

Parent Bulletin

25th September 2020



Robert
May's
School

A community seeking excellence for all

Thought for the week: Count your blessings

Word of the week: Promethean - adjective meaning creative or boldly original

Book of the week: Asha and the Spirit Bird by Jasbinder Bilan

Dear Families,

Now that we are nearly 4 weeks into the term, it is a great joy to write in praise of our amazing students!

First of all, from Mr Symonds-Keates and the History department: Leela Choonucksing - brilliant piece of work on a key event from the 20th Century, where Leela focused on the impact of Martin Luther King. Fran Saunders - excellent piece of work analysing a speech Hitler gave in 1933. Well done to both of you!

In Performing Arts, Miss Thomas and Mrs Hills had a great first week with the new performing arts extra-curricular clubs, focussing on sketches from Matilda and Aladdin. All students involved were fantastic.

From individual year teams, we hear that our stars of the week in Year 7 are Billie Allen, Harvey Fulford, Mary-Jane Andrews, Jensen Mogridge, Noah Bell, and Aya Shelmerdine. They've all made a great start to their learning lives at RMS. Their class participation and enthusiasm has been superb!

From Year 8 we would like to praise Blake Glynn, Jamil Zafaree, Zafrul Huda, Millie Lovell, Prathyush Patel, Gracie Povey, Jeff Wilson, Ollie Turner, Jess White, Will Pack, Aaron Campbell, Lily Clough, Isla Gray, Keiran Morris, Hannah Clappison, Holly Tristam and Jess Yourdi for being mature, independent, making a great contribution in class and working hard!

From Year 9 we are picking up that they are all applying themselves really well and we will be focusing on individual superstars next week.

From Year 10, we warmly congratulate Charlie Hall, Jemima Gosling, Charlotte Fowler, Luca Bagnato, Josie O'Neill, Heidi Snell, Liam Bland, Charlotte Kennedy, Cameroon Menzies, Thomas Evans, Theo Shannon, Dom Blake, Charlie Neville, Madi Morgan, Melissa Moya, Ewan Scobie, Celia Tucker, Layla Galea and Eleanor Lawrence on their excellent efforts in class, enthusiasm for their subjects, maturity in tackling their new GCSE subjects and contribution to learning.

All the students in Year 11 have been wonderful! When you consider that they had such a challenge last term when classroom learning was paused, they have picked up rapidly, and are engaging with their learning in a strong and purposeful way. It's also good to hear them talking about college. What a marvellous group of young people and how glad we are that we have them here!

Next, our sports stars. Mr Grigg tells us that it's been a great week in PE at RMS. He names just some of the students who have been superstars this week and says there could have been many more!

In Year 7, Bella Mead showed an exceptionally high skills level in Football; Hannah Turner was excellent in her fitness lesson whilst doing some continuous training. George Hughes has been great in lessons and also very helpful to staff with carrying equipment. Meanwhile Alfie Donnelley has shown great promise in Athletics.

During after school clubs this week, in Year 8, Gethin Burfoot and Henry Pritchard showed their skills at Tennis club. The whole group was marvellous!!

Higher up the school, Alfie Stimpson, Year 10 was very impressive during GCSE table tennis whilst in Year 11 Lucy Bullock has been doing some superb plyometric training for her coursework and Finn Dennis has put in some great effort to his Cardio training. Well done to all and keep it up!

We have been deeply touched by many positive messages from families about the school, our wonderful teachers, and the arrangements that have been made to keep people safe. Thank you so much to everyone who has been in touch to express support. It means a great deal to us at this time.

