



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

10 MAY 2024

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Introduction

Dear Students, Carers, Parents and Staff,

Yesterday I had the privilege of attending one of the best dramatic productions I have ever seen.

Produced in collaboration with The Abbey School and led by Head of Drama, Mr Sandiford and his counterpart at The Abbey, Miss Friend, Year 7 - 9 students [performed a stage adaptation of Emil and the Detectives](#). It was a joy to witness such creativity and imagination and to see a delightful story brought so powerfully to life.

My thanks go to Lucas Y (7E), Ewan H (9E), Henry R (9E), Oscar Z (9W), Edward Y (9W), Thomas O (8S), Rowan A (9C), Nathaniel J (9L), Daniel K (8S), Andrii P (8C), Jacob W (9C), Bhargav B (7W), and Grigory V (8E).

Creativity is fundamental to human society and essential to human purpose. From ochre hand paintings, to enchanting symphonies, when we create, we commentate on and reconsider, the parameters of our own reality and our interaction with the world.

As a school, we are convinced that nurturing creativity is an imperative. It is a fear of mine that economic pressures and social expectations are leading young people to withdraw from creative pursuits. This year, for example, we have seen our lowest-ever uptake of creative GCSE options from Year 8 pupils.

We'd like to do all we can to address this imbalance, lest society becomes increasingly short of poets, artists, and thinkers whose perspective provides wisdom, whose creations provoke thought, and whose talents provide much needed inspiration. We aspire to be a community where creative use of words and rhythm; stage and sculpture are no less valued than the analysis of bytes or the balancing of equations. We hope to send our students into the world with the ability to both evaluate and imagine, and with no less confidence regarding performance than calculation.

Perhaps you would join us in thinking about what society would be like if it was shaped exclusively by algorithms, if our architecture was driven only by functionality and if our sources of stimuli were always monochrome. Should such be needed, maybe it is school plays, concerts and exhibitions that are the antidote to this sort of world.

I hope you will enjoy a commentary on this very issue in the form of a poem from 1911, by James Elroy Flecker:

To a Poet a Thousand Years Hence

I who am dead a thousand years,
And wrote this sweet archaic song,
Send you my words for messengers
The way I shall not pass along.

I care not if you bridge the seas,
Or ride secure the cruel sky,
Or build consummate palaces

Of metal or of masonry.

But have you wine and music still,
And statues and a bright-eyed love,
And foolish thoughts of good and ill,
And prayers to them who sit above?

How shall we conquer? Like a wind
That falls at eve our fancies blow,
And old Mæonides the blind
Said it three thousand years ago.

O friend unseen, unborn, unknown,
Student of our sweet English tongue,
Read out my words at night, alone:
I was a poet, I was young.

Since I can never see your face,
And never shake you by the hand,
I send my soul through time and space
To greet you. You will understand.

Wishing you all a restful weekend ahead.

Chris Evans
Headmaster



Key information

Current Vacancies

Do you know a talented individual who would like to join and be part of an exciting and leading educational institution? Below is a selection of teaching and associate staff roles currently available:

Pastoral Manager – for more details, [please click here](#).

Teacher of Chemistry – for more details, [please click here](#).

Cover Supervisor/Cover Teacher - for more details, [please click here](#).

Head of Modern Foreign Languages (TLR 2b) - for more details, [please click here](#).

Teacher of French - for more details, [please click here](#).

School Community News

Enterprising young minds

The Social Enterprise Hub was created by The Abbey School in partnership with Henley Business School and Reading School in 2022. The project aimed to allow mixed teams of sixth formers to create social enterprises under the guidance and support of entrepreneurs and lecturers from Henley Business School. All students were provided with a valuable 8-month long project during which time they received hands-on, practical and real-world experience in entrepreneurship, business management, teamwork and problem-solving. The project has grown since its inception to allow more teams of students to collaborate in order to create a social enterprise that prioritises people, planet and profit.

On Tuesday 7 May, this year's cohort gathered at The Meadow Suite, University of Reading to present their final pitches to a panel of judges made up of staff members from The Abbey School, Henley Business School and Reading School. Due to the quality of pitches made, a record number of teams this year received provisional funding to bring their ideas to life and we would like to thank each and every team member for their commitment to the project.



