



Dear Parents/Carers

I really need to start my end of term message to you by thanking lots of people. Although things have been difficult at times, we have been trying to keep positive and manage the strange situation in school in ways that allow the students to continue to learn and to enjoy their days at school. Staff absence due to COVID (mainly the need to self-isolate) has run as high as 18 staff absences on the same day, which has been logistically challenging to say the least!

So firstly I would like to thank you as parents, carers and families for the great support you give to your children, and for working so well with us as a school to keep it all together for the people who really matter. Secondly I cannot praise the staff here highly enough. Every one of them, in their various roles, has gone well beyond what could reasonably be expected to keep the school functioning: and better than that, still keep some "joy" in the school day.

And thirdly I need to thank the students who have co-operated so well with all the strange new routines and restrictions, remained positive and caring, and been a pleasure to teach.

Due to the many restrictions we have had very little opportunity for the extra-curricular activities which are normally such a key part of life at the school. We look forward to getting back to a full programme as soon as we are able. I am really pleased, however, that we have managed to rescue some of the key events that make the lead up to the Christmas holiday special at RMGS - such as the famous "Rock n' Roll" show, which this year will be a virtual event. The prefects (with help from many others) have been beavering away filming individual acts to put together to stream to everyone on the final morning of term in their form rooms or, if self-isolating, at home.

Finally some of you may have heard rumours about my retiring at the end of this academic year. I am now able to confirm that I have indeed made the decision to retire in August 2021 - after 37 years of teaching in Kent and Medway, and nearly 20 wonderful years at Rainham Mark. The governors and trustees have already begun the recruitment process for my successor and I will, of course, keep you informed as this process progresses.

May I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday period.

Yours faithfully

Mr Moore
Headteacher

PS - It is Christmas Jumper day on Friday 11 December so please wear a Christmas top if you own one and bring into school £1 which will be collected by your Form Prefect in aid of Save the Children UK.

Important notice, the last day of term has been moved forward to Thursday 17 December (a tag day/non-uniform day) still finishing for students at 12.50pm. Form Prefects will collect £2 from students to wear their own clothes and not their school uniform on this day.

THANK YOU

At the end of this term we say goodbye to a few colleagues, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following longer-serving members of staff for their hard work and to wish them all the best for the future: Dr Costa Christodoulou is retiring after joining the school in 2012, Mrs Julie Boughton (ICT Training and Development Manager) joined RMGS in 2007 and Ms Casey Collyer (Clerk to RMET and RMGS Local Governing Body) joined RMGS in 2015.

We then welcomed the following new members of staff who joined the school in December: Miss Nistor (Teacher of Maths) and Mrs Stacey (Administration Assistant) in the main office. Mr Hills (IT Technician) will be joining the school in January 2021.

Mr Moore
Headteacher

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Several maths students have signed up to a weekly maths challenge at <https://parallel.org.uk>.

On creating a free account, students are emailed every Thursday with a new 'parallelogram', fun and challenging material that goes beyond school maths: mystery and history, activities and oddities, puzzles and problems. Just ask your maths teacher for their teacher code to join in the fun. Well done to this term's top puzzlers: Jacob and Frances in Year 7, and Abigail and Amy in Year 8.

Mrs Rothery

THE STUDENT DIVERSITY TEAM

The Student Diversity Team has been busy looking at how to update noticeboards with inclusive displays all around the school and looking at ways to tell cultural narratives to other students. We are pushing on with our application for the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award (Silver) and hope to gather more speed once these strange times of COVID management are in the rear view mirror.

Several staff have adopted the practice of identifying their preferred pronouns in their email signature alongside their recommended reading and even the odd Christmas joke.

Mrs Horstrup, Ms Gooding and Mr Smith



HERBIE'S NEWS



Merry Christmas to you all! This term at RMGS has been going really well and I was even able to win some rosettes at my Training Class before we had to close for lockdown.

So instead of training classes and to support Kindness Week in school, Mum and I have signed up for the Blue Cross "**Step into Christmas 25K challenge**".

Each day in December we will be walking 1K to raise funds for the Charity. If you want to know more or donate you can read about it here: <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/challenge-events/step-into-christmas>

Don't forget on Friday 11 December it is Christmas Jumper Day and you will see me around school with a very festive outfit so stop and say hello and we can compare our jumpers.

I hope you have a very waggy Christmas and see you all next year!

KEY DATES FOR 2020-2021

Term 3	Start: Last day of term: February Break:	Monday 4 January 2021 Friday 12 February 2021 Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February 2021 incl.
Term 4	Start: Last day of term: Spring Break:	Monday 22 February 2021 Thursday 1 April 2021 Monday 2 April 2021 – Friday 16 April 2021 inclusive (Good Friday 2 April 2021 & Easter Monday 5 April 2021)
Term 5	Start: May Day Holiday: Last day of term: May Break:	Monday 19 April 2021 Monday 3 May 2021 Friday 28 May 2021 Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021 inclusive
Term 6	Start: Last day of term:	Monday 7 June 2021 (Week 0) Wednesday 21 July 2021
<p>Parents' Evenings</p> <p>All parent consultation sessions will be conducted via video calls through Edulink. Teachers have a maximum of 3 hours available and will block out the times they are available accordingly on Edulink. The video system controls the appointments and will cut off after an allocated time so please do make use of the "Notes" section when you book if there is anything specific you wish to discuss. Parents/carers can make appointments from 2 weeks before the event up to 8pm the night before.</p> <p>If you cannot see the Parents' Evening circle on your home screen, click 'More' and it will appear.</p>	<p>Year 7</p> <p>Year 8</p> <p>Year 9 + Options info</p> <p>Year 10</p> <p>Year 11</p> <p>Year 12</p> <p>Year 13</p>	<p>21 and 22 April (A, B, F & L), 27 and 28 April 2021 (N, P, R & S)</p> <p>15 and 16 March (A, B, F & L), 24 and 25 March 2021 (N, P, R & S)</p> <p>13 and 14 January 2021</p> <p>17 and 18 May 2021</p> <p>27 and 28 January 2021</p> <p>7 and 8 July 2021*</p> <p>8 and 9 February 2021*</p> <p>*Please note change of dates.</p>
Examinations	Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 Year 12 PEQ Year 13 PEQ	7 June to 11 June 2021 7 June to 15 June 2021 11 January to 19 January 2021