



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

26 JANUARY 2024



Contents

Introduction	3
Key information	4
Important Dates	4
Current Vacancies	4
Teacher Vacancies	4
Associate Staff Vacancies	4
School Community News	5
School Community News	5
Learning Resource Centre (LRC) – dates for the diary	5
Junior Book Club	6
Careers	7
Emil and the Detectives	10
Slavery, Power and Resistance	10
Badminton	11
RSPA	12
New benches and picnic tables	12
New Year School Lottery	12
Donations to School Uniform Shop	12
Lent Term – Week 3	14

Introduction

Dear parents, students and colleagues,

With water outages and low pressure experienced in postcode areas across Reading and our school during Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, it was a challenging start to the week. I would therefore like to start by expressing my thanks to the Estates Team, to boarding staff and our brilliant boarders for the way they worked together to ensure they had access to water and to minimise the disruption experienced.

This sense of shared purpose and collaboration is, perhaps, what we were most proud of in the Ofsted reports which we shared with our school community this week. We won't dwell on these, because they simply ratify what we already knew:

"Children thrive because of the warm and caring relationships that they have with staff."

"Staff know each child extremely well."

"Staff are flexible in their approach to meeting the children's individual needs."

The strength of these relationships has been evident in and out of our school this week. Further appreciation and gratitude is shared with Mr Sánchez and Ms Hillairet-Humphries for leading an exchange trip to Spain where students from Years 10-13 had an enriching learning and cultural experience that goes beyond the classroom.

I very much hope every parent knows how much we care for their children. This is not to suggest we always get it right, but is to promise that we hold ourselves to the highest standards. I have seen this commitment in English, Computer Science, Maths, Philosophy and Electronics lessons this week. I have seen it in the tireless work of the Society Office as they prepare us for next week's Careers Convention. I have seen it in the work of Mr Griffin, our Director of Music, who delivered music sessions to local children and young people seeking refuge, along with the work of Mr Allen, Head of Sport and PE, alongside his whole team who have provided sporting opportunities for over 200 Year 7 and year 8's during a Festival of Football at Reading Blue Coat School this week.

We come to the end of another productive and successful week at Reading School. Once again, thank you for all your efforts and for making this week such a rewarding and fulfilling experience for all of us. You all have a role to play and let us carry this momentum forward as we strive towards excellence and compassion in everything we do.

Wishing you all a restful and rejuvenating weekend ahead.

Chris Evans
Headmaster



Key information

Important Dates

- **Monday 29 January** is an inset day for all students and an opportunity for our teaching staff to pursue training and personal development objectives. The school will be closed to all students across all years and for Year 11 students, we encourage work placements on this day as part of our careers provision. More information will follow in a letter to all Year 11 parents and Year 11 students on Monday.
- **Thursday 1 February** is our Careers Convention event open to all years to attend. Further details to follow regarding student and parent bookings. In addition, thank you to all the parents, ORs and local organisations who have responded to participate. If you or your organisation would like to attend, as a delegate, please email careerscon@reading-school.co.uk

Current Vacancies

Do you know a talented individual who would like to join and be part of an exciting and leading educational institution? Below is a selection of teaching and associate staff roles currently available:

Teacher Vacancies

Teacher of Mathematics - deadline for applications: 9am, Monday 22 January 2024 - [click here for further details.](#)

All applicants must complete a Teacher Application Form which can be downloaded by [clicking here.](#)

Associate Staff Vacancies

Exam Invigilators - deadline for applications: 9am, Monday 19 February 2024 - [click here](#) for further details.

Head of Operations and Projects - deadline for applications: 9am, Thursday 1 February 2024 - [click here for further details.](#)

Student Support Assistant - deadline for applications: Friday 26 January 2024 - [click here for further details.](#)

All applicants must complete an Associate Staff Application Form which can be downloaded by [clicking here.](#)

School Community News

School Community News

Learning Resource Centre (LRC) – dates for the diary

Our 11th annual Book Festival starts after half-term and here's what students can look forward to:

Scholastic Book Fair (21 - 26 February)

- This is a pop-up book shop hosted in the LRC.
- All Year 7 and 8 pupils have been timetabled to visit during English lessons.
- All other students are welcome to visit during break/lunch and after school.
- Pupils can use their World Day Book Vouchers to get £1 off the cost of a book retailing at £2.99 or more and vouchers will be distributed by the LRC after half-term.

