



RADLEY



It was a delight to welcome all the boys back to Radley for a new term and year. The College is at an all-time high of 771 boys and I hope that for the 182 who are new (155 Shells, 5 Removes and 22 6.1s) their first opening days and weeks go smoothly and well. We also wish all new staff the very best as they start with us.

I spent some time in the first Assembly talking about exam results. We were very pleased that the 6.2s were highly successful as a group in terms of university entrance . . . it made results day less stressful than it can be! A huge thank you to the UCAS and Exams team - and to Tutors and HoDs - for their help in that. GCSE exam results were excellent and it was very good to be able to congratulate in public the 18 boys who secured 10 or more grade 9s.

As ever, though, Radley is so much more than results on paper. I challenged each boy to think about what they wanted to achieve in and beyond the classroom in the year ahead, what they needed to do in order to achieve that and also, most importantly, to think about what they would want said about them as people as the term progresses.

This week marks an important moment in the history of the College as Radley Schools Group takes effect. We are proud and excited now to be a group of eight schools and look forward to working with our seven prep schools to be a leading light in the world of independent charitable education.

news. As ever, a busy term awaits...

John Moule

Parent Information

All Parents

Reading at Radley - A Reset

Reading for pleasure is one of life's great unacknowledged gifts. However, forecasts for its future range from the pessimistic to the existentially nihilistic. Since 2005, 36% fewer young people reported enjoying reading for pleasure, while screen time and engagement with social media platforms have become central to the mind's perception of the world.

A wealth of evidence suggests that with regular, independent and ultimately deep reading, young people will develop calmer, more panoramic and insightful ways of interacting with their world. The links to academic progress and success are clearly established.

At Radley, we are proud to believe that reading for pleasure can and will survive. We know, however, that good reading habits are uncommon. That is why we have 'reset' our approach to reading:

- From the start of the academic year 2025-6, every boy in the school will be expected to bring a book of his choosing to each lesson.
- Every boy in the school will be expected to read independently for a minimum of twenty minutes each day.
- Every boy will choose a book from a curated reading list and have this presented to him by the College.

These may seem small targets, but by beginning to nudge the culture in the right direction, we can support the boys to become habitual, independent readers. With the support of the Radley Common Room and wider community, the small but important steps we are taking now may well help seed for the future. It is our privilege and responsibility to be able to support young people in forming a rare and rewarding habit of reading.

Trip to *Hadestown* at the Lyric Theatre

September.

The trip is open to boys studying English in the 6.1 and 6.2, for whom the show will enhance and develop a sense of the timelessness of myth and link to aspects of their Poetry and Drama units at A-Level. The trip is also open to boys studying Classical Civilisation in the Vths. The musical will complement their study of Ovid's account of Orpheus and Eurydice within the *Journeying to the Underworld* module of Myth and Religion.

To sign up, boys should complete the form which they have received via email. Please contact Elektra Georgiakakis [via email](#) with any questions.

Family Clay Pigeon Shoot: Sunday 14th September

Radley parents and their families are warmly invited to the Radley College Beagles Clay Pigeon Shoot on Sunday 14th September. The shoot is enjoyed by Radley boys of all ages and siblings and is ideal for meeting families with like-minded interests. There are prizes for winners and runners-up in six categories and an inter-Social competition. A letter from Ed and Al Fagan, Shoot Organisers, is available [here](#). You can download the entry form [here](#).

Shell

Introducing Dr Matthew Rumbold, New Interim Head of Shells



Dr Matthew Rumbold has taken on his role as Head of Shells this term.

Matthew was born and educated in Harare, Zimbabwe. He studied English and History at Rhodes University, South Africa. He taught English and History in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe before returning to Rhodes to study for an MA in English followed by a PGCE.

Matthew taught English at Kingswood College, a co-ed independent school in Grahamstown for five years. He then returned to "the books" and completed a PhD in English at the University of Warwick in 2017. He joined Radley College in 2018. Matthew, his wife Jane, and son Rupert, who is almost seven, love the hospitality and vibrancy of the college and its community.

