



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

14 JULY 2023

A Summer Term Retrospective

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Introduction

I want to take this opportunity, on the last day of the 2022-2023 Academic Year, to express my heartfelt gratitude to our students, parents, staff and students for the support and dedication to Reading School. The celebration yesterday of Junior Prize Giving was a joyous occasion. Our core purpose of providing opportunities for our people to flourish was certainly in evidence. Thank to parents and grandparents for the appreciation you showed for all that the staff do for all the students at Reading School. I believe that it is important that credit is given to all staff for the way in which they provide an environment for our students to flourish. It is truly a team effort, shaped by alignment to our core values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership and Community. Every member of staff plays a crucial role in striving for alignment with our core values. Our partnership with the High Performance Foundation illustrates the fact that we focus on mindset, behaviours and culture.



We are also celebrating the gaining of 'School of Sanctuary Status', the first school in Reading to gain this accolade. According to the assessors 'Reading School provided an exceptional example of what being a school of sanctuary means.' Our status means that we have an important part to play in building a welcoming and inclusive culture. We support social cohesion as well as social mobility. One of the key features that was emphasised in the gaining of the award was our nationally recognised work with Ukrainian young people. Indeed, a highlight of my year was listening to 4 of our students (and 1 parent) speak in the Palace of Westminster regarding the impact of the war in Ukraine. It was heartening that they were able to be part of our prize giving ceremony yesterday

We cannot be a high performing organisation without engagement with parents.

The contributions made by the Reading School's Parents' Association have made a significant impact, and we are truly thankful for your unwavering commitment. Recently we have seen the sponsorship of drinks at the Senior Prize Giving and Leavers BBQ which added a special touch to this important event. Your generosity ensured that everyone had a memorable time, and we are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate our students' achievements in such a festive atmosphere.

We would also like to extend our appreciation for the opportunity for the RSPA to raise funds through the Sports Awards evening. Your collaboration with the Sports Department has allowed us to generate funds and your support is commendable and deeply valued. Moreover, the return of the excellent Summer Fayre was a success, thanks to your hard work and careful planning. The range of activities for families to enjoy, coupled with the chance to win exciting prizes, created a positive event. The funds raised for outdoor seating will undoubtedly enhance our school environment and benefit the entire school community.

We would like to extend special thanks to the committee of the RSPA for their outstanding efforts in collaborating with the Society Office to ensure the smooth execution of these events. Their dedication and coordination played a crucial role in making these activities possible. We recognize the tremendous amount of time, effort, and passion that goes into organizing and delivering these events. To each parent, student, staff and community member, your unwavering commitment to supporting our school community is truly commendable.

The successes achieved in Badminton, which saw James S (10C) finish 3rd overall beating the USA number 1 on the way, and Orienteering, which saw Adam M (Y12) placed 16th out of a field of 41 countries, as well as the captivating Big Bang Theory competition, are a testament to the collective efforts of our dedicated parents, students, and staff.

Lastly, as we approach a well-deserved summer break, we would like to remind everyone to take some time to relax and recharge. Your continuous support throughout the year has been invaluable, and we cannot thank you enough for all that you do for our school. Thank you, RSPA, parents, Governors, Reading Foundation, ORA and all staff for your support and commitment to our school community. We are grateful for everything you have done and look forward to more fruitful collaborations in the future.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Mr A M Robson
Headmaster



Key information

All years

2023 McIlroy Essay Competition and the Year of Writing

We are delighted to launch the 2023 McIlroy Essay Competition: a chance for all students who have been on roll during this academic year to win £250 in cash, and keep themselves intellectually stimulated during the summer break.

This is the eleventh modern edition of the prize, which was reinstated under the guidance of our late colleague and OR Ian Judd.

