

Welcome

FROM THE HEAD



Welcome to the 2017-2018 Draxonian Magazine. It has been an extraordinary 351st year in the history of Read School and I hope you agree that this magazine is a fitting testament to the many accomplishments of the year and to the range and diversity of activity that takes place daily throughout the school. Not least it has been a singular year as the baton of headship has been passed from Dr John Sweetman who retired from school after 13 years of service in November 2017, to Mr Mark Voisey who ably steered the school through the ISI inspection detailed overleaf, to myself. After three years back in the corporate world, it is an absolute pleasure to return to Read School and I have enjoyed every single minute so far.

Read School offers a wealth of opportunities, both academic and extra-curricular and supports the development of the individual pupil, instilling confidence, enthusiasm and the aspiration to be the best they can be. More than that it is a happy place where pupils can learn in a supportive, friendly environment and where every pupil has the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the Read community.

Looking back at the events and activities recorded here, be it the dramatic production 'Annie', The World Challenge Himalayas Expedition, trips to Normandy or the French Alps, our STEM success, sporting activity or Business & Enterprise week, it is clear that life at Read is about more than passing exams. It is about developing as a well-rounded individual and being creative, resilient and ambitious.

The articles you will read have been written by pupils and staff and showcase the talent and passion within the school as well as the value and lasting impact of the experiences themselves.

We hope that you enjoy reading, remembering and reflecting on a tremendous year.

Ruth Ainley

Ruth Ainley



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Pupils display high levels of self-confidence, self-understanding and maturity for their age and make an outstanding contribution to the school and the wider community.”



The Read School *Inspection Result*

In April 2018 we celebrated the publication of the report on the school's recent inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI).

The inspection team visited the school in March and over the course of three days, the school underwent a focused compliance inspection and an education quality inspection (EQI), comprised of both academic and pastoral phases.

The final report, which is available to download on the School's website is overwhelmingly positive in content and tone, and despite being an objective, evidence-based document, is a celebratory endorsement of the pupils and the school.

It is important to note that the ISI terminology reflects quality judgements that are at least equivalent to those used by the national inspectorate, Ofsted. ISI reports do not provide a single overarching judgement for the school but instead give a clear judgement about key outcomes for pupils and information on the quality of the school's work.

It is pleasing to note that in all eight areas of the compliance inspection, including the inspection of the National Minimum Standards (NMS) for boarding pupils, the school fully met all expectations and standards.

The Educational Quality Inspection is based on the achievement of the students, which divides into two further areas: Academic Development and Personal Development.



Pupils make an outstanding contribution to the school and the wider community, exemplified by the numerous charitable initiatives promoted by the school community."

The inspectors were very complimentary and gave the school the rating of Good for academic development, stating that "all groups of pupils, including those with SEND or EAL, achieve well relative to their starting points" and that "pupils' attitudes to learning are positive, they are productive in individual work and collaborate well when given the opportunity."

Even more pleasing was the Excellent rating given by the inspectors for pastoral care at the school, commenting that "Pupils display high levels of self-confidence, self-understanding and maturity for their age", and "pupils make an

outstanding contribution to the school and the wider community, exemplified by the numerous charitable initiatives promoted by the school community."

We were delighted that we had the chance to showcase our wonderful school to the inspection team. The inspectors dug deep, as they always do, to try to unearth what the school was really about. As a result, they gave us the fantastic twin judgments of "excellent" and "good" for pastoral and learning provision, which reflect the team spirit and ethos of the school. We have happy, hard-working pupils, supportive parents and a staff

body who strive to work with the children to prepare them for the challenges the outside world brings. Though this was close to being a "perfect score", we still strive to improve as a school to meet future challenges in the learning experience of our children."



**Mark Voisey,
Deputy Head**



Academic

At Read School we are always proud of our academic success and believe that young people achieve most when they are happy and confident in their learning environment. We are proud to be an inclusive school and aim to be both academically ambitious and academically sensitive. Our academic achievements are measured in successful individual outcomes, rather than league tables.

Year 10 Study Skills Afternoon

In May Year 10 pupils had a study skills session where they were taught effective ways to study to help with exam revision.

They identified their own learning styles and looked at methods of study that are most suited to their preferred style. They were shown various types of intelligence and looked at their strengths. Three current sixth form pupils came to the session to explain what had worked well for them in the past. Pupils were positive and keen to learn which was an extremely good start to their journey. We hope the session helped them realise the importance of preparation and planning and we will be doing further work with them as they progress to year 11 now that we have received feedback from the pupils.



Pupils were positive and keen to learn which was an extremely good start to their journey.”

A Level Success for Read School Pupils

Read School pupils celebrated a pleasing set of A Level results in August with the vast majority of pupils obtaining places in their first-choice university. Despite a wide range of academic ability most of our sixth form pupils achieved, or surpassed expectations.

85% of students achieved two or more A Levels at A* to E with half of all grades achieved at A* to C. The school performed very well in core traditional subjects such as Maths, Further Maths and English Literature. Strong performances too were seen in Computer Science and Design Technology.

For most Read pupils their university applications were hugely enhanced by the diverse range of extra-curricular activities with which Read School equips them. For instance, more than

50% of the Upper Sixth had participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and several pupils finished the academic year with a character-forming World Challenge expedition to the Indian Himalayas, furnishing them with valuable skills in team-building, leadership and endurance.

Pupils from Read School are now taking up places in a number of different universities from all over the country. Some pupils eschewed this route however with Jake Henry starting up a very

successful web-based business in Australia, and Filippo Gerosa taking a gap year in America in order to pursue an acting career.

There were also one or two notable accomplishments, including pupils taking a maths A Level a year early, with Emily King, aged 12, achieving a fantastic C in her Dutch A level!

We wish our Sixth Formers well on the next leg of their academic and life journey.

Corrinne Cross,
Head of Sixth Form



85% of students achieved two or more A Levels at A* to E with half of all grades achieved at A* to C.”

GCSE Results

We were delighted with this year's GCSE results, which produced overall an 82.3% Grade 9-4 / A*-C pass rate including outstanding results in subjects which are in general decline nationally such as Drama, Art and Business Studies.

Our commitment to providing the best education possible to all our pupils, regardless of ability, is one of our greatest strengths and our success was again demonstrated by an excellent 'value add' score of almost half a grade, meaning that overall pupils exceeded their so-called Midyis targets which is the general measure of academic potential.

Congratulations to the 14 pupils achieving 100% pass in all subjects.

We are delighted that so many of our Year 11 pupils have returned to study in our Sixth Form this year and wish luck to those who have left us, including those pursuing specialist training in performance and make up artistry.

Christina Palmer
Assistant Head, Curriculum



Congratulations to the 14 pupils achieving 100% pass in all subjects."



Alice Simmons, Evangeline Barnby and Amy McLellan

Harry Woodall and Sam Bond celebrate their GCSE results





Business and Enterprise

There have been many opportunities over the last year for the cogs of industry and business to be turned by the ingenuity of the teenage mind. Our Enterprise hub, Careers Fair and the local charities we have supported, are a few examples of the ways in which the Read pupil allies their learning in the classroom with the real, pragmatic shop-floor learning of the real world.

Read School Enterprise Hub

2018 was an inaugural year for the Read School Enterprise Hub, which offers pupils the opportunities to run a variety of fund raising events in school and has been used for everything from selling ice creams, toast and Krispy Kreme donuts at break time as well as seasonal fund-raising campaigns.

The Hub was itself an act of enterprise, being largely funded by money raised by pupils during Enterprise week together with a generous donation by the PFA. Built during October Half Term 2016, recent additions include a fridge and freezer courtesy of 'Ship it Appliances' from Nottingham, and the next step is to install a sturdy kitchen-type worktop –

If you are able to donate this or contribute in any other way to the Enterprise Hub, please contact Mrs Kavanagh!



Global Entrepreneurship Awards

On 16 November, a team of Read's international students came second in a prestigious business award in Hull, after competing against many other schools for the title. Their prize of £200 was won after devising a profit-making scheme to market to potential customers.

Global Enterprise Week

Strong links with the local business community is one of our goals and Read pupils again took part in Global Enterprise week by hosting a careers fair which was a huge success.

A large number of local and national businesses attended the fair, covering a wide range of occupations and industries. Senior School pupils were invited into the fair to browse the assorted stands at their leisure, asking questions and finding out more information on the various careers they were interested in.

Stands ranged from the medical professions, with a vet, a pharmacist and a dentist in attendance, to the power industry with representatives from Drax Power Station.

There was also the opportunity to speak to representatives from the beauty industry, the media, the fields of Law, Engineering, Aviation, Environmental services as well as banking, finance and HR Specialists.

"It was great to see so much interest taken by local, national and international companies alike in



supporting our pupils with their research into future careers. The pupils took away so many ideas, some of which they may never have thought of, and I am extremely grateful to everyone who gave up their time to support the event.

We are already starting to plan next year's event which will take place during National Careers Week and will again aim to empower Read pupils with knowledge and connections for future employment options."

**Trish Kavanagh,
Business Studies**



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Enterprise Hub Transformation: *The Cringe Cabin*



In February Year 9 Business students hosted a 'Cringe Cabin' in the hub to bring love and romance to the school. We sold luscious love-cakes, specially made and designed individually for pupils.

We sold many other extravagant items including teddies, chocolate lollies, and more.

Love was certainly in the air as we had Cupid, played by Ben Abrams, who delivered notes to students from their secret admirers.

In total, we made £42.50 and are very pleased with this profit.

We really enjoyed hosting this Valentines themed Cabin. Also, we designed and hand made the posters and sign. It was a spectacular experience for the budding entrepreneurs among us.

By Daisy Heywood, Y9



I really like the fact that we raised money for the school in a fun way.

Ben Abrams, Y9





Adventurous Activity

Duke of Edinburgh, CCF, day trips and week-long residential, these are a few of our favourite things. The pupils at Read all know that it is part of the ethos of the school to sign up to getting rained on, blown about the Dales and crawling through semi-frozen mud, all in the name of fun, character building, and a few extra brownie points on the UCAS form in readiness for university. However, the last year of adventurous activities has been all of these things and more. Read on to find out exactly what the pupils of all ages have been getting up to off-campus...



Amy Broomhead A Personal Experience

Read pupil, Amy Broomhead was one of two CCF cadets in the UK to win the prestigious CVQO Duke of Westminster award in 2015 and joined a small group of national finalists for two weeks of community work and adventure in South Africa. Amy speaks of her involvement with CCF at Read and the opportunities it provided:

Read School CCF has opened doors for me including being able to gain extra-curricular qualifications alongside my GCSEs and A levels like my BTEC and my institute of

leadership and management level 3 qualification that I know for a fact has helped me get job interviews since and is always a talking point with employers.

It helped me grow as a person to become more self-motivating, respectful, and determined and gave me teamwork skills unparalleled to what I would have without the CCF.

I have also been able to experience incredible things as a result of being part of the CCF: as well as having the opportunity to regularly travel

around the UK on camps and expeditions, I also went on the trip of a lifetime to South Africa, something that would never have been possible without the CCF. Despite not pursuing a military career (I am currently studying Languages & Business at Sheffield Hallam University), the skills, opportunities, experiences and qualifications I have gained by being part of the CCF have been transferable into my life and I believe have helped me to get to the position I am in today".

Amy Broomhead, Read School Pupil – 2008-2015

Combined Cadet Force

Read School Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is one of the oldest Cadet Forces in the country with 100 years of history.

Today pupils at Read are enrolled into the CCF in Year 8 and select which CCF section they would like to join: Army or Royal Air Force. Cadets participate in CCF sessions in school on Thursday afternoons which include a wide range of activities, including First Aid and vocational skills training.

Each year the CCF holds training camps, where the skills learned at school can be put to the test and

developed further via expeditions and more formal training or team building exercises. There is also the opportunity to get involved in other adventurous activities - from climbing and kayaking at Gairloch Head to training exercises and leadership crafts at the local Driffield Camp.

Pupils are encouraged to continue in the CCF throughout their School career. As Cadets progress,

they are promoted on merit, encouraged to take part in the instruction and training of new recruits and to contribute to the training programme. This type of experience carries weight on CVs and UCAS (University) applications and serves to develop leadership skills for senior school pupils.



CFF Camps & Events 2017-18

September 2017 the Royal Dragoon Guards Band visited the School and played Pipe and Drums encouraging the unit to start musician training for interested cadets.

November 2017 year 9 and senior cadets undertook a military skills day and Dismounted Close Combat Trainer Shoot at Strensall, following an overnight stay in the Yorkshire N&W ACF HQ accommodation at Queen Elizabeth Barracks.

Easter 2018 witnessed a small cadre of cadets undertaking Adventure Training at Middleton in Teesdale. The weather held off for much of the week and the group undertook activities including Navigation and Walking along part of the Pennine way, the High Ropes course at the AT Centre and a bracing Gorge Walk which thankfully included the use of wetsuits as the stream was carrying snow melt! Visits were also made to High Force waterfall nearby and a day trip to Hadrian's Wall, Vindalanda and the Roman Army Museum.

