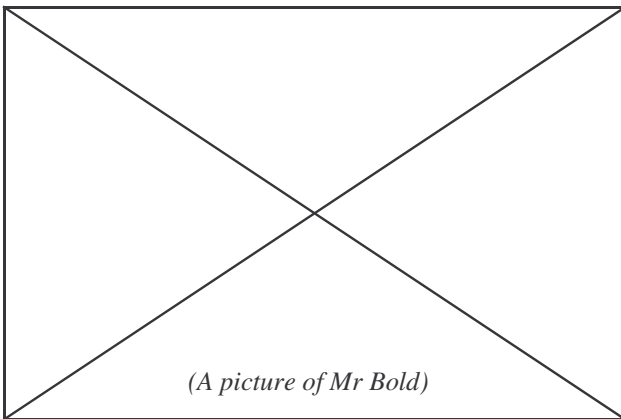


# Inside Mark

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## New Staff on the Block

As many of you will have seen, there are many new faces around the school this year. Starting in this issue we will bring you some of the facts behind those faces.



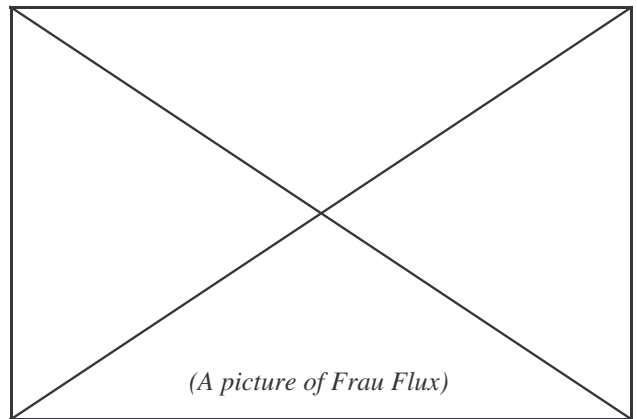
### Welcome Mr Bold! (and his alien blood!)

One of the new teachers in the Science Department this year is Mr Bold. Having joined us from Greenacre School; we asked him how he has settled in, and how he has found pupils at RMGS. He was very positive about the school and the students; saying he found them *“very enthusiastic”*.

As we interviewed Mr Bold, he was “very enthusiastically” running Chemistry Club. He found time to tell us that two of his favourite pastimes were playing football (which you can read about in this issue’s staff football story) and skiing.

If you want to find out more about Mr Bold, and exactly what is meant by his “passion for alien blood”, why not go along to Chemistry Club—you could even get to make your own alien blood! Chemistry Club runs on Wednesday lunchtimes, find Mr Bold in the M block for more details.

Reporter: Richard Richardson



### Willkommen Frau Flux!

After saying “Auf Wiedersehen” to Mrs Thomas last year, we meet the new German teacher, Frau Flux.

Frau Flux is a multi-talented linguist from Dartford, she is able to teach both French and German. As well as languages, Frau Flux also liked Geography when she was younger (which wasn’t *too* long ago).

Frau Flux got her German degree at the University of Kent. Many of her pupils appreciate her style, one student said *“German is now more fun, and easier to learn.”* Another commented, *“Frau Flux is really good.”*

In her spare time (teachers do get *some*), Frau Flux enjoys swimming. Finally we had to ask the *most* important question; “If you were a biscuit, which one would you be?” There was no hesitation—Custard Cream. Great choice!

Reporter: Christopher Morris

## The Head Boy...

Every year at RMGS, year 12 and the staff vote for who they would like to be prefects. The male and female with the most votes then become the Head Boy and Girl respectively. Andrew Pryde was elected head boy this year, I interviewed him to see what his new job entails—I asked Andrew how he found out that he had been selected as Head Boy. Andrew said:

*“I was on holiday in Greece with my mum and brother over half term. My dad phoned to say that a letter had come. I asked him to open it and he told me that it said I had received the most votes and would become Head Boy.”*

I then asked Andrew what his main responsibilities were as Head Boy. Andrew said that they were:

- To be a part of the School Council, and meet with Mr Decker.
- To give speeches, such as on Open Day.
- To show guests and prospective students around the school.
- To attend a school governor’s meeting.
- To generally help organise the Rock ‘n’ Roll show.

