



Prospect School VIEW

Issue 18

1 February 2019

ASPIRE • BELIEVE • ACHIEVE

Message from the Headteacher



Quote of the week

Believe you can and you're halfway there.

Theodore Roosevelt



This week has been extremely cold and icy.

it has been very cold and icy, so I have been impressed with the largely sensible behaviour of our students around the site. More cold (and possibly snowy) weather is forecast, so it is important that all students come to school appropriately dressed and are sensible around the site. Please keep checking all our communication channels for updates.

I am always checking that our students are wearing the correct uniform, looking smart and ready to learn; I've noticed how the vast majority look impeccable. In particular, please ensure your child is wearing a tie at all times during the week. If you need to purchase a new one, then do contact the school and we will assist.

On Friday, I was fortunate enough to visit the Bett Technology and Education show in London, which showcases the very best

in technological innovation in education. It is important that we keep abreast of new technology so that we can provide the very best standards of education for all our students. We are currently trialling a new App which will enable us to communicate and share information much more easily with parents. In addition, we are using new technology to ensure all teachers have detailed information about each student which will enable us to provide the support and challenge they need in order to make excellent progress.

We are an outward-looking school so I am very excited about the new partnerships we are forging with our local schools. It is great to be able to share and develop our expertise with other schools - some very similar to us, some very different - and we have had a lot of visitors in school over the past week. They have all commented on

the high standards of behaviour they have seen in the classrooms and around school, which makes me very proud of our students. Our teachers have also been visiting other schools to exchange ideas, all of which supports our vision to provide the very best education in Reading.

As I said last week, I am always very happy to meet with parents, perhaps to discuss any concerns you may have, but I would be equally happy just to show you around the school so you can see first hand all the exciting things we are doing at Prospect

**Mr D Littlemore,
Headteacher (Acting)**



An interview with a Site Manager/ Caretaker



- 1. What did you want to be when you were at school?**
Archaeologist or carpenter.
- 2. What subjects did you enjoy and why?**
Carpentry because I was good at it.
History because I felt drawn into what has gone on in the past. Though I wasn't thrilled by the Industrial Revolution.
- 3. What subjects were a challenge?**
English - I could hardly read or write when I left school.
- 4. What was your first proper full-time job after college/university/school?**
Caretaker in a school.
- 5. How did you decide which was the right career for you?**
It was the first job I was offered and I stayed as I am loyal and I did enjoy it.
- 6. If you could give your younger self some careers advice what would it be?**
Start my own business. When I look back I was sometimes not confident enough to take the opportunities offered.
- 7. If you could do any job or career what would it be?**
A museum curator (conservationist), looking after a large stately home, an antique dealer.
- 8. What do you enjoy about your job?**
Different roles and variety. No two days are the same.
- 9. If you could change one thing about your job/career what would that be?**
The environment. More financial rewards.
- 10. What are the main skills you need to do your job?**
Communication, practical skills, able to fix things, need to be physically fit. Organised.
- 11. Are there any specific qualifications/skills needed? If so what?**
Building/carpentry skills practical skills, an all-round trades person. Management skills. Need to be able to learn practical skills.

Calling any Mentors

Have you any spare time to support our students as they make life and career choices?

A monthly commitment with full training and DBS check.

Siobhan Gallivan,
Head of Careers

Email: sgallivan@prospect.reading.sch.uk

Careers News: Year 11

We had a wonderful session on budgeting money and tax delivered by Shoosmiths solicitors. As part of our ongoing programme to prepare students for the big wide world. It is important we know where our taxes go and why, and also to have an understanding of salaries.

Please note the Scholars trip is:

Wednesday, 13 February

NOT

Monday, 11 February

Siobhan Gallivan,
Head of Careers



Theme of the week February 1 - 8

It's a big world out there for you to discover and enjoy!

Year 11 Update

Year 11 are continuing to work really hard this term. Our Wave 2 mentoring programme is truly underway now and most students are going above and beyond to achieve the 500 credits needed for their Amazon or Oracle vouchers. I have even heard that some students are choosing to spend their vouchers on scientific calculators, which is fantastic to hear! Wave 3 is planned for a further 28 students and will be launched in the next couple of weeks, so please look out for further information on this via InTouch.

