



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

20th September 2024

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Introduction

Like our new Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12 students, I have found everything a 'bit new' lately. Where's this room? What's that person's name? When does break end?! Having returned from maternity leave at the start of this new term, I'm often asked what it's like to be back and, for me, there is one word and feeling that comes to mind – community.

It has felt wonderful to return to such a fantastic School in order to teach, to learn, to work, to support, and so much more. I have had some really insightful conversations with Year 10s in their PSHE lessons when reflecting on challenges and fear. Complex and thoughtful questions about evolution in Year 9 Biology along with incredibly mature and methodical practicals in Year 9 Chemistry. Year 7s have impressed me with their enthusiasm and smiles. Year 8 have started the year with energy and eagerness. Year 11 have returned with a renewed focus and the Sixth Form are exceptional role models for the whole school, both in character and appearance.

I know of no other place where everyone, from the catering team to the cleaning team, from the estates staff to associate and reception staff, consistently go out of their way to help one another with a smile.

Last Saturday, the atmosphere at our Rugby Festival, which featured a staff and Old Redingensian team vs leavers team, on the historic front field, bathed in the September sunshine was the epitome of what community looks and feels like at Reading School. Young children from different families were playing together, old boys from days gone by were rubbing literal shoulders with our leavers. Not to mention some very questionable and wince-inducing tackles.

I am also looking forward to the planning of our exciting Community Festival, and we invite you all to save the date of Saturday 5th July 2025 to come and celebrate our 900th Anniversary together.

In closing, with community comes connection and this weekend, I would encourage you to reconnect with one another. Put down your devices to spend some time together. Pose some questions to one another. What's been the highlight of the week? What is one thing you learned? What did you find challenging? What is one family tradition or memory from your childhood you want to keep alive? What was the best advice you ever received?

In how many different ways can your family connect to one another?

With thanks,

Miss Lizzie Ayres

Deputy Headteacher

Key information

Years 7 and 12 only

Parents Welcome Coffee Morning - Tuesday 24th September 2024

We are delighted to welcome Year 7 and new Year 12 families to our annual Welcome Coffee Morning event and parents would have received a letter with details about the event taking place next Tuesday 24th September from 10.00am – 11.00am.

We hope you can join us for this special event and to confirm your attendance, please use the RSVP link provided in the letter by Monday 23rd September 2024.

We look forward to meeting you and sharing this wonderful opportunity to connect.

Year 8 only

Year 8 Online Expectations Evening

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

Please [click this link](#) to access the online recording of the Year 8 Expectations Evening.

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

Year 10 only

Year 10 Online Expectations Evening

Assistant Head, Mr D McGall leads an online session for parents and carers detailing: Key Dates, Curriculum Update, Character Update, Safety, Wellbeing & Happiness and Working Together.

Please [click this link](#) to access the online recording of the Year 10 Expectations Evening.

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

Year 11 only

Year 11 Online Expectations Evening

Headmaster, Dr C Evans leads an online session for parents and carers detailing: The Reading Way and Culture, Pastoral Support, The Curriculum, Careers Support, Safety, Wellbeing, Happiness & Success, GCSEs, Key Dates and Celebrating 900 Years.

Please [click this link](#) to access the online recording of the Year 11 Expectations Evening.

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

Please [click this link](#) to access Next Steps Planning

Year 12 and 13 only

Year 12 and 13 Further Mathematicians

If you are studying Further Mathematics at A level, you may want to purchase a graphical calculator. These are not required; however, some students find them useful.

To purchase one via the school, please access My Child at School (MCAS). The calculator costs £74.90 and the deadline for ordering is Friday 27th September by 1pm. Purchased calculators will be given to students via their Maths Teacher the following week.

All years

900th Anniversary Whole School Photograph - Tuesday 8th October



As part of our 900th Anniversary celebrations in 2025, we will be taking a whole school photograph on the afternoon of Tuesday 8th October.

