

December 2018



The RGS Mail



Dear Families, Students and Old Scholars

We were delighted to receive the Manx Gas Award for Workplace Wellbeing at the recent IOM Newspapers Awards for Excellence at the Villa Marina. All staff at Ramsey Grammar School, supported and encouraged by the Director of Pastoral Care and Wellbeing, Josie Corrin, have contributed towards the achievement of this award by engaging in the now wide ranging programme of activities which the school puts on to support its staff.

Although it is a wonderful vocation, teaching can be a demanding and occasionally stressful job and it is our belief at Ramsey Grammar School that we need to be proactive in looking after our most precious and expensive resource – our staff. Winning this award again connects RGS with the word Excellence and enables us to celebrate our positive Way of Being. We hope that our explicit commitment to staff wellbeing will encourage future job applicants to apply to work in our school.

Following a moving ceremony recently held in school to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Richard Gozney, will again be visiting school this week to talk about his life as a Diplomat with the sixth form students. We know that this will help to further embed global perspectives into our Way of Being in Ramsey. Our sixth form students are very much looking forward to learning from someone as well travelled and accomplished as Sir Richard. We thank him once again for going out of his way to support the various endeavours of our students and staff.

I must give a big shout-out to our Parents Association, RGSA, who have had a bid to become the chosen cause of the Ramsey Co-op Local Causes Campaign accepted. This means that anyone who signs up and chooses RGS as its chosen cause will automatically donate 1% of what they spend to creating and refurbishing the café in the centre of our Student Services and Support area. This will provide a real life vocational setting which will benefit students whose learning style is founded on more practical activities and will also provide a base for what we hope will also be an increasing number of community activities and gatherings. Please see the instructions in this month's RGS Mail as to how to sign up.

Finally, I cannot believe that we are already approaching the end of 2018! We are looking forward to our Carol Concert on Wednesday 19th December at St Paul's Church, which marks for many the official start of Christmas. I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Healthy and Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing many of you at the forthcoming RGS Community Quiz on Friday 25th January 2019!

Mrs A G Baker
Headteacher





You are warmly invited to the

Ramsey Grammar School

Carol Service

7.30—8.30pm

Wednesday 19th December 2018

St Paul's Church

Ramsey

Seasonal refreshments will follow the service

Retiring collection to St Paul's Church

and

The Ramsey Old Folks' Fund



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Headteacher

Ardynseyder

A G Baker M Ed NPQH

3rd December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Holidays in Term Time

As part of our ongoing initiative to improve all students' attendance at school, from January 2019 I will no longer be authorising requests for leave of absence for students to go on holiday in term time. I am reluctant to change a policy in the middle of the year, but I am afraid that I have become increasingly concerned about the number of students who are being taken out of school to go on holiday at times other than during the generous annual holiday allocation.

We have recently completed some analysis on the impact of poor attendance on outcomes of Year 11 GCSE students (please see RGS Mail). We have found that 80.6% of students whose attendance at school was between 97-100% achieved the standard benchmark of 5 A*-C GCSE passes, including English and Maths. Only 16% of students whose attendance was below 91% achieved this benchmark. The message from this is clear – there is a direct link between good attendance at school and positive academic performance.

I hope you agree that we must do everything possible to ensure all of our students succeed, and it is for this reason that we are refocusing on the importance of good attendance. Aspirationally we are aiming for all students to achieve at least 97% attendance. Please note that even 90% attendance is equal to a student missing half a day of school per week.

I understand that some parents have already requested and been granted permission to take their children out of school for a term time holiday. The remainder of this academic year will be viewed as a transition period during which any prior agreement will be honoured. If you do have any intention of taking your child out of school for a holiday this academic year, please make an appointment to come and speak to me about this. It is likely that this will be unauthorised following the discussion, but after September 2019 any requests for term time leave of absence for a holiday will definitely not be authorised unless circumstances are exceptional.

I hope you appreciate the very real educational imperative behind this change and that you do your best to support it to ensure that your children do not miss out on lessons and on input from our staff.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A G Baker
Headteacher

On the back of this letter you will see an Attendance Ladder which has been shared with us by the Education Liaison Officer in the Department of Education, Sport and Culture for attendance across the Island. I trust you will find this information useful.



Attendance Ladder

How close is your child to reaching the top?

**More time in school =
MORE TIME TO LEARN!**

Equates to
4 school days
off each year

Equates to
7 school days
off each year

Equates to
9 school days
off each year

Equates to
11 school days
off each year

Equates to
18 school days
off each year

Equates to
2 months
off each year

100%
Perfection

98%
Impressive

96%
Good

95%
Nearly There

94%
Needs to Improve

90%
Danger Zone

85%
Danger Zone

80%
Danger Zone

On Track

At Risk

Off Track

For every day your child is absent from school,
over 6 hours of instructional time is lost.

