



# Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

26 APRIL 2024

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# Introduction

Dear Colleagues, Carers, Parents and Student,

I would like, today, to celebrate the excellence and leadership that is so consistently demonstrated by so many of our Sixth Form students. It has been my pleasure this week to appoint a new team of prefects from Year 12, and to thank them for their willingness to serve the school in these new roles. Additionally, I would like to express my admiration and respect for the outgoing prefects, who have contributed an incredible amount over the past year. I hope they have gained a sense of the remarkable power for change that we each possess and have found their roles to be both fulfilling and purposeful.

This week we must also celebrate the exceptional achievements of Nikolas A, for securing one of four places for students from the UK in the International Biology Olympiad, and we must thank and praise our Biology staff for all they do to encourage and nurture curiosity and excellence.

In the same spirit I would like to congratulate the students, the prefects and the tutors of Laud House, who have been confirmed this week as the winners of the House Championship. We will share more details next week. for now, perhaps it will suffice for us to thank Mrs Clarke for leading our newest house to victory for the second year in a row. We congratulate every student who has taken part in events, and thank the Laud House Captains for their diligence, motivation and leadership.

Finally, may I salute the work of James, Kamran and Joss, whose collaboration in Theatre Studies has been nothing short of exemplary. There is nothing that staff enjoy more than seeing students flourish. Whether in a theatrical performance, a poetry recital, a Chess tournament or a Squash match, in an international Olympiad, in a work-experience placement, in a challenging expedition or in an academic endeavour, it is our greatest delight to see students working together to foster excellence. When this happens in small teams, and when classmates bring the best out of each other we continue to see that there is no limit to the potential of our students.

Today then, I hope you will join in thanking all our student leaders for that which they model, for the ways in which they serve, and for their commitment to the school.

With thanks for all the endeavours we have noted, and just as much for those unnoticed.

With best wishes,

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



# Key information

## All Years

### Safeguarding

There have been a series of incidents of Reading School students being approached by a particular individual on Craven Road. The description of the man is that he is around 40 years of age, of Eastern European origin, seems to always wear a distinctive orange vest and ripped clothes. When he approaches students he appears to be agitated and perhaps under the influence of drugs or alcohol. He has been trying to ask for money and to borrow students' phones. Students should be particularly vigilant in this area and keep their distance from him if at all possible. If students spot him, please come into school and report it to a member of staff as soon as possible.

Students should, wherever possible walk in at least pairs, so that students will have someone with them if this man does approach them.

Please be assured that a staff presence will be around the site at the end of the school day where possible.

### Do you know anyone that could help by hosting a Ukrainian family?

We have been approached about a mum and son who are currently living in a very heavily shelled area of Ukraine. They are unable to continue living there anymore and would like to find a sponsor in the UK. They know people in the nearby area, hence they are looking for a sponsor local to Reading.

If you may be able to help out or you know of anyone who might be able to help facilitate a matching host for this family, please let us know - [helpukraine@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:helpukraine@reading-school.co.uk)

### Medical and Student Services Process

Please find below an important update regarding our Medical and Student Services process.

Effective from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April, we are implementing a new procedure for accessing Student Services. **The Sign in/Sign out iPad will now be situated in the Medical Centre.** We kindly request that all students use the iPad when entering and exiting the Medical Centre, just as you would with the usual Student Services room.

Furthermore, please note that there will no longer be a staff member stationed in the Student Services room. Should you have any questions or require assistance related to student services, we encourage you to visit the Medical Centre for this. If Miss Coates is not available in the medical room, please proceed to reception and ask for Miss Raval, who will be happy to assist you.

Lastly, please be aware that lost property will continue to be located in its usual area.

We believe that this adjustment will streamline our processes and enhance the efficiency of our services. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this transition period.

### Sickness reminder

Unfortunately, there is a sickness bug going around - please remind your child to be sensible, safe and keep on top of washing hands.

As per the school's guidelines, anyone experiencing vomiting and diarrhoea needs to remain off school for 48 hours.

There is a useful link below from the NHS guidelines: [Diarrhoea and vomiting - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

## Allergy notice for parents and students

We would like to remind parents and students to be mindful in relation to allergies and what food students bring to school. Both children and adults with severe nut allergies can suffer from life-threatening reactions if they eat, smell, or touch any foods containing nuts. We are therefore grateful for your cooperation in helping to keep our students and staff safe.

