



April 2019

The RGS Mail

Dear Families, Students and Old Scholars

Where did that go?

The last six weeks seem to have flown by and here we are again at the end of another term with the Easter holiday now stretching before us. For our Year 11 and Year 13 students this will of course be a busy time as they prepare for GCSE and A Level exams which start shortly after the Easter break. In this edition of RGS mail we have published the timetable for revision classes over the Easter holidays showing extra classes which have been put on by our dedicated staff during the holiday to provide further support for exam students. We wish all students facing public exams the very best of luck in the run up to these – not that luck has anything to do with their exam success, as we keep telling them!

In this edition of RGS mail you will also find a summary of the findings from the recent external validation. A full copy of the report is available upon request. We are delighted at the vote of confidence given to us by the validators who concluded that we know ourselves well and are well placed to improve the school still further.

Finally, three sets of congratulations. First of all, to our Year 9 public speaking team who won the Douglas Rotary Club Speaking Competition at Ballakermeen High School. Winning this accolade will bring the competition to RGS next year for the first time since 1988. Our second shout out goes to our Charity Challenge team who won the Advocacy Award, as well as being placed 2nd overall in the recent One World Charity Challenge competition. Congratulations finally to the Senior Mixed Hockey team who won the annual mixed hockey tournament for the first time since 1984. We are very proud of the outstanding achievements of all of the students and staff involved in these competitions.

Finally I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Easter and look forward to seeing everyone again at the start of the summer term on **Tuesday 23rd April**.

Mrs A G Baker
Headteacher



Ramsey Grammar School External Validation – Summary of Findings Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 March 2019

Each school on the Isle of Man is expected to conduct a School Self-Review and Evaluation (SSRE) using an approach devised by the Department of Education, Sport and Culture (DESC) in consultation with the schools. Graham Reeves Ltd has been commissioned by the Department to carry out an external validation of each school's SSRE. The validation of the Ramsey Grammar School SSRE included a visit to the school on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 March 2019. The visit was made by Howard Marshall. He worked alongside Annette Baker, headteacher, and Geoff Moorcroft, Director of Education, and Jan Gimbert, representing the DESC's Education Improvement Service to look at:-

- Wider partnerships
- Achievement against Prior Attainment
- Teaching for Learning

Wider Partnerships

The team agreed with the school's judgment that Wider Partnerships are 'very effective'. The school strategically plans work with other schools that improves the provision and outcomes for its pupils. The Key Stage 5 collaboration with two other secondary schools provides viability for less popular courses and courses for which there is limited or no staffing provision in the host school giving pupils a wider choice of subjects for study. Similarly, at Key Stage 4 the school's strategic liaison with University College Isle of Man (UCM) helps to provide a broad curriculum for pupils. Parents praised the school's primary to secondary transition arrangements. The school has a dedicated teacher and pupils are well prepared for their move to the school. The school has developed an extensive range of partnerships with agencies that improves provision for students, though there is less evidence in the SSRE to support the impact this.

Achievement against Prior Attainment

The team agreed with the school's judgment that Achievement against Prior Attainment is 'not yet effective/improving'. Progress in English and mathematics at Key Stage 3 is 'very effective' when compared with the Island's average with a large majority of pupils making four or more sublevels of progress. Progress between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 is 'not yet effective' The school's tracking of pupil learning indicates that Key Stage 4 will improve in the 2019 examinations. The progress that pupils make in Key Stage 5 is impressive and correctly judged as 'very effective'.

The school has some evidence that, within lessons and units of work, most pupils have developed a 'love of learning' but there is less explicit evidence provided in the SSRE or held by leaders to support the degree to which students acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding within lessons and units of work.

Teaching for Learning

From the validation team's discussions with pupils, teachers and leaders and from the results of the pupil survey it is evident that the school promotes and embeds a growth mindset culture towards learning. Pupils are increasingly encouraged to embrace mistakes as part of their learning. The school has evidence to support its judgment that teaching staff show very effective command of areas of learning and subject knowledge. The validation team's visits to classrooms supports this judgment. Teachers are introducing new approaches to learning with the use of appropriate technology. Some exciting initiatives were shared with the validation team. The school is correct to identify developing greater pupil autonomy, metacognition and feedback as areas for further development. The sharing of learning outcomes also requires further attention. Assessment systems are used effectively to track progress and identify underachievement.

