

Raising Aspirations, Delivering Excellence



The Rochester
Grammar School



Welcome

Dear parents, carers and students

We are all very proud of our school and the way our community of students, parents, staff and governors work together to provide a learning environment for the 21st Century. We are educating our children for a world that is rapidly changing, a world that we expect will be very different by the time they have graduated from university compared with the time they joined us in Year 7. This requires not only an excellent foundation of learning, but also the acquisition of habits of flexible thinking and learning and confidence in solving problems as an individual and within a team. Our innovative curriculum is very much tailored towards meeting individual learning needs; we expect every girl to achieve her full potential whilst she is with us.

In our last Ofsted report, we were judged to be outstanding in every category. We were re accredited by Exeter University as an Advanced Thinking School in October 2019, having retained this status since 2010. We are a Multi-Academy Trust, (Thinking Schools Academy Trust) with seventeen schools across Medway and Portsmouth. These include secondary, primary, junior and infant schools. Our Trust's mission is 'Every young person in our community deserves to have the best opportunities at life regardless of their individual circumstances'. Education is the key to accessing these opportunities and we support and develop every member of our community to:

- Think about their Thinking
- Be the Best
- Shape their Success

In this way Thinking Schools Academy Trust transforms life chances. Outstanding teaching and learning is at the heart of our ethos and we have been recognised by the Department for Education (DfE) as a sponsor for other schools.

We all learn best when we are happy and valued; supported, challenged and encouraged. We want each girl to have a personalised passion for learning, a desire to enquire, to question and to think and to act responsibly. The school aims to nurture successful ways of thinking and effective tools for life.

Finally and most importantly, we believe that every girl is unique: we endeavour to build on the raw talent and energy that your daughter brings, to enable her to achieve personal success.

We look forward to working in partnership with you over the next few years.



Mrs C Brinklow BA (Hons) Msc
Principal

A Community Of Families

Within the school community of RGS, each girl is a member of a House group. During her time in the school she will get to know most of the members of her House, not only in her own year group, but from across the school. Her daily contact with a form tutor will be as part of a smaller division of her house community, containing students from Years 7 to 12.

All new students are 'buddied' with a Year 8 mentor who can closely relate to any worries that they might have about settling in. Students settle very well into the school and within weeks many are eager for positions of responsibility. Student voice is important and, in addition to their own 'House Council' and 'Student Council', girls are represented on numerous other groups and working parties, including the Student Thinking Team.

We aim to nurture the whole student with our mindfulness and wellbeing programme and students have access to a learning support manager and their Head of House to help them settle in.



“The pupils feel it’s an extremely supportive community. There isn’t a person who won’t help you’, says one.”

Good Schools Guide





Furthering Excellence

We are proud of our external examination results; we consistently feature amongst leading schools nationally in performance tables.

High quality teaching and learning, assessment, monitoring and tracking of student progress are at the heart of the curriculum.

Within a secure and stimulating environment we provide personal challenge and enjoyment of learning – the foundations for academic success.

Personalised pathways enable girls to access advanced level courses in subjects in which they choose to specialise. Of course, we recognise that some girls will prefer a pathway that allows them to consolidate their learning at a more orthodox pace.



“The teachers make it fun to learn. They help you to perform to your best ability and improve your knowledge in a fun way.”

Rebecca, Year 7

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Unique & Principled

Each girl has unique talents and abilities, though all share in the need to develop sound, enduring values. Our child-centred education promotes not only academic achievement, but the development of integrity and compassion.

All girls have personal passions and talents, and all develop their own interests through our PREP programme (Philosophy, Research, Experience and Personality) that enables particular academic interests to be demonstrated.

For girls with outstanding talents and/or academic ability, there are exciting and challenging opportunities through our Apex programme. Similarly, for those requiring support in their learning there is a fully staffed support provision to help them gain skills and the confidence to thrive.







A Foundation for Thinking

To be a student at RGS is to be special. We plan for each girl to develop her thinking skills to the full so that she does not only think about Geography, Physics or Mathematics but learns to apply her thinking to the world at large.

