



RGS Newsletter

Friday 19th February 2022 – Issue 19

Headteacher's Message

This week once again we held our Headteacher's Friday Breakfast. 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 for excellent academic achievement, mentoring others, leadership, manners, kindness, helping others, perseverance and being trustworthy.



- Year 7 – Elizabeth Nelson
- Year 8 – Martha Blencoe
- Year 9 – Klein Garganta
- Year 10 – Tammy Mitchell
- Year 11 – Keira Brown & Francesa Lord
- Year 12 – Ruby Grant
- Year 13 – Ezra Daniel



We continue to focus on wellbeing here at RGS both that of our staff and students. The last few years have indeed been a challenge to us all and there is no shame in admitting that mental health across the world has been negatively impacted. There is no easy or quick fix for this at home or at work. We have staff dedicated to wellbeing and pastoral care here at the school and we regularly promote the services available to students, families, and staff. An example of this was our Isle Listen event at the school this week which was organised by Mrs Corrin and well attended. Thank you to all the community members that took the time to attend and we very much hope it was useful.

The staff are busy updating our subject information for the Year 8 and Year 11 options process which will soon start in proper for all students. Each year we carefully consider the cohorts of students we have as well as the success of the courses we offer and what we may be able to adapt to improve that offering. Information will soon be out to families from Mr Davies for Year 9 and Mr Dewick for Year 11. We are looking forward to supporting them all to choose their pathways and start to look forward to what they may go on to study or have as a career in the future.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards

Sarah Findlater
Headteacher - Ramsey Grammar School



Parent App

Parent App is used to communicate live achievement points, behaviour points, links to the website and notes about upcoming events. This is one of the most important methods of communication. If you do not have Parent App set up, please use this link [here](#) to access instructions to set this up on your device. The new behaviour system is [here](#) for you as a reminder of what a Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 sanctions mean.
Mrs Corrin – Associate Assistant Head

RGS Website Calendar

The technical issues we are experiencing with the automatic RGS Calendar for parents/carers on our website that is managed by a third-party provider, is ongoing. In the meantime we have loaded a word version of all of our relevant dates and events on it. The document can be found under the Parents & Carers drop down tab, or by [clicking here](#) and is being regularly updated as dates are confirmed, event plans are sured up, and as covid mitigations alter.

Achievement Points this week

5848 achievement points were awarded across the school this week!

Well done to everyone working so hard both in and out of lessons!



Non Uniform Day – 18/02/2022

The RGS school council are pleased to announce a non uniform day on Friday 18th February. We will be raising funds for Rebecca's House which is part of the Hospice IoM, and will contribute towards our Big Splash total. Colourful clothes are the suggested option, to celebrate the artistic nature of the Hospice Big Splash Art Trail. Suggested donation of £1, but anything is welcome!

Options Evenings – Year 9 & Year 11

We are pleased to announce the dates of our Options Evenings for Year 9 and Year 11 students below. More information regarding this evenings will be sent home shortly, but we expect these to be held in the West Building Hall.

Year 9 – 10th March 6 – 8pm

Year 11 – 16th March 6 – 8pm

Year 11 – End of Year Celebration

A letter was sent out earlier this week to all Year 11 Parents/Carers detailing plans as they currently stand for the Year 11 End of Year Celebration. Costs for the Yearbook, Hoodie and Prom tickets that can be purchased via ParentPay, as well as dates, are detailed in the letter which can also be found [here](#) on the RGS Year 11 Letters page on the school website.

Quote of the week:

“Try to see the good in others. When you're tempted to judge someone, make an effort to see their goodness. Your willingness to look for the best in people will subconsciously bring it forth.”

The Big Splash Dolphins

A reminder to all students that you have until the end of the school day. **FRIDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2022** to submit your dolphin designs for the Big Splash Sculpture Trail.



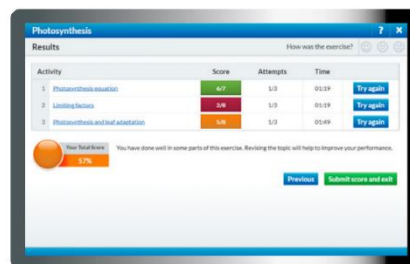
Throwback Y Feeagh & Ramsey Grammar School Historic Items

A new feature, intended to be light-hearted and act as a throwback to days gone by in Y Feeagh, the Ramsey Grammar School magazine, or items found within our school archives.

