

Reading School

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# Boarding

Guidance for New Boarders and Parents

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2026/27

Erleigh Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5LW



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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to Boarding at Reading School. These notes are for new boarders and their parents, and we hope they provide useful guidance. The contents may not answer all your questions but hopefully cover most of the details that you may need to know.

If you do have any questions before arriving, please do telephone or email for advice. We want every new boarder to feel at home as soon as they arrive.

## **2. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF BOARDING**

For your reference, the aims of Boarding at Reading School are:

1. To ensure that every boarder feels confident and secure in his surroundings and relationships so that boarders are able to flourish personally, socially and academically.
2. To engender a sense of community, so that the best values of family life may be enjoyed enabling all boarders to develop self-awareness, respect for others and open-mindedness.
3. To provide an environment and routine in which boarders may aim for excellence in all they undertake, embrace new challenges and strive to be the best they can.
4. To model and to expect exceptional standards of inclusivity, care and personal conduct so that boarders develop a sense of moral awareness, self-discipline and integrity.
5. To provide opportunities for responsibility and independence, so that boarders develop as individuals, team players and leaders within the Boarding community and the school.

These aims are underpinned by principles and values considered integral to Boarding at Reading School:

1. Mutual respect and trust, which promotes equality for all boarders, regardless of ethnicity, culture, background or disability.
2. The importance of well-being and provision of routine, boundaries and a safe environment so that the happiness, welfare and safety of boarders is never compromised.
3. The right to privacy and individuality and to accommodation and facilities that are comfortable and suited to the needs of boarders, according to age and maturity.
4. Freedom from abuse, intimidation, harassment, teasing and bullying.
5. The significance and value of the whole person – spiritual, cultural, moral, intellectual, physical and social and the development of conditions in which individual personality and interests can flourish.

## **3. INDUCTION**

You will have already received details of the first day of the Michaelmas term in the welcome pack (and if you haven't, you will very soon). The first few days in Boarding are very important and include an induction period focused on team building, health and safety, rules and relationships.

Topics include People to Trust, House Rules, Bullying, Complaints, Routine, School Day, Laundry, Medication, Sanctions and Rewards, Possessions, IT, Site safety and Fire safety.

## 4. BOARDING STAFF

Boarding Housemasters and Deputies live on site in accommodation adjacent to the boarders. Please feel free to contact Boarding Staff as and when necessary – both Housemasters and Matrons expect to be in touch frequently.

- South House:** Mr Chris Betteridge – Housemaster [cbetteridge@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:cbetteridge@reading-school.co.uk)  
Mr Ryan Blade – Deputy Housemaster  
Mrs Karen Andrews – Matron [kandrews@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:kandrews@reading-school.co.uk)
- East Wing:** Mr Jesus Escribano Sánchez – Housemaster [jsanchez@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:jsanchez@reading-school.co.uk)  
Ms Elise Fondu – Deputy Housemistress  
Ms Nikki Booth – Matron [nbooth@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:nbooth@reading-school.co.uk)
- Both Houses:** Mrs Miranda Alberici – Boarding Administrator [boarding@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:boarding@reading-school.co.uk)  
Mrs Kathy Roberts – Housekeeper  
Ms Eva Delgado – Laundress

## 5. IMPORTANT CONTACTS

To contact staff use the following phone numbers or email:

### Housemasters' number:

- East Wing - Jesus Escribano Sánchez: 07827 967635  
South House – Chris Betteridge: 07827 961096

### Duty Mobile phones:

- East Wing: 07827 966470  
South House: 07827 968225  
Nikki Booth (East Wing Matron): 07827 965401  
Karen Andrews (South House Matron): 07827 965083

## 6. STAYING IN TOUCH

### Personal mail:

Post should be addressed to the relevant Boarding House with the following post codes:

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| South House    | East Wing      |
| Reading School | Reading School |
| Erleigh Road   | Erleigh Road   |
| Reading        | Reading        |
| Berks, RG1 5LL | Berks, RG1 5LJ |

### Mobile phones:

Most boarders have a mobile phone. For students in Year 7-9 we require phones to align with the whole school phone policy, which is “dumb phones” only. For older students, we do encourage parents not to

provide their sons with the most expensive smart phones and, most importantly, that parents check regularly on usage - particularly if the phone has internet access.

