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RGS Newsletter  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – Issue 4

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**Headteacher's Message:**

**Headteacher's Award Winners** – We have the great opportunity, once again, to celebrate our Headteachers Award winners this week for a wide variety of reasons. This week we have had students awarded for their positivity and resilience when faced with new challenges, incredible sporting achievements, significant personal progress made in all areas of school life, being welcoming and supportive of others new to our school community, demonstrating high motivation levels in every area of study, and for being conscientious and hardworking. We are very proud of each and every one of them – they are a credit to our school, and the wider community.

**Year 7** – Felicity Walters

**Year 8** – Harry Stennett

**Year 9** – Drew Hill

**Year 10** – Caitlyn Ellison

**Year 11** – Jansen Laudiangco

**Year 12** – Toby Chesnut-Cubbon

**Year 13** – Mia Dunwell



We have had another busy week at Ramsey Grammar School, as students fall well into the rhythm of their lessons and friendship groups once again. We have celebrated European Languages Day with Key Stage assemblies hosted by Mrs Rousseau and Mr Judd, and our student Language Leaders, with lots of interesting conversations stemming from the assemblies across all year groups. Thank you to both, and to all students who stood up and took part - you set a fantastic example of the many benefits of becoming a Language Leader at RGS.

A reminder of the key email addresses for school, and when best to use them:

- [RGSEnquires@sch.im](mailto:RGSEnquires@sch.im) – for all general enquiries, emails to Heads of Year, form tutors, and subject teachers. Please put the name of the student and the form name in the subject along with the name of the person you wish to contact, if known.
- [RGSAbsence@sch.im](mailto:RGSAbsence@sch.im) – for all absence requests, including illness or holiday requests. Please remember to notify the school daily of any absence due to illness before 10am, so that registers and attendance are accurately maintained.
- [RGSExams@sch.im](mailto:RGSExams@sch.im) – for any Exam related enquiries.

Kind regards

Sarah Findlater  
Headteacher - Ramsey Grammar School



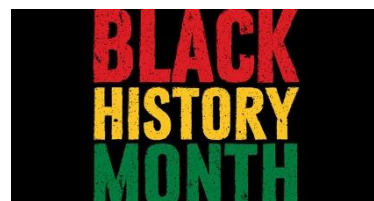
**Quote of the week:**

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

Martin Luther King Jr

## Black History Month

As we move into October Ramsey Grammar School will be celebrating and raising awareness of Black History Month throughout the school. Teachers have put together great learning aids for students and staff to better understand the importance of Black History Month. Based predominantly upon the themes of race, unconscious bias, allyship, and of course notable Historical events these will be used across the school over the course of October.



## SMART CARD TOP UP'S

The SmartCard system is what Ramsey Grammar School use for all cashless lunch payments so that students simply swipe to pay, making the system quick and easy for all involved. Each student has been given a plastic pouch on the end of their lanyard to hold their SmartCard. Students can top-up their cards at their convenience on the machines located outside the West office, or in the East building with cash brought in. Similarly, Parents/ Carers can top-up cards at any point via the ParentPay. The app can also be used to see what meals are being taken each day, or to place a limit on the daily spend, if desired. If other one-off payments are necessary through the year, such as for locker-keys, text books or leavers hoodies, these are also put onto ParentPay for the relevant students.



Please ensure your child's SmartCard remains topped up via one of the two methods above.

If you are unable to access ParentPay please email [RGSEnquiries@sch.im](mailto:RGSEnquiries@sch.im) in the first instance and we can help regain access, or set up an account.

## Accelerated Reader Classes for Year 7 & Year 8 Students

Every Year 7 and Year 8 student will have one Accelerated Reader (AR) class each week. It is a reading-practise and assessment system, consisting of:

- Baseline reading assessment
- Picking a book to read based upon the assessment results
- Reading the book until the end
- Taking the online quiz for that specific book
- Picking the next book based on quiz performance
- Periodic reassessment



Our Literacy Team run the classes in a very specific way – quite different to a traditional reading lesson in many ways. The reasoning behind why the system works so well is that it guides students to find a book with an appropriate level of challenge i.e., not too easy, not too difficult, but a suitable level so they are constantly developing their skills without being too overwhelmed.

**In the 8 month period that the programme ran last year, Year 8 made average progress of 20 months, while Year 7 made average progress of 22 months. An amazing achievement from our fantastic students!**

This academic year, almost every Year 7 and Year 8 student has completed their baseline assessments already, and most have picked their first book of the academic year. Please encourage your children to read their AR books as often as possible. The more often they read, the more their reading skills will improve.

## Department Update – History

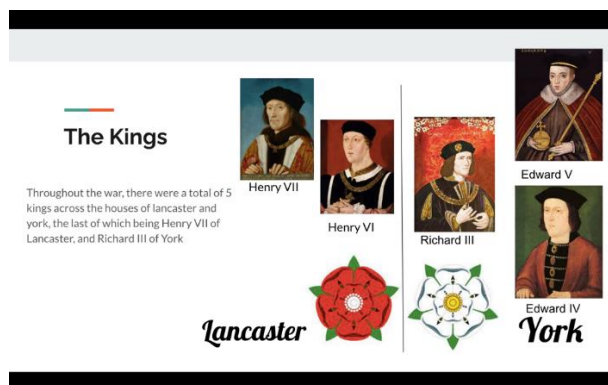
**Year 7** – We welcomed year 7 students to the RGS History department by discussing key terms such as Chronology, inference, anachronism etc. We then moved onto our Discoveries course which has a speedy run through history firstly looking at Neolithic people on the Isle of Man and finishing with Man on the Moon, computers and the internet. The assessment this month will be writing about the Pagan Lady whose body was found in Peel in 1984 and asking who was she?

**NOTE** – we are now using a new style marking arrangement in KS3 where students work will range from Foundation to Mastery.

**Highlight** – Looking at what life was like for people living on the IOM during the Neolithic period.

**Year 8** – Students have been looking at the War of the Roses and how it impacted on Britain. Many students were given basic information on the five kings involved the key battles and the influential women. They then produced PowerPoints to illustrate their research. Studies then followed on to look at Richard III and ask if he was a villain or not. This will be their autumn assessment.

**NOTE** – we are now using a new style marking arrangement in KS3 where students work will range from Foundation to Mastery.



Here is one of the PPT pages produced by Ted, Will and Andrew of 8.

**Highlight – Researching the key people and key events from the War of the Roses.**

**Year 9** – Students are currently looking at the Causes of WWI and the various long and short-term factors. They will do various hierarchy exercises to ascertain which factors were most important. The assessment will be looking at primary and secondary sources and working out if Austria was responsible for war starting in 1914... or not.

**NOTE** – we are now using a new style marking arrangement in KS3 where students work will range from Foundation to Mastery.

**Highlight – Researching the events of 28 June 1914 and the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie.**

**Year 10** – We are very excited to start teaching our new Pearson’s IGCSE course which looks at Germany 1918-1945, Civil Rights in the USA 1945-74, Vietnam 1954-1974 and Changes in medicine c1848-c1948. We are currently learning about Germany after WWI and in the early 1920s.

These are the set textbooks from Pearson’s if you wish to buy a copy to help your child’s studies:



**NOTE** - You will also that with our new course we used the 1-9 grading system as is used in England. Below is a breakdown of how the grades link to the A-F systems. More information will follow, but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

How the new grades compare with old ones

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 Strong Pass
	4 Standard Pass
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U

Source: Ofqual



**Year 11** - IGCSE students have now finished their Coursework lessons and they are busy writing their essay. The question is: "How far was the tourist industry significant on the economy and society of the Isle of Man 1850 – 1914". Parents and Carers are usually a big help here, please read draft essays and give constructive criticism. We are sorry that the July trip to Douglas was postponed due to issues beyond the control of the history department and that the trip had to be cancelled in September due to ASOS. We are also offering revision sessions and would be grateful if you could pass this information on to your child:



In class students are now working on Paper 2 which is worth 33% of their overall grade.

**Highlight – Writing up coursework (worth 27% of overall grade) ASAP.**

**Year 12** – Students have started their new courses with their new teachers. Mrs Day is teaching Britain 1930-1997; Mr Wilkinson is teaching the French Revolution & the Rule of Napoleon 1774-1815 and Mrs Lewis is teaching Russia 1854 – 1964.

**Highlight – Getting used to the rigours of A Level History.**

**Year 13** – Students stated their new courses in July and are continuing to study Warfare and Social Change 1792 – 1945 and they are gathering their sources for coursework titles linked to the Cold War or WWI & Women getting the vote.

**Highlight – Gathering sources for coursework and researching university choices.**

**Department Update – PE**

**RGS Club List Autumn 2022**

	MONDAY	Staff	TUESDAY	Staff	WEDNESDAY	Staff	THURSDAY	Staff	FRIDAY	Staff
Break	Basketball	All	Basketball	All	Basketball	All	Basketball	All	Basketball	All
Lunch 13.00- 13.30	Gym	CK	Gym	CAG	Gym	CK	Gym	DF	Gym	CK
	Badminton	EN	Year 9 Rugby	MF	Senior Rugby	DI	Year 9 Rugby	CK	Year 8 Rugby	CAG
	Year 10 Rugby	DI	Senior Rugby	DI	Year 8 Rugby	CAG	Year 10 Rugby	DI	Year 7 Rugby	BE
	Year 7 Rugby	BE	Year 7 Hockey	GB	Year 8 Hockey	VG	Junior Handball	DR	Junior Football	GB
	Cardio	CK	Cardio	CAG	Cardio	CK	Year 9 Hockey	BAE	Cardio	CK
Lunch 13.30- 14.00							Cardio	CAG		
	Gym	CK	Gym	CAG	Gym	CAG	Gym	CK	Gym	CK
	Cardio	CK	Cardio	CK	Cardio	CAG	Cardio	CAG	Cardio	CK
	Year 9 Hockey	BAE								
After school	Rugby club	All	Year 10 Rugby*	DI	Year 7 Rugby*	BE	Senior Rugby*	DI	Year 9 Rugby*	CK
	Year 8 Rugby *	CAG	GCSE Swimming	GB	Year 7 Hockey	GB			Year 9 Hockey	BAE
	Junior Basketball	JL	Basketball	CAG						
	Year 8 Hockey	VG								
	Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		Year 10/Seniors		All years	
	Junior		Junior		Inters		Inters			
	N.b. some other will be added when a time is confirmed									

### **Year 12 Sports Leaders Award**

The Sports Leaders award has proved to be a very popular enrichment option this year, with 20 students signing up to the course. These students will undertake theoretical lessons before embarking on a coaching journey, experiencing planning and evaluating physical activity sessions for primary students, as well as coaching students from the Learning Support Department and in the wider community. These students will develop confidence in their coaching abilities and is a nationally recognised certificate, so a great addition to their CV's. It also carries 16 UCAS points so will contribute towards a successful university application.



Year 12 Sports Leaders session.

### **BTEC Careers Day**

The Year 12 BTEC students participated in a Careers in Sport Day this week at the NSC. They attended workshops on Sports Performance, Health & Well Being, Facility Management, Sports Development and Sports Coaching. This day offers an invaluable insight into possible careers in sport and allows students to think beyond their A-Level studies and job opportunities available to them. It was a really enjoyable day and we are grateful to the people who gave up their time to speak to our students.

### **KEY STAGE 3 Physical Education**

KS3 students have started the school year off with a block of lessons looking at the Fundamentals of Movement. Groups have participated in activities to improve general fitness, hand-eye co-ordination, speed, agility, balance, endurance, team work and communication.



Year 8 PE students participating in an agility session

**Swimming for Year 7 & 8** will begin week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> October and will be on a rota basis. Your child will be informed when their swimming block (5 weeks) will start.

### **Key Dates**

October

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Cake Sale for Y11 Prom Fundraising (West Canteen at Breaktime)

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

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