DESCRIPTION, DATE AND YEAR

Department Update – Science

Key Stage 3 Science students have been studying the following topics this half term: Light, Combustion and Reproduction. Key Stage 4 students have been studying hard. Year 11 are working to finish their course content before the run-up to the summer exams. Year 10 school mock exam week will be soon upon us. Year 10 IGCSE students will be sitting an 'Alternative to Practical' mock paper during this time. Also, BTEC science students have some deadlines due for a number of set assignments.



Homework, Practice and Support

ActiveLearn

Our Year 9 Science classes H1 to H4 will be trialing online science homework and using the ActiveLearn support platform. These Year 9

will have access to online Science textbooks for practice and support at home. If successful, the plan will be to roll this out to other year groups come September. Watch this space!

Tim Peake to visit the Island - I hope all our budding astronauts and space enthusiasts have seen the exciting news. Tim Peake is coming to the Isle of Man in March. Get your tickets from the Villa!



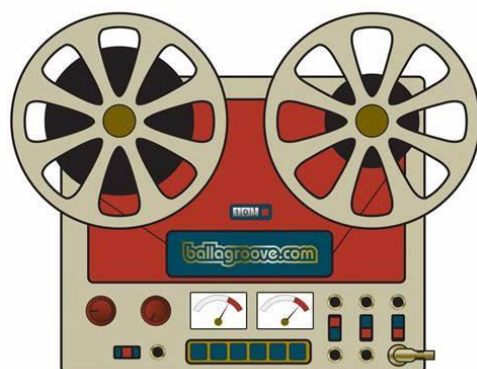
Department Update – Music

Instrumental Examination Success! - A huge congratulations to Jemima Caine, Oliver Dowty, Sophia Shimmin and Evan Slaytor who have all successfully passed instrumental examinations this half term – a massive achievement given the disruption to instrumental tuition due to Covid 19 lockdowns in the last 18 months!

We'd like to celebrate all instrumental exam success at RGS, so if you've taken instrumental exams outside of school (including theory exams) please be sure to let Miss Will know.

Exciting Pep Band News! Towards the end of March, our two fabulous Pep Bands will be making professional recordings with Ballagroove Studios. This has been funded by the IOM Soundcheck Charity and is an incredible opportunity for our brilliant ensembles to experience the professional recording process.

The RGS senior Pep Band was established in the Summer of 2019 by Mr John Wood (our brass teacher through the IOM Music Service) with a selection of our older brass students. Pep Bands are traditionally American and are found performing at pep rallies and on the sidelines at sporting events such as American football and basketball. They are there to entertain the crowds and help create an enthusiastic atmosphere during the games and matches. You



may have heard our senior Pep Band performing at community events such as the Mooragh Park Firework display in 2020. In September 2020, Mr Wood established our Junior band – the Mini Peppers. They gave their first public performance as part of transition with Jurby Sound Start group last summer and have grown dramatically this year into a much larger ensemble. Both bands are currently rehearsing repertoire ready for this recording and we can't wait to hear the finished tracks!

String Ensemble - Our string ensemble has restarted on Wednesday at lunchtime. We are now working on a varied and enjoyable repertoire and look forward to performances in the next 6 months. Any student who plays the violin, viola, cello or double bass is welcome to attend rehearsals at **12.45 pm in Room 11**.



Choir Restart - Following our cautious approach to singing in the classroom at the start of this term, we are starting our RGS School Choir back up. All students are welcome to attend. Rehearsals are on **Thursday at lunchtime in Room 11 at 12.45 pm**.

Online Learning in Music - All Key Stage 3 students should know have access to our online Music education software Focus on Sound and should have used this software to complete listening tasks as homework related to their in-class curriculum.

To log on:

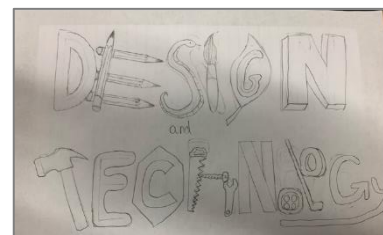
Then, choose the third option down 'Sign in with Application Cloud' Country: United Kingdom

- School ID: rgs
- Username: each student will be told their username in class. They can check these with Music staff if unsure
- Password: Music (this is case sensitive, so needs a capital 'M')

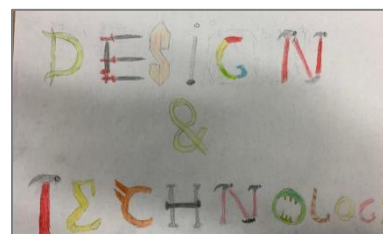
Set work is accessed through the 'My Class' option in the menu bar.

