



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

3 MAY 2024

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Students, Carers and Colleagues,

I am pleased this week to report that our Senior Badminton team have once again been crowned as National Schools Champions, making our senior students the undisputed and reigning English School's Badminton champions since 2018.

It's my pleasure to congratulate James S., Nived N., Neeraj S., Sahil C. and Emin B for their team play and dedication, and to thank Mr Pedlow, whose coaching and commitment have made this possible.

However, I'd like the whole community to recognise that in any other national competition on any other occasion, my message today would be one praising our exceptional Key Stage 4 team (Akhil G., Aditya V., Arhant Y., Maulik S. and Kalyan M.) for their incredible performance, coming third nationally. Their accomplishment is no less significant, and should not be forgotten simply because of the superlative performances of our seniors.

I therefore invite the school to celebrate both teams equally, recognising the culture of excellence which these are shaping.

As in all things in the life of a school, the behaviour of senior students shape the aspirations of junior students. We are privileged to have a community filled with so many inspirational young people, and look forwards to further success in the future.

It is noteworthy that our badminton successes have been achieved despite the dearth of indoor sports facilities on the school site. We mitigate this week in, week out, with training and fixtures at the University, but continue to work tirelessly toward the building of a new sports facility in the near future. I hope to share further news on this later in the summer term.

Beyond the badminton court I hope you will be as impressed as I am by the aphorisms, captions and foreboding settings conjured by our creative writers in this term's Creative Writing Bulletin (below), our Duke of Edinburgh participants and the Cadets who participated in the Royal Air Squadron Trophy Competition.

Celebrating success in all its forms is a privilege we should never take for granted. Achieving our goals and reaching milestones is a culmination of hard work, perseverance, and often, a bit of luck. It is important to recognise the opportunities and support systems that have enabled us to succeed.

As we wish our Year 11 and Year 13 students luck in their forthcoming public examinations, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our teaching and support staff for all their hard work and dedication in enabling our students to succeed and for providing such a range of opportunities to all of our school community.

With best wishes,

Dr Chris Evans
Headmaster



Key information

Internal Exams

Whilst our Year 11 and Year 13s embark on their final days before external exams and we wish them all the best for those, the other year groups also approach their Belonging Week and internal exams. A reminder that these internal exams are not a reason to become anxious, but instead to celebrate, practice and improve.

We are pleased to share the draft schedule for each year group's internal exams. This is subject to change and students are advised to keep an eye on their year group Team online where any important notices, updates or changes will be shared by the named year group leader.

[Student Exams 2024](#)

Any student queries regarding these internal exam schedule/roomings should be directed to that year group leader, including exam clashes (notify the year group leader with details before the 10th May). Any student queries regarding the subject content should be directed to the subject teacher.

Expectations in terms of timings/attendance are slightly different by year group so ensure you study the correct version carefully. When years 10 and 12 are not in exams, the Refectory is available for group study and the LRC for silent study (as well as the 6th form block).

Given that break/lunches are at slightly different times, students may wish to pack an extra snack and plenty of water, but Refectory will be open as usual. No food is to be eaten in any classrooms.

Apart from Year 12, no phones, headphones or laptops will be allowed for revision. Students need to bring their physical revision materials (revision guides, notes, exercise books and paper) with them ahead of subsequent exams.

Students should ensure that their pencil case is full with sufficient (and spare) pencils, pens, rubber, ruler, protractor, compass, calculator, colouring pencils etc.

All exams will be in silence. Cheating or attempting to cheat will be dealt with immediately and severely, for the obvious contradiction of our School's value of 'Integrity'.

Note: For years 7, 9 and 12 these exams will take place in the w/c 20th May and for Years 8 and 10 they will take place in the w/c 3rd June, with those groups having their Belonging Week activities in the alternate week.

Students and parents can find all subject-specific year group information regarding the internal exams here: [Reading School - Internal Exams \(reading-school.co.uk\)](https://www.reading-school.co.uk).

All students and parents can find the School's official revision guide here [Reading School - Exams \(reading-school.co.uk\)](https://www.reading-school.co.uk) and the parent-facing webinar here (vimeo.com/926215419/d17c7b7fc8)

All of these documents are available in perpetuity on the School's website to take the uncertainty out of revision, and we thank subject teachers for continuing to go above and beyond in compiling such rich resources.