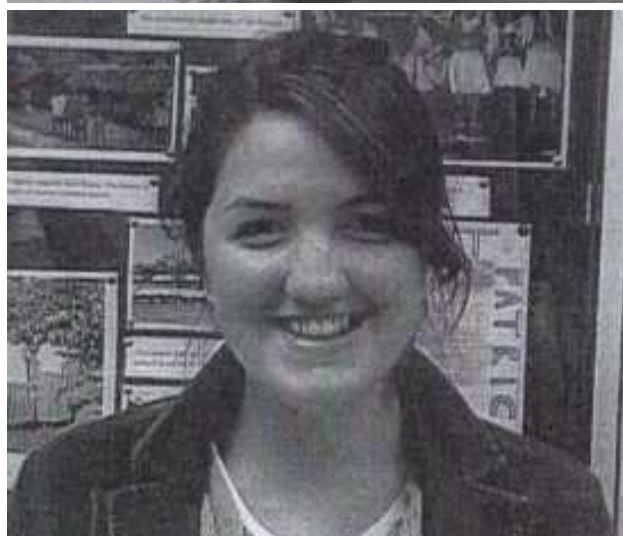
Andrew is a major asset to the school, but I wondered if this responsibility came at a price. Andrew said that the disadvantages were: *“It involves a lot of commitment, such as giving up lunchtimes etc.”* Andrew was quick to point out the perks of the job though: *“I get access to the prefect room, I have a sense of responsibility. I love my form—they are really funny. I get lots of respect from teachers and it looks great on my UCAS form!”*

Overall, Andrew really enjoys being such a major asset to the school, and enjoys the responsibility and respect he receives from the job. I asked him if he had anything else to add, and he said:

*“I really enjoy the authority and respect that I get from being Head Boy. Most of all I love the fact that I get to give something back to the school.”*

Everyone is grateful for the work the Head Boy, head Girl and prefects do, and we would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” to the team.

Reporter: Hannah Bradley 13C



## ...and The Head Girl

I spoke to Elizabeth Rayment, who is the school’s Head Girl.

*“I was very happy when I found out,”* she told me. I asked her what being Head Girl entails: *“I don’t have a large number of duties, but I did have to give a speech on Open Day.”*

Aside from being Head Girl, I asked Elizabeth to tell us a bit about herself as a person. She told me her favourite film was ‘Notting Hill’ and that she enjoys RMGS, and was pleased to be Head Girl at Medway’s top secondary school.

Hopefully this has helped shed some light on an issue many students didn’t know much about. Having Head Prefects provides younger students with figureheads, and hopefully ones which they can relate to as fellow students. It is something to aspire to, and any student should know that with hard work they too could have this title bestowed upon them.

Reporter: Mark O’Sullivan 13G



# Test The Teacher!!!

## RE Vs Geography



In this issue Miss Mehaffey, RE teacher extraordinaire, takes on Mrs Pilgrim, geography genius, as the two teachers are tested on each other's subjects.

### Miss Mehaffey

- Q: What is the smallest continent in the world?  
Miss M: Australasia **Wrong!** (Antarctica)
- Q: The Northern Hemisphere is generally more sparsely populated than the Southern. True or False?  
Miss M: True **Wrong!** (False)
- Q: Which is the largest; the Pacific Ocean or the North Atlantic Ocean?  
Miss M: Pacific **Correct!**
- Q: What do the Oceanic Crust and Upper Mantle together make?  
Miss M: <Pass> (the Lithosphere)
- Q: What is the highest mountain in Africa?  
Miss M: Mt. Everest **Wrong!** (Mt. Kilimanjaro)
- Q: In the past, demolishing large areas of a city was known as urban renewal. True or False?  
Miss M: False **Wrong!** (True)
- Q: What is the most populated city in Europe?  
Miss M: <Pass> (Moscow)

