



YOUR JOURNEY
OUR SIXTH FORM



RGS

WELCOME

The RGS Sixth Form is a truly special place to study beyond GCSE. We provide our students with an exceptional breadth of opportunity, from subject choices to diverse activities beyond the classroom.

We have a fantastic academic record in helping our students achieve outstanding A-Level results, consistently ranking one of best in the North East. Virtually all our sixth formers progress to competitive universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Whatever your strengths, we're here to help you excel and discover your passions for life beyond school.

At RGS, our Sixth Form team is dedicated to outstanding pastoral care. With support from a Head and Assistant Head of Year, form supervisor, personal tutor, and a Y13 UCAS advisor, plus a team of nurses and counselors, we help you grow in character, confidence, and independence.

Life at RGS offers unmatched opportunities in sports, music, drama, and arts, with clubs and societies throughout the week. We encourage students to explore their passions, building skills and qualities for real-world success. At RGS, students achieve top grades and develop kindness, humility, and leadership to make a difference.

With over 350 students, we're one of the largest independent Sixth Forms, yet each student is known and valued. We warmly welcome around 40-50 new students each year from other schools alongside our current Y11 cohort. Our thoughtful induction process ensures that every student feels part of the RGS community and has the opportunity to flourish.

I really hope you that you enjoy finding out what RGS has to offer and I look forward to meeting you in person in due course.



Polly Enevoldson
Head of Sixth Form

CONTENTS

- 5 *Our School*
- 6 *Love for Learning*
- 7 *In the Classroom / The Curriculum*
- 10 *How to Choose the Right Subjects*
- 12 *How to Apply*
- 13 *Bursaries & Scholarships*
- 14 *Subjects*
- 15 *Your Wellbeing*
- 16 *The House System*
- 20 *Your Future*
- 22 *Sport*
- 24 *The Arts*
- 26 *Facilities / Alumni*
- 28 *What Students & Prefects Think*

“

“Students have the freedom to be creative and show their individuality.”

UPPER SIXTH STUDENT



“

*“You’ll leave RGS with passion
and enthusiasm for whatever
you decide to specialise in.”*

LOWER SIXTH STUDENT





“

Everyone’s achievements are appreciated and celebrated. There’s a real sense of community here.”

UPPER SIXTH STUDENT

OUR SCHOOL

We are proud of our heritage and, over time, students and teachers develop a deep sense of belonging that spreads far and wide, forging connections that last a lifetime. RGS students have great ambition for one another to succeed, which is built on their freedom to explore, and a mutual desire to learn and push boundaries in whatever they do.

Teachers with a real passion for their subject provide a stimulating, stretching and appropriately challenging environment for students to discover new ways of thinking and regular opportunities to explore. You will find the RGS Sixth Form an exciting place to study.





“

*Teaching styles keep you
interested and curious.”*

UPPER SIXTH STUDENT

LOVE FOR LEARNING

What is it like to study in the RGS Sixth Form? Ask our students and they will most likely tell you it is exciting, stimulating and fun, with appropriate challenges, an environment where teachers and students share a similar passion for the subjects being studied.

Students are encouraged to pursue their interests outside of the classroom as well, through subject-based clubs and societies. Preparation for lifelong learning is important too, as we encourage a sense of natural enquiry and a good rapport and dialogue with teachers.



IN THE CLASSROOM

Classrooms are purposeful, happy and relaxed. Throughout your time here, you will be encouraged to develop a positive and mature relationship with your teachers, built upon mutual interest, trust and respect, where independent thinking and learning are the norm, and where resilience is nurtured over time.

Intellectual challenge matters most. Students can expect to be pushed in a safe environment and are encouraged to try things, even if it means not succeeding at first.

Our Sixth Form students also benefit from our Complementary Studies, which form part of our Supplementary Enrichment programme, through which students can develop invaluable life skills.



THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is based on the principle that a broad education delivers excellence and success whilst providing students with the skills and knowledge to be able to take advantage of future opportunities. All students will study three A-Levels with some choosing to study four (mostly restricted to those who will study Further Maths). In addition, all students have the option to study courses that broaden, enrich and complement these exam subjects. This includes the Extended Project Qualification, and teacher-designed courses.