Please can parents ensure that children attend in full school uniform. If your child has PE or Games on this day, kindly remind them to bring their school uniform to change into. All students have already been informed of this plan.

We look forward to sharing this special photograph with you in the future.

Parents working in the field of Geography

As part of our student's Geography studies, the Geography Department would like to run a mini-series of talks throughout the year while inviting parents with a career in Geography to be our speakers.

If you work in a field which involves any Geography and would be willing to talk to Reading School students, please get in touch.

The purpose of the talks is to inspire students and broaden their knowledge of the workplace after study. If you are interested, please contact Dr K Young by emailing kyoung@reading-school.co.uk

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

Online Safety Parent Session

Parents and carers are invited to an online safety information session being delivered by Knowsley CLC on Wednesday 2nd October from 4.00pm – 4.45pm. The virtual session will include information about current online trends in relation to children, understanding risks, what a parent can do to help their child keep safe and further support.

A link to the recorded online session will be shared w/c 30th September in the Headmaster's Bulletin.

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.

Excellence in Scholarship

Scholarship *noun* 1. academic study or achievement; learning at a high level.

At Reading School, we expect our students to develop an academic curiosity and have a strong desire to read beyond the curriculum that is delivered in the classroom. We enthusiastically support the academic potential and scholarly approach of our students and during their time here, they will have many opportunities to stretch themselves in order to reach their potential.



Year 12s have now chosen and begun to study the subject areas that inspire them the most and that they are excited about exploring further. During the Sixth Form Transition Day in July, they were presented with an exciting challenge by Head of Classics & Scholarship Lead, Mr M Cooper, *to take the opportunity to explore further an aspect of at least one of their A level subjects beyond the curriculum*. Any area directly or indirectly relating to their chosen A level would be acceptable, as long as it sparked interest and curiosity.

Mr M Cooper shares, “Exploring subject areas of interest can often open doors to discovering deeper passions and further areas of interest. This journey of discovery can ignite deep-seated enthusiasm for a particular field while transforming students’ academic experience. As well as fueling their love for the subjects, it has the additional benefit of the students understanding their A level courses better and allowing them to contribute in greater depth to class discussions. In short, the process will take their A level lessons to another level.”

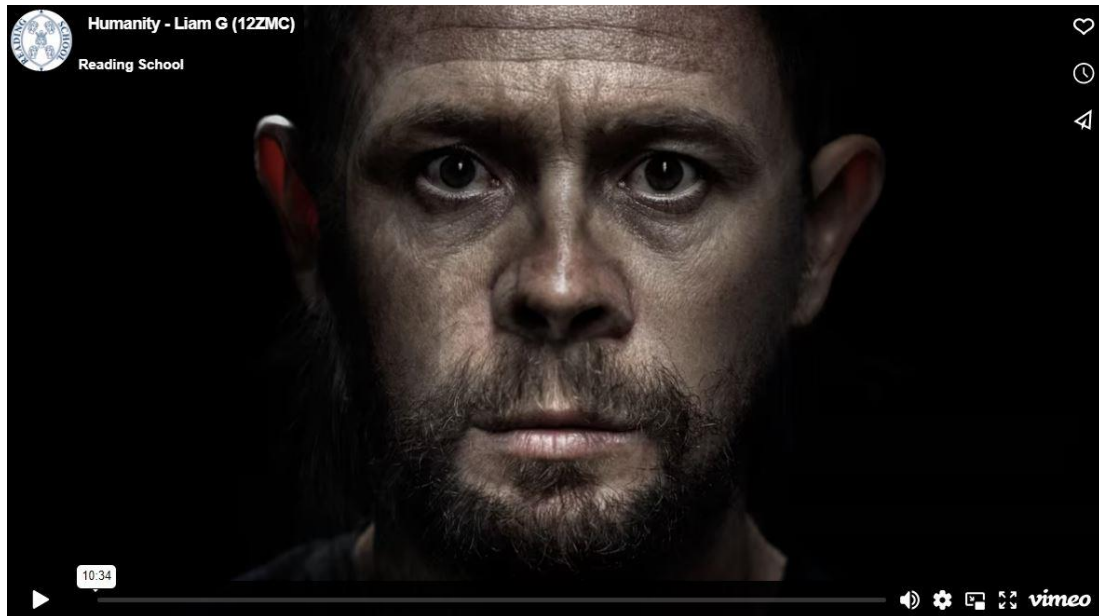
Reading School students are also encouraged to be community-minded and to leave the school a better institution than the one they found on their arrival. With this community focus in mind, the format of the research is that students submit a video file (10 – 15 mins in length), and the best pieces of research will be made a part of a new Digital Research Library for all students (present and future) to access and be inspired by.

