



National Award for Attainment

Reading School is one of the best in the country for student progress and attainment at GCSE. As a result, we have recognised with a national recognition for the value we add to enable students' high achievement at GCSE.

SSAT, the Schools, Students and Teachers Network, recently undertook its annual in-depth analysis of official Department for Education data on all state-funded schools in England and identified Reading School's success.

The school has qualified for two SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards by being in the top 10% of selective schools nationally for high attainment, and the top 10% nationally for progress made by pupils between their key stage 2 results at primary school and their GCSE results at age 16.

The school has been invited to receive their award at a regional celebration ceremony hosted by SSAT at Holland Park School in London on 12 May.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said: *'Reading School should be congratulated for their exceptional achievement. They have proved themselves to be leading the field in improving GCSE outcomes for their students. There is so much good practice that this school could share.....'*

These results are testament to the commitment and hard work of the students, teachers and leadership team at Reading School, and show what can be achieved when skilled teachers have high expectations and ambition for every

In This Issue

Headmaster's Note
BBC New Report
Page 2

Boarding News
Page 3

Student Achievement
Pages 4 to 7

Trips & Exchanges
Page 8

Inspirational Talks
Pages 8 and 9

LRC News
Page 10

OR News
Page 11

Development News
Pages 12 and 13

RSPA News
Page 14

Events & Diary
Page 15

Sponsor an Element
Page 16

Open Days Summer Term

Day Pupils: Thursday, April 30th, 3pm -7:30pm. This event is for Year 7 and 9 entry in September 2016. No appointment is necessary.

Boarding Pupils: Saturday, June 6th at 10am. Contact Admissions@Reading-School.co.uk for an appointment. [Admissions guidelines](#) for both day and boarding places are available on our website.

Headmaster's Note

Whether representing England on the Rugby field, in the Biology Olympiad Laboratory or in the debating chamber, pupils of Reading School continue to inspire as shown by the myriad of positive examples of excellence and leadership in this edition of *Floreat*. Personally, I am also inspired by the work of parents and boys in supporting **Sure24** and I hope that this positive attitude continues to impact on the school community as a whole.

As this publication shows when provided with opportunities Reading School pupils excel and encourage others to do the same. In addition, we should be justly proud of academic excellence as illustrated by the national SSAT awards for attainment and progress. I am confident that Reading School pupils will continue to work very hard to ensure that academic outcomes will be just as positive in 2015 too.

Significantly, just as the Boarding Orchard is growing for the future, we have been working hard to secure some of the necessary funding to ensure that the Inspire programme can be sustained. I am pleased to announce that due to the generosity of a benefactor the Inspire priorities can be put in to action for the period 2015-2017.

As central government funding declines, we need the support of parents, Old Redingensians, and the Reading Foundation more than ever, to enable us to

enrich and enhance opportunities beyond the classroom.

The INSPIRE programme for 2015-2016 seeks to increase the opportunities for pupils through an emphasis on performance, potential and partnerships through the following strands:

- **Intellectual curiosity** - the Inspire Lecture Series and the Floreat Redingensis publication
- **No child left behind**— Leadership development
- **Social Mobility**— seeking to support pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds
- **Partnerships**— local and international, involving pupils and staff
- **Internships**— to support the development of community service and support for boarding
- **Resilience**— student leadership programmes including approaches to mental health
- **Enrichment**— involvement in world class competitions

Thank you to all parents, old boys and other supporters who help to inspire our pupils.



A. Robson



BBC News Day 2015

Our team of Year 8 journalists covered a wide variety of topics in their quest for news during the BBC News Day in March. Under the guidance of **Mr Baldock** and **Mrs Geraghty-Green**, they covered school activities (food in the Refectory, the new Science Labs, football and Wifi coverage), local events (half marathon and Reading FC's FA Cup run) and international development with our partnership with Welham Boys' School in India. You can read all the articles on the [School Report section](#) of the School website.

Thanks to the team of journalists for all their contributions. They were **Edward Bristow**, **Alex Campbell**, **Ben Coneybeare**, **Jack Davis**, **James Dryden**, **Muhammed El-Biek**, **Rehan Hafeez**, **Ike Milian-Lewis**, **Aryan Nevgi**, **Campbell Nugent**, **Vasu Pandey**, **Shreyas Pandit**, **Kieran Ralf**, **Saleem Rashid**, **Hugo Rompani**, **Tomi Sanusi**, **Tony Shorrocks**, **Tejas Sukumar**, **Edward Voy**, and **Hugo Warner**. Thanks also to **Charlie Harding**, 12S, and **Dominic Lobo**, 11E who supported the journalists throughout the day, and of course to **Mr Baldock** and **Mrs Geraghty** for leading the project, and to LRC staff, **Mrs Kestevan** and **Mrs Jackson**, for hosting the news room.



Boarding keeps getting better

Over Easter, the decorators have been busy in East Wing and South House boarding houses. The painting and tiling in common areas and bathrooms is part of our rolling programme that helps keep our facilities up to the standard of the academic and pastoral support we provide.

Our next open event for prospective boarding pupils will be held on Saturday 6th June 2015. Starting at 10.00am, there will be an opportunity to meet Boarding Staff, and to tour the School and Boarding Houses. Please contact Admissions@Reading-School.co.uk for an appointment.



