



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

20 OCTOBER 2023



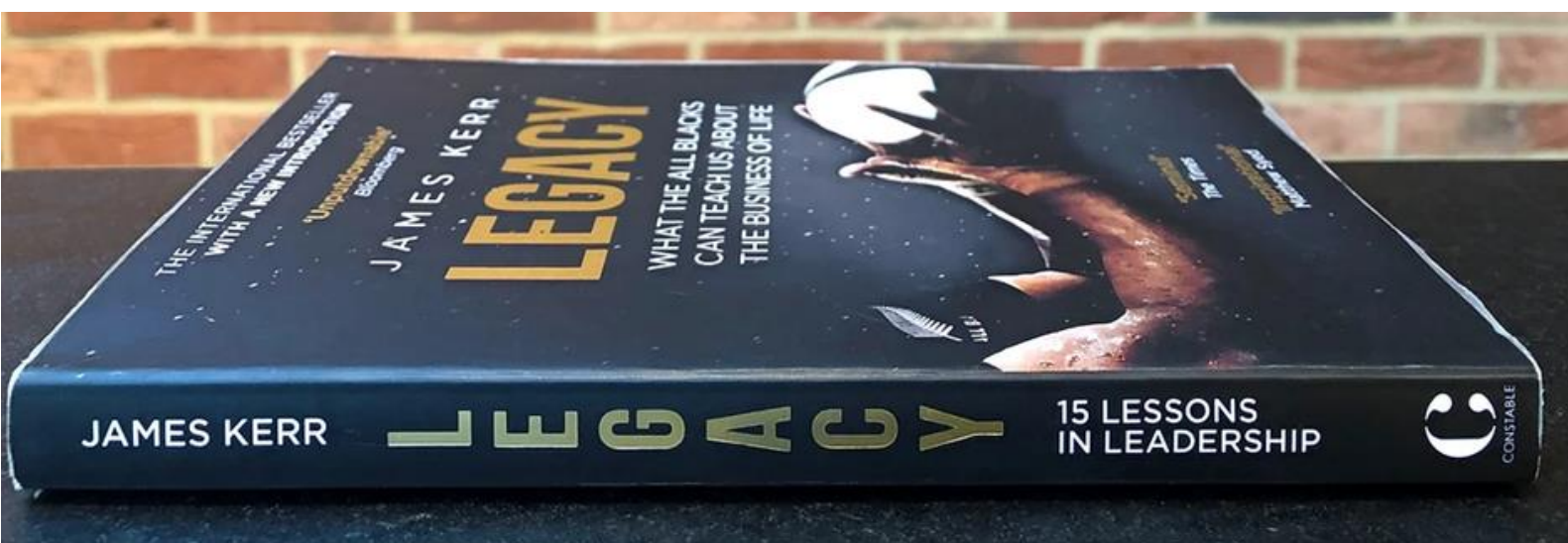
Contents

Introduction	3
Key information	4
All years	4
Staff Gratitude	4
Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Curriculum Update	4
Current Vacancies	5
Parent Governor Vacancy	5
Associate Staff Vacancies	5
Kendrick School Vacancy	5
Excellence, Belonging & Community	6
Excellence in Sport	6
Belonging & Community	6
Harvest Festival	6
National Education Nature Park	7
Kingfisher Table Tennis Club	8
Future Stories – September and October 2023 update	8
Santa Dash 2023	10
RSPA	11
RSPA Reading School Parents' Association AGM	11
Year 7 Disco	11
Michaelmas Term – Week 7	12

Introduction

Watching the superb quarter-finals of the 2023 Rugby World Cup last weekend motivated me to revisit an inspirational book that is linked to the game of Rugby Union, but goes beyond the confines of the pitch. The well regarded classic by James Kerr entitled 'Legacy – What the All Blacks can teach us about the business of life' delves into the heart of arguably the world's most successful sporting team, the All Blacks of New Zealand (apologies to Mr D McGall and Mr L Henry). The 15-chapter headings help set the scene: Character, Adapt, Purpose, Responsibility, Learn, Whanau, Expectations, Preparation, Pressure, Authenticity, Sacrifice, Language, Ritual, Whakapapa, and Legacy. Thus, Kerr highlights fifteen powerful, practical lessons for leadership, including key questions such as:

- How do the best stay the best?
- What are the secrets of sustained success?
- How are exceptional standards maintained, day after day, week after week, year after year?
- How do you turn vision in to action, purpose in to practice and pressure into results?



