



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

29 SEPTEMBER 2023



Contents

Introduction	3
Key information	4
All years	4
English as a second language	4
Safeguarding	4
Year 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 only	4
DofE sign-up is now open	4
Current Vacancies	6
Associate Staff Vacancies	6
Excellence, Belonging & Community	7
Excellence in Medicine	7
Belonging & Community	8
Learning Resource Centre (LRC)	8
Inspire Lecture 2023	9
Sporting Fixtures	10
RSPA	11
Lottery update	11
Year 7 Disco & Welcome Event	11
2nd Hand Uniform Shop	11
RSPA AGM	12
Michaelmas Term – Week 4	13

Introduction



A culture of philanthropy, service and giving back. All features of a culture of commitment and human flourishing at Reading School. In our manifesto we state that we are committed to a purpose-driven culture and viewing leadership as service, while our core values include integrity and community. It is heartening when we see these words turned into actions. Our cultural model should include a commitment to building an organisation where doing good and doing well coincide. Culture is what happens between people. Where people do the best they can, where they are, with what they have got. Our whole school community effort in support of the Macmillan Coffee morning on Thursday 28 September, was an inspirational example of collaboration. Crucially, the event would not have been possible without the support of the Society Office, Mrs J Chhokar, Mrs Esther Chong, Sixth Form helpers, our Catering and Estates Team.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your incredible support during the event where we welcomed Year 7 and new Year 12 parents to Reading School. Your kindness and generosity made the event a tremendous success, and we were thrilled to announce that we not only met but exceeded our target of raising £500 for this excellent cause. As of today, collectively the school has raised over £900 through your kind donations.

The warm, collaborative, community spirit shared during the morning made it a truly memorable occasion. It is encouraging to see our school community come together for such a worthwhile endeavour. My favourite cake was the Earl Grey and raspberry, while others preferred the Maltesers cheesecake.

Thank you also to School Captain, Josha G for his speech on his journey through Reading School which gave our parents and grandparents an insight into all the possibilities for our students, whether they join in Year 7 or Year 12. Thank you to our student prefects and ambassadors, Freddie S (13BSA), Yash S (13RC), Yusef Z (12KY), Declan C (13AC), Maaz S (13MK), Kamran S (13JTE), Harry C (13MJK), Jonathan Hall (13MRC) and Jack L (13JTE) in supporting the event. It was excellent to witness how they embraced the opportunity to make our newest members of the Redingensian community feel most welcome by sharing their personal experiences. They can be viewed as cultural architects, people who promote the required behaviours and attitudes and thus have a positive cultural impact.

In addition to parental contributions, our staff and students were also actively engaged in various cake and coffee activities throughout the day to further boost our fundraising efforts. Their enthusiasm and dedication have been inspiring, and we're excited to see the positive impact we can make together. Thank you to Charity Prefect, Yaman E (13EF) and the charity committee for all their support in selling cakes at lunch times.

The total amount raised will make a significant difference in supporting the vital work that Macmillan Cancer Support does. Macmillan have been supporting cancer sufferers and their families for over 100 years. Most importantly, they treat people as individuals, not patients.

If you would still like to donate and have not had a chance, please click here to donate: [Will you donate to Coffee Morning?](#)

Mr A M Robson
Headmaster

Key information

All years

English as a second language

As part of our commitment to inclusion at Reading School, we are asking students or parents and carers of students with English as an additional language (EAL), to self-declare how well they can understand and use English.

Definition of EAL

EAL means another language is spoken at home.

Information requested

Please inform us if another language is spoken at home, as well as your child's proficiency in English, across 5 bands for: Listening, Speaking, Reading & Viewing, Writing by [completing this online form](#).

Why

Correct identification of English as an Additional Language (EAL) will help us to support students in the best way so that they may achieve their potential.

Further help

If you need help interpreting the [online form](#), have any concerns, would like to amend your child's EAL status, or would like to discuss further support please contact Miss Lizzie Ayres by emailing layres@reading-school.co.uk

Safeguarding

Online Safety Information Session

Parents and carers are invited to join a free online session on Wednesday 4 October 2023 from 4pm till 4.45pm, which shares information about how to keep your child safe online, parental controls, current trends and further support.

There is no sign up required and to access the session on Wednesday 4 October at 4pm, [please click here](#).