Each year we ask students to respond to a stimulus question which crosses curriculum divisions and academic disciplines. This year's essay celebrates the Year of Writing; details of how to enter, and some prompts to get students thinking, can be found in the accompanying guidance sheet. [2023 McIlroy Essay Competition](#)

Staff Vacancies

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

Excellence, Belonging & Community

Excellence in Mandarin

Our students of Mandarin had a great time learning both Chinese language and cultures during last week. Taught by Miss Xue and Miss Wang from Zhejiang Normal University in China and supervised by Miss Zhang and Mr. Wu in Reading School, they managed to learn lessons on Pandas and Chinese festivals, as well as cultural events. They also had nice Chinese learning companions who communicated with them every day in Mandarin which not only helped them with their listening but also speaking skills.

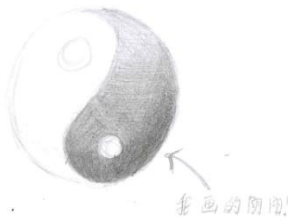
谢谢薛老师和王老师，
也谢谢浙江师范大学。

我和我的朋友学了很多
有趣的东西。比如：
西安的兵马俑。
北京的鸟巢，长城和故宫
太极
书法
活动都很好玩儿！



沈捷



谢谢薛老师和王老师，
你们教我们时我们学了很多，
学的有熊猫面具，画团扇和
打太极，都很好玩儿，太谢谢了。
我很喜欢浙江师范大学的活动。



我画的阴阳！

谢谢薛老师和王老师
和浙江师范大学。
我学了很多。在学校我
很喜欢学习中语因为
我觉得汉语很容易。有一天我想去北
京。我想看一只熊猫
和去故宫。西安比伦
敦很热所以我想去西
安。伦敦的天气不很好
因为伦敦有很多雨。老
师谢谢再。  

谢谢薛老师和王老师，

你的课很有趣，比如：我最喜欢的课
是学习关于熊猫。

一个大谢谢在浙江师范大学。



谢谢薛老师，您上星期教我们
的东西很有趣。我们都学了很多新
知识。我觉得我们学到了很多中国的东
西。

交成

谢谢！

薛老师和王老师，

我喜欢看北京。比如：
故宫，长城，天坛和天安门。
鸟巢很漂亮！我想去
北京。
我也喜欢太极，因为
很好玩儿。

谢谢！再见！



谢谢薛老师和王老师！

我和我的朋友学了各种各样的东西，
您的课都很有意思。我非常喜欢不但
学了太极，而且学了中国的历史。活动都
很好玩儿！

谢谢浙江师范大学！



谢谢薛老师

您的课又有趣又好玩儿，我们都
喜欢它！

我最喜欢的课是太极拳，但是我也
很喜欢太极课因为我学到了很多！
谢谢



谢谢薛老师和王老师。

不但我学到了很多比如熊猫和中国
的节日而且你们的课又有趣又
好玩儿。

我很喜欢看北京和西安。
也谢谢浙江师范大学。



Excellence in Biology

Intermediate Biology Olympiad 2023

The Biology Department would like to congratulate the year 12 students who participated in the 2023 Biology Intermediate Olympiad. Reading School students achieved 6 Gold, 13 Silver and 9 Bronze awards.

The Intermediate Olympiad is an online competition run by the Royal Society of Biology (rsb.org.uk). It consists of an online 60-minute paper with questions on the topics covered in most general AS level biology courses but also rewards those students, whose knowledge of the subject has been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes and taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest. Over 14000 students from 700 schools worldwide had participated this year.

