FAMILIES BULLETIN
12 Sept



Character Development at RGTS

Welcome to our second Families Bulletin.

At Royal Greenwich Trust School, we believe that education goes far beyond the classroom. Alongside academic success, we are committed to helping our young people develop the skills, values, and character traits that will allow them to thrive in life after school. Our Character Development curriculum is central to this mission, running from Year 7 right through to Sixth Form.

What is Character Development at RGTS?

Character Development (CD) lessons, PSHE, RSE, assemblies and tutor-time sessions allow us to build on our school values of Responsibility, Grit, Teamwork and Success. These sessions are enriched by a wide range of partnerships with external agencies, ensuring that students benefit from expert guidance, practical skills, and opportunities to reflect on their place in the world.



Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9)

In the first three years, our focus is on transition, belonging, and building the foundations for healthy, confident young people.

- Topics include: puberty and healthy lifestyles, financial literacy, internet safety, British Values, kindness and community, positive friendships, and resilience.
- Students take part in oracy projects, debates, and vision-board planning.
- Weekly tutor time and assemblies reinforce mindfulness, online safety, and national awareness weeks.
- Mental health and wellbeing provision includes counsellors, mentors, family support workers, and links with CAMHS, Charlton Athletic Community Trust, IMAGO, YMCA, and Kooth.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11)

At this stage, students balance the demands of GCSEs with broader preparation for adult life.

- Careers and employability, work experience placements, and preparation for post-16 pathways.
- CD and PSHE lessons explore mental health, managing stress, healthy relationships, and lifestyle choices.
- Structured guidance on exam routines, revision skills, and personal goal setting.
- Continued work with trusted partners ensures support for all young people

Key Stage 5 (Years 12–13)

In Sixth Form, our aim is to prepare students for university, apprenticeships, or the world of work.

- Sixth Formers engage in leadership opportunities, mentoring younger students, and representing RGTS.
- PSHE and RSE provision covers independent living, financial planning, safe relationships, and adult responsibilities.
- Access to university and business partnerships strengthens links between learning and future careers.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

All schools are required to deliver RSE in line with the DfE statutory guidance and the KCSIE framework. At RGTS, we are supported by METRO, who bring expertise in delivering inclusive, age-appropriate sessions across all year groups. Parents are encouraged to explore the resources available on the METRO website (https://www.metrocharity.org.uk) to understand more about the themes covered.

Voices from Our Community

"Character Development has helped me grow in confidence. I now feel comfortable speaking in front of others and sharing my views." – **Ryan, Year 8 student**

"I've enjoyed the debates in tutor time because they make me think about different perspectives and how to respect others' opinions." – **Amaranna, Year 9 student**

"Our Character Development programme ensures that every young person leaves RGTS with the values and life skills they need beyond exams." – **Asma Khan, Head of School**

"Working with partners like Charlton Athletic and Kooth allows us to support the whole child – academically, socially and emotionally." – **Mr. Brougham, Deputy Headteacher**



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Our Commitment

Character Development at RGTS is not a standalone subject – it is woven into every aspect of school life. Whether through lessons, assemblies, trips, or enrichment days, we want every student to leave RGTS as a confident, respectful, resilient young adult, equipped to lead their own lives and contribute positively to society.

Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing these values at home.

With best wishes,

Mrs Houston
Assistant Headteacher – Character Development + Transitions



Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for free school meals, please do ensure you have registered your child.

Why register for free school meals?

Children who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them if you prefer them to have packed lunches.

But registering them is still important because for every child registered for free school meals, the school gets more funding from the government.

For every pupil registered for free school meals, the school gets an extra **£1,050** through 'pupil premium' funding.

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

As you may have heard from the Department of Education, from the 2026 school year, a**ll children in households receiving Universal Credit will be eligible for free school meals in England**. This expansion will impact over half a million additional children.

In addition, if you receive these benefits, your child may be eligible:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit) if you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on, but not if you receive Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, if your earned income after tax is £616.67 per month (£7,400 per year) or less



How do I register?

To register for Free School Meals, please follow the guidance on the Royal Borough of Greenwich website by clicking here.

More information

You can also find more information at www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.

Stay Connected: Log in to Arbor Today!

This year, we will be using the Arbor Parent Portal and App more than ever to share important information and manage school activities. It's the quickest and easiest way for you to stay connected with us.

Through the Arbor Parent Portal and App, you'll be able to:

- 📅 Book Parents' Evening appointments (all bookings will now be through Arbor)
- 📝 Request changes to update your contact information
- 📊 Track your child's attendance, behaviour, and progress
- 📢 Receive important updates and messages from us

How to Get Started

1: Look out for your welcome email – this will contain a link to set your password and log in for the first time. If you have not received the email, please email us at info@rgtrustschool.net with your child's name and year group.

2: Log in via the Parent Portal (on a computer) or download the Arbor App from the App Store or Google Play.

3: Use the email address you've given the school and your child's date of birth to access your account.

Need more help? The Arbor Help Centre has a step-by-step guide: Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App.

Why Log In?

Logging in ensures you don't miss key updates and makes it quicker and easier to manage everything in one place. With Arbor, all your child's school information is at your fingertips.

Parents' Evenings will be booked exclusively through Arbor this year — so please make sure you're set up and ready to go!

Having Difficulties?

If you have any difficulties logging in or need support, please contact us at **info@rgtrustschool.net** and we'll be happy to help.

You Said, We Did...

Magic Breakfast Offer Continues

Families told us how important it is that every child starts the day ready to learn. We listened, and we are delighted to confirm that our Magic Breakfast offer will continue this year.

Each morning from 8:15 – 8:25am, all students can enjoy a free, healthy breakfast in the Atrium.



Why enjoy a Magic Breakfast every day?

- Share time with friends in a welcoming space
- Arrive focused and ready to learn
- Ensure a healthy start to the school day

We are proud to be part of the Magic Breakfast initiative, helping to ensure that no child starts their school day hungry.

Upcoming Key Dates

Date	Event	Year Group	Time
Thursday 18th September	Year 8 & 9 Information Evening	Year 8 & 9	6:00pm - 7:00pm
Thursday 25th September	Year 11 Information Evening	Year 11	6:00pm - 7:00pm
Thursday 25th September	Year 13 Information Evening	Year 13	6:00pm - 7:00pm

Year 8 & 9 Curriculum Information Evening

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to invite you to our **Curriculum Information Evening** for **Year 8 and Year 9**, focused on the theme:

"Building resilience, opening doors to opportunity."

This joint event will explore how resilience and opportunity play a vital role in your child's learning journey, both in Key Stage 3 and as they prepare for their GCSE pathways.

📅 Date/Time: **Thursday 18th September 6:00pm - 7:00pm**
🚪 Doors open at **5:45pm** to receive parents and carers
📍 Venue: **Royal Greenwich Trust School**

Why Attend?

For Year 8

- Understand how Year 8 provides a foundation for future success
- Learn how resilience helps students face social, emotional and academic challenges
- Discover ways to support independence, problem-solving, and confidence at home
- Explore enrichment opportunities that broaden horizons

For Year 9

- Gain insight into the transition from KS3 to KS4
- Learn how resilience supports students as expectations rise
- Understand the GCSE pathways and subject choices ahead
- Discover how participation, leadership and responsibility roles prepare students for the future

This evening will provide practical strategies for supporting your child at home, as well as guidance on the opportunities available in school. Together, we can help our students not only succeed academically but also develop the resilience, confidence and ambition to thrive beyond the classroom.

👉 As the information evening will have resources for families we ask that you sign up with the following link to gauge numbers: Sign Up

We look forward to welcoming you and working in partnership to open doors to your child's future success.

Mr Nott
Assistant Headteacher (Years 8 & 9)

Year 10 Work Experience

As part of our commitment to preparing students for life beyond school, all Year 10 students will take part in **Work Experience** during from **23rd February to 6th March 2026**. This is a valuable opportunity for students to gain first-hand experience of the workplace, build confidence, and develop essential skills for their future pathways.



At this point in the year, however, many of our students are **still in the process of securing their own placements**. So far, only one student has returned their completed Work Experience Form. Our external partners had expected around **41% of placements to be secured by now**, so we need your support.

How you can help your child:

- Talk to your child about potential placements linked to their interests or career aspirations.
- Support them in contacting local employers, family friends, or community organisations.
- Encourage them to complete and return their Work Experience Form as soon as possible.

Important Dates:

- From next week, Work Experience will feature regularly in tutor time to keep students on track.
- A **Tutor Group League Table** will be introduced to celebrate progress, with a prize for the group with the highest number of placements secured.
- The **final deadline** for all Work Experience forms is **Friday 8th December 2025**.

Thank you for working with us to ensure every student has a meaningful placement. With your support, we can help them to represent RGTS with our values of Responsibility, Grit, Teamwork and Success.

Mrs Prince
Assistant Headteacher for Culture and Belonging

PE Department - Important Reminders

At Royal Greenwich Trust School, we are committed to ensuring that all students enjoy their PE lessons safely and with high standards of behaviour and presentation. Please take note of the following reminders for the 2025–26 academic year:



PE Kit Expectations

- Students must wear their RGTS PE kit to every lesson.
- Long PE socks with **Plain Black Shorts** or **Tracksuit Bottoms** are acceptable.
- Only white socks or pink/black long PE socks are allowed (**no plain black socks**).
- Trainers must be non-marking (**no pumps, plimsolls, Vans, Converse, or Crocs**).
- If a student has an issue with their PE kit, they must bring an alternative item (preferably black) and a note from parents/carers in their planner to inform their PE teacher.
- In anticipation of the colder/wetter season, please ensure your child has a weatherproof light fleece or waterproof jacket for outdoor lessons. **Hoodies are not permitted at RGTS and will be confiscated.**
- The school uniform shop has a waterproof jacket available via JK Clothing: https://jkclothing.co.uk/product/65f58ea3124ef000112b1cfe.

What Happens If Students Do Not Have Kit

We want all students to take part and enjoy their PE lessons, even if there's a kit issue. To support this:

- If a student does not bring any PE kit, they will be provided with RGTS spare kit and will need to attend a 30-minute after-school detention the same day (Level 2 Responsibility).
- If part of the kit is missing and there is no note, students will be given a warning (Level 1 Responsibility) and wear RGTS spare kit.
- If there is a note but no alternative kit, this will also be a warning (Level 1 Responsibility) and spare kit will be provided.
- If a student receives three Level 1 Responsibilities, this will lead to a 30-minute after-school detention.

Bringing a note in the planner from parents/carers is always helpful, as it lets the teacher know the situation in advance.

Jewellery & Hair – Why This Matters

We want to keep all students safe and able to take part in lessons without risk of injury.

- Jewellery such as rings, necklaces, earrings, and watches must not be worn in PE. If they cannot be removed, students should bring tape or plasters to cover them.
- Long hair should always be tied back with a hair band.

This is a health and safety measure to protect all students. If these expectations are not followed, it will result in a Level 1 Responsibility (Warning).

Mr Maldarasanu
Head of Physical Education

Key Contacts

At Royal Greenwich Trust School, we recognise the importance of effective communication and the need to ensure that our families feel supported. In keeping with our commitment to fostering strong connections, we provide the following contacts to facilitate streamlined communication:

General Enquiries	info@rgtrustschool.net
Attendance and Puncutality Matters	rgtsattendance@rgtrustschool.net
Medical Matters	jheeta.h@rgtrustschool.net
SEND Matters	rgts-sendco@rgtrustschool.net
Safeguarding Matters	rgtssafeguardingteam@rgtrustschool.net