

Reading School

Year 7 Parent Handbook

Advice and Information

2026/27

Erleigh Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5LW



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Message from the Headmaster – Chris Evans

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is an absolute privilege for me to formally welcome you as a new member of the extended Reading School family. This guide is written to support you and your son at the beginning of his journey as a Reading School student. We hope that these brief notes will help, reassure and encourage each of you.

I'd like to introduce all the information that follows by reminding you of our shared purpose. Reading School is a truly amazing community. We care for each of our students, we have the highest possible aspirations for them and, with your help, we want to help them change the world. If your son's seven years here do not prepare him to shape society, to improve our world and to contribute positively to the lives of those around him, then we will have failed him and we have failed you.

We are certain that in all its tomorrows the world will need leaders who are compassionate, thinkers who are generous, public servants who are wise, colleagues who are courageous and friends who are steadfast. The society we strive towards will only be achieved if, together, we are brave enough to aim for a much loftier goal than individual academic excellence.

For your sons to fulfil their potential, they will need much more than A* grades. That's why examination results are going to be the very least significant measure of all that we achieve together over the next seven years. We are going to nurture curiosity and a love of learning. We are going to inspire service and an attitude of gratitude. We are going to build character and unleash talent. We are going to help each student to become rich in their relationships; to grow comfortable in their own skin and to be courageous in their decision-making.

If we can do this together, then your sons will leave here in 2033 ready to prove what a gift they are to the world and already living life in all its fullness.

Please understand that, for us, safety, wellbeing and happiness are our first priorities. Each is a pre-requisite for true fulfilment.

Please join us in valuing faithfulness and attitude above success or outcomes.

Please help us to nurture the joy of collaboration rather than a need for competition.

We hope your sons will throw themselves into all the school has to offer from day one. We hope they'll feel part of their House. We hope they'll play sport, or music and join clubs. We hope they'll make firm friends, and care for those who find this hard. We hope they'll find teachers who inspire them and academic disciplines that they can't wait to pursue further. We hope they'll feel at home and know that they belong here.

We know your sons are incredibly precious to you. We hope you now know that we care deeply for each of them too, and we thank you for the trust you place in us for the adventures ahead.

If there are questions that we haven't answered, please don't suffer in silence. Get in touch with us as soon as you can, so that we can help. We are a team now, and we must learn to work together. If there's anything that is worrying you, you now have every right to reach out to me, or to one of my colleagues. If we could have done something better, or there's something you've appreciated, please let us know so we can do it better, or can do it again. Please know that our partnership with you matters.

To finish, I hope that each parent from the class of 2033 reaches August 2026 fully confident about what comes next for their son, so that each child arrives here this September without anxiety. May your son reach the end of August 2033 just as excited about what lies ahead but wishing we could have these seven years all over again!

With thanks for entrusting your sons to our care,



Chris Evans
Headmaster



A welcome from our School Captain – George Goodman



As a representative of our student community, it is my privilege to give you all a warm welcome into Reading School! Our prestigious school owes its renown to its students, and upon setting foot inside this institution you will be following in the footsteps of mathematicians, politicians and famous actors, once in your same position! Whilst we are steeped in years of tradition, it is our students today, and those joining this year, who will pave the way for Reading School's future.

You should all be extremely proud of your success in the entrance exam, which is a remarkable achievement putting you in position to flourish and thrive in your upcoming school years. You will certainly find that skills developed in this exam will serve you well as you begin year 7. While our academic results speak for themselves, it is our attitude to learning at Reading School which we hold so high. You will find that all your teachers encourage you to explore your passions within subjects, and it is this fostering of curiosity and love for academics that defines excellence at our school, and it is that will put you on the road to real success at Reading School.

I remember my first few days of Reading School, and whilst I was filled with excitement to begin, I was also tinged with nervousness and the worry that I would be an outsider, finding it difficult to make friends. However, I soon found that all of my peers were in the same place! Although we offer a wholly different experience to any other school, you will find that support is instantly accessible, both from our outstanding staff body, and from your fellow students. Yes, some changes must be made from primary school as you take on a higher workload and more responsibility, but it is thanks to the encouraging and sympathetic community that you will soon feel right at home.

This community spirit will be perhaps even more obvious for you within our house culture, as you will soon be given your house, which you will belong to for your entire school journey. Whilst there is no sorting hat or banquet in big school, your house will instantly become a crucial part of your experience at Reading School, and once being selected for East, West, School, County or Laud house, you will remain in a form group of that house for the rest of your school career. Classes may shift with subject choices, but you will forever be part of your selected house, and your form will always stay as your community.

The houses are significant elsewhere too, as the esteemed house competition plays a major role as the year progresses. A brilliant way to get involved with this is through the various events, starting with the legendary night of house music, taking place at the Hexagon in the latter half of the Michaelmas term. The competition goes on to include contests from coding to speed cubing, from basketball to chess, and many in between!

Another brilliant part of Reading School is the abundance of opportunities for all, which help to foster valuable skills like collaboration, leadership and confidence. This will be seen in our Floreat programme, which seeks to promote these values through activities which will take you outside the classroom and through electives, which allow you to choose from a variety of undertakings, like woodworking, canoeing, or bushcraft!

I wish you all the best for your upcoming journey at Reading School and I hope you will one day look back on it as I do now with incredible pride and fulfilment. I encourage you above anything else to join in on as much as you can and throw yourself into every experience you come across with a growth mindset. I am looking forward to welcoming you all in September, and I wish you the best of luck for all that you go on to do at Reading School and beyond.

Contacting the School

Before your child starts at Reading School in September 2025, please address all questions to the Admissions Department. After this date, please direct your queries to the **Head of House** (please see the contact details below). At Reading School, your child's Form Tutor who is also the Head of House are the contact between home and school.

