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## RGS Newsletter

### Friday 18th February 2022 – Issue 20

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#### 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 contribution to the school council, being polite, competing in international competitions, positivity, kindness,



consideration of others, helping staff, support for others, being an unsung hero, charity work and determination. They are amazing young people, leaders of the future and role models to all here at Ramsey Grammar School. Well done to them all.

- Year 7 – Pippa Curphey
- Year 8 – Erin Faragher
- Year 9 – Lily Gell
- Year 10 – Luke Crowe
- Year 11 – Samuel Lythgoe
- Year 12 – Sandy Lole
- Year 13 – Amy Ratcliffe

This week we have confirmed the leaver's date for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Year 11 will begin their study leave on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May and the Year 13 students on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May. We always aim to keep our examination students here with us for as long as possible to receive the subject specialist support that is so vital in the lead-up to their examinations. These dates have been carefully planned to allow this. The time between then and now will fly and we wish them all the luck in the world in the last few months of intensive study.

The academic year is flying by and we are already at the halfway point of the year. We are so grateful to still be in school, staff and students together and beginning to feel a sense of normalcy once again. Long may it continue. I would like to thank all students for their hard work and dedication to doing their best in lessons and around the school. You make us proud every day. I would also like to thank all of our amazing staff for all that they are doing for our young people every day. Lots of what teachers and staff in the school do goes unseen and has such a lot of positive impact on student well-being, confidence-building and academic development. Staff do the job they do here at Ramsey Grammar School because they love what they do and they care deeply about giving our young people the best possible start to their adult life. How lucky we are to have the school community that we do.

I wish you all a wonderful half term.

Kind regards

Sarah Findlater  
Headteacher - Ramsey Grammar School

### **RGS World Book Day**

Readathon! Friday 4th March from 08:00 to 17:30. This year's Readathon will take place on Friday 4th<sup>th</sup> March from 8:00 to 17:30 in the library. Books will be read continuously throughout the day to celebrate World Book Day and to raise funds for the charity Read For Good.

Over the past few years, Ramsey Grammar has raised nearly £3000 for the charity, which provides books for children's hospitals across the UK.

We are looking for volunteers to be sponsored to read for as little or as long as they want. Please encourage your child to join us and read for the day whilst supporting this worthy cause. Those who are taking part and being sponsored may dress up as their favourite book character and can spend the day reading in the library or simply a specified amount of time. Those that are not being sponsored can still dress up as their favourite book character, but we ask for a donation to Read For Good!

Please see Mrs Henery, Mrs Kneale or Mr. Edwards to collect your sponsor form at the start of the new term.

Happy reading!  
Mrs. Henery

### **Behaviour and achievement update**

You will have received a letter and flow chart which explains some changes we have made to the behaviour system which starts after half term. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss anything about the new changes. This week, 60 students have received achievement rewards. The top 2 highest scorers from each form were chosen. We will be awarding more rewards after half term.

### **School uniform and equipment**

with extra covid mitigations with extra ventilation in classrooms resulting in students needing extra clothing. Is still be wearing full school uniform, jumpers and coats are extra. We have seen an increase in students arriving in school wearing jeans, leggings, hoodies and coats with no or little school uniform. Can we please ask that over half term, school uniform is found and is ready for the 28<sup>th</sup> February? If extra clothing is required, a jumper should be worn under the blazer- preferably a black v neck which is part of the school uniform. We also have a number of students who are not arriving to school with correct equipment such as a pen, pencil, ruler, planner or bag. Again, it would be great if we can work together to ensure that all students are ready for learning from the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.



### **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

### **Achievement Points this week**

**1547** Achievement Points were awarded across the school this week!

That brings us to a total of **71,745** for this term which is fantastic! Well done to everyone working so hard both in and out of lessons!

