



REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

General Information on Reigate Grammar School

Reigate Grammar School is an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged 11 to 18. It is a highly successful, happy and exciting school which aims to provide a broad and balanced education to both boys and girls that will prepare them for the modern world. It has a distinctive character which combines high academic standards with a wide range of extra-curricular activities, strong pastoral care, and a relaxed and unpretentious atmosphere which is unusual for such a high performing school. We aim to educate the whole child, and to offer a broad range of experiences for all.

History

The school was founded in 1675 as a free school for boys. It became an independent Grammar School during the nineteenth century, but after the 1944 Education Act it came under the control of Surrey County Council. On the abolition of the direct grant in 1976, RGS reverted to independent status. At the same time girls were admitted for the first time, initially in the Sixth Form only, but throughout the school from 1993. In September 2003, the school merged with Reigate St Mary's Preparatory School. Reigate Grammar School now numbers 900 pupils, of whom 250 are in the Sixth Form, with another 300 pupils at Reigate St Mary's.

Location

The school is fortunate to occupy three adjacent sites near the centre of Reigate, two for the senior school and one for the Prep School. Reigate is a pleasant and thriving market town in Surrey, just outside the M25 yet with easy transport links to London, Gatwick and the Channel Tunnel. The majority of pupils live in Reigate, Redhill and their surrounding villages, but many come from further afield, including Horsham, Crawley, Horley, and Dorking.

Facilities

The school enjoys superb facilities which have been improved considerably in recent years, including a new Dining Hall, Sixth Form Centre, Mathematics classrooms, Music School and indoor Swimming Pool. A substantial new building containing classrooms and science laboratories opened in September 2011, along with a Fitness Room and new Reception and Waiting Room. In addition to the main school sites, the sports ground at Hartswood, two miles from the school, provides some 32 acres of playing fields, outdoor cricket nets and a floodlit all-weather astroturf pitch.

Admissions

Pupils are admitted mainly at the ages of 11 and 13 via our own entrance examination, with a small number joining for the Sixth Form. The school is academically selective, with around two applicants for every place. Approximately half our pupils come from primary schools and half from the preparatory sector, and the school has an unusually wide social mix, thanks, in part, to our generous Bursary scheme, which provides financial assistance for those unable to afford the full fees. In the most deserving cases, fee remission of up to 100% of fees is available with the generous support of the Peter Harrison Foundation.

Curriculum

The school has maintained its grammar school ethos and puts academic achievement as its first priority. The curriculum is broad and balanced, incorporating both traditional and modern elements: for example, all students in the First and Second Forms (Years 7 and 8) study Latin, but also take Food Technology. All students study at least one Modern Language to GCSE, and separate sciences are available to all. Most students take ten GCSEs or IGCSEs, and three, four or five A Levels, chosen from a wide range of subjects. The Extended Project is also available.

Examination Results

Recent examination results placed us as one of the top co-educational day schools in the country: in 2014, 94 per cent of grades were A* to B and the overall pass-rate was 100 per cent for the 15th year running. All RGS students applying to medical or veterinary school received an offer and secured their place for the second year in a row. At GCSE almost half of all grades secured were A* and 80 per cent were A* or A. The average results for an RGS student included at least five A* grades. RGS far exceeded the national expectations for our students, based on their academic standards when they joined us, placing us in the top group of schools for 'value-added' In addition, a recent report by the Sutton Trust placed us in the top two per cent of schools, based on admission to the top 30 UK universities.

Beyond the Classroom

However, we are equally proud of our extra-curricular activities, which provide an impressively wide range of opportunities, while ensuring that academic potential is fulfilled. We have an enviable reputation in sport, music and drama; large numbers of pupils participate in the CCF and in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme; clubs and societies abound, including (to name but a few) Model United Nations, chess, Japanese Club, Eco-Committee, Pyrotechnics Club and Indoor Rowing; and we encourage students to help those less fortunate than themselves, by taking part in our Community Service scheme, or by raising money for charity - last year the school's Charity Committee raised nearly £25,000 for both local and national charities.

Trips and expeditions are a major feature of life at RGS. These range from visits to local sites of interest (such as Bodiam Castle, London Zoo, or the Imperial War Museum), through outward bound expeditions (often as part of the DofE Award) to places such as the Brecon Beacons and Dartmoor, to more ambitious overseas trips, which in recent years have included Italy, Greece, Moscow and St Petersburg, Washington and New York, and Belize. Language trips and exchanges are encouraged. Sports and music tours are frequent occurrences, and have included Jersey, Ireland, Italy, Belgium, Canada, South Africa, Dubai and Barbados.

Pastoral Care

We value all members of the school community as individuals, and our aim is that all our pupils should be happy at school, in the belief that by being happy, they are more likely to be successful. Within each year group, pupils are under the daily care of their Form Tutor who works closely with other staff, as well as the Heads of Years, and Heads of Sections, to ensure a co-ordinated and supportive approach. There is a Peer Support service, and members of the Upper Sixth act as Mentors to the First Form. For those in difficulty, there is an informal counselling service available through the Chaplain, in addition to an independent counsellor who visits the school twice each week.

Religious Affiliation

The school has no formal religious affiliation, and accepts pupils of all faiths or none. However, it has close links with St Mary's Church, next door to the school, and all pupils and staff attend a Church Assembly each week.

The Staff

There are around 100 members of the teaching staff and approximately 60 support staff. All are highly committed and give freely of their time to help students to achieve their potential.

The school is organised so that each department shares a suite of classrooms or laboratories, and has a departmental office, normally adjacent to its teaching space. Departments are extremely well resourced, all classrooms and laboratories are equipped with interactive whiteboards, and all teachers are provided with laptops. Most departments have either a technician or a (part-time) administrative assistant, and these assist teachers with a variety of tasks.

All departments have access to the well stocked School Library, and to assistance provided by IT Support and the Print Room.

Class sizes rarely exceed 24 at Key Stage 3, 20 at GCSE or 12 at A Level (and are often much less), and the maximum teaching load is 75% (less for staff with responsibilities). We provide full induction for NQTs, enabling them to gain QTS. Professional development is strongly encouraged and generously financed, and staff are frequently successful at gaining promotions to other leading schools.

There is a lively Common Room, with frequent social events and a good balance of age and experience. All teaching staff are expected to involve themselves fully in the extra-curricular life of the school. There is no teaching on Saturday mornings, but many sports fixtures and other activities – such as Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, play rehearsals and conferences – take place at weekends. Reigate Grammar School is a non-smoking environment.