



## Headteacher's Update

20 June 2025

### Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope we are all coping with the heat this week.

#### Parents Evening

As you can imagine the demand for parents evening appointments for 1 and 2 July has been far greater than the number of appointment slots available. We have therefore made the decision to allow only one appointment per teacher per child. For example Miss Angel teaches History Geog and RPE to 150 students and she has only 60 appointment slots available for the 450 potential appointments. In order for Miss Angel to speak to as many parents as possible we have amended the appointment slots so Miss Angel will speak about History Geography and RPE in a single app slot. In addition, we have taken the decision to only allow appointment slots for subject teachers and any appointments that have been made for with your son or daughters' form tutor will be removed. If you have any significant concerns, please do contact the form tutor via email.

Please accept my sincere apologies that we are having to make these amendments however we want to allow as many parents as possible to be able to access appointments. Thank you for your understanding and support on this matter.

#### The weather

This is the first real test of the building in high levels of heat, and it has done surprisingly well. The excellent heat insulation we have also keeps the heat out and whilst the first-floor rooms are warm they are certainly more than bearable, and the ground floor rooms are lovely and cool which is good news for things like assemblies and lunchtime.

The students certainly appreciated coming to school in PE kit by the look of things and hopefully this adjustment helped.

***We will go back to shirts, trousers etc from Monday but if the forecast changes, we will let you know.***



As you will know every student at school attended our 'My Hometown' trip on Tuesday. This event comprised of six activities across the town centre relating to the curriculum but within a local context. The students completed creative writing by the Hexagon, budgeted a meal from the vast choice at The Oracle, looked at the street architecture on Broad Street, considered the Bayeux Tapestry at Reading Museum, studied microclimates at Forbury Gardens and produced a piece of art within the Abbey ruins. We hope this multi-layered experience will have taken the students to corners of Reading they haven't previously visited, enhanced their understanding of different aspects of the curriculum and connected them to life in Reading in a more academic sense than has been previously experienced

As you can see from the photos our students certainly got a lot of enjoyment from it and a good 20,000 steps to boot!

It was lovely to welcome back Ms Moore to Celebration Assembly last week following her knee operation at Easter. The students were soon back into the swing of it with their cheers and drum rolls and friendly interform rivalry and Ms Moore as ever gave the event her typical enthusiasm and panache.

Next week is our Year 6 Transition Day which will let our new intake into the building to sample some of the delights of River Academy. I have been **delighted** by the number of current students keen to be involved as guides and helpers across the day and says a lot about how they feel about their school.

I also want to give you the heads about September. As we did last year, we will be holding matriculation with our new Year 7s so they can be inducted into the River Academy way. This means we will not require Year 8 until Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September and on that day the Year 8s will be starting at 9.30am.

Have a great weekend everyone!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Andy Hartley

Headteacher