



# Reading School

## Biology Technician Information

The Biology Department is housed within a new purpose-built science block which opened in 2017. This consists of four biology laboratories, a large well-equipped modern biology prep room and a connecting teacher's work area. This pleasant working environment ensures effective working relationships between technicians and teachers. Currently there are five biology teachers, and one part-time Senior Biology Technician. The department is an innovative, friendly and experienced team, who have worked together for a number of years. The Chemistry Department is also housed within the same impressive building with its own prep room and staff work room.

Biology is taught as a separate subject throughout the school and is extremely popular and successful. All students study OCR Biology at GCSE and the subject has one of the highest uptakes at A level. Many of the pupils proceed to study science-related subjects at University. The success of the department is strengthened by the extensive, varied and highly-valued practical provision.

Applicants for the post should be proactive, organised and have a proven ability as an effective team member with good interpersonal skills. The candidate should be capable of independently providing practicals and will be supported by both the Senior Technician and the Head of Department. At Reading School we are proud of our ability to train, support and encourage new staff.

### **What We Can Offer You:**

- Opportunities to grow and develop within your role
- A supportive, proactive and knowledgeable governing body
- A School community that values the role of Technician within the curriculum
- Outstanding CPD opportunities including time to visit other Schools, to work with Universities and on research projects if desired
- A range of international partnerships for extra-curricular activities or personal development including in Kenya, India, Denmark, Australia, France and Germany.
- A committed educational visits team who facilitate activities beyond the classroom
- A vision for the future of education which values the whole student and promotes character and leadership as much as academic excellence
- A new building which offers a spacious self-contained departmental area.
- A school where you will be part of a community, where you can really make your mark and where you will feel valued



## **The Position:**

The Biology Technician will assist in ensuring a safe, effective and efficient laboratory technical service is provided for students and teaching staff within the Biology Department. The successful postholder will provide technical advice and assistance in the classroom to support students and to assist teaching staff with the provision of learning activities ensuring that health and safety requirements and other regulations are adhered to including the completion and recording of necessary checks and risk assessments.

The main duties and responsibilities can be found in the job description.

## **APPOINTMENT PROCESS AND HOW TO APPLY**

Reading School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The successful candidate must be willing to undergo an Enhanced DBS Disclosure.

Please complete the associate staff application form and enclose a covering letter. Applications can be sent by email to: [headspa@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:headspa@reading-school.co.uk) or by post for the attention of the Headmaster, Mr AM Robson.

Applications will be considered on receipt.

Please address any enquiries to Miss Caroline Mole, Executive Assistant by email: [headspa@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:headspa@reading-school.co.uk) or by telephone: 0118 9015600.





## INTRODUCTION TO READING SCHOOL

Combining a distinguished heritage, a positive reputation for outstanding academic achievement and a commitment to high standards of pastoral care, Reading School aims to provide a world class educational experience.

Reading School offers an exceptional all-round education enabling each student to realise his academic, cultural or sporting potential. A Selective Boys' School, Reading School expanded to a five form entry in Year 7 in 2016 and takes both day and boarding students. In November 2017, the school was ranked the top state school in the South East by the Sunday Times. There are currently 986 students at Reading School of which 82 are boarders.



## A RICH HISTORY AND A PROMISING FUTURE

Reading School has a rich history and we wish to build on our impressive past and current achievements and successfully realise the school's ambitious development plans.

Founded in 1125 as part of Reading Abbey, Reading School is the tenth oldest school in England. In 1486 the school was refounded by Henry VII as a 'Free Grammar School'. After the dissolution of Reading Abbey in 1539, the School fell under the control of the Corporation of Reading, its status being confirmed by Henry VIII in 1541. This was reconfirmed in the Royal Charter granted to the Corporation of Reading by Elizabeth I in 1560.

During the Civil War the School was used as a garrison by Royalist forces and in 1665 Parliament, forced out of London by the Great Plague, took over the school house.

The School was given a renewed lease of life with the passing of the Reading School Act in 1867 which clearly set out its administration and funding. The new buildings designed by Alfred Waterhouse were opened in 1871. The development of Reading School was strengthened following the 1944 Education Act and the school retained its selective status in 1973 after a petition signed by a third of all voters in Reading. February 2011 witnessed Reading School converting to Academy status. Since 2012, there have been improvements to examination results at both GCSE and A Level in addition to the development of a new Refectory, Computer Science facilities and 4 new Biology laboratories and 3 new Chemistry laboratories.

The whole school community is currently involved in the process of reviewing our mission, vision and values to ensure that the school's 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025 sees the school as a world leading institution in every regard.



