FAMILIES BULLETIN
19 Sept

Why the Secondary School Curriculum Matters: A Parent's Guide to What's Really Going on in the Classroom



When your child heads off to RGTS each morning, they're not just sitting in classrooms, memorising facts for exams or assessments. They're stepping into a carefully crafted learning journey designed to shape their future academically, socially, and emotionally. The curriculum isn't just a list of subjects; **it's a roadmap for growth, discovery, and opportunity**.

More Than Just Subjects: Building Skills for Life

Often, we talk about core subjects: English, Maths and Science and yes, they're essential. Students must be literate and numerate to access the world around them. But the curriculum goes far beyond that. It's about developing critical thinking, creativity, resilience, and communication. Whether your child is analysing a poem in English, solving equations in Maths, or debating climate change in Geography, **they're learning how to think**, not just what to think.

These skills are the foundation for success in any career and in life. Employers today are looking for problem-solvers, team players, and adaptable thinkers. And the RGTS curriculum is designed to nurture these qualities.

A Balanced Diet of Knowledge

Our curriculum is 'broad and balanced' for a reason. It ensures that every student has an opportunity to experience the arts, Humanities, Sciences, Languages, and Technology. This variety helps students discover their passions and strengths and sometimes surprises them. That quiet Year 8 student might find their voice in Drama, or a budding engineer might fall in love with History.

However, it is also about fairness and equity: A well-rounded curriculum gives every child, regardless of background or starting point, access to the same rich educational experience.



Preparing for the Future — Not Just Exams

Yes, GCSEs and BTEC outcomes matter. But the curriculum isn't just about preparing for tests. It's about preparing for life after school — whether that's university, apprenticeships, or the world of work. Careers education, financial literacy, digital skills, and personal development are all woven into our curriculum to help students navigate the real world with confidence as 'global citizens'.

Character Counts

Schools don't just teach subjects they shape character. Through the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) programme, our Character Development curriculum, and our enrichment provision, RGTS students learn about relationships, mental health, diversity, and responsibility. I know you will know that these lessons are just as vital as algebra or Shakespeare.



Your Role as a Parent

You don't need to be an expert in trigonometry or tectonic plates to support your child. Ask questions about what they're learning and celebrate their curiosity. Encourage them to explore beyond the classroom whether that's through reading, museums, coding clubs, or kitchen science experiments.

If something is unclear, please do not hesitate to consult the school. Teachers are passionate about discussing learning — it is our greatest strength.

So the next time your child says, "We learned about photosynthesis today," know that it's not just biology. It's the beginning of understanding the world — and their place in it.

Mr Williams
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)

Early Dismissal - Thursday 25th September 2025



We would like to remind families that there will be an **early closure for students on Thursday 25th September 2025** due to our staff twilight sessions. Please find the dismissal times for each year group listed below:

Year Group	Dismissal Time
Year 7	12:50pm
Year 8	1:10pm
Year 9	1:10pm
Year 10	12:50pm
Year 11	12:50pm
Year 12	1:10pm
Year 13	1:10pm

Please note that any detentions scheduled to take place on Thursday 25th September 2025 will still go ahead. Afterschool clubs will be cancelled.

Enrichment/Clubs and Student Voice



At RGTS, we believe that every student deserves to feel they belong, have their voice heard, and experience opportunities that build **responsibility, grit, teamwork and success**. Our enrichment and clubs are central to this vision – helping students build confidence, develop skills, and create memories that last a lifetime.

We are excited to be launching the **RGTS Enrichment and Club** offer in the coming weeks, with sign-up opening the week beginning **Monday 13th October 2025.**

While our extended offer will launch later, students may find our current sport offer starting on Monday 22nd September 2025 of interest. Additional information will be provided during tutor time.

Before we finalise the programme, we want to hear directly from our students and from you about the clubs and activities that will make the biggest difference.

Please support your child in completing the **RGTS Enrichment/Club Student Voice Survey** by clicking the following link: Student Voice

Deadline: **Wednesday 24th September 2025**

Incentive: All completed entries will be entered into a **prize draw for a £50 supermarket food voucher.**

We thank you in advance as your input will help us shape a diverse, exciting, and inclusive programme that ensures every student finds a place to belong, to grow, and to succeed.

Please encourage your child to complete the survey and have their say. Together, we can create an enrichment offer that reflects our students' passions and ambitions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Prince
Assistant Headteacher - Culture and Belonging

RGTS Sport Offer

Day	Club	Year Group(s)	Location	Time
Monday	Football	Year 8	Sports Hall	3:10pm
Tuesday	Netball	Years 7, 8, 9	Sports Hall	3:10pm
Tuesday	Football	Year 10	Sports Hall	3:15pm
Wednesday	Volleyball	Years 9, 10, 11	Sports Hall	3:10pm
Thursday	Football	Year 7	Sports Hall	3:15pm
Friday	Basketball	Years KS4 & KS5	Sports Hall	3:15pm
Friday	Football	Year 9	Sports Hall	3:15pm

Join our exciting PE afterschool clubs!
All sessions are fun, engaging and open to all.
First come, first served – so don't miss out!
Year 8 & 9 clubs start at 3:10pm
Year 7, 10 & 11 clubs start at 3:15pm.
All clubs run for 1 hour. Numbers are limited!

Year 7 Homework - Autumn Term Update

As our new Year 7 students settle into life at secondary school, we are taking a supportive and structured approach to developing positive homework routines.

Term 1 – Settling-In Phase: Homework will only be set by form tutors. These will be short, induction-style tasks designed to familiarise students with our homework platforms and expectations.



Frequency from Term 2 (Monday 3rd November) onwards:

- Core subjects (English, Maths, Science): 2 pieces of homework per week
- Non-core subjects: 1 piece of homework per week

Homework Platforms: Students will use the following platforms to access and complete homework:

- Arbor – for viewing assigned tasks and tracking completion
- Microsoft 365 – for email, quizzes and document-based tasks
- Tassomai – for specific subjects' homework

All students have received:

- Their login details
- A user guide explaining how to access their Arbor and school email.

Information regarding Tassomai will follow in due course.

We encourage families to check in regularly with their child to help establish positive homework routines early on.

If you need support accessing any platforms or have questions about homework, please don't hesitate to contact your child's **form tutor** or our school office by emailing info@rgtrustschool.net.

Thank you for working with us to support your child's learning journey.

Mrs Sirso
Head of Year 7



Year 11 Information Evening

Dear Parents/Carers,

We're excited to invite you to our Year 11 Information Evening on **Thursday 25th September**, from **6:00pm to 7:00pm**.

This evening is all about working together to support your child through what can be a challenging—but incredibly rewarding—final year of secondary school.

We'll be sharing **practical tips, key dates, and expert advice** to help you guide your child through their GCSE journey with confidence.

Whether you're wondering how to support revision at home, navigate mock exams, or simply want to know what to expect this year, this session is designed with you in mind. Students are warmly encouraged to attend too, as the information will be relevant and useful for them as well.

To help us plan the evening, please let us know if you'll be attending by completing this short form: Sign Up Here

We really hope you can join us. Together, we can make Year 11 a successful and positive experience for your child.

Mr Drumm
Assistant Headteacher - KS4

Year 13 Information Evening

We are pleased to invite families for our annual **Year 13 Academic Review, Information Evening, and Meet the Tutor Event**, scheduled for **Thursday 25th September 2025**, from **6:00pm to 7:00pm**.

This year's event will centre on how best to support Year 13 students as they navigate their academic journeys while also outlining post-18 options available to them. Attendees will have the invaluable opportunity to engage with their child's form tutor, fostering a collaborative approach to their education. We encourage both parents and carers, as well as students, to participate actively in this important event.

To ensure effective management of attendance numbers, this event will be ticketed. Families can sign up using the following link: Sign Up Here

We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be an informative and engaging evening next Thursday.

Mr Heppell
Assistant Headteacher - KS5

Curriculum Spotlight - English

The English faculty at RGTS has seen some exciting changes this year. We have welcomed 4 new members of staff, and their passion, experience and commitment is already having a wonderful impact on our young people. We welcome Mr Sharland, our new 2nd in charge, who is leading Key Stage 3 and bringing his love of 19th-century literature to life in the classroom. We also welcome Mr Needham, Miss Begum and Mr Dalby.

At Key Stage 3, our vision is to foster a love for reading and writing that will underpin our students' success not only in their GCSEs, but in every aspect of their lives both now and in the future. We will do this by exploring high-quality texts together, sharing the way writers craft their texts to create meaning, provoke our thoughts and emotions, and contribute to wider debates and issues in the world. We will also use what we learn to enhance our own writing, enabling us to better understand and contribute to our communities and the world around us.

Year 7s have been immersing themselves in the early chapters of **'The Bone Sparrow'**, which explores the lives of Rohingya refugees in an Australian detention centre; **Year 8s** have started their journey through the long history of **Gothic literature**; while **Year 9s** have been focusing on **Othello**, Shakespeare's intense and challenging but endlessly fascinating tragedy of jealousy and betrayal.

The easiest way to support your child with English is to discuss these texts with them and encourage them to read around the subjects that interest them personally. We are looking forward to reading their homework about a text that has been important to them; sharing these positive early encounters is crucial to developing the skills and lifelong habits associated with readers that employers and universities value so highly.

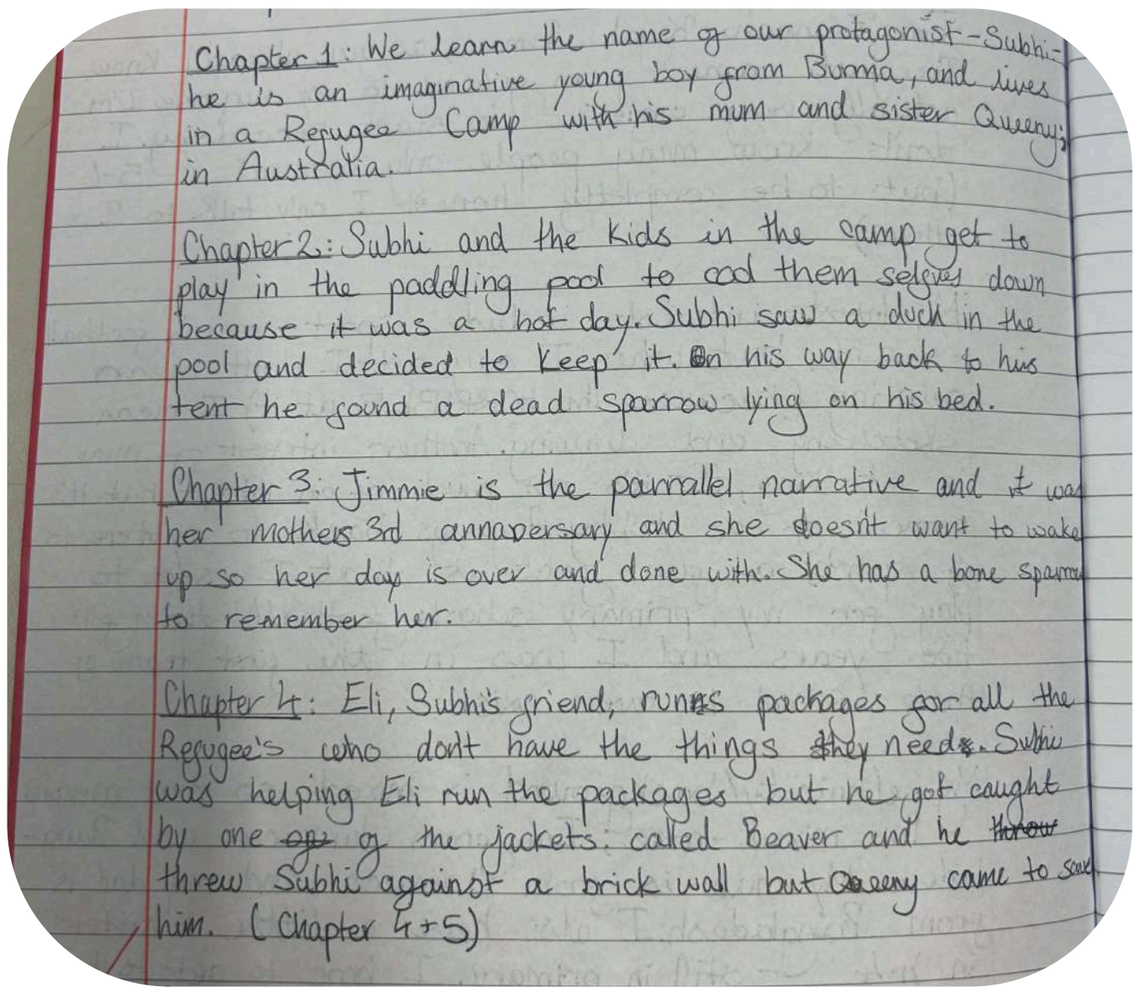
Year 10 students have had a successful start to their English GCSEs. All classes have either already completed or nearly completed reading their first Literature text, J.B Priestley's **'An Inspector Calls'**. Students have been really invested in the story, and we are excited to see how they react and respond to Macbeth and Jekyll and Hyde later this year.

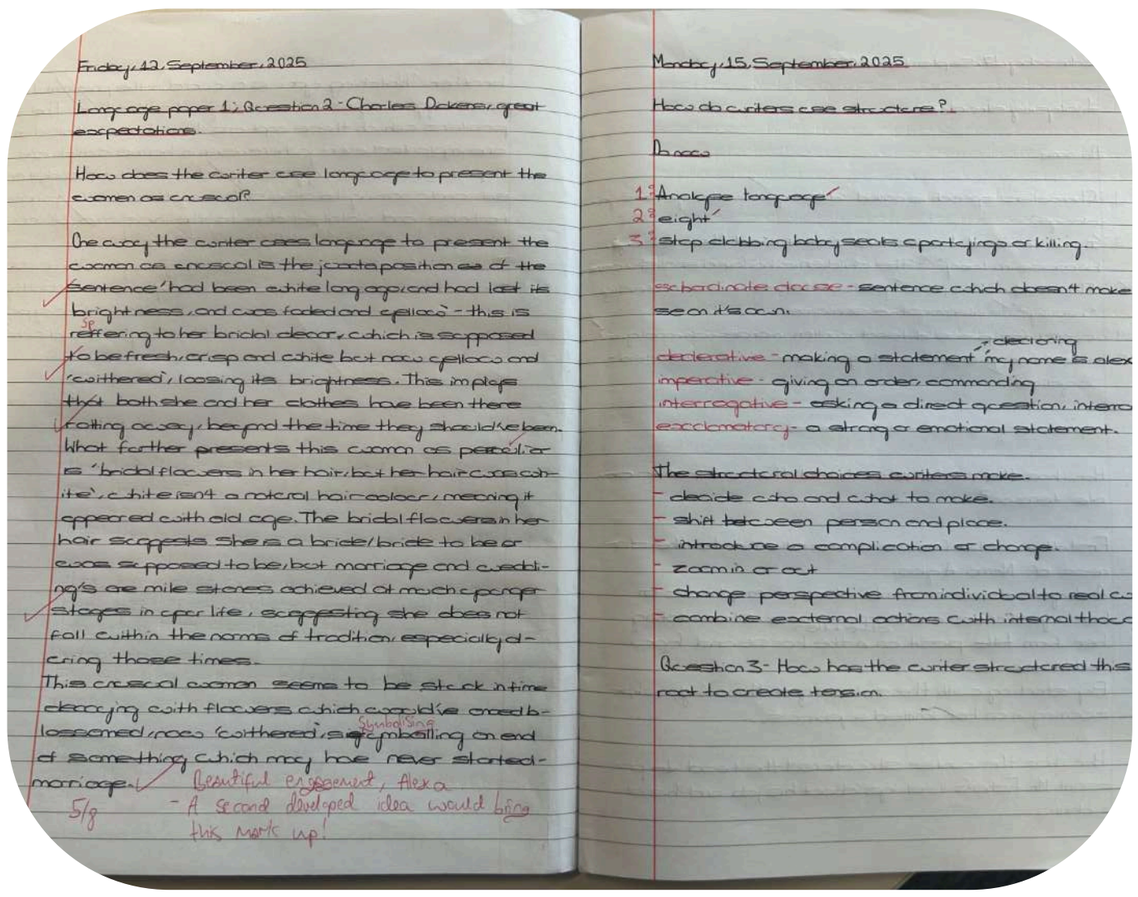
Year 11 have hit the ground running, with their first set of mock exams less than 2 months away! We are busy in lessons, revising the skills we need in **Language Paper 1**, and will soon be moving on to revision of Macbeth and Jekyll and Hyde in preparation for Literature Paper 1. Please support your child by asking them to explain the plot of these texts to you or to tell you their favourite moments, characters or lines from them. To support their Language revision, encouraging your child to read as much and as often as possible is one of the best ways to boost their reading and writing confidence, whether it be newspapers, magazine articles, autobiographies, poetry or novels. I will be going into more detail on how you can support your child in their countdown to GCSEs during our open evening next Thursday. I look forward to seeing you then!

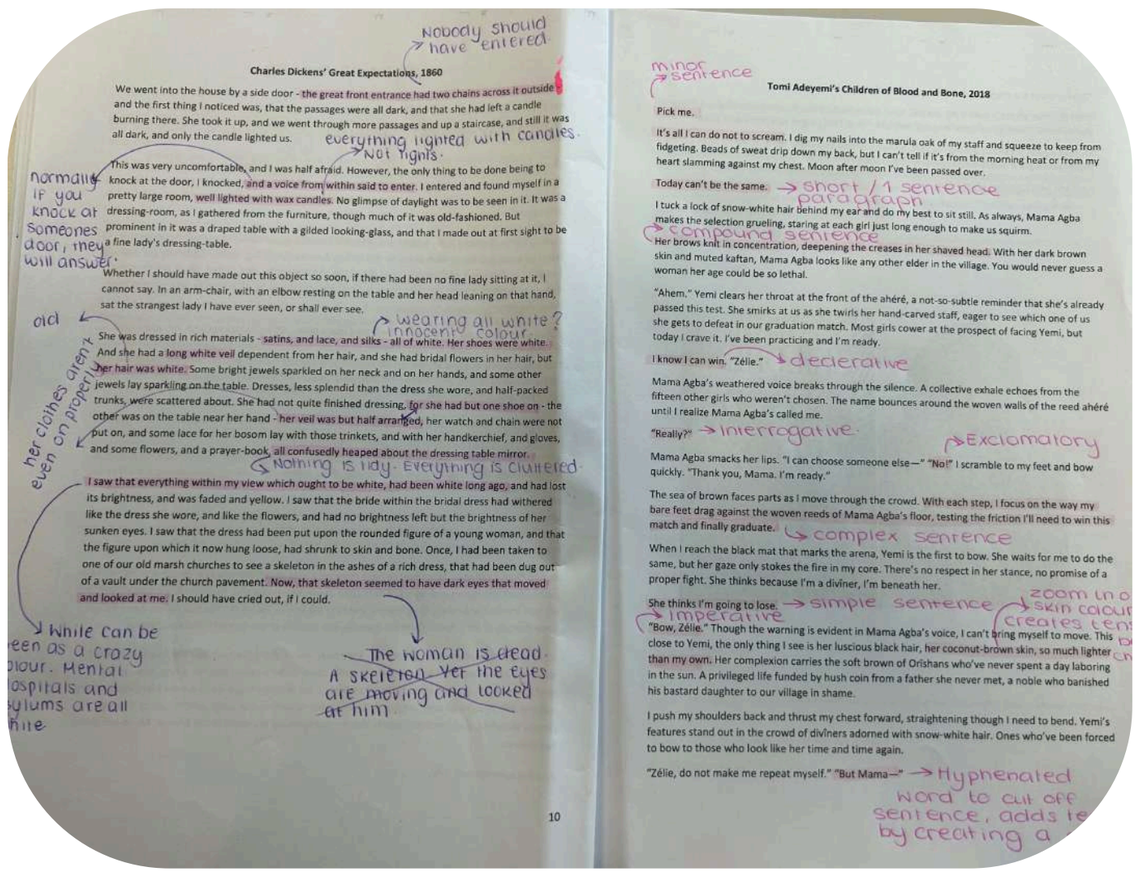
If you want to avoid the dreaded "it's ok", or shrug off the shoulders when you ask about school, here are some useful questions to ask:

- **Who is your favourite character? Why?**
- **What's your favourite moment so far? Why? How did it make you feel?**
- **Can you see any connections between the novel/play/poem and something else you have studied or seen in the real world?**

Ms Donaghy
Head of English Faculty







Greenwich Flu Season Community Clinic

The Greenwich Children and Young People's Community Immunisations Service have asked us to share the following information with families.

With flu season in full swing, we know that keeping students and staff healthy is a top priority. Please see below a list of our community clinics.

We're offering flu shots for anyone who may have missed their vaccination.

Our goal is to make it easy and convenient for your school to stay healthy and reduce sickness.