There is also a wide programme of Games options, and a series of lectures that are intended to ask challenging questions. These will also provide relevant, appropriate PSHE information and guidance. There is also a programme of talks and activities that provide opportunities to develop practical, hands-on life skills helpful at University and beyond.





“

*“RGS has given me the
tools to succeed.”*

UPPER SIXTH STUDENT

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT SUBJECTS

INTEREST

Make sure you choose subjects that interest you. You are the one who will be studying them in depth, and you will be expected to do a fair amount of work outside the classroom. So, it is much easier if it is a subject you enjoy!

ABILITY

Ask yourself if it is a subject you are particularly good at. Some subjects can be very different at A-Level than they were at GCSE. Although ability is important, GCSE performance should not necessarily be the only factor you take into account when making your A-Level choice.

COHERENCE

Some subjects go well together and will positively complement each other. For example, Physics will be easier if you also study Maths. Some university degree courses will require certain subjects, so remember to bear that in mind.



NEEDING HELP?

If you are uncertain as to which subjects to choose, or which courses to select for university, there is help at hand from a range of people — subject teachers, your personal tutor, the pastoral team, the careers team, and your own UCAS advisor whose role it is to help support you throughout the university entrance procedure.

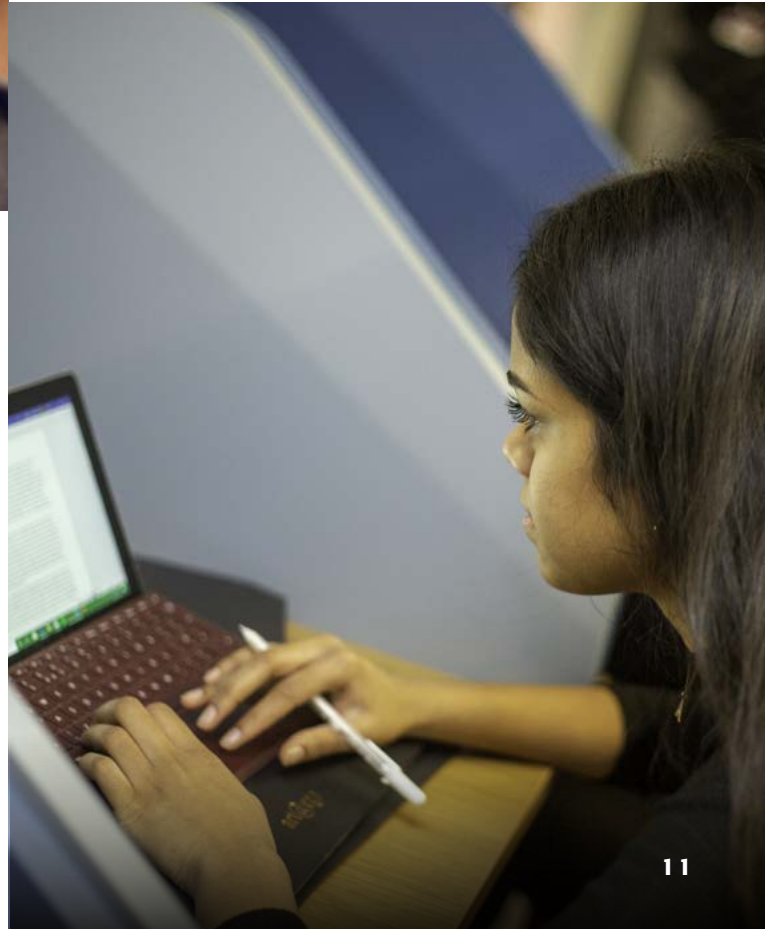


CONTRAST

Don't be afraid to add a contrasting subject to your choices. Although coherence can be important, contrast can demonstrate a wide range of interest and skills.

