



NEWSLETTER

Friday 12 October 2018



@ReadingGirlsSch



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COMING UP:

- Mon 15 Oct—Inset Day
- Wed 17 Oct—Year 7 Showcase event 4.00–5.00pm
- Fri 19 Oct—Selective Stream Testing
- Fri 19 Oct—End of Term 1

Would you like to help?

We are looking for parent governors to join the School Governance Committee

If you are interested and would like further information please contact the Clerk to the Governors Jeff Morgan, via email

admin@readinggirlsschool.net

Principal's Message— Friday's closure – 12th October 2018

Firstly, I'm sure you will join me in the sentiment that at times like these, thoughts are with those who have been injured and their families. We wish them well.

We learned of the incident and the subsequent road closure at around 6am from Thames Valley Police, who were understandably unsure of exactly when we could gain full access to the school site. We were in constant communication with the police throughout that hour and decided at approximately 6.45am to close the school for the day.

The reason for taking the decision at this time was to try to inform as many parents as possible before our pupils left for school. We used the school website, parentmail, Twitter, Reading buses and local radio to communicate the closure. I hope that we reached you in time and would like to thank you for your understanding.

As a School Principal, I have always been of the belief that closing a school in any circumstance, is the last resort. However, given the information available, today's closure was the best interest of our girls.

Finally, may I take the opportunity to remind you of our scheduled INSET day on Monday 15th October 2018. We look forward to welcoming our girls back on Tuesday 16th October 2018.

**Jon Gargan
Principal**

Year 7 Show Case Wednesday 17 October

As Year 7 finish the first term at RGS they have invited their families to a 'Showcase of Work'. Amongst the fantastic offerings will be refreshment made by the students, dance, poetry, displays of work and a short video produced by the students themselves reflecting on the first term. They are now very much part of the RGS family and we are proud of them. We look forward to seeing our Year 7 families on Wednesday afternoon between 4pm and 5pm.

Food Technology Classes

For the Year 11 exam classes the theme has been 'Garnish and Presentation' lessons. Pupils were shown some simple culinary techniques to boost their exam grades. As you can see the results are very artistic.



The dishes produced are to show their skills and expertise. The pasta and fruit based dishes are part of their coursework and final grade. The pupils worked independently and skilfully to produce some exceptional restaurant worthy mains and desserts.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

every school day counts.

ATTENDANCE FAQ (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

What can I do if my daughter is starting to present attendance difficulties?

These difficulties can show themselves in a number of different ways e.g. a reluctance to go to school, feigning illness, failure to attend school even though the child is sent, missing lessons whilst in school. If a problem seems to be emerging parents/carers should:

- Talk to your daughter to try to ascertain if there are any problems or worries at school, on the journey to or from school or at home
- Contact Mr Price (sprice2@readinggirlsschool.net) as soon as possible to ensure we are fully aware of any issues that need to be resolved.

What support are you able to offer when my daughter is presenting attendance difficulties?

We have a wide range of support for students and families where attendance is an issue:

- Support and monitoring by their Pastoral Leader
- Counselling to help resolve any issues that might be presenting in terms of anxiety and mental health
- School Nurse Support, who helps us link with local GP's
- Referral to external agencies, such as Housing, Social Services, NHS teams and RBC
- Attendance Planning
- Attendance Team visits for students whose attendance falls below 90%.
- Attendance Pick Up

Why doesn't Reading Girls School authorise holidays?

We are very aware of the essential role good attendance plays in achieving good academic progress and good social skills. We cannot authorise an avoidable absence which causes harm to the continuity of a child's education.

What do I do if my child is ill?

Telephone the school office on each morning of your daughter's illness by 8.30am. If your child experiences a prolonged absence, a note from her doctor may be required by the school. If we have not heard from you, we will be worried about your daughter's welfare and will contact you initially by text. No response to this will result in a home visit.

If you feel you need support with you daughter attending school please contact our attendance officer djewell@readinggirlsschool.net

READING GIRLS' SCHOOL

Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 7PY ☎0118 9861336

Website: www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk E-Mail: admin@readinggirlsschool.net