



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

13th September 2024

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Introduction

Dear Students, Colleagues, Parents and Carers,

It has been a joy to see the school returning to a full and normal schedule this week. I would particularly like to thank students for the positive attitude and excellent behaviour that has been demonstrated throughout the week.

Students have started the year well, and I hope they will continue to hold themselves to the highest standards. Across the whole school we have had just two instances of mobile phones being out when they shouldn't have been. All year groups have looked smart and there have been a negligible number of 'lates' of misbehaviour or of missing equipment. Despite three students remaining on unauthorised overseas holidays since term began, overall attendance is 97%. These sorts of standards are, of course, very basic. They are prerequisites for respectful relationships that matter so much to us, and the rigour and discipline that underpins academic enquiry.

I am pleased to say thank you to parents and carers for supporting us with these simple expectations.

May I also thank staff for some of the highlights of this week. These have included watching staff train for the Rugby Festival which is taking place on Saturday, hearing the first rehearsal of the Chapel choir, seeing the Under 13 Rugby team play in our first competitive fixture yesterday, observing how much students have enjoyed the refectory menu, and witnessing the library swinging back into action (with 817 book loans already).

Nevertheless, I must share two concerns about transport to school.

Firstly, we have far too many students riding to school without bike helmets, and with earphones in. For those parents whose sons ride to school, please check that they have a helmet that fits, and that they understand the dangers of blocking traffic noise with ear buds.

Secondly, I have been very disturbed by the number of parents parking dangerously on double yellow lines to drop off and pick up at either end of the school day. This behaviour endangers students, especially on Craven Road, where bus, ambulance, taxi and hospital delivery drivers compete for right of way, and where the main entrance to the maternity department, the accident and emergency department and the hospital's delivery depot converge. There are plenty of safe spaces to drop students off slightly further from the school gate.

Could I ask all parents to avoid mounting kerbs, pulling over at the entrances of the hospital, stopping on yellow zigzag lines (which indicate that parking, stopping, or waiting is not permitted) and pulling U-turns that block other road users. I hope I haven't laboured this point. If we are to nurture leadership and character, getting these small things right really matters. I'd very much like all our students to understand that the rules apply to them, and not just to everyone else.

Finally, looking ahead, may I say that I am looking forwards to seventeen sports fixtures next week, to our first Year 7 science practicals, to Year 8,10 and 11 Expectation Evenings and to many clubs and societies recommencing their activities.

I've asked Deputy Headteacher, Miss Ayres, to write this Introduction next Friday to introduce herself to new families, and I look forward to reporting on a number of our exciting 900th Anniversary initiatives in a fortnight's time.

With thanks for your partnership,

Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

Years 12, 10 and 9 only

Geography Trip to the Azores – April 2025

The Geography Department is delighted to announce that we are once again organising a trip to the Azores. The trip will take place from Thursday 3rd – Monday 7th April 2025 and is open to students in Years 12, 10 and 9 studying Geography, with the aim of supporting their studies undertaken at school.

Please [click this link](#) to view the Expression of Interest letter and if you would like your son to take part in this trip, the deadline to submit the form is no later than Wednesday 18th September 2024.

Year 9 only

Year 7 Online Expectations Evening

Assistant Head, Mr D McGall leads an online session for parents and carers detailing: The Reading Way, Pastoral Support, The Curriculum, Careers Support, Safety, Wellbeing, Happiness & Success, Supporting your son & working together, Key Dates and Celebrating 900 Years.

Please [click this link](#) to access the online recording of the Year 7 Expectations Evening.

Please [click this link](#) to access slides.

Year 13 only

Year 13 Online Expectations Evening

Assistant Head, Mr A Lloyd leads an online session for parents and carers detailing: What is different about Year 13, Foundations for Academic Success, UCAS, Pastoral Support, Leadership, Character & Community Service and Your Role.

Please [click this link](#) to access the online recording of the Year 13 Expectations Evening.

Please [click this link](#) to access slides.