### Mrs Pilgrim

- Q: How many times a day do Muslims pray to Allah?  
Mrs P: 3 **Wrong!** (4)
- Q: Who was the first Sikh Guru?  
Mrs P: <Pass> (Guru Nanak)
- Q: Many Hindus have a large tombstone detailing their life. True or False?  
Mrs P: False **Correct!**
- Q: In the Islamic religion, from what material was Adam created?  
Mrs P: <Pass> (Clay)
- Q: In Christianity, which angel became a devil upon their exile from heaven?  
Mrs P: Satan **Half Right!** (we were looking for Lucifer, but Satan gets a half mark)
- Q: Some religious people believe that tea and coffee should be avoided. True or False?  
Mrs P: False **Wrong!** (True)
- Q: Muslim attitudes to war and peace are based on the teachings of which book?  
Mrs P: The Koran **Correct!**

A distinctly below average performance from Miss Mehaffey means she has been graded F, while Mrs Pilgrim managed an E, and wins!

## Oooh La La!

Students in Year 9 and above will remember the last time RMGS Music Department went on tour—to Belgium. This year the department is going to conquer one of the largest cities in Europe—Paris!

The party, which consists of nearly fifty students left school on Tuesday the 19th of October. The students were all very excited, as well as nervous about performing in front of lots of people.

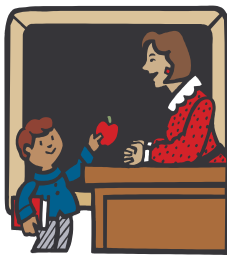
Some of the excitement is about room allocation rumours, there is a worry that there will be limited choice when it comes to sharing rooms. The possibilities of sharing with a stranger have alarmed some of the musicians.

Some students, however, are looking on the bright side; *“when I went to Germany I was sharing with two girls I didn’t know very well,”* remembered one student, *“but by the end of the week we were really good friends.”*

The Music Department have been rehearsing hard, staying behind after school until 5pm several nights a week to perfect their performances. Pieces include “Jammin’ with Charlie” which some might remember from last year’s Year 9 Prizegiving, and “AM to PM” which will be performed by “Popstars”.

It promises to be a great trip and we hope to have all the details—the highs and the lows—for you in the next issue of Inside Mark.

Reporter: Alison Clarke



## The Fruits of Labour...

Most schools have a system by which they reward pupils for doing good pieces of work.; be it merit marks, house points, or commendations. Each stands for the same thing, and each represents an outstanding piece of work.

As you all know the opportunity to collect commendations for your hard work is available, although the further up the school you go, the less people seem to care about commendations.

Last year the commendations of year sevens were counted up and the two top commendation collectors were Laura Matthews and Robert Richardson. Who are now in B8. I interviewed both students, starting with Laura.

Laura gave me some good tips, she said *"I do my homework on time and spend the recommended amount of time on my homework."*

*"I do my homework on time and spend the recommended amount of time on my homework."*

Robert said: *"Always learn your language vocabulary, because the teachers always set tests, and if you do well then you get a commendation."* Both students agreed with this, and commented that most of their commendations came from the French teacher, although Laura also got a fair few from her Maths teacher.

It is also highly recommended by Laura and Robert that you do your best to collect the most commendations because the top collectors each receive an Easter egg, and WH Smith vouchers. Perfect really as you won't need to fork out for money on stationery for the forthcoming year.

So a little advice to pupils is that work really does pay off, and the whole world hasn't been lying in order to trick us into working harder! You get what you give, and commendations should definitely be collected proudly. Well done Laura Matthews and Robert Richardson.

Reporter: Stephanie Clark A10

## Labs! At last!

Its been a whole half term, but finally the new science labs are ready! The final touches are being added, and students and teachers will be moving back straight after the half term break.

Inside Mark has managed to get a tour of the renovated rooms, which are more colourful, practical, modern and just nicer to be in than before. All the rooms are now complete with interactive whiteboards and lots of brand new equipment. The colour schemes for the new labs were chosen by the technicians, with M2 being allocated dark red, M5 summery yellow and M7 grey.

The technicians will be working round the clock to move all the equipment out of the storage container and back into the rooms for class use after half term.

Problems with the building contractors had led to the delayed finish, but the wait was well worth it. The new laboratories are equipped with everything the students need, and will hopefully inspire even the most reluctant of students to enjoy science.

