

January 2020



# The RGS Mail

Dear Families, Students and Old Scholars

Happy New Year!

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break! I now look forward to continuing to working with you to face the new challenges of 2020. We are currently busy analysing mock results for our Year 11 who will very soon receive these on mock results day. Once again I take this opportunity to remind students that they should be aiming to achieve a minimum of 5 GCSE passes at grades A\*-C including English and Maths. They will need these to enter into sixth form and to meet the minimum entry requirements for many employment pathways post 16. Tutors and teachers will be working closely with Year 11 students to address any gaps revealed by the results analysis and to support each student in the achievement of his or her full potential. Year 13 students are currently taking their mock exams, and we will repeat this process for them in due course.

So far on day one of our “clamp down” on mobile phone use, we have “only” had to confiscate 23 phones! We are expecting this number to drop as students realise that we are serious about enforcing our new approach, which requires them not to use their mobile phone at any time in school unless they have the express permission of the teacher in a lesson. For medical and other reasons some students will be treated differently in this respect but apart from these exceptions we are expecting everyone to respect the new rules.

Talking of Respect, this is the Way of Being value for this half term, one which is particularly appropriate the month that the Equality Act, requiring us to respect the rights of everyone, especially those with one of the “protected characteristics”, comes into full force. The link to the full text of this act is provided in this month’s RGS Mail.

Finally, a reminder about our annual, not to be missed, night of fun and entertainment RGS Community Quiz on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January! Full details are in the RGS Mail - be sure to get your tickets!

Mrs A G Baker  
Headteacher



## Key Stage 3 Homework

Since September, in response to feedback from students during our Student Experience Reviews, we have introduced a new approach to KS3 homework based on the principles of choice, flexibility and autonomy. For example, the English team sets homework primarily as either half termly project work that may be produced in any way students decide, for example constructing a globe theatre! The English team also all displays a poster which reminds students that they always have English homework of 20 minutes of reading each day!

In Maths, students have been given a choice of 20 homework activities with a minimum expectation for them to complete five out of these and to achieve a 50% pass rate on each! For those students who complete the homework there is a reward policy of 1, 5 and 10 points depending on completion rate.

The History team offer a variety of homework allowing students to write, draw and create depending upon the topic and particularly in the Discoveries unit, to share and present objects and interests of their own. Geography have developed a Takeaway Menu for all KS3 classes. The expectation is that each student will complete a minimum of two homework tasks per term with at least one being Hot!



There is a wide variety of tasks on the menu to suit all types of learner. The tasks are designed to engage students and extend their learning beyond the classroom. Three of the tasks will be used as assessed pieces of work rather than formal exams. The Geography team report that, since the introduction of this approach the quality of homework was better, student's response was positive and most like the choice and freedom to organise when they do homework. Similarly, a Takeaway Menu has been developed in ICT and Textiles. There are variety of different levels of challenge and students are free to choose the level they wish to complete. The tasks are designed to complement what is going on in the lesson and to challenge the skills they are learning. In Food, students are encouraged to watch Food programmes and also to watch skills videos related to the dish they will be cooking however the homework is generally also to remember to bring ingredients pre weighed ready for the lesson!

We hope that your children have been enjoying their learning both in and outside of the classroom and that they engage you in exciting conversations about their learning experiences.

# SOS Hunted

11-18 Years



Heart racing...  
sweaty palms...  
dilated pupils...  
hairs on the back of  
your neck stand

up... **Hunted: Outrun. Outlast. Outwit.**

## **‘Thrilling’ success by RGS writers**

‘Create a thriller in just 100 words’ was the challenge taken on by 97 RGS English students when they entered a Young Writers competition called SOS Hunted, just before Christmas. We are proud to say that, of these, 87 students have had their work accepted to be published in a book at the end of March.

20,000 students entered this competition, so it is an amazing feat for these students to be picked and have their work published!

Congratulations go out to all writers and thanks to Miss Nickson for her support and encouragement.

**Friday January 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2020**

7:00 pm for a 7:15 pm start

West Hall.

Ticket price includes a hot meal.

**No Licensed Bar**



Please complete the following form and return to the School West Office along with payment and meal options. Any donations for Raffle Prizes are gratefully received- Please bring along on the night or leave at the West Office for collection. Thank you.

We would like to request \_\_\_\_ tickets at £13 per person. Up to 6 members per team.

**Team Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Contact** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Tel No** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

No of Vegetarian Meals

No of Non- Vegetarian Meals

I enclose £..... Cheques made payable to Ramsey Grammar School Association.

