



Reading School
Teacher of Chemistry
Information for Applicants

TEACHER OF CHEMISTRY DETAILS OF THE POST

The Chemistry Department

Chemistry is an extremely popular subject at Reading School. From the beginning of Year 7, boys are taught Chemistry as a separate science, generally by subject specialists. In Year 9, all boys start their GCSE course which is currently OCR Gateway Chemistry. At A-level Chemistry is one of the largest take up subject and we teach the OCR A specification highly successfully. Each week the department runs both a clinic to support pupils in achieving their potential and a STEM club for those keen to engage with Chemistry outside of lessons. Pupils are frequently entered for both individual and team competitions and challenges and many pupils participate in the RSC Olympiad in Years 12 and 13.

Annually the Chemistry department send dozens of students to Russell Group universities to read Science degrees and supports the applications of around 30 applicants for medicine courses. Our students are able, motivated, well behaved and eager to develop as chemists. These foundations allow us to run an outstanding range of practicals and extra-curricular activities.

The Chemistry department has four laboratories and a departmental staffroom. Three of the labs are in our brand new Science Centre. All teachers in the department are expected to teach throughout the School and would be expected to provide stretch and challenge to students of all ages. The department provides a very supportive environment in which to teach and members of the department enjoy discussing and sharing of ideas and resources with regards to teaching and learning. The opportunities for continual professional development that this affords in being able to work collaboratively with fellow chemists and enthusiastic colleagues makes Reading School an ideal place to either begin a teaching career or to continue your enjoyment of the teaching of this fascinating and rewarding subject.

The Chemistry department currently has five subject specialists and a full time Chemistry Technician. This post has arisen due to the sustained increase in demand for the subject at A Level and our commitment to maintaining appropriate set sizes and maximising student achievement.



DETAILS OF THE POST

Our Ideal Candidate

We are looking for someone who is:

- An able chemist with the capacity to clearly explain chemical principles to enthusiastic students
- An outstanding teacher who can inspire curiosity
- Able to translate talent of our students into progress and understanding
- An exemplary classroom practitioner who is eager to continue their own development
- An individual with the knowledge and experience to confidently teach A-Level students
- Enthusiastic about the delivery of engaging, stretching and enjoyable extra-curricular STEM activities
- Eager to contribute to the wider life of the School by investing in a tutor group

What We Can Offer You:

- Opportunities to grow and develop within your role
- A vibrant and positive team of subject specialists to work alongside
- A timetable that gives generous teaching time to A Level and GCSE students
- A curriculum model that ensures a generous proportion of practical lessons
- A School community with exceptional students who are motivated and able
- A vision for the future of education which values the whole student and promotes character and leadership as much as academic excellence
- An outstanding set of new laboratories, with excellent equipment and facilities
- A supportive, proactive and knowledgeable governing body Opportunities to innovate or lead extra-curricular or pastoral projects if desired
- 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 school where you will be part of a community, where you can really make your mark and where you will feel valued

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 teacher application form and enclose a covering letter. Applications can be sent by email to: headspa@reading-school.co.uk or by post for the attention of the Headmaster, Mr AM Robson.

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

Closing Date: Monday 25th March 2019

Interviews: Thursday 28th March 2019



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 2018, the school was ranked the top state school in the South East by the Sunday Times. There are currently 1026 students at Reading School of which 76 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 900th 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 2018, 92.44% of Year 13 students were awarded A*-B at A Level. Furthermore, at GCSE in 2018 87.7% of entries were grades 9-7 or A*-A, with 40.63% achieving Grade 9. In 2018, 33 students were 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 Toronto, Canada.

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 Azores 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 76 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 currently by the Senior Leadership Team comprising Deputy Headteacher, three Assistant Headteachers, the Finance Director and Executive Assistant. 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 17 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.