



2023-24

CAREERS EDUCATION,  
INFORMATION, ADVICE AND  
GUIDANCE

**NEWSLETTER**

JULY 2024



# INTRODUCTION

As we bid farewell to another remarkable academic year, we can't help but reflect on the incredible journey we've embarked upon together. It's been a year filled with growth, discovery, and endless opportunities here at RGS. As we approach the end of term, we find ourselves amidst a flurry of activity, with bustling classrooms, bustling corridors, and bustling minds.

This edition of our Careers Newsletter serves as a celebration of the fantastic year we've had, highlighting the myriad events, workshops, and activities that have shaped our academic community. From insightful career talks to inspiring guest speakers, from informative workshops to engaging entrants' prep, we've been busy creating experiences that aim to empower our students and equip them with the tools they need to navigate their future paths with confidence.

In this edition, we invite you to take a journey through the last term with us as we showcase the highlights and achievements of our students and staff. From successful trips to impactful networking opportunities, from skill-building workshops to inspiring industry insights, there's something for everyone to celebrate and be proud of.



We also bid a fond farewell to Miss Hilary Munday, our exceptional Assistant Headteacher, whose exemplary leadership has transformed our Careers Provision into a beacon of excellence. With unwavering dedication and visionary guidance, Miss Munday has propelled our department to the forefront of leading practices in Careers Education. After 45 years of devoted service to our school, Miss Munday is retiring, leaving an indelible mark on our institution. We extend our deepest gratitude for her outstanding contributions, which have shaped and enriched the lives of countless students.

So, join us as we reminisce on the past year's successes and look forward to the promising opportunities that lie ahead. We hope you enjoy this edition of our Careers Newsletter and find inspiration in the stories, advice, and experiences shared within its page.

Mrs Sweta Thakrar  
**Careers Lead**



#### RGS Careers Department Contacts

Careers Lead - Mrs Thakrar [swt@rgshw.com](mailto:swt@rgshw.com)

Careers Administrator - Mrs Morley-Smith  
[fzm@rgshw.com](mailto:fzm@rgshw.com)

U CAS/Overseas Universities - Mr Noyes [snj@rgshw.com](mailto:snj@rgshw.com)

Oxbridge - Mrs Tan [st@rgshw.com](mailto:st@rgshw.com)

Website - [RGS Careers](#)

# UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Below is a summary of upcoming partner events and opportunities that you may want to sign up to, in order to raise your careers profile.

## **Talks/Insight Events:**

- <https://pathwayctm.com/>
- <https://young-professionals.uk/>
- <https://www.withinsightedu.org/school-students#careerinsight>
- <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/astrophysics-supervillains-dastardly-space-questions>
- <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/royal-institution-youth-summit-2024>

## **Work Experience:**

- [https://s3.amazonaws.com/kajabi-storefronts-production/sites/26166/themes/1232409/downloads/5x4XapKgTuOOjPXeQ1gg\\_Candidates\\_Application\\_Information.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/kajabi-storefronts-production/sites/26166/themes/1232409/downloads/5x4XapKgTuOOjPXeQ1gg_Candidates_Application_Information.pdf)
- <https://www.springpod.com/>
- <https://www.speakersforschools.org/>
- <https://www.studentladder.co.uk/work-experience/#>
- <https://investin.org/>

## **Higher Education:**

- University Taster Days: <https://www.unitasterdays.com/search.aspx>
- <https://the-smart-kid.thinkific.com/courses/university-applications-made-easy>
- <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/chemistry/outreach/#Y10%20and%20Y12%20Taster%20Days>

## **Holiday Opportunities:**

- <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/astrophysics-supervillains-dastardly-space-questions>
- <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/extra-date-holiday-workshops-forensics-ages-12-14>
- <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/holiday-workshops-forensics-ages-15-18-0>
- <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/holiday-workshops-computing-cards-and-dominoes-age-13-15>
- <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/holiday-workshops-expanding-universe-knowledge-ages-15-18-0>
- <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/holiday-workshops-where-engineering-ages-12-14-0>
- <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/holiday-workshops-introduction-space-science-ages-12-14-1>
- <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/holiday-workshops-domino-computing-master-class-age-12-14>
- <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/science-sorcery-evening> <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/holiday-workshops-drawing-and-painting-islamic-geometry-ages-12-14-0>

## **Apprenticeships:**

- <https://www.studentapprenticeships.co.uk/>
- <https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/search-jobs/degree-apprenticeship>
- <https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/search-jobs/higher-level-apprenticeship>