All years

Michaelmas Term Co-curricular activities

For details of all Michaelmas Term Co-curricular activities, please [click here](#). Activities include: Music Ensembles & Choirs, PE Clubs and Squads, Philosophy & Ethics, Creative Writing, Christian Union, Economics Society, Mathematical Problem Solving, Rowing and Combined Cadet Force.

Please contact the specific staff member leading clubs or Assistant Head, Mr T Evans by emailing tevans@reading-school.co.uk

Home School Agreement

Please can all parents and carers read through the [Home School Agreement](#) and complete a [Microsoft form via this link](#) to confirm that it has been read. The agreement is an important outline of the partnership between students, the School and parents to ensure the best possible outcome for your child. We thank in advance for completing the form by Friday 20th of September.

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

Support Sessions for parents and carers

The Brighter Futures for Children Mental Health Support Team (MHST) host a number of supportive sessions for parents regarding mental health and well-being. Please see the information and links below regarding options for this term.

Coffee mornings



Coffee mornings are an opportunity for parent/carer(s) to learn about mental health in a relaxed and informal setting, understand how mental health might affect their child and learn practical tools to help them support their child through any mental health difficulties they may experience, whether short or long-term. These informal coffee mornings are run by Amanda Mavunga (Reading MHST CAMHS Senior Clinician at BFfC). Amanda will deliver a presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions. Parents and carers can attend any session, even if their child does not attend the hosting school. Places are on a first come, first served basis.

The new MHST coffee morning timetable for the autumn term 2024 is available [by clicking here](#).

World of Emotions Parent Workshop



The MHST is also offering parents and carers the opportunity to attend World of Emotions, their online workshop, from September 2024. The workshops run monthly and last 3 ½ hours. To access the workshop please [complete the online referral form](#) and add 'WoE' in the referral reason on the form.

World of Emotions is not a parenting course, but rather an opportunity for parents and carers to gain more skills to understand and support their child/young person's wellbeing. It covers a range of emotions and difficulties (e.g. low mood/depression, anxiety, self-harm, disordered eating, challenging behaviour towards others etc). Anyone else who may be closely involved in a child's life, e.g. grandparents/close family friend, is welcome to attend. The MHST would need to know in advance 'household' numbers and they ask that children/young people do not attend.

School Community News

Current Vacancies – Reading School

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.

Future Stories Summer Camp 2024

Future Stories is Reading School's social mobility programme that is led by Reading School Prefects and student mentors. The annual Future Stories Summer Camp took place in late August which saw primary school children visit Reading School and benefit from academic and social enrichment across two days. Future Stories Prefect, Oliver B (13RWu) shares his report about the activities that took place and the difference that the camp makes to not only the mentors, but also the children:

The Future Stories Summer Camp which took place on the 29th and 30th of August was a great success. Providing academic enrichment and outdoor activities for 40 Year 5 pupils from 30 local primary schools. The two-day camp offered a variety of sessions to extend the students' knowledge and to further support them with their studies for the future. The first day included Maths problems, logic games, and problem-solving exercises, finishing with a fun dance session. The second day focused on verbal reasoning and creative writing, along with an afternoon of football and cricket.



During the sessions the Year 5 pupils were supported by Reading School students from Years 11, 12 and 13.

Sameer T (11W) said, "Taking part in the summer camp was a really enjoyable experience for me. I developed values such as leadership and patience while working with the Year 5s. I saw a lot of progress with the students and I could see them learn some valuable social skills. Such as effective communication with others. In addition, the camp gave me a greater appreciation for the effort teachers make towards students and their future. Overall, the camp was a great learning opportunity for myself and others and I would like to participate again to mentor other students."

Jiji W (12JTe) said, "The summer camp was a vibrant blend of academic enrichment and outdoor fun, with sessions focused on improving Maths and English skills alongside engaging outdoor sports and activities. The Year 5 pupils not only strengthened their academic foundations, but also gained valuable experience in a team setting, developing their teamwork and communication skills. In addition, this opportunity was deeply rewarding to me as a volunteer, helping me to develop my mentoring skills, and enhance my ability to adapt to the situations and needs of different children."