Congratulations to our new boarding prefects Hugh Greatorex, Albert Joseph and Barney Darrington.



Much anticipation as boarders depart for Reading Climbing Centre



The South House versus East Wing Derby in full flow



6th form boarders get creative for Comic Relief fundraising on March 13th

Reading School joins the National Boarding Orchard

Reading School became part of a national 'Boarding Orchard' which was launched by the Boarding Schools Association in 2014. It aims to be the largest orchard, by distance, in the UK and involves boarding schools joining the orchard by planting fruit trees in their grounds.

Reading School chose to plant two apple trees

('James Grieve' and 'Laxtons') and a pear tree ('Concorde'). The trees were chosen for their size, compatibility with our soil and for their late-ripening fruit so that boarders can enjoy the harvest once they had returned to school in September.

South House boarders, Barney Darrington and Tony Xu, and Sebastian Watanabe from East Wing were on hand to plant the trees in East Wing garden.

The Reading School Parents' Association re-designed the East Wing garden in 2012-13. It is now a lovely space where all pupils can relax. The Boarder's Gardening Club tend to it during the growing season, and learn gardening skills and an appreciation of nature.



Student Achievement

Record results in British Biology Olympiad

Year 13 pupils **Matthew Hankins, Kieran Toms, and Kevin Gurung** each made it through to the final round of this year's British Biology Olympiad. The competition challenges and stimulates students to expand their skills and knowledge of biology.

The boys were amongst just 20 students from schools across the UK in contention for a place in the UK team to compete at the International Biology Olympiad.

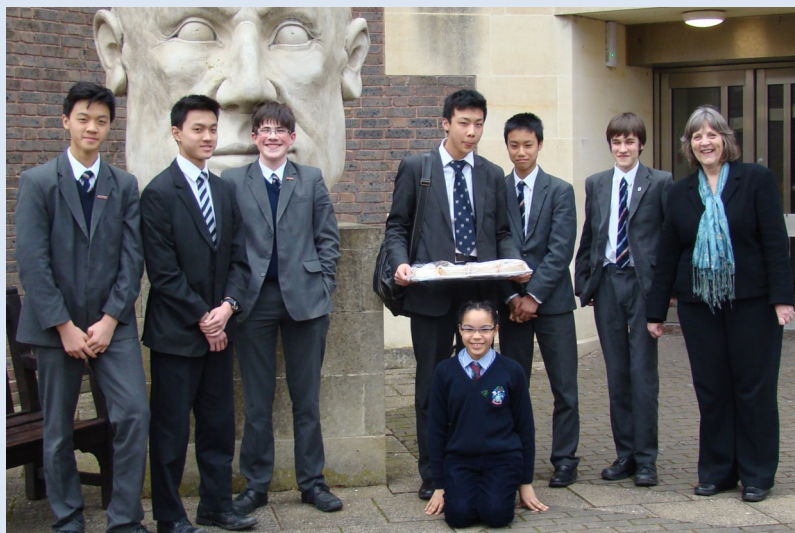
After several days of selection tests at the University of Warwick in early April, Matthew secured a place in the UK team. He will be part of a team of four who will compete against some of the top pre-university biology students from 60 countries around the world. The 2015 International Biology Olympiad will take place in Aarhus in Denmark from July 9th to 19th.

Congratulations to all three boys on their outstanding achievement. We wish Matthew every success in Denmark.

- Mrs Maunder, Head of Biology



Chess Team succeed at Millfield



After a very close match against RGS Guildford in the previous round, we were more focused in our match against Millfield School on 11th March. We out-graded them on every board, but as our last match had reminded us, grade difference isn't everything!

There were a few things that struck us about Millfield. Being a private school, it was enormous, almost like a village. We played in room M41 - they had over 40 maths rooms alone!

As the ages of both teams were similar, we each needed 3.5 out of 6 to win, and in the case of a draw, it would come down to board count.

The matches all began fairly closely, except for the last two boards, where Alfred quickly won and Ryan gained a major advantage. However, the position was soon levelled by Ryan's opponent, and she managed to take away half a point from our team.

Then, everywhere else, the games which were initially equally slow began to turn in our favour, and both Matthew and Alex won, winning us the match with two games still remaining. Anthony had an early game advantage, but one slight inaccuracy allowed his opponent to get back in and steal a draw. Roy was struggling after the opening, but after some complications, his

opponent missed a few tactical lines, losing the advantage and eventually giving the point to us.

Overall, a 5-1 win, although the games were closer than is revealed by the final score. Thank you to both teams and to Millfield School for their hospitality. Special thanks are due to Mrs Readings and Mr Hurst, who shared the long drive to and from Somerset.

Now we just need to win one more round to pass, and it's the National Finals again.

- Roy Zhang, Chess Captain

Regional Badminton Champions at Key Stage 3

After their triumph in the Berkshire County Finals, our Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Badminton Teams, acquitted themselves admirably in the Regional Finals on March 12th.

The Key Stage 4 Team of Rick Kisslay, 11W, Abhishek Adavikolanu, 11S, Dan Shao, 11S, Tim Chen, 10S, Abhinav Heble, 10E, and Saket Koti, 10W, made it out of their group, despite having the defending champions in it. However, they lost in the semi-final, coming third eventually, a fantastic achievement when their opponents included two England players.