Character is one of Reading School's 3 Cs in 2023-4. (Along with Culture and Collaboration). Kerr emphasises the notion of 'sweeping the sheds', where it is contended that we should never be too big to do the small things that need to be done. Winning takes talent. But to repeat, it takes character. Collective character is vital to success, so by focusing on prioritising on getting the culture right, the results will follow. A values-based, purpose-driven culture is the foundation of the All Blacks' approach and sustained success over time. Their culture is the glue that holds it all together, as to become an All Black means becoming a steward of a cultural legacy. The role of the player is to leave the jersey in a better place and I hope that Reading School students seek to leave their shirt in a better place, rather than on the school field!

So, what are just 3 of the other lessons in leadership that we can all learn from?

- Pass the ball: Leaders create leaders.
- Embrace expectations: Aim for the highest cloud
- Be a good ancestor: Plant trees that you will never see

Whilst my favourite is 'Don't die like an octopus, die like a hammerhead shark.' I hope that you can all be inspired by your reading and I would challenge you to nurture your love and appreciation for reading during Reading Week 2023.

Mr A M Robson
Headmaster

Key information

All years

Staff Gratitude



Expressing gratitude for teachers and staff in educational institutions is of significant value as all staff play crucial roles in shaping the lives of students and the overall effectiveness of schools. From a cleaner who will ensure classrooms and the refectory are clean and hygienic to teachers who go the extra mile for their students and others.

At Reading School, we pride ourselves on creating and maintaining a positive school culture, where appreciation and respect for others is integral to who we are. With this in mind, consider passing on your thanks to a member of staff by [clicking this link](#).

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Curriculum Update

Our PSHE focus for the first half-term has been Health and Wellbeing. Every student in Year 7-11 will have a PSHE booklet that outlines the spiral programme of study along with their progress in their learning.

Your child will have been learning about the following topics this term:



Year 7 (Transition) – Transition to secondary school and forming positive relationships, study skills and the virtue of learning.

Year 8 (Drugs and alcohol) – Alcohol and drug misuse and pressures relating to drug use.

Year 9 (Peer influence) - substance misuse, gangs, exploitation, healthy and unhealthy friendships and assertiveness.

Year 10 (Mental health) - Mental health and ill health, stigma, safeguarding and periods of transition or change

Year 11 (Building for the future) - Self-efficacy, stress management, and future opportunities

We regularly invite a variety of diverse speakers to present to students and we invite our parent and carer community to share their suggestions for speakers with Ms Lizzie Ayres by emailing layres@reading-school.co.uk or Ms Alice Stratford (Sixth Form) by emailing astratford@reading-school.co.uk. We would be grateful to hear your suggestions for speakers or content on important topics that impact children and young people.

Useful websites:

[Self-Care](#) – things we can do to look after our own mental health.

[Let's talk about anxiety](#) – guidance for parents and carers

[Drugs and Alcohol](#) – Facts and support for parents, carers and young people.

Current Vacancies

Parent Governor Vacancy

Mr Oliver Pilkington has resigned as a parent governor with effect from 31 October 2023, so there will be a vacancy for a parent governor on the Governing Body from that date. Full details and invitations for nominations from parents/carers to fill the vacancy can be found by [clicking here](#). Nominations are required by 27 October 2023. If more than one nomination is received there will be an election in November, and full details of this will be sent in the weekly e-mail to parents on 3 November 2023.

Teacher Vacancies

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

Associate Staff Vacancies

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

All Reading School vacancies can be found on our website by [clicking here](#).

Kendrick School Vacancy

Computing Teacher

Experienced and Newly Qualified Teachers welcome to apply

0.3-0.5 FTE (days to be confirmed at interview)

Required for January 2024 a well-qualified and enthusiastic Computing Teacher at this successful 11-18 girls' grammar school in Reading. Graded 'Outstanding' in its recent OFSTED inspection in November 2022, Kendrick School is a centre of academic excellence with a track record of high performance and achievement. There is a possibility that this will extend to a permanent full-time role in September 2024 with the opportunity to teach an additional related subject. Applicants need to be able to teach Computing to at least Key Stage 3, but ideally throughout the school.

For more information on the role and an application form please [click here](#).

Excellence, Belonging & Community

Excellence in Sport



Reading School students Prayrit A, Ethan Z and Sahil T were part of over 350 competitors at the Derby Arena on Saturday 14 October during the Table Tennis England Junior British League Championships 2023/24. The tournament is the pinnacle of U19 boys' table tennis, featuring some of the best clubs across England and, remarkably, last year, Prayrit, Ethan and Sahil all made history as the youngest team to clinch victory in their division.

This year they have achieved outstanding results, remaining undefeated in all their matches and they currently stand in the top half of their table with high hopes of securing another division win after the finals round in February 2024.