For the students who have been stuck in the Portacabins (or Portalooos as they are loving known) there are mixed blessings. The upside being that with Winter approaching the need for central heating was becoming paramount, while on the downside some pupils may notice less experiments and practical lessons. This, we can reveal, is because the teachers' way of guaranteeing a lesson in an actual lab was to book a practical lesson and thus ensure they get a lab.

Hopefully with all the newly equipped lessons teachers will soon be back in the swing of things, and able to make the most of the school's Science College status!

Reporter: ???

## Roughing It!

Picture this: You and your friends are in a tent, in a field, miles from home, almost totally independent. The dim glow of a torch illuminates the faces of your peers, the laughing and friendly banter of others can be heard just outside. This is something you can achieve!

Over the last few years many pupils have taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Course. The preparations for this are taken as extra-curricular activities in school, though the course itself must be completed out-of-school, and in the pupil's own time.

To complete the course, the participant must do a physical activity, a skilled activity and a service activity. Each of these must be done for a certain amount of time, and can include a variety of choices. For example for the physical section; football, dancing, tennis and netball are all acceptable. For the skill section you can do anything from playing an instrument to making jewellery. Lastly, for the service section you can do volunteer work in, for example, a vets, nursery or even by helping plant trees and other plants! The choices are endless!

The final part of the course is an expedition whereby each participant, in a group of 4-7 people, takes part in a camping weekend; pitching tents and cooking on a gas burner—that's the fun bit!

Overall the course is exciting and rewarding. Although there is a small cost, it is well worth it. Once you have done the Bronze award, you can move onto the Silver and Gold courses.

Reporter: Stephanie Clark A10



## Chelsea Top Scorer!

It's not often that Ice Hockey gets a mention in the media, or in conversation; it's less often that's women's Ice Hockey is brought up. However, here at RMGS we have our own rising star, who we feel deserves a mention.

Year 11's Chelsea Meaney, who plays for the Invicta Dynamics (the female branch of the Invicta Dynamics), recently excelled at the British Ladies tournament in Swindon—finishing as top scorer for the entire tournament!

The tournament, which is held annually, at the Swindon's Link Centre Ice Rink, is comprised of teams from both the Women's Premier League and from the North and South Division One. The Dynamics compete in the South Division One, and were therefore competing against stronger teams from the Premier League.

Chelsea scored a total of four goals, and four assists (where a player passes to another player who then goes on to score) in just eleven games. During the day an "Interhouse 16's Challenge" was staged between "white shirts" and "red shirts". In this contest Chelsea was voted most-valuable-player.

Despite finishing seventh out of eleven the Dynamics were in third place by scoring ranks. The team must be congratulated for their efforts, especially as they only had a squad of nine, compared to other teams who had more than 15. A special set of congratulations though for Chelsea, for her excellent performances. Lets hope she goes on to great things in the future—Winter Olympics Turin 2006 Watch Out!

Reporter: Luke Fisher



## The Doctor Returns!

With the departure of Mrs Horstrup for maternity leave, Sixth Form control returns to Dr Akehurst—starting after half term.

Dr. A. commented "I'm pleased to be back!" Although he also added he was pleased that it wasn't going to be for too long! We wish him, and, of course, Mrs Horstrup good luck!



## Aachen 2004

From the 21st to the 24th September 2004, approximately 50 pupils, along with 5 members of staff went to Aachen in Germany—and it turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable time.

On the 21st of September, at 7:00 everyone piled onto the coach to leave for Northern Germany. Hours later, having passed through Dunkirk, Lille and Le Mons we crossed the German border and arrived in Aachen.

On arrival, we checked into the Jugend-Gästehaus and were given a prep talk with helpful information, such as: if you lose your room key then you must pay €35 for a replacement, and that you could not smoke unless you were 16.

After a very enjoyable dinner, the teachers failed miserably in trying to tire us out by walking into the centre of Aachen.