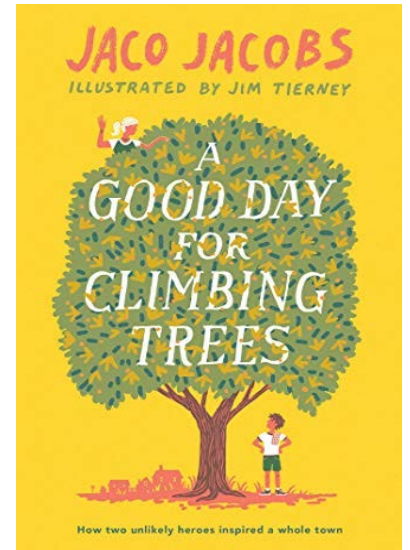
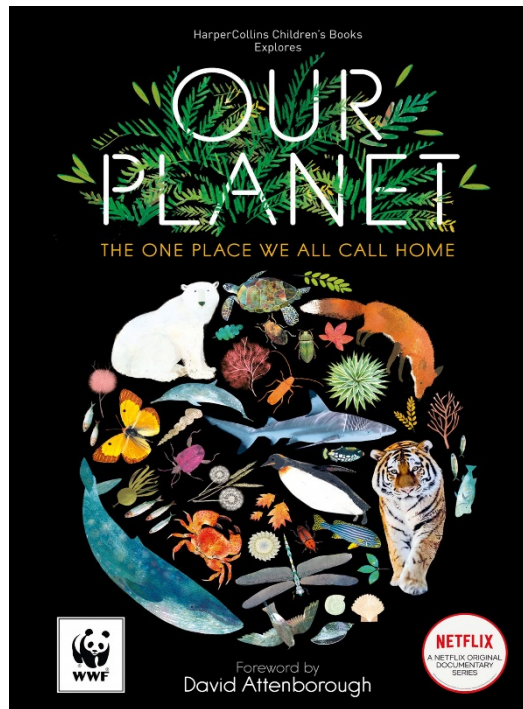
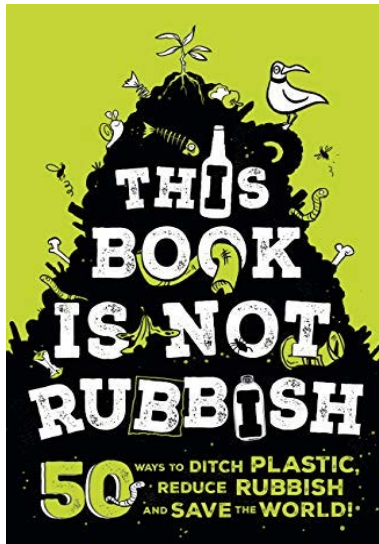
**There is no licensed bar this year but you are more than welcome to bring your own liquid refreshments and hire a glass for 50p**



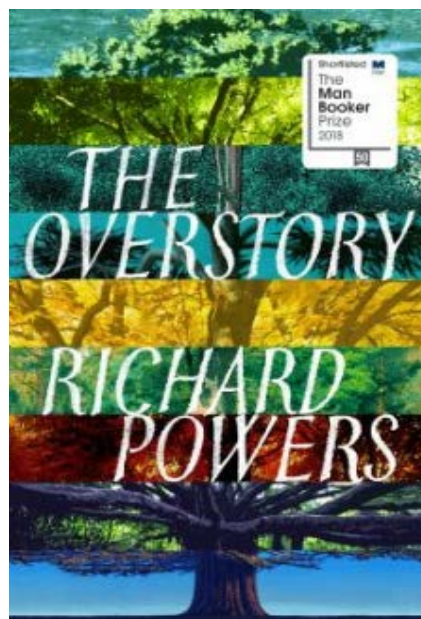
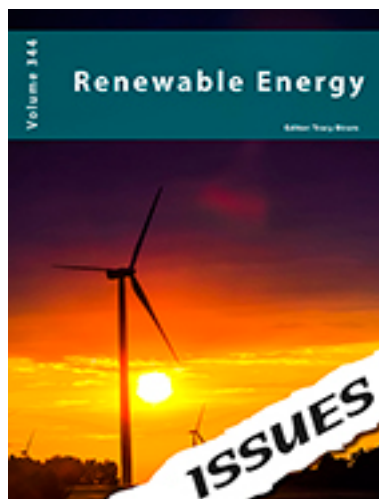
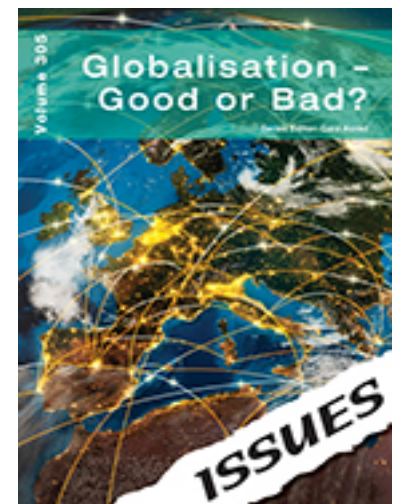
# RGS LIBRARY



Don't forget the totally random quiz on Thursday lunchtimes at 1:30!



