



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

14 June 2024

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Introduction

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Staff,

With internal exams completed for the year and public examinations well past their busiest weeks, today the words of Reinhold Niebuhr's famous serenity prayer come to mind:

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Popular on greetings cards, and made famous through the work of Alcoholics Anonymous, this epigram invites us to recognise that some things (especially those behind us) cannot now be changed. It also invites us to recognise that, despite this, there are many things ahead of us that we are in control of.

As this term progresses, all students in Years 7-10 and 12 will receive exam feedback. I hope that none of our students have achieved 100% in all their assessments, but that every single pupil will be able to identify areas for improvement. Understanding our mistakes, and making sure we don't make them again exemplifies wisdom. By contrast, as Einstein is reputed to have said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results."

Nevertheless, there is something about youth that must look with unhappiness at the idea of accepting things that can't be changed. After all, every age has dogmatically declared unbreakable precepts, yet every generation has discovered many things that were considered unchangeable, but were actually ephemeral: The Roman Empire was considered undefeatable, racial equality impossible, the divine right of kings immutable, heliocentrism unquestionable, the Titanic unsinkable, the four-minute mile unachievable and the Berlin Wall unbreakable.

What, then, might be the dogmas that tomorrow will prove us to be quite wrong about? What are today's Thousand Year Reiches that require fresh D-Days?

I genuinely hope that in this season of feedback and reflection, every student in Reading School has the courage to change the things they can, but I also wonder if we ought to dream that at least some of them refuse to accept the things they cannot change. Might the world be better if some, instead, seek to change the things they cannot accept?

Chris Evans
Headmaster



Key information

All years

Please pay careful attention to the forthcoming events section for details of upcoming events.

Parenting Information

Brighter Future for Children's 'Triple P' Positive Parenting Programme runs from Tuesday 17 September – Tuesday 19 November 2024. The evidence-based programme is a series of sessions for parents of 11-19 year olds that aims to support relationships between parents and their teenagers.

To enquire or book a place, please email parenting.reading@brighterfuturesforchildren.org or call 0118 937 4858.

