

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

13 December 2018



Dear Parent

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We were very sorry to lose Rick Greenlee, a member of our Estates Team who has retired due to ill health. Mr Greenlee was fully involved in maintenance around the School but was in particular, dedicated to the upkeep of Fraser Youens House (boarding). We all hope that Rick's health improves over time and wish him well in the future. We are very pleased to welcome John Ross, who has joined our Estates Team.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

Whilst we endeavour to maintain 'business as usual' during the last week of term, there are inevitably a number of activities, which take boys and staff, out of their usual routine.

We have been very pleased to welcome the Vicar of Hazlemere, the Rev Mark Meardon, to conduct our Christmas assemblies.

The boarders have very much enjoyed the build-up to Christmas including a trip to see 'School of Rock' in the West End, ice skating at the National History Museum and their own Christmas dinner, which I was delighted to be invited to. Mr Scourfield writes a regular [boarding letter](#) and I thought you might like to read it.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols (back at All Saints this year, having taken place in the Queen's Hall in 2017 due to the snow) was magnificent. The choir and the readers, the student organists and the choir from Salzburg gave excellent performances and the congregation of nearly 500 sang 'con brio'.

Our school Christmas lunch was enjoyed by around 600 of us. This was a great festive occasion with the usual array of Christmas jumpers. I was, once again, very honoured to serve our students with their meal - the catering manager, however, instructed me in portion control so that (unlike last year) we did not run out of certain items as a result of my largesse.

DEBATING COMPETITION (in German)

On 26 November, German A level students Dominic Martin, Mohammed Elyass, Milo O'Farrell and Will Howells took part in a national [debating competition](#) organised by the *Goethe Institut*. They won the first round, entirely held in German and will compete in the second round at the end of January (auf Deutsch, I assume!).

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

I was delighted to present Gold Duke of Edinburgh badges to Govin Bamrah, Iain Hamilton, Ed Hutchings and Yassvanth Prabu in a recent morning assembly. The 'Gold' requires a good deal of commitment and we are very proud of their achievement. The boys will also attend a presentation at one of the Royal palaces in the New Year.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

Please don't forget to cast your vote in the Parent Governor election. The ballot closes tomorrow at 12.00pm. Click on the [link](#) as a reminder



SPORTS NEWS

I was pleased to receive a [report](#) from Mr De Kock following a great weekend for our RGS Rowers.

'Over the weekend 01/12/18 the RGS Rowers took on the Burway Small Boats Head. With the recent great results from Reading SBH, Henley LDS, Fours Head and Hampton SBH our rowers took on the Burway Head. The results were spectacular, along the 3000m upstream course our rowers performed at an extremely high standard. Walking away from the event with four boats racing to first place, four boats finishing in second place and one boat rounding off the podium finishing in third, ending the weekend with a tally of NINE podium finishes out of a possible eleven events entered. This is the last official event that the RGS rowers will row until we pick racing up again in late January, this is a spectacular way to go into the hard winter training months ahead. The motivation for the boys is higher than ever with an incredible first half of the season with multiple trophies and experiences in the bag. A full table of crews, names and results can be found on the school website in the [sports section](#)'.

SQUASH

Our U19 team beat Westminster School 5-0 last week and now follow our successful U15 team into the second round of the National Cup competition.

ETHOS OF LEARNING

Please take some time to read the Deputy Headmaster's excellent [newsletter](#) on 'passion' within the context of our 'Ethos of Learning' culture.

THANK YOU

I should like to thank you all for your support this term. As we near the end of 2018, there is much for us to reflect on, not least the incredible generosity of our community. Your financial and personal contribution, at all levels, is enabling RGS to move forward considerably. You may like to see 'thank you' [messages](#) from the various parent groups who so willingly lead fundraising within the school.

CONGRATULATIONS TO (and please do keep the news coming in)

Aaron Bello, Tom Bantock and Nick Moss who participated in the U18 trials for the South West Counties squad giving, by all accounts, very strong performances. They travelled to Weston-super-Mare as part of the Buckinghamshire county squad.

Jacob and Ronnie Berry who have had success in the British Judo Championships with Jacob fighting well in a group of 47 boys, securing a place in the British Schools finals in the New Year. His younger brother, Ronnie, became the British Champion having won all of his fights. An excellent achievement.

The RGS Junior swimmers squad, who won the Medley Relay Finals at the Olympic Pool in London in November. The victors were Archie White, Michael Greachev, Luke Poulton and Oren Staines.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Philip Wayne