



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

03 MARCH 2023



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Introduction

Our focus on 'Learn, Lead, Serve' undoubtedly goes beyond words and ensures that we focus on actions that add value.

Leadership as service has been exemplified this week by some of our boarding community who are supporting unaccompanied children seeking refuge with English lessons. Thank you to Mr K Luteijn and members of the Boarding family, Harry P (11L), Rohan O'C (11E), Peter P (11S) and Remi S (9L) for demonstrating leadership as service in action.

Our drive to develop character excellence as well as academic excellence is exemplified by Mr B Miller, Head of Philosophy and Theology, who today participated in a prestigious conference in Birmingham. He will be given the opportunity to share the exceptional practice evident at Reading School through our Floreat and Future Stories programmes, which have been recognised by the Association for Character Education.

It is important that we continue to provide our young people with opportunities to thrive and look beyond their current context. This week, our students attended The Abbey School's 'Write On Festival' which gave students a real-life flavour of working in a newsroom environment. Students chose from a carousel of workshops including sports commentary, post-match reporting and documentary making. They gained real-life hands-on experience of being a journalist under the guidance of BBC Radio Berkshire and BBC Sport journalists, along with the Marketing and Media Manager for Reading FC Women.

Significantly, this week has also seen the 10th Annual Reading Book Week. Thank you to School Librarians, Mrs L Kesteven and Mrs A Jackson for their hard work and commitment to providing opportunities for our students to learn. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Old Redingensians Association for their sponsorship of this week's events.

Furthermore, forthcoming events evidence that there is a diversity of worthy causes to support and which, I would suggest, provide opportunities to put our values into action. Upcoming events include:

- Thames Valley Air Ambulance Charity Concert in partnership with Kendrick School
- A Charity Concert for the Turkey & Syria Earthquake Appeal led by Year 11 parents
- A Charity Quiz Night led by Reading School Charity Prefects, supporting Sure24, The Alzheimer's Society and Alexander Devine Children's Hospice
- A variety of events that build on our flourishing partnership with The Abbey School

Further details of the events can be found in this edition of the Headmaster's Bulletin.

We remain committed to providing opportunities for members of the Reading School community to develop not only their educational opportunities, but also their character, cultural capital and sense of community.

Mr A M Robson
Headmaster



Key information

All Years

School Trips 2023/24

Please [click this link](#) to access the Reading School Trip Calendar for 2023 – 2024, detailing all of the major residential and international trips planned.

Many dates are still to be announced, however the time frames for the trips are clearly indicated. Parents will note the increase in trips, particularly for students in Year 10 and above. There may be further additions to the schedule, and staff are working hard to finalise arrangements for the Music tour this summer and a Year 12 trip to Finland.

In the meantime, we trust the Trip Calendar will support planning for parents and students. For all queries, please email trips@reading-school.co.uk.

Supporting our children and young people's needs

We are proud of our pastoral care at Reading School and take a holistic approach with every student and this is only possible if we have up-to-date information about each student. We want to invite parents to contact their child's Head of House with any relevant information described below (please only contact them if we do not currently hold this information):

- Medical information (including allergies, medication, under hospital or GP care, diet)
- SEN information (any special educational needs)
- English as an Additional Language (EAL – please indicate level of proficiency)
- External support (such as counsellors, mental health programmes)

We would like to thank parents in advance for taking the time to ensure our information is up to date in relation to additional health, language and SEN needs, so that we can support our students as effectively as possible.

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.

Associate Staff Vacancies

[Site Controller](#) - deadline extended to 12pm, Thursday 9 March

[Attendance and Reporting Officer](#) - deadline 9am, Wednesday 1 March

Excellence, Belonging & Community

Community

Charity Concert for Thames Valley Air Ambulance



A [charity concert](#) will be taking place in order to raise funds for the Air Ambulance service on Friday, 24th March 2023 from 18:30 at Kendrick School Main Hall (RG1 5BN).