Raghav N-S (12MCo) said, "The Future Stories Summer Camp was a great opportunity for me to help Year 5 children with their Maths and English learning. It gave me the opportunity to pass on knowledge and tips that I found useful in the past, and in turn help ensure that the students were able to perform to the best of their abilities. At the same time, I believe that the sports and dance activities that we conducted were equally important. They were enjoyable and it allowed me to be more involved as I was able to take part in some of the activities along with the children. Making the students smile, laugh and enjoy themselves was a fulfilling experience. I will definitely take part in this summer camp if it runs again next year."

Ojas J (13ZMC) said, "The summer camp was an enjoyable opportunity which gave us a chance to work with pupils to improve our management skills, while providing useful tips from current students to benefit their understanding of the subject."

The summer camp was led by Mrs C Heston, who was supported by Mrs P Hickman, Mr Z McAllister, Miss A Batty, Mr J Appiah, Mrs L Dimmick, Mrs R McAllister, Mr C Woodley and Mrs E Lawrence. We would like to thank these members of staff for their help. Without their time and hard work, the Future Stories summer camp would not have been possible.

Thank you also to the following students who gave up their time during the summer holidays to volunteer at the summer camp. Their help was invaluable and much appreciated.

Year 11:

Takumi P
Ashish G
Sameer T
Theodore Y
Amogh R
Abdul A

Year 12:

Jiji W
Jack S
Rujul N
James M

Aryan K
Parthiv M
Kavish S
Rabin D
Aarush J
Isaac H
Danyal K
Pranav G
Akshith A
Rithwick J
Raghav S

Year 13:

Oliver B
Rohan O
Charles L
Ammar I
Nelson W
Sid D
Joshua H
Dhruv D
Henry K
Ojas J
Max A
Mayank J



RSPA

About us



READING SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Reading School Parents' Association would like to extend a warm welcome to all new Reading school families and a welcome back to all returning ones.

'The Reading School Parents Association' is a charity managed by the parents and carers of Reading School students, and we work alongside the School to provide a community for all the parents and carers. We raise funds using several methods, like the Preloved uniform shop, school lottery, events and donations.

Over recent years, we have funded outdoor seating, cricket nets, refurbished toilets, minibuses and, most recently, AV equipment. We are always looking for new members to help with our worthy cause and volunteers are welcome to help in whatever capacity you have.

Annual General Meeting

We are preparing for our forthcoming AGM (date tbc) and are looking for new members to become involved with the committee in order to make a real impact for all students and the School. There are many ways in which you can become involved, depending on your interests and available time. If you are curious about the roles available, [please click here to discover how you can be part of the RSPA team](#).

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

Lost Property Collection from the Uniform Shop – Friday 13th September

Lost property found in the last academic year is currently in the Uniform Shop.

As advertised on Classlist and WhatsApp, students will be able to visit the shop between 3.30 and 4.30pm today to try and find lost items.

Named items will be given to the School to reunite with the correct student, however, there are many unnamed coats, shoes, glasses and calculators which we would like to reunite with their owners. Please remind your child to come and have a look today.

If a student is unable to come to the shop today, please email shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk by Friday 20th September, with a detailed description of the item lost and we will do our best to help. All items unclaimed by 20th September will be washed and either donated to charity or sold in the uniform shop.

For all queries, please email shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk.

Lottery

£2,038.40 of £4,160.00 target

98 tickets of 200 ticket goal

Buy tickets

Share our lottery

Next draw prizes

£25,000 jackpot

£27.60 guaranteed prize (this will go up as tickets are sold)

Our lottery draw takes place every Saturday evening and there is always a lucky player who wins approximately £30. Tickets cost £1 each and you can play regularly or as a one-off. Simply click the following link to play www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

Refer a friend and enter our exclusive draw!

Want to help our School raise more money AND get an extra chance to win on Your School Lottery? If you refer a friend to Your School Lottery and they buy a ticket, we will give you and your friend a free entry into our exclusive referral rewards draw where you can win a £200 Amazon gift voucher. Terms and conditions apply

Michaelmas Term – Week 2

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.