The following Reading School students achieved awards (a Gold award places them in the top 5%, a silver top 15% and bronze top 30% of students who participated this year):

Nikolaos A	Gold
Aadith C	Gold
Aaryan K	Gold
Thomas L	Gold
Yaman E	Gold
Ayaan K	Gold
Alessandro M	Silver
Jonathan H	Silver
Advay C	Silver
Rohan N	Silver
Tom B	Silver
Affan I	Silver
Pranav A	Silver
Andrei M	Silver
Anish M	Silver
Rohan R	Silver
Bharath K-R	Silver
Joseph M	Silver
Ashmaan K	Silver
Sam S	Bronze
Maulik A	Bronze
Aarav N	Bronze
Ashran S-B	Bronze
Ed L	Bronze
Aki G	Bronze
Azaan A	Bronze
Arav T	Bronze
Tarith A	Bronze
Aryan G	Bronze
Suresh K	Bronze
Malik R	Bronze

Biology Challenge Award Winners 2023

Year 9 and 10 Biology

Congratulations to Year 9 and 10 Biologists who achieved an impressive **45 Gold, 32 Silver and 81 Bronze awards in the 2023 Biology Challenge** run by the Royal Society of Biology. 41,000 students from 550 schools worldwide had participated this year. To achieve a Gold award a score of 87% was required this was awarded to the top 5% of participants. The competition consisted of two, twenty-five-minute multiple choice papers to be taken online under staff supervised exam conditions. Questions were set on the school curriculum, but the competition also rewards those students whose knowledge of the subject has been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes, taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest, and are generally aware of our natural flora and fauna.

[Biology Challenge – UKBC \(ukbiologycompetitions.org\)](http://ukbiologycompetitions.org)

The Biology Challenge stimulates students' curiosity for the natural world and encourages them to take an interest in biology outside of school.

Aaryen L	Aradhya G	Conor K	Isaac L	Justin G
Akshith A	Aryan K	Darshan L	Jaden L	Kushh M
Alan T	Avi S	Elliot P	James T	Michael S
Alexandru M	Ben H	Henry H	Joel A-P	Muneeb
Andy C	Benjamin L	Isaac H	Joseph R	Neil C
Noah H	Raphael N	Ryan Chen	Theodore Y	
Parth G	Richard M	Sainath Jasti	Tristan S	
Pranav N	Ritesh S	Satyam K	Vighnesh U	
Rabin D	Rithwick J	Soham G D	Vivaan C	
Raghav N-S	Rujul N	Srujan B	Zihan Z	

Excellence in Languages

Modern Foreign Languages Plays by Onatti

This year our students were very lucky to attend plays in German, French and Spanish.

After a very successful German play in April, on Friday 7 July our Year 9 and 10 students were privileged to watch a Spanish play by Onatti. The French play will take place in November.

The two Spanish actors were fantastic and performed entirely in Spanish, whilst still being accessible for GCSE level - and very funny too! The play was about "el primer día en la universidad", the first day at uni, and the struggle to make friends.

On Monday 10 July, our Year 7 students all enjoyed a French play about a boy skiing in France who was getting lost in translation quite a bit... All our students had a brilliant time and loved interacting with the actors.

If you have not done so yet, a £5 contribution would be very much appreciated. In order to do this, please visit My Child At School and find "French play", "German play" or "Spanish play" under "products". The payment link has been re-opened so if you try again you should find it. We could not run these events without the support of all parents so thank you to all who have contributed already.

Thank you to Mme Fondu for organising. Very well done to all the boys who joined the actors on stage and thank you again to Onatti for this great event!









Belonging & Community

Future Stories Maths Mentoring Sessions



This week marked the last Future Stories Maths mentor sessions for this academic year. Since the Michaelmas term over seventy Year 12 Students, led by Mrs C Heston and Mrs L Dimmick, have been running weekly mentor sessions in Maths with pupils from local primary schools. These sessions have involved Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils from English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, Geoffrey Fields Junior School, Whitely Park Primary School, Battle Primary Academy, Moorlands Primary School and Katesgrove Primary School.



During the sessions these Year 12 students have been fantastic ambassadors for Reading School. The time, effort and commitment that they have put into their role as mentors over the past 8 months has been outstanding, and they have had an extremely positive impact on the pupils that they have worked with.



A huge thank you to all of the Year 12 students that have been involved with Future Stories Maths mentoring this year. Without you Future Stories would not succeed.

