



VACANCY INFORMATION PACK

HEAD OF PUBLIC
SPEAKING
(PERIPATETIC,
TERM-TIME ONLY)



READING BLUE COAT

INTRODUCTION

Reading Blue Coat School is a leading independent day school for students from ages 11 to 18. As at September 2024, the School has circa 800 students and is now into our second year of co-educational intake into Year 7 with the intention of being a fully co-educational independent day school from September 2027 onwards. The School will continue to be co-educational between the ages of 16 and 18.

The School was founded in 1646 by Richard Aldworth, a Master of The Skinners' Company, and a Governor of Christ's Hospital. The School was established near St Mary's Minster Church in Reading and was originally known by its historic name of Aldworth's Hospital. In 1947, Reading Blue Coat School moved to the magnificent estate of Holme Park in the Berkshire village of Sonning, where it remains today.

The ethos of the School derives from its Christian foundation and traditions, fostering care and concern within the community and enabling all students to develop their full potential. The School aims to provide a stimulating and friendly atmosphere in which each student can realise his or her full intellectual, physical, and creative potential. Students are encouraged to be self-reliant and adaptable, and the School intends that they will learn the basis of good citizenship, founded on honesty, fairness and understanding of the needs of others. The curriculum provides a balanced blend of academic and co-curricular activities that combine to meet these objectives.

The School employs more than 200 salaried staff, of whom about 50% are academic. Reflecting the character of our co-educational sixth form, nearly half of our academic staff are female

FACILITIES

Reading Blue Coat is located four miles from the centre of Reading, in the Thames-side village of Sonning. It is also three miles from Twyford, which will be located on Crossrail, with fast train service across London. Set in 46 acres of land for students to enjoy, the facilities are very well maintained, and the School continues to invest in the site to add to an impressive infrastructure of buildings.

Planning permission has been obtained for a new Performing Arts Centre.



ACADEMIC LIFE

The academic curriculum at Reading Blue Coat is based on the principle that all students should experience a broad and balanced range of basic subjects and skills. From Year 9 onwards, this range is gradually modified, by elements of choice, enabling both the interests and aptitudes of individual students to be reflected. Most lessons are taught initially in classes of mixed ability, although setting occurs in Mathematics in Year 7, in Languages in Year 8, and Science in Year 9. Geology is also a thriving subject. In Year 11, all students take qualifications in English, Maths and Science (all IGCSE) and a Modern Foreign Language. They also take three GCSEs from a broad range of eleven subjects. All students take a GCSE in Religious Studies (full course) in Year 10.

In the Sixth Form students can choose from a range of 24 subjects, including subjects most will not have studied before, such as Economics, Politics and Psychology. Enrichment opportunities in the Sixth Form include the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), and a weekly schedule of visiting speakers. Reading Blue Coat always seeks to stretch and challenge students and the School's Learning Support Department ensures that students with specific learning needs are supported effectively. The School's Learning Research Group ensures a sustained focus on developing teachers and pedagogical enrichment.

2024 academic results were impressive; the results were amongst Blue Coat's best with 79% achieving A*- B at A level, and at GCSE 70% gaining Grades 9 to 7.

The majority of Year 13 leavers proceed to degree courses at universities of which approximately 78% go to the Russell Group Plus universities. Each year over 75% of our students attain places at their first choice university, whilst others are successful in securing future learning opportunities in their chosen career.

PASTORAL

Pastoral care, focused on the individual, is at the heart of the School. Reading Blue Coat's pastoral structure is based around the tutorial system, within the framework of the House system. In September 2021, we increased our houses from four to six: Aldworth, Hall, Malthus, Rich, Norwood and West.

All students are part of a tutor group that is overseen by a member of staff who is responsible for their well-being and for personally overseeing the development of their character and intellectual curiosity. At the heart of the School are the values of aspiration, courage, compassion, integrity and service and all activities seek to re-enforce these. The House system enables students to take part in activities that foster the development of these ideals through a variety of opportunities that include dance, drama, music, public speaking and sport.

DRAMA, MUSIC & THE ARTS

Reading Blue Coat has a reputation for drama and musical performances of the highest quality, with an extensive programme of performances throughout the year. Students' endeavours in the arts are highly successful and widely acclaimed, including internationally. Music is at the heart of the School, all students are auditioned for the choir and many learn a musical instrument. The School Musical or Play is one of the highlights of the cultural calendar and there are further opportunities to perform on stage throughout the academic year. The breadth and depth of musical and dramatic talent at the School is evident in the wide range of plays, concerts, and exhibitions that take place throughout the year.



