FAMILIES BULLETIN
21st November

Student Engagement in Lessons

At the start of the academic year, we shared with you our priority in ensuring that classrooms are **disruption free**, as we believe that every child deserves the best possible learning experience. One of the most important factors in achieving this is **student engagement** during lessons. When students are fully engaged, they learn more effectively, develop stronger skills, and build habits that will serve them well throughout life.



Why Engagement Matters

Engagement means being actively involved in learning - listening carefully, thinking deeply, and participating fully. Research shows that engaged students retain more knowledge, perform better academically, and develop confidence in their abilities.

Key Elements of Successful Engagement

To help every student succeed, we focus on the following essential habits:

1. **Ready to Learn**

Having the right equipment, being prepared and 'Ready to Learn' is a simple but powerful habit. Students should bring all necessary equipment - pens, pencils, books, their planner, and any subject-specific materials - so they can start learning immediately and avoid interruptions.

2. **Following Habits and Routines**

Consistent routines create structure and predictability, which helps students feel secure and focused. From entering the classroom calmly to following instructions promptly, these habits ensure lessons run smoothly and maximise learning time.

3. **Focused Silence**

Concentration is vital for learning. Working in focused silence allows students to think clearly, process information, and complete tasks without distractions. It also creates a calm, purposeful classroom environment where everyone can thrive.

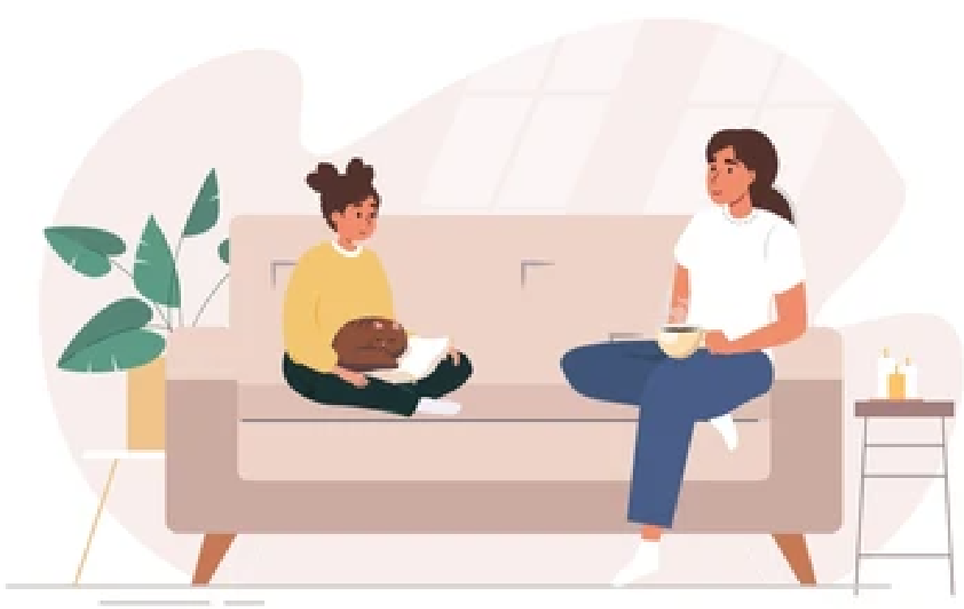
4. **100% Participation**

Every voice matters. When all students participate - whether answering questions, contributing ideas, writing responses or collaborating - they deepen their understanding and build communication skills. Participation also helps teachers check understanding and provide support where needed. We expect students to follow our 'One Voice' expectation: students only speak when called upon.

How Families Can Help

You play a crucial role in supporting engagement. Please do:

- Check that your child has all required equipment before school, and home learning is complete.
- Encourage them to talk about what they learned each day. Review exercise books regularly – ask your child to show you a piece of work that they are proud of.
- Reinforce the importance of listening carefully and participating fully in class.
- Help them understand that routines are not rules for rules' sake - they are tools for success.
- Regularly review Arbor, celebrating success and discussing with your child when things go wrong.



Mr Williams
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)

CEIAG & Aspirations at RGTS: Supporting Every Student from Year 7–13

At Royal Greenwich Trust School, we believe that every student deserves a future full of possibility. Our CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance) programme supports students from Year 7 right through to Year 13, ensuring they develop the confidence, knowledge and skills to make ambitious, informed choices about their futures.

