



January 2019

The RGS Mail

Dear Families, Students and Old Scholars

Happy New Year. I am sure that you, like me, are currently wondering where the last two weeks went! We have all returned to school hopefully refreshed, reinvigorated and prepared to face the new challenges of 2019.

Year 11 examination students completed their Mocks before Christmas and we are all now busy analysing their results and working out the best ways to support them in their continuing preparations for this summer's final exams. They will be receiving their results on Mock Results Day, Friday 18th January and this will give students a clear indication of what they need to do to have the qualifications they need to secure their pathway of choice in the future. Students should be aiming to achieve a minimum of 5 GCSE passes at A*-C, including English and Maths. This is the standard minimum entry requirement for many careers and for further education and entry into Sixth Form. On Results Day, students will be receiving a letter which will indicate the options open to them should their mock results be repeated in the summer. We hope that this will provide further encouragement for students to continue with the good work (for those who have done well!) and to make the necessary adjustments for those whose mock performance falls short of expectations. Whatever happens, students and their parents should know that the staff at RGS will continue to do everything possible to provide support.

Further to my letter of last term regarding my intention not to authorise holiday requests in term-time as a matter of course from September 2019, thank you to those parents who have brought travel arrangements which had already been made prior to my change of protocol to my attention. I have been happy to consider these in this transition period on a case to case basis, as I will for the remainder of this year. I wish to emphasise however, that my stance on authorised/unauthorised absence for term time holidays has nothing to do with legitimate requests for leave of absence on medical grounds. This simply cannot be helped and school will of course do everything possible to ensure that students are supported throughout periods of enforced absence through illness. Students who are unfortunate enough to suffer from ill health must not worry themselves with concerns about the impact of this on their attendance, and should concentrate on doing everything they can to look after themselves whilst they are off school.

Preparations will soon commence for our annual Year 6 Open Evening which is always a highlight in the calendar of the school, allowing us to showcase everything that is good about Ramsey Grammar School and to give a warm welcome to Year 6 students who we look forward to welcoming to our school community in September 2019.

We will be talking to Year 6 students about the RGS “Way of Being”, the set of values which underpin our quest for excellence and which our current students are now incorporating into their daily lives and work. The values of community, trustworthiness, responsibility, fairness, respect and kindness are expected to be demonstrated by each and every member of our school community.

The work of multi award winning educator and advocate for LGBT and inclusion in education, Shaun Dellenty, feeds very much into our Way of Being and we are delighted to say that Shaun will be in school on the 23rd and 24th January talking to students and teachers and providing training. I look forward to working closely with Shaun to promote the values which are fundamental to the creation of a happy and healthy school community.



Mrs A G Baker
Headteacher



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



Parent Information Evening

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

Invitations will be sent out shortly but if you would like to reserve a place please contact Josie Corrin.



Keeping Young People Safe

Safeguarding & Child Protection

in your son/daughter's School



Information for Parents

Secondary Schools

Keeping Young People Safe

This leaflet will tell you:

- ✓ What the difference between safeguarding and child protection is.
- ✓ The four ways in which harm and/or abuse are defined.
- ✓ What this school does to protect and keep your son/daughter safe from harm and/or abuse.
- ✓ What you should do as a parent to protect your son/daughter so that they get the best out of their school experience.
- ✓ Who you can contact in this school to offer information if you are concerned about your own child or another young person you know.

Child Protection & Safeguarding

Keeping Young People Safe From Harm

Proactive safeguarding covers the policies and procedures put in place that tell everyone how they should behave to keep everyone safe. Child Protection is the **duty** we have to act if we are concerned a child is being harmed.

Everybody has a responsibility to keep children and young people under 18 years of age safe from harm and abuse. Harm and/or abuse is identified in four ways

Neglect means that a child or young person is not being properly taken care of by their parents or carers. This could be about poor hygiene, poor diet, being left alone at home, not being taken to medical appointments or not being sent to school.

Physical Abuse is where someone deliberately hurts, hits or injures a young person.

Emotional Abuse is where someone shouts at, uses threats or makes fun of a young person to make them feel frightened, worthless or unloved. A young person seeing violence between parents or other people in their home can also be very harmful.

Sexual Abuse is where someone influences, involves or forces a child to look at or take part in sexual activities. This could include encouraging unwanted touching, involving a child in watching pornography or forcing a child or young person under the age of consent to have sex.