Students are invited to be as creative as they want in relation to their video through the use of images, graphs, text, stock videos and commentary. This considers any students who do not feel comfortable recording themselves. All presentations must contain a bibliography – a slide which outlines where they got their information from. This is to enable those that are interested in their scholarly work to read up on it in more detail later.

For the avoidance of doubt, the term ‘Scholarship’ is used in relation to the pursuit of knowledge through study and research, and not in relation to financial aid awarded to students.

Reading School prides itself on striving for excellence in all that it does and the new student-led Digital Research Library is one step in allowing bright minds to explore, showcase and share their knowledge and passion with others.

To view an example from the new Digital Research Library, please click the image below.



To find out more about the Scholarship Project, please contact Mr M Cooper by emailing mcooper@reading-school.co.uk

Excellence in Music

Congratulations to Sergey D (7W) who was awarded the Grand First Prize in the [Golden Piano Talents Competition](#), an annual international classical music event which took place on the 13th and 14th September 2024. The competition promotes musical performances from all over the world and, 'supports and motivates pianists of different expertise, ages and nationalities and encourages them to build a worldwide recognised professional career.'

Sergey competed alongside contestants from 60 countries and [invited to perform](#) at the event in Bezisten, North Macedonia. Congratulations Sergey and we look forward to hearing you play in a future House Music Competition!



Excellence in Engineering



A record number of students this year have been awarded an [Arkwright Scholarship Award](#), a programme designed to inspire students to, 'pursue their dreams and change the world as an outstanding engineer of the future.' We spoke with three of our Year 12 students this week: Siddhant D (12EL), Aryan K (12BSA) and Rujul N (12ZMC) who came forward wanting to invite students interested in applying for the award to get in touch for advice.

Q: Can you tell us more about the Arkwright Scholarship?

Aryan K: The Arkwright Scholarship is a prestigious program that has been running for over 30 years, and it offers a unique opportunity to showcase your passion for engineering. It is highly regarded in the UK as one of the most esteemed scholarships for aspiring engineers.

To apply, you start by filling out an application form, similar to a job application. This form includes several parts which includes, what types of engineering you love, details about any of your achievements, and any projects which you have completed in your spare time to showcase your interest. Following that there are two main stages. First, you need to sit an exam that provides various engineering problems and demonstrate your creativity by providing viable potential solutions. Once you do well in the exam, there is an interview where you get the chance to present your chosen project as well as showing your passion for the specific field of engineering you are interested by being able to discuss about the technicalities with industry level experts.

The scholarship aims to provide financial support, mentorship, and opportunities to work on projects with expert guidance. The support is crucial because, it will enable you to develop both your love and skills in your chosen engineering field, making it easier to turn the dream of becoming an engineer into a reality.

Q: Can you share what your project was?

Siddhant D: My Arkwright project was a Python program which aimed to find and graph Taylor approximations for a range of different input function types including logarithmic, exponential and the six basic trigonometric functions. You can take a complex function like this and, using my algorithm, produce a Taylor polynomial for that which would essentially approximate that function around a single point. By applying this approximation, we get a simpler type of function, a polynomial, which makes analysing data for trends much easier. This is why Taylor polynomials are used for different optimisation techniques in data analysis.