Our aim is simple: **to help every young person discover what they love, explore what's possible and feel fully prepared for the next stage of their journey.**

Why CEIAG Matters at RGTS

Future planning doesn't start in Year 11, it begins the moment students join us in Year 7. Throughout their time at RGTS, students are immersed in opportunities that help them to:

- Understand their strengths and aspirations
- Explore a wide variety of careers and pathways
- Build essential employability skills
- Experience the world beyond school
- Gain the confidence to make purposeful choices

We deliver this through Character Development, PSHE, Student Buzz sessions, workshops, assemblies, university links, employer engagement, careers interviews and real-world experiences.

Our CEIAG Partners & How They Benefit Students

We are proud to work with an expanding network of national organisations, local employers and higher education providers. These partnerships give students access to real professionals, authentic experiences and world-class opportunities. University Schools Trust (UST) is a unique partnership of four schools six world-leading universities and four sector-leading bodies who are working together to deliver a shared vision of inclusive, high-quality and transformational education.

The Talent Foundry

Provides free employer-led workshops, creative challenges and skills-based sessions. Students gain hands-on experiences that connect classroom learning with the world of work, building vital teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills.

Speakers for Schools

Brings inspirational speakers, industry talks and virtual work experiences into RGTS. Students hear real stories from professionals, explore new sectors and develop aspirations beyond their immediate environment.

Careers Hub & RBG Work Experience Partner

Our Careers Hub contacts supporting our year 10 work experience programme, connecting us with high-quality employers, workshops and Gatsby-linked opportunities. Their support ensures our students experience a diverse range of encounters with employers and employees. Supports Year 10 in securing high-quality work experience placements.

These placements help students gain:

- Real-world workplace skills
- Professional independence
- A stronger understanding of career pathways
- Enhanced confidence before GCSEs and post-16 decisions

Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and Greenwich of University

We offer a comprehensive programme of QMUL workshops, including study skills, university life, subject tasters and pathways into higher education. Students experience life on a university campus early, helping demystify higher education and raise aspirations.

Charlton Athletic Community Trust (CACT)

CACT provides specialist workshops that link personal development, student leadership, resilience and career awareness. Students benefit from experiences that build confidence, self-belief and ambition.

Independent Careers Advisor – (Shaw Trust)

All students in KS4 and KS5 (and targeted students in KS3) receive impartial, personalised careers guidance. Appointments help students understand pathways, apprenticeships, sixth-form choices and long-term ambitions.

Upcoming CEIAG Opportunities

Year 9 Enterprise & Careers Week

Planning is now underway for a full week designed to help Year 9 students recognise their strengths, explore career routes and make informed choices about KS4 GCSE options. This will take place in the Spring term enterprise focused workshops and enterprise challenges will take place to help students discover what subjects suit them best.

Year 10 Work Experience (WEX)

In the spring term every year 10 student completes a meaningful employer placement.
Benefits include:

- Understanding expectations of the working world
- Developing independence and responsibility
- Strengthening communication, teamwork and organisation
- Building CV-ready experience. This is often a transformational part of the RGTS journey.

How Families Can Support at Home

Parents and carers play a vital role in shaping student aspirations. You can support by:

- Talking regularly about future hopes, strengths and interests
- Encouraging your child to attend careers events and workshops
- Supporting work experience placement searches
- Helping explore jobs, apprenticeships, colleges and university information together
- Celebrating successes and helping your child reflect on each opportunity
- Encouraging positive habits such as punctuality, organisation and resilience

Unsure About Future Options? – Careers & Education Guidance

The resources linked below are a great starting point for families. We encourage parents and carers to sit down with their young person and use these tools to begin meaningful conversations about careers, pathways and future aspirations.

https://www.ucas.com/careers-quiz

https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/discover-your-skills-and-careers

https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/

https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/

Together, we can ensure every RGTS student leaves us future-ready, confident and ambitious.

Mrs Houston
Assistant Headteacher

Upcoming Key Dates

Date	Event	Year Group	Timings
Monday 17th November - Thursday 24th November	Year 11 Mock Examinations	Year 11	Various
Tuesday 2nd December	Twilight (Early Dismissal)	All Year Groups	Half-Day
Thursday 4th December	Year 9 Parents' Evening	Year 9	4:00pm - 7:00pm (Appointment Only)
Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January 2026	Christmas Break	All Year Groups	All Day
Monday 5th January 2026	INSET Day - School Closed	All Year Groups	All Day

Year 9 Parents' Evening - Thursday 4th December 2025

Our Year 9 Parent Evening focuses on supporting students as they take their next steps towards GCSEs. This year is an important transition point where resilience, independence, and decision-making begin to shape the path into Key Stage 4.

