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RGS Newsletter  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – Issue 2

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**Headteacher's Message:**



We have come to the end of our first full week back at school and it has been a fun-filled fast paced week here at RGS. The students have settled back into their studies well and it has been a pleasure to walk around and see them all so engaged in their learning.

We are delighted to start our Headteachers Award Breakfast once again this Friday morning. For those new to our school community, this is where one student each week from each Year group is nominated by their teachers or Head of Year. This can be for any number of reasons, whether it be an outstanding effort in class, or demonstrating kindness to others. Each student is awarded 10 House Points by the Headteacher and invited to attend a short Breakfast with the Headteacher on a Friday morning, where they are each presented with a certificate, and a choice of snacks, if they wish to partake. Each student is told why they were nominated and thanked for their contribution to the RGS community. We encourage students to keep their certificates, to form part of their own portfolio that comes in handy in later years as they progress through the school and potentially on to Further Education and the world of work.

This week have had students awarded for making an incredibly positive start to their academic year, their kindness, hard work, and for demonstrating the RGS Ways Of Being when conducting themselves around the school campus. We are very proud of all of them.

- Year 7** – Erin Melvin
- Year 8** – Preston Cleator
- Year 9** – Aaron Quirk
- Year 10** – Tasha Saulnier
- Year 11** – Ellie Johnston



Y10 English & Maths information evening was a fantastically attended event and supported by many parents and carers. Reports are that all information was well received and that we have made positive steps towards their GCSE subjects. Thanks!

We would like to offer our thanks to Conister Bank for once again sponsoring the RGS water bottles. Every Year 7 student is issued with one upon beginning at Ramsey Grammar School and they are able to refill them throughout the day at either the East or West dining hall refill stations. Not only does this help ensure students remain hydrated but is in line with our continued effort to have a single-use plastic-free campus and reduce waste. We are very grateful for their ongoing support and kindness to our school community.



We would like to thank our families for their support with the launch of the lanyards in the school. This is just one step of many we are taking this academic year to increase safeguarding measures and further improve the safety of our school community. The lanyards have many benefits in school including a key safeguarding aspect of allowing us very quickly and easily to ensure that the right young people and adults are on-site at all times. In a large school like ours with nearly 1000 children and over 100 adults working here, this is essential. Any visitors to the school now all come via the reception in the West and are very carefully vetted to ensure that the right level of security is put in place. Adults on a school site who do not have the highest level of DBS checks are legally required to be accompanied at all times while on site. Our visitor lanyard system allows us quickly and easily to see if an adult should be accompanied or not with those needing accompanying wearing light pink and those not needing to be accompanied in dark green. The safeguarding of our young people is our main priority at RGS and we will continue to do everything in our power to protect them.

**Reminder of school closure on Monday for Bank Holiday. School opens as normal on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September.**

Kind regards

Sarah Findlater  
Headteacher - Ramsey Grammar School

## Quote of the week:

“Only people who are capable of loving strongly can also suffer great sorrow, but this same necessity of loving serves to counteract their grief and heals them”  
– Leo Tolstoy

## Extra-Curricular Clubs

Extra-Curricular clubs are now fully up and running. Our staff have on offer between 20 to 30 sessions of ECA per day across the entire week. Whatever your child is interested in there is something for everyone. From Farm club to Rugby; Photography to Reading; Study support to Art, Fitness to Drama; Cardio to Chemistry. The list of clubs has been published on the website with full details available in the Microsoft Student Team.

## Department Update: English

Our new Year 10 classes have launched straight into their GCSE course beginning the play 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and reviewing their descriptive writing skills. Please do encourage them to develop a great writing habit by writing daily. Even without feedback, regular writing will develop their skills in preparation for their exams.

Our KS3 classes have begun their first topics - Year 7 studying myths and legends, Year 8 embarking upon the study of a novel and Year 9 studying the literary tradition of the Gothic. We are very lucky to be receiving a visit from Michelle Paver during Manx Litfest and she will be speaking to some of our Year 7s during their English lessons about the art of writing great stories.

We have welcomed a fabulous new group of Year 12 Literature students who, alongside our current Year 13s, are studying a wide range of texts and producing high level critical work.

Finally, our hard-working Year 11s have begun the new year by meeting the novel they will study for their exams. Students will work with the novel until Christmas before beginning a period of revision and preparation for exams.



### Year 7 Northern 6 Day

This week we hosted the Northern 6 Day for all our Year 7 students. We were lucky to have 6 community sports club in the north of the island take part and offer taster sessions to all our students. It was a great day and everyone really enjoyed trying out the different sports. Year 7 students really impressed us with their skills, attitude and behaviour and we had some of our older students helping out as sports leaders who were a real credit to the school. We are very grateful to the coaches who gave up their time to offer

this opportunity for our students - a great community event!



Details of local clubs were given out to all students but are below for your information:

## Northern 6 Community Club Information

### Ramsey Junior Badminton

Monday's 6.15 to 7.15 at RGS Sports Hall.

School Year Groups - 4 to 9

Registration fee £35 (Payment details and forms provided at the first session)

Starts Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept - Club Contact – Ian Collister – [collisterian@gmail.com](mailto:collisterian@gmail.com) / Tel 332624



### Ramsey Hockey Club

Junior training Monday evenings 6-6.50pm for U10 & U12 Boys & Girls, 7-7.50pm for U15

Cost is £70 for the season September - April.

Players will need shin pads, and gum shields are recommended.

Contact Keith – [kcorkill@manx.net](mailto:kcorkill@manx.net) 421383



### Ramsey Rugby Club

Training - Boys Sundays 2-3pm

Girls Saturday 10am

Mooragh Park

RAMSEY RUGBY CLUB



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### Ramsey Table Tennis Club

Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm in RGS East gym

£2 per session

Contact [timbaker@manx.net](mailto:timbaker@manx.net)

All abilities welcome – starts Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September



### Ramsey Handball Club

RGS lunchtime club – Thursdays 1pm in Sports Hall

Manx Youth Games sessions will commence in January 2023.

More details to follow.



### Ramsey Netball Club

RGS Sports Hall

Wednesdays 6-7pm

Contact [ramseynetball@gmail.com](mailto:ramseynetball@gmail.com)



## Department Update: Art

Well, the Art department has started the new term and new academic year afresh, literally. As RGS said a fond farewell to Mr Quinn, at the end of the summer term, the new academic year sees the arrival of a new Head of Art, Mr Harrison.

Despite the arrival of a new Head of Art, the Art team has been quick to bond, and the students were welcomed back by all. The Art team was greatly strengthened by the welcomed return of Miss Johnson, from her maternity leave.

With this new start came a restyling of the Art department, with new more spacious room layouts. This will benefit the students, as they have greater room to work, explore and experiment. New schemes of works and projects have been introduced to both inspire and challenge every student.

**Year 7** will start their Art journey through developing basic skills that will lead to their first large piece of work, titled '0 Through 9', based on the artwork of Jasper Johns. This will be a mixed media piece where the students will work with watercolours, coloured pencils and learn about brush control, blending colours and tonal shading.



**Year 8** will be focusing on Gothic Art, through architecture, by combining both Maths and Art. This will be a year long theme that will be split into two projects. In their first project, the students will be focusing on 'Stained-Glass Windows'. Using symmetry and pattern, the students will design and create their own stained-glass windows allowing light to pass through with a myriad of colours.



**Year 9** will be looking at illustration through the project of 'Marvel vs Manga'. Here the students will study how two different cultures use comic illustration, in different ways, to create a story. The students will learn to use the 'Grid Technique', a method that is centuries old and even used by the great Leonardo da Vinci. This technique will allow the students to see how easy it is to draw, increasing their accuracy and confidence. The students will also be strengthening their painting skills by creating their own enlarged 'comic book still' in the style of the artist Roy Lichtenstein.

**Year 10** will start their Art GCSE course through the 'Steam Punk Box' project. The initial weeks will be focusing on how to build a vibrant, personal sketchbook, through research, exploration and experimentation. The students will go on to create their own decorative wooden box, using found objects, in the style of the Polish artist Finnbair.

**Year 11** will complete their coursework journey through their final Art GCSE project based on self-portraiture. Here the students will learn how to measure and mark out the human face, how to give it form through tonal shading. The students will learn control through focused hand eye co-ordination. The students will also gain a taste of artistic freedom as they research and select their own personal artist, whose style and techniques they will use to create their own final A1 canvas painted self-portrait.



**Year 12** will embark on their Art A-Level course through unbridled freedom, as they get to select their own personal theme to explore throughout the coming year and into Year 13. The students will explore a series of personally selected artists, styles, techniques and media. Each student will build a portfolio of work, journeying through their theme, through researching, analysing, experimenting and designing a series of personal outcomes.

**Year 13** will conclude their course by building towards a fully realised outcome. After all the preparatory work in Year 12, the students will reach their journey's end by creating a final piece in their own chosen media. This will culminate in the students' A-Level Art mock exam in January. The students will go on to complete their course with a final fifteen-hour exam.

As the term and school year progresses, we look forward to exhibiting various year groups' work not only in school but also in the coming newsletters for you to view.

Exciting times are ahead!

**Key Dates:****September**

Monday 19 – Bank Holiday – School Closed for Queen Elizabeth’s Funeral

Tuesday 20 – Year 7 Managing Change Day (West Hall)

Wednesday 21 – School Photographs Sixth Form and those previously absent (West Hall)

Thursday 22 – Y7 Cat4 Testing

Friday 23 – Y7 Cat4 Testing

Wednesday 28 – Y8 HPV Vaccine (East Hall, morning only)

Wednesday 28 – Maths Olympiad Y12 & Y13

Friday 30 – 3 Oct – Duke of Edinburgh Silver/ Gold Practice Assessed