Address: **Reading School**
Erleigh Road,
Reading,
RG1 5LW

Tel: **0118 9015600**
Email: **secretary@reading-school.co.uk**

Rev Dr C Evans	Headmaster	cevens@reading-school.co.uk
Ms L Ayres	Deputy Headteacher, Safeguarding Lead	layres@reading-school.co.uk
Mr D McGall	Assistant Headteacher, Head of Pastoral	dmcgall@reading-school.co.uk
Mr G Fairchild	Assistant Headteacher, Director of Admissions	gfairchild@reading-school.co.uk
Mr T Evans	Assistant Headteacher, Personal Development, Pupil Premium	tevans@reading-school.co.uk
Mr A Lloyd	Assistant Headteacher, Head of Curriculum	alloyd@reading-school.co.uk
Mrs C Woodcock	Finance Director	cwoodcock@reading-school.co.uk
Miss S Rogers	SEND Coordinator	srogers@reading-school.co.uk
Mr D Tridgell	Director of Character, EVC	dtridgell@reading-school.co.uk
Mrs L Dimmick	KS2-3 Transition Officer	ldimmick@reading-school.co.uk
Miss K Rosser-Evans	Head of East House	KRosser-Evans@reading-school.co.uk
Miss Anna Batty	Head of Laud House	abatty@reading-school.co.uk
Mr Chris Betteridge	Head of School House	cbetteridge@reading-school.co.uk
Miss Katherine Scott	Head of West House	Kscott@reading-school.co.uk
Miss Holly Duxbury	Head of County House	hduxbury@reading-school.co.uk
Mrs P Brookings	Pastoral Manager	pbrookings@reading-school.co.uk
Miss Yoga Anantha Narayanan	Attendance and Reporting Officer	yanantharayanan@reading-school.co.uk

Term Dates – 2026-27

Michaelmas Term 2026	
Staff Day	Tuesday 1st September
Staff Day	Wednesday 2nd September
Michaelmas Term commences for all students - All Year 7 students will be in school from 8:20am - 3:25pm - Boarders return on the night of Wednesday 2 nd September from 6.00pm – 8.00pm - All Year 12 students who are new to the school will be in school from 8:20am – 12.40pm - All Year 12 students who are returning to the school will be in school from 10:00am – 12.40pm - All Year 8 - 13 will be taking part in academic preview activities and will be expected to attend school only for their pre-booked appointment.	Thursday 3rd September
Reading Week	Monday 19th October to Friday 23rd October
Half Term	Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October
School reopens for students	Monday 2nd November
Term ends	Wednesday 16th December (p.m.)
Lent Term 2027	
Lent Term Commences	Monday 4th January
Staff Day	Friday 12th February
Half Term	Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February
School reopens for students	Monday 22nd February
Term ends	Thursday 25th March (p.m.)
Summer Term 2027	
Summer Term Commences	Monday 12th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May
Half Term	Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June
School reopens for students	Monday 7th June
Term ends	Thursday 15th July (a.m.)
Entrance Test	Friday 16th July

Staff Days – 2026/2027

1st September 2026

2nd September 2026

12th February 2027

Timings of the School Day

Reading School Daily Timetable											
	10	45 + 5 mins movemt = 50	45+5 mins movemt = 50	60 + 5 mins movemt = 65	45	45	15	45 + 5 mins movemt = 50	45 + 5 mins movemt = 50	45	
	AM registration	Period 1	Period 2	Break	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Pastoral Time	Period 6	Period 7	Period 8
	08:20-08:30	08:30-09:15	09:20-10:05		10:25 - 11:10	11:15 - 12:00	12:00 - 12:45	12:45-13:00	13:00-13:45	13:50-14:35	14:40-15:25
Year 7	Tutor Time	Lesson	Lesson	Break	Lesson	Lesson	Lunch	Tutor Time/ Chapel / Assembly	Lesson	Lesson	Lesson
Year 8											
Year 9											
Year 10											
Year 11	Register (for support only)	Support lessons	Lesson	Lesson	break	Lesson	Lesson	Lunch	Lesson	Lesson	
Year 12											
Year 13											
	08:20-08:30	08:30-09:15	09:20-10:05	10:10-10:55		11:15 - 12:00	12:00 - 12:45	12:45-13:00	13:00-13:45	13:50-14:35	14:40-15:25

School Opening Times

The school reception is open between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm. For safety reasons please ensure your child does not arrive on site before 07.45 am.

Visiting the School and Parking

There is **no parking** for parents anywhere on the school site. The school is unable to provide spaces for parents dropping off or picking up pupils. Please do not park or drop students off on the school site or at the front of the school as this causes traffic congestion.

If you have an appointment, please park on the road outside and use the Erleigh Road pedestrian gate. Visitors **must** report to Reception to sign in and out.

The exception to this is for parents of boarders who are picking their child up on a Friday afternoon and dropping off on a Sunday evening/Monday morning.

Policies and Safeguarding

The policies are available on our website at the following link [Reading School Policies](#). All policies and are reviewed and updated by the Governing Body on a cyclical basis.

Further information regarding Safeguarding at the school can be found on the School website at the following link [Reading School Safeguarding](#). **Please note that to keep all of our students safe, parents must not be on site unless they have signed in at Reception, including in the Boarding Houses.**

The Foundation Years

An introduction to Years 7 and 8 for parents and carers

This information gives details on what is taught in the first two years at Reading School, and how you can be involved in your child's learning at secondary school.

What's so special about Years 7 and 8?

The 11-13 age range that makes up the Foundation years is an exciting time in life but also brings with it a number of challenges. It involves making a fresh start in a new school and being the youngest again. At the same time, it involves taking a step towards adulthood. The aims of this stage at Reading School are to:

- Prepare students for the adult world
- Give them the skills and the knowledge they need for lifelong learning
- Introduce them to a wide range of subjects and studies
- Make them more independent and self-aware
- Show them how to think and learn for themselves
- Give them confidence to join in, ask questions and help others
- Lay the foundations for success at GCSE and beyond

What do we teach in Years 7 and 8 at Reading School?

English	History	Modern Foreign Languages
Mathematics	Art and Design	French, German, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese
Biology	Computing	Latin
Chemistry	Drama	Physical Education
Physics	Music	PSHCE (Personal, Social Health and Citizenship Education)
Geography	Floreat*	Theology and Philosophy
History	Electives**	

* 'Floreat' means 'to flourish' in Latin. Based around elements of philosophy, psychology and high-performance theory, Floreat teaches students about who they are, who they could be and how to become the best version of themselves in order to have a positive impact on the world.

