



**RSPA**  
READING SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

**Reading School  
Parents' Association**

**HANDBOOK**

**2023**

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## CONTENTS

The purpose of this document is to give a detailed understanding of all the activities the Reading School Parents' Association is involved with. If you have any queries not covered here please do not hesitate to [contact us](#). We will be delighted to hear from you.

## WELCOME

A very warm welcome to the Reading School Parents' Association (RSPA). We are a growing family increasing in size every year and are always delighted to have new members and look to help support the boys, parents and the school in several ways. We understand that for many people this will be their first experience of a secondary school. As we are all parents ourselves, the chances are we have had the same queries and share the same concerns and have a desire to try and make the process that is a little bit simpler for the next generation of parents. We pride ourselves on being an extremely inclusive organisation – there really is something for anyone who wants to be involved to do/ help us with. We appreciate that life is busy, and people can offer varying degrees of help. However, if you are unable to assist in any of our activities that's perfectly fine; you can still be part of the larger Reading School parents family and benefit from our wonderful exclusive communication portal Classlist.

## WHAT WE DO

We are a very active organisation who carry out the following activities throughout the year:

- We provide a strong support network for the parents and carers during their time at the school
- We support extra-curricular activities e.g. Junior and Senior Prize Giving, Sports Personality of the Year (SPOTY), New Parents picnic and as well as Wine and Welcome & Year 13 Leavers' celebration
- We carry out lost property sorting and unite the lost items with their owners 6 times in a year with the help of a pool of dedicated parent volunteers
- We run a second hand uniform shop where parents buy good quality preowned school uniforms and sports kits for regular use or as spare
- We help enhance the school's environment e.g. funding a Multi-Use Games Area and our Canopy Project to provide a covered area outside the Library. We are also continuously installing new benches around the school.
- We fundraise to help fill any requirements not met by the Government budget
- We run several social events throughout the year to which all boys and their extended families are invited, including our Summer Fayre, Christmas Market and Quiz Nights
- We provide essential classroom resources e.g. chemistry equipment, research laptops and leadership resources
- We assist the school in running a bi-annual careers convention.

## CHARITABLE STATUS

The RSPA is a Registered Charity No. 1101822. This means that we can benefit from the collection of gift aid in many instances including our collection of membership subscriptions and when we run Virgin Money Giving Campaigns. It also means that we are considered a suitable destination for the proceeds of Corporate Matching. Further details on Virgin Money Giving and Corporate Matching can be found below.

## WHO WE ARE

Upon joining the school every parent and carer is invited to become a member of the RSPA. Our current executive committee members are:

- Chair Veena Baggley
- Vice Chair Vee Nenguke
- Secretary Marina Hannaford
- Treasurer Terri Lorrimore
- Uniform Shop Manager Julie Bellingham
- Summer Fair Chair Nish Moody
- Communication Manager Rohini Luthra
- Membership Secretary Pallavi Chube
- Membership Support Subha Krishnasamy
- Event Coordinator Menaka Murthy
- Digital Manager Kajal Mathur
- Online Hoodie Manager Monika Maheshwari
- School Lottery Manager Jaideep Das

## HOW TO JOIN US

Parents and carers of pupils due to start in the following September are sent information around mid-May from the school, along with a link to access the RSPA membership form. Membership form can also be found in the new starter section of the RSPA website. We have a **small membership fee of £50 for lifelong membership of RSPA** for all those starting in Year 7. This can be paid as a one-off payment online to our Natwest bank account:

**Account Name:** Reading School Parents' Association  
**Sort Code:** 60-17-21  
**Account Number:** 04619919

While paying online, please put your son's full name and form class e.g. Andrew Smith 7L in the reference.

Alternatively, cheques may be made payable to "Reading School Parents Association" and posted to our RSPA Treasurer, Ms Terri Lorrimore. Please let us know if this is your preferred option and we will then send you Ms Lorrimore's address. Please reference your son's full name and form class on the

back of the cheques to help us to associate the payment with correct membership form.