Timetable Changes

With effect from 13th May, please note that all students will be on break and lunch at the same time. Break will take place at the later time of 10.55am – 11.15am which senior students are used to. Lunch will take place between 1.00pm and 1.45pm. Junior students will be encouraged to eat lunch in the first sitting from 1.00pm – 1.20pm and senior students from 1.20pm to 1.40pm.

Safeguarding

Parent/Carer online information sessions

These online sessions, hosted by Knowsley City Learning Centres, are designed to support parents/carers in protecting their children and to help them understand the risks associated with using technology. The session will cover:

- Current trends – what children are doing online, what apps/ games are popular amongst children.
- Understanding the risks – a look at the risks associated with using technology, in particular when using social media, online gaming & live streaming.
- What can you do? – some suggestions for how you can support your child with their online lives and what parental controls are available to help you.
- Further support – signposting to services that are available to help you if you need it.

The session will be on Wednesday 8 May 2024 from 4pm – 4:45pm (30min session followed by a Q&A) and the link to log in will be shared in next week's Bulletin.

Junior and Senior Creative Writing Club

Greetings from the Reading School Junior and Senior Creative Writing Club! Over the past half term, students have created an online bulletin for your perusal and, hopefully, entertainment. You can view the first issue of "Words, Words, Words – a Reading School Creative Writing Bulletin" at the link (including a writing challenge for the next issue):

https://issuu.com/pellisreading/docs/words_words_words_-_bulletin_01

Year 11 Floreat



In what is quickly becoming a Reading School tradition, Year 11 students celebrated the end of their Year 7-11 Floreat programme by building open fires, making pancake batter, cooking for themselves and cleaning up (all within one 45minute lesson!).



They have shown fantastic reflectiveness, commitment and humility during their time in Floreat, characteristics that will stand them in very good stead for their forthcoming exams and post-16 education.

BAG2SCHOOL Fundraiser

West House Sustainability Champion, Vinay V, is running a Bag2School fundraiser to improve biodiversity on the school site. If you have any old or unwanted clothing items please bring them in next Tuesday to Thursday. Full details in the poster below:

BAG2SCHOOL FUNDRAISER 7TH - 9TH MAY



WE SAY YES PLEASE TO:

 Clothes	 Paired shoes	 Handbags	 Hats
 Bags	 Scarves and ties	 Bras	 Jewellery
 Socks	 Belts	 Soft toys	 Household linen
 Household curtains	 Household towels	 Household bedding	

Reading School is hosting a charity fundraiser for promoting biodiversity on the school site. WE ARE LOOKING FOR ANY UNWANTED/OLD CLOTHES. the greater the TOTAL WEIGHT OF CLOTHES WE COLLECT, the higher the funds raised!

THE HOUSE SUSTAINABILITY PREFECTS AIM TO IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF BIODIVERSITY WE HAVE ON THE SCHOOL SITE. TO DO SO, WE ARE STARTING OFF BY CREATING A FUNDRAISER WHICH CAN FINANCE THE UPCOMING BIODIVERSITY PROJECT, THE READING SCHOOL GARDEN. MORE INFO BELOW.

WE SAY NO THANKS TO:

 Duvets and blankets	 Pillows and cushions	 Carpets, rugs and mats
 Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing	 School uniforms with and without logo	 Corporate clothing and workwear
 Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material	 Furniture and large items	 Batteries

FIND US AT THE CRICKET SCOREBOARD FROM 7:45 TO 9:15 EVERY DAY. ITEMS MUST BE DONATED IN A PLASTIC BAG, NOT LOOSE. ITEMS MUST BE REUSABLE.

EACH HOUSE WILL BE ABLE TO DECIDE HOW TO SPEND A PROPORTION OF THE FUNDS RAISED ON IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY ACCORDING TO HOW MUCH THEY DONATE. OUR AIM IS TO IMPROVE THE BIODIVERSITY ON OUR SCHOOL SITE BY CREATING A COLOURFUL ORGANIC SPACE WHICH IS MAINTAINED AND MONITORED BY OUR OWN STUDENTS! THE WINNING HOUSE GETS TO COVER THE GARDEN IN THEIR HOUSE COLOURS!

