

# RGSP August Bulletin

## Some messages from our wonderful teachers:



"Despite only being two weeks into the brand-new school year, the Primary children have already dived head first into their studies and have impressed all staff with their eagerness to learn. Teachers have loved spending time with their form classes, getting to know the children, building strong, valuable relationships and helping them adapt to their new surroundings. In turn, our pupils have loved all the different opportunities presented to them in lessons so far, whether that be Science, Maths, Games, Art and many more. Your children have become mini-Reigatians and have just begun their journey to academic excellence!"

Toby Hancock – Primary Teaching and Learning Coordinator



We have a very impressive building with state of the art facilities, but brickwork and architecture alone do not make a school, children do! The children have settled in well and it has been such a delight for the teachers who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to see their smiling faces every day, having our hallways filled with laughter, and watching new friendships being formed. Your children are a credit to you.

Pastoral care is at the very heart of RGSP and this doesn't stop with the children, it extends to you as our founding families. To ensure that we can care effectively for each and every individual child, it is important for you as parents to start to build a relationship with the homeroom teacher. I encourage you to establish a dialogue and get to know each other, and the best way to communicate with them is by email.

Stacy Ramsay – Primary Pastoral Coordinator and DDSL



## In Search of Praise...

Who doesn't like to hear something positive about themselves? Praise brings affirmation, reassurance, and that warm glow of being recognised. For children, and that warm glow of being recognised. For children, we know that the impact can be quite profound: a few words of praise can lift their confidence sky high. When it doesn't come, it can feel discouraging. Therein lies a real challenge for teachers and parents and it was the eminent psychologist Carol Dweck who reminds us that praise too easily given can be damaging, creating self-defeating behaviour; we can occasionally be too quick to praise results and it is getting that balance right where praise motivates, inspires and builds resilience that is at the core of our schooling here at RGSP.

Traditionally, schools reserve praise for excellence: prize giving, achievers' assemblies, certificates. All important. But what of the child who shows quiet integrity, or who perseveres even when they fall short of first place? This week we held our very first Celebration Assembly, where we began to broaden what we praise and how we praise it. Through our new DOVE Points system, children are being

recognised not only for academic excellence, but also for perseverance, kindness, adaptability, and other character traits that reflect our school values.

At RGSP, we do well at celebrating effort and improvement. Still, as your headmaster I want us all to go further: recognising adaptability, perseverance, kindness, and other character traits with the same seriousness as academic results. Imagine reports that spoke of who our children are becoming, as much as what they have achieved.

As parents and educators, we have a dual role: to give praise wisely and to help young people learn to praise themselves and to feel contentment in their effort, satisfaction in their progress, and pride in who they are becoming. In a world full of polished images of "perfection," that self-knowledge may be the most powerful praise of all.

Enjoy the weekend...you have all done very well!

Mr.Nathan

Prep Headmaster



## The Young Arts Review

Year 4 have been exploring the fascinating world of symbolism. The children have been learning how different cultures use symbols to express ideas, beliefs, and traditions, and they enjoyed discussing the many meanings that a single symbol can hold. It has been a wonderful opportunity for them to think creatively and make connections between art and culture.



Year 6 have been exploring the concept of 'self'. They began by looking at the history of self-portraiture, from the earliest cave paintings through to modern photography. Using examples of famous self-portraits, the children then practised their sketching skills by completing the missing half of an artwork; an exercise that challenged their observation, attention to detail, and creativity.



In Science some of the children have also been classifying Living and Non-living using scientific criteria.....

Whilst some of us just like to chill in Wellbeing Club!



## Lead with Kindness...

The start of our new school year came with a heady mix of nerves and excitement, and that was just the teachers! Alongside new uniform, freshly sharpened pencils, and a colourful set of pristine exercise books, the new school year has also given me the opportunity to reflect with the children on who we really are. In my assembly at the start of the week, the children watched the short-animated film *Snack Attack*. Through the story, the children reflected on the importance of kindness, showing empathy, and not rushing to judge others.

The story follows an elderly woman at a train station who believes a young man beside her is stealing her packet of cookies. Annoyed, she snatches them back and eats them angrily, only to later discover, with embarrassment, that the cookies were actually his all along. It is a powerful and humorous reminder that what we assume to be true is not always the case, and that our reactions to others matter just as much as their actions.

With the children, we explored the following ideas:

- First impressions can be misleading. Sometimes we assume the worst without knowing the full story.
- Kindness makes a difference. Responding with patience and generosity, even when wronged, can transform a situation.
- We all make mistakes. What matters most is recognising them, apologising, and learning from them.
- Perspective matters. Taking time to see things from another's point of view helps us respond more thoughtfully.

