



RGS Newsletter

Friday 18th March 2022 – Issue 23

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 for community spiritedness, voluntary work, hard work, being helpful, kindness to people in need, being a positive influence and representing the school. This Friday was Red nose day hence the red nose in these images on me. Always happy to support a good cause. 😊



- Year 7 – Kassie Sykes
- Year 8 – Elliot Webb
- Year 9 – Isobel Callow
- Year 10 – Abigail Harvey
- Year 11 – Henry Huxham
- Year 12 – Ketar Walker
- Year 13 – Ben Corkill



This week we hosted the Sixth Form options evening for our Year 11 students and their families. It was lovely to see so many families together with their children engaging in exciting discussions about their future plans and possible courses for Sixth Form study. The Sixth Form Leadership Team and I spoke with the families about what life is like in the Sixth Form. There were lots of great conversations about what students can start to plan for as they move towards the new academic year and sixth form study. Our subject specialists were on hand in the West hall to talk through the range of courses we have on offer. Again, lovely to have families in school in person with us once more. Thank you to all of the staff who gave their time over the course of the evening to support our students and their families.

We have also hosted Year 8 academic review days this week with staff taking quality time slots with their tutees to support their self-reflection on their progress so far this year as well as look through advice from subject specialists. These individualised sessions are a vital part of student development and embody our core value of responsibility. It was wonderful to hear the Year 8 students speak so maturely about their studies. Well done to them all.

As mentioned previously, we are seeking a new Parent Governor to join the RGS Governing Board. This year we are moving to a slightly different system of appointment for this important role in support of the school. We will be asking interested parents to send in their expression of interest in via email and will then release the details of the parents wishing to stand to all parents. We will then ask any of our existing parents to vote for their preferred governor, via an email, stating their preference. The email **must** be sent from the email address you have registered with the school to be counted. To stand, propose, assent or vote in the election, a parent must be the parent of a child who is a registered pupil at the School at the date of the election. For the purposes of the election, the term "*parent*" includes any person who has parental responsibility for a child and any person with whom a child is living and who has care of him or her. As Headteacher of Ramsey Grammar School, I am the Returning Officer for the election. Each parent/carer of a child on role has a vote, but please note it is only one vote per parent/carer in the family, and not one per child on roll at RGS.

Any parent interested in becoming our new Parent Governor should send in your expression of interest along with a

brief statement outlining why you are interested in becoming a parent governor, to rgsenquiries@sch.im. If you have any enquiries about the role please also send this into the RGS Enquiries email. The deadline for expression of interest is Friday 8th of April.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards



Sarah Findlater
Headteacher - Ramsey Grammar School

Uniform Refocus from March 31st 2022

We are now heading towards the end of the Isle of Man Government Covid mitigations put in place for schools, to make allowances for ventilated classes during the colder winter months. With the promise of warmer weather coming our way we would like to remind all parents, carers and students that our full school uniform will be enforced from March 31st 2022. This means extra visible layers that have been allowed over winter, such as non-school uniform jumpers or hoodies etc are no longer to be worn by students. Students are very welcome to wear the plain black school jumper under their blazers still if they wish of course.

As a reminder, the expectation is for black full-length trousers, knee-length shorts, or skirts (reaching the same length as your fingers tips when hands are by your side), a white collared shirt or blouse, a black v-neck sweater (optional with a blazer, not instead of a blazer), black school blazer with RGS logo, and RGS school tie. If skirts are worn, tights are to be black or flesh coloured (any denier), without rips or holes present. Black, Grey or white socks. School shoes should be black, and should not be trainers.

A list of items that are not considered school uniform, even if they're in the correct colour: Leggings, denim, cropped or ¾ length trousers, items with logos other than the RGS logo, footwear with coloured logos, flashing lights, tabs, laces, straps or trims.

Odd Socks Day – Monday 21st March 17 2022

This coming Monday we are encouraging all students to wear a pair of mismatched or 'odd' socks. The brighter and more mismatched the better. This is in recognition of World Down Syndrome Awareness day and the purpose of wearing odd socks is to highlight and celebrate diversity and the differences that make us all unique in this world. Students are asked to wear their school uniform as usual, with the exception of their socks!



RGS Seniors Reach Football Final

The Senior Football team have reached their first final since 2015! After a few covid effected years (... and a few beforehand where we couldn't shake the losing streak) we have finally done it!

The final will be next Thursday at ***** against QEII at The Bowl. We would love as much support as possible, if you're able to make it to cheer us on, and hopefully lead us to the elusive win!

Rotary Public Speaking

Ramsey Grammar played host to the Rotary Public Speaking Competition. All the students taking part were excellent. Ramsey Grammar School's team were Isobel Callow (chair) and Jemima Caine (speaker); they worked well as team. The topic of Jemima's speech was on the lack of financial education in school. Ramsey were just beaten to the trophy by St Ninian's, but only just. Well done to the RGS Team!



Junior Achievement: Company Program Finals Day Year 12 RGS students attended the Junior Achievement company program finals day on Wednesday 16th March. Since September, students have been preparing for their working life through the experience of running their own company, which has been supported by a professional business mentor. Before the finals day they had raised capital, carried out market research, put many hours into research and development and created a professional business plan.

Finals day is a huge challenge but once again the RGS students showed resilience, determination and entrepreneurialism, to show themselves and the school in such a positive way. Students had to create a trade stand (which was open to the public), complete a presentation in front of professional business judges and prepare for an interview panel.

A huge congratulations to Emily Slevin, Rachel Callow, Davide Smithies, Elanor Prince, Corey Bate, Joey Callow, Ivo Morrey, Luke Ward, William Taylor and Ketar Walker. Absolute superstars and future potential entrepreneurs.



