



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

13 JANUARY 2023



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# Introduction

## Character, values and achievements

We are proud of our students when they exemplify the core values of Reading School. When values are transformed into everyday behaviours, then we can rightly celebrate. This Wednesday I was able to support our 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football team in their County Cup match against St Bartholomew's School, Newbury. Even more impressive than the 3-1 score line in favour of Reading School, was the superb attitude, resilience and character shown in torrential rain and very strong wins. Two goals from central defender Adam W (12E), made the difference on the scoresheet. But most of all it was a real team effort. Special mention must also go to the 2nd XI and Senor Sanchez for their supporting role.

The motto of the 2012 GB Olympic Team was '*Better Never Stops*.' This can be taken to mean that you never give up, you keep on going and you give everything you have got. Certainly, this attitude was in evidence this week. In addition to finding evidence of character and resilience, allied to talent, in our current students, we also acknowledge ORs such as Fred Newbold. Congratulations are due to Old Redingensian, Fred Newbold (OR 2019) who has been selected to represent Wales at the Men's Hockey World Cup in India.



Fred left Reading School in Summer 2019, having been at Reading School since Year 7. He went on to The Queen's College at the University of Oxford, where he is currently studying for a Master's degree in Biological Sciences. Alongside his academic studies, he has played hockey for the Wales Senior Men's squad as well as being a part of the Great Britain Elite Development Programme, for athletes under 23.

Fred, represented Reading School in the first teams for both football and cricket as well as holding a leadership role as a Prefect. He consistently volunteered his time to service, whether this was assisting younger students as a biology mentor or as a Future Stories mentor to pupils from local primary schools. He applied himself consistently and diligently to both his academic studies and the opportunities beyond the classroom, exemplifying the key values of Reading School. We are incredibly proud of Fred and his achievements and we will be following his sporting career with much interest.

## Moving with the Times

At Reading School, we are always looking to improve and ensure that we communicate effectively with students, parents and our wider community. This includes ensuring that we inform, educate and celebrate our progress towards our goal of academic and character excellence. With this in mind, we are trialling a new way to share events with our school community through a video on demand platform which is making last year's House Music Competition 2022 available to download and stream across a range of devices. Further details can be found within this week's Bulletin and we hope this will represent a new and convenient way to share school events with students and their families.

Thank you.

**Mr AM Robson**

**Headmaster**





# Key information

## All Years

### 2023 Music Department Tour to Barcelona



We are delighted to announce the launch of our first whole school music tour for many years and ask parents to register their interest by 23 February 2023 so that we can confirm costings and final bookings. The trip will offer Reading School students the opportunity to spend one week exploring and performing in Barcelona, Spain.

Requirements for the trip are that your child should be a member of either the Reading School Orchestra, Senior Jazz Band or Chapel Choir. If your child is not a member of these ensemble groups, they will need to join and regularly attend from this term or audition for Chapel Choir (unfortunately Senior Big Band is currently full).

The anticipated cost of the week-long trip is £845:00 which includes travel, half-board accommodation, eating out for dinner each evening, insurance and all excursions including tickets to a concert and all travel while in Barcelona. Full details of the trip can be viewed by clicking [this link](#).

### House Music Competition 2022

[The House Music Competition](#) is now in its 87<sup>th</sup> year and remains one of the largest events in the school's annual calendar. During previous years, we have made recordings of the competition, featuring performances from all five Houses, available via CD. In order to modernise our approach, we are making available for the very first time, a school event via a video-on-demand platform. We recognise that online streaming of video has become the most dominant distribution method and it provides a number of advantages from being able to access it anywhere to watching it at home, on your mobile phone, tablet or console.

The House Music Competition 2022 can be downloaded or streamed by visiting [vimeo.com/ondemand/housemusic2022](https://vimeo.com/ondemand/housemusic2022)

The cost of the performance is £10:00 and the video can be downloaded to a device as well as streamed to iOS, Android, Apple TV, Roku, Chromecast and games consoles.



All proceeds from the sale of the House Music video will go towards:

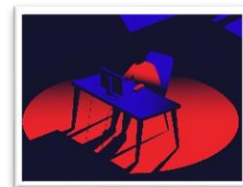
- Reading School's Music Department in order for them to continue to develop the school's music offering for its students.
- ['Building for the Future'](#) programme which supports improvement of classrooms, facilities, student co-curricular and leadership opportunities.

