

Parent Bulletin

4th September 2020



Robert
May's
School

A community seeking excellence for all

Thought for the week: Facing new challenges: the importance of optimism

Word of the week: *Serendipity* - the fact of finding interesting or valuable things by chance

Book of the week: *Lark* by Antony McGowan

Dear Families,

Welcome back! We all hope that you had a good break during the holiday and that everyone you know and love is in good health. We are so glad to see our new Year 7s in school today and are looking forward to Year 11 joining them on Monday 7th September. Years 8, 9 and 10 will join us on Tuesday 8th September at which point the school will feel whole again.

We are very pleased to introduce to you the following new members of staff: Miss Izzie Rowthorn - English (joined in July), Miss Tugce Cinar - English, Mrs Jackie Eustace - Maths, Mr Jamie Gane - Maths, Miss Abbie Cummins - MFL, Mrs Megan Lobo - Science, Mr Sam Frizzell - PE (and Cover Supervisor); Miss Emilia Andrews, Mrs Alison O'Reilly, Mrs Claire Butcher, Miss Emma King, Miss Emma O'Halloran, Miss Nicola Oliver and Mr George Millard - Learning Support Assistants; Miss Jackie Parkes, Miss Rebecca McGuire and Miss Niamh Seaborn (joins 14/9) - Learning Support Assistants (RP), Mrs Carol Wood and Mr Sam Frizzell - Cover Supervisors, Mr Colin Pluthero - DT Technician, Mrs Sarah Stanton - PA to the Headteacher, Mrs Paula Lovesy - Receptionist (Mon/Tue) and Mrs Sue Hutchings - SIMS & Data Officer (joins 14/9).

I hope you will not mind some polite reminders. They may be familiar to you, but they are just as important as they were in March.

- Please do not send your child to school if they have any cold/flu symptoms, and specifically if they have 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.
- Please do not send your child into school if anyone in your household is suffering from suspected or confirmed Covid-19 symptoms described above. Please use the web link above to get the household tested.
- Please do not send your child into school if they, you, or any members of your household are quarantining for any reasons such as returning recently from a quarantine-listed country

May I draw your attention to the announcements below. One is from the new Chair of the RMS Academy Trust Board. The school is blessed with an exceptionally skilled and talented board. They are seeking a new parent trustee, and an advertisement for that role, with the timeline and procedure, is given below.

I hope you have a great weekend ahead and that your children return to us next week in good health, rested and refreshed, ready for their new learning experiences,

Joanna C West
Headteacher

A message from the Chair of the Trust Board, Mrs Anna Rigby

Dear Parents and Carers

At the start of this new school year, in what remain unprecedented times, I want to introduce both myself as the new Chair of Trustees for 2020/21 along with my Vice Chair Esther Silver.

Together, we will lead the governance of Robert May's School, supporting and challenging the school leadership team to ensure the vision and strategy is delivered for all.

I want to take this opportunity to applaud the dedication and tireless work, both visible and invisible to us, of the Head Teacher, the Senior Leadership team, all teaching and support staff since lockdown started in March. The context of conflicting advice and direction cannot be easy and yet the school has delivered the best education possible in very trying circumstances with both pupil and staff safety and wellbeing at the heart of every decision made. I also don't underestimate the time and effort you as parents and carers have put into supporting home schooling.

The return to school poses further challenges for all, and I'm sure there will be more twists and turns as we traverse the school year. The Trust Board will be working as flexibly as we can to help support and guide the school through any new developments with the primary aim of making the delivery of the best education possible for every pupil at Robert May's School.

May I wish you and your families a happy return to school and a successful year ahead. If you wish to learn more about the Governance of this school or have an interest in joining the Trust Board please go to the school website.

<http://www.rmays.org/our-school/academy-trust-documents/>

Anna Rigby
Chair of Trust Board

PARENT TRUSTEE VACANCY 2020

Robert May's School has a vacancy for a parent representative on the Board of Trustees and is looking for parents who have the skills required to contribute to effective governance and the success of the academy.

To qualify you must currently have a child or children at the school.

We would specifically welcome nomination from parents with the following skills:-

1. An ability to interpret data
2. The confidence to contribute to board meetings from a supportive standpoint
3. A passion for great quality education and/or experience of the education sector
4. A positive outlook and capacity to commit to the responsibility and requirements of successful governance

The Trust Board works together as a group, and meets at least six times per year. If you are thinking of standing as a trustee, remember that you will need to prepare for and attend these meetings, plus additional committee meetings during each term. There is an expectation within our code of conduct that each trustee will become a

member of a committee and will take on additional responsibilities as a link trustee focussing on an aspect of school development. The time commitment should not be underestimated to fulfil the role well.

Trustees may be called upon for other tasks such as sitting on senior appointment panels or giving particular attention to a specific issue or policy. There is also an expectation that Trustees will attend training sessions in order to ensure that they are up to date on such things as school performance data, finance, special educational needs, Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment etc. A comprehensive induction programme is provided although all Trustees should be motivated and committed to developing themselves in the role by accessing the resources available.

