

# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

12 MAY 2023

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# Introduction

Historically, young people have had a negative press. Criticism predates references to snowflakes or teenage rebels, with or without a cause. Indeed, repeated waves of moral panic can be evidenced. In 1771, a reader's letter to Town and Country contended that '*Modern youth were a race of self-admiring, emaciated fribbles.*' Whilst Thomas Bonner, a Minister in 1624 argued that '*The youth were never so sawcie, yea never more savagely sawcie.*' Furthermore, Peter the Hermit lamented in 1274 that '*The world is passing through troublesome times. The young people of today think of nothing but themselves. They have no reverence for parents or old age. They are impatient of all restraint. They talk as if they know everything, and what passes for wisdom with us is foolishness with them.*'

However, at Reading School, we seek to be counter cultural in a positive way. Therefore, we are committed to providing a window of opportunity to demonstrate pride in our young people. We are dedicated to enabling activities that bring generations together. We believe that in the long run, love and nurture is what matters most. The love and respect evident between generations is crucial. It must be a two-way process, and all generations can mutually benefit. Indeed, our forced separation during the pandemic has arguably made it even clearer that we have missed contact between generations.

Our Grandparents and Relatives Day 2023 involves experiencing three hours of lessons, alongside live music, sport, Electives and Floreat activities. Crucially, the event acknowledges and values extended family members and affords an opportunity to strengthen inter-generational bonds. I would encourage parents of Year 7s to consider the invitation as featured in the Key Information section as the day is one of our highlights in the school events calendar. We are grateful for the support of relatives, including grandparents, that helps to strengthen our drive to nurture a sense of purpose, belonging and community.

Respect is also important. It is important to emphasise that we strive to be a caring, compassionate community that values relationships and welcomes extended family, as an integral part of our community. It may be true that in 2023 we are passing through troublesome times. But it is also true that our young people do care about others, show reverence for their elders and demonstrate a positive attitude to learning. We are proud of our students, whether in Year 7, when beginning their educational journey with us, or in Year 13 when leaving to transition to the next stage of their lives.

Today marks the day when our Year 13 cohort leaves secondary education to pursue their ambitions. We would hope that their time at Reading School has, for the most part, provided them with opportunities to develop their talents, independence, a foundation for lifelong learning and essential life skills. Today is a significant milestone for students, symbolising educational achievements, personal growth, and transition to adulthood. On behalf of all at Reading School, we wish you all the very best.

**Mr A M Robson**  
**Headmaster**



# Key information

## Summer Events

Please note changes to Summer events recently communicated:

**Friday 30 June** – School will close at 1.30pm. Pupils will be registered and then dismissed at 1.30pm. There will be no period 6 and 7 on this day. **Senior Prize Giving Ceremony** will take place at the University of Reading and Reading School from 2pm on an **invite only** basis.

**Friday 23 June** – **Sports Day** has been moved to Friday 23 June to allow for all students to participate in Sports Day, held at Palmer Park, Reading. Further information regarding activities will follow directly to students.

## Year 7 only

### Grandparents & Relatives Day 2023

We are extending an invitation to our Year 7 families to attend an annual event that welcomes grandparents and extended family to join their children for a day to create a lasting memory. During 2022, Reading School welcomed over 65 relatives to experience three hours of lessons, alongside live music, sport, co-curricular activities and to hear an address from the Headmaster. It is an event that we especially look forward to in the annual school events calendar as it acknowledges and values extended family members and gives an opportunity to strengthen the bond between generations.

Feedback from grandparents who enjoyed our 2022 event included:

*"We would like to thank all involved in hosting 'Grandparents Day'. It was good to see our grandson in his school environment and how well he has settled in. We were particularly impressed by the courtesy and maturity of the older students who helped us find our way around. Having ourselves been teachers, we would also like to thank the staff for the preparation that went into planning the lessons. The school is clearly a caring environment, with aims and objectives that we wholeheartedly applaud."*

*"I would like to offer a huge vote of thanks to you and all of Reading School - staff and pupils - for a totally memorable and inspiring day last Monday. It exceeded all possible expectations and I had a wonderful time...the ethos of caring, comradeship, thoughtfulness and support permeated the atmosphere throughout the school and was evident in the way everyone - again, staff and pupils - interacted with each other. The Year 10 ambassadors for our group were a case in point. They were delightful. Completely self-confident and self-assured, without being in the least bit arrogant. They were friendly and helpful and talked to all of us, and seemed genuinely concerned that we had had a good day. A credit to the school. I am grateful for all the time and effort and planning that went in to the day. A triumph!"*

We would like to extend an invitation to parents of Year 7 pupils which can be accessed by [clicking this link](#).



## Current Vacancies

### Associate Staff Vacancies

[Site Controller](#) - deadline for applications: 12pm, Monday 15 May

# Excellence, Belonging & Community

## Academic Excellence

Reading School continues to excel in the UK Linguistics Olympiad ([UKLO](#)), a competition where students solve challenging linguistic data problems. Over 1,000 students from across the UK sat this year's exams which tested their ability to decode information about various languages including Albanian, Lardil and Meroitic. We are pleased to announce that Daniel T (13S) has been chosen as part of this year's UK Team who will travel to Bansko in Bulgaria this summer 2023 to compete in the International Linguistics Olympiad.

