FAMILIES BULLETIN
24th April

Our Curriculum Journey: Supporting Every Child to Thrive

Over the past year, we have continued to develop our curriculum with a clear focus on **what our students learn, why they learn it, and how their learning fits together over time**. We are proud to share how this ongoing work supports every child at RGTS to succeed academically, personally and socially.

A curriculum that builds step by step

Our curriculum is carefully designed so that learning **builds logically over time**. Students do not learn topics in isolation; instead, each new idea connects to what they have learned before. Knowledge is revisited, strengthened and deepened as students move through the school, helping them secure understanding and remember more.

We focus on:

- **The important knowledge** students need in each subject, including key facts, concepts and vocabulary
- **How students think and work like subject experts**, for example historians asking questions, scientists investigating ideas, or mathematicians solving problems

This approach helps learning make sense and gives students the confidence to explain what they know - something we want parents to be able to see and talk about with their child.

Making learning clear and connected

This term, our focus has been on making classroom learning feel **clearer, more connected and more manageable** for students. Teachers are spending more time planning together to ensure the right content is taught at the right time, with opportunities to practise, revisit and check understanding.

When learning is broken into small, sensible steps, students feel more secure, enjoy lessons more and retain key ideas for longer. Our aim is simple: **lessons should make sense and feel achievable**.



Our curriculum is **broad and balanced**, offering opportunities across academic subjects, the arts, sport, languages and character development. Each lesson is carefully planned with **high expectations for all learners**, alongside the right support to help every student succeed.

Classrooms are calm, purposeful environments where learning time is used well. Clear routines, meaningful activities and strong relationships help students stay focused, confident and ready to learn.



Everyone involved, every lesson

We believe learning is most successful when **every student is involved and takes responsibility for their learning**. Teachers use strategies that encourage full participation, including:

- Students regularly showing their thinking using mini whiteboards
- Questioning that keeps everyone engaged and ready to contribute
- Quickly identifying and addressing misunderstandings

These approaches help all students feel included, heard and supported, while allowing teachers to adapt lessons to meet individual needs.

Supporting reading, maths and additional needs

Reading, writing and maths sit at the heart of all subjects, building carefully on what students learned in primary school. Where extra help is needed, targeted support and interventions are put in place to help students return confidently to their lessons.

Students with additional needs receive **bespoke support**, both in and out of the classroom, so they can access the same ambitious curriculum as their peers and feel successful.

How you can help at home

You don't need specialist subject knowledge to support your child. Small actions make a big difference, such as:

- Encouraging short, regular revision sessions
- Asking your child to explain what they've learned in their own words
- Talking about key subject vocabulary
- Supporting routines for reading, homework and organisation
- Reassuring your child that mistakes are a natural and important part of learning

Most importantly, showing interest and celebrating effort helps children feel confident and motivated.

Working together

Our shared aim is simple but powerful: **confident, knowledgeable and resilient learners who are ready for their next steps**. When families and the school work together, we ensure students not only succeed in exams, but leave RGTS with the skills, character and ambition to thrive in the future.

Thank you for your continued support of our curriculum journey. We look forward to sharing more with you as the year continues.

Mr Williams
Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum

Uniform Reminder



As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining high standards and a positive learning environment, we are placing renewed emphasis on key aspects of our school uniform policy.

A smart and correct uniform promotes a culture of pride, self-discipline, and readiness to learn. We therefore take this opportunity to remind families and students of the following expectations:

- Students must wear **plain black formal school shoes** at all times. Please note that **plain black trainers are not permitted**.
- **Leggings are not part of the approved school uniform** and should not be worn in place of, or underneath, standard uniform items.

Staff will continue to remind students of these expectations. Where students do not have the correct uniform the expectation is that they **borrow appopriate items** from the **uniform cupboard before school ready to learn**.

In such cases, families will receive a behaviour notification via Arbor to inform them of the uniform concern.

We thank you for your continued support in reinforcing these expectations at home, which play an important role in maintaining a smart, respectful, and purposeful school culture.

Mr Brougham
Deputy Headteacher - Inclusion

Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Year Group	Timings
Monday 20th April	GCSE Examinations Begin	Year 11	Various
Monday 27th April - Friday 1st May	Year 7 Assessments	Year 7	Various
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday (School Closed)	All	All Day
Wednesday 13th May	Twilight (Early Dismissal)	All	12:50pm onwards
Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May	May Half-Term	All	All Day
Monday 1st June - Friday 5th June	Year 8 Assessments	Year 8	Various
Monday 8th June - Friday 12th June	Year 9 Assessments	Year 9	Various
Thursday 16th July	Final Day of Academic Year	All	TBC

Year 7 News: Safeguarding and Responsible Use of Digital Technology

We are writing to inform you of a **serious concern regarding the creation and circulation of videos generated using artificial intelligence**, which have been shared on social media. **Some of this material has caused considerable distress within our school community**.



We kindly request that **you speak with your child and carefully review their mobile phones and social media accounts**. Please ensure that **privacy settings are appropriately configured** and that your child understands the importance of **responsible, respectful, and lawful online behaviour**. It is essential that students **do not create, share, or engage with harmful, inappropriate, or distressing content**.

We also wish to make families aware that **such actions may have legal consequences**. Under the **Malicious Communications Act 1988**, it is an offence to **send, upload, or share electronic communications including videos that are indecent or intended to cause distress or anxiety**. Any further incidents of this nature will be treated with the utmost seriousness and may be referred to the police.

As a school, we are **firmly committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all students**. We will **not tolerate any form of misuse of technology.**

Thank you for your support in reinforcing these expectations at home. Should you have any concerns or require further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Mrs Sirso
Head of Year 7

Year 7 News: End of Year Assessments - Guidance for Families

Next week Year 7 students will be completing their End of Year Assessments. These assessments provide an opportunity for pupils to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding they have developed throughout their first year of secondary education.