Q: Could you explain that in layman's terms?

Siddhant D: The program is essentially a series of steps which is designed to turn a complex curve on a graph into a simpler one so that it's easier to work with. That's essentially what my program does.

Q: What do Reading School students who are interested in applying need to know?

Rujul N: Last year, there was only one student who was awarded it, and we all talked to him to see what we could do to prepare for the aptitude test and interview, and then we were all awarded a scholarship. So hopefully next year, which will be this year's Year 11s can talk to us, and we can give them tips on the interview and the aptitude test to help them to also get a virtual or fully funded scholarship.

Q: Can you tell us more about your project?

Rujul N: So, I wrote a programming language. It's for a type of competition called code golf, where the aim is to write as short of a program as possible to solve a problem. And so, I wrote a programming language specifically for code golf, where it is very concise, and so it's like five to ten times shorter than regular programming languages like Python.

Q: What next for you? What's the rest of the journey going to look like in relation to the scholarship programme?

Aryan K: Initially, I worked on a stock market prediction project, as I am hoping to continue into the field of AI Engineering. Now with access to a mentor as part of the programme, I am hoping to be able to firstly learn more from their industry experience in the quite new field, but also be able to challenge myself by trying out newer and more complex algorithms, with a greater focus on the theory behind them. Overall, I want the scholarship to provide a skillset which may be useful for my career in the future.

Q: Does AI have the power to solve social problems?

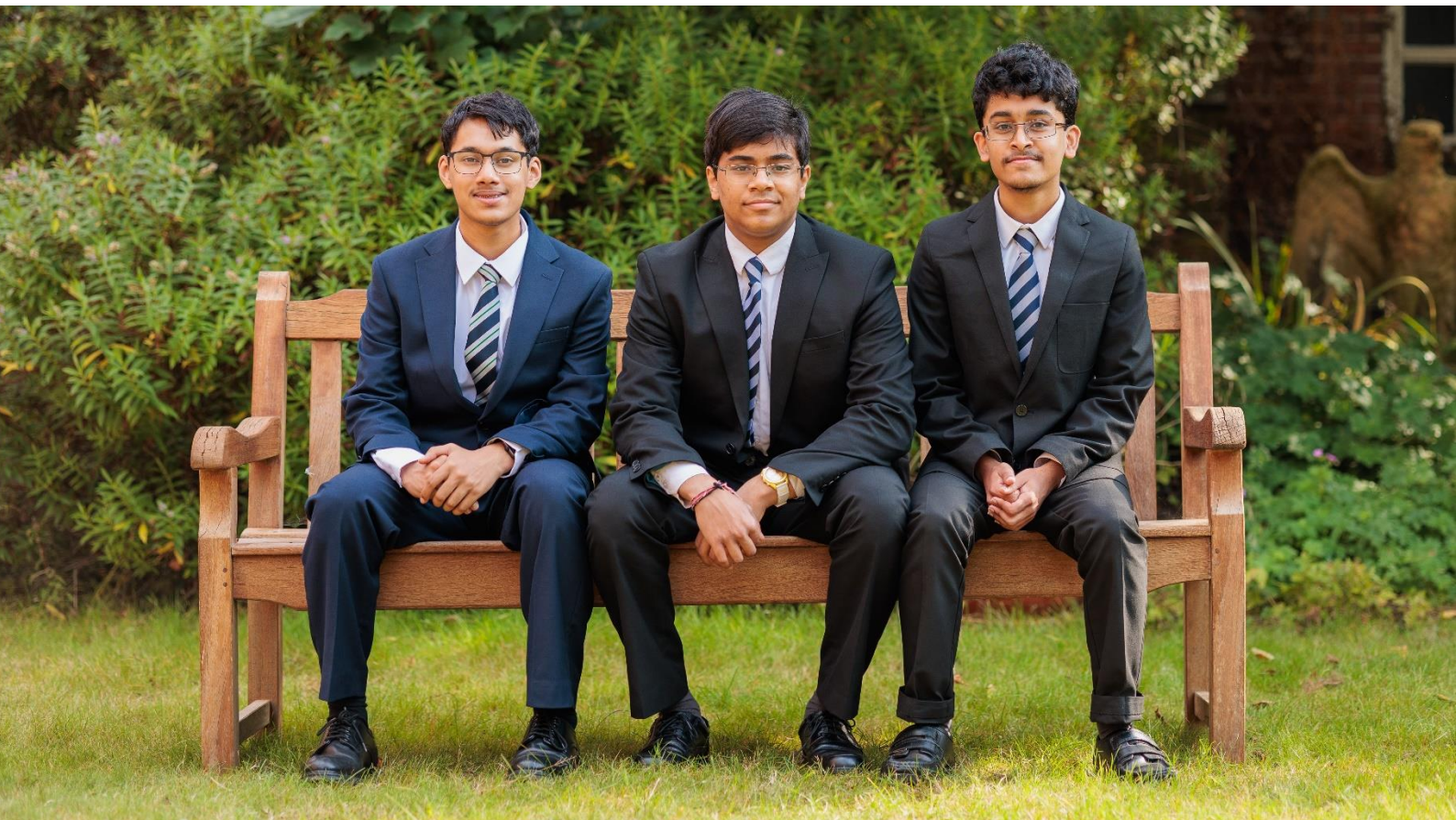
Aryan K: In a logical sense, yes, AI can address certain social problems. AI excels at processing large amounts of data and providing answers based on patterns and algorithms. However, it often lacks the ability to understand the emotional and subjective aspects of human issues, due to the difficulty to “program” an emotion. Therefore, while AI can be a powerful tool in solving data-driven objective problems, it is not a complete solution on its own for all social problems which affect the lives of many people.

