



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

4th October 2024

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Introduction

Dear students, colleagues, carers and parents,

On Monday this week, two of our Year 10 boarders were late returning to school for dinner. They rang staff to apologise. When asked for a reason for their delay, they explained that they were providing first aid to a homeless man who had fallen unconscious in town.

These two Reading School students realised that a vulnerable adult needed help. They rang 999 and followed the operator's instructions, putting the gentleman in the recovery position and staying with him for 45 minutes until paramedics arrived.

They were surprised that whilst they cared for this man, several hundred adults walked straight past, and ignored the obvious emergency unfolding on the pavement. Indeed, in broad daylight, only one other stranger tried to help. Worse than this, the boys were shocked that all the adults who did stop only did so to spectate. Even more disappointing to them was that around them there were a number of heated verbal altercations, with bystanders insulting each other, but never offering to help. Several times, whilst performing first aid and relaying the situation to emergency services, our fourteen-year olds also had to act as mediators and de-escalate arguments.

Adolescents will often make the wrong choices. We all know that part of growing up is getting it wrong, and learning from this. But we shouldn't be surprised that – like our two boarders on Monday – young people also often make brave, principled and righteous choices. I am really proud of these two students. They showed great care for a stranger, they acted wisely, they demonstrated true leadership and they exhibited exceptional presence of mind. If they'd ignored the man's needs and hurried back to boarding for dinner, we could have entirely forgiven them – after all they had every excuse. They were too young to help. They were running late. They were the least experienced people in the street. Kneeling on the tarmac next to this stranger was a risk.

Yet it was the adults that listened to these voices in their dulled consciences, and the children who got it right.

There is a risk that as we grow up our sense of duty can be diminished, and our moral compasses damaged irrevocably. We can become more inclined to compromise and less inclined to strive. We can find ourselves with more responsibilities, but less compassion; busier, but less caring; serious, but less principled; talented, but less generous.

John Dewey, an American philosopher and educationalist, said that:

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”

I think our Year 10s have proven this.

I hope that, at the very next opportunity we are given, each one of us will cross over the road to help someone, and that in doing so we'll find, and apply true learning, discovering the deepest kind of education and converting our experiences into 'rocket fuel' for whatever obstacles and opportunities lie ahead.

Sending thanks again to this week's two outstanding role models, and wishing you all a very happy weekend.

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 three 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

Beyond 900 Years

Headmaster, Dr Chris Evans, would like to invite all parents and carers to an important upcoming event, 'Beyond 900 Years', where information will be shared about Reading School's exciting plans to celebrate the 900-year anniversary of the School, along with the ambitious plans to improve the school site.

The event is for parents only, and there will be one evening per year group. If you have siblings in the School, you are welcome to attend both events so you can interact with other parents in your son's year groups, but the content will be very similar. We will be sending out letters with more information soon and this notice is in order for parents and carers to save the date.

Year 7 - Monday 4th November, from 6pm

Year 12 - Monday 11th November from 7:30pm

Year 13 - Monday 18th November from 7:30pm

Year 8 - Monday 2nd December from 7:30pm

Year 9 - Monday 20th January from 6pm

Year 11 - Monday 3rd February from 7:30pm

Michaelmas Term Co-curricular Activities

Please [click here to view an updated co-curricular schedule](#) which details clubs and activities for students. Activities include Music Ensembles, Choirs, PE clubs and squads, Philosophy Lab, LAMDA, Creative Writing, Christian Union, Economics Society, Mathematical Problem Solving, Rowing and the Combined Cadet Force.

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

Online scams

We are sharing information of an online scam following two Reading School parents sharing that they received suspect WhatsApp messages. The scam involves a message being sent which starts off with, 'Dad my phones in pieces' and, 'Please text me quickly 07497059330'. As a parent, the first instinct will be to worry and possibly respond, however this is a verified scam.

More detailed information can be accessed from the website [Which.co.uk by clicking here](#), which includes how to report scam messages.

School Community News

Dates for your diaries

As we enter the Michaelmas Term, we are excited to invite you to the rich array of events planned for the weeks and months ahead. Be sure to save the dates, RSVP where needed and join us in making this term a memorable one.

Harvest Festival 2024 – a reminder



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	Other:
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 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.

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 this coming 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.