Parents are free to contact their son in their 'free time' but are requested not to contact them during the school day (08:20 – 15:25), Club time (16:15 -17:15 / 20:00 -21:00), Prep (18:30 – 20:00) or after their bedtime (21:15 for Year 7 etc.).

### **House phones:**

In addition to their personal mobile phones you may contact your son via the duty mobile (between 15:45 and bedtime) or through the Housemasters and Matrons.

### **Frequency of contact:**

It is advised that you try to establish a regular pattern of contact - some boys want to speak to parents every day and some less often. We have noticed in the past few years that junior boys who speak on the phone very regularly may struggle with home sickness more than those whose contact is kept to a maximum of once a day. We would consequently suggest that it is possible to speak too often!

Equally, if you need to get in touch with your son or are worried because 'he hasn't phoned you in days,' please do ring the Housemaster, the duty staff or the Matrons. Boarding Matrons can be reached during school hours while Boarding Housemasters can be contacted via their duty phone after school, from 3:25pm.

### **Social Media:**

The Boarding Instagram account (@rsboarding) is a useful way of finding out updates of daily Boarding life. We will include photos of boarding events and trips as well as some information about what the boys are up to. This is available to any boarder's relatives who wish to follow us.

## **7. PASTORAL SUPPORT**

Every boarder has access to the following for support:

1. Housemaster – living on site and available almost 24/7, Mr Betteridge and Mr Sánchez expect to be regularly involved daily with the boarders. Boarders with any concerns during the nighttime should knock on the Housemaster/Deputy's door.
2. Academic Tutor – each year group have an Academic Tutor assigned to them from their Boarding House. This member of staff is involved on a regular basis and will provide particular care for the year group assigned to them. This academic boarding tutor will be an additional support to their school Form Tutor and academic teachers that boarders will have as part of their Reading School experience.
3. Buddy – new boarders will also be assigned a buddy who will help them to settle in to boarding life by showing them around and answering any questions they may have.
4. Matron – daily, Matron is responsible for monitoring the health, wellbeing, happiness, diet and cleanliness of the boarders in her care. Matrons play an active role in supporting each boarder – though sometimes some individuals need extra support at some times of year. Matrons are the primary contact with boarding during school hours and the heart of the boarding houses.

5. Day School Tutor – the boarders are divided into the five, day Houses and are supported by their tutor in whatever class they are in. They see their tutor every morning and afternoon. The day school tutor should be the first port of call for any issues arising in the day school.
6. House Captain – the House Captains in both houses are senior boarders in whom we place a great deal of trust. They are elected annually by the other boarders and expect to offer support when needed.
7. Boarding Prefects – Boarding prefects are involved on a daily basis in helping to supervise and support junior boarders. Each prefect is allocated a specific leadership role within the house which is agreed in advance and overseen by the House Captain.
8. Other support available - Boarders can visit the Medical Centre and Student Services, book an appointment with a connexion worker, including school nurse or a counsellor, or request an appointment with the doctor should this be required. In addition, there are a number of 'independent listeners' who aren't employed by the School but who come in to eat with the boarding family on a regular basis and are willing to chat with boarders and offer guidance as it is required. There are posters around both boarding houses which provide details of all the support on offer to the boarders.

## **8. COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS**

If our support mechanisms and processes fail to resolve any problems for the boarders, they also could talk to a wide range of people during the day. In particular, the Headmaster aims to eat breakfast with the boarders regularly, and as Head of Boarding, is available should a boarder need to speak to him directly.

If boarders or parents have specific concerns or a complaint they should communicate the matter with the Housemaster in the first instance. Boarders will have access to the Child Friendly Complaint Policy which is available on the communal spaces in the houses. This Policy can also be found on the Reading School Website. Both houses maintain a complaints log which is reviewed every term by the Headmaster. If the Housemaster is unable to resolve a complaint it should be escalated to the Headmaster/Head of Boarding.

## 9. ROUTINE

### Duty Staff:

Each day a member of the Boarding staff is on duty in both East Wing and South House. Housemasters or Deputy Housemistresses wake the boys up in the morning and supervise breakfast, then after school the duty staff member supervises two clubs, eats with the boys, supervises Prep and is on duty until 23.00. In addition to this they also act as academic mentors and administer first aid and medication.

