

Parent Bulletin



25th January 2019

Excellence every day

Thought for the week:

**Chinese New Year -
Year of the Pig**

Dear Families,

The Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Roy Perry, is visiting the school along with local Hampshire County Councillor Jonathan Glen. We look forward to welcoming our elected representatives to the school and will be hosting other guests who are participating in a discussion about the Hampshire County Council transport proposals with councillors.



During the week it was very exciting to spend a couple of hours up at RAF Odiham with our Year 8 JET students who were engaging with several team-working tasks. We are so grateful to the officers and NCOs who are giving their time and energy to this project as well as to the people who lead the JET sessions. Thanks also to Mrs Evans who took some great action pictures - we'll be posting them up later this term.

Year 9 Options Information Evening was well-attended- not surprisingly because it is a big year-group! Mr Wilson, Mrs Chaplin, Miss Theis, Miss Harding and I were delighted to see how many parents and carers came to hear how the system works and to learn about the underpinning philosophy behind our strong curriculum offering. We are expecting that the usual broad range of subjects will be selected by students. We have been able to add GCSE Business Studies and an Engineering BTec to our offering for this cohort. Year 9 families are asked to look out for an email that is coming soon about booking meetings with senior staff to talk through Options choices.

Well done to the F1 team who were presenting on the Lenovo stand at the BETT show this week. We hear it went well, and thank you to Mr Cain for organising and curating the visits.

This week, adjusted national school performance tables were published. Sitting behind the data that everyone can see easily are a couple of interesting facts. We have achieved a much higher uptake of places at post-16 settings, college, apprenticeships, employment, training, etc. than nationally for similar schools in this data set. The national figure is 94% and we achieved 98%. 100% of our disadvantaged students from the 2018 cohort secured places at post-16 settings too. Our 5+ grades in English and Maths were well above national and county averages, but of course, we always want to do more and add more value for our students, so we are continuing to focus on progress and attainment across all areas of the school.

Year 11 Ace Your Exams Parents'/Carers' Information Evening is taking place on Monday 4th February 2019 at 6.00pm. Please book online <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/606353>

We are keeping an eye on the weather and conditions. Just a reminder- if there are severe weather conditions that make travel to school dangerous, or that make the site dangerous we will make appropriate adjustments. Please check your parent-mail and the school website for any announcements which are usually made before 06:30am on the day affected. We usually warn people the night before, if we can, that they need to keep an eye on announcements. We hope that we can continue as normal right through to Spring, of course.

Draft term dates for next year are given below. Please be aware that these need to be ratified by the Governing Board, which is due to meet soon.

Have a great weekend,

Joanna C West

RMS Proposed Term Dates: 2019-2020

To be ratified through Governing Board

Sources: Hampshire CC term dates, informal consultation with local Feeder schools, London Borough of Lewisham (example of London Authority), Surrey CC (as neighbouring authority)

THIS IS PROVISIONAL:

2019-2020

Autumn Term 2019:

Wed 4 Sept 2019- CPD Day

Thurs 5 Sept - Yrs 11 and 7 start

Fri 6 Sept- Whole school in. Half Term break: 28 Oct- 1 Nov

CPD Day: Monday 4th November

Last day of term: Wed 18th Dec (HCC finishes on 20 Dec)

Spring Term 2020:

Monday 6th Jan- first day back for all

CPD day: Friday 14th Feb

Half term break: 17-21 Feb

Fri 3rd April- last day of term

Summer Term 2020

Monday 20th April- CPD Day

Tuesday 21st April -first day back for all

Half term break- 25-29 May

Friday June 26th CPD Day

Friday 17th July -last day of term (HCC finishes on 22 July)

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.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE SPRING TERM

String Group

String group runs on Thursdays from 2.25 - 3.30pm in MU3 and is open to violin, viola, cello and bass players of all abilities. Our repertoire is varied and we play in a number of concerts throughout the year. Mrs Ellis would love to see all RMS string players there.

Saturday 2nd March - Acapella Group and Chamber Choir performance at the Anvil, Basingstoke.
Rehearsal at 2pm, concert at 6pm

6,7, and 8 March - GCSE Performance Exams

Wednesday 13th March 7pm - GCSE Concert - All Year 10 and 11 music students will be involved in the concert.

Thursday 4th April 7PM - Spring Concert - All extra-curricular music clubs will be showcasing their work.

PE CLUBS WEEK BEGINNING 28TH 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)	Only until 3pm Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes
Tuesday	Fitness Girls Basketball (Y7, 8, 9) Rugby (9,10,11) Football (9,10,11)	Yes Yes Yes Yes

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 No Yes Yes
Friday	GCSE Theory Clinic (Y10 & 11)	Yes

ETHICS REVISION MATERIALS

For students who are having difficulties accessing the shared Ethics revision materials via Google Drive, you can access them using the links below:

- Christianity Beliefs and Practices Revision Guide

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ABnBFxPWvpVQVnbiTgnjog5VWBEWRgf03nFbI8_vKTY/edit?usp=sharing>

- Islam Revision Guide

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1KtliKYqIAIRhhNJKOLOQV5Fx_wkXdocpBvwBBT7sS4>

- Issues of Good and Evil Revision Guide

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=10uzAyiwhDmE7gZ-93kxgCM2SnBqwR9Nw0g7jN2LtDpg>>

- Issues of Human Rights Revision Guide

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=16Bec-Wrc7MMZ0amlA2A31JdonvRosSUA8qsGE9iSuYg>>

- Issues of Life and Death Revision Guide

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1i7ki_xR6NtPagTWpwB9wuiwvjaDNT6Pn2_xC8XVNIHg>

- Issues of Relationships Revision Guide

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1TJGW6I2cuv4S7roBPwXrcmtYLrppf_XSqB7o1B2hwp0>

- Year 11 Revision Schedule

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EZ5pLlxFJoKCnF-vtuRTD2n5-MHz9woIcPskn5Qrk8/edit?usp=sharing>>

Mrs Calam

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

This is a very exciting time for Year 9 students, and indeed for you: selecting Option subjects for the Key Stage 4 programme of study. At Robert May's School our process for selecting Options is designed to ensure that all students receive the necessary help and guidance needed to make suitable subject choices. Our guiding principle is that we want students to have a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4 that provides them with ample opportunities for their future development. To achieve this balance students have to supplement the compulsory GCSE subjects, Mathematics, English, Ethics, and Science with subjects from other areas. Keeping a broad range of subjects will result in a wider range of future opportunities.

We do not underestimate that choosing Options will be a challenging, yet ultimately rewarding, process. Therefore the procedure is designed with students at its heart.

View our options presentation and options booklet below for more information:

2019 Options Evening Presentation

2019 Options Booklet Part One

2019 Options Booklet Part Two

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

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 - no students in on this day with the exception of Year 9 who have options' interviews**
Year 9 Options' Interviews with Parents/Carers and Students
16th February - 24th February Half term

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		
2018/19		
LETTINGS CHARGES	STANDARD RATES	UNDER 18 RATES
Ex VAT		
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!