The key message was a simple one for us all to reflect upon: pause before you judge, lead with kindness, and try to see the world through someone else's eyes.

I trust that you will all enjoy a relaxing weekend!

Mr: Nathan

Prep Headmaster

## Our little people...

We've had a wonderful two weeks in the Early Years Department, everyone is getting to know each other, slowly learning the routines of the school, and the children are settling in very well. We've focused on exploring our indoor and outdoor provision, and the children have loved playing with the sand, and the water, making the most of the cloudy mornings. We've also had some art activities going on everyday, and it's been great to see the children getting stuck in.

We all added our hand prints to our Early Years Tree to represent our growth as we progress through the year. We've been exploring our 'All about me' topic and the children have been producing some fantastic self portraits and thinking about 'What makes me me?' by Ben Faulks and David Tazzyman, one of our topic books which we will be continuing to explore next week.

Well done fawns, chick, cubs and pango's!



## Teacher Focus



Ms Stacy is our Primary Pastoral Coordinator and Deputy Safeguarding Lead. She is a Y5 homeroom teacher and teachers PSHE and Sport. With almost 20 years in teaching she brings a wealth of pastoral leadership from prestigious UK independent Prep Schools including 5 years as a boarding houseparent and 6 years as a pastoral and operational Deputy Head. She holds a masters degree in Educational Leadership and is passionate about the development of the whole child and ensuring that every child is valued and recognised as an individual.

Originally from Scotland and a keen sports person, Stacy is a former international hockey player and has represented Scotland at numerous European and Commonwealth tournaments.



## August Event Calendar

	Note
31 Jul-01 Aug	Secondary Induction Camp
05 -06 Aug	Primary Induction Camp
07 Aug	EYFS Induction Camp
11 Aug	First Day at School 2025
15 Aug	Secondary Celebration Assembly
22 Aug	Secondary Celebration Assembly
25 Aug	Primary - Meet the Teacher
27 Aug	Poetry Slam
29 Aug	Secondary Celebration Assembly / Celebration birthdays July/August

## September Upcoming Events

	Note
05 Sep	Wellbeing Day / Celebration Assembly
10 Sep	Parent Workshop: Subject Choices & Careers (Years 10-12)
11 Sep	Coffee Morning: Our Co-curricular Vision
12 Sep	Wrapping Num Ansorm Event
13 Sep	Roald Daht Day
15 Sep	House System & Leadership
16 Sep	Coffee Morning: Pastoral Care and Wellbeing / Junior Basketball Boys & Girls
16 Sep-19 Sep	Cultural Identity Museum Exhibition
17 Sep	Secondary meet the tutor evening / Senior Volleyball Boys & Girls
18 Sep	Senior Volleyball Boys & Girls
19 Sep	Lunchtime Concert / Celebration Assembly / Prefects announced / Staff House Badges/ Junior Basketball Boys & Girls
21-26 Sep	Pchum Ben Holidays
29 Sep	House System & Leadership
30 Sep	Parent information evening: Co-curricular - K-12

## Exploring Friction in Action

Our Year 5 scientists have been busy exploring friction in action. Using ramps and toy cars, they investigated how different surface materials affect the distance travelled. The excitement of the races was matched by thoughtful scientific discussion, as the children discovered how friction plays a role in everyday life.

Our Year 5 geographers have also been busy constructing their own mountains to explore how the land rises and falls. By layering and shaping their models, they were able to see how contour lines represent changes in height on a map. It was a hands-on way of bringing Geography to life, and we all enjoyed watching their mountains take shape!

Our Year 4, 5 and 6 boys' football club had the privilege of being the very first primary pupils to use the school's fantastic new football pitch. Under Mr Tyler's guidance, the boys worked hard on developing their dribbling skills before putting them into action in a series of lively small-sided games.



## Little Learners...Big Role Models

In the Early Years Department, we are delighted to welcome two new members of staff, Miss Sreyka and Miss Kanika. They will be supporting mainly in the Reception classes but will also be helping across the whole department. If you see them around school, please do give them a warm RGSP welcome.

This week we also saw our Year 6 pupils paired up with both Year 1 and Reception children for shared reading, showing great patience and encouragement as they supported the younger ones. The younger pupils listened intently, proudly shared their developing skills, and clearly enjoyed learning alongside their older role models. The smiles on both sides did it all!