# CAREERS IN THE CURRICULUM

## DT ALUMNI TALKS

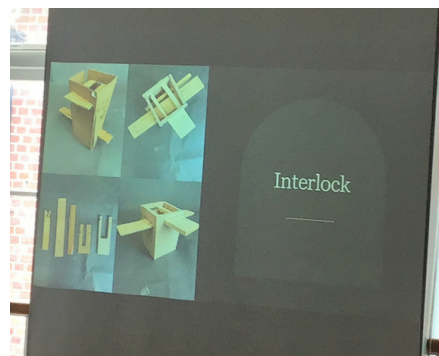
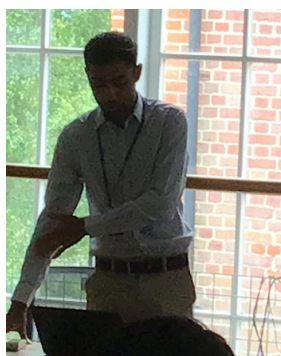


In the realm of Engineering, a field in which a vast number of students are interested, our Head of Design Technology, Mr. Marshall, organised a number of captivating talks featuring esteemed alumni.

Jacob Pompe, a distinguished graduate, shared insights into Systems Engineering, unraveling the complexities of design processes and problem-solving techniques.



James Knight, an automotive engineering enthusiast, took the stage to explore the fascinating world of automotive engineering, offering glimpses into the latest advancements and future trends in the industry.



Abhay Kaura, RGS' last Head Boy (Class of 2023), returned to deliver a talk about his first year at QMUL and DT elements that make up this exciting degree course including robotics engineering, software engineering, data science, product design and engineering mathematics. Abhay also discussed future career opportunities as well as providing an insight into university life.

# CAREERS IN THE CURRICULUM

# MDV UPDATES



Our Biology Department recently had the pleasure of hosting Muneeb Javed, a current Medicine student at Kings College London, alumni of RGS, for an insightful talk on the pathway to a career in Medicine.



Mr Rowe-Elliott, who heads up Biology and MedSoc, supporting all our aspiring Medics to get into a Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary pathway (our MDVs), welcomed Muneeb back to share his insight and advice as someone who, not long ago, was in their shoes.

Our recent UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) preparation event was also a hit with our aspiring Y12 MDVs. Through intensive workshops and practice sessions delivered by an expert, participants gained essential skills and strategies for success.

As a National "Centre of Excellence in Careers", it was a privilege for RGS to welcome students from neighbouring schools to join us in gearing up for the UCAT exam. It was inspiring to see students from diverse backgrounds unite in pursuit of their medical aspirations.

Following the tremendous success of last year's event, we're thrilled to announce the return of our MMI Mock Interview Evening for aspiring MDVs on Tuesday, 1st October 2024. If you're from a Medic/Health background and would like to volunteer for this speed interviewing event, we'd love to hear from you! Get in touch at [careers@rgshw.com](mailto:careers@rgshw.com) to be part of this invaluable opportunity to support future medical professionals.

# CAREERS IN THE CURRICULUM

## ENGLISH TALK



Ms. Bradley from the English Department enthusiastically welcomed Matt Nice, a former Royal Marine, to demonstrate the many career paths an English degree can unlock.

Matt, an Oxford graduate in English Language and Literature, served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now a security specialist with a background in close protection, he spoke to students about how his English studies helped his career. Critical thinking, communication, and cultural awareness gained from his A Level and degree proved useful in his security role, aiding in report writing, client communication, and understanding diverse environments.



# EDUCATION ENCOUNTERS

Under the DfE Education Encounters programme, our teachers embarked on thrilling industry visits, empowering them to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world applications. Immersed in various industries, they witnessed first hand how concepts taught in the classroom are used in the professional world.

Equipped with this insight, our teachers returned enriched, ready to inspire and empower students by demonstrating the relevance and impact of their lessons in practical contexts. Stay tuned as they infuse their experiences into their classroom teaching, igniting a deeper understanding and passion for learning among our students.



Ms Sudakaran's visit to Wycombe Hospital NHS Trust will provide valuable insight into real-world applications of medical knowledge, enhancing her ability to convey complex concepts to her students in a tangible and relatable manner. It made her realise the multitude of professions available in the UK's biggest employer and the vast range of pathways the NHS offers.

In turn, Mr McDonald-Smith's encounter with Amersham Hospital offered him firsthand exposure to diverse medical practices and patient care approaches. This experience will enrich his understanding of healthcare systems, enabling him to incorporate broader perspectives into his teaching and empower his students with a comprehensive understanding of healthcare delivery.

