



Ramsey Grammar School
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14th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

A week into our new academic year is a good time for me to give you some news and updates.

Those of you who regularly read our RGS Mail newsletter will know that I have given notice to the Department of Education, Sport and Culture of my retirement at Christmas. As I said to Professor Barr:

"It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the students and staff of Ramsey Grammar School and Ballakermeen High School all my working days. I feel that the time is now right for me to leave so that I can spend more time with my family, who I have relied on so much over the years for love and support as I pursued my career.

I sincerely hope that Education on the Isle of Man will continue to go from strength to strength and will look on with interest to see how it develops. Thank you for placing your trust in me to lead Ramsey Grammar School. Though there have been many wonderful memories that I take with me from my teaching career, being the Headteacher of this amazing school is the undoubted highlight."

I will be very sorry to leave Ramsey Grammar School, but for the remainder of this term I will be working hard to ensure a smooth transition for the new Headteacher. The post will be advertised this week and I am told the process of selection will be concluded shortly after half term. I will, of course, keep you posted throughout and will confirm my successor as soon as I know.

Health and Safety Reminders

We return to school in the fortunate position of having no social distancing on the island due to the successful suppression of the virus. In the phase of "Stay Responsible" I would like to remind you of the protocols recommended by the government which will help to keep us all safe, not just from Covid-19 but from the other bugs and illnesses that do the rounds, in particular during the winter.

How you can stay responsible:

- 1. If you're ill, stay at home. Don't go to work or school. Don't socialise.
If you have Coronavirus symptoms, stay at home, call the COVID-111 line and ask about testing.*
- 2. Continue to wash your hands frequently for the recommended 20 seconds.*
- 3. Continue to sneeze or cough into a tissue or your elbow and regularly disinfect shared surfaces.*
- 4. If you are told by health authorities to self-isolate you must do so immediately.*
- 5. If you're concerned about your well-being or have underlying health conditions, work with your GP to understand how best to stay healthy.*
- 6. Keep track of who you have seen and where you have been in case you need to access this information for the contact tracing team.*

7. *Remain vigilant. Our community's efforts have given us an Island that is as safe as it possibly can be. However, COVID-19 continues to circulate in most of the world, meaning there remains a risk of further cases here. Stay prepared to reintroduce restrictions if required. Stay responsible.*

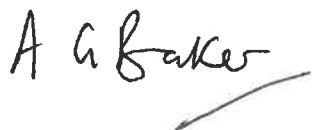
I have reminded the students of these good habits in our assemblies. I must ask you in particular to let us know if your child is showing symptoms of Covid-19 or if you or any of your family tests positive. Please ensure that you follow the public health guidelines in all cases. We are currently working with the DESC to advise them on the guidance that they are preparing to support us in this phase of the pandemic, and I will let you know the main points of that as soon as they have completed it. Above all please keep your child off if they are ill and let us know.

Uniform Reminders

Our uniform requirements are included on the back of this letter as a reminder since there have been a number of cases of students wearing clothes which are unsuitable for school and which do not fit in with our uniform policy. In particular, the Lycra skirt has made an unwanted reappearance! Our staff have spoken to students who are not following the uniform rules and have asked for them to put this right. If you have any difficulty in doing this, should your child have been the recipient of one of these reminders, please contact school to arrange to speak to the relevant member of the pastoral staff.

I will be in touch shortly in connection with our annual Prizegiving on Thursday 15th October. In the meantime please accept my good wishes for a successful, productive and happy new academic year 2020/21.

Yours sincerely



A G Baker
Headteacher

School Uniform - Main School

- White shirt – with top button
- School tie
- Black blazer with school badge (available from Top2Toe)
- Plain black trousers/plain skirt (**Tight lycra/contour skirts are NOT allowed; No jeans or leggings**)
- Plain black sensible, flat heel shoes with **no obvious logos**
- Tights should be natural or black coloured

Jewellery: Students may wear – a watch, short necklace and gold/silver ear studs – maximum of two in each ear and nowhere else. No other piercings are allowed.

Only students in Year 11 and the Sixth Form are permitted to wear discreet makeup.

Hair styles: Multi-coloured or extreme hair styles will be challenged.