



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 the 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.

At RGS, our Sixth Form team is dedicated to providing outstanding pastoral care. With support from a Head and Assistant Head of Year, form supervisor, personal tutor, and a Year 13 UCAS advisor, plus a team of nurses and counsellors, we help you grow in character, confidence, and independence.

Life at RGS offers unmatched opportunities in sport, music, drama, and the 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 Year 11 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 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	<i>Our School</i>
6	<i>Love for Learning</i>
7	<i>In the Classroom / The Curriculum</i>
10	<i>How to Choose the Right Subjects</i>
12	<i>How to Apply</i>
13	<i>Bursaries & Scholarships</i>
14	<i>Subjects</i>
15	<i>Your Wellbeing</i>
16	<i>The House System</i>
20	<i>Your Future</i>
22	<i>Sport</i>
24	<i>The Arts</i>
26	<i>Facilities / Alumni</i>
28	<i>What Students & Prefects Think</i>

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

UPPER SIXTH STUDENT



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*“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.





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*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 in an environment where teachers and students share a similar passion for the subjects being studied.

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



IN THE CLASSROOM

Classrooms at RGS are purposeful, happy, and relaxed. Students are encouraged to build respectful relationships with their teachers, rooted in mutual interest and trust. Independent thinking and resilience are nurtured, and intellectual challenge is embraced in a safe, supportive environment.

Our Sixth Form teaching is designed to stretch and inspire. You'll be encouraged to take risks, explore ideas, and develop your own voice – both academically and personally.



THE CURRICULUM

At RGS, we believe that a broad and balanced curriculum is the foundation for success. Most students study three A-Levels, with some opting for four (particularly those taking Further Maths). However, your education here goes far beyond exam preparation.

Our Complementary Studies programme is a distinctive part of Sixth Form life – designed to enrich your academic experience, develop practical life skills, and prepare you for the future.

What's Included:

- **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ):** A chance to explore a topic of personal interest in depth, developing research, writing, and presentation skills valued by universities.
- **Teacher-Designed Enrichment Courses:** Covering subjects like philosophy, global affairs, creative writing, and financial literacy, these courses encourage curiosity and broaden perspectives.
- **Life Skills Workshops:** Practical sessions on budgeting, cooking, first aid, and public speaking help students build confidence and independence.
- **PSHE & Plus Programme:** A programme of talks and seminars provides guidance on wellbeing, relationships, and personal development, alongside thought-provoking lectures from guest speakers and alumni.
- **Games & Physical Activity:** A wide choice of sports and fitness options supports physical wellbeing and balance in students' weekly routines.
- **Voluntary Service:** Opportunities include mentoring younger pupils, supporting local schools, and engaging in charitable and outreach initiatives, helping students develop empathy, leadership, and a strong sense of social responsibility.

This programme is a key part of what makes RGS Sixth Form more than just academic study – it's a place where students are encouraged to explore, lead, and grow.



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*“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. 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 keep that in mind.



NEEDING HELP?

If you are uncertain about which subjects to choose, or which courses to select for university, help is 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.



JOINING RGS SIXTH FORM

We welcome applications from students currently attending other schools and pride ourselves on offering a supportive, personalised admissions process.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- **Aptitude Test:** You'll complete a short baseline assessment during your visit, designed to help us understand your academic potential.
- **Interview:** Applicants who meet the required aptitude standard will be invited to a formal – but friendly – conversation. This is an opportunity to discuss your subject interests, academic strengths, and co-curricular passions – and for you to get to know us.
- **School Reference:** As part of your application, you'll be asked to upload your most recent school report and predicted GCSE grades. For those invited to interview, we will request a formal reference from your current school to support your application.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Students must meet subject-specific GCSE grade requirements for their chosen A-Level courses. These ensure you are well-prepared for the demands of Sixth Form study. Where criteria are not met, we'll guide you towards suitable alternatives.

