



16 January 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

River Academy Community Lecture - 'Berkshire in the nineteenth century - challenges and change'.

We are pleased to share details of an upcoming Community Lecture being hosted at River Academy, to which parents, carers, students, and members of the wider community are warmly invited.

On Tuesday 20 January, from 4.00–5.00pm, Dr Dan Renshaw from the University of Reading will deliver a talk entitled “Berkshire in the nineteenth century – challenges and change.” The lecture will explore how social and technological developments during the Victorian period shaped everyday life in Berkshire, both in growing towns such as Reading and in the surrounding countryside.

This event is free to attend, with no need to register in advance, and provides a valuable opportunity to engage with academic research, hear from a university lecturer, and ask questions in an accessible and informal setting.

Further details, including the venue address, can be found on the attached flyer. We hope that many of you will be able to attend for what promises to be an interesting and enriching event.

Kind regards

Mr D Bell

Assistant Headteacher



Community Lectures

A new series of FREE public lectures
Open to all!



Join Dr Dan Renshaw for his second community lecture at River Academy. Dr Renshaw will explore our local Victorian History!

**Dr Dan
Renshaw**
*University of
Reading*

Lecture: *Berkshire in the nineteenth century- challenges and change*

How did the technological and social changes of the nineteenth century impact on the lives of people living in the county of Berkshire? In this talk we'll look at what life was like at the beginning of the century, and what had changed and what had stayed the same by the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, both in expanding industrial centres such as Reading and in the Berkshire countryside.

Free termly academic lectures for the school and wider community

No need to register - everyone welcome!

The chance to meet academics and ask questions!



Tuesday 20th January
4 - 5pm
Arrive by 3.45pm



Aim High



Be Inclusive



Work Together



**University of
Reading**