We provide all girls with 'thinking toolkits' to map and organise their learning experiences and we have recently been reaccredited as an Advanced Thinking School for the second time.

The tools allow girls to approach their learning in different ways. They encourage flexibility, creativity and critical thinking. Girls will not just ask "What is the right answer?" but "What are the different ways I could approach this problem?"

The school has introduced a dedicated thinking room: the Maya Angelou Thinking Suite for quiet reading, reflection and study. Doubling up as a library, students can use this facility at lunch time and after school to extend and enhance their learning.

Each girl will develop habits of persistence, flexibility, open-mindedness and teamwork, which she will carry with her beyond her time at RGS.



“Cognitive approaches are so embedded in the ethos and culture of the school that it feels as if the school is drenched in thinking!”

Fiona Knapp, Exeter University Cognitive Education Development Unit

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Advanced Technologies

Within lessons girls are expected to be actively engaged, for example using the advantages of the electronic white boards as tools for solving problems and creating ideas.

RGS has multiple state of the art ICT suites, along with excellent facilities where students can work collaboratively using desktops, laptops and various electronic media tools to enrich their learning.



“We use computers in a lot of lessons, for me they help to bring the subject to life.”

Alex, Year 10





MEURY EVANS

Beyond the Boundaries

A school year will offer a kaleidoscope of activities – in the arts, in sport, in debating, and in science and humanities events. There are also opportunities for students to meet with adults from the wider community through work shadowing, Year 12 Careers Fair, guest speakers and competitions.

We also have one of the highest number of students taking the Duke of Edinburgh award at all levels in the country. RGS was announced as a National Citizen Service Champion School in August 2017. Our annual charity dance show “Flair” raises thousands of pounds for charity and students enjoy taking part in Charity Weeks and events throughout the year.

There are a vast array of extra curricular clubs including choirs, orchestra, drama and STEM to name a few. All of these events and activities are invaluable in building a well-rounded individual.



“The school celebrates students’ non-academic achievement, knowing that this contributes to the development of the girls’ enjoyment of school life and to their individual personalities and maturity.”

Ofsted

Transforming Life Chances

We expect all of our students to be in a position to enter our Sixth Form, where they are joined by students from outside of RGS, keen to benefit from our high reputation and standards.

We have a mixed Sixth Form in which all students are enabled to become young adults and to prepare for the full independence of life at university and in employment. From September 2021, all students in our Sixth Form will be studying the unique and prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma. As part of the IB, students study six subjects; three at Higher Level and three at Standard Level. Students also study Theory of Knowledge, complete Creativity, Action, Service hours and a 4000 word essay in an area of their choosing. We are very proud that the Times listed RGS as the top state school in the UK for IB points school in 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Students interested in applying for Medical School or Oxbridge have a tailored programme to give them the maximum chance of success in these competitive areas.

More than half of the year group stand for election as School Officers, and all students participate in some way as role models and as leaders of the school, for example, as academic mentors or as organisers of clubs and events.







Global Perspectives

For over 10 years RGS has been an International Baccalaureate World School, and our Sixth Form programme expects all of our students to recognise that they are 'global citizens'.

Students at RGS will feel part of their community of close friends, they will feel part of their House community, and they are also encouraged to feel part of wider communities, locally, nationally and internationally.

Charitable fund raising enables students to identify with others in need of their support. Cultural visits abroad include exchanges with families in France, Germany and Japan which also broadens their horizons. In 2017, RGS was awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

Students have the opportunity to embark upon World Challenge expeditions to improve the quality of life of communities in less economically developed countries.

At RGS, students are taught the British values of democracy, individual liberty, rule of law, mutual respect and appreciation of those with different faiths and beliefs. We believe that these values are essential for life in multicultural Britain and enable students to understand and reflect upon global issues and events in a principled and balanced way, thus promoting tolerance of all groups and societies. This diversity is celebrated in multicultural week, as well as assemblies and events throughout the year.

As a school that respects global cultures and diversity, we have a dedicated multi-faith prayer room for students to use during lunchtimes.





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