

---

RGS Newsletter  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 – Issue 3

---



**Headteacher's Message:**

**Assemblies at RGS** - All students at RGS have two assemblies a week. They have an individual assembly with their year group led by their Head of Year and Deputy Head of Year as well as Key Stage Assemblies led by various leaders across the school. Throughout the year we have our key stage assemblies mapped out focusing on a different RGS Ways of Being each week. The assemblies are led by myself and all subject leaders across the school in rotation. We greatly value the approach that all leaders in the school have a chance to share their guidance, thoughts and reflections with the young people in assemblies. This week we had a thought-provoking Key Stage Three assembly from Mr Harrison, our Head of Art, where he spoke to the children about kindness and the importance of showing kindness to ourselves and one another. Next week the Modern Foreign Languages leaders at RGS are speaking with the students about the importance of Languages. The variety of topics we have planned provides a really interesting offering of events across the year. We greatly appreciate the time and consideration that our leaders put into these assemblies and hope the students do too.



**CAT4 Assessments** - This week our Year 7 students sat their CAT4 assessments. CAT stands for Cognitive Ability Test. These assessments generate lots of fascinating data for us on a whole year level as well as individual student level. The reports that are produced allow us to see lots of things with one of the key benefits being the guidance regarding individual students' strengths and areas of development as well as suggesting appropriate ways of supporting them to be successful in the classroom. CAT4 assessments are undertaken in Year 7 and Year 9 at RGS. Year 7 to give us a starting point with them and Year 9 for us to reassess them to better support them as they go into their GCSE studies. I have to say, having witnessed many of the assessments this week, that the student behaviour and focus were exceptional. Well done Year 7!

**Disruption to Running of Trips, Meetings and School Events** – You will have seen in the news that there is a further escalation of industrial action at present relating to a trade dispute. We have not yet had to send any year groups home as other schools are having to and we are hopeful that we will be able to maintain all students in school. Although we are trying our very best to run the school as normal, there are some events and trips that we greatly value but are sadly unable to run or host as we would not be able to direct staff to attend or run them, ask staff to stay for additional hours outside of their working day or cover the lesson that is impacted in the natural logistics of these events. We too are saddened about this, and kindly ask for your understanding at this time.

**Headteacher's Award Winners** - Once again, we have the wonderful opportunity to celebrate our Headteachers Award winners this week for a wide variety of reasons. This week we have had students awarded for good manners, thought and consideration towards others around school, achieving the highest number of House points across the Year group for an excellent and consistent work ethic in all areas, making new starts with enthusiasm and a positive mental attitude, outstanding organizational skills, and a mature approach to learning across all areas. We are very proud of each and every one of them.



**Year 7** – Niall Honeyman  
**Year 8** – Holly Bashforth  
**Year 9** – Cameron Parsons  
**Year 10** – Ayaan Taylor  
**Year 11** – Quinlan Kewley  
**Year 12** – Ellie Fitzpatrick  
**Year 13** – Althea Mallorca

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Findlater'.

Sarah Findlater  
Headteacher - Ramsey Grammar School

## Quote of the week:

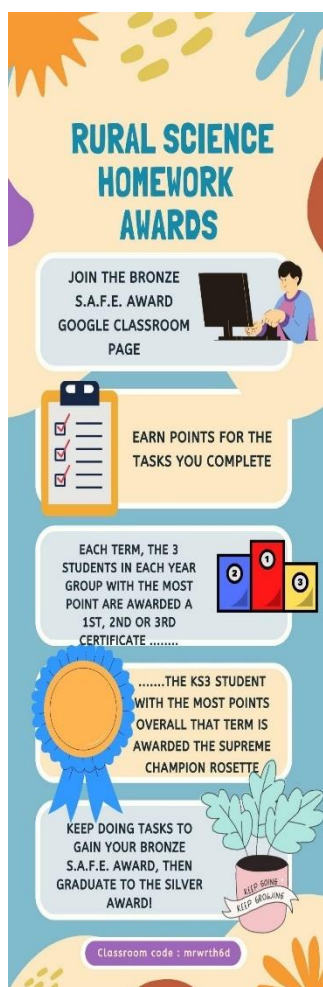
“ Your talent is what determines the extent of what you can achieve, Your motivation is what determines the width of what you can do, and your attitude is what determines whether you will do it right or not.”

## Department Update: Rural Science

**Website:** We now have a dedicated Rural and Agricultural Sciences website, for all year groups, acting as an online textbook.

It will be updated regularly to allow students to catch up on missed lessons, or go over topics again to aid understanding, including videos and Blooket quizzes.

All students have access to the work studied in all years, so they can revisit work from previous years, or look ahead to what they will be studying in the future. This will be especially useful to students in Year 9 and 11, who may be considering taking the subject as a qualification.



**RURAL SCIENCE  
HOMEWORK  
AWARDS**

JOIN THE BRONZE  
S.A.F.E. AWARD  
GOOGLE CLASSROOM  
PAGE

EARN POINTS FOR THE  
TASKS YOU COMPLETE

EACH TERM, THE 3  
STUDENTS IN EACH YEAR  
GROUP WITH THE MOST  
POINTS ARE AWARDED A  
1ST, 2ND OR 3RD  
CERTIFICATE .....

.....THE KS3 STUDENT  
WITH THE MOST POINTS  
OVERALL THAT TERM IS  
AWARDED THE SUPREME  
CHAMPION ROSETTE

KEEP DOING TASKS TO  
GAIN YOUR BRONZE  
S.A.F.E. AWARD, THEN  
GRADUATE TO THE SILVER  
AWARD!

Classroom code : mrrwrth6d

To visit the website, please scan the QR code, or go to the web address given below. Students will need to be logged in with their “@online.sch.im” email to gain access.