Young people may experience any of the above from adults and sometimes their peers. Abuse is increasingly being conducted online.

Schools

A young person should be able to go to school and feel safe from harm or abuse. School will help students learn about keeping themselves safe. Lessons in school can cover road safety, bullying, relationships, age appropriate sex education, drug and alcohol awareness, healthy eating, e-safety and any other area that raises concern about a young person's safety.

A young person will be told how and where they can seek information, advice and guidance if they are worried or concerned about anything raised in these lessons which may include what is happening to them at home or in the community.

School understands that adolescence is a time when young people will become more independent, experiment with that freedom and possibly take risks.

Everyone employed in a school will be vetted, and staff and volunteers will be trained in how to identify abuse, and what must be done if they or someone else is worried about a student. The teachers who have responsibility for dealing with child protection in a school are known as Designated Safeguarding Leads.

All schools have policies and procedures outlining how everyone - adults and young people, should behave and what the consequences may be of not adhering to the policy. This includes a child protection policy. It explains the actions that must be taken if anyone is worried or concerned about a student. This will include how concerns are recorded and how they might be reported to social services or the police.

School staff will listen to, and work closely with parents to make sure the student feels safe and protected in school.

Parents

As a parent you are the most important person in keeping your son/daughter safe. Young People are only in school around 20% of their life, so schools cannot know everything about your son/daughter's life, but will strive to support them in any way they can. As a parent you should:

- ✓ Talk to the school if you need help or support.
- ✓ Feel confident about raising any concerns you have in relation to your son/daughter.
- ✓ Read the School's E-safety, Anti Bullying, Behaviour and Child Protection Policies.
- ✓ Inform the school if your son/daughter has any medical conditions or educational needs. Please be honest as we can put strategies in place to keep your child safe if we know. We recognise these needs may change throughout the school year.
- ✓ Make the school aware of any Court Orders relating to your protection or your son/daughter's protection. This ensures school is vigilant to ensure the safety of your son/daughter.
- ✓ Inform the school if there is any change in circumstances, for example; change of address, change of name, change of parental responsibility.
- ✓ Parents should contact the school if their son/daughter is absent. This assures the school that you know about the absence. You have a statutory duty to ensure your child attends school and school has a legal responsibility to record attendance

Useful Contacts

Talk to the Headteacher or Designate Lead for Safeguarding in your son/daughter's school if you are worried about a safeguarding or child protection concern.

The designated person in this school is:

Mr Corrin

The deputy person is:

Mrs Baker

The Child Protection & Safeguarding
Officer at the Department of Education,
Sport & Culture is Gráinne Burns. You
can contact her on

grainne.burns@sch.im

More information about Safeguarding Children can be obtained from the Isle of Man Safeguarding Board's website at:

<http://www.isleofmanscb.im>

Sovereign Arts Foundation Presentation 2018

We were delighted that 3 students from Ramsey Grammar School, Arabella Maiden, Olivia Valerga, and Charlotte Kinnin, were shortlisted for the Sovereign Arts Foundation Student prize and you can view their artwork below. Arabella and Olivia studied art here at RGS and Charlotte at QEII. Although a former RGS student, Charlotte followed the Art course at QEII as part of our highly successful collaboration with QEII and Castle Rushen High School. Also pictured below are photos from the presentation held in December, where Olivia was awarded 2nd prize and Charlotte was awarded 3rd place. Congratulations to all three students, to reach the final of this award is a fantastic achievement.

Artist Name: Arabella Maiden **Age:** 18
Artwork Name: Earth (Part 1 of the Elements' Series)

Artist Name: Olivia Valerga **Age:** 18
Artwork Name: Evolution

Artist Name: Charlotte Kinnin **Age:** 18
Artwork Name: Fractured Beginnings |



Mr Quinn, Team Leader of the Arts collecting the school prize from Graeme Cregeen, Minister of Education

Olivia and Charlotte with their respective paintings and receiving their award from Mr Cregeen.

Ramsey Grammar School Association



100 Club

December 2018

1 st - £39.75	Ms J Wilson	163
2 nd - £23.85	Ms N Hannay	75
3 rd - £15.90	Mrs L Dobbie	86



NEXT MEETING: Thursday 10th January 2019 6.30 pm