

RMGS PROSPECTUS 2021

"The school's work to keep students safe and secure is outstanding. Students report that they feel completely safe in school and comment most favourably on the way that all members of the school community look after one another."

"Students make excellent progress from their starting points because teachers have very high expectations of them. Teachers use their exceptionally good subject knowledge to stimulate students' interest and to inspire them to learn."

"Teaching is outstanding because teachers have very high expectations of what all groups of students, including the most able, can achieve. This, together with their detailed knowledge of students' abilities, ensures that they plan activities which build securely on students' prior learning, helping them to make rapid progress."

Ofsted

Rainham Mark Grammar School is a friendly, caring and stimulating community which motivates young people to enjoy learning, participate enthusiastically in wider activities and make the most of their abilities. We received "outstanding" grades in all categories from Ofsted in June 2014.

Vision: We aspire to and value **outstanding pastoral care and inspirational teaching** that motivates every young person to enjoy learning and achieve their full potential within a stimulating, friendly and healthy community founded on mutual respect.

Mission: Our core purpose is: To provide the best possible learning, support and care, in partnership with parents and the wider community to foster ambition and high achievement, helping students to make a positive contribution to society.

RMGS is a school with values founded on respect:

- Respect for each other and ourselves
- Respect for hard work and scholarship
- Respect for diversity of achievement
- Respect for community and environment

Aims

- For our students to learn about themselves and the wider world; acquire a lifelong love of learning; and gain the best qualifications they can
- Provide a stable and stimulating environment where students can develop their intellectual, aesthetic, cultural, social and physical talents
- Help students consider carefully key moral, religious and spiritual aspects of life
- Prepare students to become active, considerate citizens in society and make well-informed choices
- Have high expectations of individual performance and behaviour
- Provide stimulating and challenging teaching and learning materials for all students
- Involve parents in supporting their child's learning and the aims of the school
- Promote equal opportunities and celebrate diversity
- Provide professional support and guidance for those training to be teachers
- Provide appropriate access for some community activities
- Maintain a co-educational ethos
- Nurture the character of our students

Objectives

- Ensure the curriculum provides appropriate activities and experiences for students to develop our aims and meet national requirements and targets.
- Develop resources, materials and approaches which fulfil our aim to provide stimulating and challenging teaching and learning materials for all students.
- Evaluate these resources, materials and approaches which enable provision of stimulating and challenging teaching.
- Provide positive reinforcement through clear and fair discipline and recognising and rewarding students' efforts and achievements.
- Evaluate (and change where necessary) the organisational practices of the school in helping staff and students to achieve their aims.

Admission to Year 7

Admission to RMGS is by tests administered by Medway Council. The Medway tests comprise a Mathematics test, a Verbal Reasoning test and an Extended Writing exercise, and are taken by students in September in Year 6 preceding admission in the following September. A digital information guide can be found at www.medway.gov.uk/admissions

As a result of the tests children will be deemed either selective or non-selective. Places will be offered first to any selective child with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) of special educational need where Rainham Mark Grammar School is named.

Oversubscription criteria for September 2021

If the number of RMGS preferences received, via the Medway Coordinated Scheme, from parents of children achieving selective standard exceeds the number of places available, places will be allocated in the following priority order:

- (i) Children in Public Care, as defined in the Medway Coordinated Admissions Scheme to include children who are adopted and were previously looked after.
- (ii) Children who are designated as receiving 'Free School Meals' on the qualifying date of 31 October 2020. Applicants under this criterion must complete a Supplementary Information Form so that checks can be made to determine eligibility.
- (iii) Children who at the time of application have a brother or sister (including children living as siblings in the same family unit) on the roll of the school at the time of the sibling's admission.
- (iv) Child's health reasons, supported by medical evidence that requires the child to attend this school.
- (v) Children who at the time of application attend a primary school within the Rainham Mark Education Trust (RMET – Riverside Primary School and Twydall Primary School).
- (vi) Children who at the time of application have a parent who is a member of staff at the school (where the member of staff has been employed for three years or more at the time at which the application is made and/or where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage).
- (vii) Nearest of children's homes.

Distance will be measured by the shortest available safe walking route between home and school as measured by Medway Council's GIS. Those living closer to the school will receive the highest priority. Medway Council's GIS measures the start point, end point and distance of each route.

In the event of two or more children having equal ranking for the last place the deciding factor will be the shortest available safe walking distance between the home address and the school as measured by the Medway Council's GIS. Where this cannot be determined, the available place(s) will be allocated by drawing lots.

The system may seem confusing; RMGS is ready and willing to advise. Please telephone 01634-364151 to arrange to speak to a member of the senior team or the Admission Clerk at RMGS. RMGS uses the Medway test and the admission team at Medway Council are also happy to help on 01634-331110.

Applying for a place in Year 7

If your child is at a MEDWAY primary school: Apply online through the Parent Portal on the Medway Council site.

<https://admissions.medway.gov.uk/ParentPortal/Website/> or collect a paper application form from Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 4TR and name RMGS as a preference. A digital information guide can be found at www.medway.gov.uk/admissions

The closing date for 2021 applications is 5pm on Monday 30 November 2020.