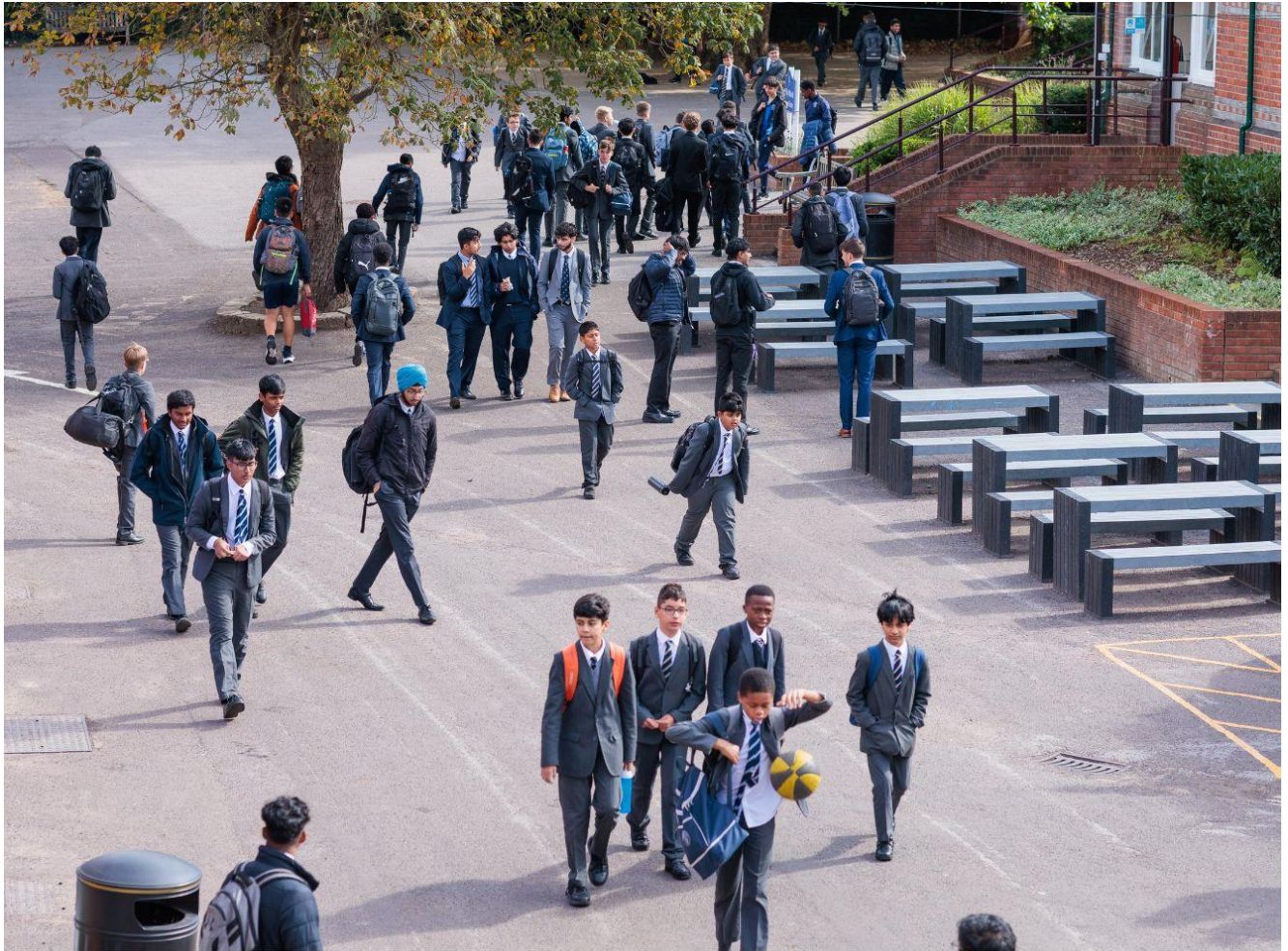


A fine start to the first full week back at School