Meanwhile, in Pre-Nursery and Nursery, the children have been exploring the sensory world around them – investigating different textures, painting with a variety of materials, and making discoveries outdoors as they spotted butterflies and bugs in our school gardens.

We ended the week with some of our youngest children joining the Primary Assembly with Mr Nathan, and we look forward to more opportunities for collaboration as we continue to settle into school life together.



## Connecting Classrooms and Families: Meet the Teacher Evening

Thank you to all who joined our Meet the Teacher evening. It was wonderful to see such strong parent engagement, thoughtful conversations with homeroom teachers, and the excitement our pupils have for the year ahead. We've included a selection of photos from the evening in this newsletter:



## How DOVE Points Work at RGSP

As part of our new Friday Celebration Assemblies, we are introducing a system of positive recognition to highlight the qualities and efforts we most value in our pupils. These are rooted in our school values of Discovery, Opportunity, Virtue and Excellence (DOVE).

Positive Point	Criteria
Praise Point – D.O.V.E	Recognition of verbal praise in the classroom e.g. a great answer to a question asked, being helpful in or out of a lesson, showing kindness and perseverance.
D.O.V.E Merit	Outstanding work over a period of time, above target on an assessment, consistently working hard, a one-off piece of work which goes above and beyond usual achievement.
Leadership Merit	You will be referred by your class teacher to Ms Stacy or Mr Toby.
Senior Leadership Merit	You will be referred by your class teacher to Mr Nathan.
Golden Ticket	Awarded by each teacher once per half term – You will receive this for that real WOW moment.

Through this system, every child has the opportunity to be celebrated and not just for academic excellence, but for the character, resilience, and kindness they bring to our community.

## Pastoral Spotlight - Andrew Warner (Assistant Head & DSL): Student Health & Wellbeing

At RGSPG we're committed to supporting every child's health and wellbeing throughout the school day. Our School Nurse provides professional and compassionate care, and all medical issues or accidents are carefully documented—an incident record is created for each case.

If the School Nurse determines that your child may need further medical attention from a GP or hospital or if your child is deemed to be unwell to remain in school, we will call the priority contact listed on file right away. For all visits to the School Nurse, parents will receive a same-day email with brief details of the visit. Please note that while we aim to send these updates promptly, there may be occasional delays due to the nurse's care responsibilities.

We value clear communication and want you to feel confident that your child's wellbeing is in safe hands at RGSPG.



## Messages from our Heads of Section:

"Hello Parents, The Lower Secondary at RGSPG are off and running! They are adapting to the RGSPG culture and already are transforming into true Reigatians. The evidence is everywhere, from exhibiting discipline by wearing their uniforms properly or moving about the halls in a calm, quiet and orderly fashion to demonstrating empathy by supporting others during our Sport Session and helping others adjust to the new timetables, the transformation is truly taking on well. I look forward to continuing to serve the next generation of Reigatians as the continue this amazing journey." **Joe Costello - Head of Lower Secondary**



"The Upper Secondary at RGSPG are off to a great start! Students are taking part in lessons with focus and energy. Many have already signed up for Co-Curricular activities (clubs) and are showing leadership by putting themselves forward for the School Council. The personal tutor rooms are looking fantastic, with creative and colourful decorations that show pride in their new school. It is clear they are becoming true Reigatians – showing commitment in class, getting involved in school life, and supporting their community. I look forward to seeing them grow in confidence and skills as the term continues." **Andrew Huxter - Head of Upper Secondary**



"Dear 6th form parents, It has been a truly inspiring first week for our 6th Form students at Reigate Grammar School Phnom Penh. They have already demonstrated excellent leadership and have embraced every opportunity presented to them with enthusiasm and maturity. It has been wonderful to see them making full and positive use of the 6th Form Centre, balancing work and social time, and setting a fantastic example for the rest of the school. Younger students are already looking to them for guidance, and today we were delighted to celebrate the first members of our School Council – a proud moment for us all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 6th Form for their attitude, commitment, and the way they have already embodied the values of our school. They are already true Reigatians, and I look forward to seeing how they continue to grow and flourish as we settle into our amazing new school together. I can't wait to see you all next week." **Laura Huxter - Head of Sixth Form**



## RGSPG Secondary Headmistress' Bulletin – Celebrating Identity and Culture

Dear Parents,

We are now in our second week at RGSPG and it has been a wonderful time of learning and growing. Students are starting to feel more confident and comfortable in their new routines. We are proud of how they are settling in and showing kindness and respect around school.