Although we are not a 'nut free' school we would like to raise awareness of the impact that bringing nuts into school can have on students and staff who may have allergies. Packaged nuts, peanut butter, chocolate spreads containing nuts, cereal, granola, chocolate bars containing nuts, cakes or biscuits containing nuts. Peanut based sauces (like satay) and any food made with sesame seeds can cause severe allergic reactions for those affected by allergens. This list is not exhaustive.

[Allergy UK](#) is a nationwide charity for people living with an allergy and has resources for parents to access further information.

## Student Pencil Case Equipment

As we approach exam season, it is more important than ever for students to be ready to learn. Tutors will be redoubling their checks on students having the correct equipment in pencil cases over the next few weeks. Students missing something must find a next-day replacement or risk a sanction. The equipment list includes nothing extraordinary nor expensive, and as a bare minimum:

Pen - Spare Pen - Pencil - Pencil Sharpener - Ruler - Rubber - Calculator - Coloured Pencils - Exercise books for that day

Certain subjects may require other specific equipment in addition.

We ask that parents themselves check their child's equipment and ensures they come to each lesson ready to learn.

## 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 roles currently available:

### Teacher Vacancies

**Head of MFL** - deadline 9am, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - [click here](#) for further details.

**Teacher of French** - deadline 9am, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - [click here](#) for further details.

**Cover Supervisor/Cover Teacher** – deadline 9am, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – [click here](#) for further details

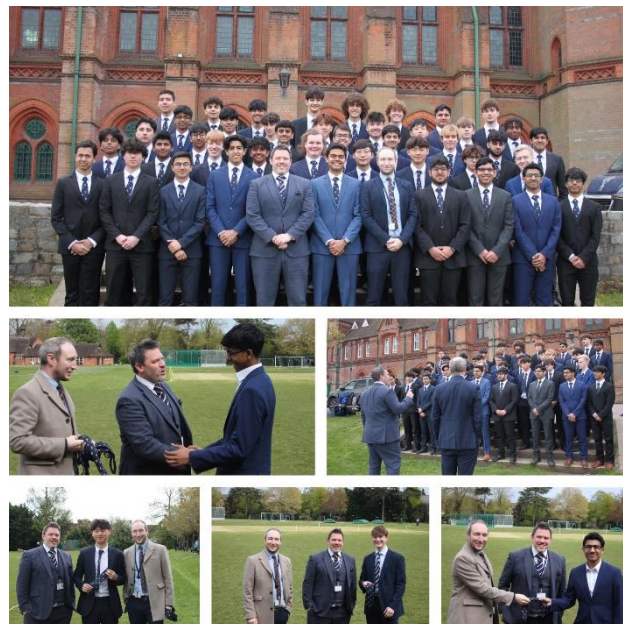
We do not currently have any other vacancies at Reading School. Please [visit our careers page](#) to join our talent pool and where your application will be reviewed.



# School Community News

## 2024 -2025 Prefect Team

We are delighted to announce the new prefect team for 2024-25. It's going to be a very busy year for them all with the 900 year celebrations meaning we have a wide range of events and opportunities for them to demonstrate their leadership and to be representatives of the School. Looking at the list of students who have been made prefects, it's clear that we have a fantastic team and they will be exceptional leaders within the School community. Congratulations to them all!



Leadership Team	Prefect
School Captain	Paarth Goswami
Vice Captain	Milan Gupta
Vice Captain	Yusef Zadran
Vice Captain	Maninder Singh
Vice Captain	Armaan Chhokar
Projects and Community Team	
Charity Prefect	Saad Ahmed
Community Service Prefect	Rahul Ramsiva
Future Stories Prefect	Krish Mathur
	Oliver Bloomfield
Environment Prefect	Alex Richards
Inclusion Prefect	Shivam Khare
Sixth Form Team	
Year 12 Integration Prefects	Daniel Lennon
	Esat Polat
Legacy Prefect	Eli Toussaint
Common Room Prefects	Matt O'Donoghue
	Aluinn McDonald
Careers Prefect	San Celik
Attendance Prefect	Rayan Sikander

