

29/09/2022

Dear Parents of Year 8,

Year 8 Academic Evening – Tuesday 11 October, 7pm

As part of our programme to help our students study effectively and prepare them for the step up to GCSE, all students in Year 8 will attend a 'Skills For Scholars' session with independent study mentor William Wadsworth on either Monday 10 October or Tuesday 11 October.

William's interest in advanced study techniques stemmed from his experience of studying Psychology at the University of Cambridge. Having spent days poring over his books to get the grades to go to university, he soon discovered that piling on the hours wasn't necessarily the path to success at degree level. He realised he needed to work smarter, not harder. A lecture on the science of how we learn information and move it into the long-term memory prompted him to read up on the science of memory, learn from experts in academic performance and start to refine his own study habits. Three years later, he graduated with a First.

William's sessions will take place during the school day and last an hour and a half. They will focus on the science of memory, including techniques such as retrieval practice and memory journaling, how to develop resilience and a growth mindset, and how to work at peak concentration. They are designed to reinforce and build on ideas and techniques introduced in study skills sessions the students attended in Year 7.

On Tuesday 11 October, we are holding a Year 8 Academic Evening in the Queen's Hall. The event, which starts at 7pm, will be hosted by the Head of Year 8, Nick Carr, who will discuss the significance of Year 8 within the boys' academic journey through RGS. William Wadsworth will then talk about his sessions with the boys and what you can do as parents to support them most effectively over the next two years of their education. There will also be an opportunity to put questions to William and Mr Carr ahead of the evening using the same online booking system you use to book appointments for Parents' Meetings (see below).

We would be delighted to welcome you to the Academic Evening. Please note that space in the Queen's Hall is limited and this is an event for **parents only**. If you would like to attend, click on this link: <https://rgshw.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to go to the online booking system.

Yours sincerely

James Eve
Director of Studies