May 2018 saw a visit from a section of The Queens own Yeomanry based in York who brought some of their specialist equipment to show the Cadets this included sniper suits and their recce vehicle mounting the M2 Browning .50 Calibre Machine Gun.

May Half Term break provided another opportunity for Cadet activities. Read School CCF, utilising facilities at the ACF HQ for Humberside and South Yorkshire located at Driffield, hosted a combined Military Skills event along with Cadets from Market Weighton, Scarborough and Northumberland. Weapon handling tests preceded a day on the 25 metre range at DST Leaconfield, followed by a two-day field exercise the overnight phase was spent under Bashes in the woods on the Training area at Driffield section drills the following day saw the use of a great deal of Blank ammunition.

Annual Summer Camp July 2018 The cadets enjoyed from an excellent programme of activities organised by the 4 Brigade Cadet Training Team. Wathgill camp near Catterick provided the focus for events which included: A Range day firing the Cadet GP Rifle at distances of 100 and 200 Metres with the opportunity to fire Air Rifles and 12G Shotguns (at Clay Pidgeon), a Field Exercise on the Catterick training area with overnight spend in the woods under Bashes, an Adrenalin and Team building day on the Krypton Factor Assault course, Leadership skills and a look at World War One with an opportunity to handle WWI Rifles and equipment.

Matthew Roberts A Personal Experience

Some pupils leave Read to pursue military careers and past pupils currently serving include Matthew Roberts who left Read in July 2017 to pursue a gap commission in the Army and now serves as Second Lieutenant with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.



Matthew writes about his previous and current experience.

"My time at Read School, especially in the CCF, has helped me develop my leadership, communication and teamwork skills. From a small quiet boy in year 9 to a confident leader as a 2Lt in the British Army. My adventure in the Read School CCF began in year 9. My year group and I were put into issued, ill-fitting green uniform and taught the very basics of soldiering. This ranged from navigation and first aid as well as how to use a rifle, all the way to living in the field and how to iron uniform and polish your boots.

After a few months, we were given a choice; RAF or Army. I chose Army. From then on I learnt the principles of marksmanship, camouflage and concealment, the basics of section attacks. Most importantly I learnt the Army values and standards (courage, discipline, respect for others, integrity, loyalty and selfless commitment).

As well as solely military practices another highlight of CCF was the adventurous training. I have had the opportunity to go on expeditions to Scotland, had great fun mountain biking, kayaking, rock climbing and even parachuting.

As I progressed through the CCF I was promoted, at first to Lance Corporal after 18 months and then to Corporal by year 11. With this came further qualifications in first aid and leadership training. In the field on exercise, I was given command of a section of 8 cadets. Back in regular training afternoons, I began to teach the younger cadets the basics I had been taught when I first joined.

All throughout my time in the CCF I have had exceptional military opportunities presented to me. I have seen your Nation's nuclear deterrent in Faslane spent days with the Royal Marines getting hands on with their kit, being thrashed across the water on their speedboats. I have also spent many days on live ranges, improving my shooting. I have even been on exercise in RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus.

By the time, I was in VI Form I had become the senior cadet in the school. In my last year becoming Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major, where any hardworking cadet aspires to be. With this rank came increased responsibilities. I helped develop and plan the lessons my team of Staff Sergeants, Sergeants and Corporals were delivering. In this time, I also managed to achieve a level 3 BTEC and lead parades on Remembrance Day as well as liaising with the Lord



My time at Read School, especially in the CCF, has helped me develop my leadership, communication and teamwork skills."

Lieutenant Barry Dodd, when he visited the school.

I am now a 2Lt in 4 Battalion the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers on a Gap Year Commission. This is a scene that allows young men and women with leadership potential who can pass the Army Officer Selection Board and have a confirmed place at university (Mechanical Engineering at Manchester for myself) to become a junior officer for a year. This includes attending the commissioning course short at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst before being posted to a regular Army unit for a year.

Since Commissioning, I have had an amazing year. I have travelled to Germany with the Royal Artillery on exercise, working closely with our NATO partners, going skiing in France and even going to Canada for 2 months on the biggest exercise of the year.

All this while being paid has made my gap year the most full on and rewarding it could possibly be".

It all began at The Read School.

Matthew Roberts, Read School Pupil 2012 – 2017



All this while being paid has made my gap year the most full on and rewarding it could possibly be"



Flying at Linton-on-Ouse

When we first arrived at Linton on Ouse we were shown how to use the parachutes and open the plane canopy. After that we were taken to a room where we were given flight suits and helmets to wear.

I went in a plane with a pilot who showed me how to fly the plane. He let me control the plane and we flew over Drax and my house. We also did aerobatics. We also visited a second time where I flew over Ripon and Lightwater Valley.

It was great fun and everyone who went really enjoyed doing it.

Sam Fildes, Read School, Year 9



I went in a plane with a pilot who showed me how to fly the plane. He let me control the plane and we flew over Drax and my house."

Duke of Edinburgh

Bronze, silver and gold

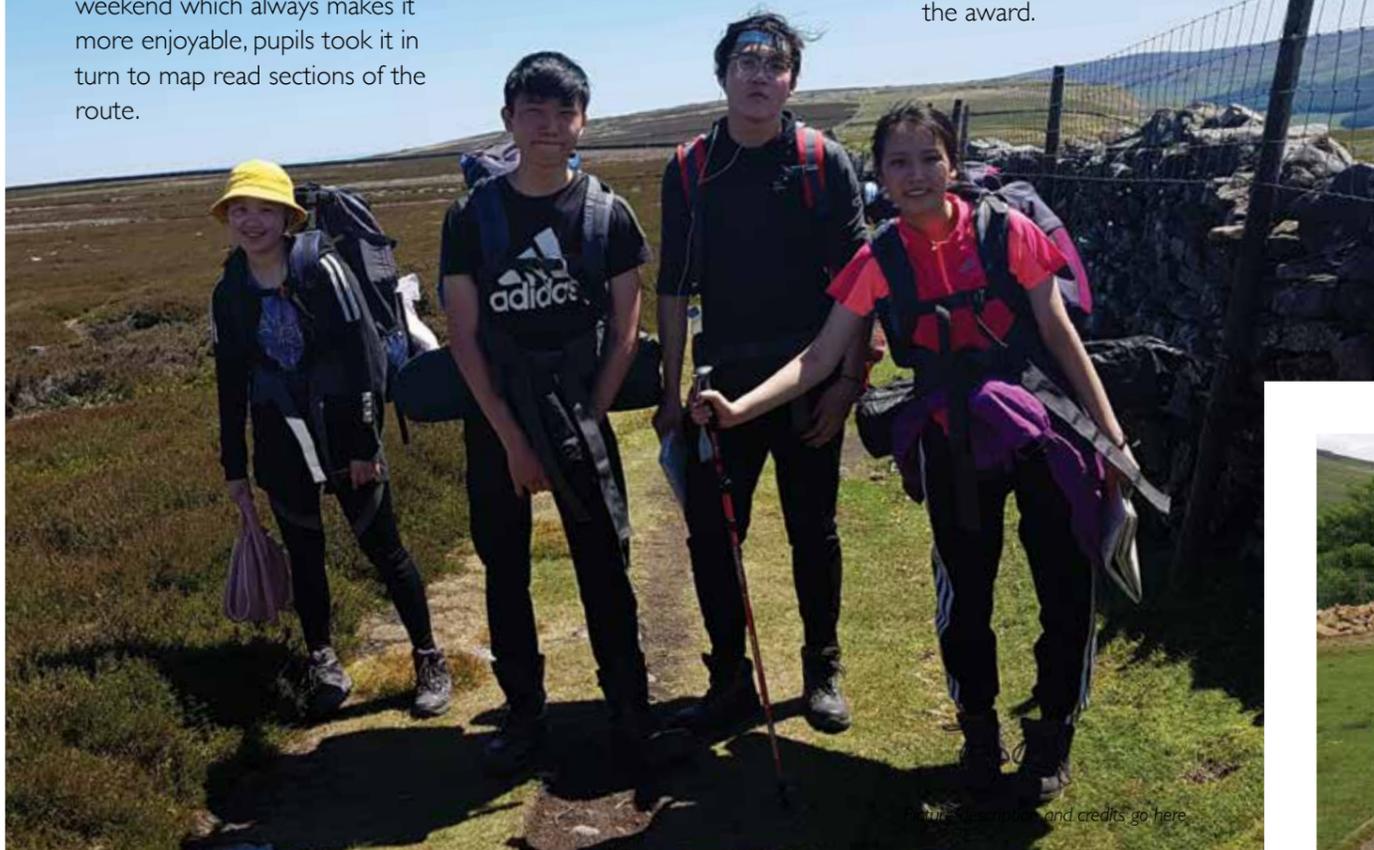
This year our 20 Bronze participants have worked hard, some pupils have already completed all sections of the award and many of them are well on the way to completing the award.

The expedition section was a great success; pupils walked with their back-packs on for at least 6 hours on each of the two days carrying all they needed to camp over and cook their own meals. Carrying the pack for such a long time is the most challenging part of this section of the award.

The practice expedition was in the Ripon area with pupils being given the opportunity to explore Fountains Abbey. This was a sunny weekend which always makes it more enjoyable, pupils took it in turn to map read sections of the route.

The final expedition was spent in Nidderdale where pupils walked from Middlesmoore around Scar house reservoir and from Studfold Farm camp site to Pateley bridge on the other day. They were given set checkpoints and had to navigate working as a team whilst enjoying the scenery. The first day was glorious and many of the children spent their day paddling in streams as well as walking.

The two silver DofE groups this year had the experience of extreme weather conditions, their practice expeditions was much more challenging than usual due to the atrocious weather; it was windy and wet for a full two days and we made the decision to cut it short. During their final expedition it was in a heat wave which was just as challenging in a different way. We are proud to report that despite these challenges they managed to complete the expedition section of the award.



Duke of Edinburgh Gold

Harry Woodall and Eric Alfaro as well as Draxonian Alice Wood are among Read pupils on track to achieve the prestigious Gold award this year.



Read School is proud to be a Duke of Edinburgh Award accredited centre for North Yorkshire.





School Events

A snapshot of some of the many and varied events held in school this year.

Commemoration Day

Saturday 7 July 2018

Commemoration Day 2018 was another resounding endorsement of the British Summer in conjunction with the achievements and triumphs of the pupil body.

The day commenced with a beautiful service held at Drax Church, where pupils, parents and governors of the school raised the rafters to four of the school's favourite hymns, ably led by our local vicar and friend of the school, Anna Burr.

The weather smiled upon us, with temperatures soaring into the mid-twenties whilst parents and staff mingled with older pupils on the lawn, prior to a sumptuous buffet lunch being served in the Sports Hall Marquee.

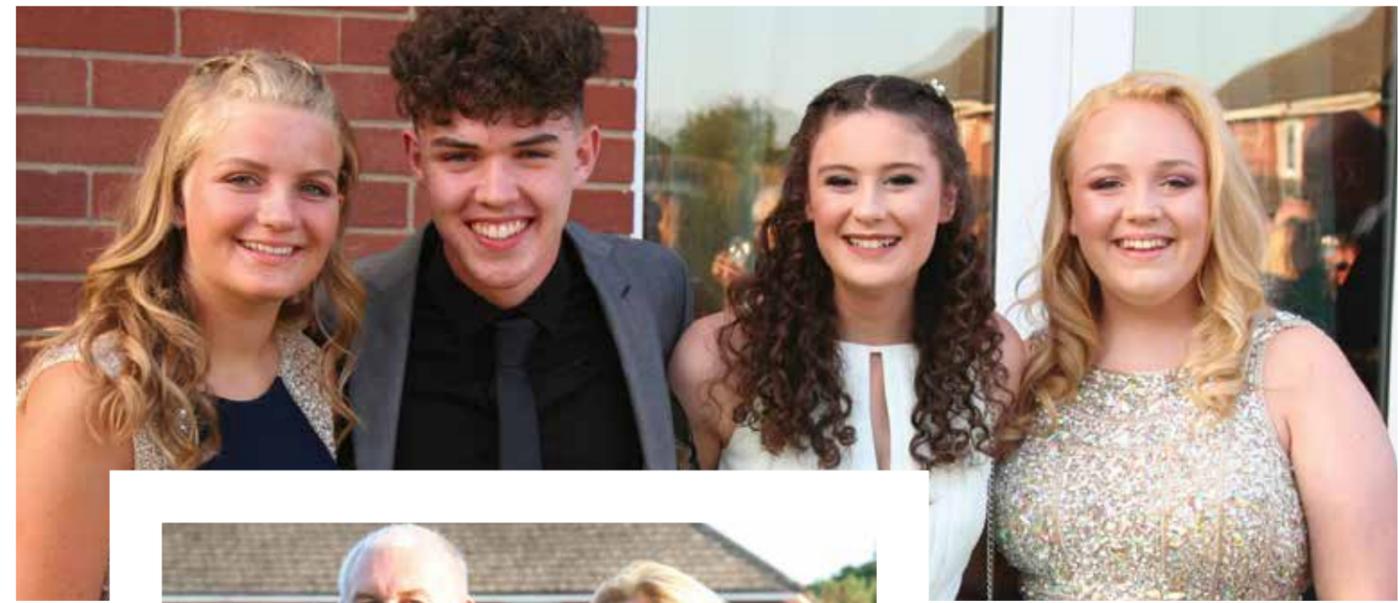
The prize-giving service was a prolific celebration of the pupils' year, with over 50 different prizes given for pupils achieving in diverse areas around the school. Well done to all whose efforts were rewarded in this way.

