



Reading Girls' School

SIXTH FORM

Empower, Achieve, Lead.

Welcome to Reading Girls' School Sixth Form

Empowering Ambition, Achieving Excellence

Welcome from the Principal

Welcome to Reading Girls' School Sixth Form, a new vibrant and forward-thinking educational community dedicated to supporting young women in realising their full potential. This will be a place where young adults will transition into mature, independent and versatile students ready to step into the modern world of employment or higher education.

Our Sixth Form is built on a foundation of academic excellence, personal development, and a strong sense of community. We offer a unique environment where students are encouraged to dream big, achieve their academic and personal goals, and prepare for a successful future.

The leap from GCSEs to A-Levels/ level 3 courses can sometimes be challenging, but the staff at RGS have always work hard to make sure students feel confident and supported at every milestone. We have exceptionally high standards, inspiring all students to be aspirational and ambitious. Our careers and aspiration support has been praised and recognised as a strength due to the tireless dedication of our Careers Advisor to ensure all students are provided with all the different opportunities available to them.

Our commitment is to empower every student with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to thrive, whether they choose to pursue higher education, apprenticeships, or enter the workforce directly. I invite you to explore what makes our Sixth Form exceptional and look forward to welcoming you to the next stage of your educational journey.

Principal, Reading Girls' School.



Why Choose Reading Girls' School Sixth Form?

Your Future, Our Commitment

At Reading Girls' Sixth we offer more than just outstanding academic opportunities. Our Sixth Form provides a comprehensive and nurturing environment designed to develop confident, independent learners. Our key strengths include:

- ▶ **Inclusive and Empowering Environment:** As one of the few all-girls Sixth Forms in the area, we are uniquely positioned to create a supportive learning environment where young women can excel academically and personally.
- ▶ **Broad Curriculum Offerings:** A diverse range of A-Level subjects, vocational courses, and pathways including the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) & the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which will ensure students have the flexibility to explore their interests and ambitions.
- ▶ **Leadership and Personal Development:** From roles like Student Senior Leadership Team, School Council and Peer Mentors to the extensive enrichment and volunteering opportunities, students have multiple avenues to develop leadership skills and contribute to the community.
- ▶ **Comprehensive Careers Guidance:** Our dedicated careers team works closely with students, providing support for university applications, apprenticeships, and career planning through workshops, mentoring, and partnerships with local businesses.
- ▶ **STE(A)M:** Our STE(A)M initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) recognises the importance of creativity across these subjects and throughout the curriculum. At RGS our aim is to prepare our students for life beyond the classroom. With an increasing demand on STEAM skillsets within industry, we aim to motivate and inspire pupils further to explore the rewarding opportunities available through STEAM. Students will be encouraged to enter STE(A)M competitions, to engage in groups and clubs for further learning and to imagine the possibilities of a career in areas once not so accessible.

Academic Excellence and Curriculum Pathways

Three and Four A-Level Pathways

We offer tailored pathways to suit a variety of academic needs and career aspirations. Students can choose from the following curriculum options:

- ▶ **Three A-Level Pathway:** This pathway includes focused subject study along with Personal Development, Enrichment, Volunteering and Physical Education sessions, as well as the option of completing the EPQ in Year 12.
- ▶ **Four A-Level Pathway:** For students looking for a broader academic experience, the four A-Level pathway includes additional enrichment activities and the option to complete the EPQ in Year 12.

Subjects Offered: We offer a comprehensive selection of subjects across key academic disciplines, including:

- ▶ **STEM:**
Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, BTEC Computer Science.
- ▶ **English Literature.**
- ▶ **Humanities:** History, Geography, Psychology.
- ▶ **Languages:** French, Spanish.
- ▶ **Creative Arts:** Art & Design, Drama and Theatre Studies.
- ▶ **Business and Economics:** Business Studies, Economics.
- ▶ **Level 3:** Diploma in Sport.

Each subject is taught by passionate, experienced educators who are dedicated to helping students achieve their best.



Sixth Form Life, Culture & Inclusion

We expect students to live our school values and contribute to our culture and ethos. As such students need to act in a professional manner, present themselves well, and act with kindness and respect to others, so that younger students see them as role models.