"I loved being part of Future Stories this year and it was incredibly rewarding to see my pupil's skills develop throughout the year. I had the chance to be part of many different areas of the programme, mentoring 1 to 1, and in larger groups, as well as visiting a local primary school in person. I can't wait to remain involved with this fantastic programme next year!" Sam J, Year 12 Future Stories Prefect.

"Future Stories has continued to be a success for all students involved this year. The expansion and awareness have stood out to me, both inside and outside of the school. This year, some other year 12s and I have had the chance to speak to many external visitors: The Department for Education, The Kern Family Foundation, The Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues and teachers from other grammar schools in the south-east. I am looking forward to expanding the flourishing programme next year." Benji F, Year 12 Future Stories Prefect.



Reading School is a School of Sanctuary



Last Tuesday 4th July we were delighted to host the Appraisal Team from Reading City of Sanctuary to assess Reading School against the criteria for the School of Sanctuary award which we have been working towards.

We are delighted to announce the Appraisal Team have awarded us School of Sanctuary status and confirmed that we met or exceeded all of the criteria. This makes us the very first School of Sanctuary in Reading.

Becoming a School of Sanctuary confirms our commitment to the Learn, Embed, Share vision:

- **Learn** – To raise awareness about what it means to be seeking sanctuary
- **Embed** – To take positive actions to embed concepts of welcome, safety and belonging within the school community, including in school practice, provision and culture. To take steps to ensure these steps remain sustainable into the future
- **Share** – To share our vision and what we have learnt with the school community, other schools and local community. Working in partnership with people, organisations and intuitions in the wider community to build a culture of welcome that extends beyond the school gates.

A final quote from the appraisal team: "Becoming a School of Sanctuary is not an easy task, and requires a whole school effort and requires going above and beyond statutory requirements - and Reading School has provided an exceptional example of what being a School of Sanctuary is all about"

Thank you to all the school staff, students and parents who have helped to organise and participate in our efforts this year. Thank you also to the staff at Reading Refugee Support Group for their invaluable guidance when shaping our plans this year.

Year 8 Charity Fundraising

This term Y8 Floreat classes have been exploring the virtues of service and volunteering including delving into research around the benefits of being involved in charitable activities and sharpening their leadership and teamwork skills. This work has culminated in a range of fundraising projects for a range of local and national charities. These projects have included charity sports events, bake sales, car washes, raffles, topical quizzes and even haircuts! Y8 have currently raised over £2500 for charities including: Smile Train, Cancer Research UK, WWF, UNICEF Ukraine Appeal, Free Kicks association and the Berkshire Red Cross. Many thanks to all the students, staff and parents who have made donations to these projects.

Local Community



Aarav R, 7W had the opportunity to participate in the hosting of Quincy AS team at a football tournament in Twyford. Quincy and Twyford have been twinned since 2018, with the aim to foster friendship and understanding and to promote cultural, sporting and professional links between citizens. The Rt Hon Theresa May MP for Maidenhead, and our Ex-Prime Minister, was the special guest. Aarav was very happy to meet and greet Twyford's MP.

Section 10 Consultation – Surrey Maths School

Learning Partners Academy Trust alongside University of Surrey is proposing to open a new selective school for 16-19-year olds, Surrey Maths School, in September 2024. The school is set to serve students from Surrey, Sussex, Berkshire, Hampshire and London. During this pre-opening phase, we are required to undertake a consultation exercise, under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 which will determine whether the trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education. Further information can be found here: <https://www.surreymathsschool.co.uk/153/section-10-consultation>

RSPA

RSPA 2023 Summer Fayre

The RSPA hosted the first Summer Fayre for 4 years last Sunday and it was a resounding success.

The sun chased away any chances of bad weather and there was a relaxed and happy atmosphere.

We saw lots of recognisable faces from the Reading school family plus people from the community with prospective and confirmed future student families.