The professor's speech was a particularly striking one, as he was unabashedly unafraid of dealing with the real world consequences of living in an anonymous digital world, juxtaposing his own world of the 50's and 60's alongside that of the contemporary pupil of today.

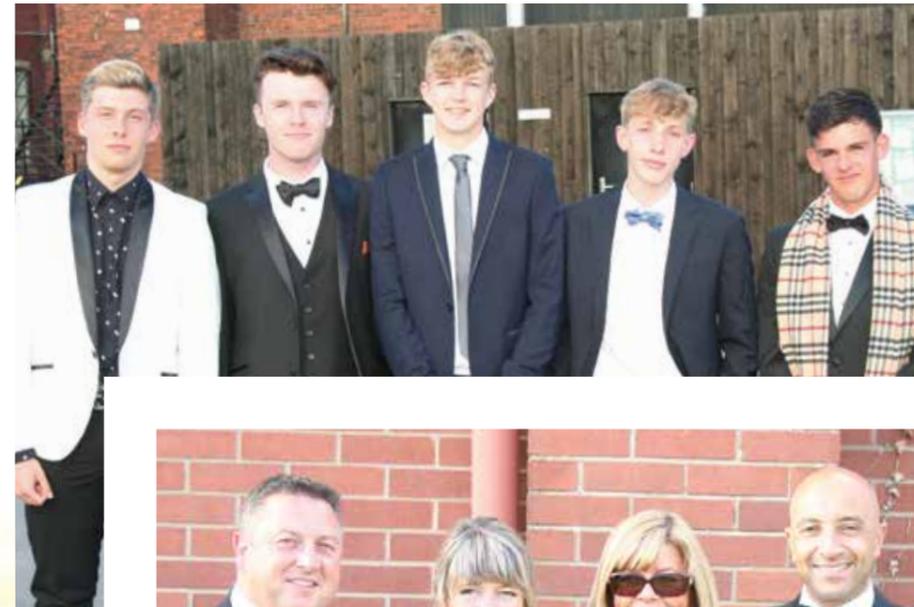
A strident and daring speech, brought to a close by the impending England-Sweden World Cup game!

The whole day was rounded off with a fantastic PFA Ball, commencing in the evening, where our Year 11 and Sixth Form pupils accredited themselves with great aplomb, dancing the night away to mark the beginning of their well-deserved post-exam break

Mark Voisey, Deputy Head



- Speeches were given by:**
- Peter Watt (Chair of Governors)
 - Mark Voisey (Outgoing Acting Head)
 - Head Boy (Sam Barrick in the Himalayas)
 - Head Girl (Elizabeth Townend present in the room)
 - Ruth Ainley (Incumbent Head)
 - Professor David Boggett (Guest Speaker)



The prize-giving service was a prolific celebration of the pupils' year, with over 50 different prizes given for pupils achieving in diverse areas around the school.

Creative Arts Competitions

To celebrate the 350 year celebrations the CA department ran 6 competitions. Each competition was open to different age categories with £100 prize money for the winner of each category Along with a £50 innovation prize.



1. There was a STEM competition to design, construct and test a model vehicle using a renewable power source, the vehicle that travelled the farthest was Sam Fildes with the innovation prize won by Miguel Rios.

2. The cooking challenge was to prepare, cook and serve a seasonal summer dish for two people. The winners were

- KS3 - Joint place - Ellie Harrison and Abi Broome
- Senior pupils - Celia Wu



3. Creative selfie winners were:

- Prep - Abigail Cheetham
- KS3 - Max Garland
- Senior pupils - Any McLellan

4. Beyoncelogue - Pupils recorded and submitted a performance of a 'Beyoncelogue' which is a dramatic reading of a well known song was won by Olivia Crossley from KS3 and Amy McLellan.

5. The parents photography competition with a theme of 'Strength' was won by Mrs Henry with a fabulous image of elephants taken when they were on holiday

6. The winners of the 350 primary school art competitions are:

- Lauren - Year 4 from Pollington Balne CofE school
- 2nd place was Ruby-Mae Slaytor



Christmas Fair

Business studies pupils joined forces with our Parents and Friends Association with fantastic ideas for stalls to support the annual Christmas Fair.

The stalls ranged from, Santa in the Grotto with his elves supporting him, organised by Spencer Smith and Zain Khan, who also took photos of the children with Santa as a keep sake. A nail bar run by Holly Kantecki, face painting by Abbie Senior and Jessica Lockie, supported by Diljit Singh and Owen Harker.

Guess the weight of the chicken was run by Mike Ou, Andy Zhang and Jack Ji. Hot chocolate drinks provided by Grace Handforth, Katie Watson and Annie Henry.

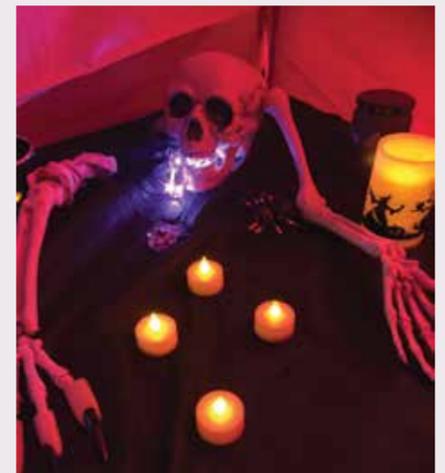
Ice creams were sold by James Field. Homemade cakes were made by Isla McLellan, Jessica Liddle and Honor Ratcliffe.

There was an indoor football game run by Alex Wilkinson and Will McLaughlan which was particularly popular with the Pre-Preps. In total the group raised nearly £300 for the PFA funds and enjoyed the experience of being entrepreneurial for the school.

Trish Kavanagh, Business Studies



In total the group raised nearly £300 for the PFA funds and enjoyed the experience of being entrepreneurial for the school.”



Halloween 2017

The evening was a resounding success and one that we hope to repeat next year!

Pupils were treated to a spooky halloween chamber which they had to weave their way through; spiders, cobwebs and skeletons were all hanging around in the dark dungeon.

Year 9 girls performed a fabulous dance routine which they had devised especially for the event.

The evening finished with a film showing of 'Sinister', along with an abundance of popcorn and drinks!



A student in a red and white checkered apron is stirring a large silver pot on a stove. The student is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing a kitchen setting. The text "Food Technology" is overlaid in a white, cursive font across the center of the image.

Food Technology

The Food Technology department continues to inspire pupils to new culinary heights. A sampling of our many events and initiatives from the past year is overleaf.



Christmas Bake Off

During the festive season we held a Christmas Bake off competition, pupils and parents were asked to make any six items with a Christmas theme. Items ranged from decorated biscuits, Christmas buns and bread. Entries ranged from prep children to staff and parents.



KS3 Vitamin & Mineral Dishes

The Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE course includes in depth knowledge about nutrients to help children understand about eating healthily, it also includes a three hour practical exam in which pupils can show off their making skills. To help pupils learn this we have started building it into key stage 3 schemes of learning.

Each year key stage 3 pupils have two blocks of time in the food department and during each block they complete a non-exam assessment (NEA) based on planning

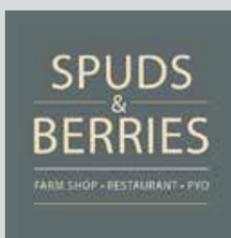


and making a nutritional meal. They focus on different nutrients each time.

As can be seen from the photos it has got off to a very good start and pupils will build up their knowledge as they progress.

Sarah Rothwell-Wood
Head of Creative Arts

Visit to the Farm shop 'Spuds & Berries'



Our Year 9 food preparation and nutrition pupils visited Spuds and Berries farm shop and spoke to the manager there, she was really helpful and explained the sorts of products that sell well and gave them the opportunity to see the kitchen and speak to the chefs. The winner was Daisy Heywood who made a selection of three cheese

balls with different flavours. The three flavours were; bacon, chilli and chive, and broccoli. She served the balls with three different sauces; banana ketchup, yogurt and mint sauce, and a chunky salsa. The new manager is not willing to run this year so watch out for our new challenge next year!





Year 11 - Food GCSE

This year was the first year of the new food preparation and nutrition GCSE across the country and our Year 11 pupils completed their first NEA's (Non-examination assessments).



I will really miss the group and thoroughly enjoyed teaching them due to their enthusiasm and positivity.

They put in significant effort and the GCSE results reflected this. There are too many pupils to mention individually but the food preparation practical exam was very strong, they prepared very well for it. The organisation and planning that went into this was outstanding and some of the skills shown in the final products was high including bread making and shaping, pastry making, fresh pasta and sauces, whisking, presenting.

The food science element was introduced at GCSE for this first

time this year so it was slightly more challenging. Pupils lower down the school have started learning this from KS3 so will have a more solid foundation. They still tried their best and everyone in the country is in the same position so I wish them good luck in their future cooking adventures, I will really miss the group and thoroughly enjoyed teaching them due to their enthusiasm and positivity.

Sarah Rothwell-Wood
Head of Creative Arts



Mothers' Day

In the Pre-Prep department, the young pupils had a busy week leading up to Mothers' Day, baking and preparing an afternoon tea for their Mums.

A lovely time was had by all, including our inspectors (who were visiting at the time) who were treated to the heart-warming sight

of Pre-Prep mums being waited on hand and foot by the little ones in recognition of the fact that mothers everywhere are brilliant!

A "Mini" Royal Wedding Tea Party



On Thursday 17 May, the Pre Prep department celebrated the Royal Wedding in true style.

Decorations and cakes were made and a delicious array of cakes and snacks were provided by our parents so we could hold an afternoon tea party. All the children dressed in red, white and blue. The parents joined us as we celebrated the upcoming Royal wedding. A fun afternoon was had by all.



A photograph of several students in a computer lab. They are wearing white shirts and ties, looking at their computer monitors. The background shows a green bulletin board with various notices and posters, including one that says 'THE IT EXPERTS'. The overall atmosphere is one of focused learning and collaboration.

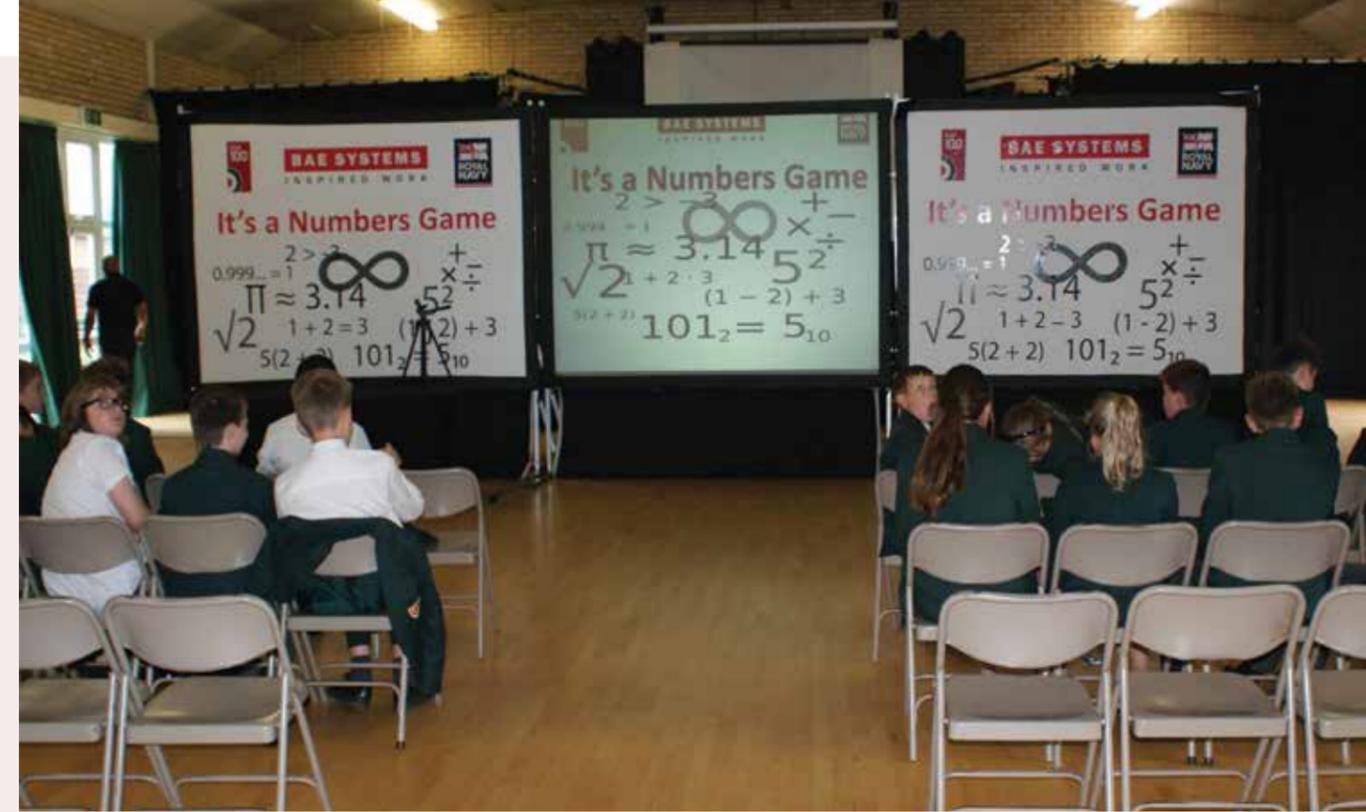
Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths

This last year has really put the notion of the cross-curricular nature of STEM firmly on the Read map. There have been a plethora of on-site activities and off-site trips which have allowed the scientifically inquisitive mind to think outside of the box to produce ideas, designs or even working models of techno-driven inventions to good use.