Further information is available on the School's website at www.rbc.org.uk

SEE ALSO
**THE MUDDY
STILETTOS
SCHOOLS
REVIEW GUIDE**

<https://berkshire.muddystilettos.co.uk/kids/school-reviews/reading-blue-coat-sonning/>

SPORT

The School has a strong reputation for the high quality of its sporting teams. Sport plays a key role in developing every student's potential whilst embodying the principles of Respect, Belief, Commitment and Sportsmanship (team RBCS). Sports are coached to a very high level while providing for, and encouraging those, for whom participation rather than excellence is important.

The core sports are athletics, cricket, football, netball, hockey, rowing, and rugby. The School competes with great success at local, regional, and even national level. We have recent national competition winners in rowing and cross country running, and cricketers, netballers and rugby players who have been selected to international age group teams and gone on to play professionally. Other sports on offer include cross country, golf, tennis, swimming, and touch rugby.

ACTIVITIES

The activities programme is designed to enable students to develop practical and social skills such as communication, leadership, and teamwork. Reading Blue Coat offers a number of exciting options from which students can choose for their weekly activities session, including Adventure Education, Combined Cadet Force (Army, Navy, RAF), Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Model United Nations and Enterprise Champions.

COMMUNITY

Reading Blue Coat students are encouraged to be aware of their place in the wider world and to show consideration for all those with whom they come into contact. These principles are based on the ideas handed down by Richard Aldworth who founded the School in 1646.

In recent years the School has greatly enhanced its links with the wider community under what is now called the Aldworth Partnership. One example is the Primary Schools Placement programme which gives students the opportunity to assist with tuition in English, Maths and Modern Foreign Languages in local primary schools. We also have our own community garden which produces fresh produce for a local foodbank charity and our students have recently begun a project to convert a horse trailer into a community café.

Internationally the School has a strong relationship with the charity Brass for Africa and our students support their work amongst disadvantaged children and young people in Uganda through music. As the Aldworth Partnership continues to grow, the long-term aim is that all Blue Coat students have the opportunity to be involved in transformative service projects in the local and wider community at some point in their school career.

PERFORMING ARTS

Introduction

The Performing Arts department is well-established and thriving, with a strong reputation for excellence and a history of outstanding results. Public Speaking is a popular co-curricular activity across all year groups, supported by a vibrant culture of performance and creative engagement. We are proud of the talent within the school and are committed to nurturing and developing it further.

Public Speaking is a vibrant and popular part of school life at Reading Blue Coat School, with over 100 pupils participating in sessions each week. The school community believes passionately in the importance of public speaking as a life skill and is looking to appoint a Head of Public Speaking who will continue to build on the programme's remarkable success.

Facilities

The Performing Arts Faculty occupies a number of spaces over the school site including a dedicated Drama Studio (fully equipped for teaching and performing with costumes and props) and a Hall (with high spec lighting) and the Buttery, which offers an excellent setting for public speaking soirees. An exciting new development is planned in the future with the construction of a new Performing Arts Centre for which planning permission is in place. The build of this new space, due to start Summer 2025, will double the teaching space for academic drama as well as creating a state-of-the-art auditorium and studio spaces for use across the performing arts.



For an informal telephone conversation about the role, contact Mr Devin Möller, Director of Performing Arts, on **0118 944 1005** or email dsm@rbcs.org.uk



**LINE MANAGER:**

Director of Performing Arts.

DEPARTMENT:

Performing Arts.

CONTRACT STATUS

Permanent part-time, term time only contract commencing as soon as possible. The first year of service is served as a probationary period.

SALARY

Salary will be in the range of £44 to 50 per hour depending on experience and qualifications. An allowance in the region of £3,000 in relation to the management aspects of this role. Annual salary is paid by bank transfer on the 25th of the month, or next working day thereafter, in 12 equal payments throughout the year.

THE POST

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This is an exciting opportunity for a passionate and dynamic individual to lead and inspire pupils in developing their oratory skills. The successful candidate will play a central role in shaping the school's public speaking culture, preparing pupils for a wide range of internal and external speaking opportunities, and promoting confidence, creativity, and clarity in communication.

Specific Duties:

- Lead afterschool group sessions each week, focusing on core public speaking skills such as speech structure, vocal delivery, debating, sight reading and persuasive techniques.
- Plan and deliver engaging, interactive, and varied sessions that build confidence and foster a genuine appreciation for the art of public speaking.
- Prepare pupils for competitions, debates, and speaking events, ensuring they are well-rehearsed, articulate, and poised.
- Plan and deliver at least three public speaking events per academic year that showcase pupils' progress and achievements.
- Collaborate with the Director of Performing Arts to support a range of external-facing School events, including church services and Prize Giving ceremonies.
- Engage with partnership and feeder schools to promote public speaking and strengthen ties with the wider school community.
- Participate in taster days in collaboration with the Admissions and Marketing department to highlight the school's public speaking programme.
- Oversee the administration of all public speaking activities, including maintaining registers, managing communications with parents, pupils, and staff, and coordinating logistics.