WORKLOAD

Some subjects are heavily essay-based, or require a significant amount of research. Bear in mind the likely workload when selecting your subject combinations. For **every hour** of timetabled lessons (roughly 20 hours each week, for three A-Levels), students should routinely study **at least** another hour outside of the classroom. Private study time should be spent on homework and independent learning tasks, such as background reading and revision. It is also important that you develop a healthy balance in your life by getting involved in extra-curricular activities.



HOW TO APPLY

For those wishing to join the Sixth Form we will set up an interview (this is formal but not an interrogation). The purpose of this is to find out more about the applicant and explore their interests and talents. You will also take a short web-based aptitude test when you join us for this interview. We will also ask for a recent report and will request a reference from your current school, including forecast GCSE grades.

Interviews will be held from November through to early Spring Term.

Based on information received, we will be offering interview dates to prospective students who can demonstrate evidence that they are at an equivalent standard to grade 7–9 GCSE in subjects directly related to preferred A-Level options. As a result of performance at interview and other information received, (usually eight good (grade 5) passes and at least a grade 7 in preferred A-Level subjects or close equivalents), we will offer conditional places shortly afterwards.

To apply, please fill in our registration form online at:
www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk/prospective-families/admissions

You can also scan below to apply!



BURSARIES

The school is passionately committed to ensuring access to its fast-paced, challenging academic curriculum for boys and girls from all backgrounds. We are grateful to all who have played their part in funding and supporting our Bursary Campaign.

Currently, around 90 students receive bursary help, the majority of those places being funded to the level of between 90 and 100% of fees. If you think you might be eligible for bursary funding, we would strongly urge you to apply. All of our bursaries are means-tested and can provide up to a maximum of 100% of fees. In addition, the Newcastle-based Reece Foundation is generously offering two fully-funded Sixth Form places at the RGS from September 2022. Applications for this places are invited from students in maintained secondary schools with a strong interest in, and aptitude for, engineering as a future career. Details of the Reece Foundation offer can be found on the website www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk/prospective-families/admissions/sixth-form

You can also scan below to find out more:



*“What makes the RGS special
is that it isn’t just a school:
it’s a beginning.”*

LOWER SIXTH STUDENT



SUBJECTS

All of our subjects are linear, which means they are taught as a continuous two-year course. You'll complete an internal exam at the end of the first year, but no public exam until the end of the second year when the A-Level courses are completed. Below is the list of subjects we offer. You can find out more about the specific courses below on our website:

www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk/about-us/sixth-form

Ancient Greek	Latin
Ancient History	Maths
Art	Modern Languages
Biology	• French
Chemistry	• German
Computer Science	• Spanish
Economics	Music
English Literature	Physical Education
Design Technology	Physics
• Design Engineering	Politics
• Product Design	Psychology
Further Maths	Religious Studies
Geography	Theatre Studies
History	



“The best part about being in the Sixth Form is being able to specialise in the subjects I love.”

LOWER SIXTH STUDENT



YOUR WELL-BEING

The happiness of every member of the Sixth Form community is a fundamental priority for the school. We achieve this by creating an environment that is encouraging and supportive, with clear and easy mechanisms for getting immediate help, if needed.

On a day-to-day basis, students work most closely with their Form Supervisor and subject teachers, each taking a front-line role in providing support and pastoral care. In addition, each student has a Tutor who is a key figure in encouraging and supporting their tutees throughout their school career. All tutor groups are organised vertically, each with a small number of students from most year groups, providing opportunities for students from across the school to support one another, share experiences, and develop a sense of responsibility as role models. Dedicated Heads of Year, our own medical team — comprising two nurses and a doctor — and on-site counsellors, complete the comprehensive provision we have in place.

We strive to be proactive in our support and make regular time to work with our students to increase awareness of the pressures and changes that they face as they progress through the Sixth Form, and on into life after school.



“Everyone is welcoming, supportive and makes your time at RGS as enjoyable as possible.”

LOWER SIXTH STUDENT



THE HOUSE SYSTEM



There is a thriving House system, rooted in history and named after four influential characters from the region (Collingwood, Eldon, Horsley and Stowell). It is not difficult to be swept along with the fun and friendly rivalry of a varied and imaginative programme of House events that take place throughout the year and include all sports, music, drama, debating and any others that you may wish to suggest.