Casting in Design and Technology

Year 10 pupils practised casting pewter during their work about metals.

They used die casting having made a mould on the milling machine from MDF using CAD/AM and they try sand casting where the mould is made from compacted sand. Roy He in Year 11 designed and developed a lamp based around the Art Deco style with a pewter cast element using die casting. He achieved an A at GCSE as it was very skilled and he is currently studying for his A level design Technology course.



"It's a Numbers Game"

As part of a STEM workshop led by the RAF, the children were treated to a show and joined in Maths related fun and games.

Throughout the show students were introduced to a series of fun and fascinating ways in which Maths is used in everyday life, including examples of the practical application of mathematical techniques within BAE Systems, the RAF and the Royal Navy.



The presentation included the most up to date technologies to demonstrate the importance of Maths in the future of Engineering—the amazing robot MIA made an appearance to show off her mathematical genius and the developments in facial recognition technology were explored. Students were invited to participate in some of the demonstrations and problem-solving.

KS3 Maths Workshop Stacking Session

Year 8 pupils were visited by Joe Driscoll who is currently doing at PHD in Geometry at Leeds University.

After a brief talk about himself he set them the challenge of working out how far Jenga blocks can be stacked before falling. They started with 2 blocks and built up to 5 and were asked to spot patterns in their answers. I am pleased to report that a few of the groups rose to the task and found the pattern. Joe likend this with patterns found in musical chords and in nature.





Year 11 Design and Technology GCSE

Lamp Design

Roy, Eric, Jess and Owen are the last pupils to take the old 'Design Technology; Resistant Materials' exam, this will be 'Design Technology ; Product Design' from next year onwards. They each made a lamp based on the Art Deco design era for their coursework.



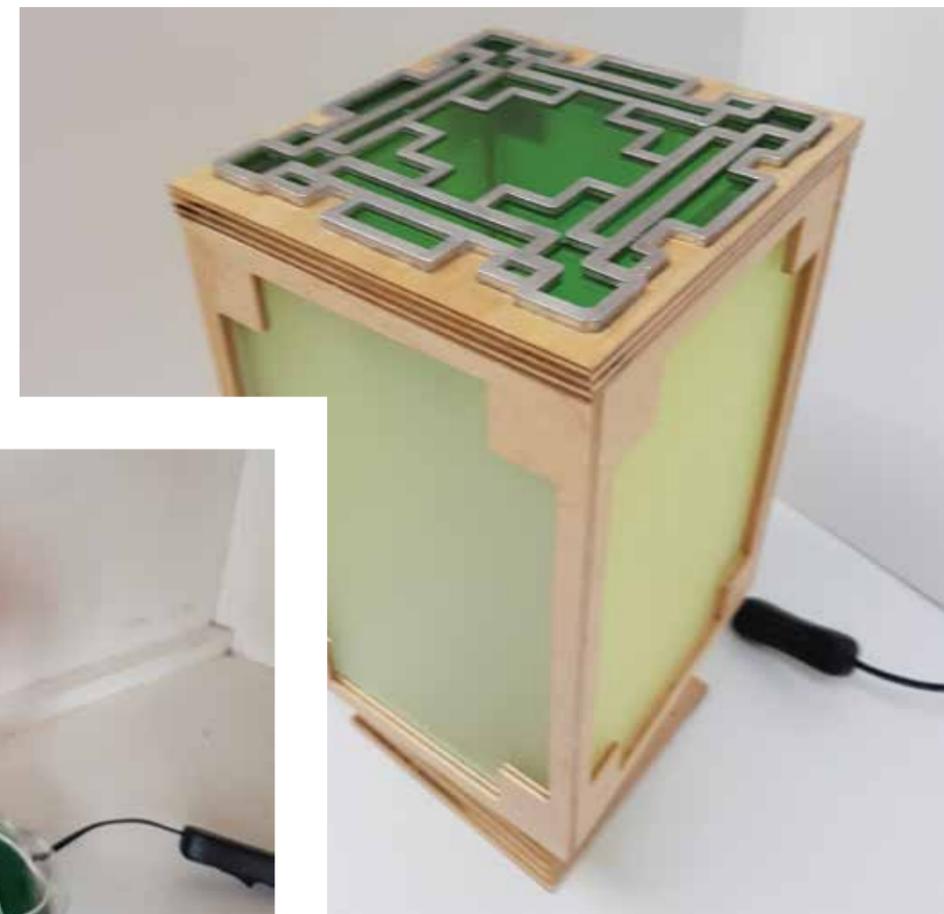
Croda Visit

On Thursday 19th April, a local chemical manufacturing company named Croda came to our school and taught us all about different ways to cool down an over-heating tank.

We got taught three different methods; they were air cooling, water cooling and pump cooling. We recorded the results down and then we showed them in a line graph! The most efficient method was the pump cooling, it was also my favourite! It involved water being pumped up into a pipe which flows around the outside of the tank and then gets pumped back into the river.

That way the water in the pipe is always cool. Everyone had a really good time and would love to do something similar in the future

Isobel Campbell-Baldwin



Jaguar Landrover Trip

Design technology and business studies pupils from years 9-13 were given the opportunity to visit Jaguar Land Rover in Solihull.



Part of the visit involved an off road driving experience on one of the oldest 4WD track in the world. Pupils were amazed by the terrain that the cars could venture through including driving through up to 700mm of water and tackling 32 degree slopes side on.

Then they visited the factories where they were impressed by the scale of production: a finished Land Rover comes off the production line every 1 min 18 seconds. Some areas looked futuristic with robots and automated stations. Each car is already bought and built to



customer specification and 80% are made for export to other markets.

A classroom STEM based session completed their visit. They had a hands on lean manufacturing challenge which they tackled in teams, and a design challenge.



Pupils were amazed by the terrain that the cars could venture through including driving through up to 700mm of water and tackling 32 degree slopes side on.



All pupils who attended learnt a great deal and the year 9 group came second in their category which was fantastic considering the size of it.

Rotary DT Competition: *Making a pulley system*

We entered three teams into an annual design technology competition run by the Rotary club. There are about 40 schools from across the area that take part.

Each team had to answer a practical DT problem requiring them to design, develop, build and test a model from the limited resources supplied. This year it involved pulleys, wheels, a motor, strips of wood, dowel, paper clips, string, cardboard, glue, elastic bands etc.

The results were assessed by a small panel of Rotarians and industrialists with backgrounds

in engineering, technology, enterprise and education and there will be many other schools competing.

The three groups we entered are shown below. All pupils who attended learnt a great deal and the year 9 group came second in their category which was fantastic considering the formidable competition.





Music and Performing Arts

We are extremely proud of our pupils' Performing Arts talents at Read School. Music, Drama & Dance play a key role in our pupils' personal development and the many performance events hosted in school last year provided opportunities for pupils to impress others with their abilities...

This year's production *'Annie'*

This year's production 'Annie' was chosen after a visit to a local amateur production with the then Year 10 drama group.



Pupils gave up a great deal of their own time every week and even Sundays through the snowy season, to be performance-ready in early February."

After seeing the script, we felt it would suit our current range of pupils and so a quest began to search for the cast, and rehearsals went on right through the autumn and into the winter. Pupils gave up a great deal of their own time every week, and even Sundays through the snowy season, to be performance-ready in early February. Also, for the first time we invited over 200 local primary school pupils to see the dress rehearsal – something we would like to do again.

Annie tells the story of a feisty 11-year-old who lives in an orphanage run by the mean-spirited Miss Hannigan. Annie is chosen to spend Christmas with millionaire

Oliver Warbucks and soon an unlikely but firm friendship develops between the pair. Warbucks endeavours to find Annie's parents, but after Miss Hannigan and her brother Rooster's attempts to claim Warbucks's reward money fraudulently, it is discovered that Annie's parents have passed away. Warbucks finally adopts Annie, and as in all good stories, they live happily ever after.

The role of Annie was played by Olivia Crossley who rose admirably to the challenge of this demanding role. Luckily, Olivia had a family member to keep her company on stage as Teddy her dog had arguably the cutest role on stage – that of Sandy, the stray who Annie claims



as her own. Olivia's performance of 'Tomorrow' with Teddy, and her song 'Maybe' showed she is a young performer with much talent who we look forward to seeing again as she moves through the school.

Annie's orphan friends were supportive in their acting, singing and dancing in numbers such as 'Hard Knock Life' and 'Fully Dressed' where their tricks and bad behaviour towards Miss Hannigan were the source of much humour.

The dreadful Miss Hannigan was played by Evangaline Barnby whose shrieking and gin-swigging had the audience enthralled. Her highlights included 'Little Girls' and 'Easy Street' together with Ben Abrams as the super smooth Rooster Hannigan and his less than bright girlfriend Lily St Regis played by Anya MacAvoy. Their dance routine in 'Easy Street' was a great set piece and the audience were highly amused by their exaggerated comic moves.

The role of Daddy Warbucks was played by Filippo Gerosa who did a wonderful job of playing the millionaire business man who eventually falls for his secretary Grace, played assuredly by Amy McLellan. Filippo, Amy and

Olivia showed their singing and dancing skills throughout the show, ably supported by the chorus which for the second year running included a number of Read staff. Staff members were also involved in the cabinet scene, both acting and singing the reprise of 'Tomorrow' beautifully.

Opening act two, the radio station scene saw supporting roles for Tom Scholefield as Bert Heeley, Joe Scholefield as Fred McCracken (and Wacky) and Flynn Kelly as the sound effects man. In addition, Francesca Turton, Abbie Senior and Isla McLellan played the lovely Boylan Sisters in one of the best-known songs 'Full Dressed'.

In all a fabulous time was had by all and it was impressive to see so many of our pupils involved in the production both on stage and behind the scenes. It is not just performance and social skills our pupils take away with them though – there are lots of wonderful memories too.

Congratulations to Evangaline for achieving an impressive grade 9 (A*) and to all of our GCSE drama pupils for their excellent results this summer.

**Belinda Maunsell,
Head of Drama**





On Friday 23 June, we were treated to a musical and dramatic extravaganza. This was an opportunity for some of our older musicians and dramatists to perform for the final time, although many younger pupils also participated. There was so much talent throughout the evening, and many performers (and audience members!) shed a nostalgic tear.

It was a fitting way to celebrate the achievements of the older pupils, as well as showing the potential of the younger pupils at Read.

**Helen Crompton,
Head of Music**



An Evening of *Music and Drama*



Theatre Visit *Guys & Dolls*

This year, a new Music Society has been introduced to encourage pupils to experience a variety of professional music-making across Yorkshire and beyond. So far we have seen 'Guys and Dolls' at York Theatre Royal, and 'Wicked' at Leeds Grand Theatre. We are looking forward to our next visit – to see 'The Nutcracker' at Hull New Theatre in November.



There was so much talent throughout the evening, and many performers (and audience members!) shed a nostalgic tear."



Prep School Production *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

The weeks and weeks of rehearsals culminated in two magnificent performances by the Prep School children.

Every member of the Prep School took part on stage whether they were one of the starring roles or were performing a dance or song. Lizzy Nield was simply dazzling as Willy Wonka – her comic timing and expression were faultless and she had the audience in stitches, at just eleven years old. Isaac Stephens played Charlie Bucket superbly and the audience were delighted when he was rewarded with becoming

the owner of the chocolate factory at the end. It wasn't just 'pure imagination' after all!

The spoiled Veruca Salt was captured to a tee by Mary Couch, who couldn't be more dissimilar in reality! The gum-chewing Violet Beauregarde was played excellently by Ella Frost, whose jaw must've been aching by the end. The other two golden ticket winners, Augustus

Gloop and Mike Teavee were played confidently and comically by Jay McHale and Alex Love, who had interpreted the characters brilliantly.