NB. This job description and allocation of responsibilities is not exhaustive and may, with consultation, be amended from time to time.



For an informal telephone conversation about the role, contact Mr Devin Möller, Director of Performing Arts, on **0118 944 1005** or email dsm@rbcs.org.uk

HEAD OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

The person specification focuses on the knowledge, skills, experience and qualifications required to undertake the role effectively. It is expected that the successful applicant will have and can demonstrate:

Knowledge And Experience	Essential	Desirable
• Strong background in public speaking, debating, or performance.	✓	
• Experience in working with young people in an educational or co-curricular setting.	✓	
• Experience coaching for public speaking competitions.		✓
Skills and Attributes	Essential	Desirable
• Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.	✓	
• High levels of organisation and familiarity with administrative duties within an educational setting.	✓	
• Awareness of safeguarding requirements when working with young people.	✓	
• Ability to plan and deliver structured, inspiring sessions.	✓	
• Confidence in working with large groups of young people.	✓	
• Commitment to the ethos of the School and its pastoral approach.	✓	
Qualifications	Essential	Desirable
• Teaching qualification or relevant qualification e.g. LAMDA or Trinity Speech and Drama.		✓

Please note that this Job Description is not exhaustive and the employee may be expected to undertake additional duties if required



Closing date for applications: 09:00 on Tuesday 24 June 2024.

Applications should be submitted using the School's Employment Application Form, which can be downloaded from our website "Vacancies" page www.rbc.org.uk/vacancies/

This should be submitted with your letter of application, by email to: recruitment@rbc.org.uk

Contact for questions about the application process should be addressed to Mrs Inga Gregory, Director of HR, Reading Blue Coat School, Holme Park, Sonning Lane, Sonning-on-Thames, RG4 6SU. Email: recruitment@rbc.org.uk





PLACE OF WORK

Reading Blue Coat School,
Sonning on Thames, Berkshire.



MEALS

Lunch and refreshments are
provided free by the School.



SPORTS FACILITIES

Free membership of the
School Sports Centre with
access to fully equipped gym
and swimming pool.



EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE

Confidential independent support
service available to staff when you
most need it.



WORKING HOURS

On average 2 to 4 hours per week
during specified sessions, both during
the school day and for after school
activities and events.



PARKING

Free Car parking is
available on site.



LEAVE ENTITLEMENT

Pro rata to period worked of full-time
staff entitlement of 5 weeks paid annual
leave plus public holidays



CYCLE SCHEME

Tax-free Cycle to Work Scheme
is offered by salary sacrifice.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Strong commitment to
support professional development
with a dedicated people
development budget.



PENSION

Membership of the RBCS Group
Personal Pension Scheme (employee
contribution of 5% of salary and
employer contribution is 8% of salary).
Life Assurance at 2x gross salary.



CAR SCHEME

Leased cars scheme offered
by salary sacrifice affording
large savings.



THE BLUE COAT BENEFIT HUB

Through the Blue Coat Benefit Hub
you can access discounts, rewards, and
perks on thousands of the brands that you
love to shop with including travel; motoring;
electronics; clothing; education; entertainment;
restaurants; health and wellness; beauty and
spa; insurance; sports and outdoors.

DISCOUNTS



Reduction in RBCS school fees for
employees' children school fees offered after
6 months service:



50% reduction for all full-time staff,
pro-rated for part time staff



Fees (from 1 September 2025)
are £8,279 (including VAT) per term.

MEET THE STAFF

All staff, both teaching and support, form part of a qualified and experienced team, which functions at its best in being mutually supportive in a common goal: to provide the best possible education for all Blue Coat pupils.

Relationships between staff and pupils at Blue Coat are often remarked upon by visitors and parents for being warm, relaxed and mutually respectful.

Click on the link to find out more about some of our staff. Can you see yourself as part of the Blue Coat team?

www.rbc.org.uk/the-school/meet-the-staff/



GETTING HERE

BY CAR

We are located in the village of Sonning-on-Thames, just off the A4, between Reading and Twyford.

We are about 15 minutes' drive from Junction 10 of the M4 motorway. From there, take the Reading / Bracknell turnoff at Junction 10 on to the A329M to Reading. At the roundabout by the flyover take the third exit (A4) towards Maidenhead. Follow the dual carriageway over the next roundabout and up the hill. Over the railway bridge, turn left into Sonning Lane. The School is about ½ mile on the left.

BY BUS

The School and village of Sonning is served by local bus services 128 and 129 (operated by Courtney) from Reading to Wokingham.