Before the Evening

Book appointments using the Arbor parent app. Speak to your child beforehand about what they feel proud of this year, the subjects they are enjoying, and any areas they find challenging this helps set a clear focus for discussions. It is also a good moment to explore their early thoughts about GCSE subjects and future ambitions.

During the Evening

After signing in, families will have the opportunity to meet subject teachers to discuss current progress, attitudes to learning, and how students are developing the resilience needed for GCSE study. Staff will highlight strengths, areas for improvement, and the habits that support consistency and confidence. A dedicated GCSE Preparation & Resilience Information Station will offer guidance on:

- building motivation and study routines
- responding positively to mistakes and challenges
- developing independence in learning
- understanding GCSE pathways and subject expectations

Pastoral and support staff will also be available to speak about wellbeing, attendance, and the wider support available in school.

Mr Nott
Assistant Headteacher (KS3)

Winterfest at RGTS – A Festive Celebration of Community, Creativity & Kindness 🎄

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, we are delighted to share the details of our upcoming Winterfest Week—a series of joyful events designed to bring our community together, celebrate our students' talents, and raise money for charities chosen by our young people. The Autumn Term is always a long one, and these celebrations give students something to look forward to, creating a vibrant, uplifting end to the term.

Across the final weeks, students and families can look forward to:

Food Bank Drive (17th November - 18th December)
Our annual Food Bank Drive encourages students to give back to the local community by donating items for families in need. Every contribution makes a meaningful difference.

Website Advent Calendar (Goes Live - 1st December)
Led by De-Beer, our online advent calendar will once again showcase festive student creativity, featuring artwork, animations, poetry and more throughout December.

Winter Fair (17th December 4:00pm - 6:00pm)
A highlight of the calendar—our after-school Winter Fair welcomes families, friends and local community members into RGTS. All proceeds support GraceAid and The Ben Kinsella Trust, two charities selected by our students.

Winter Solstice Concert (17th December 4:00pm - 5:00pm)
Our talented music students will perform a selection of solo and ensemble pieces in the Lecture Theatre, demonstrating their growing performance skills and creativity in a magical evening of music.

Christmas Jumper Day (18th December)
Students are invited to wear their favourite festive jumper and donate to our chosen charities. Those unable to donate are still warmly encouraged to take part.

Christmas Dinner (18th December)
A special extended lunchtime where staff and students share a festive meal together. With music and hosting from Ms Leger-Tapper, this event always brings plenty of Christmas cheer!

Non-Uniform Day (19th December)
Our student body requested a non-uniform day to finish the term. Voluntary contribution of £1 on the day will again support GraceAid and The Ben Kinsella Trust.

Together, these events help us celebrate the term, strengthen our sense of belonging, and support causes that matter deeply to our students. We look forward to welcoming families and sharing the joy of Winterfest across our RGTS community.

Mrs Houston
Assistant Headteacher

Community Spotlight: Year 7 Students Shine in the Jack Petchey Achievement Award Programme!



We are thrilled to share that **all of our Year 7 students** have had the opportunity to take part in the **Jack Petchey Achievement Award** programme this term.

The **Jack Petchey Foundation** is dedicated to celebrating the achievements and positive contributions of young people across London and Essex. It recognises effort, determination, kindness, and the willingness to make a difference qualities that our Year 7 pupils have shown in abundance!

As part of this exciting initiative, students were encouraged to reflect on their personal growth and nominate peers who have demonstrated exceptional effort, teamwork, or community spirit. The sense of encouragement and pride throughout the year group has been truly inspiring.



To celebrate their participation and efforts, **every Year 7 student received a Jack Petchey Achievement Award certificate**, acknowledging their involvement and commitment to the programme.

We are incredibly proud of our students for embracing this opportunity with such enthusiasm and positivity. Their achievements remind us that success comes not only from winning awards, but from striving to be the best version of ourselves every day.

“I felt really proud to get my certificate. It made me realise how much effort I’ve put into school this year and it’s been noticed.”
— Fiyin, Year 7

“It was great to see everyone cheering for each other. The Jack Petchey Award showed us that teamwork and kindness matter just as much as grades.” — Sophie, Year 7

Mrs Sirso
Head of Year 7