At regular intervals we were sung to by our fabulous Oompa Loompas, aka the Year 3 & 4 children. The orange face paint still lingered the day after the final performance!

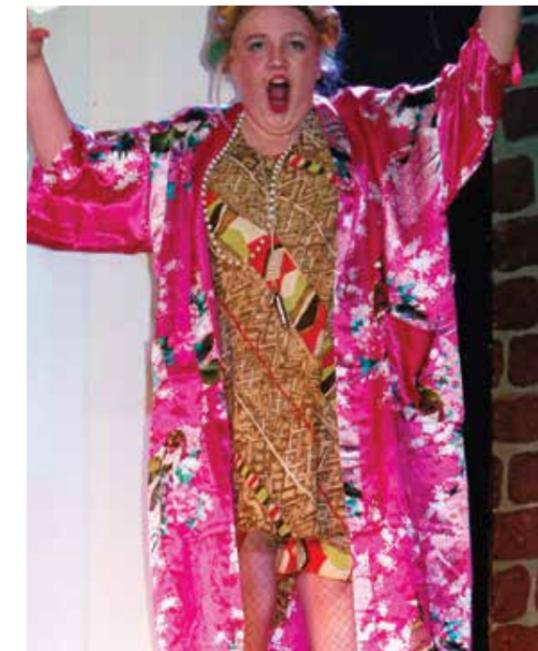
It is difficult to give enough praise to all of the children in a report such as this, but we were incredibly proud of each and every one of them. There were many, many lines to learn in some cases, song lyrics to learn for everyone, numerous stage directions to remember, yet it all came together wonderfully well. This was a real team effort from the children, staff and parents and thanks must go to everyone who helped.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was the main topic of conversation for weeks around the school and it was certainly one of the highlights of our year. A hard act to follow, but we'll soon be getting to work on next year's production! Watch this space!

Rachel Wake



Lizzy Nield was simply dazzling as Willy Wonka – her comic timing and expressions were faultless”



Sport

Another impressive year of sport for Read pupils throughout all sections of the school and a wide array of sporting talent continues to be displayed by our pupils inside and outside school.

Girls Sport

Netball Season

Under 13's

The early part of the season was about getting into the swing of things and finding their feet on the court in terms of positional play, as well as ascertaining the best positions for each pupil as part of the team. We had some very close battles with schools such as Silcoates, Pocklington and Ackworth. However, the second half term was a different ball game (not literally!). The girls had put in

the work and were ready to take to the court with some fire in them. We had a particularly good win against Fulneck where Jess Henry and Kaela Abrams worked tremendously hard to feed the ball through to the shooters of Isobel Campbell-Baldwin and Martha Love to secure eight goals. The defence of Lily Handforth and Emily Crossley also had their work cut out in trying to prevent shots on goal, their valuable interceptions were crucial. Furthermore,

Charlotte Fildes, Emily King and Lexie Maw worked tirelessly in the mid-court to turn over possession. The final score was a close 8-7 victory. The girls have grown as a team and their commitment to fixtures has been outstanding.

Coach's Player of the Season:
Isobel Campbell-Baldwin

Most Improved Player of the Season: *Lexie Maw*



The U14/U15

The U14/U15 team has had a mixture of results this term. They had a fantastic match against Snaith School, Ackworth and Fulneck, securing victory which was great to see. There have been many options within the squad and it has been good to see them taking their tactics to a higher level. The girls are now reading the game much quicker and they are able to implement more advanced strategies in defence so that it is harder for the opposition to maintain possession. Evie Harness, Gabriella Athraby, Jess Lockie and Isla McLellan have shown so much progress in blocking and jumping for rebounds. Abi Senior, Polly Brooks and Anya McAvoy have become more consistent in their shooting and there have been various options in the mid-court to allow for the transition of the ball through the thirds. This has been facilitated by Georgia Beaumont, Lorna Inglis, Holly Langdale, Jess Ratcliffe, Ellie Harrison, Daisy Heywood and

Olivia Crossley in rotation. Overall it has been a pleasing term with many successes.

Coach's Player of the Season:
Georgia Beaumont/Gabriella Athraby

Most Improved Player of the Season: *Jess Lockie*

1st

These girls have grown to be a formidable team with pure determination and commitment to fixtures. Their performance on the court is great to see and if you did not get chance to see them play, you have missed out. Each and every one of these girls have made progress in some respect, Alex Collinson (team captain) has done an exceptional job of leading her team and encouraging them to do well. She, along with Katie Watson, have been consistent in their shooting, contributing to team success against many schools such as, The Mount, Ackworth

and Pocklington School. Amy Lister, Anya McAvoy, Holly Langdale, Honor Ratcliffe, Catherine Whitworth and Annie Henry have been the core part of the team, linking attack and defence so that the circle can be fed for shooting opportunities. Finally, last but not least, Lucy Barrick and Grace Handforth have been fully immersed in the games, anticipating, influencing and essentially regaining control so that we can reset play in order to counterattack. Everyone has their part to play and these girls will be sorely missed. We will still see a few of them in the 1st team next year, but to those who are moving on, well done in what you have achieved at Read School in sport. I have enjoyed working with you and hope that you will strive to achieve what you set your mind to in the future. Well done.

Coach's Player of the Season:
Alex Collinson

Most Improved Player of the Season: *Annie Henry*

Sue Prosser,
Head of Girls' Sport



Amazing results from the girls, they should be proud of their achievements this term."



Read Oxford Student Delivers Third Killer Blow in a Row in Varsity Cup Match

A word on one of our ex-pupils Megan Hughes, who has been making the headlines through both her academic and sporting prowess. Even making the hockey team for Oxford University is an elite achievement, but captaining it? And to three successive victories against Cambridge for a hat trick of straight varsity wins? It doesn't get any better than that! A 2-1 win against Cambridge in early March sealed the deal.



Rounders Season

Under 13's

It has been a great rounders season with lots of sunshine so our fixtures have been in full swing. The U13 team have made so much progress in their batting and fielding throughout the term and they are starting to show a higher level of tactical awareness. We have had an impressive combination of back-stop and 1st Base in Jess Henry and Lexie Maw. Isobel Campbell-Baldwin has become consistent with her bowling and she is able to read where to go on the pitch in order to prevent half rounders from being scored. The fielders have been sharp to retrieve the ball and have consisted of a combination of Emily Crossley, Emily King, Kaela Abrams, Charlotte Fildes and Lily Handforth. We have also had Mary Couch and Ella Frost playing up on numerous occasions and they have held their own.

There have been some close scoring matches and one that stands out was against Fulneck School where all of the team started to hit well and apply the strategies they have been taught. They also had an incredible match in their final game against Silcoates School. There have been a number of wins and also a few that have not gone our way, but it is obvious that the girls have taken so much away from these games.

Coach's Player of the Season:
Lily Handforth

Most Improved Player of the Season:
Emily King



The U14/U15

The girls have had a great season of matches, often playing against schools that are much bigger than ours. We have had a number of girls playing in the squad depending on the priority of the age group for the fixture. They had a great win against Scarborough College in the first half of the term; finishing with a 13-8.5 victory. There have been some really committed girls who have played every single match which is pleasing to see. The final match was against Silcoates School and they played to a level of determination that I have never seen. Their teamwork and communication was fantastic and they secured a victory in the closing minutes of the match. It was great to see them all hitting the ball with confidence and this resulted in a score of 20.5-17.5. Amazing results from the girls, they should be proud of their achievements this term.

Coach's Player of the Season:
Gabriella Athraby

Most Improved Player of the Season:
Evie Harness



The final match was against Silcoates School and they played to a level of determination that I have never seen."



The sun shone brightly on our little stars who all performed brilliantly and showed a great deal of skill and sportsmanship in a variety of competitive races.”



Pre-Prep Sports Day

The children in Pre-Prep and Pre-School had a wonderful sports day.

The sun shone brightly on our little stars who all performed brilliantly and showed a great deal of skill and sportsmanship in a variety of competitive races.

These included running, skipping, bean bag balance, egg and spoon, bouncy hopper and some relay skills races.

We were very proud of the way our older children looked after our youngest. Afterwards the children enjoyed juice and ice lollies kindly provided by our catering staff. A lovely afternoon for children, staff, parents and visitors.

**Caroline Wynne,
Deputy of Junior School**



Afterwards the children enjoyed juice and ice lollies kindly provided by our catering staff. A lovely afternoon for children, staff, parents and visitors.”



Prep School Sports Day



The pupils donned their caps, slapped on the sunscreen and ensured their water bottles were topped up for this summers sweltering sports day extravaganza!



Once again, it was another busy afternoon of skills and races as all 5 groups of athletes competed against each other in a wide variety of activities. As always, each pupil was aiming to gather points for their respective house in a bid to claim the house winners trophy.

So what activities did they compete in? On the track, there were a mix of short distance sprints and a gruelling, energy sapping 800m steeplechase. The field events were a little less sweaty as the ball throw (for distance), target throw (for accuracy), rebounder and netball (for catching/shooting) and obstacle run posed different challenges.

The 400m house relay brought an exciting finish between all 3 house teams in the penultimate race of the day before an entertaining afternoon was brought to an end with the parents and staff relay - narrowly won by the staff foursome, helped by a couple of pupil additions!

Once the scores had been totted up, Phoenix emerged victorious with a grand total of 1423 points, seeing off the challenge of Dragon on 1307 points and Unicorn on 1068 points. Well done to all competitors for their effort in such sizzling conditions.



Well done to all competitors for their effort in such sizzling conditions.”

Netball Ladies report

After successfully surviving one season in Division 3 of the York and District Netball League, our mission for this season, was to finish in the top two places, in the hope we would be promoted to Division 2!



Back row from left to right: Alice Campbell-Wood, Sue Prosser, Ellen Chantry, Isla Macpherson, Frances Lindley,
Front row from left to right: Nikki Newsom, Annie Henry, Alex Collinson, Clare Harrison,

Some might think that this was rather an ambitious goal but considering Read School Ladies, year in and year out, have successfully climbed the division ladder, this did seem attainable.

We performed consistently well throughout the season with a number of notable performances. Our local derby against Hemingbrough Hawks resulted in a 60 v 37 victory.

Sherburn All Stars, our other local rivals, proved to be a closer match but we still came away victorious with a winning score of 36 v 25.

It was a nail biting last game of the season against Haxby as we had to win the match to secure promotion to Division 2. It was close but we showed grit and determination and each and every one of us gave 100% which enabled us to beat Haxby by just one goal! The final score was Read 36 v Haxby 35!

We had succeeded in our mission - Read School Ladies will be starting the September 2018/2019 season in Division 2 of the York and District League.

Home games will be played at Read School in the sports hall - fixtures will be posted on the Read School Facebook page at the start of the season. All supporters are welcome!

Alice Campbell-Wood

Ella's Sport Award

Ella completed her full Pentathlon at National level this summer and out of 11 competitors in her U13 grouping, Ella was placed 5th. A fantastic achievement for someone who was just there for the experience!

As the Draxonian has gone to press, we are proud to announce that Ella has competed as part of the GB team in the Laser Run competition.





Senior Sports Day

It was a glorious day for some athletics action for Sports Day this year.

This was a much welcome change on previous years, where we have had to battle the elements, although it was to the other extreme with scorching temperatures. There was an excellent level of participation from all the pupils and it was evident that there was some healthy competition between the three houses of Dragon, Unicorn and Phoenix.

The field and track events ran simultaneously and everyone was encouraged to try their best, with everyone being rewarded with points for their House for taking part.

There was a wonderful turn out of parents who came to support, not only their own children, but everyone who was taking part.

The atmosphere was particularly positive with encouraging cheers as pupils crossed the finish line. Those pupils who find some events challenging persevered and it was great to see others pulling together to support each other.

We would like to thank the pupils for their determination, parents for their continued support and the staff and others for their help in making the day a success.



There was some healthy competition between the three houses of Dragon, Unicorn and Phoenix.”

Overall Results

Unicorn 1st

Phoenix 2nd

Dragon 3rd

Individual results, the best all round performing pupils in all 6 events 100m, 400m, 800m, Javelin, Shot putt and Standing long jump gaining the best score.