Membership fees cover the child you are applying for membership for and any brothers who subsequently join the School. If you have joined as a 6th form entry then this is reduced to £20.

Those joining the school as a 6th Form entry are invited to join at their information evening in September as their places are not confirmed until they have received their GCSE results.

Any subsequent siblings are covered by the initial membership. Membership fees are payable by either cheque or bank transfer. Membership forms are found in the new starter section of the website.

Any queries relating to membership should be directed to the membership secretary Ms. Pallavi Chube at [memsec@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:memsec@readingschoolparents.co.uk). Should you wish to join but are experiencing difficulty in paying the fee then please still contact us to see how we can help.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

All general RSPA queries should be directed to [contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk)

All membership related queries should be directed to [memsec@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:memsec@readingschoolparents.co.uk)

## MEETINGS & AGM

The RSPA meets regularly at the school, usually on the second Thursday of each half term. Anyone with an interest in the RSPA is welcome to attend these meetings. We frequently enjoy the attendance of the Headmaster. Details of exact meeting dates and times can be found on our Facebook pages or the website. At our AGM held every year in October, all those holding executive roles are required to stand down from their position. All members are then invited to stand for our executive committee positions and new committee executive members are voted in.

## CLASSLIST

Following the recent GDPR provisions, it is no longer possible for e.g. Parents Associations to continue using the old methods of communications such as a class email. Parents now have to officially opt-in to what type of information they are happy to be shared within a group.

Hence, to comply with GDPR guidelines, RSPA has moved onto a platform called Classlist. It is a parent portal to which all RSPA members are invited to join. Please note the portal is not available to non-members. Once you become a member, you will be assigned to a group containing other members of your son's form class. Members then can send messages to other member parents within the group as a whole or individually, and to all other members of Classlist individually. This way the member can discuss school related matters with other members including shared carpool, travelling together to school, school homework, lost property etc.

It is also possible to create groups on Classlist. A particularly good example of how this is beneficial is when the boys attend school trips. All those on e.g. the French Trip can come together and share information and it's also very helpful in reuniting all the kit which comes home with the wrong owner!

The RSPA will be delighted to welcome you into its "Event Helpers" group. Here you will be informed

of any events that we are organising and if you are available to help in any way, we will be delighted to hear from you.

If you are an RSPA member and have not received your invitation to Classlist please check your junk mail as they can often be found there. Failing that please do not hesitate to contact the membership secretary at [memsec@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:memsec@readingschoolparents.co.uk) who will be delighted to send you a new invitation.

## HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY EMAIL

The Headmaster issues an email every Friday during term time detailing all relevant school news. The contents vary, of course, but you will find information relating to e.g. inspire lectures, concerts, examination leave and year group specific information. It can be quite lengthy but it is a good idea to have a read through in case you miss anything relating to your son's activities. The RSPA update their news within this correspondence, where we will let you know of any forthcoming events, updates on fundraising and ways that you can get involved.

## FACEBOOK

We have a main Facebook page [Reading School Parents Association](#), and also individual Facebook pages for all the year groups. You can join our 2023 new parents and carers Facebook group - [2023 Entry Parents and Carers of Reading School](#).

## INSTAGRAM

You can follow us on Instagram [readingschoolparents](#)

## TWITTER

You can follow us on twitter [@rspareading](#)

## SCHOOL TWITTER HANDLES

The school also has a number of twitter accounts that you may be interested in.