** Electives complement and extend the academic curriculum. We ask our students to be imaginative, collaborative and receptive; we ask them to be accountable for their contributions and their character, and, through harnessing choice, our students are supported and challenged to create energy, enhance intellectual curiosity and to embark on a journey of personal development.

What can parents do to support their son?

Starting secondary school is an important step in helping children become more independent and organised. Parents can play a key role in supporting good homework habits and helping children manage their time effectively.

Please support your child with these tasks in the first few weeks of school until good habits and routines can be found. Only withdraw this support once your child can complete these tasks independently and reliably.

- Look at the pattern of your week as a family and plan in time for:
 - Homework
 - Study time
 - Packing bag for the next day
 - Checking Teams and school emails (2x a week minimum)
 - Daily reading
 - Clubs
 - Downtime and rest
- Encourage homework to be completed in a shared family space where learning can be discussed and online activity monitored.
- Remind them to use their planner to keep track of homework and deadlines.
- Sign their planner weekly.
- Encourage your child to share worries they have themselves in the first instance to their Form Tutor and Head of House
- Children contact teachers themselves if they have a music lesson during the school day or have lost an item or bag etc.

Parents can:

- Show an interest
- Talk about the school day
- Attend and contribute to parents' meetings
- Discuss homework tasks, using their homework planner as a guide
- Help their child organise their time and paperwork
- Make sure they attend school regularly and punctually
- Find them a quiet place to study
- Look at the list of extra-curricular clubs and encourage your son to join at least one
- Praise their efforts

Parent Portal

MyChildAtSchool is an online portal for parents that enables them to view their child's performance at school in real-time via the web or the dedicated apps.

This information, such as academic progress, termly reports, behaviour, detentions, achievement and attendance is only available to the parents of that child and can only be accessed through a password protected unique login. This information is live and, in the case of lesson attendance for example, is updated as the register is taken in class.

My Child at School can be accessed via this link: <https://www.mychildatschool.com>

The School ID is: 12027

Smartphone Apps

MCAS is also available as an app for Apple and Android phones.

All parents will receive further information about the My Child at School Portal and be issued with a unique username and password to access live data. These details will be emailed to you at the beginning of September, just before the start of term. For this communication each parent must have a unique email address that is not going to change over the time their child is at Reading School. We always advise that parents use a personal email address and not a work email for this purpose.

All data collected and stored by Reading School complies with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Our Privacy Notice for Parents can be accessed by clicking [here](#) or can be found in the “about us” section of our website under policies.

Behaviour

At Reading School, we expect students to behave responsibly so that teaching and learning can take place effectively. Our expectations are based on respect, common sense and consideration for others, helping to create a safe, positive and successful school community.

Rewards

Our rewards system recognises effort, achievement and positive contribution in line with the Reading School Pillars:

- **Excellence** – academic work, sport, creative arts, homework, presentation and House activities
- **Integrity** – character, teamwork, sportsmanship and relationships with others
- **Leadership** – leading positively, teamwork and following expectations
- **Community** – contribution in lessons, tutor groups, House events, clubs and the wider school community

Students can earn rewards for effort, achievement, punctuality, readiness to learn, representing the school and participating in House events. Rewards include celebration assemblies, certificates, prizes, tutor group awards and Headmaster's awards. Achievements are recorded on Bromcom and monitored by the Pastoral Team.

Behaviour Points & Sanctions

Students are expected to:

- be polite, hardworking and well behaved
- wear the correct uniform
- arrive on time and prepared for lessons
- bring the correct equipment and complete work on time

If expectations are not met, students may receive:

- a behaviour point
- a teacher or department pre-detention

Behaviour points and sanctions are visible to parents on the Parent Portal.

Community service detentions may be used for conduct issues and involve giving back to the school community, for example litter-picking.

Where behaviour does not improve, or behaviour points accumulate, students may receive a Tuesday after-school detention (30 or 60 minutes) set by the Head of House and supervised by senior staff. Parents will be notified at least 24 hours in advance by email or phone, and the detention will appear on the My Child at School Portal.

Expectations and rules:

Students are expected to show:

- **Respect for others** – staff, students, visitors and the public
- **Respect for themselves** – doing their best, showing positive attitudes and presenting themselves well
- **Respect for property** – caring for school buildings, equipment and others' belongings
- **Respect for the School** – recognising that behaviour reflects on the school community

General rules:

- Students must arrive punctually to all school activities. Persistent lateness may lead to sanctions.
- Correct school uniform must be worn in school, travelling to and from school, and at official school events unless permission is given otherwise. PE kit may be worn on Games/PE days.
- Jewellery must not be worn or brought into school.
- Students leaving the site during the day must sign out and back in at Student Services.

Mobile phones:

From September 2026:

- Students in Years 7–9 may only bring an approved non-smartphone (“dumb” phone).
- Students in Year 10 and above may bring a smartphone, but it must remain switched off and in their bag throughout the school day unless a teacher gives permission for its use.
- These rules also apply on journeys to and from school and at official school events.
- Full policy can be read here: [Mobile Phone Policy](#)

Additional rules:

- Smoking, vaping and possession of smoking materials are not permitted.
- Knives or dangerous items must never be brought to school.
- Alcohol, drugs and dangerous substances are treated extremely seriously.
- Bullying of any kind, including verbal, physical or online bullying, will be dealt with severely.
- Damage to property must be reported immediately and students may be charged for repairs or replacement where appropriate.

Personal Property

1. All personal property must be named. Especially:
 - Coats
 - Uniform
 - PE kit
 - Lunchboxes
 - Water bottles
2. Students are responsible for their personal property unless it has been handed to a member of staff for safekeeping. Valuables for Games and Drama lessons must be handed in before the lesson and collected afterwards. All clothing and personal items should be clearly named and are brought into school at the owner's risk.
3. All textbooks and equipment issued to student remain the property of the school. They must be looked after carefully, handed in at the end of the school year or course as appropriate. Any loss or damage must be reported and may be charged for.

