



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

30 JUNE 2023

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# Introduction

Like last week's highly anticipated annual Sport's Day, we are welcoming the return to venues which enable all our community to be able to come together as one. Today, we met at The Great Hall at the University of Reading in order to mark and celebrate the Class of 2023 during our annual Reading School Senior Prize Giving Event. The venue befits the occasion as the Grade II listed building is the original campus of the University and was given to them in 1904 by the Palmer family, owners of Reading's Huntley & Palmers, where many of Reading School's ORs went to work.



Today, on Friday 30 June, we also heard from our highly regarded Keynote Speaker, Professor Parveen Yaqoob OBE, who is the University of Reading's first female Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Reading School parent. Professor Yaqoob was also recently officially appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire by HRH The Prince of Wales, at a celebration in February 2023.

Furthermore, as befitting an institution that has been at the heart of Reading since 1125, Reading School is proud to be associated with the Mayor, Cllr Tony Page, who represents the civic authority of our great town. (Which in my view should be a city). I am pleased to relate that I received the £10 Annual Stipend from the Mayor of Reading today as a symbol of the support of the council for Reading School. The Mayor, Cllr Tony Page, recently visited us to support a curated Art Exhibition in order to celebrate Refugee Week 2023, the world's largest arts and culture festival that celebrates the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary.



The annual Reading School Senior Prize Giving Event is important for several reasons. It provides an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the academic, co-curricular, and personal achievements of our senior students. It recognises their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments throughout their journey. By highlighting outstanding achievements, the event provides inspiration for other students to strive for excellence and encourages them to set ambitious goals. It creates a culture of healthy competition and motivates students to work hard and reach their full potential. In 2022-2023 we have focused on the ABC of academic excellence, belonging and community and these priorities are clearly reflected in what we awarded prizes for.

The Senior Prize Giving event also acknowledges achievements in various fields, such as academics, sports, the arts, leadership, community service, and more. Crucially, it reinforces the idea that a well-rounded education involves not only academic success but also participation in extracurricular activities and the development of real-world skills. Being recognised and receiving an award or certificate in front of peers, teachers, parents and family members, can significantly boost a student's confidence and self-esteem. It validates their efforts and talents, providing a sense of pride and accomplishment. Academic Prizes are important, as are the Floreat prizes for character, integrity, leadership and community.

Our event often marks the end of a student's journey at Reading School. It serves as a farewell ceremony, allowing students, teachers, parents and family to reflect on our time together, appreciate the memories created, and bid farewell to the graduating seniors. Overall, the Senior Prize is important because it recognises significant achievements and commemorates the end of a significant milestone in students' lives. It is also a springboard to the future, a milestone to be cherished, a step for long term, sustained success. The future is challenging for us all, but we should be prepared to embrace opportunities to flourish.



Members of our community should be aware that we also look forward to the Reading School Sports Awards on Wednesday, 5 July and Junior Prize Giving on Thursday, 13 July. We will celebrate talent, attitude, character and academic achievement for all our students who show commitment to our dream of nurturing a purpose-driven positive culture, sustainable excellence, healthy high performance and flourishing with compassion. These events could not take place without the support of the Society Office, Reading Foundation, ORA and RSPA, along with individual award sponsors. We appreciate your sustained commitment to championing our traditions.

Floreat Redingensis

**Mr A M Robson**  
Headmaster

# Key information

## All years

### End of Term Arrangements – Friday, 14 July 2023

08:20	Lesson 1				
09:10	Lesson 2				
10:00	Lesson 3				
10:45	County Chapel	Break	Tutor time	Tutor Time	Break
11:05	Tutor Time	West Chapel	Tutor time	Tutor Time	Break
11:20	Tutor Time	Tutor Time	School Chapel	Break	Tutor Time
11:40	Break	Tutor Time	Break	Laud Chapel	Tutor Time
12:00	Depart	Depart	Depart	Depart	East Chapel
12:20					Depart

## Safeguarding & Wellbeing

### Support for parents

Brighter Futures for Children are an independent, not-for-profit company that aims to deliver the best possible opportunities for children, young people and parents in the Reading area. Their responsibility is to deliver children's social care, early help and prevention and educational services (including special educational needs and disabilities).

During September to November, they will be running their 'Teen PPP' sessions which is an evidence-based positive parenting programme aimed at parents of 11 – 19 year olds who may require support with children and young people's behaviours along with supporting teenagers to make positive choices.

For more information about the Teen PPP programme, please click [here](#).