Joanna C West
Headteacher

NEW INFORMATION AND UPDATES

- **Drop off by car:** in the mornings it would be very helpful if parents dropping their children off in the outer slip road could kindly move right along to the Sports Hall/Tennis courts (Eastern) end of the road, so that we do not get a back up of cars onto the mainroad. Thank you for helping with this.
 - **Warm clothing:** we think everyone has noticed a drop in temperature outdoors this week. The school's risk assessment points to having doors and windows open, to ensure good ventilation. This helps to reduce the risk of Covid-19 in breath droplets spreading from person-to-person. We are worried about the balance between having the heating on and wasting so much energy while we try to keep the buildings well ventilated. Please could you arrange for your child/children to wear plain t-shirts, or sports warm-wear underneath their school uniform, so that they are not troubled by the colder temperatures. We are planning to give the heating a boost early in the morning while the windows are shut, before students come on site, but we feel we should not be heating the sky. If students are very cold, we will ask teachers to allow them to wear their coats in class. At the moment, I hope you will agree that having good ventilation is a priority.
 - **Covid-19 information letters to families since Monday 21st September:** if you did not receive any of the parent-mail letters that have been sent out to families since Monday 21st SEptember, please email info@rmays.com and we will forward or post copies to you.
 - **Up-to-date home telephone numbers and mobile numbers:** as a number of families are aware, when there is a positive case of Covid-19 in the school community, we have to take rapid action with PHE advice to identify any contacts of the affected person. If you have changed your mobile number in recent weeks, we need you to tell the school, please, so that our records can be updated. Having the correct information about how to contact you is essential at the moment. Please email info@rmays.com with your latest contact information and please be sure to include the name and form of your child or children. Thank you for helping with this.
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CHROMEBOOK SCHEME

We are delighted to offer you the opportunity to be part of the school's new Chromebook scheme. Your child will be able to take advantage of a unique package which we have put together, to have a Google Chromebook to enhance learning both in school and at home. Please follow the link [Chromebook Scheme 2020](#) to see the letter about the scheme.

To participate in the scheme and to nominate which device and payment plan you wish to use, please follow the link <https://edutech.click/RMS-chromebook-scheme> to the portal containing all the documentation relating to the Chromebook programme including [frequently asked questions](#)

Please note the 2020 scheme is open for 3 weeks and will **close on 16th October** to ensure delivery for November 2020. If you do have any questions please contact the school reception on 01256 702700 or complete the form [https://edutech.zone/parent enquiries](https://edutech.zone/parent_enquiries).

Mrs K Truesdale
Chief Financial Officer

COVID REMINDERS:

- **Please do not send your child to school specifically if they have one or more of the Covid symptoms:** (high temperature, continuous new cough, loss of, or change in smell/taste). Please arrange for a Covid-19 test straight away:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> Alternatively use this link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call 119 if you are not able to use the internet.
- **Quarantining from foreign travel:** please check carefully the latest arrangements for people travelling back to the UK from abroad: do not send your child into school if they have returned recently from a quarantine-listed country.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk> Please note, there are exemptions for HM Forces families returning from exercises/deployments. Please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules#defence-personnel-visiting-forces-and-government-contractors>
- From 14th September, social gatherings are restricted again. The Government's guidance on this can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-what-has-changed-9-september>

Covid-19 infections: definitions of contact:

Please see below: extracted from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

The highlighted definitions below are the most appropriate for school settings and were the main focus of PHE investigations last night.

What is meant by a 'contact'

A 'contact' is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 anytime from 2 days before the person was symptomatic up to 10 days from onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others). For example, a contact can be:

- people who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19
- sexual partners
- a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:
 - being coughed on
 - having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
 - having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
 - contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact

- a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes
- a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or in a large vehicle or plane near someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

DfE LETTER FOR PARENTS ABOUT COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Public Health England have produced a letter for schools to distribute to parents which explains when a person requires a coronavirus test and what the symptoms of coronavirus are.

The intention of the letter is to help prevent children being taken out of school unnecessarily and answer some of the questions parents may have around testing.

[You can view the letter here.](#)

STUDENT ABSENCE LINE

To report an absence from school:

- Phone our dedicated absence line and leave a message - 01256 393144
- or phone the main reception - 01256 702700 - and select option 1 to leave a message
- Email us via info@rmays.com, providing your child's name, Tutor group, reason for absence and when you expect them to return

The telephone lines into the school have limited capacity. If you experience difficulties with our dedicated absence line please email us via info@rmays.com as per the third option above.

Thank you for making timely telephone calls or sending early emails to notify us if your child is going to be late in, or is off sick. This really helps keep our records up-to-date and ensure all safeguarding procedures can be followed.