The Key Stage 3 Team, Michael Li, 9W, Ian Shang, 8W, Anthony Zhang, 8S, and Dillingham brothers Merlin, 9S, Alex, 7W, and Toby, 7E, won their group 5-0 in each match. They repeated the performance in the semi-final.

The final was harder, but the boys prevailed, emerging 3-2 winners. They now go on to the National Finals, which will take place at Center Parcs Sherwood Forest in the summer term.

- Mr Pedlow



Young Mathematicians qualify for National Final

On Friday 20th March, Mr Bywater and Mr Hurst took Year 9 pupils Elijah Price and Istvan Darok, and Year 8 pupils Saleem Rashid and Charles Yang to Horris Hill School in Newbury to compete in a Regional Final of the UKMT Team Maths Challenge, against 26 other local schools.

After registering, we got ourselves ready for the first round, simply ten questions to be done as a group.

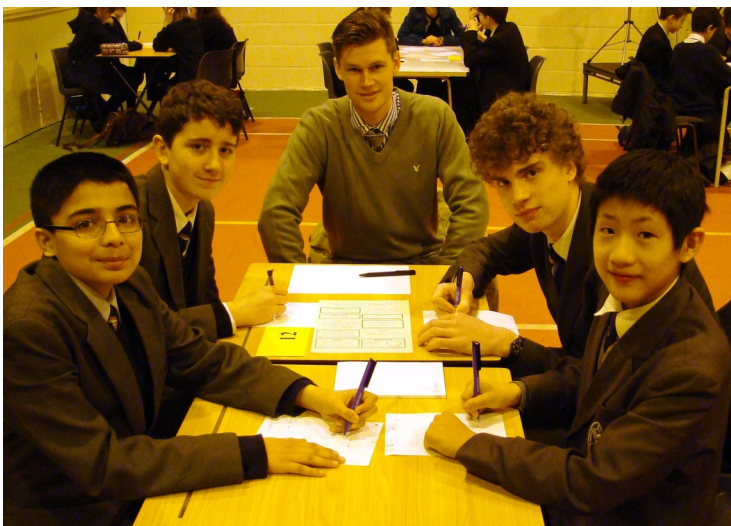
We found out that we had got one wrong - which immediately meant we had done worse than last year when we won our Regional Final with no marks dropped!

Mr Hurst gave us brain food (Haribo and Minstrels) to cheer us up and we did well in the second and hardest round, a crossnumber puzzle with one pair doing the across clues and one doing the downs.

Then there was a break for lunch before the Shuttle Round, where we had to pass answers to each other to solve the next question. Again, we did not get full marks in this round, but had been in the top five teams (order unknown) after the second and third rounds.

The final round was the Relay, one pair needing to solve a problem before the other pair could get the next, doing as many as possible in a fixed time. We waited anxiously, not expecting to have won, but it turned out that we had been victorious, and we will be returning to the Royal Horticultural Halls in London in June for the National Final!

- Elijah Price, 9E



Student Achievement

Reading CCF regain National Title

A team from the signals section of Reading School CCF has claimed victory at "Exercise Rolling Thunder", the national cadet signals competition, at Blandford Camp from 17th to 19th April - the ideal way to spend the last weekend of the Easter holidays!

The team of **Cpl. Philip Meerman**, **Cpl. Matthew Le Croisette**, **L/Cpl Andrew Green**, **Cdt. Dominic Lobo** and **Cdt. Ryan Yao-Smith**, accompanied by **2nd Lt Morris** and **Captain Hurst** represented quite a range of experience. Some had taken part in the competition before and attended courses at Blandford whereas others were relatively new and untried in the black arts that make up the Signals syllabus.

On the competition day itself, our cadets were grouped with teams from Dollar Academy CCF (last year's winners) and Sir Roger Manwood's School CCF and friendships from previous competitions and courses were renewed as they made their way through the various stands testing their practical and



theoretical understanding of voice procedure, line, radio equipment, code-breaking and other skills. The other teams were very strong and Reading School CCF did not expect to win the competition, although we were pleased that we came top in the quiz at the disco at the end of Saturday's events!

We were really pleased to find out that we had come top overall against a lot of very competent teams from all over the UK. Reading School CCF has a strong record in this event - we have won it three times and also picked up awards in the individual leadership category in previous years. The fact that they have been able to reclaim the title is a reflection of the high quality of technical knowledge which the cadets are able to pass on to each other and the support they have received throughout the year from **Wg. Cdr. Walter** and **2nd Lt Morris**. We hope that signals will go from strength to strength next year.

- **Capt. P. E. F. Hurst**

World Class Public Speaking and Debating

Six of our best public speakers represented the UK at the 28th World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships in Hong Kong over Easter.

The team, **Jacob South-Klein**, **13C**, **Aleks Stepanyan**, **13C**, **Ritvij Singh**, **12E**, **George Henderson**, **12S**, **Abhishek Adavikolanu**, **11S**, and **Kiran Phadnis**, **11S**, took part in four days of intensive competition, covering interpretive reading, debating, persuasive speaking, after-dinner speaking, and impromptu speaking.

Jacob was a finalist in the after-dinner section of the competition, and **Kiran** made it through to the final of impromptu speaking section. They both narrowly missed getting into the Grand Final on last day but to get as far as they did overall was a fantastic achievement.

Mr Robson and **Mr Hurst** were both judges in the Grand Final alongside judges from Hong Kong



(including the Chief Justice!) and other participating countries which was also a great experience.