80.6% of students whose attendance was between 97% and 100% achieved 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics

66.7% of students who attended between 94% and 96.9% of lessons achieved 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics

33.3% of students whose attendance was between 91% and 93.9% achieved 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics

16% of students with an attendance of under 91% achieved 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics

It is essential that you are in school as much as you can be.



90% is missing half a day per week

94% is missing 2 lessons per week

97% is missing 1 lessons per week

100% is your best chance of success

Attendance is essential to success at Ramsey Grammar School

At Ramsey Grammar School last year:

- 12 students in Year 11 attended every day of school
- 48 students attended more than 98% of lessons. This equates to missing less than 1 lesson a week
- 52.8% of students had greater than 95% attendance



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Dear Parent/Carer

ParentPay at Ramsey Grammar School

ParentPay is an online payment service allowing you to add money to lunch cards from a computer at home, work, or elsewhere, at any time. The service was introduced successfully at Ramsey Grammar School and has proved to be very popular with parents.

ParentPay allows you to top up students' lunch cards and pay for school trips with no extra cost to parents for using the ParentPay service. There are no intentions to withdraw other ways of paying at the moment and you will be able to continue to put money on your child's lunch card using cash or cheques if you prefer.

If you would like a ParentPay account please complete the reply slip below and we will issue you with secure login details to access your account.

To understand how the Department of Education Sport and Culture obtains and processes your information please visit this link:-

<https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/education-and-children/data-processing/>

The necessary processing of your information will be done in accordance with the GDPR Principles. The information you provide, and that obtained from other relevant sources, such as registers, letters you send in, forms etc. will be treated confidentially and used by Ramsey Grammar School to fulfil its legal/statutory obligations. Elements of this information may also be shared with trusted third party organisations who support the school in the delivery of their statutory requirements, where necessary to confirm factual information provided by you, to protect public funds, including the prevention and detection of fraud and/or otherwise required by law.

Ramsey Grammar School looks forward to strengthening its partnership with families by providing this easy to use payment facility at the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr J R Kneale
Bursar

ParentPay

Student Name.....Tutor Group

I would like access to ParentPay for the student named above

Parent / Carer NameParent / Carer Signature

What does ParentPay do?

- enables you to pay for School meals and School trips
- offers a highly secure payment site
- gives you a history of all the payments you have made
- allows you to create a single account login across all your children that attend a ParentPay school
- shows you all items available for payment relevant to each of your children
- emails a receipt of your payment to the email address you register
- offers you the ability to set automated email/SMS payment reminders

How does ParentPay help you?

- enables you to see what your children are eating for break and lunch
- gives you the freedom to make payments to school whenever and wherever you like
- stops you having to write cheques or search for cash to send to school
- gives you peace of mind that your payment has been made safely and securely
- helps with budgeting; payments are immediate, there is no waiting for cheques to clear
- you will never need miss a payment, or have insufficient credit, with automated email/SMS alerts
- ParentPay is quick and easy to use

How does ParentPay help our school?

- reduces the administrative time spent on banking procedures
- keeps accurate records of payments made to every service for every student
- payments do not bounce
- reduces paper 'waste'
- allows for easy and quick refunds to be made back to the payment card
- improves communication between the school and parents concerning payments
- offers a more efficient payment collection process, reducing the amount of money held on school premises
- helps us improve school-home communication with its integrated email/SMS messaging centre

How do I get started?

We will send you an activation letter containing your activation details to enable you to set up your ParentPay account.

If you have more than one child at a ParentPay school/s you can add them to a single account, providing one login for all children at ParentPay schools.

More information

More information can be found on the ParentPay website, www.parentpay.com



Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to inform you that there have recently been a couple of cases of head lice identified in school. While lice are nothing more than a nuisance, it is important that children are checked on a weekly basis so that any head lice can be dealt with quickly and before they can be allowed to spread.

We ask you to check your child's head as soon as possible. Please follow the simple routine below to ensure that you are doing all you can to keep head lice outbreaks to a minimum.

CHECK

- Your child's hair once a week
- Use a proper detection comb to trap head lice.
- If you find live lice, consult a pharmacist for treatment advice immediately.
- If head lice are spotted, take a close look at the hair of all the family.

TREAT

- Please treat your child with a clinically proven treatment.
- Leave the treatment on for the recommended time for maximum effect.
- Repeat the treatment for a second time seven days after the original treatment to kill any eggs that may hatch after the first treatment.
- Check that all head lice have gone within two to three days of the final application of head lice treatment to complete the process.
- Continue to check for head lice on a regular, weekly basis.

For further information on head lice please see your pharmacist

RAMSEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL COMMUNITY QUIZ 2019

Friday January 25th 2019

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



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Headteacher
Ardynseyder

A G Baker M Ed NPQH

4th December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Co-op “Local Causes” Campaign Supports Ramsey Grammar School!

You will have seen on our website blog the recent announcement made by our Parents’ Association, RGSA, that their bid to have our school as one of the local causes supported by shopping at the Co-op has been successful. The Local Causes campaign has been extremely supportive of other charities and we are delighted that our students will now be able to benefit from this scheme.