@rstandl = Reading School Teaching and Learning  
@RSSixthForm = Reading School Sixth Form Team  
@readingPhysics = Reading School Physics Department  
@FloreatReading = Floreat Reading School  
@RSClassicsT = Reading School Classics Department  
@RSMaths = Reading School Mathematics Department  
@Music1125 = Reading School Music Department  
@RSBoarding = Reading School Boarding  
@RSChemistry = Reading School Chemistry Department  
@RS\_LRC = Reading School Learning Resources Centre  
@RSEnglishDept = Reading School English Department  
@rsgeography = Reading School Geography Department

@RSSportandPE = Reading School Sport & PE Department  
@RSmfl = Reading School Modern & Foreign Languages Department  
@rshistory = Reading School History Department  
@readingsch = Reading School

## LINKED IN

You can find us at [Reading School Parents Association](#)

## RSPA EVENTS

The RSPA run a number of social events throughout the year to which all boys and their extended friends and families are welcome to attend. They are a great opportunity to show

e.g. grandparents and anyone who is considering joining the school around. They not only help raise much needed funds but also allow everyone to relax and enjoy the school's beautiful grounds.

### *Summer Fayre*

This is our biggest event and largest fundraiser and is run in conjunction with a silent auction and raffle. We have many food and drink stalls and activities for the young and old to enjoy. We have bouncy castles, tombola, games for the boys, plants and pot counter, water to wine and a fabulous array of vintage cars to peruse. We always need a lot of helpers to organise and run the day and welcome any offers of assistance you can give. Our 2023 summer fayre will be conducted in full glory.

### *Raffle*

Throughout the year the RSPA run a number of raffles. Our Summer Fayre raffle is our biggest and we have a fantastic array of prizes to be won. The main difference with how we run this raffle is, all parents will be sent books of tickets to purchase. We understand that not all members wish to participate in a raffle but may still wish to support the school and we welcome any donation you may like to give in lieu of buying tickets.

### *Silent Auction*

In advance of the Summer Fayre we launch a silent auction online. This gives you the chance to bid on a variety of prizes which range from e.g. a course of driving lessons, cookery lessons, paintings etc. If you are able to offer us something that we could auction, we will be delighted to hear from you.

### *Christmas Market*

We also have our very popular Christmas market and has been a great success in the past. We usually invite around 50 external stallholders to showcase their wares in our beautiful Victorian buildings creating a lovely shopping experience. The Christmas markets are also complimented by stalls offering food and drinks, followed by raffles and tombola.



### *Quiz Nights*

Quiz nights are held twice a year in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> terms. They are appropriate for all ages and are held in the Refectory. Drinks and snacks are available to purchase on the night. We have teams of 8 people and whilst we are very happy for you to purchase a whole table we also make provision for mixed tables where people can come together to form a team. These are great family events to enjoy with extended families and friends.

### *Senior Prize-Giving*

This is held at the end of the academic year and is an invitation only event. The RSPA provide the prizes for those boys who are to receive one.

### *Y13 Leavers Evening*

This is held on a Friday evening at the end of June when virtually all A 'Level examinations have finished. The boys are invited along with their parents to have a final evening as current students of the school. The Headmaster, Old Redingensians and some teachers also attend. The RSPA hosts and sponsors this really special evening.

## **CAREERS CONVENTION**

This takes place bi-annually at the start of the calendar year and is held at the school. This gives the boys the opportunity to have discussions and ask questions with representatives from a wide variety of sectors.

## **NEW STARTERS EVENTS**

### *Y6 Evenings*

In June every year, all those boys who have accepted their place at Reading School will be invited to an information evening. There will be an address by the Headmaster, followed by one from the RSPA. The boys will then meet with their Heads of House. Afterwards, the RSPA will be available to help you join RSPA and answer any queries you may have. They will also show you how to label all the uniform items specially a sports sock – arguably one of the hardest challenges you will face as a parent!

### *New Parents & New Starters Picnic*

This is held on a Sunday in June/July and all new boys and their families are invited to attend. We ask you to bring your own picnic, get to know other boys and their parents and enjoy the school's grounds for a few hours. Many RSPA members will be on hand to help introduce you to other parents and answer any questions you may have. It also gives the boys a lovely opportunity to have an informal game of football, cricket, badminton etc and get to know each other in advance of starting school in September.

