



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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# Introduction

Dear parents, carers, students, governors and colleagues,

Today, The Times and The Sunday Times Parent Power Schools Guide has named Reading School the State Secondary School of the Year for Academic Excellence in the South East 2025. The Parent Power Schools Guide is widely regarded as one of the most authoritative sources for evaluating schools and helps parents make informed choices about their children's education and I would invite the entire school community to pause, take pride in and celebrate being awarded this significant achievement as you will all have played your parts in this.

While our School's longstanding reputation for excellence is well-known, what often remains less visible beyond our gates is the foundation of values and culture that underpins this success. At the heart of our ethos is the commitment to nurturing not just academic excellence but also the character and integrity of our students. Under the guidance of our passionate and dedicated teaching and associate staff, we provide rich opportunities for young minds and hearts to develop qualities such as resilience, kindness, leadership and a profound sense of responsibility. Our Floreat and Elective programmes serve as shining examples of this, offering students unique chances to explore, grow, and lead with purpose.

Reading School also embodies a culture of accountability while remaining a place where children and young people can demonstrate and stretch their curiosity about the world around them, in order to meet and fulfil their potential – both academically and personally. The ultimate aim of the School is to support students to become well-rounded, compassionate individuals who are ready to contribute to society in meaningful ways.

We have been educating bright and curious minds for close to 900 years and I thank our entire School Community, which includes all those who came before us, for dedicating themselves to a common purpose. And, while we should celebrate being acknowledged as State Secondary School of the Year for Academic Excellence in the South East, I would ask us all to pause and reflect on whether one day, we may also see an award for a school that is the kindest in the country, or for one that creates the largest amount of social impact, or possibly one for the role a school can play in being the beating heart of its community.

We look forward to the next step along Reading School's journey and invite our whole school community to be part of our enduring story. It could be through simply giving us a like on the School's next Facebook post, or sharing the next Instagram story, commenting on our School's LinkedIn post or joining us in person at the next Reading School event.

With my thanks to all our teachers and associate staff.

**Chris Evans**  
**Headmaster**

# Key information

## All years

### End of Term Arrangements for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

<b>08:20</b>	<i>Tutor Time</i>				
<b>08:30</b>	<i>Lesson 2</i>				
<b>09:20</b>	<i>Lesson 3</i>				
<b>10:10</b>	<i>Lesson 4</i>				
<b>10:45</b>	<b>East Chapel</b>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Tutor time</i>	<i>Tutor Time</i>	<i>Break</i>
<b>11:05</b>	<i>Break</i>	<b>County Chapel</b>	<i>Tutor time</i>	<i>Tutor Time</i>	<i>Break</i>
<b>11:20</b>	<i>Tutor Time</i>	<i>Tutor Time</i>	<b>West Chapel</b>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Tutor Time</i>
<b>11:40</b>	<i>Tutor Time</i>	<i>Tutor Time</i>	<i>Break</i>	<b>School Chapel</b>	<i>Tutor Time</i>
<b>12:00</b>	<i>Depart</i>	<i>Depart</i>	<i>Depart</i>	<i>Depart</i>	<b>Laud House</b>
<b>12:20</b>					<i>Depart</i>

- No students may leave the site before 12:00.
- Food will be Grab and Go only.
- Boarding dismissal – 12:20 from each boarding house.
- Boarding Houses will be closed at 13.00.

### Staff changes – January 2025

As we approach the end of term, we will say goodbye to Miss Thain, Teacher of English. We will be sad to see Miss Thain go, and are grateful for her contributions to the School. We wish her all the very best for the future.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome a number of new members of staff to our team from January. Mrs Mann will join us as Teacher of English. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience and has a passion for providing students with opportunities to develop their skills and understanding. We are also delighted to report that Ms Postlethwaite, one of the most experienced colleagues in our English team, will be returning to teach Year 11 English until their GCSE exams in the summer. Ms Postlethwaite has managed Reading School Year 11 groups for many years, at the same time as working as an examiner for the GCSE English Language specification. She is a true subject specialist.