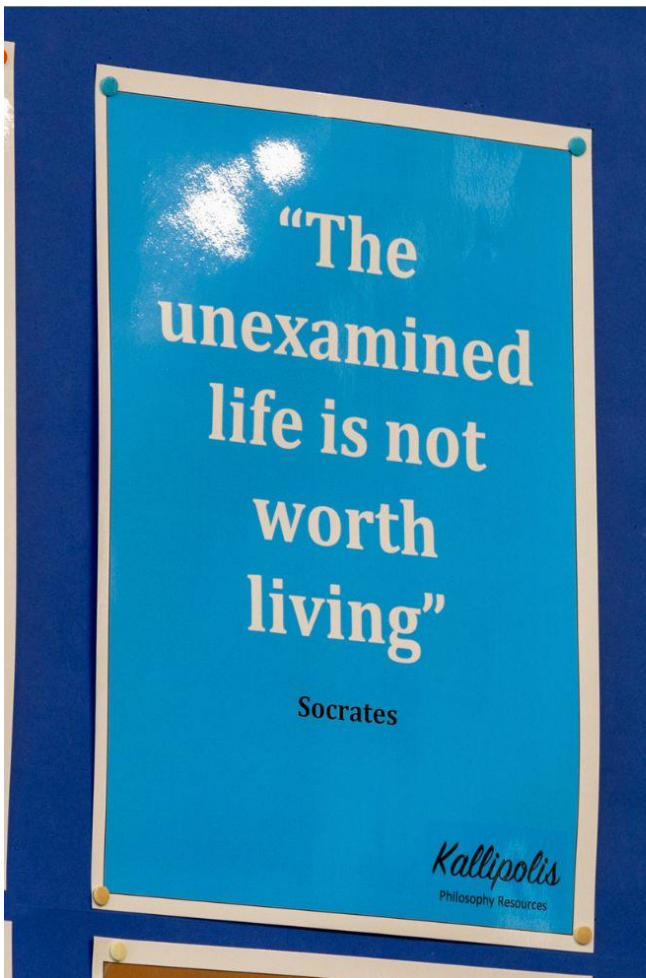
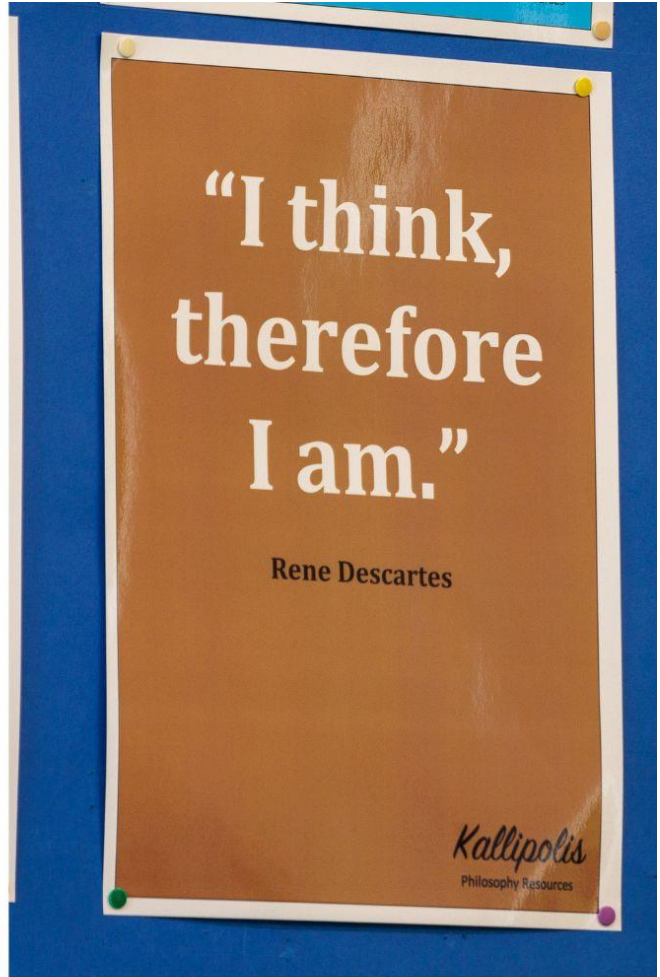