This term, our theme is Identity and Culture. Students have been learning what culture means—how our ideas, customs, and behaviours come from our families and communities. They have also learned that cultural identity is what connects people through shared traditions, language, food, music, clothing, and beliefs.

We have started a special project called the Cultural Identity Museum. Every student and adult at RGSPG

will choose an object or photo that is important to them and write a short paragraph explaining why. This will help us celebrate our school community. Students are also making a family tree or photo collage to explore their heritage. Please help your child choose something meaningful at home.



## RGSPG Secondary Headmistress' Bulletin

The gift of making someone feel seen, through small, thoughtful actions, is one of the most powerful ways we build our school community. Whether it's a kind word, a respectful gesture, or simply showing up with a smile, these moments matter. It was a joy to welcome students from across Primary and Secondary to our very first Head's Birthday Tea, hosted by Mr Nathan and myself. The Sixth Form added their own sparkle to the week by surprising Mr Nathan with a birthday cake during our Friday Celebration Assembly, and even led a light-hearted quiz for staff on Gen Z trends, bringing laughter and connection across generations.

Our shared culture of hard work, kindness, and community continues to grow. It is shaped daily by the personalities, passions, and values of our students and staff. As we move forward, we are excited to deepen our understanding of one another through the upcoming Cultural Identity Museum. Please do encourage your child to talk with you about their chosen artefact or photo. We are curious not just about what they've selected, but why it matters to

them; how it reflects their story, their heritage, and their sense of self.

It is always a pleasure to hear about your children's successes and thoughts from home. Please do get in touch either with your child's personal tutor or with me, if you have any achievements outside of school they would like to share. We also continue to invite parents to join informal parent discussions with senior staff in the com

ing weeks. This could include a tour of the secondary school and some time to share your thoughts and priorities for the year ahead at RGSPG. If you would like to suggest a convenient date or time (during the school day), please email: caroline.hosegood@reigategrammar-pp.edu.kh.

Best wishes,

*C. Hosegood*

Caroline Hosegood

Head of Secondary RGSPG



## From the Art Department:

The Art department is in full swing proving to be exceptionally popular with students. To support their creativity we are seeking to develop a collection of unwanted items such as shells, hats, scarves, baskets etc. Any preloved household item which may have interesting shapes or textures to inspire students artwork would be welcome. Donations can be dropped off by students to A104, or parents may leave them at reception. This collection will support our artists across the primary and secondary curriculum.



## Pastoral Messages:

### Lower Secondary

"It's been another energizing week for our Lower Secondary students, with sport and physical activity taking center stage. From lively training sessions to team challenges, students have shown fantastic commitment, teamwork, and enthusiasm for staying active and healthy. Additionally, the Lower Secondary students had the privilege to witness the Upper Secondary students perform in the first ever Poetry Slam, where students of Ms. Redgrave's class exhibited their poetic talents on the main auditorium stage. A very exciting and intriguing experience it was for all in attendance and we cherish these opportunities to learn from those ahead of us in the education journey at RGSPG" - Mr Joe Costello, Head of Lower School

### Upper Secondary

"Another great week for Upper Secondary; pupils have shown great confidence as they performed in the first RGSPG poetry slam, but also great maturity carrying

forward pupil voice in the Section Council; something we take very seriously. This included demonstrating concern for the wellbeing of their friends, alongside mature proposals for improvements to our school; watch this space to hear how their requests will have positive impacts!" - Mr Andrew Huxter, Head of Upper School

### Sixth Form

"It has been another fantastic week for our Sixth Form. Sport has once again been a real highlight, with students showing great commitment and teamwork. However, the most exciting news is the launch of our new Sixth Form Volunteer Programme. Through this initiative, students are generously giving up their time to support primary school clubs, acting as excellent role models for younger pupils. A huge thank you to all those who have already stepped forward, they are demonstrating the very best of our values." - Mrs Huxter, Head of Sixth Form



## RGSPG Secondary Headmistress' Bulletin – A New Chapter Begins

As we open the doors to our beautiful new school, I am proud and excited to begin this adventure with your children and families. At Reigate Grammar School Phnom Penh, we are building more than just a place of learning, we are creating a community built on kindness, inclusion, and the celebration of every student's story.

This term, our theme is identity and culture. We will explore what makes each of us unique and how our shared values bring us together. Whether you are a student, parent, or member of staff, thank you for being part of this pioneering moment. Together, we will make history and memories.



## Curriculum News



• **Digital Learning:** Students will receive their school email addresses next week. These will help them access homework and class materials on Microsoft Teams. Please encourage your child to check their email once a day.

