



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

27th September 2024

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# Introduction

Dear students, colleagues, carers and parents,

We are halfway through this first half-term. The year is young, but we've now settled into the rhythm and structure of our days and our weeks together. Routines and repetition can sometimes result in drudgery and disinterest, but it's my aspiration that within the parameters and processes of our school life, there is space for opportunity, delight and joy.

Perhaps I can illustrate with a handful of the conversations and experiences I have enjoyed this week?

It was in 1985 and 1986 that the school last had a truly successful swimming team. Back then, one of our current Year 10 parents was a senior student who helped lead the school to clean sweeps against Eton, Harrow and Berkhamstead. Victory on Monday for our new junior team against Wellington and Bluecoat was all the more delightful for the passage of 38 years! What a wonderful resurrection inspired by a new Year 7 parent and our inimitable Head of Sport, Mr Allen, and well done to all three teams.

At the same time that our swim team was beginning this adventure, I was observing 7E, under the careful tutelage of the Director of Music, Mr Griffin. I witnessed 30 young musicians exploring their new clarinets for the first time. There cannot be many schools in the world where every single 11-year-old is given a musical instrument until Christmas (at no cost) and invited to experiment, to make a joyful noise, and to learn what it means to be part of an ensemble.

On Tuesday, I found it hugely animating to chat with so many new Year 12 and 7 parents, and absorb wisdom and feedback. Dads and sons cricket matches, decarbonisation, homework, hand sanitiser and the palpable sense of belonging felt by so many new students were just few of the fascinating conversations I enjoyed. Later, in the afternoon, my Year 13 philosophy class stretched me with different questions: "If, in a parallel universe, there was a chemical that wasn't H<sub>2</sub>O but had exactly the same properties and behaved in exactly the same way as water, should we call it water?"

In the last week, with the help of Year 13 students, I hit a cricket ball into an English classroom (I'm so sorry Ms Peoples), wrestled with the injustice that those with surnames beginning N-Z are less likely to be "late" than those beginning "A-M" (because they get 30 seconds more grace through the calling of the register), awarded a £3000 Army Officer Scholarship (we're incredibly proud of you Rohan!) and considered whether there's room to discuss the anthropological significance of kinship in a 4000 character personal statement (perhaps).

With colleagues, I've wrangled a sump pump from the flooded Chapel boiler room (thanks Mr Szymczyk), discussed Boarding priorities (more name labels please boarding parents) and reviewed recommendations for £23.5 million pounds of development projects (more details to be shared in due course).

The writer Frederick Buechner once said, "*All moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.*"

I hope that for you, each lesson, each swimming pool lap, each new clarinet note, each conversation, each downpour, each award, each relationship, each decision, each mistake and each discovery prove this to be the case.

**Dr Chris Evans**  
**Headmaster**

# Key information

We understand how valuable your time is so we have made it easier for you to stay informed through dividing the weekly Headmaster's Bulletin into 3 clear main sections to help you find what you need fast:

**Section 1** (*Contents page, Introduction, Key Information, Safeguarding & Wellbeing*) contains key information that we encourage all parents, carers and students to take note and be aware of. It's designed to give you all the crucial information at a glance.

**Section 2** (*School Community News*) features 'good-to-know' information. Here, we include news of student achievements, events, Reading School Parents Association news, careers advice and more. If you have the time and interest, have a browse to find out more about the School community.

**Section 3** (*School Gallery*) features highlights from the School week. Peek behind the curtain to find out more about the 'Reading Way'.

## All years

### Home School Agreement - a reminder

Thank you very much to all parents and carers who have already completed the Home School Agreement form which was requested in the Bulletin dated 13<sup>th</sup> September. Please can all parents and carers who have not already completed it read through the [Home School Agreement](#) and complete a very quick [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 each child. We would appreciate it if this could be completed by **Friday 4th of October**.

### Reading Week 2024

#### What is Reading Week?

It's an opportunity for students to spend a week focussed on reading, using a framework provided by the School. Reading can take many forms; for academic development as well as for pleasure, and we would encourage you to use the guidance provided by the school to immerse yourself in a rich and varied diet of subject matter in order to increase your appreciation for reading.

#### What are the benefits?

According to the DfE, reading "*matters to the individual, it matters emotionally, culturally and educationally.*" For many, reading can not only be a form of enjoyment, it can also allow readers to adopt new perspectives, develop empathy and become more socially conscious. Numerous studies suggest that enjoyment of reading is associated with higher reading performance and students who are reading regularly for enjoyment give themselves informal reading lessons, supporting their comprehension.

Furthermore, reading across a variety of rich subject matter expands your knowledge about the world as well as your understanding of subject-specific technical terms and vocabulary.

#### Tips

1. Firstly, read the [year-specific guidance in preparation for Reading Week](#);
2. Complete the 'Reading is discovery' challenges (found on pages 4 and 5)
3. Enjoy a wide range of resources from a wide range of subjects/genres – don't limit yourself to your 'favourite' subjects/genres or those in which you're the strongest.

#### Summary

We want to promote intellectual curiosity and scholarship through independent reading. Departments have shared a wide range of resource formats which prevent the need to buy anything new and we highly recommend using the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) as well as accessing your local library.

