

This presentation will be recorded and a link sent to parents.

CELEBRATING

900

YEARS

Est. 1125



# Year 13 Expectations Evening



Mr Alun Lloyd  
Head of Sixth Form

# The Sixth Form Team

Your child's form tutor

Mr Lloyd – Head of Sixth Form

Mr Whitehorn – Sixth Form Transition Lead

Mrs Majorossy – Sixth Form Intervention Lead Miss

Stratford – Sixth Form Pastoral Lead

Mrs Rogers – SENCO

1. What is different about Year 13?
2. Foundations for academic success
3. UCAS information
4. Pastoral support
5. Leadership, character & community service
6. Your role



## 1. What is Different About Year 13?

# This Year:

Is your child's final year at the School.

Is as much about the next steps as it is about their success in class.

Is hard work.

Requires them to have balance in their lives.

Is an opportunity to show leadership to the rest of the School – set high standards

Is most likely their final academic year when they will be in your home.

Is when they will legally become adults.

Is a year of change for them and for you.

They will make a lot of decisions for themselves.

Consequently, this year is an extremely important one.



Potential

Realised

# Key Dates

## Schedule

- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October      Reading Week
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January      Staff Day

## Reporting and Feedback

- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September      Tutor Consultations
- W/C 14<sup>th</sup> October      First Report
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November      Parents' Evening
- W/C 6<sup>th</sup> January      Mock exams
- W/C 3<sup>rd</sup> February      Second Report
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February      Intervention Parents' Evening
- Early May      Study Leave

A note on study leave: every year we have a number of students who take the decision to stop coming into school apart from for what they perceive to be “important lessons” or assessments as study leave approaches. This is not something the school condones and we would ask for parents' support to prevent this from happening this year.

# 2024

57.7% gained three A-levels

40.7% gained four A-levels

Just one student gained five A-levels

Key message: Top three grades are more important than total number of grades.

Of the 77 students who achieved four A-levels, eight of them had a C grade and three had a D grade.

AABC is a significantly worse set of grades than AAA.

# Dropping Subjects

## Key messages:

If your child is considering dropping a subject they're probably right. Three strong grades are much better than four average ones.

If your child wants to drop, then before sending their UCAS application is a sensible time to do so. We, or they, would be obligated to contact their universities to let them know of their changes after the application is sent.

We will also be having conversations with students for whom it is no longer in their best interests to continue with four subjects and making the decision for them that it will not be possible for them to continue with all four.



## 2. Foundations for Academic Success

# Academic Results 2024

**A Level:**      A\*-A was 71.3%  
                     A\*-B was 89.9%

**BASS:**        5<sup>th</sup> Nationally

Notably, the vast majority of C grades and below were from a small group of students getting multiple lower grades.

# How to Minimise Risk of Getting Lower Grades

1. Trust the School with decisions about A-level subjects.
2. Ensure your child is engaging with the support being offered.
3. Proactivity from students and positive engagement with feedback.
4. Effective approach to study.
5. Best time to start working hard towards top grades was September of Year 12. Next best time is right now.

# Value Added

0.25 – 0.4 of an A-level grade per subject relative to peers with comparable GCSE grades

So how can we maximise the  
chances your child replicates this  
success?

# Work Ethic and Discipline

Consistency is key when it comes to success at A-level. Last minute cramming doesn't work.

Effective note taking followed by consolidation of classwork outside of lessons.

Revision from afar. Setting up revision over the course of the year, not just for the last two weeks before the exams.

Utilising free time effectively in School.

# Effective Study Skills

Different subjects have different requirements for effective study, but there are some universals:

1. Collaborative work is effective.
2. Practice is vital.
3. Familiarity with the specification.
4. React positively to feedback – exams / tasks / coursework.
5. Consistency – little and often is much better than huge sessions once a half term.
6. Balance – sleep, health and well-being need to be in place for you to be effective over the year.

# Coursework

Some subjects have NEAs (History, English, Computer Science and Geography)

Managing workload and working to deadlines is a vital part of success in these.

Ensure your child takes advantage of all the feedback they are given and act on it. Timely hand ins allow this to happen.

# Utilising Effective Support

If your child is struggling with their subjects they need to actively seek support.

Avenues for support:

1. Teacher
2. Subject support sessions/clinics
3. Tutor
4. Mrs Majorossy – Academic intervention
5. Mentors
6. Additional resources
7. Student support

# Exam Access Arrangements

- If your child was entitled to extra time during their GCSEs then they MAY be entitled to extra time at A-level.
- We need to reapply for this as soon as possible, and if your child is borderline, we will need time to make a case for them.
- Please let the Student Support department know ASAP if you think your child might be entitled:  
[studentsupport@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:studentsupport@reading-school.co.uk)

# Taking Exams

- Challenge they have faced before.
- Take mocks seriously – chance to practice plus we have recent experience of how vital they can be.
- Manage stress – PSHE sessions.
- Effective revision – Mrs Majorossy.
- Practice as they'll play. Do every extended writing task by hand. Get used to it.