HOW TO APPLY

Visit our Sixth Form Admissions page:
rgs.newcastle.sch.uk/sixth-form

Here you'll find everything you need – including the A-Level Entry Requirements document, details on arranging a visit, and a link to our application portal.

To apply directly, scan the QR code here for instant access to the application portal:



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 generously offers two fully-funded Sixth Form places at the RGS. Applications for these 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

At RGS, we offer a wide and diverse range of A-Level subjects, allowing students to tailor their studies to suit their interests, strengths, and future aspirations. Whether you're passionate about the sciences, humanities, languages, or the creative arts, our curriculum supports both coherent pathways and contrasting combinations. With expert guidance and the flexibility to explore interdisciplinary interests, students can build a programme that reflects who they are – and who they want to become.

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

- **STEM & Technology:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Further Maths, Computer Science, Design Technology: Design Engineering, Product Design
- **Humanities & Social Sciences:** History, Ancient History, Geography, Politics, Economics, Psychology, Religious Studies, Business Studies (NEW for 2026)
- **Languages & Classics:** English Literature, Latin, Ancient Greek, Modern Languages: French, German, Spanish
- **Creative & Performing Arts:** Art, Music, Theatre Studies, Photography (NEW for 2026)
- **Sport:** Physical Education



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

LOWER SIXTH STUDENT



YOUR WELLBEING & SUPPORT

At RGS, we believe that academic success goes hand-in-hand with personal wellbeing. That's why we place great emphasis on creating a supportive, inclusive, and caring environment where every student feels known, valued, and empowered to thrive.

PERSONALISED PASTORAL CARE

Each Sixth Form student is supported by a dedicated team, including:

- A Form Supervisor and Subject Teachers who provide day-to-day guidance and encouragement.
- A Personal Tutor who oversees academic progress and wellbeing throughout your time in Sixth Form.
- A Head and Assistant Head of Year, offering strategic pastoral oversight and individual support.
- A UCAS Advisor in Year 13 to guide you through university applications and next steps.
- Access to school nurses, trained counsellors and the school GP if required.

VERTICAL TUTOR GROUPS & PEER SUPPORT

Our tutor groups are organised vertically, bringing together students from different year groups. This structure fosters a strong sense of community, encourages mentoring, and helps new students settle in quickly – especially those joining us from other schools.

PROACTIVE WELLBEING EDUCATION

We work closely with students to raise awareness of the challenges they may face during Sixth Form and beyond. Through PSHE, enrichment sessions, and open dialogue, we help students build resilience, confidence, and emotional intelligence.



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

YEAR 12 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 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 you would enjoy the opportunity to help shape your school, be a role model to your fellow students, and develop valuable leadership skills, then becoming a prefect could be an excellent opportunity 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.



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“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 make informed and important decisions about your future beyond the RGS.

We hold a number of events throughout the year, including a careers fair, a guest speaker lecture programme, and various student-led societies also build their own programme of specialist speakers. They willingly take time to come into school to discuss aspects of their profession, including medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, engineering, legal and many more diverse fields. 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.





YOUR GUIDE TO SIXTH FORM

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.



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“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/ona

You can also scan below to find out more



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“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



AYESHA

Joined RGS: Year 3

Studying: English, History, Politics

Leadership Roles: Senior Prefect, Head Student

Co-Curricular Interests: Hockey, Debating, CCF

Sixth Form Journey: A balance of academic challenge, co-curricular breadth, and strong pastoral support

As someone who has been at the RGS since Year 3, I feel that I have been able to fully immerse myself in the community and that everyone can contribute in their own way to form a diverse body. Throughout my time here, I have been surrounded by a wide support network of both students and teachers, who have always been happy to help me with anything I need.



“The school manages to strike an impressive balance between academic excellence, diverse extracurriculars and a strong pastoral team.”

Students are encouraged to reach their full academic potential, which has allowed me to thrive and challenge myself, preparing me appropriately for public exams and future expectations within a university setting. This is complemented by the wide range of extracurricular activities the school offers, where there is always something for everyone.