## **READING SCHOOL**

### **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

Our aim to be a World-Leading Institution is shaped by the central importance of academic achievement. We have an outstanding academic track record. Indeed, recent examination results have placed Reading School among the top five performing state schools in the country. In terms of its academic performance, the 'free Grammar School' competes strongly with independent schools costing up to £35,000 per year. For instance, in 2017, 93.1% of Year 13 students were awarded A\*-B at A Level. Furthermore, at GCSE in 2016 90.42% of entries were graded A\*-A, with 60.3% at A\*. In 2017, 23 students have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Regularly, over 70% gained places at Russell Group Universities. A broad and balanced academic curriculum is one of Reading School's greatest strengths. All students study separate science and a modern or ancient language at GCSE. From September 2016, all students have followed a three year KS4 and will be eligible for the English Baccalaureate. The large sixth form of over 300 students offers a wide range of subject combinations covering Maths, Sciences, Humanities, Languages and the Arts.

### **BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

Whilst academic excellence is important, Reading School also offers a fine all-round education designed to give each student an opportunity to fully explore his talents. The school offers an extensive extra-curricular programme and has an enviable reputation in Music. Students from Year 10 are able to participate in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and there is a thriving 'Future Stories' programme through which the School is able to share expertise and resources with Primary Schools.

Reading School is especially proud of the development of International Partnerships and since 2012 we have nurtured links with Schools in Australia, Kenya and Denmark. In addition, our students have represented the UK in competitions held in St Petersburg, Hong Kong and Pittsburgh, USA and look forward to the forthcoming World Public Speaking Championships in Cape Town, South Africa.

The myriad of enrichment opportunities offered are only possible through the commitment of staff, support of parents and the generosity of the Reading Foundation and the Old Redingensians Association. Learning beyond the classroom, whether it be on a Geography Field Trip to the Azure or a Badminton Competition in India is a crucial component of the experience of Reading School. Enrichment activities complement and extend the experience of academic lessons.

We are fully committed to developing and extending opportunities for students.



### **PASTORAL CARE**

Reading School prides itself on delivering high standards of pastoral care. Each student is a member of a House. Currently there are five houses: County, East, School, West and Laud.

In Year 7, each student has a Form Tutor who is also the Head of House. This system helps Heads of Houses to get to know all students.

The School offers an excellent personal development programme which focuses on nurturing integrity and character. This is supplemented by the work of the Chaplain, Learning Consultant and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Therefore, it is true to say that at Reading School we believe in the development of the heart and the head.

### **BOARDING**

Boarding is an integral part of the fabric and character of Reading School. The quality of the Boarding experience was judged to be 'outstanding' by Ofsted in February 2017. There are 82 weekly boarders from Years 7-13 in two boarding houses, East Wing and South House. Each House is led by an experienced Housemaster. As Reading School is a state school, boarders do not pay tuition fees.

### **ADMISSIONS**

Students are admitted to the School at the age of 11 and are required to sit entrance examinations set by CEM. External qualified post-16 students are admitted to the Sixth Form.

Reading School is an academically selective, state school and is oversubscribed. The Governing Body are committed to encouraging increased social mobility through the 'Future Stories' project which seeks to encourage students from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply to sit the Entrance Test.

### **FACILITIES AND FINANCE**

Situated near the centre of Reading, the School offers good facilities which have undergone improvement recently – a Refectory in 2012, new Computer Science laboratories in 2014, refurbished Lecture Theatre in 2014, Fitness Suite and 7 new Biology and Chemistry Laboratories.

The School has ambitious plans to develop the site, especially relating to Performing Arts, Sports and Sixth Form Facilities.

The School's finances are sound and we have successfully increased funding streams by expanding pupil numbers and reaching out to the wider community and alumni network.



## **LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

### **LEADERSHIP**

The Headmaster is supported by the Senior Leadership Team comprising Deputy Headteacher, two Assistant Headteachers and the School Business Manager. This group meets every morning with a fuller meeting after school every Monday. The senior leaders and middle leaders of the school are committed to ensuring that students flourish in every regard and there is full support for co-curricular initiatives and activities from every level of leadership at Reading School.

### **GOVERNANCE**

As an Academy Trust, Reading School is a charitable company limited by guarantee under the overall authority of the Governing Body and the Headmaster. The school site is owned by a charitable trust, The Reading Foundation, established in 1986.

The Governing Body is chaired by Mr Robert Kenwick and comprises 19 Governors who are Directors of the Reading School Academy Trust Company and is served by an excellent, experienced Clerk to the Governors. Every department has a link governor who acts as a listening ear and an advocate for departmental needs.