House points and trophies are all up for grabs and a lot of fun is had along the way, the overall result being announced during the final assembly of the year.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Involvement beyond the classroom is very much a part of our ethos. You will find that there is a huge range of activities on offer, and teachers will encourage you to try new things and suggest further activities that we might consider helpful. A full programme of music, drama, dance, sport, debating, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and other clubs and societies is available every week and you will be encouraged to take a role in leading and shaping aspects of the programme.

Many students also volunteer to help in the local community: in schools, helping younger children to read, and in a range of other caring activities. This is an option open to all in the Sixth Form.



SHAPING THE FUTURE

If you feel that you would enjoy the opportunity to make some important decisions about your school, be a role model to your fellow students and develop valuable leadership skills, then becoming a prefect may be something you'd like to consider. Many new students to the Sixth Form take on this role. You will have the opportunity to act as an ambassador for the school: welcoming visitors, helping out with events and school assemblies, working with a particular department or running a club or society. In addition, we have a small group of senior prefects who are selected by their peers and staff to take on additional roles and responsibilities led by the Head Prefects.



“

“The opportunities, teachers and facilities are what make RGS unique.”

LOWER SIXTH STUDENT

YOUR FUTURE

An extensive careers programme provides support, advice and guidance throughout the two years of the Sixth Form, helping you to make informed and important decisions about your future beyond the RGS.

We hold a number of events throughout the year including a careers fair, guest speaker lecture programme, and various student-led societies also build their own programme of specialist speakers who willingly take time to come into school to discuss aspects of their profession. This includes those from medical, dentistry, veterinary, engineering, legal and many more diverse professional backgrounds. You will have an opportunity to shape your own programme of work experience, appropriate to the career that you are considering.

For more information, please see the Careers and Higher Education information on our website www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk/about-us/academic/higher-education-and-careers

You can also scan below to find out more:





FUTURE LEADERS

SPORT

There is an extensive range of sporting activities available to all students at RGS. Whether you like competitive sports or you are just keen to improve your fitness, there will be activities for you.

Our facilities are superb and you can make use of them during weekly timetabled Games lessons as well as the many club and team practices.





THE ARTS

If you play an instrument, sing, dance, act or would like to be involved behind the scenes in a production, the RGS has plenty to offer. In addition to all the regular group activities, there are opportunities for students to form their own groups, ensembles, dance and drama activities.



“

“There’s something for everyone, no matter what your interest.”

LOWER SIXTH STUDENT



FACILITIES

RGS boasts a wide range of impressive facilities from our historic and traditional school hall, to state-of-the-art teaching spaces. Our modern purpose-built Sixth Form Centre features individual study pods, a Sixth Form only bank of computers, a space for collaborative working, printing and photocopying facilities and our popular coffee bar, serving hot and cold barista style drinks and snacks. You are welcome to come and see our facilities. To book a tour please email:

admisison@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk



ALUMNI

On leaving the school, we want to encourage you to stay in touch with friends and teachers. The Old Novocastrian Association (the ONA) will help, providing a programme of events, reunions, publications and news to keep you informed and connected. For more information, please visit the ONA website: www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk/rgs-family/on

You can also scan below to find out more



“

“You always feel part of the RGS, even after you leave. The closeness and the relationships you form last a lifetime.”

OLD NOVOCASTRIAN

“

*“RGS provides me with
a more independent
approach to learning.”*

UPPER SIXTH STUDENT

WHAT STUDENTS THINK



JAMES DOOLAN

As a new entrant joining the RGS in the Lower Sixth, I welcomed the challenge of moving to a new school while also stepping up to the hard but exciting challenge of A-Levels. I found it all a very enjoyable transition, discovering my chosen subjects at a much deeper level and also the great opportunity to meet a lot of new, friendly people.

All of the staff at the RGS, no matter what their specific roles, are dedicated to giving every student the best opportunity and support. This ranges from help with friendships through the buddy systems put in place over the summer to the care of the pastoral team inside and outside of school. As students at A-Level are studying their preferred subjects, the teachers engage with the students and really help to grasp your interest in the subject. Staff also work their hardest to make sure every student has an equal opportunity, and no one is left behind. While the step up from GCSE to A-Level can seem daunting and includes a lot more homework and independent study, the transition is made comfortable which really helps you come to terms with the requirements for your A-Level subjects.