Please note, if there are any changes due to weather, we will make a decision on Monday and inform students accordingly. If you do not want your child to participate in this photograph, please email us at events@reading-school.co.uk by Monday 7th October.

Events

Year 7 Music Concert

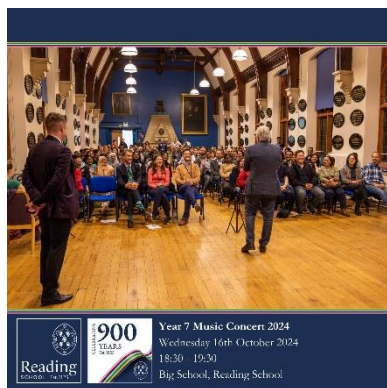
Music plays a pivotal role in education at Reading School, fostering creativity and personal growth both in and out of the classroom. We invite you to an evening of performances that showcase the remarkable musical talent of our students.

Date: Wednesday 16th October 2024

Time: 18:30 – 19:30

Location: Big School

Ticket Price: £6 per person



This special event will shine a spotlight on our Year 7 students as they present the pieces they've worked diligently on this term. Impressively, they will be performing on instruments they only began learning recently, including strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass), trumpets, trombones, and clarinets.

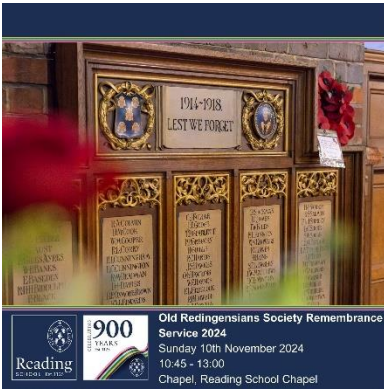
In addition to ensemble pieces, we are excited to feature soloists from within the year group, adding a unique and personal touch to the night. Come and experience the joy and dedication our young musicians bring to the stage. To book your tickets please click the following link: [Year 7 Music Concert - Wednesday 16th October 2024 | Events.](#)

Please note that this event is exclusively open to parents of Year 7 students.

To accommodate the restricted seating capacity of Big School and to ensure that every parent has a chance to attend, we respectfully ask that each family registers for just a single adult ticket. Unfortunately, we won't be able to accommodate requests for additional tickets via email and there will be a further opportunity for all parents and family members to attend our annual House Music event due to be held at the end of November 2024.

If you have any questions, please email Director of Music, Mr Griffin, by emailing ogriffin@reading-school.co.uk or the Events Team by emailing events@reading-school.co.uk. We look forward to welcoming you to this exciting evening.

Old Redingensians Remembrance Day Service



Organised by Chris Widdows, ORA Membership Secretary (OR 1955-1962), you are invited to a solemn service to honour those who have served and sacrificed for our freedoms, with a special tribute to fallen Old Redingensians. We also recognise the Armed Forces, their families and all who contribute to emergency services, remembering those lost to conflict and terrorism.

Date: Sunday 10th November 2024

Time: 10:45 - 13:00

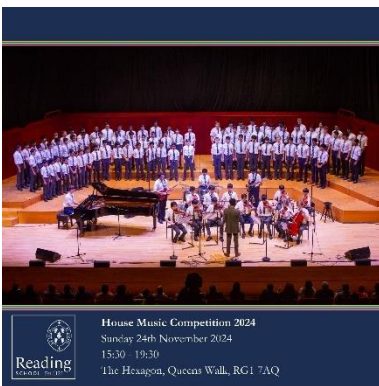
Location: Chapel, Reading School, RG1 5LW, Reading

Light refreshments will be available in the School Refectory from 11:30am to 1:00pm following the service.

To RSVP, please click the following link: [Old Redingensians Remembrance Day Service 10th November 2024](#).

We will also hold a Remembrance Day Service on Monday 11th November during Period 3 and Year 7 and Year 8 students will lead the service alongside our Chaplain, Mr M Amos.

House Music Competition 2024



Entering its 89th year, the House Music Competition promises to be an exciting event featuring stellar performances from all five houses.

Audiences will be captivated by large and small ensembles performing music from films, alongside solo acts showcasing the talents of Senior (Year 11-13) and Junior (Year 7-10) soloists.