Thank you
Attendance Team

YEAR 11 REVISION AND INTERVENTION TIMETABLE 2020/2021

Please find the Year 11 Revision and Intervention Timetable which commenced on Monday 21st September.
[Year 11 Revision and Intervention Timetable 2020/2021](#)

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

PE Clubs

Due to the need to keep year groups in their bubbles as much as possible, we have arranged after school activities in year groups, so one year group per night; dates as follows

<u>Date</u>	<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Year Group</u>
Monday 28th Sept	10	Wednesday 30th Sept	11	Thursday 1st Oct	7
Monday 5th Oct	8	Wednesday 7th Oct	9	Thursday 8th Oct	10
Monday 12th Oct	11	Wednesday 14th Oct	7	Thursday 15th Oct	8
Monday 19th Oct	9	Wednesday 21st Oct	10	Thursday 22nd Oct	11

Performing Arts Extra Curricular Activities

The performing arts team are pleased to announce our new extracurricular timetable starting Monday 21st September. Each year group will have the chance to rehearse and perform songs and scenes from well known musicals. If this is something your child is interested in please sign up here: [Performing arts extra curricular sign up sheet](#) (there is a tab for each year group). **It is really important your child is registered to secure their place.** Year 11 only- they have the option to come Week 1 or 2. Mr Hiscock will be putting together a year 11 band (please watch this space). Please see Miss Thomas or Mrs Hills for more information.

Week 1: Performing Arts Extracurricular activities

Day	Year Group
Monday- Blue chair hall	Year 7
Tuesday- Blue chair hall	Year 11
Thursday- Blue chair hall	Year 8

Week 2: Performing Arts Extra curricular activities

Day	Year Group
Monday- Blue chair hall	Year 11
Tuesday- Blue chair hall	Year 10
Wednesday- Blue chair hall	Year 9

If you are interested please see Miss Thomas or Mrs Hills.

CATERLINK

I hope your child is enjoying the break and lunch time service at the school. Please can parents/carers remember to check their child's catering account each week and ensure they have a sufficient balance. Parents are able to do this through their online SCOPAY account or alternatively the top up machine in the dining hall has now been reconfigured to accept cash.

Menu. Below is the link to the menu for next week. Next week our Catering Providers are on **Week 1**.

[Secondary Meal Menu - \(001\)2020Sept.pptx](#)

NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL AGED IMMUNISATION TEAM - YEAR 7 FLU

The deadline for parents to return the consent for the above immunisation is fast approaching: **Monday 28th September**.

Please can parents ensure that they have completed and submitted the form before Monday and to contact the team if there are any changes in health information. Only 150 consent forms have been returned. Please remember to fill in the form even if it is a 'NO CONSENT' there is an option for the 'NO CONSENT' and an option to enter a reason if they wish. Should the consent letter have been mislaid, there is a link below which will take you to the form/letter.

[Immunisation Consent](#)

STUDENT COLLECTION

When collecting your child from school at the end of the school day please may we ask that you park considerately in the surrounding residential area and do not block access to driveways. In addition, please can you switch your engine off when stationary and waiting for your child. Your assistance is much appreciated.

SPORTING HEROES

As a PE department we are always looking to celebrate students' sporting successes not just in school but also outside of school. If your child plays sport at county level or above could you please let us know. All we need is an action shot of them participating in their sport and a brief description of their achievements to date. Please send them in to Mr Warman and Miss Kent. We look forward to hearing from you.

Mr Warman and Miss Kent

FI IN SCHOOLS VIRTUAL NATIONAL FINAL

We are delighted to announce that the 2020 F1 in Schools Virtual National Final will take place on Saturday 26th September - live from Brighouse. This will be a fully interactive day of racing with an awards ceremony to crown the UK National Champions.

The live-stream of the racing and awards will take place on the F1 in Schools YouTube channel and all the teams will be joining via video conference to watch their race live, chat with the commentators and get reaction to race times. Just like at the physical events

Both RMS teams qualified for the finals. Britannia Red and Vision (in blue) will be filming live from RMS for the day.

Our preliminary schedule for the day is outlined below. We anticipate that the scheduled races will take between 7 – 10 minutes and will be timetabled. We will communicate with you in advance of the event with specific time slots for each team.

09:30 – 13:30 Live Racing (*)

13:30 – 14:15 Lunch

14:15 – 15:00 Awards Ceremony

(*) Vision (RMS) vs. Cassiopeia (Trinity High School): Race time:11.03

Britannia Red (RMS and reigning Nat. Champs vs. Slidesports Entity (Hanson School): 12.44

Both teams will be interviewed live during the races and at the awards ceremony (if they win anything)

F1 in Schools want to make this the most engaging virtual event they can to give the best culmination of the 2019/20 season. We hope you can join us on via YouTube.