All year 11 students will shortly be starting their second set of PPEs (Pre Public Exams or mocks as they used to be called!) and I am looking forward to seeing the impact that all of the various interventions and mentoring programmes have had from PPE1 to PPE2. In addition to our mentoring programmes, we also offer students a wide range of intervention and revision sessions in all subjects. These include, amongst others,

Lesson 6s, Super Saturdays and study sessions during half term. Please encourage your son or daughter to make the most of these opportunities and attend as many of them as possible. We do appreciate that this time of year can be difficult, tiring and stressful as we head towards exam season, but attending these additional lessons really does make a difference and does lead to better results. Additional sessions will be offered and some timetable changes made to lesson 6s following the PPEs so please look out for more information after these important internal exams. If you would like more information regarding your son/daughter, including their timetabled lesson 6s, please e-mail me: smccavish@prospect.reading.sch.uk.

We do value your support and feedback.

Mrs S McCavish
Assistant Headteacher

University of Reading



The Brilliant Club

On Monday, 21 January, 12 of our intrepid Year 9 and 10 students took up the opportunity to visit Reading University for their Launch Trip with The Brilliant Club. The students were treated to a tour of the campus, talks from both staff and students of the university as well as a seminar from a visiting historian, focused on the role of Eleanor of Aquitaine. This marks the start of this year's journey with The Brilliant Club and a number of in-school seminars and a graduation event at another UK university will follow it.

The students were excellent ambassadors for Prospect, taking an active role in all elements of the day. I look forward to the next part of our Brilliant Club experience.

Miss Holt
Assistant Head of Sixth Form





Careers Information Year 10 – Reading Scholars

University of Reading careers visits

Wednesday 13 February 2019

Students will think about the benefits of attending university and whether its something they would like to do; spend time with their mentor understanding the university opportunities available; participate in additional subject taster sessions.

Thursday 4 April 2019

Students will think about their personality type & how this might affect how they can get the most out of learning opportunities; future careers and the role university can play in this; undertake some research based on their project.

Tuesday 9 July 2019

Debating activity to think about a debate point, develop and present the debate – Feedback on draft project.

Thursday 3 October 2019

Project presentation, revision skills session, reviewing original goals set and thinking about what next.

Alongside these sessions, they will have access to e-mentoring provided by their DBS-checked student mentor and will work towards a project delivered by an organisation called the Brilliant Club.

Prayer room

We would like to remind students that we have a multi-faith prayer room in school (near reception).

It is open at both breaktimes, and is available to students of any faith (or no faith) who would like a few moments of quiet contemplation, meditation or prayer.

Multi-Faith Prayer Room



SenecaLearning.com

All students and teachers now have free access to Seneca - a revision and homework platform making studying more fun.

Seneca is an interactive way to learn official course content. Their web app covers 150+ exam board specific courses condensing what students need to know for their exams. The software is able to identify gaps in learning. For instance, when you get a

question wrong, the platform will repeat the topic in different formats and their smart algorithm has proven to make students remember topics 2x faster. Seneca is totally free for students, teacher and parents. You can sign up via [senecalearning.com](https://www.senecalearning.com)



Sports results and fixtures

Last week the U14 Basketball team took on Piggott School at home.

They played a close game with neither team being able to pull away. With the scores tied in the 4th quarter Piggott were able to take advantage of some miscommunication in defence as the Prospect boys pushed to get the winning points and were able to build a lead late in the game. The score finishing 20-26.

The Year 11 Girls Handball team enjoyed their first experiences of competitive handball in a tournament at Reading Girls.

With some fantastic performances they came away with a win, draw and a loss in their three matches.

Next week's fixtures

Team	Sport	Opponent	Home/Away
Year 8 Boys	Football 5-a-side Tournament	Oakbank	Away

Year 11 Intervention



Period 6 Open Science



Physics

Every Tuesday – B11



Biology

Every Wednesday – C5



Chemistry

Every Thursday – B21

Sessions Include:

- Answering exam style questions
- Plotting graphs
- Formulas & equations
- Time management
- Revision tips
- Helping individuals on areas of weakness



What's occurring?