It is worth noting that each of these talented players boasts impressive Table Tennis England rankings: Prayrit #6 (far right), Ethan #19 (far left) and Sahil #34 (2nd from left) nationally in the Cadet Boys Category (U15).

Their accomplishments are a source of pride and aspiration for both our school and other students and congratulations to you all.

Belonging & Community

Harvest Festival



Thank you to the student volunteers (some of whom are pictured on the front cover) for volunteering their time in order to collect and pack this year's collection, which would not have been possible without donations from students, parents and staff, contributing to this year's Harvest Festival collection in aid of ReadiFood – Reading's Food Bank which has provided an emergency food parcel service for over 25 years.

The Harvest Festival is an annual celebration with its roots dating back to pagan times, as well as being celebrated by cultures around the world in a diversity of ways. Common themes, however, are reflection, demonstrating gratitude and sharing collections with those in need and schools across the UK will play their part by collecting and donating food and other items, often accompanied by an assembly.

Last Friday's Chapel Service was led by Deputy Headmaster, Revd Dr C Evans, and we encourage you to share in his engaging service by clicking the image below. Students were invited to reflect on whether we are called to be successful or faithful, along with being asked to consider the difference between one's character and an outcome. The weekly chapel service gives students an opportunity to pause and reflect on social, spiritual and moral strands, as well as provide a regular space to encourage students to think independently.



"Would you rather have faithful friends or successful friends?"
(7mins 32secs)

National Education Nature Park



Led by our Geography Department, Reading School is now part of a new scheme which aims to boost nature education. The [National Education Nature Park](#) is empowering children and young people to make a positive difference to both their own and nature's future. One way in which Reading School students will be making a difference is by mapping the biodiversity of the school site using quadrat sampling which will be used as a benchmarking tool in order to discover and identify ways in which biodiversity can be improved.

The student led programme will see the Sixth Form Environment Prefect, Joseph M (13BSA) seek the support of sustainability champions from a pool of students who responded to the recent Reading School Sustainability Survey (over 50 students showing interest in getting involved with the school's Climate Action Plan) who will be tasked with achieving a variety of sustainability related goals.

According to the National Education Nature Park, key skills that young people will learn by taking part will include developing, "a meaningful connection to nature and an understanding of our role to act on the biodiversity and climate crises. Engaging in the programme will develop key skills around communication, decision making and creative thinking, as well as scientific skills in biology, natural history and nature identification and recording, and digital skills including data analysis and data visualisation."

We look forward to keeping you all updated about our schools' efforts and goal to create a culture that prioritises sustainability.

Kingfisher Table Tennis Club



Table tennis has been an overlooked sport at Reading School, with Football and Rugby often taking the limelight and some in our school community may not be aware that there are many current students playing table tennis at a very high level, which we have featured regularly in the Headmaster's Bulletin.

In order to develop and promote table tennis at Reading School, on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 November, we are pleased to share that Kingfisher Table Tennis Club will be hosting free open days for children and young people to discover what table tennis can offer. The open days welcome anyone between the ages of 11-18 and the sessions will offer an opportunity to take part in a fast-paced sport that can develop agility and strategy while improving hand-eye coordination, reflexes and fitness. Coaching Officer, Raj Patel, recently visited Reading School and shared:



"We are thrilled to announce our partnership with Reading School, an exciting collaboration that is set to ignite the passion for table tennis within the school community. This partnership will encourage more children to pick up bats and discover the exhilarating sport of table tennis and we eagerly anticipate the growth of skills, the development of new friendships, and the sheer joy this partnership will bring to children and young people in Reading."

To book a slot on the upcoming Open Days, please [visit the website by clicking here](#).

Future Stories – September and October 2023 update



The Future Stories programme, led by Mrs C Heston and Mrs L Dimmick, has kicked off in force again this year with a huge variety of activities. Reading School's Future Stories is a social mobility project, working in partnership with local primary schools and our local community.

This half-term on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, Year 12 student mentors have run their first few weekly Maths sessions at Reading School with Year 5 and 6 pupils from Geoffrey Fields Junior School, Whitley Park Primary School, Battle Primary School and Moorlands Primary School. With the help of biscuits and squash, the first few sessions have been a resounding success with high levels of engagement from the primary pupils. In addition, a group of Year 12 student mentors have also been visiting Moorlands Primary School to run weekly Maths sessions with a group of their Year 5 pupils.

Year 12 student mentors involved with our online Maths mentoring session, with English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, have been preparing to start mentoring on Microsoft Teams after half-term. The mentors have spent sessions practicing using the online meeting system; creating interactive and interesting lessons using annotation and PowerPoint tools. This can prove challenging, but when it works it is an amazing opportunity for schools that cannot come into



Reading School in person. Some of these mentors had already contributed to the Future Stories project in the past by running rugby training sessions and were extremely pleased that they were able to continue to be involved.