Year 7

Emily King & Roman Collinson

Year 8

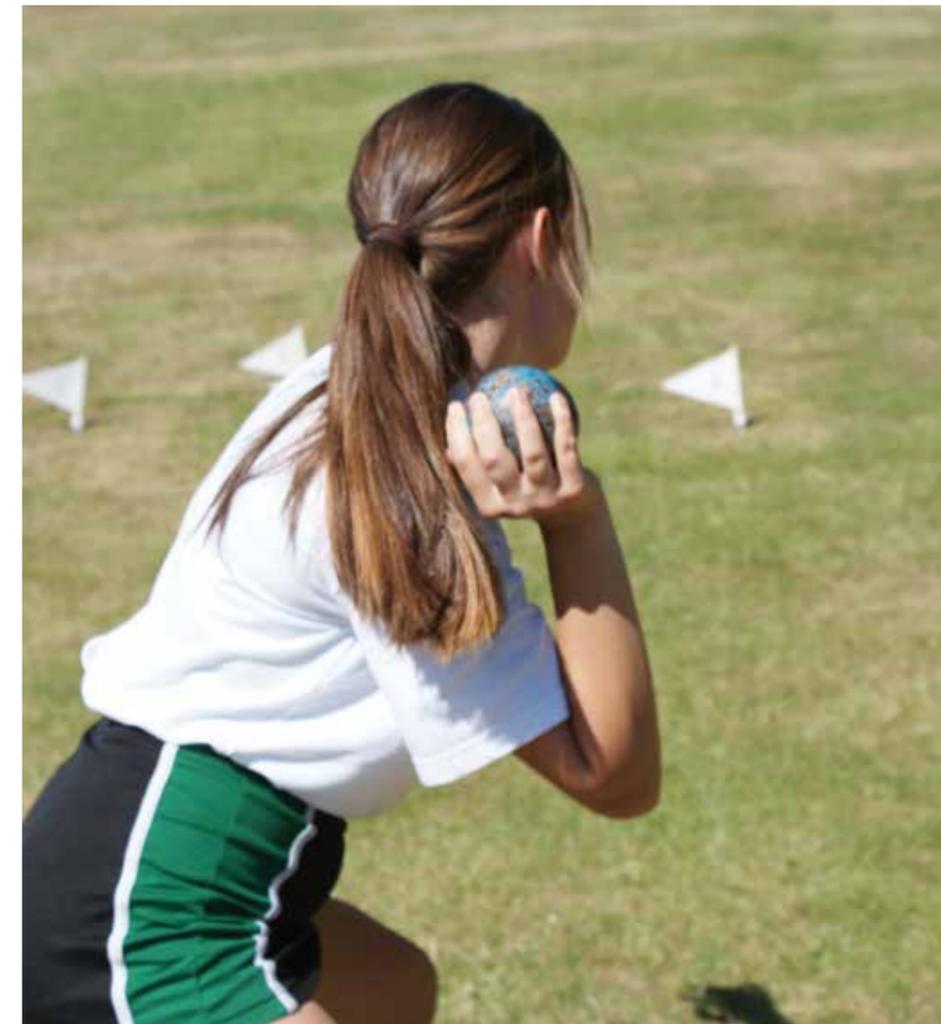
Lily Handforth & Ethan Kaye

Year 9

Amy McGill & Tom Scholefield

Year 10

Holly Langdale & Alex Wilkinson



The school teams played numerous fixtures during the Autumn term against the following opposition, Hull Collegiate, Fulneck, Scarborough College, Hipperholme Grammar, The Minster, Silcoates and Hill House. In summary it proved to be tough season.

Rugby Season Review



Under 13's

The U13 team have a handful of nice players who have excellent handling skills and this was evident when we did manage to get the ball into wide positions on the field; however as is often the case with school boy rugby if you cannot handle the physical side of the game score lines can easily slip away. We were a young team this year with the majority of our team made up of year 7's, so I am hopeful next season will prove more successful as we should be able to match other teams

physically. Roman Collinson, Joe Scholefield, Noah Athraby and Ethan Kaye played well all season and provided some stability for others to work around them. The U15 team have a really solid core of year 9 pupils who in addition to playing for school represent Selby RUFC; they are developing into really confident, skillful players. U15 rugby is not easy, all too often we came up against some extremely physical sides and whilst our boys were brave and tried their best, basic laws of physics prevail and the bigger;



more powerful boys tend to run the show; we seemed to be on the receiving side of mismatched physical encounters frequently this season. The U15 team always played with commitment and they are starting to play with a greater understanding and make good decisions, we scored some excellent tries when we moved the ball wide and could utilise our pace. Consistent performers all year were Ben Abrams, Tom Scholefield, Eddie Liddle, Max Hammell, Spencer Smith and Will McLaughlan.

Well done boys for grasping the opportunity to play sport at Read. Thank you to John Matthews for his match day coaching help and to Kevin Weston for refereeing.

Strong links with Selby Rugby Club continue

Read School is proud of its longstanding association with Selby Rugby Club where a good many of our pupils, boys and girls play regularly. We were pleased to sponsor last year's Minis tournament and many of our (then) Year 9 pupils won team of the year as the Selby

U14's as was (now U15) after a good season of reaching the Yorkshire Bowl final for the 2nd consecutive year.

Pictured above, Tom Scholefield, Ben Abrams, Eddie Liddle, Oliver Sowersby with their Selby RUFC teammates.



U15 team always played with commitment... well done boys for grasping the opportunity to play sport at Read."



Our Read School Equestrian Team is growing from strength to strength and we are very excited and enthusiastic about the year ahead!"

The Read School Equestrian Team

Back in February 2018, Mrs Julie Frost, with a daughter in Year 6, was sent a schedule for an upcoming 'Boarding Schools Show Jumping Competition' and asked school if any other student horse riders might be interested in forming a team to represent Read.



There was not a lot of preparation time before the first competition, which took place at Northallerton Equestrian Centre on the 28th March. A team consisting of Ella Frost (year 6), Sally Featherstone (year 6), Emily Crossley (year 8), Imogen Lockie (year 8) and Jess Lockie (year 10) all show jumped for the team and rode amazingly well, coming home with lots of rosettes and making it a very proud and successful day!

Perhaps best of all, the girls formed a bond that day and all stated that they wanted to do more as a riding team in future.

This led to further research by Mrs Frost, who worked with school to join the National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) and volunteered herself as NSEA Read School Team Manager.

Despite joining so late into the NSEA calendar, which runs September to August, the girls still managed to compete at two further competitions, including a Mixed Team Show Jumping at Epworth Equestrian Centre on the 28th April and Team Dressage at Epworth on 13th May.

All shows attended so far have led to placings and rosettes for the girls. It is evident that our young team are ambitious and capable of much success in the future.

NSEA membership has opened the team to a whole host of exciting shows (including Show jumping, Dressage and Eventing) against many other school teams in the area, and at various venues and locations.

Although the Read School Equestrian team is still in its infancy, we are proud to announce that from September 2018, the team have goals and targets in place, based on opportunities to qualify for prestigious national championships, such as: -

- The Grassroots Series leading to various regional and national championships which take place in winter
- The Regional Points League (RPL) in which accumulated points lead to awards given at the National Schools Championships in October
- County Challenge Qualifiers (CchQ) for the National County Championships
- National Championship Qualifiers (CHQ) for the National Schools Championships

Moreover, from September this year, the Read School Equestrian Team has been split into two teams – a Senior Team and a Junior Team.

We are delighted to welcome our new junior team members consisting of Lucy Platt (year 3), Isaac Tupper (year 4), Thomas Haigh (year 3), Izzy Haigh (year 4) and Farrah-May Barker (year 3).

The junior team met for training practice over the summer holidays, in preparation for their first show on 14th October and there is current discussion about hiring a Team Coach to support and grow our youngest riders into a solid and capable riding team.

We are also discussing further team kit and school have kindly offered to sponsor team show jackets for the upcoming season embroidered with the Read School crest.

Overall, our Read School Equestrian Team is growing from strength to strength and we are very excited and enthusiastic about the year ahead!

If any other riders wish to join us, please express your interest to enquiries@readschool.co.uk in the first instance.

Julie Frost
(Parent of Ella Frost)





Probably fair to say that the school bowlers had never faced such an onslaught.”

Draxonian Cricket

The annual Cricket match between the school and the Draxonian Association took place on the school front field on the evening preceding Commemoration Day. It was a wonderful Summer evening, before the intense temperatures of late July and was enjoyed by everyone who participated.

The Draxonian side won the toss and elected to bat. The sight of Mark Holmes and Adam Thornton walking out to open the batting must have sent shivers down the school team's spine, and had it not been for the rule that each batsman must retire at 30, the game would have been over in the first 5 overs. Thornton and Holmes both scored 30 in double quick time and it is probably fair to say that the school bowlers had never faced such an onslaught.

After their retirement, the game became more of a contest, with wickets falling at regular intervals. Special mention must be made of Will McLaughlan whose bowling figures of 4 overs, 1 maiden, 7 runs, 3 wickets would stand up to scrutiny in any class of cricket.

Mark Holmes returned when all his team mates were out to complete his 50 with a towering 6, and the Draxonian side finished with a score of 140 in their 20 overs.

The school XI struggled at the start of the innings, and it was not until Ollie Weston came in that stability was restored and he managed to accumulate a grand total of 53, before being bowled by Sean Lyons. Special mention must go to Zac Thornton (aged 6) who managed to take a wicket in his first ever game.

The match ended with the school scoring 98, meaning the Draxonian side won comfortably, but more importantly a wonderful evening was had by all concerned.



Special mention must go to Zac Thornton, aged 6, who managed to take a wicket in his first ever game”

Draxonians: Adam Thornton, Mark Holmes, Matthew Torn, Phil Hammill, Chris Woodall, Chris Hammill, Hannah Buck, Peter Watt, Steve Woodall, James Abrams and Sean Lyons.

School: Diljit Singh, Will McLaughlan, Matthew Harrison, Nick Reed, Ollie Weston, Edward Woodward, Paul Woodhead, Harry Woodall, Mark Voisey and Ian Chilvers.





PFA Golf Championship

The inaugural PFA golf championship turned out to be a great day that we'll definitely be repeating.

Almost a clean sweep of the trophies for the Nield family with dad John taking the title of overall champion and more impressively young Robert winning the nearest the pin competition beating all the adults from the same tee!

Guest Gareth Holdsworth won the

longest drive and Craig Kavanagh the unlucky runner up missing out by just one point.

A massive thank you to Fairfax Plant Hire and to Mr C's for providing some great prizes.

Ian Fairhurst, PFA



Young Robert won the nearest the pin competition beating all the adults from the same tee!"



Mothers and Daughters

Rounders

The annual mothers and daughters rounders tournament was a success and we had our highest number of entries yet.

At the annual mothers and daughters rounders tournament we had our highest number of entries yet. It was great to see pupils from Year 2 through to Year 11 playing together and all the games were very closely contested. The Prep and Pre-Prep mums were looking strong and like they were going to take

the title, but one of the girls' teams picked up the pace and it meant we had a count back to rounders scored. The final result left the daughters on top and victorious! It was a lovely afternoon and we hope to see even more faces next year.

Sue Prosser



It was a lovely afternoon and we hope to see even more faces next year."



A lovely hot day for both teams. The ladies put the pressure on when they are in bat, making sure the game is competitive!





Trips & Expeditions

Learning outside the classroom via school trips has long been a core part of the Read curriculum. Read pupils have again seized the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational visits to all corners of the globe.

World Challenge India Expedition

At the end of the summer term 13 pupils travelled to India on the trip of a lifetime; it represented the culmination of two years fundraising, planning and training, to say we were excited would be a huge understatement.



Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment. Full effort is full victory.”

Mahatma Gandhi

After 3 flights and a 12 hour bus journey we checked into our first hostel in the northern town on Manali. Pupils were given specific responsibilities and spent the next two days in Manali changing Dollars into Indian Rupees, working out budgets, booking accommodation, booking excursions, planning and booking transportation and getting a flavour of life in India. An early morning start saw us load 4 jeeps and begin the 12 hour journey; crossing the Rohtang Pass (3978m) and driving to the start of the trek in Kaza. The drive was incredible and really set the theme for the next two weeks. Against a huge back drop of the mountains we

spent our first night in our tents. The pupils had selected a really challenging trek, 14 days, 140k, sleeping regularly at altitudes of 4200m and crossing the Bhawa Pass through the snow at 4890m, it was certainly going to be a challenge.

The trek was an absolutely amazing experience. Our longest day walking was 9 1/2 hours, 3 days we made vertical ascents of 800m or more, 6 nights were spent sleeping at 4000m or higher and everyday the routine of making and breaking camp, purifying water, eating enough calories and preparing equipment for the day ahead was done with great success.



