

Parent Bulletin



1st February 2019

Excellence every day

Thought for the week:	Where are we now and what next?
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Dear Families,

We were very pleased that a number of Year 9 students were able to attend the Get Inspired day with Mr Peake during the week. Please see below for Mr Peake's write-up. 25 Year 10 students went with Miss Ellison to the Alton College Gifted and Talented event mid-week too. Thank you to both teachers, and also to parents who attended the Alton College event.

If you are a family with a Year 11 child, we'd like to remind you that *Ace Your Exams* takes place in the week ahead. *Ace your exams* is a 90 minute seminar that will be delivered to Year 11 students in order to help give them the best support for their revision. There's a parents' information meeting that is being given by the external provider in the Blue Chair Hall at 6pm on Monday 4th February. All Year 11 parents are warmly invited and letters have gone out about this. The session goes over the kinds of revision and learning techniques that students will be encouraged to adopt, and in addition, there will be helpful information about how to support your child's study and revision at home, including dealing with procrastination, anxiety and common issues. If you haven't yet done so, please book online:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/606353>

It was frustrating dealing with the weather this week. Thank you to families for bearing with us. Thank you also to the members of the school emergency team who coordinated messages, checked and cleared the site, put up website banners, contacted transport providers and so on. It's a big operation between 4.30 am and 6.30 am while we are assessing risks before making a decision about whether or not to stay open. We are very fortunate in that we have a nearby community of friends who are willing to bring along their equipment to help us. At about 6:30 am today, before we found that significant numbers of school transport operators had been stood down, we were discussing clearing the car park with a local parent who was standing ready with a snow plough blade fitted to his tractor. This is help indeed!

In conditions like this, we have to consider the following factors before making a decision about staying open or closing: safety for students and staff on the school site, safety for students who travel locally, school transport (buses and taxis), the ability for students to be able to get home again once they are in, staff travel, safe staffing levels, Hampshire Police road safety warnings, Hampshire Highways road safety warnings, weather warnings-especially amber ones, ground temperatures and wind-chill factors throughout the day, whether or not other schools are closed (as this can impact on safe staffing levels), and finally, whether the conditions will inhibit effective learning or not. The school's default position is always to be open and a decision to close is never taken lightly.

We expect to be open, as normal, on Monday 4th February and we look forward to seeing our students back in school having completed the learning tasks and revision pieces they would have been asked to do today by their teachers through the school VLE.

Finally, the Governing Board confirmed next year's term dates which you can find below.

Have a good weekend,

Joanna C West

Notices and News:

RMS CONFIRMED TERM DATES: 2019-2020

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

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*)

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HOOK TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL MEETING

Hampshire County Council have organised a public meeting at Hook Junior School on Monday 11 February at 6.30pm to present their proposals to cut bus transport between Hook and Robert Mays School and to answer questions from parents.

YEAR 11

Leavers' Ball Dresses

Prom Ally is a company that offers dresses to those who would not otherwise be able to afford them. The loan of a dresses is free of charge however £10.00 is requested to cover the cost of delivery and return postage. For more details, please see the website.

<https://www.promally.co.uk/>

Helping with Revision

For those parents/carers eager to help their learners to revise, Future Link Publishing offer a booklet called GCSEs What can a parent do? 101 tips to ensure success. It is available for £2.50 and can be purchased on their website.

www.futurelinkpublishing.co.uk

Mr Rhys

GCSE Drama Portfolio (Year 11 Students)

A reminder if Year 11 GCSE Drama students need help to complete the improvements on the portfolio, they are welcome to stay after school any night before the half term deadline,

Thank you
Miss Thomas

GET INSPIRED YEAR 9 EVENT

On Tuesday 29 January we took a group of year 9 students to a Get Inspired event at the Apollo Hotel in Basingstoke. The event housed private companies from small family businesses through to global corporations, publicly owned organisations and local education providers. Names as diverse as AWE, Wellington Riding, Network Rail, WSP, Metro Bank and the RAF provided interactive activities to engage the students. RMS students really got involved in the activities and the feedback from those running the stalls is that they asked intelligent and interesting questions while they were there. Activities ranged from Virtual Reality helmets, circuit building, remote controlled devices and interactive IT systems. The event was organised by the Basingstoke Consortium with a purpose to expanding our young peoples' view of potential career opportunities and this was certainly achieved for our year 9 students who attended.

Mr Peake

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

6th,7th and 8th 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 4TH FEBRUARY

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 Yes Yes Yes Yes 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

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=1KtliKYqIAIRhhNJKOLQOV5Fx_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_xR6NtPagTWpwB9wiuwvjaDNT6Pn2_xC8XVNIHg>

- Issues of Relationships Revision Guide

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1TJGW6I2cuv4S7roBPwXrcmtyLrppf_XSqB7o1B2hwp0>

- Year 11 Revision Schedule

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EZ5p_LlxFJoKCnF-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

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 aware 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!