Current Vacancies

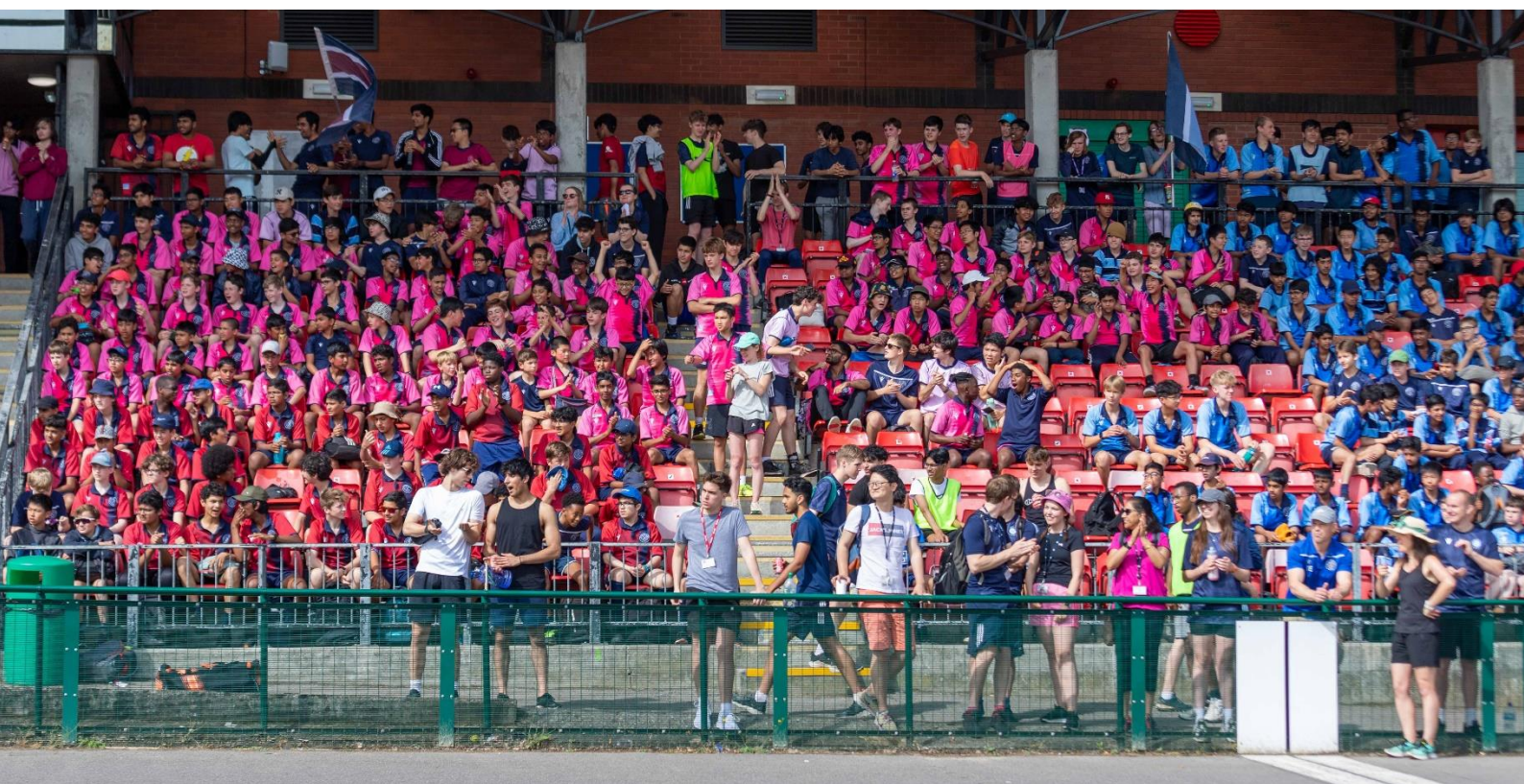
We currently do not have any vacancies available at Reading School. Please [visit our careers page](#) to join our talent pool and we will review your application.

Forthcoming events - Summer Term

During the Summer Term, we look forward to celebrating the academic and non-academic achievements of our students. It is a busy term and we appreciate your patience. Please note the dates and information of the forthcoming events and in some cases further communication will follow shortly:

Sports Day 2024 - Friday 21st June 2024

The Reading School Sports Day at Palmer Park Stadium is one of the most eagerly anticipated dates in the annual school calendar. It is a highlight for many students and families where community, personal achievement, team spirit, camaraderie, healthy competition, inclusivity and participation are all abundantly evident and showcased. A huge amount of planning goes on behind the scenes across a variety of departments and we thank all for their support and commitment in ensuring the event runs smoothly.



Details and agenda:

- Years 7, 8 and 9 will come to School and meet their form tutor and Head of House at 8:20am to be registered and then walk to Palmer Park.
- Year 10 and Seniors will meet directly at Palmer Park at 8:20am to be registered.
- The School has its own entrance to the left of the stadium and we have been asked not to go through Palmer Park Leisure Centre's Reception.
- Students should bring sunscreen, sun hats and water bottles.
- Parents have been asked to bring their own chairs and picnic blankets to sit around the grass areas outside of the track. Please be prepared for hot weather. There is a small café in the leisure centre that staff and parents can use.
- Parking is limited at Palmer Park and wherever possible, please use public transport.

- Students will also be running charity stands during Sports Day, selling drinks, ice cream and cakes. Please bring cash if you choose to support their chosen charities.
- Students have all been asked to bring a packed lunch with boarders collecting their lunch before departure. Please note, our catering team will be offering a packed lunch that students can pay for in advance and will be delivered to Palmer Park on the day.

PE Staff are working as closely as possible to the timings below - *Parent/carers are asked to only attend the time slot for their child's year group:*

- Year 12 (08:30 - 09:45)
- Year 9 (09:45 - 11:00)
- Year 8 (11:00 - 12:45)
- Year 7 (12:30 - 14:00)
- Year 10 (14:00-15:15)

End of Sports Day

All Year 8 - 12 students will be dismissed from Palmer Park at the end of the school day.

