



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

19 MAY 2023

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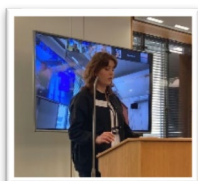
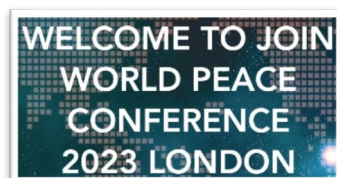
Introduction

Within any organisation, it can be easy to fall into using industry speak or specialised terminology – jargon. In relation to the education sector, terms such as character education, growth mindset, metacognition, flourishing and scaffolding are examples of terminology and concepts that can sometimes leave others feeling unclear, on what these terms actually look like. I am conscious of this, which is why our communications with our parents, students and stakeholders strive for clarity and portray with words and images, evidence of what the concepts look like in practice.



Indeed, the terms '*flourishing*', '*collaborative partnerships*' and '*change makers*' came to mind this week while I sat on a judging panel at the Social Enterprise Hub Awards 2023 – the culmination of a 6-month project led by The Abbey School, in partnership with Reading School and the Henley Centre for Entrepreneurship. The ambitious project saw 12 of our sixth-form students join 12 Abbey School students to create mixed teams in order to build and launch a sustainable social enterprise that would benefit the local community and beyond. I would like to express my gratitude to Miss Alice Stratford and Mr Dal Singh for leading on this exciting project that provided opportunities for our students to flourish while working in partnership with The Abbey School and Henley Business School at the University of Reading.

Yesterday, on Thursday 18 May, I was proud to be part of the audience at the 'Creating World Peace and Sustainability' conference held at Houses of Parliament, supported by Katherine Fletcher MP and chaired by Dr Prem Sharma OBE. Significantly, there were insightful messages shared by guest speakers regarding the impact of war, the importance of striving for peace, the crucial role of women and the importance of young people in shaping a more positive future.



Ariana T (9E) and Andrii S (11S), two exceptional Reading School students from Ukraine, left a profound impression with their heartfelt accounts of how the war in their country has affected them, their families, and the entire Ukrainian community. Shaheer T (11L) and Izyaan T (8L) skilfully articulated the far-reaching consequences of the war on Ukraine's economy, while emphasising the imperative for peace frameworks that extend beyond mere military intervention. Their presentations were both eloquent and persuasive.

Moreover, Ms Olga Manmar delivered a compelling address underscoring the significance of empowering women in fostering global harmony. We require more individuals like Olga, who can contribute to shaping our strategies for a sustainable and peaceful world. Additionally, I was greatly impressed by the remarkable support demonstrated by our Ukrainian students, parents, and relatives of all our speakers. This heartening display exemplified the outward-facing, community-oriented spirit that characterises members of the Reading School family and lies at the core of our democratic values.

I am proud of our students who participated, demonstrating a passionate, principled approach to local and international collaborations, which emphasised social conscience and a desire for a fairer, more peaceful society. Certainly, the value of children and young people working together in a collaborative manner is a fundamental feature that I encourage. We adults have so much to learn from our children and students. They are rightly intolerant of negative attitudes that cannot see beyond narrow self-interest. They ask questions that should inspire action, rather than the setting up of barriers. They are eager for opportunities to serve and enable flourishing of individuals, groups and wider society. They rightly question approaches that promote barriers and obstacles. We should be inspired by their commitment to a holistic approach that is determined to rise above selfless individualism and rather adopt a principled, idealistic yet entrepreneurial, positive attitude to providing solutions to problems.

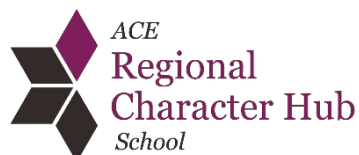


Finally, this morning, I received a communication from the Director of Sport of another school praising the behaviour of Reading School's Year 9 Cricket Team, '*They represented your school perfectly and were a pleasure to play against.*' The word competition derives from the Latin phrase '*Com petere*' which means striving together. Dr Pippa Grange refers to the concept of '*Winning Deep*'.

This is in opposition to an approach to winning shallow, which is concerned with winning in order to avoid feeling 'not good enough' or solely to defeat the other person or team. Whereas winning deep is, according to Grange, 'Not about the ego. It is driven by the soul. We are connected to the joy and the struggle.'