All enquiries can be emailed to Deputy Headteacher Miss Lizzie Ayres by emailing [layres@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:layres@reading-school.co.uk)

## 900th Anniversary Whole School Photograph - a reminder



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.

## Addington Road Gate

We are sorry that the Addington Road gate is still not operational. It suffered a power surge during a lightning strike at the end of August, and the replacement motherboard has still not arrived. We expect it to be up and running after half term, but it may not be fixed before then. We apologise for any inconvenience.

## Year 10 only

### Year 10 Online Expectations Evening

The recording from last week's Year 10 Online Expectations Evening can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

## Safeguarding & Wellbeing

### Parents & Carers Online Workshop

The Ben Kinsella Trust are running online two-hour parent and carer sessions in October. The sessions are designed for all parents, carers and professionals who support children and young people.

**Date:** October 15th - 6:30 - 8:30pm

**Link to book:** <https://benkinsellatrust.beaconforms.com/form/ce05d04b>

# School Community News

## Current Vacancies – Reading School

### Parent Governor Vacancy

Following the resignation of Dr Sanjay Shahi, there is a vacancy for a parent governor. We are seeking nominations from parents and carers for this important role, and [more details and a nomination form are available by clicking here](#). Nominations must be received no later than noon on **Friday 11th October 2024**.

### Excellence in Leadership



We congratulate Rohan O'Connor (13RW) this week for being awarded an Army Officer Scholarship award after being recognised for possessing exceptional leadership potential and securing a confirmed place to train as an Army Officer at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

We spoke with Rohan this week about his Scholarship award:

#### **Q: Can you tell us about what the Army Officer Scholarship Scheme is?**

So, it's an award where the Army give you money to go to university and pursue your interest. I'm going to study Ancient History and then, as I've accepted the scholarship, I have a place at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst for the next six years. While there, I'll be trained for one year after which I'll become an officer.

#### **Q: What did you have to do to apply for the scholarship?**

I originally found out about it while at school. I had a free period, and I was sat in the LRC, and I saw a flyer on a wall for the scholarship, and it appealed and sounded good. I have an uncle who was in the Army, and from speaking to him, it sounded like a great experience. So, I went home, looked it up, and the application process started online which was a lot of filling out details and forms. An online interview followed which went well, and then I was invited to the Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command in Wiltshire. After I had a medical exam, I joined 250 other candidates and they narrow it down over three days during which time we had to do a whole course designed to test us. It included tests to see how we would plan an exercise and how we'd deliver and execute the plan. A couple of weeks later, they got back to me with my result.

#### **Q: The last time we spoke was during your GCSE results day in 2023 when you shared you'd like to pursue a career in Drama. Tell us a little more about how your journey has taken a different turn.**

So, I remember that and Drama has always been a passion of mine and it feels quite weird how I've got to being awarded an Army Officer Scholarship because it's not really something I thought that I would want to do. I haven't really had a clear idea of where I want to go or what my career will look like but the idea of being in a profession where I'm up on my feet, helping people through humanitarian aid work that the Army and where I'm not in the same place every day, doing a lot of traveling and meeting a lot of people appeals to me.

#### **Q: Your award recognises your leadership qualities – can you share your thoughts on leadership in general and at Reading School.**

The Army shares a lot of the same values as Reading School, such as respect for others, discipline, integrity, leadership, commitment and service. In the questions I got asked during the interview stage I felt like I could draw on a lot of my experience at School, especially our values, and I think a lot of it, especially as an Officer, is about being a role model. As a sixth form student, I feel like that's something I've tried to do

as a Prefect, to be a role model for students in lower years and also my peers, hopefully. So yeah, I do think Reading School has helped with that.

I feel like the community we have here is unique in a way. I feel personally attached to East House, and I feel like that's been a thing that my Heads of House have instilled since Year 7. I also think Floreat lessons have contributed to who I am as there's a lot of reflection that happens in those classes. You have a normal school day of academic studies and suddenly you're sat down with Mr Tridgell who is getting you to think and reflect on your own personal growth. I think that's important.

**Q: To those unsure about that value Floreat plays within the School curriculum, what would you share? What role does Floreat have?**

think there is so much that affects your studies and your mental health, especially during exam season, is a big part in how you perform. If you're not in the right place, you're not thinking clearly, this can have a serious impact on your performance. Floreat, which is only 45minute lesson, is a way

to learn, build and develop a solid foundation in order to manage feelings and emotions in a healthy way.

**Q: Where do you see yourself in five years' time?**

At the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst to be honest after completing a degree in Ancient History.

**Q: There are some students who are clear on what they want to do as a degree and career and there are others who are not so clear and certain. What words of advice would you have for those who are not sure about their future career path?**

I think at the School there is a big culture of needing to know what your career will look like, and it's not a bad thing - medicine, engineering, maths, university, whatever. For me, I wasn't sure, and my parents have always said, 'do what you enjoy', and that's what I picked. I think I probably have the most random mix of A levels. I do two humanities, one art and one science, which is pretty random, but honestly, do what you enjoy and sparks your passion and the rest will fall into place.

## Harvest Festival 2024



Harvest Festival is a really important time of the year for our School. Be part of it by helping us provide much needed food and other goods for people at risk of homelessness and poverty in Reading.