## *New Parents Welcome Evening*

This event is held on a Saturday evening in September. It is solely for RSPA members and is also an adult only evening. This is simply a relaxing evening to be spent chatting with other new parents over light refreshment. This event is always attended by the Headmaster and some Heads of Houses. It's a great opportunity to meet each other and ask the RSPA

committee and teachers any questions you may have. And you might be lucky enough to be served by the Headmaster himself.

## **FUNDRAISING**

We take a holistic approach to the areas we fundraise for at the school. We try to ensure that we support as many different areas as possible. We are in constant communication with the school's Senior Management Team and we encourage requests from all areas.

Over the last couple of years we have been successful in funding the following areas.

### *Minibuses*

In February 2020, we hit our fundraising goal and were over target for the Minibus RSPA Campaign.

We were delighted to be able to announce that the new Minibuses were delivered to the school in November 2020. They look absolutely amazing and these two buses will make a huge impact to the school. They will provide and expand on the transportation our sons currently benefit from, to sporting, educational and social events. These buses will dramatically reduce the cost of hire, providing additional transportation capacity throughout the school year, not only during the school days, but for weekend sporting events and within the boarding community.

The RSPA would like to thank all the parents who so generously donated earlier last year towards our fundraiser. The RSPA in total donated £28,000 towards the two minibuses, including £8K of fundraising from our Virgin Giving campaign and £20k from additional money raised on previous fundraisers, parental corporate matching and money from our ongoing fundraising.

Thank you again to everyone for your kind donations.

### *MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area)*

The MUGA was built in 2018 and was the result of some very hard work and generous contributions from generous and kind parents. It was one of our major projects for the school and has been a tremendous success.

It is in constant use throughout the week all year round. The boys are in there from before school. The PE department use it across the week for games to provide optional activities and space. When not booked, the 6<sup>th</sup> formers use it regularly in their free time and finally

the boarders use it for recreational football and super league with their juniors before it gets too dark.

### *LRC Canopy*

The RSPA raised significant funds through its 2018 Summer Fayre to provide an outdoor canopy solution, as a permanent covered area in front of the Learning Resources Centre (LRC). With the increasing number of boys at the school this puts added pressure on where the boys can locate themselves before school, at breaks and after school. The canopy provides shade or shelter from weather conditions. It also provides a wonderful area for outdoor learning and allows for greater use of the LRC resources and a desperately needed area for boys to socialise and eat their packed lunches out of the rain.

### *Y7 shelter*

The RSPA were keen to provide a dedicated space for our Y7 pupils. We installed a gazebo on the grassy area in front of the Learning Resource Centre and housed a couple of the new benches. We are working together with the school to identify ways to expand this area hopefully in the near future.

### *Benches*

Around the school there are many wooden benches used by the boys generally and for the viewing of sporting events. However, many of them are in a very dilapidated state. The RSPA has begun a rolling programme of replacing these benches and adding more to provide seating in newly established areas such as the Canopy. The new benches are very sturdy and are inscribed with Reading School Parents Association. They are both practical and have done much to improve the appearance of the school grounds. To date 8 benches have been provided.

### *Laptops*

The demand for use of laptops amongst the 1000 boys at the school is enormous. They were loaned out over 13,000 times in the last school year. They are the only resource available to the boys before, during and after school hours to undertake research, access school email, use school licensed software, print homework and complete assignments. Additionally, they are used by classes when the IT suite is unavailable or where small groups need to undertake research. This occurs on average for 5-6 classes per day.

This is an area we look to continually support by providing laptops which have a rugged design to cope with constant and multiple use. They come with a 3 year support contract and are the first computers in the school to run Windows 10 and have access to the applications utilized by the school.

Our Virgin Money Giving campaign for this area remains open and can be accessed via the Current Fundraising tab on the website.

