

2 July 2008

Dear Parents

**AS choices and Into the Sixth Course
New technologies and the enhancement of learning at the RGS
Year 12 expectations and induction**

Further to the presentation evening on Tuesday 1 July, I am writing to summarise what was covered and to provide the necessary paperwork for AS and additional course choices, and for the ICT scheme should you choose to participate.

AS choices and Into the Sixth Course

It is hoped that the Into the Sixth course on which your son has now embarked will be useful in helping to clarify his AS choices for September 2008. In addition to AS subjects, boys are being asked to choose an additional curriculum enrichment subject. At RGS we believe in the importance of providing both breadth and depth of study. These subjects will allow boys to further explore their interests as well as support the development of their independent learning skills.

Should you wish to discuss your son's options with a member of staff, please contact Mrs Booth, Head of Year 11 or Mr James, Deputy Headmaster (Teaching and Learning).

Please could you sign and return the two choices forms to your son's Form Tutor or to Mrs Booth, by **Friday 4 July**.

New technologies and the enhancement of learning at the RGS

I hope that you found the presentation helpful and interesting. You should now have an informed understanding of the significance of the scheme in the context of our ongoing strategy to develop ICT based learning and skills which will support your son's learning objectives in school, and especially at home. The scheme is more than an opportunity to acquire an excellent laptop at a very competitive price, although I hope that it is clear that the overall package would be difficult to match in the retail market-place.

Should you wish to participate in the scheme we suggest the following voluntary contributions:

- £100 by cheque, payable to the Royal Grammar School, and returned with the Donation Form. This will act as a security for the laptop which will then be provided to your son
- £28 payable monthly starting in October 2008, with a final donation in May 2010 (making a total of 20 donations in total), as indicated on the Standing Order and Gift Aid form.

Both of the relevant forms are attached. I would appreciate it if you could complete these forms and return them, along with a cheque for £100, to your son's Form Tutor or to Mrs Booth by **Friday 4 July**. If you wish to participate but feel unable to do so due to personal financial circumstances, please write to me in confidence.

The returns will be used to determine the viability of the proposal. In the event that your son does not enter our Sixth Form, the standing order will be cancelled and £100 and submitted forms will be returned to you.

We hope that the majority of boys will take up the opportunity of participating in the scheme and that the letters you have received and the presentation evening on Tuesday 1 July have given you all the information you require in order to make an informed decision. However, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions about the scheme.

Year 12 expectations and induction

The following issues were also raised during the presentation on Tuesday 1 July:

- The pivotal role of the form tutor in your son's Sixth Form career and the importance of punctuality to form period (8.45 am) so that vital information can be disseminated and a positive relationship with the boys developed
- The expectations regarding attendance and appearance (smartly dressed, appropriate hair length, clean shaven) and their position as positive role models for the younger boys of the school
- The importance of having a positive attitude towards Sixth Form study and of effective time management through the use of the Sixth Form diary
- The importance of keeping organised files for each subject. Sixth Formers are asked to bring to school one or two ring binder files which contain a suitable number of dividers for the different subjects / topics / teachers they will have in the Sixth Form. These files should be equipped with A4 lined paper; plastic wallets can also be useful. It is not acceptable for boys just to attend school with paper each day, without any files containing previous notes. In addition there should be separate files for each subject kept at home, again with a suitable number of dividers, in which notes can be filed periodically
- The themes of goal and target setting were also raised
- The academic focus of this coming year was also highlighted, in that the boys are studying for an AS level stand alone qualification comprising of individual modules, examined in May/June and representing either 200/400 or 300/600 uniform marks or half a full A level. Most AS / A level courses are new in September 2008. Year 12 is particularly important in that predicted grades for university courses are inevitably mostly based on these results. In addition, many boys find AS level material more accessible than Year 13 A2 work. Therefore, due to the equal weighting of AS and A2 modules (which combine to give the final A level) it really is vital that boys focus on achieving their very best this year. We anticipate that each student will aim for high grades in his AS levels. However, due to the more challenging nature of A2 work, we stipulate a minimum grade entry requirement of 3 D grades at AS level to move forward into Year 13. We would also expect a positive approach to study and attendance to ensure progress through the Sixth Form
- These issues will be further supported by an induction programme for the boys in September.

I hope this has provided you with useful information. However, please do contact the school if you require any further clarification.

Yours sincerely

Roy Page
Headmaster