RGS Newsletter

Friday 15th October 2021 – Issue 5

**Headteacher’s Award Winners**

This week once again we held our Headteacher’s Friday Tea Party. The Headteacher’s award winners were invited along to share their experiences and the reasons for their nomination for this prestigious award. They were chosen by the staff at RGS over all other students in their year group to be recognised as students of excellence. They were nominated for many reasons, but these included resilience while settling in to school, positivity, supporting others, overcoming challenges, being a role model, going above and beyond, driving towards their aspirations, hard work, diligence and seeking to grow their confidence A truly inspirational group of young people who really do embody our way of being here at Ramsey Grammar School. We are so proud to have these students as a part of our school community. Well done to them all.

* A group of people posing for a photo

  Description automatically generatedYear 7 – Olivija Delivron and Neveah Galvin
* Year 8 – Richie Bose
* Year 9 – Nicholas Sromala
* Year 10 – Daisy Goodby
* Year 12 – Becca Maroney
* Year 13 – Jack Christian

**Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice**

A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generatedWelcome to the first Duke of Edinburg Awards newsletter contribution of the new academic year. Our previous year ended with a busy period from the end of June to our last week of the school year. There were Bronze, Silver and Gold Expeditions taking place, allowing our students to put their knowledge and skills to the test whilst completing their expeditions. There were some late changes due to the Covid-19 figures rising so groups didn’t have to camp which had mixed responses from our students, but they could see the reasons behind the decision. The students showed a positive and determined attitude to complete the expeditions despite this little setback.

During that period, we had 11 Bronze Groups, 4 Silver Groups and 2 Gold groups tackling the treks and pathways around the Island, Glen Maye, South Barrule, Sky Hill, Ballaugh, Kirk Michael, St John’s, and the Dows to name a few of the places visited along the way. All the participants excelled during a mix of cool, wet weather for the few days then the mini heatwave hit the Island at the right time for us, allowing the 75 students to complete their expedition section. Well done to them all.

A group of people swimming in a body of water

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceA group of people walking on a road

Description automatically generated with low confidenceA picture containing ground, outdoor, person, group

Description automatically generatedOur Gold Participants added an activity to their 4-day expedition, they attend a session of coasteering in Peel, the group thoroughly enjoyed the activity and will have some good memories.

Not long after the end of term there was a presentation evening at the Lieutenant Governor’s House, this was for participants who had completed the 5 sections that make up the Gold DoE Award. Mr Skillan attend on behalf of the Ramsey Grammar School DoE team, to see Lily Byrne, Benji Li, James Margrave and Lisa Collister (ex-student) receive their award from His Excellency Sir Richard Gozney, this was his last Duke of Edinburgh Presentation due to his time as the Islands Governor coming to an end. This was a great evening, with many of those students from around the Island attending. Chatting in the gardens about gaining the Gold Award, they were also looking forward to the next challenge of Uni that was awaiting them.

A couple of pictures from the evening, Lily Byrne receiving her Award and three of the RGS students with Mr Skillan.

A picture containing indoor, person, person, window

Description automatically generatedA group of people posing for a photo

Description automatically generatedThe summer break was a good time for participants to complete sections on their awards, we have seen the following students complete their awards, a few more awards are waiting for final approval and many more are close to completing the sections they have outstanding.

We have also managed to get two Year 10 Silver Groups, well done to you all in the damp and breezy conditions, through their practice expedition, preparing them for the assessed expedition that will take place next year. This is due to the expedition season coming to an end at the end of October, this is when we have time to sort and check our kit, approve awards ahead of another busy year.

**A picture containing outdoor, ground, path, nature

Description automatically generatedA picture containing tree, outdoor, sky, plant

Description automatically generated**If you need any assistance in getting your child’s award completed, please don’t hesitate to contact us via rgsenquiries@sch.im and we will contact you to help resolve any issues.

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| **Bronze Award Completed** |
| Amy Gelling |
| Elly-Jane Crellin |
| Abigail Harvey |
| Alex Shimmin |
| Thomas Morris |
| Annabelle Clague |
| Ella Gell |

**DoE Dates for Diaries:**

Monday 8th November 2021 –

Bronze Award – Student Launch

We meet with Year 9 students who may be interested in starting the Duke of Edinburgh Award journey. Mrs Alison Barnes DoE Lead on the Island also attends this meeting to talk to the students.

Monday 15th November 2021 – Bronze recap session.

