



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

15 MARCH 2024

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# Introduction

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Carers,

I've had some meetings this week that I thought you might like to know about. They speak about our school community.

Firstly, on Tuesday, I had a wonderful conversation with our cleaners. They are amongst our most committed and caring staff. With the help of Mr McGall, who translated for some of our Nepalese colleagues, they described some of the things they love about working at Reading School as well as some of their frustrations. Their views are really significant. A couple of these colleagues, for example, are concerned that a small number of students may be vaping in the school toilets. We do have concerns about a small number of Year 11 students bringing vapes to school and have brought it to the attention of respective parents. Our colleagues also explained how pleasing it is for them when they see students looking after each other and how much they enjoyed seeing senior students mentoring children from local primary schools. I was grateful for their insights and care.

On Wednesday, I met with six new members of our staff body who have joined us during this term. Mr Travis, Mrs Pearce, Mrs Ivanova, Dr Hu, Mr Pearce and Mr Szymcyk. These new staff members bring a wealth of diverse skills, experience, leadership and knowledge that will benefit not only our students but also our wider school community, and I am grateful that they are all contributing greatly to the life of our school.

On Thursday, I sat with our School Captain, Josha G (13MRC), and we shared the privilege of interviewing some of next year's prospective prefects. Each candidate reflected a depth of commitment and leadership that was not only to their credit, but also spoke of the power of our House system, and the importance of nurturing collaboration and teamwork. Moreover, for me, it was most humbling to see how astute, gentle and strategic Josha was in the questions he asked. It is a pleasure to see our students bringing out the best in each other, and I salute all those who have put themselves forward to serve, volunteer and lead.

There have been so many vibrant examples of leadership this week, I won't do any of them justice, but I'd love you to know that Calvin M (11C) played 90 minutes for the 1st XI in the County Cup Football Semi Final, before representing the school in a Rugby 7s match. Furthermore, driven by their own enthusiasm, and having organised themselves without any staff support, nine Year 8 students won the "Community Impact" trophy at this week's First Lego League Competition (more about this will be featured in next week's Bulletin).

Finally, I was asked to judge part of this year's long-running annual House Eisteddfod competition this week. I have never heard Hamlet's "Get thee to a nunnery" spoken with more sincere feeling! Several hundred students performed speeches, prose passages, poetry and drama extracts during the competition (some edited highlight videos will be featured in next week's Bulletin). I congratulate all of those who took part and, even more, all of those senior students who organised rehearsals, chose texts and co-ordinated their Houses.

Randall Bass, a professor of education, once said, "Any society that is to be successful for more than one generation must have education, for, without education, society collapses as its establishing members expire... Without education, each new generation would have to start all over in the process of discovering knowledge. In short, education transmits culture... [and secures] the perpetuation of the society."

I am sure this week we have seen not just the perpetuation of society, or the transmission of culture, but the improvement and the enrichment of our community.

With thanks to every student and staff member who has contributed beyond the classroom this week.

**Dr Chris Evans**  
**Headmaster**

# Key information

## All Years

### Parents' Revision Webinar – a reminder

We are delighted to invite all parents (but in particular those of Year 7 to 11 students) to an evening online webinar to advise parents about how best they can support their child in the run-up to exams, both internal and external.

Taking place online at **7.30pm on Wednesday 20 March**, and hosted by senior leaders from the School, we will be covering both academic and emotional preparation for revision and exams. This is, in addition to and dovetails with the support that students will get in school, to embed consistent and supportive messages about the purpose of exams.

Please access [this Teams meeting link](#) in order to join the revision webinar.

## 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:

### Reading School Teacher Vacancies

Teacher of Theology & Philosophy – for more details, [please click here](#).

