

# **Interdisciplinary Academic Conference**

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026

**Time:** 08:30 – 22:00

**Venue:** Reading School, Erleigh Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5LW

**Theme:** Failure, Disaster, and Near Misses – An Interdisciplinary Conversation

## **Rundown**

<b>08:30–09:30</b>	<b>Breakfast &amp; Arrival</b>	Refectory
<b>09:30–09:45</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</b>	Big School
<b>09:45–10:15</b>	<p><b>Opening Keynote</b></p> <p><i>Learning from Failure: Systems, Culture and Leadership Across Sectors</i></p> <p><b>Focus:</b> How failure is treated differently across sectors, and why interdisciplinary learning matters.</p>	Big School
<b>10:15–10:45</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	Refectory
<b>10:45–11:45</b>	<p><b>Cross-Industry Roundtable Discussions</b></p> <p>Groups mix attendees from different fields to answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does your sector respond to near misses?</li> <li>• What methods/tools could you borrow from another field?</li> <li>• What cultural or structural barriers prevent learning from failure?</li> </ul>	Big School
<b>11:45–12:30</b>	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><i>When Things Go Wrong: Lessons from Failure Across Disciplines</i></p>	Big School
<b>12:30–13:30</b>	<b>Networking Lunch</b>	Refectory
<b>13:30–14:30</b>	<b>Subject-specific Talks</b>	
	<p><b>Medicine &amp; Healthcare</b></p> <p><i>Near Misses in Patient Safety – What Hospitals Can Learn from Each Other</i></p>	Big School
	<p><b>Engineering &amp; Technology</b></p> <p><i>Engineering Disasters and the Role of Predictive Maintenance</i></p>	Chapel
	<p><b>Law, Politics &amp; Public Policy</b></p> <p><i>Policy Failures and Public Trust – Lessons from Regulatory Near Misses</i></p>	Lecture Theatre
	<b>Economics, Finance &amp; Business</b>	Gymnasium

	<i>Financial Near Misses – Risk Management in Uncertain Times</i>	
<b>14:30-15:00</b>	<b>Subject-specific Breakout Sessions</b> <b>Medicine &amp; Healthcare</b> <i>AI, diagnostics, and human oversight in preventing critical errors</i>	Room 1 - 6
	<b>Law, Politics &amp; Public Policy</b> <i>Regulatory near misses and the ethics of decision-making</i>	
	<b>Engineering &amp; Technology</b> <i>Predictive engineering: from near misses to fail-safe design</i>	
	<b>Economics, Finance &amp; Business</b> <i>Algorithmic trading, risk modeling, and near-miss financial crises</i>	
<b>15:00–15:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	Refectory
<b>15:45–16:15</b>	<b>Reconvening Session: Reporting Back &amp; Synthesis</b>	Big School
<b>16:15–16:30</b>	<b>Closing Reflections &amp; Next Steps</b>	Big School
<b>After 16:30</b>	<b>Networking (Optional)</b>	
<b>18:30</b>	<b>Evening Dinner</b>	Big School
<b>18:30-19:00</b>	Welcome reception	
<b>19:00</b>	Headmaster’s welcome address	
<b>19:15-20:15</b>	Starter and main course are served	
<b>20:15-20:30</b>	Live music performance	
<b>20:30-21:00</b>	Keynote speech	
<b>21:00</b>	Dessert is served	
<b>21:30</b>	Closing remarks	
<b>22:00</b>	Evening concludes	

\*Schedule may be subject to change.