Reading School has celebrated and supported Harvest Festival for hundreds of years with students and families donating much needed goods to local people in need during this time of year. In the UK, the festival is one of the oldest known festivals in the country and although it is rooted in the Christian tradition, it also has ancient pagan origins that celebrate the natural cycle of seasons.

Many countries around the world, which include India, China, Germany, Japan, Ghana, Nigeria, Thailand and Vietnam, also have their own version of a harvest festival which reflects local traditions, religions, cultures and agricultural practices. Although traditions may look different, each country's festival shares common themes of gratitude, community, and celebration.

2024 and 2025 are key years for Reading School as our 900th Anniversary will be an opportunity to allow all students and families connected to the School to remind and rededicate ourselves to the values that have sustained and nurtured us for 900 years. Therefore, with the spirit of compassion and generosity, we ask all students and families to consider donating essential items for this Harvest Festival 2024.

With this in mind, we have extended the opportunity to be able to drop off goods to the School Chapel for a full week rather than one day, while also allowing a way for those parents who cannot drop off items during the official times in the morning to drop off during times convenient to them.

## How to get involved

[Readifood](#) is a local Reading charity that has provided emergency food parcel service in Reading for over 25 years and they currently deliver up to 180 emergency parcels to individuals and families every week.

### High Priority items include:

Tinned tomatoes	40s tea bags	Dried couscous
Tinned vegetables (carrots, peas, sweetcorn etc.)	Basmati rice	Plain flour
Tinned fruit	Rice pouches	<b>Other:</b>
Cooking oil	Cartons of juice	Sanitary items
Tinned meat	Drinking squash	Shampoo
Pot noodles	Coffee	Conditioner
Long-life or UHT milk	Dried noodles	Hand soap
	Dried lentils	Shower gel

### Where and when to drop?

We welcome all donations, large or small, which can be dropped by students or parents and carers inside the School Chapel every morning from **Monday 7th October to Friday 11th October** between the times of **7:45am – 9:00am**. *As a parent or carer, if you are only able to drop items outside of these times, please email [communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk) to arrange an alternative time.*

### Want to earn House Points?

For every bag or box donated by a student or parent, a Community House point will be awarded which will go towards the House Cup 2045/25. All you have to do is leave your full name and House on a piece of paper within your bag or box.

Last year's House Cup winners were Laud House with 269 points.

## European Day of Languages

This week, the 26<sup>th</sup> of September marked the European Day of Languages and to celebrate the four modern foreign languages we study at Reading School (French, German, Mandarin and Spanish), Head of the Languages Department, Madame Fondu, held a special event for A Level students and talented linguists in Year 11 on the important role that languages play within international sport.

The event was organised in collaboration with Business Language Champions and Futbol Lingo, who teamed up to deliver a fun, insightful and interactive webinar on the importance of and the range of ways to use language skills in the football industry. It was then followed by a "language football" session led by our Year 13 students where students practised using their languages to communicate on the football pitch, communicating purely in the language they are learning.

Joel A (11C), shared his perspective on the event:



*"To begin with, we all met in Big School to watch a webinar from Futbol Lingo, where we listened to a well-established football coach called Pierce Kiambi. He spoke to us about the many different languages spoken within football teams, leagues, coaches and the players themselves, as well as how important it was to be multilingual when it came to communication within sport. As someone who takes more than one language in school, I found his advice on learning languages very helpful, and I'm sure it will help me to produce even better grades for those subjects.*

*We then went on to use the vocabulary we had from our lessons, and some help from the Sixth formers and teachers, to play football matches between our different language classes. Once we had all familiarised ourselves with the vocabulary needed to play football with each other, we then went on to play the other language classes, with red cards being handed out for the use of English rather than the language being studied. I think it was a very good way to encourage Year 11s as a whole to take languages more seriously, especially by putting it with a sport a lot of people love and enjoy."*

The event was a real success, and all Year 11 students thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Many thanks to our Year 13 coaches for giving up their time to inspire our growing linguists: Matthew O, McDylan P-E, Gaurav K, Ollie B, Bharat J, Ben H, Xavier C, and thank you to the MFL department for providing such and exciting opportunity to celebrate languages out of the classroom.

## A visit to the Chinese Embassy



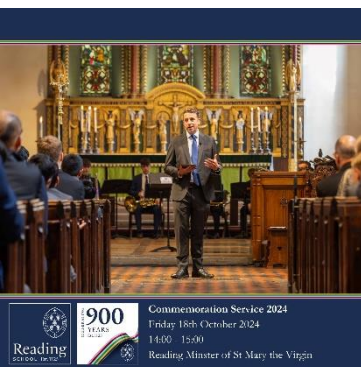
In July 2024, 15 of our Year 9 Mandarin learners embarked on a journey to the southern Chinese city, Guangzhou, led by my Teacher of Mandarin, Mr Wu, where they immersed themselves in rich Chinese culture, as well as strengthening their language skills. During the same time and as part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme, more than 100 British schools and 1500 British students visited ten different cities in China. This week, on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, our students were invited to the Chinese Embassy in London to share our experience of visiting China alongside nine other schools.