### Radicalisation



According to [The Education Hub](#), "Education plays a vital role in preparing our children and young people for life in a modern and diverse Britain." As part of our school's safeguarding duties, we must protect students from the risk of radicalisation and other harms and this is due to children and young people being vulnerable to radicalisation.

In order to share further information about what radicalisation and extremism is, looks like and what support is available, factsheets produced for parents and families have been produced by the Government's ACT (Action Counter's Terrorism) campaign which are available by clicking [here](#) and [here](#).

## Staff Vacancies

Please visit our website for current vacancies: <https://www.reading-school.co.uk/vacancies>

# Excellence, Belonging & Community

## Excellence in Service

We will soon be sharing with our whole school community the new 'Reading Way Manifesto', a one-page document that will guide our journey and highlight our commitments to each other. Two elements from the manifesto include 'we lead through service' and 'flourishing with compassion', both of which have been embodied by Kanishk K (11C) who will be leading on a fundraising initiative where proceeds will go to an orphanage in Nepal.

Kanishk has planned a challenging 14-day hike to Everest Base Camp during October 2023, alongside other and will be the youngest member of the 18-strong team. Kanishk and his family seek to prove that age is no barrier in service to others and the expedition will include:

- Meeting with the local communities in the region and sharing the challenges they face.
- An opportunity to conquer fears and come out of one's comfort zone in challenging terrain and weather conditions.
- A chance to embrace sustainability related principles throughout his journey. Kanishk will get to see the natural wonders of the Everest region and witness first-hand the effects of climate change and the need for environmental conservation.



In order to prepare himself for the challenge, Kanishk has been diligently walking and hiking more than 200km across the Berkshire, Wales, Buckinghamshire and Hampshire areas since last November 2022. Following his recent GCSEs, he has resumed his training and sims to complete a further 50km hike in the coming months.

We are very excited to keep track of Kanishk's bold challenge that he has embarked on and we invite the whole school community to support him. Support can be through sharing your best wishes and asking him more about the expedition, spreading awareness of his fundraising campaign along with visiting his fundraising page by [clicking here](#).

Reading School has evidenced time and time again our values and commitment to causes that make a meaningful impact to the lives of others. From student bake sales for global disasters, to our whole school response for Ukraine, we demonstrate individual and collective leadership through service to others. Through these experiences, we foster a culture of empathy, humility, and civic responsibility while inspiring the next generation of leaders and changemakers.

## Excellence in Science



Four Year 12 students have recently entered the STEM related 'Greening Cities, Sustaining Lives' competition launched by the British International Education Association (BIEA), with the support of Assistant Head & Teacher of Biology, Miss L Ayres. The BIEA 2023 Youth STEAM Competition aims to develop solutions for

sustainable cities and gives young people an opportunity to envision a future and use their creative skills to help come up with ideas to ensure that those living in the future can live in harmony with their environment and planet.

The winners will be announced in July 2023 and their solutions have the real possibility of being implemented in cities across the world. We wish 'Team Hedge' all the very best and Ben S-R (12L) shared on behalf of the team:

"Since the start of the academic year, we knew that we wanted a further challenge beyond our studies that would enable us to apply what we have learnt to a real-life STEM scenario. The perfect opportunity for this was the 2023 BIEA STEM Competition which focussed on adapting to climate change by using 'innovative ideas and green technologies. There were several strands that we could pursue but we eventually decided to do the city buildings strand.

Early on, we decided that inventing a new technology would be very unrealistic and so instead our design integrated several existing (albeit relatively new technologies) in an innovative fashion. By way of summary, we combined geothermal (CFA) piles, an atrium, an unusual shape, living walls and solar panels among other things. The aim of these technologies was for the building



to better cope with both hot and cold weather as well as lowering energy demand and/or utilising on site renewable energy sources.

When first looking at the challenge, it seemed like an awful lot of work, but we broke it down into three areas. First, we researched what the current problems were and technologies available to solve these issues. The most important part of this was looking at examples of innovative buildings around the world such as the Crystal in London or the Edge in the Netherlands and dissecting which technologies are effective.

Next, we came up with our design, something which involved 3D modelling as well as lots of discussion and improvements along the way. It was at this stage that we came up with our team's name (the Hedge) due to the living walls on either side of the design and our inspiration from the Edge! Finally, we had to write up all our work in a 2500-page report (which felt quite short) and produce a series of artwork, mainly consisting of diagrams, that described our design.