Miss McDonagh's visit to the National Film and Television School equipped her with valuable insight into use of the English language in film and television, offering innovative methods and perspectives to enhance her teaching approach and ignite a passion for storytelling and communication in her students.

Dr Goodier and Mrs Byrd had a combined trip to BAM and Align JV providing them with an invaluable opportunity to explore interdisciplinary connections, enriching their understanding of construction management practices and fostering innovative approaches that they can integrate into their teaching to prepare students for the evolving demands of the industry.

The DfE Education Encounters have significantly benefited our staff by fostering professional growth and collaboration. These sessions have provided valuable insights, practical teaching strategies, and a platform for sharing best practices, thereby enhancing overall teaching effectiveness and enriching the careers educational environment.

## Y12 UCAS FAIR

The UCAS Higher Education and Apprenticeships fair in April proved to be an invaluable experience for our Y12 cohort. The fair provided a comprehensive platform for students to explore various higher education options and apprenticeship opportunities available to them after completing their A-levels.

Throughout the event, students had the chance to interact directly with representatives from universities, colleges, and apprenticeship providers. This direct engagement allowed them to gain insight into different academic programmes, entry requirements, campus facilities, and extracurricular activities offered by each institution.



Moreover, attending the fair enabled students to clarify any queries they had about specific courses or career paths, aiding them in making well-informed decisions about their future academic and professional endeavours. Exhibitors included Oxbridge, Imperial, Kings, Bath, Birmingham, Warwick and many more, all popular destinations for RGS students .

Overall, the UCAS Higher Education and Apprenticeships fair provided our Y12 cohort with a valuable opportunity to explore a wide range of options and gather essential information to support their future aspirations. The event was not only informative but also inspiring, motivating students to pursue their academic and career goals with confidence and clarity.







# Y9 CAREERS ACTIVITIES DAY

On the 7th June, 100+ Year 9 students participated in an exciting and enriching Careers Activities Day, designed to equip them with a variety of essential skills for their future endeavours. The day was packed with diverse workshops and activities that both engaged the students and provided them with practical knowledge and experiences directly relevant to the workplace and their futures.

## Outdoor Skills Building

Students tackled teamwork, logical thinking, and collaboration challenges, skills vital in any professional setting.



## Public Speaking Workshop

By mastering effective communication, students gained confidence in presenting ideas: an essential skill for leadership roles and workplace interactions.



## STEM Workshop

Students explored STEM fields, fostering curiosity and innovation, crucial for careers in technology, engineering, and science. They also had a hands-on session, putting STEM skills into practice.

## Going to University Workshop

Understanding higher education pathways equips students to make informed decisions about their academic and career journeys.

## Managing Money Workshop

Financial literacy skills are essential for personal and professional success, preparing students for financial responsibilities in their future careers.

# Y11

# WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK

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Year 11 students have eagerly embraced their work experience week following the conclusion of their GCSE exams, venturing into a realm of diverse opportunities. From bustling offices to dynamic hospitals, they've immersed themselves in real-world settings, gaining invaluable insights and practical skills.

Their journey wouldn't have been possible without the steadfast support of individuals like Dr. Gary Davies, Hospital Medical Director at Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS and Asif Akhtar Partner at KPMG and RGS Alumnus, whose unwavering commitment to nurturing young talent has opened doors for RGS students time and again. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to such volunteers for their dedication and generosity in providing placements that enrich our students' educational journey and prepare them for the challenges ahead



Examples of current Y11 Work Experience destinations include:

- Datchet Water Sailing Club
- Cisco
- Delfont Makintosh Theatres
- Hester Architects
- St. Helens College
- Deal Tree Health Centre
- Q2 Pharma
- The University of Warwick

By participating in work experience, students gained practical exposure to professional environments, developing essential skills, gaining industry insights, and clarifying career aspirations, thereby enhancing their readiness for future academic and professional endeavours.

# CAREERS PRIZEGIVING

RGS, as a National Centre of Excellence, has taken the initiative to introduce Careers Education Prizes both and Junior for Prizegiving, marking a significant milestone in the educational landscape. This was aimed to recognise and celebrate the achievements and efforts of students in their career exploration and preparation endeavours, and those that raised their profile via such initiatives.

By starting such a programme, RGS has demonstrated a commitment to nurturing students both academically and in their personal and professional development, equipping them with the necessary skills and guidance to navigate their future career paths successfully.

This pioneering effort has set a precedent for other schools to follow suit, emphasising the importance of integrating career education into the broader educational curriculum to better prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of the modern workforce.



