

February 2022

Dear Parents and Students in current Year 9

THURSDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES (TAA) ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

As part of their weekly timetable, all Year 10 and Year 11 students take part in one of the various activities offered on Thursday afternoons throughout the school year. We regard these activities as an important part of school life. They are intended:

- To allow extra time for boys to develop skills in areas in which they are already interested
- To offer them the opportunity to try something new and to develop new skills
- To allow them to do something that will be of value to the wider community

Information about the various activities is attached. If you would like any further details about the CCF please contact Squadron Leader Matthews (srm@rgshw.com) or watch the short video [here](#).

All boys should read the list of activities on offer very carefully. I should like to draw to your attention that there are four new activities for next year: Book Club, Croquet, John Muir Award and Politics for Beginners.

We will do our best to give everyone their first three choices (**Year 10 students moving into Year 11 are, however, given priority**) but would emphasise that the numbers for each activity are limited and inevitably some boys will be disappointed. Please note that we cannot guarantee at this stage that every activity will run.

Y9 students: Please complete the google form at this address by 9:00 am on Monday 14 March. NB: This form is only accessible by students. You must give 5 choices in order of preference. *Please note that any applications received after this deadline or without the precise number of choices as indicated above will miss the first cut.*

<https://forms.office.com/r/PXdbr4Fdkh>

Yours sincerely



Miss H R Munday
Assistant Head

Summary of choices – details below

1	CCF Army*	8	Book Club	15	Fives	22	Music
2	CCF Navy*	9	Chinese*	16	Football	23	Outdoor Skills
3	CCF RAF*	10	Cookery	17	French Cinema	24	Politics for Beginners
4	Art	11	Creative Writing	18	Japanese*	25	Social Service*
5	Badminton	12	Croquet	19	John Muir Award	26	Squash
6	Basketball	13	Drama	20	Library	27	SLST*
7	Board Games	14	Fitness	21	Media Studies	28	Tennis
						29	Volleyball (Y9 only)

YEAR 10/11 THURSDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

*** = one-year course. If accepted, you will be expected to remain in the activity for three terms**

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF) *

The RGS has one of the most dynamic CCFs in the country and we run activities for boys on and off-site. The CCF has three Sections: Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. Our aim is to give cadets the opportunity to develop qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, teamwork, leadership, resourcefulness, perseverance and a sense of service to the community. These qualities are useful both in civilian life - to which most go - and in the Services. This purpose is reflected in both military training and adventure training. On Thursdays, Sections train for their cadet qualifications in a way appropriate to each Service. During term time the majority of the training is at School, but the Sections regularly go off-site in the holidays and at weekends. To gain full benefit, a member would be wise to go on the Field Days, Range Days and Weekend / Annual / Adventure Training Camps; these are optional but add greatly to the CCF experience. The Ministry of Defence also run a wide variety of courses for cadets. Promotion through the ranks gives practice in the exercise of genuine responsibility as well as being a very important contribution to the life of the Contingent.

Those who join the CCF are expected to stay in the CCF for the whole year and to participate in all the activities. Please note there is an annual subscription fee according to year group and section which for Year 10 2022-23 will be Army £185, RAF £150, RN £250 including approximately 16 weeks of sailing instruction (which is nevertheless subsidised). The subscription covers Initial Recruits Camp, non-issue kit, boots and administration. If you feel that the cost involved is prohibitive, please contact Sqn Ldr Matthews in confidence and he will see if there is funding available to assist you.

ART

Priority is given to those **not** doing Art for GCSE.

BADMINTON (Autumn/Summer)

Beginners or experienced players – all are welcome.

BASKETBALL (Spring) – NOW FULL / Y9 DO NOT CHOOSE

Beginners or experienced players – all are welcome.

BOARD GAMES

Pit your wits against other players. You will need to have some knowledge if you wish to play chess. All other games (such as Risk, Cribbage, Scrabble, Game of Life, Uno) require enthusiasm but no specific knowledge!

BOOK CLUB & CARNEGIE MEDAL SHADOWING GROUP

Want to extend your reading repertoire? Improve your communication skills? Strengthen your creative and critical thinking? Join the Library Book Club for the opportunity to read and discuss books and authors with other students and the Librarian. We will also be shadowing the prestigious Carnegie Medal, reading from the shortlist, voting for our favourite title and celebrating the winner with a party in June. Books will be supplied by the Library.

CHINESE *

This is a beginners' language course for Y10-Y12 students with an added opportunity to learn something about the culture of China.

COOKERY

Survival in the kitchen! This course is an introduction to the basics of cookery – planning, budgeting, cooking and eating. **There will be a small charge (£15-20) for the ingredients needed.**

CREATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING

This writing course will be a study of the art and the science of written prose. It will cover creative fiction writing (such as short stories, or children's/Young Adult fiction), as well as creative non-fiction writing (such as journalism, looking at a range of article types, or travel writing). There will also be opportunities to meet professional writers and writing tutors during the course, and your writing will undoubtedly improve. The course will be tailored to those who sign up, with topics agreed according to your areas of interest.