Laura T, Anirudh V, Lucy C, Dhruv D, Olivia A, Zak I, Niska P, Gaurav K, Liza R, Aarav A, Sarah V, Matthias C, Mahi K, James T, Aarini G, Armaan C, Avani C, Kanishk K, Kelly L, Aarush V, Jasmine I, Shlok K, Nia W, Milan G, Zaara M, Freeman C, Prachi K, Parth K and Chaaya G.

James T, whose team received a provisional offer of £1,000 to launch their enterprise shared:

“The Social Enterprise Project has provided a fantastic opportunity for cross-school collaboration, and for all students involved to actively participate in planning to advance positive social change in our local area. We were pleased to pitch our Social Enterprise, 'mindFULL', together with five exceptional teammates, to the judges at the University of Reading on Tuesday 7th. We were also very grateful to receive the ambitious £1000 investment that we initially requested and are now considering ways in which we can proceed to maximise the social impact of our business. It was a pleasure to work as part of a highly committed group of people, and I believe that the positive overall outcome is indicative not of the work of individuals, but of our sustained, collective effort, driven in working cohesively towards achieving our joint goal. We are incredibly grateful to Mr Singh, Miss Stratford, and Mr Lovibond for facilitating this process, as well as the staff and mentors from the Henley Business School and University of Reading.”

We look forward to sharing details of the launch of the 2024-2025 Social Enterprise Hub Project later this year.

Take Back the Night

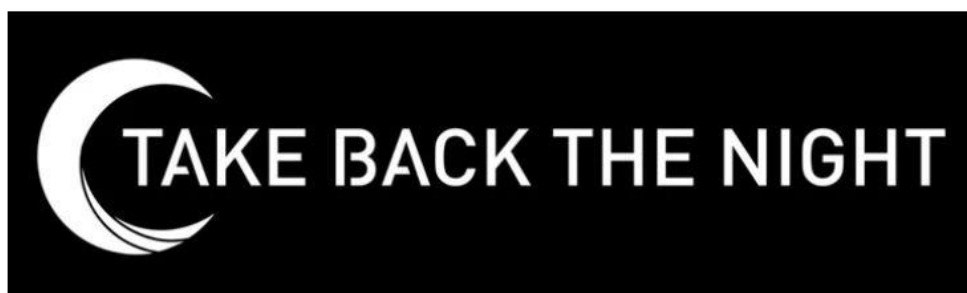


School captain, Josha G (13MRC) spoke at a recent international conference, [Take Back the Night Global Virtual Event](#), the oldest worldwide movement that stands against sexual violence and harm and which aims to end all forms of violence and harm. Josha shared his views of taking part in the event:

“On Thursday 25 April, I had the privilege of speaking at the Global Virtual 2024 Conference for the Take Back the Night Foundation. It was an incredibly fulfilling event, where I had the chance to hear from survivors of sexual assault, volunteers and supporters. I shared my insights into issues of misogyny in single-sex education, collaborations with nearby girls’ schools, and my general experiences over the past seven years I’ve spent at Reading School.

It was eye-opening to hear not only the stories of some of the other panellists but also insights into the legal routes open to sexual assault victims, whether in Criminal or Civil Court. Presentations I resonated with were given in the form of poetry, where survivors shared their experiences in the form of carefully crafted words, and delivered them with poignant emotion.

I feel honoured to have been a part of the journey, I’m proud that the school, as an all-boys environment, combats harmful misconceptions and stands by victims of sexual assault, seen especially with the recent pledge for the White Ribbon Campaign, holding men and young boys accountable for standing up to violence against women. Even though I’ll be leaving the school this year, I look forward to seeing this support being continued for the coming years.”



Level up your reading

Reading is a fantastic way to relax during the exam period. If you are looking for something new to read that provides a bit more challenge either in terms of maturity or complexity, please [take a look at our "Level-Up" posters](#) created by the Learning Resource Centre team. We have taken the most borrowed LRC books this academic year and suggested books that you could try next. Each recommendation has been carefully chosen because it offers either more maturity or a step-up in complexity.