After discussion, the validation team concurred with the school's judgment that Teaching for Learning is 'effective'.

Other Areas Considered

As well as the three specific aspects of the SSRE on which it focused, the validation team also considered other judgments set out in the SSRE. In particular, it concurred with many of these judgments, including:

- ❖ Most pupils are committed to and proud of the school
- ❖ The student council represents the views of the pupils
- ❖ Attainment is 'Not yet effective: improving' overall and 'very effective' in Key Stage 5
- ❖ The SSRE process is integrated into the review of team effectiveness
- ❖ Teachers are inspired and supported by leaders to engage in professional development and reflective practice supported by evidence-based research
- ❖ The school is committed to a culture of inclusion that is guided by the 'Way of Being'
- ❖ Communication systems are developing across the school so that more stakeholders feel informed and can engage more effectively
- ❖ Assessment systems are used to track pupil progress which is used to support learning
- ❖ At Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 options are based on pupils' needs and choices
- ❖ In addition, the validation team is pleased to note that the school is held in high regard by parents and staff and that behaviour is good.

Conclusion

The SSRE is, in the main, evaluative and supported by appropriate evidence. There are sections where judgments, clearly made against the criteria, are not supported by sufficient evidence. The SSRE clearly informs the School Improvement Plan. The school knows itself well and is well placed to improve.



GCSE EASTER REVISION CLASSES

Monday 8th – Thursday 18th April 2019

Date	Time	Subject	Teacher	Room
Mon 8 th April	10 am – 1 pm	History iGCSE (Paper 1)	JM	204
	10 am – 12 noon	Art & Design	GQ/WJ	270/272
	9 am – 12 noon	Food and Nutrition – Exam Paper Prep	BBS	173
	10 am - 12 noon	French	BS	20
	1 pm – 3 pm	Art & Design	GQ/WJ	270/272
	1 pm – 3 pm	Food and Nutrition – GCSE	BBS	173
Tues 9 th April	10 am – 1 pm	Maths GCSE WJEC Higher	SN/MF/JL	106
	10 am – 1 pm	IGCSE Music Composing Catch-up	RWJ	MC
	1 pm – 3 pm	IGCSE Music Listening	RWJ	MC
	1 pm – 3 pm	Maths GCSE WJEC Intermediate/Foundation	MF/EG/JL	106
Weds 10 th April	10 am – 12 noon	Coordinated Science 0654 Physics	DM	6
	10 am – 12 noon	IGCSE Physics Sets H4 & F1	PC	5
Thurs 11 th April	10 am – 12 noon	History GCSE Paper 2	JM	204
WEEK TWO				
Mon 15 th April	10 am – 12 noon	GCSE Drama Revision	NO	175
	2 pm – 3 pm	GCSE Drama Revision	NO	175
Weds 17 th April	10 am – 12 noon	BTEC ICT, IGCSE Computer	MM	113
	1 pm – 3 pm	BTEC ICT, IGCSE Computer	MM	113
Thurs 18 th April	10 am – 12 noon	BTEC ICT, IGCSE Computer	MM	113
	11 – 12 noon	GCSE Drama Revision	NO	175
	12 noon – 1 pm	GCSE Drama Revision	NO	175



A LEVEL EASTER REVISION CLASSES

Monday 8th – Thursday 18th April 2019

Date	Time	Subject	Teacher	Room	
WEEK ONE					
Mon 8 th April	10 am – 12 noon	History A Level Britain 1930 – 1998	AW	205	
	1 pm – 3 pm	History A Level Warfare – 1725 – 1945	AW	205	
Tues 9 th April	10 am – 12 noon	Year 13 Physics	PC	5	
	10 am – 1 pm	AS Music Composing Catch-up	RWJ	MC	
	1 pm – 2 pm	IGCSE Music Listening	RWJ	MC	
	1 pm – 3 pm	Maths A Level – Maths Pure 3	SN	106	
Weds 10 th April	10 am – 12 noon	Maths A Level – Maths Mechanics	MF	106	
WEEK TWO					
Weds 17 th April	10 am – 12 noon	Year 12 Drama	NO	175	
	1 pm – 3 pm	Year 12 Drama	NO	175	

Senior Mixed Hockey Champions!