Manga Quiz on Tuesday 27 February from 3.30pm to 4.30pm

- A booking form will be circulated after half-term for pupils to book a place.
- Pupils can play as solo players or in Teams of up to four.
- The Quiz will take place in the LRC.

Author Week (4 March – 14 March)



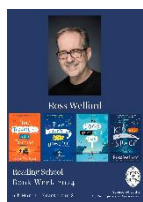
Monday 4 March - Lewis Dartnell

- All Year 9 during Periods 1 and 2
- Y12 Biology and Physics students will be timetabled for problem-based workshops throughout the day in Big School
- [Year 9 Parent letter \(click to access\)](#)



Tuesday 5 March - Simon Singh

- All Year 12 A level Maths students during Periods 4 and 5
- All Year 11 pupils during Periods 7 and 8
- [Year 11/12 Parent letter \(click to access\)](#)



Wednesday 6 March - Ross Welford

- All Year 7 students during Periods 3 and 4
- Book Club with Mrs Jackson during Period 5
- All Year 8 students during periods 6 and 7
- [Year 7/8 Parent letter \(click to access\)](#)



Friday 8 March - Sarah Govett

- All Year 10 students during Periods 7 and 8
- [Year 10 Parent letter \(click to access\)](#)

Thursday 7 March – World Book Day

- We will celebrate World Book day with a Drop Everything and Read
- This will take place during Period 7 on Thursday 7 March
- For one lesson, everyone in school will read
- Mrs Jackson will be touring the school to capture the event

Thursday 14 March - Nicolas Tredell

- Remote lecture in Room 4 for Year 12/13 A level English Literature students

Author talk book sale and signings

- Parents can pre-order books by the visiting authors between Friday 26 January and Monday 5 February via MCAS.
- A book sale and signing will be run after every Big School author talk. We recommend pupils order books in advance to avoid disappointment on the day. They can also bring their own books from home for authors to sign.

Class visits before the author talks

- All Year 7 and Year 8 students have been encouraged to borrow a book by Ross Welford prior to his visit.
- All Year 9 students will be visiting the LRC during HPQ lessons before half-term to try one of Lewis Dartnell's books, to carry out research on the author and to explore non-fiction structure and form.
- All Year 10 students will have a dystopian themed library lesson during an English class after half-term, which will include listening to extracts from Sarah Govett's book and exploring themes in dystopian fiction which link to the English GCSE.

We would like to thank the Old Redingensians Association for their generous funding of this fantastic celebration of books and reading.

Junior Book Club



Members of the weekly Junior Book Club became 'peer book influencers' for the rest of the school community as they shared book reviews they created as a result of Reading Week in October 2023.

The Junior Book Club were challenged to write a review/s of a book/s they enjoyed reading during Reading Week 2023. For every review submitted, they received an exclusive Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes pin badge. The series of books is always a favourite with Book Club, so this encouraged them to write 27 reviews.

These were then judged by Mrs Jackson and her two excellent Year 13 helpers, Ben S-R (13LDO) and Tom S-R (13DAW). We had an overall winner, Thomas C (7S) with his review of Spark by M



G Leonard. Thomas received a Hunger Games film poster. We had two runners up, Joel A (9S) with his review of Rebel Skies by Ann Sei Lin and Arran T (8C) for his review of The Time Machine by H G Wells.

All students who took part enjoyed the experience and the whole project was student-led with the members deciding amongst themselves what they would like to display around the school, while taking responsibility for putting them up in within their Tutor Rooms.

In this way, they had the responsibility of communicating to the rest of their peers what their thoughts were with their reviews and in turn, supporting the focus on literacy and a love of reading within the school. All the reviews are available to read in the LRC and digital displays in school.

Careers

Careers Convention 2024



Further to the letter shared with parents regarding the Careers Convention, please note that Year 7 & 8 students can now book 1 adult and 1 student ticket for Keynote Speaker Lectures at the Careers Convention.