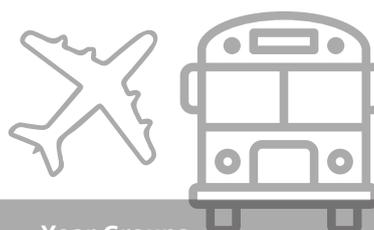
SCHOOL CALENDAR

Date	Event	Details
Tues 12 Feb 2019	Year 8 GCSE Options Evening	4:30pm-6:00pm - Lower School Hall



REPORT DATES

Year Groups	Scheduled between
11,13	Monday 25 March – Friday 29 March 2019
7,8,9,10,12	Monday 29 April – Friday 3 May 2019
7,8,9,10,12	Monday 1 July – Friday 5 July 2019



SCHOOL TRIPS

Date	Event	Year Groups
Wed 6 Feb	Science Day, Science Museum	12 & 13
Wed 13 Feb	The University of Reading Scholars Program	10
Thurs 14 Feb	The Curious Incident of the dog in the night	10 & 11
Mon 18 – Sat 23 Feb	New York	Sixth Form

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We offer a wide range of extra curricular activities to help you learn more and to develop your skills.

Why not come along?

Subject	Year Groups	Day	Time	Location
Mathematics				
Mathematics Help Club	7-10	Wednesday	3.00pm-4.00pm	D21
Mathematics Help Club	11	Wednesday	3.00pm-4.00pm	D33
Drama/Music				
KS3 Drama Workshop	7-8	Tuesday	1.15pm-1.45pm	A02
KS4 Music Theory Workshop	9-11	Wednesday	2.45pm-3.45pm	A10
KS3 Choir	7-8	Thursday	1.15pm-1.45pm	A10
KS4 Music Composition Workshop	9-11	Thursday	2.45pm-3.45pm	A10
Drum Ensemble		Friday	1.15pm-1.45pm	Music Studio
KS4 Drama Workshop	9-11	Friday	1.15pm-1.45pm	A02/LSH
Science				
KS3 Homework Club	7-8	Tuesday	2.45pm-3.45pm	B01, B02, B13
Year 10 High Ability Club	10	Tuesday	3.00pm-4.00pm	
Year 9 High Ability Club	9	Tuesday	3.00pm-4.00pm	B14
Technology				
Design and Make It Club	7 - 8	Wednesday	2.45pm-3.45pm	L05
Art				
Coursework Catch up	9-11	Monday	3.00pm-4.00pm	Art Block
Coursework Catch up	9-11	Wednesday	3.00pm-4.00pm	Art Block
Coursework Catch up	9-11	Thursday	3.00pm-4.00pm	Art Block
History				
Year 11 Revision Group	11	Wednesday	2.45pm-3.45pm	D26
Year 11 Revision Group	11	Thursday	2.45pm-3.45pm	D17
Year 11 Revision Group	11	Thursday	2.45pm-3.45pm	A34

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Subject	Year Groups	Day	Time	Location
P.E.				
Netball	All	Monday	1.15pm–1.45pm	Sports Hall
Basketball	10–11	Monday	1.15pm–1.45pm	Gym
GCSE Coursework	11	Monday	1.15pm–1.45pm	L15
Insanity	All	Tuesday	1.15pm–1.45pm	Fitness Factory
Badminton	7–8	Tuesday	1.15pm–1.45pm	Sports Hall
Table Tennis	11	Tuesday	1.15pm–1.45pm.	Lower School Hall
Netball	All	Tuesday	2.45pm–3.45pm	Sports Hall
Football	7–8	Wednesday	1.15pm–1.45pm	Sports Hall
Girls Just Dance/Fitness	Any	Wednesday	1.15pm–1.45pm.	Fitness Factory
Basketball	7–9	Thursday	10.45am–11.15am	Sports Hall
Basketball	7–9	Thursday	1.15pm–1.45pm	Sports Hall
Benchball	7–10	Thursday	1.15pm–1.45pm	Gym
Badminton	10–11	Friday	1.15pm–1.45pm	Sports Hall
GCSE Practical	11	Friday	2.45pm–3.45pm	Sports Hall
Computing				
Hi-Flyers Workshop	10–13	Tuesday	2.45pm–3.45pm	C23
Computer Science Clinic	10–13	Wednesday	1.15pm–1.45pm	C24
Cyber Stars	7–9	Thursday	1.15pm–1.45pm	C21
General				
After School Homework Club	All	Every day	2.45pm–3.45pm	Library
Music Group (with the School Counsellor)	All	Wednesday	4.00pm–5.30pm	Music Dept.