4. Theft or interference with others' personal property is treated as a serious offence.

School Property

Students are expected to treat school property with care. Any damage, however it is caused, must be reported immediately to a member of staff.

a) Tutor Rooms

1. Students must use their own tutor room only, unless directed otherwise by a member of staff or in accordance with the timetable.
2. The general state and tidiness of the tutor room is the responsibility of the Form
3. Students may display posters etc on display boards in their tutor room but only with the Form Tutor's permission. Any material displayed for teaching purposes must not be interfered with.

b) School Grounds

All Students have a responsibility for keeping the School site tidy and well maintained. In particular:

1. Students may not use the School field for games without the permission of a member of staff.
2. Students must not walk on the grassed areas or around flower beds or shrubs.
3. Students must place all litter in the bins provided.
4. Students must enter and leave the School only by the recognised entrances and exits.

Mobile Phone Policy – What You Need to Know

✗ Year 7 & Year 8 & Year 9 from September 2026

No smartphones allowed. You may bring a dumb phone (calls/texts only) – approved models only.

✓ Year 10+

Smartphones allowed BUT must stay off and in bags all day. No use at break, lunch, or lessons.

🏠 Boarders

Same rules apply in houses. Year 10+ can use phones after school with limits (e.g. no phones after lights out).

🧠 Online Safety

You'll learn about cyberbullying, screen time, and digital habits in PSHE, tutor time, and assemblies.

⚠️ Break the Rules?

1st time = parents collect it. 2nd = detention. More = further consequences.

📞 Contacting Home

Use school office/boarding house. No phone use during the school day.

Attendance

Attendance at Reading School is excellent. The school encourages full attendance at all times. In line with the government and Local Authority (LA) expectations, absence for reasons other than illness is strongly discouraged. The school works very closely with the LA Education Welfare Officer (EWO) to monitor and promote good attendance.

Punctuality and Lates

All lower school students are required to be in their first lesson by 8.20 am. A student is considered late if he arrives after 8.20 am. This will result in a late mark being recorded in the register.

Absence

Please email attendance@reading-school.co.uk if your child is going to be absent. Please email as early as you can in the morning on each day of the absence.

All absences need to be followed up by a note to the Form Tutor.

After the absence, students are expected to catch up on the work which has been missed.

Please do not phone the school office.

Medical Appointments

These should be arranged as far as possible outside of school hours.

Illness in School Time: Parents will be contacted if their child becomes ill during the day and will be asked to collect them from school. Medication such as paracetamol will only be administered to students if authorised on their admission form. Any medication brought to school should be clearly labelled and, with the exception of asthma inhalers, handed to the Student Services.

Absence from PE

In addition, a letter to the PE staff is required in the case of temporary unfitness for PE.

Planned absence

All requests for planned absence must be made in writing to the headmaster (the relevant form can be downloaded from the school's website [Reading School - Absence](#).)

If your child requires absence from school in term time due to other circumstances which involves being absent for a day or more, than a leave of absence form must be filled and sent back to the Attendance Officer with clear details of the absence, this can be found on the school's website. Please see [link](#) to Attendance Guide with advice/processes to follow in the event of an absence.

Holiday requests

All term time holidays are not permitted and will not be authorised. Local Authorities have a duty to ensure all children attend school regularly. If you take your child out of school without authorisation you could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Reading School Transport

Reading Buses

Reading Buses have several services to the roads surrounding School. For further details visit their website at www.reading-buses.co.uk or contact them on 0118 959 4000.

Cycling to School

Students who choose to cycle to school must ensure they have a D Lock and lock their bikes securely in the bike sheds behind the JKB building. Please note that the school insurance does not cover the loss of personal possessions including bikes. Students should also ensure they wear cycle helmets and full reflective clothing.

Clubs and Societies

At Reading School, we run a huge selection of regular activities for students to participate in. Lunchtimes, electives and after-school form an integral part of the daily pattern of life at Reading Boys. The Reading Way is broad and balanced enabling students in Year 7 to participate widely in House-Activities, Clubs and Societies and Trips. The school runs around 50-60 trips a year in normal times.

There are some activities which we expect all students to participate in, as part of the balanced diet of team building and collaboration.

Additional clubs and societies are communicated to parents and students on a termly basis.

There is an extensive range of Sport, Drama, Music and Art open to all, in addition to a variety of academic opportunities and clinics to support classroom learning.

Club range from: Debating and Philosophy, to Fencing and Cricket, LAMDA, Mock Trial, Maths Intelligence, War Hammer, Coding Club, Spanish Scrabble, Sixth Form Weightlifting.

The vast majority of clubs are completely free of charge, however there are some activities such as peripatetic music lessons, LAMDA classes and fencing that incur additional charges.

We are always looking for opportunities for students to help us come up with new ideas and to provide space for student leadership.

We also encourage all students to take part in an extra-curricular activity at least once a week from the start of Year 7 to ensure students are actively involved in pursuing areas of interest and stretching themselves.

Please check the website [Reading School - Co-Curricular Activities](#) each new term and encourage your child to join at least one extra-curricular club per term.

House Competitions

House competitions are a great way for children to get involved in school life. They'll meet pupils from different houses and year groups while working together to earn points. Most activities involve a try-out, but they don't always require expertise.

Please encourage your child to take part as they settle into Reading School.

Event	Students Involved	Date
Coding	Selection	Michaelmas Term 1
Rugby	ALL	Michaelmas Term 1/2
Table Tennis	Selection	Michaelmas Term 2
Music	Selection	Michaelmas Term 2
Humanities	Selection	Lent Term 1
Ghost	Selection	Lent Term 1
Rubik's Cube	Select	Lent Term 1
Basketball	Selection	Lent Term 2
Football	ALL	Lent Term 1/2
Spelling Bee	Selection	Lent Term 2
Eisteddfod	Selection	Lent Term 2
Drama	Selection	TBC
Spike ball	Selection	Summer Term 1
Softball	ALL	Summer Term 1
Art	Selection	Summer Term 2
Badminton	Selection	TBC
Chess	Selection	TBC
Athletics	ALL	Summer Term 2
House Reading	Selection	Summer Term 2
Frisbee	Selection	Summer Term 2
Cricket	ALL	Summer Term 2
Floreat challenges	Selection	Summer Term 2
House Squash	Selection	Summer Term 2

* Some of these competitions may change in the new academic year. Children will be given advance notice from their form tutors of upcoming competitions.

