

December 10th 2021

Dear Parents,

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I wanted to firstly wish you all a merry Christmas and to let you know about the events that we are planning to put on in the final week and of course how the term has fared for all the boarders and staff. The last eighteen months have obviously been an incredibly challenging time, within boarding, the main school and the wider world. Therefore, I hope that your sons have enjoyed school and boarding this term and it has offered more of a semblance of normality. We have tried desperately hard to keep as many aspects of boarding and RGS as normal as possible. A return to both Sport, music and our co-curricular programme in RGS and all the normal boarding activities across this term.



September fun in the sun, water fights and Tug of War.

Through all of this we have had to think carefully about staying covid safe, wearing of masks (or not), boarder's safety and staff safety. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and particularly the boarders themselves, who on the whole have significantly helped reduce risk and of course have continued to be tested two or three times weekly.



Team Building by the River Thames.

Can I say that our new boarders, especially those in Year 7 have settled brilliantly, with many living away for the first time, they have been absolutely fantastic. Boarding cannot be just an extension of school and I hope everyone has actually enjoyed living within the Fraser Youens community.

Ofsted Boarding Inspection 2019 'Outstanding'

Earlier in the year the boarders spent plenty of time outside but more recently with it getting dark, the boys have tended to move inside for their free time and the winter ladders in table tennis, pool, jenga and table football have seen some fierce rivalry, all in good spirit. We have seen our fair share of laughter and lots of smiles helped by trips such as the start of term bonding trip or the recent ice skating. This time of year, we want the boarders to enjoy some festive moments together and will be running a host of competitions and an amazing opportunity to watch the award winning 'Wicked' at the West End. The ability to build lasting memories is so important.



Halloween fun back in October and some festive Ice Skating before the end of term.

We wish the Year 11, 12 and 13 boarders the very best in their upcoming mock exams early in the New Year. These exams are an important step in helping the boys prepare for the GCSE and A level exams and can really help in identifying areas of strength and areas to work on. Any revision now can only be beneficial for the summer exams. All of our boarders also need a proper break to recharge their batteries. We'd also like to wish all Year 13s good luck in any university interviews and the UCAS application process. It is great to see students being offered places at the very top universities in the country and now the challenge is to achieve those predicted grades.

For those in Year 13 it will be their last Christmas here and for many of these their seventh. I hope that one and all enjoy our last week and have a brilliant Christmas.

Monday 13th – Due to Covid restrictions the Carol concert is now only for those singing and their parents. This will now be a movie night. Giant screens in Upper Library and Queens Hall.

Tuesday 14th – After Eight Challenge and all of the normal Boarding Christmas competitions.

Wednesday 15th – Christmas Dinner and Finals of all competitions.

Thursday 16th – All Boarders finish school at 3.00pm and travel to the West End to watch 'Wicked'

Friday 17th – School finishes at 1.00pm. Mince Pies and Mulled wine at pick up FYH closes at 6.00pm.

In January, the boys return to school on **Tuesday 4th January** and **Fraser Youens will reopen from 7.00pm on Monday 3rd January.**

Jon Scourfield (Assistant Head/Director of Boarding)