RGS recently competed in the Senior Mixed Hockey Tournament at KWC and brought back the silverware to Ramsey! The team were outstanding, winning every game convincingly and drawing 0-0 with Ballakermeen. Some excellent performances from outstanding players. The team were captained by Samantha Hassall and the squad consisted of Amy Ratcliffe, Daniel Hird, Will Hassall, Maisie Megson (Year 11), Daniella Stoutt, Dan Smith, Billy Cain, (Year 12) Caitlin Allinson, Maddy Dunlop, Alex Kneale, George Ratcliffe and Roan Gell.

The icing on the cake was the great sportsmanship, team work and commitment shown on the day. It was great to receive comments from other PE staff about how well our students conducted themselves. A great afternoon of sport!



One World Charity Challenge Wednesday 27th March

Ramsey Grammar Students, Tegan Perry, Rhiannon Taggart-Williams Connor Murat, Georgia Butler, Neesha Kinrade, Katie Cannan and Lauren Hall took part in the One World Charity Challenge on Wednesday 27th March at The Mountain View Innovation Centre. The challenge gave the students the opportunity to speak out for people in the developing world, creating a presentation examining the work of a charity and the impact it had on a young person.

The RGS students represented Excellent Development, the charity which supports some of the world's poorest people to transform their own lives through water & soil conservation in drylands. They do this in three ways, firstly constructing sand dams, tree nurseries & finally terracing the land.

The students' performance on the night was outstanding, they demonstrated a sound knowledge of their charity. Connor Murat was the 'Sand Dam' expert and he constructed a working sand dam model to incorporate within the presentation. Connor described the experience as 'the most nerve racking experience of my life, but also fantastic! I never thought I would be able to stand in front of such a large audience'.

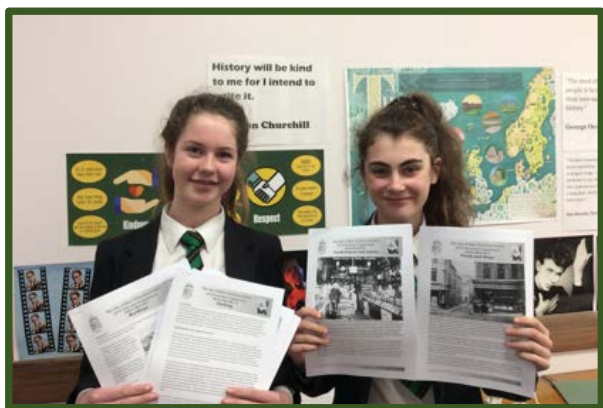
The team also had to promote the advocacy of the charity. They met with MHKs Mr Baker and Dr Allinson to discuss how the Isle of Man Government is meeting the Sustainable Development Goals of Zero Hunger and Clean Water and Sanitation.

They questioned Mr Baker and Dr Allinson on what the Isle of Man government is doing to address these sustainable development goals. As a result of this excellent advocacy the team won the advocacy award of £1000 and overall they came 2nd, this totalled an amazingly important £3,500 for Excellent Development! Another team member, Neesha Kinrade added 'we have had a fantastic evening and we are so proud of the money we have won for Excellent Development!'



Isle of Man Victorian Society Competition

To help celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria, KS3 and KS4 History students have been invited to take part in a competition being run by the Isle of Man Victorian Society. Students are being asked to research and write an essay describing “Changes in the Isle of Man during Queen Victoria’s Lifetime 1819-1901”. Any students interested in entering the competition, with the opportunity to win some great cash prizes, should contact Mr Wilkinson or their History Teacher.



Ella Malone and Ella Crowe of 9A look through the Victorian Society materials to help with their competition entries.

Rotary Public Speaking Competition

Are we living in a simulation? Listening to the team from Ramsey Grammar School, you might have thought so. Three Year 9 Students (Ben Gelling, Oscar Bovenizer, and Lexi Forbes) took part in the annual Rotary Public Speaking Competition. The team was chaired by Ben, with Lexi proposing the vote of thanks. Oscar, the main speaker argued that there is a strong possibility and with good reasoning that we are in fact living in a simulation. This was difficult yet thought provoking speech.

