

Careers Department Information for 5th Year Students 2019-20



Choosing your post 16 options

During this year you will be making important decisions about your future. You will need to choose **where** you want to study and **what** you want to study. Traditionally the majority of our 5th Form students move on to the 6th Form at RGS to study A level courses, but it is important that you are aware of the range of options so that you make a well informed choice that is right for you. **The entry requirements for RGS 6th Form are a minimum of 6 GCSE's at Grade 6 (Grade B equivalent) and it is very important that you have a back-up plan if you or your teachers are concerned that you may not achieve this total.** You can apply to more than one school / college and make a final decision once you have your GCSE results in August.

The Careers Department is here to offer you information, advice and guidance on all your post-16 options and assist with your career planning. There are lunchtime drop ins most days from 1.15–1.45 in the careers room and additionally every student will be allocated a 40 minute careers interview with an impartial and independent Careers Adviser during the Autumn term. **It is very important that you attend at your allocated time** and if it is impossible for you to attend you should ask your form tutor to help you swap with another student as the number of appointment slots is limited.

To make the most of this appointment I suggest you think about the questions listed below before you attend so that you can ask your Careers Adviser for help in the areas that would be of most use to you.

Some questions you need to consider when choosing what to study

- What subjects do I find interesting and enjoyable?
- Which subjects am I good at?
- Are there any new subjects that suit my strengths and interests?
- Which subjects would be essential / useful for the type of course or career I might like to do in the future?
- Which combination of subjects would work well – complementary or contrasting?
- Which subjects best suit my preferred style or learning?
- Which type of assessment do I prefer – exams or coursework?

Some questions you need to consider when choosing where to study

- Which courses are available?
- What are the entry requirements?
- When do I need to apply?
- How will I travel?
- What are the facilities like?
- Where do students progress to after completing their courses?
- Is there an open day? – Find out about the facilities, exam results, reputation, etc.

Your Careers Adviser can give you information and impartial advice and guidance on vocational courses and apprenticeships, as well as the traditional A level courses which are offered at RGS. Copies of prospectuses for local schools and colleges, together with details of their open days, are available in the careers library. We have information on apprenticeship vacancies and you can also check these for yourself by registering on www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide.

In addition, you can contact a Careers Adviser through the National Careers Service for online or telephone guidance. This free service is available daily from 8am to 10pm and can be accessed on <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>.

Further opportunities for help and advice

- You can speak to your form tutor, head of year and subject teachers about your interests and abilities, the range of subjects on offer and the course content.
- You will be participating in a **series of tutorials** within your tutor groups throughout the Autumn term and learning how to access and use **Start, New Kudos** and **Eclips**, three different careers software programmes. You can find out about the type of careers that different subjects can lead on to using the subject links and discover more about labour market information, including salaries and job prospects across the different employment sectors. Log-in details for all software will be given to students during tutorials.
- Attend the **RGS A Level Subject Fair** on **6 December** and speak to current 6th Form students about the courses they are studying. This will be held during school time and is for students only.
- Participate in the **Exploring Pathways and Apprenticeships** event during the school day on **7th February 2020**, when you will have the opportunity to consider the many different routes available to you.
- An opportunity for you and your parents to visit the **RGS Open Evening** on **Monday 20 January 2020** to learn more about the 6th Form and attend presentations by teachers on the A level courses.
- Attend open days at other schools and colleges.
- Discuss your options with your family. They know you well and will be able to help you think carefully about your strengths and interests and how you can achieve your potential.
- Use www.ripongrammar.co.uk/academic/careers as a starting point to research your career ideas. There are links to many useful websites where you can get information about a huge range of careers and courses.
- Use the websites listed below to complement your research.

Make the most of the support available to you and do your own research during the autumn term so that you have all the information you need to **make your decisions during the spring term and submit your application(s) by the required deadlines.**

Useful Websites

<p><u>www.ripogrammar.co.uk/academic/careers</u></p>	<p>A good starting point for all your careers research, with links to many other useful websites.</p>
<p><u>https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk</u></p>	<p>Access to independent online and telephone guidance from a National Careers Service Adviser.</p>
<p><u>https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide</u></p>	<p>Information on the full range of apprenticeships and the facility to search for current vacancies.</p>
<p><u>http://www.informedchoices.ac.uk</u></p>	<p>Advice on the best A level subject combinations for a wide range of courses at Russell Group universities.</p>
<p><u>www.eclips-online.co.uk</u> (Access via website using log-in details given to students)</p>	<p>Information on a huge range of careers, including excellent labour market information.</p>
<p><u>https://kudos.cascaid.co.uk/#/</u> (Access via website using log-in details given to students)</p>	<p>Provides ideas based on what you like and dislike. You can also discover what careers your subjects can lead on to.</p>
<p><u>www.ucas.com</u></p>	<p>Information for students and parents on UK universities and courses.</p>
<p><u>www.venture-uk.co.uk</u> (Access via website using log-in details given to students)</p>	<p>Information for students and parents on studying abroad.</p>
<p><u>http://www.fulbright.org.uk/</u></p>	<p>Information for students and parents on US universities and courses.</p>
<p><u>www.studentladder.co.uk</u></p>	<p>Useful sections on A level choices, work experience, university courses and school leaver training schemes.</p>
<p><u>https://www.careersoft.co.uk/HigherIdeas</u> (Access via website using log-in details given to students)</p>	<p>Invaluable source of information about university and college courses.</p>
<p><u>www.startprofile.com</u> (Access via website using log-in details to be given to students as new careers platform is rolled out to students)</p>	<p>Comprehensive source of information on all career areas, together with personalised student records.</p>