We talk about "World Class" a lot here at Reading School - well, the students from around the world with whom we were mixing really were just that, and the overall standard was very high!

We were very lucky to be invited to an excellent lunch at

the Hong Kong Aviation Club by **Neil Thomason OR (1966-73)** before we left to come home. He remembered his time in the CCF with fondness (he was a senior RAF cadet and did a Flying Scholarship) and was very impressed with the boys' their grasp of economic issues!

The boys did a fantastic job over the course of the week and made a lot of new friends. They were great ambassadors for our school and our country.

- **Mr Hurst**

Comenius Exchange in Istanbul

The two-year Comenius Project, which began in November 2013, ended with the final exchange in late March when a group of Reading School students visited Nişantaşı Anadolu Lisesi, a state secondary school in Istanbul. The visit also involved staff and students from IES Pablo Neruda in Madrid, and Collège Le Sacré Cœur de Ploërmel in Brittany, who each hosted exchanges last year.

The theme *"Classical times light our future"*, looked at how the Romans and Ancient Greeks have influenced life in each of the four countries.

The staff and students at Nişantaşı Anadolu Lisesi were fantastic hosts. Our boys stayed in Turkish homes and got a flavour of family life in Istanbul. The days were long and packed with visits to historic buildings, museums and bazaars, including an exclusive tour of the Dolmabahçe Palace and an audience with the Mayor of Şişli, one of the 39 administrative districts of the city.

Tom Fleming, 10C, writes: *"Looking back, I can say that I am very glad that I did not have a say in our group arrangements. I don't know about you, but seeing classical buildings all day for a week, would never have seemed like my ideal holiday."*

However, in Istanbul we soon found out that there is

more to life than just old buildings. A hub of culture, Istanbul provided me with, not only educational teachings, but also lasting friendships and a delicious variety of incredible Turkish delicacies. It is for these reasons that I will always treasure this trip and the development of character that the Comenius opportunity has given me.

I must thank all our teachers that devoted their time and hard work to make Comenius happen for us all. I will always be grateful for this incredible project and I hope to maintain and build on what I learned."



The Grand Bazaar



Basilica Cistern

What are prisons for?



Nicola Padfield, Master of Fitzwilliam College and Fellow in Criminal and Penal Justice in the Law Faculty at the University of Cambridge, visited on March 12th, as part of the Inspire Lectures series, to talk about her field before discussing the Cambridge admission process, that many Year 12s will start working on later this year.

Padfield's talk was entitled 'What are Prisons for?' and consisted mostly of explaining to the listeners some of the key concepts of penal law in a crash introduction to criminology. At several points, whether discussing the sentencing process, or the dilemma between Retributivism and Utilitarianism, she would break off to say that she 'could talk about this all night' and despite the initially dense-seeming subject matter, most of the boys would have to agree that they could have easily listened that long as well.

Padfield's charismatic approach and her passion was palpable and most certainly contagious.

The understanding she managed to relay too was formidable, without removing at all from its complexity or nuance, though this is perhaps not something to attempt to emulate in this report.

Ms Padfield proceeded to talk equally frankly and informatively about applying to Cambridge but the best depiction of the effect this talk had on its attendees was during the question and answer session between the two segments. Boys raised their hands without the usual self-consciousness, and tried to grapple with the infinite issues both legal and moral that the talk had raised, asking about everything from celeb cases to court-prejudice.

This part of the lecture had to be ended with hands still in the air in order to keep to schedule (another hint of Padfield's ability to sustain interest 'all night') and as boys filed out of the hall discussion continued, proving that the talk had achieved what it had set out to do. Leaving us with even more question than before, not to mention the zeal to have them answered, Nicola Padfield ensured we were all well and truly inspired.

- John Livesey 12S

Practical Astronomy

Year 9 astronomers and their parents had some clear evenings in early March to take a tour of the northern sky. During a series of Astronomy evenings, we looked at rayed craters and bright dust on the surface of the moon, which were the result of the impact of a large body hitting the Moon. Our lunar explorations continued with the Gallilean moons of Jupiter, Io, Europa, and Ganymede, some of the largest satellites in the Solar System.

In the Orion Nebula, we observed the Orion Trapezium Cluster, a tight open cluster of stars in the heart of the Orion Nebula, and examined the nebulosity caused by dust surrounding the stars. The Pleiades or Seven Sisters were also in their sights. This is in the constellation of Taurus, and is among the nearest star clusters to Earth and most easily seen with the naked eye. We were less fortunate when it came to the solar eclipse on Friday, March 20th. Despite having the telescopes safely set up with cones to project images

onto tracing paper, we had a dim and very cloudy morning. The modifications were made over two sessions by the Year 9 Astronomy Club, with support from the Year 10 group on the day. Unfortunately, we were unable to see anything except by connecting to stargazing live, and so saw the eclipse on TV.

We had also planned to get a live video of the event with the main telescope filtered to look in Hydrogen Alpha wavelengths of the visible spectrum to see promontories and eruptions from the surface of the sun. This plan too was spoiled by the weather.

- Mr Tucker, Physics Teacher



Theorums to Serums, Cosmology to Cryptology

On the 3rd of March, Reading School was very fortunate to have a talk by the popular scientist and mathematician, Simon Singh. Big School was packed with boys eager to listen, to an exploration into Singh's five books and the conclusions that could be drawn from his experience, in a joint Reading School Book Festival and Inspire Lecture event.

