

Parent Bulletin

12th March 2021



Robert
May's
School

A community seeking excellence for all

Thought for the week: Resilience

Word of the week: Perpendicular - two or more lines that meet at right angles. From the Latin “per” meaning “through” and “pendere” meaning “to hang” - one line ‘hangs’ through the other.

Book of the week: One by Sarah Crossan (available as an ebook on [ePlatform](#))

Dear Families,

Welcome back, properly! It has been nothing short of utterly fabulous to have the whole school back in! We had excellent attendance figures on Thursday when the whole school came back in. Let’s keep it up!

Uniform: looking ahead to the Summer Term, when we hope that the sun will continually shine on us, students have traditionally had the choice of wearing the green branded RMS Polo Shirts (or Black RMS Polo Shirts for Year 11) as their Summer Uniform. We appreciate that, due to the period of partial school closure, students will not have had the wear out of their winter shirts and blouses that they would normally have had. Students have always had the option of continuing to wear their white RMS branded shirts/blouses after Easter and we want to make it clear that this is especially acceptable this year. During the Summer term boys will not be expected to wear a school tie. If your child would prefer to wear the RMS branded polo shirt then please do get your orders in as soon as possible using this [link](#), so that our uniform suppliers, the PTFA, can be sure to get the orders processed in time. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, you can ask us to provide an RMS polo shirt, if you wish. Please contact your child’s Head of Year in confidence and we will arrange this.

Punctuality: our official start-time is 8.25am. So far, a worrying number of families appear to be dropping their children off after this time. At 8.25am, all students should already be on site, in classrooms, ready to start their morning tutorial session. Thank you in advance for moving your journey to school forward by a few minutes, so that your child is not disadvantaged by being late.

Chromebooks: we would like to take this opportunity to thank all Parents and Carers for their support during the period when students were accessing Remote Learning. We have been reflecting in school on the way that the students showed great resilience and commitment to maintaining their learning during this time, making the best of what was a very different way of learning. One of the real positives that has come out of this is the new IT skills that students (and their teachers!) have developed, particularly in the use of Google Classroom and other web-based learning activities. Whilst there is still a need for them to develop their handwriting skills and stamina in lessons, as GCSE exams are still predominantly handwritten, we would like to encourage them to bring their chromebooks into school so that they can use them as tools for their learning. For those parents and carers who are interested in their child participating in the Chromebook scheme, please see the link below for more information. Teachers will also be setting homework via Google Classroom so it will also be important that they continue the habit of regularly checking their Google Classroom and school emails.

The next Staff CPD Day for this year is on Monday 7th June: RMS is closed to students for that day. We had this as a day set aside to run in the summer term and I am sorry that it has not been possible to give you more notice. The day will be needed for moderation and internal scrutiny of Year 11 GCSE grades. You may remember we gave up a planned training day at the start of the year so that we could give our new Year 7 a full induction experience. June 7th is the replacement date for this.

A word on face coverings in classrooms: *the following information does not apply to any students who we know are exempt.* As you are aware, the government has advised that in secondary schools, face coverings should be worn in classrooms and where social distancing cannot take place. The vast majority of students around school are wearing their face coverings at movement times, and we thank you (and them) for this. Thank you also to the parents/families who have taken the time and trouble to write in, requesting that we note their child should be exempt from wearing a face covering in the classroom. We appreciate the reasoning behind this and have compiled a list of students whose families have been in touch about this. The list is shared discreetly with staff, and the idea is that we do not make a fuss about it. On this matter, a number of students happen to be very anxious about those who are *not* wearing face coverings, and this view also needs to be respected. Unless we have written confirmation from a parent/carer that their child should not wear face coverings in the classroom, we will be continuing to request, politely, that they wear their face coverings in the classroom and around school. [Face coverings in education - March 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91100/face-coverings-in-education-march-2021.pdf) It is everyone's wish here that after the Easter holiday, the infection rate in the country will be so low that we can stop wearing face coverings in classrooms.

Successful LFD testing: thank you so much to everyone who booked their child's first LFD test and brought them into school. We do appreciate your support for this. We are aware that there have been some issues with parents and carers not receiving notification of the test result from the NHS or this being quite delayed. Please be assured that in the event of a positive test, the school will make contact with you immediately. Please also note that the Parent FAQs on the school website (under News and Events / LFD Testing) have been updated and should address any queries you may have.

LFD testing has now moved to take place within school time, and after 19th March, we will migrate to home testing kits, for those who give consent, details of which will be shared with you nearer the time. We could not have done this without the incredible band of volunteers who have been helping us and who will continue to do so up until the last on-site test next week. We have had the privilege of receiving support from our exams invigilation team, members of RMS staff who have so willingly given their time to testing, volunteers from our PTFA and local community, the amazing Hook and Odiham Lions, the Rotary Club of Odiham and Hook, and Friends of Rotary. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who has been involved in supporting the LFD tests: you are amazing!



Have a brilliant weekend when you get to it.

Joanna C West
Headteacher

COVID REMINDERS

If your child experiences any of the classic Covid symptoms, (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change to smell/taste) **please do not send them into school.** [Stay at home Covid 19 -Gov England](#)
Thank you.

