FAMILIES BULLETIN
11th September

Attendance - Context and Expectations



At RGTS, every day at school matters. The evidence is clear, even a few days of missed school can have a significant impact on a child's education and future prospects, wellbeing, satisfaction and earnings. This is why attendance must be a priority for everyone – parents/carers, pupils and school staff. Attendance is everyone's business.

Why does it matter?

Poor attendance affects attainment

The link between attendance and achievement is clear. Year 11 pupils with near-perfect attendance have almost double the odds of achieving grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to similar pupils attending 90–95% of the time. In other words, missing just 10 extra days is associated with half the odds of achieving these grades.

Education is a pathway.....

- Year 12
- College
- Apprenticeship

Attendance 95%

↓

Grades – 5 or better

The long-term impact on earnings

Missing school doesn't just affect exam results and a child's time in education – it can impact future earnings too.

Persistently absent pupils in secondary school earn £10,000 less at age 28 compared to pupils with attendance at 95% or higher.

For each additional day of absence between Years 7 to 11, the typical pupil could miss out on an average of £750 in future lifetime earnings.

At RGTS we pride ourselves in showing GRIT as we strive for outstanding attendance – minimum of 95%- per week, per month, per half-term, per full term and per year. We have exciting news awaiting our students who have so far met our targets:

- a chance to win a £20 Amazon voucher through a raffle draw
- attending a pizza party or a cinema afternoon

At GCSE Grade 5 is a strong pass and Grade 4 a standard pass. Students need a minimum of Grade 5 to be able to acess Post 16 pathways, e.g. college places, apprenticeships etc.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS
Outstanding Attendance linked to Academic Success

% Attendance	Average GCSE Grade	English Grade	Maths Grade
Above 95%	5	5	5
90.1-95%	4	5	5
80.1%-90%	3	4	3

Strive for success

Our parents/carers play a vital role in supporting us to ensure our pupils are in school every day.

- **Medical appointments:** Please schedule appointments after school wherever possible. If this is not possible, please ensure your child attends school before the appointment and returns afterwards. Every minute of learning counts.
- **No holidays during term time:** Learning lost through absence cannot be recovered. You are also giving the message that learning does not matter.
- **Part of a day is better than none:** If your child has been unwell in the morning but feels better later in the day, please send them into school.

Together, we can ensure our pupils receive the transformational education that will ensure a future where they can compete with their peers no matter what the barriers are.

Justice Asafo Adjei Jnr
Assistant Headteacher - Safeguarding (DSL) and Attendance

Important Changes to Free School Meals – Action Required

We are writing to inform you about important national changes to Free School Meals (FSM) that have taken effect from 1st September 2026. This message follows our original correspondance sent in June 2026.

What is changing?

Expanded Free School Meals eligibility
All children living in households that receive Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals, regardless of household earnings.

End of Transitional Protection
Since 2018, some pupils have remained eligible for Free School Meals through transitional protection arrangements, even when family circumstances changed. These protections will soon be ending.

This means that eligibility for Free School Meals from September 2026 onwards will be based on your family's current benefits status.

As a result, some children who currently receive Free School Meals may no longer be eligible if they do not meet the new criteria or do not complete the eligibility check.

Types of Free School Meals

There will be two types of eligibility:

Targeted Free School Meals - For families receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less.

This entitlement includes:

- Free School Meals
- Pupil Premium funding for schools

Access to other support schemes linked to FSM eligibility, including:

- Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programmes
- Certain home-to-school transport entitlements

Expanded Free School Meals – For families receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings above £7,400.

This entitlement includes:

- Free School Meals only

For our Year 7 families if your child was entitled to free school meals in primary this entitlement **does not automatically carry over to secondary school**.