### Daily Routine:

Both houses follow the same routine and, whilst we try and be as flexible as possible, we expect every boy to be punctual to breakfast, dinner, prayers and to be ready for bed on time.

7:00	First Bell
7:30	Breakfast service commences
8:00	Breakfast Notices
8:20	Start of school day
15:25	End of school day
15:25 – 16:15	Free time and opportunity to tidy up rooms / get changed
16:15 – 17:30	Boarding Clubs/ Free time
17:30 -18:15	Tea
18:15	Prep
19:45	House Meeting (known as 'Prayers')
20:00 – 21:00	Boarding Clubs
21:15	Year 7 Lights Out
21:30	Year 8 Lights Out
21:45	Year 9 Lights Out
22:15	Year 10 Lights Out
22:30	Year 11 Lights Out
22:30	Sixth Form in their own rooms

Lateness for breakfast is monitored via REACH, software that helps boarding staff to track registers and attendance. If a boarder is late for breakfast (i.e. after notices begin) he will be expected to discuss the matter with the Housemaster. Boys in Y10 -13 who are late will be expected to hand in all electronic devices for the rest of the day.

## 10. VISITS HOME, WEEKENDS, HOLIDAYS AND EXEATS

### Visits home during the week:

To preserve and enhance the boarding family, boys are expected to remain in boarding every night during the week. We understand that some boys may have external commitments such as extra music or sports training in which case it might be easier if they go home, however, this will be limited to one night per week unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Head of Boarding (Headmaster) will use his discretion on whether a circumstance is deemed to be exceptional. We will expect boys who attend external activities to return to boarding on the same evening when possible.

### Friday:

Boarders should be picked up between 15:25 and 18:00, when the houses will be locked. On Fridays there will be no evening meal provided for boarders unless there are special circumstances (boarding open days, school fixtures, school trips, etc.).

Many boarders get the train home. Please do let us know if you would like your son to be accompanied by an older boarder for the journey to the station. This is easy to arrange, and the older boarders are happy to help in these circumstances. Nevertheless, boarding staff cannot be responsible for these arrangements once boarders have left the site.

### Saturday:

Boarders are able to stay over on a Friday night in very limited circumstances. These include when they are representing the school in a Saturday fixture, participating in a trip or for other welfare reasons which have been agreed in advance with their Housemaster. In all instances, the boarding houses will close at 10:00am on Saturday mornings and all boarders must have departed by this time. Cereal and toast are available in the Boarding houses for breakfast.

### Sunday:

Boarders returning on Sunday must do so between 18.00 and 20.00. The Boarding House is not open before this time, and the evening meeting ('Prayers') is at 20.15. Boys are allowed to return on Monday morning if this is more convenient for you but no earlier than 7.00 am and no later than 8.20 am.

### Holidays:

It is possible that the school will use the Boarding houses for residential revision courses during the Christmas and Easter Holidays. If this is the case all your son's belongings must be taken home. We will inform you in advance.

Some bulky items may be locked away and stored at school, but this will be at your own risk.

### Exeats:

For weekends labelled as 'Exeats' all boys are required to leave the house on the last day of school that week, which may be a Thursday, rather than the typical Friday. Boarders will receive reminders, but this is also clearly labelled in the school calendar. There are very few such weekends, normally only Bank holiday weekends or those with staff training days.

## 11. ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Should your son be unable to return to school after a weekend or holiday for any reason, please do let the Housemaster or duty member of staff know either by phone or by email. It is also extremely helpful if you copy the school office directly into any email, so that they are made immediately aware of any absence. Please email [attendance@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:attendance@reading-school.co.uk) and your relevant Housemaster. Please also do let staff know if your son is coming back late or changes plans for returning on a Sunday evening.

Housemasters are unable to grant permission for absence from school. If your son is unable to attend for any non-medical reason please email [attendance@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:attendance@reading-school.co.uk) who will seek permission from the Headmaster and copy Mr Betteridge or Mr Sánchez into any correspondence for reference.

Arrangements for the end of terms are important times for the Boarding community. Boarders are dismissed immediately after the day school finishes (normally at 15:25 for half term holidays and around midday for the end of a full term). It is very difficult to accommodate multiple requests for pick-up times and parents are discouraged from requesting that their sons be picked up a day early for holiday reasons etc.

