



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

13th December 2024

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers, Students, and Staff,

As we approach the end of Michaelmas term, I find myself reflecting on the incredible effort and energy that has gone into this term of learning and growth, from students and colleagues alike. The weeks have been filled with both large and small achievements inside and outside the classroom which the weekly Bulletin aims to highlight and showcase so that all can take pride and inspiration in the broad wealth of our student's talents.

Although we are approaching the end of term, we still have a week in which to maintain the high standards we have set ourselves. The way we support one another is what sets our school community apart. It is in this final week that our strength of character can be tested, and I am confident that the vast majority will rise to the challenge together. For our students, this is an opportunity to demonstrate resilience, responsibility and pride in all that you do, right up to the very last day of term.

For parents, carers and staff, your encouragement, support and guidance are invaluable in ensuring our high standards are upheld. We've been tested this week with a number of incidents of misbehaviour on electronic devices, and I'd value the support of all parents in making sure we work together to finish the Michaelmas term as strongly as we began it, showing the same commitment to excellence in all areas that define Reading School.

Could I ask parents to check their own daily screen time this weekend and have a conversation with their sons? In a recent investigation 50% of the students whose devices were checked had been online at 01:00.

The days may be short and the evenings long, but 5 hours on a mobile phone in the middle of the night is good for no-one!

Much better to dance (thank you to Mr Appiah and the street dance elective), to sing (thanks to Mr Griffin, Mr Newman, Mr Druce and the choir), to create (thanks Henry for your Crossword poem, Ms Creegan for the visit to the Tate Modern), to problem solve (thanks Mrs Haugvik for signing us up to the GCHQ challenge) and to play (thanks brass ensemble and 1st XV for the riveting recital and cup final).

As we navigate this final coming week with purpose and positivity, may I thank you for your continued support and the part you play in the enduring story of Reading School.

Best wishes,

Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All years

End of Term Arrangements for Friday 20th December

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

- No students may leave the site before 12:00.
- Food will be Grab & Go only.
- Boarding dismissal – 12:20 from each Boarding House.
- Boarding Houses will be closed at 13:00.

Student Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 18th December

The Refectory's lunch menu will be replaced with a special student Christmas lunch menu this coming Wednesday 18th December. The meal will include a drink with cracker, and will cost £4. Both vegetarian and meat Christmas lunch options will be available, and will be served by the School's Senior Leadership Team.

Please note, 'Grab & Go' will only be available at breaktime on Wednesday 18th December, and not at lunchtime.

Non-uniform day – Friday 20th December

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.

Safeguarding

As we reach the end of Michaelmas Term 2024, safeguarding all our students remains, as always, our top priority. With this in mind, [please click this link](#) to access a student safeguarding flowchart that highlights support, emergency contacts, how to get in touch with the safeguarding team during the holiday period and ways to access support outside of the School. We would encourage all students, parents and carers to familiarise themselves with the flowchart and the support available, if needed, during the holiday period. The Reading School safeguarding email inbox will be monitored intermittently throughout the holidays.

Invitation for parents – Support required during sports fixtures

Are you a parent with experience in refereeing sports fixtures? Do you have a couple of hours free during a week? 2025 will be an exciting time for Reading School sports with over 80 fixtures being played in 12 weeks and with further senior matches and cup games yet to be confirmed.

The Sport & PE Department are looking for enthusiastic parents to referee some football fixtures in 2025. The support is specifically required during football fixtures where there will be multiple Reading School teams playing at the same time. You would be supported with an induction by the Sport & PE Department at a time that suits you, and to find out more or express your interest, please contact Head of Sport & PE, Mr S Allen by emailing sallen@reading-school.co.uk.

School Community News

Excellence in Languages

As featured in the Headmaster's Bulletin dated 22nd November 2024, 32 Year 9s participated in the [GCHQ National Language Competition](#), completing a series of challenging linguistics-based puzzles. All our teams did fantastically and should be very proud of their hard work. There were over 2000 teams nationally, and all our students came in the top 25% of the country. Our top three teams came 51st, 52nd and 67th nationally, a brilliant achievement and well done to them all!