Organised by Yash Singh (12RC), Joseph May (12TDF) and Autumn-Wren Adams (12TDF) from Reading School in partnership with [Kendrick School](#), the concert will feature a symphony orchestra performing works by famous artists such as Beethoven, Shostakovich, Stevie Wonder and Avicii. All proceeds from the charity concert will be donated to the [Thames Valley Air Ambulance](#), which provides emergency medical care by air and land to patients in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire.



Tickets start from £10 per adult and £5 for concession/ students (15p ticket fee will be charged to the ticket buyer by the platform). Light refreshments and drinks (baked goods, tea and coffee) will be served at the interval. No parking will be available on-site. Entrance via the East Street gate only. Please click [HERE](#) to book your tickets.

The organisers of the event are also looking for a variety of volunteers to help out, and even if you cannot make the date there are still ways you can contribute to this valuable service and charity. A message from the organisers:

Volunteering on the night

Aside from performing music, there is a lot of work that goes into making sure a concert goes smoothly such as:

- Helping set up the stage in between performances
- Selling tickets, programmes and raffle tickets to the audience
- Collecting donations before and after the concert



Photography/videography



Are you passionate about photography and videography? Photographers and filmmakers are sought with photo and video content that will be featured on school websites and potentially the official Thames Valley Air Ambulance site. If you have experience in either photography or videography and can produce a high standard of work, please use the email below to volunteer.

We welcome both students and/or parents getting in touch.

Donate raffle prizes

An audience raffle is being organised and prizes to give away are being sought. If you or anyone you know could contribute something, please use the email below to get in contact.

Contribute food

Refreshments will be provided at the concert however donations are also welcome. Bought or baked homemade food to be sold on the night would be welcome.

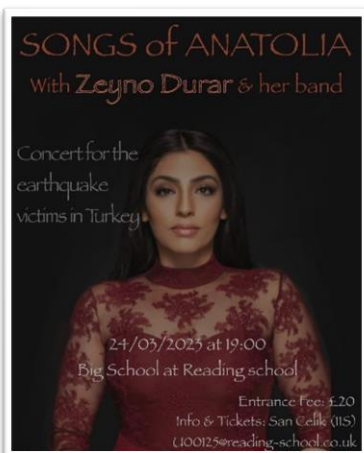
If you are potentially interested in contributing your time or expertise to any of the opportunities above, please email 17HLi@kendrick.reading.sch.uk, however you may be able to help.

Donating directly to TVAA

If you want to help directly by donating to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance, [please click here](#).

For any general questions about the event, please contact Autumn-W A by emailing t00140@reading-school.co.uk.

Charity Concert for Turkey & Syria – ‘Songs of Anatolia’



A charity concert will be taking place to raise much needed funds in order to support victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Artist, Zeyno Durar is from the South East region of Turkey and will be accompanied by her band which will play a contemporary repertoire while maintaining her regions musical influences. This event is a unique opportunity to hear from an artist representing the region affected by the recent earthquakes along with supporting a grassroots charity that is providing immediate relief and one that has no affiliations with commercial interests or professional fundraisers.

The concert will take place in Big School on Friday 24 March from 18:30 – 21:00 and tickets (Adults and children £20) can be purchased by emailing San C (11S) u00125@reading-school.co.uk. Refreshments (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and light homemade pastries and cakes will also be available on the night. All members of the Reading school community are welcome to the event which has kindly been organised by parents of a Year 11 Reading School student.

The concert continues the school response as a result of the recent devastation caused by the earthquake, as previously featured on Friday 10 February when the Reading School Charity Committee held a Bake Sale to fundraise for Action for Humanity's Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal. The Committee raised £575.16 from the sale and a further £375 from its Just Giving page to go towards Action for Humanity's tireless efforts in delivering an immediate emergency response to the disaster.

Yaman E (12S), who is of Syrian heritage led the sale with Jai G (13W) and described the event as a *"touching demonstration of the strong sense of community and camaraderie that is so heavily engrained in the school's values and atmosphere"* and he would like to express his gratitude for the kind donations and contributions made. San C (11S), of Turkish heritage, also commented that, *"it was a great fundraising initiative"*.