The amount of raised funds towards the benches is currently being totalled, but we're pleased to say that incoming numbers are looking very positive.

We'd like to say a huge Thank You to the Reading School Events team and the Sports faculty for all their help and support plus all our parent volunteers who ran the stalls on the day.

Also, a huge shout out to the student volunteers who displayed unrivalled positive attitudes and ethics, this includes the students from 8C who petitioned the RSPA and successfully ran a stall for their chosen charity The WWF.

We look forward to having more successes with our fundraising in the future, and we hope that everyone has a wonderful summer.

School Lottery



Win an amazing **£500 Lego E-Gift Card** when you support your school this July. This fantastic prize is great for all the family – for fans of Star Wars, Harry Potter, Marvel, and so much more! Build Hogwarts, the Colosseum, Rivendell, or a Ferrari – the choice is yours! Get tickets for Your School Lottery **before Saturday 29th July** to be in with a chance to win this awesome prize!

Get your lottery tickets today by using [this link](#).

2nd Hand Uniform Sale

The Second-Hand Uniform Shop volunteers would like to say thank you for all the kind donations that were sent in for the three Uniform Sales this week.

We have raised **over £1000** and kitted out many new Y7s ready for September.

The shop is open on the following days in the school holidays:

- **Friday 28th July** 10.30am to 12.30pm
- **Saturday 29th July** 10.30am to 12.30pm
- **Friday 1st September** 10.30am to 12.30pm
- **Saturday 2nd September** 10.30am to 12.30pm

Hope to see you there, either buying or dropping off donations.

Year 10 Tutor Group Photos

From Kerry Kingston

These last couple of months I have been organising a trial project in order to raise much needed funds for the RSPA School benches Fundraiser, which I'm sure many of you will be familiar with from RSPA communications. I have organised a photo for each year 10 tutor group in partnership with the School and School photographer.

It has been so successful and has far exceeded my expectations, but I know many of the year 10 parents will still not be aware of this. All the funds raised will go back to the School and so we will all benefit from it.

Here are some details:

Photos are available for just £7 for a 6" by 8" print or £15 for an A4. Both in matt finish.

They are lovely pictures taken with the school in the background and I have sample images which can be viewed in advance.

For further information, please contact me at kerryobrien2004@yahoo.co.uk.

Please indicate your name and the name of your son's house. I can have photos printed and ready for collection by the end of the week. Collection from student services.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Many thanks for all your support

Join the RSPA

We are currently looking for some new members to join our team. The RSPA plays such a vital role in assisting the School, its parents and carers and above all the children. It's a great way to meet people and have real input into how we can improve the Reading School experience for your children.

Over the years our work has provided, amongst other things, the MUGA (Multi-Use-Games-Area), the LRC (Learning Resource Area) Canopy, Minibuses, Chemistry Lab Equipment, Laptops, Textbooks, Gym Equipment and most recently our new Cricket Nets.

We have also provided many social opportunities for people to get to know each other and have fun.

We NEED your help though. It doesn't matter what experience or skills you have. If you have a little time and interest, then there is always something you can do.

We would love to hear from you, contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk

We wish everyone a very happy summer break and are sending good wishes to all students receiving public exam results.