Also by service 850 (operated by Arriva Bus) from High Wycombe, Marlow, Henley, Twyford to Reading. Alight at the junction of Sonning Lane and Bath Road, from where it is a short walk.

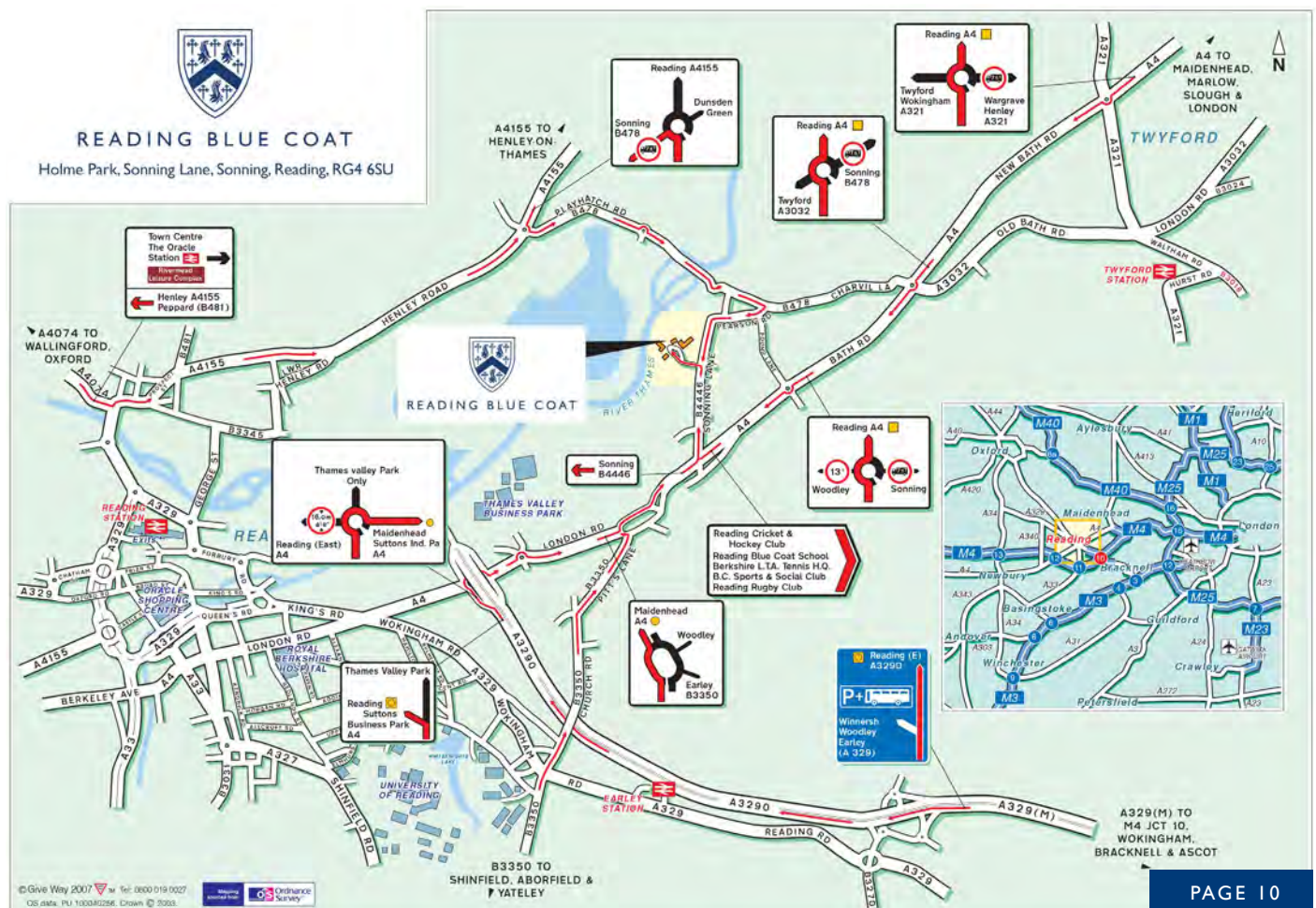
BY TRAIN

Our nearest rail links are at Reading central station (mainline to London, Wales and the West), which is about 5 miles from the School (about 15 minutes by taxi).

We are also served by local stations at Twyford, which is about 3 miles away (about 10 minutes by taxi), and at Earley, which is about 4 miles away (about 15 minutes by taxi).



For information, call Reception: **0118 944 1005**



ONE READING BLUE COAT

our community



Holme Park, Sonning Lane, Sonning-on-Thames, Berkshire RG4 6SU

Tel: 0118 944 1005 rbcs.org.uk