### Examinations:

Boarders in Years 11 and 13 will be undertaking external exams during the year and will be granted exam leave for these in accordance with the school arrangements. Boarders are able to choose when to stay in boarding during this time period. Many opt to remain in school for the majority of this time in order to revise with other boys, however, there may be times when they have gaps in their exam timetable and would rather be at home. If this is the case, can we ask that you inform us of these intentions so that we are aware of who is due to stay in the house at any time.

Once external examinations are completed for Years 11 and 13, boarders have officially finished term and are therefore expected to commence their holidays. Students are required to arrange a check out date with their Housemaster for them to remove all items from boarding. Any damage to the furniture or room will be noted at this time and appropriate bills issued. Check out should be by the end of the week of their final exam.

## 12. ILLNESS

One of Matron's tasks in boarding is to administer medication and first aid. Boys are requested to bring any medication from home to Matron, who manages prescriptions and keeps records of the stocks. Boys may self-medicate if deemed competent and organised enough to do so (from Year 10 only) and a risk assessment will be carried out.

If a boy is ill during the week, Matron will assess his symptoms and arrange a visit to the GP if necessary. All parents' sign permission for household medication to be given out and Matrons manage this.

Occasionally a boy may need to be sent home, and Matron will organise this with parents if necessary. If a boarder is unwell at the weekend, we would ask parents to think carefully about whether his symptoms have cleared before returning him to school. Please note that in instances of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, boarders must be sent home and must not return until 48 hours after the last occasion of diarrhoea and/or vomiting.

We also have a First Aider who provides medical support to all students during the school day via the School's Student Services and Medical Centre.

## **13. ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS**

### **Boarders Clubs:**

Clubs are run for the boarders after school and in the evening after the boys have finished their homework. These clubs are organised and supervised by the Boarding staff. We ask all Year 7-9 boarders to participate in clubs across all sessions, but other than this attendance is voluntary but encouraged – we believe that busy boys are happy boys.

Please do check with your son which clubs he has been attending and ask if there are any activities that you think your son would like to see running. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for clubs that might be popular.

### **Off Site Activities:**

Boarders are welcome to attend off site activities, such as rugby clubs, Duke of Edinburgh or drama groups, but it is impossible for Boarding staff to transport boys to or from these activities. Instead, we either need your written consent allowing your son to make his own way to and from the activity from the Boarding house, or alternatively you are welcome to provide your own transport arrangements.

### **Inter House Competitions:**

These competitions are organised by the senior boys and run with the help of the Boarding staff. They encourage participation, teamwork and group cohesion and range from sporting activities to general knowledge. At the Summer BBQ a trophy is awarded to the winning house. All boys in the house are encouraged to participate in one or other activity and merits are awarded for excellent participation.

### **Boarders Trips:**

Periodically there are trips arranged for all boarders. Some of these will be advertised in the school calendar. For example, the annual Boarding Theatre trip when all the boys and staff from both houses take in one of a West End show, or the end of year summer trip (for example to Thorpe Park or paintballing). These trips are included in the Boarding fees and there is no extra cost. There are up to six trips each school year, including such activities as ten pin bowling, water-skiing and ice skating. Additional parental consent will be requested for these activities.

Additionally, other smaller trips are sometimes run – such as cinema visits or trips into town. These are supervised by staff, very often with the year group that they tutor.

## **14. KIT AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

The following is a recommended list for the equipment and kit needed by a boarder at Reading School. There is no formal kit list and we invite your discretion, particularly with footwear for example – where some boys need many more pairs of shoes than others.

### **Casual Clothes:**

We do ask that you do not send your son with a surplus of casual clothes – laundry is undertaken daily and boys with too many clothes tend to be the least good at putting in washing. Whilst a weekly supply of fresh underwear and t-shirts is essential, too many jumpers or jeans often lead to wasteful washing or a build-up of dirty clothes.