Puzzle of the week



A carpet warehouse increased the prices of all its carpets by 20%.
However, sales of carpets fell by 20%.
What happened to the company's revenue overall as a result?

Answer will be in
the next newsletter

Last week's answer:

16, 9, 7, 2, 14, 11, 5, 4, 12, 13, 3, 6, 10, 15, 1, 8

Or the reverse...

8, 1, 15, 10, 6, 3, 13, 12, 4, 5, 11, 14, 2, 7, 9, 16



History Lunch Club

- Do you enjoy history?
- Do you watch Horrible Histories?
- Do you watch historical films?

If yes, History Club might be for YOU!

We will meet in D18 on Wednesday lunchtimes. All are welcome to come along!



Kendrick School
 Ms Helen Stacey
 0118 9015859



Reading Girls' School
 Miss Kimika Gardner
 0118 9861336

Support for Parents/Carers of Secondary Students in Reading

The Reading Young Peoples' Emotional Wellbeing Partnership is delighted to offer a series of opportunities for parents/carers to find out more about a range of difficulties that young people may be facing, and how they can best support their child. The team of Educational Psychologists and Primary Mental Health Workers who work closely with school staff to improve outcomes for young people across Reading, will deliver these sessions. We will be delighted to welcome parents/carers from students attending any secondary school in Reading.

The sessions will be delivered twice on the same day:

- Reading Girls' School (RG2 7PY) at 9.30am
- Kendrick School (RG1 5BN) at 6.00pm

Please use this link if you would like to reserve a place for the session on Depression/Low Mood:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MQ37MQR>

Date	Topic
Wednesday 12 th December 2018	Anxiety
Wednesday 30th January 2019	Depression/Low Mood
Wednesday 27 th February 2019	Self-Harm
Wednesday 27 th March 2019	Eating Disorders
Wednesday 24 th April 2019	Exam Anxiety
Wednesday 3 rd July 2019	Resilience

(Please note that parking onsite at Kendrick School is very limited and so public transport should be used where possible - we are a 5 minute walk from the Oracle. Parking at Queens Road car park is the nearest but we can accommodate parking for anyone with mobility issues (please contact Reception in advance to arrange this). Please arrive at Reception on East Street for the event.)

Please contact the host schools if you have any queries about these events.

Collins 4parents

Author, Lee Jackson, shares his insights into how you can best support your child throughout their GCSE revision and during their exams. Lee has written many books for teenagers including *How to Succeed at School and College* and *Collins GCSE Study Skills*.



I really believe in changing our view of parenting into becoming our child's 'coach' not just their 'manager'.

COACHING OUR TEENS GETS THE BEST OUT OF THEM. WE BECOME AN ENCOURAGER NOT JUST A NAGGING VOICE.

COACHING PHRASES TO USE WHEN TALKING TO YOUR TEEN:

"HOW DO YOU FEEL TODAY?"

"HOW DO YOU FEEL YOUR REVISION IS GOING?"

"WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM ME AT THE MOMENT?"

"YOU'LL BE FINE, YOU'LL MAKE IT, WE'VE JUST GOT TO GET THROUGH THIS TIME TOGETHER."

"IT WON'T BE LONG NOW, JUST GET YOUR HEAD DOWN FOR A BIT AND KEEP ON GOING, YOU'LL MAKE IT."

"AND THEN AFTERWARDS YOU'LL ENJOY MAYBE ONE OF THE LONGEST HOLIDAYS IN YOUR LIFE!"

Preparing for GCSE 9-1 EXAMS

BE POSITIVE WITH OUR CHILDREN

A positive attitude makes a real difference to our children's success.