• **Homework:** Lower Secondary students began homework in English, Maths, and Science this week. Upper Secondary and Sixth Form students should have started to receive homework in all subjects. If your child finds this difficult, please contact their personal tutor - we are here to help!

• **Library Access:** The library is open every day after school from 3:10pm to 4:15pm for quiet study.

• **Curriculum maps:** Teachers are reviewing their curriculum plans now they have taught your children for the first few lessons. We will be sharing an overview of key topics being covered next week, followed by more in depth curriculum spotlights for IGCSE and A Level courses.

• **Biology:** Year 7 and Year 10 students learned how to use microscopes. They looked at their own cheek cells and identified parts like the cytoplasm, cell membrane, and nucleus. Ask your child what they saw—and if they are taught by Mrs Huxter, ask to see their science keyring!

• **Music:** Students explored rhythm and teamwork through drum circles. They also practiced listening skills by identifying instruments, beats, and voices in songs.

## Curriculum Notes – Homework and subject choices

This week we saw students enjoying lunch together, engaging in sports, and settling into their routines. We know adjusting to a new school is tiring and so we started the year with a homework-free week to help students settle in and adjust to their new routing.

Next week students in Lower Secondary will start to receive homework for English, Maths and Science, with other subjects starting the week after.

For students in Upper Secondary and the Sixth Form teachers will start to set homework as needed in all subjects. If your child struggles to keep on top of this, please do let the personal tutor know so we can support your child.

We are closely monitoring students as they settle into RGSPG to identify where any additional support is needed. If we have any concerns we will be in touch to agree a plan of support with you.

For students in Years 10 - 12, we are carefully monitoring subject choices. If you have any questions, please contact your child's personal tutor. We will be in touch with families in the next two weeks to discuss final subject selections before they are confirmed in September.



## Highlights of Week 1:

Our first few days have been full of joy! Students were challenged to bring life into our new school, and they have done so brilliantly.

We began the year with students getting to know their tutors and having time to make new friends. A special highlight was our whole-school assembly, where students from Year 1 to Year 12 sang Make Your Own Kind of Music with confidence and musicality. It was a powerful moment that captured the spirit of RGSPG.



## Highlights of Week 2:

• **Personal Tutor Group Board Competition:** Congratulations to Year 11, who won with a creative and colourful display. All tutor groups did a fantastic job!

• **DOVE Award Winners:** Students were recognised for leadership, kindness, and enthusiasm. Special congratulations to Lucas in Year 9 last week and Dara in Year 11 this week, who each received a Headmistress' Commendation for excellent behaviour and being an outstanding role model for all RGSPG Reigatians.

• **Clubs and Activities:** Over 210 students signed up for clubs! We offer 28 different activities. Well done to the eight students who have joined four or more clubs!



## Highlights of Week 3:

### • Sixth Form Leadership

Our Sixth Form students continue to impress with their initiative and generosity. From leading whole-school assemblies and coordinating ISAAPP sports teams, to volunteering in Primary clubs, they are shaping the culture of RGSPG with energy and purpose. Their contributions this term have been outstanding, and they should feel proud of the legacy they are already building.

### • DOVE Award Winners

This week, we celebrated students who have quietly and consistently embodied our values of excellence and kindness. Whether arriving early, dressing with pride, or setting a joyful tone in the classroom, these students have inspired us all. Their academic dedication and selfless volunteering reflect the very best of RGSPG.

### • Headmistress' and Student Commendation – Mr Joe Costello

It was a pleasure to recognise Mr Costello for his exceptional service to our school community. In addition to his role as Head of Lower Secondary and Business Studies teacher, he has championed our open classroom culture—visiting lessons, celebrating great teaching, and supporting colleagues. His leadership of our sports programme has also secured full ISAAPP membership for RGSPG, opening exciting opportunities for our students.

### • Poetry Slam – Upper Secondary

Our first ever Poetry Slam was a triumph of creativity and courage. Students from Years 9 and 10 performed original pieces to a captivated Lower Secondary audience, showcasing a rich variety of styles and voices. Congratulations to Soneka and Eliza, our overall winners, and thank you to Miss Redgrave for organising the event and Mr Huxter for judging. The slam concluded with a powerful reading of "If I Ever Have Boys" by Daragh Fleming—a moment of reflection and inspiration for all.

### • ISAAPP Sports Membership

We are thrilled to announce our full membership with ISAAPP, enabling RGSPG students to participate in competitive inter-school sports. This term, fixtures will include:

### • Junior Basketball (Years 7–9)

A letter will be sent home next week with details on how students can get involved.