RSC Chemistry Olympiad

Congratulations to all students who took part in the [RSC Chemistry Olympiad](#). Designed to challenge and inspire, the UK Chemistry Olympiad is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field. Budding chemists develop critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations. The students sat this highly challenging paper and achieved an impressive 5 gold, 6 silver and 1 bronze awards.

Congratulations to Azaan A (13DAW), Maulik A (13FEH), Isaac B (13LDO), James B (13SP), Advay C (13MK), Jiewen G (13E), Alessandro M (13FEH), Rohan N (13FEH), James R (13ELA), Ben S-R (13LDO), Tom S-R (13DAW), Vivek S (13ZMC) for their achievement in this competition.



Future Stories – mentoring update

At the end of their role as Future Stories Prefects, Sam J (13DAW) and Benji F (13MD) have contributed a comprehensive update on the mentoring activities for Future Stories, Reading School's social mobility programme:

“As our time as Future Stories prefects comes to an end, we'd like to share with you the incredible achievements of the project this year. Over 1000 primary pupils have benefited from the programme, supported by over 140 Reading School mentors. More than 15 local primary schools have been involved in activities, both on and offsite, from Maths to Floreat. Here's an update on the Future Stories mentoring activities so far this year.



After School Maths and English Mentoring Sessions (Lent Term)

Monday 25 March marked the last of five after-school mentoring sessions run by Future Stories. Over 30 Year 5 pupils from 12 local primary schools attended Reading School to take part in sessions focusing on Maths and English topics, which supported their KS2 learning. The Year 5 pupils were nominated to attend by Future Stories partnership primary schools. During the sessions, visiting Year 5 pupils worked 1:1 with a Year 12 mentor. These sessions were an excellent experience for both the Year 5 pupils and our Year 12 mentors.

Maths Mentoring (Weekly Monday and Tuesday)

Led by Year 12 mentors, pupils from English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, Katesgrove Primary School, Geoffrey Field Junior School, Battle Primary Academy, Whitley Park Primary School and Moorlands Primary School worked through Maths problems, both on-site at Reading School and online.

Floreat and Maths Mentoring (Weekly Wednesday Afternoon)

This time led by Year 11s, pupils from St Mary and All Saints Church of England Primary School visited to take part in character-education sessions, followed by maths mentoring. From cooking on trangias to teambuilding games, with maths sessions afterwards.

Indoor Rowing (Weekly Wednesday Afternoon)

Once again led by our Year 11 mentors, we made use of our indoor rowing facilities to put on coaching and sport sessions for over 1000 pupils from 10 local schools.

Multi-sports (Weekly Wednesday Afternoon)

We also put on multi-sport sessions for pupils from Years 3-6 from English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, supported by a variety of pupils.



Thanks

We'd like to take this chance to thank each and every one of the student mentors who have contributed so far and made this incredible program possible. Many of the activities have been running weekly since the start of the academic year. Each and every one of you gave up your own time to help out, so thank you for your hard work and dedication.

In addition, thank you to the teaching, administration and catering staff involved in the organisation and delivery of these Future Stories activities. Without their time and hard work, all of these Future Stories sessions would not be possible. So, thank you to Mrs C Heston, Mrs L Dimmick, Mr T

Evans, Mr D Tridgell, Mr J Ginger, Mrs P Hickman, Mr Z McAllister, Mrs M Thompson, Mrs E Lawrence, Mr C Woodley and Miss H Talbot.

As we come to the end of our tenure as Future Stories prefects, we'd like to thank Mrs Heston in particular for her fantastic work and for helping us in our roles – it's been invaluable.



The new Future Stories prefects are Krish M (12EF) and Oliver B (12RW), who we are sure will be fantastic after we hand over the baton. They'll undoubtedly be a safe pair of hands and have some great ideas and we can't wait to see where the programme goes next.

That's everything from us! We've had a wonderful time as Future Stories prefects, and we'll certainly be sad to move on – it's been brilliant to see what the Future Stories programme has to offer. Please see below the full list of this year's mentors – thank you to every one of you."

