



The RGS Mail

July 2017

Dear Families, Students and Old Scholars

It's Standalone Week again!

This morning I waved off over 200 Ramsey Grammar School students departing on trips around the UK and Europe as Standalone Week comes around once again in the school's calendar. Off island trips include Brussels, as well as the oversubscribed Valkenburg trip which has returned by popular demand. Our students will also be visiting London, Liverpool and Yorkshire, as well as mountain biking in Wales. This year we again have a fantastic range of on-island activities, ranging from sports camp, "Murder, Mystery and Mayhem", ceramic painting, bowling and Lazerblast to well-being classes and Exit Strategy!

Massive thanks in particular for organising this year's on island activities to Bev Butler-Smith who has worked tirelessly in spite of not feeling 100% well. We look forward to hearing tales of the adventures of our students and staff when they return to school next week.

We are delighted to announce that Ramsey Grammar School has received the Best Secondary School Farm Award. The award was presented at the School Farms Network Education Alliance Conference held at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester at the end of June. The award was a fitting tribute to the hard work and dedication of Rural Science Teacher, Marion Cottier and her team of staff and student volunteers. The awards were presented by "Countryfile" presenter, Adam Henson, who visited the school in 2015. Attended by 100 students, teachers and education practitioners from across the UK, the Schools Farm Network Education Alliance Conference was a golden opportunity for those passionate about school based farm learning and developing pathways to higher education to come together and share knowledge and expertise. We are delighted to have emerged at the top of the tree!

Congratulations also to Mera Royle, who last week received the North American Manx Award for her contribution to music. She played her harp beautifully at the presentation in the Tynwald building.

Head Boy and Girl, Jake Moore and Niamh Macken and their deputies have had a busy week attending Manx National Week events and supporting school on Tynwald Day at the head of the Tynwald Day parade and at Ramsey Rotary Club Sunday Funday. They are doing an excellent job of showing what is best about Ramsey Grammar School, which they did with particular flamboyance and distinction on Sunday in their Peter Pan themed outfits!

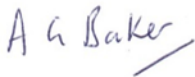
On this theme, Peter Pan was screened in our National Theatre Experience venue this weekend and we look forward to an exciting new programme of live performances by the Royal Shakespeare Company, Royal Opera House and the National Theatre Live. We are hopeful of staging a number of musicals, the first of which will be “Follies” on 16th November.

The next screening will be an Encore performance of Angels in America Part 1 on 14th September, with Part 2 on 21st September (Perestroika). *Angels in America* is a unique two-night event, broadcast in two parts, each one week apart. The two parts are two halves of the same story, so audiences need to see both parts to fully experience the show and see the whole story. Tickets are available online at rgstheatre.ticketsolve.com/shows or by contacting the Villa Gaiety Box Office. NTL describe this as the “theatrical event of 2017” so don’t miss out!

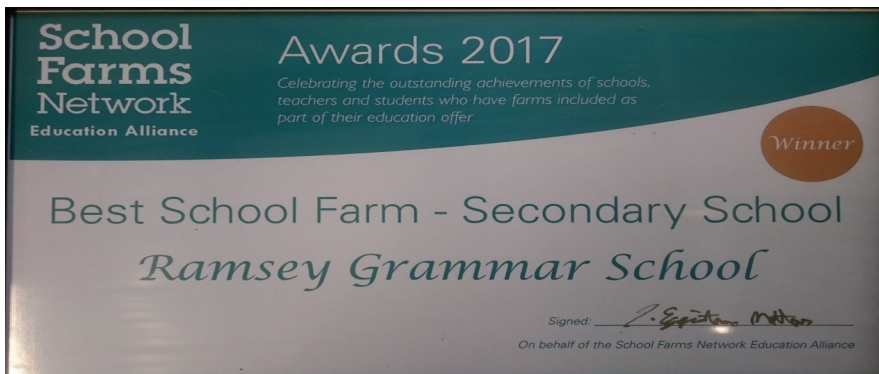
Finally, I take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to a number of staff who are leaving Ramsey Grammar School for pastures new this summer. We wish Rachel Smith, Nikki Arthur, Katherine Brown, Caitlin Hotham, Julie Rahman and Sarah Robinson all the very best for the future. In particular, we wish a very long and happy retirement to Rosie Allison who leaves RGS this year after 15 years’ service to the school. The best of luck to you all.