We have five keynote speakers, covering diverse topics such as cybersecurity, finance, IT, data, auditing, and employability skills. Each speaker will conduct two 20-minute sessions, offering valuable insights to inspire and guide students in their career paths. To reserve your tickets, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DBFJ>.

Note: Please **DO NOT** book multiple lectures that are scheduled to take place at the same time. We have 4 sessions (6:30pm/ 7pm/ 7:30pm/ 8pm): A maximum of 3 tickets per session is permitted: 1 Adult and 1 Child ticket per Reading School student.

We thank you in advance for not making double bookings as this was communicated to students via Teams earlier today. We have encouraged students to discuss the sessions together before you reserve your tickets. All the presentations are in high demand, and tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Any queries please email events@reading-school.co.uk

Please also note we hope to offer recordings after the event.

There will be lots of delegates to visit as well during the evening so ensure you leave enough time to see delegates from a whole host of professions.

Reading School occasionally shares career and educational opportunities that may be of interest to our parents and students. Please note that while we strive to provide valuable information, Reading School does not endorse or guarantee the authenticity, suitability, or outcome of any external opportunities shared through our channels. The sharing of external opportunities is for informational purposes only, and participation in such opportunities is at the discretion and responsibility of the individuals involved.

Career Opportunities - Year 11 to 13 only

Please see Leaf's free, online fellowship:

- [History to Shape History \(for the better\)](#) — how can you use the lessons of history to make a positive impact and steer humanity onto a better path? For HISTORY students in years 11-13.
- [The Mathematics of Morality](#) — how can you use mathematics to best help others and multiply your positive impact? For MATHS students in years 11-13.
- [Dilemmas and Dangers in AI: How YOU can make a difference](#) — helping you master the skills needed to steer cutting-edge AI technology toward benefits for humanity. For students of ANY SUBJECT in years 11-13.

Two Reading School students have experienced Leaf offerings and have shared:

"Leaf offered a refreshing opportunity to engage in new ideas and fuel intellectual curiosity. I thoroughly enjoyed discussing historical topics with equally passionate students from across the UK. Being critically challenged to analyse comparative history was particularly appealing as we continually questioned over the programme, how the past can be best used to guide our future. Bear in mind that this programme runs online outside of school-hours. I would recommend this, as well as any other course by Leaf, for those seeking to go beyond curriculum learning with subjects they enjoy. Through this Programme, Leaf offers a platform to deliberate new ideas and connect yourself with young people interested both in the study of history and its application to improve the world we live in." Milan G (12MJK), Fellow of Leaf's History To Shape History programme

"I found Leaf's programmes incredibly enriching due to its capability in helping you understand how you can make a positive impact in the world, even from a young age. I joined an amazing community of like-minded individuals who all sought to enter careers to help people, or were starting projects to help people such as podcasts on doing the most good efficiently. I myself am now working on starting up a youth-led non-profit organisation due to the inspiration I got from Leaf's programmes. I learnt about the key ideas of Longtermism and Effective Altruism such as cause prioritisation and cost-efficiency, enabling me to learn how to make a feasible, tangible impact that can save many lives. I highly recommend their courses if you want to join a community of incredible, talented people who are aiming and making positive, effective, life-changing change with their lives." Siddhant M (12ELA), Fellow of Leaf's History To Shape History programme

Opportunities at National Grid



Across England and Wales, we Bring Energy to Life, keeping the world energised so society can keep moving. Sitting at the heart of the communities we serve, we're leading the transformation towards a greener future, dreaming bigger to bring more affordable energy to everyone and we're on a mission to help make the UK carbon neutral by 2050.

But keeping millions plugged into the energy they need is just one part of our mission, the other, is using our technical skills, innovative thinking and passion for progress to drive a sustainable transformation for the energy sector, and society. Our workforce is set to explode over the next few years and we're looking for the next generation who have the passion and talent to help us reach that goal.

Apply here: [Apprentices - National Grid Jobs](#)

National Grid's apprenticeship opportunities for 2024 are now live

Whether your child is interested in an opportunity in our Finance or HR department's or their interests align more to our engineering opportunities, we have a wide variety of roles available, which are based nationwide.

To find out more about our apprenticeship programme or what it's like to work here at National Grid read our [early careers opportunities here](#) or visit [our website](#).

Thinking about University? Think Cambridge.