We talked to some of the Year 12 student mentors that have been preparing for the online mentor sessions:

"To have this opportunity to give back to the community in the local area is amazing. I would highly recommend others to become part of the project, as committing to something greater than yourself is such a brilliant thing to do." - Jude A (12RC)

"I think that Future Stories is really an embodiment of what the school is trying to develop into the school culture, not just being academic but also a school of character. Getting involved in the project is really a great way in which you can build relationships with local schools and be able to see the impact you're having in the area. Any year 12 given the opportunity should dive headfirst into it." - Thomas K (12SP)

"The Future Stories project is a fantastic opportunity to share my passion for the subjects I teach, and to pass on a love of learning that these children will take with them their whole lives. Truly an act that will keep on giving back for years to come." - Max B (12EF)

If the primary school pupils needed any more incentive, Year 6 pupils from St Mary and All Saints CofE Primary School got it in the form of participating in Floreat, sports and Maths sessions on Wednesday afternoons at Reading School supported by Year 11 student mentors. As part of these sessions, the Year 6 pupils were treated to a hot chocolate making session, boiling their own water on 'trangias'. It was great to see them do some hands-on activities and experience some independence in their teams.



The session was a great success, and each pupil ended up with a cup of hot chocolate for their subsequent Maths session with their Year 11 student mentor.

Year 11 student mentor James T (11S) had this to say: "*I enjoy mentoring Year 6 children as part of the Future Stories programme. It's rewarding to see them learn and have fun simultaneously, and to see their progress over time.*"

Thank you to all the students and teachers who have been involved in Future Stories activities this half term for their hard work, time and effort that they have put into these sessions. Without you all, this programme would not have been possible. It's great to see our solid relationships with primary schools in the local community in action. Everyone has been fantastic, and we're looking forward to seeing the activities continue throughout this year.

Santa Dash 2023

The Reading School Boarding community has previously supported the [Alexander Devine Children's Hospice](https://www.alexanderdevine.org/childrenshospice) service and we would like to share details of their Christmas 2023 charity run taking place on Sunday 26 November in Windsor. There are a variety of ways to get involved from donning a Santa suit or reindeer antlers and joining over 400 other runners to volunteering in cheering others and promoting the event amongst family and friends. To find out more, please visit www.alexanderdevine.org/santadash.

Alexander Devine's
SANTA DASH

Tickets on sale!
[alexanderdevine.org/santadash](https://www.alexanderdevine.org/santadash)

Kindly sponsored by
Berkeley
Designed for life

Sunday 26 November 2023
Berkshire's best Santa Dash is back in Windsor!

Alexander Devine
Children's Hospice
Service

PROMOTRADE.CO. HORLER

RSPA Reading School Parents' Association AGM

The RSPA were delighted to host the AGM on Wednesday evening. We received a very kind address from the Headmaster, Mr Robson, and reports from The Chairs and Treasurer. We are very pleased to announce the following team for 2023-2024:

Chair - Nish Moody

Treasurer - Terri Lorrimore

Uniform Shop Manager - Julie Bellingham

Engagement Manager - Veena Baggley

Secretary - Deval Gujrati

Digital Manager - Anup Dholakia

Hoodie Manager - Jayne Sturk

School Lottery Manager - Jaideep Das

Communications Manager - Rohini Luthra

Membership Administration Manager - Pallavi Chube

Events Coordinator - Menaka Murthy

Lost Property Manager - Helen Sturk

Committee Fundraisers - Jo Wyles, Kerry O'Brien-Kingston, Claire Kirby

Notifications Officer -- Yogakshi Munjal

We would like to give many thanks to the outgoing team for all their hard work and dedication over the last year: Kajal Mathur, Marina Hannaford, Monika Maheshwari, Subashree Krishnasamy.

Year 7 Disco



Get ready to put on your dancing shoes and let the good times roll! The Reading School Parents Association is thrilled to welcome our newest members of Year 7 to a spectacular [Disco Night](#). But that's not all - we're taking it up a notch!

We're excited to share that we've extended a special invitation to the Year 7 girls from Kendrick School. They're just as eager as our own students to hit the dance floor and make this night unforgettable.

Details for the Evening:

Date: Friday 17 November 2023

Time: 7.00pm to 8.30 pm

Location: Reading school, Refectory

For our Reading School Year 7 Parents (only), drop-offs will be at the refectory. From there, we'll lead you to our Meet and Greet event - a specially planned event for new year 7 parents where you'll have the chance to connect with current parents, share experiences, and forge new friendships. And of course, there will be refreshments to keep the conversations flowing.

