



YOUR JOURNEY OUR SIXTH FORM



RGS

WELCOME

The RGS Sixth Form is a special place to study beyond GCSE. We have an enviable academic record in helping our students achieve outstanding results and virtually all our sixth formers go on to study at competitive universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Whatever their academic strengths, students are well supported to achieve their potential and we provide first-rate careers advice and guidance throughout their time in the Sixth Form.

Our pastoral care is proactive and there is a wealth of support for students from the Sixth Form year team, their Form Supervisor, a personal tutor, and our team of nurses and counsellors. Each student is treated as an individual and we are very experienced with helping young people navigate the challenges of the Sixth Form years with growing independence and confidence.

There are also unrivalled opportunities beyond the curriculum, in sport, music, drama, the arts and the host of clubs, societies and activities that are available throughout the week. At RGS, we believe that those who involve themselves fully outside the classroom also do best within it – make lifelong friends and have fun along the way.

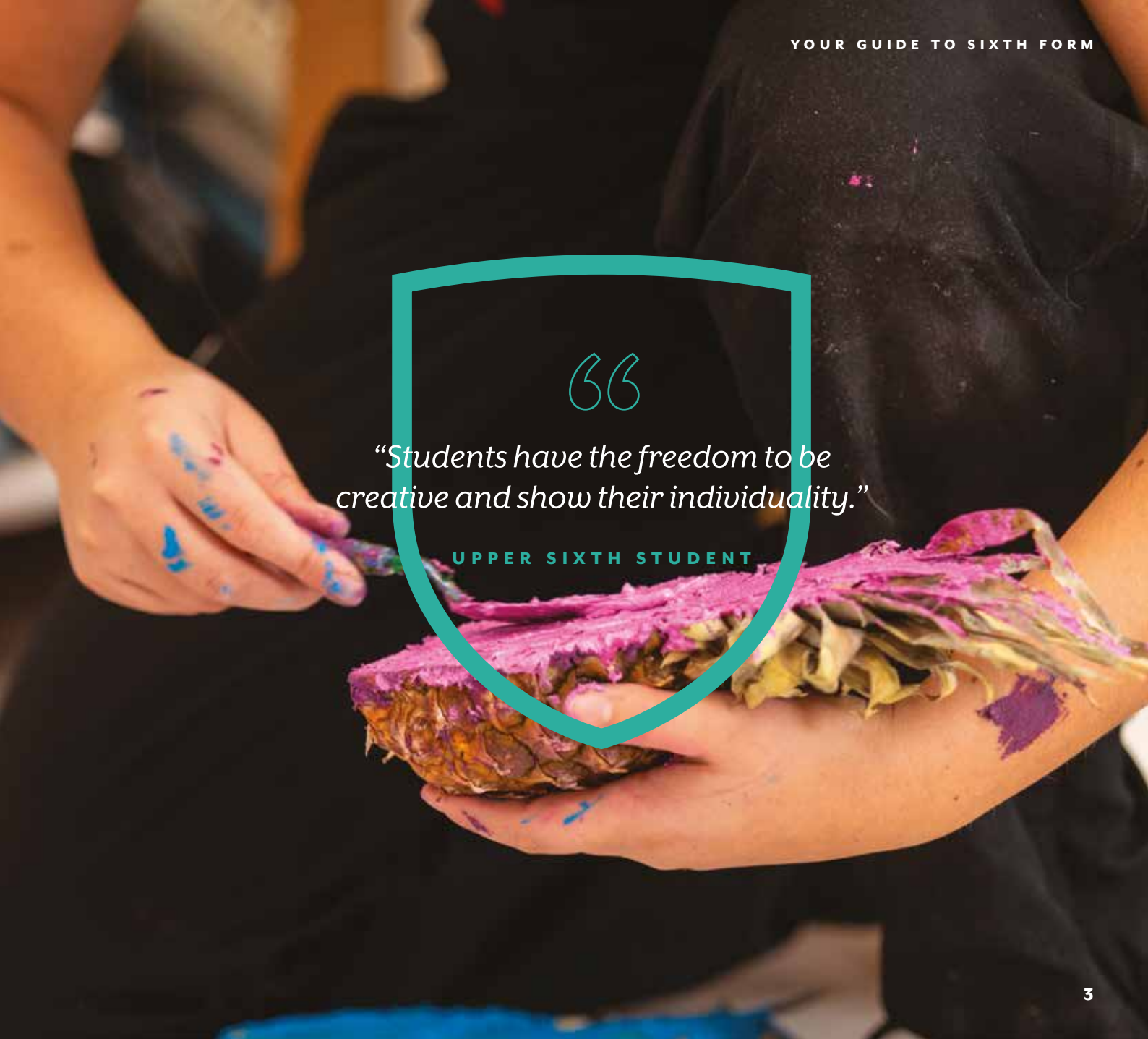
I hope you enjoy discovering what life at the RGS Sixth Form is like, with all it has to offer, and I look forward to welcoming you in due course.