PROVISIONAL TERM DATES FOR 2021-2022

Please see Dates for your Diary at the foot of this newsletter for provisional dates for next academic year. We expect to have them approved and confirmed before the end of March.

CHROMEBOOK SCHEME 2021

Following the success of the Chromebook scheme that was launched in September 2020 we are re-launching the scheme from 5th to 21st March. Further details will be emailed to Parents/Carers in Years 7 - 10 on 5th March; please see the [link](#) to the letter with additional information.

10 Reasons to join the Chromebook programme:

- Students work independently and at a pace that suits their needs
- Get unlimited access to teaching and learning resources
- Collaborate with other students electronically
- Communicate with their teachers and get support when they need it most
- Work from anywhere, not just in ICT suites or the LRC
- Store work online where it can be backed up automatically
- Develop a proficiency in IT
- Bring their work home in a digital format where you can view it
- 8 second boot-up meaning time is not wasted in class
- Stay organised with the online calendar for deadlines and events

The Chromebook scheme runs via a monthly direct debit payment and at the end you will have ownership of the Chromebook. Each Chromebook package will include accidental damage and theft insurance, school apps and access to the school online education platform will be set up for each student. Parents/Carers with students registered in receipt of Free School Meals will also receive an additional discount.

Mrs K Truesdale
Chief Financial Officer

LFD Home Test Kits

The school has now taken delivery of Lateral Flow Device home test kits for all students who have been given parental consent and have been tested at school. Please look out for further communication early next week, in preparation for their distribution.

School Office

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Music and Drama

All Music and Drama clubs start from Monday 15th March. Students need to sign up using the google form [here](#).

Please note change of day for Year 10 Acapella and Year 7 Performing Arts/ Choir

Day	Club	Time	Room	Teacher
MONDAY	Yr 7 Ensemble Open to all students. All instruments are welcome.	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Mu2	Mr Hiscock
MONDAY	Yr 7 Performing Arts Open to all students.	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Mu1	Mrs Hills
MONDAY	Yr 8 Performing Arts Open to all students.	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Hall	Miss Thomas
TUESDAY	Yr 8 Ensemble Open to all students. All instruments are welcome.	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Mu1	Mrs Hills
WEDNESDAY	Yr 9 Acapella Open to all students.	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Mu1	Mrs Hills
THURSDAY	Yr 10 Acapella Open to all students.	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Mu1	Mrs Hills
THURSDAY	Yr 10/11 Grade 5 Theory See Mrs Hills if interested in this club.	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Mu2	Mrs de Souza
THURSDAY	String Quartets Invitation from Mrs de Souza.	12.15pm - 12.45pm	Mu2	Mrs de Souza
FRIDAY	Year 7 Folk Group Open to all students. We would love some more guitarists and drummers to join this group.	8.25am - 8.45am	Mu2	Mrs de Souza
FRIDAY	Year 9 Ensemble Open to all students.	12.15pm - 12.45pm	Mu2	Mrs Cartledge

PE (2.30 - 3.25pm)

Due to the need to keep year groups in their bubbles, we will need to offer after school activities in year groups. This will work on a year group rotational basis. Activities will be offered depending on the number of students who turn up to clubs

(Boys to change in the Sports Hall, Girls to change in the Gym)

Monday 15th March: Year 7

Wednesday 17th March: Year 8

Thursday 18th March: Year 9

Monday 22nd March: Year 10

Tuesday 23rd March: Year 11

Wednesday 24th March: Year 7

Thursday 25th March: Year 8

Monday 29th March: Year 9

INTERFORM CROSS COUNTRY

Calling all students in Years 7 - 9 to interform cross country. Everyone is welcome and anyone who is interested in running or would like to earn interform points please get involved.

Year 9 - Thursday 18th March (during extra curricular club)

Year 7 - Wednesday 24th March (during extra curricular club)

Year 8 - Thursday 25th March (during extra curricular club)

Students can find further details on the poster in their form room or should see Mr Warman / Mr Messenger / Miss Adams to find out more.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Library will continue to be closed until 22nd March to facilitate the LFD testing.

- If your child requires a new book please direct them to the [Library Catalogue](#) for access to all our ebooks and audiobooks.
- Students will NOT be able to return books during this time. Please remind your child there are no fines and they can bring their books back once the Library reopens.
- Student Book Groups: Both groups will be running on Google Classroom only for the next two weeks with no live meetings.
- I will be regularly checking the library@rmays.com email so do get in touch if you need help or have any questions.

World Book Week

Thank you to everyone who got involved with the World Book Week activities. We had 61 entries for the quiz and the prizes will be sent to the winners via their tutors.

At the time of writing there have been 8 book trailer entries so far. I have really enjoyed watching them all. I will be judging them and contacting the winner early next week.