If you would like your child to be escorted back to Reading School, they can walk back with their respective Head of House. Please email your respective tutor to inform them of your preference and cc in attendance@reading-school.co.uk

Year 7's will be escorted back to Reading School with Heads of House.

If your child in Year 7 (only) can be dismissed from Palmer Park or you plan on collecting them, please email your son's respective tutor and copy in attendance@reading-school.co.uk.

- Photography & videography - Please note that school photography and filming will take place on the day to assist with marketing and promotional materials used for the school website, social media and communications. If you *do not* wish to be filmed or photographed on the day, please email the events team at events@reading-school.co.uk stating your full name.
- The Events Team is working on multiple events and we urge parents to please check previous communications sent out by the school. If your query is urgent, please email events@reading-school.co.uk.

Senior Prize Giving and Leavers BBQ for Class of 2024 & Celebration of Class of 2023

School closes at 13.00

Date: Friday, 28th June 2024

Time: 13.30 - 19.00

- 13:30 - 14:00: Arrival and seating
- 14:00 prompt: Ceremony
- 15:45 - 19.00: Leavers Canapés and drinks

Venue: Reading School/University of Reading

Class of 2024 (Year 13 leavers) will be chosen to receive a range of prizes (sponsored by the Reading Foundation) based on their performance as a student overall. Class of 2023 (Year 14)

will be invited back to collect A Level Certificates (if they have not already done so) and celebrate their achievements with teachers. Parents/carers will also be invited to attend this ceremony. Buffet is sponsored by the Reading Foundation and beverage refreshments are sponsored by the RSPA. Communication to Year 13 students has been sent out to register places for **themselves and their parents**. Those nominated for prizes have received separate communication as well.



Please note:

- That **school will close at 13.00 to students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12** on this day unless they are involved in the above event.
- All students can register with their tutor and purchase food at the Grab and Go, which will be open until 13:15.
- Year 7 and 8 students can remain in the LRC if there is no alternative to leaving earlier that day.
- Any boarding students not involved in Senior Prize Giving can remain at school until the end of the day if they cannot leave earlier. They will be supervised in boarding by the matrons and/or boarding staff.

House Reading Quiz in the LRC - Tuesday 25th June

Time: 15.30 - 17.00

House Teams **only**.

Grandparents and Relatives Day 2024 - Tuesday 2nd July

Year 7 only, further communication to follow.

Charity Concert - Friday 5th July (tbc)

Time: 18.00 - 20.30

Location: Big School

Summer Music Concert & Art Exhibition - Tuesday 9th July

Time: 16.00 - 18.00

Location: Music School and Front Field

Years: 7-13

Sports Awards Ceremony - Thursday 11th July 2024

Time: 16.00 - 18.00

By invite only and further communication to follow.

Junior Prize Giving 2024 - Thursday 16th July 2024

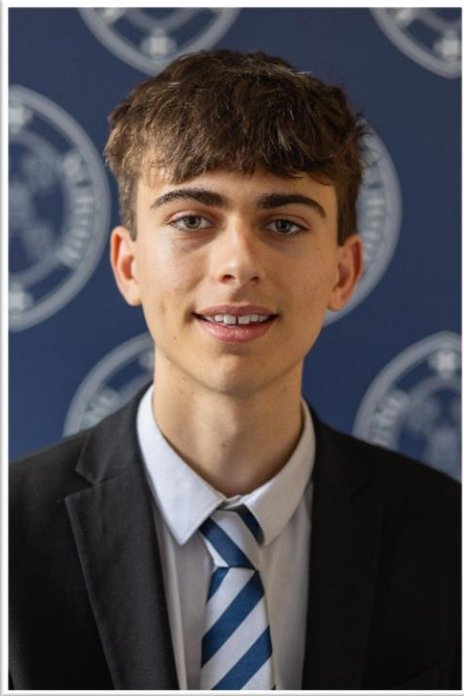
Time: 15.45 - 18.00

Location: Reading School - Refectory/Big School

Prizes, kindly sponsored by the Reading Foundation, are presented to students in recognition of outstanding effort and achievement across the curriculum and in individual subjects. Parents and caregivers are invited to recognise the hard work and academic achievement of students in Year 7-11 on an invite only basis. If your child is nominated you will receive communication in the coming weeks. Buffet and refreshments are sponsored by the Reading Foundation.



