



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

22nd November 2024

Contents

Introduction	3
Key information	4
All years	4
2023-2024 Floreat Redingensis School Magazine	4
School Community News	5
Parent Governor Election Outcome	5
Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) Circuits 2024	5
Upcoming Events	6
Service of Nine Lessons & Carols	6
House Music Competition 2024	6
Wellbeing Event	6
Exemplifying academic curiosity	7
RSPA	8
Teachers' Amazon Wishlist 2024	8
Michaelmas Term – Week 12	9
Language Learning & Problem Solving	9
Working in teams on a shared goal	12

Introduction

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Carers,

Over the past month, I have been delighted to run three 'Beyond 900 Years' parent evenings for years 7, 12 and 13, and I would like to thank all those who were able to attend on these cold, dark and, on occasion, wet evenings. Those attending had the opportunity to hear and see more about the ambitious development plans for the school that will benefit students long into the future and I greatly appreciated the opportunity to be able to hear your views, counsel and feedback.

I also look forward to meeting parents from years 8, 9 and 11 for further discussions and feedback on the following dates:

- Year 8 - Monday 2nd December, 7:30pm
- Year 9 - Monday 20th January, 6pm
- Year 11 - Monday 3rd February, 7:30pm

It speaks volumes when parents who are nearing the end of their journeys at Reading School in years 12 and 13 still come out to support and hear about the future plans of our School, the philanthropic opportunities and how to get involved in our 900th celebrations.

As part of our celebrations in 2025, you are all invited to our Community Festival, taking place on Saturday 5th July 2025, from 12:00pm - 4:00pm. On this day, we will open our doors to neighbours, friends, hospital staff, partner primary schools, local businesses and most importantly, you and your families.

The festival will be a vibrant showcase of entertainment, talent and celebration, featuring:

- **Stage performances:** Local dance groups, primary school choirs and our own student Reading School musical bands.
- **Interactive workshops:** Wellbeing zones, dance and art activities, NHS, police and fire services.
- **Food and entertainment:** A marquee with big screen, delicious food vans, ice cream and family-friendly bars.
- **Exciting activities:** Bouncy castles, a climbing wall and a treasure hunt around the school grounds, e-sport competitions and much more.
- **Department showcases:** Exhibits from science, geography, art and the Learning Resource Centre.

If you have any suggestions or would like to take part as a performer or exhibitor, please contact Ms L Ayres (Deputy Headteacher) by emailing events@reading-school.co.uk. Thank you for being such an integral part of our journey and I look forward to celebrating this milestone with you all.

I am also delighted to announce the publication of the 2023-2024 'Floreat Redingensis' School Magazine, sponsored by the Old Redingensians Association, whose support makes this publication possible. The magazine highlights the remarkable moments and achievements from the last academic year across departments, our community outreach, co-curricular activities and events. While we have captured as much as we could, the experiences, growth and spirit of our students extend far beyond what we can include each year. The publication aims to celebrate and document our school community while offering you a glimpse of whole school activities and alumni news. Details and download links for the magazine are included in this Bulletin.

Looking ahead, this academic year promises to be just as exciting with many more events and campaigns planned, and we look forward to sharing them with you through future editions of the magazine.

Thank you for your support and for continuing to be an integral part of our school community.

Dr Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All years

2023-2024 Floreat Redingensis School Magazine

We are delighted to announce the publication of the 2023-2024 Floreat Redingensis School Magazine, sponsored by the Old Redingensians Association, whose support made this publication possible.

This magazine highlights the remarkable moments and achievements from the last academic year across departments, community outreach, cocurricular activities and events. While we have captured as much as we could, the experiences, growth and spirit of our students extend far beyond what we could include. This publication aims to celebrate and document our school community, offering you a glimpse of whole school activities and alumni news.



Please see the [digital version of the magazine by clicking here](#) or by scanning the QR code.

Looking ahead, this academic year promises to be just as exciting as we celebrate the 900th anniversary of our school. Many more events and achievements are planned and we look forward to sharing them with you through future editions of the magazine.

Thank you for your continued support and for being an integral part of our school community.

School Community News

Parent Governor Election Outcome

The result of the recent parent governor election was (ranked in order of votes received):

1. Sanjay Desai
2. Kathryn Winter
3. Neil Devanand
4. Jagadeesh Ratnala

Sanjay Desai has been elected with 52% of the valid votes cast and therefore is to serve as a parent governor for the period December 2024 to November 2028. He will serve alongside the other three parent governors: Neil Holmes, Emma Fallon and Dozie Nnabuife.

There will be another parent governor vacancy this time next year. Thanks to all those who put themselves forward in 2024.

Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) Circuits 2024

We are incredibly grateful for the unwavering support and dedication of current parents, Old Redingensians and friends of Reading School displayed during our recent Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) Circuit sessions!

Across just two evenings, 30 committed medical professionals, many from the [Royal Berkshire Hospital](#) volunteered their time to conduct virtual mock MMI interviews for 35 Reading School students and 10 students from local schools: [King's Academy Binfield](#), [The Sixth Form College Farnborough](#), [Denefield Sixth Form](#), [The Open University](#), and [St Bartholomew's School & Sixth Form](#).

Their guidance provided invaluable practice for these aspiring healthcare professionals ahead of their upcoming MMIs.

This outreach truly captures the community spirit we strive to foster here at Reading School, and as we approach our 900th anniversary, we're more committed than ever to providing meaningful opportunities for our students.

A special thanks to Ms J Pickering (Biology, EPQ, Boarding Tutor, Non-UK & Medical School Applications Coordinator) and the Society Office for the tremendous amount of work goes into organising this event.

Medical Society - Did you find your interviewer particularly impactful? Please take a moment to email events@reading-school.co.uk and leave a sentence or two sharing your overall impressions.

Parents/Carers - If you or someone you know could support our next wave of mock interviews for students applying to Oxbridge or Imperial—particularly in Maths, Computer Science, Economics, and Management—please email Jas at alumni@reading-school.co.uk.

Upcoming Events

We publicise a variety of events throughout the school year that may be of interest to students and the wider school community. Events can be ones organised by Reading School or through a school partner or third-party.

Service of Nine Lessons & Carols



We warmly invite the Reading School community to join us for our cherished annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols event - an evening brimming with Christmas spirit, beautiful music from Reading School's talented musicians, and moments of reflection.

Following the service, join us for a delightful reception in the Refectory, where you can enjoy mince pies and non-alcoholic mulled wine.

Please RSVP to confirm attendance by clicking this link: [Service of Nine Lessons & Carols 2024 | Events | Reading School Alumni Society](#)

House Music Competition 2024



Now entering its 89th year, the Reading School House Music Competition will take place on Sunday 24th November from 15:00 to 19:30 at The Hexagon, Queens Walk, RG1 7QF.

Anticipation is always high for this eagerly awaited annual event which promises stellar performances from all five houses. Ensembles, both large and small, will captivate the audience with music from films, while solo acts will showcase the talents of Senior soloists (Year 11-13) and Junior soloists (Year 7-10).

The exciting event stands as one of the year's highlights and is anticipated to sell-out. Ticket prices start from £18 and availability is limited. *Parents are asked to please ensure your child's participation is confirmed before securing non-refundable tickets.*

To secure your seats, please click here: [Reading School Inter-House Music Competition 2024 | What's On Reading](#)

We understand the financial challenges faced by some families. Families in receipt of Pupil Premium are eligible for two discounted tickets in the Arena Left or Arena Right. For details, please contact events@reading-school.co.uk.

Wellbeing Event

The Art of Living Foundation is a non-profit, humanitarian and educational organisation that promotes individual well-being through yoga and meditation. Benefits shared by participants of the programme include a calmer nervous system, deeper and more restorative sleep, better mental well-being, less stress and anxiety and improved energy levels.

A three-day beginner's course will be taking place at Reading School and is open to the general public. *The course is a third-party event and not one organised by Reading School.*

Dates: Friday 20th December, 6:30pm – 9:30pm, Saturday 21st December, 9:30am – 12:30pm and Sunday 22nd December, 9:30am – 12:30pm

Venue: Reading School (Big School), Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LW (parking available on site)

