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## RGS Newsletter

Issue 3

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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### Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a great term, with many successes for our students, some of which are highlighted in this newsletter. We have also completed a series of reviews to help shape our future priorities, as we begin planning for the next academic year. Part of this has been looking at the school day and refreshing the schools vision and values that I look forward to sharing with you next term.

This week, we held our first Parent Forum looking at what information will be useful in helping parents to support children in Year 7 to Year 9. It was a productive evening, giving us many ideas to shape, ready for September. Parent input is important to us and we will be offering more evenings of this type in the future.

Easter is a time for new beginnings and with the clocks changing this weekend, it means longer days too. I'm going to use the break as an opportunity to reflect on the last two terms, noting everything I'm grateful for as well as identifying key areas to focus on in the next term.

I will also be thinking of Year 11 and Year 13 as they prepare for their examinations, with the hope that everyone of them achieve their absolute best.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. Give yourself five minutes with a beverage of choice and a piece of cake to read about the activities from your community school in the last term.

Have an Easter filled with joy and peace.

Best wishes,

Mrs S Taylor

## Mock Examinations

Our Year 13 students took their mock A Level examinations in January 2024. By taking mock exams, students can identify areas of weakness and adjust their studying accordingly. Mock exams also help reduce exam anxiety by providing a realistic simulation of the real exam experience. Students are able to refine their study plan and make the most of their remaining preparation time, before their final examinations in the summer.

We have also received the results for our Year 11 mock examinations, which were undertaken in December 2023. Feedback from our students about their mock exam experience has been overwhelmingly positive and highlights to us, as a school, where each student is excelling, and where they may need extra tuition. Your child's tutors will be working with them on any areas where they need help.

Years 10 and 11 are very important years in a student's education. GCSEs are the main qualification that your child will take in Key Stage 4. The results of these examinations are a prerequisite for further education and career opportunities. If your child is interested in staying on at school to do their A Levels, the results of their GCSEs in Year 11 will determine if they are able to do so.

## Year 11 and Northern Live at Home Scheme



As part of their mock exams, our amazing Year 11 students cooked Italian Pork Loaves with Tagliatelle, followed by Salted Caramel Profiteroles for some of our elderly community. The students joined the guests to have lunch together. What a lovely example of our school working in and with our community.



## Y9 and Y11 Options Evening

**GCSE OPTIONS**

**A Level  
Options**



On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, we held the Year 9 (for GCSE) and Year 11 (for A Level) Options Evening. We are happy to announce that we had an incredible turnout for parents and students. Again, the feedback we received from parents about the evening, subject content and information received was exceptionally positive. Our staff also commented on how engaged and interested the students were about the choices they were making.

We also welcomed representatives from the UCM into the school to discuss their further education courses with our students.

## Year 11 Junior Achievement IOM



Junior Achievement Isle of Man is the Island's leading educational charity, reaching more than 5,500 young people in primary and secondary school here on the Isle of Man. They help young people to make the connection between school and the world of work, enabling them to develop the skills and knowledge they will need to get a job or start their own business.

In February, we were lucky enough to welcome His Excellency, Lieutenant Governor Sir John Lorimer, to Ramsey Grammar School as part of his commitment to the work done by Junior Achievement. He was joined by several of the Island's business and finance leaders and MHK's, who were involved with delivering the "It's All About Money" programme, which introduces young people to the essentials of money management.

The programme explored spending habits, how to use bank accounts, the importance of saving, budgeting, responsible borrowing, credit ratings, dealing with debt, protecting yourself online, identity theft and scams.



## Year 12 JA Company Programme

Our JA Company Programme teams had the opportunity to celebrate their hard work on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at an awards ceremony. Tammy Mitchell, Rhianna Huxham and Kyle Shnier won 'Outstanding Team Member' awards!

Both of our teams did some great work, well done everyone!

More information about joining the JA Company Programme can be found on the below link:-

<https://www.jaiom.im/media/rt0fbr2i/student-booklet-web-version.pdf>

## Year 10 Global Perspectives – Digital Poverty

Global Perspectives lessons encourage students to think about and explore solutions to significant global issues. Our Year 10 students are currently learning about digital poverty in these lessons. The digital divide represents the gap between individuals who have easy access to resources like computers and the internet, and those who don't. Current statistics show a large percentage of the UK population do not have access to a laptop or similar device at home.

The students will be raising awareness for their coursework over the next few weeks in school, and will be holding football tournaments, arranging bake sales and having assemblies to highlight the impact of digital poverty on society.

## One World Charity Challenge – Year 12



One World Charity Challenge is coordinated by the One World Centre, Isle of Man.

The Challenge sets out to give Year 12 students a greater understanding of the developing world through researching the work of a charity working overseas. Students working in teams are challenged to choose a charity working overseas, which is either Manx registered or a small UK based charity. Students then research the work of the charity and interview representatives from the charity.