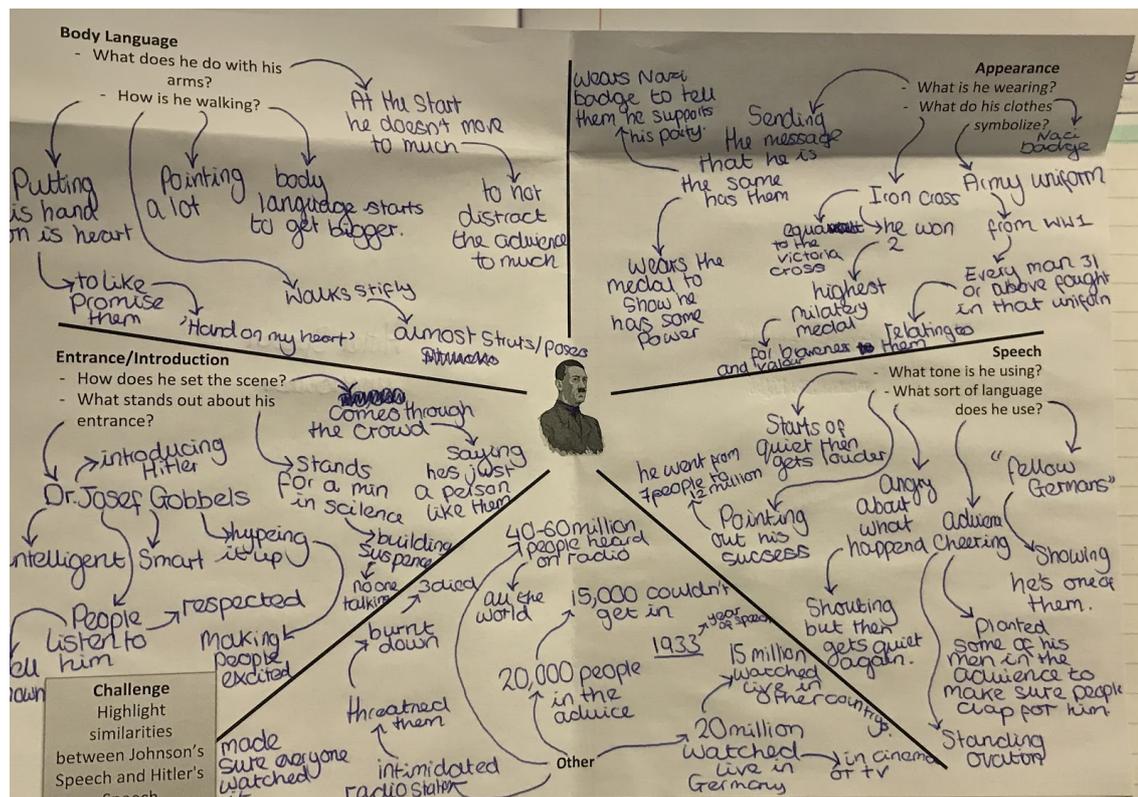
Mr Phil Cain

Head of Technology

YEAR 7 - HITLER AND HIS RISE TO POWER

This week Year 9 have been watching a variety of political speeches, analysing the techniques used by the politicians and then comparing these to the speech made by Hitler when he became Chancellor in 1933.

Students have been focusing on body language, speech, choice of words, appearance and other areas for comparison.



Mr Symonds-Keates

Head of History

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS - ADVANCE WARNING - INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS - THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER

Individual photos will be taken of all students in Years 7, 9 and 11 together with any Year 8s and 10s who joined the school mid-year and haven't yet had a school photo taken. To ensure we get the best pictures possible, please could we ask students to come to school in full school uniform (including jumpers) looking smart and tidy. These photos will be available to purchase in due course.

Should your child not be in school on 1st October there will be a 'mop up' session on Tuesday 13th October.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to accommodate sibling photos this year.

SITE AND COMMUNITY ASSISTANT (CASUAL)

Flexible evening and weekend hours

- weekday evenings (between the hours of 6pm and 10pm) and
- weekend days (between the hours of 8am and 4pm), hours to be agreed in advance

Hourly Rate £9.92

We require a casual Site and Community Assistant to join the school's Facilities team as soon as possible. You will primarily be employed to supervise our sports facilities, including our popular ATP, during lettings, ensuring any specific requirements for each hirer are met prior to their arrival and ensuring the facilities are left clean and tidy and ready for the next use. Duties will also include securing the site, some booking administration and some minor maintenance work.

The successful applicant will be a key contact for our hirers and other community users. You should have good communication and interpersonal skills, be adaptable and flexible in your approach to work in order to provide a first class service. Some lifting may be required from time to time. The role will involve lone working, especially at weekends, so the successful applicant will need to be able to work on their own initiative.