The very first winners were:

- Krish Chopra (Y13)
- Jacques Bonnefoy (Y13)
- Sakhran Shaker (Y11)
- Emad Haroon (Year 9)
- Yuvi Wilkhu (Year 8)
- Max Mo (Year 7)
- Najam Bashir (Year 7)

As pioneers in receiving such recognition, these students have contributed to shaping the culture of career education within the school, laying the foundation for future generations to follow in their footsteps and strive for excellence in their own career journeys.

Thank you to RGS' corporate sponsors, Azets Beaconsfield, for sponsoring this prestigious and innovative award.



# CAREERS - NEW ADDITIONS

## WALL OF FAME

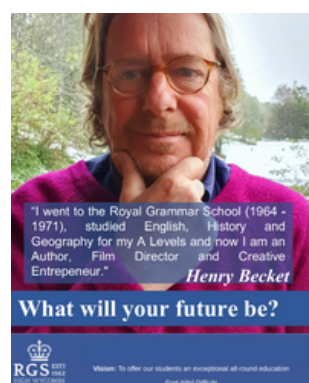
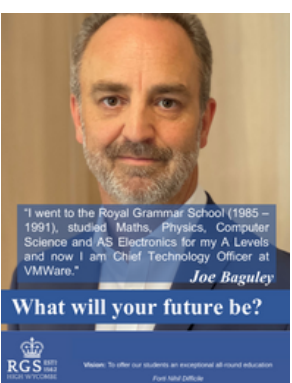
### We're thrilled to unveil our latest addition: the RGS' Wall of Fame!

This remarkable showcase celebrates the achievements of our esteemed alumni, highlighting their inspiring journeys post-RGS. Each display tells a unique story of success, from groundbreaking accomplishments to thriving careers in various fields. It's a testament to the limitless possibilities that await our students beyond our school walls.



As we gaze upon these shining examples, let's be inspired to reach for the stars and dare to dream big. Together, we're creating a legacy of excellence and ambition that knows no bounds!

The display is located outside the Queen Elizabeth II's Memorial Sixth Form and Careers Hub. Do have a look at your next visit to RGS!



## FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!

Exciting news! The Careers Department is now on Instagram. Follow us at [https://www.instagram.com/rgshw\\_careers/](https://www.instagram.com/rgshw_careers/) for updates and opportunities! 🌟



# PREFECTS

We are incredibly excited to announce the appointment of our new Careers Student Leaders: a Senior Prefect and two Prefects, who have been carefully selected for their unwavering dedication, exceptional leadership skills, and steadfast commitment to excellence. They embody the spirit of service and are poised to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our school community. Congratulations to these outstanding individuals on their well-deserved appointments!

To our outgoing prefects, Krish Chopra, Jacques Bonnefoy, and Prathik Kannan: Your contributions have been invaluable, and we extend our deepest gratitude for your dedication and leadership during your time at RGS. As you embark on new journeys beyond our school, we wish you all the best and continued success. Farewell and thank you for your service!

My name is **Hassan**, and I am proud to introduce myself as your Senior Prefect for Careers! An aspiring international or human rights lawyer in the making, I study Geography, History, and Politics, and I have a strong passion for each of these subjects. Outside school, I enjoy Tae Kwon-Do and singing. If you would like to speak to me you can find me in the Sixth Form Centre or in and around the Geography Block, and obviously near the Careers Hub!



My name is **Nirmit** and I am a Prefect on the new academic year's Careers Team. I am aspiring to study Economics at university, and I am currently studying Maths, Economics and Politics. Outside academics, I am a passionate hockey player and enjoy playing instruments. If there are ever any questions, please feel free to drop me an email ([18NNihal@rgshw.com](mailto:18NNihal@rgshw.com)) or come to the Sixth Form Centre.

My name is **Max**, and I am excited to introduce myself to you as one of the new Careers Prefects! I am an aspiring entrepreneur, which aiming to start my career in the finance world, currently studying Economics, Maths, Geography and Psychology. Outside the school curriculum, I enjoy golf and the gym, which I spend most of my free time doing. If you would like to speak to me, you can find me in the Sixth Form Centre and in/around the Maths block.



# PUPIL ZONE

Welcome to the Pupil Zone, where we highlight the exciting adventures of our students! This section is dedicated to showcasing the incredible hands-on experiences that help shape their future careers.

**Oliver**, in Y12, shared:

I completed 3 days of work experience with the company Dense Air based in Marlow. Dense Air are a mobile network operator who build, deploy and operate networks on behalf of companies such as EE and Vodafone. They have an engineering team of around 100 developing hardware, software and network applications.