Things to do:

- Find out where they are with their estimated grades (teachers/reports can tell you this).
- Help them to believe the positive truth about themselves (i.e. that they can do well, and certainly better than they probably believe).
- Encourage them to be positive towards their exams and their future.
- Encourage them to be positive towards learning and the school.

Rewards can work really well to help them keep motivated. Some teens respond to small financial rewards, treats or clothes etc, but many don't. Find out the 'little trophies' and the 'big trophies' that work for you, what you can use as a treat and reward for hard work not just great results. It's more about rewarding effort – if your child is putting in the effort then reward them daily with comments and the occasional treat. Then maybe talk about a 'big trophy' (reward) at the end. Some parents offer big financial rewards as an incentive, this might work for some, but can have downsides too. Be creative and reward effort in your own family style. We all need a carrot occasionally.

REWARDS AND INCENTIVES

#RevisionthatSticks

REVISION PLAN

SLEEP

In recent studies teenagers and their sleeping patterns have been looked into. There's no doubt that their bodies and minds are in growth mode and need sleep to help that, but good studying needs sleep too. Check your child's bedroom. Is their bed comfortable? Do they have blackout curtains? But most of all what pre-sleep routine do they have? Getting them into a good routine sets them up for good results and for the rest of their life. Late night food binging, distractions, arguments and too much screen time before bed can cause sleeplessness. So encourage them to eat well, and get ready for bed at a reasonable time with the right routine.

Focus

Purely focusing on a piece of work or revision will make a big difference. Even just encouraging our children to switch off all distractions for an hour or so can mean the difference between getting the grade they deserve or not.

If we help our children focus and reduce their distractions in a quiet room ready for work, I'll guarantee them two things:

- They'll get on better with their work.
- When they do switch on their phone again they will still have friends! Trust me on this. It may sound very radical to them but it is worth it and more importantly, it does work.

THE POWER OF FOCUS

REVISION TECHNIQUE

Research proves that repetition over a period of time helps learners to remember information better long term.

Collins Revision and Practice has repeated practice throughout, so that children can just get stuck in.

Find out more about Collins Revision at collins.co.uk/revisionthatsticks

collins.co.uk/parents

 [@collins4parents](https://twitter.com/collins4parents)

[#revisionthatsticks](https://twitter.com/collins4parents)

A good revision plan is a must - you make your own (don't take too long on it though!) or you can download one for free from Collins at: www.collins.co.uk/students

Rest and relaxation...

...is a good habit to encourage. It may not seem probable but is possible for teens to over work for exams! During the busy pre-exam season especially, just staring at books for hours isn't being productive. In the last few weeks, just weeks from their GCSE exams my twin daughters have been watching TV, seeing friends, going to youth group and doing fitness classes too, it's good to encourage exercise and breaks as much as work. The two feed each other. In fact I'm just writing this section after spending an hour having a coffee with my wife. I needed a break, and now I'm being more productive again. Encourage them to timetable fun/rest/exercise onto their revision/exam timetable too.

As the main exams draw near...

The amount of revision and work to do will seem overwhelming to your child. This is where prioritisation becomes the key to GCSE success. Get them to find out the key things to revise and prioritise those, then get them to do the hard stuff first, maybe the subjects they don't like to work on are actually the most important. Get the teachers help to prioritise, and do a plan so that they don't feel swamped by the amount they have to do. And remind them that it's only for a few months.

- Stay calm and be supportive, not pressuring.
- Be actively involved with school. Keep in touch with class teachers, regularly read and respond to comments in the planner, make yourself aware of what's going on.
- Encourage them to do their best and that their best is good enough.
- Tell them you are proud of them and that you love them.
- Get the fridge and cupboards stocked with nice treats and snacks for the duration of the exams.
- Make sure home is calm, warm, and that there is no tension.
- Make sure the journey to school is stress free too if possible.
- Recognise how stressful this time is for teens. Strike bargains, build in ice cream and video nights.
- They appear to not want to be with parents but they need to.
- Create a peaceful place for the children to study. Be interested in the subjects they are revising.
- The bomb site / dumping ground which is the offspring's bedroom will not be commented on for the duration.

QUICK TIPS AND ADVICE