



# **Reading School**

## **Director of Music Information**

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC DETAILS OF THE POST

This is a unique opportunity for an ambitious, dynamic, inspiring and experienced teacher with commitment to inspiring young people towards participation, enjoyment and excellence in Music. Music has a high profile in the School and the role would suit a candidate with the vision to continue to develop music within the School at all levels. The successful applicant will be an outstanding practitioner with a proven track record of successful leadership and management.

### Our Ideal Candidate:

We are looking for someone who is

- An enthusiastic and talented musician with the experience and humour to inspire
- A strong academic musician capable of intellectually challenging our high-achieving boys
- An outstanding teacher able to bring the best out in students across the full age and ability range.
- An exemplary classroom practitioner who is eager to continue their own development
- Excited about their contribution to the School's reputation through the organisation of concerts, recitals events and competitions
- Experienced teaching GCSE and A-Level Music
- Passionate about encouraging high quality music making for outstanding students
- A capable pianist with good facility on the keyboard

We would be very willing to consider individuals with a range of musical backgrounds, experience and qualifications.

### What We Can Offer You:

- Opportunities to grow and develop within your role
- A supportive, proactive and knowledgeable governing body
- A School community that values the role of Music within the curriculum and appreciates the benefits of music its' contributions to the social, emotional and mental health of students
- Outstanding CPD opportunities including time to visit other Schools, to work with Universities and on research projects if desired
- A range of international partnerships for extra-curricular activities or personal development including in Kenya, India, Denmark, Australia, France and Germany.
- A committed educational visits team who facilitate activities beyond the classroom
- A vision for the future of education which values the whole student and promotes character and leadership as much as academic excellence
- A spacious self-contained departmental area with plans for further improvement.
- A committed parent body, Reading School Friends of Music who fundraise generously every year to give the Music department access to good-quality resources.
- A school where you will be part of a community, where you can really make your mark and where you will feel valued

## **The Position:**

The Director of Music is responsible for the musical life of the School, managing an active and vibrant Music Department, its permanent and peripatetic staff, its budget, along with a busy programme of concerts and performances. In addition, the Director of Music is currently Chapel Organist, and is responsible for the provision of organ music before and after morning chapel, together with accompaniment of hymn singing – playing the organ or being willing to learn would be an advantage. The Music Department has 2 members of staff and 20 peripatetic teachers. The Director of Music is full time and the Assistant Music Teacher is part time. In addition an innovative partnership with Berkshire Maestros allows all Year 7 students to be taught an instrument and a team-teaching approach allows teaching of the most junior students to be shared with these staff.

Students make GCSE choices at the end of Year 8 and typically between 15 and 20 chose Music, with between four and eight pursuing the subject successfully at A-Level.

The Director of Music has overall responsibility for the teaching of music throughout the School and for the thriving program of extra-curricular music. Inspiring a generation of young men to enjoy participation in music and facilitating outstanding musical performances are the twin goals of the role, which is considered of real strategic importance to the curricular and co-curricular opportunities afforded to our students.

## **Accommodation, Facilities and Resources:**

Music is taught in the 'Junior School' building, situated at the bottom of the drive. This is a self-contained building which benefits from a protected musical environment. There are 5 practice rooms, each with piano; the Director of Music's office; two classrooms, one of which houses 28 MIDI keyboards; a recital hall/rehearsal room; two grand pianos; a harpsichord; two drum kits and good instrument storage facilities. The school also has a superb 2-manual pipe organ, situated in Chapel.

The main teaching classroom includes: a baby grand piano; projector and speakers. In addition the Music department's own computer room houses 15 computers running Sibelius 7, with an iMac and equipment used to produce recordings of concerts and compositions. The five practice rooms are used primarily for instrumental teaching, and also house collections of vocal and instrumental music, reference books, and ICT equipment. These rooms are frequently used by pupils during breaks and after school, as available. A music library is regularly accessed by students and staff, providing valuable repertoire ideas and sight-reading material. The Director of Music's office has its own piano and houses all official paperwork, student records and educational materials.

The space in 'Junior School' is ripe for improvement and the new post-holder would be expected to play an active role in re-ordering rooms and facilities as part of the School's 2025 vision.





## **Concerts and Extra-Curricular Activities:**

The music department arranges a comprehensive programme of school concerts, recitals and special events throughout the year. All school ensembles perform at least once per term, providing identifiable goals for the students, and a public showcase of what has been achieved in rehearsal. Reading School concerts enjoy a reputation for excellence and quality entertainment amongst all who have experienced them. Boys take great pride in such events and exhibit high standards of commitment and professionalism.

Middle-sized concerts often take place in the school hall, 'Big School', which has a fine Yamaha Baby Grand piano, modular staging, and a seating capacity for an audience of about 200. Lunchtime recitals and smaller concerts are usually held in Music School hall, providing immediate access to all facilities, and enjoying a reverberant acoustic.