Item	Suggested Quantity
Underpants/Boxers	6-8
Non-school socks	6-8
White Vests (if required)	2-3
Pairs of Pyjamas	2
Dressing Gown	1
T-shirts/Casual Shirts	5-6
Tracksuit Bottoms/Shorts	2-3
Sweatshirt/Jumper	2
Casual Trousers/Jeans	2
Trainers/Casual Shoes	2 minimum

#### Bedding and toiletries:

Bedding is washed fortnightly in boarding. This is called “Big Laundry” by the boys. We therefore ask that you provide two sets of bed linen. Please provide your son with as many pillows as he requires, two bath towels (in addition to a towel he may use for swimming club) and any toiletries that you see fit.

Item	Suggested Quantity
Duvet Cover	2
Pillow Cases	2
Fitted Sheets	2
Duvet	1
Pillow	1
Bath Towels	2
Swimming Towel	1
Toiletries (no aerosols)	As required

#### Miscellaneous:

Item	Quantity
Holdall/ weekend case	1
Padlock (if required)	2
Mesh bags for washing machine	1-3 (depending on size)

Laundry bin	1
Posters and blue tack permitted (if required)	

Please remember that all personal items must be labelled. For laundry purposes we request that parents only use sew-in labels or a 'tag' or 'button' style label which should be placed in an easily visible position. These can easily be found online, and we can recommend [www.snappytags.co.uk](http://www.snappytags.co.uk). **Please do not use iron on name tapes as these come off in the wash.**

A zipped or draw string mesh laundry bag is requested for placing smaller items of dirty washing in the laundry – this avoids socks being separated etc. Again, these can easily be found online, for example on Amazon.

## 15. VALUABLES

### **Pocket Money:**

While there is no requirement for your son to have any additional money with them during the week, we know some boys are given pocket money to cover travel home at weekends or to buy some snacks from the hospital shop or the nearby Co-Op.

If you do intend to give your son some pocket money we strongly recommend you do so by giving cash to the Housemaster who manages the house safe and will act as a bank, allowing your son to withdraw money when he needs it. This will allow us to keep the money safe, help the Boarding staff monitor the boys' expenditure and help teach the boys about money management. Alternatively, a simple bank card is a safe and easy way to manage your child's spending.

### **Valuables:**

Valuable items can be kept in the safe as and when necessary and a register is maintained. In particular any international students are advised to lock their passports away. The padlock students bring can be used to lock a section of their drawers, so they can keep certain items safe in their rooms.

### **Tuck boxes:**

Historically boys have always been asked to bring snacks in tuck boxes. As 'tuck' is so easily available at local shops or in the refectory, very few boys now store a term's worth of sweets in the house. It is preferable for you not to furnish your son with excessive amounts of snacks. In the interest of hygiene, we ask all boys who are provided with a supply of 'tuck' keep this food in a tuck box. These boxes should be sealable and small enough to be locked away when not used.

### **Electrical appliances:**

All electrical items must be PAT tested for fire regulations and the school undertakes this process twice a year in September and January. Please notify us of any items brought in at other times of the year so that we can undertake individual safety checks.

Boys should not have expensive or bulky items in their rooms. Most boys should bring a reading lamp and an alarm clock, and some choose to bring small stereo equipment. Only Years 9 and above are allowed to bring their own computers. Therefore, unless he is in these year groups please, do not provide your son with a

laptop, PC or tablet, as these cannot connect to the school internet and present a security risk for the network manager.

Other handheld devices such as Gameboys, Nintendo DS, Nintendo Switch, PSPs etc. are not permitted to be brought into the house. In Years 7-10 all mobile phones and handheld devices will be taken from the boys at lights out and returned to them in the morning. Boys should not rely on their phones as an alarm clock.

#### **Insurance of Personal Possessions:**

The school does not have an insurance policy that covers losses in the Boarding houses. Please check that your domestic policy covers loss or damage to such items.

#### **Damage:**

Any significant damage whether accidental or intentional caused within the Boarding house will incur a cost for the repair or replacement which will be added onto the invoice at the end of the term or year.

#### **Bicycles:**

Boys are not allowed to have bikes onsite unless they comply with the following conditions:

- They wear a helmet
- They have a bell fitted to the bike
- It is 'roadworthy' i.e. its brakes work etc.
- It is kept in the school bike rack not in the house
- The housemaster has received written or emailed consent from parents

Failure to adhere to the rules above may result in a bike being taken away. Boarders are requested not to lend their bike to another user unless this individual has also passed a cycling proficiency test and is wearing a helmet.

