

# Reading School

## Society Newsletter



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Official Opening of new Science Centre at Reading School

November 2017

### The Philip Mitchell Science Centre

Dr. P.C.H. Mitchell, ex-Chair of Governors for Reading School who served as a governor for over three decades, has officially opened Reading School's new Science Laboratories. At the opening on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017, the magnificent new building was named in his honour, 'The Philip Mitchell Science Centre'. The impressive edifice was built with the generous support of the parents and alumni of Reading School.

These laboratories were made possible by generous grants from **The Garfield Weston Foundation** and the **Wolfson Foundation**.

Further generous donations were kindly made by **Robert Bion & Co. Ltd** and **Mr. Neil Thomason**. Laboratories and the Atrium have been specifically named after these major donors.

Crucially, by improving the facilities for Biology and Chemistry we can continue to develop the scientists, doctors, engineers and technical innovators of the future. Reading School has a rich history of providing teaching that is challenging and intellectually engaging and this inspiring project has provided us with a total of seven new laboratories for the practical teaching of Biology and Chemistry. In addition, the preparation facilities have been improved extensively.



Having these extra facilities will greatly benefit current pupils as well as accommodate the pupil number increase, now that the school has grown from four form to five form entry.

Dr. P.C.H. Mitchell said that the new laboratories offered an enviable learning opportunity and emphasized the importance of Science in modern society.

*It is timely that pupils of Reading School will be able to enjoy such magnificent facilities that complement our rich heritage as well as encourage experiential learning and is in keeping with the Reading School values of excellence through intellectual curiosity, creativity and growth.*

*Dr. P.C.H. Mitchell*

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Mr. A. M. Robson, Headmaster gave a warm welcome to all the donors that were able to attend the official opening and paid tribute to the work of the staff and governors. He was delighted with the new facilities and honoured that Dr. P.C.H. Mitchell had conducted the official opening:



*The Philip Mitchell Science Centre will enable Reading School to deliver the highest quality teaching to our students. As a result we will consolidate our reputation of being a centre of Science excellence in the 21st Century.*  
Mr A M Robson

Miss L Ayres, Chemistry Teacher and Head of Laud House, together with Mrs. H Stapleton, Chemistry Technician were able to show the impact the laboratories would have on our pupils learning. They arranged for the Stem Club pupils to demonstrate practical experiments for all to see.

*The new labs have allowed us to bring our classroom teaching to life and allow pupils to participate with practical experiments and be hands on in the state of the art science facilities.*  
Mr. S. J. Longstaff



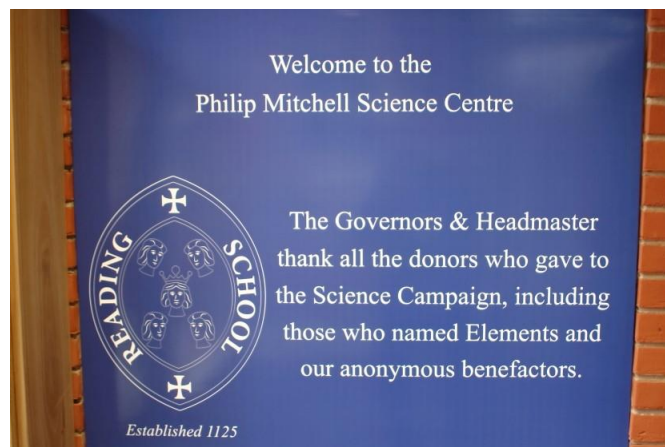
Pupils who demonstrated experiments at Reading School have commented:

*I love Biology and Chemistry and with these new facilities it will inspire me to improve further.*  
Year 8 Pupil

*The new Science Centre makes me very proud to be a pupil at Reading School. It will motivate me to work harder too.*  
Year 9 Pupil



The Philip Mitchell Science Centre places the Reading School's science department firmly in the future and we acknowledge that without the support we have received this would not be possible.



*We would like to once again thank all our benefactors, parents, governors and staff who have contributed to the success of this exciting development project.*