### *Chess Sets*

We provided the chess club with 10 new chess sets which can be used for practice sessions and in competitions.

### ***Robotics Club***

The school's robotics club had made fantastic progress getting through to the national level of the Lego Robotics Competition. To celebrate their success the RSPA provided them with hoodies at a discounted rate of 50% allowing them to attend the competition in a uniform kit. We further agreed to fund an EV3 kit allowing them to develop their skills in this area.

### ***Chemistry Equipment***

Following the building of the new science blocks, the RSPA were asked if they could assist in the purchase of some equipment.

We received the following letter of thanks from the Head of the Chemistry Department.

"Our initial plea was to cover the cost of equipping us to equip all the laboratories fully with basic equipment such as Bunsen Burners, beakers etc in order to make the best use of all the teaching space and to ease the need to move anything. We were staggered by the response and the final total allocated. Since then we have worked hard to maximize what we could purchase with the money and the magnitude of the sum raised has also enabled us to consider ordering a class set of A-level practical glassware, where from our own budget we would only have been able to order two. The equipment brings us right up to date and is expected to provide us with good service for at least the next twenty years."

### ***Biology Equipment***

The Biology Department approached the RSPA to see if we could assist with enhancing their resources for practical work at the school. Much of the Biology curriculum can be brought to life and expanded on with access to the appropriate kit and advanced information. All the boys in the school will take Biology to GCSE and the addition of visual aids and practical kit benefits them all.

Through dedicating one of our quiz nights to funding this and topping it up via a Virgin Money Giving campaign we were able to provide this equipment including a life sized skeleton. "Napoleon Bone-a-Part" named via our "Name the Skeleton" competition now resides in the department providing much assistance in learning your sternum from your clavicle!

### ***Goals Campaign***

The PE department needed help to finance new sets of football goals for the coming season. We raised money from fantastic contributions given from an online campaign with Virgin

Just Giving and from one of our quiz nights. The RSPA have provided more than £6000 as a contribution to the purchase of 3 new sets of goalposts from this fundraising.

### ***Art Materials***

The Art Department was provided with funding of £5000 for materials with an additional £1000 towards displaying art throughout the school. We raised these funds from our Christmas Market held in 2018. The department provided a wish list including sewing machines and other items

to help them work more with textiles.

### *Table Tennis Tables*

We provided the PE Department with £2,500 to provide 6 new table tennis tables. This allows them to have a lunch time table tennis club. The school has had great success in the field of table tennis and currently has two boys competing in national competitions. This was funded via our funds raised at our SPOTY event.

### *Multi-Media Systems*

Our Christmas Market in 2017 raised sufficient funds to provide some equipment for the Floreat Room which can be used for mock interviews and meetings. The Floreat programme encourages resilience, collaboration, independence, building character and teaches life skills and much more. We also funded a new projector and Audio Visual (AV) for Big School which can be used in Floreat sessions and benefits all the boys in the school.

## **VIRGIN MONEY GIVING**

From time to time we supplement our fundraising events with Virgin Money Giving pages. This gives those parents who are unable to attend events an opportunity to contribute to our fundraising goals. It also facilitates the collection of gift aid on donations which can see contributions boosted by 25%. We limit the amount of times we exercise this facility but any donation however small made by this method really makes a difference to achieving our goals. Recently we have raised funds by this means for our Chemistry and Biology departments, our Goal Post campaign and also to help provide funds in our laptop replacement project.

## **SCHOOL LOTTERY**

The RSPA were very excited to launch our school lottery for Reading School in February 2021. It is extremely easy to join and will make an incredible difference to our fundraising efforts.

We invite you to purchase tickets and help raise money for the school. Any money raised will be put towards our small donation fund. In the past, funds from this have been used to purchase the USB Book Projector for the Classics Dept, Sound cables for drama, Resources for extra-curricular projects and clubs etc.

