

# PROSPECTUS 2016

"The school's work to keep students safe and secure is outstanding. Students report that they feel completely safe in school and comment most favourably on the way that all members of the school community look after one another."

"Students make excellent progress from their starting points because teachers have very high expectations of them. Teachers use their exceptionally good subject knowledge to stimulate students' interest and to inspire them to learn."

"Teaching is outstanding because teachers have very high expectations of what all groups of students, including the most able, can achieve. This, together with their detailed knowledge of students' abilities, ensures that they plan activities which build securely on students' prior learning, helping them to make rapid progress."

*(Quotes from Ofsted Inspection report June 2014)*

**Rainham Mark Grammar School** aims to be a friendly, caring and stimulating community which motivates young people to enjoy learning, participate enthusiastically in wider activities and make the most of their abilities. We were awarded the prestigious "Leading Edge School" status in 2013 for sustained outstanding progress and results, and received "outstanding" grades in all categories from Ofsted in June 2014.

**VISION:** We aspire to and value: Outstanding pastoral care and inspirational teaching that motivates every young person to enjoy learning and achieve their full potential within a stimulating, friendly and healthy community founded on mutual respect.

**MISSION:** Our core purpose is: To provide the best possible learning, support and care, in partnership with parents and the wider community to foster ambition and high achievement, helping students to make a positive contribution to society.

RMGS is a school with values founded on respect:

- Respect for each other and ourselves.
- Respect for hard work and scholarship.
- Respect for diversity of achievement.
- Respect for community and environment.

## Aims

- To enable our pupils to learn about themselves and the wider world and acquire knowledge, understanding and qualifications which will be of value to them through life.
- To provide a stable and stimulating environment within which pupils can develop their intellectual, aesthetic, cultural, social and physical talents.
- To help pupils consider carefully key moral, religious and spiritual aspects of life.
- To prepare pupils to become active, considerate citizens in society and make well-informed choices.
- To have high expectations of individual performance and behaviour.
- To provide stimulating and challenging teaching and learning materials for all pupils.
- To involve parents in supporting their child's learning and the aims of the school.
- To promote equal opportunities.
- To develop all staff in line with the Investors in People (IIP) standards.
- To provide professional support and guidance for those training to be teachers.
- To provide appropriate access for some community activities.
- To maintain a co-educational ethos.

## Objectives

To ensure the curriculum provides appropriate activities and experiences for pupils to develop our aims and meet national requirements and targets.

To develop resources, materials and approaches which fulfil our aim to provide stimulating and challenging teaching and learning materials for all pupils.

To evaluate these resources, materials and approaches which enable provision of stimulating and challenging teaching.

To provide positive reinforcement through clear and fair discipline and recognising and rewarding pupils' efforts and achievements.

To evaluate (and change where necessary) the organisational practices of the school in helping staff and pupils to achieve their aims.

## Admission to Year 7

Admission to RMGS is by tests administered by Medway Council. The Medway tests comprise a Mathematics test, a Verbal Reasoning test and an Extended Writing exercise, and are taken by pupils in September in Year 6 preceding admission in the following September. For full details see Medway's booklet 'Admission to Secondary School – September 2016'.

As a result of the tests children will be deemed either selective or non-selective. Places will be offered first to any selective child with a statement of special educational need where Rainham Mark Grammar School is named.

**Oversubscription:** If the number of RMGS preferences received, via the co-ordinated scheme, from parents of children achieving selective standard exceeds the number of places available the following criteria will apply in the order set out:

- (i) Children in Public Care, as defined in the Medway Coordinated Admissions Scheme to include children who are adopted and were previously looked after.
- (ii) Children who are designated as receiving 'Free School Meals'. Applicants under this criterion must complete a Supplementary Information Form so that checks can be made to determine eligibility.
- (iii) In rank order of score as determined by Medway's Selection Procedure.
- (iv) In the event of two or more pupils having equal ranking for the last place the deciding factor will be the shortest available safe walking distance between the home address and RMGS as measured by the Medway Council Geographical Information System and determined by Medway Local Authority.

The system may seem confusing; RMGS is ready and willing to advise. Mrs Bourne is Head of Lower School at RMGS and if you telephone 01634 364151, she will ring you back to try to help.