You will find linked below detailed information outlining each subject assessment, including length, content coverage, and suggested revision resources. We would like to reassure families that these assessments are carefully designed to be supportive, focusing on consolidating learning rather than creating unnecessary pressure.

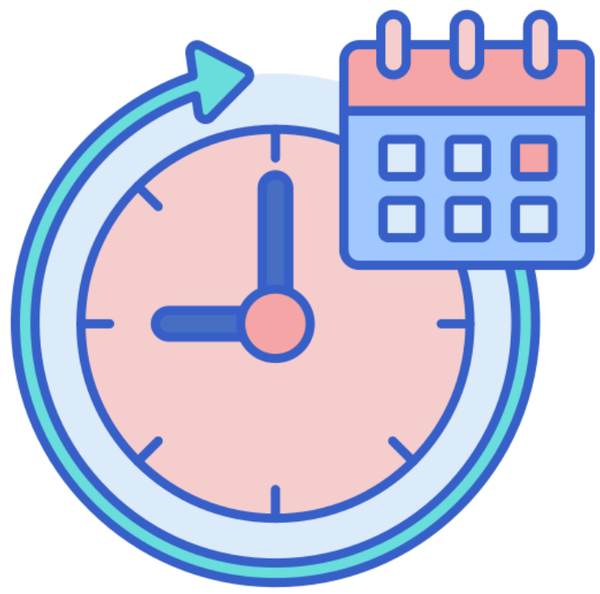
Year 7 End of Year Assessments - Parent Overview

Supporting Your Child at Home

For many students, this may be their first experience of formal assessments across a wide range of subjects. Your encouragement and reassurance can make a significant difference. We encourage families to consider the following guidance:

Establish manageable routines

Short, regular revision sessions are far more effective than long periods of last-minute study. Encouraging 20–30 minute focused sessions, with breaks, will help maintain concentration and confidence.



Use familiar resources

Revision should be based primarily on classwork, exercise books, and the recommended resources shared by teachers. Revisiting key vocabulary, diagrams, and examples will be particularly beneficial at this stage.

Encourage independent organisation

While support is important, we encourage students to take increasing responsibility for managing their time and preparing their equipment. Gentle guidance rather than direct supervision will help develop independence.

Focus on understanding, not memorisation

Assessments often reward explanation and application of knowledge. Asking your child to explain what they have learned in their own words is an excellent way to reinforce understanding.

Promote healthy habits

Adequate sleep, balanced meals, time for exercise and downtime all play an important role in helping students perform at their best. A calm and positive home environment is key.



Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor or subject teachers, who will be happy to provide further guidance.



Mr Nott
Assistant Headteacher - KS3

Year 11 News: GCSE, OCR & BTEC Examinations – Important Information for Parents

Overview
As we approach the start of the GCSE and vocational examination period, this article outlines key arrangements and the support in place for our Year 11 students during the coming weeks.

Exam Timetables
All students received their individual exam timetables in March. A parent overview timetable has also been shared to show the dates and times of all examinations and can also be found here: Year 11 Summer Exam Timetable. We are legally bound to begin exams promptly.

Attendance & Punctuality
Students must arrive at school by 8:25am to attend the pre-exam briefing and enter the exam room calmly and on time.

Fruit and healthy snacks will be available before morning exams.

Late entry is at the discretion of the Exams Officer, and students who arrive after the scheduled start time may not be allowed to sit the exam.

Students with 25% or 50% extra time should carefully check afternoon exam end times, as some exams may finish after the normal school day.

Exam Equipment
Students must bring the following equipment in a clear pencil case or plastic bag: black pens (x2), pencil, ruler, rubber, sharpener, calculator, maths set and highlighters (questions only).







Water must be in a clear bottle with no label. Electronic devices, watches and personal items must be left in lockers and pockets must be completely empty.

Uniform & Behaviour
Students are expected to attend school in full school uniform every day, including Core PE days.

Our usual high standards of behaviour apply throughout the examination period. Breaches of exam regulations may result in disqualification from examinations and loss of eligibility to attend Year 11 Prom.

Exam Support in School
Students will receive Pre-Paper Preparation Sessions (PPPs) with their subject teachers shortly before each exam. These sessions focus on exam technique, knowledge review and confidence-building.

May Half-Term Interventions
Subject intervention sessions will run during May half-term and are open to all students.

Dates: Tuesday 26th – Friday 29th May. Sessions run from 10:00–11:30 and 12:00–13:30. Lunch will be provided for students attending both sessions in one day.

Attendance earns intervention reward points and Prom points.

Wellbeing During Exams
The exam period can be stressful for students. Parents play a vital role in supporting wellbeing by helping students balance revision, rest, nutrition and relaxation.

Helpful resources for supporting exam wellbeing:

- NHS – Helping your child beat exam stress: https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/help-your-child-beat-exam-stress
- GOV.UK – Coping with exam pressure: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coping-with-exam-pressure-a-guide-for-students/coping-with-exam-pressure-a-guide-for-students
- YoungMinds – Parents guide to exam stress: https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/exam-time/

Final Reminders
Students should not be taken out of school during the examination period. Medical and dental appointments should be avoided as exams cannot be rearranged.

Mr Drumm
Assistant Headteacher - KS4

Community News: Wake Up Wednesday

YouTube is hugely popular with young people, but features like Shorts and recommendations can expose them to inappropriate content and online risks.

Alan Martin's article which can be accessed by clicking the image below takes a closer look at providing a clear overview of YouTube's latest risks and safeguards, helping adults support safer viewing habits for children and young people.

YouTube