Think Cambridge is a three-week long series of webinars to inspire Year 11 and 12 students to apply to Cambridge.

What will I get out of it?

- You'll find out about all things Cambridge with anecdotes and stories from our student ambassadors in every webinar.
- In week two, we'll be joined by lecturers and admissions tutors, who will introduce you to the amazing facilities available at Cambridge, and the projects students are working on.
- We'll finish the series by giving you all the advice and resources you need to find out more, and to continue your journey towards study at the University of Cambridge.

Booking

[Click here](#) to book and view more information about the webinars and their content.

Emil and the Detectives

Reading School's Drama department are delighted to announce a second extra-curricular collaboration project with The Abbey School. After the success of 'The Changing Room' last year with Years 10-12, we're very excited to offer students in Years 7-9, the opportunity to take part in a show being staged at South Street Arts Centre – 'Emil and the Detectives'.

Auditions are open to all students in Years 7-9 whether they are GCSE Drama students or not and auditions will take place after school at 3.30pm on Thursday 8 February.

This is an ensemble piece so young people taking part can expect to be called to all rehearsals, starting from Tuesday 5 March (tbc), which will take place at The Abbey School on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Students will leave Reading School together at 3.30pm and students will need collecting from The Abbey School at 5.30pm.

Performances will be on Wednesday 8 May and Thursday 9 May at South St Arts Centre (dates to be confirmed).



Please click the thumbnail [or here](#) to view a short video from Mr Sandiford & Miss Friend


Slavery, Power and Resistance

The Historical Association (HA) have been sponsoring six history lectures a year at Reading School for over 17 years and they feature lecturers who are respected academics attached to major British universities. They include many Oxbridge scholars and those from other renowned institutions. Among them, over the last six years, the HA have welcomed:

- Professor Tony Badger, Master of Clare College Cambridge, on '*How did Martin Luther King Jr change America?*'
- Dr Katrina Navickas, who had assisted in the making of the film Peterloo, speaking on the Peterloo Massacre of 1819 and its significance to British democracy
- Professor Jonathan Phillips, of Royal Holloway, University of London (and TV historian) spoke on '*The Life and Legend of the Sultan Saladin*'
- Dr David Sutton, of the University of Reading, gave an account of '*The history of food from 1300 to 1800 - Food for the Rich: Food for the Poor*'
- Professor Peter Mandler of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge and President of the Historical Association spoke about '*How Popular Demand (not Politicians) made Britain a Mass Education Society*'

- Professor Helena Hamerow of St Cross College, Oxford, spoke about 'The Origins of Wessex - recent Archaeological Perspectives'.

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Slavery, Power and Resistance



The History of the British Slave Trade in Eight Documents
Dr Philippa Hellowell
The National Archives
Friday 2nd February 2024 7.30pm

The lecture will look at some of the key documents in the history of slavery, and the trade of enslaved persons, in the British Atlantic. From early Tudor traders to the uprisings of enslaved men and women in the nineteenth century, this talk will draw on government and corporate archives to trace the development of the trade, how it manifested itself in Britain, West Africa and the Caribbean and explore what the records tell us about the experience of the enslaved and their powerful acts of resistance.

The Lecture Theatre, Reading School
Lecture ends 9.00pm. All are welcome

COST £3 (HA members, associates, students and school-pupils - FREE OF CHARGE). Anyone wishing to join the speaker and committee for supper from 6.00pm (cost £20.00 inc wine) please email Ralph Houlbrooke at r.a.houlbrooke@reading.ac.uk by Monday 29th January.

In the current academic year, the HA have hosted Professor Natalia Nowakowska, of Somerville College Oxford on the subject of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth of which Ukraine was a key part - providing some clue to the cultural distinctions between Ukraine and Russia.

In January, Professor Ben Jackson of University College, Oxford spoke on 'The History of Labour Governments'. This last lecture attracted an audience including eight local councillors including two of Reading's prospective parliamentary candidates for 2024.

The President of the Reading Branch of the HA, Mr Chris Sexton, welcomes all Reading School students to the lectures and he would like to thank Head of History, Mr D Whitehorn for his continued support. The next lecture, 'Slavery, Power and Resistance – The History of the British Slave Trade in Eight Documents' will be delivered by Dr Philippa Hellowell on **Friday 2 February 7:30pm – 9:00pm** (in the Lecture Theatre).

