



February 2020

# The RGS Mail

Dear Families, Students and Old Scholars

The annual RGSA Community Quiz was a triumph as usual! Thank you to the RGSA Committee members, in particular Sharon Henery and Deborah Stafford, for organising this brilliant event and to my colleagues who provided the questions to confound you all. The eventual winners were “Tequila Mockingbird” who walked off with the much coveted Community Quiz trophy having amassed a creditable score of 132 points.

Congratulations also to Amelie Shimmin and Georgia Dobbie who were part of the winning act at last week’s “Next Big Thing” competition. This confirms what we already know - that our school is brimming with all kinds of creative talent.

You will have received a letter from me highlighting road safety danger in relation to students getting off the bus outside the west building and the increasing tendency for parents to drop their children off. Could I please ask you to heed the warning in the letter in relation to the safety of our students who access the west building and are clearly being put at risk by the continuing issues we are seeing outside the west building in particular.

On the issue of health and safety, can I ask you to please support us in ensuring that students do not come to school with varnished nails or with nail extensions. Nails must be cut back and only clear varnish is allowed to be worn. We have noticed a few lapses in adhering to our uniform policy and to the reminders I issued by letter last term. I restate in particular, that **lycra skirts and leggings** are not to be worn for school. A copy of December’s uniform letter and my recent letter about the road safety issues is enclosed in this month’s RGS Mail.

Finally, you will no doubt be aware that, as a result of an industrial dispute with the Department of Education, Sport and Culture, teachers in the Association of School Leaders (ASCL), National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) are either currently engaged in or are preparing for taking part in industrial action short of strike. As I said in a recent radio interview this action is directed against the Department of Education, Sport and Culture. Every effort will be made to minimise the impact on students and parents. Should there be any disruption to normal arrangements we will inform you in writing with as much notice as possible.

School closes for half term on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, I wish you all a pleasant break.

Mrs A G Baker  
Headteacher





## **'Tequila Mockingbird'**

**Victorious at the RGSA Community Quiz 2020**



***Ramsey Grammar School***  
***Scoil Ghrammeydys Rhumsaa***

*Headteacher*  
*Ardynseyder*  
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29<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**Road Safety Concerns**

A number of concerns have been brought to my attention with regards to students accessing school on foot or arriving at school by bus – particularly those who travel on the number 6B bus which stops by the bridge outside the west building.

Students are apparently getting off the bus outside the west building and crossing Lezayre Road in front of the bus instead of using the bridge. This is extremely dangerous, since they are not visible to oncoming traffic until they are virtually half way across the road. This is an accident waiting to happen. Furthermore we have seen students walking into the west building along the roadside rather than on the pavement.

The health and safety of your children is our primary concern in school and we ask you to please urge your child/children to use the road bridge to cross Lezayre Road into the west building and to keep off the road at all times. This is now a matter of serious concern as I know you will appreciate.

We would urge those parents who access the west drive to drop off their children in front of the building to please desist from doing so, and to drop them off at the layby outside the east building designated for this purpose. The increase of traffic into the west building area is adding to the road safety issues which we are facing.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A G Baker  
Headteacher



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Headteacher  
Ardynseyder

*A G Baker M Ed NPQH*

9<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Changes to Mobile Phone Policy and Routine Reminders**

As we approach the end of term I would like to draw your attention to a change in policy for our management of mobile phones in school and to ask you to help us to provide further reinforcement to some of our school rules and requirements at the start of the new term in January 2020. The first week back will be a “Power Play” week when staff will focus on ensuring our rules are followed to the letter to get the New Year off to a good start.

#### **Mobile Phones**

These are causing increasing problems in school. In particular, we have noticed a worrying tendency for students to contact parents and carers in school time. This is leading to misunderstandings between us all which are not helpful in supporting the students. In addition to this, despite the requirement of our current mobile phone policy for phones not to be used in corridors or in the canteen, staff are having increasing challenges with students in this regard.

From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 therefore, I have instructed my staff to confiscate mobile phones, **without warning**, if they see students using them on the corridor or in classrooms. This is a change to our current rules in that **students will no longer be allowed to use mobile phones anywhere in school** unless they have been given express permission by a member of staff. We do not wish to have to confiscate a number of mobile phones as a result of this, so I would be grateful if you could support us in ensuring your son(s)/daughter(s) understand the new rules. In the first instance, after a phone is confiscated it will be returned to the student at the end of the school day; in the event of a repeat confiscation you may be required to come to school to collect the phone on your son’s/daughter’s behalf.

#### **School Uniform**

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting our push on the enforcement of school uniform rules so far. Unfortunately, some of the original issues with short skirts, inappropriate shoes and trousers are reappearing. I would be grateful again, if you would support us in maintaining high standards of dress in school. Please see the school website for a reminder of the letter I sent out in June which gives full details of our current issues with school uniform.

#### **Equipment**

In addition to the above we will be having a renewed focus on ensuring that students are appropriately equipped for school; this means having pen, pencil, ruler and planner as a bare minimum. In preparation for “Power Play” week students are advised to review their own personal organisation for school and ensure that they have everything they need in order to do their work.