Registration and fee details: <http://bit.ly/Part1ReadingSchool>

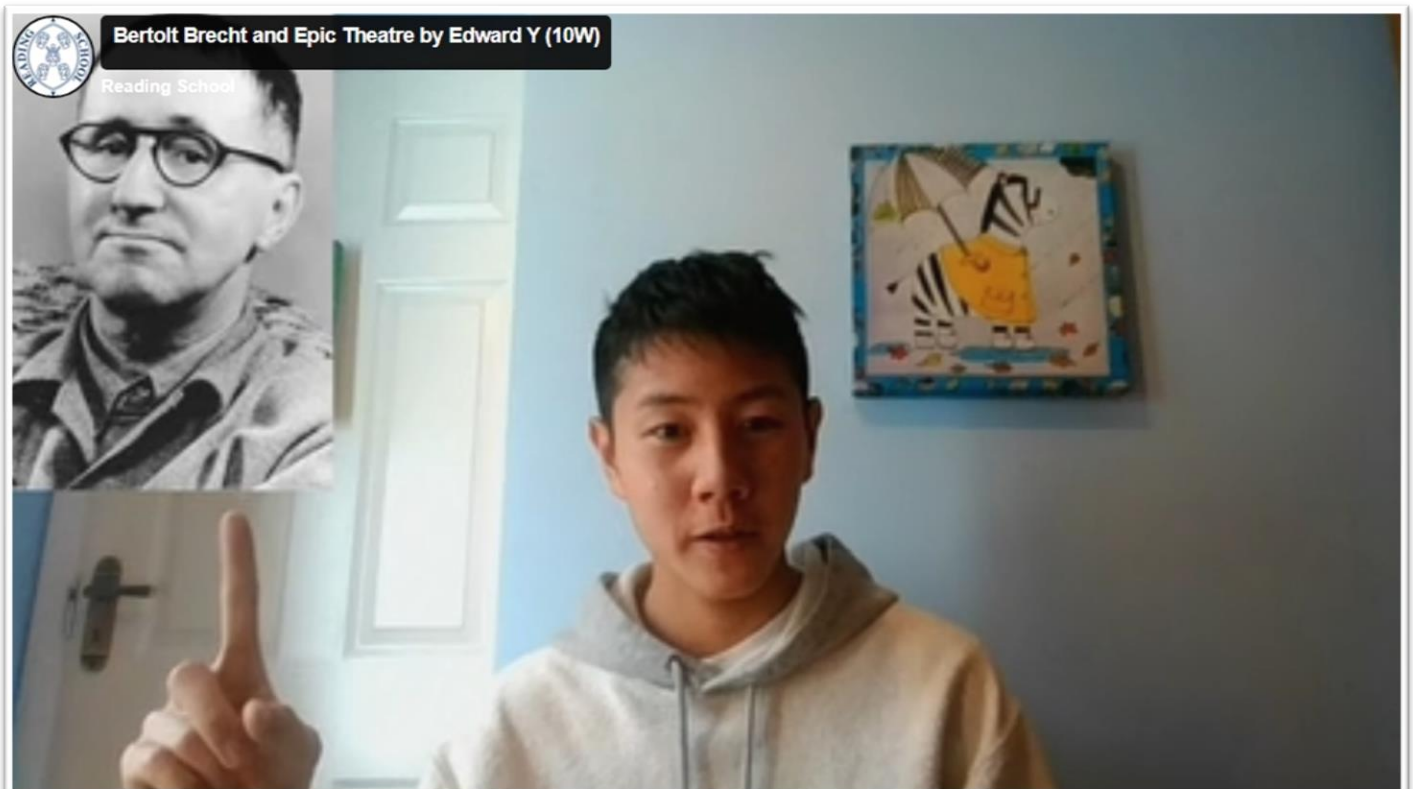
All enquiries: Ms Priyanka Phene Thombre / priyankathombre@uk.artofliving.org

Exemplifying academic curiosity

During Reading Week, all students were presented with a range of challenges to give them the opportunity to showcase their enjoyment and understanding of what they had been exploring. Edward Y (10W) chose as his subject of interest the German playwright, poet, and theatre practitioner, widely regarded as one of the most influential figures in 20th-century theatre, Bertolt Brecht.

Head of Drama, Mr Sandiford and Head of Classics & Scholarship Lead, Mr Cooper, were so impressed with Edward's research, which was beyond the curriculum and exemplified academic curiosity, that they wanted to share his contribution with the school community. When asked why he had chosen this topic, Edward shared that he had been given some of Brecht's works as a wider reading challenge in year 6, but at the time the political and social context were inaccessible to him. However, Edward felt he should give them a second look, now being a little older and here are the fruits of that decision.

Please click the image below to watch the presentation.



RSPA

Teachers' Amazon Wishlist 2024

Following on from the tremendous success of the Teachers' Amazon Wishlist – it's back for the FOURTH year running! The list is being compiled as we speak and will go live next week.

As with previous years, the Teachers are asked to choose gifts for you to purchase, to enhance the students experience and to benefit their departments. You can choose what to purchase directly from the list. If you can't decide what to buy you can simply donate an Amazon Gift Voucher or cash to contribute to one of the much-needed larger items.

Please take this opportunity to show your appreciation by purchasing a requested item. There are a wide range of requests and costs of items, so hopefully there is something to suit everyone who wishes to contribute.

The Teachers are massively appreciative of your donations, and in turn we hope that you will support them. If you are interested in seeing how our Wishlist fundraiser works, with a view to assisting us next year, please do contact Jo Wyles at jwyles@readingschoolparents.co.uk, as she will be looking for someone to handover to for 2025. We would all love to keep this particular fundraiser going for many years to come, but as our time at the School must sadly come to an end we need fresh support to keep these initiatives running.



