



February 2019

The RGS Mail

Dear Families, Students and Old Scholars

We have had a great deal of positive feedback about the school, its students and staff, about Year 6 Open Evening, when we welcomed students in Year 6 to Ramsey Grammar School. We know that this is a wonderful school but it is always good when people new to the school acknowledge this, in particular when they too recognise how hard staff work and how polite, courteous and friendly the students at RGS are. I talked to new students and their families about our Way of Being and we are delighted to promote our values of Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Fairness, Community and above all, Kindness. I take this opportunity to thank all of the students who helped at the event, including those who supported subject staff in classrooms, as well as Sixth Form students who did a wonderful job as guides for our visitors.

The work of this busy term continues as exam classes in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 prepare for the challenges ahead in the not too distant future. We thank parents and carers for the support you provide to our students and look forward to continuing to work with you all to ensure the best outcomes for them in their forthcoming examinations. After half term we will be inviting exam students to sign up for Easter revision classes. As usual we will be offering classes to provide extra support to students to help them keep their knowledge topped up during this year's late Easter holidays, after which the exam season is very much upon us all.

To support students, parents and carers with concerns relating not just to exams, but to many other aspects of modern life which can impact on health and wellbeing, Director of Health and Wellbeing, Josie Corrin has organised a Health and Wellbeing Information Evening on Wednesday 27th February. All parents and carers from RGS and from our new Year 6 are invited to attend what promises to be a hugely informative and supportive evening. Please indicate your attendance by completing the reply slip on the letter sent out recently or contact Mrs Corrin for more information. A copy of the letter is also available on the school website. Please remember that all are welcome from the families and extended families of our students, present and future.

Congratulations are in order to Harry Dunne from Year 12 who has just been awarded the NASA Space scholarship to America this summer, a particularly appropriate time given that this year is the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing by the crew of Apollo 11 in July 1969. We know that Harry will benefit enormously from this fantastic opportunity.

Congratulations also to 'Chindle's Chicks', the winners of the recent RGSA annual community quiz. They won a closely contested competition organised by our wonderful Parents'

Association. We are always looking for new members to join RGSA. If you are interested in finding out what this involves please contact Angela Haslett via the school office for more information. Thank you also to everyone who sponsored raffle prizes and in particular to the Coop for their continued support to the school. Please do not forget to nominate us as your chosen cause if you are a member of the Coop. If you aren't, it is very easy to sign up via www.coop.co.uk/membership.

Finally, I would like to thank Parent Governor, Andrea Needham, for all of her work to support the school as she stands down from the role of Parent Governor due to work commitments. Andrea is a fantastic friend of the school and we are lucky to still have her working directly with us as a member of RGSA. We are now beginning the process of recruiting a new Parent Governor. You will find a letter inviting prospective candidates to come forward in this edition of RGS Mail.

We are nearly at the end of a short but very busy half term. I would like to wish you all a very pleasant break and look forward to continuing to work closely with you all afterwards.



Mrs A G Baker
Headteacher



RGSA Community Quiz

Congratulations to Chindle's Chicks who won the closely contested RGSA Community Quiz. With over 20 teams competing for the title the evening was a huge success.





WEDNESDAY 27TH FEB WELLBEING INFORMATION EVENING

An informal evening for parents to come and listen to experts discuss issues facing teenagers in this ever changing world.

Topics covered

Leanne Newbold (Youth Service) – bullying vs banter & LGBT+ support

Lorna Fairclough (Parent2Parent) - mental health support.

Kirstie Morphet (Drug & Alcohol Team) – what to look out for as a parent of a teenager.

Jan Watson – the teenage brain- why they act the way they do.

Motiv 8 team- concerns with gaming or gambling addiction.

Julie Wilsden (DESC) – social media concerns with teenagers.

**RAMSEY
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL**

WEST BUILDING

6pm-8pm

To book a place e-mail
RGSenquiries@sch.im



Ramsey Grammar School

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enquiries@rgs.sch.im

7th February 2019

Dear Parents

Election of Parent Governor

The Instrument of Government for Ramsey Grammar School provides for the inclusion of a Parent Governor on the School's Governing Body.

It is now necessary to hold an election and you will find a nomination form opposite which contains all of the relevant details.

To stand, propose, assent or vote in the election, a parent must be the parent of a child who is a registered pupil at the School at the date of the election. For the purposes of the election, the term "parent" includes any person who has parental responsibility for a child and any person with whom a child is living and who has care of him or her.

As Headteacher of Ramsey Grammar School, I am the Returning Officer for the election.

Any parent who wishes to stand as a candidate should have the nomination form duly completed and ensure that it is returned to me by the date indicated on the form.

In the event that more than one candidate is nominated, I propose to convene an election meeting in the West Hall at the school on Monday 4 March 2019. Parents are invited to attend this meeting at which the candidates may, if they wish, make a statement and parents may ask questions of them.

Ballot papers and further details of the election process will be published separately on Tuesday 26 February 2019.