### External Teacher Vacancies (Kendrick School)

[Business and Economics Teacher](#) for September 2024. Deadline for applications 9am Friday 15th March 2024

# School Community News

## French Exchange 2024

We have a long-standing partnership of almost 20 years with French lycée Jean Guéhenno, in Fougères, Brittany. Every year, Year 12 students take part in an exchange with French students, as a joint trip with The Piggott School. This year, Year 10 students are also taking part in the exchange, organised and led by Mme Elise Fondu from Reading School, Mrs Sarah Rawlings from The Piggott School, and Mme Nadine Cherbonnel and Mme Sarah Trubert from lycée Jean Guéhenno.

This week has been very exciting as it was the first leg of our exchange, and we welcomed and hosted our French partners. The Year 12 French partners got to take part in work experience opportunities in local primary schools, whilst the Year 10 French partners went on local visits to Oxford, Windsor and London. All students also experienced a day at Reading School, experiencing lessons in a foreign language alongside our students.

The educational and cultural exchange enables these young people to experience British culture as well as practise their English skills in an immersive environment. It is a wonderful opportunity to take our students out of their comfort zone and allow them to grow not only their language skills, but as young people, developing interpersonal skills, independence and resilience.

We will say au revoir to our French partners on Sunday 17 March but not for long, as we will have our second leg of the exchange next week and travel to France from Wednesday 20 March to Wednesday 27 March. Bon voyage!





## Excellence in Biology

The British Biology Olympiad (BBO) is an annual international competition open to Biology students who want to be challenged and stimulated. It allows students to demonstrate their knowledge where they will be presented with topics and ideas they would not normally be familiar with, in order to test their problem-solving skills and understanding of core principles.

We would like to congratulate the following students who have all achieved Gold in the British Biology Olympiad 2024:

From left to right: Nikolaos A (13MK), Thomas L (13FEH), Aadith C (13AC), Harry V (13MJK) and Jonathan H (13MRC), Arav T (13SA and not pictured).



## Sustainability News



During November 2023, a poster competition was launched by our resident sustainability and biodiversity champions 'Team Biohazard' made up of Malik S (8L), Abhiram G (8L) and Naivedya P (8L). The competition invited all students to design a poster that would help to increase the awareness of biodiversity in order to share with the whole school community.

The winning entry was chosen by a panel including a member from Team Biohazard, Naivedya P, who shared:

"Firstly, we would like to thank everyone who took the time to participate in our competition. We asked everyone to make an interesting and eye-catching poster which explains the topic of biodiversity. Zayan U (9L) produced a great poster, winning the Biodiversity Awareness Poster Competition and has won a £20 Amazon gift card. His poster will be placed around the school hoping to encourage more people to learn about biodiversity and understand the key role it plays on our everyday lives. We are still working hard to raise awareness on the importance of managing both food waste and biodiversity in our school and hope to make a positive difference."

## Non-School Uniform Day – World Health Day



In celebration of World Health Day, Yaman E (Charity Prefect), Saad A (12C) and Chandan M (12E), in partnership with the Royal Berks Charity, has organised a non-school uniform day. The Royal Berks Charity is dedicated to enhancing patient care and treatment at the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust. By funding various essentials such as medical equipment, staff development, and hospital environment improvements, they strive to make a meaningful impact on patients, families, and staff alike.

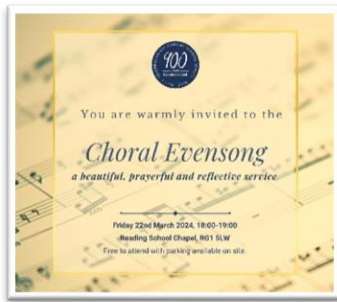
Students are invited to wear blue and contribute the minimum suggested donation of £2.00 to the fundraiser.

To donate, please click here: [Reading School is fundraising for Royal Berks Charity \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Reading-School-is-fundraising-for-Royal-Berks-Charity). *Unfortunately, we cannot accept any cash payments on the day.*

Please include your son's full name and form group in the notes section when submitting a donation for verification purposes. Every contribution counts towards making a difference in the lives of those in need.

# Events

## Choral Evensong



The Music Department cordially invites you to a traditional Choral Evensong at our School Chapel on Friday 22 March from 18:00.