True to his reputation, Singh spoke with energy, sophistication and zeal. It seemed that each of his books had a message or lesson. *Fermat's Last Theorem* was about the quest of a man who grew obsessed with the last unsolved mathematical mystery of the 15th Century academic, Pierre de Fermat. Singh explained that although science and maths are not stereotypically passionate subjects, one can easily be enchanted and consumed by their enigmas. Being captivated and absorbed by maths homework may have been an alien concept to some, but by the end of the talk it was clear how much it could mean to a devotee.

The Code Book offered the message that correlation does not imply causation. Or for those in search of an aphorism – everything is not as it seems. The book is about the history of codes and code breaking and Singh debunked some of the myths surrounding them. For example, the Bible predicted major historical events such as the Holocaust through patterns in the letters resembling word searches. But with further research, it was clear that any book with enough letters in it would yield the same result!

The Big Bang stirred considerable interest among the boys. Since this was Singh's area of expertise, he couldn't help but break away for some mid-talk questions. The idea of a multiverse, or a multi-universe blew minds. It was proposed that universes give birth to universes, all with different physical laws and different conditions. The fact that life exists in this universe couldn't be left to chance – in his view, with enough 'trials' the forces of nature were bound to create a universe which had suitable conditions.

Fourth in the line-up was *Trick or Treatment*. Singh described his research into homeopathic treatment for a range of different ailments and the study he carried out to show that it was not an effective method. An idea familiar with anyone connected to GCSE Biology is the placebo effect, which is about how some patients feel better automatically because they believe the treatment will work, even if

medicine turns out to be scientifically ineffective.

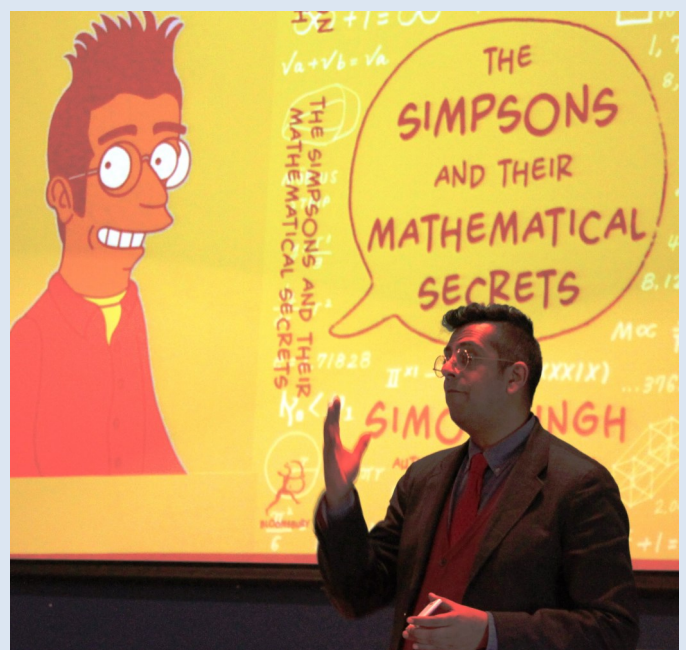
According to his experiments, homeopathic medicines come under this category. This brought another message: that although scientists must be open to new ideas, they must also only make conclusions from the evidence before them, not a conclusion that they personally believe in.

By playing Led Zeppelin's *Stairway to Heaven* backwards and telling us to look out for words to do with hell and Satanism, he illustrated that evidence can easily be twisted into invalid conclusions by anyone with preconceived beliefs. Although there was no intention to make the song a ballad to Satan when played backward, with enough bias, these patterns could be found.

Finally, he talked about *The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets*. Singh explained that by relating his ideas to something common and popular with everyone, science and maths were made interesting and stimulating. We learned that the producers and writers for the Simpsons were all hard-core mathematicians and made references to Fermat's Last Theorem, binary code and some A Level maths in many episodes – certainly something to look out for the next time we watch the beloved yellow cartoons!

A thunderous round of applause later, a barrage of book-signing and sales ensued. It seemed as if all the attendees, young or old were captivated by our accomplished speaker. Our greatest thanks to Simon Singh for speaking at our Inspire Lecture for the Reading School Book Festival.

- Neil Shabong, 12C





Berkshire Book Awards

This term, members of the Book Club have been shadowing the annual Berkshire Book Award (BBA). 'The Award is for books written for 11-14 year olds and participation is open to all young teens in Berkshire through secondary schools and public libraries.

Members of the Book Club voted for *Dying of the Light* by Derek Landy in first place, followed in joint second place by *Louder than Words* by Laura Jarrett, *Percy Jackson and the Greek Gods* by Rick Riordan and *Awful Auntie* by David Walliams.

Members of the Book Club read all the books and each boy had the opportunity to champion his favourite. Taking part in the book award shadowing enhances a child's opportunity to try something new and encourages participation in group discussion. All



reviews made by the group were submitted to the BBA website for publishing.

The BBA winner chosen by over 22 schools was *Awful Auntie* by David Walliams and to our delight, Book Club member, Ridge Falcao, 8E, had his nominating review published on the

announcement page of the [BBA website](#).

