



Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin

9th January 2026

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Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers, Colleagues and Students,

Happy New Year!

I'm very pleased to be sharing an exceptionally brief bulletin this week. We have had a gentle and quiet start to 2026, and have survived the first storm of the year. I congratulate Year 13 students on completing their mock examinations with such diligence, and wish them, and year 11 all the best as they begin to get feedback on these assessments.

The start of 2026 brings an exciting invitation for Year 7 students: the RSPA have organised a disco for you on Friday January 23rd. For parents there is an equally exciting invitation: join me and other staff for coffee (sorry it's not a disco!). For all students there is an update to our cocurricular planning in today's bulletin too. Finally, today we are also sharing an important consultation on our admissions policies, and would welcome your views.

More than all of the above, the New Year marks the start of a new phase of strategic planning for our community. Entering this tenth century, learning from all of last year's successes and responding to societal and technological change, our staff will be exploring what our school's goals should be for the next decade. What sort of skills, knowledge and character will the world need from students who leave Reading School in 2034? What must we teach and model and prioritise if students from Reading School are going to continue to positively shape the world? How should what we teach change in response to the challenges that our world and our communities face today? How can we deliver plans for Sport, Expressive Art and the Sixth Form which facilitate our ambitions?

This will therefore be a reflective term, as we work together to continue improving our provision, building our community and shaping the future of our society. If you have views or reflections you'd like to share about future priorities, current strengths or areas for further ambition and improvement please do join me for coffee on Tuesday 27th, or drop an email to eturner@reading-school.co.uk so we can discuss more.

With best wishes for the year ahead,

Chris Evans
Headmaster

Key information

All Years

Admissions Consultation

In October 2025, Reading School was awarded the Sutton Trust Gold Award for Fair Admissions. The recognition is awarded to schools who have made several determined and significant changes to their admissions policies to ensure that there is fair access to all pupils regardless of socio-economic background.

We are very proud of what we as a school have achieved so far, but know that there are still bright and curious boys attending local primary schools who do not know who we are, or have outdated views of what sort of education we offer. Therefore, one of our aims is to ensure that Reading School serves its local community, broadly reflecting the diversity within the town, providing opportunity for the disadvantaged and achieving social impact through enabling admission to this school for those who will most benefit from the valuable education we provide.

We are therefore proposing some admissions changes (full details and rationale for which can be found here [Reading School - Admissions Consultation](#)):

- Addition of Oversubscription Category 7: Prioritise children enrolled at a state-funded Primary School in Designated Postcode Areas;
- Moving the main entrance test date from September to the July before the Summer holidays;
- Addition of Oversubscription Category 5: Prioritise Eligible Twins/Multiple Births if one registrant is ranked in the top 150;
- Addition of Oversubscription Category 6: Prioritise Children of School Staff;
- Other minor proposed changes, mainly for clarity.

As these changes will shape the cohort of students joining in September 2027, we would value your views. Please [complete this short form](#) before **28th January 2026**.

Spring Term 2026 Co-curricular Programme

A wide and varied programme of co-curricular activities is available for the Spring Term 2026, offering students across all year groups opportunities to develop interests, skills and friendships beyond the classroom.

The programme includes:

- **Music ensembles and choirs**, ranging from Junior and Senior Choirs to Orchestra, Jazz Band and Chapel Choir, with opportunities for musicians of different abilities
- **Sport and physical activity**, including badminton, football, fencing, squash, fitness sessions, ultimate frisbee, boxing, rowing and Combined Cadet Force
- **Academic, creative and enrichment clubs**, such as coding, science clinics, MedSoc, philosophy, classics, history discussion, creative writing, book club, Dungeons & Dragons, Warhammer and more
- **Faith, wellbeing and cultural activities**, including Christian Union and Jumma Prayers

- **Drama and LAMDA provision** through [Berzerk Productions](#) (charges apply)

Most clubs take place at lunchtime or after school, with some sports sessions hosted at Reading University SportsPark (students make their own way to these venues).

Full details, including days, times, year groups and staff leads, can be found in this [Spring Term 2026 Co-curricular Activities link](#).

Reading School Events

Start the New Year with a Coffee & Chat with the Headmaster

We warmly invite all Reading School parents and carers to join the second of our informal 'Open Coffee & Chat' sessions on Tuesday 27 January 2026, 3:45pm – 4:45pm in the Refectory.

This is a valuable opportunity to meet with the Headmaster and members of the Senior Leadership Team, be informed of the latest school updates, meet with other parents from your son's year group, and share your feedback or suggestions to help us continue improving the school experience for your sons.

We already have over 20 parents signed up for the session, and we would love to welcome more of you. Each family may bring up to two adults, and students or siblings are also welcome. Please register in advance using the link here: [Open Coffee & Chat with the Headmaster \(Lent Term 2025/2026\) | Events | Reading School Alumni Society](#)

Start 2026 by connecting with the Headmaster, enjoying a coffee, and having your say – we very much look forward to seeing you there.

RSPA

Year 7 Disco – Reminder – the Disco tickets are selling fast!!



The Reading School Parents' Association is delighted to announce the upcoming Year 7 Disco on **Friday 23rd January 2026**. We are pleased to also welcome Year 7 students from **Abbey School and Kendrick School** to join our Reading School boys for an evening of music, fun, and socialising.

The event offers a wonderful opportunity for students across the three schools to meet new friends and celebrate the beginning of their secondary school journey together. The disco will take place in the Reading School Refectory Hall from **7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**.

Tickets are £10, available on a first-come, limited-capacity basis via the link below. Students will enjoy unlimited squash, and there will also be a stall offering merchandise, soft drinks, and treats for a small additional cost.

Volunteers needed:

Volunteers are needed to help the RSPA team set up, to help during the event and to clear up afterwards. We would very much appreciate any time you could give us. We are a very friendly team, so come and be part of it! Please get in touch with Kerry (RSPA Chair) by emailing kerryobrien2004@yahoo.co.uk. Thank you.

Event Details

Date: Friday 23 January 2026

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Reading School (Refectory Hall)

Ticket Price: £10 (first come, first served)

Ticket Link: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/98949>

Please note: This is a Year 7 only event, and no siblings or additional guests are permitted. Parents will automatically get access to two free tickets for the Meet & Greet event happening at the same location and around the same time, giving you an opportunity to drop your kids off and socialise with the RSPA team and fellow parents from the same year group. Light refreshments and Drinks will be available to purchase.

We look forward to a memorable evening for all our Year 7 students, parents & guardians from all three schools!

Thank you and have a lovely weekend.

RSPA Team

Highlights: Lent Term Week 1

To keep up to date with student life at Reading School, click the icons below to follow, be part of, and stay connected with the Reading School community.



Signing off with a bang

For those who were unable to attend or for those who simply want to relive some of the magic during Reading School's Fireworks Extravaganza last term, please click the thumbnail below.