Year 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 only

DofE sign-up is now open



As previously communicated, signing up for the DofE Award opens from today and students in Years 9 - 13 have been sent further information.

Students in Years 9 & 10 can now sign up for Bronze. Any student that has completed the award can sign up for Silver. All students are responsible for completing the sign-up form. The dates of available expeditions are detailed below. Participants should be aware that there is a £90 cost for registration and a separate charge for expeditions which are run by our approved provider.

To register, students have been asked to follow the link sent to them and complete the form by Friday 13 October. Please note, places are not first come first served.

Financial support may be provided to students in receipt of Pupil Premium and parents should submit a Reading Promise claim form, [available on the school website](#) if required.

Confirmed Expedition Dates 2023-24

Bronze Training

28 March 2024: 09:00 - 16:00

Start & End Location - Reading School

Bronze Practical Training

10 May 2024 - 11 May 2024: 18:00 - 16:00

Start Location – Longridge, SL7 1RE

End Location - Lane End Car Park, Handleton Common, HP14 3ES

Campsite – Longridge, SL7 1RE

Bronze Qualifying Expedition

19 July 2024 - 20 July 2024: 09:00 - 16:00

Start Location - Lane End Car Park, Handleton Common, HP14 3ES

Camp – Pheasant Hill, RG9 6SD

Silver Training

29 January 2024: 09:00 - 16:00

Start & End Location – Reading School

Silver Practice

28 March 2024 - 30 March 2024: 09:00 - 16:00

Start & End Location - Link Road Car Park, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, HP16 9AE

Campsite 1 - Braid Wood Scout Campsite, HP5 2UU

Campsite 2 - Corner Farm, HP16 9NP

Silver Qualifying Expedition

7 July 2024 - 9 July 2024: 09:00 - 16:00

Location TBC

Current Vacancies

Teacher Vacancies

Teacher of Mathematics - [click here](#) for further details.

Associate Staff Vacancies

Finance Officer - [click here](#) for further details.

Catering Assistant - [click here](#) for further details.