Year 7's first Theology & Philosophy class with Mr Amos







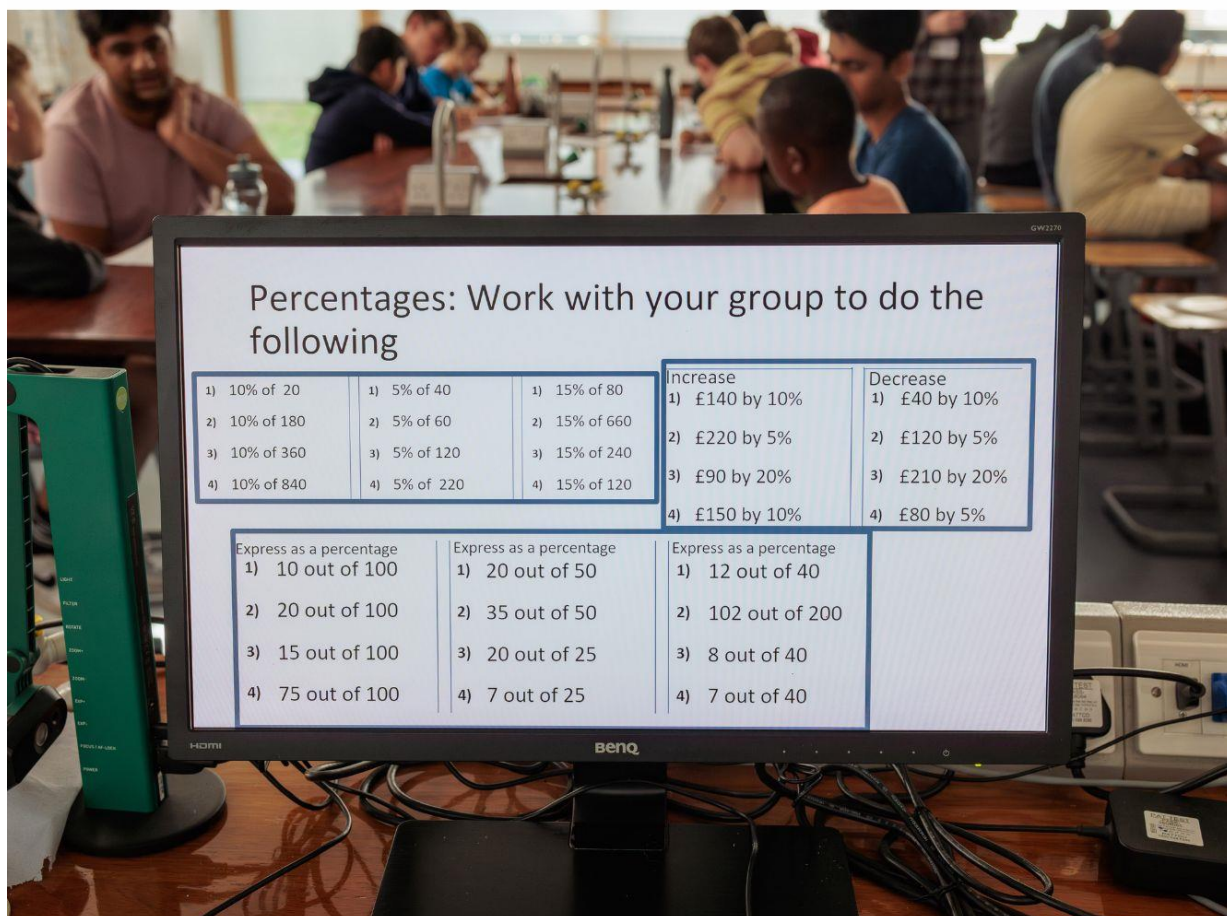
School House Assembly

Students welcome new Year 7s

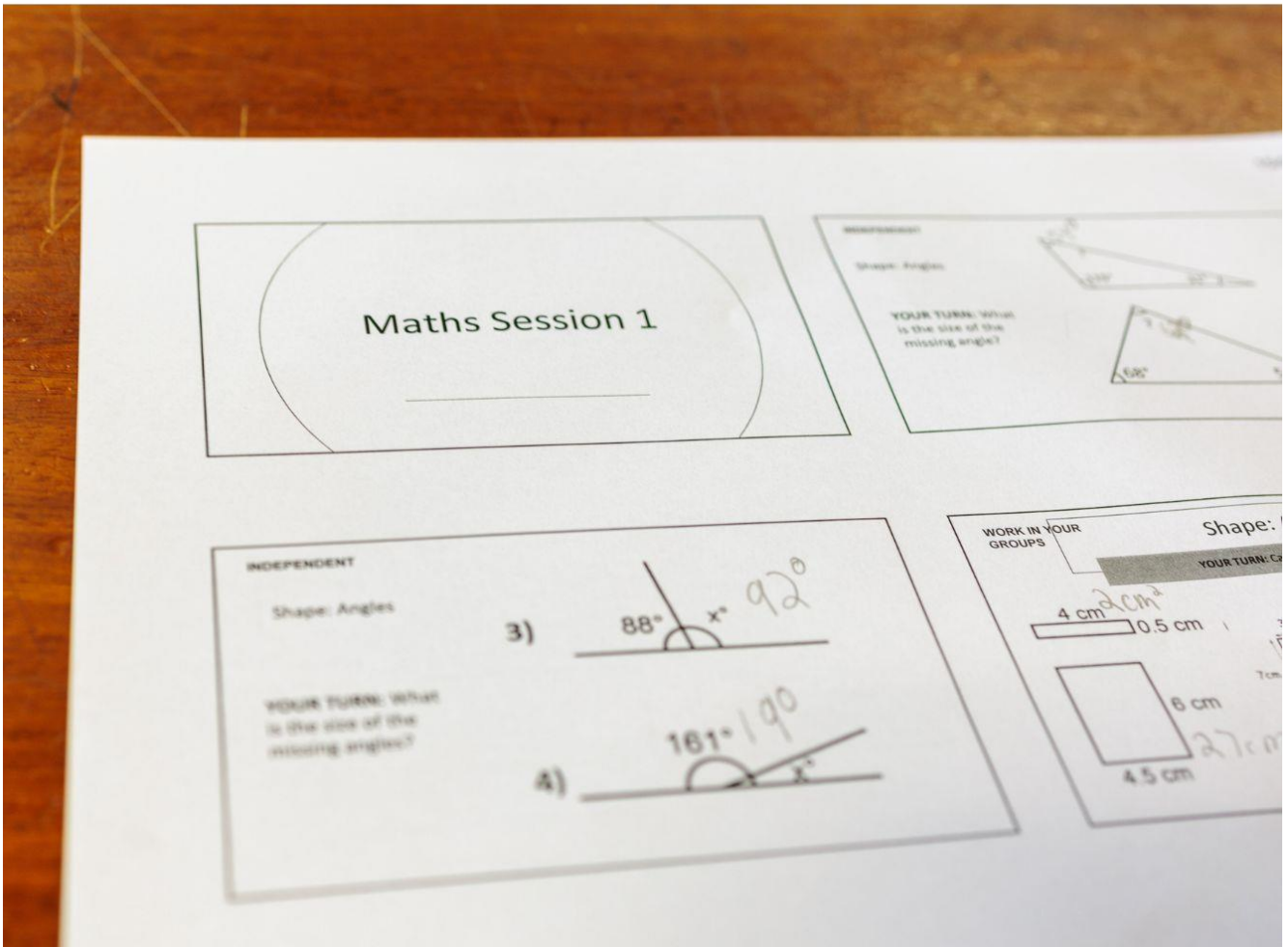


Future Stories Summer Camp 2024

For more information about Future Stories, [please click here](#).













Reading School Parents Association



There's only 1 day left before the Rugby Festival 2024

Saturday 14th September will see a staff and Old Redingensian Team against a Reading School Leavers Team and all current students and families are welcome to cheer the teams on!







Reading School Year 7 Houses







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.