Student Body Team	
Sports Prefect	Manas Sharma
Junior Sports Prefect	Thomas Kirby
Student Voice Prefect	Arnav Asthana
	Madhuhaas Gudipati
Mentoring Prefects	Daniel Schieke
	Yash Parikh
Well-being Prefect	Rohan O'Connor
Electives Prefect	Jude Ager
Fixtures Prefect	Ryan Luo
School Events Team	
External Relations Prefects	Charles Lok
School Events Prefect	Aarav Agarwal
	Taz Basher
Junior Social Prefect	Bharat Jasti
Social Prefect	Oscar Balenthiran
900 Years Prefect	James Trust
Community and Partnerships Prefect	Aryan Hawaldar
House Leadership Team	
County House Captain	Achinthya Rajeev
County House Captain	Gautham Nair
East House Captain	Téo Rybak
East House Captain	Jamie Rainford
Laud House Captain	Nidilan Srikajanan
Laud House Captain	Sid Mathur
School House Captain	James Govan
School House Captain	Ryan Liu
West House Captain	Prabhav Bhamidipati
Boarding Team	
East Wing	Peter Park
South House	Alex Postolache

## Excellence in Drama

Following the submission of the Class of 2024's final A level scripted performance, James F, Joss H-B and Kamran S recorded a second performance this week in order to share with the whole school community. [Their performance](#) is Scene 2 of Italian playwright Dario Fo's political farce, Accidental Death of an Anarchist which has been performed across the world in over 40 countries and based on the 1969 Piazza Fontana bombing which led to the death of Giuseppe Pinelli while being interrogated by the police.

Click thumbnail below to watch performance (30m 15s)



*We apologise for the sound issues from 2mins 7sec to 3mins 1sec*



## House Squash

The house competition for 2024-2025 began with a bang as with the school squash club showed their ability in hotly contested senior and junior house squash competitions.

Senior house squash took place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, with East house securing a large victory, winning an impressive 11 out of an available 12 games. Congratulations to the team of Dan S, Teo R and Oli B. The battle for second place was tight, with County narrowly winning the second place spot. Full results:

1<sup>st</sup> – East, 11 games

2<sup>nd</sup> – County, 6 games

3<sup>rd</sup> – West, 5 games

4<sup>th</sup> – School, 4 games (beat Laud on head-to-head)

5<sup>th</sup> – Laud, 4 games (lost to School on head-to-head)



Junior house squash took place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April, this time with West house taking home a dominant victory by winning 15 out of a possible 20 games. Congratulations to the winning team of Oscar Z, Vihaan G, Varnesh R, Aarav R, Shaashwat M and Vihaan T. Again, the battle for second place was much closer, and again County secured a narrow victory in the final games of the day. In addition to the winning team, particular praise goes to Henry Robson (9E), Kaushal Nowduru (7S), Varnesh Ramesh (9W), Aarav Raj (8W), and Maulik Sinha (9L), for their individual victories in their respective brackets. Full results:



1<sup>st</sup> – West, 15 games

2<sup>nd</sup> – County, 11 games

3<sup>rd</sup> – East, 10 games

4<sup>th</sup> – School, 9 games

5<sup>th</sup> – Laud, 5 games

## International Biology Olympiad 2024



Congratulations to Nikolaos A (13MK) for securing a spot on the UK team at the 2024 International Biology Olympiad, in Astana, Kazakhstan this July.

Nikolaos, along with 3 other exceptional students, emerged as the cream of the crop from the rigorous British Biology Olympiad held at the University of Warwick. They showcased their expertise in micro pipetting, dissection, and bioinformatics to earn this prestigious opportunity.

The team of four will be flying out to Astana for the 35th edition of the International Biology Olympiad, where they'll go head-to-head with top students from 80+ countries. From Molecular Biology to Animal Anatomy, they'll tackle practical tasks and written exams!

*Nikolaos said: "I'm honoured to represent the school at the IBO. This achievement is a testament to the support of my teachers, the rigor of the school's academic program, and my dedication to the study of biology. As I prepare to compete, I carry with me the aspirations of those who worked hard but did not qualify. Their efforts inspire me to make the most of this incredible opportunity to showcase what I've learned on the global stage."*

Good luck in July Nikolaos!

Well done also to Thomas L (13FEH), Aadith C (13AC), Harry V (13MJK), Jonathan H (13MRC), and Arav T (13SA) for their outstanding performance in the British Biology Olympiad!

## School Lottery



Win an iPhone 15 Pro Titanium

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>

### Fund raising event for school's sport equipment:

The RSPA are looking for **PAID volunteers** to assist with marshalling duty at 'The Goring Gap race' on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and/or Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May. In return for your help, we receive **£60 per marshal** (with some slots requiring 2 people, paid as £120) with the possibility of the RSPA raising over £1,000 towards some specialist performance sports camera equipment and software requested by School.

Currently the slots are based at Caversham, Purley, Pangbourne, Whitchurch-on-Thames and Goring. Last year we raised £840 from these, but we are offered more slots this year which may make it possible to beat this total for 2024.