Minister Counsellor for the Chinese Embassy, Ms Zhang Jin, Representatives from the British Department for Education, British Council, I.O.E and UCL all delivered speeches while listening to the experiences of students' visits to China.

## National Poetry Day 2024

It's National Poetry Day on Thursday 3rd of October and we will be celebrating in the LRC at Junior and Senior Lunch with our much-loved annual 'Poetry Under the Stairs' competition. Students are invited to deliver heartfelt performances to their peers with the chance to win an Amazon gift card for the most impressive!

## Annual Commemoration Service 2024



Each year we celebrate the founding of Reading School and its historic ties with the Borough of Reading by holding a service at the Reading Minster of St. Mary-the-Virgin. We are delighted that students, staff, governors, and esteemed guests unite to extend a warm welcome to those joining our Redingensians community for the first time. This collective assembly pays a heartfelt tribute to the School's founders and benefactors.

This year, we are delighted to welcome Seminarian Luke Theobald (OR 2003- 2010), Archdiocese of Birmingham as our guest preacher. This will take place on **Friday 18th October** at 14.00 and should be finished by approximately 15.00.

We regret that, due to space limitations, we are unable to accommodate parents or carers at the service. We would nevertheless value your co-operation in ensuring your child is in their smartest possible uniform for this occasion, and are pleased to inform you of the logistics of the event:

### Year 7, 8, 10, 12 and 13 students ONLY

All students will have lessons as normal until Period 4.

Mr O Griffin (Director of Music) has notified musicians involved in the ceremony. These students need to be excused from Period 3 so that they can meet at Music School for 10.00 to be escorted to the Minster for rehearsals. These students will not be returning to school in between the end of the rehearsal and the beginning of the service and should email teachers of lessons and politely request to be excused and commit to catching up on work.

### Lunch serving arrangements:

- Years 7, 8 and 10 – from 12:00 to 12:20
- Years 12 and 13 – from 12:20 to 12:40

After registration and form time, junior students will be escorted to and from the Minster by staff and senior students (Sixth Form Prefects and senior students assisting will be notified separately via Teams).

All other sixth formers will be allowed to make their own way to the Minster with registration taking place at the Minster and are reminded that they must take the initiative to find their tutor to be registered.



Students should be smartly dressed in full school uniform. If they have games that morning, they must bring their uniform to change into.

It should be noted that students are not permitted to take bags with them to the Minster as there is simply not enough space for bags to be stored safely. Therefore, bags should be left in lockers at School or in the Chapel (for those who do not have lockers). All students must return to school with staff and senior student volunteers after the service to collect their belongings before we begin half term. Sixth Formers not assisting with escorting students will be allowed to make their own way home from the Minster.

*Students are not be permitted on-site for a fortnight after Friday 18th (during half term and Reading Week) and should not leave any belongings behind.*

Please note that lunchtime and after school clubs will not take place on this day.

Except for religious exemptions, all students in the year groups above will be participating in this event. However, if you do not wish your child to attend, arrangements have been made so that they will be supervised at school during the afternoon. If this is the case, please email [events@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:events@reading-school.co.uk) providing your child's name and form with your request by no later than Friday 11th October.

Photography/videography will take place during this service for Reading School marketing purposes to be included on the website and school social media. If you do not wish for your son to be included, please email your child's name and form to [events@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:events@reading-school.co.uk).

### Year 9 and 11 ONLY

Due to the capacity of the Minster, the whole school cannot attend this service, therefore, students in Year 9 and 11 will be remaining at school.

Year 9 and 11 students will have lessons as normal.

Lunch for students in Year 9 and 11 will be served from 12.40 to 13.00.

Year 9 students will be undertaking supervised HPQ work in rooms E1, E2, E3, E4 and the LRC and JKB. They should line up outside the LRC to be registered by Mrs G Haugvik and the HPQ supervision team. School will finish at 15:25 as usual.

Year 11 students will be undertaking an English Language GCSE mock exam in Big School and other classrooms. They should line up outside on the terrace at 13:00 to be registered by Mr R Baldock and his invigilation team. School will finish at 15:25 as usual.

### Retiring Collection

Donations will be collected at the exit of the Minster Church after the Commemoration Service. All proceeds will go to the Motor Neurone Disease Association, a charity focused on improving access to care, research and campaigning for people affected by motor neurone disease. Please bring cash donations of any amount as every penny counts and will make a difference.

### Supporting Cancer Research



This week's School House assembly saw Head of School House and Teacher of Mathematics, Mr Betteridge, share a personal story with students and staff. Mr Betteridge shared that he and his father had a great love for cycling and collaborating together in setting new goals, reaching new speeds and distances. Mr Betteridge will be completing a half-marathon starting at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff on 6<sup>th</sup> October, and he is running for every person in the School community who has experienced a loss to cancer, in the hope that every penny raised will contribute to the world becoming a little closer to finding a cure.

Mr Betteridge lost his father at the age of 60 to brain cancer in March 2023.

If you are in a position to give, please help Mr Betteridge [reach his target by visiting his JustGiving page](#). On behalf of the whole of the Reading School Community, we are wishing you all the very best Mr Betteridge.