The students had spent the preceding few weeks working on their speeches and polishing their delivery. In a close contest, in which all participants presented their arguments to a very high standard, Ramsey Grammar School pipped the other schools to ‘best team’, for the first time since 1987. It is incredibly difficult to stand in front of a large audience, and deliver a speech that is well projected, and done with confidence. All the students who took part are to be congratulated. The 2020 Rotary Public Speaking Competition will be hosted by Ramsey Grammar School.

Ben, Lexi and Oscar receiving their trophy



Information from Director of Motorsport, Department for Enterprise Proposed Road Closures for TT Races 25th May 2019 to 7th June 2019

For 2019 there are no significant changes to the proposed Racing Programme or to the proposed Road Closure periods. Emergency practice sessions to be used in the event of cancellations of the normal evening practice sessions are also scheduled and, if required, are planned to be the afternoons of Sunday 26th, Thursday 30th and Friday 31st May 2019.

The proposed closure times for 2019 are as follows: **PRACTICES AND RACES**

Day	Period of closure
Saturday 25 May 2019	From 6.00 pm to no later than 9.30 pm
Monday 27 May 2019	From 6.00 pm to no later than 9.30 pm
Tuesday 28 May 2019	From 6.00 pm to no later than 9.30 pm.
Wednesday 29 May 2019	From 6.00 pm to no later than 9.30 pm
Thursday 30 May 2019	From 6.00 pm to no later than 9.30 pm
Friday 31 May 2019	From 6.00 pm to no later than 9.30 pm
Saturday 1 June 2019	From 11.00 am to no later than 9.30 pm.
Monday 3 June 2019	From 10.00 am to 5.00 pm then 6.00 pm to no later than 9.30 pm.
Wednesday 5 June 2019	From 10.00 am to 5.00 pm then 6.00 pm to no later than 9.30 pm.
Friday 7 June 2019	From 9.30 am to no later than 9.30 pm.

POSTPONED PRACTICES AND RACES

Day	Period of closure
Sunday 26 May 2019	From 12.45pm to no later than 6.30pm
Thursday 30th May 2019	From 12.30 pm to 4.30pm then 6.00pm to no later than 9.30pm.
Friday 31 May 2019	From 12.30 pm to 4.30pm then 6.00pm to no later than 9.30pm.
Sunday 2 June 2019	From 12.45pm to no later than 6.30 pm.
Tuesday 4 June 2019	From 11.30 am to 5.00 pm then 6.00 pm to no later than 9.30 pm.
Thursday 6 June 2019	From 11.30 am to 5.00 pm then 6.00 pm to no later than 9.30 pm.
Saturday 8 June 2019	From 10.00 am to no later than 9.30 pm.

One of the main changes being made for this year is with the official Course Cars, in previous years official cars on the course during the closure periods have not had roof warning beacons illuminated other than the Roads Open Car.

For 2019 all Official Course Cars will show headlights and AMBER roof lights at all times when operating, the only exception to this will be the Roads Open Cars which will continue to be clearly identifiable by the "Roads Open" signs (or "Roads Open One-Way" on the Mountain section) on the front and rear of the car and will show a combination of AMBER and RED roof lights.

In addition to this, it is intended that all official cars will be fitted with forward facing cameras; recording at all times the vehicle is in motion or in use.

It is to be stressed that the roads are still closed for racing until, a Roads Open Car has transited the road. Any person or vehicle on the roads, in front of a Roads Open Car will be committing an offence; this includes overtaking a Roads Open Car when in the process of opening the roads.

Just a reminder

Students who feel unwell at school should not phone parents/carers to come and pick them up. The school office will contact parents if necessary to come and collect a student who needs to go home.