I know that you will understand the premise on which this renewed emphasis on readiness for school is based, namely that perceptively “little” things really do matter in ensuring readiness for work. By removing the continued distraction of mobile phones and by reinforcing our standards of personal dress and organisation, we aim to start the New Year with a sharpened focus on the achievement of Excellence.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to continuing to work with you in partnership in the interests of your children and of this community.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A G Baker  
Headteacher





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## THE NORTHERN THEATRE EXPERIENCE

 THE NORTHERN THEATRE EXPERIENCE

— BACK TOGETHER —

MICHAEL **B** ALFIE  
BALL **B** O E

**NORTHERN THEATRE EXPERIENCE**  
**RAMSEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL**  
**FRIDAY 3RD APRIL AT 7PM**  
**TO BOOK**  
**WWW.RAMSEYGRAMMARSCHOOL.IM**  
**WELCOME CENTRE TICKET HOTLINE 600555**  
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 THE NORTHERN THEATRE EXPERIENCE

**NORTHERN THEATRE EXPERIENCE**  
**RAMSEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL**  
**TUESDAY 3RD MARCH AT 7PM**  
**www.ramseygrammarschool.im**

25 BREATHTAKING YEARS  
ONE WORLDWIDE PHENOMENON

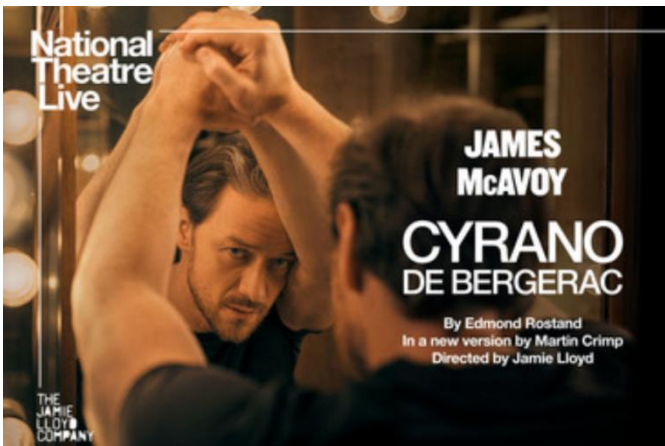
**Riverdance**  
25th ANNIVERSARY SHOW

THE RIVERDANCE 25th ANNIVERSARY GALA PERFORMANCE  
FILMED LIVE AT THE SARENA DUBLIN

**IN CINEMAS 3 & 8 MARCH**

ARTS COUNCIL

Find us on: **facebook.**



## Cyrano de Bergerac

National Theatre Live  
12 March 2020



## Fidelio

Cinema Live  
17 March 2020



## Swan Lake

Royal Opera House  
1 April 2020



## Cavalleria Rusticana

Royal Opera House  
21 April 2020



## The Welkin

National Theatre Live  
21 May 2020



## Elektra

Royal Opera House  
18 June 2020

## 'The Blog' In Brief.....

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Students, we are reviewing your **planners** and would like to find out what you think Please fill in this anonymous survey by half term at the latest.

You can access the survey by one of 2 methods:

1. From Google Classroom, join the class code 277988 and follow the link

Classcode: 277988

2. Via this QR code



## Year 9 options - dates for you diary

Published Wednesday 29 January 2020

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Year 9 review day this year will take place on Thursday 12th March (all day) and Options Evening a fortnight later on Thursday 26th March (6.30pm - 8.30pm).

The **2019** options booklet provides an **example** of courses on offer and can be found under the KS3 section of our Learning and Curriculum page. We are in the process of finalising our curriculum for next year and the **2020** version will be posted shortly.



## 'The Blog' In Brief.....

### 6<sup>th</sup> form options evening

Published Wednesday 29 January 2020

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Our 6th Form option evening this year will take place on 5th March, 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

An **example** of courses on offer can be found under the Key Stage 5 section of our Learning and Curriculum page.

We are in the process of finalising our curriculum for next year and the **2020** version will be posted shortly.

### Exam Invigilators - Interested?

Published yesterday

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# Opportunity!?!?

Time on your hands?

Looking for a little extra income?

Then joining our team of Exam Invigilators could be just for you!

If you are interested in learning more about how you could become involved with RGS as an invigilator please contact our exams officer Mrs Beaumont on 811118.





## Ramsey Grammar School

# OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - 6.30-8.30 pm

This is an opportunity to meet and talk with staff and students and to walk around our school. You will see that we have excellent facilities, in particular the South Building, the new Sixth Form extension and alterations in both the West and East Buildings and our Olympic Sports Hall complete with multi-gym. Do remember to go outside to the Sports Hall (East) and Animal Unit (South).

### **Bunscoill Rhumsaa, St Thomas's, St Mary's and Students from outside RGS catchment Students' Tour.**

Start with the Headteacher's address in the Sixth Form Lecture Theatre in the South at 6.45 pm and continue onto the Animal Unit, followed by the West and East Buildings ending up in the Sports Hall.

### **Andreas, Jurby and Sulby Students' Tour.**

Start in the West Building, followed by the Headteacher's address in the Lecture Theatre at 7.15 pm and continue in the South Building and Animal Unit, then the Sports Hall and finally the East Building.

### **Ballaugh, Dhoon, and Laxey Students' Tour.**

Start in the East Building, then go to the Sports Hall followed by the West Building, the Animal Unit and then the Headteacher's address in the South Lecture Theatre at 7.45 pm. Finally, complete your tour in the South Building.

## 9R persuades!!



9R spent their English lessons this week brushing up their persuasive skills and creating products for a Dragon's Den-style task. The objective was to persuade the panel to invest in their product and to use persuasive skills taught this half term in English. All groups were fabulous and made it very difficult for us to crown a winner. That being said, the team of Amaya Holden, Niamh Milsom and Megan Kneale, worked exceptionally hard on their product and thoroughly deserved first place. Here they are displaying their product "Shape Shifter Siblings".



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