Drawing from the revered Anglican musical tradition, the service follows the traditional pattern found in The Book of Common Prayer. You will get to enjoy beautiful singing from the Reading School Chapel Choir, performing choral music like psalms, canticles, anthems, and also hear scripture readings and prayers, creating a moment of tranquility and reflection.

### Event Details

Date: Friday 22 March

Time: 18:00 to 19:00

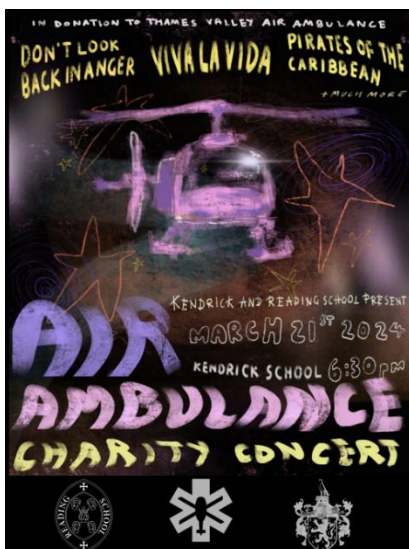
Venue: Chapel, Reading School, Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LW

Programme:

- Responses: Coxhead
- Psalm: 121
- Canticles: Noble in B minor
- Anthem: Ave Maria by Elgar
- Sermon: The Revd Dr Chris Evans

This event is open to all and free to attend. Join us for an evening of sublime music and spiritual rejuvenation. [Reserve your spot by clicking here](#) and we look forward to welcoming you.

## Charity Concert Fundraiser for Thames Valley Air Ambulance



In collaboration with Kendrick School, our students Freddie S (13BSA), Avaneesh R (12JP), and Joshua L-A (12BSA) are hosting a charity concert to support the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. Join us on Thursday, 21 March at 18:30 (doors open at 18:00) at Kendrick School, Main Hall (RG1 5BN) for an evening of music and philanthropy.

Tickets are priced from £10 for individuals aged 12 and above, and £6 for those under 12, with all proceeds benefiting the lifesaving efforts of the Air Ambulance service across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire. For over ten years, this concert has raised funds after Thames Valley Air Ambulance saved the life of Toby Darrington, a Reading School student who had an accident whilst cycling on Oxford Road. His sister Alicia began the charity concert the following year to thank them.

Book your tickets by clicking the link to support this vital cause: [Air Ambulance Charity Concert 2024 Tickets](#)



## Donations to School Uniform Shop

Thank you to all parents who supported the Uniform Shop last week.

The next opening days will be on:

Friday 22 March 3:30 – 5:00pm

Saturday 23 March 10:30am – 12:30pm

Please email [shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk) with any queries.

## School Lottery



Win a £1,000 Sainsbury's eGift Card!

You will receive one entry into this draw for each weekly ticket that you have. Buy more tickets for more entries. Stock up your wardrobe for spring with Tu, freshen up your home with Habitat homewares, or just save some money on your groceries - what a way to kick-start spring! Get your tickets before Saturday 30th March to be in with your chance to win. Already have tickets? Don't forget, you can top-up your tickets just for Super Draw week!

You will receive one entry into this draw for each weekly ticket that you have. Buy more tickets for more entries.

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

Thank you and have a lovely weekend.

The RSPA Team

## Lent Term – Week 10

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.



### [International School Meals Day](#)

Thursday 14 March celebrated 'Innovation in school meals: new routes to sustainable nutrition'. The day aims to encourage children and young people to connect and talk to each other about the food they eat and the role it plays in their lives.

The theme this year is for students and school to think about nutrition in new, exciting and sustainable ways and we would like to thank all students who responded to the questionnaire shared via Teams this week.