Charity Quiz Night

On Friday 24 March from 7pm – 9pm, the student-led Reading School Charity Committee will be holding a Charity Quiz Night in support of Sure24, The Alzheimer's Society and Alexander Devine Children's Hospice. The event is led by South House Charity Prefect, Oscar T (12L) and East Wing Charity Prefect, Srisht C (11W) with the support of Boarding Matron's Mrs K Andrews and Mrs N Booth. On speaking with both Oscar T and Srisht C this week, they shared:

Can you tell us more about the event?



Srisht (pictured left): "So usually every year we hold a charity committee quiz night, however for the past two years, we weren't able to do that due to COVID. So this year, we really want to try and get the Charity Quiz Nights up and running again as in the past it's been one of the most successful events that we do here."

Oscar: "It's going to be on Friday 24 March from 7pm until 9pm in the Refectory and tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children. The ticket price includes southern friend chicken and chips, fish and chips or veggie burger and chips for adults and chicken nuggets and chips or veggie burger and chips for children."

What kind of support are you looking for from the school community?



Oscar (pictured left): "So we'd like as many students and parents who can make it to turn up and support the event. We'd like to raise awareness and money for 3 charities that are very close to the heart. There are quite a few students at school who've had interactions with Alexander Devine Children's Hospice as well as The Alzheimer's Society and Sure24 has been a long time chosen charity of Reading School."

Srisht: "I personally don't have any connection to the chosen charities, however, I know quite a lot of people in my year group who do. They really believe that these are the best charities to support since it's really close to their hearts and I think it's sort of our obligation to fulfil the needs of our peers as well to support charities that they want."

What Years is the Charity Night open to?

"All years, students, parents and relatives are welcome."

How do people buy a ticket?

"Email Mrs K Andrews by emailing kandrews@reading-school.co.uk with how many tickets are required, the choice of food from the menu and names."

[Click here](#) to download the event flyer.

Looking to a Future in Law

As part of the on-going partnership between Reading and the Abbey School, our students are invited to take part in a special evening to consider a career in law, justice, advocacy and performance on **Monday 20 March 2023** from 16:30-19:00 at The Abbey.

Two keynote speakers will be featured: Court of Appeal Judge Lady Justice Andrews DBE and Barrister Sam Woodham, both of whom were educated at girls' schools in the Reading area.

The evening will also include breakout rooms for students, in order to spend time discussing a career in law, justice and advocacy, with visitors ranging from recent graduates, solicitors, through to barristers and members of the police. In addition, there will be a private viewing of an exhibition called '100 Years of Women at the Bar' which comes to The Abbey direct from The Supreme Court.

The timetable for the evening is as follows:

16.30 - Private View of the '100 Years of Women at the Bar' exhibition

17.00 - Keynote speakers - Lady Justice Geraldine Andrews & Barrister Sam Woodham

17.30 - 3 short performances inspired by themes raised in the exhibit - written and performed by students from The Holt, JMA and The Abbey.

18.15 - Student breakout groups (parents & staff are welcome to join us for refreshments)

19.00 - Networking reception / private view of exhibition

The evening will also announce the formal launch of our programme of activities which are open to schools and young people across the Reading area to support collaborative learning through innovative experiences at The Abbey.

Places can be [booked by clicking this link](#).

Careers



Next week is [National Careers Week](#). A week-long celebration of careers advice and information for school students. The careers programme at Reading School runs throughout the year, with lessons in PSHE, personal development, Floreat, electives and extra-curricular activities from Year 7 through to Year 13. Students are able to attend talks from speakers on a variety of careers and industries through the Inspire programme and all students from Year 8 upwards have access to the Careers platform, [Unifrog](#) - please do ask your son to show you what's available on the platform. In addition:

- During the first half of the academic year, all Year 11s have been offered one to one career appointments with our career's adviser. Year 12 and Year 13 are now making the most of the same opportunity.
- Year 12 are planning their work experience to take place after May half term.
- And we are planning a number of visits from external companies and organisations for the summer term

If you would like further information please contact Careers Lead, Ms Ayres (layres@reading-school.co.uk) or Careers Adviser, Mrs Wray (kwrap@reading-school.co.uk).

