

## RSBPA Meeting Minutes

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Hybrid meeting based in the Refectory

Attendees: Dr Chris Evans, Mr Jesus Escribano Sanchez, Mr Alun Lloyd, Mr Rhidian Williams (Chair of RSBPA) and Mrs Xiaoxiao Wang (minutes taker) and parents.

### I. Headmaster - Dr Chris Evans

- Updates on the school & boarding

Estate Projects:

The wooden floors in both East Wing and South House common rooms have been sanded and varnished.

Future maintenance plan:

Repairs to the boarding house roofs and chimneys to include re-pointing all due to start before Christmas. Cost estimated to be £511,515.

- Information on “Beyond 900 years” programme of events

Dr Evans shared Reading School’s plans to “Celebrate the 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary”. He will be giving talks on Monday evenings to each year group. Video links of these meetings will be shared with boarding parents.

Plans to improve School facilities include in order of priority

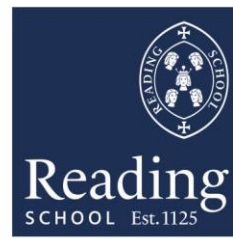
- 1) Sports hall – site on Morgan Road
- 2) Replace old changing rooms with a theatre
- 3) Rooms for arts and music, plus a recital room
- 4) Junior School will become the Sixth Form Centre
- 5) Swimming pool to be built on site of the walled car park

Thanks to boarding tutors and housemasters for the great academic achievements of boarders at both A-level and GSCE.

### II. Housemasters – Jesus Escribano Sancez and Alun Lloyd

- Updates on boarders’ numbers in each house

Both houses are full, also expecting next year to be full.



➤ Staff changes

Boarding staff are consistent in both houses.

New boarding tutors - Ms Haugvik in EW, Ms Steedman in SH.

A new boarding tutor will be joining in January. He will support Dr Hu on Wednesday evenings, so Dr Hu can focus on academic intervention during prep time.

➤ New boarding prefects / council

Very actively leading the boys.

Boarding Charity Committee – have chosen to support Andy's Man Club. The first fund raising event will be to complete the distance from Land's End to John o'Groats by rowing and cycling in the gym, planned for Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Boys are actively encouraged to give suggestions on regular surveys for menu improvement.

➤ Room refurbishment, heating and maintenance update

Floors of the common rooms redone in both houses.

South House Y11 rooms refurbishment complete.

Laundry facility to be improves in the future.

Biometric touch system to be integrated with main school system, wristbands to be introduced to replace finger touch.

CCTV installed outside around the boarding house, not in application.

➤ Boarding clubs, events, winter trips

1) "Boarder of the Week"

2) The student selected to be "Boarder of the Week" can choose the evening meal for the following Wednesday.

3) Games Night – held on the last Thursday of the half term with very positive feedback.

Credit to Karen and Nikki, both matrons for the arrangements.

4) Inter-house competition – rugby in the 1<sup>st</sup> half term

5) Future trips:

Reading Football Club Trip on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

Theatre trip to London – 4<sup>th</sup> December.

- Prep time expectations for different year groups
  - 1) Prep time from 6.15-7.45 pm, expected focus during prep, seniors may need additional time to study.
  - 2) Y7-8: in prep room, with staff supervision  
Y9: in a room on their own laptops, supervised by a senior student  
Y10- 13: in their own rooms.
  - 3) Dr Hu: supporting both EW and SH.  
Academic prefects give extra help to students in need.  
This tiered-process for prep time arrangements will help create independent study skills.  
Academic progress of boarders is monitored within the day school.
- Year 11 Students – preparation for GCSEs and Sixth Form application. The application window to apply for Sixth Form opens on 1<sup>st</sup> December and closes on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.
- Y13 students – preparation for UCAS applications.
- Meals  
Very positive feedback from boys on current menus.

### III. **New RSBPA parent leader**

Current RSBPA leaders are stepping down. Opportunity to welcome new parent leaders.

### IV. **Q&A**

Q1: Prep time – if students have any academic weakness, how is it possible to get feedback so parents can get support their son at the weekend?

A: Subject feedback is detailed in school reports and at parent's evenings. If parents identify any concerns, they are best is to contact subject teacher direct.

Suggested parent's ask their son to bring home alternate school book's each week so that parents can see what topics their son is currently working on.

Q2: About parent's evenings

A: Suggest that parents prioritise the teachers they want to speak with, and prior to the video call ensure you have a list of questions you want to ask to ensure the time is maximised.

End of meeting, Rhidian gave thanks to the support from Headmaster, Housemasters and parents for the meeting and called for new leaders from the boarding community to lead RSBPA.