CROQUET

Croquet is a game of skill and strategy rather than brute strength - some have likened it to a cross between chess and billiards played outdoors. You can play at any level from purely social to highly competitive.

DRAMA (Autumn)

This is a practical course offering students the chance to create, direct, perform and design their own drama pieces. It will be based on practical exploration of scripted and non-scripted pieces. The chance to see some live theatre will also be offered.

FITNESS

This time provides individual students with the opportunity to develop an area of physical/technical/tactical skill, which will allow them to maximise their potential in their chosen sport. For those in team sports, this could link in with their Individual Development Plans.

FIVES (Autumn/Spring)

There are only 2 state schools in the country where you can play Fives - with 3 Fives courts between them, 2 of which are at RGS! Fives is similar to squash but played with the gloved hand rather than with a racket. There will be the opportunity to play at other schools who have well developed teams and facilities. **If you are in the RGS Fives team and wish to do Fives for 2 terms rather than one, please indicate this on the form (Fives – school team).**

FOOTBALL

For players of all abilities. Played on the School Astros.

FRENCH CINEMA CLUB

If you are interested in developing a knowledge of French cinema, which is a significant and much-loved aspect of French culture, this cinema club could be right for you. We will watch and discuss a wide range of French films, from well-known classics to modern day comedies. Watching authentic French films will also help develop your listening and reading skills and give you a real insight into not only French films but also an important part of French culture.

JAPANESE *

This is a beginners' language course for Y10-Y12 students. You will learn how to talk about yourself, your hobbies, sports and family, as well as covering a topic on shopping, reading a menu and ordering food. You will develop your reading, writing, listening and speaking skills and have the opportunity to find out about the culture of Japan, watch anime and try some Japanese dishes.

JOHN MUIR (ENVIRONMENTAL) AWARD

The John Muir Award is an award scheme focused on environmental awareness. The Award encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment and we are looking to support RGS students to connect with and develop an understating for nature, landscape, and the environment. John Muir's vision is a world where wild places are respected and protected, where nature flourishes and where the value of wildness is shared for the benefit of everyone. Over the course of a term we will look to work towards the John Muir Discovery Award (25+ hours minimum time commitment). This will be based on a specific project within the school grounds.

LIBRARY

This activity is designed for anyone interested in books and in acquiring skills related to the running of a library.

MEDIA STUDIES (Spring)

This is a practical and theoretical course embedded in the industry of Film, Television, Radio and Newspaper publishing. We will be looking specifically at key moments of Film and Television history and the work of one chosen Auteur. We will also be discussing how to read film language and identify mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing and sound. We will discuss innovation in the artistic form through technology. We hope next year to invite speakers in from the industry and potentially take a trip to one of the local studios. This activity is a brief introduction to students who enjoy the visual arts and have an active interest in cinema and the media industry.

MUSIC (Autumn/Spring)

A practical music making and composition session - musical ability on at least one instrument is essential.

OUTDOOR SKILLS

All aspects of expedition and adventure activities will be covered, including advanced lightweight cooking, equipment selection & maintenance, map reading and compass work, safety and dealing with emergencies, environmental issues as well as practical skills to use in the field. **This option is of particular relevance and use to any student who is enrolled in DofE (Silver & Gold level) and who is not already a member of CCF.** Priority will be given to those already enrolled in DofE at RGS.

POLITICS FOR BEGINNERS

Each week we'll look at famous leaders, political parties, ideologies and for all who would like to, you will be very welcome to share your views!

SOCIAL SERVICE *

We aim to encourage boys to have a sense of social responsibility by helping those who are younger than themselves. Boys spend approximately one hour helping children in primary schools or occasionally other organisations such as a library, charity or veterinary surgery. Where possible, boys are placed as near to their own home as practicable. This establishes a useful relationship between the boys and the community in an atmosphere of help and trust. It is much appreciated by the organisations, and the boys receive very positive feedback that they can use for DofE or future job applications.

SQUASH (Spring)

Beginners or experienced players – all are welcome. We are hoping to secure some coaching for this.

STAGE LIGHTING AND SOUND (SLST) *

This is for those who are, or wish to become, members of the Stage Lighting and Sound Team. Students will learn about all aspects of the technical side of theatre, using state of the art technology to help deliver services to a wide range of school events. Whilst the team is very practical and hands on, we also cover the theory behind stage lighting and sound. Among other activities, students can expect to be rigging lights up towers, setting up sound systems for events around the school and learning how to programme a digital lighting control board.

TENNIS

We shall use the courts at Hazlemere Club (Autumn/Spring) and the School Astro (Summer). It is helpful if you can **provide your own racket.**

VOLLEYBALL (Y9>10 only)

Beginners or experienced players – all are welcome.

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Please note that some Thursday Afternoon Activities are approved for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award provided they are undertaken for a minimum of 12 weeks. Boys taking part in the Award should refer to the [DofE Programme Ideas](#) list to confirm which section the activity is approved for. Activity logs are available [here](#).