Mr Blade will join as Teacher of PE, Head of Cricket and Residential Boarding Tutor. He will be re-locating from Australia where he has significant experience in developing and running extra-curricular sporting programmes, including Cricket and Volleyball.

We have also appointed a new Computer Science teacher, who joins us in February, and a new Boarding and Sixth Form Administrator, with a start date yet to be confirmed.

Finally, it is a pleasure to inform you that Mrs Anantha Narayanan, who has been working with us covering attendance since September has now taken on the role of Attendance and Reporting Officer on a permanent basis.

## Allergy information

Although Reading School is not a 'nut free' school, we aim to share allergy related information and resources throughout the academic year in order to raise awareness. Allergies are very common and thought to affect more than 1 in 4 people in the UK at some point in their lives and according to Allergy UK, "in more severe cases it causes anaphylaxis, a condition which can lead to upper respiratory obstruction and collapse and can be fatal."

Please take the time to [watch a short video](#) (4min 57sec) produced by the BBC in partnership with The Open University featuring those with allergies and how they navigate daily life.

## Non-uniform day

Reading School student, Siddhant M (13EL), Co-Head of [Youth United for Good](#) (YUFG), is leading a global cross-school charity event to raise funds aimed at alleviating the suffering caused by malaria, a disease that disproportionately affects young people, with a child dying every two minutes.

Participating UK schools in this initiative include St Olave's Grammar School (London), Altrincham Grammar School for Boys (London), Wychwood School and Matthew Arnold School (Oxford), with over £1,600 raised so far. The initiative has also gained momentum with schools from the UAE, USA, and France getting involved. Siddhant and Charity Prefect Saad A (13SAI) have organised a non-uniform day to support [Malaria Consortium](#) (MC), a charity backed by rigorous research from the think tank GiveWell, ensuring donations go to one of the most effective global health organisations.

Every student is encouraged to make a minimum donation of £2.00, which will go directly to Malaria Consortium. To make a donation, please click the following link [Reading School is fundraising for Malaria Consortium](#). *Please include your son's full name and form group in the notes section when submitting a donation for verification purposes.*

# School Community News

## Success in Badminton



Well done to Advait N (7S), runner up of the Badminton England Junior National Championships held in the National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes on the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November. Advait came home with two silver medals having reached the finals of both the Boys Singles and Boys Doubles events.

Advait will also be part of the U13 England team selected for the Badminton Planet Youth Tournament in the Netherlands from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> December and we look forward to updating you of his progress in the new year.

Congratulations Advait and we look forward to cheering you on as you progress.

## Heart Screening

Over 100 of our students got to take part this week in a heart screening service provided by CRY ([Cardiac Risk in the Young](#)), a charity providing heart screening services in communities to identify young adults who may have an undiagnosed heart condition.

We would like to share our deep appreciation with the entire CRY Team and Reading School parent, Mrs E Duncan, who lost her brother to an undiagnosed heart condition a number of years ago. She and her family have since raised funds to run heart screenings within schools and other venues in order to identify those who may have an undiagnosed heart condition so that they can go on to receive support and treatment if needed.



Mrs Duncan shared, "It was amazing today to see the money we had previously raised in memory of my brother Ben in action. The screenings are a world class 'heart MOT' if you like, for Year 13 Reading students and it was lovely to see the school community come together for such an important and potentially life-saving initiative."

Mrs Duncan's son, Sean D (13MD) went onto add, "I'd like to thank Mr McGall and Mrs Brookings for all their help, and thanks to Year 13s for signing up and getting screened as it's a valuable opportunity and hopefully the start of something the school can continue for years to come."

To find out more about CRY, please visit [www.c-r-y.org.uk](http://www.c-r-y.org.uk)

## Christmas Card Affinity Campaign 2024



This year, we are once again running our beloved Christmas Card Affinity Campaign, an initiative that unites our global Old Redingensians (OR) community, especially alumni aged 64 and over. The project invites our Year 7 and 8 students to write personalised Christmas cards, each one filled with warm messages of cheer and goodwill for our alumni.