Parents are welcome to visit the school – Open sessions will be held on Thursday 8 October 2015 from 5.00pm to 7.30pm and Saturday 10 October 2015 from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Tours of the school during a working day can be taken at 9.00am, 11.00am and 2.00pm from Monday 12 October to Friday 16 October. We are unable to offer additional tours after 16 October. Please contact the school to make an appointment.

## Applying for a place in Year 7

**If your child is at a MEDWAY primary school:** Apply online or fill in the SCAF form found at the back of Medway's Booklet 'Admission to Secondary School' with RMGS named as a preference and return it to your child's primary school by 2 November 2015.

**If your child is at a KENT primary school:** fill in the form in Kent's Secondary Transfer booklet with RMGS named as a preference.

**If your child is at school in any other area:** please contact Medway Council for their booklet by writing to Admissions Team, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR or by telephoning Student Services Admissions Team on 01634 331110.

For entry to Year 7 in September 2015, RMGS admitted an additional form of entry over Published admission number (PAN). (PAN was 175.) The PAN for September 2016 admission is 205.

## Travel costs to and from school

In some circumstances Medway may help with transport to schools. For further details see Medway's booklet 'Admission to Secondary School'.

## Religious affiliations

The school has no religious affiliations in any formal sense: very occasional visits on an inter-denominational basis by local ministers and use of local churches for educational visits are the only connections. Acts of worship are broadly Christian and within the spirit of the 1988 Education Act. As far as possible these are held daily, within assemblies, for all children not withdrawn.

If you ask us to withdraw children from acts of worship or tuition we do that without query. Otherwise, unless a parent so requests, no child is treated differently from another because of religion, race or sex.

## Our policy on sex education and relationships

In the light of the 1993 Education Act our Sex Education programme, has been reviewed and approved by the Governors.

The course is part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) syllabus (which in years 10 and 11 is taught as part of the Ethics course) and the different aspects are introduced at times suitable for our students' physical and emotional development. The course starts in Year 8 and is continued up until their last year in Year 13. This is always taught by members of staff who are alert to the sensitive nature

of the subject. Parents are entitled to withdraw pupils from these lessons.

We aim to provide full, honest information about the physical, emotional and social aspects of human sexual development from conception to old age, including the nature of love, personal relationships and family life. Students are encouraged to make informed decisions and to determine their own values within a moral framework. A more detailed statement is available on request.

## Citizenship

Citizenship Education is delivered across the curriculum in a wide variety of subjects and also through our pastoral work and out of school activities. Students in Years 8 and 9 receive regular citizenship lessons as part of the PSHE course. In Years 10 and 11, it is delivered through the Ethics programme.

## Complaints

Parents are invited to discuss any complaint first informally with the Headteacher or other senior staff. A parent not then satisfied can still take a complaint formally to a panel of Governors which has been established.

## A typical day

The time spent in teaching, including RE but excluding assemblies, registration and break, is 25 hours per week.

8.35 - 8.45	Registration
8.45 - 8.50	Movement time
8.50 - 9.00	Assembly
9.00 - 9.50	Period 1
9.50 - 10.40	Period 2
10.40 - 11.00	Break
11.00 - 11.50	Period 3
11.50 - 12.40	Period 4
12.40 - 13.35	Lunch
13.35 - 13.40	Registration
13.40 - 14.30	Period 5
14.30 - 15.20	Period 6

## Term dates 2016/2017

<b>Term 1 (2016)</b>	5 September - 21 October
<b>Term 2 (2016)</b>	31 October - 21 December
<b>Term 3 (2017)</b>	3 January - 10 February
<b>Term 4 (2017)</b>	20 February - 31 March
<b>Term 5 (2017)</b>	18 April - 26 May
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	1 May
<b>Term 6 (2017)</b>	5 June - 21 July
<b>Five INSET days</b>	5/9/2016, 7/10/2016, 19, 20 and 21/12/2016 (tbc).

