
RGS Newsletter

Friday 18th November 2022 – Issue 10



Headteacher's Message:

We are delighted to celebrate some of young people once again this week with our Headteacher's Award. This week we have students nominated for always being kind and showing respect and support to others, having a positive start to this academic year, representing RGS as part of the Senior Pep Band, for being Historian of the month, for working hard across all subject areas, for showing great leadership and determination, for always being diligent and hardworking, for always being punctual and consistently being an outstanding role model, for being calming and kind to others, for always applying their best effort and high standards to everything they do, and for being a key leader and role model within the Pep band both inside and outside of school. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them and the many ways in which they actively embody the RGS Ways of Being.



- Year 7 – Kitty Quaggin
- Year 8 – Elizabeth Nelson
- Year 9 – Seren Davies
- Year 10 – Megan Cowley
- Year 11 – Rhianna Huxham
- Year 12 – Alex Shimmin & Niamh Milsom
- Year 13 – Ivo Morrey & Oscar Bovenizer

Ramsey Grammar School – Remembrance Day Representation – We were very proud indeed that Harry Eyres and Tom Gelling represented the school on Remembrance Sunday in Ramsey Town center to lay the Ramsey Grammar School Wreath and take part in the march during the event. As usual, it was a wonderfully commemorative and respectful service that were honoured to be a part of.



New Leaders and Staff Update - We are very pleased to announce that this week we appointed Mrs Byrne as our new Head of Design Technology and Mrs Davies as our new Deputy Head of Social Sciences. We are very excited to have these two wonderful members of our teaching staff joining our leadership team here at Ramsey Grammar School. We also welcomed Mrs Harrison new to the school as our new Food Technology and Art Technician

External Examinations – We have had a number of students sit external examinations this week in the school. We have hosted Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics examinations. The students have worked extremely hard in the lead up to the examinations and were exceptionally focused and mature in their approach to them I wish them all the very best with their results.

Anti-Bullying Week - This week we focused as a school on clamping down on bullying and raising awareness of Anti-Bullying Week. Some of the reflections that I asked staff to focus on and discuss with students are below. We take bullying very seriously at Ramsey Grammar School and this week we reminded the students once again about what their community responsibilities are if they see bullying.



- **The Power of words** - Your words are powerful, every single one... written or spoken. "Words. So powerful. They can crush a heart, or heal it. They can shame a soul, or liberate it. They can shatter dreams, or energize them. They can obstruct connection, or invite it. They can create defenses, or melt them. We have to use words wisely." - Jeff Brown
- **Gentleness is a strength** - Gentleness is a strength. Not always the easiest option when we are faced with a challenge, adversity or negative behaviours... but being gentle in those situations can allow clarity to reign and resolution to come about. We should never accept negative behaviours; but we can choose how we respond to them. It is easier to react, to retaliate and to reflect those behaviours back to that person when we are faced with or experience negative behaviours. But what is likely to bring us happiness and peace sooner is to respond with gentleness.
- **Say no to Gossip** - It can be hard to resist listening to, engaging in or passing on the latest piece of hot gossip. Whoever let facts get in the way of a juicy piece of gossip am I right? But gossiping and rumour spreading is bullying too. Gossiping is a damaging, dangerous and aggressive form of harassment. Always remember, if someone is willing to gossip to you they are likely willing to gossip about you. It is not just a bit of fun. It is harmful and mean. Gossip can leave emotional scars and can have a hugely negative impact on the person who is the target. It can lead to a toxic environment where people do not feel safe or cared for. Stand firm against bullies and say no to gossip today. There are many reasons someone may gossip. They may be trying to gain power over someone, to have a connection with an individual or group due to a 'shared secret', to deflect feelings of jealousy into making that person look bad or they themselves have been bullied and gossiped about in the past and have learnt that behaviour. There is always a reason for a person's negative behaviour but regardless of the reason, we have a community duty to stand firm against it.

- **It is Never your Fault if you are being bullied** - If you are being bullied or have been bullied in the past you are likely to have had the thought that it is your fault at some point during that experience. You may have thought that if you spoke differently to how you speak that the bullies would not have targeted you, if you looked different to how you look then the bullies would not have targeted you or that somehow you have brought the bullying upon yourself. It is not you. It is not your fault. You did not bring the bullying upon yourself. When a person bullies it is all about them, not you. It is their insecurities, their jealousy, their upbringing, their lack of self-worth, their lack of self-love, their life experiences, their trauma, their struggles that lead them to bully; not you.

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE



If you're being bullied:

- 1 Tell someone you trust
- 2 Keep a record of what's happening
- 3 Don't retaliate
- 4 Surround yourself with people that make you feel good
- 5 Don't blame yourself - it is NOT your fault
- 6 Be proud of who you are

UNITED AGAINST BULLYING



We say no to bullying at RGS.

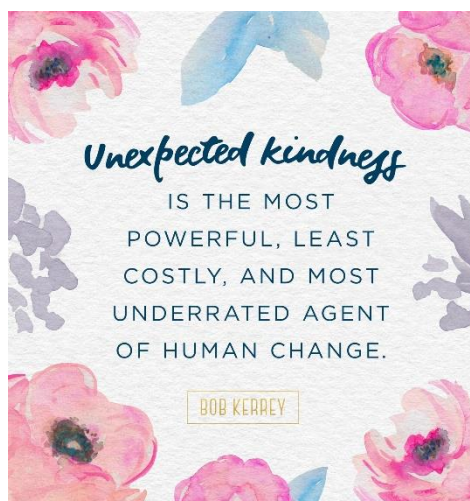
I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards

Sarah Findlater
Headteacher - Ramsey Grammar School



Quote of the week:



Notice – West Building Access - Please can we remind all parents/ carers that the West Building is not a drop-off or collection point for students unless there is a medical or pre-agreed reason to do so. The East is the drop-off point for all students in the mornings by private car or bus. It is a very busy time of day, and the West Building gets congested with cars very easily. Please drop off in the East or encourage students to walk or bicycle in and park it in the secure bicycle hubs if it's feasible to do so.

Duke of Edinburgh Update - It is currently the closed season for the Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions, this allows us to look through our DoE Kit and prepare for what looks like a busy expedition season that will commence around April 2023. We as an organisation are also going through some changes at the moment, which have been brought in by the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme Governing Body, we hope this will have little impact on the way things our ran through DoE at RGS. We will keep you all informed of any developments/changes that may occur from the changes being implemented. This is also a suitable time of year for our participants to complete and submit any outstanding evidence and assessor report documents, this will allow them to complete the relevant sections on their award, then this can be sent for final approval, and they will then receive their pin badge. We are here to help if anyone needs any further information and assistance to complete any outstanding sections/awards. We have had another successful year with participants completing awards and then looking to the next level of the awards scheme, we had a large Bronze cohort enroll last year which many have signed up for the Silver Award, making it our biggest Silver cohort for many years. We hope this continues and students gain new skills, improve knowledge, and enjoy the amazing outdoor environment that we have on our Island. Below is a list of students who have completed awards since our last newsletter.



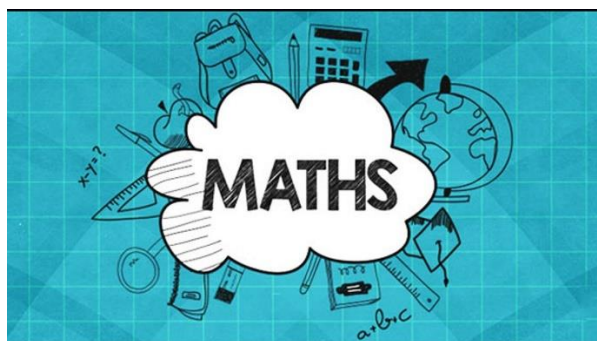
Bronze Award		Silver Award
Winnie Davies	Holly O'Donnell	Wilma Dalugdugan
Ruby Reynolds	Lindi Nyoni	Lola Tebay
Arsene Ayen	Alyssa Mallorca	Amy Gelling
Chloe Kinley	Lily Gell	Ben Smith
Jayden Thompson	Sophie Wood	Elly-Jane Crellin
Katie Foster	Beatrice Cowley	Erin Corkill
Connor Huyton	Lilly-Rose Scally	Ben Gelling
Nathan Mather	Georgia Smith	Niamh Milsom
Andrew Menil	Alfie Melling	
Connor Bloomer	Maisie-Mae Kinrade	
Elliot Cocker	Kieran Percival	
Matilde Jackson		

Upcoming Events.

Monday 28th November 2022 – Year 9 Student – Duke of Edinburgh Information evening - This will be held in the Lecture Theatre after school on the above date. Students will receive information about the Bronze Award, with explanations for each of the required sections, (Physical, Skill, Volunteering and Expedition). They will also have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have regarding the award.

Monday 12th December – 2022 – Year 9 – Catch up meeting - This is an opportunity to come and ask any further questions that they may have and to sign up for the Bronze Award and receive the official registration form for completion.

Monday 19th December 2022 – Bronze Award Parent Information evening – POSTPONED - We are unfortunately postponing this event. As mentioned earlier in this letter, DoE are currently making changes to how the organisation runs the award schemes. We will reschedule this information evening for a time when we have all the information and new procedures. We apologise for this. If you have any concerns or need any further information, please contact us via the school enquires email address (RGSEnquiries@sch.im), and we will be happy to contact you.



Department Update - Maths

It's been a busy half term for the Maths Department. We had our Senior Mathematicians take part in the UKMT Maths Challenge with Oscar Bovenizer showing how strong a Mathematician he is by earning himself a Gold award. This means he is in the top 2% of students who sit this challenge in the UK. Well done Oscar. We also had numerous other awards so well done to all the students who took part. The list of award winners is below.

Our Senior Girl Mathematicians also took part in the Girls Olympiad, again we had a strong showing for this and a number of our students received Merit Awards. Well done girls.

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

We had our accelerated Year 11 groups getting ready for their GCSE Maths exam in November, so well done to all the students who put in a lot of effort and time getting ready for this exam, and a big thank you to Miss Nicholson and Mr Leech who got these students ready for this early entry. The results will be out in January.

We were happy once again to host the IOM Maths Society Maths Symposium this year. Unfortunately, on the day of our symposium our Key Note Speaker, Dr Ian Wright tested positive for Covid so was unable to attend. So as a team we improvised and watched his lecture on Covid Mathematics that he presented to us two years ago and looked at how he advised the IOM government on what direction to go in relation to the pandemic. Once the lecture was complete we got in to the real challenge and went up against the other High Schools for the Senior Maths Challenge Trophy. Unfortunately, on this occasion we lost out to a very strong Ballkermeen team. We will bring back the Trophy to RGS next year.

Matthew	Bell	Participation
Isabella	Boyes	Participation
Adam	Beward	Participation
Toby	Chestnut-Cubbon	Bronze
annabelle	clague	BronzeBiY
Daniel	Comley	Participation
Cameron	Cowie	Participation
Kyle	Graham	Bronze
Samuel	Harris	Participation
Rhett	Iveagh	Participation
william	kermode	Participation
Ariana	Kerruish	Participation
Francesca	Lord	BronzeBiY
Niamh	Milsom	Participation
Liam	Norman	Participation
Aaron	Rielly	Participation
Drystan	Sewell	Participation
Alfie	Swales	Participation
William	Taylor	Participation
Jamys	Wade	Participation
Ella	Wood	Participation
Ryan	Wren	Participation
Dixie	Yardley - Scott	Participation
Alfonso	Bacani	Bronze
Oscar	Bovenizer	GoldBiS
Joey	Callow	Bronze
Mia	Dunwell	Participation
Ben	Gelling	Bronze
Ivo	Morrey	Bronze
Dylan	O'Reilly	Participation
Nerys	Otto	Bronze
Lucy	Parsons	Bronze
Ketar	Walker	Participation

UKMT Maths Olympiad for Girls

Bella	Boyes
Annabelle	Clague
Ariana	Kerruish
Francesca	Lord
Niamh	Milsom
Ella	Wood
Dixie	Yardley-Scott
Mia	Dunwell
Nerys	Otto
Lucy	Parsons

Department Update – Rural Science

It's been a busy half term from our students who are all now well established in their courses

Year 7 have been learning about how to stay safe on the farm and in the lab, as well as the importance of identifying and mitigating risk. They have just completed a topic and test on soil. Soil is the basis for all agriculture, so is an ideal and important start to studying Rural Science. Pupils also had the opportunity to learn some revision techniques. I am aware that many year 7s are not able to access our **Rural website** at the moment, and I would like to apologise for that. A fully accessible website will be available in the next couple of weeks. Pupils will be given the password for it as soon as it is available.

Year 8 have been learning about Composting, Crop Rotation, Plant Pest and Diseases, and Plant nutrient uses, signs of deficiency and its effects on a plant. They are currently applying that knowledge to plan how to survive an asteroid impact on earth, where they are responsible for sustainably growing their own food, with very little resources available. There are some fantastic and imaginative plans being developed, and we can't wait to see the final ideas - and find out who survives!

Year 9 have been learning about how the seasons affect plants and animals, how farmers have to plan well ahead, to ensure they have enough food and bedding for their livestock, as well as allowing for any unexpected weather conditions. They are currently working on an assessed piece of work to highlight how an already difficult job is being made more complicated by the unpredictable effects of climate change

Year 10 have just had their second assessment, after learning about livestock production systems. They are now moving on to more detail to find out how those animals are cared for and bred.

Year 11 are approaching half way through their 3rd and final unit - Animal and Plant Biology

Years 12 & 13 collaboration classes have been very busy working on several units, including Farm Maintenance, Pig Production, Farm Records, Poultry Production, and have recently started the theory work for the Tractor driving, operation and attachments. The practical element of this unit is a residential trip to the **Royal Agricultural University**, which has been working with our students since 2017. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them in advance, for having us visit, and time given by their lecturers and students to enable us to get the most out of our trip

Rural Science Introduce S.A.F.E Awards Scheme

This year, the Rural Science have offered Rural Science students the opportunity to win badges, certificates and rosettes. It's called the S.A.F.E Awards.

The S.A.F.E (Sustainably, Agriculture, Food and Environment) Awards operate on a points system. Complete tasks related to the 4 S.A.F.E categories and earn points.



Complete enough tasks from each category, and you earn a S.A.F.E badge. The Badges operate on a Duke of Edinburgh style system; Bronze, then Silver and then Gold. Points build up, and the



top 3 point scorers from each KS3 year group earn a certificate. The highest point scorer in the whole of KS3 earns the Supreme Champion Rosette.

More details on the S.A.F.E Awards are available on the [Rural Science Website](#).



By Daniel Cross, who is working towards his Bronze S.A.F.E Award

Department Update - Music

The Music Department has a lot going on! In a flash we've moved into our second module for Key Stage 3 classes:

Year 7 are currently focusing on developing their vocal confidence and singing skills through singing a variety of **part songs** and **rounds**. They are continuing to develop their knowledge of the '**elements**' of music – consolidating the basic theory we covered last half term and adding to it with some new features of Western notation. They will be developing their keyboard skills using more complicated notation to learn the opening to John William's fabulous *Hedwig's Theme* from *Harry Potter*.

Year 8 are continuing to learn about music from different **cultures** around the world – focusing this module on the music of Jamaica – **REGGAE!**. Students will be learning the key characteristics of reggae - **hook lines**, **off-beat rhythms**, **bass riffs** and **syncopation**, and will be arranging group performances of Bob Marley's classic hit *Three Little Birds*. This will give them the opportunity to choose from the keyboard, ukulele, guitar, voice or their own instrument in order to really demonstrate their best music performance skills whilst working together to perform the four characteristic elements of the song. Keeping in time will be key to success!

Year 9 are continuing their focus on learning about how **repetition** is used in music of different genres – looking at Avicii's **fusion** of **Chicago 'house'** music with other dance styles in an arrangement of *Levels* in pairs on the keyboard or developing their **song-writing** skills in groups utilising guitar/ukulele and keyboard skills.

GCSE groups are busy **composing** waltzes, **analysing** Haydn's Symphony No. 100 '*Military*' in G major and focusing on their World Music areas of study in preparation for their mock listening exam.

Our **A-level students** are deep into the **analysis** of Haydn's *Symphony No. 103 'Drum Roll' in E flat major*, Brahms' *Symphony No. 1 in C minor*, and **Impressionist** works by Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel. Taxing, but stunningly beautiful repertoire.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

If your child is interested in developing their vocal skills further – then please do contact the RGS Music Department! Our singing teacher Adele Dube currently has some availability for new students. Adele is an accomplished singer – trained in a variety of singing styles from opera through to jazz. She regularly performs across the IOM as both a soloist and as part of the amazing *NOVA Band* and *Brass Machine*. We also currently have a space available for any student wishing to learn the drum kit with Jay Young. Jay is a regular in the orchestra pit in the Gaiety Theatre and drums for the *Brass Machine*, *Brassified*, *Rushen Silver Band* and a variety of other island-based bands (when he finds the time!) Please don't hesitate to contact us if your child is interested in either vocal or drum kit lessons. We really are lucky to have such amazing instrumental/vocal teachers available in school!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC

After their outstanding performance at RTC's firework display on the 5th of November, students from both of our **Pep Bands** will be taking part in a morning workshop with a number of distinguished tutors this weekend in the East building, organised by their Music Director (and the brass teacher) John Wood.

This is an incredible opportunity for our students to mix with other like-minded students from different schools and to focus on developing their ensemble skills with the likes of David Karran (former *Brighthouse & Rastrick Brass Band*), Sian Karran (former City of *Bradford Brass Band*), Robert Quane (Musical Director, *Ramsey Town Band*) and John himself (Denis Wick Ambassador and former principal Tuba for the *Kwazulu-Natal Philharmonic*). We can't wait to hear the final performance at the end of the morning!



RGS PEP BAND PROUDLY PRESENTS:

BRASS & PERCUSSION DAY!

SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER 10:00-13:00
RAMSEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL EAST BUILDING
A FREE DAY OF EXCITING ACTIVITIES FOR ALL
BRASS, SAXOPHONE AND PERCUSSION PLAYERS!

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE
PLEASE CONTACT
JOHN WOOD:
johnwood@online.sch.im



Key Dates

Wednesday 23rd Learn to Earn Y9
Tuesday 29th November RAU Trip Y12 & Y13
Wednesday 30th November Strike Action
Thursday 01st December Strike Action
Friday 02nd December - CRUSE – Dress Down Day
Monday 05th December – Y7 & Y8 Accelerated Reader Progress Testing
Monday 05th December – Mock Exams Begin
Wednesday 07th December – Mock United Nations