This year's campaign is especially significant as we look ahead to Reading School's 900th anniversary in 2025, a milestone that celebrates nearly a millennium of history, tradition, and community. The Christmas Card Affinity Campaign is an important part of this celebration, strengthening connections not just within our school, but with our extended global community.

In previous years, we received overwhelmingly positive feedback from recipients, who deeply appreciated the heartfelt messages from our students. These sentiments were passed on to the students involved, further enriching their sense of community and connection.

We are also proud to announce that this year's campaign features the beautiful original design of Arjun K (8C). His artwork, which beautifully captures the essence of Christmas, is showcased on over 500 cards that will be sent out to our alumni. Congratulations to Arjun for his creative contribution to this year's campaign!



As we celebrate this tradition of connection, we look forward to sharing the joy and warmth of the holiday season with our Old Redingensian family and continuing to build bridges between generations within our school community.

A big thank you to Mr. D. Tridgell and Ms. A. Creegan for organising the competition, and to all the Year 7 and 8 students who dedicated their time and effort to writing the cards.

## Festive Christmas Recital – Tuesday 17th December 2024



Taking place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, from 6pm to 8pm in the Recital Hall, Music School, this event promises a delightful variety of music, from Romantic piano to jazz to rock and everything in between.

Organised by Freddie Shaw and supported by Mr O Griffin (Director of Music) and the Music Department, the recital is a wonderful way to immerse yourself in the holiday spirit and enjoy an enchanting evening of festive music showcasing the incredible talents of our students.

**Date:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Time:** 6pm – 8pm

**Location:** Recital Hall, Music School, Reading School

**Tickets:** £3 per person

**Secure your spot:** [Festive Christmas Recital - Tuesday 17th December 2024 | Events | Reading School Alumni Society](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

- Freddie at [u00333@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:u00333@reading-school.co.uk)
- Mr. O Griffin at [ogriffin@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:ogriffin@reading-school.co.uk)
- Events Team at [events@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:events@reading-school.co.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you to an evening filled with music, joy, and celebration!

# RSPA

## Year 7 Disco

It's time to dust off those dancing shoes because Disco Fever is coming to Reading School! The Reading School Parents' Association is rolling out the red carpet for our incredible Year 7 students, inviting them to a night of music, laughter, and unforgettable memories. And guess what? This year, our 900th anniversary we're making it extra special!

We're thrilled to announce that we've extended an exclusive invitation to the Year 7 girls from Kendrick School. Together, they'll join our students to light up the dance floor for an evening packed with fun, friendship, and fabulous tunes.

### Mark Your Calendars:

- Date: Friday, 24th January 2025
- Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- Venue Detail: Reading School, Refectory
- Refreshments: Soft drinks and light snacks available for purchase
- Ticket Price: £10 (first come first serve basis)
- Link to buy the ticket: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/73564>

While the students groove to the beat, parents of Year 7 students are invited to a special Meet and Greet just for you. Drop off your child at the refectory and head over to our exclusive parent gathering, where you'll meet other Year 7 parents, connect with seasoned Reading School families, and share in the joy of our vibrant school community. Plus, we'll have refreshments available for a small fee to keep the conversations flowing and spirits high.

### Why Attend?

- A night of fun and bonding for students and parents alike
- Build new friendships in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere
- Every penny raised supports our 900-year celebration fund, making a historic milestone truly spectacular

This is more than a disco - it's an event that brings our community together and sets the stage for lifelong memories. So, whether you're a dancing superstar or just looking forward to connecting with fellow parents, this is a night you won't want to miss!

Let's make it an unforgettable evening for everyone involved. We can't wait to see you there!

### Pre-Loved Uniform Shop – update

Due to the weather forecast, the Pre-Loved Uniform Shop openings on **Friday 6th and Saturday 7th December** are cancelled.

They will be rescheduled early in 2025.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused, and please email [shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk) if you have any queries.

## Teachers' Amazon Wishlist 2024

It's HERE...it's LIVE...and it's, "FABULOUS"!