Should students wish to attend, please email Mr Ralph Houlbrooke at r.a.houlbrooke@reading.ac.uk.

Badminton



Teacher of Mathematics, Mr S Pedlow has led and supported Reading School's Badminton Teams each term and both teams have demonstrated marked development over time. On Monday 22 January, a double header was played against The Webber Independent School (U14 and U16). Historically, the Webber teams have been of an exceptional standard, being connected to a badminton Academy and have several players at County level.

Mr Pedlow shared:

"The KS3 team were comfortable, even the No. 1 seed game, which was a very high standard. They won 6-0, showing poise and quality throughout. The KS4 team had a harder time. We had the best player, but Webber had the next best three. The singles went as expected; we won 1 and 4 singles easily and lost 2 and 3 similarly heavily. In the doubles, James S (11C) dominated, ably assisted by Nived N (10S). The 3 and 4 seeds, Neerav S (11L) and Sahil C (11L) started their doubles well, but lost narrowly. This left us tied, 3 games to 3. The first tiebreaker was on total points: tied 95 each!"

To break the tie, the 3 and 4 seed doubles is replayed to just 5 points. Our team responded beautifully, winning 5-2. This puts us into the Semi-final of the VICTOR competition and we are already in the Regional round of the Badminton England competition, where we expect to face Webber again, amongst others."

Under 16 Team: James S (11C), Nived N (10S), Neerav S (11L), Sahil C (11L) and reserve Emin B (10C)

Under 14 Team: Akhil G (9W), Aditya V (8L), Arhant Y (7W), Kalyan M (9L) and reserve Maulik S (9L)

New benches and picnic tables



The RSPA has purchased 70 new school benches and picnic tables which have now arrived and been installed which gives more seating options during break times and lessons for our students. Outdoor seating provides spaces where students across all Years can gather and socialise before school, during breaks and after school. The space created can support in building and maintaining friendships, fostering a sense of community, reduce feelings of isolation and enhance wellbeing.

Reading School would like to thank the RSPA for their support in providing suitable outdoor seating that contributes to our community's social development, mental wellbeing and development.

New Year School Lottery



Fancy winning a £1000 Luxury Getaway or £1000 Cash Prize Bonanza? Then look no further as we are thrilled to announce our New Year's Super Prize Draw.

Our new Super Draw gives people new and exciting ways to play a school lottery – instead of committing to weekly tickets, supporters can choose to just buy tickets for the Super Draw week, meaning more flexibility and less commitment, whilst still supporting Reading School. Existing supporters can even choose to TOP-UP their tickets just for this weekend's big draw.

Any ticket holder can invite their friends and family using the new Refer a Friend process. For every person that signs up using their unique referral link, and BOTH of you will get an entry into the exclusive £200 prize draw! There's no limit to the number of entries you can get, either-the more people you refer the more entries into the Draw.

Joining the lottery is very easy and one RSPA participant wins a guaranteed prize every Saturday night. Tickets cost £1 each can be bought as a one - off or on a regular basis.

It's easy to buy a ticket all you have to do is click the following link:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/reading-school>

Donations to School Uniform Shop

Preloved uniforms can be donated to School Uniform Shop and we would welcome your donations. Parents, carers and students and simply come to the Uniform Shop when open (within the walled carpark) or drop to School Reception in a bag clearly marked 'Uniform Shop'. We thank you in advance for removing any names, labels, named buttons etc.

The Uniform Shop will be open on:

Friday 23 February from 3:30 – 5:00pm

Saturday 24 February from 10:30am - 12.30pm

Friday 22 March 3:30 – 5:00pm

Saturday 24 March 10:30am – 12:30pm

Please email shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk with any queries.

Thank you and have a lovely weekend.