ANY QUESTIONS, EMAIL VINAY VYAKARANAM (I2JP) U00236@READING-SCHOOL.CO.UK

Years 11 and 13 only

Careers Advice - Building your profile

As you come to the end of Year 11 or Year 13, it is important we reiterate the following advice:

After exams you will find yourselves with spare time and capacity to think about your futures. We would advise that this is a valuable time to take a breath and spend some time thinking about your next steps and how you can bolster future applications, whether that is in readiness for sixth form or if you are moving on to university or beyond.

We would encourage Year 11 students to take this time to try and undertake at least two weeks work experience before they start Year 12. Most of our students complete this after they have taken their GCSEs. We suggest you use your family and friends' network to source placements as these networks can be powerful. The idea is that you will be given the opportunity to enhance your soft skills as well as explore career options you may or may not have considered.

In Year 12, you will also be given an opportunity to conduct work experience in May or June, you could start to investigate opportunities you maybe able to undertake then.

Some things to consider:

- Explore subject choices and career options.
 - [My World of Work](#)
 - [Prospects](#)
 - [Future Finder](#)
- Focus on developing transferrable skills – like teamwork, business awareness, communications, planning, leadership and problem solving which every employer is seeking.
- Seek work experience in a variety of areas if you aren't sure what you would like to pursue or focus on obtaining work experience in the area you know you wish to pursue.
- Sign up to virtual work experiences and workshops.
- Make sure you check out the 'Careers' channel under the 'Reading School Students Team' from time to time, for opportunities posted.
- Sign up to [Young Professionals UK](#).
- Sign up to [Speakers for Schools](#) where you can catch up on [broadcasts](#).
- Sign up to [Gresham College](#), providing free public lectures from arts to sciences helping you to expand your knowledge with high quality talks.
- Sign up to Insight Days.
- If you are travelling think about aligning your travels with your subject knowledge you wish to pursue or learning a new language.
- Think about volunteering – a great way to develop employability skills and help others at the same time. Try to be consistent in your approach. Join [Do IT | Connecting people to do good things](#) and search opportunities in your area. If you wish to volunteer at school contact careers@reading-school.co.uk expressing your interest in volunteering opportunities through school.
- Think about creating personal projects such as Managing a 'fantasy fund' to demonstrate your passion for financial markets; Creating a piece of work to add to your artistic portfolio; Starting an entrepreneurial or charitable endeavour; Using your technological skills to code a new website/app/ game.

We encourage you to use your time wisely.

Year 9 – 13 only

Cricket and Tennis Tour – Cape Town February 2025

After a successful trip to Cape Town in February 2023, we are expanding the offering this year and hoping to take a cricket and tennis team to Cape Town in February half term 2025.

Further details can be found at the following link:

[Cricket and Tennis Tour - Expression of Interest Letter](#)

To express your interest in this tour, please complete the link below to the Expression of Interest form:

[Cricket and Tennis Tour – Expression of Interest Form](#)

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, click the job title for full details.

[Cover Supervisor / Cover Teacher](#) – deadline for applications 9am, Monday 13 May

[Pastoral Manager \(Administrator\)](#) – deadline for applications 9am, Monday 13 May

[Teacher of Chemistry](#) – deadline for applications 9am, Wednesday 15 May

[Teacher of French](#) – deadline for applications 9am, Friday 17 May

[Head of MFL](#) – deadline for applications 9am, Friday 17 May

[Teacher of Theology and Philosophy](#) – deadline for applications 9am, Monday 20 May

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

School Community News

Combined Cadet Force Excellence

The Royal Air Squadron Trophy Competition was created as a way for CCF cadets (RAF section) to take part in an annual event where teams of 13 cadets drawn from a wide range of age groups, would demonstrate their skills across several areas including RAF knowledge, Drill and Uniform, Command Task, Shooting, Aircraft recognition and First Aid.



Reading School and Kendrick School CCF

The regional stage of the competition was held at DCIS Blanford during February 2024 and the team achieved 2nd place out of 15 competing teams. The national stage of the competition was held at RAF Wittering in March 2024 and the team achieved 8th place out of 15 competing teams. We interviewed Ben P (13VGG) earlier this week who shared:

“Reading School has never been through to the finals before and we were competing against standing schools who train all year round, specific dedicated teams, so it's very, very competitive. So having us, with a few months of training from the start of the year on to December when the competition was, was not really a lot of time to prepare and compete compared to the others.”