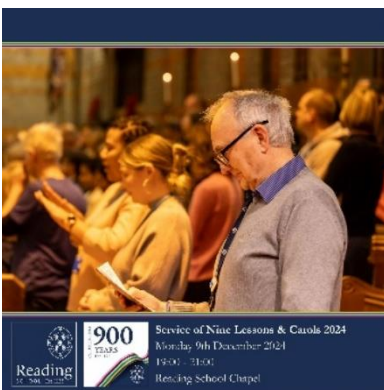
Date: Sunday 24th November 2024

Time: 15:00 - 19:30

Location: The Hexagon, Queens Walk, RG1 7QF

Tickets will be available for purchase soon.

Service of Nine Lessons & Carols 2024



Join us for our traditional annual carol service, celebrating the festive season with a showcase of Reading School's musical talents. We warmly invite you to an evening filled with the magic of Nine Lessons and Carols, featuring enchanting singing, captivating music and moments of reflection.

Date: Monday 9th December 2024

Time: 19:00

Venue: Chapel, Reading School

Following the service, there will be a reception in the Refectory, where you can enjoy mince pies and non-alcoholic mulled wine. To RSVP, please click here: [Service of Nine Lessons & Carols 2024 | Events](#).

Supporting Cancer Research



Last week, we featured that Head of School House, Mr Betteridge will be completing a half marathon and raising funds for Cancer Research this coming Sunday 6th October in the memory of his father and for every person in the School community who has experienced a loss to cancer.

Mr Betteridge would like to thank everyone who contributed to his [Just Giving](#) page and with your kind donations, he has reached his target.

On behalf of all the school community, we are wishing you all the very best for this Sunday Mr Betteridge.

Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

Support sessions for Year 12 only

The LRC will be running a support session for all Year 12 students starting on Monday 7th of October. All Year 12 students are expected to attend the session which will run from 8.30am to 9.15am in the LRC. The aim is to support the transition from GCSE to A-level in order to ensure all students have the skills and knowledge to get the most out of the opportunities we offer.

Students will attend in the tutor groups:

- Monday 7 October (**VGG, MCo, SaI**)
- Tuesday 8 October (**JTe, SHu, RWu**)
- Wednesday 9 October (**SPe, RCh, FHo**)
- Thursday 10 October (**MDa, LDo, ELa**)
- Friday 11 October (**GTh, EFo, ZMc**)
- Monday 14 October (**JHu, BSa, JPi**)
- Tuesday 15 October (**STh, ACr**)

Digital Research Library

As featured in the 20th September edition of the Headmaster's Bulletin, a new student-led Digital Research Library has been created in order to allow students create, contribute and access research that has been conducted to an exceptional standard. Launched by Head of Classics & Scholarship Lead, Mr M Cooper, the digital library is a curated resource that students can take advantage of and there have been several outstanding pieces of scholarly research on topics beyond our School's curriculum.

This week, we invite the School Community to watch a video created by Aaryen L (12JH) and titled, '[Ethics of Artificial Intelligence](#)' (13mins 59secs). Please enjoy and be inspired.



Poet Laureate

Applications to become Reading School's Poet Laureate was advertised during September and we would like to thank all who submitted their poems on the theme of 'History'. There were many submissions that made it extremely difficult for Teacher of English, Ms People's, to judge and pick this year's Poet Laureate.

After much deliberation, we are delighted to announce that Henry R (10E) is Reading School's Poet Laureate for 2024/25 and please enjoy his winning entry titled, 'Here We Go Again'.

Here We Go Again

By Henry R

History repeats itself,
Over and over, time and time and time again,
Allies become rivals, enemies to friends,
Time takes its toll, the innocent take revenge,
Relations improve, tensions never end.

History repeats itself,
Cold's kiss kills the masses,
Kings' and Captains' campaign collapses,
Defence dashes the leaders' chances,
Advances freeze, growth turns to ashes.

History repeats itself,
Countries rebel, and ask for more,
Sweet blackberries turn to partners of thorns,
Knots are untied and ties become unsure,
"Oceans rise, empires fall".

History repeats itself,
Tensions increase, nerves forever stay,
Fear leads to panic, panic to pain, pain leads to
anger, anger to hate,
Fates intertwined, a dilemma is made,
Leaving's impossible, but together there's pain.