Radley, and he has been a Fifth and Shell Form Master during that time. He coaches Midge “Bigside” Touch Rugby, as well as the Mighty Midge 4 cricket.

Please read his welcome letter [here](#). **[info]**

PSHE and RSE

Radley is proud of our dynamic PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) provision. This term the Shells will have a series of talks given by some wonderful in-house and external specialists.

- Suzie-Louise Naylor, Head of PSHE, will be speaking to Shells on Friday 5th September about wellbeing and staying safe online.
- On Friday 13th September Alex Gilley (our Lead Nurse) and Sarah Turner (our First Aid and Sports Health Coordinator) will be speaking about physical and mental health. They will speak about a range of issues including healthy eating and hydration, how to avoid sporting injuries, sleep hygiene, stress management, and looking after your mental health.

Our PSHE and RSE policy is published [here](#) on the Radley website. If you would like to comment on any aspect of our PSHE or RSE provision, or if you have any questions, please do contact Suzie-Louise Naylor [via email](#). **[info]**

Haddon Cup

The annual Haddon Cup will take place in Theatre on Sunday 5th October. Parents are welcome to join us for the competition. Each Social's Shell group will perform an original ten-minute play, written and directed by 6.1 boys from their Social. It's always an entertaining evening! Please read [this letter](#) for more information. **[info]**

Dr Matthew Rumbold

Interim Head of Shells

MIR.Rumbold@radley.org.uk

Remove

It has been great welcoming the boys back to Radley after the summer break. Please read my welcome letter [here](#). **[info]**

PSHE and RSE

Radley is committed to delivering high quality, age appropriate, and up to date PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) and RSE (Relationships and Sex

3rd October when James Brabazon will be speaking about relationships and positive masculinity. The second talk will focus on addiction and harm reduction and will take place on Friday 7th of November. This talk will be given by Zoe Shuttleworth from [It Happens](#).

Our PSHE and RSE policy is published [here](#) on the Radley website. If you would like to comment on any aspect of our PSHE or RSE provision, or if you have any questions, please do contact Suzie-Louise Naylor via [email](#). **[info]**

Barcelona Exchange

Removes are invited to take up a wonderful opportunity with the Spanish exchange visit to Barcelona next year. As part of the trip, your son will be paired with a Spanish partner and will stay with their family in Barcelona. He will take part in local activities and explore the culture, language and daily life of this vibrant city – a unique and enriching experience. Further information, including dates and costs, is provided in the [attached letter](#). **[info]**

Mr Alan Chandrachud

Head of Removes

AJC.Chandrachud@radley.org.uk

Fifth

Welcome back to the Vths! I look forward to meeting them all properly in the next few weeks. The boys all know this is an important year for them and I would like to take this opportunity to remind them to take advantage of all Radley has to offer. Every subject has a dedicated subject clinic to which boys can self-refer or be asked to attend. These clinics can make a huge difference and I hope boys will make use of them. **[info]**

PSHE and RSE

Radley is committed to delivering high quality, age appropriate, and up to date PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) to all pupils. This term the Vths will be attending several talks given by hugely experienced in-house and external specialists. The first talk will take place on Friday 19th September when Dan Pullen, our Head of Futures, will be speaking about entrepreneurship. On Friday 3rd of October James Brabazon will be speaking about relationships and positive masculinity. The third talk will focus on pornography and will take place on Friday 10th October. This talk will be given by Suzie-Louise Naylor (Head of PSHE) and Alex Gilley (our Lead Nurse) and will focus on the psychological and physiological impact of consuming pornography and we will explore positive pathways to help the boys protect themselves.

do contact Suzie-Louise Naylor [via email](#). **[info]**

Mrs Jo De Ritter

Head of Fifths

JDR.de.Ritter@radley.org.uk

6.1

I hope you all had a great summer, and no doubt the boys were excited to return and begin their Sixth Form experience at Radley. Please read my welcome letter [here](#). **[info]**

Mr Tim Lawson

Head of Sixth Form

TCL@radley.org.uk

6.2

I hope you all enjoyed a fantastic summer, and no doubt the boys are looking forward to their final year at Radley. Please read my welcome letter [here](#). **[info]**

University application process

Tom Deasy, Director of University Entrance, will be speaking to the 6.2s about the next steps in the university application process. His presentation slides can be found [here](#).