Excellence, Belonging & Community

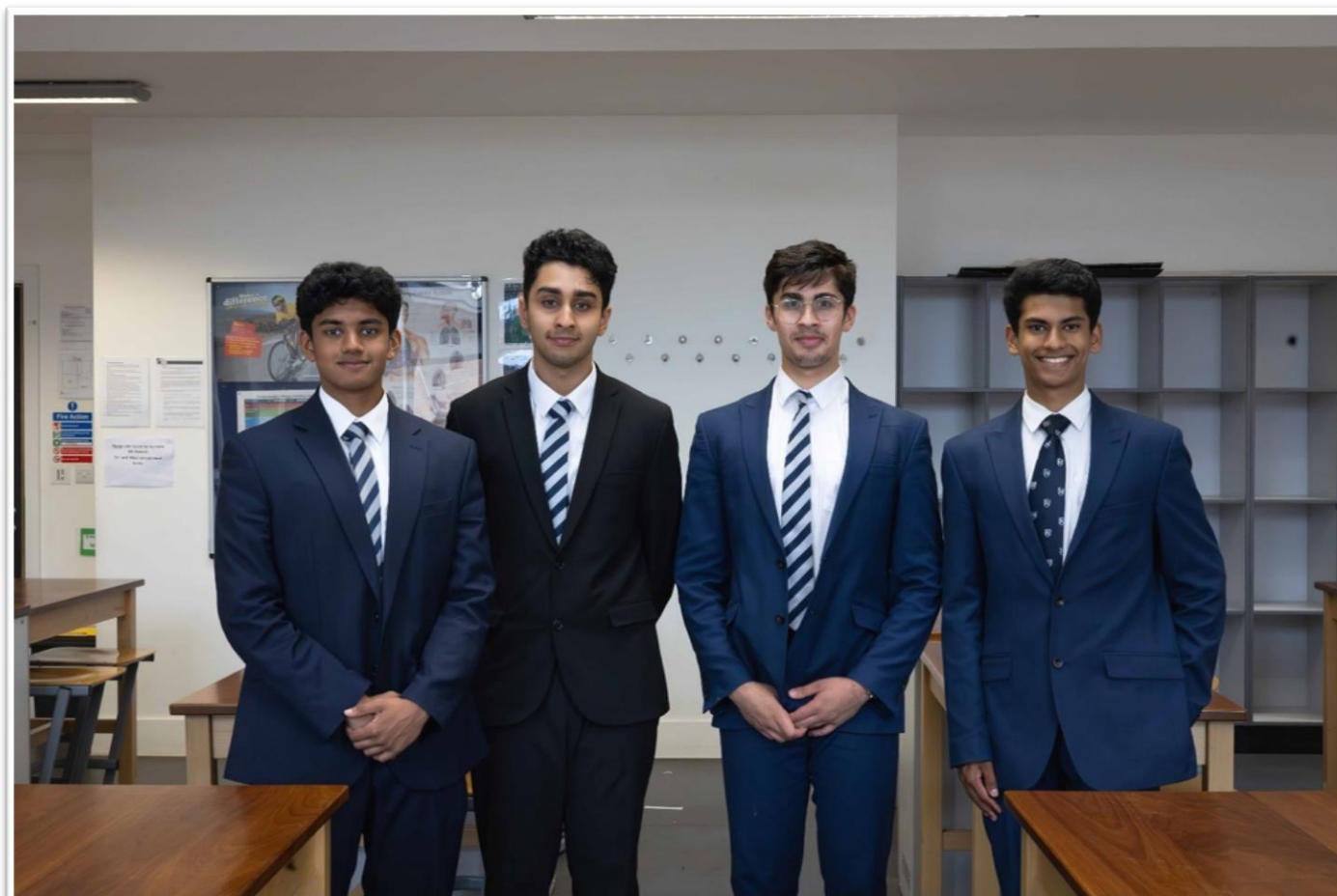
Excellence in Medicine

Good luck to our Reading School Team who took part this week in the annual Imperial College [‘Science in Medicine School Teams Prize’](#) finals event. According to Imperial College London, the aim of the competition, which is open to sixth form students, “is to stretch beyond the school curriculum, think outside the bubble of traditional biomedical fields and learn about the excitement of research.” The Reading School cohort, led by Teacher of Biology, Ms J Pickering, competed against nine other schools in the ‘Scleroderma and Raynauds UK Prize’ category which asked teams to prepare an ePoster with a novel vision on how to promote the health and wellbeing of individuals with [Scleroderma](#) and/or Raynaud’s.

After speaking with Maulik A (13L) earlier this week, he shared:

“Our concept for the Imperial Science in Medicine competition is ‘HeatBeat’ - an innovative thermal sock equipped with electric heating and light-based sensors. The design is aimed at alleviating Raynaud’s phenomenon, a condition that affects blood circulation in extremities. Our team’s effort and creativity were acknowledged, and we were chosen as finalists after a review by a panel of experts. In the final stage, we had the opportunity to present our product to a diverse audience of medical specialists. It was a challenging task considering the tough competition, but we effectively showcased our unique and feasible idea. I am immensely grateful to my teammates, Chanuka, Azaan, and Tarith, who contributed their expertise and dedication to this project. Our collaboration has been fruitful, and we eagerly anticipate the results of the competition, knowing we’ve all gained valuable experiences from this journey.”

From left to right, Tarith A (13L), Maulik A (13L), Azaan A (13S) and Chanuka W (13L)



Belonging & Community

Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

Poetry on the Stairs



We will be celebrating National Poetry Day on Thursday 5 October with our much-loved annual Poetry on the Stairs event. During Junior and Senior lunch, staff and pupils are all invited to recite poetry on the stairs in the LRC. Prizes will be given for passion and performance.

This event has been organised by Deputy Head Pupil Librarian Sid M (12L) with support from the Pupil Librarian Team.

Prizes will include Amazon gift cards.

Could you be Reading School's new Poet Laureate?



The Poet Laureate has been a tradition in the UK since 1668 when the first poet Laureate was appointed by the Monarch to write verse for significant national occasions. Poets such as William Wordsworth, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Carol Ann Duffy and Ted Hughes have all held the position; Simon Armitage is the current Poet Laureate for the nation.

Applications for the post of Reading School's Poet Laureate has been open for any student across our school community from Year 7 up to (and including) Year 13. The position will be for a fixed term of one academic year serving from October 2023 to July 2024.