Supported by Co-op Members

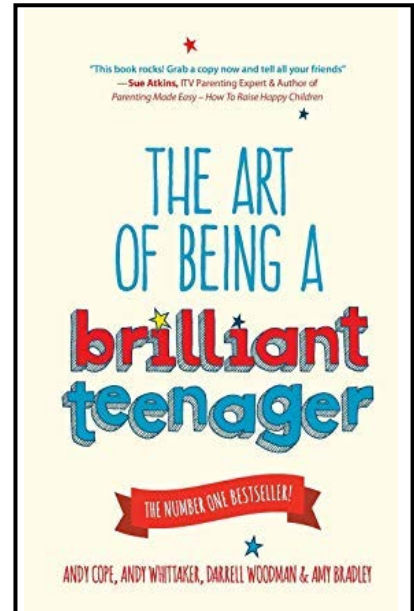
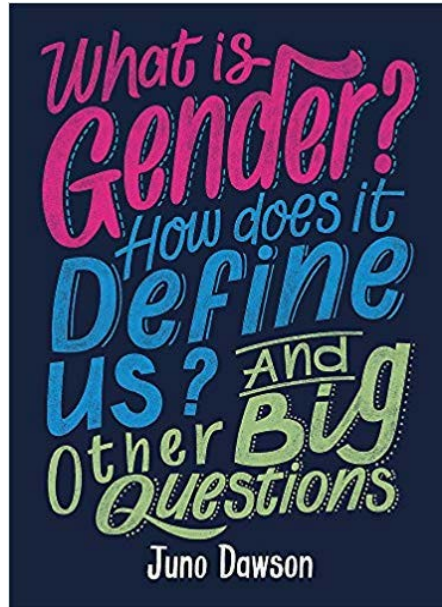
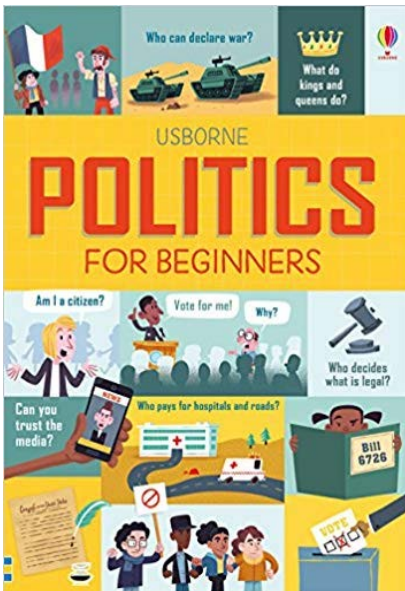
We have applied for the funds to help develop a cafe area in the SSS area at school which will support all students. As a member, when you buy selected Co-op branded products and services, 1% of the money you spend goes to local causes in your community. You can choose which cause your own 1% goes to.

So how can you help?

- ❖ Tell everyone you know to join the Co-op if they're not already members - they can find out about Co-op membership in-store or online
- ❖ Ask people to back your cause by phoning up or signing in to their Co-op account. It is a simple process and takes less than 5 minutes to arrange. Register your card, sign into the www.coop.co.uk/membership website and choose your favourite local cause... US!

RGS LIBRARY

APRIL 2018



OPENING TIMES

MON:
8:40AM - 3:50PM

TUES:
8:40AM - 3:50PM

WED:
8:40AM - 3:50PM

THURS:
8:40AM - 3:50PM

FRI:
8:40AM - 3:40PM

TRQ

THE LATEST

WINNER WAS

Francesca Lord

Well Done!

M|P|W
Mander Portman Woodward

50th
edition

HEAP 2020

UNIVERSITY DEGREE
COURSE OFFERS

The essential guide to winning
your place at university

TO BE PUBLISHED EARLY MAY

Ramsey Grammar School Association



100 Club

February 2019

1 st - £39.50 Mr P Crellin	64
2 nd - £23.70 Mrs A Kneale	123
3 rd - £15.80 Mrs S Kniveton	124

March 2019

1 st - £39.75 Miss D Corlett	91
2 nd - £23.85 Mr SV Price	10
3 rd - £15.90 Mrs A Kneale	123

Make It Grow

Spring Has Sprung and the RGSA look forward to the annual Year 7 Entrepreneurial "Make It Grow" event. The creativity of the Year 7 students in 2018 raised a whopping £1,804.24. Let's see what the Class of 2019 can raise towards a project for the benefit of the students of RGS. More to follow through letters to parents towards the end of April and a project start date of 17 May.



The RGSA would like to notify all persons that they will be holding an EGM on 2nd May at 5:30 in the West Building at RGS.

This is to amend the constitution and to appoint the following positions

Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer
Vice Treasurer
Press Officer

If you would like to attend or would be interested in being elected to any of the above roles then please come and join us.