Uniform – Clothing List for Years 7 to 11

In previous years, we have asked families to buy school suits from Stevensons. This year, we are changing this in line with government guidance about keeping the number of branded uniform items to a minimum and helping to keep costs down for families.

From September, suits can be bought from any shop. We would ask parents to check the Stevensons website before buying, so that the suit colour matches the rest of the school uniform.

The only piece of uniform that must be bought from Stevensons is the school tie in your son's colour:

- County – Maroon
- East – Pink
- Laud – Blue
- School – Green
- West – Yellow

If you would like to buy your son's uniform from Stevensons, please follow this link: [Stevensons](#) or you can visit their shop in Chatham Place, Reading, RG1 7AR.

School Uniform

- Plain grey suit, conventional cut
Sixth form students can choose to wear navy blue, grey or black.
- House tie (Years 7 – 11) * (May only be purchased from Stevensons)
- White or grey shirt
- Plain black shoes
- Plain grey or black socks (not white)
- Grey or dark blue pullover V neck: purchase of this is optional.
- Plain/dark coat (no leather/PVC or denim)
- Rucksack with straps for each shoulder
- Lab coat
- Science goggles

Shoes

Shoes should be **smart leather shoes, not black trainers**. No black leather trainers and no branding. (If the shoes were white, and they look like trainers, they are not correct.)

If your child has any sensory/SEN needs, please email senco@reading-school.co.uk



ALL ITEMS MUST BE MARKED WITH BOY'S NAME

Please note:

Clothing bought must comply with the requirements indicated. If in doubt, parents should contact the School about the acceptability of a garment before purchasing it.

Lost Items

Please encourage your son to take full responsibility for his equipment and uniform at school. As pupils move between lessons, items can sometimes be left behind. If this happens, they should let a member of staff or their Form Tutor know straight away and retrace their steps, as quick action gives the best chance of finding the item.

Additional rules

1. Hair should be kept clean, tidy, and no longer than collar length. Extreme styles or coloured hair are not permitted. If a student does not meet these expectations, sanctions may be issued and parents informed.
2. Jewellery must not be worn or brought into school, and piercings are not permitted.
3. Students should be clean shaven unless this conflicts with accepted religious beliefs. In these cases, a letter from a religious leader will be required.

Reading School Uniform Shop

Reading School Parents' Association also run a uniform shop selling second hand uniform items and sports kits in good condition at very reasonable prices. The shop is in the walled car park opposite the Chapel.

The forthcoming planned dates the shop will be open during the summer are as follows:

Saturday 13th June 10.30-12.30am

Wednesday 24th June (Yr 7 transition day) 3-4.30pm

Saturday 1st August 10.30am-12.30pm

Wednesday 26th Aug 6-7pm

Contact: shop@readingschoolparents.co.uk

Opening times are usually the Friday and Saturday preceding the last day of each half term and end of term.

Friday times are 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Saturday times are 10:30am – 12:30am

Opening times can be confirmed on the RSPA Website at www.readingschoolpa.org.uk/uniform-shop

The RSPA Uniform shop is run entirely by parent volunteers, and all profits go to support projects that benefit students directly. Donations of uniform, sports kit and revision guides in good condition are always gratefully received and can be taken to school Reception any time in a bag labelled 'Uniform Shop'.

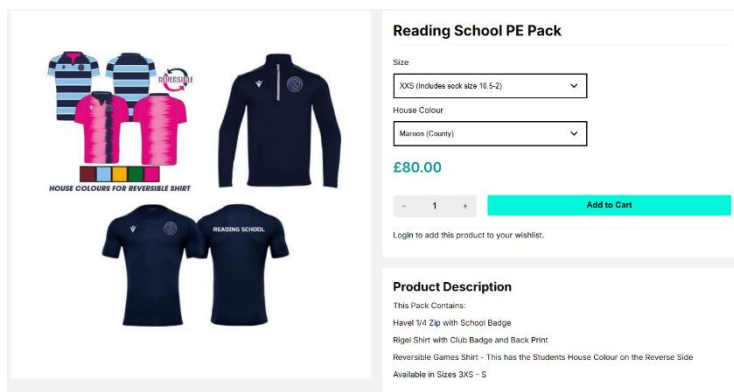
Financial Assistance

NB: Should any family need financial help and support please see page 25 which references the Reading School Promise.

Physical Education and Games Wear

It is important that all students and parents are aware of the manner of dress required to maintain the high standards set by the school. Outlined below are the minimum requirements of kit which we would expect students to wear for the broad range of activities that are provided on the curriculum. All items listed below, should be named and those in bold are sold by our PE kit supplier whose details can be found at the bottom of the page.

For your convenience we have created a [Reading School PE Pack](#) with Macron which includes the **three compulsory items** as well as shorts and socks. Should you wish to source plain blue socks and shorts from a different supplier that is also permitted.



For Gymnastics, Athletics, Dance, Health Related Fitness and Cricket, boys require the following:

- **[Gebe shirt](#) compulsory from Macron**
- **[Mesa Hero shorts](#)** (Cricket Whites are optional for the Summer Term instead of shorts) or other non-branded blue shorts
- Plain White socks
- Suitable indoor trainers or shoes appropriate to the activity (i.e. indoor trainers should not be worn on the field or vice versa).

For all outdoor team games boys require the following:

- **[Reversible Games Shirt](#) compulsory from Macron**
- *Please make sure that you mark down the correct house on the order form.