We are always eager to hear from companies or parents who are able to offer outreach, support or advice in their respective industries and do get in contact with either Ms Ayres or Mrs Wray if you can support Reading School students.

Winners of Chris Bradford Writing Competition

As part of Reading School's Year of Writing Book Week 2023, this week has seen our series of Author Talks which has invited bestselling authors to speak to students about their books, inspiration and experiences as writers. We recently launched a competition which invited students to write a story featuring chosen words from Chris Bradford's book 'Hostage'.

Congratulations to Darsh P, Giulio C and Owen S who received signed copies of Chris Bradford's books and an Amazon gift card. To read their submissions please click the links below:

[The Time Surfer](#) – Owen S

[John Doe](#) – Darsh P

[Operation Anchor](#) – Giulio C

The annual Book Festival is not possible without the kind and generous support and sponsorship provided by the Old Redingensians Society.

RSPA Support for the LRC



Thank you to the Reading School Parents Association for their generosity of a treasure trove of new books to celebrate World Book Day. The support means all our students have the opportunity to continue their love and appreciation for reading now and into the future.

For any enquiries relating to supporting the LRC, please contact School Librarian, Mrs L Kesteven by emailing lkesteven@reading-school.co.uk.

RSPA

RSPA Committee Meeting

The RSPA Committee Meeting took place on Wednesday 1 March and we covered a very varied agenda:

- Terri Lorrimore provided a Finances Overview. Our co-chairs Veena Baggley and Vee Nenguke invited us to reflect on the events run by the new committee to date, including celebrating the successes of our Year 7 Disco and the Amazon Wishlist campaigns. We reflected on what we have learned to make future events even more successful.
- We agreed a calendar of upcoming events and brainstormed new fund-raising ideas. Although it is too early to communicate specifics, we have a number of very exciting events up our sleeve and will make sure to share information as soon as the plans and dates are firmed up. Please keep reading our RSPA updates for more information.
- One date we can confirm is the Summer Fayre on Sunday 9 July from 12:00pm to 15:00pm - please save the date.
- We continue to recognise the fantastic effort of Julie Bellingham and the team of volunteers who ensure the smooth running of the Second-Hand Uniform shop, as well as to everyone who attended the meeting and has helped making all these events and fund-raising initiatives a success.

Membership and Ad Hoc Volunteering

Please email us at contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk for further information on how to become a valued RSPA member or class rep if you would like to volunteer at upcoming events.

The Second-Hand Uniform Shop

The shop will be open today on Friday 3 March from 14:30 – 16:00pm.

The shop is located at the back of the walled car-park (opposite the Chapel). Please come along to purchase blazers, trousers, shirts, base layers, rugby boots, trainers, outdoor coats and more.

Please note:

Buyers are not allowed to drive onto site, access is via the pedestrian gates only.

Please email shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk for further information.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Hoodie Ordering

Thank you so much to everyone who has ordered a hoodie.

The hoodies are available on-line by [clicking this link](#).

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 would like to wish you all a very Happy Weekend!