We picked up 3 stray dogs; the most resistant being 'Ginger' who after raiding a couple of tents cookie stash, swam across the river to join us after we took the trolley slide crossing and then he crossed the Glacial Pass at 4890m! A couple of members of the team wanted to adopt him, alas the prospect of even a friendly rabies infected 'nip' meant he was always at arms length. Tiger (our local trekking guide) his team of cooks and the donkey men were incredibly supportive and amazed us with their cooking abilities. On the final night they managed to cook a chocolate cake, pizza's and pasta, a welcome change from some very tasty curries, noodles, dhal, breads and rice dishes; for those prepared to experiment and get stuck in we certainly didn't go hungry. On the two rest days some fun cricket was played with a cleverly manufactured bat made from walking poles and a piece of discarded wood. Although we gave a good account of ourselves I think the boys from Manali just about snuck a win. Katie won the inaugural Himalaya Garden Golf Tournament by 3 shots, with score keeper Jake issuing Mr Hill a hefty fine of 200 rupees for golf club abuse. Much to the

amusement of the boys, Anna (our World Challenge Mountain Leader) and some local children some of the girls even managed to continue their extensive skin treatment routine with a couple of face masks. There were dark times on the trek for nearly everybody, altitude sickness, tonsillitis, sun burn, blisters and general fatigue; however great achievements usually come with great suffering, and all managed to dig deep and find coping strategies to get them through the hardest days. The scenery was simply breathtaking. We went through lush river valleys, dry and dusty canyons, scree covered slopes and skirted through the snow along the base of the glacier at 4890m. All this was against a back drop of mountains rising to 6000m around us. We star gazed at the brightest Milky Way any of us had ever seen and became experts in the art of digging our 'poo' toilet hole and constructing a rock toilet seat platform. As we completed our final few kilometres the boys hearts were broken when we learned that England had been knocked out of the World Cup in the semifinals, it wasn't coming home. Arriving in Kafnu half way into our 4 week adventure we had completed the

trek phase. Relief was evident in most of the groups faces, but there was also excitement, the rest and relaxation phase was about to begin and it would start with an overnight stay in a nice hotel in Rampur and a much needed hot shower.

We departed Rampur and drove to Shimla where the group had chosen to spend a few days recovering and seeing the sights of this interesting town. The accommodation group had decided to go under budget with our accommodation to allow them a bigger budget for a really posh hotel in Agra.



We went through lush river valleys, dry and dusty canyons, scree covered slopes and skirted through the snow along the base of the glacier at 4890m.”



As the team missed the school's annual summer ball, the boys decided to recreate the event in India.



Although very basic the Blue Diamond hostel was adequate even with the bucket showers, a good decision. Shimla was the location for the English governors, generals and viceroy's during the summer months up until 1947 when India gained independence and the English walked away. It was an interesting town in the hills with much to explore. The group explored the markets, the boys shopped for smart Indian suits and the girls purchased Indian Elephant pants and souvenirs. We visited the Viceroys Palace and ate some great curries in small street side restaurants. After three days exploring Shimla we became used to the street monkeys, street sellers and mass of people but it was time to move on. Bodies and clothes cleaned we took a 5 hour bus journey to the train station ready for the 16 hour overnight sleeper train to Jodhpur.

For some of the group the few hours spent at the train station watching the rats scurrying on the tracks, watching the locals cross the train lines, eating train station curry and watching the hundreds of locals waiting for their trains was a highlight; for some it was their worst nightmare! The sleeper train proved to be a lot of fun, a narrow platform for a bed, 8 in a carriage, on 3 levels was certainly another

expedition first. Luckily we did get some sleep and soon we were grabbing back packs ready for our arrival in Jodhpur.

Jodhpur was the location for the project phase of the expedition. We stayed in a really comfortable guest house run by the wife of the Sambhali Trust Founder, Govind Singh Rathore. The Sambhali Trust set up and run houses for girls and orphans and Empowerment Centres for women from underprivileged or outcaste backgrounds, they are a Non Government Organisation doing amazing things in this city. Our short stay certainly had an impact on everybody in the group as we learnt about the work of the trust and the problems the women and girls have in the Indian Society and Culture. We soon got to work in the newly acquired girls home, filling cracked plaster, cleaning down walls and painting the inside of their home bright colours. On day two and three the artists in the group added some lovely murals and quotes to the newly painted walls and the less artistic attacked the roof terrace area, painting and brightening up this area where the girls dance and play. We spent a really fulfilling evening with the 20 girls handing out small gifts and playing games with them, dancing and drawing with them; later that evening the 'House Mother's'



“The sleeper train proved to be a lot of fun, a narrow platform for a bed, 8 in a carriage, on 3 levels was certainly another expedition first.”

cooked us a delightful curry, rice and breads. We said our good byes and left the house knowing we had brought additional smiles and happiness to the girls who live there and also our financial contribution will add additional certainty to the trusts future.

Our final destination was Agra, but first a 5 hour train journey and a 5 hour bus ride; India is such a huge place and we had barely scratched



the surface of Northern India, yet it seemed like we were always travelling vast distances.

The accommodation girls had done well, The Grand Maple Hotel was our best accommodation to date. Those of the group who weren't suffering from "Delhi Belly" really appreciated the luxury; unfortunately they were in a minority and the Imodium tablets were in high demand. Braving the monsoon rain and clutching toilet rolls we headed to the Taj Mahal. Even in rainy conditions this really is an impressive place. Our guide explained the story behind its construction and we wandered around taking photos and viewing the amazing architecture. Agra Fort was next on the agenda for some of the group, another impressive sight, home of the Mughal Dynasty, the Emperors of India. On the final evening we reviewed our experience, chatted,

looked at some photos from the trek and packed our backpacks one last time. Before heading to Delhi airport we stopped off at an Elephant Sanctuary. The Sanctuary save Elephants that are being abused by their owners; the elephants might be held for use in temples, street performances or the circus, whatever their use they've all had horrific experiences and treatments from the people who poached them, tortured them and owned them. It was heart breaking to hear the stories and see the behaviour brought about by the physical and psychological abuse; however they are now safe and on a road to recovery and a new life. Unfortunately these Elephants will never return to the wild, but the Sanctuary do as much as possible to create a better place for them. We brought t shirts and souvenirs and were pleased to be able to financially support another amazing place and group of volunteers.

Our final curry meal was taken on route to Delhi airport, for some it was a curry too far and the most they could manage was a nan bread, for others curries back home just won't be the same. The Expedition came to an end in Leeds Bradford Airport with some happy reunions with family members; however I am sure the experiences and memories will remain with the group for many months and years to come. For all the group this really was a once in a lifetime experience; for some they may never return to India, for some the travelling, exploring fuse has been lit. I hope for all they will reflect on an amazing expedition and go forward in their lives stronger and more prepared as a result of this experience. Thank you team for making it such a memorable expedition.

Mr Garrard and Mr Hill



History and Languages

Normandy Trip

This year's cultural visit for Key Stage 3 and Languages students was to the Normandy region of France. After a mammoth 14 hour journey including only just managing to make the ferry with literally minutes to spare, we settled into our hotel exhausted but ready to see what the region had in store.

The first day started with a spectrum of emotions, a rather subdued yet educational morning visiting Arranches and the American Cemetery with time for some quiet reflection, the town of Arranches des Bains is more commonly known as Gold Beach, one of the landing sites of D-day. The afternoon provided some light relief with a trip to a cider farm followed by a swim for years 7&8 while 9&10 visited the shops.

On day two the clouds lifted and we enjoyed some glorious sunshine and some welcome warmth away

from the sea mist at Caen. We travelled south to Mont St-Michel and hiked up to the abbey at the top of the mount. After a wander around the shops and cafes (and a rather muddy adventure on the beach for the younger boys!) we walked the 2km back to the coach. The evening was completed with an excellent trip to the bowling alley in Caen.

A culinary adventure awaited us on day three: first a visit to a boulangerie where the children made organic bread from a local sourdough starter while learning



a lot of French in the process. After lunch we headed to a goats' cheese farm and sampled some home made cheese after seeing its production. Meeting the goats was a particular highlight and we had the chance to milk them and even taste some milk straight from the 'source'.

A forecast of thunderstorms did not dampen our spirits for our trip to Bayeux on day four and good luck ensured that we kept the rain at bay until the evening. First was a foray into the market to test our French when buying lunch. After a walk around the city it was on to see the Bayeux tapestry, impressive in both its length and detail! The British Cemetery at Bayeux was next on our agenda:

we brought crosses over to place at the headstone of our choice and a quick search of the online database allowed us to find some familiar surnames and possible relations!

The afternoon had turned out gloriously, so we made straight to the beach for an hour before dinner and heading home the next day.

We had a thoroughly good time and learned much of the culture and the language of the region!

Mrs L Jackson



We had a thoroughly good time and learned much of the culture and the language of the region!"





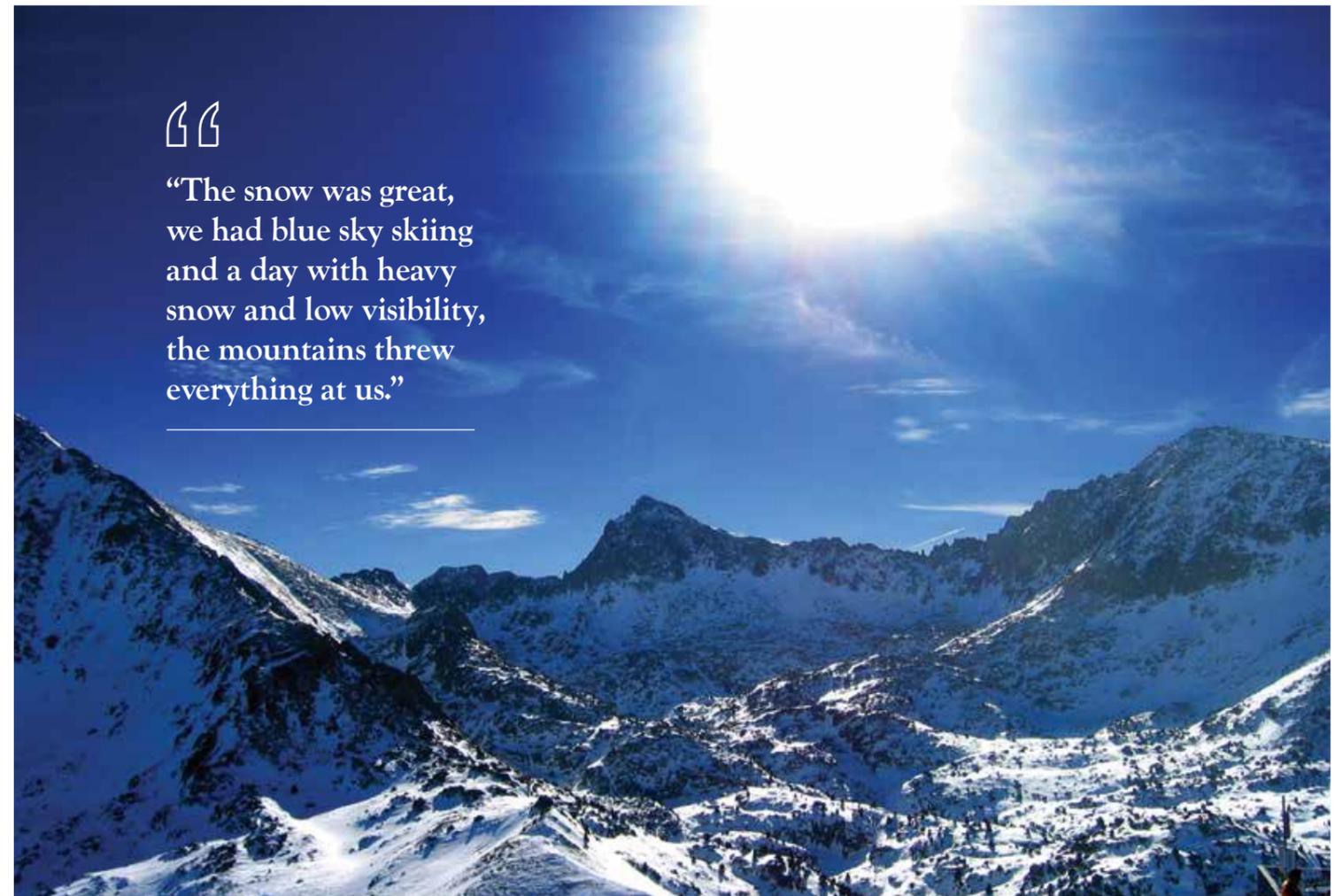
Ski Trip

Andorra

Condensing 7 days of an action packed ski trip into a short report is not going to be easy but I'll give it a go.

In summary 17 pupils from year 4 to year 10, 9 parents and 3 staff returned from an amazing week of skiing and having fun in the resort of La Massana, Andorra. They learned (for many) a new skill and developed many soft skills required in today's world; organisation, team work and communication, whilst showing high levels of resilience, patience, determination and commitment...a ski trip is not just about the skiing. The beginners group were soon travelling across

the various pistes practising their turns with their instructor Diego, whilst the intermediate group became their instructor Claudio's 'Wolf Pack' and could be heard howling from the chair lifts, having a wonderful time. Both instructors commented during the presentation of certificates how much fun they had had all week and how well behaved, kind and determined the pupils had been. The snow was great, we had blue sky skiing and a day with heavy snow and low visibility, the mountains threw everything at us. Whilst the pupils got to grips with Blue, Red and Black slopes the beginner adults chose instead to come up with their own unique labelling system, 1 dot, 2 dot and 3 dot, needless to say for some even this caused confusion. In the evenings we went bowling, to a pizza restaurant and had a quiz night in addition to relaxing and recharging tired legs in the hotel.