Sporting Excellence



This week, we spoke with Adam M (13SP) who has recently been chosen to represent the GB Team in Orienteering. We are always impressed with the breadth and depth of student interests and achievements, both in and out of school and Adam's interview illustrates something that started out as a family activity, flourishing into a personally fulfilling pursuit.

In the spirit of celebrating and sharing positive news within the school community, please email communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk. We will make every effort to feature and spread the diverse achievements of our students and staff.

Q: Please share with the uninitiated what orienteering is all about.

So, for me, it's a running sport that makes use of navigation, so you'd be running in an event in a time trial while using a map and compass to navigate from point A to B as fast as you can. It's basically the fastest person to navigate between checkpoints using data in the shortest time.

Q: What kind of distances are involved in a typical race?

There's a wide range of distances across competitions. You can compete in short three to four-kilometre races to 12-kilometre races which are normally through forests and challenging terrain.

Q: What kind of preparation do you do?

So obviously, there's physical preparation. That's just running mostly. I'm part of a local athletics club and I run every Tuesday and Thursday, doing intervals on the track or outside in the park and, on top of that, I'll run five times a week...a long run on Sunday and just filling the week in with other easy runs. And then there's the...I guess, you could say, the mental preparation, like the navigation side of it. I'll go on training camps, or just local orienteering competitions to improve my navigation, because it can be quite tough. Some of the forests you run through you can have boulders or challenging terrain to navigate, and you only have yourself, your map and compass to rely on.

Q: How did you discover Orienteering?

I got into it because my parents took me and my sister when we were young, and it was a sport, or an activity, that we could do as a family, on the weekends that was out in nature. I then got more competitive with it when we went to the British Orienteering Championships one year and I saw that there were people there that took it seriously, and I decided I wanted to do that. So I kept it up and I really enjoy it.

Q: You mention championships you've competed in. Can you share more?

I've been to a lot of British Championships at this point, which has led to me being picked for the British Team. The team is for the [Junior World Orienteering Championships](#) this year in the Czech Republic and is made up of six male athletes and six female athletes under 20 years.

On behalf of all the Reading School Community, we wish Adam the very best of luck and look forward to sharing more news soon.

RSPA

Tales from Lost Property - Part II

A message from Lost Property Lead, Mrs Sturk:



The End of the term is approaching sooner for Lost Property rather than for the rest of the school.

Exams, Belonging Weeks and Trips means that many students will not be in school and lost property may be far from their minds. This was made really clear to me when I went to look in Student Services. There are so much unclaimed, labelled and listed lost property still waiting to be picked up. This week I will be adding more labelled, named items to the pile.

Please send your son soon to the Student Services to have a look and claim it before the end of the term.

At the end of term, all items will be considered as 'Donations' and put into stock at the Pre-loved Uniform Shop. If you think your child might have something in that pile, please get in touch via email shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk and I will check through my list.

I made a tidy pile of unnamed winter coats. No kidding, it was over a metre tall. They have been sitting on the drama shelves Lost Property over the last few weeks waiting for owners. I have now taken them, and they will be put out at the next Uniform Sale which is 5th July 3.30 – 5pm and 6th July 10.30 – 12.30pm. We will also put any named Lost Property out for collection at those sales. After that they will be put into stock for the shop.

Student Services also have a heap of water bottles, watches, bus passes, glasses and house keys. I urge students to go hunting. Nothing is thrown away.

Positively, my own son found his coat named 'Sturk'. It took a whole year, but the name tag had survived, and it was spotted in a random pile of lost property outside the drama studio shelves. I am taking it as a sign from the Lost Property Gods. Keep the faith Parents!

