



READING SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

ABOUT READING SCHOOL

Founded in 1125, Reading School is one of the oldest schools in England. Over the centuries, it has enjoyed considerable royal patronage. It became a Free Grammar School in 1486 at the express wish of King Henry VII, and was granted a Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth I in 1560.

Over the last 900 years, Old Redingensians have filled the highest offices of Church and State, including Archbishop of Canterbury (William Laud) and Prime Minister (Henry Addington). The tradition continues today, with five alumni currently sitting in the House of Commons, whilst others occupy senior positions in business, law, medicine, engineering and the sciences.

Designed by Alfred Waterhouse, the main school buildings and chapel date from 1871. They are set in substantial grounds in the centre of Reading, and are a beautiful and inspiring environment for learning.

Since converting to an academy in 2011, we have improved our facilities so that we can provide the level of academic excellence that our talented students deserve.

We have built a refectory at the heart of the school, and we have upgraded and expanded facilities in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science and Physics, with plans to improve provision for PE and Sport in the near future.



WELCOME

Reading School is a selective day and boarding Academy for boys aged 11 to 18 years.

We deliver high quality teaching and excellent pastoral care. We are committed to providing an inspirational school environment where boys are encouraged to strive for excellence, can grow in character and integrity, and can develop their leadership potential.

We focus on helping students to have a healthy mind and a healthy body. We foster a spirit of inquiry and academic debate, balanced by good listening and social skills.

Overall, we want to integrate the intellectual curiosity nurtured in the classroom, the sense of belonging fostered within our house system, and the desire for challenge developed in sporting and other competitions. In other words, we want Reading School students to have the best possible preparation for the opportunities and challenges presented by life in the 21st century.

Ashley Robson
Headmaster



EXCELLENCE

“It is cool to be clever at Reading School. Our teachers encourage excellence in all subjects.” Year 7 student

Reading School is an academic school, with a curriculum that fosters intellectual development. We teach beyond the GCSE and A Level specifications, stretching students and inspiring them to learn more. Our teachers are passionate and knowledgeable about their subjects, and their enthusiasm motivates talented students to become independent, lifelong learners.

As a result our students achieve outstanding results in public examinations, and the vast majority gain places at top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Our ethos is to encourage learning outside the classroom in order to enhance and enrich the school experience. Our international partnerships with schools in Denmark, India, Kenya and Tasmania enable students to be actively engaged in projects and to learn in novel ways.

We encourage boys to become involved in competitions such as the Biology, Chemistry, Linguistics and Mathematics Olympiads, where their knowledge and skills can be challenged and extended. In recent years, our students have been successful in national competitions, and represented the UK internationally in biology, geography and public speaking.

Above all, we aim to make learning fun, so that students make it a habit that lasts a lifetime. It will prepare them for life in the modern world, where flexibility, adaptability and an appetite for learning are essential for professional success and personal fulfilment.

*A continual
drive and
focus on
improvement
is embedded in
the culture
of the school.*

INTEGRITY

“We are encouraged to put our values into action.” Year 10 student

A supportive school community is essential for successful students. Reading School students benefit from a multi-layered system of pastoral care to help them negotiate the challenges of academic life and the transition to adulthood. Our house system, form tutors, peer support, assemblies, and other support facilitate learning and personal growth.

We are a non-denominational school, within the Christian tradition. Our students come from a wide variety of faiths and backgrounds, all of which are welcomed and included in regular house assemblies and chapel services. These are an essential opportunity for reflection before the busy school day begins.

Our five houses; County, East, Laud, School and West provide a sense of belonging where boys can come together to support each other whilst learning and having fun. They participate in inter-house competitions throughout the year, including sport, music, and public speaking. These are structured so that each student can make a contribution whatever their level of skill.

We provide a regular programme of Personal, Social and Health Education. These sessions involve external speakers and professionals who lead discussions on health and well-being.

Above all, we believe in developing the personal qualities, character and integrity of our boys, so that they have strong values, learn to respect themselves and others, and the world in which they live.

Students' personal development and well-being are outstanding. They communicate confidently with adults and relationships are respectful and mature.





LEADERSHIP

“My son has grown in independence and self-confidence, and has begun to take a leading role in a number of activities.” Year 9 Parent

Making a contribution, taking responsibility and service to others are major elements of life at Reading School and are defining characteristics of what it means to be a Reading School boy.

Our Prefects make an invaluable contribution in representing the views of students to staff and governors through the School Council. They are our greatest ambassadors, welcoming visitors to the school and acting as role-models and mentors to younger boys.

Throughout the year boys raise thousands of pounds for charity by running events and organising collections. They engage with social issues, giving talks in assemblies, and writing items for the school newsletter and website.

We have a series of leadership development schemes for boys from Year 8 upwards. These include Duke of Edinburgh Award and a Sixth Form Leadership programme, both of which nurture emerging leaders and challenge their expectations and abilities.