The RSPA Team

Lent Term – Week 3

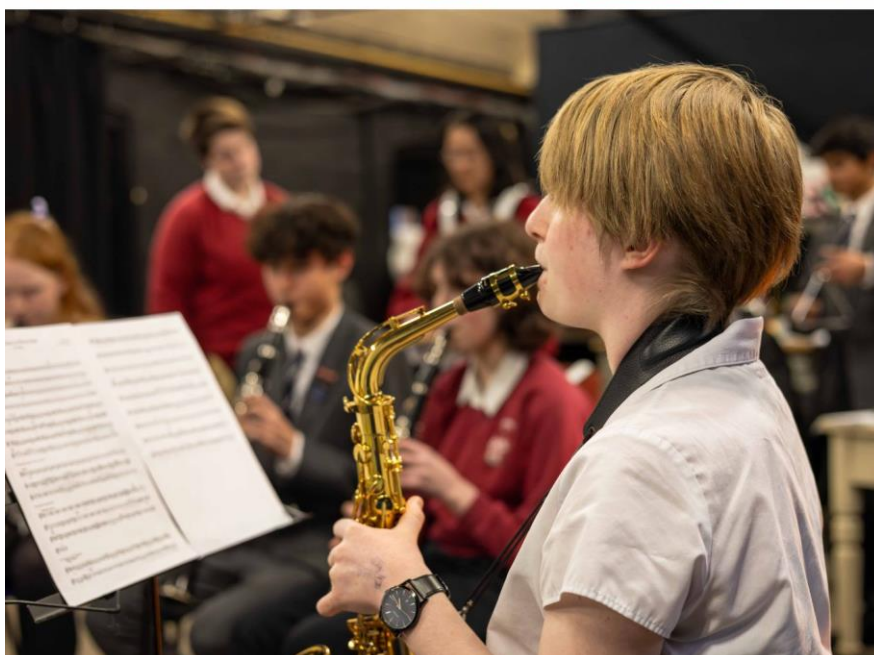
To keep up to date with student life at Reading School, click the icons below to follow, be part of and stay connected with the Reading School community.