Winning deep requires investment in the human. Sport at Reading School should seek to crave a deeper meaning that models the best expression of humanity and highlights our respect for each other and ourselves. The behaviour of our Year 9 Cricket team has sent a positive message that we are all in this together, competing to be our best. As our TAP (True Athlete Programme) partner, Laurence Halsted contends '*Sport offers an excellent fertile ground for developing individuals and organisations with strong moral compasses. Sport has potential for doing good in the world.*'

Culture is arguably more significant than strategy. We are developing a culture that is positive, that puts people and teams first. Where belonging is nurtured for those who are team players and we reject silos and personal agendas. There is no place for behaviour that rejects collaboration and team work. Cultural architects are encouraged to add value to our community by championing hard work, humility and teamwork.



Indeed, our organisational focus on values and character has been recognised by the Jubilee Centre, University of Birmingham, who emphasise the significance of character. We strive to build a culture that champions character and excellence which nurtures human flourishing as evidenced by the fact that 600 students will be actively participating in Belonging weeks that focus on the value of collaboration. It is clear that our commitment to developing the whole person alongside a community-focused approach is integral to our ethos.

Can young people, collaborating with others do good and change the world? Can a group of dedicated people with compassion and kindness in their hearts change the world? We need our young people to be people of character, committed to being cultural architects, working with others for the common good. There is substantial evidence that this need is being met by the Reading School community.

Mr A M Robson
Headmaster



Key information

Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12 only

Internal exams

Please [click this link to view a timetable of exams](#) with information for each year group. Students also have access to revision guidance on the Student Teams post which highlights internal exam support.

Exam timetables for Year 8 and Year 10 will be made available next week.

Year 8 and Year 10 only

Belonging Week 1

We hope that our Year 8 students enjoy working collaboratively as a year group in a range of residential settings during our upcoming Belonging Week. Additionally, our Year 10 students will be delivering an expansive programme of activities to local Reading primary schools. Next week our Year 10 coaches and mentors will share opportunities with around 1000 primary school children in the space of a single week through Future Stories.

Year 8 – Monday 22 May to Friday 26 May

Residentials are from Monday to Wednesday with activities at Reading School on Thursday and Friday.

Youlbury Residential from Monday 22 May to Wednesday 24 May (Register outside the chapel for departure from Reading School at 09:30am on Monday 22 May with a 3:00pm arrival back at Reading School on Wednesday 24 May.

Rock Residential from Monday 22 May to Wednesday 24 May (Register outside the chapel for departure from Reading School at 09:30am on Monday 22 May with a 3:45pm arrival back at Reading School on Wednesday 24 May.

Operation Encounter Residential from Monday 22 May to Wednesday 24 May (Register outside the chapel for departure from Reading School at 09:45am on Monday 22 May with a 14:45om arrival back at Reading School on Wednesday 24 May.

All Year 8 students will be on site at Reading School on Thursday 25 May and Friday 26 May registering at 08:20am outside the chapel.

Year 10 – Monday 22 May to Wednesday 26 May

Year 10 students are in and out of school taking part in a range of community programs, coaching clinics and trips. They are to register daily at 08:20am unless otherwise advised.

Rugby – Monday 22 May to Wednesday 26 May (Register daily on the terrace / trip to Twickenham Stadium on Thursday 25 May)

Football – Monday 22 May to Wednesday 26 May (Register daily in the gym / trip to St George's Park on Wednesday 24 May)

Cricket – Monday 22 May to Wednesday 26 May (Register daily at the pavilion / trip to Falklands Stadium on Tuesday 23 May)

Music - Monday 22 May to Wednesday 26 May (Register daily in Music School / trips to London on the Wednesday 24 May and Oxford on Friday 26 May)

Science – Monday 22 May to Wednesday 26 May (Register daily outside the Science Block)

Canoeing – Monday 22 May to Wednesday 26 May

Current Vacancies

Teacher Vacancies

[Teacher of Economics](#) - applications will be reviewed as they arrive. Sept 2023 or Jan 2024 start.