Monday 17th January 2022 - Bronze Award Parent Information Evening

Wednesday 16th March 2022 – Certificate Presentation Evening at the Gaiety Theatre

A group of students holding certificates

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*Contrubution by Mr Skillan*

**Mental Health First Aid Course**

A picture containing ceiling, indoor, person, watching

Description automatically generated**MHFA Students holding their certificates

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*Contribution by Mrs Corrin – Director of Pastoral Care and Wellbeing.*

**Staff Training – Lesson Study –** This week Mr Corrin took the second of our lesson study staff training events of the year. Lesson Study is a Japanese model of teacher-led research in which a triad of teachers works together to target an identified area for development in their students’ learning. Using existing evidence, participants collaboratively research, plan, teach and observe a series of lessons, using ongoing discussion, reflection and expert input to track and refine their interventions. Staff have been placed into cross-curricular triads to work together to discuss, plan, teach and reflect upon a lesson or sequence of lessons in their own subject areas. It was wonderful to have the staff talking so passionately about their own practice and what they want to focus on as we go into the teaching phase of the lesson study cycle. Staff now have time to complete their discussions and plans before we move into the next phase of the cycle.

Graphical user interface, application

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A drawing of a fish

Description automatically generated with low confidence**Department Update – Art**

This week Art features the work of Alice Crellin, a talented Y8 Art student. She has always shown a passion for art, particularly drawing and painting, where she shows much confidence. She has a real understanding of the visual elements, line, tone, shape, form and in a particular colour. In this module, she has been working on the topic of African Art and the influence African Art has had on Picasso and his work, particularly Cubism. To the left is a piece by Alice Crellin Y8 - After Picasso & African Art

*Contribution by Mr Quinn – Head of Art*

**International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: 17th October 2021**

This week our Assistant Head Mr Wood delivered Key Stage Assemblies, focussed on community, both local and international. In support of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Mr Wood talked about his involvement in the ‘Make Poverty History Campaign’ and attendance at the rally in Edinburgh in 2005. He asked students to consider living on under a dollar a day and what that would mean to their lifestyle. He also explained that the number of people living in extreme poverty had decreased since the Make Poverty History campaign due to active strategies from world governments.

Mr Wood asked students to be active in our community, to be present in local and global issues. From climate change to amenities in Ramsey, they could make a difference by getting involved. He urged students to care for their community both locally and globally as the young can make a real difference.

**Hector Duff’s Birthday**

A great friend of Ramsey Grammar School Hector was born in Sulby on 15 October 1919 and today would have been his 102nd birthday.

A brief history: Hector's father died when he was young and Hector followed in his footsteps and went to sea. The only problem was that he suffered from terrible seasickness! As a result, when war broke out in 1939 a newly married Hector joined the army in 1940.

**A picture containing text, indoor, floor, person

Description automatically generated** He served in the 7th Armoured Division (known as the Desert Rats) from 1940 to 1945. His time in service took him across Europe and Northern Africa, taking part in the Battles of El-Alamein in 1942 and the invasion of Italy in 1943. His division was in Normandy on the afternoon of D-Day. Hector then fought in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany and he was at the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Immediately after the war Hector guarded Nazi war criminals at the Nuremberg Trials and took part in the Victory March through Berlin. He then returned to the Isle of Man where he became a policeman and driving instructor and raised a f family.

Hector’s presentation at RGS ofor his 100th birthday

Hector began going into schools to answer students questions in the early 2000s.  He has educated thousands of students since then.  Hector has been widely honoured:

* He was awarded the British Empire Medal in 2012 for his work in Education and his support for veterans’ organisations.
* In 2014 Hector was awarded the Tynwald Honour – making him only the eighth person to receive it.
* Hector received an OBE in the New Year Honours list of 2020.
* Shortly before his death on 30 November 2020, Hector won the British Army "Soldiering on awards".
* But perhaps his most important medal is the Military Medal which was won for bravery during the war.

Hector was a great supporter of RGS and for Mr Wilkinson, Team Leader of History in particular, who considered it a privilege to call him a friend. Finally, Hector was a Bolton Wanderers supporter, so nobody is perfect!

*Contribution by Mr Wilkinson – Head of History*

**Other Notices**

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**Key Dates Next Week:**

Monday 18th October - Ramsey Music Society Recital (7 pm West Hall)

From Monday 18th October - Settling in Reports issued

Thursday 21st October - Prize Giving afternoon

Friday 22nd October - Maths Symposium