Reading
SCHOOL Est.1125

TRUSTEES & GOVERNORS

Annual Report to Parents

2025-26

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Welcome from the Chair



Mr Bob Kenwrick
Chair of Governors

Governors set the School's direction, hold leaders to account for education, and keep safeguarding and student welfare at the centre.

This year the School was again named Sunday Times South East Secondary School of the Year for Academic Excellence and won a Sutton Trust gold award for its admissions. At A level, 74% of grades were A* or A and 25 students secured places at Oxford or Cambridge, while 86% of GCSE entries were graded 7 to 9. Beyond the classroom, students played 295 sports fixtures and enjoyed national success in badminton, debating and chess.

The 900th anniversary year closed with a visit from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, a time capsule burial and a Gala Dinner. It will not be forgotten by the Old Redingensians, students, staff, friends and local community who joined its many diverse events.

We are recruiting strongly, attracting excellent teachers and support staff to the School. We are strengthening our national and international partnerships, and progressing ambitious plans for the redevelopment of the School.

None of this happens without the support of our parent community, and the pages that follow set out both the year's progress and what we must do together to sustain it.

The year at a glance

86%
of GCSE entries graded 7–9

74%
of A level grades A* or A

46%
of GCSE entries awarded grade 9

1,146
students on roll, 86 of them weekly boarders

0.3%
unauthorised absence

1
incident of bullying recorded

295
sports fixtures completed

£1.0m
undesignated reserves

Governance and leadership

THE GOVERNING BODY · 16 GOVERNORS



J Alderslade*, C Betteridge+, S Desai*, C Evans#, E Fallon*, M N J Faulkner, D R Fisher, T Follen§, N Holmes*, D Hudson§, N Johnson, R J Kenwrick (Chair), D Nnabuife*, K Ross MBE, G Sellwood+, L Wakelin

* parent · + staff · § Foundation · # Headmaster. As at 1 October 2025.

- 7 Trust-appointed
- 4 elected parent
- 2 Reading Foundation
- 2 elected staff
- Headmaster (ex officio)

6
governing body meetings

4
main committees

Ending the School's 900th year with a bang

The year of celebrations concluded at the end of 2025 with a visit from His Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, the burial of a time capsule, a Gala Dinner and Fireworks Display. Floreat Redingensis.







Top 25 for sport, top 25 for cricket

13
sports played

295
fixtures completed

536
individual student participants

2,256
PE staff hours on football, cricket and rugby

SPORTS PLAYED

Badminton, basketball, cricket, football, handball, hockey, rugby, swimming, ultimate frisbee and volleyball. House competitions in rugby, football, cricket and sports day take place during the school day.

Our students' enthusiasm and passion for sport is unwavering, and growing all the time.

12 different members of staff managed the School's sports teams.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 2025 Cape Town Senior Cricket Tour
- Lord's Cricket Ground Invitational Day Tour
- Two Year 11 students (Rohit and Rishit) playing at Lord's in a representative match
- Badminton National Champions
- Table Tennis National Runners-Up
- Year 7 and 8 Football tour to Shrewsbury School
- First XI Football: Berkshire County Cup Semi-finalists
- First XI Cricket: 2025 Toby Radford Trophy Champions
- Year 8 Cricket: Berkshire County Plate Champions
- Year 10 Cricket: Defeated Eton College
- Senior Rugby: Super League Finalists
- Year 8 Rugby: Abbey Tournament Winners
- Swimming regional junior champions
- Cross country national finalists
- A and B football teams in every year group entered National Cup football