They must put together a 10–12 minute multi-media presentation, which examines the effectiveness of their charity, shows cultural understanding and looks at the impact the charity has had on someone's life.

RGS students Georgia Sutton and Eireann Crawley won 3rd place for their presentation at the One World Charity Challenge on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, where they represented The Leprosy Mission, beating QEII, King Williams and St Ninians.

## Year 12 Students

### Inter-School Debate

Congratulations to Charlie Gregory, Calum Tosh and Leo Crowe who won their first IOM inter-school debate in February, debating against a team from St Ninian's. Leo also won "Best Debater" out of the speakers in their debate.

### ManSat Scholarship

A massive well done to Charlie Needham and Leo Crowe for **both** winning the ManSat Scholarship this year! A great result for them and RGS! Students from all the Island's schools compete in this, and there is normally only two places awarded each year!

The competition required students to answer three essay questions on space exploration, and the prize is an all expenses paid trip to NASA Space Centre in Houston, where they will meet other winners from around the world and engineer a simulated space exploration.



## Y6 Open Evening



We welcomed the parents and carers of our new intake for Year 7 on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February. The primary schools were split into 3 groups and Mrs Taylor spoke about our school and the expectations of our students. Two of our current Year 7 students volunteered to join Mrs Taylor in the Lecture Theatre and talked about their experience of secondary school.

The whole school was open for people to walk around, so that new students could make themselves familiar with the layout and rooms. Staff had taken time to set their classrooms up with information and fun games about their subjects for the new students to engage with. The RGS farm was open and everyone got to meet our pigs, sheep and chickens.

Again, we received excellent feedback and lots of positive comments about the evening.

Our amazing Year 7 students have been getting involved with the transition of the new Year 6 students by answering their questions in several Speed Questioning events held in our West Hall over the last few weeks.

## RGS Farm Day 2024

We will be holding our annual Farm Day on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April this year, where families and the community are welcome to come to the school and meet our animals. There will be students and staff who have volunteered to be on hand for the day to answer any questions.

As in previous years, we have the animals (pigs, chickens and chicks, sheep and lambs), ice cream van, food from Fire & Ice, bouncy castles, a raffle, colouring competition, treasure hunt and our RGS Bees!

Talking about our wonderful animals, our sheep have given birth to 12 lambs so far!



## **Year 7 Languages**

Our Year 7 language students were met with quite a challenge when they returned to school in January. Who were going to be the top language learners in the school? All Year 7 Houses competed against each other to gain as many points as possible throughout January and February! Activities ranged from making a board game in French or Spanish, to having a go at cooking a traditional meal from France or Spain with lots of Duolingo streaks in-between!

We were so thrilled by the enthusiasm shown by our Year 7 students. The top point scorers from each House received a voucher from Truffle Struffyl shop in Ramsey and 10 House points, while the top three scorers in each House received 10 House points each.

Raven came out as the top House - they really worked as a team and committed to their language challenges! A very successful month of January for our amazing language learners at RGS!

## **Music**

Mrs Taylor has been handing out Music Ambassador Awards with Miss Will who heads up our music department. We are very lucky to have so many extremely talented musicians in our school.

## **Community Policing and Ramsey Grammar School**

We have a strong bond with our local constabulary, and they are quite often welcomed into the school to talk to the students during their morning assemblies, or in lessons about various subjects of concern. We believe community policing and students meeting the police officers face-to-face is important for our town, and helps build relationships and trust.

Your child may have mentioned to you that they have seen police officers in school and on occasion they bring their police dogs too. This is something we want to build on, and have given the police an invitation to visit school when they have the capacity to do so to walk around, visit classrooms and speak to staff and students. We are also discussing the possibilities of offering some bespoke sessions for small groups of students on specific topics that may be arising in our community.

## **Safeguarding our Young People**

The main priority of our school is safeguarding our young people, and some of the ways we do that is by ensuring they are registered for every lesson and supervising them during break and lunchtimes. We had a very serious incident earlier this year during a lesson, where a child went to the toilet, met some friends, smoked a vape and had a serious reaction, rendering the person unconscious needing hospital treatment.

Unfortunately, all secondary schools on the Island are facing the same issues with regard to vaping and vandalism in the school toilet facilities. We are working hard to eradicate both of these, but are facing some challenges. We recently requested that all students use the toilets during break and lunch times (when the toilet facilities are monitored by a member of staff). During lesson times, our teachers are in the classrooms teaching, and the toilets are not monitored. Some students are requesting to leave lessons and arranging to meet up in the toilets, and we are discovering that serious vandalism and vaping has occurred.

We are incredibly fortunate to work with such supportive parents and carers, and this is something we very much value. Our aim is for our students to get as much value and information from their 50 minute lesson as possible, therefore will not be permitted to leave their lessons to go to the toilet unless they have a pass. Female students will be the exception.