Daniel shared:

*"A couple of weeks ago I got to visit Edinburgh to participate in a training camp to pick the members of the UK team for the International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL). During the weekend, I met some amazing people and learnt a lot of interesting things about linguistics, from high and low vowels to Papuan number systems. Having then qualified for the UK team, I now have the incredible opportunity to go to Bulgaria over the summer to take part in the IOL. I am really looking forward to going and I would encourage anyone to have a go at the UKLO competitions because you never know where it might lead!"*

We wish Daniel all the very best this summer.



## Sporting Excellence



Reading School's Lacrosse Team recently competed in their first tournament in the SEMLA 6-a-side men's lacrosse tournament on Saturday 22 April. The team got the opportunity to play against a range of experienced teams, which included teams at the top of their divisions in South England. We spoke with Rupert R (11C), who is part of Reading School's Lacrosse Team who shared, *"It was a steep learning curve but a great experience to play the games in such a competitive environment. The school team managed to score a good number of goals, including 5 in their final game against Imperial University (although losing 7-5 overall). Lacrosse is a growing sport in England, and we're hoping to get more players involved during the next school year."*

Rupert has been selected to play for the men's South England regional lacrosse team and went onto recently score against Scotland in the Nick Kehoe International Lacrosse Tournament. After speaking with Rupert earlier this week he shared:

**Q: Congratulations on being chosen to play for the men's South England regional lacrosse team, what was it like taking part in an international lacrosse tournament?**

**A:** It was incredibly exciting and of course I was also quite nervous at first, as I've never played at such a high-level event before. However, everyone on the team was very friendly which I've definitely found to be quite a common theme in lacrosse. The South team won a trophy for their section which was a great achievement, and I scored a goal against Scotland White.

**Q: How long have you been competing/training?**

**A:** I picked up lacrosse in October of 2021, when it was run as an elective with Coach Till during games at Reading School. Soon after, I joined the Reading Wildcats junior club, which is open to Reading School students. I practiced at home as much as I could, and played my first match for the Wildcats men's team once I turned 16 (the minimum age) last September.

**Q: What kind of skills does lacrosse develop?**

**A:** One of the first things I noticed when I started training with the men's team is how different the tactics are to other sports. It took me some time to understand the proper positioning, but it made a lot more sense once I started playing matches.

**Q: What has your experience been since joining a team?**

**A:** I found it quite daunting when I joined the Wildcats and the South England team, but everyone has been incredibly welcoming and helped me to feel as though I'm part of the team - which is one of the many things I love about lacrosse.

**What's your favourite part of playing lacrosse?**

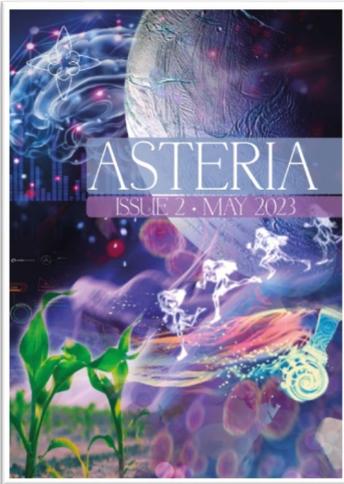
**A:** It's hard to pick just one part, as I think all aspects contribute towards lacrosse being such a wonderful sport. If I had to pick one, I'd probably say the physical contact. Enough is allowed that the game doesn't stop every 30 seconds for a foul, but it's also not the core focus of the game - you can definitely be a good lacrosse player without going into too much contact.

**Q: What advice would you have for students interested in taking up lacrosse?**

**A:** It's absolutely worth trying if it's an option for you next year in games. We're very lucky at Reading School because there is lacrosse kit which can be used during games, and therefore it doesn't cost anything to try it out. We're definitely hoping to increase the popularity of lacrosse in school, and I can't recommend it enough!

# Community

## Asteria magazine



The team behind the inter-school magazine between Reading, Kendrick and The Abbey School are proud to present the second issue of Asteria, which can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

The project has developed and grown from a community of academically curious students who hope to share their mission with more schools in the coming years. This month's edition features a suite of musical performances by the Kendrick and Reading School musicians, which can be found on the performances page on the [website](#).

The role of Reading School coordinator for the magazine will be passed on to Vice Captain, Harry A (12S) who will be working with his co-coordinators, Ari G and Dora A from Kendrick School to continue developing the magazine.