Coming soon

- **Virtual Author Visit for Year 7** (25th March 8.50 - 10.15am): Alexandra Sheppard author of Oh My Gods. Talk, Q&A and supporting activity. <https://www.alexandrasheppard.com/>

Many thanks,
Mrs Bennet

MATHEMATICS WEEKLY BRAINTEASER

Last week's question:

The RMS Weekly Maths Brainteaser

Week 1 Wobbly weights

Weighing the baby at the clinic was a problem

The baby would not keep still and caused the scales to wobble

So, I held the baby and stood on the scales while the nurse read off 78 kg

Then the nurse held the baby while I read off 69 kg

Finally, I held the nurse while the baby read off 137 kg

What is the combined weight of all three?



Please send your answer with your name and form to Mr Pooles at graham.pooles@rmays.com.
The correct answer will be revealed at the end of next week, along with another brainteaser!

Answer: Well done to those of you who attempted the brainteaser last week. There were 8 people who managed to correctly calculate the combined weight of **142kg**. My worked solution is here if you didn't quite get it.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Let: } m = m \\ \text{ } \quad n = n \\ \text{ } \quad b = b \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} m + b = 78 \text{ Kg} \\ n + b = 69 \text{ Kg} \\ m + n = 137 \text{ Kg} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 2m + 2n + 2b = 284 \text{ Kg} \\ m + n + b = 142 \text{ Kg.} \end{array}$$

The combined weight of all 3 is 142Kg.

Another week, another brainteaser!

The RMS Weekly Maths Brainteaser

Week 2 Cannot compute

In the post-Covid sale, a shop had to reduce some of its prices

A laptop was reduced by 20%

As a result, the shop only made a 4% profit on the laptop

What percentage profit would the shop have made if the laptop had been sold at full price?



Please send your answer with your name and form to Mr Pooles at graham.pooles@rmays.com. The correct answer will be revealed at the end of next week, along with another brainteaser!

Mr Pooles

MUSIC - INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

All instrumental lessons will restart in school from Monday 15th March. Please can you encourage your child to look at the music noticeboard for the date and time of their first lesson.

RMS PTFA UPDATE

Uniform Service

The Online uniform shop is currently open for Parents/Carers to purchase school uniform. The uniform office will be open from 15th March for attending students to collect their uniform. It is important that you please wait for receipt of your confirmation email before sending students to collect their order, as otherwise it will not be ready. Our service is run by parent volunteers who will recommence processing orders from 15th March 2021 and these may take longer than the usual 2/3 days.

Collection of Uniform Orders - COVID 19

We request that only **one student per order** come to collect from our team, that students wear a mask (unless exempt) and that social distancing is maintained at all times. We are situated between the DT block and the Astroturf pitches.

Polo Shirts

Polo shirts can be worn during the Summer Term only in place of the white shirts and blouses. These are currently available to purchase from the online shop.

Second Hand Uniform

We plan to resume Second Hand Uniform Sales once the current Covid-19 restrictions have been relaxed by the government. For any urgent enquiries, please email the uniform team at uniform@rmspta.co.uk. We will publish any updates on our website and in the Parent Bulletin.

Thank you for your continued support.

RMS PTFA Uniform Service

Fundraising

Robert Mays PTFA is listed as a charity with Amazon Smile. [Amazon Smile - Robert May's School](#)

Please follow the link above, select us as your chosen charity, and then when you shop online through Amazon Smile, a commission donation will be made automatically. There is no cost to you.



Thank you so much

Sian Taylor, PTFA Treasurer

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' -

[Easy fundraising](#)

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 PTFA will be really grateful for your donations.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 found on the school site will be turned away.

Tuesday 23rd February - Second half of Spring Term starts.

Monday 22nd March- PPETs start for Yr 11

Wednesday 31st March 2021 - Last Day of Spring Term

Summer Term 2021:

Monday 19th April 2021 - First Day of Term

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

Monday 7th June 2021 - CPD Day -(School closed to students)

Tuesday 8th June 2021 - School reopens for students after Half Term Break

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

Friday 23rd July 2021 - Last Day of Term

PROVISIONAL TERM DATES FOR 2021-2022

We are aiming to confirm these before the end of March:

Autumn Term 2021:

Thursday 2nd Sept- Whole staff CPD day

Friday 3rd Sept- Whole staff CPD day

Monday 6th Sept- Years 7 and 11 start

Tuesday 7th Sept- All year groups start

Friday 22nd Oct- last day of Autumn Term 1

Monday 1st November- first day of Autumn Term 2

Friday 17th Dec- last day of Autumn Term 2

Spring Term 2022:

Tuesday 4th January 2022- Whole staff CPD Day

Wednesday 5th January 2022- All year groups in: first teaching day of Spring Term 1

Friday 18th February- last day of Spring Term 1

Monday 28th February- first day of Spring Term 2

Friday 8th April-last day of Spring Term 2

Summer Term 2022:

Monday 25th April 2022- Whole staff CPD day

Tuesday 26th April- All year groups in: first teaching day of Summer Term 1

Friday 27th May 2022- last day of Summer Term 1

Monday 6th June 2022- first day of Summer Term 2

Friday 24th June 2022- Whole staff CPD day

Friday 22nd July 2022- last day of academic year

As an academy, Robert May's School does not need to follow Hampshire term-time dates. However, we 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.