Maroon=County **Sky=Laud** **Yellow=West** **Green=School** **Pink=East**

- **[Rayon socks](#)** or other non-branded blue socks
- **[Arno ¼ Zip](#) compulsory from Macron**
- Mouth-guard
- Shin-Pads
- Rugby/Football boots (with safety studs)
- Outdoor trainers



Optional additional items which can be worn in times of inclement weather and branded bag:

- **[Abydos Hero](#)** Plain navy blue tracksuit bottoms can be bought either from Macron with the school logo or sourced from another retailer.
- **[Elbrus Windbreaker](#)**
- **[Narvik Jacket](#)**
- **[Reading School Path Bag](#)**

Sports kit is available from Macron throughout the year online by using this [link](#) with delivery usually within 2/3 days. Additional contact details are: 0208 303 7793 or Naomi@macronlondonseouteast.com

The **labelling of kit is hugely important**. This will allow staff and members of the Parents' Association who sort out lost property once every half term to ensure you receive anything that has gone missing. Please help us out by ensuring your child's clothing and equipment is clearly named as outlined on page 17. Trainers and rugby/football boots must be marked with indelible ink of a suitable colour. These labels will be checked in September.

Departmental Requirements

Art and Design

We ask that pupils arrive to their first Art lesson equipped with the following:

- 1 x graphite pencil (preferably softer B or 2B grade – *not* propelling/mechanical)
- 1 x block eraser (plastic or natural rubber)
- 1 x sharpener
- 1 x small pair of scissors
- 1 x black fineline pen – thin felt tip
- 1 x glue stick/Pritt stick
- £1 for a sketchbook

Outside of lessons, it would be helpful for your child to have access to a range of art materials at home for completing homework and for personal artistic experimentation and development, for example a set of good quality colour pencils and a small set of watercolours with round brush. Pencils, erasers, and sharpeners are available to purchase from the Art Department (20p each). Access to a printer (preferably colour) will be needed in order to print work produced for homework; the LRC (Library) is able to offer printing to pupils at around 5p per A4 colour sheet.

Pre-made kits that contain art materials that could be used at home across Year 7 and Year 8 are available from many retailers. If parents, carers, or family members wish to buy something extra for the KS3 artist in their lives, we would recommend the following two options as starter sets with a good balance between quality and cost:

- *Specialist Crafts* linked [HERE](#) (*Creative Colour INTRO Pack*): A kit containing a set of watercolours, colour pencils, watercolour pencils, soft pastels, oil pastels, felt tip pens, and sharpener in a box, bag, or folder at a cost of around £21 delivery included.
- *Artesaver* linked [HERE](#) (*KS3 Essential Art Kit*): A kit with a set of watercolours, graphite drawing pencils, oil pastels, brushes, coloured pencils, glue stick, scissors, fine liner, ruler, rubber, sharpener, and sketchbook in a folder for around £24 including delivery.

In addition to *Specialist* and *Artesaver*, [Jackson's](#) and [Cult Pens](#) offer a wide range of more specialist art, craft, and design-related tools and materials online.

For additional optional enrichment, we would suggest the following books:

<i>You Will be Able to Draw by the End of This Book</i> by Jake Spicer	Ilex Press
<i>Manga for the Beginner: Everything You Need to Start Drawing Right Away!</i> (<i>Christopher Hart's Manga for the Beginner</i>) by Christopher Hart	Watson-Guptill
<i>Draw 50 Animals</i> by Lee J. Ames	
<i>How to Draw Cool Stuff: A Drawing Guide for Teachers and Students</i> by Catherine V. Holmes	Library Tales Publishing
<i>Wreck This Journal</i> by Keri Smith	Penguin
<i>The Art Book</i>	Phaidon
<i>The Photo Book</i>	
<i>The 20th Century Artbook</i>	
<i>The Fashion Book</i>	A&C Black
<i>...isms: Understanding Art</i> by Stephen Little	

Chemistry – Safety in Laboratories

Many of our lessons involve practical work. Whilst the School is totally committed to following the advice and regulations on safety laid down by CLEAPSS, we expect parents to provide the following items for the start of term and ensure that their child brings them to all practical lessons.

1. EYE SHIELDS/LABORATORY GOGGLES

These can be purchased from the school uniform supplier, Stevensons.

2. LABORATORY COATS

In order to prevent damage to school uniform we ask that every student wears protective clothing during practical lessons. Our preference is for white lab coats, which can either be purchased from Stevensons or Alexandra Workwear. However, we are prepared to accept any suitable equivalent item of clothing. With care both items will last for several years and will prove to be a worthwhile investment.

Drama

All Students require a pair of black plimsolls to be worn (indoor only) for Drama lessons.

English

We would advise parents to ensure that their child has a pocket-sized English Dictionary and Thesaurus, which they can carry around with them to use in lessons.

Students should also always have a personal reading book with them.

We would also recommend a plastic zip wallet is used to contain English exercise books and personal reading books, and that students are equipped with glue sticks and highlighter pens for text annotation work.

Mathematics

Students must have a protractor, a ruler, a pair of compasses and a scientific calculator for their Mathematics lessons.

A CASIO fx-991EX calculator is recommended.

Calculators will be available to purchase from the school MCAS system at the beginning of term. Other items of equipment are always on sale in the mathematics department.

From the Director of Music

I am delighted to welcome you and your son to Reading School.

Music is a vital component of our day-to-day life and staff, students and parents are able to look back with pride over recent years at some extremely special moments including: abroad tours for our Chapel Choir, the House Music Competition at The Hexagon which involved over 200 students, The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, our collaborative production Queen Anne's School, opera workshops with the Garsington Opera Company and over a dozen other concerts and events.

Regardless of your son's ability when he joins Reading School, his first year will be filled with musical challenge and exciting opportunity. We have been lucky enough this year to run our Music For All programme, where all boys will learn an orchestral instrument, free of charge! I hope your child is excited about the range of musical opportunities they will be offered at Reading School and that they will enjoy getting involved in as many of them as they can over years to come.

Instrumental Lessons

We are lucky to have a large in-house team of experienced and expert peripatetic teachers available to offer a full range of individual music tuition. Students who have already been receiving lessons at their previous school would usually transfer to a member of our team. Likewise, some pupils take the opportunity of starting at a new school to begin a new musical journey.

