

Parent Bulletin



18th January 2019

Excellence every day

Thought for the week:	Incredible Achievements
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Dear Families,

We've had glowing reports from the colleagues of Farnborough Sixth Form who have been in school to interview our students this week. Thanks to Mrs Ashford and Mr Peake for arranging and organising these. In addition, our mini-options fair for Year 9 during a mid-week lunchtime, drew about half the year group. It was worth putting on and we will probably look at running more mini-fairs relating to STEM, apprenticeships and careers in the future.

If you follow *RMaysPE* on Twitter you'll know that the U13 girls did fabulously in County hockey, having fought their way successfully into the final. They drew 0-0 in the match and sadly, ended up losing on penalty flicks. However, they are still second in the county which is a strong achievement in a very competitive field. Congratulations to the players!

On Thursday a group of Ethics/RE students went to visit Southampton Mosque. Thank you to Mrs Calam for organising and leading on this. At the time of writing, the Jon Egging Trust team are coming in for their inaugural session with a small group of Year 8s who will receive personal development opportunities. Thanks to Miss Evans and Mr McTaggart for arranging and curating this important project.

Our senior prefects have been devising a questionnaire for all students about homework. This is an essential piece of research for us which should lead to some new thinking about homework, its purpose and what works best. The draft questionnaire was tested on the School Council during the week and some helpful feedback obtained. The finalised questionnaire will be launched to all students today. We will be seeking parent feedback on homework shortly through a dedicated process. The senior prefect team will be attending assemblies this week to promote the questionnaire. Here's the link, in case any of your children are asking about it: <https://goo.gl/forms/EeZMUxiSPwdQcwmh1>

Thank you to everyone for making the supreme effort with uniform. Our students do look as if they are starting to respect themselves again! Please help them to keep up the effort. Some rapidly growing students are in need of new shirts or skirts. We have a small stock of skirts in school for anyone who is experiencing difficulty with obtaining skirts. Please contact the PTA and order online for other brand new uniform items.

In the week ahead we're asking teachers to talk with students in lessons and around school about how much they prioritise gaming or social media time over homework/revision. You'll be aware as parents/carers that the immediacy and thrill of gaming, the ease of access is creating a culture in which some young people, mainly boys, are losing themselves entirely to this activity. As a consequence, their reading and understanding of the written word is falling behind where they should be. They are losing out on developing the more sophisticated language and vocabulary needed to acquire the higher grades at GCSE. Our advice is always to prioritise the learning that's needed first, and develop the self-discipline to hold off on fun activities until later in the day or evening. Parental support for this is essential. Links to research articles are given below.

Wrap up warmly this weekend.

Joanna C West

Notices and News:

Research about Gaming/Social Media use and its negative impact on grades:

Here are links to a small sample of academic articles and news features about the negative impact of non-learning screen time:

<https://www.bmj.com/content/351/bmj.h4764>

(Brief digest: Every additional hour spent each day by teenagers watching television, browsing the internet, or playing computer games knocks the equivalent of two grades off their performance at GCSE, a study has found. It also showed that extra hours of homework had a positive effect on GCSE performance unless they became excessive. The study, published in the *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*,¹ included 845 children from 18 secondary schools in Cambridgeshire and measured daily activity and sedentary behaviour at an average age of 14.5, comparing this with their GCSE results a year later. All of the points the children scored at GCSE were added up ...)

<https://www.nursingtimes.net/clinical-archive/neurology/television-and-computer-use-linked-to-lower-gcse-grades/5090253.article>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-34149242/screen-time-affects-grades-says-study>

Allowing TVs and computers in children's bedrooms is not advised. Access to mobile phones overnight, screen time, such as watching YouTube, Netflix or SkyGo on mobile phones instead of engaging with reading and revision/homework is also not advised.