I would like to wish all staff, students and members of the RGS community, family and friends a long and happy summer holiday filled with laughter and sunshine. I look forward to seeing some of you in August as you return to school to receive your much anticipated examination results. J

A Level results - 17th August
GCSE results – 24th August

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A G Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Mrs A G Baker
Headteacher



Ramsey Grammar School is the Best Secondary School Farm in the British Isles!

We have always thought so, but it is now the official verdict of the School Farms Network. At their awards ceremony on Friday 30th June at the prestigious Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester, RGS was officially crowned Best Secondary School Farm. The award was presented to Head of Rural Science, Marion Cottier. In addition, RGS received a runners up award for School Farm Leadership. At the National Gala Award Ceremony at the School Farms Network Education Alliance (SFNEA) Conference, held at the Royal Agricultural University (RAU) in Cirencester last week (30 June – 1 July 2017).

The SFNEA is a partnership between the Royal Agricultural University, Applied Inspiration, and the School Farms Network, with the support of the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens.

The inaugural SFNEA Gala Awards Dinner on Friday (30 June) celebrated the very best of school farms from across the UK. The awards were presented to the winners and runners-up by TV presenter Adam Henson.

RAU Vice-Chancellor Professor Jo Price congratulated the winners, runners-up, and finalists stating that the standard across all categories was incredibly high. The conference was a wonderful opportunity to meet staff and pupils from schools in the School Farms Network, and to exchange knowledge, hear success stories, and discuss the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The Conference

The conference explored the role of rearing farm livestock in schools, and the value of land-based education, including the areas of agriculture, business, technology, food security, and the environment.

Keynote speeches were delivered by: Adam Henson, TV presenter and Director of Cotswold Farm Park; Dan Corlett, CEO of Farming and Countryside Education; Leigh Morris, CEO of the National Land-Based College; Peter Fearon, Coordinator of Land Based Science, Bebington High Sports College; and Professor Jo Price, Vice-Chancellor of the Royal Agricultural University.

Key Messages

There were a number of key messages which shone through all of the sessions:

- We need bright young people in the future of the agri-food and wider land-based sector.
- School farms help students to become passionate about animals and farming practices.
- School farms enable students to build confidence and improve their academic performance.
- Young people are interested in where their food comes from, and the food supply chain.
- Conservation is a key part of agriculture, the two must go hand in hand.
- Education must be fun and hands-on, that's when students learn and become inspired.
- Once inspired, we need to help students select the appropriate progression routes
- We need to promote the vast career opportunities in food and agriculture to young people.

The University welcomes bright young people from all backgrounds to study at the RAU

With 113 secondary schools across the British Isles running farms – a number which is growing – this represents a significant achievement for Ramsey Grammar School and for the Isle of Man. The school was recognised for the way in which the farm is integrated into school life, with every Key Stage 3 student given the opportunity to grow their own food, see the pigs reared, work with poultry and sheep and use the new greenhouse poly tunnel and vegetable plots. RGS also offers a GCSE in Agriculture and Land Use and a post-16 BTEC which also attracts students from other island secondary schools via collaboration.



Marion Cottier said, “We are very proud of this honour, which is down to the hard work and enthusiasm of our students, particularly the volunteers who help with the animal unit on a regular basis. I would like to thank them especially for helping us win this incredible award

Look who flew into Ramsey on 8th July 2017



The Northern Theatre Experience launched its screenings on 18th May and feedback received so far has been very positive with patrons delighted to have this venue in the north of the island. 'Peter Pan' flew into Ramsey on Saturday 8th July, with a matinée performance. These are just a few of the photographs from this colourful production.



COMING SOON TO THE NORTHERN THEATRE
EXPERIENCE



ANGELS IN AMERICA PART 1 (ENCORE)
THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

ANGELS IN AMERICA PART 2 (ENCORE)
THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED BEFORE THE SHOW AND DURING
THE INTERVAL

You can now find us on Facebook



@RGS_IOM

‘Twitter for Families’

At Ramsey Grammar School, we pride ourselves on working closely with both families and the local community. One way we can do this is by finding ways to share information with you on what we, as a school, are doing. ‘Twitter for Families’ is a new initiative set up to share information on:

- the school calendar and our upcoming events
- the achievements of our students
- successes gained through working with the local community

Important information

Twitter is optional and an additional information platform. All information contained within the Twitter account can also be found on the school wiki and on the school website www.ramseygrammarschool.im

The @RGS_IOM Twitter account is a closed account. This means that only people who request, and are accepted, can follow our tweets. Follow requests will be accepted dependent on meeting one or more of the following criteria:

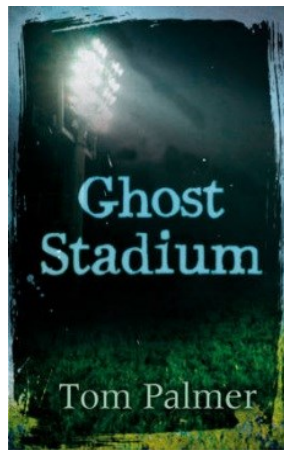
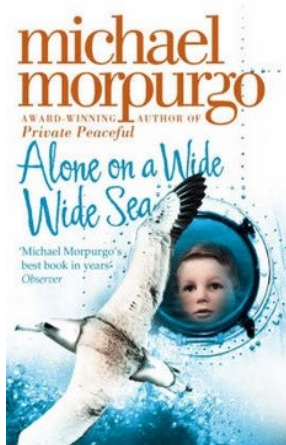
- an account belonging to an RGS student over the age of 13
- an account belonging to a parent/carer/family member of our students
- an account belonging to a staff member
- an account of a local community business or a business linked to the work of the school

Only requests to follow from accounts bearing a real name will be accepted, unless otherwise verified.

Follow us on 

RGS LIBRARY

July 2017



NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

OPENING TIMES

MON:

8:40AM-3:50PM

TUES:

8:40AM-5:00PM

WED:

8:40AM-3:50PM

THURS:

8:40AM-3:40PM

FRI:

8:40AM-3:40PM

**Totally Random Quiz- Every Thursday
Lunchtime at 1:30**



Well Done to the latest student left standing

Marcus Smith 7V



Ramsey Grammar School Association

invites you to a BBQ & Games Evening, fun for all the family at the start of the new school year.

£1 entry includes a Burger or Sausage Bap.

All meats kindly sponsored by Teare's Butchers Ramsey.

Venue: Ballacloan Football Clubhouse

Date: September 22nd

Time: 7-9 PM

To purchase tickets please contact school on 81100 by September 19th. Please advise us of any dietary needs.

Message from Ramsey Grammar School Association.

Due to the changes in the Data Protection Act, we have to alter the method of obtaining contact details and emails from Parents willing to help and those interested in our Mailing lists for Film Screenings.

We must now offer the option of opting in formally and so are taking this opportunity to update our records.

We apologise for any inconvenience however, we felt that for the future Committee members it was best to sort this out in order to protect all the information we have held this past 3 years.

Could you please complete the below form and return via email to RGSA at rgsaenquiries@iomcloud.com. We would appreciate your replies by 1st August so that we can collate the new list in time for September screenings.

If you are interested in joining the mailing list for the RGS run Northern Theatre Experience, please contact Cathy Cain directly via email at NorthernTheatreExperience.RGS@sch.im. The School Association is not involved in this and will continue to run their Film Nights independently starting again in September.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and help in the past few years and look forward to seeing you all in the new School year.

Kind Regards

Gerri Allinson
RGSA Press Officer

Name _____

Email address _____

Date: _____



100 Club

June 2017

1st - £40	Mrs J Murley	88
2nd - £25	Mr & Mrs Trace	1
3rd - £15	Mrs S L Jaques	131

Make It Grow

The students in Year 7 have worked amazingly hard to make their £2 grow. A fantastic total of £961.37 was raised.

The RGSA committee were impressed by the range of fundraising ideas which included cake/cookie baking, having a fairground stall, arranging a 6 hour football game, making and selling slime, riding a bucking bull, holding a sponsored silence, selling Mr Freeze ice pops and being washed by a hose and water balloons

After much deliberation, prizes were awarded to the following students:

- 7A Juan Thomson – washed cars and vans, made and sold cakes and did a sponsored cycle ride on a Turbo trainer
- 7B Katie Redmond – bought cans and chocolate to sell then reinvested the profits to buy and sell more stock
- 7C Sarah Stoddart – Had a refreshment stand in Sulby and participated in the Class Market
- 7R Karl Morgan – sold old toys, helped at home to cut the grass, helped at the Crown Green Bowling Club
- 7S Liam Tinkler – took neighbour's dogs for walks
- 7V Isla Gale – bought fishing tackle and sold the fish that were caught

Congratulations to 7C who worked together to put on a Class Market and to 7V who were the first form to return all of their fundraising envelopes.

The RGSA Young Entrepreneur Shield was awarded to Molly Smith from 7V who turned her passion for baking into a fundraising opportunity. Over the course of 3 weeks Molly took orders to bake 30 chocolate cakes which were described as absolutely delicious.

The committee would like to thank the Tramontana family for generously donating the shield.