Q: Is there anything else that you would want students to know about the Scholarship?

Siddhant D: Well, I think that the most important thing for students to know is that this programme actually exists. With only one Arkwright scholar from Reading School being selected last year, it's clear that the scholarship is largely unknown. As well as that, I want them to know that it's not just an award. Even just the process of applying, doing the aptitude tests, and having interviews allows you to gain very important skills when applying for jobs, universities, and even other scholarships.

Rujul N: I want people to know that although it says engineering on the website, we all did computer science projects, and that is completely fine: it doesn't have to be pure engineering. It can be software engineering as well, which I think that a lot of people are interested in, in this school. And also, if you need any tips or anything like that, just email any of us and we'll be happy to help.

We would like to thank all three students for their altruism and desire to share their knowledge which contributes to our School values and approach. Creating an environment of shared success where young people collaborate leads to positive progress benefitting all rather than just a select few.



(From left to right) Rujul N (12ZMC) , Aryan K (12BSA) and Siddhant D (12EL)

RSPA

Who we are



READING SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION
Lottery, events and donations.

'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 much needed outdoor seating, cricket nets, refurbished toilets, minibuses and, most recently, AV equipment. We are always looking for new members to support the RSPA in order to continue supporting the school for the benefit of its students. For all enquiries, please email contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk.

Annual General Meeting

We are preparing for our forthcoming AGM (date tbc) and are looking for 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. To view our current roles, [please click this link](#).

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

RSPA Weekly Lottery

For the last few years our regular weekly Lottery has been overseen by our Lottery Manager, Jaideep Das. It's one of our top fundraisers, raising nearly £3,000 every year.

Our lottery draw takes place every Saturday evening and there is always a lucky winner with a weekly prize, typically around £30. Each ticket consists of 6 numbers. Match all 6 numbers and you can win a jackpot of £25,000!

Tickets cost £1 each and you can play regularly or as a one-off.

Please do support this fundraiser and click this link to join www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

There's also a Super Draw each month, for an additional chance to win a prize where players are entered for free. This month's Super Draw is a £1,000 prize either as shopping vouchers or cash.