After School Maths and English Mentoring (Year 12)

Alexander C

Aman H

Andrii S

Anuj A

Avi P

Finlay G

James P

Jasper C

Manas S

Manikandan V

Matei C

Nathan K

Max A

Neil C

Nelson W

Pritam D

Rohit L

Rupert O

Shaheer T

Shivaansh M

Yash P

Yusef Z

English Martyrs Maths Mentoring (Year 12)

Jude A	George R	Aarush V
Max B	Ryan L	Ammar I
Thomas K	Jago K	Zyair L
Aryan H	Daniel B	
Harith R	David N	

Katesgrove Maths Mentoring (Year 12)

Imtiyaz B	Rishi S	Shameer A
Jihan M	Rohit L	Yusef Z
Mofe A	Salih A	

Geoffrey Fields Maths Mentoring (Year 12)

Aarav A	Ellias M	Keshanth R
Amine A	Ethan L	Krish M
Edison W	Harry P	Tony L

Battle Primary Maths Mentoring (Year 12)

Thinula P	Nathan K	Oliver B
Alexandru P	Siddharth D	Matthew O
Antony C	Soham A	Bharat J
Mitansh N	Xavier C	Ojas J

Whitley Park Maths Mentoring (Year 12)

Tom D	San C	Hugo W
Owen R	Shivam K	Srisht C
Ajay V	Mohammed A	William A
Anirudh V	Benjamin H	

Moorland's Maths Mentoring (Year 12)

Aden C	Ezra S	James G
Daniel L	Gaurav K	John K
Ethan L	Hammad Q	Saad A

Wednesday Afternoon Mentoring (Year 11)

Aaryan A

Akshith A

Adi A

Peter B

Vivaan C

James C

Ryan C

Soham G D

Daniel D

Siddhant D

Henry F

Alan F

Thenushan G

Aradhya G

Parth G

Henry H

Sri Manojava K

Conor K

Rishabh K

Aryan K

Satyam K

Darshan L

Arham L

Isaac L

Sam M

Pranav N

Rujul N

Raghav N

Ishaan P

Elliot P

Rishi S

Neerav S

Jack S

Indiana S

James T

Neil C

Arahan G

Aarush J

Rithwick J

Benjamin L

Parthiv M

James M

Richard M

Mirzo M

Yiannis N

Aryan P

Tristan S

Ray T

Vighnesh B U

Ji Ji W

Keegan B

Dylan B

Aarush C

Felix C

Arjit D

Magnus D

Patrick D

Benjamin H

Sainath J

Abhinendra P

Sriram S

Harry S



House Cup 2023/24

The [competitive 2023-24 House Cup](#) concluded before the Lent Term holidays in dramatic fashion. With all houses vying for position, every point mattered in the final House Football competition. Laud House clinched a win in the House Cup with the final standings as follows:

1 st	Laud	269 points
2 nd	East	247 points
3 rd	County	241 points
4 th	School	230 points
5 th	West	221 points

The House Cup gives all students the opportunity to showcase their sporting, creative and academic talents with a range of competitions; from cricket, athletics, football and rugby, compulsory for all, to art, reading, humanities, music and the House Eisteddfod competition. Every student has the chance to shine.



'I am incredibly proud of Laud House's second House Cup win. As the newest house, we continue to grow our community spirit and build confidence in what we can achieve. I am incredibly thankful to Sean, Aditya and Ben for their leadership; inspiring students to stand up and participate. But winning the House Cup is a whole house achievement and is down to consistency, enthusiasm, determination and participation, for which I would like to congratulate every member of Laud House. I am looking forward to this coming year, not for the competition, but to see our community become ever closer. Good luck Sid and Nidilan!'

Mrs Clarke, Head of Laud House



'A fantastic year for East House this year in what has been an incredibly exciting House Cup competition. The effort the students have put in throughout the year has been impressive, but moreover, the support they showed for one another was what really made this year such a success. A huge thank you to our brilliant year 13 prefects for all the work they put in this year. I can't wait to see what next year's House Cup brings. Good luck Jamie and Teo!'