This role could suit a mature and responsible college or university student.

For more information, please visit our website <http://www.rmays.org/joining-us/vacancies/> or contact Lisa Shackleton, HR Officer lisa.shackleton@rmays.com

Closing date for applications: Monday 5th October 2020 (noon)

RMS PTA UNIFORM SERVICE

All new RMS logo uniform can be ordered online via our Uniform Shop. Our website is www.rmspta.co.uk and our contact email is uniform@rmspta.co.uk.

Once an order is placed you will receive an email, usually within 2-3 school days, advising you that it is ready for collection.

Special arrangements due to COVID 19

Due to the separation of year groups, we request that orders are collected at FIRST BREAK on the following days and BY STUDENTS ONLY. We request that only one student per order come to collect from our team, to ensure social distancing is maintained. We are situated between the DT block and the Astroturf pitches.

Monday	Year 11
Tuesday	Year 10
Wednesday	Year 9
Thursday	Year 8
Friday	Year 7

Exchange/Refunds - An exchange/refund form must be fully completed and enclosed with any returned items within 4 months of purchase. Items **MUST** be in original packaging, unworn (other than to try on) with any tags and labels still attached. The form can be downloaded from our website.

Second Hand Uniform Sale - We hope to hold a Second Hand Uniform sale during October. The date will be advertised in the Parent Bulletin and on our website.

Second Hand Uniform Donations

We are happy to receive donations of good quality pre-loved RMS logo uniform and PE kit (no skirts or trousers please). These can be handed to us during our second hand sales or left by pupils on the desk outside the Invictus Building and clearly labelled 'Second Hand Donation'. Please help us by donating laundered items only.

GCSE PE Polo Tops

Students taking GCSE PE as one of their options now have the opportunity to purchase a PE top including the GCSE PE logo and if requested personalised with their surname. Please do not include any other uniform in the same order. The deadline to order is **25th September 2020** and can be placed online at www.rmspta.co.uk. It should be noted that these items are non-returnable, so please ensure correct sizing when ordering.

Call for Help!

If you ordered and collected school uniform online during the summer, you may have met some of our volunteers who were responsible for ensuring your child had everything they needed for the return to school. All the orders are packed and processed by parent volunteers, which ensures that our service is pupil focused and any profits from our uniform sales are used by the school to enrich the pupils learning. In order to continue providing this unique service, we require additional volunteers.

If you would like to join our team and feel you can help week day mornings for about an hour or, if you are available on ad-hoc basis, please email us at uniform@rmspta.co.uk for more information.

Thank you for your continued support.

RMS PTA Uniform Service

RMS PTA FUNDRAISING

Easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into FREE donations when you use easyfundraising to shop with over 3,600 retailers such as Amazon, eBay, John Lewis, Argos, NEXT and Booking.com.

Our retailers then make a small donation to say 'thank you' and easyfundraising gives those free funds to the cause.

Please register using this unique link – just search for 'Robert Mays PTA' and click 'support us' -

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/robertmayspta-1582874283-755391685/?invite=4225V1&referral-campaign=c2s>

Plus, once you've signed up and raised £5 in donations, easyfundraising will give us an extra £5 donation.

There's no catch or hidden charges and Robert May's PTA will be really grateful for your donations.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We are not able to run our information evenings or open mornings in the usual way because of restrictions on the numbers of people in gatherings. We will be placing presentations on the school website in the days ahead for Year 6 families (Admissions) and for Year 10 Key Stage 4 information .

RMS PLANNED TERM DATES: 2020-2021 (please note, these may be subject to change, depending on Government advice)

Please do not attempt to come onto the school site without a previously arranged appointment. Uninvited adults on the school site will be turned away.

Autumn Term 2020:

Half Term Break - 26th October 2020 - 30th October 2020

Wednesday 16th December 2020 - Last Day of Term

Spring Term 2021:

Monday 4th January 2021 - CPD Day - School closed to students

Tuesday 5th January 2021 - First Day of Term

Half Term Break - 15th February 2021 - 19th February 2021

Monday 22nd February 2021 - CPD Day - School closed to students

Wednesday 31st March 2021 - Last Day of Term

Summer Term 2021:

Monday 19th April 2021 - First Day of Term

Half Term Break - 31st May 2021 - 4th June 2021

Friday 25th June 2021 - CPD Day - School closed to students

Friday 23rd July 2021 - Last Day of Term