The RSPA Team













Summer Term – Week 13

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



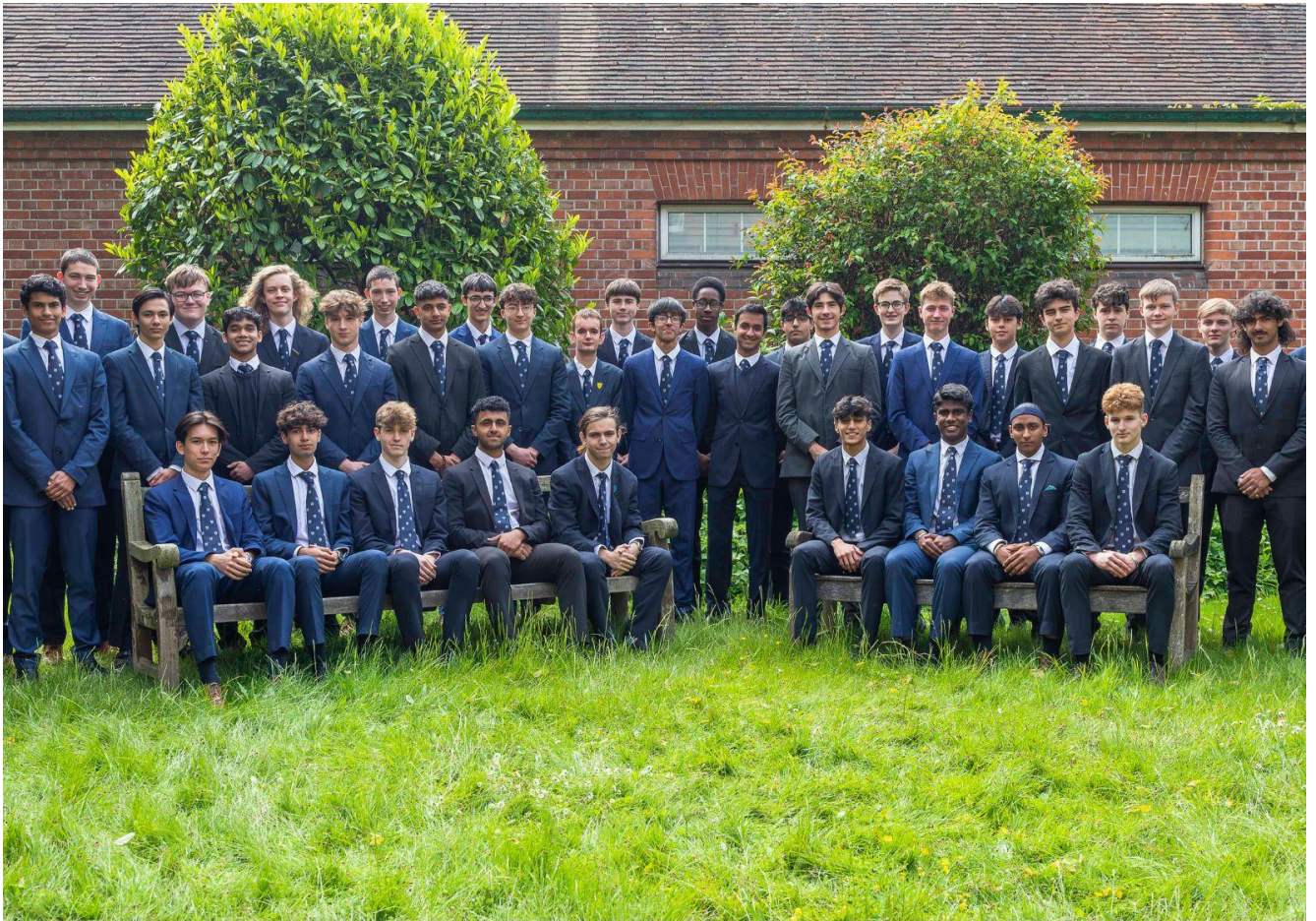
A retrospective of Summer Term 2023

'Kabaddi' Elective – sports from around the world





Reading School Prefect and House Captain Team 2023

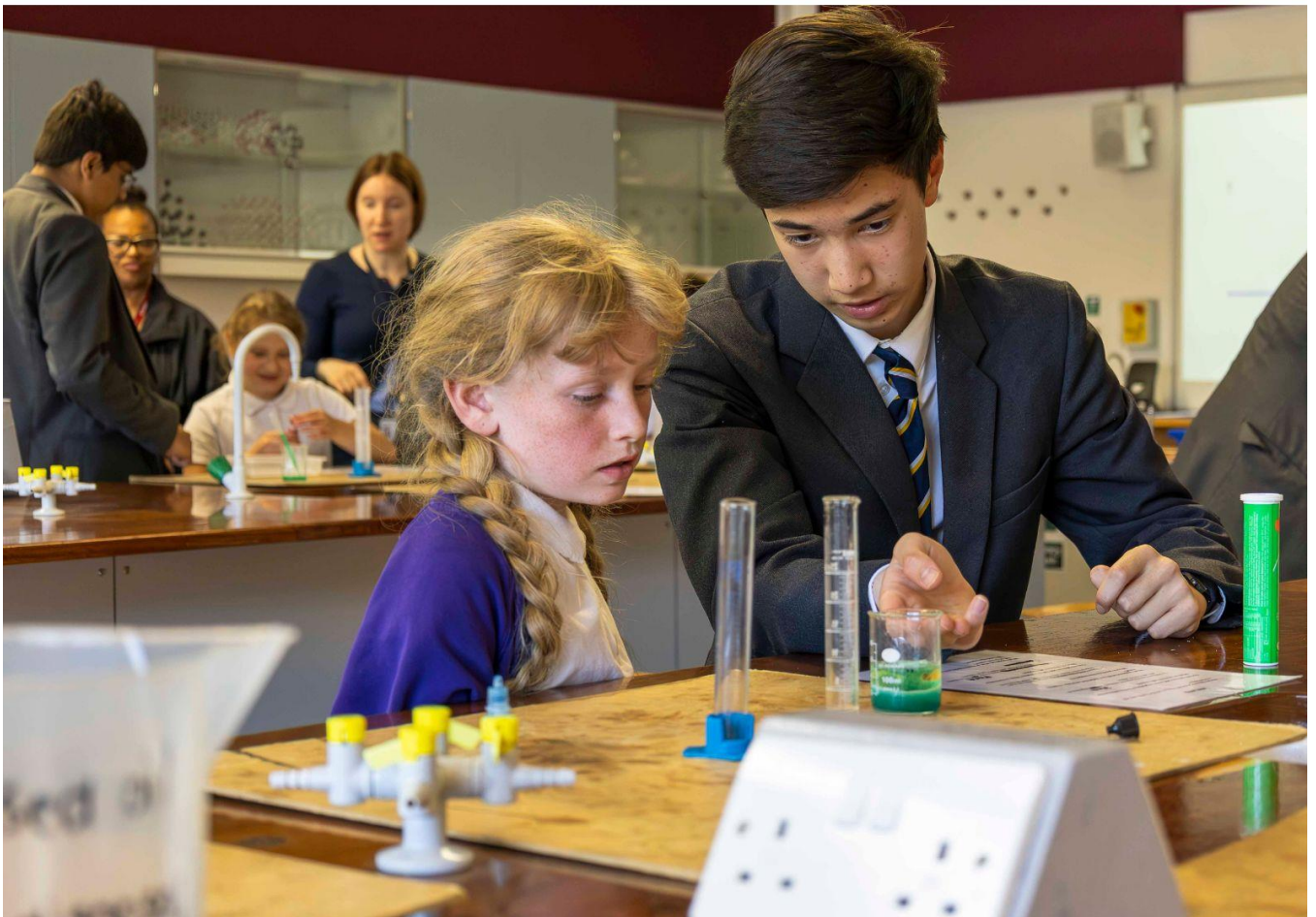


Class of 2022





Year 10 Future Stories Mentors – 'Science & Me'









Ancient Olympics – ‘Pentanque’





Table Tennis sessions during Belonging Week





Belonging Week – ‘Festivals Day’





Belonging Week – Ancient Olympics Session





House Cricket Tournament during Belonging Week



Festival of Belonging for Year 7s





Reddam House, South Africa vs Reading School







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