Good Sixth Form study habits

The key requirements for success are motivation, enthusiasm and resilience. Students are expected to contribute to the life of the Sixth Form and the wider school; the key skills are self-discipline, hard work, the willingness to listen and respond to feedback given.

Studying for a post-16 course is demanding and in order to be successful, students should expect regular supervised study and homework from each of their courses. In general, we suggest that students match timetabled hours for each subject with study outside the classroom.

Dress code and appearance

The dress code mirrors what is appropriate for an adult, professional working environment and distinctively different from the uniform worn in the rest of the school. The colours for trousers/skirts are black, grey or blue and in short, students should wear suits or suit-style combinations with matching tailored jackets and skirts/dresses/trousers.

Skirts/dresses and tops must be modest and professional looking. Plain black or navy abayas may be worn. Where students wish to wear a cultural adaptation to our dress code, we can accommodate this but would ask that colours and style remain professional.

Equipment

There is an expectation that students bring the equipment, folders, notes and books they need for each day. We provide a range of resources but students are expected to provide their own stationery and purchase their own text books in some cases.

Registration and attendance

In almost all cases, successful learners are those committed to their education. This means students must attend school each day and arrive on time for school and for each timetabled session. Students are expected to be in the Sixth Form area at 8.25 am and register personally with their Academic Tutors at 8.30am. We ask students not to make commitments outside school before 4.00pm and to keep part time work to a maximum of 10 hours a week, reducing their hours at examination times.

Medical appointments, driving lessons, and other similar commitments should be arranged outside the school day and holidays should not be taken during the school terms. As part of our safeguarding procedures we ask that parents/guardians notify the school of a student absence by 8am on the day of absence.

Identification

All Sixth Form students are required to wear a photographic identification badge. This is for their own safety, but also for the safety of all students, as in that way all people on site can be easily identified as having a right to be there. We will provide all students with a badge and lanyard which they must wear every day. If they forget or lose their badge, they will be required to pay for any subsequent badges

Study Area

The Study Area is for the sole use of Sixth Form between 8am and 4.30 pm. It is an area where students work independently and silently on tasks set by their teachers or ones they have identified themselves which will help them improve. For certain periods students will be timetabled in this area and those sessions are a compulsory part of their learning.

Students who are free and wish to study are welcome to use the facility and take up any free spaces.

Technology

Every Sixth Former is entitled to bring their own device into school and have access to the school network and the school's WIFI. Once activated they can then use their devices in the Study Area and Common Room and in lessons where teachers permit it.



Free time

Students will work very hard while they are with us, but their time here will include free time. During that time they can relax in the Common Room with friends, use the time to volunteer in school or do extra-curricular activities. Students in Year 12 are required to give up one free hour a week to undertake community service in school and/or the wider community.

Progress monitoring and student support

Every child is allocated to an Academic Tutor Group and their tutor will be the person who guides them through the two years and helps them to review the progress of their Learning Journey.. Students' progress is closely monitored to ensure that all are on track to meet or exceed their potential. Students will also participate in a Personal Development Programme which covers such topics as careers and recruitment skills, destinations post-18, health and wellbeing, preparing for adult life and managing relationships.

Students also have access to our counselling and/or School Nurse services and we can source external mentors too where appropriate.

Financial assistance

The Post 16 Bursary is available to students on free school meals as well as those who are struggling to cover costs associated with attending Sixth Form eg: transport, books and trips. For more information please see our website.

Inclusion at RGS

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Where students have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) they will work with our SEND Team, who will advise teachers about reasonable adjustments which can be made to support their progress. The SENDCo will also work with staff, students and parents to understand if examination access requirements are applicable and which ones reflect students' ways of working. Concessions staff will also work with staff, students and parents to understand if examination access requirements are applicable and which ones reflect students' successful usual ways of working.

Provision for the more able

All students are challenged and supported to be aspirational for themselves and then to reach or indeed exceed their potential. We recognise that more able students sometimes need specialist guidance especially as they move into the Sixth Form and as they make their choices and apply to university or apprenticeships. RGS has an excellent reputation for our work with the more able both in class and outside. More able students succeed because they follow an academic curriculum which is delivered by inspiring experts. Nevertheless, it is essential that the students themselves also display a hunger for learning and passion for their subjects which goes beyond the taught course.