The following morning, after breakfast, everyone went to the David Hanseman Realshule, where we spent two lessons in with the German student—Crunch time for people who had paid attention in their German lessons! Once we had eaten our lunch in the town we set off for a guided tour of Aachen Cathedral. We were meant to complete some worksheets, but since the weather was so bad, this was impossible (what a shame!). In the evening we had dinner at Mc Donalds, and all went to "bed".

On the Thursday, which was the 23rd, we drove to Cologne where we had a tour of the Chocolate Museum—and ate a free sample (or two)! We also had a guided tour of the Cathedral, and some time for shopping. Following this we drove to Dreiländereck, where you can stand in three countries at one—without moving! After the evening meal we all worked on our projects, with prizes awarded to the best three.

Friday came, and it was time to go home, which was a terrible shame. We had all had a great time, and would like to say thank you to Mrs Gardener for giving us such a wonderful opportunity to skive off school! (And of course learn a valuable cultural lesson...)

Reporter: Rylan Williams

Look out for the next issue of Inside Mark  
(produced by Övermark) due out shortly  
after Inside Mark release their next issue!!!  
Alternatively keep up-to-date via  
[www.overmark.vze.com](http://www.overmark.vze.com)

# FOOTBALL SECTION



## CUP SUCCESS FOR YEAR 9

A drizzly Friday afternoon played host to the eagerly awaited English School's Association Cup First Round fixture between RMGS's Year 9 team, and Glyn Technology School, Epsom.

*What Friday?*

RMGS, following a recent string of impressive results (no less than four wins to five games), were confident despite not knowing the quality of Glyn's players.

From the start RMGS were the more purposeful side; probing the right flank through a silky approach play from Stephens, Beard and Clark.

Patient in their build-up, RMGS sprayed the ball around and were unlucky not to open their account; with Proctor and Slade going close to breaking the deadlock. *What deadlock?*

Despite all their efforts, and some excellent work from Glyn's shop-stopper RMGS went in 0-0 at half time. Heartened by what he, and the many spectators, had seen; Manager Johnson asked for the same again in the second half.

After another flurry of chances, and further acrobatics from Glyn's keeper and finally RMGS took the lead through Hawkes. Due to the well organised back four of Stephens, Read, Rothery and Claughan; Glyn Tech. was restricted to a series of half chances, indeed it seemed as if RMGS might double their lead—after a mazy run from Slade led to an agonisingly close strike.

However, it was Glyn who next had cause to celebrate after a skilful curled free kick flew marginally wide of Alder's outstretched hand to make it 1-1. Five minutes later Glyn had done it again, and with a clinical finish from the Centre-Forward the scores were 2-1.

Lesser teams might have crumbled at this stage, but RMGS admirably battled on, spurred by an enthusiastic crowd. They were first to the ball, after 10 minutes of attacking play Procter found himself free just outside the penalty area, and unleashed an unstoppable ball into the foot of the net. The crowd roared.

Capitalising on a shell-shocked defence, RMGS took the lead from a corner, with a far post header from Slade. Procter rounded off the scoring three minutes later, much to the crowd's delight.

With a final score of 4-2, this proved to be an exciting cup tie that aptly epitomises the spirit and enthusiasm of the Year 9 team. Although its hard to single out individuals, Procter and Claughan deservedly shared the Man of the Match award. *Um... if we got 4, and they got 2, how is it a tie?*

*"In addition to being immensely proud of the team, I would like to thank all those who braved the weather and supported the team. We eagerly await the arrival of Edenham High School (Croyden) or Ravensbourne School (Bromley) in early November." Manager Johnson.*

Reporter: ???

## STAFF FIGHT BACK IN 8 GOAL THRILLER

***Last Friday (when?) the RMGS Staff Football Team made a sensational comeback against Greenacre School. Trailing 4-0 at half time, the staff team fought back to level the scores 4-4 at the final whistle!***

Things looked bad before the game had even started. Manager, Mr Bold, had selection problems, meaning some players were called up straight from the injury bench! Mr Johnson (Achilles), Mr Russell (Calf), Mr White (Knee) and Mr Gascoine (a bit tired) were all required to play despite their injuries. As well as this Mr Stacey, Mr Decker and Mr Wilson were all unavailable due to coaching arrangement, meetings and child care (respectively). With a goalie position up-for-grabs Mr Johnson was given the gloves, much to the disappointment of the other teachers. All this change in the line-up did not bode well...