Parents serve for a term of four years, irrespective of how long their daughter or son remains at the School. Please note the Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All applicants will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

The Trustee Board would encourage you to take this opportunity to become closely involved in the organisation of the School and, if you would like to informally discuss the duties and commitments of a Trustee, please contact Katie Truesdale (katie.truesdale@rmays.com, the Company Secretary, at the School). If required, Katie can send you a nomination form or put you in contact with the Chair or Vice Chair, so that you are able to gain an accurate picture of the commitment involved. We will require completed nomination forms to be returned to the School by Monday 28th September 2020.

YEAR 10 ENGLISH INFORMATION

We are delighted to be welcoming the students back to school next week.

Firstly, we would like to encourage all Year 10 students to bring in their own A4 lever arch folder by Friday 11th September. They will require these for their English lessons and they will predominantly be kept in their English classrooms. If they can bring in their own this will reduce any need to hand out resources; however, we will provide students with a folder if they don't bring in their own by next Friday. Students should talk to their English teachers if they have any questions or concerns about this.

Secondly, their homework will be set via Google Classroom every week. As the students will be studying Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' from next week, we would like them to immerse themselves in the play by watching a variety of performances. Here is the link to Digital Theatre where they can find a range of performances of 'Macbeth'. Their first task is to watch at least two different productions of the play for homework over the first two weeks (the deadline is 18th September) and then they will be set a comparison task.

Digital Theatre+

The login details for students are:

student.rmays

dt123

Full instructions are available to all Year 10 students on Google Classroom and there are links to specific productions if the students would prefer to watch those instead of choosing themselves. As always, if they encounter any problems students should speak to their English teacher.

The English Department

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Opening

A phased approach is being taken to open the Library this term. The Library will be open to specific Year Groups to collect, browse and borrow books using the timetables below.

All students are welcome to use the Library Click and Collect service on the [Library Website](#). Just fill in the Google form and Mrs Bennett will let you know by email when you can collect your book.

Week beginning 7th September

Day	First Break	Second Break
Monday	Year 7	Year 7
Tuesday	Year 8	Year 8
Wednesday	Year 7	Year 7
Thursday	Year 8	Year 8
Friday	Year 7	Year 7

During this week Year 9, 10 and 11 can order click and collect books from the [Library Website](#). These will be delivered to students via tutors.

Week beginning 14th September

Day	First Break	Second Break
Monday	Year 10	Year 11
Tuesday	Year 8	Year 9
Wednesday	Year 11	Year 10
Thursday	Year 7	Year 8
Friday	Year 9	Year 7

Week beginning 21st September

More information to follow.

If you have any questions or you need help accessing Library resources please email me at hannah.bennett@rmays.com

Booked our Student Book Group

This will continue to run online with fun quizzes and activities. If you would like to join in just send me an email.

Many thanks,
Mrs Bennett

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS INFORMATION

Instrumental lessons will start on the following dates:

Monday 14th September - Drum lessons

Tuesday 15th September - Woodwind lessons

Wednesday 16th September - Brass, Guitar and Piano

Thursday 17th September - Voice, Cello and Violin

Friday 18th September - Violin and Piano

All students will be emailed with their lesson time for their **first** lesson. After the first week students will need to check the music noticeboard to find out their lesson times.

- You will need to bring your instrument on this day
- You will not be allowed to use school guitar or drumsticks, please make sure you bring all your own equipment
- You can store your instrument in the music block but you **must** take it home every day after school.
- When it is time for your lesson you must ask your teacher if you can leave their lesson to attend your music lesson. You will need to catch up on any work you have missed in this lesson, make sure you find out if any homework has been set.

Other important information:

- Lessons will be on the same day each week but at a different time. Please check the music department noticeboard for your specific time.
- Students must attend all musical instrument/singing lessons even if an assessment is taking place in class.
- If you miss a music lesson then an email will be sent home to inform your parents/carers
- Missed lessons due to an off site trip or sporting event cannot be refunded.
- A minimum of 10 lessons to be provided per term

Class Music Lessons

We would encourage all students in Year 7,8 and 9 to bring in their own headphones for their curriculum music lesson. There will be school ones available which will be sanitised before and after use but we would prefer students to bring their own if possible

Mrs N Hills
Head of Music

ROBERT MAY'S SCHOOL PE TWITTER ACCOUNT



Here at RMS we endeavour to tweet about all of our fixtures and results on our twitter page so that students and parents alike can see how teams are getting on. As it currently stands we don't have any results to tweet but we do have the weekly 'Can you beat your teacher' challenges. If you would like to see what is happening with these challenges and some highlights of teachers' attempts then please request to follow us at @RMaysPE. Once you have sent the request if you could email kirsty.kent@rmays.com to let me know that you have requested access along with the name and year group of your child then I will be able to accept the request. If you have any problems with this, please email a member of PE and we can help.

Thank you and stay safe,
RMS PE Department

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNTY POLICE: ONLINE SAFETY

It's lovely seeing young people engage with us on social media. Please may you encourage them to continuously keep an eye on our social media feeds *Twitter/Instagram @HantsYC* where we will be sharing top tips, ideas and engaging them in fun activities.