Sport in pictures





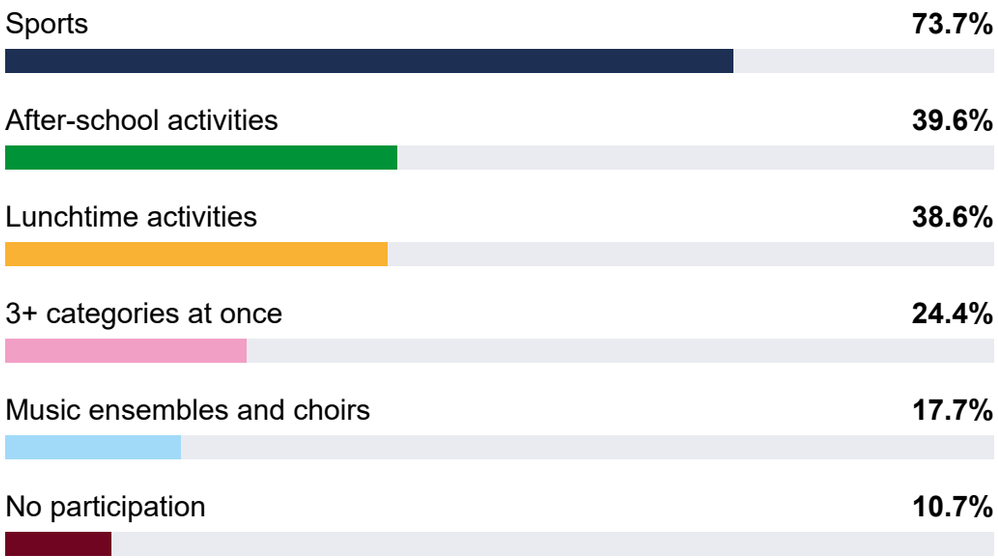






Enrichment

STUDENT PARTICIPATION · SURVEY RESPONDERS



CCF and DofE continue to have excellent take-up. All Year 9 students will be in a formal leadership programme by 2027.

TRIPS AND VISITS

108
visits run

13
overseas

24
residential

7,814
participant days, about 8 per student

HIGHLIGHTS

- Year 10 mentoring embedded: every Year 10 student supported younger peers.
- More house competitions, including debating, humanities and the Eisteddfod.
- Exchanges to Germany, Spain, France and, for the first time, Denmark.
- National success in Debating, Chess, Badminton, Squash and Cricket.

The majority of sports, after-school and lunchtime activities are funded by the 365 Fund. Without parental contributions to this fund, we would not be able to continue these activities.

Looking after students

ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR

93% attendance, Years 7–11

7.2% persistent absence

0.3% unauthorised absence

0.8% lateness

2 school refusers

1 bullying incident

0 permanent exclusions

12 suspensions

8 racist incidents

Ofsted rated both the School and Boarding Outstanding in the November 2023 inspections.

FAIR ACCESS

Year 7 intake, September 2026

86 different primary schools sent boys to the new Year 7 cohort

17 children eligible for Free School Meals gained a place

July entrance test. The first in July, for Year 5s joining in September 2027, so 10 year olds can spend the summer exploring, reading and having fun.

Priority access. Local state primary feeder schools and postcodes RG1–RG10 now carry priority in admissions.

Sutton Trust gold award for admissions, 2025.

Admissions and access

86

different primary schools in the Year 7 cohort of September 2026

17

children eligible for Free School Meals gained a place

RG1–RG10

named as priority postcodes in 2026

86

Boarders across South House and East Wing

A JULY ENTRANCE TEST

- The first July test, for Year 5s joining in September 2027.
- Children can spend the summer exploring, reading and having fun, and disadvantaged children are tested while still in ‘school mode’.
- Provided by FSCE, a School subsidiary that works with grammar schools across the country.