### 3. UCAS Information

# Key Dates

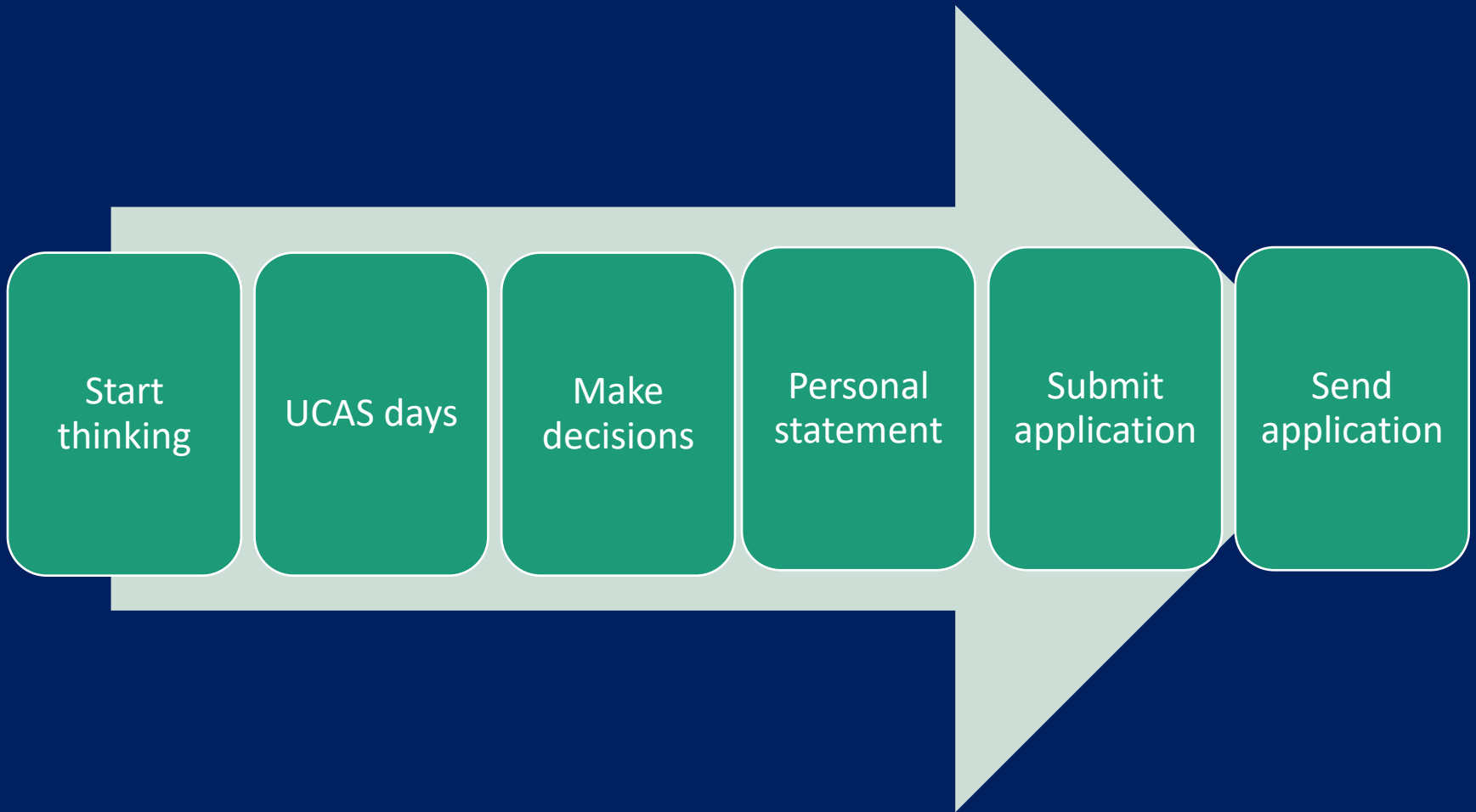
UCAS deadlines

20<sup>th</sup> September for Medics

27<sup>th</sup> September for Oxbridge

22<sup>nd</sup> November non-early entry

# UCAS Process



# UCAS Process



Interviews  
and  
admissions  
tests

Receive offers

Decide on  
Firm and  
Insurance  
options

Receive A-  
Level results  
and confirm  
University  
place

# Key Crunch Points

- Right now – Sending applications
- November/early December – Entrance tests and interviews
- January – Oxbridge decisions
- April-May – Firm and insurance decisions