Unless we have written permission from parents, boys are not allowed to ride a bike off the school site. We would prefer a conversation with any parent about a bike being brought to school, before any such decision is made.

## **16. RULES FOR GOING OFF SITE**

Boarders are allowed off the school site unsupervised – but there are three critical conditions for this:

1. No boarder may leave the site without first obtaining permission from the duty member of staff, Matron or Housemaster.
2. Boarders must sign out upon departure and in again upon their return using the app available on the House iPads.
3. Boarders must carry their phones with battery to be able to be contacted by members of staff if required.

In addition, please note the following conditions:

- Year 7 students are not allowed off site until they have been accompanied by staff and have proven themselves to be safe unsupervised – this is normally only after Easter approximately. They must then follow the normal rules for Years 7-9.
- Year 7-9 students must remain in a group of three and must be back before 17:30.
- Year 10 students may go in groups of two. They must be back before 17:30. They may also go after prep to the local shop but must be back by 21:00.
- Year 11 students may go in a group of two or on their own if we have email permission from parents confirming this. They must be back before 17:30. They may also go after prep to the local shop but must be back by 21.00.
- Year 12 and 13 students may go on their own and may go after tea. More flexibility is granted to Sixth Form students as long as the basic rules are adhered to.

Boarders should expect a call from the duty mobile when they are off site and must be able to put any of the groups expected to be together on the phone. We expect all boarders who aren't in the Sixth Form to consider one visit to town a week as a maximum – unless parents email us to the contrary.

With parental permission it is very easy to allow boys off site on their own for special circumstances such as to get a haircut etc. Variation from the above rules is possible if parents email the Housemaster in advance.

Some boarders also need stricter rules, ensuring that they increase their study focus – please do let us know by email if you would like your son(s) to adhere to slightly different guidelines.

## **17. RULES FOR VISITORS**

All visitors, including parents, must inform a member of staff know they are visiting. Parents are welcome to visit on occasions and to take their son out for an evening if there are special occasions (in the past, for example, parents have on occasion wanted to take their sons to football matches, birthday meals, concerts etc.) In the unlikely event that parents need to go upstairs in the house, they will be escorted by a member of staff. This is particularly important for boys sharing dorms where respecting privacy of the other boys in the room is paramount.

We do request that parents of new boarders avoid any interruptions in the middle of the week during the first term.

Protocol for boarders who encounter visitors to boarding who they don't know:

- Politely ask the person to wait outside
- Phone the duty mobile or Housemaster or Matron to ask them to come and check who the visitor is
  - Wait until the staff member arrives
- Do not allow access to the boarding houses to anyone they don't know or recognise

## 18. IT RULES

We expect boarders to use IT appropriately and all boarders sign a comprehensive user agreement. Boarders in Year 9 and above may bring their own device for IT purposes, whether this is a tablet or laptop – and they may register with the network manager to gain access to the school's Wi-Fi using this.

We request that boys in Year 7 and 8 do not bring such devices to school and continue to encourage parents of all year groups not to provide contracts with unlimited internet access via smartphones. Boarders in Years 7 and 8 will have access to the prep rooms where they will have access to computers and internet.

## 19. REWARDS AND SANCTIONS

In both houses many more rewards than sanctions are given out – the following guidance explains some reasons for merits and sanctions. We hope every boarder is willing to be a part of the community and merits are intended as a small incentive to reward those who contribute the most.

### **Merits:**

Staff and prefects can reward good and helpful behaviour with merits. Merits will be awarded for students in Year 7-10 under four categories:

1. Academic progress and attitude towards prep
2. Noteworthy participation in house events, clubs or activities
3. Domestic organisation e.g. particularly tidy room
4. Contribution to the house community e.g. undertaking extra duties or helping other students.

### **Academic (academic progress and attitude towards prep)**

Sometimes sitting quietly in prep isn't quite enough. Staff and prefects will award a merit to an individual or a year group who behave, study and learn exceptionally well during prep or for those who achieve outstanding reports, grades or comments in their prep diaries.

### **Extra-curricular (noteworthy participation in house events, clubs or activities)**

We expect every boarder to participate fully in the events, activities and clubs on offer. Merits are awarded to those who add real value to these activities, who help to lead or to organise, who excel in house competitions or show great attitude in after school clubs.