## House bottlecap collection competition

Yusef Z (13ST) and Alex R (13BS) have teamed up to bring together the upcoming 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a climate action drive. With your help, they aim to create a mosaic made out of bottlecaps to bring attention to the issue of plastic pollution as well as the wider climate change crisis. The creation of the mosaic will also demonstrate the dedication of the school in reducing its emissions and plastic waste, such as by committing to 100% renewable energy sources and the use of biodegradable takeaway boxes and cutlery in the refectory.

### When will the process of collecting the bottlecaps and the creation of the mosaic take place?

From today until the end of January 2025, Yusef and Alex are appealing students to keep their bottlecaps and jar lids which can be dropped off into collection boxes marked with the name of each House. When the mural is completed by March 2025, the House who has collected the most bottlecaps and lids will also be announced.

All questions can be emailed to [Yusef Z](#) or [Alex R](#).

## Careers & Opportunities

*Please note the careers information, advice and recommendations provided by third-party organisations and individuals are shared with the intention of offering useful opportunities to students and parents. However, we encourage you to conduct your own due diligence before making any decisions or commitments. We are not responsible for the accuracy, reliability, or suitability of the information provided by external sources.*

### Young Professionals – Your Child, their Future Event (for Years 9 – 13)

An exclusive online parent event designed to provide valuable insights into how you can support your child in making informed career choices when they leave school.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn how to help your child gain a foothold in the world of work with the many major brands (mentioned below) from various sectors who will be joining the event.

The event will touch upon applying for corporate roles, the application process, commercial awareness and how young people can develop these skills, as well as highlighting degree apprenticeships, what they are and key deadlines to make applications.

#### Event Details:

**Date:** Thursday 3rd October 2024

**Time:** 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**Location:** Online/Zoom

#### Agenda:

- 6:00pm - 6:05pm: Welcome from Young Professionals
- 6:05pm - 6:30pm: Skills Session – Commercial Awareness & Career Guidance

Forvis Mazars, AICPA & CIMA, Wates, Mishcon de Reya

*Learn what employers are looking for in students, and how parents can help their child develop the right skills for the corporate world.*

- 6:30pm - 7:00pm: The Recruitment Process

PwC, Clifford Chance, Amazon, Experian

*Tips on how to prepare your child for online tests, assessment centres, and interviews to give them an edge in the recruitment process.*

- 7:00pm - 7:30pm: Degree Apprenticeships Explained in full

KPMG, BDO, Linklaters, Evelyn Partners

*Understand what apprenticeships are, how they can benefit your child, and how they compare to university.*

This event will provide you with an in-depth understanding on the career and work experience prospects out there for your child, across sectors such as Finance, Data, Technology, Law, Engineering, and different Corporate Functions.

The whole session will be led by the direct hiring managers at these global firms so you'll learn from the very best on how to support your child as they transition from education to the professional world with leading brands. We would encourage you to join this event with your child to get the most out of this session. [Click here to sign up and secure a place](#)

## Target Oxbridge – Year 12 only



**Target Oxbridge is now open for applications**  
Deadline: Sunday 27th October  
Applications can be made at [www.targetoxbridge.co.uk](http://www.targetoxbridge.co.uk)

The Target Oxbridge programme believes in providing opportunities for students from all backgrounds to flourish and encourages all to aim high. UK-based Year 12 students of Black African and Caribbean heritage, including mixed-race students, can now apply for a two-year programme of free, personalised application support. Target Oxbridge recommend you apply before **Sunday 27 October** to maximise your chances of being interviewed for a place.

The students accepted onto the programme will be high attainers – they will ideally have achieved 5 GCSEs at grades A\*, 9 or 8. In the case of students hoping to study Medicine, they will ideally have achieved 8 GCSEs at grades A\*, 9 or 8.

The programme has helped over 500 students of Black African and Caribbean heritage to secure Oxbridge and applications can be made at [www.targetoxbridge.co.uk](http://www.targetoxbridge.co.uk).

## PwC opportunities

Applications for PwC [school and college leaver opportunities](#) starting in 2025 are now open and there a variety of routes through which students can join.

The PwC full-time school and college leaver programmes are designed to help young people develop their business skills through real client work, while also completing formal training and studying towards qualifications. If you're looking for an opportunity where you can gain a degree and begin a career, the [Flying Start degree programmes](#) offer the opportunity to kick-start your career and go to university.

Across the autumn, PwC are hosting a series of virtual events for parents, teachers and students. These sessions will focus on our opportunities and provide top tips when submitting applications. [To sign up, please click here.](#)

## ACCA

Future Leaders: Accountancy Opportunities for All Young People

**Date:** 4th December

**Time:** 6:30pm - 7:15pm

**Location:** Online

Learn about career options in accountancy beyond just numbers. For parents, carers, and students, with insights from professionals on guiding young people into this field - hosted by ACCA. [Register by clicking here.](#)

## Creating the Perfect Apprenticeship Application with bp

**Date:** 22 October 2024  
**Time:** 6:30pm - 7:30pm  
**Location:** Online

Join an exclusive webinar with the renowned global bp and learn about the wide variety of apprenticeship programmes we have available. You will be shown how to craft the perfect application to launch your career with bp.

### What to expect:

- Learn about the wide range of apprenticeships available with bp and the company ethos.
- A full overview of the application process, with exclusive tips for the assessment stages and interviews.
- Q&A with current apprentices, where you can ask anything you want about our programmes and your future prospects.