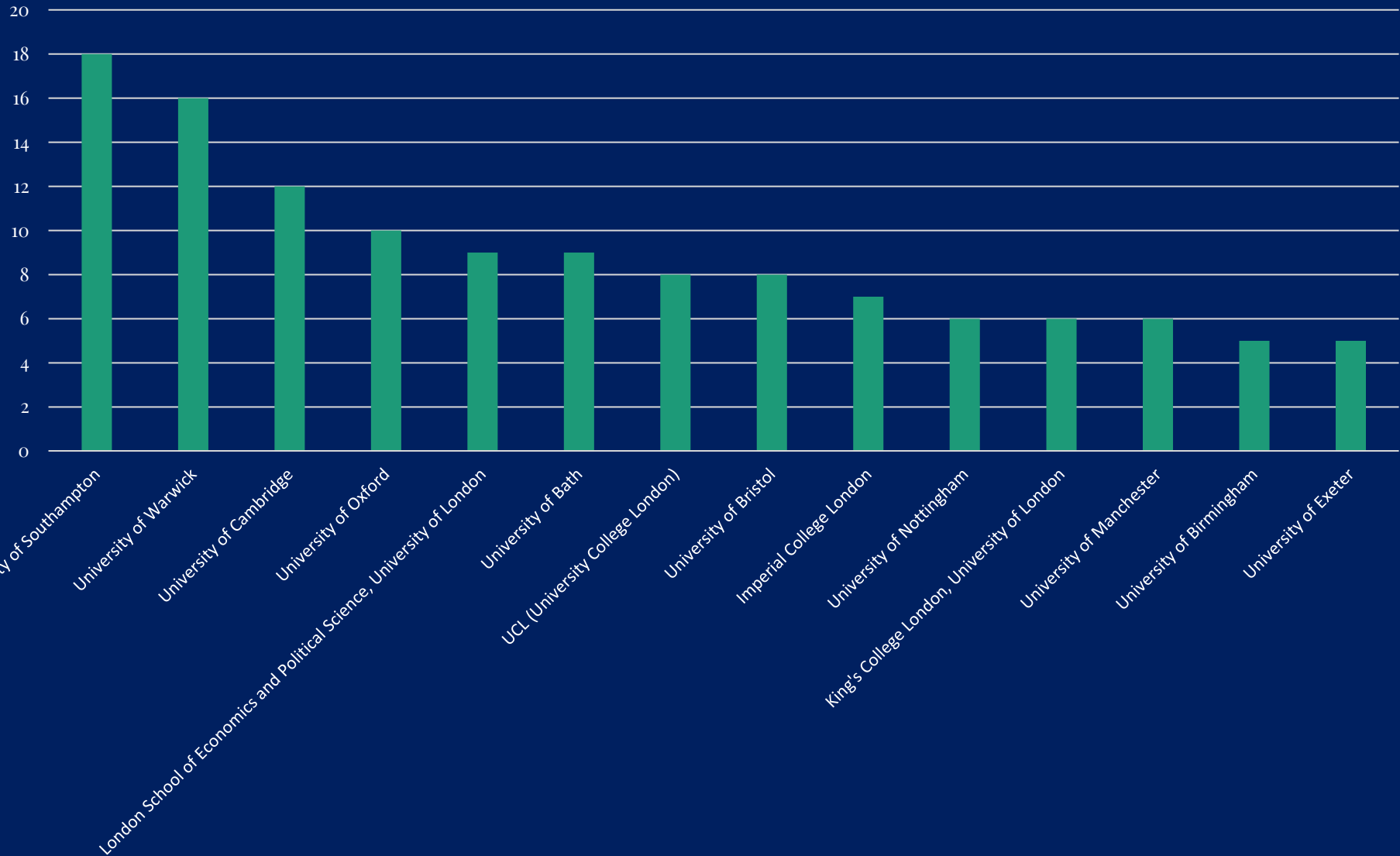
# Aspirational Alongside Realistic Decisions

- Students need to apply to a range of universities.
- They must have at least one, ideally two safe options.
- Students should be aspirational and apply to universities they are excited to go to.
- Students should be excited about a range of universities.
- Students must be realistic when choosing their options.