The Reading School Poet Laureate will be expected to write at least one poem every half-term that is shared with the whole school community. Poems may be linked to school, local or national events; current affairs; or be on a topic that the poet wishes to explore. There is opportunity and scope in this position for the Poet Laureate to become involved in school-wide poetry initiatives, including National Poetry Day activities, as well as our creative writing clubs.

If you would like to apply for this position, please write a poem based around the theme of 'Voice'.

All poems should be no more than a page of A4 and submitted via email to Ms Peoples by emailing speoples@reading-school.co.uk. The closing date for applications is Monday 2 October.

Harry Potter Book Quiz

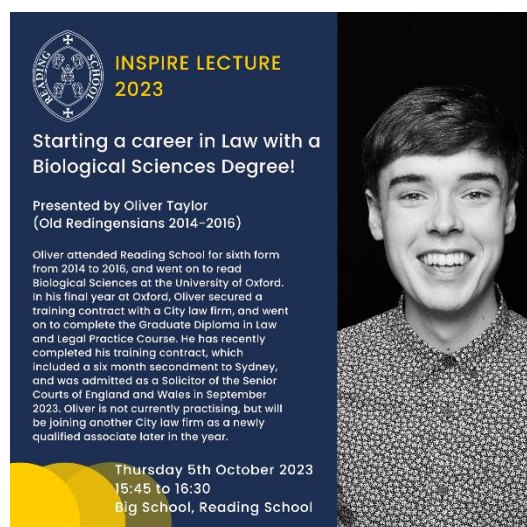
Our popular Harry Potter Book Quiz will take place in Big School on Tuesday 10 of October. It will start promptly at 4.30pm and will end at 6pm. We have invited students from The Abbey School to join us, making this our first cross-school book quiz. Here's what you need to know:

- You can participate in teams of up to four (you will need to agree on a team name before booking)
- Booking is essential and [every member of your team must complete this booking form](#)
- Arrival time in Big School is 4.15pm with the quiz starting promptly at 4.30pm.
- The quiz will finish by 6pm.

There are mega magical prizes to be won and you will receive an email by Monday 9 October to confirm your place, so please check your student email.

If you have any questions please email lkeSTEVEN@reading-school.co.uk

Inspire Lecture 2023



Starting a career in Law with a Biological Sciences Degree!

By Oliver Taylor (OR 2016)

Date: Thursday 5 October 2023

Time: 15.45 to 16.30

Location: Big School at Reading School

Students are invited to hear from Oliver Taylor (OR 2016).

Oliver attended Reading School for sixth form from 2014 to 2016, and went on to read Biological Sciences at the University of Oxford. In his final year at Oxford, Oliver secured a training contract with a City law firm, and went on to complete the Graduate Diploma in Law and Legal Practice Course. He has recently completed his training

contract, which included a six-month secondment to Sydney, and was admitted as a Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales in September 2023. Oliver is not currently practising, but will be joining another City law firm as a newly qualified associate later in the year.

Students can click to RSVP for attendance – you do not need to create an online profile just continue as “guest” when registering:

[Inspire Lecture by Oliver Taylor \(OR 2016\) - A career in Law with a Biological Sciences Degree! | Events | Reading School Alumni Society \(reading-school.co.uk\)](#)

Any queries please email Mrs J Chhokar or Mrs E Chong in the Society Office at events@reading-school.co.uk

Sporting Fixtures

Tuesday 3 October

Cross Country Year 7 - 9 Blue Coat School 4pm

Rugby Year 7A v Willink (away) Year 7B v Bohunt/Prospect (home) 4pm

Rugby Year 11 v Bohunt (away) 4pm

Football Year9B National Cup v John Hampden (away) 2.30pm

Wednesday 4 October

Rugby Year8A v Highdown (away) Year8B v JMA (home) 4pm

Rugby Year10 v Willink (away) 4pm

Rugby 1stXV v Salesians (home) 2.30pm

Thursday 5 October

Rugby Year9 v Forest (away) 4pm

Football Year8B National Cup v Kennet (away) 2.30pm

Friday 6 October

Football Year9 National Cup v Weydon (home) 2.30

Rugby Year7 and 8 Abbey RFC Tournament 3.30pm

RSPA

Lottery update

It's time to believe in magic again as [The Super Draw](#) is here... and the prizes are BIGGER and BETTER than ever!

Enjoy this September's Last Weekend with a big Super Draw prize.