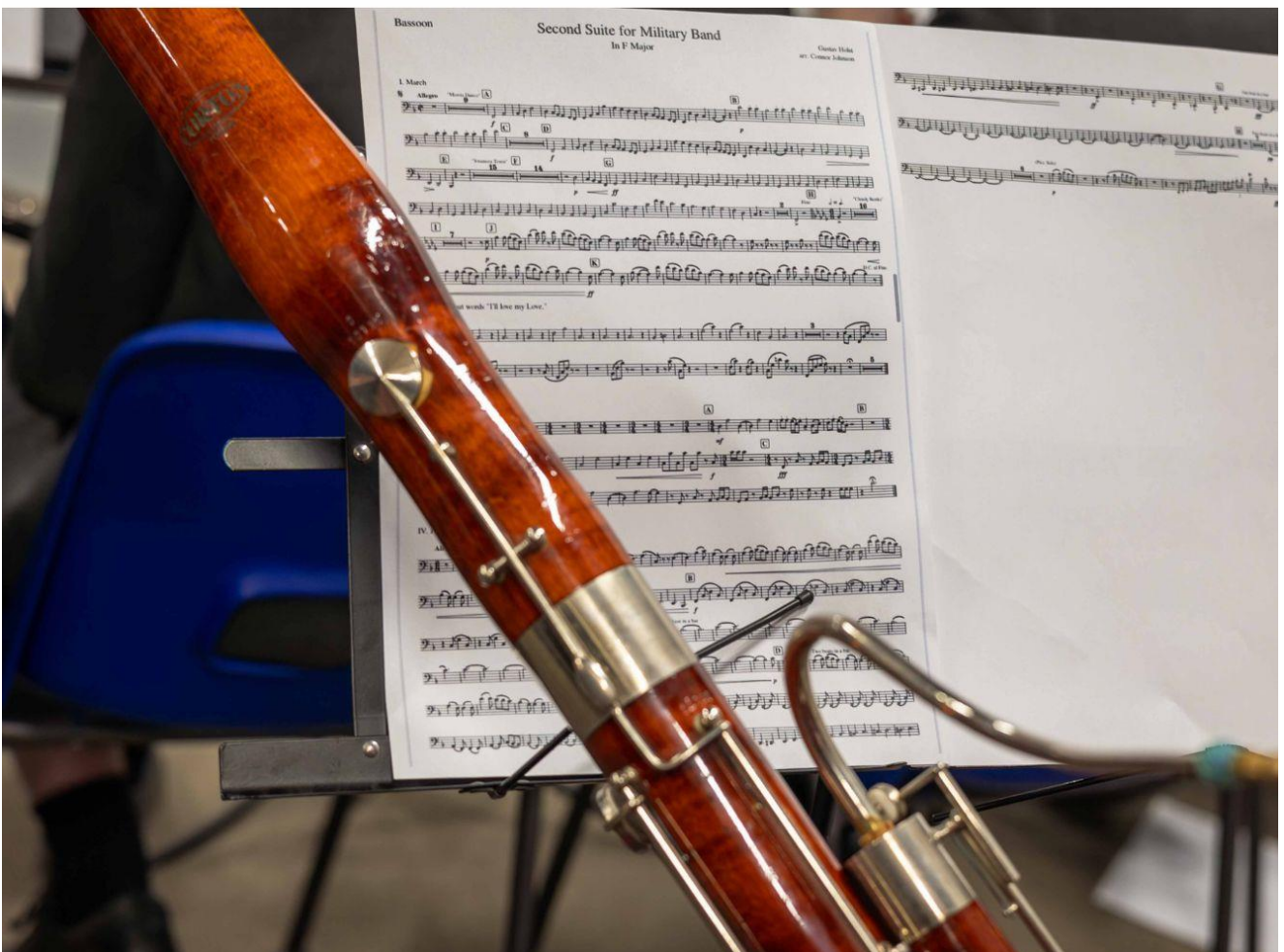


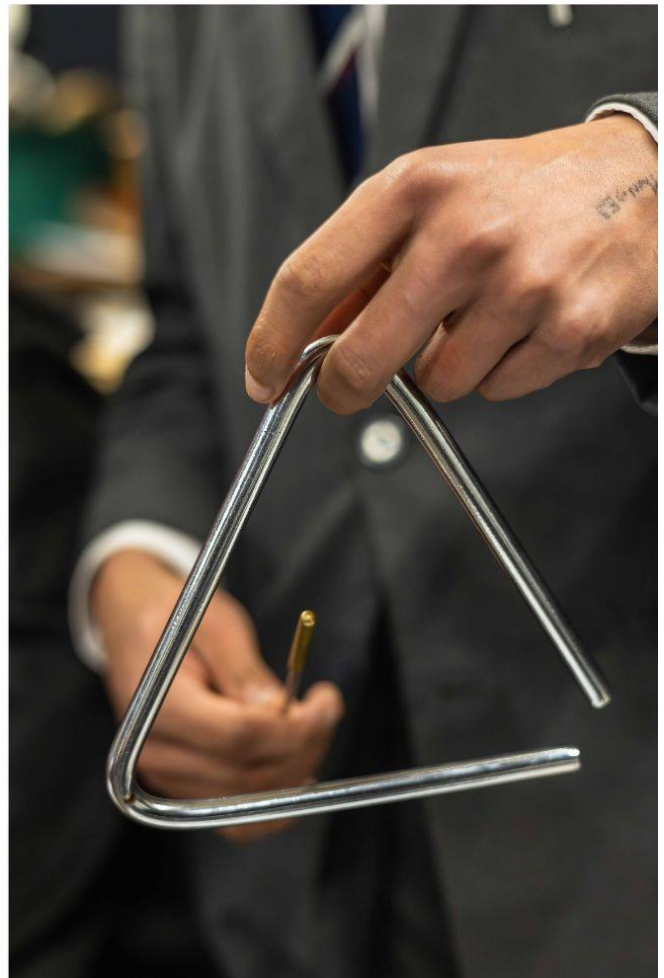
Air Ambulance Concert Rehearsals

The Concert Band made up of musicians from Reading School and Kendrick School rehearse [Gustav Holst's Second Suite in F for Military Band](#), a famous piece specifically written for a concert band.

The main concert is on Thursday 21 March at Kendrick School, and there are various ensemble opportunities for Reading School students to get involved in.







Spanish Exchange 2024

Mr Sánchez and Ms Hillairet-Humphries led a trip to Albacete, Spain with students from Years 10-13. The trip included school lessons with their partners, work experience in a local primary school for Year 12/13s and we will welcome Spanish partners during the first week of February.











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