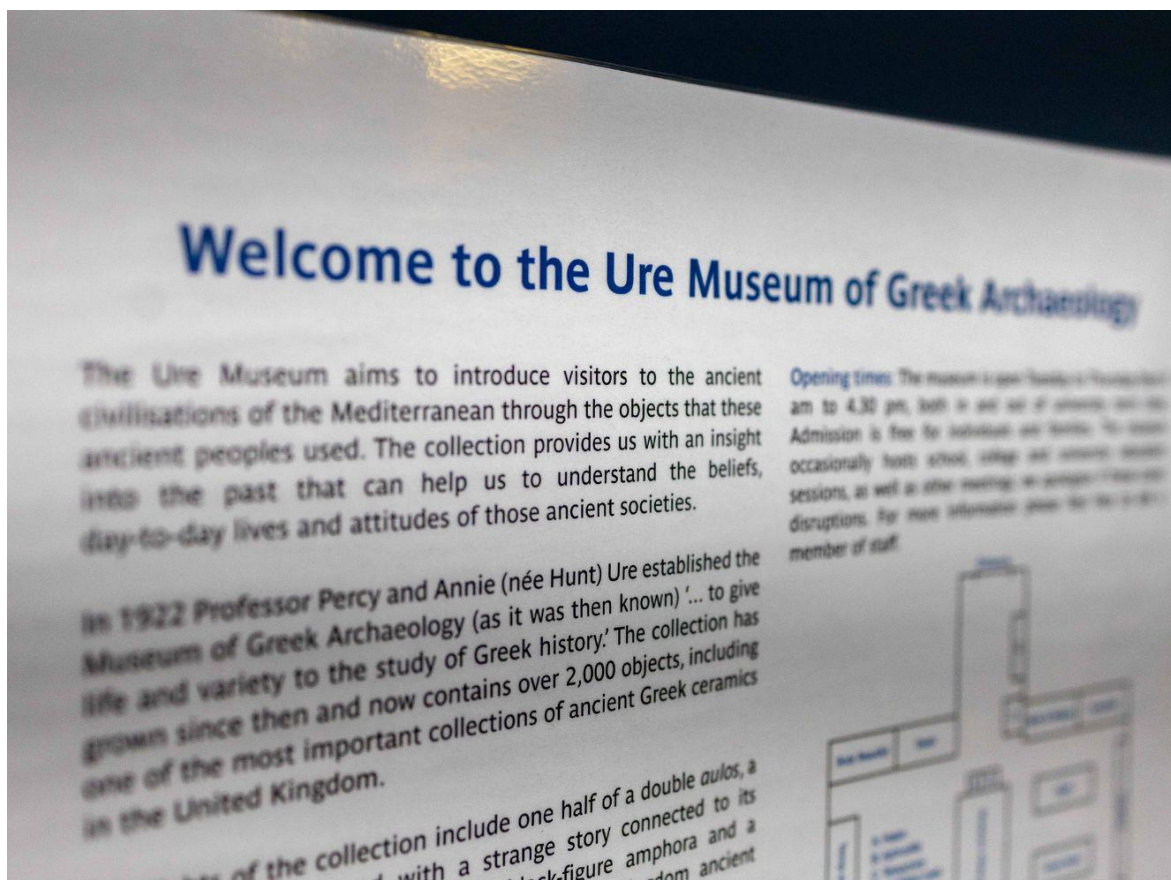


School trips are opportunities for our students to take part in enrichment experiences that develop and enhance their educational experience beyond the classroom. They can provide students with hands-on, real world experiences that complement learning that takes place in the classroom, as well as having the opportunity to extend curiosity, better understand and retain knowledge and broaden horizons.





Over 30 of our Year 9 Latin students got to step back in time and enter the University of Reading's 'Ancient Classroom' to become Roman citizens for the day. Led by Teacher of Classics, Ms Haugvik and supported by Mr Lobo, our aspiring Roman students immersed themselves in the experience of how students would have been taught in the classical age.





Staff and volunteers from the UoR's Classics Department run the full-day event in character as Roman teachers and all the students have to leave behind trappings of the modern world by donning authentic tunics and sandals, while finding out first-hand what the ancient world was really like.