Tickets are £1 per week each and the draws take place each Saturday evening. The more tickets sold, the bigger the prize fund! For every £1 ticket sale, 40p goes to our school so we will be benefitting for 52 weeks of the year! There will be a guaranteed prize each week amounting to 30% of all Reading School ticket sales plus the chance of a Grand Jackpot Prize! Winners are advised by email.

You can buy tickets at – <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/reading-school>

Thank you so much for supporting our boys at Reading School. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch at [Treasurer@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:Treasurer@readingschoolparents.co.uk).

**Good luck!**

## LIBRARY BOOK RECYCLING PROJECT

The library (known as the LRC – Learning Resources Centre) is a busy part of the school. It provides over 1000 boys with good reads and books to support learning, careers books and books on further education, not to mention comics and laptop loans.

Restocking and replacement of books is an ongoing process, and the library would love to have multiple copies of the most popular books. Each term the RSPA liaises with the LRC to find out which books the boys would like to see more of in the school library. They are always popular titles and many of us have copies on our bookshelves at home. Maybe you are having a clear out and could donate some pre-loved books to the school? They would be most welcome.

Please visit the LRC section on the website to find out the titles the boys would like to see more of in the library.

In addition, you can donate directly to the LRC by purchasing one of the titles on the Amazon Wishlist. It will be delivered directly to the school and a bookplate with your son's name will be added to the book. The Wishlist can be found in the LRC section on the website.

## HELPING THE RSPA

There are so many ways in which you can help the RSPA. Every event that we undertake requires planning, shopping, baking, hosting, clearing up. If you can spare any time towards any element of that it is a great help. The second hand uniform shop needs helpers to sort through the uniform and man the sales times. The lost property team need helpers to try and reunite missing items to their owners. The careers convention needs parents to spend

their time helping advise students about their careers and work options available. We also need people to carry out remote roles, such as marketing our events or researching information. Even if you can't be physically present you can still make a great contribution to our success.

## CORPORATE MATCHING

Many large companies have pots of money they actually want to give away to charities like ours – they are just waiting for us to ask. A few parents who work for Microsoft and Vodafone have kindly managed to secure Corporate Matching from their company, simply by filling in a form online and asking the RSPA to provide a letter confirming their participation in the event, which we were more than happy to provide.

There are a whole list of companies, including Abbey National, Alliance & Leicester, Asda, BAA, Bank of England, Barclays Bank, BP, British Telecom,, Centrica, Cornhill Insurance PLC, Debenhams, DHL, Heathrow Airport Ltd, HSBC, J Sainsbury, Kellogg's, Kingfisher, Littlewoods PLC, Marks & Spencers PLC, Microsoft, Nat West, Norwich Union, Peugeot Motor Co PLC, PepsiCo Royal Bank of Scotland, Royal London Mutual Insurance, Stagecoach, Tesco PLC, Unilever, Visa, Vodafone & Woolwich PLC.

There are many other large corporations who support their staff who want to raise money for charity, often by matching the amount raised at a particular fundraising event. If your company's name does not appear above please just ask your HR department if they support Corporate Matching as the list

changes all the time.

We are truly grateful to the parents who have helped us raise funds, as these have helped us achieve many fundraising goals including the MUGA, Canopy and our departmental campaigns. We are very keen to find other parents who may be able to help us raise extra money in this way – for very little effort. Staff don't usually have to be heavily involved in the fundraising to be considered eligible – just helping out at an event, such as helping sell tea and coffee is often sufficient. Recipients usually don't even have to work for the company full time to be entitled to take part.

## SMALL DONATIONS PROJECT

The Small Donations Project is a new initiative launched by the RSPA in 2019 to allow boys and their teachers to apply for funding for small projects. The items must be of benefit to a group of boys, whether it is a subject class, tutor group or an after school club.

