FAMILIES BULLETIN
9th October

Culture, Identity and Belonging
Celebrating our diverse school community

Cultural Celebration / Black History Month

As well as celebrating black history month this term, we have been celebrating the different cultures, backgrounds and experiences that make our school community so special. Students have been encouraged to share their identities, learn from one another and celebrate what makes each of us unique.







Quotes from our students

> I'm really excited for Culture Day because I will get to wear my cultural clothing and show everyone something that represents where I come from.

> Belonging means being able to be yourself and feeling accepted by the people around you.

Culture Day - 23rd October

We are especially looking forward to Culture Day on the 23rd of October, which will give students the opportunity to proudly celebrate their heritage, wear cultural clothing and learn more about the cultures represented across our school.

It promises to be a wonderful celebration of culture, identity and belonging, reminding us that our differences are something to be proud of.

Meet the Tutor Event - New Year 7 Parents

We are delighted to invite you to our Meet the Tutor event for Year 7 students on Thursday 15th October. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your child's form tutor, discuss how they have settled into secondary school, and learn more about the support available to help them succeed.

We look forward to welcoming you and working together to support your child's progress.

Carmen Maynard-Mcleod
Head of Year 7

Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Year Group	Timings
Thursday 15th October	Year 7 Meet the Tutor Event	7	4-7pm
Friday 23rd October	Cultural Dress Day	All	All Day
Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October	October Half-Term (School Closed)	All	All Day
Monday 2nd November to Friday 13th November	Year 11 Mock Examinations	11	Various
Friday 20th November	INSET Day (School Closed for Students)	All	All Day
Monday 23rd November to Friday 27th November	Year 10 Core Assessments	10	Various
Thursday 3rd December	Year 11 Parents' Evening	11	4-7pm
Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January	Christmas Break (School Closed)	All	All Day
Monday 4th January	INSET Day (School Closed for Students)	All	All Day
Monday 11th January to Friday 15th January	Year 7 Mid-Year Assessments	7	Various
Thursday 14th January	Sixth Form Parents' Evening	12 and 13	4-7pm
Monday 25th January	Year 8 Mid-Year Assessments	8	Various
Monday 1st February to Thursday 11th February	Year 11 Mock Examinations	11	Various
Thursday 4th February	Year 7 Parents' Evening	7	4-7pm
Friday 12th February	INSET Day (School Closed for Students)	All	All Day
Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February	February Half-Term (School Closed)	All	All Day

Our RGTS Curriculum:
Our priorities for this academic year

There is a great deal to celebrate in our curriculum at RGTS. Across the school, students are engaging with ambitious content, developing their subject knowledge and building the skills they need for future success. Our curriculum is carefully planned so that learning builds over time. Departments are increasingly using clear curriculum plans and high-quality resources to ensure students know more, remember more and can make connections between different areas of learning.

Ambitious Learning across subjects

Students are studying a broad range of challenging and engaging topics across the curriculum. Teachers are introducing subject-specific vocabulary, complex ideas and increasingly ambitious texts so that students are well prepared for future study.





Strong Curriculum Resources

Many departments now use carefully designed booklets and Topic Delivery Guides to support learning. These help students follow the journey of a unit, revisit key knowledge and produce high-quality work.

Reading across the curriculum

Reading continues to be a major strength and priority. Students are regularly exposed to challenging texts in a wide range of subjects, helping them develop confidence, vocabulary and understanding.





High Expectations in students' work

We are seeing many examples of students taking real pride in their books and producing thoughtful, detailed work. Teachers continue to reinforce high expectations for presentation, effort and the quality of written responses.

Supporting every learner

Teachers are using a range of approaches to help students access ambitious learning, including clear modelling, carefully structured tasks, vocabulary support and regular checks for understanding. This helps ensure that students who need additional support can still engage fully with the curriculum.

Using assessment well

Teachers regularly check what students know and understand so that teaching can respond to gaps and misconceptions. This is helping students become more confident in identifying what they have learned and what they need to improve next.

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Curriculum highlights this term

Across the school, students have been studying a wide variety of interesting and challenging content. Departments will be sharing more of these curriculum highlights with families over the coming weeks, including the texts, topics and projects students have been exploring in lessons.

We are proud of the ambition of our curriculum and the work our students are producing. Our focus remains on ensuring that every student experiences rich, challenging learning and develops the knowledge, confidence and skills they need to succeed.

Thomas Williams
Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum

Year 11: Mock Exams - The Countdown is On!

With just a few weeks until the **Year 11 mock examinations,** now is the time for students to focus on regular, purposeful revision. We encourage parents and carers to support their child in establishing a consistent revision routine, maintaining excellent attendance and making the most of the support available in school.

To access the mock exam timetable and guidance we have uploaded this onto our Year 11 Page here: **Year 11 Page**

Our ***Parent Mock Guidance*** document is included in this week's Families Bulletin and will also be available on the **Year 11 page of the school website**.
Please take time to read this important guidance with your child to help them prepare confidently and successfully for their mock examinations.





Parents and carers can help by encouraging students to:

- Follow their mock examination timetable
- Revise regularly each week in a clear, uncluttered space without access to unnecessary electronic devices, such as phones or TVs
- Use revision guides, lesson resources and online materials
- Ask teachers for help if they are unsure what to revise
- Attend all Masterclasses and interventions they have been allocated
- Maintain excellent attendance and punctuality

Year 11 Masterclasses

Our Year 11 Masterclass programme is now underway and provides targeted extra teaching and practise in all subjects where students will benefit from additional support.

Parents and carers will receive information confirming the session their child is expected to attend.

Moster Masterclasses run from 3.30pm to 4.00pm and attendance is compulsory for students who have been allocated a space.

Day	Masterclasses
Monday	Maths, Sociology, History and Spanish.
Tuesday	English and Health and Social Care.
Thursday	Business, Computer Science, Drama, Food, RE, Science, Sport and Art.
Friday (morning)	Geography - 7.45am

Students only need to attend the Masterclasses to which they have been allocated.

What Should Year 11 students be doing now?



Attend school every day and arrive on time.



Revise regularly and avoid leaving preparation until the last minute.



Attend every Masterclass or intervention assigned.



Ask for help as soon as they are unsure about something.



Make full use of revision guides, lesson resources and teacher support.

Eoin Drumm
Assistant Headteacher - KS4

Year 10: Attendance, Study Habits and Core Assessments

As Year 10 students continue through their first term of Key Stage 4, we want to remind families of the key habits that will support success at GCSE.

Attendance remains an absolute priority



Every lesson matters. Missing school means missing:

- New knowledge and teacher explanations
- Opportunities to practise
- Feedback and support
- Important preparation for GCSE courses

Students who make the strongest progress typically

- Attend regularly and punctually
- Engage fully in lessons
- Complete homework and directed study
- Act on feedback
- Ask for help when needed
- Revise regularly rather than leaving it until examinations are approaching



During the week beginning Monday 23 November, Year 10 students will complete formal assessments in:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science

These assessments are extremely important because they will help teachers to:

- Establish a benchmark of each student's current progress
- Identify strengths and gaps in knowledge
- Plan appropriate support and intervention
- Determine the next steps needed to help each student make further progress.

Building Good Study Habits



Year 10 is the time to establish strong routines. Students should be:

- Keeping up to date with homework
- Reularly revisiting topics studies in lessons
- Organising notes and study materials
- Correcting mistakes and acting on feedback
- Identifying areas they are less confident with
- Beginning revision early and little by little

A small amount of focused study completed regularly is much more effective then last-minute cramming.

How Parents and Carers can help



- Encourage regularly each week in a clear, uncluttered space without access to unnecessary electronic devices, such as phones or TVs
- Help students take assessments seriously
- Support strong attendance and punctuality
- Encourage students to ask for help when needed
- Revision is always active - students should produce something e.g. notes, exam questions responses, flash cards and mind maps

Preparation starts now

Students should therefore start preparing now by revisiting their learning, completing all work set and seeking help with anything they do not understand.

We also ask parents and carers to support students at home by encouraging a regular revision routine and helping them to take these assessments seriously.

We do not expect students to have mastered the full GCSE curriculum at this stage. What matters is that they attend regularly, prepare properly, work hard and respond positively to feedback.

By working together, we can help every Year 10 student build the habits and confidence needed for success throughout Key Stage 4.

Eoin Drumm
Assistant Headteacher

Teenage Steroid Misuse: What Parents and Carers Need to Know

Social media continues to influence how young people view their appearance, fitness and body image. With the growing popularity of online bodybuilding and fitness content, it is important that parents and carers are aware of the potential risks associated with anabolic steroid misuse.

Young people may come across terms such as "**natty**" (natural) and "**not natty**" (using performance-enhancing substances, including steroids). These terms are increasingly used in online fitness communities, where steroid use can sometimes be presented as normal or without significant risk.

Why is this a concern?

Anabolic steroids are substances that mimic the effects of testosterone. Their misuse can be particularly harmful to teenagers, whose bodies are still developing. Products purchased online may also be counterfeit, contaminated or contain incorrect strengths, creating additional health risks.

Supporting your child

We encourage parents and carers to have open, age-appropriate conversations with their children about body image, social media influences and the importance of making informed, healthy choices.

Being aware of the content young people access online and encouraging them to question unrealistic body standards can help them develop a healthier understanding of fitness and wellbeing.

Further Information and Resources

The Society for Endocrinology has developed four free educational videos through its You and Your Hormones. Created by a team of UK doctors, these resources explain what anabolic steroids are, how they affect the body, and the potential side effects and risks associated with misuse.

Families are encouraged to explore these resources to support conversations at home. The QR Code below will take you to the videos.



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

Greenwich Sixth Form Open Events

Why open events matter

Please take note of the open events below. It is extremely important that students attend these events wherever possible, as they are a valuable opportunity to see what is available beyond prospectuses and websites.

School / College	Date(s)	Time(s)	Notes
Leigh Academy Halley	Thursday 19th November	5pm to 6.30pm	
Harris Academy Greenwich	Thursday 5th November	4.30pm to 7.00pm	
Leigh Academy Blackheath	Wednesday 11th November	5pm to 7pm	Adult must attend.
London South East Colleges	Thursday 15th October Tuesday 2nd March Saturday 25th June	5.30pm to 7.30pm 5.30pm to 7.30pm 10am to 1pm	
Plumstead Manor	Thursday 5th November	5pm to 8pm	External students from 6pm Book tickets on Eventbrite
Shooters Hill College	Wednesday 4th November Wednesday 13th January Wednesday 10th March	All events run from 4.30pm to 6.30pm	BSL Signers avaliable upon request
St Mary Magdalene	Thursday 22nd October	4pm to 6.30pm	Adult must attend.
The John Roan School	Tuesday 10th November	5.30pm to 7pm	
Thomas Tallis Sixth Form	Wednesday 14th October	5pm to 8pm	Adult must attend.
Woolwich Polytechnic Boys	Wednesday 21st October	4pm to 5.30pm or 4.45pm to 6pm	Book on Eventbrite. Must wear school uniform.

Plan your visits

Add dates to your calendar and avoid leaving visits until the last minute

Ask Questions

Ask about courses, entry requirements, enrichment and destinations

Be Prepared

Check if you need to book or need an adult with you



Ben Dalby
Head of Year 11