Once you're signed up, you can refer friends and family to Your School Lottery. When they buy a ticket, both you and your friend receive a free entry into an exclusive referral rewards draw. You could currently win a £200 Amazon gift voucher.

If you're a member of the RSPA, and registered with us on Classlist, we would also like to offer you an opportunity to join the Lottery and receive your first 5 weeks lottery subscription for free! We're trialling a cashback scheme where RSPA members can receive a £5 cashback once they have completed their first 13 weeks of Lottery subscription.

If you're not already an existing member of the RSPA please click the following link to apply <https://www.readingschoolpa.org.uk/new-starters-1>, and then contact our Treasurer via Classlist to claim your cashback for signing up to our weekly Lottery.

We invite everyone to join the RSPA! Please do read our website, as we aim to provide valuable support to students.

Good luck everyone! We look forward to welcoming you to our list of prize-winners!

The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

Opening dates and times:

Friday 18th October - 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Saturday 19th October - 10.30am to 12.30pm

Friday 6th December 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Saturday 7th December - 10.30am to 12.30pm

No parking is allowed on site on Friday openings.

There is parking available in the Walled Carpark on Saturday openings and the Uniform shop can be found in the back of the Walled Carpark. Please note shop opening is weather dependent, in the event of a poor weather forecast the opening may be cancelled. Please email shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk with any queries.

Last Year's Year 10 photos

In case any parents/carers missed the opportunity to request a photo of their son's year group, it is still not too late to do so.

There is the option of an 8" by 6" or A4 print at £10 and £20 respectively. A sample can be viewed in advance.

All funds raised will be donated back to the School for the benefit of students.

For further info, please contact Kerry O'Brien by emailing kerryobrien2004@yahoo.co.uk

Have a lovely weekend.

The RSPA Team

Michaelmas Term – Week 3

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.



Personal Finance with Teacher of Economics, Mr Lawal



During the Personal Finance Elective, students shared a presentation on budgeting and saving



Mr Lawal's bite-sized tutorial on analysing stocks using technical analysis – perfect for anyone wanting to level-up their investing skills





Don't Leave It Too Late
The Security Threat To UK Tech Startups Is Growing. Take Action To Protect Your Innovation
NPSA

LEADERBOARD

Rank	User	Account Value	Today's Change	Overall Change
1.	-_andrey_-	\$1,033.85	\$0.00 (0.00%) —	3.38% ↑
2.	varnesh	\$1,012.97	\$0.00 (0.00%) —	1.30% ↑
3.	vedant-paul	\$1,012.96	\$0.00 (0.00%) —	1.30% ↑
4.	samar_v	\$1,007.61	\$0.00 (0.00%) —	0.76% ↑
5.	krish_mittal	\$1,003.35	\$0.00 (0.00%) —	0.34% ↑
6.	elawal	\$1,000.00	\$0.00 (0.00%) —	0.00% —
7.	rayyantheinvestingpro	\$1,000.00	\$0.00 (0.00%) —	0.00% —

