



## *Welcome to the Sixth Form at Ramsey Grammar School*

### **LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM**

The Sixth Form at Ramsey Grammar School is an exciting place to learn, offering pathways to academic success, diverse and challenging enrichment opportunities, great facilities and a welcoming community. Sixth Form offers students the opportunity to take part in debates, discussions and other more social events alongside academic studies. Students are encouraged to participate in various inter-school competitions such as Charity Challenge, and Junior Achievement, the Linguistics Olympiad and the Interschool Mathematical Team Challenge, as well as school based enrichment programmes such as sports coaching, subject mentoring and accredited certificates in languages, including Manx, Japanese, German and Italian.

Being a member of the Sixth Form at RGS carries a number of privileges and responsibilities. Relationships with teachers, teaching methodology and the associated work change in KS5 to reflect the advancing intellectual and social maturity of the students who have considerable control over the organisation of their own studies. In Year 12, they are required to fulfil a specified amount of supervised private study time and also to perform some element of 'service' to the school or the local community.

During the year, all students will be able to visit the Island Higher Education Conference. There will also be visiting speakers to the school who will outline the university (UCAS) application procedure. This is further accommodated in daily lunchtime UCAS surgeries in the Sixth Form Office, where students receive individual assistance with their applications and decisions and their UCAS personal statement.

During July, there is a four day trip to England for all interested members of Year 12, to visit six or seven universities, to listen to speakers, experience the wide diversity of campus types and stay in a student hall of residence.

There is, of course, no automatic right of entry into the Sixth Form. The normal entry requirement is 5 A\*-C GCSE passes including English and/or Maths, preferably both.

Students achieving good GCSE results can be assured that the best possible Sixth Form academic education on the Island is to be found at Ramsey Grammar School, providing the qualifications required to matriculate to a British university or to enter employment.

Level 3 courses last for two years and can be followed by Degree or HND/Foundation Degree courses at a university or entry into employment.

## SIXTH FORM SUBJECT CHOICES 2018

Ramsey Grammar School Sixth Form offers a wide range of Level 3 courses. These include A level which is a General Certificate of Education (GCE) Qualification designed around an individual subject which is predominantly assessed by examinations and BTEC which is a vocational or applied coursework-based qualification that is also well regarded by universities and employers.

When students receive their GCSE results in the summer, they will also be given a 'point score' which will be used to help determine Sixth Form subject and course choices. The point score works by adding up scores as shown below and then dividing the total by the number of subjects taken.

The points allocated to each grade are as follows:

A* 58	B 46	D 34	F 22
A 52	C 40	E 28	G 16

In order to maintain the maximum flexibility with respect to Sixth Form course choices, students are encouraged to aim high and to gain the best GCSE results and resultant point score they possibly can.

### MAKING YOUR CHOICE

When deciding which courses to apply for, there are a variety of factors that students will need to take into account. The first thing to consider is the point score likely to be achieved at GCSE. This will help to establish which subject combinations to study in the Sixth Form. Secondly, students will also need to look at the entry requirements for the subjects under consideration. These entry requirements are put in place because students who do not achieve them are likely to struggle with the subject at A level. In addition to this, students should also ask themselves the following questions:

- Do I have the skills and abilities demanded by the course?
- Will I find the subject interesting?
- Am I prepared to work at least six hours per week on this subject as well as several hours outside the classroom?
- Do I need this subject for my chosen career or university course? (If you are unsure about what you would like to do, try to pick a variety of options so you can choose more than one career path.)
- Is my chosen programme well balanced - in terms of subject matter and methods of assessment?

For extra information or guidance, please feel free to contact the appropriate Head of Subject or visit the examining boards' websites:

[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk) [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk) [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk) [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

[www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)

## SIXTH FORM COURSES 2018

At RGS, students will select three subjects. In addition, all students will follow an enrichment programme.

We work in partnership with Castle Rushen High School, and Queen Elizabeth II High School to provide a wide range of courses and opportunities for our students.