The RSPA Team



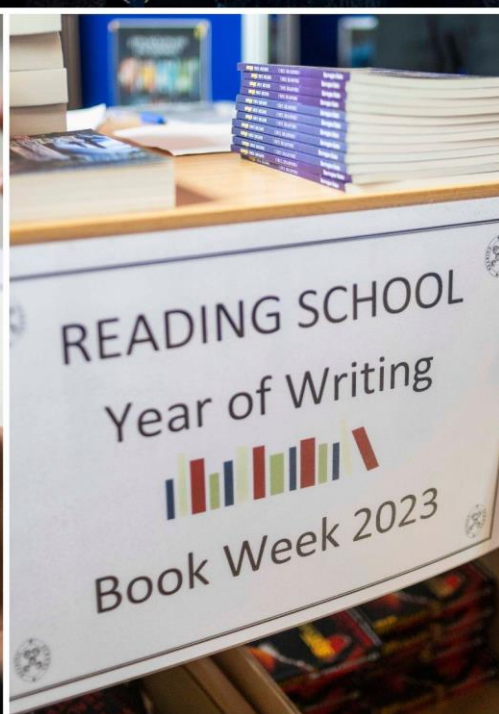
Lent Term – Week 9

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



"Our 10th Annual Book Festival has been a wonderful opportunity to listen to bestselling authors talk about their work and life as writers, academics, screen writers and poets. From bodyguards to samurai swords and dystopian futures to far off worlds, this book Festival had something for everyone. All years 7 to 10 received a year group talk and workshops were offered to senior pupils in years 11 to 13. I would also like to thank parents and pupils for supporting the Scholastic Book Fair. We sold £422 worth of books, which raised £168 for us to spend on new books."

Loralie Kesteven, School Librarian

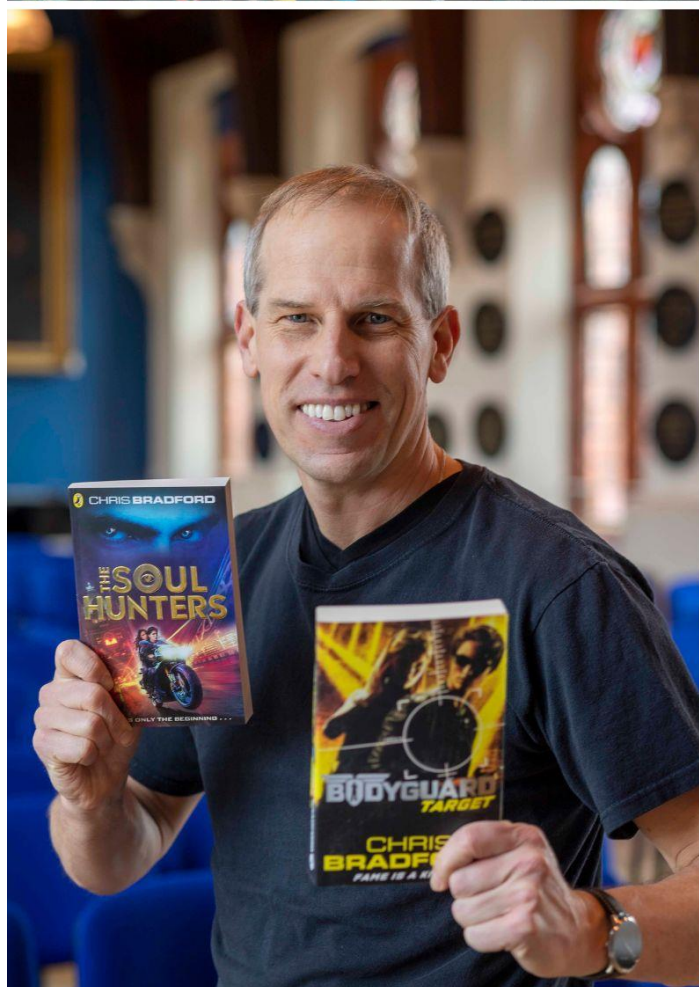


"The talk was very exciting. I loved seeing Chris Bradford wield the katana and when he showed us the different moves and techniques he used as a bodyguard it was very interesting."

"I thought it was very interesting as Chris Bradford told us about several things about bodyguarding and even showed us his katana from Japan. It was also very funny, as some videos shown on the talk were quite amusing."