### Who should attend this event?



The webinar is open to students in Years 10 - 13 who are interested in exploring opportunities to start their career through apprenticeships with bp within Digital, Business, Engineering, Science, Trading & Shipping. Parents, teachers, and careers leaders are also encouraged to join.

bp is committed to creating equal opportunities for people, both inside and outside of bp and we aim to advance and integrate diversity, equality, and inclusion across our global business.

[To register, click here.](#)

## A Day in the life of an IBM Apprentice

**Date:** 12 November 2024  
**Time:** 6:30pm - 7:30pm  
**Location:** Online

### Details

Interested in a career where you can unleash your curiosity, shape the future, and solve some of the world's most unique challenges? Come along and hear from current IBM Apprentices about what life is truly like at IBM.



### What to expect:

- Learn about the full range of business, digital, and technology apprenticeships IBM has on offer.
- Discover the day-to-day responsibilities of the role, the support and opportunities available and how to manage a healthy work life balance.
- Q&A with current apprentices, where you can ask anything you want about the programmes and your future prospects.

[Click here to register](#)

# 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](mailto:contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk).

## Annual General Meeting

We are preparing for our forthcoming AGM on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 6:30pm in the Refectory 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](mailto:contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk)

## The 'Classlist' App - a game changer

How many of us regularly use the 'Classlist App' and how many of us know the benefit of this App? Described as, *'the largest school parent community app in the world'*, the app allows parents to connect, share helpful information and fundraise from one app. It also allows parents to share school runs, view lost property, check the latest events, school announcements, groups to join, announcements and much more.

There is no more un-moderated WhatsApp Groups with a GDPR-safe way for parents to share contact details and to connect with other like-minded parents safely.

In order to benefit from Classlist, we ask parents and carers to become an RSPA member, after which you will be assigned to a group containing other members of your child's form class. Members can then send messages to others within the group or individually. This facilitates the discussion of school-related matters including shared carpools, students travelling together to school, homework and lost property.

Please click this link in order to register.

<http://www.readingschoolpa.org.uk/membership-application>

### Payment details:

Account Name: Reading School Parents' Association

Sort Code: 60-17-21

Account Number: 04619919

## RSPA – Raising donations for School with Easyfundraising

[Easyfundraising](#) helps turn your daily shopping into a commission which is paid to us as a charity, and then passed to the School. They partner with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend. From day to day purchases of groceries, to your big annual spend such as holidays, it won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

Please do sign up to Easyfundraising to support the RSPA.

When you raise your first £5 the RSPA receives another £5 on top... [click here to join us so that we get this bonus free cash](#).

We've raised over £2,000 in the last few years and wish to encourage all unsubscribed parents and carers to join us!

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:kerryobrien2004@yahoo.co.uk)

Have a lovely weekend.

The RSPA Team

## Michaelmas 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.



### Year 7s first science practical with Teacher of Chemistry, Miss Steedman

Bunsen burners are such an iconic part of school science lessons! Almost everyone has memories of experimenting with them - whether it's learning to use them safely, adjust the flame, or even just the thrill of handling fire in a controlled and safe environment.