Ben was asked more about what CCF offers young people in relation to development and opportunities and he shared:

“You build a lot of independence and you see skills learned applied elsewhere. So obviously you develop them within the CCF in a safe space that's nurturing, where you can make mistakes and learn when you apply them elsewhere in the rest of your life. I mean, moving on to university, I'll be taking independence and confidence I've developed with me which includes being first aid qualified. Being part of the CCF is so much more than 'just playing soldier'. I'd argue that there's nothing else that people in that age group could be doing that's more beneficial in terms of gaining those skills while having fun at the same time.”

Reading School Community Rowing Programme



On Wednesday 1st May we held our first session with students from the Ukrainian community at our refurbished boat house as part of the Reading School Community Rowing Programme. Facilitated by former Olympic rower, James Stephenson, we welcomed a group of children and parents to the boathouse on the River Thames. We are currently furnishing and setting up the rowing equipment ready for our soft launch in the summer term.

Through the programme we hope to offer children from a diverse range of backgrounds across the local area the opportunity to get involved with rowing and to strengthen local communities.

During Wednesday's session the families had the opportunity to get involved with the construction of one of the new boats before taking it down to the river to learn how to get out and onto the water. For most of the attendees this was the first time they had been involved with rowing and everyone truly enjoyed getting to learn something new. We are hugely excited to see how the community rowing programme continues over the coming months. We are grateful for the support of the Great British Rowing Team, the

paralympic rowing squad and Love Rowing who will all be working with us in support of our aspirations. We are also grateful to OR, Peter Coggan, based in America who has kindly contributed to the purchase of one of our new rowing boats. To find out more about rowing at Reading School, please contact Mr Tom Evans: tevens@reading-school.co.uk.



DofE Expedition

Numbers of students at Reading School take part in DofE. In coming weeks, students in both Year 9 and 10 will be taking part in Bronze and Silver practice expeditions. Thanks to our partners, School of Outdoors, who deliver this training.

Congratulations to the first group of students to complete the training process. Ben, Sam, Finn, Daniel and George who enjoyed a sunny weekend and collaborated together in their group planning and completion of their training walk. Hopefully the weather will be more clement next weekend for the 150 students taking part in expeditions together.



Inspire Lecture



Yesterday, we had the pleasure of hosting Darron Edwards (OR1980-1985) for an enlightening talk titled "From School Leaver to IT Professional: A Journey of Success".

Darron shared his inspiring journey from an ordinary background, starting as a school leaver with no defined career path, to achieving success in the IT industry. Currently, he holds the position of Partner Technologist at Hewlett Packard Enterprise. Along the way, he discovered his strength and genuine satisfaction at work by tackling complex challenges with comprehensive technology solutions, leading to positive outcomes. He also stressed the significance of authenticity and finding fulfilment in the work you're passionate about.

We were also fortunate to have Matt Nicholls, UKIMEA – Early Careers Leader of HPE, join us to provide valuable insights into early career experiences.

Alumni like Darron, who return to share their real-world experiences, are invaluable to our school community. Their success stories inspire current students and provide valuable insights into various fields.



RSPA

Pre Loved Uniform Shop

The opening dates of the Pre-Loved Uniform Shop for this term are:

Friday 17th May 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm

Saturday 18th May 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

and

Friday 5th July 3.30pm to 5pm

Saturday 6th July 10.30am to 12.30pm

No Parking on site on the Friday openings.

Location: The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop can be found at the back of the Walled Carpark.

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 18th and/or Sunday 19th 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 which will be used towards some specialist performance sports camera equipment and software requested by School.

The slots are based at points between Caversham and Goring, and although we've filled most of them we have a few left. We also need some people that can stand in reserve.

Please email Terri at 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 some time 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.

Many thanks and have a lovely Bank Holiday!!

From all at the RSPA Team

Summer Term – Week 3

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.



Now the Summer Term is well underway, physical education and athletics can be enjoyed outdoors. Physical health, mental health, social skills, discipline, self-confidence, self-esteem and respect are all skills that are developed and which were on show.





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