FAMILIES BULLETIN
26 Sept

Setting the Foundations - Resilience and Opportunities

Year 8 and Year 9 are both key stages in your child's journey through secondary school. The two years bring new challenges, important decisions, and exciting opportunities. At our recent parent event, Helping Your Child Thrive, we explored how resilience and opportunity are central to helping students succeed both in and beyond the classroom.

Why Resilience & Opportunity Matter

- **Resilience** helps students adapt to change, manage setbacks, and bounce back stronger. It builds coping strategies that prepare them for exams and life.
- **Opportunity** opens doors to new experiences, develops independence, and builds confidence. Clubs, enrichment, trips, and leadership roles allow students to discover new talents and interests.



What Resilience Looks Like

- Adapting positively to challenges and persisting when things get tough
- Problem-solving independently and knowing when to ask for help
- Demonstrating confidence, responsibility, grit, and even humour
- Parents can support by praising effort, validating emotions, and modelling calm coping strategies

Navigating Year 8 & 9 Challenges

In both years, students face increased academic and social demands. Year 8 is a time of growth and preparation, while Year 9 brings subject choices and greater independence.

Support at school includes:

- Mentoring and character development
- Restorative practices that help students learn from mistakes
- A safe "failure culture" that encourages risk-taking without fear
- Pastoral support from tutors, Heads of Year, safeguarding team, ELSA sessions, counselling, Compass Centre, and online platforms such as Kooth.com





Opportunities for Growth

Students are encouraged to get involved in a wide range of activities to develop their skills and confidence:

- **Clubs & Activities**: Drama, Debating, Dance, Cooking, Chess, Sports, Anime & Manga, Mindfulness, Homework Club, and more…
- **Leadership Roles**: Student council, peer mentoring, ambassadors, sports captains, student voice
- **Trips & Enrichment:** Young Enterprise, UKMT Maths Challenge, KS3 Science World, GCSE Art masterclasses, Mandarin lessons, and many others

Supporting at Home

Parents play a **vital** role in building resilience and independence:

- Keep routines and boundaries around homework, equipment, reading, uniform, punctuality, phone and technology.
- Praise persistence and celebrate progress, not just outcomes
- Talk openly about challenges, modelling healthy coping strategies
- Encourage children to try new things, even when it feels uncomfortable

Pathways to GCSE (Year 9 Focus)

In Year 9, students begin preparing for their GCSEs:

- **Core subjects** remain compulsory: English, Maths, Science
- **Options** allow choice and personalisation (e.g. History, Art, Technology, Spanish)
- **Tailored choices** should reflect both strengths and future ambitions (e.g. sciences for medicine, arts for design)
- **Exploration** in Year 9 is the last chance to try out different activities before GCSEs begin

Looking Ahead

- **Year 8** lays the groundwork for KS4 by developing resilience, confidence, and independence.
- **Year 9** is about preparing for GCSEs and making subject choices that shape future education and career paths.

With strong school support and active parental involvement, students can thrive — building the resilience and seizing the opportunities that will help them succeed not just in exams, but in life.

Resources from the information evening can be found attached.

Mr Nott
Assistant Headteacher (Year 8 & 9)

Disruption to Travel - Please Read

TfL have advised us that work on the Cycleway 4 Extension Section 2 **covering the roads to and from RGTS** is due to begin. This project runs between **Anchor and Hope Lane** and the **Woolwich Ferry Roundabout**.

Construction will begin on **29 September 2025** and will continue until Spring 2027.

What this may mean for businesses including schools:

- Diversion routes: Temporary diversions and signage will be in place.
  TfL recommend advising your employees and students to allow extra travel time when travelling to and from school during the construction period.
- Bus services: Some bus stops will be closed temporarily.
  Only one consecutive bus stop will be closed at a time, meaning bus stops located immediately to the left and/or right will remain open.
- Parking/loading: Some bays will be suspended; alternative bays will be signposted
- Pedestrian access: Footpaths and crossings will remain open where possible, with clear signage provided for any temporary closures.

We will update you with any further advice we receive about specific times and locations. **Staff and Students should allow extra time to travel to work from Monday 29th September 2025**.

Early Dismissal - Thursday 2nd October 2025

IIn light of our Year 6 Open Evening on **Thursday 2nd October 2025** there will be a slight adjustment to the finishing times of the school day. Please see below when each Year Group will be dismissed.

Year Group	Dismissal Time
Year 7	2:00pm
Year 8	2:15pm
Year 9	2:15pm
Year 10	2:00pm
Year 11	2:00pm
Year 12	2:15pm
Year 13	2:15pm



Contacting Your Child's Form Tutor

At RGTS, your child's Form Tutor should **always be your first point of contact** for **any enquiries** relating to their wellbeing, progress, or general school matters.

Across a busy school day, the quickest and most effective way to get in touch is by:

- Using the contact details available on the RGTS website (020 8312 5480 or info@rgtrustschool.net).
- Calling the school reception, where our team will ensure your message is passed on to the relevant Form Tutor.

Your child's Form Tutor will then respond either with a phone call or, if required, by arranging a suitable time to meet with you.

Please note that, as teachers are teaching throughout the day, they **may not be able to reply immediately**. However, all staff aim to **respond to parent enquiries within 48 hours**.

We kindly ask families to use these channels in the first instance, as this helps us ensure your enquiry reaches the right person as efficiently as possible.



Mr Brougham
Deputy Headteacher

A Positive Climate for Learning

We want to ensure our students are ready to learn and succeed so that they can thrive in our school community. Setting standards from the start of term is key. Over the past two weeks we have focused on:



Calm corridors - Students are in the classroom promptly to make the most of their lesson time. Students have 5 minutes movement time between lessons and 5 minutes to move to their line-ups. If students are not where they should be after the 5 minute grace they will be issued a 30 minute detention.

Climate for learning - We use 'one voice' in the classroom so there is a calm and focused climate for learning.

Correct uniform - Blazers, ties and black shoes. Putting on the school uniform is about getting into the right frame of mind and shows that you belong to our community.

If a student forgets or loses a piece of uniform, they can borrow the missing item from the uniform cupboard which is open from **8.15 - 8.30am** in the **morning and during break and lunch**.

Now that students have had 2 weeks to understand our uniform expectations, if students are seen in school without a blazer, tie or the correct school shoes they will be issued with a 30-minute detention.

Please support your child by making sure they have full school uniform. If you have any issues or need any support with this, please contact your child's form tutor.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Mr Brougham
Deputy Headteacher (Inclusion)

Year 7 Meet the Tutor Event

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that your child has almost completed their first term at RGTS; with this in mind we, would like to invite you to our **Year 7 Meet the Tutor Event** on **Thursday 16th October**. The purpose of this event is to allow you to meet your child's form tutor or a key member of the KS3 inclusion team.

This meeting will focus on how your child has **transitioned to secondary school and the support package that has been in place for them**. This will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you may have and there will be materials for you to take away.

Throughout the course of the evening there will also be an opportunity for you attend **small informative sessions** on the following areas:

- Reading/literacy at RGTS for Year 7
- How best to support your child with English
- How best to support your child with Maths
- Parental use of homework platforms and the Arbor app
- Visit our Compass Centre

To book your appointment you can sign in to the Parent Portal or the Parent Arbor App. Further information on how to book your appointments can be found here: **Booking Guardian Consultations (Parent's Evenings) on the Parent Portal or Parent App**

If you are unable to attend the event, you can email info@rgtrustschool.net or alternatively you can call 0208 312 5480 and arrange a separate appointment at later date with your child's form tutor.

We look forward to seeing you at the event.

Mrs Sirso
Head of Year 7

Year 10 Work Experience Programme

As part of the RGTS Year 10 Work Experience Programme, your child is expected to find their own placement for **23 February 2025 to 6th March 2026**. The deadline for confirming placements is **Monday 8th December 2025**.



Why it matters:

- Work experience is essential for developing employability skills and supporting future college, apprenticeship, or university applications.

- It links directly to your child's RGTS Passport, which records key skills in Responsibility, Grit, Teamwork and Success.

How you can support:

- Talk with your child about your own workplace or community contacts.

- Encourage them to send emails and make phone calls to local employers.

- Remind them of the importance of meeting the deadline.



We will be celebrating success with weekly tutor group league tables and final rewards. Thank you for your support in helping every student secure a meaningful placement.

Thank you for your continued support on this important intiative.

Mrs Prince
Assistant Headteacher - Culture and Belonging

Year 11: Science Tips from Ms Pearce

Dear Families,

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Head of Science at RGTS and to share some valuable insights as your children prepare for their upcoming examinations.

Having served as an examiner since 2011, I have gathered various strategies that can significantly enhance the revision process. As we approach this critical phase in Year 11, I would like to share my top tips for effective exam preparation:

1: **Establish a Comprehensive Revision Schedule**: It is essential for students to engage in regular review sessions that encompass both current year content and key topics from Year 10. I recommend that the initial **revision schedule** includes all three sciences—Biology, Chemistry, and Physics—allocating a minimum of three hours per week. This revision time should be distinctly separate from homework assignments to ensure that both tasks receive the attention they require.

2: **Complete Homework Assignments**: Please encourage your child to meticulously complete all homework assigned by their Science teachers. These assignments are tailored to **reinforce foundational knowledge** that is crucial for **success in the examinations**. Consistent engagement with this material will bolster their understanding and confidence.

3: **Utilise Microsoft Teams**: Students should log into Microsoft Teams at least once a week, as this platform will facilitate essential communication between them and their teachers. Starting **Monday 29th September**, we will be sharing **additional resources**, **tips for success**, and **links to valuable exam support materials** on Teams. If you or your child are unfamiliar with how to navigate Teams, I encourage you to watch this helpful tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aO9LE6ZKnUM

We are committed to supporting your children in achieving their best both in their goals and aspirations and academically.

Ms Pearce
Head of Science

Year 11: Greenwich Borough Post-16 Open Evening Dates 2025-2026

As Year 11 students approach a pivotal moment in their educational journey, it is vital to promote the various Post-16 options available to them. Understanding these opportunities empowers students to make informed choices about their futures, ultimately guiding them towards fulfilling careers. Engaging with different educational institutions and vocational paths fosters excitement and helps students align their aspirations with their unique skills and interests.

To support this transition, we have compiled a list of upcoming open events in Greenwich. These events will be displayed on the walls of Year 11 tutor rooms and provide invaluable insights into the Post-16 landscape, allowing students and their families to explore the options available to them. We encourage all students to attend, gather information, and ask questions as they consider their next steps toward a successful future.

Post-16 provider	Open Events
Eltham Hill School	Thursday 16th October from 5-7pm. External students must come with an adult
Halley Academy Sixth Form College	Thursday 20th November, 5-6.30pm.
Harris Academy Greenwich	Wednesday 12th November 5-7pm
Leigh Academy Blackheath (LAB 16)	Thursday 13th November 5-7pm
Newhaven Kings Park	Wednesday 22 October 10-2pm
Leigh Stationers Academy	Thursday, 2 October 4.30-7pm External students will need to sign up via a link on the school website
Plumstead Manor Sixth Form	Thursday 6th November 5-8pm *Tickets must be booked via Eventbrite. All external students will be required to wear their school uniform, unless accompanied by adult family members*
Royal Greenwich Trust School	Thursday 9 October 4-7pm
St Mary Magdalene Sixth Form	Wednesday 22 October 4.30-6pm
The John Roan School	Wednesday 26th November 5-7.00pm
Thomas Tallis School Post 16 Centre	Wednesday 15th October 5-8.00pm Students must come with an adult
Woolwich Polytechnic Boys School	Monday 3rd November For **internal students** **Boys at 1.30 - 2.25; Girls at 2.30 - 3.30pm** For **external students 4.15pm - 6.30pm** *Tickets must be booked via Eventbrite. All external students will be required to wear their school uniform, unless accompanied by adult family members.*
Sixth Form Colleges	
London South East Colleges	Thursday 16 October 5-7.30pm Tuesday 24 February 5-7.30pm Saturday 27 June 10am-1pm All events are live on our website so pupils are able to register here : Events at London South East Colleges
Shooters Hill Sixth Form College.	Wednesday 8 October 4.30-6.30pm Thursday 6 November 4.30-6.30pm Wednesday 14 January 4.30-6.30pm Thursday 12 March 4.30-6.30pm Thursday 11June 4.30-6.30pm

Charlton Athletic Community Trust Visit to Sparrows Lane

On Wednesday, our students had the incredible opportunity to visit Sparrows Lane for a training ground tour and engage in a variety of fun activities, all organised by the Charlton Athletic Community Trust, in anticipation of Red, White and Black Day. This significant anti-racism initiative honours diversity within the club and our local community. We are immensely proud of our students, who demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm and professionalism while interacting with their peers from other schools. They truly embodied our core values of responsibility, grit, teamwork, and success.

The experience allowed our students to engage meaningfully with their surroundings, forging connections and learning from one another in an inspiring setting. It was heartening to see them rallying together, showcasing their commitment to promoting inclusivity and respect. This visit not only enriched their understanding of diversity but also encouraged them to become advocates for change within their own communities.

Thank you to the Charlton Athletic Community Trust for hosting our students.



CHARLTON ATHLETIC COMMUNITY TRUST
At The Heart Of The Community

Great in Greenwich Achievement Awards

The Year 11 and Year 13 students were honoured to be invited to the Great in Greenwich celebration for this year, which took place in Victoria Hall in Woolwich. This marked the third year of this event, which celebrates the success of the students across the Borough.

Pictured below are Adam and Daniella, who represent the Engineering and Business classes of the Sixth Form respectively. Both students have flourished during their two years with us, and have shown their peers what it takes to be successful on a daily basis.





Divine and Shashank are also pictured on the right, as they collected their awards for their success in their GCSEs.

This was a particularly special event for siblings Daniella and Divine, as their parents were there to celebrate both of their success.

It is truly heartwarming to see how humbled the students were, while knowing the tireless efforts that went in to achieving these great results. We wish them the very best for the future, and know that they will be as greatly appreciatedwhereever tehey go, as they were at RGTS.