In the first half RMGS had a few chances, Mr Curtis-Brignell slipped the ball though to Mr Russell for an early opening ... but the Greenacre keeper blocked well. Down at the other end, poor marking at a corner allowed Greenacre to take an early lead. Soon they were two up, when defensive frailties allowed the Greenacre forward to slide past an advancing Mr Johnson.

A rare RMGS corner saw Mr Russell header the ball into the bar, almost immediately after Greenacre went three up following a goal mouth skirmish that left RMGS with a mountain to climb in the second half.

Mr Bold's literary masterpiece of a half-time speech: *"We need to score a goal."* clearly inspired the team, as within minutes of the re-start a right wing cross into the box was volleyed home by Mr White. Ten minutes later it was 4-2 as Mr Russell seized a defensive blunder by Greenacre.

The Rainham defence was now looking more confident, and much more composed. Mr Gascoine's beautifully aimed tacked kept the right wing safe, while new signing Mr Loffler, kept the midfield at bay.

As closed season signing, Mr Bull, started to create some openings, Mr Wilcher took the right wing forward, and together with a clever run from Mr Ringer the bemused Greenacre defence crumbled, allowing RMGS to sneak a 3rd ball into the goal.

With five minutes to go, a break on the left allowed Mr White to combine with Mr Gascoine to release Mr Wilcher—who could then cut inside the defence and drill a low shot past the keeper... Equalisation! A great comeback for the staff team!

Reporter: ???



# Preparing to Rock 'n' Roll

*Left: N8 rehearsing in their own special style!*

Christmas may seem a long way off, but preparations are already underway for the highlight of the Winter Term: Charity Week and of course the infamous Rock 'n' Roll show!

We spoke to a number of students in year 7, who were both excited and confused about what it all involved: charity week raises a great deal of money for worthy causes. Many events take place during the week, such as the Pillow Fight, The Weakest Link, the Generation Game and cake stalls. The biggest event is always the Rock 'n' Roll, which involves the hard work of many organisers and performers. Amy Parker-Cook from year 7 commented that she hoped it would be *"a good opportunity to work as a team and have fun."* Michael Hart, also year 7, added *"We didn't have the chance to do anything like this at primary school."*

Some more experienced Rock 'n' Rollers from N8 are also preparing for this year's show. We spoke to the N8 Dance Group: Astrid Wright told us *"You get to know others in your form really well, and it's a good fun!"* Isabel Kiff commented on how *"It's really exciting when you're back stage; waiting to go on,"* something Emily Weet didn't quite agree with; *"You get really nervous before it starts, but once you're on stage you're fine."*

Charity week, and the Rock 'n' Roll show are a time when the school comes together, as a community, not only to help others, but also to have some fun! Auditions for the show itself are taking place very soon, with enthusiasm already apparent this year's show looks to be as fantastic as ever! For full details on Charity Week, see the next issue of Inside Mark, produced by Overmark.

*Reporter: ???*

# PARENTS... GET BACK TO SCHOOL!

This week parents of Year 7 pupils have been coming into school to watch their dearly beloved children for one and a half lessons. Their time at school ran from 8:40 to 10:40, and attendance was non-compulsory.

But how did the pupils feel about this? Ben Gordan felt very embarrassed, and also annoyed with his parent (yet he wouldn't say why). He said that he wished he had never shown his parents the letter!

Elliot Radford was more positive, he loved his mum watching him use a Bunsen burner in science, along with his partner Jonathon Reeves.

Mr Windle, F7's form tutor, thinks it is a good oppor-

tunity for the parents to meet their child's form tutor. This was definitely a good chance for the parents to see their sons and daughters performing in some of their subjects. The parents themselves commented that the session had been fantastic, and that they wished they could do it again.

As the parents left the lessons, half way through the second period, they were whisked away for tea and biscuits with Mrs Bourne and their form tutor.

The days were generally enjoyed by all involved, and aside from a little embarrassment here there it was a good experience for everyone.

*Reporter: ???*