As a keen hockey player, I enjoy utilising the new school pitch, as well as the other sporting facilities, which aid team development. Between debating, hockey, CCF and various societies, RGS provides many opportunities and has allowed me to flourish in an incredibly encouraging and nurturing environment. This flexibility has allowed me to carve a future driven by my own interests.

The community created at RGS of present and past students is incredibly special, and I feel privileged to be a part of it. Even after I leave the school, I know I will look back fondly on my memories here and will always feel welcomed to return to see old friends and teachers, as well as continue to watch the school grow.



DAN

Joined RGS: Year 7

Studying: Maths, Physics, Drama

Leadership Roles: Senior Prefect, Head Student

Co-Curricular Interests: Drama Club, CCF, Climbing, Badminton

Sixth Form Journey: A discovery of passion, confidence, and leadership through creative and co-curricular opportunities

I joined RGS in Year 7, and looking back now in my final year, I can see how much the school has shaped the person I've become. It was during my very first year here that I discovered my passion for drama, a subject that has grown to become such an important part of my life. The encouragement and support I received from teachers and classmates gave me the confidence to pursue drama further, and now I hope to continue it professionally after A-levels. Without the school's belief in me, I don't think I would have developed the same ambitions or sense of direction that I have today.

RGS has always been a place that encourages students to step outside their comfort zones and try new things. Over the years, I've taken part in activities I never imagined I would, from CCF and running, to climbing and badminton. These experiences have taught me resilience, teamwork, and the value of challenging myself. Academically, my passion for my subjects has also grown, allowing me to explore both the analytical and creative sides of learning.

Beyond the classroom, the opportunities school have provided have been truly transformative. I've been able to develop key skills such as leadership and communication, which have led to roles like becoming Head Boy, leading Drama Club, and serving as an NCO in CCF. Each of these experiences has helped me grow in confidence and responsibility, and they've shown me the importance of giving back to the school community that has given me so much.

Most importantly, RGS has introduced me to some incredible people, teachers who have inspired me and friends who I know I'll stay in touch with for life. The school has a unique way of nurturing both character and passion, pushing every student to discover what they truly care about and to strive for their best. As I look ahead, I'm proud to say that RGS has played a huge role in shaping not only my ambitions but also the person I've become.

WHAT PREFECTS THINK



IMOGEN

Joined RGS: Sixth Form

Subjects Studied: Art, English, French

Co-Curricular Interests: Performing arts, prefect role

Sixth Form Journey: Found her voice and place in a supportive, creative environment

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 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.”

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 that 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 it and value it.



HENRY

Joined RGS: Year 5

Subjects Studied: Chemistry, Further Maths, Physics

Co-Curricular Interests: FI in Schools, leadership roles

Sixth Form Journey: Embraced opportunity, resilience, and kindness as guiding values

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

Always say 'yes'. If I have any regrets from my time at the RGS (of which there are very few) they are for things I didn't do, rather than for the things I did. This school gives you so many opportunities, many of which come only 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 FI 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.”

GETTING HERE: EASY, INDEPENDENT, CONNECTED

RGS is ideally located on Eskdale Terrace, just a short walk from Newcastle city centre and only 150 metres from Jesmond Metro station. This makes us one of the most accessible independent schools in the region.

Our Sixth Form students benefit from the freedom and flexibility of using public transport – whether commuting from across Tyneside, Northumberland, or County Durham. With excellent Metro, bus, and rail links nearby, students enjoy:

- Independent travel that supports maturity and time management
- Reduced reliance on school transport, giving greater control over their day
- Environmental benefits align with our commitment to sustainability

We encourage students to embrace the independence that comes with Sixth Form life, and our location makes that easy. With RGS so well connected, students can enjoy the freedom to manage their own schedules, engage in activities beyond the school day, and take full advantage of everything the city and region have to offer – both academically and socially.







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