## Lower school timetable

The timetable is arranged on a two-weekly cycle. In Years 7 - 9 our 60 periods of each two-weeks are distributed as follows:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Y7</b>	<b>Y8</b>	<b>Y9</b>
Mathematics	8	7	7
English/Drama	8	7	7
Modern Languages	6	10	10
Sciences	8	7	9
Geography	4	3	4
History	4	3	4
Religious Education	3	2	2
Art	3	4	2
Design and Technology	4	4	4
Music	3	3	2
Physical Education	5	5	4
Computing	3	3	3
PSHE/Citizenship	1	2	2

## Unauthorised absence

Figures below relate to Terms 1 and 2  
Academic Year 2014/15

	Reported
Number of pupils of compulsory school age on roll for at least one session	959
Number of pupil sessions	133820
Number of authorised absences	4381
*Number of unauthorised absences	287
Percentage of sessions missed through authorised absence	3.27%
*Percentage of sessions missed through unauthorised absence	0.21%

\*These figures consist very largely of absences that the school has refused to authorise due to excessive holidays being taken during term time.

## School clothing

### Boys

- Black blazer with school badge and house flash
- Dark grey/Black trousers
- Plain White shirt (not polo shirt)
- School tie (clip on)
- Black or dark grey socks
- Black leather upper shoes (not boots, trainers or sandals)
- (Optional) V-necked pullover with double red stripe around the collar (which must be purchased from Rainham Sports or School-Time). (Grey pullover for Years 7 – 9, Black pullover for Years 10 and 11). No other pullover is allowed

### PE

- Plain black shorts
- Plain white shorts
- If there is a foot infection, white plimsolls are advisable for gym/dance
- Trainers (Any colour with non-marking soles. No astro trainers to be worn indoors)
- White ankle socks
- Football socks - plain red
- Rugby shirt, red with white collar
- Football boots
- Plain white tee-shirt or polo shirt
- A towel
- Shin pads
- Track suit (optional) (navy blue, black or grey)

### Girls

- Black blazer with school badge and house flash
- Mid/dark grey skirt (pleated from the waist) OR
- Dark grey/black trousers (which must be purchased from Rainham Sports or School Time)
- Plain white revere-neck blouse
- White ankle socks or black tights with a skirt, black socks with trousers
- Black leather upper shoes (not boots, trainers or sandals)
- (Optional) V-necked pullover with double red stripe around the collar (which must be purchased from Rainham Sports or School-Time). (Grey pullover for Years 7 – 9, Black pullover for Years 10 and 11). No other pullover is allowed

### PE

- Plain Red sweatshirt or with logo from School Time
- Black shorts - not cycle shorts

- If there is a foot infection, white plimsolls are advisable for gym/dance
- Trainers (Any colour with non-marking soles. No astro trainers to be worn indoors)
- Red aertex shirt
- White ankle socks
- A towel
- Football boots (for striking games and football in damp conditions – do not purchase immediately)
- Shin pads
- Football socks – plain red
- Black jogging or tracksuit bottoms

### Boys and Girls

If an outer garment is worn it should be navy-blue or black coat (not denim, suede or leather).

Cardigans are not school uniform. Hooded sweatshirts (“hoodies”) are not an acceptable alternative to either pullovers or outer garments in place of a coat. School bags need to be large enough to carry a number of A4 size folders and textbooks. They must not be deemed a handbag and should not be a drawstring bag unless used for PE kit.

**Jewellery:** The only items of jewellery to be worn in school are plain gold or silver studs (one in each ear lobe) and a watch. These items must be removed for PE and games. No body piercings are allowed. Make-up and nail varnish is not permitted in school. Full uniform must be worn to and from school as well as in school.

### Availability of documents

Copies of documents are held in a public file at the school office; photocopies will be made at cost-price on request.