Action Required - Complete the Online Form

To ensure that your child's eligibility can be checked and confirmed as soon as possible for this academic year, all families who:

- currently receive Free School Meals
- believe they may be eligible, or
- previously recieved Free School Meals

must complete the **Royal Borough of Greenwich ONLINE FORM BELOW** to allow them to check your eligibility and notify us.

https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/xfp/form/613

Once you have clicked on the link select begin this form at the bottom and follow the step by step guide.

What happens next?

Once Greenwich Council recieve your completed online form:

- Greenwich Council will process your application.
- Greenwich Council will notify you and the school if you are entitled to Free School Meal**s.**

Uniform Grant

We have received enquiries from families regarding uniform grants and wanted to provide some clarification.

Schools that are directly managed by the Royal Borough of Greenwich are able to offer the Council's uniform grant to eligible families across various year groups. However, as Royal Greenwich Trust School is an academy, we are not part of this scheme in the same way.

At RGTS, we currently provide support towards uniform costs for **students who are joining us as new Year 7 students and recieve free school meals**. Unfortunately, this means that we are unable to offer the uniform grant to students in other year groups.

We appreciate that families may contact us about uniform costs for a variety of reasons, and we would always encourage you to speak with us if there are particular circumstances you feel the school should be aware of. Where appropriate, we can consider whether there are any other forms of support or advice that may be available.

Scott Gardner
Executive Assistant and Office Manager

Homework – Supporting Learning at Home

Homework is an important part of learning at Royal Greenwich Trust School. It helps students to revisit key knowledge, practise important skills and develop the independence and study habits they need to succeed throughout secondary school and beyond.

Regular completion of homework also helps students identify areas where they need further support and allows teachers to reinforce learning from lessons.

How homework is set

All homework is logged on Arbor, where students and parents/carers can see the task and deadline. Students should check Arbor regularly and plan their work so that homework is completed on time.

ubjects may also use online learning platforms, including:

- **Maths – Sparx Maths**
- **Science – Sparx Science**
- **Seneca Learning – used by a range of subjects for homework, retrieval and revision**

Where an online platform is used, the task logged on Arbor will direct students to the appropriate resource.

How parents and carers can help

You do not need to know all the answers or teach the material yourself. The most valuable support is helping your child develop good routines and take responsibility for their learning.

We recommend that parents/carers:

- **check Arbor regularly** with their child
- encourage a consistent homework routine rather than leaving work until the deadline
- provide, where possible, a quiet place to work with distractions such as phones removed
- ask what your child is learning, not simply whether homework is finished
- encourage careful completion of online homework rather than rushing
- praise effort, organisation and independence
- encourage your child to speak to their teacher if they are unsure or struggling

If your child is struggling

Students should not simply leave homework unfinished. They should reread the instructions, use the resources provided, attempt as much as they can and speak to their teacher before the deadline to access support.

If homework is becoming an ongoing difficulty, parents/carers should contact the relevant subject teacher.

Homework schedules

We publish **Homework Schedules for Years 7–11** to help families plan ahead.

The schedule shows **when homework can normally be expected**, while **Arbor shows the specific task and deadline.**

Further information and the Year 7–11 schedules can be found at:
https://www.rgtrustschool.net/parents/homework

Regular homework, completed carefully and on time, helps students build the **knowledge, confidence, organisation and independence they need to succeed.**

Tom Needham
Assistant Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Year Group	Timings
Thursday 8th October	Sixth Form Open Evening	11	4-7pm
Thursday 15th October	Year 7 Meet the Tutor Event	7	TBC
Friday 23rd October	Cultural Dress Day	All	All Day
Friday 20th November	INSET Day (School Closed for Students)	All	All Day
Thursday 3rd December	Year 11 Parents' Evening	11	4-7pm
Monday 4th January	INSET Day (School Closed for students)	All	All Day
Thursday 7th January	Year 10 Parents' Evening	10	4-7pm
Thursday 14th January	Sixth Form Parents' Evening	12 and 13	4-7pm
Thursday 4th February	Year 7 Parents' Evening	7	4-7pm
Friday 12th February	INSET Day (School Closed for Students)	All	All Day
Thursday 4th March	Year 8 Parents' Evening	8	4-7pm
Thursday 18th March	Year 9 Parents' Evening	9	4-7pm

Year 10 Core Mock Examinations – From 23rd November



Year 10 students are continuing to settle into Key Stage 4, and our focus is now, firmly on helping them prepare for their first formal assessments while developing the study habits they will need throughout their GCSE courses.

Year 10 students will sit their first formal mock examinations in English, Mathematics and Science from Monday 23rd November. Although these assessments are still several weeks away, students should already be beginning their preparation.

During **tutor time**, Year 10 students have been working on study skills, effective revision and how to organise their time. As part of this work, students should have **completed a revision timetable this week.**

We would therefore ask families to support us by:

- asking your son or daughter to show you their completed revision timetable
- encouraging them to begin following their revision plan now rather than waiting until assessments are approaching
- ensuring they keep up to date with homework and directed home learning
- encouraging regular review of work covered in English, Mathematics and Science; and asking them to speak to their subject teacher if they are unsure what to revise or need additional resources or support.

Revision at this stage does not need to mean spending hours studying every evening. **Short, focused and regular periods of revision are far more effective than last-minute preparation**. Developing these routines now will also help students build the independence and organisation they will need as they move through Key Stage 4.

Alongside revision, **excellent attendance, punctuality and engagement in lessons remain essential**. Every lesson contributes to the knowledge and skills students will eventually need for their GCSE examinations, and gaps caused by absence can quickly become difficult to recover.

Our message to Year 10 students is simple: **prepare early, follow your revision timetable, use lessons and tutor time effectively, and ask for support when you need it.**

By establishing these habits now, students will be much better placed to approach their November assessments confidently and continue making strong progress throughout Year 10.

Eoin Drumm
Assistant Headteacher - KS4

Year 11 - Starting the year as we mean to go on

The staff at RGTS have been very impressed with the start our year 11s have made to their most crucial year in school. When visiting lessons this week, it has been obvious to school leaders that students are determined to make the most of their learning. Students have returned looking smart, wearing their uniform with pride, and the vast majority of our students have started the year with perfect attendance and punctuality - which we know leads to the strongest results.

Next week we are excited to be running our first Academic Review of the year on Thursday 17th September, where we will have the opportunity to work with many parents and carers as we discuss bespoke support to enable our young people to achieve their best possible results.

The following week starts with a visit from John Roan Sixth Form staff, who will be presenting in our Monday assembly and providing a wealth of information about their provision. We have many other visits planned across the year from other centres and the dates of these will be confirmed soon.

Thank you to the parents and carers who have ensured that the Futures Fair permission slips have been returned. It is now urgent that we receive these as the trip is taking place on Tuesday 22nd September. Students in the borough of Greenwich are very fortunate to have access to this fair and the information they can access about their post-16 pathways will be invaluable.

Thank you to all our wonderful families for supporting their children to get the year off to such a great start!

Ben Dalby
Head of Year 11

Year 11 Mock Examinations and Academic Support

Year 11 is now well underway, and our focus is firmly on ensuring that students are prepared for their upcoming mock examinations and are making full use of the academic support available to them.



Year 11 mock examinations will take place from Monday 2nd November to Friday 13th Novembe
Students will receive their mock timetable during the coming week, and I will also share a copy in the Families Bulletin.

At this stage, revision should already be taking place. If your son or daughter has not yet started revising, they need to begin now. Regular, focused revision over time is far more effective than leaving preparation until the last minute.

We would ask families to support us by:

- asking your child to show you their mock timetable once it has been issued;

- encouraging them to begin or continue regular revision now
- checking that they have the correct revision guide or resources for each subject
- asking them to speak to their subject teacher if they are missing a revision guide or are unsure what to revise
- reinforcing the importance of excellent attendance, punctuality and engagement in lessons; and ensuring they attend any additional academic support to which they have been assigned.

Year 11 Academic Review Meeting

Our next Year 11 Academic Review Meeting will take place on Thursday 17th September. If your child is required to attend, we will contact you directly by telephone.

Year 11 Masterclasses

Year 11 Masterclasses will begin on Monday 21st September. These are targeted academic interventions for students where a specific academic need has been identified.

If your child is assigned to a Masterclass, you will receive a letter confirming:

- the subject or intervention they have been assigned to
- the day they are required to attend; and the arrangements for the session

Masterclasses run from **3:10pm until 4:00pm and are compulsory** for students who have been allocated a place.

Students are selected for these sessions because additional support is needed, and regular attendance is extremely important. We know that students who engage consistently with targeted intervention are much more likely to **meet or exceed their target grades.**

The message to Year 11 students is clear**: start early, revise regularly, attend every day, use the support available and act quickly when there are gaps in your knowledge.**

The work students complete now will make a significant difference to how confidently they approach their November mocks and the rest of Year 11. Thank you, as always

Eoin Drumm
Assistant Headteacher - KS4

Free One-Day Festival

A free, one-day festival, is coming to Greenwich Park on Saturday 19 September. Created by local young people for young people, the festival is part of Ignite! supported through the Mayor of London's Cultural Impact Award.

Expect live music from young local talent and headliners Pritt, Ganda Boys and TAOSOL, plus a Silent Disco Skate Jam, arts, crafts and movement workshops, henna, live food demonstrations, a cooking competition and heritage exhibition supported by Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust. Free food vouchers for under 25s will be available on a first-come, first-served basis - so arrive early!

If you're a young artist or performer living in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, get involved.



GREENWICH OPEN EVENTS

for Year 11 Students and Families

2026 to 2027

Explore your options, discover opportunities and take the next step towards your future after Year 11.

SCHOOL OR COLLEGE	DATE(S)	TIME	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Eltham Hill School	Thursday 8 October 2026	5pm to 7pm	External students must come with an adult
Leigh Academy Blackheath (LAB 16)	Wednesday 11 November 2026	5pm to 7pm	External students must come with an adult
London South East Sixth Form Colleges	• Thursday 15 October 2026 • Tuesday 2 March 2027 • Saturday 26 June 2027	• 5:30pm to 7.30pm • 5:30pm to 7.30pm • 10am to 1pm	
Plumstead Manor Sixth Form	Thursday 12 November 2026	5pm to 8pm External students from 6pm	Book tickets on Eventbrite
Royal Greenwich Trust School	Thursday 8 October 2026	4pm to 7pm	
Shooters Hill Sixth Form College	• Wednesday 7 October 2026 • Wednesday 4 November 2026 • Wednesday 13 January 2027 • Wednesday 10 March 2027	All events run from 4:30pm to 6:30pm	BSL signers available on request
St Mary Magdalene Sixth Form	Thursday 22 October 2026	4pm to 6:30pm	Students must come with an adult
The John Roan School	Tuesday 10 November 2026	5:30pm to 7pm	
Thomas Tallis School Post 16 Centre	Wednesday 14 October 2026	5pm to 8pm	Students must come with an adult
Woolwich Polytechnic Boys School	Wednesday 21 October 2026	External students: 4.pm to 5:30pm or 4:45pm to 6pm	Book on Eventbrite Students must wear school uniform

YOUR FUTURE. YOUR CHOICES. YOUR NEXT STEP.

THIS GIRL'S ABILITY

Charlton Hub



For girls and young women aged 10 to 25 with disabilities



Fun Football

WHEN: Tuesdays

TIME: 4 pm – 5pm

WHERE: Charlton Athletic Community Trust, Foots Cray Rugby Sports and Athletic Club, 239a -241 Footscray Rd, London SE9 2EL



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Tel. Nikki on 07518 671812

Greenwich Healthier Communities Fund

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