## Community Initiative

Our Headteacher, Mrs Taylor, has met with many members of the Island's various networks since moving to the Island in September 2023; our Chief Minister, various MHKs, Isle Listen, our Lieutenant Governor, IOM Youth Schemes, Deputy Town Commissioner for Ramsey, all of the Island's Secondary Headteachers, Primary Headteachers for the north of the Island, the IOM Constabulary Northern team, Junior Achievement, and many members of DESC. The aim is to build on the strong connections we already have, and to look at ways in which RGS can benefit from working closer or differently with our communities on the Island.

We regularly reward our students with Ramsey Town vouchers, ensuring that their generation understands the importance of supporting local businesses.

As well as supporting local shops and businesses, we are looking at starting and maintaining a community garden in the centre of Ramsey, which our students would look after. Watch this space!

## Academic Review Day

We recently held our Academic Review Day where parents and carers were invited to meet with Form Tutors to discuss their child's/children's progress so far this year. It also gave an opportunity for the students to showcase their prepared presentation, which they had been working on during their tutor time. Our students are the new generation of young adults who will be going into the world of work very soon. Their input and inclusion in this Review Day has hopefully given them more confidence in themselves and their ability to communicate their feelings and opinions about their work. These are invaluable qualities and skills to have as they begin their journey into the world of work or further education.

We hope that parents and carers found their meeting useful and informative. Comments received on the day and evening were positive, and this gives us a great template for future academic events.

## Sporting Accomplishments

### IOM Under 17 Netball Success

We had some of our talented Netballers representing the IOM Under 17 in Gibraltar this month. They did amazingly well and came home with a Silver medal! Winnie Davies, Lily Gell and Amy Gelling all had a fantastic experience and were great RGS and IOM Ambassadors. They were joined by Aoibh Nash who is an ex-RGS student.





### Schools Cross Country

22 students from the Island recently travelled to the UK to compete in the English Schools Cross Country championships, 7 of whom were RGS students. Sam Perry, Dom Dunwell, Lukas Stennett, Harry Stennett, Zac Woodward, Piper Withington and Isla Caine travelled to Pontefract in West Yorkshire to compete against teams from all over the country. They all competed brilliantly and were fantastic ambassadors for RGS, despite being delayed on the way home and spending 12 hours in a UK airport!



### Year 7 Football Champions

The Year 7's played in the interschools football tournament this month and came home victorious! They were all fantastic and showed great skill and teamwork! Well done girls!



### Duke of Edinburgh Awards Presentation



From Year 9 (14+ year-olds) our students can do a DofE programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, leads to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

There are 4 sections to complete at Bronze and Silver level, and 5 at Gold level. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and, for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity.



Any young person can do their DofE – regardless of ability, gender, background or location. Achieving an Award isn't a competition or about being first. It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.

Several of our students received their Bronze or Silver awards at the Awards Ceremony at the Gaiety Theatre on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Students achieved these awards after volunteering, taking part in a physical activity, and learning new skills, before completing an expedition. Well done to the below RGS students:-

**Bronze Award Achievers:-**

Alex Hepburn, Abbie Pattison, Sophie Corlett, Maisie Corlett, Phoebe Margrave, Sophie Christian, Dan Cross, Tristan Speight, Isla Caine, Elliot Webb, Maisie Stewart, Abi Clayton, Ciernan Hughes, Lily Walker, Oliver Dowty, Tom collister, Olivia Miklos, Julia Mitchell, Isabel Huyton, Holly Salter, George Salter, Molly Phillips, Imogen Duncan, Piper Withington, Alice Crellin, Noah Parks, Daisy O'Donnell, Macy Holland, Henry Dormer, Juliet Heidtmann and Aoibh Nash (ex student)

**Silver Award Achievers:-**

Chloe Kinley, Holly O'Donnell, Lindi Nyoni, Lainie Sharpe, Katie Foster, Ella Wood, Isabelle Kerruish, Connor Huyton, Ruby Reynolds, Annabel Cranmer, Elliot Cocker and Nathan Mather



## **World Book Day**

To celebrate World Book Day, our library had tables with free books for students. Over 500 books were chosen by our students!

## **Staff Departures**

Since September 2023, we have said farewell to some members of staff who have gone on to new ventures. We wish them all the very best in their new roles, or in their well-deserved retirement:-

Miss Nikki Arthur  
Mrs Sharon Henery  
Mrs Meg Huckstep  
Mrs Jane Morgan  
Mrs Julie Martin  
Mr Brian Molyneux  
Mr David James

## Dates for Your Diary:

Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024:	Last Day of Term
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024:	First Day of New Term
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2024:	Year 11 Leaving Day
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024:	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 to	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024:	Key Stage 3 In Class Tests
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2024:	Year 13 Leaving Day
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2024:	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 to	
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2024:	Year 9 Exams
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2024:	Last Day of Half Term