This evening promises to be filled with laughter, new connections, and a whole lot of fun. Let's come together as a community to create memories that will be cherished for years to come.

We wish you all a lovely weekend.

The RSPA Team

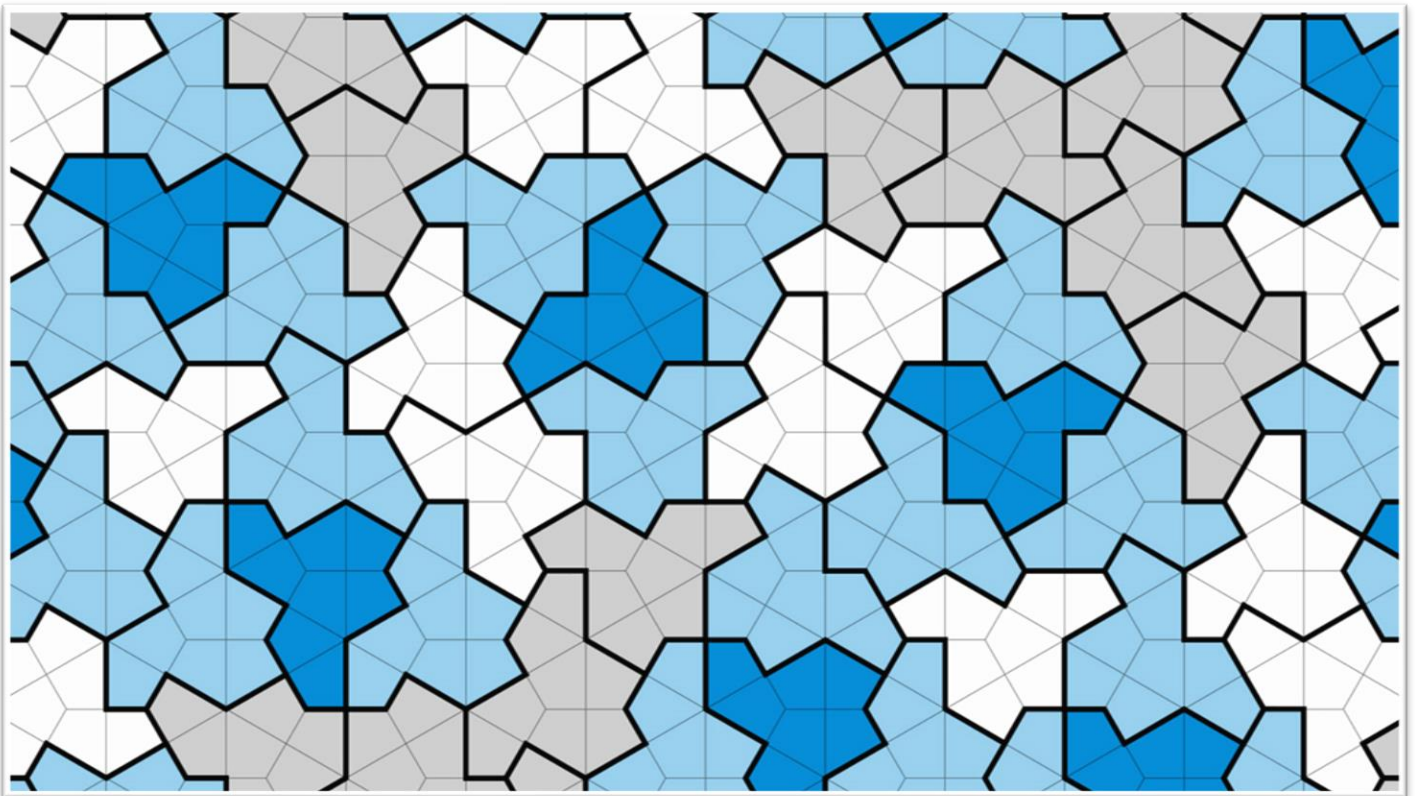
Michaelmas Term – Week 7

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



What does Mathematical inspired art look like?

Last year, an incredible discovery was made in the world of mathematics. A single tile was discovered (called an Einstein tile after the German for 'one stone') that can tile the plane aperiodically. This means you can cover a flat surface using this tile with no gaps or overlaps, but the pattern used will never repeat itself. The tile itself is unexpectedly irregular, with 13 sides and is (roughly) in the shape of a top hat.

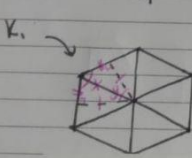


The [United Kingdom Mathematics Trust](#) is running the 'Einstein Mad Hat' awards to encourage UK school students to get creative with the applications of this tiling pattern. Only two students can enter per school, so to decide on the Reading School entrants, Ms Creegan (Head of Art) and Dr Lewis-Brown (Teacher of Maths & Physics) have been judging submissions.