We now turn our attention to the CILIP Carnegie Children's Book Award. The CILIP Carnegie Medal is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book for children and young people.



The shortlist of eight books is as follows: *Apple and Rain* by Sarah Crossan, *More Than This* by Patrick Ness, *Buffalo Soldier* by Tanya Landman, *Where Mr Dog Bites* by Brian Conaghan, *The Middle of Nowhere* by Geraldine McCaugherean, *Cuckoo Song* by Frances Hardinge, *The Fastest Boy in the World* by Elizabeth Laird and *Tinder* by Sally Gardner.

Members of the Book Club will be reading, discussing and voting for their favourite book. The winners will be announced in June.

Meanwhile, please encourage your son to come and read from the shortlist or indeed the original long list to have the opportunity to read more.

- Mrs Jackson, LRC

Election Special: Five ORs standing in 2015

Election Day 2015 on May 7th, is fast approaching. This time there are no less than five old Redingensians standing for Parliament.

Mark Field, Damian Green, Oliver Heald and Andrew Smith, have established political careers, while **David Warburton** is standing for the first time.

So how did they get from Reading School and onto the road to Westminster?

Damian Green OR (1967-74)

Damian studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Balliol College, Oxford, and was President of the Oxford Union in 1977. He was also vice-chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students (now known as Conservative Future) from 1980 until 1982.



He worked as a financial journalist and spent two years in the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, and contested the Brent East constituency in 1992.

He was elected MP for Ashford in 1997 and held several shadow cabinet posts before being appointed Minister of State for Immigration in 2010, and Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice in 2012.

Andrew Smith OR (1962-68)



Andrew studied at St John's College Oxford and later worked for the Co-operative Society. He served as an Oxford City Councillor before being elected MP for Oxford East in 1987.

At Westminster, he has campaigned on a wide range of issues including health, housing, pensions, climate

change, international development and human rights.

Between 1997 and 2004, Andrew held a number of government posts, including Minister for Employment, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Minister of State for Work and Pensions, helping to bring about changes in funding of health, education, and overseas aid.

Mark Field OR (1976-83)

As MP for the Cities of London and Westminster, Mark represents the economic, political and cultural heart of London.



After leaving Reading School, he studied law at St Edmund Hall, Oxford and went on to practise as a solicitor with leading international law firm, Freshfields. He also set up a successful publishing and recruitment business in the City.

His involvement in politics began in the late 1980s when he was Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party in Islington North. He was elected councillor in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and stood as a candidate Enfield North in 1997 before entering Parliament in 2001.

Sir Oliver Heald OR (1966-73)

Oliver studied Law at Pembroke College Cambridge. His interest in social issues began while he was training as a barrister in London, when he did voluntary work at the Free Representation Unit.



He practised as a barrister for twenty years, and was a candidate in the 1987 election before entering Parliament as MP for North Hertfordshire in 1992. He has been a Minister in the Department for Social Security, and was a Shadow Spokesperson on several issues. In 2012, he was made HM Solicitor General for England and Wales and helped steer two Bills through the House of Commons. He was knighted by the Queen in 2014.

David Warburton OR (1976-81)



David is standing for Parliament for the first time, in the constituency of Somerton and Frome.

After leaving Reading School, he built a career in music and business. He studied at the Royal College of Music and later with the renowned

composers Sir Harrison Birtwhistle and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. He taught at the Royal College of Music and in an inner London community school before setting up a technology company providing downloadable music for mobile phones. Since selling the company, he has set up a number of other enterprises.

He is also involved in several charities, including Age UK, and a youth mentoring service.

Sponsor an Element Campaign



£5,000 to sponsor **Gold, Platinum, Silver, Palladium, Ruthenium, Rhodium, Osmium, Iridium, Hydrogen or Oxygen**

£1,000 to sponsor **Helium, Neon, Argon, Krypton, Xenon, Radon, Carbon, Nitrogen, Magnesium, Chlorine, Copper, Iron, Sodium, and Potassium**

£500 to sponsor one of the 30 elements in the **Lanthanides and Actinides Series**, such as **Curium, Plutonium, Uranium, Einsteinium**

£250 to sponsor one of the remaining 60 elements discovered to date, such as **Calcium, Iodine, Tin, Arsenic, Phosphorous, Silicon, Zinc, Barium, Strontium and Fluorine.**

Graham Wheeler taught Chemistry at Reading School for five years before retiring in 2010. Such is his passion for the subject that as well as returning regularly to help A level students with revision sessions, he is sponsoring five elements as part of the **Sponsor an Element Campaign**.

Graham writes: *"I chose to sponsor Group 4 because as a group the elements change from non-metal to metal. So although they have similar properties, they are also quite different.*

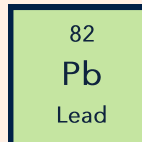
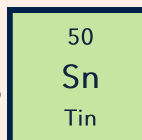
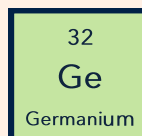
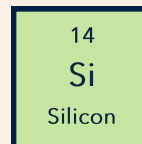
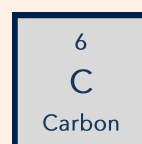
Carbon has the ability to form chains and rings of atoms and is the basis of life on Earth. Without it, life would not exist.

Silicon is a semi conductor and used for making chips, which are essential for computers and communication around the world.

