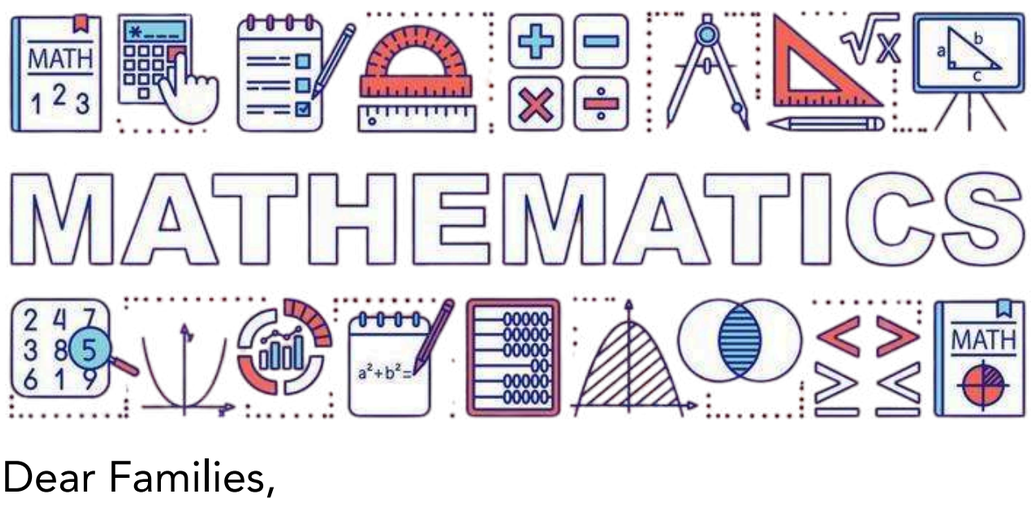
FAMILIES BULLETIN
03 October



Dear Families,

It's been a fantastic start to the year in the Maths Department at RGTS, and we're excited to share some of the highlights and key curriculum developments happening across all year groups

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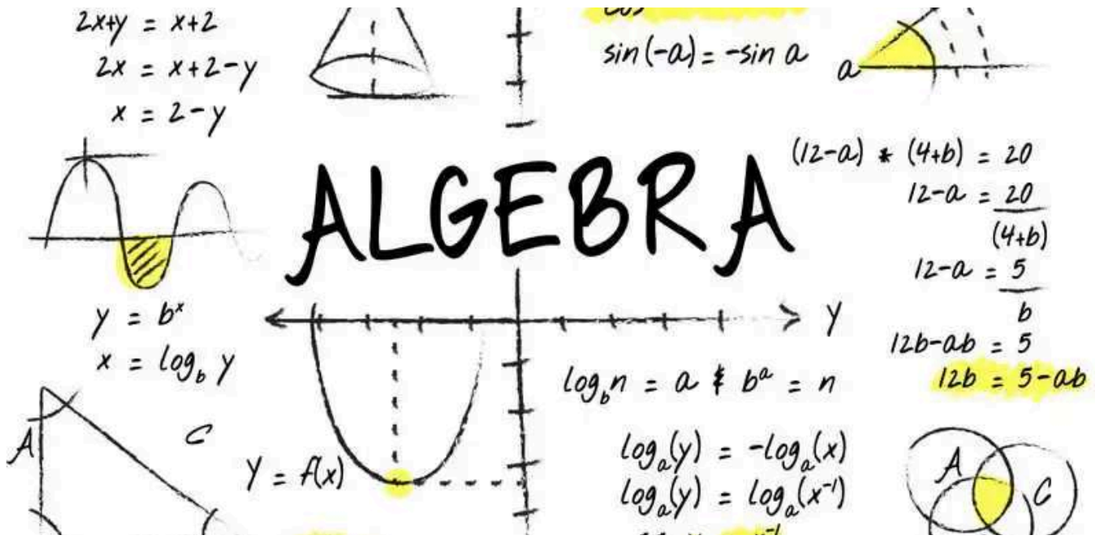
We are proud of the energy and enthusiasm our students are bringing to their Maths lessons this term. Our aim remains clear: **to develop confident, curious, and resilient mathematicians** who are equipped with the **problem-solving and critical-thinking skills** they need for success—both in exams and in the wider world.

🔢 Key Stage 3: Building Strong Foundations

Across Years 7–9, our focus is on **deepening mathematical understanding and fluency**. Students are exploring a range of topics including:

- Year 7 – Number sense and an introduction to algebraic thinking
- Year 8 – Set Notation and Venn diagrams
- Year 9 – Advanced algebra and key problem-solving strategies

We are encouraging students **not just to 'get the answer'** but to **explain their reasoning and make connections between topics**. Retrieval practice and regular low-stakes quizzes help ensure key knowledge sticks.



How you can help at home

Encourage your child to talk through how they solve a problem—not just what the answer is. Websites like Corbett Maths and MathsGenie are great for extra practice and revision.

📘 Key Stage 4: GCSE Preparation in Full Swing

Our Year 10 and 11 students are well into their GCSE courses. This term:

- Year 10 are focusing on **key algebraic techniques**
- Year 11 are consolidating their understanding of key topics while tackling exam-style questions in preparation for their mock exams later this term

Our priority is ensuring every student is confident in both the Foundation and Higher content pathways, with regular assessment helping us target support where it's needed.

✏️ **Revision tip**: Little and often is best! 20–30 minutes of revision a few times a week using past paper questions or flashcards can make a big difference over time.

🎯 Homework

We're thrilled to be launching **Sparx Maths** later this term- an innovative online platform to support and strengthen students' understanding of Maths. It provides personalised, homework-based learning that is tailored to each student's individual needs and progress.



🔍 How Does It Work?

Each week, students are set homework through Sparx Maths. The system automatically generates questions that:

- Match your child's current ability level
- Reinforce topics they've been learning in class
- Include a mix of **new learning, revision, and challenge questions**

To complete a task, students must watch short, supportive videos and answer all the questions correctly—this ensures **deep understanding**, not just ticking a box.

If a student gets something wrong, they are **guided through the correct method before having another go, helping them learn from mistakes.**

Mr Rahman
Head of Faculty - Maths

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 - Art & Design Parent Information Event

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to invite you to a short parent event entitled "**Maximising GCSE Success in Art**", which will take place on **Monday 20th October 2025** from **4:00pm - 4:45pm** at **RGTS**.

This event is designed to give you a clear insight into the GCSE Art & Design course and the high standards required for success. During the session you will:

- View examples of student sketchbooks to see the standard of work, range of skills and personalisation needed to achieve at the highest levels.
- Gain an understanding of the Edexcel GCSE Assessment Objectives (AOs) and how these underpin all student work.
- Explore our Term 1 & 2 curriculum guide (attached) to see how learning is sequenced and what is expected of your child.
- Hear top tips for success – including how you can support your child's progress at home with independent work and organisation.

The session will be short, practical, and focused on giving you useful strategies to help your child succeed over the next two years. It will also be an opportunity to see examples of the skills they will be developing and the creativity we want them to build into their projects.

To confirm your attendance, please complete this short sign-up form: **Art & Design Sign Up Form**

We look forward to welcoming you to this event and working together to ensure the very best outcomes for your child.

Mrs Houston
Assistant Headteacher





Year 11 GCSE / Vocational Mock Examinations

Dear Parents/Carers,

The first set of Year 11 mock examinations will run from **Monday 17th November to Thursday 27th November**.

All students were issued with a personalised exam timetable on **Monday 15th September**. This timetable outlines the date and time of each examination.

The mock exam timetable for parents can be found on our website linked here: Mock Exam Timetable. This outlines the date and time of all examinations taking place, for your reference. There will also be a **practical Art examination** and an **Engineering coursework catch-up session**, which will take place on **Friday 21st November**, during the inset day.

Why are these exams important?

These examinations are an essential part of preparation for the GCSEs. They give your child's subject teachers an opportunity to assess:

- Their current knowledge and understanding of each subject
- The progress they have made since the last mock examinations in Year 10
- How they perform under exam conditions

The predicted grades generated from these examinations will be used for sixth form references, so this set of exams is very important.

What are the arrangements for the mock examinations?

These examinations will take place in the **school Sports Hall**, unless your child is entitled to a reader, scribe, or extra time.

All morning exams will begin promptly at **9:00am**. **Students must arrive at school by 8:30am** to place belongings in their lockers, hear key messages from subject staff, gather their thoughts about the paper they are about to sit, and make their way calmly into the exam space.

Students may not be allowed to sit their exam if they are late. Late entry to an examination room is at the discretion of the **Exams Officer**.

As always, students must arrive in **full school uniform** and bring the following equipment in **a clear pencil case or plastic bag:**

- Black pen ×2
- Pencil
- Sharpener
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Calculator
- Maths set (compass, protractor)
- Highlighters (answers must not be highlighted)







Water must be stored in **clear bottles without labels or writing** (e.g. logos) and with a **small lid**.

Electronic devices, watches, and any other items **must be left in lockers and not brought into the exam room**. All pockets must be completely empty.

If your child has additional time for exams (25% or 50%), please check the **afternoon exam timetable**, as there may be days when the exam extends beyond the end of the school day.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Drumm
Assistant Headteacher (Years 10 and 11)