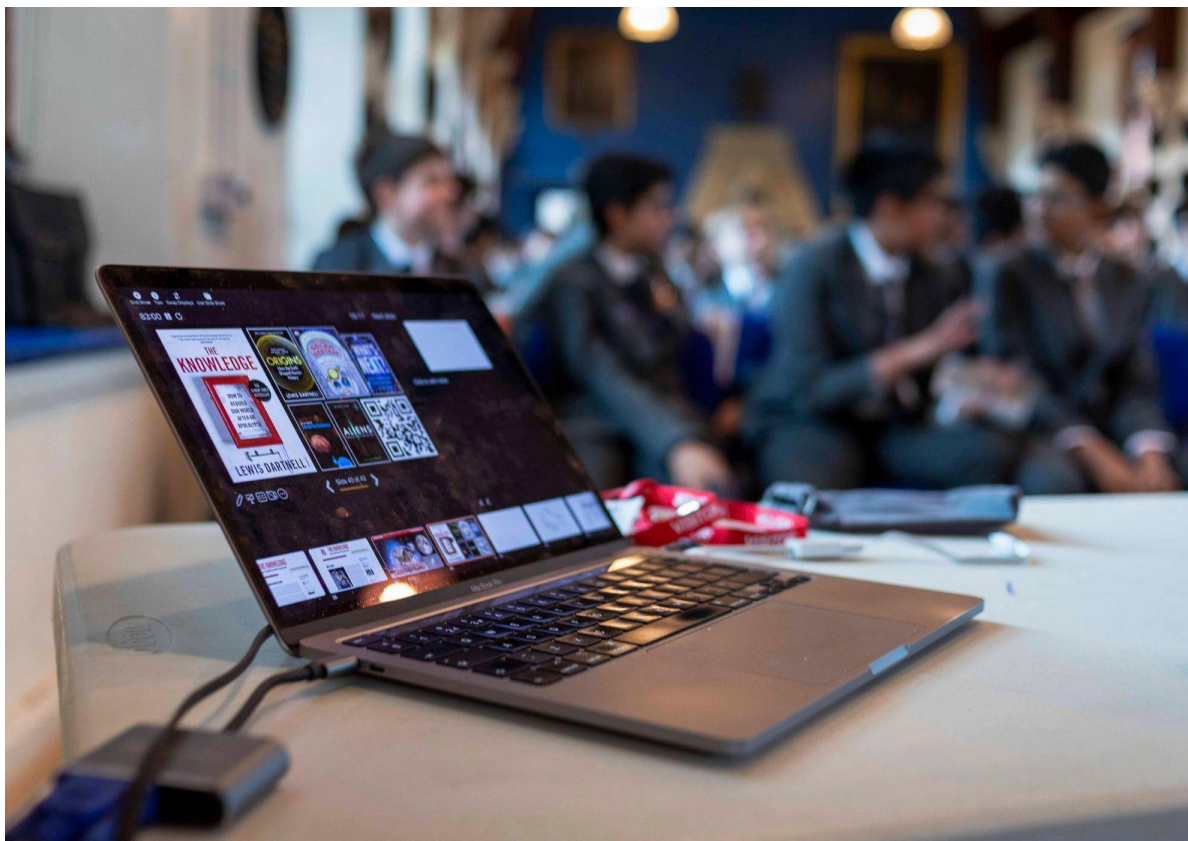
"I thought the talk was engaging and entertaining. Chris Bradford also had time to go through all of the questions at the end and regularly engage with the audience and the videos were good as well."





"The talk was very interesting; the concepts of his latest book were quite interesting. Whilst its branded as a way to rebuild society after an apocalypse, it really opens up interesting ideas about the core of human society. I like how he made quite fun, w/ references to games etc., to what would have been quite a serious topic."