Germanium had not been discovered when Mendeleev produced his Periodic Table, but he predicted its properties, and 15 years later after the element was extracted from Argyrodite, he was proved correct. It is used for transistors.

Tin is important as a coating on cans, and important alloys such as bronze and soft solder, which is used for joining components on a circuit board.

Lead is very important for making rechargeable batteries, especially for motor cars. The ability to produce electricity from a chemical reaction and then recharge the battery is an excellent example of a reaction which is reversible.



Sponsor an Element-help nurture the next generation

Preparatory work for the new Biology and Chemistry Building has already begun (see page 13), and we are on schedule to complete the building within the next 12 months. Once completed, the new laboratories will enable us to provide even better teaching and practical learning for the next generation of scientists, engineers and doctors.

We still need to raise all the funds required to furnish and equip the new labs. This is crucial as we are facing cuts to our budget from the Department for Education again in 2015-16. We would like to thank those members of the school community who have already made donations and pledges of support.

However, we still need more people to come forward between now and the end of 2015, to ensure that we can complete the project to the right standard.

If you would like to sponsor an element, there is a donation form at the back of this newsletter (page 16). You can check that your preferred element is still available by contacting Frances Greaney on 0118 9015600 ext 264 or email fgreaney@Reading-School.co.uk.

Science Building Update—the work begins!

The first steps in building the new Biology and Chemistry Laboratories started during February half term with the decant of the two Chemistry labs, C1 and C2 into a set of temporary labs at the back of South House. The Biology Laboratories will continue in use until the new building has been completed.

We have also appointed Wilding Butler as main contractors. The company are already familiar with the School, having built the Refectory in 2011-12, and were able to provide the most competitive quote for the project.

Preliminary works are now underway. The old laboratories have been stripped out. A new boiler and water supply have been installed in the Biology building, and fencing has been erected to enable the building work to happen without compromising the safety and security of the boys.

Demolition of the old Chemistry building is scheduled for the week of April 20th. Construction work will get under way in May, once all the preparation work and surveys have been completed. We will post regular updates on the School website, as the build progresses.



Thank you for supporting Sure 24

On Saturday we were blown away by the generosity of the boys and parents when donating items for the container going to the Sure24, a school and orphanage in Kenya.

We filled three storage lock-ups! This was on top of more than 140 bags of donated clothing and toys donated. Other donations have included: **over 40 bikes; five guitars; two full-size keyboards; computers, keyboards, monitors, laptops and scanners; and office furniture.**

All of these items will be shipped to Kenya next month and Abbey Rugby Club have promised to share images of when it arrives there. Please could you pass on our most sincere thanks to the boys and their families. I have made a little montage (attached) of images from the day which you are welcome to share.

Thank you to everyone who brought donations. The container leaves for Kenya next month and images will be shown on www.friendsofsure24.org.uk.

If anyone has any large or valuable items they still wish to donate, please contact Kris at Abbey Touraid on info@abbeytouraid.com.

- Mrs Fisher, Year 9 Parent



Spring Fayre

Saturday 9th of May is fast approaching, and our dedicated band of committee members are busy with last minute arrangements. We would like it to be a vibrant event with lots of members of the School community involved in some way.

Help out on the day

It takes a lot of volunteers to make a successful Spring Fayre. We need as many people as possible to help out on the day of event. Could you help set up, run a stall or with clearing up? Even if you have just an hour to spare, it would be a great help and would ensure that the day runs smoothly. Please fill in the online survey to let us know how you could help.

Donations

Donations of plants, books, DVDs, unwanted Christmas and birthday presents and items for the Silent Auction are all welcome. This year we will also have a stall selling second hand musical instruments and sheet music. You can drop off your donation at the Development Office on Friday May 8th, or bring them along on the morning of the event.

Programmes

Programmes will be distributed to all parents through the boys' tutor groups just before the Bank Holiday weekend. An electronic version will also be available on the School website, if yours fails to arrive. Admission costs

Raffle Tickets

Remember to return your raffle ticket stubs to be in with a chance to win some great prizes. Programmes will be distributed to all parents through the boys' tutor groups just before the Bank Holiday weekend. An electronic version will also be available on the School website, if your's fails to arrive.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be open during the Spring Fayre and second hand items, in good condition, are available. If you wish to donate uniform items or text books that your son no longer needs, you can drop them off at School Reception, in a bag clearly marked "Uniform Shop", between 8am and 4pm during term time.

Reading School Spring Fayre

Saturday 9th May 2015

12pm — 3pm



The Giving Machine—Give as you shop, at no extra cost to you!



The Giving Machine enables the RSPA to raise vital funds towards their annual project to help improve facilities for the boys.

Online shoppers using the Giving Machine referral site can earn substantial donations to the charity of their choice, at no extra cost to them. Many major online retailers are involved, including Amazon, John Lewis, Tesco, Asda, Sainsburys, Ebay, Boots,

iTunes, Boden, Next, Virgin Atlantic, the Trainline, Argos and Currys. So whether its your regular grocery shop, or buying gifts, your shopping can generate extra cash for the School.

How it works:

1. Sign up for free at: www.thegivingmachine.co.uk
2. Remember to access your favourite online retailer via the Giving Machine website each time you shop and you will generate a donation to RSPA.
3. The donation will be used by the RSPA to fund its chosen project in the School each year.