This is funded by the many parents who have signed up to shop via one of our charity online shopping sites. We currently receive donations from The Giving Machine and EasyFundraising – (further details on each of these schemes is found below). If you are unfamiliar with these sites, they are online platforms which give commission when you make purchases at no cost to yourself and are really easy to sign up to at the following links.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rspareadingpa>

[www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/reading-school](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/reading-school)

With every additional parent or carer who shops via these sites, it will increase the pot of money we can use to benefit our sons and their experience at Reading School. Effectively it's free money with no extra cost to anyone.

Pupils may apply for items up to the value of approx. £100 (Only one form per person should be submitted per term)

Staff members can apply for a grant for an individual boy if they believe that this would allow them to compete or take part in an activity that they wouldn't otherwise be able to participate in. Teachers may apply for items exceeding £100 if the item benefits a subject class or a Tutor group.

### THE GIVING MACHINE

The Giving Machine enables a percentage of the product price to be converted into a contribution to the Reading School Parents' Association, which will be used to further help the school.

There are over 2000 retailers participating in the scheme and whatever you buy it will cost exactly the same if you buy directly from the retailer or through The Giving Machine.

Companies participate in the scheme because it creates loyalty amongst their customer base and helps promote their business models of Corporate Responsibility.

All you have to do is sign up and remember to use the website or App when you are online shopping. Signing up requires a name, email address and password (chosen by you) – you DO NOT have to provide any bank details.

Please click on this link to join <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/readingschool>

## **EASYFUNDRAISING**

Easyfundraising works in exactly the same way as The Giving Machine. The reason we align ourselves to both schemes is we found that it is easier for people to just switch their cause if they have been used to using one of the schemes at e.g. their primary school than having to set up a new scheme.

You can sign up to Easy fundraising via the following link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rspareadingpa>

## **SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP**

The second-hand uniform shop is open on the first Friday (2.30 – 4pm) and Saturday (9 - 11am) of each half term. The shop will also be open during major RSPA events and for the Year 7 induction day. The exact date upcoming Uniform Shop opening is communicated through Headmaster's weekly email, Classlist, Facebook page and website, so keep an eye on those useful dates.

The shop sells school uniform items, games and PE kit, lab coats, trainers, rugby and football boots as well as winter coats and raincoats. Uniform Shop also sells second hand excellent quality GCSE and A level revision guides and textbooks. There are plenty of bargain items in stock.

The uniform shop is sited at the back of the walled garden carpark near the exit to Craven Road and clearly sign posted.

We are always looking for any donations of Uniform and Rugby Shirts and Blazers are always in high demand. If your son has had a growth spurt and you are replacing any kit, please think of us for the kit he has outgrown. Any donations of uniform for sale should be brought to the school reception office and be marked "Uniform Shop". You can also bring your donations to the shop when it is open.

## **MERCHANDISE**

The RSPA sell navy blue hoodies bearing the logo of the school. Hoodies come in a variety of sizes and are very popular amongst the boys. They are not part of the official school uniform and should not be worn as such. However, it is permissible for the boys to wear them during PE and Games lessons.

You can purchase a hoodie from the second hand uniform shop during its opening hours. They cost £20 and can be paid for by cash or cheque (made out to Reading School Parents Association).

## **LOST PROPERTY**

Once every half term, the RSPA arrange parent helpers to sort through lost property and try and repatriate any named items with their owners via their form tutors. If something doesn't turn up soon after it is lost, it may still make its way back to you provided it is labelled properly. There is a lost property group on Classlist for reporting lost items. It is very likely that you will experience your son losing items in his first year at the school more frequently, particularly in the first term. Please



remember to label everything very clearly, we cannot recommend it enough. If the items are not labelled or the labels have come off, then unfortunately the items cannot be returned back to their rightful owners.