Department Update – DT & IT (Matthew Mortimer)

Year 7 have been using their creative skills to help develop their ideas for the current task they are working on in their Technology Lesson.



The combination of letters, with tools and added drawings that link to the words used, proved to be a great task and the students used their creative skills which can be seen in these examples.



The students will now develop their ideas and come up with two or three designs which they will choose their favourite design and produce a nameplate using a Computer Design programme and the school's laser cutter/engraving machine.

Some of the ideas that the Year7's have come up with, as they work to complete their ideas. I am looking forward to seeing the final products when completed.



Department Update - History

Year 7 - students are finishing their work on Discoveries and are now looking at a depth study on the Romans. As part of their studies they will be looking at the origins of Rome, the Army and Empire, gladiators and much more. The key question is "were the Romans civilised?"

Highlight – Reading David Olusoga's book "Black & British" and looking at black Roman soldiers based in Cumbria .

Year 8 - students have finished looking at our in-depth study on the Tudors and we are now looking at the political, social, economic and religious changes that took place in the Stuart period.



Congratulations to **Daniel Cross** who got an impressive 29/30 in the Tudor knowledge test.

Highlight – Producing Apprentice style presentations for a computer game on the Spanish Armada.

Year 9 - students have looked at WWI and why some women got the vote in 1918. They are now looking at totalitarian regimes in Europe and life in Britain between the wars.

Highlight – Using flags to demonstrate different political ideas.

Year 10 - IGCSE students are now looking at the Rise of the Nazis and how German people were fooled by Hitler. They will also look at what life was like for ordinary people in Nazi Germany.

Highlight – Watching 'Triumph of the Will' to illustrate the dark charisma of Adolf Hitler.

Year 11- students have just completed their mocks and now know what they need to do to proceed towards their May exams. They are now focussing on Paper 2, which requires them to analyse historical sources in relation to Soviet control in eastern Europe.

Highlight – Receiving mock results.

Year 12 - A-Level students have finished looking at Churchill and are now looking at Britain in the 1950s. Was it 'we've never had it so good' or '13 wasted years'. In Russia they are looking at the impact of the civil war.

Highlight – Debate on the Labour government of 1945 – 1951.

Year 13 - students have continued working on their coursework either linked to the Cold War or Woman's suffrage. The deadline for this is the February half-term. They have finished their mocks and are waiting for their results. In the warfare course, they are looking at the Crimean War and the American Civil War.

Highlight – Looking at why the confederacy took so long to be defeated.

History students

We have had the pleasure of having Josh Abley from Edge Hill University working with us since November. Josh is currently undertaking a PGCE course. This is what Josh said about RGS: *During my time, I had an almost unbelievable amount of support from every member of the History Department and it has been a huge privilege to learn from teachers so committed to their job and the children they teach. During my observation, it was abundantly clear from the outset that all children in History are given an opportunity to engage in a wide variety of subjects and topics, whilst also developing their ability to think and write like a Historian too. As an 'outside' set of eyes, I can assure you that the History team at Ramsey are doing a fine job of developing both children's understanding of history, but also of themselves and why the society they live in today is the way it is.*



Ex-student Jake Cowley is shadowing the History Department with a view to becoming a History teacher. This is what Jake said about RGS: *I have had a really great time at Ramsey Grammar so far. It has been useful, insightful and incredibly interesting observing the lessons and getting involved. I have felt welcomed by both the staff and students throughout the school.*

Thanks to Miss Tedds for being Josh's mentor and we wish both Josh & Jake well for the future.

History awards - In January we started giving awards to exceptional historians in KS4 and KS5. The winners for the Autumn term were Rio Kelly of 10C and Ivo Morrey of 12GC.

Assemblies - In November the history department ran the Armistice Day assembly which featured a tribute to Hector Duff and the theme of this years Holocaust Assembly was 'one day'. We urge people to follow the Auschwitz Memorial Museum on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AuschwitzMuseum>

Key Dates:

- 14th February – Live Screening – Romeo & Juliet
- 15th February – Year 6 Walk About Evening
- 17th February – Year 6 Walk About Evening
- 18th February – RGS Big Splash Entry Deadline
- 18th February – RGS Non Uniform Day (Rebecca's House Big Splash)
- 21st – 25th February – Half Term
- 1st March – Year 6 Walk About Evening
- 2nd March – Year 9 Reports Published
- 3rd March – Year 9 Academic Review
- 3rd March – Year 6 Walk About Evening
- 4th March – Parent Voice (Pastoral)