History repeats itself,
Pain comes from pushing, recovery from retreat,
Trust into treachery, deals of deceit,
Losses turn to wins, victories to defeats,
But, in the end, history repeats.

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

Thank you to all the new volunteers who came forward and attended the Annual General Meeting this week. It was a successful meeting and as the School is approaching its 900th Year Anniversary, we all are excited and are working on plans that can be shared with the school community in due course.

Please see below for a confirmation of our new committee who were voted in;

- Chair: Nish Moody
- Secretary: Deval Gujrati
- Treasurer: Terri Lorrimore
- Engagement Manager: Veena Baggley
- Uniform Shop Manager: Julie Bellingham
- Digital Manager: Pallavi Chube
- Hoodie Manager: Jayne Sturge
- School Lottery Manager: Jaideep Das
- Communications Manager: Rohini Luthra
- Membership Administration Manager: Pallavi Chube
- Events Coordinator: Menaka Murthy
- Lost Property Manager: Helen Sturk
- Committee Fundraiser (Amazon Wishlist): Jo Wyles
- Committee Fundraiser (Photo images): Kerry O'Brien – Kingston
- Communications Co-ordinator: Claire Kirby
- Notifications Officer: Yogakshi Munjal

Headmaster, Dr Evans, who joined the AGM was particularly pleased to hear that the RSPA follow up from the weekly Headmaster's Bulletin with notifications to parents and carers. We hope to build on this for the next 12 months, so if you are not currently a member of Classlist for notifications, not in contact with us via social media or your Class Rep, please do reach out.

Please [click this link in order to register for Classlist](#).

Payment details:

Account Name: Reading School Parents' Association

Sort Code: 60-17-21

Account Number: 04619919

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 – 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 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 for the benefit of the School's students.

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

Dates:

- Friday 18th October 3.30 to 4.30pm
- Saturday 19th October 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Friday 6th December 3.30 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 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 Yr 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 all.

For further info please contact me at kerryobrien2004@yahoo.co.uk

Have a lovely weekend.

The RSPA Team

Michaelmas Term – Week 5

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.



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.

Poetry under the Stairs Competition 2024

There was poetry, prose and haikus heard from students from all years during today's annual 'Poetry under the Stairs' competition hosted by the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) Team.



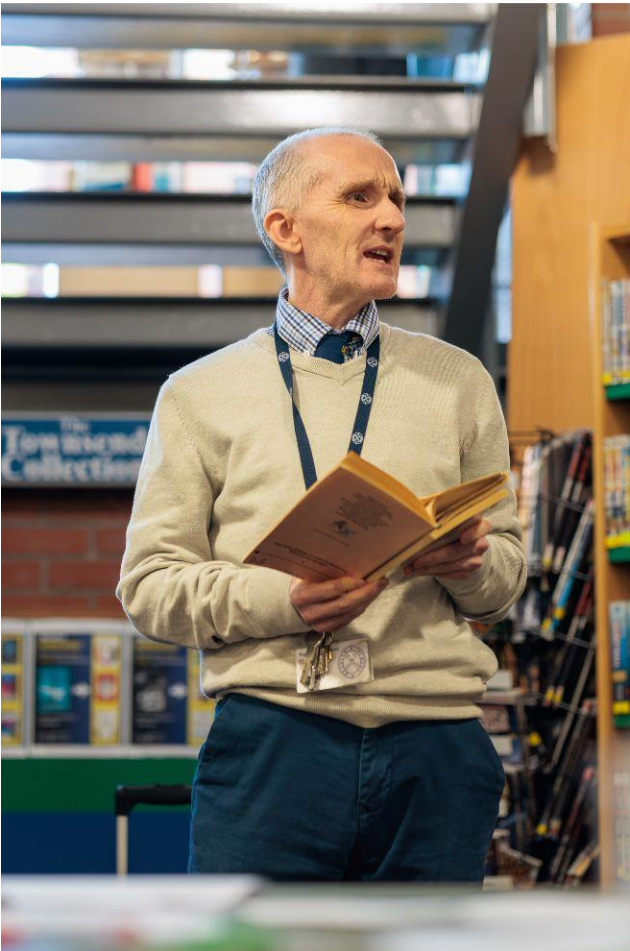
Our annual event aims to encourage everyone to enjoy, discover and share poetry in all its forms, and it also coincides with National Poetry Day.