An amazing Harry Potter double prize bundle - a Family trip to the Warner Bros Studio Tour, AND 4 tickets to see Harry Potter and the Cursed Child at the Palace Theatre.

This new Super Draw gives you the exciting ways to play – instead of committing to weekly tickets, you can choose just to buy tickets for the Super Draw week, meaning more flexibility and less commitment, whilst still supporting Reading School. Existing ticket holders can even choose to TOP-UP their tickets just for this weekend's draw.

Any ticket holder can invite their friends and family using their unique Referral Link and BOTH of you will get an entry into the exclusive £200 prize draw! There's no limit to the number of entries you can get, either - the more people you refer the more entries into the Draw.

Joining the lottery is very easy and one RSPA participant wins a guaranteed prize every Saturday night. Tickets cost £1 each can be bought as a one- off or on a regular basis. It's easy to buy a ticket, all you have to do is [click on this link](#).

Year 7 Disco & Welcome Event

The RSPA are delighted to invite all Year 7 students, parents and carers to a Welcome Event at the School on Friday, 17 November 7pm - 8.30pm. You can purchase tickets now by scanning the QR code on the attached flyer or by [clicking on this link](#).

Please don't delay, tickets sell out fast! The children are invited to attend a disco being held in the Refectory, whilst parents and carers are invited to join the RSPA in Big School for refreshments. It's a great opportunity for Year 7 parents/carers to learn how they can be more involved with the School and meet other parents, whilst the students are enjoying the disco. We hope to see as many Year 7s there as possible.

2nd Hand Uniform Shop

The 2nd Hand Uniform Shop will be open on the following dates:

- Friday 13 October 3.30pm-5pm*
- Saturday 14 October 10.30am- 12.30pm

*Please note the later start time on Friday. Buyers will not be admitted on site before the end of the school day.

Please come along to purchase blazers, trousers, shirts, base layers, rugby boots, trainers, outdoor coats and more at the Shop.

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

- On Friday 13 October buyers are not allowed to drive onto site, access is via the pedestrian gates only.

- On Saturday 14 October 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 and we look forward to seeing you there.

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
- KS3, GCSE or A level study guides and revision books

Donations can be sent into reception in a bag marked 'Uniform Donations' or handed in at the next opening.

RSPA AGM

We are delighted to invite you all to our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 18th October. Further details regarding time and location will follow shortly.

At this meeting, the current trustees will stand down. Some will stand for re-election but we are looking for some new members to become involved with the committee. There are so many ways in which you can become involved depending on your interests and available time. You can view our current roles [by clicking here](#).

If there is any aspect of our organisation that you would like to have a no obligation chat about, please do not hesitate to email contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk

We wish you all a lovely weekend!

The RSPA Team

Michaelmas Term – Week 4

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



Reading School 2nd XV vs Salesians College





On Thursday, new Year 7 and Year 12 parents were invited to a special coffee, tea and cake morning hosted by Headmaster, Mr A Robson, in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. Parents got to hear some personal stories, why the school was supporting the charity, along with, of course, enjoying lots of cake and refreshments with thanks to Reading School's Catering Team.

















Mrs Esther Chong (Alumni and Development Assistant), Mrs Jas Chhokar (Society Manager) and Mrs Sophy Rogers (Head of Student Support & Teacher of Classics)





Thank you to all our Sixth Form helpers who included: Freddie S, Kamran S, Josha G (pictured above) Yash S, Maaz S, Harry C, Yusef Z, Declan C and Jonathan H.

Future Stories

This Wednesday, our Year 11 Maths mentors delivered their first session to Year 6 pupils from St Mary's and All Saints Primary School, led by Reading School's Transition Officer & Future Stories Primary School Liaison, Mrs L Dimmick.



We have observed that children bond quickly with their mentors during the 1:1 mentoring sessions as they are supported with clear explanations of mathematical concepts, using whiteboards to model methods in order to help children secure their understanding.



If you would like to find out more about our partnerships with local primary schools or about the future Stories programme, please contact Mrs Louise Dimmick by emailing ldimmick@reading-school.co.uk



Y10 Elective 'Make Do and Mend'

Lost art or life-skill? Living in a modern world that is heavily reliant on technology, Mr S Till tasked students with stitching their initials into their sock to practise various stitch techniques. What skills does sewing require and develop? Patience, focus, concentration and creativity.



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