Michaelmas Term – Week 12

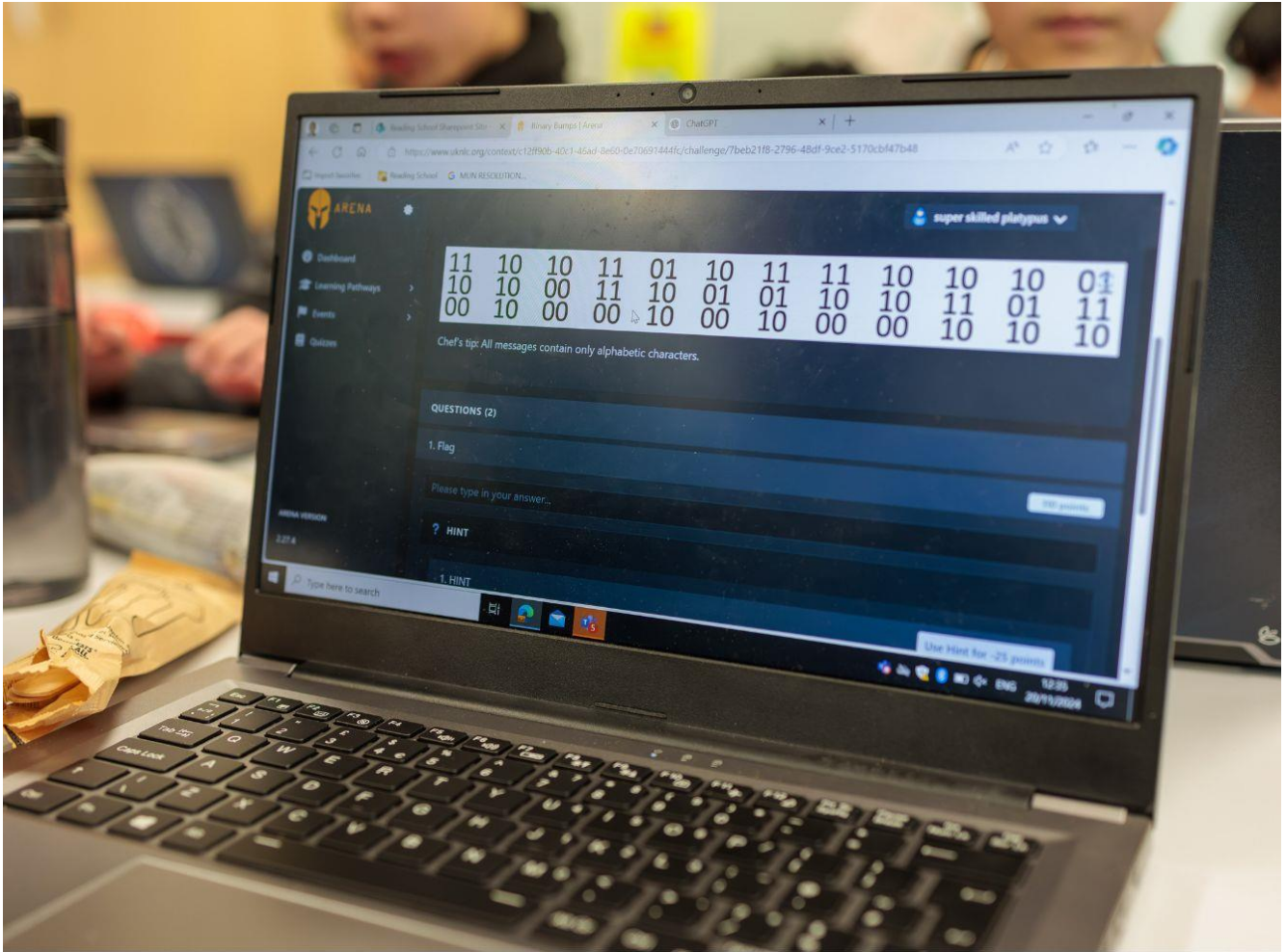
To keep up to date with student life at Reading School, click the icons below to follow, be part of, and stay connected with the Reading School community.



Language Learning & Problem Solving

This week, eight teams of year 9s have been taking part in [GCHQ's National Language Competition](#). The competition runs annually, involving schools from all across the UK. It aims to promote language learning and problem solving, skills that GCHQ values. Our year 9s have been brilliant this week, tackling difficult problems with enthusiasm and great teamwork. The competition ends at 5pm on Friday 22nd November, and we will be announcing our winning teams shortly!







Working in teams on a shared goal

Year 11s were tasked in their Floreat lessons to work in teams in order to find solutions to engineering challenges. The real focus of the sessions was to develop skills to work together effectively while building a culture of collaboration.

Click the image to watch the video.





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.