Thank you to Mrs Haugvik (Teacher of Classics) for leading on this competition.

Team 1 'Witty enchanting armadillo': Akash B, Ibrahim A, Bhanuteja M and Grigory V

Team 2 'Pleasant handsome caribou': Abdullah A, Adithya B, Ali V and Neil J

Team 3 'Patient gifted panda': Jayden H, Yi Chun L, Kingsley H and Oliver G

Team 4 'Laughing adorable panda': Shreya K, Joshua O, Rimas M and Maxwell L

Team 5 'Joyous calm leopard': Hamd W, Aryan V, Peter H and Arran T

Team 6 'Busy precious antelope': Arin K, Samuel L, Jackson A and Aarav S

Team 7 'Mellow electric llama': Dheeran G, Shayan S, Krish G and Rutwick B

Team 8 'Smooth enchanting magpie': Rupert T, Andrii P, Andrii M and Samuel L



Free Mind Detox Workshop – Sunday 15th December 2024



The Art of Living will be delivering a free complimentary workshop which will offer guests an experiential experience in meditation. The session will take place in Room 10 (by the Cloisters) this Sunday 15th December from 3pm – 5pm.

The session is billed as a, 'fun filled, interactive and informative session' suitable for adults and Year 13 students. Pre-registration is required [by clicking this link](#).

Please note that this is a privately organised event and is not affiliated with or managed by Reading School.

For all enquiries, please contact Priyanka Thombre by emailing priyankathombre@uk.artofliving.org.

Festive Christmas Recital – Tuesday 17th December 2024



Taking place on Tuesday 17th December, from 6pm to 8pm in the Recital Hall, Music School, this event promises a delightful variety of music, from 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 talents of our musicians.

Date: Tuesday 17th 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 Shaw at u00333@reading-school.co.uk
- Mr. O Griffin at ogriffin@reading-school.co.uk
- Events Team at events@reading-school.co.uk

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

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



Thank you to all those who attended the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Reading School this week, it truly was a wonderful occasion seeing many of our students, parents, families, alumni and friends come together during this festive period. Thank you to our Director of Music, Mr O Griffin and Chaplin, Mr M Amos for leading the service, the Brass Band (Freddie S, James D, Abhinav K, Devansh B, Aradhya G, Kacper L and Rafa S), the readers for their contribution to the service, Mr J Newman, Mr J Duce, and of course, Reading School's Junior and Senior Choirs.

We would also like to thank you for supporting the retiring collection at both our annual Commemoration Service and Carol Service which has raised £317.02, supporting the Motor Neurone Disease Association. [If you would like to support this worthy cause, please click this link.](#)

Poem for December

Reading School's Poet Laureate, Henry R shares, "I enjoy doing cryptic crossword clues, and do a daily one often. I find that the clues are poetic themselves and hope that anyone can solve them at home - I will release the answers next week with another poem."

A Cryptic Crossword Poem

Henry R

Occurrence is cut short... Why? For joy! (5)

Angry conversation puzzles (9)

Stupor sounds like one time (3)

Friends start in Italy's capital, then finish early where they began (4)

Chosen style messes up romantic meeting (10)

Rhythmic writer – Edgar Allen's – second stanza (4)

Church speeches needed for a wedding contain what sound like celebrations of Islam (8)

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!

Teachers' Amazon Wishlist 2024

URGENT REQUEST FOR DONATIONS!



The Teachers' Amazon Wishlist appeal closes in a few days, and although we are well over halfway through there are still lots of gifts needed to help supply these resources as requested by our fabulous Teachers. The remaining list [can be viewed by clicking here](#).

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 that will benefit students.

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 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

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 15

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.



Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Traditionally celebrated during Christmas time in the UK, the service features readings told in nine short lessons from the Bible, alongside singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir anthems. It also offers a time for all members of the School community to come together, reflect and celebrate.













GCHQ National Competition Winners

The National Language Competition (NLC) is a virtual competition where teams from around the UK compete against each other to solve language-based puzzles and score points.

[Click here to view a sample challenge](#)

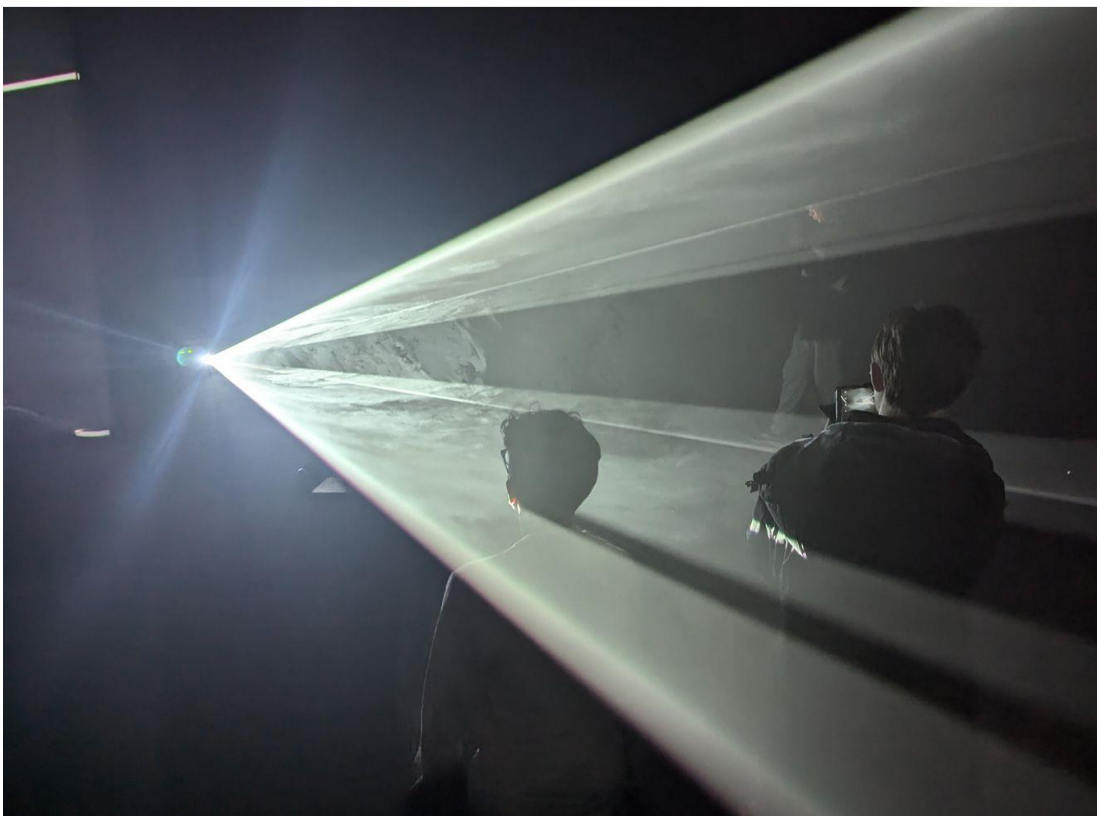




A trip to the Tate Modern

GCSE Artists and Photographers, led by Head of Art, Ms A Creegan, recently got to visit the Tate Modern to view artist Anthony McCall's immersive exhibition, 'Solid Light'. Movements by visitors would bring beams of projected light to life, creating large three-dimensional forms in space which shift and change.

Further exhibitions visited included 'Electric Dreams, Art and Technology before the Internet' along with an exploration of Brutalism, an architectural style of the 1950s and 1960s characterised by simple, block like forms and raw concrete construction.





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.