I would remind you that to vote in the election a parent must be the parent of a child who is a registered pupil at the school at the date of the election and that the term "parent" means a parent, guardian or other person who has the actual custody of the pupil. Within a family, each parent may vote but parents do not have extra votes because they have more than one child in the school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A G Baker
Headteacher



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GOVERNING BODY OF RAMSEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Election of Parent Governor to serve from February 2019 – January 2021
(subject to confirmation of the new Education Act)

NOMINATION FORM

Name of Candidate (print) _____

I agree to stand in the above-named election.

Address: _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Tel No: _____

Email: _____

Name of one child who is a student at the school: _____

Email: _____

Signature of Proposer: _____

Student's Name: _____

Signature of 1st Assessor: _____

Student's Name: _____

Signature of 2nd Assessor: _____

Student's Name: _____

To be valid, the fully completed nomination form must reach the Headteacher by the close of school on Monday 25th February. In this election the Returning Officer is Mrs A G Baker.

If there is to be a ballot, further information will be published on Tuesday 26th February.

EXAMS INFORMATION

Be prepared

GCSE and A level Exams - Contingency day 2019

The 2019 timetable has a new feature – a **contingency day** on **26 June 2019**. This will be used if a significant, unexpected event arises nationally or locally during the exam period such that all students (or a large number of them) are unable to take an exam when planned. Of course, we all hope there won't be such disruption and that the contingency day won't be needed. But students should be available throughout the exam period, up to and including that day, in case their planned timetable is disrupted.

This date will be added to student timetables as a reminder.



Culture Trip to Spain

In January the Language Department launched a new 'cultural' trip to Madrid for 5 nights staying in a large house opposite the world famous Prado Art Gallery. The aim was for students to take in the sights that are on the new A-Level specification as well as practising spoken Spanish in real life situations.

Day one was spent taking in the sights of central Madrid, day 2 in the old picturesque medieval city of Toledo, an hour's drive south of Madrid and day 3 in an old beguiling city called Segovia, an hour and a half drive north of Madrid. On the way back we visited the macabre, but impressive, Valley of the Fallen in the granite snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Guadarrama where General Franco's tomb is located. On the final day students enjoyed a day of leisure in Madrid.

It was an amazing trip and the students benefited enormously with plenty of opportunities to practise their Spanish, and visiting sights featured in last year's A-Level Paper. We plan to run another trip next year either based in Seville taking in Córdoba and possibly Cádiz, or repeat the Madrid trip taking in the city of Ávila and possibly the old university town of Alcalá de Henares, NE of Madrid instead of Toledo & Segovia. Any students who are interested please see Mr Judd as places are extremely limited.

For younger students (Years 7 – 10 inclusive,) who would like to improve their Spanish, there is the highly popular Exchange to Murcia in SE Spain, which this year will take place 4 – 11 November. Staying with a Spanish family students are immersed in the Spanish language and culture. There are lots of fun activities to participate in, such as snorkelling, visiting an offshore island, swimming in beautiful plunge pools in the desert or simply shopping. There are still 3 – 4 places left on this trip, any students who are interested please speak to Mr Judd.





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,

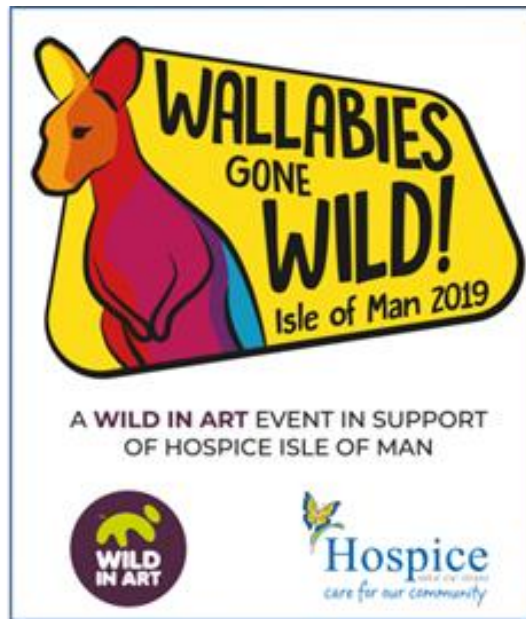
Sport & Culture is Gráinne Burns.

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>



We are thrilled to announce that Ramsey Grammar School will be taking part in the Hospice Isle of Man Wallabies Gone Wild project. Our students will work together to come up with their own designs, paint and varnish the sculptures so that they truly are unique pieces of work! This will encourage student creativity and teamwork, we hope that students across all year groups will be excited to get involved!

We have two wallabies and we aim to raise £2000 over the forthcoming months. The non-uniform day coming up shortly (Friday 15th February), will help to start the fundraising, however it will not reach the desired target amount. Therefore as a school we will need to work together to think of various fundraising events – the more creative the better!!

Hospice Isle of Man is a very worthwhile charity and extremely close to the hearts of many students and staff. We hope everyone gets on board with this meaningful project!



Ramsey Grammar School Association



100 Club

January 2019

1 st - £39.50 Miss N Boyde	43
2 nd - £23.70 Mrs K Christian	117
3 rd - £15.80 Miss T Baxter	109

**WE NEED
YOU!**

