
RGS Newsletter
Friday 22nd July 2022 – Issue 37



Headteacher's Message:

We have made it! What a year it's been at Ramsey Grammar School and we are delighted to have had a year interrupted by lock-downs and Covid interruptions, despite some change in some areas in the aftermath.



When I look back over this academic year we have had so many highs within the school – from incredible music and Celebration Assemblies to student workshops, trips, and events, sporting achievements, outstanding results in tests, in-class assessments, practical work, mocks and exams – and the list just goes on. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly say how very proud we all are of our students, and to offer my thanks to the whole school community for supporting our learners in all the many ways that they do.

We have continued to build a strong staff team for Ramsey Grammar School, and are looking forwards to welcoming new members of staff in the Autumn Term. With island newcomers amongst them, we know the whole community will help welcome them to RGS in the new term – more introduction announcements will follow in September.

Unfortunately, the inevitable Goodbyes must also be said at this time of year. We have said farewell to some of our Year 11 cohort and look forward to others returning for Year 12. We have also bid a fond farewell to all our Year 13 as they take the next steps towards adulthood. We eagerly await results days with you all. For some the path will be higher education, for others this will be entering the world of work – and no matter the route they take we wish each and every one of them every success for their futures. For some the path will be higher education, for others, this will be entering the world of work – and no matter the route they take we wish each and every one of them every success for their futures. We were lucky to have you here at RGS, and no matter where life takes you, you are always welcome home here.

We have celebrated these fantastic staff members within the school over the last week in various ways, and the high esteem they are all clearly held in by students and staff alike has been heartwarming to witness.

So, for one final time, may we wish a fond farewell to Miss Dimelow, Mr Pilkington, Miss Brown, and Miss Mitchell. We wish a very happy and adventurous retirement to Mr Quinn, and Mrs Barker, and last but not least we wish Mr Corrin all the very best for his Headship at Ballakermeen High School – they are so lucky to have you!

In honour of Mr Corrin our Deputy Headteacher, and previous acting Headteacher, the staff and students spent the week secretly filming goodbye videos for Mr Corrin and this has now been turned into a feature film-length video for Mr Corrin to treasure forever. We hope he very much enjoys the memories shared and the heartfelt thanks expressed by all.

We will meet refreshed and renewed on Wednesday 7th September for the first day of term – and we look forwards to seeing you all again, as we welcome a new intake of Year 7 to RGS.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Sarah Findlater
Headteacher - Ramsey Grammar School

Quote of the week:

“Taking a break can lead to breakthroughs.”
– Russell Eric Dobda.

Department Update – Music Instrumental Examination Success!



A huge congratulations to Izzy Callow, Jayden Thompson, Joseph Jones, Georgia Smith, Annabel Cranmer, Alfie Hope, Imogen Taggart and Emily Musgrove on passing their recent instrumental grade exams. The Music Team are immensely proud of your achievements!

A Summer of Performances!

Whilst school may have been winding down for the summer holidays in the last few weeks, the Music Department has been mad busy with a variety of performances!

Our 'Mini Peppers' worked alongside students from Jurby Primary School in their *Make Music Day* on the 7th of July – demonstrating exactly what is meant by the RGS Way of Being.



More recently, Students in the Senior Pep Band, the 'Mini Peppers' ensemble and Nerys Otto from Year 12 performed at our Year Group Celebration assemblies – receiving compliments from fellow students, staff and parents alike.

Our fab choir performed at the Dementia Café (DECAF) on the 14th July – with three wonderful solo songs performed by Year 13 student Ben Corkill as part of his BTEC Music course.



Superstar Daniel Cross even managed the guitar solo from *Mr Blue Sky* with a broken arm!



The choir were treated after their performance to a cheeky ice cream from the Whippy van!



from the Whippy van!

That's not all though! Last Saturday our amazing harp choir gave a concert in Lezayre Church with their harp teacher (and internationally renowned harpist) Rachel Hair. These students have demonstrated unbelievable resilience throughout the pandemic – having to resort to online lessons for two years and working as a group to keep each other motivated and progressing with their harp studies. A particular thanks to Arabella Ayen and Lucy Gilmore in Year 13 who have been fantastic role models for our younger harpists. We will be sad to see them go!