Feedback on the new method of video distribution can be emailed to [communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk)



## Tutor Time Learning

Every fortnight, tutors discuss current topical issues regarding safeguarding and our students' exposure to topical real-world issues. Most recently, the discussion has been surrounding misogyny, with prominent influencers in the news glamorising hatred towards women. We encourage and urge parents and carers to take an interest in what their children are being exposed to online and would encourage open and honest dialogue around this. For further support, please [visit this recommended link](#).



## Year 11 only – students interested in studying Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Dentistry



Further to the announcement in the Headmaster's Bulletin on 9 December 2022, there will be an online meeting on **Tuesday 17 January at 7pm** for students and their parents interested in studying medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine. The meeting is deliberately being held before the students have to submit their A level option choices (Year 12 students and their parents are also welcome to attend).

The meeting will last approx. 30 - 45 minutes and be an opportunity to hear from Mrs Karen Wray, Careers Adviser; Mrs Jayne Pickering, Medical Applications Coordinator; a year 13 student going through the applications process at present and two current medical students. There will be time for questions at the end of the meeting.

Please use [this link to join the meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 17 January](#).

# Excellence, Belonging & Community

## Excellence in Lamda

We are delighted to share and congratulate the students who successfully completed public speaking and acting qualifications last term with Berzerk Productions. Please [click here](#) to view information from Berzerk Productions in relation workshops during the Lent Term which includes booking instructions.

Name	Exam Type	Result
Darshan L (10E)	Public Speaking	Distinction
Rujul N (10S)	Acting (A level equivalent UCAS points gained)	Merit (Silver medal exam)
William W (9S)	Acting	Distinction
Samarth K (9C)	Public Speaking	Distinction
Soham D (10C)	Public Speaking	Distinction
Akilan N (9C)	Public Speaking	Distinction
Anuj P (9W)	Acting	Distinction
Riyansh G H (9L)	Public Speaking (2 exams)	Distinction & Merit
Khanishk T (9W)	Acting	Distinction
Eshan J (10C)	Public Speaking	Merit
Neil A C (10L)	Public Speaking	Distinction
Darsh K A (8S)	Verse & Prose	Distinction
Aryan P (10S)	Acting	Merit
Aaryan A (10L)	Public Speaking	Distinction
Sai R (9W)	Public Speaking	Distinction
Anuj P (9W)	Acting (2 exams)	Distinction & Merit
Nicholas A (9C)	Acting	Distinction
Emin B (9C)	Acting	Distinction
Yanting Z (9C)	Public Speaking	Distinction

# Community

## Tributes to our colleagues

### **Mrs Ruth Perry**

We were deeply saddened to hear the news that Headteacher at Caversham Primary School, Ruth Perry, has passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends and the whole Caversham Primary School community at this very difficult time. Although Ruth did not work at Reading School, many of our students attended Caversham Primary School and would have known Mrs Perry who was hugely respected. She became a Headteacher in 2010 having previously been Deputy Head from 2006, along with having been a pupil of the school between 1973 – 1980.

We are conscious that some of our current students who were former pupils of Caversham Primary School may need additional support and someone to turn to. Our school is committed to the emotional health and well-being of its pupils and staff and we acknowledge that members of our community may be affected by forms of loss. Should any of our students need support or simply want to talk, please email [studentsupport@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:studentsupport@reading-school.co.uk) or visit the Auxilium to speak with one of the Student Support Team.

### **Peter Mason, (Headmaster from 1990 to 1997)**



It is with enormous sadness that we learnt of the death of Peter Mason, on December 16th, following a short illness. Peter was Headmaster from 1990 to 1997. As he stepped into the post the School had just been awarded grant-maintained status, which gave it an opportunity for development which it had not seen for a generation. Dr Mason provided outstanding leadership in taking advantage of this, carrying out a variety of changes while at the same time remaining in close touch with the School's daily life and all its teachers and students. He established foundations on which his successors have been able to build with continuing success.

After leaving Reading School Peter became Principal of the Stamford (Combined) Schools, and later retired to the village of Mickley, in Wensleydale, Yorkshire. He had continued to be involved in education through a variety of organisations, and was for some years Chair of Governors at Ripon Grammar School.

The funeral took place at Holy Trinity Church, Ripon on Tuesday January 10th. It included a brief tribute from Ned Holt, Head of Sixth Form during those years, reflecting on Peter's time as Head.