Please email Terri at [t\\_lorrimore@hotmail.com](mailto:t_lorrimore@hotmail.com) or text to 07810 445474.

Terri will co-ordinate a slot for you and then you'll be given the race organiser's email and a location map nearer the time.

It's a lovely event. Take a deck chair, a flask of coffee, a newspaper, and enjoy 2 to 3 hours of basically cheering people on as they run (or walk) past you. Secondary school age children count as Marshalls, if accompanied by a parent, so this is also a way that your child can be with you to help raise funds.

Please contact us immediately, to register your interest. The more interest we have the more slots we can apply for.

Thank you and have a lovely weekend!!

From all at the RSPA Team



## Summer Term – Week 2

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.



House Eisteddfod is a student-led competition, organised by House prefects and involving as many students from each House as possible. All students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 are also involved as the audience, watching the presentation section of the Eisteddfod live in the Chapel.

House Eisteddfod is a celebration of our students' wide-ranging engagement with reading and writing. It is an inspiring chance for the Reading School community to champion participation in the arts. This long-running annual competition is made up of two elements: presentations of well-chosen non-fiction and fiction texts (speeches, prose passages, poetry, drama extracts), and creative writing, all based on a unifying theme chosen by each House.

Click links in the tables below to view performances:

### House name: East / Topic title: Disconnect

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
<a href="#">Junior piece one</a>	Choral Poem	Funeral Blues	W.H. Auden	East Juniors
Junior piece two	Prose Passage	Genesis Chapter 3, The Bible	Moses	Pranab Das
<a href="#">Junior piece three</a>	Shakespeare Dialogue	Extract from Act 3, Scene 1, Hamlet	William Shakespeare	Rutwik Balley

### House name: Laud / Topic title: Beauty

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
<a href="#">Junior piece one</a>	Choral Poem	Sunlight	Hozier	Laud House Juniors
<a href="#">Junior piece two</a>	Prose Passage	An excerpt from <i>Gormenghast</i>	Mervyn Peake	Oliver Lloyd
<a href="#">Junior piece three</a>	Drama Monologue	An excerpt from <i>Hunchback of Notre Dame</i>	Victor Hugo	Arnav Batra

### House name: West / Topic title: Obsession

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
<a href="#">Junior piece one</a>	Choral Poem	Me, me!	Lonnie Hicks	West House Juniors
<a href="#">Junior piece two</a>	Prose Passage	Wuthering Heights extract	Emily Brontë	Joshua Odenburg
<a href="#">Junior piece three</a>	Shakespeare Dialogue	An excerpt from Romeo and Juliet	William Shakespeare	Neel Kumar



**House name: County / Topic title: Nostalgia**

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
<a href="#">Junior piece one</a>	Choral Poem	An Ocean Within	Sameer Ahmed	7C and 8C
Junior piece two	Prose	The Remains of the Day	Kazuo Ishiguro	Taran Prasad
Junior piece three	Speech	Eulogy for Diana, Princess of Wales	Earl Spencer	Rupert Turnbull

**House name: School / Topic title: Pride**

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
<a href="#">Junior piece one</a>	Choral Poem	We are the World	Michael Jackson	School House Juniors
<a href="#">Junior piece two</a>	Speech	Queen Elizabeth's Speech at Tilbury	Queen Elizabeth I	Aneesh Singh
<a href="#">Junior piece three</a>	Shakespeare Dialogue	An excerpt from Act 1 Scene 2 of <i>Julius Caesar</i>	William Shakespeare	Maxim Hannaford as <i>Cassius</i> , Arthikan Mayuran as <i>Brutus</i>

**House name: Laud / Topic title: Beauty**

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
<a href="#">Colt piece one</a>	Choral Poem	Caged Bird	Maya Angelou	Laud House Colts
<a href="#">Colt piece two</a>	Speech	Psalm 147 from the NIV Bible	N/A	Nathaniel Jacob
<a href="#">Colt piece three</a>	Drama Monologue	An excerpt from <i>Dead Poets Society</i>	Peter Weir	Remi Shehab

**House name: County**

Topic title: Nostalgia

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
<a href="#">Colt piece one</a>	Choral Poem	This song is for my mother let her hear me cry	Catman Cohen	9C and 10C
Colt piece two	Prose	One Hundred Years of Solitude	Gabriel Garcia Marquez	Nag Varre
<a href="#">Colt piece three</a>	Shakespeare Monologue	Julius Caesar, III.2	William Shakespeare	Samarth Kapoor