"The snow was great, we had blue sky skiing and a day with heavy snow and low visibility, the mountains threw everything at us."

Visit to Hollowford

Prep School annual residential trip to the Hollowford Centre in the beautiful Peak District.

We had a jam-packed four days of activities, including abseiling, zip-wire, caving, canoeing, a hill walk, high ropes and raft-building. In the evenings we spent our time together playing on the field, playing Mr Hill's version of Articulate, a talent show and karaoke! We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which was helped by the fantastic food we were provided with by the centre. It was a good job we came back on a Friday as everyone was ready for an early night and a lie in after all of that exertion!

Some of the children have written about their favourite activity:

'My favourite residential activity was abseiling because at first it was scary, but once I'd gone down I felt brave. I watched a few people go down, then it was my turn. You had to climb through a railing at the top of the bridge and then lower yourself down. Everyone was chanting.'

Will Kavanagh



Out on the moors. The pupils look contemplatively on, as the grey clouds draw in...

A photograph of a student in a school uniform (white shirt, green and yellow striped tie, and grey skirt) holding a single orange chrysanthemum flower. The student is standing in a garden with many other orange chrysanthemums and green foliage. The background shows a wooden fence and a grassy area. The word "Pastoral" is written in a large, white, cursive font across the upper left portion of the image.

Pastoral

The recent ISI inspection report awarded Read an 'Excellent' rating for pastoral care.

The Social Club

The Social Club each Tuesday, run by Karen Elliott, gives pupils the opportunity to practice and enhance their friendship skills in a positive environment.



“It was lovely to see the pupils in this setting and a great culmination of the skills they had been learning through the club activities.”

The set activities support the development of confidence, independence and builds up leadership skills.

Pupils are encouraged to think about and discuss feelings and emotions, to consider what makes a good friend and how to resolve conflicts. Listening skills and co-operation, which are important in making and maintaining friendships, are strengthened by the tasks pupils are asked to complete.

Recently the group had the opportunity to invite chosen members of staff to an afternoon tea. Together they had to work through a plan of action, share out tasks for the day, bake and prepare delicious treats, then act as hosts to their guests.

It was lovely to see the pupils in this setting and a great culmination of the skills they had been learning through the club activities.

Kathryn Patrick,
Head ILD Department



The Garden Club

After a challenging year for gardening with the very wet spring followed by the driest summer since 1976 the school garden is again having a productive year for crops.

After a challenging year for gardening with the very wet spring followed by the driest summer since 1976 the school garden is again having a productive year for crops. Not only have pupils been involved with planning, sowing, maintaining and harvesting in the garden they have again used this as an enterprise for business. The from 'garden to plate' aspect of the garden has seen vegetables and fruit put to use in the school kitchens so that pupils and staff have access to daily, tasty, fresh produce. They have also sold produce to parents and given some away to local elderly residents. Any money made as a profit will be put back into the enterprise to purchase equipment and resources for next year so the garden sustains itself.

It has been great to see pupil confidence grow in the skills they have learnt. Dominic Chennells and Flynn Kelly, our most experienced gardeners, have been a great help and developed their leadership skills by directing younger pupils in tasks they have mastered themselves.

The garden is a lovely extension to the classroom for pupils who thrive with hands on experiences to enhance their science and maths learning. They have seen the life cycle of the plants as they grew them all from planting seeds, apart from potatoes and onions grown from sets showing vegetative reproduction in action.

Each year we try to introduce something new to the garden to introduce the pupils to a variety of produce and to enable them to be open to different tastes. This year we have added patty pan squash and asparagus, although the latter will take several years to get to production stage, teaching patience to all involved. These again were grown by pupils from seed into pots, and then transplanted into the garden.

Thanks to various parents who have donated resources we have been able to use the finances generated by last year's crops to extend our gardening activities. We were able to purchase two large wooden

troughs, which have been put to good use to grow new strawberry plants. This will deprive the slugs of a tasty feast and make it easier to tend the plants off the floor.

We now have a greenhouse for the early nursery plants for next year, kindly donated by Mr and Mrs Holdich. This we will be able to heat to protect the vulnerable plants from early frosts. Mrs Patrick is very happy about this as it means she has her conservatory back again.

A gardening activity is due to be held in the summer holidays when different children will be able to learn about gardening and have some hands on activities in a fun way. They will finish off by making a delicious 'dirt cake' complete with gummy worms courtesy of Mrs Ainley and her superb cooking skills.

I'm looking forward to introducing gardening to new pupils next year.

Colin Patrick

Giving Read

St Leonard's Hospice

Helen and Catherine from St Leonard's Hospice kindly joined us in our pre-prep and prep assembly to be presented with a cheque for £435.82, which we had raised at Harvest Festival and during Children in Need. Helen talked to the children about the work they do at the hospice and Catherine showed us pictures of the hospice, each of which featured their mascot Lenny the bear. The children asked sensible questions and found out lots about how the money we raised would be used.



Selby Hedgehog Haven

Year 8 pupils studied a topic on communities in Personal Social Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE), at the start of the year.

They were set a project to strengthen their enterprising skills by raising money for the local community. We decided to raise funds for Selby Hedgehog Haven and have been busy selling homemade cakes, organising a tombola, contacting cat and dog food suppliers to ask for food to feed the hedgehogs, as well as book sales, fundraising cash boxes and tuck shop initiatives, to name a few. We also had a 'justgiving page', that many parents and staff very kindly supported.

The pupils have done so well in what they have achieved by raising £479.73. However, perhaps more importantly, they have experienced being part of a team, decision making, leadership and finance management. Hands-on practical experiences are invaluable in developing these skills and it has been great to see the ideas that have been generated by the pupils.

The founder of Selby Hedgehog Haven has just received 17 orphaned hoglets, so unfortunately she was unable to come and visit this week. Albeit, two pupils represented the rest of their Year group, by meeting with her to hand over the cheque for £479.73 and other resources that have been donated; she was overwhelmed with the support for her voluntary work. All the pupils will meet Victoria in the new term when she does not have the pressure of baby hoglets and it will be good to see the impact of our fundraising.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in some way; hopefully we can build upon this experience in the future.

Sue Prosser



Adrenelin Adventure Camp



Read School Summer Holiday Clubs

The Holiday Club is destined to be a firm feature of every school holiday.

Over the summer holidays an impressive total of 42 children participated in 28 days of activity offered covering a wide array of sports, crafts & adventurous exploits!



Horse riding Fridays



Making dirt cake



Dance & craft with Miss Newman



Old Draxonians

We are always keen to hear what our former pupils have achieved and it is extremely satisfying to hear of the successes of so many Draxonians in Higher Education and beyond. To subscribe to the Draxonians Association and stay in touch with former classmates, please contact olddraxonians@readschool.co.uk

Old Draxonians

What have they been up to?

Jasmine Wells-Dean (2014-2016)

Before I started at Read School I never would have imagined that today I would be studying English literature at the University of Oxford.

I hadn't studied the subject for GCSE and I had a lot to learn when I started sixth form at Read School in September 2014. It wasn't all studying though – I also had a lot of fun with the friends I made at Read and am still in touch with most of them, as well as my old teachers.

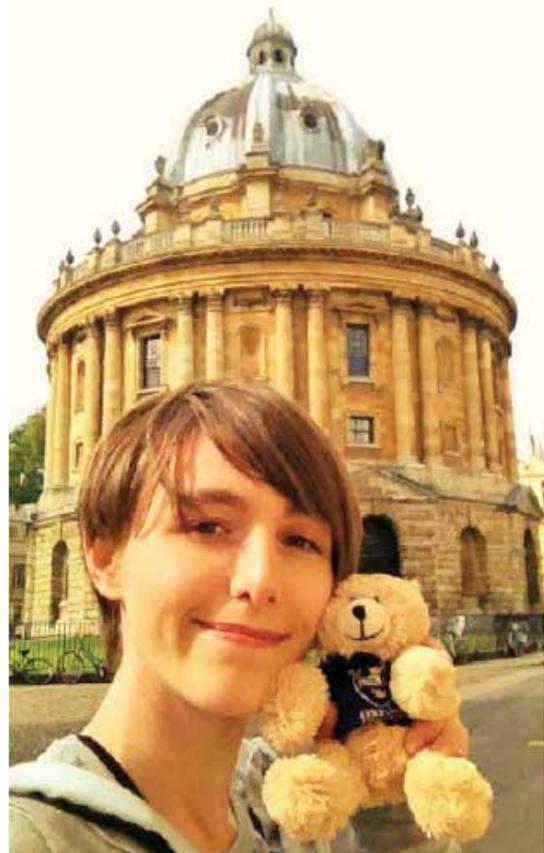
Having studied German at A-level and made many friends among the international students at Read, I was inspired to learn more about different cultures and after completing my A-levels I moved to Switzerland to work as an au pair. It was very daunting, but to my surprise I found I wasn't homesick at all. Moving 1000 miles away from home and having to speak in three different languages at the dinner table was nothing compared with the challenges of looking after a baby and a three-year-old! I had to learn French fast because the older boy thought it was funny to offer to translate in shops and then tell the cashiers I had asked for twenty bags of sweets.

Part-way through my year in Switzerland I received an acceptance letter from Oxford University. It was hard to explain to the children that I had to leave: Ernest-Auguste didn't understand why I couldn't take a bus from Oxford to Zurich each day in time to pick him up from school but he happily made me a leaving card with the words "Vive la France" on it anyway. It was one of the proudest moments of my life when I heard Baby Edgar – who hadn't been able to talk when I arrived – say "ta-ra, love" in a strong Yorkshire accent as I left.

Since then I've been throwing myself into my new life as an Oxford student – although I definitely haven't been spending as much time in the library as my tutors would like! Trying to read medieval poetry is far more challenging than learning German or French ever was, but my time at Read taught me never to back down from a challenge. I could never have come this far without the support the teachers at Read gave me and my only regret is that I couldn't have spent more time there.



I've been throwing myself into my new life as an Oxford student – although I definitely haven't been spending as much time in the library as my tutors would like!"



Robbie Oliver (1999-2014)

It's been an extremely busy year for me to say the least! I've just come to the end of my integrated masters degree at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. I'm delighted that I achieved a First Class MPhys degree, ranking 22nd in my year that started with 180 people in it. Along the way, I managed to pick up four DPhil offers – despite only applying for three! I finally decided to take up a place at New College, Oxford where I will focus on 'maximising the electroluminescence in perovskite photovoltaic solar cells.' My supervisors are Prof Henry Snaith and Prof Donal Bradley - two extremely eminent professors in this field as well as lovely people! I'm hoping that this research will lead to major advances in the efficiency and viability of renewable energy from the sun.

It's not all been academics though, this year has also seen my greatest achievements on the rugby field to date. My college had a hugely successful season, winning all but one match and gaining the first bit of silverware in our club's history. I also had my first taste of international rugby while playing for the Oxford University first XV – The Blues – against the Croatian national team in Split. We ran out 66-10 winners after a very physical match. The game, and the tour as a whole, was an unbelievable experience, one which I hope to recreate as I trial for the Blues tour to Madagascar this September, where we'll be playing their national side. Fingers crossed that all my hard work this summer will pay off and I can make it on to the plane!

As ever I am more than happy to talk to any Read pupils interested in applying to Oxbridge and/or studying physics at university.



Bobby Zhang (2012-2014)

Bobby Zhang recently gained a Masters Degree in Engineering from University of Sheffield and is heading back to China for a year to get work experience before coming back to the UK for his PhD.



James Turner (2007-2014)

James Turner graduated with a 1st and top of his year in Philosophy at University of Sheffield and was the winner of the Nidditch Prize which the university awards for the best performance(s) in Philosophy modules over the year. He is now starting a Masters Degree at Sheffield with further plans for a PhD in the field of Cognitive Science.

Fans of hard core music may be familiar with his band Sobriquet and James also writes a blog on film reviews:

<https://www.flickeringmyth.com/author/james-turner/>

Zoe Weston (2011-2015)

Since leaving Read Zoe attended York College and completed a BTEC Extended Diploma in Business and achieved D*D*D* (equivalent to 3 A*s at A level). She recently secured a place at The University of Liverpool to study Marketing to include a year in industry.

Alex Smales (2007-2013)

Alex recently graduated from RAF Cranwell as an Officer in HM Armed Forces and has recently started specialist Engineering training. After leaving Read school he completed a Masters Degree at University of Hull in Mechanical Engineering where he graduated with a 1st Class Degree.

Alex will be returning to visit Read later in the Autumn term to talk to our CCF Cadets about his experiences at Read School and in the RAF.



A photograph of a red brick building with a tower and a large tree on a lawn. The building is made of red brick and has several windows, some with white frames. The tower has a pointed top and a small arched window. A large, leafy green tree stands to the right of the building. The foreground is a green lawn with shadows cast by the tree. The sky is blue.

The best possible start



“Sow a thought and you reap an act
Sow an act and you reap a habit
Sow a habit and you reap a character
Sow a character and you reap a destiny.”

*Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882),
American Essayist and Philosopher*



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