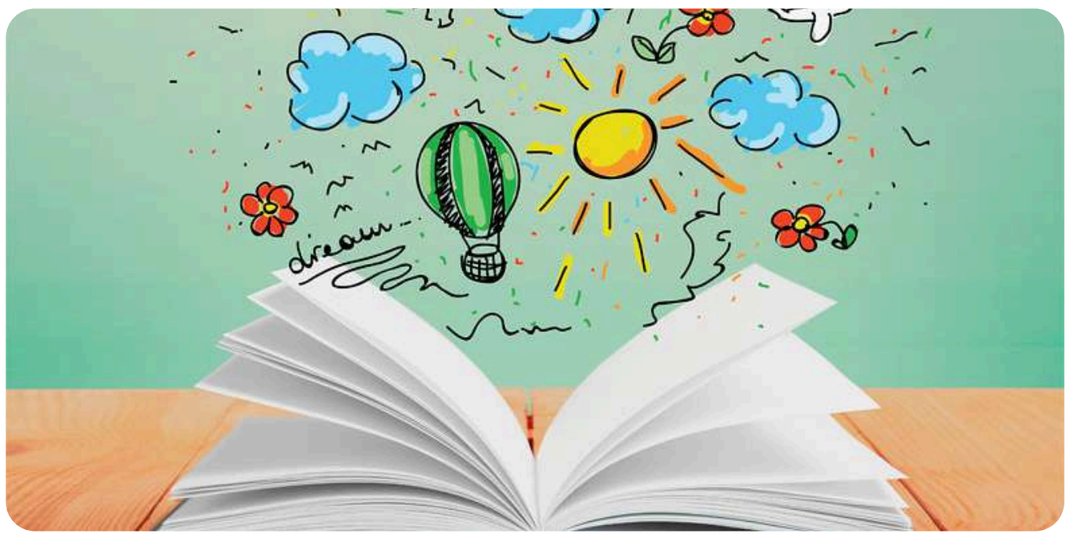
FAMILIES BULLETIN
17 October



Supporting Your Child to Read and Thrive

As children progress through secondary school, reading often shifts from storybooks to textbooks, articles, and online resources. However, reading for pleasure and developing strong reading habits remains just as important for teenagers as it was for young people in primary school. Research shows that confident readers not only perform achieve higher outcomes across all subjects, develop stronger critical thinking skills that develop better communication skills and therefore relationships and team work skills. Reading also fosters imagination, empathy, and resilience, skills that benefit young people well beyond the classroom.

Supporting your child's reading throughout secondary school can have long-term benefits for their academic success, personal growth, and lifelong learning. Here are some practical ways to help your child engage with reading at this stage:

1. Establish a Reading Routine

A regular reading routine helps build focus, comprehension, and stamina. **Encourage your child to read for at least 15 minutes a day**. Consistency is key. Short, regular sessions are more effective than occasional long ones. Making reading part of everyday life helps it become an enjoyable habit rather than a chore. Choose a book to read together.

2. Follow Their Interests

Teenagers are more likely to read when they are curious and invested in the material. Encourage them to explore novels, graphic novels, comics, magazines, or non-fiction on topics they love. **Offering choice ensures reading is rewarding and enjoyable, helping to build intrinsic motivation and confidence**.

3. Visit Your Local Library

Libraries are an invaluable resource. Your child can access books, eBooks, and audiobooks for free, providing opportunities to discover new genres and authors. Visiting together or exploring online borrowing options allows students to access engaging reading without pressure or cost. The closest libraries to RGTS are:

- Charlton House Library
  Charlton House, Charlton Rd, London SE7 8RE

- Woolwich Centre Library
  35 Wellington St, London SE18 6HQ

4. Read and Talk Together

Even for older students, discussing what they read is incredibly valuable. Shared reading or conversations about school materials can help your child think critically and connect ideas. Ask open questions like:

- "What do you think of this character?"
- "Why do you think the author chose that ending?"
- "What might happen next?"

These discussions **develop comprehension, analytical skills, and empathy**. Qualities that contribute to stronger academic outcomes.



5. Explore Audiobooks

Audiobooks can make reading more accessible and enjoyable, especially for busy or reluctant readers. Listening helps **improve vocabulary, comprehension, and engagement**, while making it easy to enjoy stories in a variety of settings.

6. Be Patient and Use Praise

Building a lifelong love of reading takes time. **Celebrate effort and progress**—finishing a chapter, trying a new genre, or discovering a new author. **Praise persistence and curiosity** rather than speed or difficulty. Confidence grows when young people feel supported and recognised.

7. Model Reading Yourself

Teenagers notice what adults do more than what we say. Let your child see you reading books, articles, or the news. **Share interesting ideas or discoveries from your own reading**. When reading is valued and enjoyed in the household, children are more likely to see it as important and worthwhile.

Supporting reading in the teenage years is about **creating an environment that celebrates curiosity, choice, and conversation**. By encouraging regular reading, exploring interests, and showing genuine enthusiasm, you'll help your child not only read well but thrive as a confident, engaged, and lifelong learning.

Mr Chimelecki
Primary Specialist

A Kind Reminder About Packed Lunches and Healthy Snacks



Dear Families,

We would like to kindly remind all parents and carers about our school's expectations regarding packed lunches and snacks brought in by students.

To support our students' health, wellbeing, and learning, we ask that packed lunches focus on nutritious, balanced foods rather than high-sugar sweets and large quantities of fizzy drinks. Consuming excessive sugary snacks and fizzy drinks can affect energy levels and concentration, making it harder for students to fully engage in lessons and achieve their best.

Please also note that energy drinks and other caffeinated beverages are not permitted on school premises due to health and safety reasons.

We encourage you to provide your child with healthy alternatives such as fresh fruit, vegetables, water, and balanced meals. These choices help students maintain steady energy throughout the day and promote positive focus and participation in school.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us create the best learning environment for all students.

Mrs Houston
Assistant Headteacher

Year 10 Work Experience Placements



As part of our commitment to preparing students for life beyond school, all Year 10 students will take part in Work Experience 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. This is a mandatory experience for all Year 10 students, and we are still waiting for a high number ofown placement forms (attached) to be returned.

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:

- 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.



Curriculum Spotlight: History

History at Key Stage 3

Our foremost goal in KS3 is to foster a love and appreciation for the broad sweep of history and its impact on the world today. Year 7 have begun their RGTS journey by studying the **Norman Conquest**, particularly how it changed the course of English history. Year 8 are learning of the origins of the **British Empire**, with a focus on which factors drove its growth. And Year 9 are completing a depth study on the **rise of the Nazis**, tackling the question of how and why the people of Germany could elect a leader as notorious as Adolf Hitler.

There will be a lot more going on in History this year. We are **increasing the number of educational visits** this year, with at **least one available for every year group**. It is also **Black History Month**, meaning a return of 'Black History Bingo' to **introduce students to a wide range of lesser-known black historical figures** and starting next half-term, students will receive homework packs that provide a variety of creative options to extend their knowledge of topics taught in lessons, with artistic, written, oral, and other types of assignments as possible options.

We are even maintaining a 'leaderboard' of top students in History this year based on points earned from classwork, assessments, and behaviour, which is being updated fortnightly. It has already sparked an intense competition! As of the most recent update, the top of the leaderboard is:

1. Alleyha M (Year 9)
2. Arizona E (Year 9)
3. Vernon N (Year 8)
4. Dhanvi P (Year 9)
5. Louise H (Year 8)

An extended list is on the display board outside the History classrooms. **The next update will be at the end of this half-term!**



There are a number of interesting YouTube channels that can help engage your child and foster their love of history, including:

- Simple History: https://www.youtube.com/@Simplehistory
- Epic History TV: https://www.youtube.com/@EpichistoryTv
- Kings & Generals: https://www.youtube.com/@KingsandGenerals
- Extra History: https://www.youtube.com/@extrahistory

History at Key Stage 4

At KS4, History remains a popular GCSE option at RGTS; after being oversubscribed, we now have two full classes of Year 10s starting their journey through the subject. We have begun with a thematic study on **Crime and Punishment** from 1000 AD to the modern day, including medieval executions, the Gunpowder Plot, the witch craze, Jack the Ripper, and more. Students are in the process of solidifying their understanding of the 12-mark essay question that will appear on each GCSE paper they will write.

Meanwhile, our Year 11s have made an enthusiastic start to their final GCSE topic, **The Cold War**. Mock exams are around the corner, and they will be sitting an exam on the topic they studied in the summer term of Year 10, **Weimar & Nazi Germany**. They have been receiving weekly revision home learning, and Masterclass sessions have started on Thursday afternoons for select students to refine their exam skills.



When it comes to revising a content-heavy subject like History, **small, consistent steps are the best way to reach a goal**. We will be **practicing revision techniques in lessons, such as flashcards**, but **you can support by simply checking in and asking questions** such as:

- Which topic are they revising this week?
- What type of questions could appear on the exam?
- How would they answer those questions?
- What was their latest homework about?

Even just ensuring they have distraction-free space for revision or cooking them a favourite meal the night before an exam can go a long way in supporting your child through one of the most important years of their secondary education.

Mr Smart
Head of History

Year 11 Mock Exam Timetable

A reminder to Year 11 families that our mock examinations will take place from **Monday 17th November to Thursday 27th November 2025**. Guidance and regulations have been shared in recent family bulletins; please do take the opportunity to review these if you have not already done so.

A copy of the **Mock Examination Timetable** and the **JCQ Regulations for Candidates** can be found on our examinations page: RGTS Exams Page



Flu Immunisations

Dear Families,

We contacted you on Tuesday 7th October 2025 regarding the upcoming immunisations taking place at RGTS on Tuesday 4th November 2025.

All families must complete the following link to confirm if they do or do not provide consent for the flu immunisation. Flu Immunisation Consent

We would like to emphasise that the immunisations are organised entirely by the NHS Immunisations Team, and our school is simply serving as a venue for this service. Therefore, any inquiries or additional information should be directed to the NHS Immunisations Team running the programme.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the NHS directly by emailing HRCH.Greenwichimms@nhs.net or calling 0203 903 3345.