### **Options Evenings – Year 9 & Year 11**

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

Year 9 – 10<sup>th</sup> March 18:00 – 20:00

Year 11 – 16<sup>th</sup> March 18:00 – 20:00

**Quote of the week:**

*“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant.”*  
- Robert Louis Stevenson

**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.

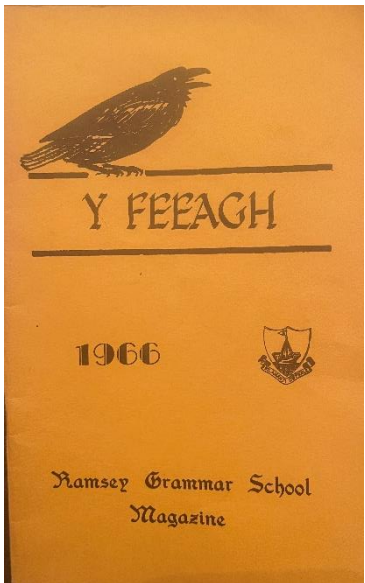
This week a snippet from Y Feeagh 1966 on the debating society – containing mentions of Grandparents of students, and parents of current staff. If you recognize anyone mentioned in this snippet please let us know any background stories or context on RGSEnquiries@sch.im

Three successful debates have been held so far this term. At the first, "This House Supports Radio Caroline," the speakers for the motion were R. Page and S. Collister, and opposing the motion were E. Garwood and R. Morgan. The motion at the second debate was "Money is the Root of All Evil"; the supporters of this were J. Qualtrough and B. Wilson; C. Craine and M. Robinson opposed the motion. A Balloon Debate was held also, when S. Higham impersonated Mao Tse-Tung, R. Clarke the President of the Mannin Railway Preservation Society, and R. Percival was Alexander Fleming. When the house moved to a vote, Mr. Clarke won by an overwhelming majority.

Last term a Mock General Election was held, when the Conservative candidate, C. Keig, won with a large majority. The Labour candidate, E. Garwood, was second. R. Frew, who stood as Liberal candidate, was next, followed by the Communist candidate, R. Morgan. In the near future a staff debate will be held, when Messrs. Corkill, Page, Morland and Collins will debate the motion: "This House believes that the education of females is a waste of time."

It is hoped that a public speaking competition will be held this term to find three speakers who will represent R.G.S. in the inter-school competition, organised by the Rotary Club. Finally, may we take this opportunity to thank Mr. Collins for his help and advice in the organisation of this society.

G.R. U.VI.



**Department Update – Geography (F/R)**

Throughout the year all Year 7, 8 & 9 classes have been set a series of Take Away homework's. We have had some excellent pieces ranging from Filmed news reports about the Laxey River flood to Migration Mania board games. The Take Away homework's allow students to further investigate areas studied in class and come up with an individual way of presenting their work. (Picture shows Bailey Hotchkiss 8C - Migration board game)



**Looking forward...**

Year 11 will be heading to Ramsey beach in March, to investigate longshore Drift, Coastal landforms and the coastal defences in preparation for their up-and-coming exams. Fingers crossed for some better weather!

(Picture shows Mrs Barker braving the weather on Ramsey shore, in her final year at the school.)

**Department Update – Agricultural Science**

Over the past few weeks Year 7, 8 & 9 have been planting their seeds for this year's crops. They have planted out tomatoes, chillies, peppers, squash, carrots, onions, cabbage, courgette, cucamelon, herbs, celery and cucumber. They

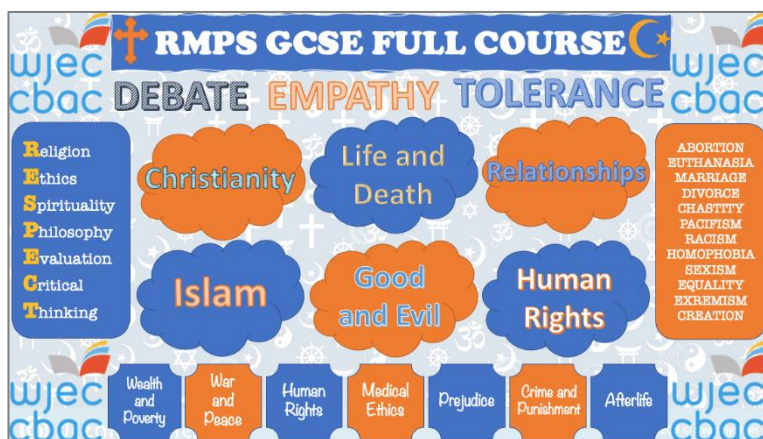
have also planted up Lavender, Dahlia and Cosmos, along with various other flowers. Lots of these will be going home with students, and the remainder will be for sale at a later date (please see below!)

Other highlights in the last few weeks have been our Year 9 climate change project - investigating the saltwater tolerance of various crops, some nations are already losing land to the sea, will our crops cope. Yr 11 - wonderful year 11 have almost finished their Level 2 Certificates and Extended Certificates in Agriculture. Well done Year 11!