Excellence, Belonging & Community

Academic Excellence

35th MiSAC Annual Competition 2023

We would like to congratulate Devayan C (8L) who has been awarded Joint First Prize in the Key Stage 3, Secondary 1/2 group in the 35th MiSAC Annual Competition. The results of the competition are now displayed on the annual competition page of the [MiSAC web site](#) with a slideshow of the winning and commended entries, along with a report on the judging process. The aim of the 35th MiSAC Annual Competition is to develop an understanding among teenagers of the key roles of microbes in the water cycle and Reading School had a number of entries expertly coordinated by our year 13 Biology Mentor Aazim A (13E).



Well done Devayan and to all other participants who include; Rahul R (11L), Rayan S (11E), Siddharth D (11E), Srivallabh S (11E) and Shaheer T (11L).

Belonging & Community

Social Entrepreneurship



Wednesday 17 May saw 12 of our students (featured in the front cover) attend the Social Enterprise Hub Awards 2023 at the University of Reading. The students had been part of a six-month long project in partnership with The Abbey School and the Henley School for Entrepreneurship with the goal to give 6 mixed teams the opportunity to create and launch a social enterprise that would benefit the local community and beyond. While attending Henley Business School, they would be introduced to the social business model, funding, marketing, strategic decision making, managing growth, social impact and managing a triple bottom line.

During the programme, the teams got to hear and receive mentoring advice from Executive Director of the Henley Centre for Entrepreneurship at Henley Business School and Entrepreneur in Residence at London Business School,

Jurek Sikorski along with founders of local social enterprise, Erica Purvis and Mark Mason from Design Nature CIC. Throughout phase two of the project, all teams were supported 1:1 by mentors from the Henley Business School Entrepreneurship Team in order to consider and shape their ventures.

During this Wednesday evening's final event, all six teams got to present their pitches to a panel of judges who included:

- Investor and Global Philanthropist, Leon Samuel
- Reading School Headmaster, Mr Ashley Robson
- The Abbey School Headmaster, William le Fleming
- Executive Director of the Henley Centre for Entrepreneurship, Jurek Sikorski

The teams, in no particular order were:

- 2 Talk (Phoebe D)
- It Takes a Village (Reeti S, Emek D, Elizabeth H and Maaz S)
- Bright Pink Bins (Savia M, Branson R and Declan C)
- RiseUp (Chloe T, James P, Iman F and Rio T)
- Sandwich Samaritans (Poppy B, Manu M, Alex E and Devansh A)
- SustainaBall (Anika D, Josha G, Aggie D and Kyle R)
- That Time of the Month (Nia C, Rohan R, Issy D and Jack L)



After the judging process all teams were presented with certificates from the Henley Business School for their participation in the project along with four teams being awarded funding in order to develop their social enterprises further. We applaud all of the students for their time, commitment and effort and they will provide inspiration for those following in your footsteps in 2024 as the project develops and grows to include further schools.

We would also like to acknowledge parents who attended the finals day to share their support for the teams along with Reading School staff and supporters of the programme. For all enquiries about this project, please email communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk.

Community events open to students

The following events are open to students under 16 if accompanied by a parent/guardian or on their own if older than 16 years. All enquiries can be directed to Ms Brunskill brunskillan@theabbey.co.uk.

Wednesday 7 June - ARCH Psychology & Memory Event, 17:00 – 19:30

This intriguing event introduces the science behind how our memories work, and why it matters. The evening will include a demonstration of memory techniques by students from The Abbey and Bulmershe School, led by James Paterson, a UK Memory Champion. There will then be two short talks by Professors from the University of Reading's Psychology department (on short-term and working memory, and nutrition and brain function) followed by breakout sessions for those interested in a career in Psychology. The event will conclude with light refreshments and an opportunity to mingle and chat. This event is ideal for students who are studying Psychology for GCSE, A-Level or IB, and for those interested in studying Psychology at university.

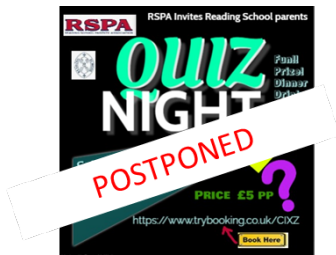
Students, parents and carers can book [via this link](#).