**AS/Advanced level subjects** will be:

Agricultural Science (BTEC)	Global Perspectives
Art and Design	History
Biology	IT
Business Studies	Mathematics
Chemistry	Music
Computer Science	Music (BTEC)
Design and Technology	Photography
Drama and Theatre Studies	Physical Education (BTEC Single and Double Award)
Economics	Physics
English Language	Politics
English Literature	Psychology
Food and Nutrition	Religious Studies
French	Sociology
Further Mathematics	Spanish
Geography	Tourism (L3 Diploma)
Geology	

## UNIVERSITIES

The vast majority of students completing two years in the Sixth Form go on to university, sometimes taking a 'gap' year either before or after their degree. The name 'university' encompasses all the 'old' universities, 'red brick' and 'new' (post war) universities and the old polytechnics.

### UNIVERSITY OF COLLEGES AND COLLEGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION

These institutions provide a variety of degree and non-degree courses. Entry qualifications are as for university entrance. They also provide a range of post-graduate qualifications and degrees.

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE IOM (UCM)

UCM offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. Currently, University of Chester degrees are offered in Business Management, Accounting & Finance, Event Management & Marketing, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, History and Heritage, Visual Communication through Digital Media and Public Health.

The College also offers bespoke degrees for those wishing to complete a degree while in full time employment and also offers a range of postgraduate qualifications.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Various books concerned with higher education are available in the Sixth Form area and the Library, although a number are now only online. In addition, there are current prospectuses for all universities, colleges of higher education and colleges of art. UCAS and all institutions have websites which can be accessed from any computer with internet access.

The Head of Sixth Form and the Assistant Head of Sixth Form and all senior members of staff are also very happy to offer further advice and guidance.

## CAREERS

Careers guidance is an integral part of the Sixth Form. The guidance takes the form of advice on higher education together with visits, speakers, work experience, interviews and careers interviews. The Higher Education room in the Sixth Form Centre is exclusively for use of Sixth Form students and contains reference materials, university/college prospectuses and a number of fully networked computers.

## LIBRARY FACILITIES

The Library incorporates traditional library and reference facilities, together with an adjacent study room equipped with careers and higher education information. The Library is a great boon to Sixth Formers who are able to use the dedicated study room at any time and whose Private Study periods are based there in a separate dedicated mobile classroom. All attend an induction course at the beginning of the year. They are introduced to the subject-specific areas of the Library that will assist them in their studies and they are reminded of how the Dewey Decimal System works. The Library contains local and daily national newspapers and a selection of periodicals to stimulate interest in the latest developments in many subjects studied at school.

## DRESS CODE

The Sixth Form Dress Code is “smart office dress”. “Smart office dress” does not include the wearing of hoodies or any item of clothing with a large visible logo on it. The Headteacher is the



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In Years 12 and 13, most students take part in a double lesson of Games on a Thursday. During the course of the year, they have the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of sports:

Football	Basketball	Badminton	Aerobics
Rugby	Volleyball	Rounder's	Rock Climbing
Hockey	Swimming	Golf	Canoeing
Netball	Squash	Weight Training	Cross Country
Cricket	Fencing	Orienteering	Athletics
Tennis	Trampoline	Softball	Table Tennis

Students are also encouraged to participate in the many inter-schools events and clubs that take place regularly throughout the year.

Some senior students choose to help out in the PE Department as part of the school service programme. This has proved very worthwhile, especially for those considering a career in sport. They assist the PE staff in various areas of PE in the lower years of the school.

We hope that by offering a wide options programme, coupled with a comprehensive package of extra-curricular clubs and fixtures, our senior students will see sport as being part of a healthy lifestyle that they will continue with into adult life.

### **2018 Important dates and events in the Sixth Form induction and future career decision making process:**

Wednesday 21 March	Sixth Form Options Evening
Friday 25 May	Study Leave commences
Thursday 23 August	JCQ Exam Board GCSE Results Day
Thursday 23 & Friday 24 August	Sixth Form Admission Interviews
Wednesday 6 September	Start of Autumn Term