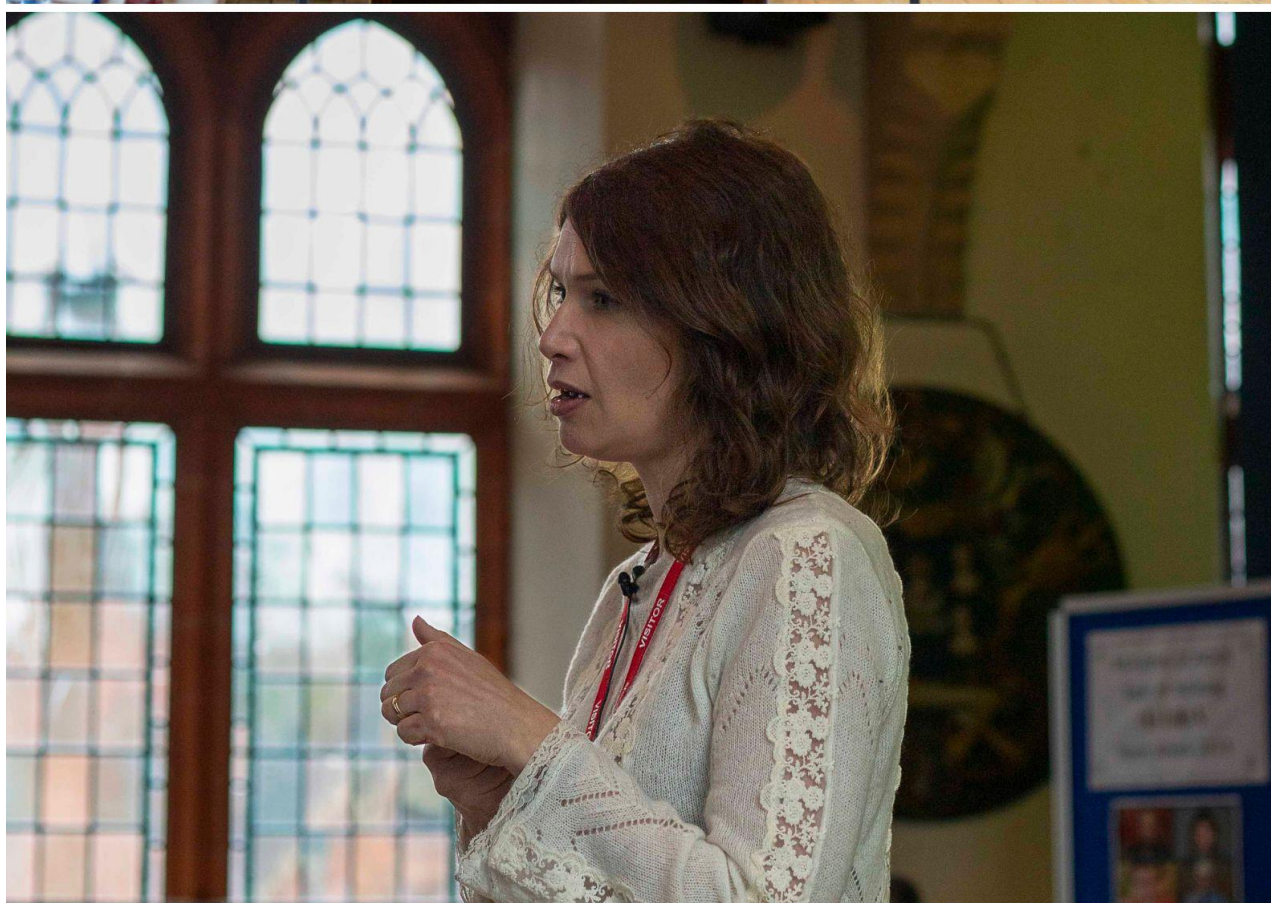
"I really enjoyed it as it gave me an outlook on the function of science in humanity, even to its extremities such as a survival situation after everything is destroyed. I learnt a lot of things that will probably end up being useful for me if I end up in a Bear Grylls-type scenario, and I also liked listening to him talking about his job and what it entails, as discovering life outside Earth is a hot topic that will become very important as we feel a need to connect with other possible intelligent civilisations to maximise our development potential as a species."





"It gave me a good insight into what the perspective of a writer is when they think of ideas. Plus, I found her career journey interesting (for example, the time she spent as a lawyer)."

"I think it was interesting how Sarah Govett explained the creative process for creating a long piece of writing such as a novel and also provided some insight into effective dystopian fiction that is helpful for GCSE."





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