The key UCAS dates and deadlines for this term are:

- Friday 12 September: 6.2s receive their UCAS grades from their Form Master
 - Wednesday 17 September: Internal UCAS deadline for Oxbridge applicants
 - Wednesday 8 October: Internal UCAS deadline for all other UK university applicants
- [info]**

Mr Tim Lawson

Head of Sixth Form

TCL@radley.org.uk

News



Fantastic Four

Senior Pups, Ben (Senior Prefect, B), Rory (Second Prefect, G), Dingding (Senior Academic Prefect, D) and Jovan (Senior Co-Curricular Prefect, J), were inaugurated at Warden's Assembly. Ben commented, "Being able to, in a small way, shape and mould the culture of the College going forward is really exciting."



Exam Success

Radley's GCSE grades this year were 38% 9s and 67% 9-8 (A* equivalent), while 58% of our Sixth Form cohort were awarded A*-A grades and 86% A*-B.

Meanwhile, 18 Radleians achieved grade 9s in ten or more GCSE subjects (and received academic colours), with 12 6.2s (now ORs) securing their Oxbridge offers.



A New Chapter

Long-awaited refurbishments to Library have resulted in 52 new



Teens in Tignes

45 boys ventured to Tignes in the French Alps last week for six days

scheduled for half term. In line with this, Head of English Alexander Nash has launched a new reading initiative, announcing that a book of a boy's choosing should now be part of the required equipment for each lesson, with the 20 minutes before 'lights out' being an ideal time for designated reading.

and Chambéry. Beyond their hard work on the pitch - practising rucks, tackles and team play alike - the boys spent time exploring the local village, visiting the Grande Motte Glacier by funicular, playing mini golf, mountain-biking and even enjoying some singalongs alongside well-earned hot chocolates.



Summer sports

Individual sports successes filled the Radley summer. Manny's (6.1, G) bowling led Hampshire Cricket to triumph and earned him a place in the England U19 squad. Will (V, J) represented Gloucester County Cricket Club 2nd XI. Harry (R, A) played on the winning team at the Victor Ludorum National Polo Finals (the youngest team to ever win this all-ages title). Marcus (6.1, A) qualified for the European Junior Golf Open in November, and Pekko's (S, F) tennis talents took him to Germany with the GB National Team.



Stages Success

Vs, 6.1s and 6.2s travelled to cities across the UK to complete their 10-day National Youth Theatre induction courses, following successful auditions last academic year. The 11 boys studied ensemble and collaborative approaches to theatre, culminating in a group performance. Meanwhile, Rupert (V, B) reached the Regional Finals of the inaugural National Youth Monologues competition, with his rendition of the 'Greed is Good' speech from 1987's *Wall Street*.



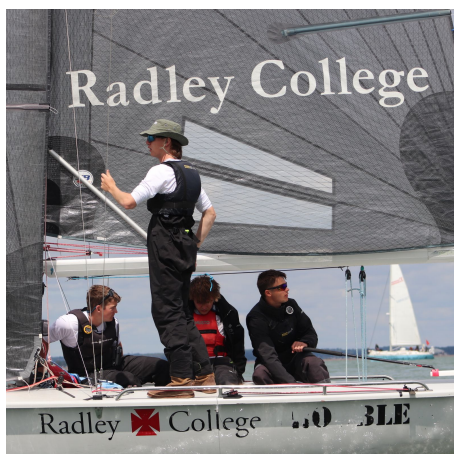
Summer rugby

Mosese's (6.1, E) two tries in the Prem Rugby Next Gen XI League carried the Gloucester U18s to a 40-26 success over Yorkshire Academy. Second Prefect Rory (6.2, G) toured with the U18 IQ (Irish-Qualified) Rugby squad in July, and both Hamish (6.1, A) and Will (6.1, E) have been selected for Bath RFC U18s Academy (a year early).