In the words of Music Blogger Vaughan Fleischfresser:

"Learning an instrument isn't just for those who go on to study music. It's for those who join community ensembles, for those who make music at home, for those who support local artists, for those who jam with their friends, and for those who use music to unwind. Music is for Everyone"

"Want young people to work together? Put them in a music ensemble. Want them to listen to each other? Put them in a music ensemble. Want them to learn the importance of personal responsibility? Put them in a music ensemble. Want them to connect? Put them in a music ensemble."

I absolutely stand by these comments. Our musicians have demonstrated mature team-work skills and shown consideration and kindness to each other at every rehearsal. They demonstrate motivation, problem solving, organisational skills and the ability to reflect on what they can do to improve. We thank leavers in Year 11 and 13 who have been active members of the musical community at RGS during their time here and wish them well in their future endeavours – hoping that they find time to continue their love of music in whatever form that may take.

We have a busy 'final weekend' yet to come with several of our students involved in the Honk! Street Band workshop (see below), and performing with the Manchester Hallé Orchestra as part of the 'Come and Play event – both on Saturday. It's wonderful to see students enjoying the subject so much that they are willing to give up their holiday time to keep playing, and we thank parents/carers for continued support and 'taxi' services!

HONK! Workshop Opportunity

Calling all brass, saxophone and percussion students! Don't forget to sign up for our **FREE** workshop with the amazing HONK! (Lancashire Youth Street Band) on Saturday 23 July!

The LYSB are run by the Lancashire Music Service and perform regularly across Lancashire and the North West of England.

What a fabulous opportunity for our young brass and woodwind musicians to participate in this exciting event.

We thank our brass teacher Mr Wood for organising it with our students in mind!

Department Update - Technology

The final groups have been working hard during their Technology lessons, the students have been learning and developing their skills on the 2D Design computer design programme. The new skills they have learnt have enabled them to produce their individual name plate. Some of their work is shown below.

Well done to all year 7 students, it has been a pleasure to teach you all during your first year at Ramsey Grammar School, I hope you have a good summer break.

Mr Skillan



Duke of Edinburgh

It has once again been a very busy year for the Duke of Edinburgh Team at RGS. It doesn't seem that long ago that we started the academic year off with some Silver Expeditions in much colder and wetter conditions that we have ended the expedition season with.

Back in October, Year 10 students completed their Assessed Expedition in some tricky conditions, the groups showed great resilience and ploughed on to through their 3 days in the northern countryside.



Not long after that we commenced with the Year 9 Bronze Training sessions, where we had 61 students register for the first award on the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, we currently have 2 students who have completed all the sections of the award and the other 54 students nearing completion. The Bronze Expeditions took place during the summer term, the first weekend saw the groups tackle different weather conditions during their two-day trek. The first day was completed in glorious sunshine and a calm breeze, which turned into a strong wind by the time the students were settling down for the evening. Unfortunately for them the wind brought some heavy rain showers, and they didn't seem to be impressed at the start of day two, as it was still raining heavily when they were getting up and packing their kit away. Despite this the groups all finished the walk with smiling faces and all telling stories, laughing, and looking forward to the next level on the scheme. The second bronze expedition took place this week on the two very hot days, the students coped with the intense heat and completed the two-day trek successfully, they again showed a positive attitude as many would of rather of had a cooler environment for their walk.



Overall, it has been another great year, we have many students waiting to carry on with their award next year and many more will be commencing on the award scheme, setting themselves challenges to complete, whilst learning new skills and developing their knowledge in new areas, whilst showing commitment, resilience, teamwork, taking responsibility for themselves whilst camping and most of all having fun whilst completing their award. Hope everyone has a great summer break.

RGS DoE Team

Below are the students who have all completed awards during this academic year. Well done to you all.

