities. It's only available to RSPA members. If you wish to join RSPA or are a member but not set up on Classlist then please email – memsec@readingschoolparents.co.uk

[Facebook](#) – The main RSPA page is titled Reading School Parents Association. There are also pages for all of the year groups which are titled e.g. 2022 Entry Parents and Carers of Reading School, going back to 2016 Entry Parents and Carers of Reading School. We additionally have one named Boarding Parents and Carers of Reading School. All pages have a couple of security questions to join.

[Instagram](#) – Please follow us @rsparentsassociation

[Twitter](#) – Please follow us @RSPARReading

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

The RSPA Team



Michaelmas Term – Week 12

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



Year 12 and Year 13 art students recently attended a conference run by the Association of Art Historians at the National Gallery, London. As part of the day students were able to explore the wider world-renowned collection of artworks dating from the mid-13th century to 1900 which included, Mantegna's *The Virgin and Child with the Magdalen and Saint John the Baptist* from c.1490-1505 seen here.



Reading School House Music Competition 2022

This year's unanimous winners were East House.





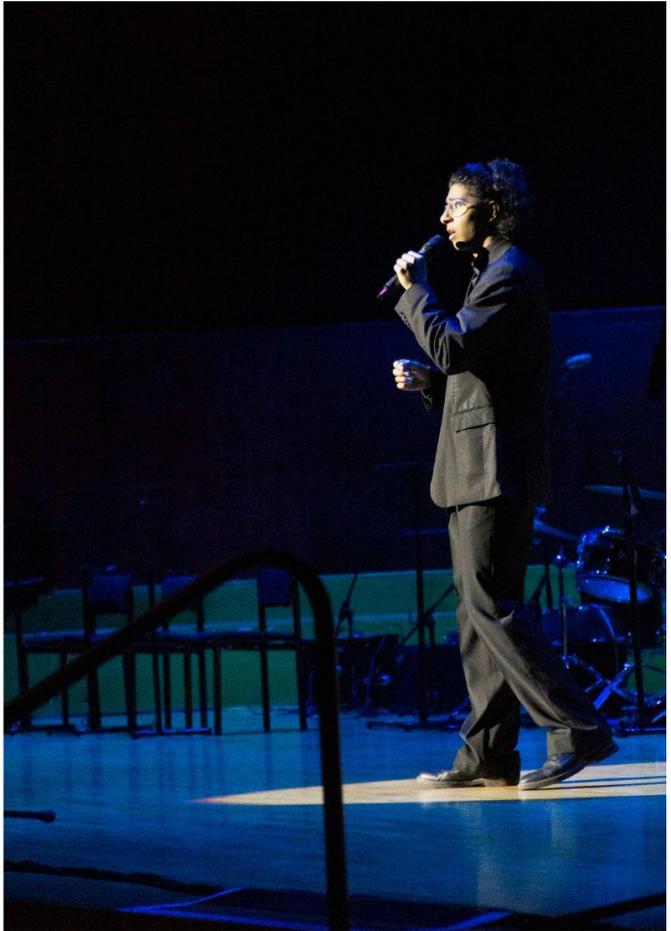






We would like to thank student photographer Prabhav B (11W) for contributing the following images.





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