Proof

Each einstein hat tile is made up of 8 of "K₁" kites.

6 of "K₁" kites assemble to make a regular hexagon.



$y = ?$, $x = ?$

$$y = \frac{360}{6} = 60^\circ$$

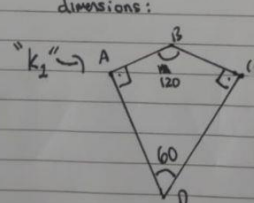
$$x = \frac{180(n-2)}{n}$$

$$x = \frac{180(6-2)}{6}$$

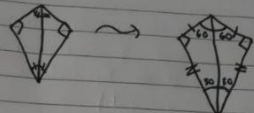
$$x = \frac{720}{6}$$

$$x = 120^\circ$$

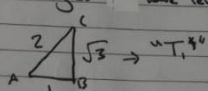
\therefore Each kite must be of dimensions:



Moreover, if we draw a line bisecting $\angle ABC$, we find K_2 is made up of 2 30-60-90 right angle triangles:



All 30-60-90 triangles have lengths which are same ratio of:



Let's keep extending the lines in our einstein tile and draw a similar kite. Call this K_e .

After measuring all of the angles of K_e , they match with the angles found in K_2 .

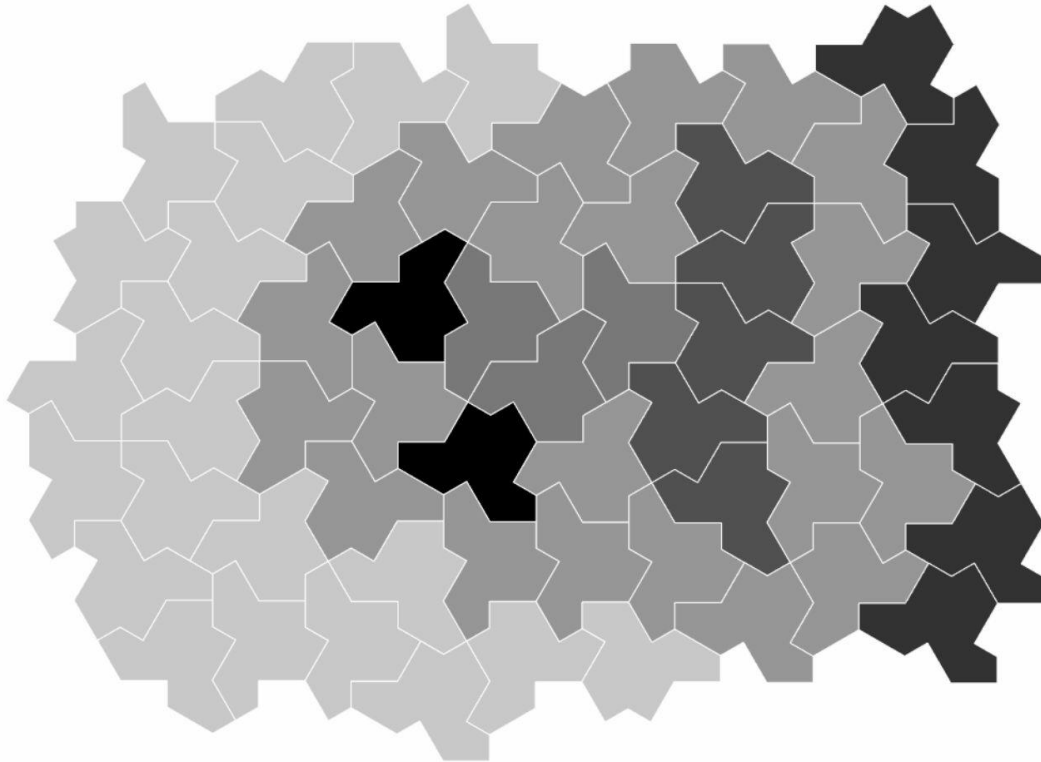
If we measure the length of AB in K_e , we see $AB = 1$ cm. Using the ratio in T_1 , we can agree that $BC = \sqrt{3} \approx 1.7$ cm, and $AC = 2$ cm.

After measuring multiple tiles, I found that these values were correct to 1 mm.



We were impressed with the quality and creativity of the entries, and have decided on the two winners. In no particular order; James Chen (11L) for his picture of Albert Einstein using an Einstein tiling (top image), and Celil Selcuk (10S) for designing and building an Einstein tiling jigsaw puzzle (bottom image).