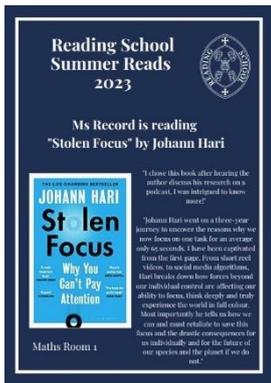
We have submitted this report this week and are waiting for the results to be announced at some point during July with the potential of being part of the international showcase in October 2023.”



From left to right: Ben S-R (12L), Saikrishnan D (12S), Sidh G (12S), Samuel J (12S) and Tom S-R (12S)

# Belonging & Community

## LRC – Summer Reading Challenge 2023



One of the best ways to discover great books is through recommendations from others. Findings from a national project underway in Australia: Discovering a “Good Read”: Pathways to Reading for Australian Teens, led by Michael Dezuanni, indicate that the lack of close reading role models could be a factor impacting the number of teenagers who read for pleasure.

This year we have been very lucky to have been given lots of recommendations from staff through recommended read posters and reading week book lists. Pupils in Years 7 to 10 were recently invited to the Learning Resource Centre to browse staff recommendations and to recommend books to each other. To accompany these visits and to give extra motivation to keep reading over the summer, we are running a whole school reading challenge called "Read Around the School in 6 Books" challenge.

The challenge runs from Monday, 12 June to Monday, 11 September and celebrates all of our reader role models. An information booklet can be found [here](#) and some additional summer reading recommendations from staff can be found [here](#). Pupils can complete the challenge by filling out this online form for each book they read during the challenge period. Non-fiction books can be borrowed over the summer from Friday 16th of June.

## Rugby opportunities – Exiles programmes

Are you, your parents or grandparents born in Ireland, Scotland or Wales?

Then there are some amazing opportunities with regards to playing rugby as you qualify for an Exiles programme.

The Exiles programmes are for people who are eligible to play for these countries but live in England.

Please click the links below for the relevant information:

### Ireland

[Irish Rugby | Irish Qualified Rugby – Are You IQ?](#)

### Scotland

[Scottish Qualified Programme - Scottish Rugby](#)

### Wales

[Welsh Rugby Union | Club & Community | WRU Exiles](#)

There are upcoming events for the Welsh Exiles, the closest area being London & South East on Wednesday, 26 July 2023. You must register by July 17<sup>th</sup> if interested.

## Summer Fayre 2023



The countdown to our Summer Fayre has begun...Only 9 days to go!

The Summer Fayre is going to be huge fun with the following confirmed attractions:

- Motorbikes- Courtesy of Marshall Honda
- Inflatable Bungee run
- Nerf Gun shooting range
- Beat the Goalie
- Crush the Cricketer - with our special guest Mr Allen
- Ice cream Van, Burger and Hot dogs, Donuts
- Drinks Stalls
- Music
- Professional stall holders in the Refectory...and plenty more fun for the whole family!

We have some amazing raffle prizes to give away, including experiences at Pantheon Climbing Centre, days out at Cotswold Wildlife Park and Didcot Railway Centre, Hamper gifts, Go Karting, Red Kangaroo and much more!

Thank you so much to everyone who has volunteered so far, we would not be able to fundraise for our boys without your help. That being said, we still need bakers for our cake stall, donations and volunteers to help during the fayre. If you can spare an hour of your time, we'd really appreciate your support

Really looking forward to seeing everyone there, if there are any questions, please email the RSPA at [contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk)

## 2nd Hand Uniform Sale

The Second-Hand Uniform Shop will be open on Friday, 7 July between 2:30pm and 4:00pm and on Sunday, 9 July during the Summer Fayre.

Please come along to buy all your uniform needs.

The shop can be found at the back of the Walled Car Park; Access is on foot only, via the pedestrian gates.

Please email [shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk) with any queries.

Looking forward to seeing you there! We would like to wish everyone a wonderful weekend!

The RSPA Team



# Summer Term – Week 11

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



## Reading School Sports Day 2023

*Photo credits: Isaac H (10S)*



























## Sports Day Commentary Team

Photo credit: Mrs H Majorossy-Young



Following Reading School's accreditation of becoming a Regional Character Hub School by the Association for Character Education, we welcome visits from grammar schools across the UK in order for us to share what our school's Character Education programme looks like. This week we were visited by Deputy Headteacher, Iain Wilson and Director of Co-curriculum, Dominic Clatworthy from Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe.



Partner school visit to Queen Anne's to take part in life-skills sessions led by Mrs H Majorossy-Young



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)