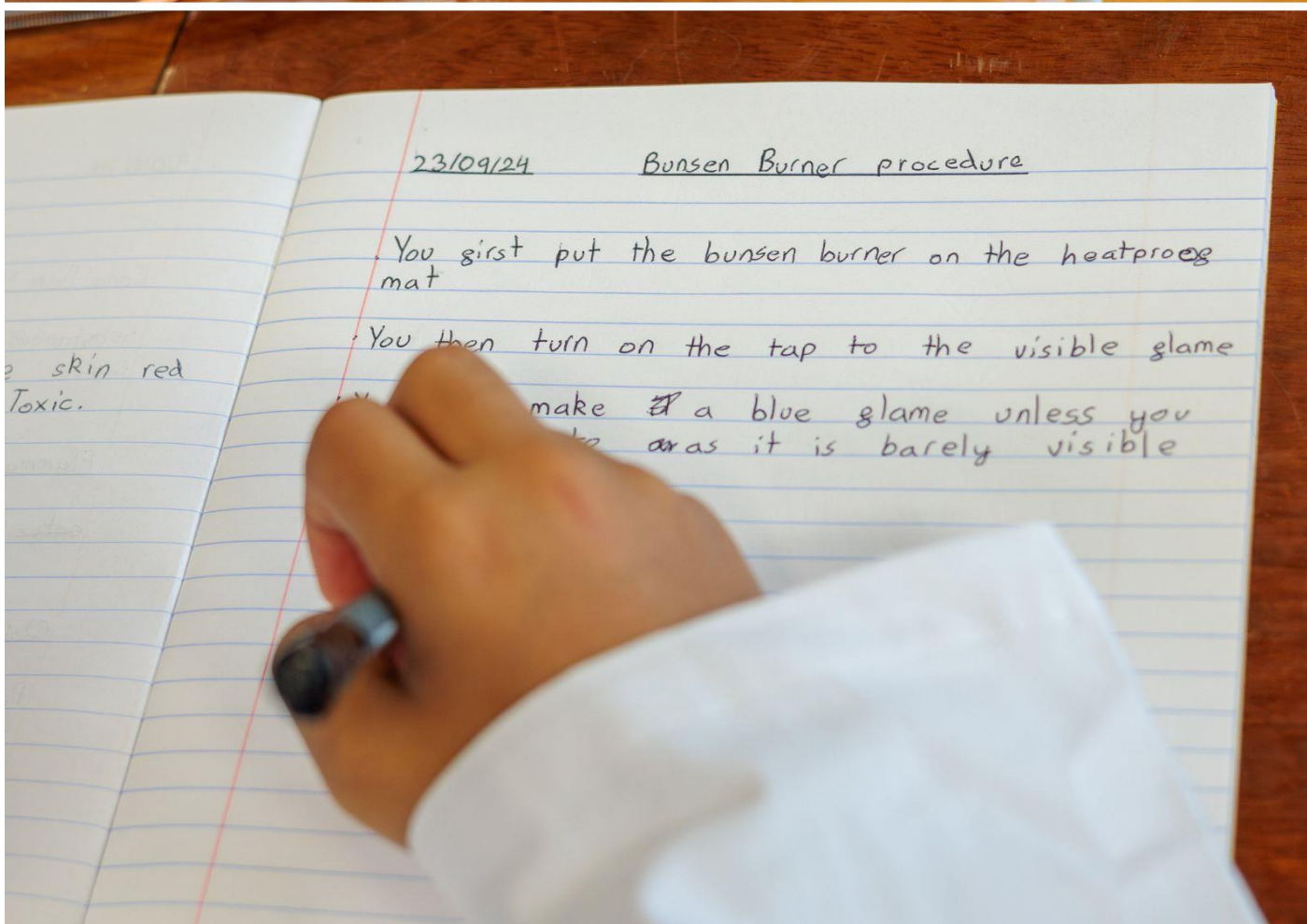
#### Watch the demo

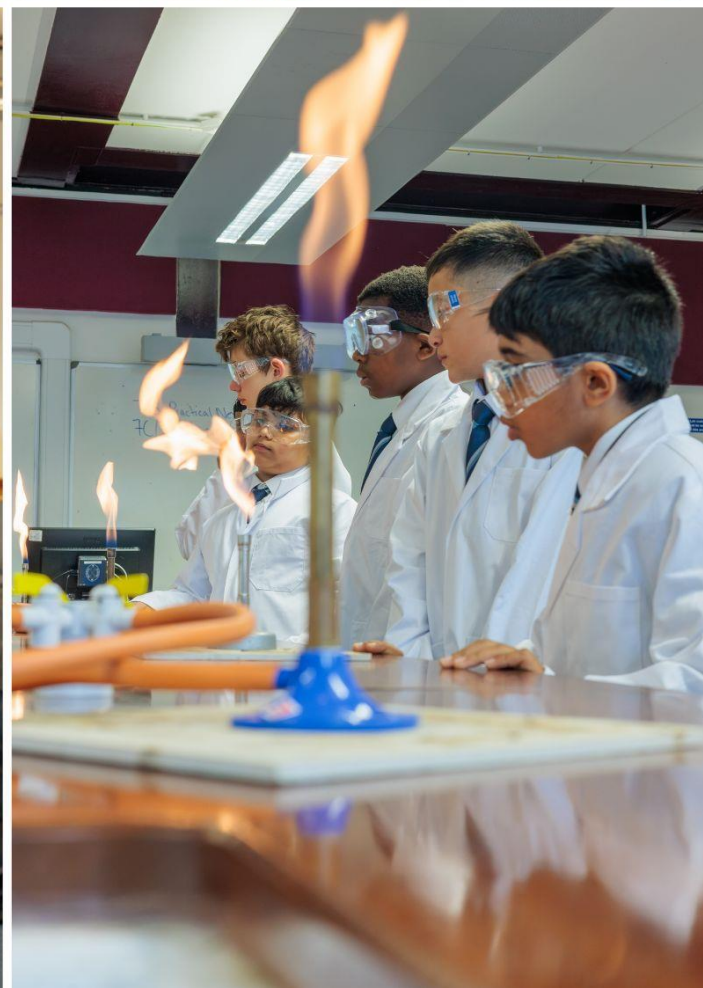
- You will be assessing each other tomorrow on using the Bunsen Burner safely
- Watch my demonstration
- See if you can then follow the procedure that must be followed
- Write down the procedure in your book.
- 'I think that these steps to set up a Bunsen burner:'

Bunsen burner practicals were a hands-on introduction to lab safety and basic chemistry for many students – including our Year 7s this week.









## Year 7 and New Year 12 Welcome Coffee Morning

Supporting Royal Berks Charity

















## Kenwick Sports Pathway

The first cohort of 15 Year 7 students on the Kenwick Sports Pathway (KSP) were inspired by their first visit to our partners Go Perform this Tuesday.



The pioneering KSP prioritises personal development through the enhancement of the experience of sport and fitness. Our inspirational staff including Head of PE & Sport, Steve Allen, Assistant Headteacher, Tom Evans, and ex GB Rower and sport performance psychologist James Stephenson, advocate a values-led approach where our student athletes can flourish.