Lost unlabeled coats are stored for 2 uniform openings at the Uniform Shop so that they can be reclaimed back as these are high value items. You are welcome to attend the shop when it is open to search for such missing items

## FRIENDS OF MUSIC

The Friends of Music was founded in May 2013 by a group of like-minded parents who wanted to make a difference within the Music Department. They wanted the audience to not only appreciate the high calibre of music at the concerts but also to enjoy the experience of coming to the School. They serve refreshments at the various school concerts throughout the year to provide a welcoming environment and sell programmes. If your son participates in any of the different music ensembles or choirs and you would be willing to help them, please contact the RSPA to be added to the list of helpers for music events.

## House Music Competition

The house music competition is a wonderful event showcasing the immense musical talents of the boys at school and takes place in November at the Hexagon Theatre in Reading town centre. 2018 saw the school's 83rd house music competition and it is the single largest event in the school calendar. It is an evening of music competition organized by the boys themselves and involves all the houses: School, County, Laud, East & West. All boys can participate as even if you aren't a soloist or a group music player, there is always the choir! It's quite simply one of the best evenings you can attend. A little tip would be to buy your tickets as soon as they come on sale as it is a very popular event. The RSPA supports this event by helping sell raffle tickets at the venue in advance of the performance and during the interval.

## SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

The Sports Personality Of The Year (SPOTY) event takes place in December. It celebrates excellence in sport throughout the school and also recognizes involvement in sport outside of school. Colours are awarded for involvement and commitment to cricket, rugby and football. Individuals have also been honoured for achievements in hockey, lacrosse, chess and badminton in recent years.

The RSPA assists the Friends Of Sport in hosting this event held at the school.

## OLD REDINGENSISANS (ORS)

You may see reference to OR's in communication and be wondering what it is. Connection to the school doesn't finish upon leaving and continues via the Old Redingensians Association. Their website can be accessed at [www.oldredingensians.org.uk](http://www.oldredingensians.org.uk) where you can find lots of information about their events and activities. The Association organises a variety of events including sports fixtures, pub nights,

reunions for specific year groups, and the Annual Dinner’.

Membership is open to any former pupil or member of staff of Reading School and is free to all School leavers for the first five years. They are very keen to have new members and will be delighted to hear from you. Currently there are over 1100 members who have access to the website and receive a copy of Floreat Redingensians.

The ORs have a room at the school – The Kirkwood Room – which displays items documenting the history of Reading School. This is often available to view during our larger events. We would highly recommend you to visit the room during one of the events, you will find it really interesting.

## THE READING FOUNDATION

The Reading Foundation is an Education Charity which provides much support to Reading School. The trustees are committed to supporting students and staff and act as custodians of the Reading Foundation Assets including the school site.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event dates evolve throughout the year for the RSPA. This gives you a rough idea of when things occur during a normal year. Up-to-date information is always provided weekly through the Headmasters Mail and is communicated through RSPA Facebook page, Classlist, individual year’s Facebook pages and RSPA Website. If you require any specific information about an event, then please do not hesitate to contact us at [contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk](mailto:contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk)

Month	Activity
January	Careers Convention (bi-annual) RSPA Committee Meeting Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
February	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
March	Quiz Night
April	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
May	RSPA Committee Meeting
June	New Starters Picnic Y6 Evenings Y13 Leavers Drinks Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
July	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open (Taster Day Y7) Summer Fayre Senior Prize Giving
August	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
September	Wine & Welcome Evening RSPA Committee Evening

October	Quiz Night RSPAAGM
November	Christmas Market House Music Competition RSPA Committee Meeting
December	Sports Personality of the Year

## FUTURE AIMS & EVENTS

The RSPA is in constant contact with its members and the school’s Senior Management Team to try and see how it can best help build a better school for all our boys. The more people join us, the more ideas we can generate to fulfil this goal. The regular meetings we hold are the best place to find out what’s going on and to contribute. If that’s not possible for you for whatever reason, then please drop us an email with any thoughts or ideas you may have, and we will discuss them in our next upcoming meetings.