All concerts and events are documented and advertised in the School Calendar. Further publicity is produced as appropriate. Larger concerts are held off-site, whilst smaller recitals suit the more intimate surroundings of Music School. The School Carol Service is held in St Luke's Church, Erleigh Road and is an excellent showcase event for the school's choirs. The Inter-House Music Competition, held in November each year (most recently in Reading's Hexagon Concert Hall), is an outstanding evening's entertainment, involving 5 mini concerts by each House, marked and adjudicated by a visiting musician. The event regularly involves over 300 boys and draws an audience of over 600.

## Weekly Extra Curricular Activities:

MALE VOICE CHOIR MONDAY 3:40pm – 4:30pm  
TTBB choir of 25-30 boys, Yrs 9-13

CHAPEL CHOIR TUESDAY 8:25am – 8:45am  
A balanced choir of around 35 singers from all years with good sight-reading ability

SENIOR STRING ORCHESTRA TUESDAY 1:00pm – 1:30pm  
Full string orchestra of around 30 members of around grade V standard and above from all years. This joins together with the best woodwind and brass of the school in the Spring Term to perform standard symphonic repertoire. Full rehearsals take place on a Monday after school.

READING SCHOOL BIG BAND TUESDAY 3:40pm – 4:45pm  
Standard competition-winning big band, this one-on-a part ensemble houses many of the school's elite musicians.

INTERMEDIATE JAZZ BAND WEDNESDAY 1.00pm – 1.30pm  
Open to good wind, brass and rhythm players from years 9-11

JUNIOR CHOIR/YEAR 7 CHOIR WEDNESDAY 3:40pm-4:30pm  
A choir for unbroken and breaking voices in the lower years, which sings a range of repertoire in multiple voice parts

JUNIOR POPS THURSDAY 3:40pm – 4:30pm  
A fun ensemble for lower years wind players of grade II-IV standard

CONCERT BAND FRIDAY 1:00pm-1:30pm  
A full-size symphonic wind band of 50+ players of grade IV and above from years 9-13

Other smaller ensembles include three guitar ensembles and the Festival Brass, a seasonal group which plays for major whole school events. A number of staff also contribute to and participate in ensembles.

Instrumental Tuition (inc. visiting teachers):

The Music Department operates a comprehensive private service in instrumental and vocal tuition. Most conventional instruments are taught through a team of 20 visiting specialists, centrally administered through the Music Department. The Director of Music is responsible for interviewing and selecting all peripatetic staff.

## APPOINTMENT PROCESS AND HOW TO APPLY

Reading School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The successful candidate must be willing to undergo an Enhanced DBS Disclosure.

Please complete the teacher application form and enclose a covering letter. Applications can be sent by email to: [headspa@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:headspa@reading-school.co.uk) or by post for the attention of the Headmaster, Mr AM Robson.

Closing Date for Applications: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018

Interviews will take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

Please address any enquiries to Miss Caroline Mole, Executive Assistant by email: [headspa@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:headspa@reading-school.co.uk) or by telephone: 0118 9015600.





## INTRODUCTION TO READING SCHOOL

Combining a distinguished heritage, a positive reputation for outstanding academic achievement and a commitment to high standards of pastoral care, Reading School aims to provide a world class educational experience.

Reading School offers an exceptional all-round education enabling each student to realise his academic, cultural or sporting potential. A Selective Boys' School, Reading School expanded to a five form entry in Year 7 in 2016 and takes both day and boarding students. In November 2017, the school was ranked the top state school in the South East by the Sunday Times. There are currently 986 students at Reading School of which 82 are boarders.



## A RICH HISTORY AND A PROMISING FUTURE

Reading School has a rich history and we wish to build on our impressive past and current achievements and successfully realise the school's ambitious development plans.

Founded in 1125 as part of Reading Abbey, Reading School is the tenth oldest school in England. In 1486 the school was refounded by Henry VII as a 'Free Grammar School'. After the dissolution of Reading Abbey in 1539, the School fell under the control of the Corporation of Reading, its status being confirmed by Henry VIII in 1541. This was reconfirmed in the Royal Charter granted to the Corporation of Reading by Elizabeth I in 1560.

During the Civil War the School was used as a garrison by Royalist forces and in 1665 Parliament, forced out of London by the Great Plague, took over the school house.

The School was given a renewed lease of life with the passing of the Reading School Act in 1867 which clearly set out its administration and funding. The new buildings designed by Alfred Waterhouse were opened in 1871. The development of Reading School was strengthened following the 1944 Education Act and the school retained its selective status in 1973 after a petition signed by a third of all voters in Reading. February 2011 witnessed Reading School converting to Academy status. Since 2012, there have been improvements to examination results at both GCSE and A Level in addition to the development of a new Refectory, Computer Science facilities and 4 new Biology laboratories and 3 new Chemistry laboratories.