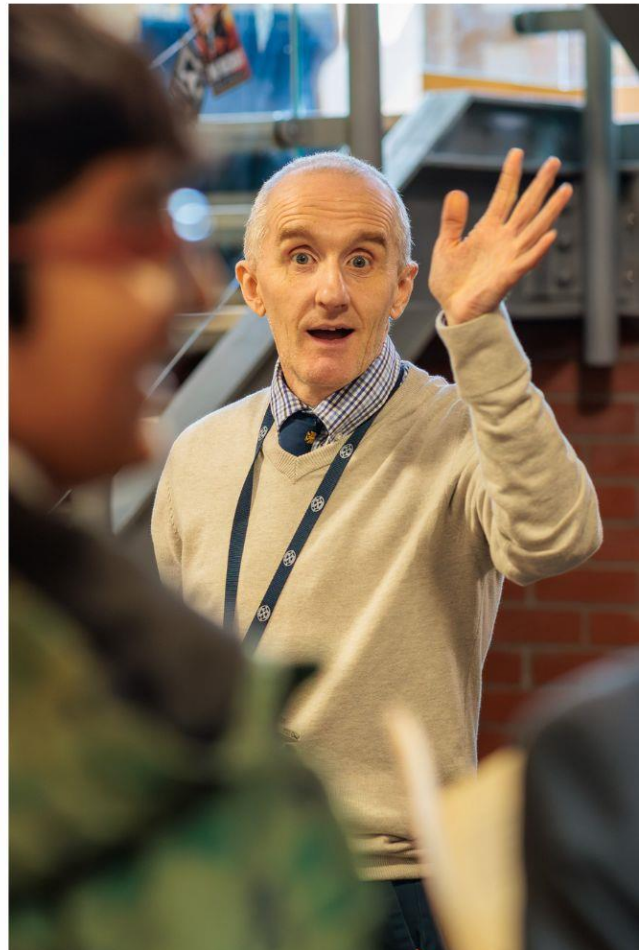
It was a full house with teachers, staff and students showing their support for aspiring performing poets who were judged by a student-led panel.