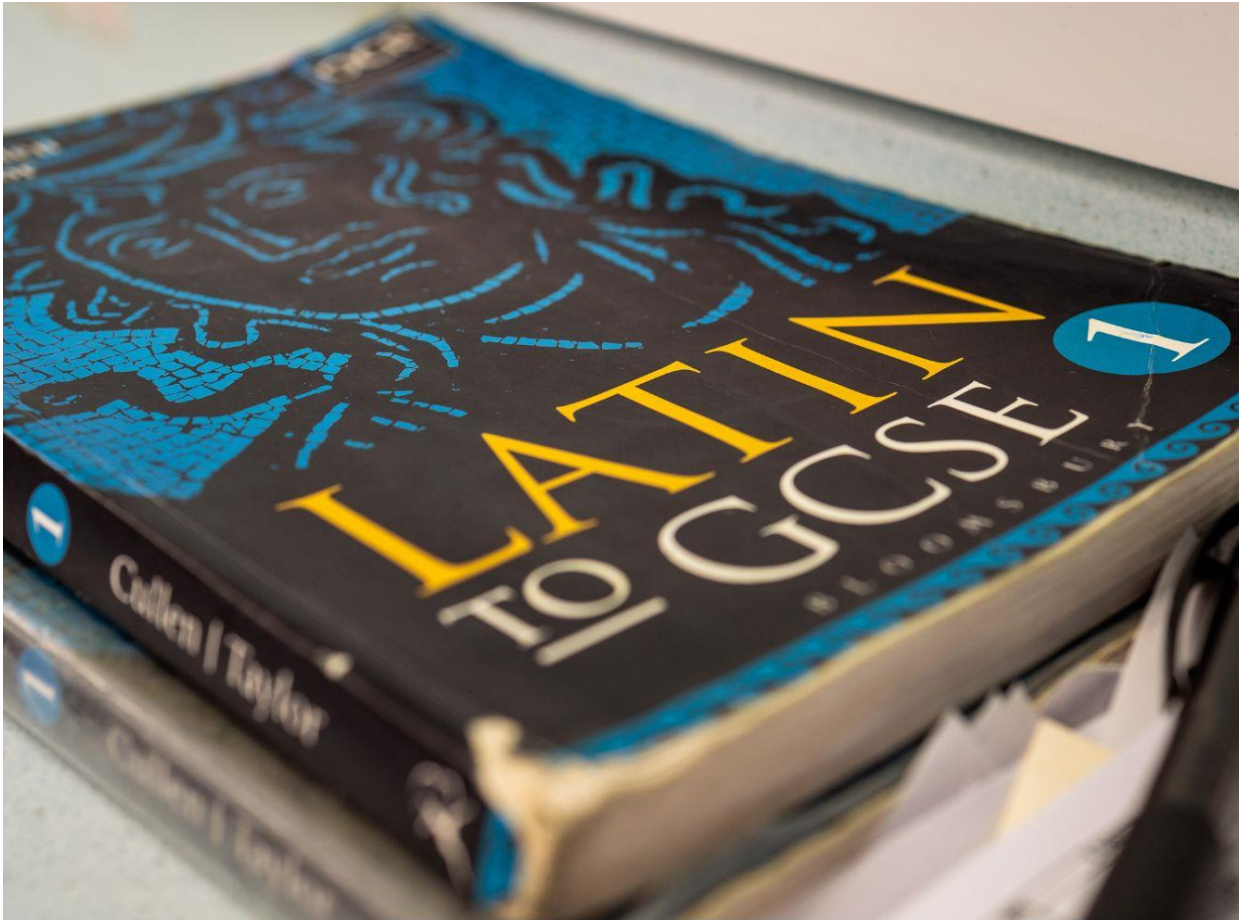
Test of Mathematics for University Admission (TMUA) Session

Dev Goyal (OR 2014 – 2021) returned to Reading School this week to deliver a session for Year 13 students considering applying to the University of Cambridge. Dev is a recent Economics and Management graduate from the University of Cambridge and current Master's student at the University of Oxford and we thank him for coming back to share his valuable experience and insights with current students.

