
RGS Newsletter

Issue 1

Friday 13th October 2023



Headteacher's Message:

We are nearing the end of the first half term. The first six weeks have been busy, with both students and staff settling into routines and working together to ensure students have the best opportunities in and out of lessons.

My first half term is about exploring what is going well at Ramsey Grammar, and what we want to do better. You will see more information in this newsletter about what we are focusing on.

To keep you informed we will be writing a newsletter once a half term, and if there is any immediate communication we will email via our management information system. Please do ensure we have your correct email address, so that you receive all school communications.

Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to reading your responses to our parent survey.

Best wishes,

Mrs S Taylor

Parents' Information Evening:

Thank you to all parents who attended our first information evening, where the senior team shared the school priorities for the year, school expectations for students, and procedures that we follow. Apologies to those parents who were not able to attend due to the huge response rate, but we have shared the presentation on the school web site. Please do take a look.

Parent Survey to support our school development planning

We are asking parents for feedback via a short survey. If you are on our email system you will have received a link to follow, and if not please go to our school website <https://rgs.sch.im/> where the survey can be found on the home page.

The school is currently focusing on refreshing the vision of the school, ensuring the highest standards of uniform, behaviour and teaching and learning. We are seeking parental input on how we can shape these areas together moving forward, so please do take the time to share your views. The survey will close on **Thursday 19 October 2023 at 16:00** and we will report the findings before Christmas.

Uniform

Our school uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of our school, and promotes a strong, cohesive school identity, supporting the high standards we aspire to. It gives our students a sense of identity.

A uniform also helps prepare our students for the world of work, 'dressed for business'; the business being that of learning. Also, a uniform reduces socio-economic differences and instances of bullying based on appearance.

Since returning in September, there has been a whole school effort on enforcing the highest standard of uniform, which has prompted a discussion around the school uniform policy. The majority of the uniform items are now worn correctly. However, one item remains under discussion, and that is the skirt. Many students are not following the policy regarding the skirt, and so we are currently consulting about what changes may be made to ensure that part of the policy is more robust.

Mrs Taylor is meeting with all student representatives this week asking them the following:

1. Should all students only be permitted to wear black tailored trousers, or black tailored shorts?
2. If a skirt is still to be part of the policy, it will be a knee length, pleated skirt that will be worn with black opaque tights. Give your views.
3. Are there any other areas of the uniform you would like the school to consider?

Other suggested amendments to the policy are specifically around not allowing any other facial piercings except two studs worn in the lobule on the ear, not allowing false nails (mainly for health and safety reasons in practical subjects), and only permitting natural colours when students choose to colour their hair.

Parents are invited to share your views by completing the parent survey that is referred to earlier in the newsletter. Alternatively, if you only want to give your feedback on the uniform you can email RGSenquiries@sch.im by no later than **4pm on Thursday 19 October 2023**.

Feedback from students, parents and staff will be reviewed after half term and shared with stakeholders before Christmas.

Consequences for students repeatedly refusing to wear their uniform correctly

In September, Mrs Taylor reminded all staff of the current school uniform policy, and the expectations that all students will wear it correctly. Knowing that the policy wasn't consistently applied last year, students were informed by their form tutors, Head of Year and Mrs Taylor via assemblies, that the uniform expectations would be upheld. Where students did not have the correct uniform, tutors contacted home and gave opportunities for it to be corrected by Monday 25 September 2023. Reasonable adjustments have been made for specific students for specific reasons.

A new sanction is in place for those students who are repeatedly wearing their uniform incorrectly, namely, top buttons being undone, wearing more jewellery than is permitted, skirts being too short, not wearing a blazer and/or tie and not wearing lanyards. Where this is the case, the student will receive a level 3 break time reflection with Mrs Taylor. The intention is that all students wear their uniform correctly.

Improving behaviour where conduct falls short of the schools expectations

Every student has the right to access high quality lessons, where low level disruption and poor behaviour does not affect their ability to concentrate and complete tasks. There are a very small minority of students who can prevent this from happening in some lessons, and a new system has been introduced. Where students fail to follow the code of conduct in lessons and around school, they may face a consequence of spending some lessons in a supervision room.

This will only affect students where their Head of Year or Senior Leader believe that behaviour is such that it warrants the student being removed from lessons. The supervision room is staffed by teachers and lesson materials will be provided for the student to complete. If a student receives this consequence, they will not spend their break and lunch times with other students and will stay in the supervision room. They will have an opportunity to visit the school canteen for break and lunch refreshments. Parents will be informed if this sanction is applied, and a discussion will take place around the behaviour that led to the sanction and how they can be prevented in the future.

This system will be operation from Monday 16 October 2023.

Dress Down Day:

Friday 20th October is the final day of term and coincides with Wear Red Day 2023, so we have chosen this charity to donate the funds to from our Dress Down Day. We recommend a donation of £1 per student.



Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) is the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity. More information can be found on the link below

<https://www.theredcard.org/>

PLEASE NOTE – Dress Down Day allows students to wear their own clothes, however, all students will still be required to wear their RGS Year-specific lanyard for the duration of the day

Key Dates for this Term:

Fri 20 Oct 23	Dress Down Day (raising funds for Wear Red Day – Show Racism The Red Card)
Fri 20 Oct 23	Last Day of Half Term
Mon 23 to Fri 27 Oct 23	Half Term Holidays
Mon 30 Oct 23	First Day of Half Term
Tues 31 Oct 23	Hop Tu Naa
Mon 4 Dec to Fri 15 Dec 23	Year 11 Mock Exams
Fri 22 Dec 23	Last Day of Term
Mon 25 Dec to Fri 5 Jan 24	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Mon 08 Jan 24	First Day of Term