Preloved Uniform shop

The opening dates of the Pre-Loved Uniform Shop for this term are:

- 5th July 3.30pm to 5pm
- 6th July 10.30am to 12.30pm
- 27th July 10.30am to 12.30pm
- 31st August 10.30am to 12.30pm

There is no parking available on site on the Friday openings.

Location: The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop can be found at the back of the Walled Carpark.

Year 10 Tutor Group Photos

A message from RSPA Member, Mrs Kerry Kingston:

Following the huge success of last year's Year 10 Tutor Group photos that raised much needed funds for the RSPA School Benches Fundraiser, I am pleased to share we have organised a photo for each current Year 10 tutor group in partnership with the School.

Last year's demand for the tutor group photos was incredible and all the funds raised went back to the School for the benefit of new outdoor seating for students for use during their break times.

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 and many thanks in advance for all your support

Mrs Kerry Kingston



Year 10 Tutor Groups 2023

Summer Term – Week 8

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.



Royal Society of Chemistry's Schools' Analyst Competition 2024

An inter-school competitive collaboration between Kendrick School and Reading School



The Schools' Analyst Competition enables Year 12 students competing in the UK to demonstrate and expand on their existing chemistry knowledge, skills and aptitude for analytical science through practical analytical experiments based on relevant societal or industrial problems.



Each competition aims to provide some tasks which are relatively familiar to the students, such as titrations and others which are likely to be unfamiliar, such as chromatographic separations or atomic and molecular spectroscopy.

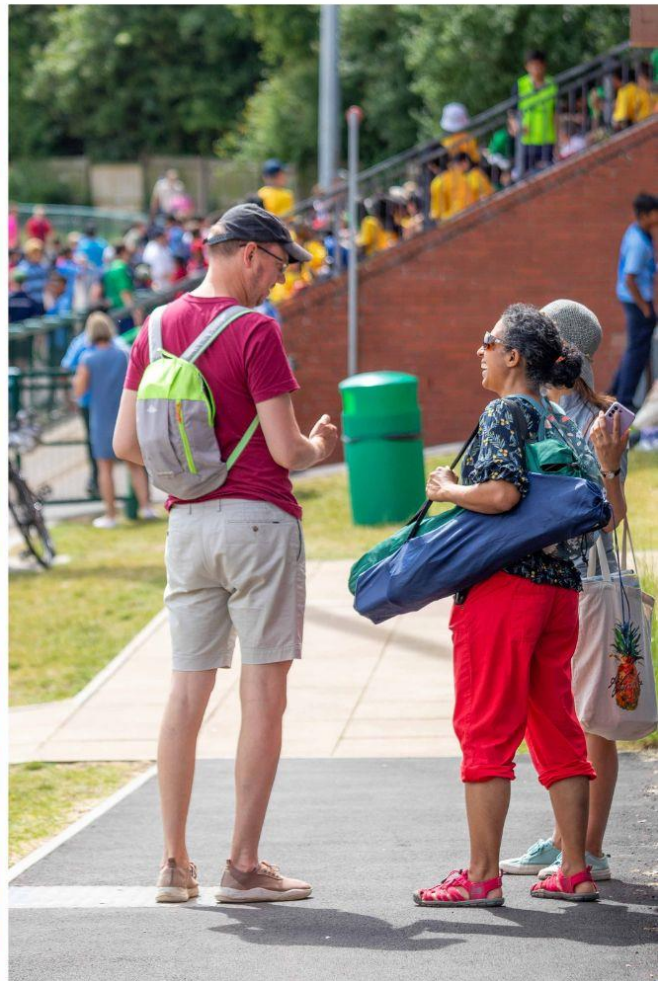
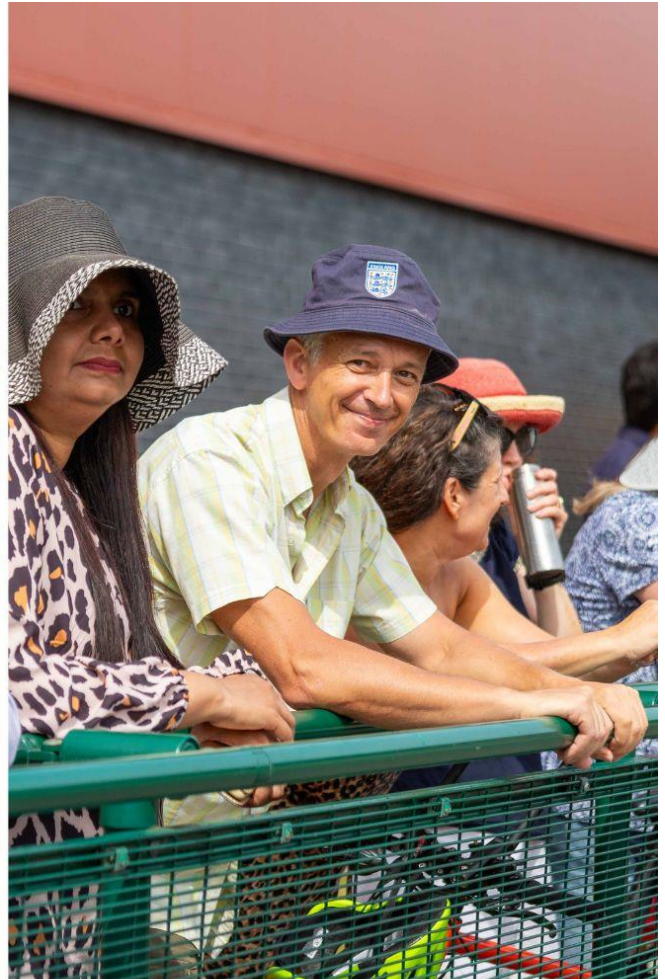