The RGSA applied for the funds to help develop a café area in the Student Support & Services centre at school which is intended to support all students as well as to be a centre for community events and activities. As a Co-op member, when you buy selected Co-op brands and services, 1 % of the money you spend goes to local causes in the community. Choosing us means that your 1% goes directly into supporting the students of this school. If you are not already a member of the Co-op it is very easy to sign up by following the instructions on their web page

<http://www.coop.co.uk/membership>. It is a simple process, costing only £1, that takes less than 5 minutes to arrange and once your card is registered you can choose your favourite local cause – hopefully Ramsey Grammar School! It would be great if as many parents as possible could sign up to this.

Not only will you be receiving the usual Co-op membership benefits, but you will be helping yet again to establish the place of the school at the heart of initiatives which are intended to benefit the whole community.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A G Baker
Headteacher



Supported by
Co-op Members

Year 8 Rugby Champions!

Congratulations to the Year 8 boys who won a gripping final against Castle Rushen at Douglas Rugby club recently.

In a low scoring game Ramsey opened the scoring with a try by Nathan Brew after some sustained pressure from the boys in green. In the second half Castle Rushen rallied and eventually crossed the whitewash to even the scores. However, straight from the kick-off Raf Sinadjan broke free to score the winning try.

Final score 10 – 5 to Ramsey Grammar School.



HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH

@BELIEVEPHQ

www.BelievePerform.com



LOVE

Be there for your child and show care and love



EXERCISE

Encourage play, exercise and sport



BEHAVIOUR

Keep an eye out for any changes in behaviour



SUPPORT

Regularly support, encourage and praise your child



REST TIME

Help your child to manage stress by building in some rest time



BE PROUD

Tell your child that you are proud of them



PATIENCE

Be patient. Don't pressure your child



HELP

Don't be afraid to seek help from professionals



FEELING

Get to know how your child is feeling



EDUCATE

Educate yourself about mental health problems



PROBLEM SOLVING

Help your child to effectively problem solve



LISTEN

Make sure you take time to listen to what your child has to say



COPING

Help your child to learn some simple coping skills such as relaxation



SYMPTOMS

Be aware of signs and symptoms



CONVERSATION

Encourage your child to engage in conversation



ENVIRONMENT

Provide a positive environment for your child where they can thrive





We will be holding a parental information evening on Wednesday 27th February 2019 6-8pm.

This will be held in the West building. Refreshments will be available.

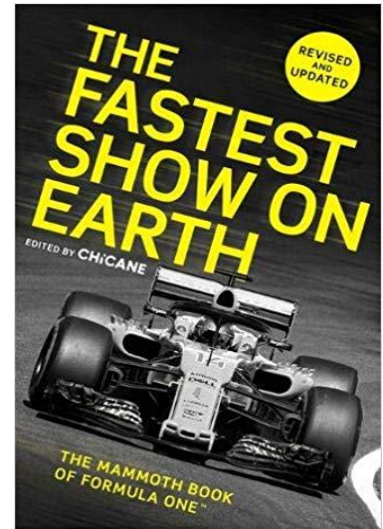
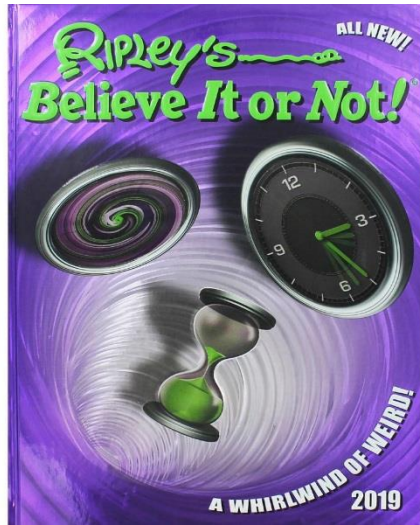
Topics will include:

- Mental health & wellbeing- support for students and parents.
- Drug & alcohol advice
- Gaming addiction advice
- The teenage brain- an attempt to understand it
- Social media support for students

A letter will be sent home in the New Year with more information. We look forward to seeing you all in February.

RGS LIBRARY

DECEMBER 2018



NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

DON'T FORGET TO BORROW YOUR CHRISTMAS READS FROM THE LIBRARY BEFORE WE BREAK FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

OPENING TIMES

MON:
8:40AM-3:50PM

TUES:
8:40AM-4.00PM

WED:
8:40AM-3:50PM

THURS:
8:40AM-3:50PM

FRI:
8:40AM-3:50PM



Ramsey Grammar School Association



100 Club

October 2018

1 st - £41	Mrs L Webb	48
2 nd - £24.60	Mr A Stennett	7
3 rd - £16.40	Ms M Quinn	24

November 2018

1 st - £40.25	Mrs L Webb	48
2 nd - £24.15	Charlene Ross	42
3 rd - £16.10	Niamh Goddard	106



NEXT MEETING: Thursday 10th January 2019 6.30 pm