WIDENING ACCESS

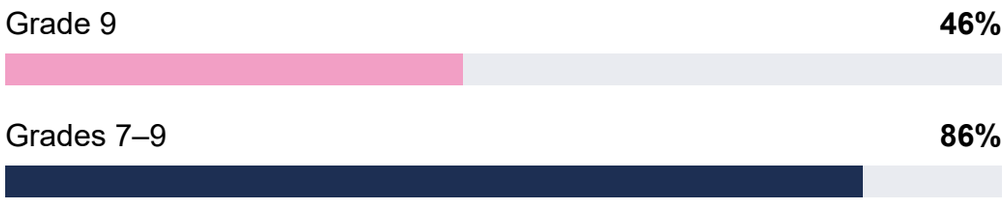
- Local state primary schools named as feeder schools, with priority for eligible test scores.
- University of Reading Masters in Public Policy students researched how to engage under-represented communities.
- Interactive online admissions tools and clearer written guidance are now in place.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

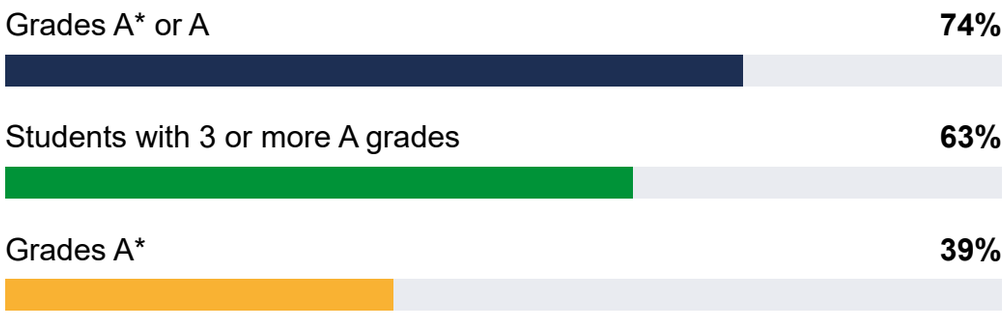
- After St Joseph’s College closed, 17 Year 11 and 7 Year 13 students were admitted, working with the Local Authority.
- Boarding and Admissions teams are ensuring applicants are well suited to boarding.

Academic results

GCSE 2026 · 1,539 ENTRIES



A LEVEL 2026 · 601 ENTRIES



At A level, 74% of grades were A* or A, and 62.6% of students achieved three or more A grades, an increase on last year. 25 students secured places at Oxford or Cambridge, while the majority of the cohort gained entry to their first-choice university. 5 students also commenced degree apprenticeships and employment. Further Mathematics achieved 61.1% A*, Biology 83.7% A*–A and Geography 64.8% A*–A. At GCSE, the average point score was 7.94 and over 90% of students met the requirements for progression to the School's Sixth Form.

Students also received national awards for academic achievement at both A level and GCSE.

Property and projects

£100k+

of insurance-funded remedial works completed

85%

of remedial works from the five-year fixed wiring survey completed

430

doors labelled across the whole school (Project Code, Phase 1 complete)

2

phases of the foundation project: Phase 1 complete, Phase 2 near completion

COMPLETED AND UNDER WAY

- External refurbishment of South House and the Chapel; roof, rainwater and window repairs to the English Block
- Lock Down alarm system installed
- Heating and piping upgrade (CIF 2025/26) nearing completion, including a full new heating system in the Page building
- 300mm loft insulation fitted across all buildings, with new chapel lighting and continuing LED upgrades
- Football funding secured for Morgan Road and Erleigh Road pitches and new goalposts
- RSPA uniform shop rehoused from the Dovecot room to the Music Hall Workshop, freeing the staff work room for use as a Sixth Form study centre

UNDER DISCUSSION

- Sports hall at Morgan Road: feasibility, transport and power surveys complete
- Swimming pool refurbishment: feasibility study covering 7 build options complete

Finances and what's next

2025/26 FINANCES

£20k
operating surplus

£198k
underlying surplus

The operating surplus includes adjustments for depreciation and pension schemes.

Free reserves £1.9m · 17% of income



£0.9m for contingency and projects

£1.0m for development plans

LOOKING AHEAD

36 targets in the 2025/26 Operational Plan, under five headings.

Purpose | People | Standards | Infrastructure | Scholarship

- The 25/26 AOP was successfully delivered
- The whole school was consulted and the new strategic development plan for 2026-2036 was approved in July 2026