*LET'S BE MORE GREEN!*



Come and join us  
**Friday 6th March 2020**



**At Ramsey Grammar School ( West Building )**

**Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start**

**1 line and full house prizes  
with a Jackpot prize of £100**

**Raffle £1 a strip  
To raise funds for  
Ramsey Grammar School  
SS&S areas  
enrichment activities**

## Who will be protected?

The Act protects all people from discrimination on the basis of possessing a 'protected characteristic'.

The following protected characteristics will be effective from 1 January 2019:

- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Race
- Religion
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation
- Pregnancy & Maternity

The remaining protected characteristics will be effective from 1 January 2020:

- Age
- Disability

You will be protected from discrimination:

- in the workplace
- using public services (for example healthcare or education)
- using businesses & organisations that provide goods and services
- using transport
- buying or renting property
- as a member or guest of a private club or association and
- when you have contact with public bodies (for example local commissioners or government departments)

The Act also creates an obligation on public authorities or those who carry out public functions with the aim of positively promoting equality known as the public sector equality duty. This shifts the onus from individuals to organisations, removing or reducing the need for individuals to bring discrimination claims.

Organisations will be required to consider how they can contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations.

Such equality considerations will be manifested in policy design and service delivery through the assessment of how a function may affect a different group in different ways.

# Types of discrimination



There are four main types of discrimination:

## Direct Discrimination

A person cannot be treated worse than another person because of a protected characteristic. This also includes treating a person worse than another because they are associated with a person who has a protected characteristic, or a person who is perceived to have a protected characteristic.

## Indirect Discrimination

You must not do something through the use of a policy, rule or practice (way of doing things) that has or would have a worse impact on a person and on other people who share a protected characteristic, than on people who don't share that same characteristic. This will be indirect discrimination unless you are able to show that you had a good enough reason (objective justification) for what you have done or intend to do.

## Harassment

A person cannot be treated in a way that violates their dignity, or creates a hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

## Victimisation

A person cannot be treated unfairly for taking action under the Equality Act, nor can a person be treated unfairly for supporting someone else who is doing so.

Link to full Act - <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/equality-act/>



## **Ramsey Grammar School Students Call for Help for All Affected by the Australian Bushfires**

Students of Ramsey Grammar School this week approached Headteacher, Annette Baker, asking permission to raise funds to help people and animals affected by the devastating bushfires that have spread through Australia. Students quoted the school's values system – The Way of Being, to justify taking urgent action to assist.

Year 11 student Amber Black, wrote a letter to Mrs Baker underlining the urgent necessity for action. Amber said "Currently, more than ½ billion animals have suffered and died, ⅓ of the koala population has gone, 250 million tonnes of carbon dioxide has been released into the atmosphere and citizens are advised to wear face masks. Since September, fires have killed at least 19 people and dozens remain missing. As the crisis continues, firefighters have been injured, lost their homes and lost their lives." Sixth Form student, Lucy Corkish, brought the initiative of a local shop in Ramsey to the attention of Mrs Baker and urged fellow students and staff members of the school to help by bringing in sheets and other materials that could be made into bandages for the animals.

Headteacher, Annette Baker, said "I was humbled and proud of the response of the students to the terrible crisis unfolding in Australia and am delighted that they have taken the initiative inspired by the Way of Being values of our school to do something to help. Many students have friends and family in Australia and are concerned about their welfare and are desperate to do anything they can to help. As Amber said in her letter, as a world community we should all come together to help despite the vast distance between us."

As a result of the students taking the initiative, the school will be donating the proceeds of the next dress down day to one of the disaster charities and will be collecting sheets and other materials to help care for the stricken animals.



Amber, Year 11 Student



Lucy, Sixth Form Student

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# Ramsey Grammar School Association



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## RGSA 100 Club Monthly Draw Winners

### Oct 2019

1 <sup>st</sup> - £38.75 Mrs V Baker	62
2 <sup>nd</sup> -£23.25 Mrs E Cleator	142
3 <sup>rd</sup> -£15.50 Miss J Alexander	102

### Nov 2019

1 <sup>st</sup> -£38.75 Mrs A Pinhorn	176
2 <sup>nd</sup> £23.35 Mr J D Coole	25
3 <sup>rd</sup> £15.50 Dr & Mrs RF Corlett	35

### Dec 2019

1 <sup>st</sup> £42.75 SG & LC Smith	100
2 <sup>nd</sup> £25.65 Ms Lily Walker	190
3 <sup>rd</sup> £17.10 Mrs JC Canavan	9

### LOST PROPERTY

There is a significant amount of lost property in both school buildings. If your child has lost any items please ensure that they (or you) check to see if it has been handed in.

Any unclaimed/unnamed lost property will be kept until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. After that it will be sold to raise funds for RGSA.



NEXT MEETING: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020