Poetry is for everyone

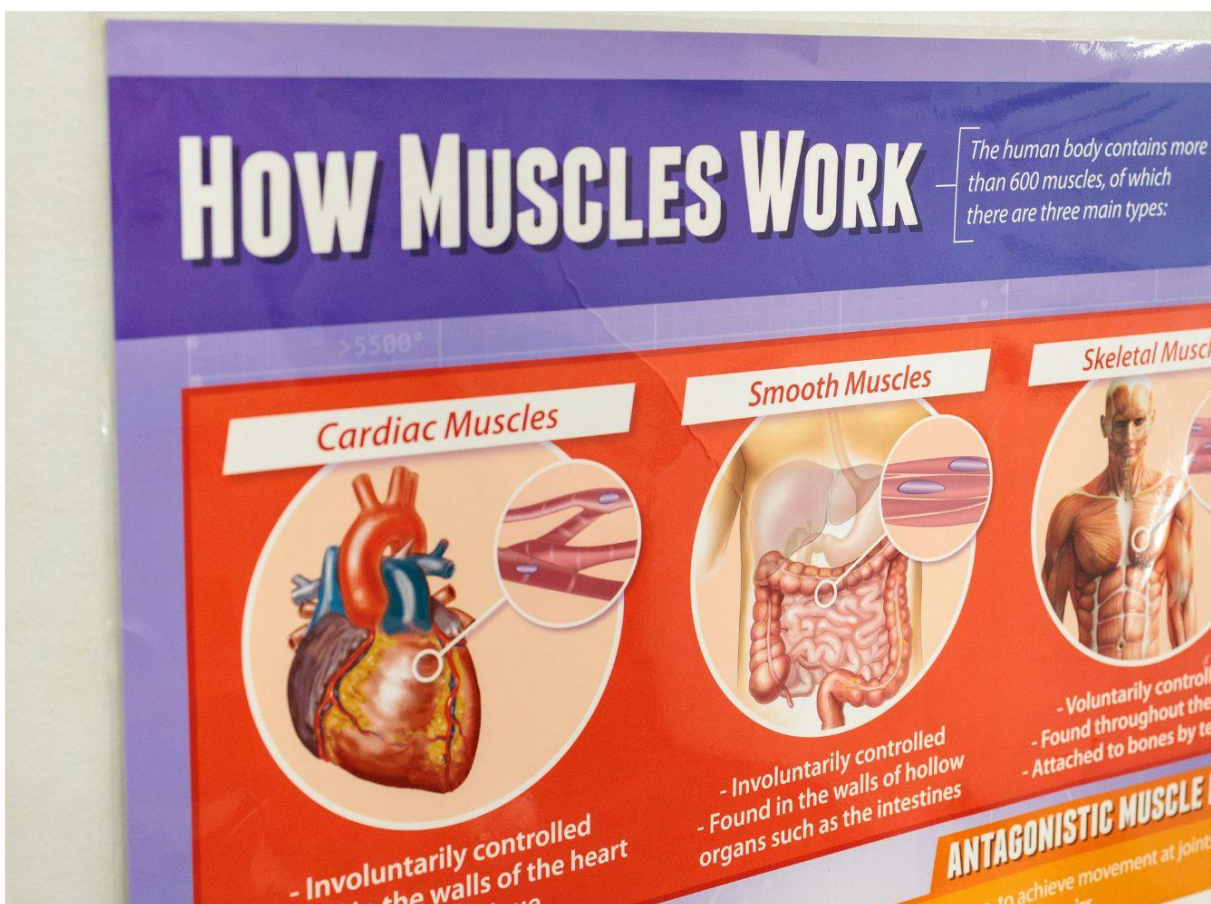


To all students – come and join us in 2025!