If you live outside of Medway, you need to apply through your local authority.

For entry to Year 7 in September 2021, the Published Admission Number (PAN) is 235.

Travel costs to and from school

In some circumstances Medway may help with transport to schools. For further details see Medway's booklet 'Admission to Secondary School'.

Religious affiliations

The school has no religious affiliations in any formal sense: very occasional visits on an inter-denominational basis by local ministers and use of local churches for educational visits are the only connections. Acts of worship are broadly Christian and within the spirit of the 1988 Education Act. As far as possible these are held daily, within assemblies, for all children not withdrawn.

If you ask us to withdraw children from acts of worship, we do that without query. Otherwise, unless a parent so requests, no child is treated differently from another because of religion, race or sex.

Our policy on sex education and relationships

Our sex and relationships education follows the September 2020 Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education guidance and is taught as part of the CCW programme (Character, Careers and Wellbeing). The different aspects are introduced at times suitable for our students' physical and emotional development from Year 7 to Year 13. This is taught by members of staff who are alert to the sensitive nature of the subject. The school welcomes enquiries from parents about the nature of this programme and is happy to discuss any potential concerns.

As an inclusive school, we aim to provide full, honest information about the physical, emotional and social aspects of human sexual development from conception to old age, including the nature of love, personal relationships and family life. Students are encouraged to make informed decisions and to determine their own values within a moral framework. A more detailed statement is available on request.

Citizenship

Citizenship Education is delivered across the curriculum in a wide variety of subjects and also through our pastoral work and out of school activities. Students in Years 8 and 9 receive regular citizenship lessons as part of the CCW (Character, Careers and Wellbeing) programme.

Complaints

Parents are invited to discuss any complaint first informally with the Headteacher or other senior staff. A parent not then satisfied can still take a complaint formally to the Chair of Governors, or then to a panel of Governors which has been established.

A typical day

The time spent in teaching, including RE but excluding assemblies, registration and break, is 25 hours per week.

8.35	Registration
8.40 – 8.55	Assembly or Form time
9.00 - 9.50	Period 1
9.50 - 10.40	Period 2
10.40 - 11.00	Break
11.00 - 11.50	Period 3
11.50 - 12.40	Period 4
12.40 - 13.25	Lunch
13.30	<i>Students allowed into form rooms</i>
13.35 - 13.40	Registration
13.40 - 14.30	Period 5
14.30 - 15.20	Period 6

Term dates 2021/2022

Term 1 (2021)	*1 September - *22 October
Term 2 (2021) *	1 November - 17 December
Term 3 (2022)	4 January - 11 February
Term 4 (2022)	21 February - 1 April
Term 5 (2022)	19 April - 27 May
Bank Holiday	2 May
Term 6 (2022)	6 June - 22 July

Five INSET days*: 1/9/2021, 8/10/2021, 22/10/2021, 1/11/2021 and 2/11/2021

Lower school timetable

The timetable is arranged on a two-weekly cycle. In Years 7 to 9 our 60 periods of each two-weeks are distributed as follows:

Subject	Y7	Y8	Y9
Mathematics	8	7	7
English/Drama	9	8	7
Modern Languages	6	10	10
Sciences	8	7	9
Geography	4	3	4
History	4	3	4
Religious Education	3	2	2
Art	3	4	2
Design and Technology	4	4	4
Music	3	3	2
Physical Education	4	4	4
Computing	3	3	3
PSHE/Citizenship	1	2	2

Unauthorised absence

<i>Figures below relate to Terms 1 and 2 Academic Year 2019/2020</i>	<i>Reported</i>
Number of pupils of compulsory school age on roll for at least one session	1130
Number of pupil sessions	814
Number of authorised absences	5084
*Number of unauthorised absences	669
Percentage of sessions missed through authorised absence	3.32%

*Percentage of sessions missed through unauthorised absence	0.44%
*These figures consist very largely of absences that the school has refused to authorise due to excessive holidays being taken during term time.	
Excellent attendance is vital for success therefore the school expects attendance to be above 96%.	

School clothing

- Black blazer with school badge and tutor group flash
- Black trousers (not skinny fit or jeans), white shirt (not polo shirt) with clip on tie/colours tie or white reverse collar blouse
- **Or**
- Mid/dark grey skirt with white reverse collar blouse or white shirt and colours tie
- Black or dark grey socks with trousers, white socks or black tights with skirt
- Black school shoes (not boots, trainers inc. Nike Airforce, sandals or plimsolls)
- Official school V-necked pullover (grey for Years 7-9, black for Years 10 and 11). No sweatshirts, designer label pullovers or hoodie

For Physical Education – all students will need the following:

- Red T-shirt with RMGS logo
- Red ¼ zip jumper with RMGS logo
- Plain black shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms/skort
- White short socks
- Plain black football socks
- Trainers (non-marking soles)
- PE bag
- Plain black thermal base layer (advisable).
- Shin pads & Football boots (purchase these as advised by PE staff)
- A towel (optional)
- Please provide white plimsolls for gym/dance if your child has a foot infection (not trainers), otherwise bare feet

Coats can be any colour but not denim, suede or leather. Scarves and gloves of any colour may be worn around the school (in cold weather), but not in lessons.