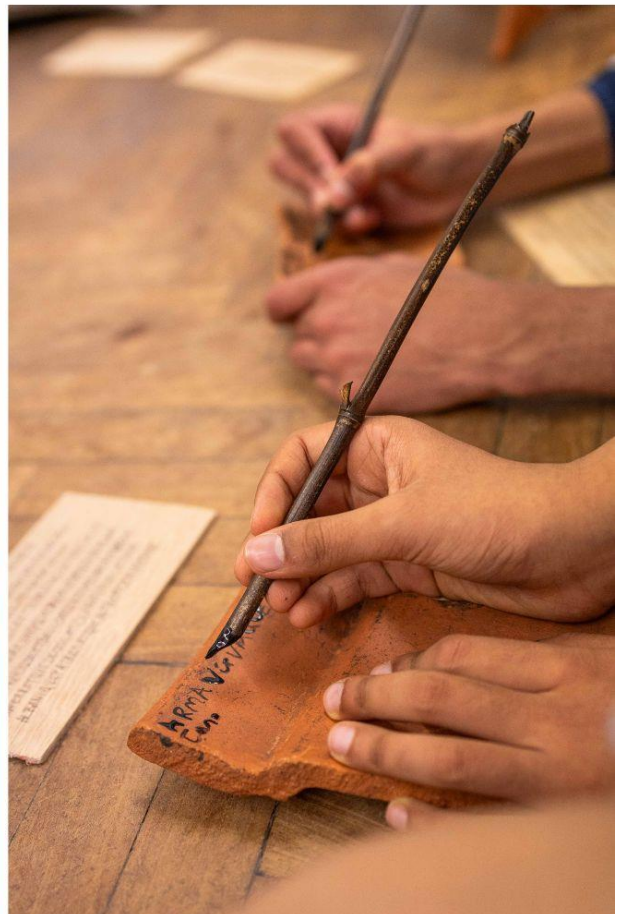
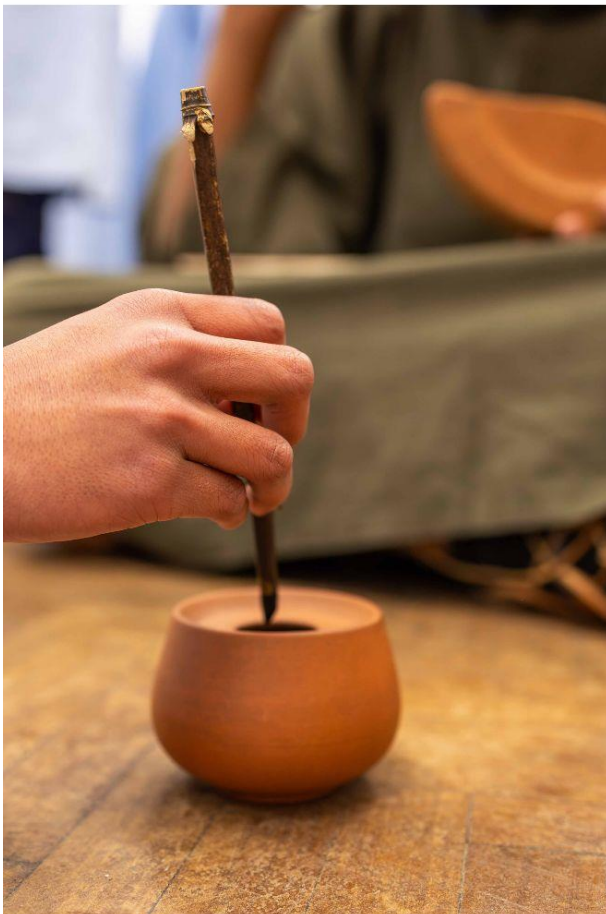


Students spent some of the session practicing the types of exercises that were common in ancient schools, which included entering the schoolroom one by one while greeting the teacher (in Latin), no lecturing from the teacher and students working individually at their own pace and presenting their work later to their teacher.





All props and tools used during the session are authentic replicas including: wax tablets, styluses, reed pens, inkwells, ostraca and papyrus.











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)