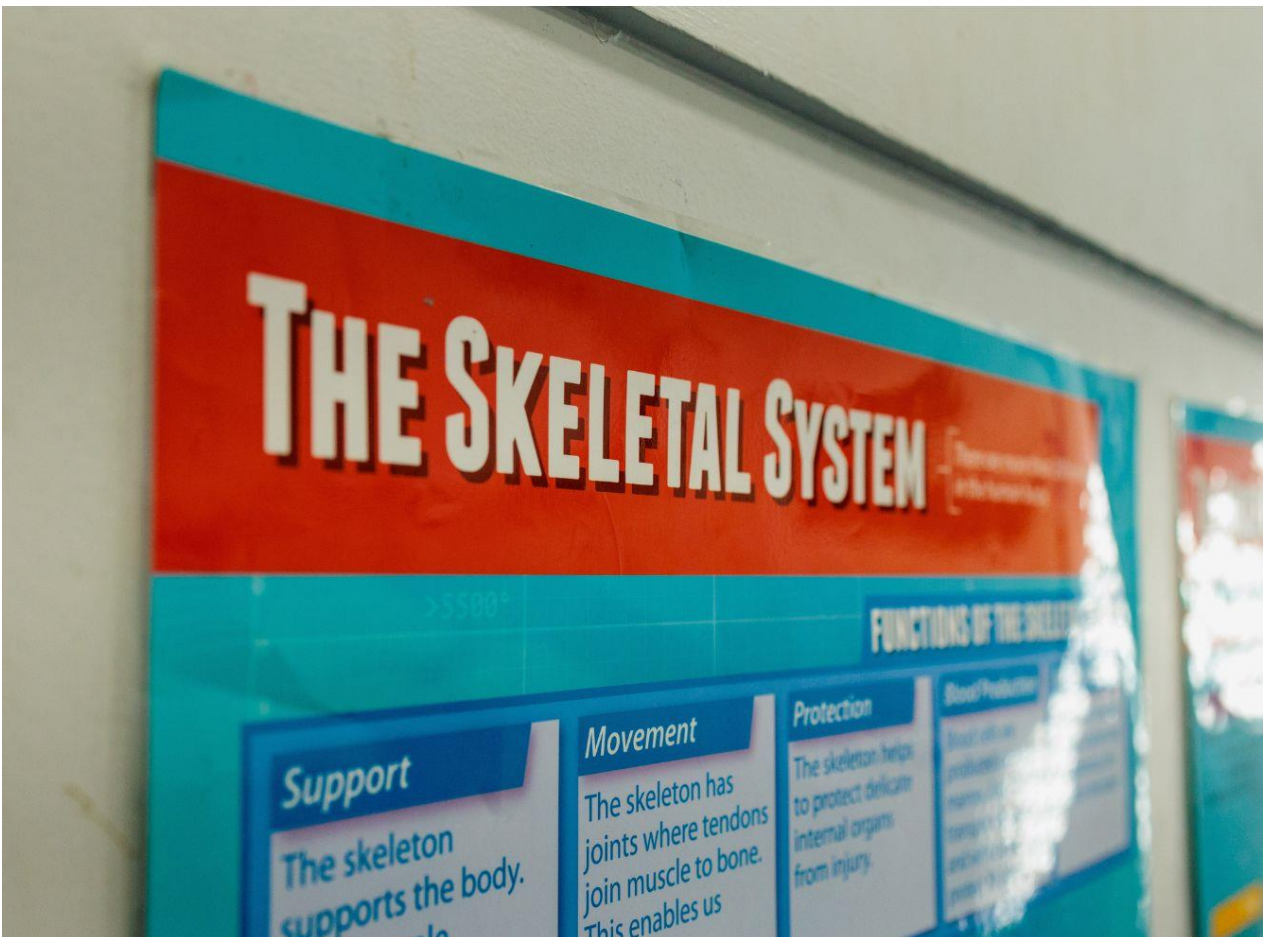


Strength training elective with Mr Lawal

Calisthenics is a form of strength training that uses an individual's own body weight as resistance to perform multi-joint, compound movements with little or no equipment.



Mr Lawal's Calisthenics Elective aims to introduce what strength training is and its benefits for our Year 8s



Calisthenics is a versatile, full-body workout that promotes functional fitness, ideal for all ages and fitness levels. Judging by Mr Lawal's impressive demonstration of chin-up's during the session, Year 8s are in good hands.

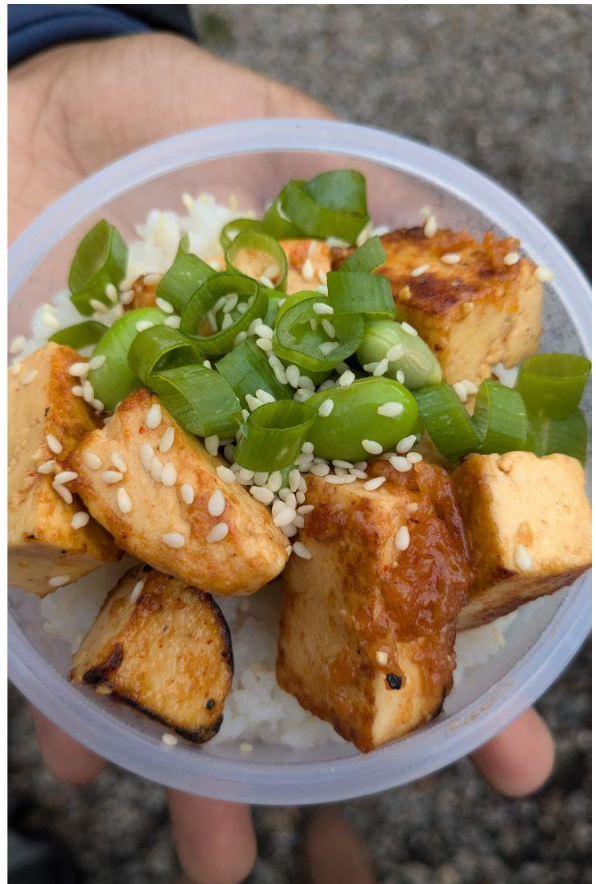


Cooking Elective with Mrs Bjornsdottir

Enthusiastic Year 8s have thrown themselves into their cooking elective with 'Mrs B' this week. They not only get to choose what they cook, they learn valuable life skills along the way from cutting up ingredients to knowing how to work with an open fire in a safe way.



Sometimes things don't always go to plan...but that's ok as there are valuable opportunities for growth and learning through making mistakes.



Reading School 1st XV vs St Joseph's College

After an inspirational pre-game team talk by Jude A and Ryan L, Reading School went onto emphatically win 36 – 0.







Congratulations to Man of the Match, John O (13JH) – not pictured.



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