Date for the diary - Saturday 30th April - Ramsey Grammar School Farm Open Day as part of the School Farms Network National Schools Farm Day 2022.

## Department Update – RMPS

The RMPS department have been busy organising and launching our new full course GCSE which will be on the list of option subjects for the current Year 9 going into Year 10. The new course will look at Christian, Islamic, Humanist and secular beliefs and responses to issues related to medical ethics, peace and conflict, human rights, prejudice and discrimination and relationships. We are very excited to get stuck into these topics in greater detail next academic year.



Over the past few months Year 7 have been learning all things Judaism. Students have worked particularly hard on creating display work on the story of Moses and the Exodus which culminated in a study of the celebration called Passover. This was followed by a study of another famous holiday called Hanukkah. One particularly popular Jewish family tradition on Hanukkah is to play the dreidel game for chocolate coins called 'gelt'. Unfortunately, we could not play for chocolate coins but our students had a great time giving the game a go and learning about how it links with the story of Hanukkah.

In line with black history month, our Year 9 classes are completing their prejudice and discrimination topic this week. They have studied religious and secular views on racism, sexism, islamophobia, antisemitism and homophobia. This really is at the core of everything we do in RMPS - our philosophy is to study different beliefs, morality and cultures in order to try and promote a harmonious and tolerant society.

Finally, Mrs Martin will be launching a brand new Debate Club after the February half term. Students will get to decide what they would like to debate each week and we are really excited to see and hear RGS students debate the things that matter to them the most.

## Department Update – MFL

Year 13 Spanish students are getting their heads down and focussing on feedback following recent year 13 exams. Our year 13 students will sit their final Spanish exams in May.

Sixth form students at RGS enjoy a range of languages on offer even if they do not choose it as an A level option. Mandarin, Italian and German are all on offer. These are all languages that are not taught lower down in the school so it gives the students an opportunity to learn a completely new language and gain certification.



## The International Linguistic Olympiad at Ramsey Grammar Students



Our sixth-form students had the opportunity this week to take part in the IOL. It is one of 13 International Science Olympiads for secondary school students and has been held annually since 2003. Each year, teams of young linguists from around the world gather and test their minds against the world's toughest puzzles in language and linguistics. No prior knowledge of linguistics or languages is required: even the hardest problems require only your logical ability, patient work, and willingness to think around corners. The Isle of Man will host the final stage of this international competition in July where the top four contestants

from over 34 countries will compete.

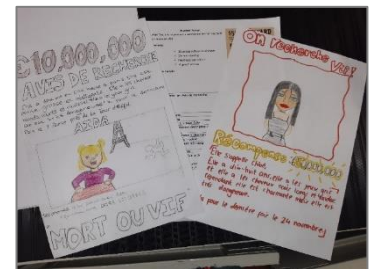
Year 11 Spanish - Our year 11 Spanish students are working on the topic of school at the moment. We are learning how to describe our school, subjects and teachers. We have also had some lively debates on the topic of school uniform in Spanish!



Year 9 Spanish – bullfighting - Our year 9 Spanish students have been discussing the controversial topic of Bullfighting in lessons and we watched the movie Fernando. Spain's bullfighting season traditionally kicks off in February in Valdemorillo, a small town located approximately 40km outside of Madrid. It wouldn't usually attract big names, but in 2022, star matador *Morante de la Puebla* has confirmed his appearance. Bullfighting has been banned in Catalonia since 2011, but in the rest of the country, the conversation has switched since the onset of the pandemic. Where once the debate focused on banning the sport, the question now is whether a lifeline ought to be granted to this ailing cultural industry. What do you think? ¿Cultura o Tortura?

### Year 7 French

There are some dangerous criminals on the loose in France. Luckily for the police in Paris, our year 7 students have been learning how to describe people in French this half term. They have produced some wonderful "Wanted posters!"



### Key Dates:

- 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term
- 1<sup>st</sup> March – Year 6 Walk About Evening
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Year 9 Reports Published
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Year 9 Academic Review
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Year 6 Walk About Evening
- 4<sup>th</sup> March – Parent Voice (Pastoral)
- 4<sup>th</sup> March – RGS World Book Day
- 10<sup>th</sup> March – Year 9 Options Evening 18:00 – 20:00
- 16<sup>th</sup> March – Year 11 Options Evening 18:00 – 20:00