Forward Planning – Celebration Assemblies (after Easter)

Celebration Assemblies were introduced at Ramsey Grammar in the 2021-2022 academic year. With the purpose of bringing students and parents together as a year group to highlight and celebrate student achievement on a bi-annual basis. We are really looking forwards to doing our second round of Celebration Assemblies after the covid mitigations kept our parents/ carers away from our planned in-person events at RGS in January 2022. All being well, we will now be able to hold our first in-person celebration assemblies after the Easter Holidays for all-year groups, dates are below for planning purposes, with more information to follow soon!

Wednesday 27th April:

- 0910 - Year 10
- 1105 - Year 11
- 1400 - Year 9

Thursday 28th April:

- 0910 - Year 7
- 1105 - Year 8
- 1400 - Sixth Form



Achievement Points this week

2722 Achievement Points were awarded across the school this week!

Quote of the week:

**'You can't use up
creativity.
The more you use,
the more you
have.'**
- Maya Angelou



Department Update – Science

[Links for opportunities in STEM](#)

- [Mathematical Olympiad for Girls](#)
- [National Girls Collaborative Project](#)
- [Association for Women in Science](#)
- [STEM Ed for Girls \(AAU\)](#)
- [Love Tech IOM](#)
- [Sure Bursary for Women IOM](#)

Department Update – Music

Instrumental Examination Success!



A huge congratulations to Tristan Speight, Noah Parks, Jessica Musgrove and Janssen Laudiangco who have all successfully passed brass instrument examinations recently – We're really proud of your progress.

We always 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!

This weekend our two Pep Bands are recording with *Ballagroove Studios* (kindly funded by the IOM Soundcheck Charity). The ensembles have been rehearsing hard all term, and we can't wait to hear the finished result. What an amazing opportunity. We also thank Mr Wood for his commitment to working with these groups and for organising the event.



In Key Stage 3 at the moment, students are working hard to develop their technical instrumental skills along with broadening their knowledge and understanding of different musical genres. Year 8 focus on developing their knowledge of music from around the world. Classes are currently either learning the hit song 'Tequila!' - trying to co-ordinate a complicated Latin American left hand rhythm in the piano accompaniment, or are developing their knowledge of the blues – learning the 12-bar blues chord progression and then adding in melodic improvisation before teaming up to compose their very own blues songs!



Music Extra Curricular Activities

If students are wishing to progress their understanding of **Music Theory** they are more than welcome to attend Theory sessions at lunch times. See Miss Will for more details.

- **String Ensemble** meets on Wednesday lunch times at 12.45 in Room 11 with Miss Will and Ms Hope.
- **Choir** is held on Thursday lunches at 12.45 in Room 11 with Miss Will.
- **Training Pep Band** is held on Friday lunch times in Room 11 with Mr Wood

Please see Music Dept staff if you are interested in joining any of our groups.

Online Learning in Music

All Key Stage 3 students 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:



Either use the **QR Code** here, or go to:

portal.focusonsound.com

(do **not** add 'www.' Or 'http://' beforehand)

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 & Food

Key stage 4 are working hard on either their mock exams or finishing off coursework. Here are a few examples of products designed and made so far:-





In food, the practical mock exam was to make this delicious chocolate orange gateau. The students completed the task with very high standards.

In Textile Technology, year 10 have recently completed their Bomber Jackets,. They are now having a free choice and have chosen a variety of items to make from waistcoats, skirts, cushions, jogging bottoms.

Year 8 have been designing and making a character fleece hat. This has involved hand stitch embroidery, machine stitching, using paper patterns and cutting out their fabric, making their own paper patterns for detail like ears.



In ICT the 10 students have been preparing for their Mocks. They have had one for ICT & Computer science. In the Autumn term we have focused on How computers work which relates to both ICT and Computer science and then moved on the Programming in Python which is a Computer Science topic included to help give them an introduction to programming. Before half term Y9 completed a spreadsheet module which main aim is to help them prepare for BTEC ICT should they choose it in Y10. This half term they are studying a new KS3 topic of Databases. This is again useful for preparing to study BTEC ICT but also a topic that is covered in the iGCSE Computer science offered at KS4. During this half term they are looking and why and where databases are used and how to use them.

FINAL REMINDER: The Hive – Bingo Event

The Hive staff and students would like to invite you to their Bingo night on 25th March. Add the date to your diary now!

A colorful bingo event poster for Ramsey Grammar School. The poster is framed by a border of colorful bingo balls with numbers. The text on the poster reads:

Ramsey Grammar School

BINGO

Friday 25th March

Doors in the West building open
at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start

All Line, House and the Jackpot Prizes
have kindly been sponsored
by Paul Carey and Sons LTD



Bring your own nibbles and drinks

Raffle on the night

To raise funds for enrichment activities for the
Hive students

Hot Chocolate Rewards Y7-11

We have some very happy faces to share from our Hot Chocolate rewards for students in Year 7-11. The students were rewarded for having most amount of house points in each tutor group.



Key Dates:

- 21st March – Odd Socks Day
- 22nd March – Year 10 Expo
- 22nd March – LSU: MSR Athletics Festival Trip
- 22nd March – RGS Governors Meeting
- 23rd March – Year 11 Coastal Fieldtrip 1 of 2
- 23rd March – JA Company Programme Awards 1900 - 2100
- 24th March – Year 11 Coastal Fieldtrip 2 of 2
- 24th March – RGS v QEII Football Final @ The Bowl
- 25th March – HIVE Bingo Event (1830 for 1900 start)
- 31st March - University Evening – Year 11, 12, 13 1800 - 2000