Thank you so much to all the fabulous parents who have already responded to the Teachers' Amazon Wishlist appeal. Deliveries are now arriving daily! Your generosity is greatly appreciated, supporting our teachers with some much needed and personally requested resources.

[The current list can be viewed by clicking here.](#)

Please choose RPSA PARENT GIFTING WISHLIST TERRI LORRIMORE as the delivery address.

Please also use [EASYFUNDRAISING](#) and select Amazon as your retailer before purchasing your gift, to raise further money for the pupils with no extra cost to you.

New Easyfundraising members can use this link, as we will receive £1 extra as soon as you register and make your purchase!

If you can't make your mind up then Gift Vouchers are most welcome.

Or, if you would like to Gift Aid a cash donation please email: [treasurer@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@readingschoolparents.co.uk) and send your cash gift to:

Name: RSPA No. 2 Account

Sort Code: 60-17-21

Account No: 15309096

If you have any queries, please do email Jo Wyles – [jwyles@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:jwyles@readingschoolparents.co.uk)

Thank you all so much again, we couldn't provide such an amazing haul of resources to support our teachers without your support.

Have a lovely weekend!

The RSPA Team

# Michaelmas Term – Week 14

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.



## Manga Elective with Mr Cho

Last Friday saw students competing in a 'dubbing' competition as part of their manga themed elective. This involved student's voice acting video clips from the well-known anime series 'Naruto'. Behind the fun was a learning activity which included both traditional and current pop culture of Japan, along with developing teamwork skills.





Dr Evans attends to judge team performances



## German Austrian Christmas Market

"I think the Christmas Market was a really great way to socialise with other years and helped me get to know new people" Mantra J (9W)









"It was magical to see the enthusiasm of the students and their commitment - truly an embodiment of the Christmas spirit" Oz M

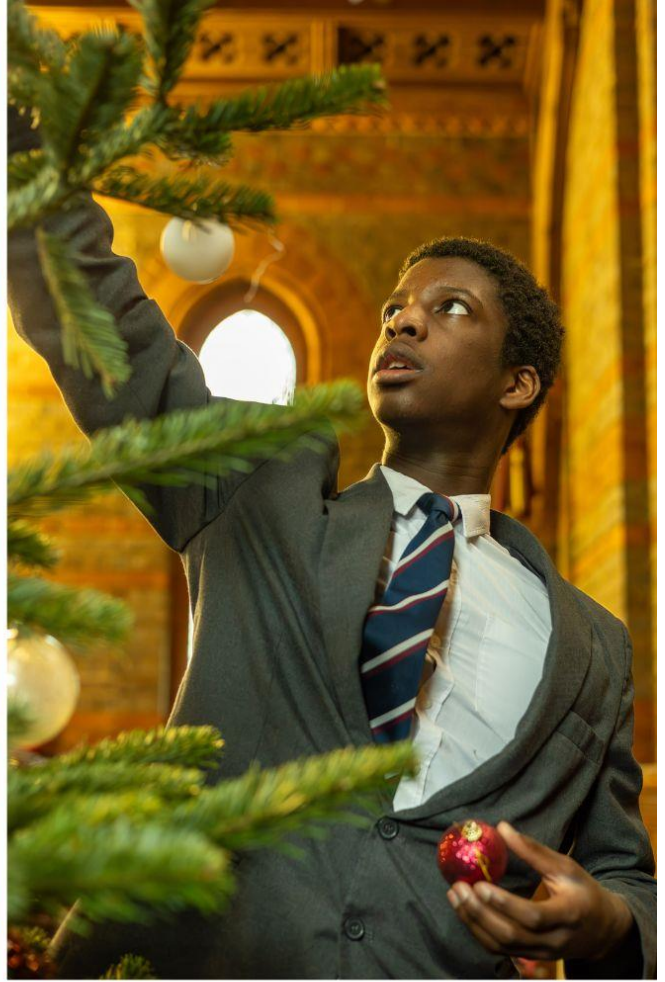


**“It's the most wonderful time of the year!”**

The annual tradition of decorating the Reading School Christmas tree got underway this week. Thank you to all students who took part alongside Mr Amos and Mr Dowle.









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).