There is information and helpful resources on the current situation found on <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/coronavirus>. For support aimed at children of all ages, parents, carers and teachers please visit www.thinkyouknow.co.uk.

Scams can be difficult to identify but there are things to lookout for to avoid becoming a victim. There are also actions to take should you become a victim to any form of scamming. This is a live challenge for young people and adults to help stay scam aware [Spot, Avoid, Report](#). More information on scams is found on <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/taking-action/scamnesty>.

More guidance on reporting online issues to CEOP can be found on <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Get-help/Reporting-an-incident/>.

Kindest regards,

Marcia Tanyanyiwa

Cyber Ambassador Coordinator



Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire
St George's Chambers | St George's Street | Winchester | Hampshire | SO23 8AJ
Tel: 01962 871595 Mobile: 07970 396158
Facebook: [Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire](#)
Twitter: [@HantsYC](#)
Web: www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/cyber-ambassadors

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.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

Robert May's School aims to ensure that all students have access to the best possible educational experience, in order that your children - our young people -leave us as well-qualified, accomplished, rounded people who are able and willing to make a positive contribution to others' lives, in the locality, the country and the world.

We support our aims by asking our students to follow the *Robert May's Way*. The three key pillars of the Robert May's Way are *Respect, Manage* and *Support*. We ask everyone to respect each other and respect the hard work that is going on to enable students to lead fulfilling lives in the future. We invite all to manage themselves, their work and their behaviour so that relationships are harmonious and all activities lead to fruitful outcomes for our young people. We ask everyone to support each other, so that no-one is left behind or left out.

We are asking parents, carers and all adult visitors to adhere to the Robert May's Way when dealing with the school and its staff, and to be aware of the following points:

- All staff working at the school have the right to work in a safe and positive environment. They are expected to be good role models for our students.
- Our staff should not be expected to deal with matters that cannot be resolved sensibly and calmly.
- There is no need for rude, threatening, disrespectful behaviours or emails/social media posts from any individuals in our parent/carer community.
- The school will not tolerate rudeness, threats or aggression of any kind from visiting adults/parents/carers.
- During Covid-19 times, we will not engage with adults who come onto the school site without a pre-arranged appointment. Adults on site with no appointment will be turned away immediately. This is to ensure that the school stays safe and that unnecessary numbers of adults on site do not raise the risk level.

- It is not appropriate, for example, to demand to meet with a member of staff instantly without an appointment, or to remain on-site without an invitation. The school has powers to bar adults who behave unacceptably.
- Between 8.25am and 2.25pm our teachers, team leaders and tutors are teaching. If you need to get in touch over an academic or pastoral matter 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.
- During Covid-19 times, teachers need to leave the school site by 5pm each day so that intensive cleaning can take place. Please do not expect correspondence after this time.
- Teachers will not be able to respond during the normal 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.
- Funding for schools has been uncomfortably tight for a number of years. Staffing has been cut over the last 3 years in order to try and maintain a prudent and balanced budget each year. This means that all staff in school are working to maximum capacity and are very time-constrained. Their main focus is always going to be the learning and well-being of the children and young people who are on roll at RMS. Their administrative time is directed towards planning lessons, marking, and other preparation, so that students have sound learning experiences and feedback that helps them to progress. They should not be expected to engage in long email or telephone correspondence. Thank you for respecting this.
- All staff have been directed not to answer emails between 5pm and 8am on weekday evenings/nights, during weekends and/or designated holidays. This is in compliance with the government's initiative to reduce teachers' workload and also to allow our staff to exercise their right to a family life.

Thank you for respecting our approach to face-to-face and online communications, and thank you for your continuing support.

FACEBOOK AND TWITTER PAGES

If you decide to "like" anything you see, please make sure your own Facebook pages/tweets are locked down. We thought it might be helpful to family members to have easy-to-access social media sites in which all letters home, piece of news and bulletins could be posted and read. They are for information broadcasting only. They are not for people to post comments or queries. If you have any queries, or comments, please email the school using info@rmays.com as usual.



Robert May's School



Robert May's School Official

FAMILY CONTACT DETAILS

If you have moved house recently, or changed your mobile phone number, please get in touch with us via info@rmays.com and send in your updated details or click on the link to our website <http://www.rmays.org/parents/update-contact-details/> for our change of contact details form.

We've experienced some difficulties with contacting some families recently, because landlines and mobile numbers are out of date and/or unobtainable. If you do not update your latest contact details, you are risking the safety of your child. If an emergency occurs and we cannot contact you, the matter becomes a serious safeguarding concern. Please help us to keep records up to date.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Suspended at present. Further information will be shared next week. 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.

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:

Thursday 3rd September 2020 - Whole Staff CPD Day - School closed to students

Friday 4th September 2020 - New Year 7 Induction Day

Monday 7th September 2020 - Years 7 and 11 Only

Tuesday 8th September 2020 - All year groups in from this point

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