### **Domestic (tidiness, organisation and duties undertaken above and beyond normal standards)**

Staff and prefects award merits to those members of the house who are organised, tidy and well presented. Merits are also awarded to those whose duties are performed above and beyond normal expectations and who don't leave junk lying around.

### **Community (giving exceptional support, care or help to other members of the house)**

Contribution to the house community, e.g. undertaking extra duties or helping other students is fundamental to the success of the boarding community. Members of the house who 'go the extra mile' to help peers, staff or senior boys may well find themselves given a merit by staff or prefects.

## **Rewards:**

The year group that receives the most merits in one half term will be eligible for either a pizza party or a cinema trip to town. This reward will be offered in the final week of the half term or the first week after the break.

Years 11-13 are rewarded differently. Their leadership and example often merit praise and encouragement. Where appropriate they are rewarded through such activities as shared trips to local restaurants, take-away pizza or film nights.

## **Room inspections:**

In addition to the merits and sanctions systems daily room inspections lead to half termly reward for the best individuals in each house. The tidiest group of boarders will get a special reward such as pizza night or similar. Matrons will communicate with Housemasters who the winning group is and keep a live record.

## **Contracts:**

In parallel with sanctions and rewards, boarders may be asked to sign additional contracts regarding their behaviour. This may add structure to their evenings and/or highlight particular behaviours that they must, or must not undertake. The purpose of a contract will always be to promote positive behaviour. Any boarder asked to agree to additional behavioural contracts will sign the contract showing their awareness and understanding of the conditions it contains, and their parents will be provided with a copy and/or involved in the conversations.

## **Sanctions:**

All sanctions are recorded in the pastoral contact log. In addition, major sanctions are reviewed by the Headmaster. Exclusions are only undertaken by the Headmaster. Members of staff may issue any other proportionate sanction as they and the Housemaster feel appropriate following the behaviour policy.

## **Major Sanctions**

Major sanctions for boarders include:

- **Permanent Exclusion** (permanent removal from School roll)
- **External Exclusion** (fixed period of time under parental supervision with no access to School site)
- **Internal (Boarding) Exclusion** (fixed period of time under supervision of School SLT and exclusion from circulation during boarding time)
- **Extended House Gating** (confined to boarding house with reduced permission for any activities lasting more than two days)
- **Extended Gating** (confined to site with reduced permission for off-site activities lasting more than a week)

## **Minor Sanctions**

Minor sanctions for boarders include:

- **Community Service** (a 15, 30 or 45 minute tariff undertaking chores in the house to the benefit of the whole community – for example kitchen cleaning, vacuum cleaning or waking up the house)
- **Early Report** (report to the Housemaster at 7:00 am changed and ready for the school day and wait outside their door)

- **Early to Bed** (the time of bed will be stipulated by the member of staff and boys will be required to be in their room, in bed, quiet with the lights off by the time given)
- **House Gating** (confined to boarding house with reduced permission for any activities lasting no more than two days)
- **Gating** (confined to site with reduced permission for off-site activities lasting no more than a week)
- **Extra prep** (additional time for personal study instead of social or recreational time)
- **Loss of electronic devices** (required to hand in all electronic devices in the evening for an agreed period)

Indicative guidance of misdemeanours and appropriate sanctions can be found below, but the Housemaster will determine the most appropriate sanction in any given situation.

Minor Sanction	Examples of Misdemeanour
Early to bed	Not in school uniform at breakfast In house during the day without permission Repeatedly late to prep Repeatedly late to prayers
Early Report	Repeatedly late to bed Out of bed after lights out without permission Failure to fulfil house duty by end of day
Gated	Late back from town Off site without permission Not signing out Off site in a group less than three
House gated	Involved in an altercation with another boy Misbehaving during club or activity Continuing to leave mess around the house despite warnings Rude or unacceptable behaviour
Community Service	Late to breakfast Persistent misdemeanours or bad behaviour Failure to complete duties Causing nuisance, mess or inconvenience to others Misbehaviour during clubs, trips or activities Consistently messy room or social space

Extra Prep	Not working properly in prep Poor reports from academic staff Distracting others from prep
Loss of Electronic Devices	Late to breakfast
<b>Major Sanctions</b>	<b>Examples of Misdemeanour</b>
Extended Gating	Repeated abuse of signing out and off-site rules, or significant misbehaviour off-site.
Extended House gating	Sustained/ serious misbehaviour in clubs or activities or repeated misbehaviour.
Internal (Boarding) Exclusion	Bullying, physical altercation, behaviour that significantly affects the wellbeing or safety of another boarder or that repeatedly diminishes the experience of other boarders.
External Exclusion from Boarding	In addition to whole School policy any behaviour in boarding that substantially affects the well-being or safety of another boarder or continually and significantly diminishes the boarding community.
Permanent Exclusion	As per whole school policy.