**House name: East / Topic title: Disconnect**

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
<a href="#">Colt piece one</a>	Choral Poem	Ode on Solitude	Alexander Pope	East Colts
<a href="#">Colt piece two</a>	Prose passage	Metamorphosis	Franz Kafka	Pranav Ghatge
<a href="#">Colt piece three</a>	Dramatic Monologue	Changing Room	Chris Bush	Jeremi Chigbo

**House name: West / Topic title: Obsession**

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
<a href="#">Colt piece one</a>	Choral Poem	Gilgamesh	Edward Yan	West House Colts
Colt piece two	Drama Piece	The Picture of Dorian Gray extract	Oscar Wilde	Rayan Mohammadi as Henry, Anuj Prabhu as Dorian, Aashmit Ghosh
Colt piece three	Prose Passage	Les Miserables extract	Victor Hugo	Dhruv Peshkar

**House name: School / Topic title: Pride**

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
<a href="#">Colt piece one</a>	Choral Poem	A Nation's Strength	William Ralph Emerson	School House Colts
<a href="#">Colt piece two</a>	Prose Passage	An excerpt from <i>Born a Crime</i>	Trevor Noah	Nived Neelakandan
<a href="#">Colt piece three</a>	Speech	A Tryst from Destiny	Jawaharlal Nehru	Ashish Guzman

**House name: County / Topic title: Nostalgia**

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
<a href="#">Senior piece one</a>	Choral Poem	The cold winters how can my words perceive	Besma Riabi Dziri	11C, 12C and 13C
<a href="#">Senior piece two</a>	Prose	Meditations 1.16	Marcus Aurelius Antoninus	Achinthya Rajeev
Senior piece three	Dramatic Monologue	Medea	Euripides	Joshua Gupta

**House name: Laud / Topic title: Beauty**

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
<a href="#">Senior piece one</a>	Choral Poem	The Wild Swans at Coole	William Butler Yeats	Laud House Seniors
<a href="#">Senior piece two</a>	Shakespeare Monologue	An excerpt from Act 3 Scene 5 of <i>As You Like It</i>	William Shakespeare	Siddhant Mathur
<a href="#">Senior piece three</a>	Drama Monologue	An excerpt from <i>The Vortex</i>	Noel Coward	Nidilan Srikajanan

**House name: East / Topic title: Disconnect**

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
Senior piece one	Choral Poem	I felt a Funeral, in my Brain	Emily Dickinson	East Seniors
Senior piece two	Dramatic Dialogue	Yerma, extract from Act 2, Scene 2	Federico Garcia Lorca	Rohan O'Connor and Jamie Rainford
Senior piece three	Historical Speech	Extract from 'Rivers of Blood'	Enoch Powell	Madhuhaas Gudipati

**House name: West / Topic title: Obsession**

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
<a href="#">Senior piece one</a>	Choral Poem	I wanna be yours	John Cooper Clark	West House Seniors
<a href="#">Senior piece two</a>	Shakespeare Monologue	An excerpt from Othello	Shakespeare	Matthew Laynesmith
Senior piece three	Drama Dialogue	An excerpt from "Red"	John Logan	Ezra Sandiford and Alex Richards

**House name: School / Topic title: Pride**

	Text type:	Text title:	Text author:	Performer:
Senior piece one	Choral Poem	Still I Rise	Maya Angelou	School House Seniors
Senior piece two	Speech	I Am Prepared to Die	Nelson Mandela	Yoghan Jawahar Kaliraj
Senior piece three	Drama Dialogue	An excerpt from <i>Another Country</i>	James Baldwin	Quan Nguyen as <i>Bennett</i> , James Govan as <i>Judd</i>

*"It is always a privilege to read the students' writing, and to hear their presentations live in front of appreciative audiences. The effort invested by all of the House teams is consistently exceptional. The judges, staff and students watching and listening in the Chapel had another chance to hear some powerful words presented with conviction, while the efforts of the Eisteddfod creative wordsmiths will be shared online so we can all enjoy the craft in their writing. We are very lucky to have so many talented performers, writers and team managers in the student population, and I hope this event continues to inspire all members of the Reading School community."*

Mr R Baldock, Head of English



## Javelin Practice with Teacher of PE, Mr Tett





Track and Field activities are well underway with a combination of technical, physical, and mental skills all being developed in preparation for the athletics season.





Mr Tett shared the knowledge and use of: Grip and Release, Approach and Run-Up, Throwing Technique and Angle of Release with Year 8s.



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)