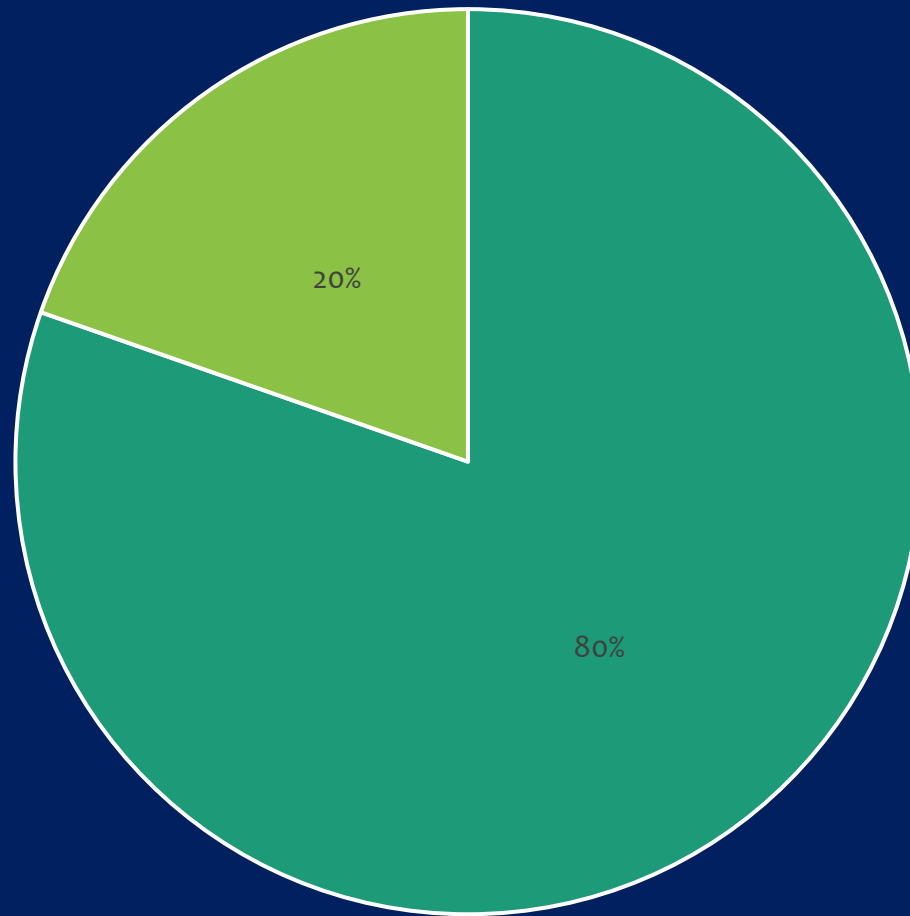
# Making Decisions

- Open Days
  - League tables
  - Course and University websites
  - Unifrog and other websites (Student Room etc.)
  - Staff
- 
- Where can they see themselves for the next three years?

# Most Common University Destinations 2023

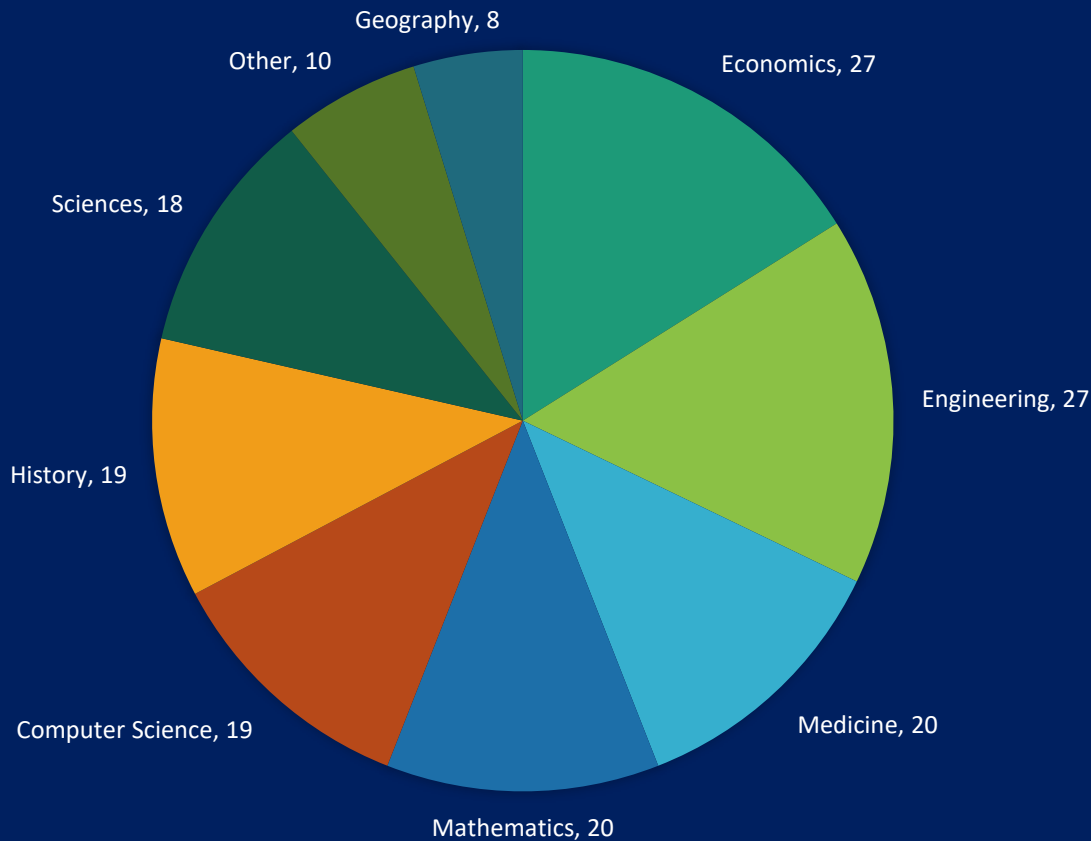


# Russell Group Destinations



■ Russell Group   ■ Non Russell Group

# 2023 Leavers' University Courses



- Categories are broad
- Joint honours have been put in best fit categories
- History includes Classics, Politics
- Economics includes Business, Finance etc
- Engineering includes all different types including ChemEng
- Medicine includes dentistry
- Sciences include BioMed, Bio, Chem, Phys, Sports Science, Psychology
- Geography includes Earth Science, Environmental Sciences
- Other includes English (1), Law (5), Languages (3) and Music (1)

# Other Headlines

- Following the 2024 cycle, only seven students are currently unplaced due to missing offers at university. All will be supported through the 2024 cycle of applications, if they choose to do so.
- 23 Oxbridge offers last year, plus one Princeton.
- Three students have prestigious apprenticeships.

# Apprenticeships

- Very much worth exploring as they are an excellent avenue to certain careers.
- Highly competitive.
- Speak to Mr Whitehorn if considering.
- Can be applied to concurrently with UCAS, so make sure they do both, if considering an apprenticeship.

# What can you do to support with UCAS etc.?

- Let students make their own decisions.
- Help manage expectations – there needs to be realism when it comes to insurance university options.
- Support students when rejections come.



## 4. Pastoral Support

# Pastoral Care

- Their form tutor is the first point of contact for you and your child.
- The Sixth Form Team will also support where necessary.
- It's a challenging year and we will be monitoring closely. Please do get in touch with your child's tutor if you have any concerns about their well-being or if their circumstances change.



## 5. Character, Leadership and Community

# Reading School Students are *and* Students:

We should expect them to excel academically *and* personally.

We must ensure they are outstanding scholars *and* compassionate young people.

We must encourage them to study purposefully *and* enjoy sport, music and drama.

Don't let them abandon everything else they do and what makes them excellent, rounded young people, just because they have A-level examinations.

Breadth, balance etc. are as important, if not more important than ever.

# Opportunities

- We expect every student to use their skills for the benefit of others.
- Variety of needs/ opportunities in School, particularly during afternoons:
  - Subject mentoring
  - Future Stories
  - Charity Committee
  - Running clubs and activities
  - External mentoring with partner Schools
  - House Events

# Opportunities – Year 13 Sport

- Updated program for 2024-25.
- Greater range on offer.
- Mix of internal and external provision.
- All taking place in Wednesday afternoons, once the sign up has been completed, which it very nearly has.
- Additional opportunities outside of standard Games sessions.



## 6. Your Role

# Priorities

**Safety > Happiness > Achievement**

Help them to move from  
potential to who they can go  
on to be:

Academically  
Socially  
Holistically

# Help Us Overcome Barriers To Learning

- Special Educational Needs or Disabilities
- Financial Concerns
- UCAS disappointments
- Let us know about mental health or other health issues

# 16-19 Bursary

- Available for any family in hardship.
- We wish every student to have access to every opportunity.
- Led by Tom Evans, who has already made contact with a number of students/families, but please do reach out if you need any extra support.  
[tevens@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:tevens@reading-school.co.uk)

# Identity

- Monitor exposure to social media.
- Try to limit time with phone (and perhaps role model this?)
- Reduce academic pressure.
- Talk and eat together.
- Encourage exercise and fresh air.
- Help your child develop a firm sense of their own identity entirely beyond their studies.
- Give them space to be themselves.

# Attendance

- The single best correlation we have in education, with all other things being equal, is attendance.
- High attendance has a very strong correlation with high outcomes.
- Missing school this year is going to be impactful and should be avoided whenever possible.
- Please support us in supporting your child. We can't teach them if they're not here.

# Partnership With School

- Balance of independence and information
- Two reports via the Parent Portal
- Additional intervention parents' evening
- Remote tutor consultation for Year 13 parents tomorrow.  
Please ensure you sign up for your slots. Information has gone out. School Cloud

# Support Them With Onwards Travel...

- See Sixth Form as a springboard, not the end of the journey
- Soft skills
- Work experience
- Wider reading and understanding
- Find out what is right for your child -  
university, apprenticeships, gap years
- Open Days
- Personal statement and interview preparation
- Ensure they're organised for admissions tests
- Empower them to be independent – they have to make their own decisions.

# Help Nurture Resilience

‘Resilience is about abandoning the imprint of the past’ (Cyrulnik 2009)

It is the ability to bounce back.

Sixth Form is a very challenging time. We need to support students to overcome these challenges, without removing the challenge entirely.

# Pressure

In the majority of cases, the students put enough pressure on themselves; there's no need to add to it.

Parents have high hopes for the children, but we have to be careful to find the line between supporting, encouraging, motivating and the alternative, which is adding pressure, overwhelming and damaging young people.

Please talk to your child's tutor if you feel this is a conversation that needs to be had about their application of stress management.

# Communication

- In the first instance if you have any concerns try to email their tutor.
- A second step might be to email Mr Whitehorn for university questions:  
[dwhitehorn@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:dwhitehorn@reading-school.co.uk)
- Miss Stratford should be contacted with pastoral concerns:  
[astratford@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:astratford@reading-school.co.uk)
- Mrs Majorossy for any academic or minor behavioural issues:  
[hmajorossy@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:hmajorossy@reading-school.co.uk)
- Or if there is something more significant that needs to be discussed, then Mr Lloyd: [alloyd@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:alloyd@reading-school.co.uk)

# Priorities

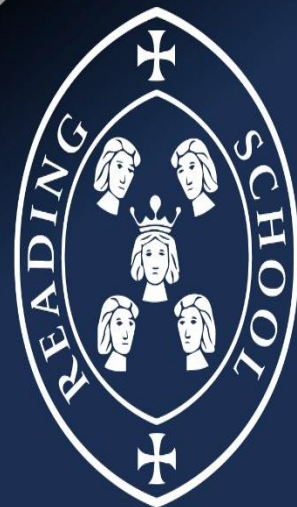
**Safety > Happiness > Achievement**

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# 900<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations

## **Michaelmas Term 2024**

- Tuesday 8th October – 900th Anniversary Group Photo

## **Lent Term 2025**

- Date to be confirmed - Royal Visit
- Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th March – 900th Anniversary House Eisteddfod
- Thursday 27th and Friday 28th March – 900th Anniversary Giving Day

## **Summer Term 2025**

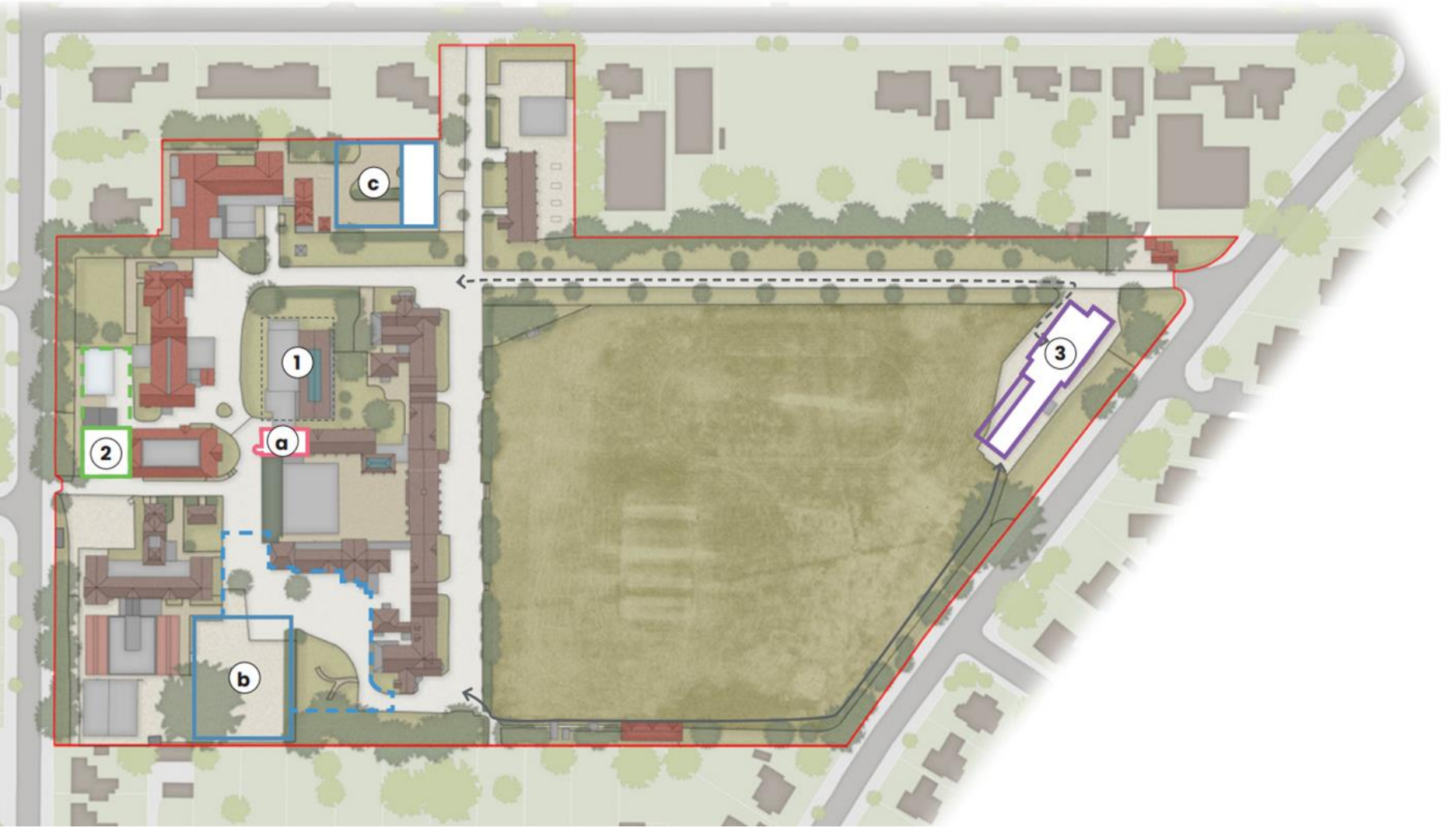
- Saturday 28th June – 900th Anniversary ORA Chapel Service
- Monday 30th June till Thursday 3rd July – 900th Anniversary Drama performances
- Saturday 5th July – 900th Anniversary Community Festival (all welcome)
- Saturday 12th July – 900th Anniversary Grand Reunion (all welcome)