The Reading School Combined Cadet Force has been part of the school for over a hundred years. As well as weekly CCF activities after school, cadets have many opportunities to attend external courses to develop skills in leadership, team-building, and technical proficiency in signalling, navigation, engineering and flying.

ENRICHMENT

“Sport at Reading School has encouraged me to find motivation during the times when it feels easiest to give in. It has given me an appetite to keep fit, clear hurdles, and push personal boundaries. That is something for which I am inexpressibly grateful.” 2015 Alumnus

There are over forty regular enrichment activities and clubs taking place at lunchtime, and after school. These give boys a chance to expand their interests and enhance learning while building strong and lasting friendships.

We believe in the value and importance of competitive sport in promoting physical well-being for life. Regular training and coaching enables boys to take responsibility for their own health, and reinforces our fundamental values of excellence, integrity and leadership.

Boys have a chance to participate in sports such as rugby, football, cricket and lacrosse, with representative teams involved in fixtures against local schools. We also offer badminton, athletics and table-tennis, and support talented students to access further coaching at local clubs.

Students can take part in public speaking, philosophy, language, drama and science clubs. Our chess team is one of the leading school teams in the country, and includes several international players.

We are particularly fortunate in having a lively and engaging programme of musical activities, where emerging musicians can gain experience of performance and work as a team. Boys can play a variety of musical ensembles, including two orchestras, a string quartet, two jazz bands, two choirs and a guitar group.

*The School
does well in
inspiring the
boys to learn
and aspire to
do well. They
are challenged
and stretched.*





BOARDING

Outcomes for boarders are outstanding. The excellent relationships that exist between staff and the boarders themselves, right across the age range, underpin the highly successful outcomes boarders achieve.

"It's like having 80 brothers: a home from home." Current Boarder

Weekly boarding at Reading School within our two boarding houses, East Wing and South House, has a warm family atmosphere, where students thrive through a programme of structured support and evening activities.

Our two boarding House Masters live on site with their families. They are supported by eight academic staff who each mentor five students. The one to one support they provide includes regular reviews of homework diaries and grades, so that they can set targets and support students' academic needs.

Boarding encourages a spirit of community and cooperation. Each boy is expected to contribute to the life of their boarding house and to participate in activities such as house competitions, outdoor sports, quizzes, karaoke and termly outings to bowling, the cinema and the theatre. Senior boys are also encouraged to mentor younger boarders, helping them to settle in and coaching junior students during prep.

Staff in both houses supervise study time, but also encourage boys to take responsibility for their own learning, developing a level of independence that is invaluable when preparing for exams or moving on to university.

Our two Matrons are a vital source of emotional and practical support. They arrange healthcare appointments, manage boys' laundry, monitor boarders' domestic tasks and are there when boys need someone to talk to.

SIXTH FORM

“My son has had a fantastic education and has been given excellent opportunities.” Parent of Year 12 Student.”

Students are already achieving high academic results when they enter Sixth Form. We encourage them to continue to aim high, so that they leave school with life-changing qualifications and a breadth of skills and experience that will allow them to make a positive difference to the world.

We foster an independent approach to learning, researching, and thinking about subjects. We further inspire students by inviting leading historians, writers, economists, mathematicians, and scientists into school for workshops, and lectures.

We have an established community service programme for Sixth Form students, where they can volunteer each week in local schools and charities, and with our Future Stories Programme. In the process of helping others, they develop new skills and grow in confidence and leadership.

Our Sixth Form team provides a comprehensive programme of pastoral support, helping students to thrive in a challenging academic environment. In addition, our sixteen Sixth Form tutors and our two Heads of Year provide advice and guidance on the complex and stressful process of choosing universities and courses, and submitting applications.

Our network of recent alumni is invaluable. Many return to help current students prepare for university and to talk about their experiences of university and employment.





*I think it is really important for the children to see **role models**, especially boys.*

*- Headteacher of local **partner primary school**.*



PARTNERSHIPS

"I really hope to go on learning through the faith, courage, perseverance and character of those I met." Student after visit to Sure24 Project in Kenya

At Reading School we believe that it is vital to work in partnership. We are proud of our local, national and international partnerships.

Locally we have developed the inspirational Future Stories Programme, working with local primary schools with the aim of widening access to Reading School and focusing on increasing social mobility and raising aspirations.

We have close and positive relationships with the Reading School Parents' Association, the Old Redingensians Association and the Reading Foundation, so that we are at the heart of the wider Reading School family.

Nationally, our School Council leads on fundraising for charitable causes, which have recently included the Refugee Council and the Alzheimer's Society.

Internationally, we have flourishing partnerships with member schools of the International Boys' School Coalition in Australia, Canada, India and South Africa.

In addition, our staff and students have been inspired by our developing partnerships with Sure24 Orphanage and Rainedge High School in Nakuru, Kenya.



ADMISSIONS

We hold open events for prospective day, boarding and Sixth Form students throughout the year.

Please check our website for dates and details of our admissions and application procedures.

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