Lessons are timetabled during curriculum time, and care is taken to rotate these lessons so that the same period is not missed repeatedly. Students who are organised in catching up on their work and excusing themselves well in advance generally find that this arrangement is easily manageable.

Please find links below to an application form for individual music lessons and a copy of the Terms & Conditions.

[Microsoft Form for Individual Music Lessons](#)

Chapel Choir

Reading School's Chapel Choir is our elite vocal group who provide music for Evensongs and services, celebrations including the Commemoration Service, Remembrance Sunday and The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols. New Year 7's who are enthusiastic vocalists are encouraged to audition straight away for the Chapel Choir (usually as a treble or alto chorister). The audition will be with our Director of Chapel Choir, Mr. James Druce, who will want to your son to sing a short extract of a piece with him, and see what his music reading abilities are like (music reading is not a requirement but is useful).

Chapel Choir are anticipating an abroad tour to Prague, Czechia in October 2026 – successful candidates will be invited to join us for the tour and is a fantastic opportunity for new year 7's to embed themselves into the school community beyond their year group. The older boys in the Chapel Choir are very friendly and great at welcoming in new members! If you believe your son would be a great addition to our Chapel Choir, please keep a look out for the audition afternoon which will take place in July (details will be sent directly to all parents during May).

Ensemble Music

The school has a diverse, vibrant and welcoming array of extra-curricular music ensembles for your child to get involved in as well as some more informal, student-led activities. The expectation is that if your child is learning an instrument, they are actively involved in and committed to suitable ensemble activities. Ensemble playing is an important musical skill which supports instrumental learning and development – it is also great fun!

Instrumental ensembles at Reading are organised by ability – rather than age – as follows:

The numbers in each cell denote the minimum and maximum playing grade requirement. Playing grade is the most recent grade achieved rather than the current study level.	KS3 Orchestra	Junior Jazz Band	Junior Guitar Ensemble	Jazz Band	Big Band	String Orchestra	Reading School Orchestra	Advanced Guitar Ensemble
Violin	0 - 4					5 +	4 +	
Viola	0 - 4					5 +	4 +	
Cello	0 - 4					5 +	4 +	
Double Bass	0 - 4					5 +	4 +	
Harp	0 - 4					5 +	4 +	
Flute	0 - 4	0 - 4					4 +	
Oboe	0 - 4						4 +	
Clarinet	0 - 4	0 - 4		3 +	6 +		4 +	
Saxophone	0 - 4	0 - 4		3 - 5	6 +		4 +	
Bassoon	0 - 4						4 +	
Trumpet	0 - 4	0 - 4		3 - 5	6 +		4 +	
Tenor Horn	0 - 4	0 - 4		3 - 5	6 +		4 +	
Baritone Horn	0 - 4	0 - 4		3 - 5	6 +		4 +	
French Horn	0 - 4	0 - 4					4 +	
Euphonium	0 - 4	0 - 4					4 +	
Trombone	0 - 4	0 - 4		3 - 5	6 +		4 +	
Tuba	0 - 4	0 - 4					4 +	
Electric Guitar		0 - 4		3 - 5	6 +			
Acoustic Guitar			0 - 5					6 +
Bass Guitar		0 - 4		3 - 5	6 +			
Drums		0 - 4		3 - 5	6 +			
Percussion	0 - 4			3 - 5	6 +		4 +	
Piano		0 - 4		3 - 5	6 +			

In addition to our instrumental ensembles, we also have **three vocal groups**: Junior Choir is open to all singers from across the school community from Y7-10; Students can progress on to Senior Choir when they reach Y11.

Kind regards,

Oliver Griffin
Director of Music

Summer Reading Challenge

Dear Parent,

We are looking forward to meeting your child and to introducing them to all of the wonderful books available in our Learning Resources Centre. In preparation for this, we would like to invite your child to participate in our Y6 Summer Reading Challenge. The Challenge is to read at least six books between July and September, ideally one from each of the following genres:

- Action/Adventure
- Crime/Mystery
- Fantasy/Magic
- Historical
- Non-Fiction
- Funny stories

Each time your child finishes a book, please can you ask them to complete this online [form](#)

This is a great way for us to get to know what your child likes to read so we can support their love of reading. In September, there will be individual rewards for finishing at least six books and a reward for the tutor group who collectively reads the most books, so every book counts!

This summer we are also asking students to take a photo of themselves reading a book in an unusual place for our Extreme Reading photo competition. Prizes will be awarded for the best photos and the winners will be put on display in the Reading School Learning Resources Centre.

More information on the Summer Reading Challenge can be found here: [Summer Reading Challenge](#)

Entries should be emailed to lkesteven@reading-school.co.uk by Friday 11th of September. Please include your child's name and their House.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kesteven

School Librarian

Reading School – Our Promise

Our aim is to make Reading School as open as possible to all children. We know that parents worry about the cost of sending their child to school and we want to take that worry away. If your child is currently eligible, a free school meal will be provided. For any student offered a place at Reading School, who is eligible for pupil premium (i.e. who has been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years) we will provide:

1. Confidentiality: about financial arrangements with regards to your son. Assistance is given automatically with the minimum of fuss so that no family can be identified as receiving support.
2. Support with uniforms costs supported by the provision of vouchers for £100 towards the purchase of PE kit and £100 towards the purchase of uniform from Stephenson's at the start of Year 7 and for compulsory school uniform.
3. Additional support of up to £200 for uniform related expenses at the start of Year 9; claimed back via the Reading Promise form.
5. Access to a 'fee free' locker for year 7: allocated before the start of year 7
6. Free essential equipment for lessons: provided for students before they start Year 7, including free laboratory coats and goggles for science.
7. Free essential school trips: The school will fund Belonging Week trips for all students in Years 7-10, up to £200 per annum. Other trips may be subsidised.
8. A grant of up to £500: towards one International trip in each Key Stage, during Years 7 – 11. Additional funds may also be available through the Reading Foundation subject to assessment.
9. In Years 7&8 there will be the opportunity to take part in a program of instrumental lessons funded by the school and offered to all students as part of the Music Departments core provision, in curriculum time.
10. Additional discretionary support may be available, with the Headmaster's approval. Please contact Mr Tom Evans for a confidential conversation as required.