Essay Competition

Senior Academic Prefect Dingding (6.2, D) was a runner-up in the MASSOLIT Video Essay Competition, a contest inviting students aged between 14 and 17 to submit an online 8-12 minute lecture on any subject. Dingding's third entry in the competition in as many years will see him attend the awards ceremony in Brasenose College, Oxford.



Fair Sailing

In August's Cowes Week sailing regatta, the Radley team took on the SB20 Grand and Mini Slams, securing the College's best results with a 1st and a 3rd in the fleet racing. Only a broken mast kept them from the podium, with sailing coach Tim Baldwin writing, "A

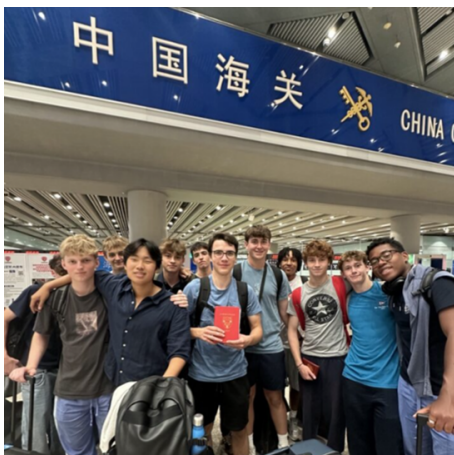


CCF Trip to Wales

Five Shells and five Removes travelled to Argoed Lwyd Outdoor Education Centre in South Wales for a special CCF trip. The group enjoyed both indoor and outdoor climbing and caving, hikes over the Brecon Beacons, gorge walks, and even leaps into a waterfall

these boats all week, without an adult, is testament to their maturity, balancing safety and seamanship with their competitive ambitions.”

boys “threw themselves into this and were very good at supporting those who were less confident.”



China Trip

14 Radley boys (including two of the new Senior Pups) travelled to Beijing this summer for work experience at JD.com, one of China’s largest companies.

Between seeing the sights and taking Mandarin lessons, the boys devised hypothetical marketing, pricing and impact strategies to introduce products to the Chinese market. The boys fully grasped the significance of the opportunity and were “excellent company”.



Water sports

Radleians saw victory on the water over the break. Jonathan (6.2, H) won gold on both days of Austria’s Coupe de la Jeunesse as part of the GB Juniors rowing crew, Oliver (6.2, G) represented Wales in the Home Countries rowing Regatta alongside Seb Buczacki OR (F). Following Zac’s (6.2, B) stellar performance in the UK Sailing National Championships, he was asked to trial for the British Youth Sailing Team.



History Stories

Alex (6.2, H) and Fintan (6.2, L) won the prestigious Malcolm Robinson Memorial Fund Scholarship this summer, which allowed them to travel to the USA to study early American history at the College of William & Mary.

Alex also won the history department's Andrew Reekes Senior History Prize for his essay on the nation as an imagined, yet material, thing. Joe (V, J) won the John Beasley Junior History Prize for his essay on Neil Armstrong.



Rugby Training

This week 18 Removes welcomed 15 boys from Birmingham's Broadway Academy for a joint rugby training camp. Over two days, students from both schools showed real progress, building confidence and enjoying playing alongside each other. The partnership will continue this term, with fixtures being considered both at Radley and in Birmingham, further strengthening the sporting and social links between the two schools.

Fixtures & Travel Information

We are always delighted to see parents supporting fixtures. Due to the dynamic nature of fixtures and venues, please check **SOCS** and speak to your son before making travel arrangements. Please keep dogs on a lead and pick up after them. Radley is a non-smoking campus. Due to the development of the Music School, parking is restricted at home fixtures.

Saturday 6th September

Rugby v King's College, Budo

Thursday 11th September

Rackets v Harrow

Upcoming Events

Private View: Drinking Down the Light

Friday 5th September, 6pm

Sewell Gallery

Details can be found [here](#).

Latest Photo Galleries

We are grateful to all our professional, staff and boy photographers who work hard to capture the true essence of Radley. As ever, all photographs are available to download from [**Flickr**](#).



Shells' First Day



Gaudy

Latest Videos



Introducing Radley Schools Group



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