Naomi McGough
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 Think*



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

UPPER SIXTH STUDENT



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

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



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.





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.



“Teaching styles keep you interested and curious.”

UPPER SIXTH STUDENT

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.



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, additional AS subjects 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 and will provide relevant and 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 in University and beyond.

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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. 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.



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.

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.



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 you and explore your interests and talents. We will also ask for a recent report and will request a reference from your current school, including forecast GCSE grades.

There will be two interview dates, one in November and one during 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: www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk/how-to-apply



BURSARIES & SCHOLARSHIPS

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 78 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 a fully-funded Sixth Form place at the RGS from September 2020. Applications for this place 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/reece

It is both humbling and inspiring to see just how life-changing the bursary scheme has been to such a significant number of our former students, which reminds us just how important it is for us to encourage and build upon our bursary provision.



“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. If you would like to know more about the specific courses, please download the Sixth Form course guides from the website.

www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk/sixth-form-subjects

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

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

LOWER SIXTH STUDENT



YOUR WELLBEING

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 of 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.

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“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 Boy and Head Girl.





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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 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/sixth-form-careers



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. Additionally, a new purpose built Sixth Form centre will open in Autumn 2019 with open plan social space, a cafe bar and private study rooms. You are welcome to come and see any of our facilities, please contact us to book a tour.



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, ona.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

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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.”

FORMER STUDENT

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

UPPER SIXTH STUDENT



WHAT STUDENTS THINK



RAIYAN HAQ

Having spent over nine years at the RGS, I openly welcomed the change to Sixth Form – a pronounced step towards achieving my goals in later life and an opportunity to meet lots of new faces, all wanting the same thing – self-advancement.

The teachers at the RGS are simply remarkable. Their ideology of instilling self-belief and their outright dedication to their profession, allows them to use tailored methods which permit students to excel beyond what they imagined possible in Year 11. Additionally, the subject clinics run by each department ensure you are never left feeling insecure in your knowledge.

The RGS offers an extensive list of subjects available to study at A Level: from Ancient History to Art and Philosophy to Further Mathematics. Being a number fanatic, RGS ensures I always have an opportunity to apply logic to complex scenarios.

When I'm not crunching numbers, you're likely to find me in the gym. The school boasts Olympic-grade equipment and extremely helpful fitness staff, so whether you simply want to improve your physical health or train for specific sports, the fitness studios will have you covered.

With being a Sixth Form student comes greater freedom and hence more opportunity to explore life past academia. There are countless leadership and organisational roles one can pursue, namely in the form of various house events. This allows students to create a space whereby they can aid the progression of others within the school and come together to be a part of something larger than themselves.

When I leave the RGS, I hope to combine the mathematical knowledge and methodical thinking process I am currently acquiring to go on to study economics at university.

LUCY CONROY

I recently joined the RGS in the Lower Sixth, following a successful application and interview. The significant transition from GCSEs to A Levels, and from my previous school to RGS, excited me. I felt ready to immerse myself in challenges and opportunities of all kinds, and was looking forward to enjoying the wide variety of clubs and societies on offer.

It takes little time to realise that each member of staff at RGS, regardless of their specialty, devotes themselves to enabling the growth and success of their students. Their passion and determination are constantly evident, whether that be through the zeal with which they deliver their lessons, or the kindness they endeavour to show to all members of our school community. Inside and outside of the classroom, they continually inspire and support each and every student to reach their desired goals.

What really makes RGS unique is the breadth of opportunities available to all. No interest, talent or hobby is ignored – there truly is something for everyone! Each of the clubs and societies are supported by fantastic facilities, trips and even the outside visitors.

To anybody joining the Sixth Form here at RGS, I would say that whilst such a large transition can be an extremely anxious experience, try not to worry or stress too much! The support and kindness of both your fellow students and the wonderful teachers will make the time you spend in the Sixth Form such an enjoyable and successful experience.

My favourite part of Sixth Form so far has been my newfound independence! Being able to lead a much larger proportion of my personal learning in subjects that I love is incredibly rewarding, and with the support from teachers, helps prepare me for later life.

After leaving the RGS, I hope to study professional performing arts. I've been passionate about the arts since such a young age and it has always been my dream to pursue them!



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

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