Miss Rosser-Evans, Head of East House



'The competition this year has been brilliant. Lots of trepidation about who would place where right until the end! However, what I've been most pleased with was how students went about competing. We've had so many brilliant competitions showcasing not only talent but a depth of character that will prove useful in virtually every aspect of life. Congratulations to Laud House, I'm already excited about next year's House Cup competition'

Mr Tridgell, Head of County House



'A tough year for School House. Well, not really... The boys were lead by two outstanding students who saw every event as an opportunity to bring the house closer. School House continued to commit and deliver their best efforts in everything they did. We had many moments of individual brilliance, collaboration and group effort. A tough year in the results but a great effort from the House.'

Mr Betteridge, Head of School House



'West House has had a great year where the House came together to make the most of the opportunities offered. We continue to build strong relationships and an amazing community to be proud of. Manan, Shaan and Samuel did superb to inspire the Westies and we wanted to wish them the very best in the years to come. Now, it's time for Prabhav, Armaan and Ezra to lead West House!'

Mr Sanchez, Head of West House



RSPA

Preloved Uniform Shop

The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop will be open on the following dates:

- Friday 17 May, 3:30pm - 5:00pm
- Saturday 18 May, 10:30am – 12:30pm

Parking and Location:

On Friday 17 May, parents and carers are not allowed to drive onto the school site and access is via the pedestrian gates only.

On Saturday 18 May, parents and carers *are* allowed to drive onto the school site and parking is available on the right-hand side of the walled carpark or outside it. The uniform shop is located at the back of the walled carpark (opposite the Chapel).

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

Donations:

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. Please email shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk for further information and we look forward to welcoming you.

Fundraising event for school's sports equipment



Volunteers required at '[The Goring Gap Run](#)' on Saturday 18th and/or Sunday 19th May. In return for your help, we receive £60 per person with the possibility of the RSPA raising over £1,000 which will be used towards some specialist performance sports camera equipment and software requested by the school. Although we currently have a volunteer for all named slots, we could use some back-up people for the Goring/Pangbourne area in case the organisers need additional volunteers at short notice.

Please email Terri at t_lorrimore@hotmail.com or text to 07810 445474.

Many thanks and have a lovely weekend.

RSPA Team

Summer Term – Week 4

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



The MFL Tournament Cup 2024

France, Germany and Spain went head-to-head in a three-way Modern Foreign Languages Football Tournament this afternoon where teams of sixth formers competed for the coveted Reading School Language Cup!



Led by Second in Department for Classics & MFL, Mme Fondu and her team and assisted by Head of Classics & MFL, Mr M Cooper, the competition allowed A-level students of French, German and Spanish to play a 6-a-side football game where all players and the referee had to communicate purely in the language they were studying.



Captains of each team needed to share an inspirational team talk in their language at the start of the games and any use of English during the games resulted in a penalty for the opposition.



Any use of English during the games resulted in a penalty to the opposition, and to allow more ambitious language input, we 'golden cards' were created with rules such as, 'add an extra player to my team for 2min', 'no goal keeper for 3min' etc. Each team picked two random cards prior to the game, and the captain called out the card at their discretion - but they had to do so in their studied language.



It was fantastic to see the sixth formers (cheered on by lively supporters) throw their hearts and souls into the games, and the quality of their language and effective communication between the players was exceptional.



Who won? Spain were knocked out early in the tournament, which left Germany and France playing the final... although France dominated the early stages, an error by France's goalkeeper late in the game led to a 2-1 win for Germany.







Cricket season resumes

Did you know the cricket was played at Reading School since 1750? The well-known Havell landscape painting 1816 which depicts Reading School boys playing cricket on the Forbury grounds where the school used to be situated, still hangs at the Lords and MCG.



"I can never decide whether cricket is a disease or religion"

H M Thomas, Biology Master at Reading School (1949-64)



Emil and the Detectives



Feedback is important to us and if you have any positive news, comments or suggestions, please contact the Community Relations Office by emailing communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk.