FAMILIES BULLETIN
3rd September

Welcome to the New Academic Year



It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the start of a new academic year at Royal Greenwich Trust School. I hope that you and your families have enjoyed a restful summer break and that our students have had the opportunity to relax, recharge and prepare for the year ahead.

The beginning of a new academic year is always an exciting time, bringing with it new opportunities, fresh challenges and the chance for every student to build on their achievements. We look forward to supporting our young people as they continue to develop academically and personally throughout the year.

It was wonderful to see our new Year 7 and Year 12 students on site today as they began the next stage of their journey with us. We hope they have enjoyed their first day and are already beginning to feel settled within the RGTS community. We are now very much looking forward to welcoming all of our other year groups back to school tomorrow and to having our whole school community together once again.

We are also proud to celebrate the proud achievements of our students over the summer with an exceptional set of results.

Our Sixth Form students achieved record-breaking set of results.

- 1 in 5 students achieved D*D*D*
- 80% achieved DDD or above
- Over a third of Engineering students achieved D*D*D*
- Every Business student achieved at least **DDD**

- **Penelope** achieved **D*D*D*** in Engineering and will progress to the **University of Central Lancashire** to study **Aerospace Engineering with Pilot Studies**
- **Arun** achieved **D*D*D*** and will continue his studies at the **University of Greenwich**



We also celebrated another year of excellent GCSE results, with students across the cohort demonstrating impressive resilience, determination and ambition. Their achievements reflect not only their academic ability but also their commitment and perseverance throughout their time at RGTS. We are immensely proud of the progress made by all students and delighted to see so many achieve outcomes that will open doors to exciting next steps in education.

- Another year of **continued improvement**
- Students achieving **Grade 9s in English, Maths and Combined Science**

- **Christiana acheieved 99999998** will continue her studies at either **Newham Collegiate Sixth Form or Brampton Manor Academy,** where she plans to study **Maths, Further Maths, History and Economics**
- **Andrew achieved 99888886** and will continue his studies at **Thomas Tallis,** where he plans to study **Maths, Economics and Spanish**
- **Destiny achieved 9988884 M2.** and will continue his studies at **Westminster City School,** where he plans to study **Maths, Geography and Physics.**



Our Weekly Families Bulletin

For those families joining RGTS for the first time this year, you will receive our Families Bulletin each week on Fridays. The bulletin is an important part of our communication with families and provides useful information, key notices, upcoming dates, reminders, celebrations and messages from members of the school team.

We encourage all families to take the time to read the bulletin each week so that you remain informed about what is happening across the school and any actions or deadlines which may be relevant to your child.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. Strong communication between school and home plays an important role in helping our students to thrive, and we look forward to working closely with you throughout the year ahead.

I wish all of our students and families a successful, positive and rewarding academic year and look forward to seeing everything that our young people will achieve over the coming months.

Asma Khan
Head of School

Important Reminders for Families

Out-of-School Appointments

We ask for families' support in arranging medical, dental and other appointments outside of school hours wherever possible, in order to minimise disruption to students' learning. We do, however, appreciate that this is not always possible.

Where your child has an appointment which requires them to leave school during the day or arrive at school later than usual, please ensure that our Attendance and Reception Teams are informed in advance.

We would also be grateful if supporting evidence, such as an appointment confirmation, letter, email or text message, could be provided either in advance or on the day of the appointment. This helps us to maintain accurate attendance records and ensures that appropriate arrangements can be made for your child.

Contacting the School

Our staff will always endeavour to respond to families as promptly as possible. We kindly ask that families allow up to two working days for a response to enquiries. This is particularly important as some members of staff work part-time or may have teaching and other commitments during the school day.

Where a meeting with a member of staff is required, we ask that families arrange an appointment in advance wherever possible. Arriving at school without a pre-arranged appointment may mean that the member of staff you wish to see is unavailable, and unfortunately we cannot guarantee that a meeting will be possible on the same day.



Making arrangements in advance enables us to ensure that the appropriate member of staff is available and can give your enquiry the time and attention it requires.

Year Group Information

Families may not be aware that each year group has a dedicated page on the RGTS website. These pages provide a convenient place to access information specifically relevant to your child's year group.

Throughout the year, they will contain useful information including **key dates, details of the Pastoral Team and important documents and resources**.

Please use the following links to access each page: Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11

We encourage families to review their child's year group page regularly, as this will provide a useful point of reference alongside the communications you receive directly from the school.

Scott Gardner
Executive Assistant and Office Manager

Starting the Year Strong: Our Shared Expectations

I am delighted to welcome you back and to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new Year 7 cohort. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our core expectations and to outline how families can support their children in meeting them.



1. To Be Ready to Learn and Succeed

Students will:

- Be fully equipped for all lessons.
- Arrive at lessons calmly and on time.
- Complete all work to the best of their ability.

Families can support by:

- Checking that school equipment, PE kit, homework and any required resources are prepared the night before.
- Encouraging good attendance and punctuality through a consistent morning routine.
- Helping children to establish healthy sleep habits so that they arrive at school ready to learn.
- Providing a quiet space and regular time for homework and revision.
- Taking an interest in their learning by discussing schoolwork, celebrating effort and encouraging resilience when work is challenging.

2. To be the Best Version of Myself

Students will:

- Wear their uniform with pride
- Politely follow instructions
- Take responsibility for their behaviour and actions



Families can support by:

- Ensuring children arrive at school in the correct uniform and with a positive attitude.
- Reinforcing the importance of respect, kindness and good manners at home and in the community.
- Encouraging children to listen carefully and respond positively to guidance from adults.
- Helping children reflect on their choices and learn from mistakes.
- Working in partnership with the school to support high standards of behaviour and personal responsibility.

3. To Make a Positive Contribution

Students will:

- Be kind to themselves and others.
- Act as excellent ambassadors for the school.
- Make safe choices.

Families can support by:

- Promoting kindness, empathy and respect in everyday interactions.
- Encouraging children to speak positively about themselves and others.
- Supporting children to represent the school proudly, both in school and within the wider community.
- Discussing how to make safe choices online, on the journey to and from school, and in social situations.
- Encouraging children to report any concerns and seek help from trusted adults when needed.
- Modelling positive behaviour and community values at home.

Working Together

By working together, families and the school can help every child to be ready to learn and succeed, be the best version of themselves, and make a positive contribution to our school community.

Guy Brougham
Deputy Headteacher - Inclusion

Creating a Phone-Free School Environment

In line with the updated September 2026 guidance, our school is committed to being a phone-free environment throughout the school day. Limiting access to mobile phones helps protect learning time, improves focus, supports positive behaviour, and promotes respectful face-to-face interaction within our school community. This approach is not about punishment. It is about creating calm, safe, and supportive conditions in which every pupil can learn, participate, and succeed.

The mantra staff can use with students around mobile phones is: 'See It, Hear It, Lose It'. This is displayed around the school site and in classrooms.

- Phones must be switched off and placed in bags
- From September 2026, this will include all web based devices including smart watches.

If a member of staff hears or sees a student's mobile phone or device, they will confiscate the phone or device. The phone will be handed in to reception and can be collected by the student at the end of the day. In the second instance, the phone will be handed into reception and must be collected by a parent/carer.



While this change may feel significant, it reflects a growing body of evidence showing that reducing access to phones during the school day has a positive impact on learning, relationships and wellbeing.

Why Are Schools Becoming Phone-Free?

Today's young people are growing up in a world where smartphones are a constant presence. Research suggests that almost all young people own a mobile phone by the age of 12, and time spent online has increased significantly over the last decade.

A recent Ofcom study found that children aged 8–14 spend an average of **2 hours and 59 minutes online every day**, with social media and video-sharing platforms accounting for much of that time.

Although technology brings many benefits, evidence suggests that unrestricted smartphone use can affect concentration and learning. UNESCO has reported a negative link between excessive technology use and student performance, while studies cited in its research found that removing smartphones from schools in countries including the UK, Belgium and Spain led to improved learning outcomes.

Researchers have also found that even the presence of a phone can be distracting. One study highlighted by UNESCO found that it can take students up to 20 minutes to refocus on learning following a phone-related distraction.



Supporting Student Wellbeing

Our responsibility as a school extends beyond academic achievement. We are equally committed to supporting young people's emotional wellbeing, confidence and social development.

National research has highlighted growing concerns about screen time and wellbeing. A House of Commons Education Committee report found that nearly **one in four children and young people use smartphones in ways consistent with behavioural addiction**.

The same report identified links between excessive screen use and:

- Increased anxiety and emotional distress.
- Sleep disruption.

- Exposure to online bullying and harmful content.
- Negative impacts on body image and self-esteem.
- Reduced opportunities for face-to-face social interaction.

Importantly, the Department for Education has recently announced new guidance for families on healthy screen use, recognising the need to support children's learning, wellbeing and healthy development in an increasingly digital world.

The Benefits We Expect to See

Schools that have already introduced phone-free policies consistently report positive outcomes, including:

- Greater focus and engagement in lessons.
- Improved classroom behaviour.
- Fewer distractions.
- More positive social interaction during break and lunchtime.
- Reduced social media-related conflict during the school day.
- Greater participation in clubs, sport and enrichment activities.

Many students themselves report that not having access to their phones during the day helps reduce pressure to constantly check notifications, respond to messages or compare themselves with others online.

Staying Connected

We understand that some families may have concerns about communication, particularly around journeys to and from school.

If a parent or carer needs to contact a student urgently during the school day, our Reception Team will continue to ensure messages are passed on quickly. Similarly, if a student needs to contact home, staff will support them.

Many schools with similar policies have found that some parents choose to use tracking tags or similar devices to provide reassurance during journeys without requiring a smartphone.

Working Together

We are confident that our students will adapt quickly and positively to this change. By creating a phone-free environment, we are giving young people greater opportunities to focus on learning, build stronger friendships, develop independence and enjoy a healthier balance between their online and offline lives.

Thank you for your continued support as we implement this important change. Together, we can create the best possible environment for every student to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

Justice Asafo Adjei Jnr
Assistant Headteacher - DSL and Attendance

Year 10: Making a Strong Start to Key Stage 4

Starting Year 10 marks a significant point in your child's secondary education. The move from **Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 represents a real step change** in academic challenge, expectations, pace and the level of independence required from students.

GCSE courses are now underway. The work students complete in Year 10 is not simply preparation for Year 11; it forms a significant part of the knowledge and skills they will need for their final GCSE examinations. Establishing the right habits from the very beginning of Key Stage 4 is therefore essential.

Attendance Matters – From Day One

One of the most important factors in securing strong GCSE outcomes is excellent attendance. Every lesson matters. When students miss school, they do not simply miss a day – they miss new learning, explanations, opportunities to practise and valuable feedback from their teachers. Over time, these gaps can quickly accumulate and become increasingly difficult to close.

We saw this very clearly when reviewing the achievements of our most successful Key Stage 4 students following this summer's GCSE results.

Those students who achieved highly and made outstanding progress had several things in common. They:

- maintained attendance of **95% or above, consistently throughout Key Stage 4**;
- engaged fully in lessons from the beginning of their GCSE courses;
- completed all directed home learning;
- acted on feedback and worked quickly to close gaps in their knowledge;
- began revising promptly rather than waiting until Year 11 or until examinations were approaching; and asked for help when they did not understand something.

These may appear to be simple habits, but when they are repeated every day, across two years, they make an enormous difference.

We therefore ask families to support us by reinforcing the importance of **attendance, punctuality, engagement and good learning habits from the very beginning of Year 10**.

Building Good Study Habits



Students should already be developing effective routines at home. This does not mean spending hours every evening revising. At this stage, consistency is far more important.

Students should keep on top of homework and directed home learning, organise their notes and resources, regularly revisit topics they have studied and make sure they seek help when they identify something they do not understand.

The strongest GCSE outcomes are not achieved through a few weeks of intensive revision at the end of Year 11. They are built **gradually through excellent attendance, sustained effort and positive learning habits throughout Key Stage 4**.

Year 10 Core Mock Examinations – From 23rd November

Year 10 students will sit their first formal mock examinations in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science, beginning on Monday 23rd November.



These examinations are an important opportunity for students to experience GCSE-style assessments and examination conditions. They will also give students, families and teachers a valuable indication of what has been securely learned and, importantly, where there may be gaps that need to be addressed.

Students should therefore begin preparing well in advance by reviewing their learning regularly, completing all work set by their teachers and acting upon feedback.

We do not expect Year 10 students to have mastered everything at this stage. What we do expect is that they attend regularly, work hard, engage fully, respond to feedback and establish the habits that will enable them to succeed.

Where to Ask for Support

We want families to know where to turn if they have a question or concern about their child's academic progress.

For all academic enquiries, your first point of contact should be your child's Form Tutor.

Form Tutors will either respond directly to your enquiry or, where appropriate, ensure that it is directed to Mrs Senior, Head of Year 10 or me.

Having this clear first point of contact helps us to make sure that queries reach the most appropriate member of staff and that families receive the support they need.

If you have an academic query or would like to contact your child's Form Tutor, please email the RGTS enquiry line at: info@rgtrustschool.net

Please include your child's full name and form group and a brief outline of your enquiry so that it can be directed to the appropriate member of staff as quickly as possible.

Year 10 is the beginning of an important two-year journey. With students, families and school working together from the outset, we can ensure that every student develops the habits, knowledge and confidence they need to achieve their very best at Key Stage 4.

Eoin Drumm
Assistant Headteacher - KS4

Year 11: Preparing for Mock Examinations and the Year Ahead

Year 11 is now firmly underway, and we would like to remind families that **Year 11 mock examinations will take place from Monday 2nd November to Friday 13th November**. These examinations are an important milestone for students and will provide a valuable indication of their current progress, areas of strength and any gaps that need to be addressed before the final GCSE examinations



Preparation for these mocks should already be taking place. Effective revision is not something that should begin a few days before an examination; successful students build good habits from the very beginning of Year 11. Students should now be reviewing work regularly, revisiting areas identified as weaknesses following their Year 10 mock examinations and completing all revision and home learning directed by their teachers.

An important first step is making sure that students have the right resources. Does your child have a revision guide or appropriate revision materials for every subject they study? If not, they should speak to their subject teacher on Monday to find out what resources are recommended and how these can be accessed. Having the correct materials early allows students to revise systematically rather than trying to gather resources at the last minute.

We were delighted with the excellent outcomes achieved by many of our students in this summer's GCSE examinations. When we looked closely at those students who made particularly outstanding progress, there were some very clear habits that they had in common. They:

- maintained attendance of 95% or above throughout Year 11, from day one;
- began revising promptly and used feedback from their Year 10 mocks to close gaps in their learning;
- engaged positively in lessons from the beginning of Year 11;
- completed all directed home learning;
- attended Sixth Form and college open evenings; and
- secured their next steps early by researching courses and submitting applications as soon as possible.

These habits matter. Every lesson missed can create another gap that has to be filled later, while consistent attendance, participation and independent study give students the strongest possible foundation for success.

Planning for life after Year 11 is equally important. Mr Dalby, Head of Year 11, has published at the end of the bulletin all the college open events in Greenwich. We strongly encourage students and families to attend these events. Open evenings give students an opportunity to visit different settings, speak directly to staff, explore courses and entry requirements, understand what different institutions can offer and begin to make informed decisions about their future. Attending early can also motivate students by giving them a clear goal to work towards during Year 11.

The message from our most successful students last year is clear: **start early, attend every day, engage fully, complete the work set and act quickly when there are gaps in knowledge**.

The November mocks may feel some way off, but the preparation taking place now will make a significant difference. We ask families to support us by talking regularly with their child about their revision, checking that they have the resources they need and encouraging strong attendance and positive routines from the very beginning of Year 11.

Working together, we can ensure that every Year 11 student approaches their mock examinations confidently and is well prepared for the important months ahead.

Eoin Drumm
Assistant Headteacher - KS4

2026-2027 Term Dates

Please see below a reminder of our term dates for this academic year.

Autumn 2026-27	
Term 1	Thursday 3rd September 2026 to Friday 23rd October 2026
Half Term	**Monday 26th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026**
Term 2	Monday 2nd November 2026 to Friday 18th December 2026
Christmas Break	**Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027**

Spring 2027	
Term 3	Tuesday 5th January 2027 - Thursday 11th February 2027
Half Term	**Monday 15th February 2027 - Friday 19th February 2027**
Term 4	Monday 22nd February 2027 - Thursday 25th March 2027
Easter Break	**Monday 29th March 2027 - Friday 9th April 2027**

Summer 2027	
Term 5	Tuesday 13th April 2027 - Friday 28th May 2027
Half Term	**Monday 31st May 2027 - Friday 4th June 2027**
Term 6	Tuesday 8th June 2027 - Wednesday 21st July 2027

INSET Days - School Closed
Tuesday 1st September 2026
Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Friday 20th November 2026
Monday 4th January 2026
Friday 12th February 2027
Monday 12th April 2027
Monday 7th June 2027

Additional Closures
Early May Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May 2027

Please note that a further two INSET Days will be announced at a later date.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Year Group	Timings
Thursday 8th October	Sixth Form Open Evening	11	4-7pm
Thursday 15th October	Year 7 Meet the Tutor Event	7	TBC
Friday 23rd October	Cultural Dress Day	All	All Day
Friday 20th November	INSET Day (School Closed for Students)	All	All Day
Thursday 3rd December	Year 11 Parents' Evening	11	4-7pm
Thursday 7th January	Year 10 Parents' Evening	10	4-7pm
Thursday 14th January	Sixth Form Parents' Evening	12 and 13	4-7pm
Thursday 4th February	Year 7 Parents' Evening	7	4-7pm
Thursday 4th March	Year 8 Parents' Evening	8	4-7pm
Thursday 18th March	Year 9 Parents' Evening	9	4-7pm

GREENWICH OPEN EVENTS

for Year 11 Students and Families

2026 to 2027

Explore your options, discover opportunities and take the next step towards your future after Year 11.

SCHOOL OR COLLEGE	DATE(S)	TIME	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Eltham Hill School	Thursday 8 October 2026	5pm to 7pm	External students must come with an adult
Leigh Academy Blackheath (LAB 16)	Wednesday 11 November 2026	5pm to 7pm	External students must come with an adult
London South East Sixth Form Colleges	• Thursday 15 October 2026 • Tuesday 2 March 2027 • Saturday 26 June 2027	• 5:30pm to 7.30pm • 5:30pm to 7.30pm • 10am to 1pm	
Plumstead Manor Sixth Form	Thursday 12 November 2026	5pm to 8pm External students from 6pm	Book tickets on Eventbrite
Royal Greenwich Trust School	Thursday 8 October 2026	4pm to 7pm	
Shooters Hill Sixth Form College	• Wednesday 7 October 2026 • Wednesday 4 November 2026 • Wednesday 13 January 2027 • Wednesday 10 March 2027	All events run from 4:30pm to 6:30pm	BSL signers available on request
St Mary Magdalene Sixth Form	Thursday 22 October 2026	4pm to 6:30pm	Students must come with an adult
The John Roan School	Tuesday 10 November 2026	5:30pm to 7pm	
Thomas Tallis School Post 16 Centre	Wednesday 14 October 2026	5pm to 8pm	Students must come with an adult
Woolwich Polytechnic Boys School	Wednesday 21 October 2026	External students: 4.pm to 5:30pm or 4:45pm to 6pm	Book on Eventbrite Students must wear school uniform

YOUR FUTURE. YOUR CHOICES. YOUR NEXT STEP.