## Classroom pages

Each year group again has a dedicated Google classroom page (see below) where information about upcoming assessments, and revision ideas, will be posted.

## Homework

Homework this year will allow students to choose tasks which interest them. Each task will be from one of the following topics:

**Sustainability**

**Agriculture**

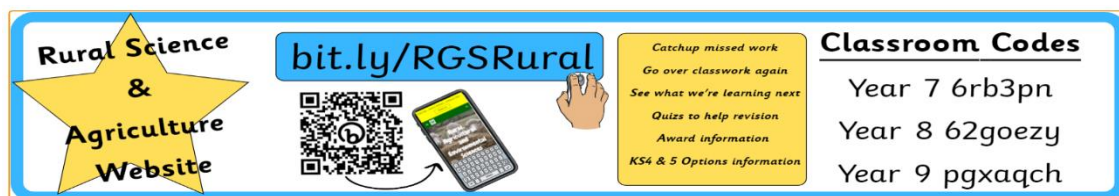
**Food**

**Environment**

.....or **SAFE** for short.

As students complete tasks they will earn points. Once they have enough points they are given an award badge. All students will start on the Bronze badge.

Further information is available on our website, under the “Awards” section, including access to the list of tasks (which are also on the year group Classroom page)



**Rural Science  
&  
Agriculture  
Website**

[bit.ly/RGSRural](https://bit.ly/RGSRural)

Catchup missed work  
Go over classwork again  
See what we're learning next  
Quizzes to help revision  
Award information  
KS4 & 5 Options information

**Classroom Codes**

Year 7 6rb3pn  
Year 8 62goezy  
Year 9 pgxaqch

### Department Update: Music

The Music Department is fully up and running with our academic, instrumental and ensemble activities – ensuring breadth of opportunities and focus in our Key Stage 3 curriculum and opportunities for all students across the school to actively engage in the subject area.

**Year 7** are currently focusing on developing their understanding of the ‘**elements**’ of music – looking at how the basic ‘building blocks’ of rhythm and pitch lay the foundations for all genres and styles of music. Over this half term, they will be developing their understanding of western notation and trying their hand at developing single melody line performance skills at the keyboard.

This year, **Year 8** are learning about music from different **cultures** around the world – starting with Latin American **son clave** and **syncopated** rhythms. This term they are also focusing on learning longer keyboard pieces – using both hands to perform independent musical lines – to the classic 1958 Latin-inspired hit by The Champs – *Tequila!*

**Year 9** are focusing on learning about how repetitive motifs can be used in different genres of music – taking a **minimalist** approach with an arrangement of Mike Oldfield’s *Tubular Bells* on keyboard and developing their guitar skills with repetitive chord progressions as song accompaniments.

### INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

All visiting IOM Music Service staff are now back in school delivering their instrumental lessons. If your child has moved up from primary school and was expecting to continue learning their instrument, they should be on the timetables already. To help remember the day they need their instruments:

**Monday** – Miss Dube (**Vocal** teacher)

**Monday** – Mrs Hind (**Woodwind** teacher) – Mrs Hind is replacing Mrs Galka as maternity cover

**Tuesday** – Mr Wood (**Brass** teacher)

**Tuesday** – Mr Young (**Drum Kit** teacher)

**Tuesday** – Mr Diehl (**Strings** teacher)

**Wednesday** - Ms Hope (**Upper Strings** teacher)

**Thursday** – Mrs Singleton (**Woodwind** teacher)

**Friday** – Mr Jennings (**Guitar** teacher)

We currently have several spaces for vocal and drum kit lessons, and space for other instruments may appear during the academic year. If your child is interested in having vocal/instrumental lessons whilst at RGS, please contact the Music Service directly on 686555, and they will explain how to sign up to their waiting lists online.

### EXTRA CURRICULAR MUSIC

Our current timetable of extra-curricular activities is as follows:

| DAY       | TIME | ACTIVITY          | STAFF     | WHO CAN JOIN?  |
|-----------|------|-------------------|-----------|--|
| TUESDAY   | 1.15 | TRAINING PEP BAND | Mr Wood   | By invitation  |
| WEDNESDAY | 1.15 | STRING ENSEMBLE   | Miss Will | All students learning violin/viola/cello/double bass |
| WEDNESDAY | 3.40 | SENIOR PEP BAND   | Mr Wood   | By invitation  |
| THURSDAY  | 1.30 | CHOIR             | Miss Will | All welcome! – students and staff!                   |

Our Music Centre facility is open for GCSE and A-Level Music Students who wish to work on composition coursework or hold instrumental rehearsals – just ask Mr Brough!

*And finally...*

Way back on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July (the day after schools broke up for summer), our amazing Pep Band and Training Pep Band students (under direction from brass teacher Mr Wood) met up in the East Hall for a workshop with the inspirational Lancashire Youth Brass Band and Lancashire Youth Street Band (called *Honk!*).



Our students enjoyed some highly polished performances by the LYBB, and then joined in with the Honk! workshop – learning pieces by ear and even taking turns to improvise solo material over the top. The workshop was tremendously energetic from the get-go and students were engaged and fully enjoying the different performance style.

I think Music education blogger Vaughan Fleischfresser sums up the Honk! Workshop perfectly:

*“Playing in a band or singing in a choir is so much more than meets the eye. Yes, the music is beautiful, but it’s everything else that makes music ensembles so life-changing. The friendships, the laughter, the camaraderie, absolutely everything. Music ensembles are priceless.”*

## **Key Dates**

### **September**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Y8 HPV Vaccine

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Maths Olympiad Y12 & Y13

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct – Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice

### **October**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October - English GCSE Resit

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> - October – Senior Maths Challenge