He will be much missed and we send our deepest sympathy to his wife Sue, his daughter Elizabeth, and his son Oliver (OR 1990-96).

### **Kenneth Heaward (Head of Geography from 1970 to 1978)**

We also wish to inform our school community of the death of Kenneth Heaward on Monday 2nd January 2023 at his home in Tilehurst.

Ken worked as Head of Geography at Reading School in 1970 and was soon appointed Deputy Headmaster. He was also Chief Examiner of Geography for London University Schools Examination Board.

In 1986 Ken coordinated, with the Queen's assistant private secretary, Sir Robert Fellowes, the visit of HM Queen Elizabeth II to the Quincentennial of the Re-founding of Reading School.

Ken was an exceptional teacher, whose reputation preceded him. He was proud to say that he never actually applied for any of his teaching jobs! He will be missed and we send our deepest sympathies to his family and friends.



## Air Ambulance Concert in partnership with Kendrick School

As featured in the 16 December edition of the Headmaster's Bulletin, rehearsals for the Air Ambulance concert will be starting next week and those leading from the Sixth Form have asked that musicians that play an instrument to Grade 4 standard (or higher) take part in the symphony orchestra. Those playing concert band instruments to Grade 3 standard (or higher) are asked to join the concert band.

Symphony orchestra rehearsals are scheduled on **Tuesday's until 5:00pm.**

Concert band rehearsals are scheduled on **Monday's until 4:30pm.**

Both rehearsals are at Kendrick School so please meet at Music School at 3:30pm and the whole group will be escorted to Kendrick School together.

Members of the Chapel, Junior and Senior Choirs are asked to attend rehearsals on Wednesdays after school until 4:30pm. Choir rehearsals will take place at school and move to Kendrick School at a later date.

All student enquiries should be emailed to Joseph M (12L) [t00240@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:t00240@reading-school.co.uk) or Yash S (12E) [t00125@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:t00125@reading-school.co.uk)

We look forward to seeing you all at rehearsals.

## LRC

### All Students – LRC Annual Survey

Please can all students complete a [short survey](#) by Monday 30 January.

The LRC Annual Survey helps us to understand how your child uses the LRC and helps us to identify areas for improvement. Your child's feedback is important, even if they do not regularly use the LRC. Thank you for taking the time to [complete this short survey](#).

### Pupil Librarian Book Sale

Over £80 was raised during our student led book sale organised by Paarth G (11W) this week. The book sale has continued throughout the week and the Student Librarian Team are hoping to reach their target of raising £150 with the funds contributing to the purchase of new books for the benefit of students. Thank you to the student led team made up of Paarth G (11W), Raphael N (10E), Aaryan A (10L), Dylan Y (7S) and Akash R (10S).





# RSPA

## Year 7 Disco

There are a few remaining tickets for the Year 7 disco so if you haven't already purchased a ticket there is still time - they are selling out fast!

Date: **20 January 2023**

Time: **7:00pm to 8:30 pm**

Location: **Reading School (Refectory) with parking available on-site**

Ticket price: **£6**

Link to tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/CBAT>

Please note: This is a year 7 event only (unfortunately family, friends & siblings are not allowed)

## Year 7 Disco Volunteers

The Disco relies on parent volunteers to make it a success and we still have a lot of jobs that we need help with.

If you are interested in helping at the Year 7 Disco on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January please let us know by emailing us at [contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk). Your time would be appreciated and of value.

## Year 7 Disco Raffle

We are in need of donations for the Year 7 disco raffle to raise funds for the School. Do you have any unwanted or unused Christmas gifts? We would love to receive them to widen our prize selection and they can be dropped off at Reception and marked *FAO RSPA - Disco Raffle*

## Second Hand Uniform Shop

Our uniform shop is open on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

## Uniform Shop Donations

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

We are also looking for more kind parents who would be willing to help at future openings during the school year which are held on either a Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. If you would be happy to be contacted to see if you have availability to do so, please drop a message to Julie Bellingham email [shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk)

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

The RSPA Team



## Lent Term – Week 2

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



### *Around the World in 80 Games Elective*

Japanese Bo-taoshi is a capture-the-flag type game that was traditionally played by cadets at the National Defence Academy of Japan. It is famous for its size where teams of up to 150 individuals each compete for control of the opposition's pole. The game encourages demonstrating fearlessness and courage.











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)