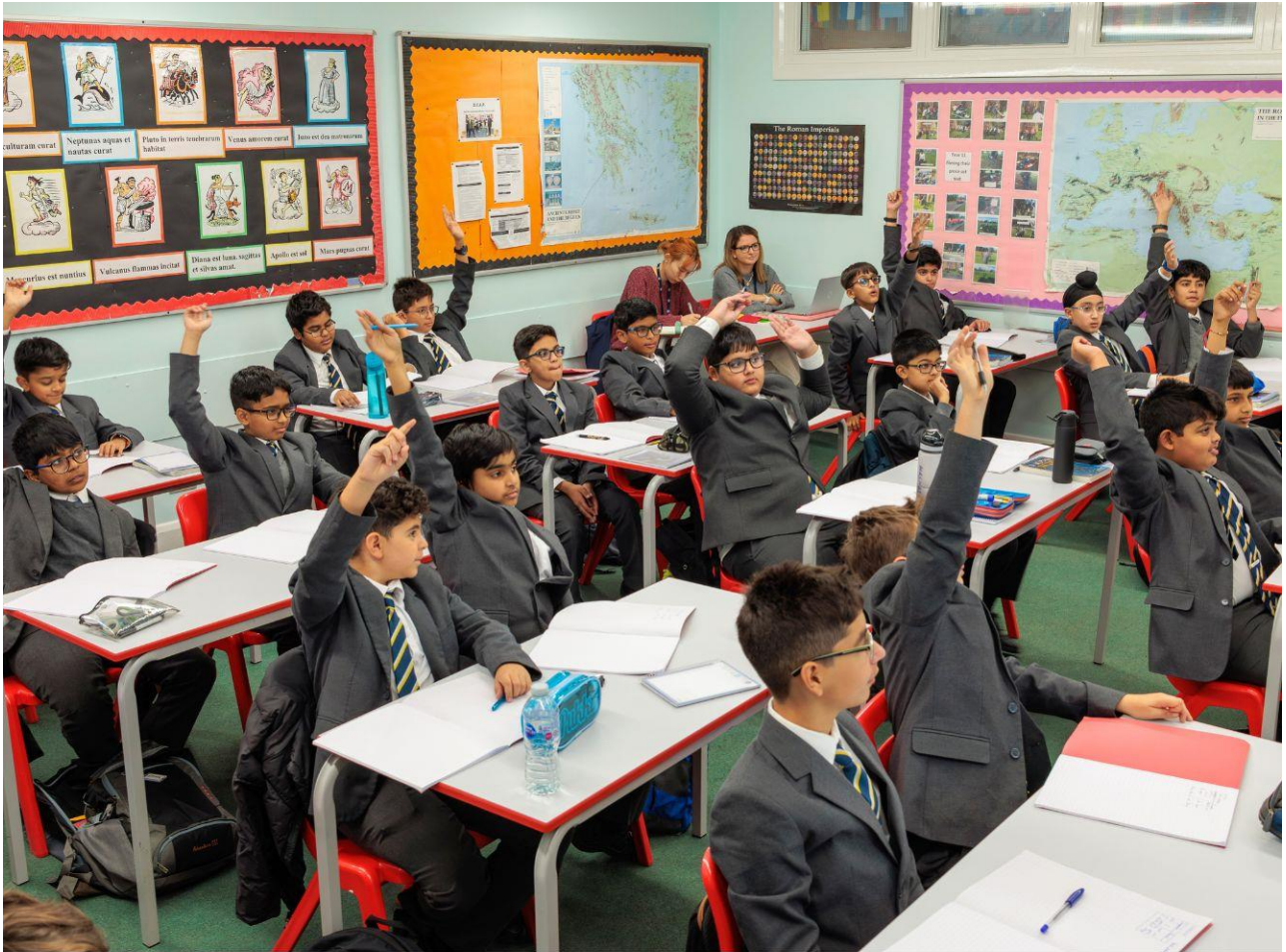


Classics with Head of Classics & Scholarship Lead, Mr Cooper

Year 7s got their first experience of a Classics class with Mr Cooper!



Mr Cooper shared why Classics is taught at Reading School in his own unique and entertaining way







Thames Valley Air Ambulance (TVAA)

The air ambulance landing at Reading School this week on Tuesday 17th September



Did you know that in 2011, [Thames Valley Air Ambulance](#) (TVAA) saved the life of Reading School student, Toby Darrington. The following year, his sister, who attended Kenrick School, organised a charity concert to raise money and show gratitude towards TVAA.



The tradition of a joint charity concert between the two schools continues



Rugby Festival 2024

































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.