Bronze Award

<i>Alex Shimmin</i>	<i>Henry Huxham</i>	<i>Alex Andrew</i>	<i>Harriet Skelding</i>
<i>Tom Morris</i>	<i>Keeley Hannay</i>	<i>William Kneen</i>	<i>Winnie Davies</i>
<i>Annabelle Clague</i>	<i>Ryan Wren</i>	<i>Darcey Withington</i>	<i>Ruby Reynolds</i>
<i>Ella Gell</i>	<i>Dom Dunwell</i>	<i>Elyse Grant</i>	<i>Arsene Ayen</i>
<i>Orla Goddard</i>	<i>Ellie Johnston</i>	<i>Millie Smith</i>	<i>Chloe Kinley</i>
<i>Emily Craig</i>	<i>Lilly Walsh</i>	<i>Justin Hughes</i>	
<i>Nathan Bradley</i>	<i>Lainie Sharpe</i>	<i>Kirree Craine</i>	
<i>Josh Kewley</i>	<i>Phillip MacCuish</i>	<i>Lizzy Quayle</i>	

Silver Award

Aaron Reilly	Lola Tebay
Abi Radcliffe	Amy Gelling
Keira Brown	Ben Smith
Hannah Stafford	Elly-Jane Crellin
Wilma Dalugdugan	

Gold Award

Amy Ratcliffe	Emily Fleming
---------------	---------------



REMINDER: RGS Lanyard System – Sept 2023

From the start of the new school year in September, all students, staff, and visitors at RGS will be required to wear an RGS lanyard as a compulsory part of the uniform. The wearing of lanyards for all adult and children on site will allow us to ensure that we keep our staff and students safe at all times and ensure that everyone on the school site is approved and visitors are logged in and out at reception adequately each day.

Each Year group will have a different colour, which will change each year as they move up through the school. Students will be issued with a complimentary lanyard at the start of each school year, enabling everyone to make a fresh start every September as they begin in a new Year group. As with our current Smartcard system, any that are lost through the course of the year can be replaced at West Reception for a small fee.

The lanyards all have a safety break clip and will house the RGS Smartcard. As with everything we do, the safety and security of the students is at the heart of this new system, and we hope Parents/ Carers will help us to ensure students wear their lanyards every day.

Isle Listen – Summer Sessions

- **Active Souls (for ages 6 – 11)** - Mikey from Active Souls firmly believes that exercise can be driven by enjoyment and community, and that play can become the gateway to a more balanced and sustainable lifestyle – simply put, childlike play with one objective, FUN!
- **Get Creative Workshops** - Creativity is important for self-expression. Each of our workshops have a specific theme, tailored to build self-confidence and positive coping strategies in young people.
- **Dance with Sophie Linham** - Join us and Sophie from the Isle of Man Arts Council, for some fun games and creative movement, to keep active and encourage creativity whilst helping to relieve daily pressures.

To view our full summer schedule and book your places go to www.islelisten.im/summersessions

New School Dates

Autumn Term 2022

- In-service days:* Monday 5 & Tuesday 6 September
- **Start:** Wednesday 7 September 2022
- **Half Term:** Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October
- **Ends:** Friday 23 December

•

Spring Term 2023

- **Starts:** Monday 9 January 2023
- **Half Term:** Monday 20 February to Friday 24 February
- Includes 2 days in-service for all schools to be twilighted
- **Close for Easter:** Thursday 6 April

•

Summer Term 2023

- **Start:** Monday 24 April
- **Bank Holiday:** Monday 1 May
- **Bank Holiday:** Monday 29 May
- in-service day Friday 2 June
- **Half Term (TT):** Monday 5 June to Friday 9 June
- **Tynwald Day:** Wednesday 5 July
- **Close for Summer:** Friday 21 July

* Inservice days and twilight sessions are for staff training

Key Dates

Monday 5th September – STAFF INSET (School Closed to students)

Tuesday 6th September – STAFF INSET (School Closed to students)

Wednesday 7th September – First Day of Term

Thursday 8th September – School Photograph Day