



## Reading Girls' School

Principal: Marika Farrugia

21 February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and all our students had a restful half term break. As always there will be lots going on this half term with the start of the Year 6 to 7 transition which will begin once we have received confirmation of all the students that will be joining us from around Reading. We remain very popular as a school so we are excited about welcoming all the new students and support them with their transition.

We will also be preparing the Year 8s for their GCSE Options which will start this half term. Parents will be receiving an Edulink message from Mr Haywood with all the dates related to this. Year 11s are in the midst of their second mock exams and I know you, as I, will want to wish them all the best. I know how hard they have been working, in and out of school, in order to make great progress from their last mock exams. Our Year 10s are also preparing for their first full mock exams which will take place in the summer term. I urge them to start revising early so that they can perform their very best in these exams. Year 7s have settled in really well and are making the most of their learning experience.

We also have a number of trips taking place this half term, the most exciting being the trip to Greece. Ms Connolly and other members of staff will be taking over 40 students to Athens to visit places of interest, such as the Acropolis. I look forward to letting you know how it went, when they return. We also have a number of our Year 9 and 10 students visiting Windsor Castle. In addition, some of our Year 10s are attending the Reading University Scholarship programme. We also have the return of the School Musical which will take place after the Easter Holidays – more information to follow regarding how to purchase tickets.

At the end of this term, during the Year Group Awards Assemblies, we will announce our first winning House. The House calendar runs from April to April to allow the Year 11 students within the winning House to take part in the celebrations. It's going to be a photo finish with the top four Houses only divided by 60 points. Currently Sherpa is in 1<sup>st</sup> place with 1250 points, followed by Malala on 1230, Kirby on 1200, Parks 10 behind on 1190 and Lovelace in 5<sup>th</sup> place with Angelou in 6<sup>th</sup>.

As we work hard to maintain a positive and focused learning environment, I would kindly remind you of the importance of adhering to our uniform expectations. By ensuring that your child follows the school's uniform policy, you contribute to their overall school experience and the smooth operation of our school community. The uniform policy is on our website. Can I stress the importance of students coming to school with a jacket/coat rather than a hoodie which will be confiscated. In addition, could I please ask that all items of uniform and equipment are labelled with your child's name. We gather a great deal of lost property which students rarely reclaim. When we find uniform with students' name on them we always return them.

We are very clear that while students are allowed to have mobile phones in their bags, we are not to see or hear them. If we do, they will be confiscated and students will then be asked to hand them in to their Head of Year at the beginning of the day. Please make sure that you speak to your children about the importance of this.

In addition, as you are aware, we monitor students use of our schools IT system, in and out of school, such as Microsoft TEAMS. It is important that this resource is used to facilitate learning. If these rules are not followed, and students use it inappropriately, there will be a loss of access to this resource and other disciplinary action. Please do monitor how your child is using this resource at home.

I wish all the students a fruitful half term ahead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Farrugia', written in a cursive style.

**Ms M Farrugia**  
**Principal**