Each term our KSP students will have the opportunity to participate in engaging sporting activities such as climbing in the Michaelmas Term, Boxing in the Lent Term and Rowing in the Summer Term.



The KSP programme inspires a positive approach to sport so that our student athletes can connect to a sporting journey that is something bigger themselves, as sport should have a social impact too.

In addition, links with our partners, Go Perform and Fitlife will ensure that levels of fitness and commitment are monitored and supported.



### Secondary School Championship Gala

We thank parent, Mrs Soshnikova for her support with this event. On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Reading School Swim Teams competed in a swimming gala held at St. George's School, Ascot. Three teams made up of four swimmers from across all year groups swam in freestyle and medley relays.



## Living, Studying and Working in Spain

This week we welcomed back Harry Manocha (OR 2012 – 2019) who visited to deliver a presentation to students of Modern Foreign Language about living, studying and working in Spain. Harry graduated from the University of Bristol having studied History & Spanish (BA).





## A visit to the Chinese Embassy, London

Photo credits: Mr Wu







## European Day of Languages





**7 – BUSINESS IN FOOTBALL**

*Why are languages so important for business in football?*

<i>communications</i>	
<i>any other reason different languages important for business in</i>	

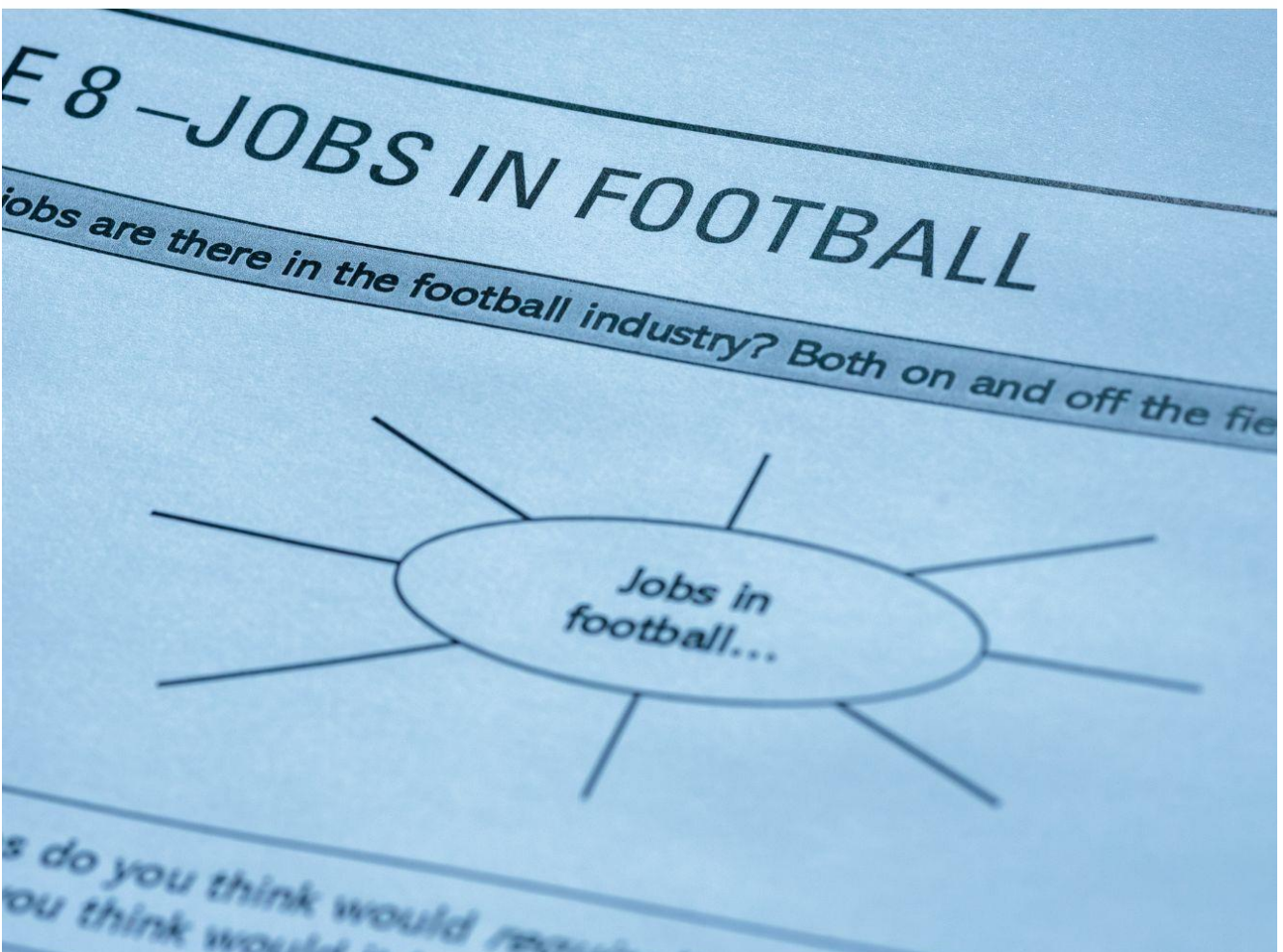


Photo credits: Yicheng L (11S)





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](mailto:communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk).