



Founded 1125

30 January 2024

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

**Re: Careers Conventions 2024 – Thursday 1st February 6.30pm-8.30pm**

We look forward to welcoming you on Thursday **from 18:30-20:30**.

We are delighted to share our packed [Careers Convention Programme 2024](#) to help plan which delegates your young person might like to visit alongside any talks you have booked. We strongly suggest that you leave enough time to visit delegates. Therefore, we would suggest it is probably best **not** to book all four talks as this would mean you do not get to visit the 60 or so delegates in attendance.

We would also recommend that Years 10 to 12 in particular consider visiting the five universities in attendance namely, the University of Bath, University of Exeter, University of Nottingham, University of Warwick and Newcastle University. This is a unique opportunity for our students to learn and begin to consider options about the various courses they have to offer and their entrance requirements for those students considering further education.

Please note the Inspire Lectures marked red below are now full. Those talks in larger rooms still have some capacity. If you would like to register for a lecture please click here: [Careers Convention 2024- Lectures](#). To help us ensure maximum access at these talks, all bookings should be **one parent and one child per family** unless you have more than one child at Reading School or a sibling from another school joining the Convention.

Speaker	Focus	Venue	Time
<b>Dr Saritha Arunkumar</b> World Wide Technical Leader – Security, IBM	Cybersecurity career and opportunities at <a href="#">IBM</a>	Big School	6:30pm-6:50pm 7:30pm- 7.50pm
<b>Mr Greg Payne</b> Senior Director, Oracle Corporation	Careers at <a href="#">Oracle</a> Technology, engineering and data	Chapel	6:30pm-6:50pm 7:30pm-7.50pm
<b>Mr Levi Tebbutt</b> Data Analytics Manager, KPMG	Careers at <a href="#">KPMG</a> Finance, tax and data	Big School	<b>7:00pm-7:20pm</b> 8:00pm-8:20pm
<b>Mr Jonathan Purcell</b> Public Affairs & Communications Officer at <a href="#">the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians</a>	Careers in Public Affairs & Communications for NGOs	Lecture Theatre	<b>7:00pm-7:20pm</b> <b>8:00pm-8:20pm</b>
<b>Miss Orla Harper</b> Senior Partner Development Manager, InvestIN Education	<a href="#">InvestIN Education</a> will share tips on creating a CV, employability skills, building your personal brand and networking opportunities.	Lecture Theatre	<b>6:30pm-6:50pm</b> <b>7:30pm-7.50pm</b>

**READING SCHOOL, Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LW**

T: 0118 9015600

F: 0118 9353505

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## All Year Groups

Please note that there will be visitors from partner schools in attendance. Students, please help to direct them if they appear lost.

### **Pre-Event Discussion:**

- Discuss your child's interests openly before the event.
- Encourage exploration of various opportunities.
- It is **important to remember** that they do not have to make a final decision about their future now. Industries and career pathways are rapidly changing, and they should be encouraged to explore all opportunities that interest them.

### **Points to Consider:**

- Select two to three careers of particular interest.
- Keep advisor discussions under 5 minutes to accommodate others or consider group discussions to reduce waiting time.
- Prepare questions for a productive discussion – **Please see the example questions attached.**
- Be ready to answer questions about GCSEs, A Levels, and your own future plans.

### **Parking:**

- We regret to inform you there is **no parking on the school site** this is reserved for delegates, staff and volunteers only and to allow for safe footfall across the school site on a busy evening.
- If you are a blue badge holder or have specific requirements, please email [events@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:events@reading-school.co.uk).
- We encourage you to use public transport where possible. There is limited parking in the surrounding area including in Erleigh, Addington and Alexandra Road where parking meters are operated. Alternatively, please use the town centre car parks. There is also some limited car parking offered at Reading College but please check any ticket requirements. This is on a first come first serve basis.

### **Arrival:**

- The Careers Convention **commences at 18.30.**
- You can collect a printed program from Refectory and then meet as many delegates as possible.
- **Tickets for Talks** – please either bring along your printed tickets or download them on your phone. You will **not gain access without tickets** as we are nearly at full capacity in some areas.
- **If your first booking at 18.30** is a talk in Big School, the Chapel or the Lecture Theatre please make your way to those venues and queue outside until doors open. Please take up all seats leaving no spaces. **Arrive at least 5 minutes before each lecture.**
- Parents/carers encourage students to have conversations with professionals.
- Seek to understand more deeply the opportunities available to them through different pathways.

### **Refreshments for parents and students:**

- Teas, coffee and soft drinks as well as cake and snacks will be available for attendees to purchase from Grab & Go.

Thank you to [Macron](#), [LGFL Limited \(Leiper Gupta Family Lawyers\)](#), [King Energy Heating and Plumbing](#) and [P-TEK](#) for sponsoring this year's Careers Convention 2024 and we thank them for supporting this event.

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We express our gratitude to all sponsors, speakers, and delegates for making this event possible. We encourage students to make the most of this occasion, exploring potential paths for their future careers.

If you have any further questions, please email [events@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:events@reading-school.co.uk), please be patient as we work our way through any queries.

We look forward to welcoming you on Thursday.

Yours sincerely,

**Lizzie Ayres**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

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### Student examples of questions

Students can ask a variety of questions to gain valuable insights into different industries and professions. These questions are just a starting point. Tailor them to the specific career and use as a foundation.

#### 1. General Questions:

- What does a typical day look like in your profession?
- How did you get started in your career?
- What do you enjoy most about your job?

#### 2. Education and Training:

- What qualifications or education are typically required for entry into this field?
- Are there specific courses or degrees that you recommend for someone interested in this career?

#### 3. Skills and Qualities:

- What skills are most important for success in this industry?
- Are there specific personal qualities or characteristics that are valued in your profession?

#### 4. Career Advancement:

- How does one progress and advance in this career?
- Are there opportunities for professional development or further education within the field?

#### 5. Industry Trends:

- Can you share any current trends or developments in this industry?
- How do you see this profession evolving in the future?

#### 6. Work-Life Balance:

- What is the typical work-life balance in this field?
- Are there busy seasons or periods of increased workload?

#### 7. Company Culture:

- How would you describe the company culture within your organization?
- What values are important for someone to thrive in this workplace?

#### 8. Networking and Opportunities:

- Are there networking events or professional associations related to this industry?
- How can students find internships or work experience opportunities?

#### 9. Challenges and Rewards:

- What are the main challenges professionals in this field often face?
- What are the most rewarding aspects of your job?

#### 10. Advice for Students:

- What advice do you have for students considering a career in this industry?
- Is there anything you wish you had known when you were starting your career?

#### 11. Diversity and Inclusion:

- How diverse is the workforce in this industry?
- Are there initiatives or programs in place to promote diversity and inclusion?

#### 12. Global Perspective:

- Does this career offer opportunities to work internationally?
- How does the global market impact this industry?

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