We look forward to keeping you updated on whether the teams progress onto the next stage of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Schools' Analyst Competition 2024.



Sports Day 2023













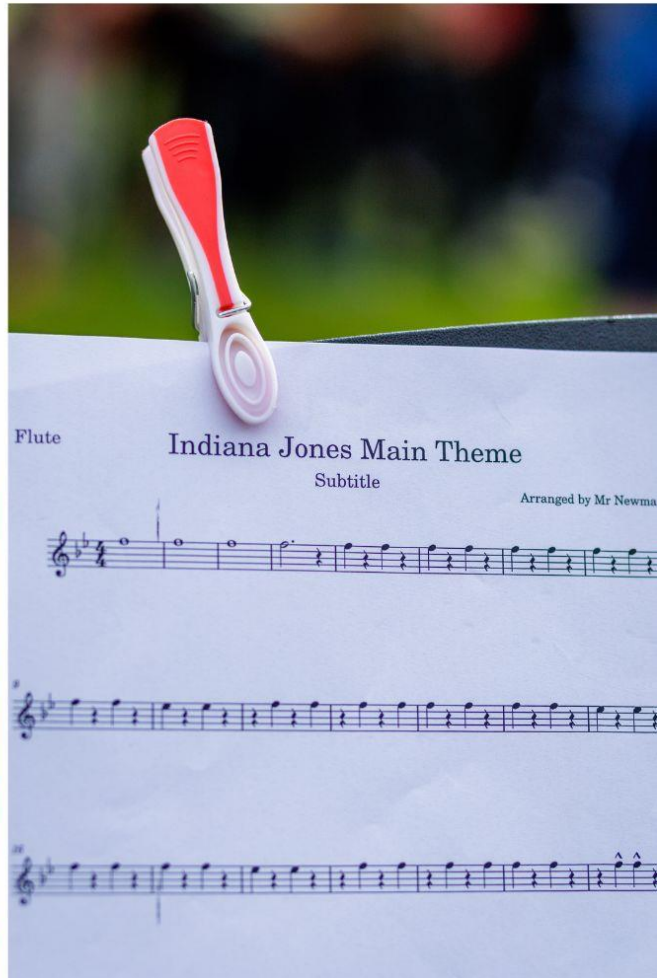
The Festival of Belonging 2024

The finale event following Belonging Week for all Year 7s who get the opportunity to camp-out at Reading School while performing and showcasing the best of the performing arts.



















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.