Equality

We are proud of how inclusive and cohesive our school is. Students in Years 12 and 13 work will be provided with an environment where they can work and socialise with each other, which they will be able to model to younger students. Students will be expected to share our school values of Kindness and Respect, Empowerment and Excellence, at all times.

Personal, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Programme (PSMSC)

In addition to sessions preparing students for applying for places after the Sixth Form, the programme is not only designed to provide students with a range of information about how to keep themselves safe and well, both now and as they move on, but also to raise awareness in students about important social issues. Topics covered include: financial awareness and budgeting, mental wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, tolerance, study skills, cyber-literacy and cyber awareness, life in Modern Britain. The programme will be delivered during PSHE, assemblies, outside speakers and off-site events.



Student Support and Wellbeing

Supporting Every Student's Success

At Reading Girls' Sixth, we believe that academic success is deeply connected to personal wellbeing. We provide a range of support services to ensure our students are fully equipped to manage their studies and personal lives:

- ▶ **Pastoral Support:** Each student is assigned a personal tutor who monitors their academic and personal progress.
- ▶ **Counseling and Wellbeing Services:** Our dedicated wellbeing team is available to support students through any challenges they may face, ensuring a positive school experience.
- ▶ **UCAS and Career Mentors:** Each Year 13 student is paired with a UCAS mentor who provides one-on-one guidance on university applications and career pathways.





Sixth Form Life and Enrichment Opportunities

Beyond the Classroom

We believe that a well-rounded education extends beyond the classroom. Our Sixth Form offers numerous enrichment activities designed to broaden horizons and develop life skills:

- **Student Leadership Team:** Opportunities to join the Student Senior Leadership Team as well as Student Voice, enabling students to take an active role in school governance and represent their peers.
- **Clubs and Societies:** A diverse array of student-led societies, from STEM clubs and debating societies to creative arts and Model UN, allowing students to pursue their interests and lead initiatives.
- **Community Engagement and Volunteering:** Students are encouraged to engage with the local community through volunteering, fundraising events, and outreach projects that build their sense of civic responsibility and practical experience or to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Facilities and Learning Spaces

A Modern Learning Environment

Our Sixth Form students have access to state-of-the-art facilities, including:

- **Newly Refurbished Sixth Form Common Room:** A dedicated space for independent study, group collaboration, or simply relaxing between classes.
- **IT and Learning Resources:** Access to the latest technology, study resources, and subject-specific facilities to enhance learning.
- **Library and Learning Hub:** A quiet space for research and reading, supported by on line resources as a source of academic and reference materials.

These facilities are designed to create a comfortable and effective learning environment for all students

Preparing for the Future

Achieving Your Career Aspirations

Our Careers Programme is designed to ensure every student leave Sixth Form with a clear plan for their future:

- **University and Career Guidance:** Regular workshops, mock interviews, and one-on-one mentoring sessions with a dedicated Careers Advisor.
- **Work Experience and Internships:** Partnerships with local businesses provide students with invaluable work experience and networking opportunities.
- **Personal Statement and CV Support:** Tailored guidance on writing competitive personal statements and CVs, preparing students for university applications and job searches.

Students have the opportunity to attend events, presentations and support sessions, both in school and at external venues. This includes the following:

- Attendance to an **'Oxbridge and competitive Universities'** talk with local secondary schools.
- **Extended tutorial sessions:** UCAT admission test, interview technique, writing personal statements, academic and scholarly reading, academic writing and choosing a University and course.
- **Presentations** from Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry students
- **Extended Learning Opportunities:** Our Lecture Series will ensure that students engage with different people from industry, university and charitable organisation to explore their interests and future careers.

How to Apply

Join Us at Reading Girls' School Sixth Form

We welcome applications from students who are ambitious, motivated, and ready to make the most of their Sixth Form experience.

Entry Requirements:

Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades 9-5, including English and Mathematics.

Subject-specific entry requirements, which can be found on our website.

Application Process:

- 1. Submit an Application:** Applications can be made online through our school website.
- 2. Attend an Interview:** Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview to discuss their subject choices and aspirations.
- 3. Offer and Acceptance:** Successful applicants will receive an offer and further details on enrolment and induction.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form community!

For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact us at sixthform@readinggirlsschool.net



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