The whole school community is currently involved in the process of reviewing our mission, vision and values to ensure that the school's 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025 sees the school as a world leading institution in every regard.



## READING SCHOOL

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Our aim to be a World-Leading Institution is shaped by the central importance of academic achievement. We have an outstanding academic track record. Indeed, recent examination results have placed Reading School among the top five performing state schools in the country. In terms of its academic performance, the 'free Grammar School' competes strongly with independent schools costing up to £35,000 per year. For instance, in 2017, 93.1% of Year 13 students were awarded A\*-B at A Level. Furthermore, at GCSE in 2016 90.42% of entries were graded A\*-A, with 60.3% at A\*. In 2017, 23 students have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Regularly, over 70% gained places at Russell Group Universities. A broad and balanced academic curriculum is one of Reading School's greatest strengths. All students study separate science and a modern or ancient language at GCSE. From September 2016, all students have followed a three year KS4 and will be eligible for the English Baccalaureate. The large sixth form of over 300 students offers a wide range of subject combinations covering Maths, Sciences, Humanities, Languages and the Arts.

### BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Whilst academic excellence is important, Reading School also offers a fine all-round education designed to give each student an opportunity to fully explore his talents. The school offers an extensive extra-curricular programme and has an enviable reputation in Music. Students from Year 10 are able to participate in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and there is a thriving 'Future Stories' programme through which the School is able to share expertise and resources with Primary Schools.

Reading School is especially proud of the development of International Partnerships and since 2012 we have nurtured links with Schools in Australia, Kenya and Denmark. In addition, our students have represented the UK in competitions held in St Petersburg, Hong Kong and Pittsburgh, USA and look forward to the forthcoming World Public Speaking Championships in Cape Town, South Africa.

The myriad of enrichment opportunities offered are only possible through the commitment of staff, support of parents and the generosity of the Reading Foundation and the Old Redingensians Association. Learning beyond the classroom, whether it be on a Geography Field Trip to the Azure or a Badminton Competition in India is a crucial component of the experience of Reading School. Enrichment activities complement and extend the experience of academic lessons.

We are fully committed to developing and extending opportunities for students.



### **PASTORAL CARE**

Reading School prides itself on delivering high standards of pastoral care. Each student is a member of a House. Currently there are five houses: County, East, School, West and Laud.

In Year 7, each student has a Form Tutor who is also the Head of House. This system helps Heads of Houses to get to know all students.

The School offers an excellent personal development programme which focuses on nurturing integrity and character. This is supplemented by the work of the Chaplain, Learning Consultant and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Therefore, it is true to say that at Reading School we believe in the development of the heart and the head.

### **BOARDING**

Boarding is an integral part of the fabric and character of Reading School. The quality of the Boarding experience was judged to be 'outstanding' by Ofsted in February 2017. There are 82 weekly boarders from Years 7-13 in two boarding houses, East Wing and South House. Each House is led by an experienced Housemaster. As Reading School is a state school, boarders do not pay tuition fees.

### **ADMISSIONS**

Students are admitted to the School at the age of 11 and are required to sit entrance examinations set by CEM. External qualified post-16 students are admitted to the Sixth Form.

Reading School is an academically selective, state school and is oversubscribed. The Governing Body are committed to encouraging increased social mobility through the 'Future Stories' project which seeks to encourage students from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply to sit the Entrance Test.

### **FACILITIES AND FINANCE**

Situated near the centre of Reading, the School offers good facilities which have undergone improvement recently – a Refectory in 2012, new Computer Science laboratories in 2014, refurbished Lecture Theatre in 2014, Fitness Suite and 7 new Biology and Chemistry Laboratories.

The School has ambitious plans to develop the site, especially relating to Performing Arts, Sports and Sixth Form Facilities.

The School's finances are sound and we have successfully increased funding streams by expanding pupil numbers and reaching out to the wider community and alumni network.



## LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

### LEADERSHIP

The Headmaster is supported by the Senior Leadership Team comprising Deputy Headteacher, two Assistant Headteachers and the School Business Manager. This group meets every morning with a fuller meeting after school every Monday. The senior leaders and middle leaders of the school are committed to ensuring that students flourish in every regard and there is full support for co-curricular initiatives and activities from every level of leadership at Reading School.

### GOVERNANCE

As an Academy Trust, Reading School is a charitable company limited by guarantee under the overall authority of the Governing Body and the Headmaster. The school site is owned by a charitable trust, The Reading Foundation, established in 1986.

The Governing Body is chaired by Mr Robert Kenwrick and comprises 19 Governors who are Directors of the Reading School Academy Trust Company and is served by an excellent, experienced Clerk to the Governors. Every department has a link governor who acts as a listening ear and an advocate for departmental needs.