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Headmaster: Chris Evans

Our Ref: HouseMusicCompetition/CE/JC/PH

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: House Music Competition 2024**

The House Music Competition is now in its 89th year and remains the most momentous event in our annual calendar. This year, the competition is scheduled to take place on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November from 15:00 to 19:30 at The Hexagon, Queens Walk, RG1 7QF.**

This exciting competition will showcase an array of outstanding performances from our five Houses. Ensemble acts will include both large and small ensembles performing music from films. Solo acts will feature the Senior soloists (students in Year 11-13) and Junior soloists (students in Year 7-10).

I hope our annual House Music Competition will serve as a source of immense pride for you as parents, taking pride in the remarkable talents of your children, who have devoted countless hours to hone their skills and deliver an outstanding performance. I anticipate that you will thoroughly enjoy the splendid showcase of your children's talents, as well as the collective artistry of all the students involved. We look forward to your presence at this year's House Music Competition.

Ticket release will take place as follows:

Phases	Hexagon seating area	Price <sup>1, 2</sup>
First phase – Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Arena Centre, Arena Left, and Arena Right	£24 adults; £14 children
Second phase – Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Stalls Centre	£26 (no concession available)
	Balcony Centre <sup>3</sup>	£18 adults; £12 children

**Note:**

1. Students performing do not need to purchase tickets.
2. The ticket price includes a £2.00 booking fee, which is imposed by the venue.
3. Please be aware that there is no lift to the balcony.

The exact timing of these releases will be determined based on the popularity and speed of ticket sales. We kindly request your patience as we progress through each phase. Please keep a vigilant eye on the website for updates and the release of additional tickets.

We are aware of the financial challenges faced by some families, especially with the additional costs associated with attending events. **If your family is in receipt of Pupil Premium**, we are able to offer **two discounted tickets** for seats in the Arena Centre, Arena Left, or Arena Right. This special offer allows you to attend the House Music Competition at a reduced rate. For more details, please contact us by emailing [events@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:events@reading-school.co.uk).

The House Music Competition is one of the most highly anticipated events of the year, and tickets are expected to sell out quickly. Please **confirm your child's participation by reading and completing this consent form: [House Music 2024 Consent](#)** before purchasing tickets, as they are non-refundable.

To purchase tickets, please click here: [Reading School Inter-House Music Competition 2024 | What's On Reading](#)

To avoid disappointment, don't delay your booking – once the tickets are gone, they're gone!

### Rehearsals

- On the event day at The Hexagon, a rehearsal will be held. Each house will have a timed 60-minute slot in order to get technical elements prepared - this is not a dress rehearsal.
- Please note that these are **closed rehearsals**, so parents/public are not allowed entry into the auditorium.
- Main entrance (next to the Box Office) will not be opened during the rehearsal. **Please drop your son(s) at the stage door (ground floor)** and depart.
- Students should sign-in with their house prefects at **the stage door (ground floor)**.
- Any students who need to **carry medication, such as inhalers or epi-pens must ensure they have it on them**. They will not be able to take part without it and will be returned to parental care.
- Once each rehearsal slot has finished, students will need to sign out with their house prefects at **the stage door (ground floor)** and must leave the venue – they cannot stay on site as they will not be supervised. Please pick up your son(s) from here.
- Boarding pupils please ensure you have made arrangements with family or friends if you are participating.
- Students will need to bring all their equipment with them to the rehearsal including instruments, music and any other bits and pieces (drumsticks and guitar leads for example). It may be possible to leave some larger items in dressing rooms afterwards, but smaller items should not be left.
- The times for each House are as follows:

House	Arrival	Strike
County	08:45	10:00
West	09:45	11:00
East	10:45	12:00
Laud	12:45	14:00
School	13:45	15:00

### Drop-off or Pick Up

- The show will commence promptly at 15:30 and all students need to be at the Hexagon no later than 15:00 for final preparation. **Parents and students must enter and exit through the main entrance (next to the Box Office) of The Hexagon only.**
- If you are dropping pupils off at 14:45, you are welcome to remain in the public area to buy snacks, drinks, and raffle tickets. **Auditorium will be open the public from 15:00.**
- The backstage area is strictly off limits to anyone other than authorised staff and students.
- It is anticipated that the competition will finish between 19:30 and 20:00. It may take some time to release boys to parents and this will be done by house to keep things flowing.
- There will be assembly points, as follows, from which to collect your son(s) after the show:

House	Pick-up Point
School	Stage Door Foyer (Downstairs)
County	Hexagon Café

West	Director's End (Downstairs)
East	The Balcony Bar
Laud	Downstairs Bar

### Boarding

- Boarding Houses will be closed on Sunday morning so boarding students will need to make their way direct to The Hexagon with all their bags for the week.
- It will not be possible to drop off belongings at school on the Sunday morning.
- Further details of the arrangements for boarders participating in the event will be emailed direct to all parents concerned.

### Programmes

- Programmes designed by students will be available for pre-order at £4, designed by students. To secure your copy in advance, please complete the pre order form [here](#). We will be in touch with you shortly to provide guidance on the payment process.

### Catering

- Snacks and refreshments will be available to purchase at the Hexagon kiosks.
- A reminder that no food/drink is provided by the school for students during the day or evening.
- Any pupils who need to carry medication, such as epi-pens must ensure they have it on them. They will not be able to take part without it and will be returned to parental care.
- Pupils are responsible for making sure they take all their possessions (including instruments, clothing and music) with them at the end of the competition.

### Parking

Meter paid parking is available in the Broad Street Mall car park.

### Theatre Regulations

- Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building.
- Photography, video, or tape recording during the performance is not permitted.
- Please ensure all mobile phones are switched off for the duration of the performance.

### Photography & Videography

- Please note that photographs and videography will be taken and used for social media and Reading School marketing and communications. If you (or your guests) do not wish to be photographed, please contact us at [events@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:events@reading-school.co.uk).

If you have any further queries, please contact Miss Piatrice Hutchinson at [events@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:events@reading-school.co.uk). We appreciate your understanding if there is a delay in response due to the current busy period.

Yours sincerely,



**Chris Evans**  
Headmaster