RMS Music Clubs: Starting Monday 14th January 2019

	Morning Registration	Lunchtime	After school
Monday		Brass Group	GCSE Music drop in sessions - Mrs Hills Wind Ensemble - Mr Hiscock
Tuesday			Grade 5 Theory Club - Mrs Ludford Jazz Band (need to be Grade 4+) - Mr Hiscock Acapella Group - Mrs Hills
Wednesday	Year 10 Boys choir	Year 7, 8 and 9 Girls Choir	Chamber Choir (audition only. If you are interested in joining please see Mrs Hills) - Mrs Hills
Thursday	Year 7-9 Boys choir	String Quartets - Mrs Ellis	Thursday Thing - Mrs Hills String Group - Mrs Ellis
Friday	Folk Band		GCSE Music drop in sessions - Mrs Hills

PE CLUBS WEEK BEGINNING 21st JANUARY

Day	Club	Running
Monday	Badminton (All Years) Rugby Trampolining Club (Invite only) Hockey Club (7, 10, 11) Girls Football (all years) Table Tennis (all years)	Yes No Yes Yes TBC Yes
Tuesday	Fitness Girls Basketball (Y7, 8, 9) Rugby (9,10,11) Football (9,10,11)	No No No No
Wednesday	Year 7 Netball Club Hockey Club (8, 9) Running (all years) Boys Basketball (7,8) PE Revision (11)	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes
Thursday	Boys Hockey (All Years) Netball (8, 9, 10 & 11) Girls Basketball (10 & 11) Boys Basketball (9, 10 & 11) Boys Football (7 & 8)	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes
Friday	GCSE Theory Clinic (Y10 & 11)	Yes

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE - 15TH TO 19TH JULY 2019

The Work Experience instructions and guidance will shortly be launched to Year 10 students. In the first instance, information will be given out via Tutors and sent via email. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (lynn.tozer@rmays.com) or encourage your child to discuss their options with me in person.

Miss Tozer

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

Between 8.25am and 2.25pm our teachers and tutors are teaching. If you need to get in contact over an academic or pastoral issue directly related to your child, the best way to begin is to email info@rmays.com and make sure that the name of the teacher you wish to contact is in the message heading. We hope you will appreciate that teachers will not be able to respond during the working school day, but they will do

their best to respond as soon as they can, once students have left the site and any relevant meetings and training sessions have taken place.

From time to time, and, thankfully rarely, we might receive an aggressive email. This will be quarantined automatically by our system and sent back to the writer for re-wording. All staff have been directed not to answer emails between 5pm and 8am on weekdays, during weekends or designated holidays. This is in compliance with the government initiative to reduce teachers' workload and also to allow people to exercise their right to a family life.

Thank you for respecting our approach to online communications.

SCIENCE REVISION GUIDES FOR YEAR 9 TRIPLE SCIENTISTS AND ALL YEARS 10 AND 11

Please find below the closing dates for orders for each half term, either online via Scopay or order slip. Orders will be placed soon after the closing date and should be available for collection the following week. Confirmation of which will be sent via In Touch!

Science Revision Resources Order Dates	
Half Term	Closing Date
1	8/10/18
2	10/12/18
3	4/2/19
4	25/3/19
5	13/5/19
6	8/7/19

CLUBS AND AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Please see link below to see the most up to date list of our clubs and activities:

<http://www.rmays.org/curriculum/extra-curricular/>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24th January	Year 9 Options' Parents'/Carers' Information Evening - 7.00pm - 8.00pm
31st January	Year 9 Parents'/Carers' Evening - 5.00pm - 7.00pm
4th February	Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Ace Your Exams Information Evening - 6.00pm - 7.00pm
14th February	Non-uniform Day in aid of Naomi House Children's Hospice
15th February	Whole Staff CPD Day

Please check the calendar on the school website for more information:

www.rmays.org/news/calendar/

PTA SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALES

We have a selection of pre-loved school shirts, blouses and jumpers for sale at bargain prices.

We are also happy to receive donations of unwanted uniform and PE kit. Simply hand it into the school office in a bag labelled "2nd hand sales" Thank you.

Second Hand Sale Dates:

Monday 11th February 2019 – 2.25pm to 3.25pm

Monday 11th March 2019 – 2.25pm to 3.25pm

Location:

Find us in the green container near to the Astro pitches.

Cash or cheque only please, payable to RMS PTA.

All profits go towards school funds. Many thanks for your support.

PTA

DISCOUNTED READING FC TICKETS + FANTASTIC PRIZES TO BE WON!