Inspire Lecture: *"Planet of the Apes: what makes us human?"*

On Thursday, 23rd April, Professor Emma Borg of Reading University will give a talk entitled: *'Planet of the Apes: what makes us human?'*. She will discuss the surprising similarities between human and animal minds. It will be of particular interest to those studying Biology but, as Professor of Philosophy at Reading University, Professor Borg's talk should also intrigue anyone with an interest in the social sciences. All students, parents, alumni, staff and governors are invited to attend. Refreshments available in Big School, from 3.30pm.

OR Cricket Weekend—Save the Date

The Old Redingensians' Cricket Weekend will take place over the last weekend of June on the School playing field.

The Saturday event on June 28th will be the usual School First XI versus the OR XI.

The Sunday event will commemorate the life of Dick Owen, who died in 2014 after a short illness. Dick made an immense contribution to the School during his 37 year career within the Maths Department, and also oversaw the School First XI and other cricket-related activities, including the OR Cricket weekend, for many years.

Instead of the usual six a side tournament, there will be a match between an OR Selection and a Selection from the Redingensians Cricket Club. There will also be a lunch in the Refectory. Anyone wishing to celebrate Dick's life and to catch up with old friends, is welcome to attend. Please contact [Frances Greaney](#) for more details, or check the [OR Association website](#).

2005 Alumni are also organising a 10 year Reunion over the weekend. It promises to be a great event, with over 100 ORs due to attend. Please contact [Paolo Wyatt](#) if you would like to attend or sign up via [facebook](#).

DIARY

Thursday, April 23rd
Inspire Lecture, 3:30pm in Big School—Dr Emma Borg of the University of Reading will deliver a talk on: *Planet of the Apes: what makes us human?*
Entrance is free.

Friday, May 1st, Reading School Sports Day at Palmer Park. Noon to 3:30pm,

Saturday, May 9th Reading School Spring Fayre. Noon to 3pm. See page 14 for more information.

Saturday, June 6th, Boarding Open Morning. 10am until Noon. [Book a place](#) to find out how boarding at Reading School can help pupils to reach their potential.

Saturday, June 28th and Sunday, June 29th, Old Redingensians Cricket Weekend. Check the [OR Association](#) website for the starting time of each day's play.

Tuesday, July 14th
Summer Concert, Big School, 7.30 pm to 10.30pm. Tickets will be available by following the links on the School calendar closer to the date.

Fundraising for Expedition to Ecuador

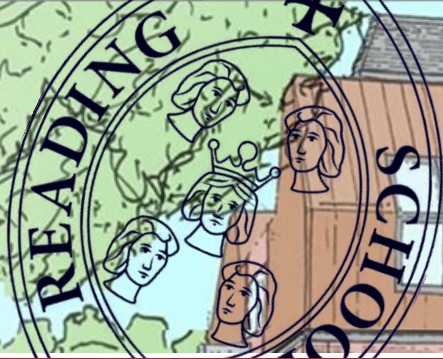
The Ecuadrawstring Bag, a lightweight, durable alternative to the inconveniently large bags that most students end up using for PE and games kit. With prices starting at £8 for an embroidered school logo or your preferred name and £10 for both, it is far cheaper than the alternatives.



To order your bag, email ecuadrawstringbags@gmail.com stating the number you want, the name you want on it (if you want one) and we will reply confirming your order by the following Sunday at the latest. We should be able to get your bag to you within 3 weeks or when we have received a batch of 20 orders, whichever comes first.

All proceeds go towards our fundraising for the Ecuador Expedition in 2016, where we will hike upon the country's astounding landscape, and more importantly help the development of a community and its residents. It will be an unforgettable experience that will benefit both ourselves and hopefully the residents we help. Hope to be hearing from you soon!

- Oliver Scott 11C, Matt Baugh, 11S, and Tom Henderson, 11C



Sponsor an Element

What is your element?

47

Ag

Silver

*Mr Arnold Gold

6

C

Carbon

*Mr C Diamond

69

Tm

Thulium

*The Smith Family

3

Be

Beryllium

*Mrs Beryl Lium



Yes, I wish to support the Sponsor an Element Campaign by making a gift to Reading School

Please use my gift to commemorate the name of: _____

I would like to sponsor the element: _____ with a gift of £5,000 / £1,000 / £500 / £250
(delete as appropriate)

Payment Method



I am pleased to enclose a donation of £ _____ (Please make payment to Reading School Charitable Fund)



By making a regular gift over 12 months (Please complete standing order mandate below)

My Details

Title: _____ First Name/s: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Post Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ @ _____

Please let us know:

Years attended: _____
(If you are an OR)

Son's Name: _____
(If you are the parent of a current pupil or of an OR)

Standing Order Mandate

To The Manager: _____ (Your Bank)

Bank Address: _____ Town: _____ Post Code: _____

Please pay to: Lloyds TSB, Broad Street,
Reading RG1 2BT

Account name: Reading School Charitable Fund
Sort Code: 30-67-99

Account No: 40733560

Please pay the sum of £ _____ On: ____/____/20____ and thereafter Annually / Monthly / Quarterly (as appropriate)

Until: further notice or ____/____/20____ (as appropriate)

My Bank Details

Sort Code: ____ - ____ - ____ Account No: _____ Account name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/20____

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money that I have made:

Today ☐

In the past 4 years ☐

In the future ☐

(Please tick all that apply)

giftaid it

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/20____