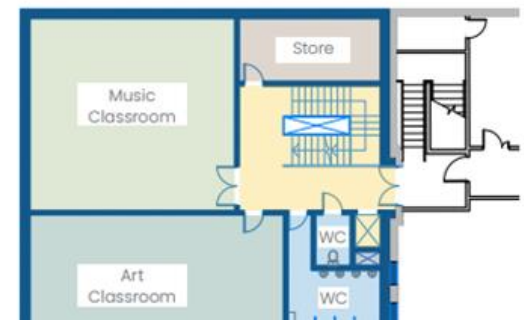
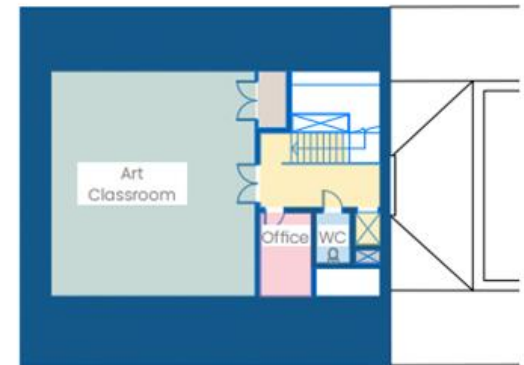
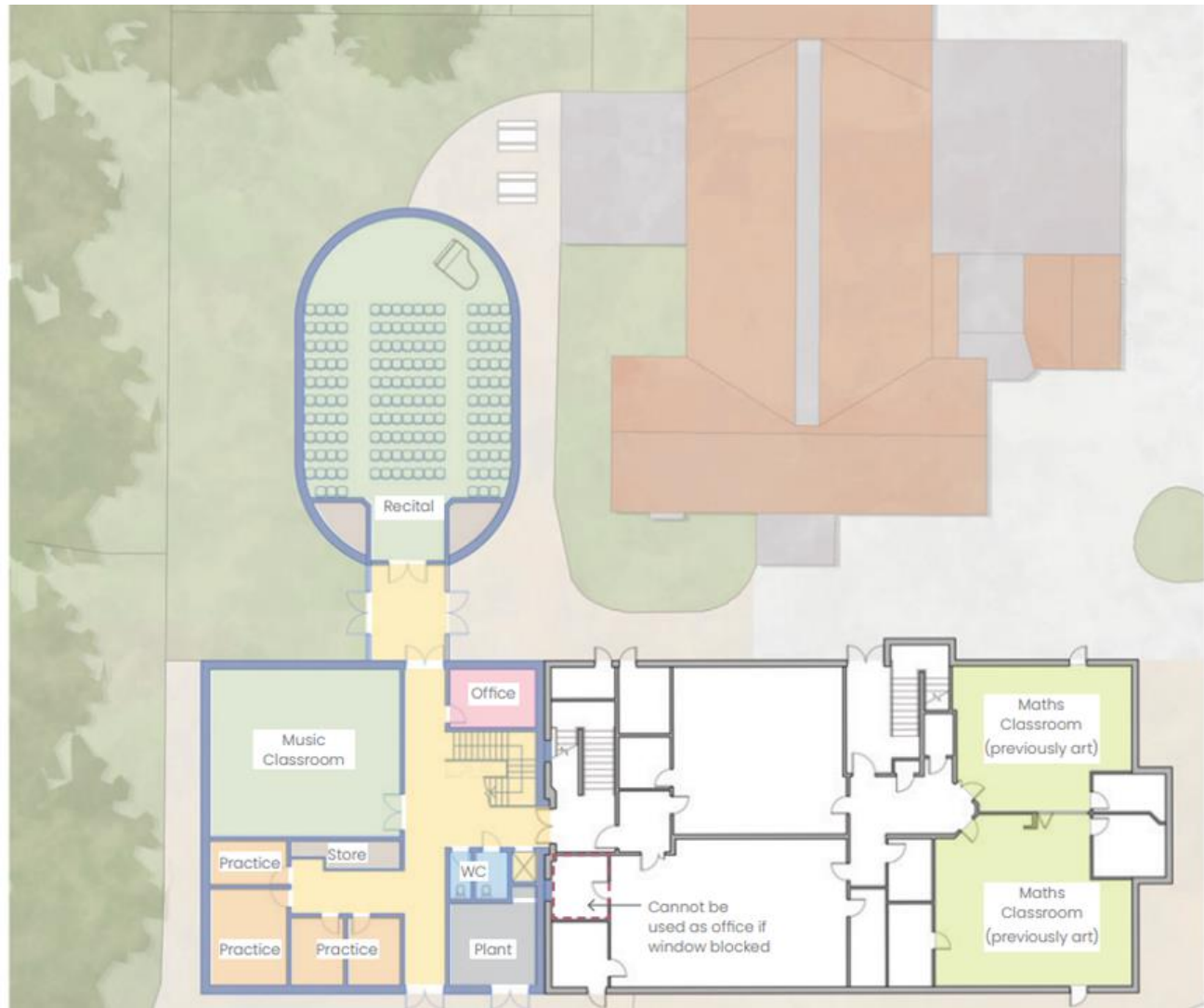
## **Michaelmas Term 2025**

- Sunday 21st September – 900th Anniversary OR House Music, (Reading Town Hall)
- Saturday 29th November - 900th Anniversary Gala Dinner (Reading Town Hall)