The first day, I worked with the data science team. The company has developed a data and analytics platform which gathers information from crowdsourcing, web scraping and manually logging. My task was to compare data, such as building dimensions, between the analytics platform and Google earth views of building structures and assist the platforms building classification rules and algorithms.

Days 2 and 3, I worked one on one with the lead mechanical engineer, who is designing a 5G access point. I created a concept design for the cable routing to simplify the manufacture of the product. This was an interesting challenge as the cables carry high frequency radio waves, so my design had to ensure minimal crossover to limit interference. I used SolidWorks and a detailed CAD model of the product to produce a presentation which was shared with the product manufacturers.

All in all, I had an amazing time, learnt a lot about real-world engineering. I would highly recommend getting work experience in a field you are interested in.



**Rufus and Seth** in Y11 shared:

Recently, I took part in a virtual insight day at Santander Bank with my friend Seth. We were able to take part in this stellar opportunity during school hours and our teachers were very helpful and supporting in this, even providing us with our own area in the 6th Form building. We both found the entire day very useful in carving out potential working opportunities and encourage more students to take part in such things.

The day focused on career paths to achieve your personal goals and how you could best suit yourself to stand out in the financial world. I would totally recommend this to anyone who is thinking about applying

Not only this but we received a certificate to prove our attendance which looks very good on a CV and can help us stand out when applying for placements after 6th Form.



**Salil**, in Y11, mentioned:

During my 3 day work experience at KPMG I learnt about the vast and varying opportunities within professional services firms:

\*Digital Transformation \*Employer's character \*Variety of roles \*My interests & my career \*Character skills \*Routes \*Excel/Powerpoint Skills

I gained extremely memorable and valuable insights into the Professional Services industry, particularly in digital transformation and the Global Business Services (GBS) team, which highlighted the rapid implementation of technology like generative AI.

I had the opportunity of exploring a variety of career paths within KPMG, finding consulting particularly appealing due to its blend of technical skills and strategic impact. An inspiring highlight was learning about an accountant's journey from a school leaver to an assistant manager, showcasing the company's support for professional growth as well as different paths available. Essential values for success at KPMG include problem-solving, teamwork, empathy, and continuous learning. Thinking about how you display these values can make the difference and stand your application out in these great roles.





# CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

A dark blue rectangular graphic with a circular cutout on the left side. Inside the circle is a photograph of a large, red-brick building with a clock tower, identified as The Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe. Below the photo, the text reads: "Sweta Thakrar, Careers Lead, The Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe". At the bottom left of the circle are logos for RGS High Wycombe and Challenge Partners. To the right of the circle, white text reads: "SHARING LEADING PRACTICE: Leveraging Careers Student Leaders and Alumni to Elevate your Careers Programme." Below this, it says "National 'Centre of Excellence in Careers'" and "25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024".

**SHARING LEADING PRACTICE:  
Leveraging  
Careers Student Leaders  
and Alumni  
to Elevate your  
Careers Programme.**

Sweta Thakrar,  
Careers Lead  
The Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe

RGS HIGH WYCOMBE  
CHALLENGE PARTNERS

National "Centre of Excellence in Careers"  
25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

As a key initiative within RGS' status of Centre of Excellence, Mrs. Thakrar delivered a National Training Webinar to Headteachers, Assistant Heads and Careers Leaders at 20 schools across the country.

The focal point of this educational session was to empower these schools with actionable insights on how to enhance the effectiveness of their careers programmes.

One key aspect emphasised during the webinar was the use of Career Student Leaders, known as "Careers Champions" at RGS. These student leaders play a pivotal role in driving initiatives within the careers programme. They organise events, provide peer support, and offer guidance to fellow students. By harnessing the potential of these student leaders, schools can create a more dynamic and inclusive careers environment.

Furthermore, Mrs. Thakrar highlighted the significance of alumni engagement in enriching the careers programme. Alumni can offer valuable perspectives, share their experiences in various industries, and provide networking opportunities for current students. Leveraging the alumni network can greatly enhance students' understanding of potential career paths and facilitate connections that may lead to work experience or employment opportunities.

The overarching aim of the webinar was to equip schools with the knowledge and strategies necessary to elevate their careers programmes to an "Outstanding" level. By implementing the insights shared during the session, schools can create a more robust and holistic approach to career development, ultimately benefiting their students in their future endeavours.

Mrs Thakrar has also been providing support internationally, currently advising a school in Taiwan on how to replicate the RGS Careers Education "best practices" into their settings.

**Thank you for your support in a fantastic year for  
the Careers Department at RGS!  
Have a restful summer!**



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