Friday 23 June - Night of Rock at The Abbey, 19:00 – 22:00

Come and dance the night away to rock classics from Foo Fighters, The Killers, Muse, Fleetwood Mac, Arctic Monkeys, Guns N Roses and many more! Live entertainment will be provided by The Abbey Rock Bands, Highdown School & Sixth Form Centre, Berkshire Maestros and 'Side Hustle', our guest adult rock band.

Tickets are £15.00 for adults, £10.00 for students and include BBQ food and a drink on arrival. Students, parents and carers can book [via this link](#).

Quiz Night – Postponed



The RSPA are sorry to inform parents that the Quiz Night scheduled for Saturday 20 May 2023 at 7:00pm, has now been POSTPONED to the Autumn term.

New dates to be confirmed with the opportunity to re-book at a later date.

We apologise for the late notice and inconvenience caused.

We have emailed everyone who has booked a ticket and will of course issue full refunds.

We thank you for supporting the School and we will make sure to let you know of the new date as soon as we can confirm it with the School.

Marshalling – Sunday 14 May update



We flew out of the starting blocks for our School Benches Fundraiser, as a group of parents and their sons added their support as Marshalls at the 50k Goring Gap race event on Sunday 14 May.

An early start for some of our helpful volunteers, but the weather held as we all took our positions to wave and cheer the runners on. People manning the support stations were especially busy, and our thanks go out to Ravi, Rutwik, Jayne, Jaco, Chhavi, Sudeep, Sean, Oliver, Clare, Kasper, Guojie, Xin, Kerry and Emma for their time so generously given on the day.

A donation of £840 has been awarded to the RSPA, from the event organisers. Also, some much appreciated feedback from them, and also from the runners, for our enthusiastic encouragement.

We have also managed to raise a further £40 from sale of the leftover stock, gifted to us from the event organisers, and which will be donated to the benches fundraiser with hopefully more to come!

Well done everyone! Amazing result!

Lottery Update - win a Meta Quest 2 VR Headset



Start this Big May Bank Holiday weekend by stepping into a world of Virtual Reality....

This May Bank Holiday weekend you have the chance to win an exciting prize - a Meta Quest 2 VR headset bundle!

With this top-of-the-range VR headset, play standalone games with no need for a PC or games console, watch blockbuster movies from a new perspective, keep fit with active experiences, collaborate with workers in new and innovative ways – the choice is yours! The bundle also includes a charging dock and a carry case, worth over £150.

The Lucky Draw takes place on **Saturday 27 May 2023** so don't miss out, get the tickets today.

Joining the lottery is very easy and one RSPA participant wins a guaranteed prize every Saturday night. Tickets cost £1 each and can be bought as a one-off or on a regular basis.

Here is the link to join: <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/reading-school>

2nd Hand Uniform Shop

The shop will be open this week on the following dates:

- Friday 19 May 2:30pm - 4:00pm
- Saturday 20 May 10:30am- 12:30pm

Please come along to purchase blazers, trousers, shirts, base layers, rugby boots, trainers, outdoor coats and more at the Shop. We would love donations of the following items as our stocks are running low:

- Small size blazers (up to 34")
- School ties
- Lab coats
- Safety goggles
- Macron kit
- Reading school hoodies
- Rugby boots and trainers

We are also collecting old style reversible games tops, which will be donated to a charity that sends rugby kit overseas. Donations can be sent into reception in a bag marked 'Uniform Donations' or handed in at the next opening.

The shop is located at the back of the walled car-park (opposite the Chapel).

Please note:

- On Friday 19 May, buyers are not allowed to drive onto site, access is via the pedestrian gates only.
- On Saturday 20 May, buyers are allowed to drive onto site and parking is available on the right-hand side of the walled car-park or outside it.

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

We look forward to seeing you there and wish you all a wonderful weekend!

The RSPA Team

Summer Term – Week 5

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



Ali V (7W) and Vihaan G (7W) teamed up in the Under 12 doubles badminton category at the Inter-Club Jubilee Tournament held on Sunday 14 May in Lightwater. They both represented Berkshire Junior Badminton Academy and emerged as winners of the "Plate group". Well done Ali and Vihaan.



The Social Enterprise Finals Day 2023





































Creating World Peace and Sustainability in the Post Covid-19 and post Ukraine Conflict Era Conference
Houses of Parliament

"We must go on working until the power of love is greater than the love of power."

Sana, 15 years



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