

Welcome to Reading School

Building Good Men



How will you help me get ready to attend Reading School?

We are delighted to welcome you to Reading School and have put together this booklet to help you feel confident and informed about what to expect when you arrive. We are looking forward to meeting you and working with you.

Lots of you will be excited and possibly nervous about joining us.

Starting Year 7 is a big step, so we do as much as possible to help you get off to a good start.



Excellence

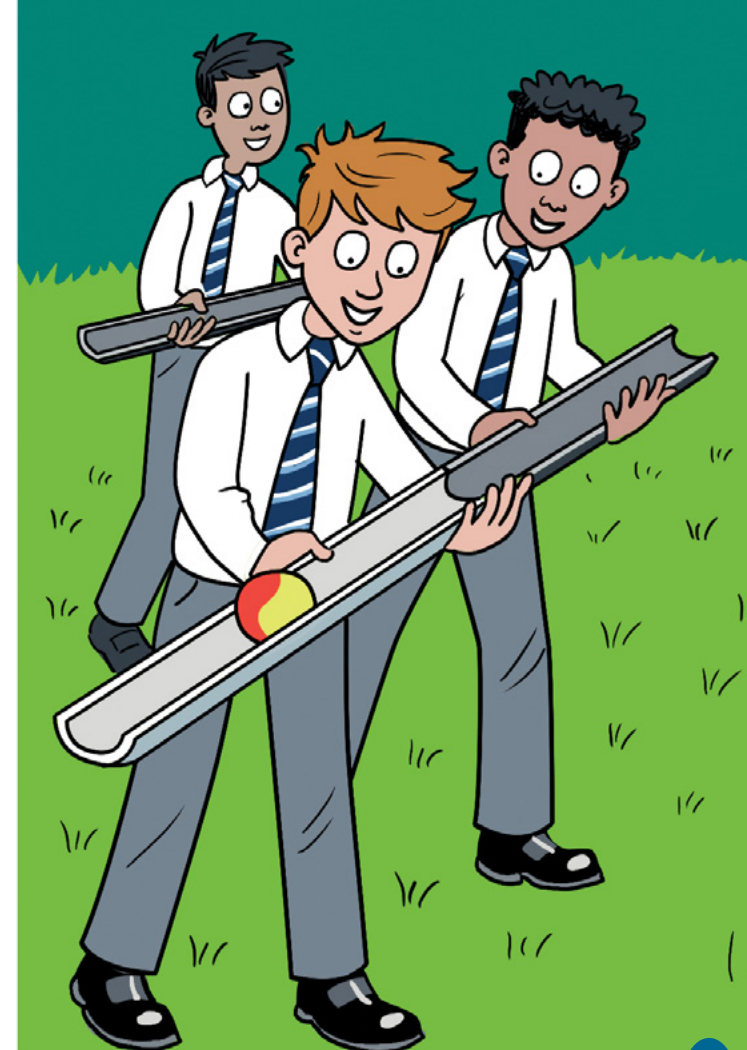
Integrity

Induction

We hope you have enjoyed the virtual meeting with your teachers and the induction videos to get to know the layout of the school. For those of you who attend the summer camp this will enable you to meet your friendly classmates in person and have a taste of some of the exciting opportunities which you will experience at Reading School.

During your first day, you should wear your school uniform and only need to bring in a pencil case from a school equipment point of view. You will be based with your form tutor, the Head of House, directly after you have completed the onsite COVID test. There will be a tour of the site followed by a series of administrative tasks to support you to have an excellent start to the term. These tasks include issue of a Student Planner along with a timetable of lessons, signing up to the school email system and registering on the school biometric cashless payment system for school meals. Food will be available in the refectory during the first day for those who wish to use it for their break or lunch. There will also be lots of activities to break the ice and get to know each other within your tutor group.

Don't worry if you don't know anyone when you start. There will be lots of other pupils in the same position and you will make new friends quickly.



Leadership

Community

How should I get ready for a day at school?

We expect high standards of presentation from your very first day, so you will need to make sure you are wearing the correct uniform. On days when you have PE or Games, you should wear your school PE kit.

Our students are proud to wear their uniform.

We have provided your parents/carers with comprehensive information about what is required. Make sure your uniform is ready well before term starts.

For chemistry lessons you will also need a lab coat and safety goggles.

Check your planner and pack your bag the evening before so you have all the correct equipment. Lay out your uniform or PE kit so you have a stress-free start to the day.

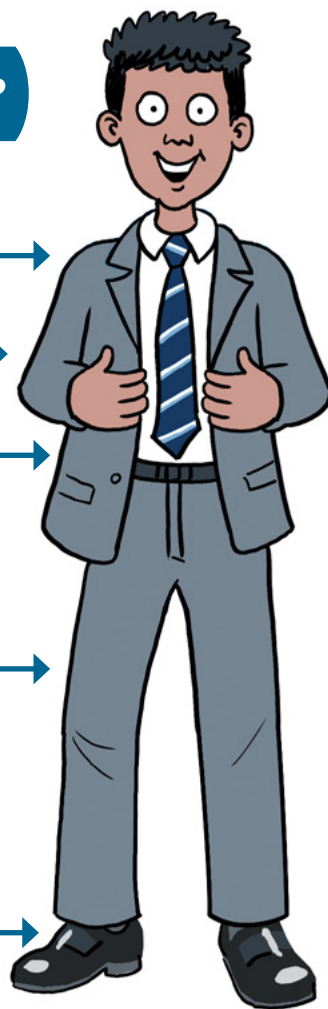
White shirt →

Tie →

Grey blazer →

Grey trousers →

Black shoes →



Equipment

You will need a waterproof rucksack, big enough to carry books. You will also need the following:

- Pen and a pencil
- Geometrical equipment
- Ruler
- Dictionary
- Rough book
- Calculator
- Coloured pencils
- PE kit (keep the bag small)
- Exercise books for that day
- Eraser

You will also be given a Student Planner and will need to hire a locker. Mobile phones are allowed in school, but they should be switched off. Finally, label everything!