### Equal opportunities policy

RMGS is committed to the principle of opportunity for all pupils irrespective of gender, race or disability. RMGS aims to be a community within which everyone feels secure. The school is opposed to bullying, abuse, and harassment of any kind. It makes it clear to pupils that:

- no one should have to suffer sexist, racist, homophobic or other abuse
- no one should have to suffer name calling
- no one should have to fear or suffer physical violence
- no one should feel victimised in any way
- it is every pupil's responsibility to ensure that harassment is not tolerated

The motto for pupils is - **if there is a problem share it.**

Reports of bullying or hurtful behaviour will be recorded and followed up. The information will be passed on to the Head of Lower School/Head of Year who will interview those involved and take the necessary action. **The school believes that a pupil must not hit, threaten, harass or set out to make unhappy any pupil lower down the school.** This rests on the belief that older pupils in the school have a responsibility towards those younger than themselves. Any proven breach of this rule will result in a temporary exclusion. However, the school will take seriously a complaint from an older student that there is incitement, teasing, bullying from students from a lower year and will deal very firmly with that.

### Disability and Special Needs Policy

The Governing Body and the Headteacher are committed to providing for pupils who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and to developing cultures, policies and practices which are inclusive. With the right training, strategies and support, many pupils with additional educational needs can be successfully included in mainstream education.

However, we are committed to ensure that the interest of all pupils is safeguarded.

We have in place sophisticated systems to identify barriers to learning and participation, and to provide for pupils throughout the learning spectrum. A dedicated Governor has responsibility for the School's Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision. He/she is supported by a very able Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO), an Inclusion Support Manager and Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) to work with pupils who need some additional help.

We have produced a full disability access plan which will ensure that we will not treat disabled pupils less favourably for a reason related to disability and we will take reasonable steps to ensure that disabled pupils are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to their non-disabled peers.

When changes have been made to the physical environment, we have tried to make provision for those with disabilities. For example, the provision of specialised toilet facilities to serve the needs of two pupils with severe medical difficulties.

All staff receive appropriate training, support and guidance in meeting their SEN responsibilities to their pupils.

## **Governing body's policy for school activities**

RMGS policy is to pay for activities and visits through parental contributions to the School Fund. Obviously we cannot compel you to pay towards visits and we would certainly not treat your child differently according to whether you could or would contribute. But if many parents opted not to pay and/or refused permission for their child to attend, we would have to cancel the project. We positively invite any parent who has difficulty in paying to let us know: we can usually help. For pupils who claim free meals virtually all curriculum related visits and field courses are free.

## **External Qualifications**

### ***Compulsory Subjects taken by all pupils to end of Year 11***

#### ***Exam Specification***

GCSE English  
GCSE English Literature  
GCSE Mathematics  
GCSE A Modern Foreign Language from list below  
GCSE Science - Double award  
or Biology + Chemistry + Physics  
GCSE Religious Studies  
PHSE  
Physical Education

### ***Current option choices in Years 10 and 11 (these may change)***

GCSE Art and Design  
GCSE Business Studies  
GCSE Computing  
GCSE Design Technology: Graphics, Resistant Materials, Food Technology  
GCSE Drama and Theatre Studies  
GCSE Economics  
GCSE French  
GCSE Geography  
GCSE German  
GCSE History  
GCSE or equivalent - Information Technology  
GCSE Music

GCSE Physical Education  
GCSE Religious Studies  
GCSE Spanish  
GCSE Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics (*only available for Express Mathematicians*)  
AS level Classical Civilisation (*for Gifted and Talented students*)

### ***For Sixth Form pupils (Years 12 and 13)***

A level Art  
A level Biology  
A level Business Studies  
A level Chemistry  
A level Computing  
A level Economics  
A level English Literature  
A level Film Studies  
A level French  
A level Geography  
A level German  
A level Government and Politics  
A level History  
A level Information Technology  
A level Mathematics (Statistics, Mechanics and Further)  
A level Music  
A level Music Technology  
A level Product Design  
A level Physical Education  
A level Physics  
A level Psychology  
A level Religious Studies  
A level Sociology  
A level Spanish  
A level Drama and Theatre Studies  
A wide range of additional courses, including vocational A Levels, are available through our consortium arrangement.

### ***Other Qualifications***

BST Sports Leadership Award  
IFS Institute of Financial Services Certificate and Diploma  
Extended Project – AS equivalent  
A range of vocational qualifications via our arrangement at The Howard School

Advanced Extension and Cambridge STEP Examinations as required.

Open University modules (for Gifted and Talented students).

We hope that you find this information helpful – please visit our new Sports Hall and 6<sup>th</sup> Form Block during one of the Open Days.