Alongside its great academic excellence, the school has a remarkable sports record and incredible sports facilities and opportunities. From the gym and swimming pool to the plethora of sports pitches and sports teams. Outside of my academic life I play rugby in school and found the pre-season training a great time to meet new people before the school term started. Another fantastic place is the Sixth Form common room where you can chat to your friends or complete any work in your study periods. It is a great sociable space and another amazing facility that the RGS offers.

When I leave the RGS I hope to use my chosen subjects of maths, biology and chemistry to facilitate a great pathway to study dentistry at university. I know that the RGS will support me through my time here and even once I proceed on to my career in later life.

CIARA BOADEN

Having been a student at RGS since Year 3, I can say my experiences here have been extremely positive. The school offers countless opportunities through its academic and Co-Curricular activities, with programmes and societies to meet any interest you may want to explore, that also supplement your learning.

As a sports player, the incredible facilities, including state of the art gym studios, alongside the dedicated staff in the sports department, provide me with everything I need for athletic development and growth in my sports.

There are opportunities to represent the school in a wide range of sports, which offer a sense of community, as well as competition through the programme of Saturday fixtures against other schools. The school also runs numerous academic and sporting trips that introduce students to new places, people, and cultures.

There has been a significant change as I've moved into the Sixth Form, most noticeably in workload, but I felt completely well-equipped by the school to start my A-Level courses and enjoy the greater sense of freedom. Whilst there is an emphasis on independent learning at RGS, which develops key skills for the future, I have found that support is available whenever necessary through subject clinics or staff that offer help and guidance.

Furthermore, it is evident that all the staff are committed to creating a positive environment at the school, where students can excel in the many subjects on offer here, that enable them to pursue whatever career path they aspire to follow.



WHAT PREFECTS THINK



IMOGEN

I only had the privilege of attending RGS for Sixth Form, however, in such a short time it has come to hold a very special place in my heart.

It is not only sporting accolades and opportunities that add value to the school but also the incredible performances on the stage; it's clear how widespread and diverse the talent here is. One of my favourite things about RGS, is the way that everyone seems to have found their place.

The teachers all have a genuine investment in helping students to be the very best we can be, and their endless willingness to provide support in any way at all is what makes this school amazing.

There is something about the RGS environment that makes each of us feel like we really can do anything we like, be whoever we want to be and pursue whatever it is that excites us. This feeling is, I believe a rather unique one, and I urge all students to cling to and value it.



HENRY

As my ninth year at RGS comes to an end, I'd like to share some lessons from my time at the school which I'll take with me into my further academic career.

Always say yes. If I have any regrets from my time at the RGS (of which there are very few) it's for things which I haven't done, rather than for the things I have done. This school gives you so many opportunities, many of which only pass you once, so grab them while you can.

Never give up. The reality is that everyone will fail at something in life, for me an example was narrowly missing out on the F1 in Schools National Finals. Looking back, this setback was critical, had we given up, not wanting to risk failing again, then we never would have made it to the next two national finals.

Always be kind. In the words of Maya Angelou, 'people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel'. You never know the impact that what may seem like a tiny act of kindness will have on someone.

We are lucky. Whether or not you are the smartest or the fastest or the most musically talented, you are lucky to have the skills you have. Embrace your talents, seize all of the endless opportunities at RGS and the people you meet, make it count.

VISIT US

You are welcome to come and visit the school when it is most convenient for you.

Please get in touch with our Head of Admissions, Mrs Ali Perry, who will help organise this for you and also guide you through the admissions process.

For more information, email: admissions@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

GETTING HERE

You'll find us on Eskdale Terrace, a short distance from Newcastle city centre.

We are 150m from Jesmond Metro station, which makes getting to the school via public transport very easy.







RGS

Royal Grammar School

Eskdale Terrace

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE2 4DX

0191 281 5711

communications@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