*"A positive attitude creates positive thoughts, events and outcomes.
It is a catalyst and it sparks extraordinary results"*

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any concerns you have, please telephone Tom Evans, Assistant Headmaster, at Reading School on 0118 9015600 or email: tevens@reading-school.co.uk

A message from the Reading School Parents' Association (RSPA)

Welcome to our vibrant school community! As fellow parents, we understand that navigating through a new school's ins and outs can be exciting and overwhelming. One of the best ways to integrate into our school family and make a meaningful impact is by joining the RSPA and actively participating in many of our fundraising events.

Our primary responsibility is to extend support to the families of our students; especially the incoming Year 7 students. We are led by a committee of willing and enthusiastic parents, who meet regularly and organise events to fund projects across the school that directly benefit our children and enhance their education and environment. By joining, you can contribute your unique talents, skills, and ideas to support various initiatives that benefit all students.

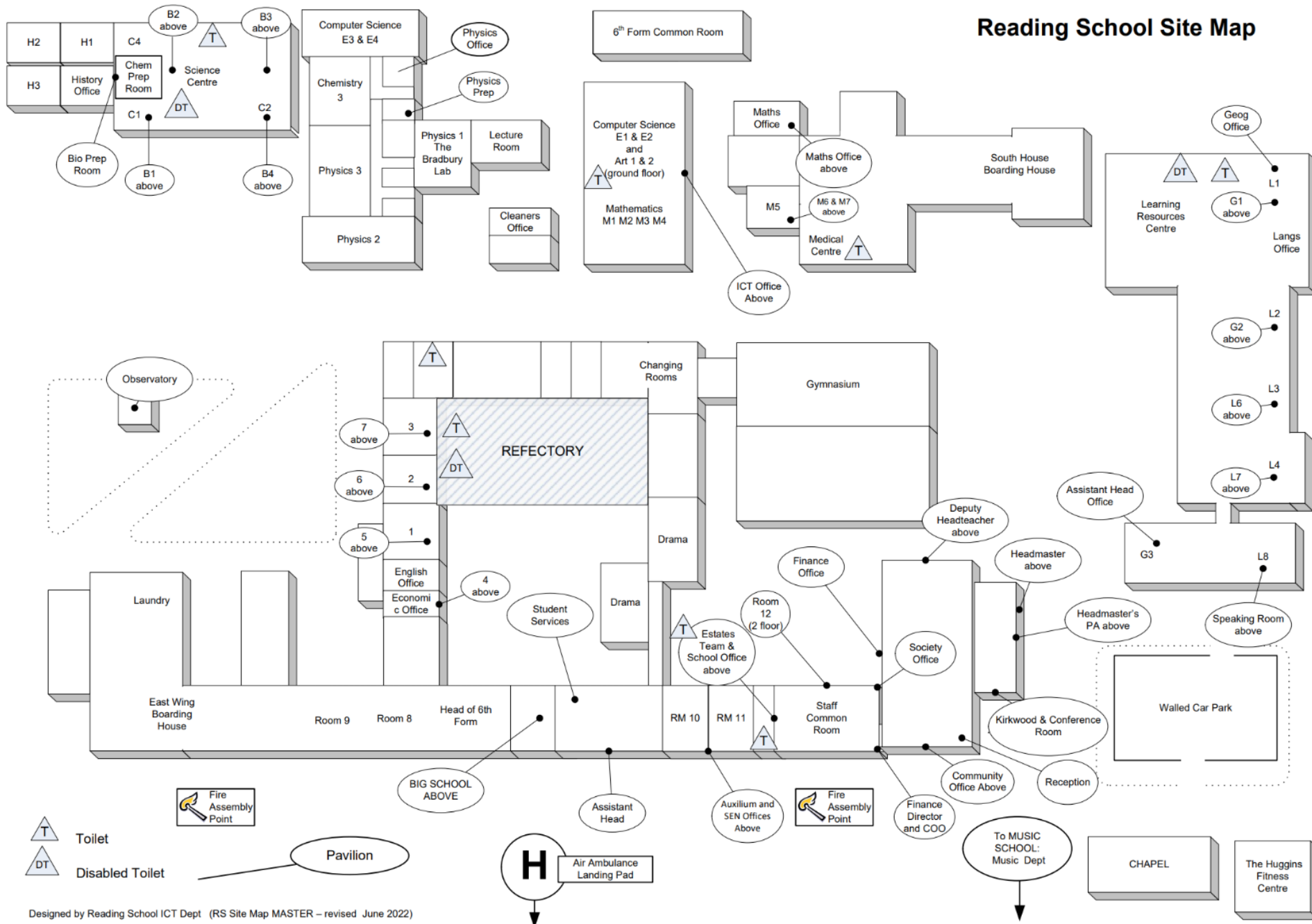
Some of the initiatives we support include Y7 welcome picnic, Pre-loved Uniform Shop, parent communication through WhatsApp groups and Classlist, social functions such as Y7 disco, quiz nights and Speech Day. Fundraising at these and other events enables us to fund projects that the school would otherwise not be able to afford. Recently we have funded LRC laptops, interactive whiteboards in Science, football goals for Morgan Road and outdoor benches and tables plus the Teachers' Wishlist which provides learning resources to academic departments at Christmas.

If you would like to join the RSPA and find out more about our activities, please visit our website at www.readingschoolpa.org.uk and if you would like to volunteer to help in any way, please email contactus@readingschoolparents.co.uk.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram – just search for Reading School Parents Association.

We look forward to welcoming you to the RSPA and embarking on this rewarding journey together!

Reading School Site Map



Designed by Reading School ICT Dept (RS Site Map MASTER - revised June 2022)

**Join the
parents
already giving
just £1 a day...**

...so every student at
Reading School can reach
further than the
curriculum alone allows.

Scan the QR code to donate.



**Donate
today**

**Your £1 a day will fund over 40+
co-curricular activities every week**



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Reading School

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