On behalf of the founding team, Ram K shared, *“As always, a massive thank you to all those that have contributed to this project – it has been a pleasure working with you all, and I hope to see Asteria flourish in future years.”*

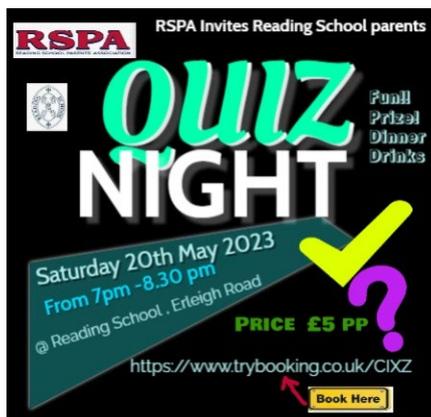
## LRC Bake Sale - update

Following the student-led Coronation themed bake sale on Friday 5 May, £70 was raised which will contribute to new LRC chess sets. We would like to thank all the students who made the bake sale possible; Akash B (7E), Rutwik B (7E), Bhanuteja M (7E), Rayan M (8W), Jules T (8C), Edward K (8E), Abhiram B (8C), Palash M (7C), Minhal M (9S), Ibrahim A (7E), Avesta S (8L), Samuel L (7C), Dishanth G (7E), Karthik V (8C), Pranab D (7E), Adi A (10S), Yatharth P (7C), Nag V (9C), Dayyan A (7W) and Pranav N (10C).



# RSPA

## Quiz Night



The RSPA are hosting a Quiz night to raise money for much needed outdoor seating.

**When:** Saturday 20 May 2023  
**Where:** Reading School Refectory  
**Time:** 7:00- 8:30 pm (doors open from 6.30pm)  
**Catering:** Snacks and drinks on sale  
**Payment:** Cash or card  
**Parking:** Available on site  
**Who:** Family, friends, students are ALL welcome

Teams of 6 of your own choice or can be allocated on night.

Hoodies are available for sale on the night.

Last chance to buy the remaining 40 tickets so please visit <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CIXZ> to purchase your ticket as soon as you can. So come along one and all!

## 2nd Hand Uniform Shop

The shop will be open on the following dates:

- Friday 19th May 2.30- 4pm
- Saturday 20th 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](mailto:shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk) for further information.

## Orders for hoodies

Please note that we cannot currently take orders for hoodies via the usual webpage because we are experiencing issues with taking payment via PayPal. We are working on resolving this soon. In the meantime, if you would like to place an order for hoodies, please email us at [hoodies@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:hoodies@readingschoolparents.co.uk) and we will arrange to take payment in another way. Hoodies will also be available for sale at the Quiz Night! 😊

We wish you all a wonderful weekend!

The RSPA Team

# Summer Term – Week 4

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



Grandparents Day 2022





## Coronation Celebration Weekend

Thank you to parents Mrs P Raj and Mrs K Kingston for sharing their images of The Big Coronation Lunch which saw neighbours and communities come together to share friendship, food and fun as part of the celebrations. More than 65,000 Coronation Big Lunch events were expected in all four corners of the UK.







## Reading School Lacrosse Team

From left to right:

Pranav A (12C), Lucca K (12C), Siddhanth T (12C), Karthik K (12C), Henry K (11L), Oscar S-T (12L), Srisht C (11W), Rupert R (11C) and Brendan C (12C).





On Wednesday 10 June, our Year 12 German students went to London to see the translated version of 'Der Guter Mensch von Szechwan' – The Good Person of Szechwan by Berthold Brecht at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. As Brecht appears in the A level German curriculum, it was a valuable opportunity for students to experience first-hand the alienation theatre techniques, as well as enabling them to understand more about this important playwright.



## Year 9 Geography Trip to Lulworth Cove

On Friday 5 May, the Geography department took our Year 9 geographers to Lulworth Cove to explore coastal landscapes along the Jurassic Coast. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to explore real life examples of coastal theory they have learned as part of their GCSE. All were a credit to the school during the trip.



“We arrived at school last Friday waiting to get on the coach to the Jurassic Coast. We had been taught about Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door in our Coasts topic at the start of this academic year, but for lots of us, it was the first time we were going to see an actual cove or arch in our lives. As soon as we got to our destination, we were surrounded by rolling hills and the faint sound of water. We first went to Lulworth Cove. On our way, we saw Stair Hole, a rock formation likely to be the initial stages of a cove. Our first glimpse of Lulworth Cove was from the top. We could see the crystal waters ripple as the waves lapped onto the beach. We went down to get a closer look from the beach itself and it was dotted with beautiful white pebbles and the odd seashell; some of us started collecting our favourites! Overall, I think most of us can agree, the trip was fantastic and very enjoyable. A big thanks to the teachers who came on the trip with us and everyone else who helped organise it and ensure it went smoothly!”

Abdul Ahmad (9E)

“Our group started off at Lulworth Cove. It was amazing to see how the erosional processes of hydraulic action and abrasion we learnt about in school created this massive 450m-wide landform! We also had a quick look at Stair Hole, which was a mini version of Lulworth Cove. As we walked our way back to where we started, we marvelled at how the sea erodes the coast to create such massive and varied structures. After a quick lunch on top of a hill, where the views of the sea were simply stunning, we climbed down the perilous steps to Durdle Door: a huge arch made from limestone. Our task was to draw Durdle Door and annotate the processes going on - a key part of geography fieldwork. Finally, after a frantic rush for ice cream and souvenirs, we headed home, exhausted but ecstatic. This trip to the Dorset coast was one I definitely won't forget.”

Nag Varre (9C)

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)