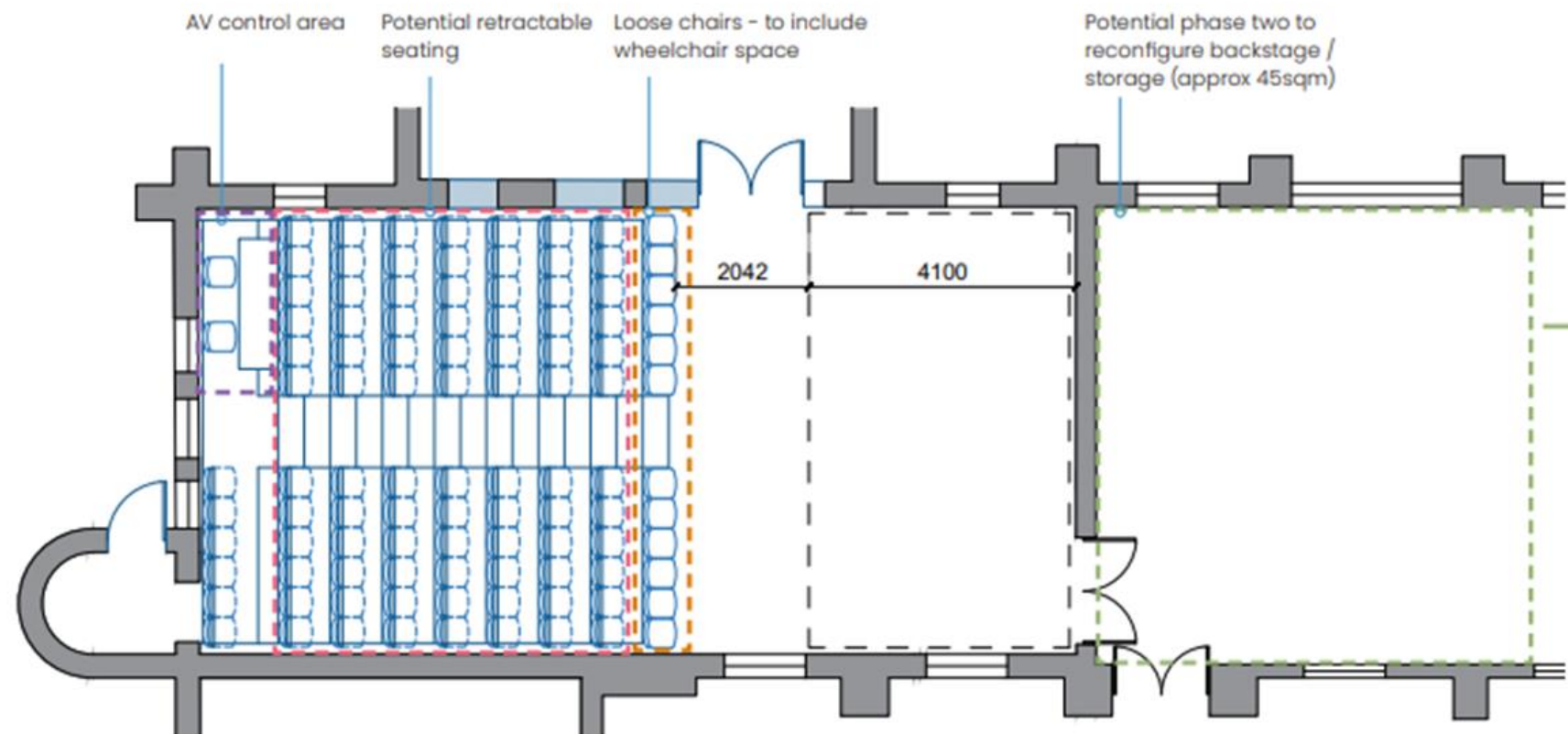


**READING SCHOOL  
MASTERPLAN REFRESH  
PRESENTATION 3  
SEPTEMBER 2024**





# DRAMA THEATRE



Old Gymnasium as Proposed showing new theatre space (95.4sqm)

102 seats on 850mm rows with space for AV at rear of theatre

# SIXTH FORM CENTRE



Path via cricket pavilion to east end of terrace (approx 200m)

Possible additional path to prevent

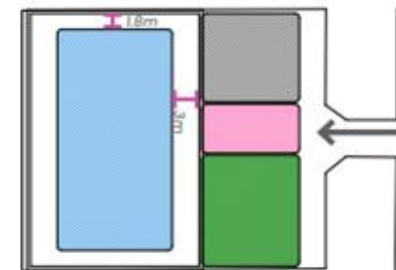
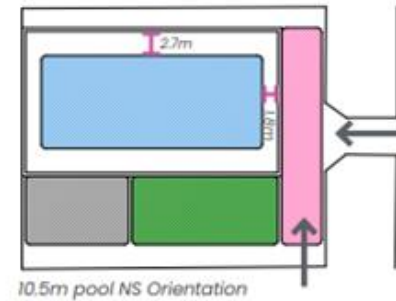
# SWIMMING POOL

There is capacity for a 10.5m x 25m pool (5 lane) or 13m x 25m pool (recommended Sports England community swimming pool, six lane).

Requirements for changing room capacity will need assessment based on the extent of community use.



- Changing / WC / Shower
- Reception / Staff
- Pool
- Plant





Thank you for your partnership  
Answers to questions to follow