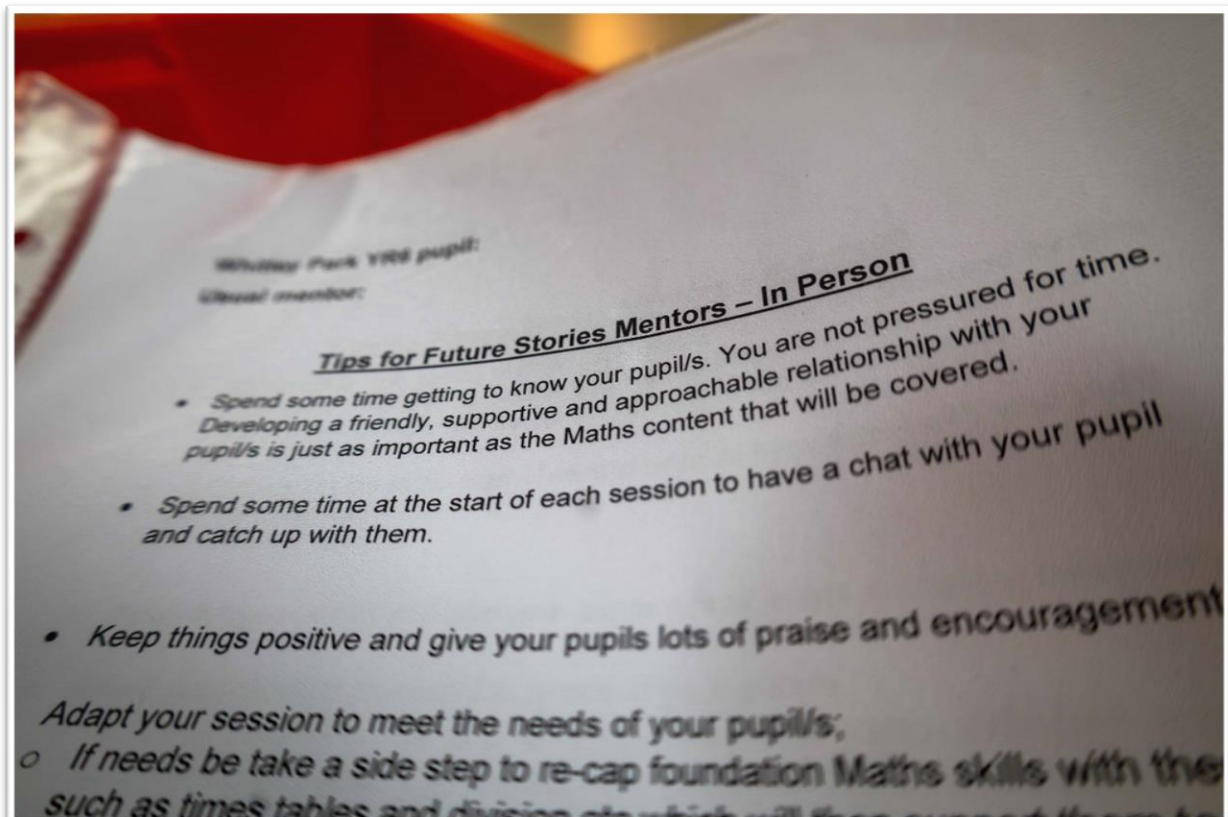
An honourable mention goes to Shreyas Koppole (8W) for his seasonal Einstein tile pumpkin art.





Future Stories – Reading School's Social Mobility Programme

"I'm grateful for this opportunity to help young and bright minds flourish in their school environment now and in the future." - Tony L (12JP)



“They were so charming and excited to learn, and I’m happy to be a part of this amazing project and to have the honour to watch them develop. I would emphatically recommend that any Year 12 students get involved, as they’ll get so much more out of this incredible opportunity than they may expect.” – Harry P (12FEH)



"I found the experience very rewarding as I enjoyed helping out greatly, and the children were so enthusiastic about learning." - Keshanth R (12AC)



"I've always been interested in mentoring and tutoring as a way of helping people understand things better which I'm already familiar with, so I was excited to start Future Stories as soon as I was given the role. It was really encouraging to see their confidence grow as they worked through the various questions, and I even had to jog my memory back a few years, having not touched Roman numerals for a while! Overall, I found the experience overwhelmingly positive and I'm excited about the future sessions!" – Matthew O (12BSA)



Do you work for an organisation that has a social mobility programme (or similar) and are interested in discussing partnerships? If so, please email fstories@reading-school.co.uk



Governors Day 2023

Monday 16 October saw the Reading School Governing Body visit the school during an all day programme which included listening to highlights of school programmes, presentations of key issues, department visits and learning walks.