Robert May's School are delighted to announce that we have teamed up with Reading Football Club and signed up to their School and Grassroots Ticketing Scheme. We are giving you the opportunity to purchase discounted tickets for the following fixtures

Reading FC v Aston Villa on Saturday 2nd February 3pm Kick Off.

Reading FC v Wigan Athletic on Saturday 9th March 3pm Kick Off.

Reading FC v Brentford on Saturday 13th April 3pm Kick Off.

The Reading FC School and Grassroots Ticketing Scheme also allows our School to raise much needed funds, as for every ticket you purchase, a percentage of the ticket is donated back to the school from Reading Football Club.

If our School/Club is successful, then we have the opportunity of winning some of the following prizes:

- Meet the first team players
- Play on the Madejski Stadium pitch
- Bonus towards our funding
- Free Family Tickets

- Signed items and much more!

How to Book

- Reading FC sell 4 home league fixtures at a time throughout the season, and anyone wishing to book should check on sale dates via www.readingfc.co.uk
- Once one of our chosen fixtures are on sale, phone the Ticket Office on **0118 968 1313** and quote **Robert May's School**.
- Tickets must be booked by the chosen deadline for each fixture. This is 3pm on the Thursday before a weekend fixture, or 3pm on a Friday before a Tuesday night fixture. After this time, discounted tickets will not be available through the scheme.
- Tickets are only available in the Eamonn Dolan Stand including the family Area.
- Each booking must have at least one child as part of the booking.
- Madejski Stadium ground regulations and ticketing Terms and Conditions also apply, please visit www.readingfc.co.uk

Prices:

Age Band	Ticket Price	Amount Raised for your group
Adult	£15	£5
65 and over	£10	£4
18-24	£8	£3
17 and under	£5	£2
12 and under	£2	50p

TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Please note: students will be allowed into tutor rooms from 8.15am.

Lesson	Start	End
AM Reg	8.25am	8.45am
1	8.45am	9.30am
2	9.30am	10.20am
Break (am)	10.20am	10.40am
3	10.40am	11.25am
4	11.25am	12.15pm
Break (Lunch)	12.15pm	12.45pm
5	12.50pm	1.35pm
6	1.35pm	2.25pm

2018/2019 TERM DATES

Spring 2019:

Monday 7th January – Friday 5th April (Half term: 15th February – 24th February)

Friday 15th February: Whole Staff CPD Day

Summer 2019

Tuesday 23rd April – Friday 19th July (Half term: 25th May – 2nd June)

Friday 28th June 2019: Whole Staff CPD Day

Please be aware that as an academy, Robert May's School does not need to follow Hampshire term-time dates. However, we are know that several of our students in each year have siblings in our neighbouring community feeder schools, and so to minimise disruption we have done our best to try and match the local arrangements.

FACILITY HIRE AT ROBERT MAY'S SCHOOL

From 1st September 2018		
LETTINGS CHARGES	2018/19	
Ex VAT	STANDARD RATES	UNDER 18 RATES
SPORTS HALL	£45.00	£22.50
MAIN HALL	£33.00	£16.00
DINING HALL***	£26.00	£13.50
GYM	£31.50	£16.00
LIBRARY***	£21.50	£10.75
DRAMA STUDIO	£21.50	£10.75
CLASSROOM	£15.00	£9.50
CLASSROOM in new building***	tbc	
MEETING ROOM***	tbc	
IT SUITE	£30.00 +vat	
FOOD TECH ROOM	£30.00 +vat	
FIELD / TRAINING	£21.00	£10.50
TENNIS COURT / HARD COURT	£7.00	
NETBALL / HARD COURT	£15.00	
ATP CHARGES	2018/19	
	STANDARD RATES	UNDER 18 RATES
Weekday evenings		
one third	£40.00	£35.00
two thirds	£57.00	£46.50
Whole	£74.00	£63.00
Weekends		
one third	£31.50	£21.50
two thirds	£46.75	£36.75
Whole	£62.00	£52.00
MUGA		
Weekday evenings		
Whole	£40.00	£35.00
Single netball court	£20.00	£15.00
Weekends		
Whole	£31.50	£21.50
Single netball court	£18.00	£13.00

*** Fees to be reviewed following opening of new facilities

Please ask us about introductory rates for using Invictus building for conferences and meetings during weekends and school holidays!