

15/10/18

Dear Parents and Boarders,

As we move towards the end of the first half term, I thought it would be a good idea to remind everyone of some key dates for school and boarding and to update everyone regarding news from Fraser Youens House. A reminder that we break up on Thursday 18th October for the half term break and our boarders return on the evening of Monday October 29th from 7.00pm onwards.

I hope that everyone has enjoyed the first half term and experience tells me that many students will be tired after a very busy first seven weeks. In order to stay in touch with the very latest in boarding I would recommend keeping in touch on twitter, it would be great to add a few more followers, @rgshwboarding. After half term, we will be relaunching our boarding blog run by our students (full details to follow).



Obstacle course fun at the start of term!

It is fantastic to see so many boarders joining in boarding activities whether they be special events such as the annual obstacle course or tug of war or the everyday events in junior and senior activity. We had an excellent Boarders' trip to Go Ape at Wendover Woods on one of the only rainy days in September. However, the sun shines on the righteous and it turned into a great afternoon.



Boarders' trip to Go Ape

Academically, our Year 13 boarders should be well underway with university applications and they have a lot to live up to after some exceptional boarding A-level results. Last summer saw the tenth year in a row when the leaving boarders outperformed their day student counterparts in GCSE and A level examinations. An incredible 85 % of A level results in boarding were at A* - B. Indeed our departing boarders are now spread all over the UK and as far afield as Hong Kong. Many of our boarders rightfully went off to some of the best universities in the UK to study subjects as diverse as Anthropology, Engineering, Law and Veterinary Science.

This term is a crucial time for Year 11 and 13 with important mock exams in early January, this is actually the only term that is not disrupted by exams and so the teaching and lesson time is essential.

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I hope that all the young men in the house have enjoyed their first half term and immersed themselves, not only in academic work, but in the wider aspects of school life. This is especially the case for those new to Fraser Youens House. I would like to congratulate many of the boarders who have involved themselves in school clubs, societies and especially those who have gained selection for choir, orchestra or a school sporting team. I have seen one young man speak in front of over five hundred people about life in boarding and explaining in depth all the opportunities that are available at RGS.



Normal boarding life with daily activities and even a friendly dog!

We held our first debate of the year last week, looking at the question of whether Performance Enhancing Drugs should be used by elite athletes and there were some very persuasive arguments from both sides. From my point of view, it was interesting to see young men put together credible arguments on both sides, ultimately the issue of morality and role models won through.

The Senior Quiz will be held during the first week after half term and is always a great evening. I tried out some questions on old boys and fellow staff, Mr Zair and Mr Honeyben who were both bamboozled by some of the questions, I blame their schooling! The Year 7s enjoyed bringing a friend to boarding earlier this month. A hearty supper followed some boarding activities. This opportunity gave some of our day students an insight into boarding life and how much fun their friends have in Fraser Youens House!

I wrote to you all only last week concerning our IT survey and I reattach the link. Many thanks to those who have already replied, please do take the time to complete this. [I.T. survey](#)

I will of course feedback the survey results and any changes that we may make to our current policy.

As part of Ofsted's feedback regarding boarding provision I attach a survey for parents to complete. Your son's will have already completed their own survey. Ofsted inspect all state boarding schools and hopefully some of your comments can help build a picture of how you view the boarding provision for your son. Ofsted then use this information when they visit.

[Ofsted parent's survey](#)

In terms of school reports, grade cards are due out for Years 7, 8, 10 and 12 in early November and this will give our young men their first opportunity to see how they have impressed their teaching staff. I sincerely hope that everyone has enjoyed their first term, especially those who have joined us this year. I hope everyone has made you feel welcome and enjoy a well-deserved half term break.

Don't forget for those who want to dress up there will be a Halloween meal on Oct 31st and some Halloween activities for the Junior year groups. Prizes for the best dressed!!!

Key dates

Thursday Oct 18th end of half term. School finishes at 3.00pm, FYH closes at 7.00pm

Monday Oct 29th FYH reopens at 7.00pm. Tuesday Oct 30th RGS restarts.

Friday Nov 16th Exeat FYH closes at 7.00pm Sunday Nov 18th FYH reopens.

Friday Dec 14th End of term. School finishes at 1.00pm, FYH closes at 6.00pm.

Yours sincerely

J I Scourfield (Assistant Head/Director of Boarding)