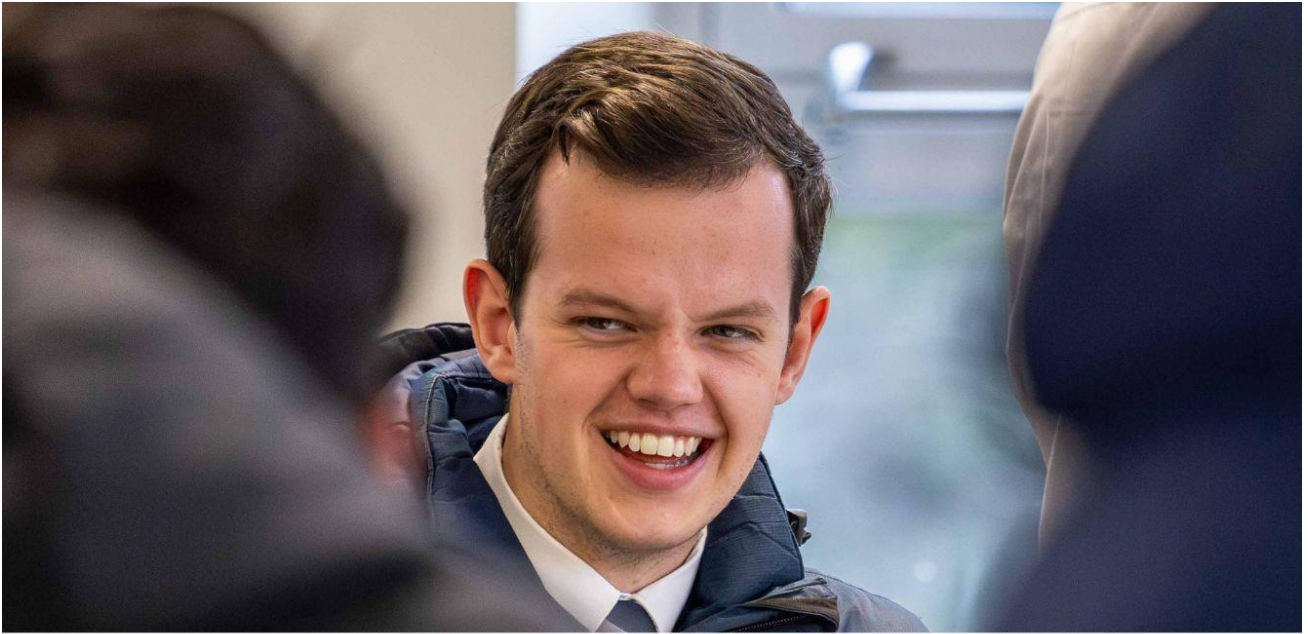


Social Enterprise Hub – Session 2

Teambuilding and Brainstorming

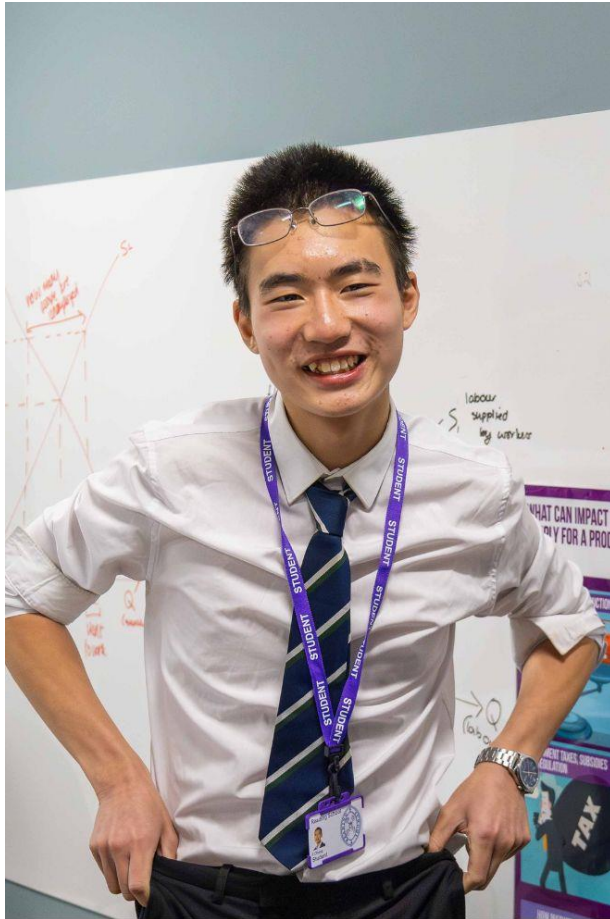












Feedback is important to us and if you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the Community Relations Office by emailing communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk