



RGS Newsletter - Issue 13



Welcome to our weekly Ramsey Grammar School newsletter

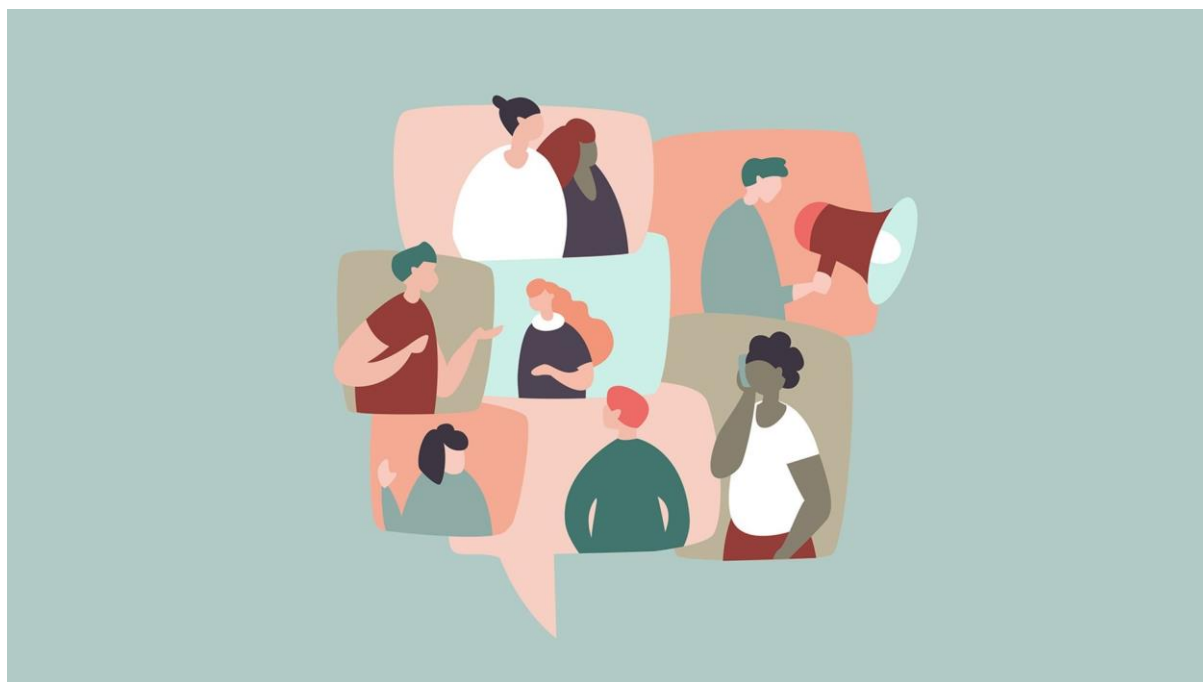
Friday 9th December 2022

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Headteacher's Message



Our mock exams are in full swing here at the Grammar. The mock exam season is so important for our young people as it gives them a taste of the final exam season and allows them to reflect upon where they are and what still needs to be done. The Year 11 students have conducted themselves impeccably. Their focus, drive and mature approach has been noticed by all. A huge well done to each and every one and a good luck with the remaining exams they have still to sit next week.

Mrs Dyer is running a lovely festive rewards initiative with Year 8 this month. Each school day through December, a student in Y8 will randomly be selected to open up a door in our virtual Success Advent Calendar. The pre-requisite is that the student will have received no late marks, behaviour points/concerns and had been "Ready to Learn" the previous day. The Year 8 students have been enjoying their rewards each day. A huge well done to our winners so far.





We are currently recruiting for some positions at the school. We encourage parents and community member to have a look at apply if they are of interest to you and pass on if you know of someone who may be interested.

- The position of Examination Invigilator drive for all secondary school can be found [here](#)
- The Lead Outreach teacher can be found [here](#)

Finally, we kindly ask parents not to drive on to the school site at the start of the day, end of the day, lunch or break unless you have a disabled badge for their child. These times are very busy with

children and there are very rarely parking spaces available. This is a health and safety risk as the students are out at play at this time. We are very grateful for your cooperation and support.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

Quote of the Week *"Sorrows gather around great souls as storms do around mountains; but, like them, they break the storm and purify the air of the plain beneath them."*



Headteacher's Award Winners



We have the pleasure of congratulating a new group of Headteacher's Award Winners this week, and as always we are so impressed with the multitude of reasons they are nominated. This week students were recipients for great work across all subject areas in and out of lessons, and for always being positive and committed to studies. We are very proud of each and every one of you. Thank you for representing RGS!

- **Year 9** - Oliver Dowty
- **Year 12** – Jake Faragher

Picture: RGS Headteacher's Award Winners 09 Dec 2022



1 - Mrs Findlater with Oliver & Jake for Headteachers Award

Natasha's Law & RGS Catering Department



What is Natasha's Law?

This is a new set of rules, known as Natasha's Law, which was introduced in the UK from October 2021. It requires all food businesses to include full ingredients labelling on pre-packaged foods, i.e., Sandwiches, Salads, Baguettes, Wraps.

It was brought in after the tragic and avoidable death of Natasha Ednan-Laperouse who died after suffering an allergic reaction after purchasing a baguette from Pret a Manger which contained sesame seeds.

This law is not currently in force in the Isle of Man, however, Ramsey Grammar School Catering Department have invested in a Date Genie Labelling machine to ensure all pre-packaged items are correctly labelled with all ingredients to allow your children to read exactly what ingredients are in a food item so they can decide if it is safe for them to eat if they suffer from allergies.

As always Ramsey Grammar School Catering Department are happy to discuss any special dietary requirements for any child, please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can be of assistance.



RGS UCAS Update

The final RGS deadline for this year's university applications is today. The 6th form team have seen improved offers from universities when applications are made early. This also helps to focus the mindset of our students, as they prepare for their mock exams in January, as they have a clear goal to be working for.

Already this year there have been some really successful offers for students who sent their applications in early.

- Two students have been invited for interview by University of Cambridge (Maths / History & Politics)
- Rachel Callow is applying for Primary Education, she has been asked for interview by four institutions in one week and received offers from all of them once the interviews were completed.
- Both Conan Dykes and Althea Mallorca applied and have received offers for courses in Physiotherapy. These are very tricky courses to get on and they have they have undergone some gruelling interviews!
- Abi Davidson has applied for Optometry. These courses are incredibly oversubscribed, but she has already received offers from the Universities of Cardiff, Manchester, and Ulster.
- Tom Willis has already received offers from four of his universities to study Law. (Chester, Edge Hill, Lancaster, Liverpool)

Some of the courses applied for so far by our 6th form students.

- Mathematics
- History and Politics
- Physiotherapy
- Modern Languages
- Primary and Early Years Education
- Criminology and Psychology
- Biochemistry
- Business Management and Spanish
- Accounting and Finance
- Optometry
- Law
- Physiotherapy
- Sport and Exercise Science
- Ecology and Conservation

We are so proud of all of our 6th form students and they really are role models to all in key stage 3 and 4. It is worth noting that as part of the application process the Universities are not just looking at educational qualifications. When writing personal statements to support their application, many of the 6th form demonstrate how they give up countless hours of their time supporting the local community, coaching sports, supporting youth clubs, performing in bands, holding down part time

We wish them all the very best of luck.

Career preparation at RGS



They will then continue working on their company and will compete in the finals on the 14 and 15 March 2023 at the Palace hotel. Companies from all secondary schools will be competing against each other. There are numerous awards which they will be hoping to win, which are listed below:-

- Team Awards:** 1. Sustainability Award 2. Excellence in Sales Award 3. Creative Problem Solving 4. Customer Focus Award 5. Best Promotional Video 6. Public Choice Award 7. Innovation in Business 8. HSBC Student Company of the Year

- **Individual awards** 9. Volunteer Mentor of the Year 10. Leader for a Day (A NEW AWARD!) Teachers and Mentors can nominate students who have made an outstanding contribution to their team. Up to six lucky students will be invited to have breakfast with the Lieutenant Governor at Government House and then will work shadow a top Business Leader for a Day.

The HSBC Student Company of the Year is awarded to the team that performs best in the following areas:

1. Business report
2. Presentation
3. Trade stand exhibition
4. Panel Interview

The award ceremony will be held at The Villa Marina on Wednesday 22nd March 2023. The winner of the HSBC Student Company of the year will be invited to the European Finals which this year is in Istanbul in July.

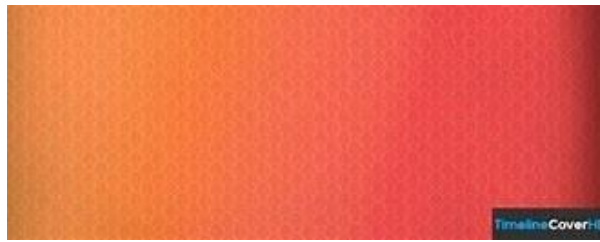


Yr 9 Learn to Earn

On the morning of 22 November, the Year 9 students participated in a program run by Junior Achievement and presented by business professionals from across the island. The students had a great time looking at themselves and working out what career may suit them, identifying transferable skills and workplace behaviour and then summing it up by looking at the financial side of employment.

Their motivation was evident during the morning session and will support their decisions when considering their options later in the year.

Y12 BTEC Sports & FitHub



The RGS Year 12 BTEC students put together a professional proposal last year for a BTEC specific sports kit. This was costed up, a proposal document put together, and sponsorship sort. The students approached FitHub, a functional fitness space in the heart of Ramsey, for potential sponsorship. FitHub were incredibly approachable and onboard with the ideas of the Year 12 BTEC Sports students. FitHub contributed 50% of the kit cost, and the students each paid the remaining 50% for their own kits.

It has been such a success that the current Year 13 students on the BTEC Sports course are setting the wheels in motion for the next intake of Year 12.

With thanks to FitHub for their support and contribution that has helped make this possible - and a huge well done to the BTEC Sports students for their idea and determination with seeing it through to fruition.





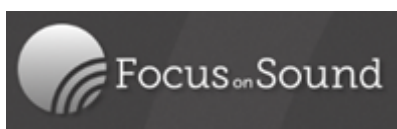


Department Update- Music



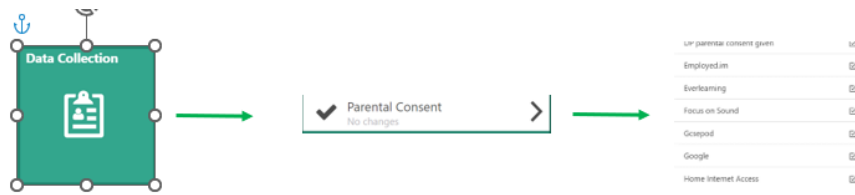
Music home learning update!

In order to support home learning, the Music department has subscribed once again to *Focus on Sound* – an amazing online resource containing lessons, listening tests, study pieces, and composing tasks. It is an ideal resource for supporting and assessing the work we cover in class, and at GCSE level it has really proved vital in helping students to prepare for their final listening exam. It can also be used to support students who are working towards ABRSM theory grades, or those who simply want to improve their understanding of an area within the subject.



In the new year we will be uploading a variety of short topic-related listening exercises for all Key Stage 3 students (with house points as rewards for work completed in a timely fashion!) and will regularly be setting listening tasks for exam classes using *Focus on Sound* from January onwards.

Students will access *Focus on Sound* via their RGS Teams address, and to this end, parental permission is required in order to add them to the online registers. You can give consent for your child to use *Focus on Sound* via the Parent app. Select the 'Data Collection' section for your child, then open the 'Parental Consent' option and scroll down until you find *Focus on Sound* on the menu and check the box!



Department Update - Drama



A busy term in the Drama department!

Year 7 students have been studying all things Manx, dramatising Manx disasters such as the Snaefell Mining Disaster and the sinking of the Ellan Vannin, as well as looking at the Gaiety Theatre and the Manx film industry.

Year 8 are currently reading the adaptation of Michael Morgurgo's 'Private Peaceful', having previously studied the History of Theatre. Meanwhile Year 9 have investigated the two major drama practitioners Stanislavski and Brecht and are now developing some original devised drama pieces based on different stimuli.

At Key Stage Four Year 10 are experimenting with a variety of devising techniques and they have started studying their set text: 'Face' by Benjamin Zephaniah. Year 11 students have successfully completed their devised piece (worth 40% of their GCSE) and are now preparing for their forthcoming mock examination.

AS level Drama and Theatre students are re-interpreting Jim Cartwright's 'Two', as well as studying the set text 'A View from the Bridge' by Arthur Miller. Their A2 counterparts are being kept very busy studying two set texts ('The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning' by Tim Price and 'A Day in the Death of Joe Egg' by Peter Nichols), as well as being in rehearsal for their scripted and devised pieces.

Mrs Dunne and I are proud of the way our students enthusiastically embrace the learning opportunities available to them within the Drama Studios. Recently, The Guardian newspaper stated that:

'Drama enables children to explore issues of global concern, to develop new perspectives and acquire essential skills. Drama is a social art form that is informed by the interests of the participants. It is a collaborative learning experience... it has been evident for many years that youngsters thrive in schools where drama is accessible to all.'

Fortunately, Ramsey Grammar School is a school where drama is accessible to all and where our students thrive!



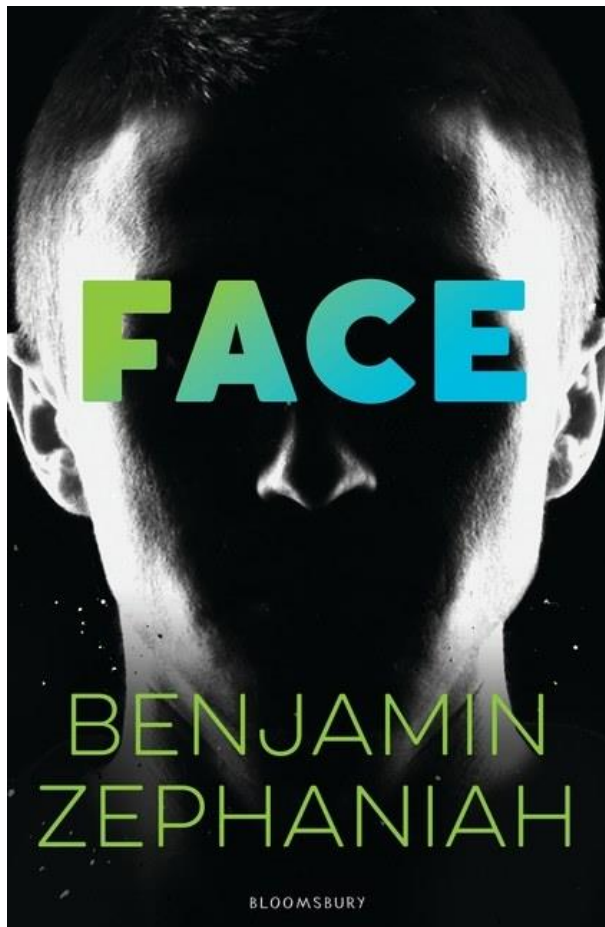
2 - Gaiety Theatre



3 - Snaefell Mining Disaster



4 - Sinking of the Ellan Vannin



5 - Face

Department Update - Social Science



Year 10 Business Studies have been learning about motivational theories this week in their Business Studies lessons. In their lesson they prepared pick n mix bags - Taylor's theory on 'piece rate' and also 'division of labour' was the aim of the lesson and they had lots of fun putting their knowledge into action.

Year 10 Global Perspectives students have been working since September on developing their teamwork, collaboration and research skills. They have been working in teams to 'promote awareness of knife crime in the UK' and have produced high quality posters outlining the causes & consequences of knife crime in the UK, all of which were fully referenced. They have also been practicing writing reflective papers on their experience of working in a team - very interesting reading!!

Well done to all our Year 10 Social Science students - a great start to your GCSE's.



Department Update - D&T



The rush is on this week to finish projects. Year 7 and 8 are moving to their next modules and Year 9 only have one more week with their current teachers.

Product Design students are studying the 'Memphis Group' – these were an Italian design and architecture group founded by Ettore Sottsass in the 1980's. Their style was inspired by Art Deco and Pop Art. Memphis were well known for their use of bright colours, geometric shapes and bold patterns. Students are having great fun designing their own furniture, creating 3D drawings and making their finished designs out of a mixture of brightly coloured materials.



Year 10 **Product Design** and working on CAD/CAM. Computer Aided Design and Manufacture. They are using specialised software to design and model gaming controls.



Textile Technology – year 8 students are working on hat designs. Following patterns, the students are then cutting out, hand sewing decorations and machine stitching to finish the product. Very handy now the weather is turning cold!



Year 11 students are working on their design briefs ready for their GCSE projects. *‘Develop an embellished fashion/textile item suitable for a baby shower’*

Look at this delightful teddy – anyone would be over the moon to receive that at their baby shower.



Food Technology and Practical Cookery – below is the ‘menu’ for this week and our practical lessons along with some examples of our cookies and a photo of year 9 making their sticky toffee apple pudding or pasta bake. Students explored a variety of techniques, melting, boiling, whisking, chopping and baking.



CRUSE - BRIGHT DAY TOTAL RAISED

On Friday 2nd December 2022, we had a Dress Down Day with bright colours in order to raise funds for CRUSE Bereavement charity. CRUSE

We are delighted to announce that the RGS community raised **£560**. Thank you to everyone who took part, and for all the contributions that were brought in.



Key Dates



December 2022

Monday 12th

- Year 7 English Showcase
- RE Mock Exam
- Science Co-Ord Mock Exam

Tuesday 13th

- Y7 English Showcase
- Computer Science Mock Exam
- Media Mock Exam
- PE Mock Exam
- Prac Cookery Mock Exam
- Product Design Mock Exam
- Textiles Mock Exam
- French Listening Mock Exam
- Spanish Listening Mock Exam

Wednesday 14th

- LSU Christmas Cinema
- English Literature 1 Mock Exam
- English Literature 3 Mock Exam

Thursday 15th

- History 2 Mock Exam
- Computer Science Mock Exam
- Media Mock Exam
- RGS AGM Meeting (West Conference Room)

Friday 16th

- Geography 2 Mock Exam

Wednesday 21st

- Carol Service Rehearsals
- Junior Carol Service
- Senior Carol Service

Thursday 22nd

- Christmas Extravaganza
- Christmas Carol Service

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