## 20. ACADEMIC PROGRESS

### Homework:

Preparation (prep) is set by all departments, and the length and type of task may vary by year group. In the Boarding Houses we have one and a half hours for prep each weekday evening. This is time we expect all boarders to engage in productively.

Prep time within the Boarding house should be sufficient for all boys in Key Stage 3 to complete all the tasks they are given, though some may need to do extra work on particularly difficult or interesting projects. There is opportunity for those who want it to continue studying quietly in the evening in both houses, and boys are welcome to take some work home with them at weekends.

Boys in Key Stage 4 will often have to do extra study in preparation for controlled assessment or as exam revision and those working towards A levels at Key Stage 5 are expected to manage their work much more independently.

### Supervision:

We have a three-tiered system ranging from full supervision, for the younger members of the house and those who are not exceeding target grades, to a more limited supervision for some senior boys who are on track to achieve their target GCSE and A-Level grades.

The A group are supervised all the time in the prep room, the B group work in a classroom with access to laptops but less supervision and the C group can work in their own rooms. Boarders are able to move between prep groups depending on their reports and feedback from their academic tutor, mentor, day school tutor and parents. Typically, the start point of this structure has Year 7-8 in A group, Year 9 in B group and Y10 and above in C group, but this can be adjusted for individuals he need more (or less) supervision.

### **Homework planners:**

All the boys in Years 7-11 are mentored academically by a member of staff and will have to get their homework planners checked each weekend for a parent to check and comment on if appropriate.

### **Parental responsibility:**

Most junior boarders will complete nearly all their homework in prep and need to bring only small amounts of work home at the weekends – nevertheless we ask parents to ensure that their son brings work home regularly so that it may be checked – this is the only way to ensure you are satisfied with the effort your son is putting into his work.

If your son does bring work home, please make sure no books get left behind at the end of the weekend or holiday, as in the past this has been used as an excuse by boarders in the past for not completing work.

If there are any problems with prep or with progress in school both Housemasters are routinely in conversation with form tutors and reports are produced for each year group at least three times a year.

Any academic concerns should be directly addressed to Form Tutors and Housemasters will be informed of any additional support required in boarding (i.e. pairing an older boy with a younger boy for mentoring, catch up session with a member of staff or support with organisation).

## **21. ROOMS**

All boarders in Years 7-9 are in dormitories of three boys. They each have a bed, wardrobe and drawer space within these rooms. They also, over the course of the year get opportunities to express their preference for who they share a dorm with for the coming year/term.

Year 10 and above have their own individual bedrooms, which also include a desk for working independently in prep time and beyond.

The aim of this document is to give a comprehensive view of Boarding at Reading School. There may be areas of Boarding that are not covered that you would like to know about, so it is recommended to direct any query to your Housemaster in the first instance for further clarification.

## **22. FEES**

Annual Boarding Fees for Academic Year 2026/2027

£15,849 per year

£5,283 per term

These fees cover every aspect of boarding life including all evening activities, boarding trips when allowed, meals and break-time/evening snacks but do not cover uniform, other school trips or confectionary.

All fees are payable in advance, as invoiced by the Finance Manager. All known incidental charges (i.e. pocket money) for the term are to be paid in advance.

No allowance can be claimed for absence. However, there is an optional Fees Insurance Scheme, the cost of which (currently 1% of boarding fees) is charged in advance.

The boarding year is split into 3 terms, Michaelmas, Lent and Summer. Fees for each term are due and payable as cleared funds before the first day of the term to which they relate. A full term's written notice is required before the withdrawal of a pupil, failing which a full term's fees are payable to the School. Further information on this is available in our [Boarding Terms and Conditions](#).



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