Cardigans are not school uniform. Hooded sweatshirts (“hoodies”) are not an acceptable alternative to either pullovers or outer garments in place of a coat. School bags need to be large enough to carry a number of A4 size folders and textbooks. No handbags and should not be a drawstring bag unless used for PE kit.

Jewellery: The only items of jewellery to be worn in school are plain gold or silver studs (one in each ear lobe) and a watch. No rings are permitted. These items must be removed for PE and games. No body piercings are allowed or extreme hairstyles and of a single natural colour. Make-up and nail varnish/false nails, fake eyelashes or eyelash extensions are not permitted in school.

Full uniform must be worn to and from school as well as in school.

Availability of documents

Copies of documents are held in a public file at the school office; photocopies will be made at cost-price on request.

Equal opportunities policy

RMGS is committed to the principle of opportunity for all students irrespective of gender, race or disability. RMGS aims to be a diverse community within which everyone feels secure. The school is opposed to bullying, abuse, and harassment of any kind. It makes it clear to students that:

- no one should have to suffer sexist, racist, homophobic or other abuse.
- no one should have to suffer name calling.
- no one should have to fear or suffer physical violence.
- no one should feel victimised in any way.
- it is every student's responsibility to ensure that harassment is not tolerated.

The motto for students is - ***if there is a problem share it.***

Reports of bullying or hurtful behaviour will be recorded and followed up. The information will be passed on to the Head of Year who will interview those involved and take the necessary action. ***The school believes that a student must not hit, threaten, harass or set out to make any student unhappy – especially a younger one.*** This rests on the belief that older students in the school have a responsibility towards those younger than themselves. Any proven breach of this rule will result in a temporary exclusion. However, the school will take seriously a complaint from an older student that there is incitement, teasing, bullying from students from a lower year and will deal very firmly with that.

Disability and Special Needs Policy

The Governing Body and the Headteacher are committed to providing for students who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and to developing cultures, policies and practices which are inclusive. With the right training, strategies and support, many students with additional educational needs can be successfully included in mainstream education.

We have in place sophisticated systems to identify barriers to learning and participation, and to provide for students throughout the learning spectrum. A dedicated Governor has responsibility for the School's Special Educational Needs (SEND) provision. They are supported by a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO), an Inclusion Manager, Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) and a Pastoral Support Assistant to work with students who need some additional help.

We have produced a full disability access plan which will ensure that we will not treat disabled students less favourably for a reason related to disability and we will take reasonable steps to ensure that disabled students are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to their non-disabled peers.

When changes have been made to the physical environment, we have tried to make provision for those with disabilities. For example, the provision of specialised toilet facilities serves the needs of students with severe medical difficulties.

All staff receive appropriate training, support and guidance in meeting their SEND responsibilities to their students.

Governing body's policy for school activities

RMGS policy is to pay for activities and visits through parental contributions to the School Fund. Obviously, we cannot compel you to pay towards visits and we would certainly not treat your child differently according to whether you could or would contribute. But if many parents opted not to pay and/or refused permission for their child to attend, we would have to cancel the project. We invite any parent who has difficulty in paying to let us know: we can usually help. For students who claim free school meals, all curriculum related visits and field courses are free.

External Qualifications

Compulsory Subjects taken by all students to end of Year 11

Exam	Specification
GCSE	English
GCSE	English Literature
GCSE	Mathematics
GCSE	A Modern Foreign Language from list below
GCSE	Science – Combined Double award or Biology + Chemistry + Physics
GCSE	History or Geography
	CCW
	Physical Education

Current option choices in Years 10 and 11 (these may change)

GCSE	Art and Design
GCSE	Business Studies
GCSE	Computer Science
GCSE	Design Technology
GCSE	Drama and Theatre Studies
GCSE	Economics
GCSE	Food Preparation and Nutrition
GCSE	French
GCSE	Geography
GCSE	German
GCSE	History
GCSE	or equivalent - Information Technology
GCSE	Music
GCSE	Physical Education
GCSE	Religious Studies
GCSE	Spanish
GCSE	Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics (<i>only available for Express Mathematicians</i>)

For Sixth Form students (Years 12 and 13)

A level	Art
A level	Biology
A level	Business Studies
A level	Chemistry
A level	Computer Science
A level	Economics
A level	English Literature
A level	Film Studies
A level	French

A level Geography
A level German
A level Government and Politics
A level History
A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics
A level Music
A level Music Technology
A level Product Design
A level Physical Education
A level Physics
A level Psychology
A level Religious Studies
A level Sociology
A level Spanish

RMGS takes every measure to safeguard its students. If you have any concerns, please do speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

We hope that you find this information helpful.

Visit our website at www.rainhammark.com for more information about the school. Also, the Rainham Mark Education Trust (RMET) at www.rmet.org for trust-wide policies.