"Be organised and pack your bag the night before."

"Wake up early enough to catch your bus or train."

Getting to school

Before your first day, check out walking and bus routes, and practise coming to school, so you know how long it takes.

What happens in a school day?

TOP TIPS 7s
FROM YEAR

"Wear a watch so that you are on time for lessons!"

"Try to learn the school map off by heart."

Timetable

You can access school from 7.45am, with space in the refectory, Year 7 gazebo or the LRC (library) available before lessons. School starts promptly at 8.20am with the first lesson and finishes at 3.35pm.

You will move across the school to use a variety of specialist dedicated classrooms for different lessons which will be written in your planner alongside a map of the school. Don't worry about getting lost – just ask older pupils or staff for help, or visit the Student Services office in the cloisters and they will help too. You will soon get to know your way about.

Every day there are seven lessons which are 45 minutes long. There is also a 20-minute break and 45-minute lunchtime. The timetable runs over two weeks, with a Week A and a Week B. You will soon get used to it. Remember to write your timetable clearly in your Student Planner or check on our school website.

Pastoral time

Every day has dedicated pastoral time with a weekly scheduled programme including Chapel, House Assembly and tutor group activities. We are fortunate to have our own Chapel and you will have regular brief services consisting of a hymn, reading, thought and prayer.



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What will I study?

TOP TIPS 7s
FROM YEAR

"Always record your homework in your planner."

Games lessons

Initially you will work on core skills for Football and Rugby to prepare for House matches. We also have Rugby and Football Clubs, as the autumn term also gives the first opportunity to represent the school. During the summer term, you will take part in Cricket and Athletics.

Homework

This will sometimes be called 'prep', which is an abbreviation for preparation. You will receive homework from your class teachers in class to write in your planner and it will also be posted on Microsoft Teams so you can anticipate and manage your workload. Each piece of homework should take a maximum of 30 minutes. If you are spending too long on your homework, discuss this with your tutor.

We are enormously proud of all our students but understand that sometimes a student needs extra support.

If you are struggling with any schoolwork, ask your tutor for help.



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What is expected of me?

At Reading School we have high expectations and expect you to be polite, hard working, well behaved, dressed in the correct school uniform and organised.

Respect

You need to have:

- Respect for others
- Respect for yourself
- Respect for property
- Respect for the school

Rewards and sanctions

DARE is our system of rewards and stands for:

- Diligence
- Achievement
- Respect
- Effective participation

Certificates are awarded each half-term to the individual within each tutor group who has earned the most DARE points. A larger prize is awarded to the tutor group which collectively earns the most points in each half-term for their year group. The DARE points are also linked to our school values.

TOP TIPS
FROM YEAR **7s**

"Start every lesson with a positive attitude."

Behaviour points

If any student fails to meet these expectations, they will be issued with a negative behaviour point and may also receive a teacher or department detention. This information is uploaded onto the Parent Portal so your parents can see how well you are behaving in school.



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Pastoral care

Role of your tutor

Your tutor is there to help you with any problems you may have. Make an effort to get to know your tutor and help your tutor to get to know you.

You will have a different tutor when you become a Year 8 pupil, but this tutor will normally remain with you for at least two years. You stay in the same House throughout your time at Reading School.

You might want to talk to your tutor if you have:

- problems with your work in any subject
- lost property
- problems travelling to or from school
- difficulties with friendship groups
- found your homework too difficult or too easy
- some good or bad news.

Leadership

TOP TIPS
FROM YEAR **7s**

"Don't be scared to ask for help. If you're finding things tough, tell your form tutor."

Houses

You will be placed into one of five Houses:

- County
- East
- Laud
- School
- West

There are House competitions in most sports as well as in Music, Public Speaking, General Knowledge and Chess. Points are awarded in each of the competitions and the winners are presented with the overall House Championship Cup along with the privilege of having their House Flag raised at the front of school.



Community

What extra-curricular activities can I take part in?

We have a very wide range of extra-curricular activities, trips, clubs and charity fundraising that you can take part in.

There is something for everyone. We encourage you to take part in at least one activity each week... but the more the better!

- Art
- Chemistry
- Table Tennis
- Brass Ensemble
- CCF
- Technology
- Choir
- Chess
- Drama
- Robotics
- Jazz Band
- Coding
- Geography
- Warhammer
- Orchestra

If you are interested in a particular subject but we don't run a club for it, let us know and we will see if an older boy or teacher can run it for you.



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**TOP
TIPS** 7s
FROM YEAR

"Go to as many clubs as possible – that way you will make new friends."



Leadership

Community

The 'Reading Way'

Reading School prides itself on being a powerhouse of academic excellence that sustains high performance, advances knowledge and champions character through our expertise and valued local, national and international partnerships.

We are passionate about creating a culture of commitment. Our core values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership and Community are at the heart of our distinctive approach to education that we term the 'Reading Way'. We look forward to you developing a sense of belonging alongside helping us in our pursuit of achieving educational excellence and building good men.



Reading School

Erleigh Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5LW

Phone: 0118 9015600

Fax: 0118 9352755

Email: secretary@reading-school.co.uk

Web: www.reading-school.co.uk

