

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 26 November 2018



Dear Parent

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

We had an excellent Service of Remembrance. The response of boys and staff to this traditional occasion never fails to impress and we were very pleased to be joined by over one hundred parents and visitors. This year, for the first time, our CCF played a formal role and the hymn, accompanied by an excellent band, was sung a little more heartily than in the last few years. A very fine rendition of the last post, played by Thomas Bass, led a Two Minutes Silence perfectly.

Our cadets were also on parade in High Wycombe town centre and attended the church service at All Saints' Church on Remembrance Sunday.

MUSIC

The November Music Showcase took place last Thursday and was, as ever, an excellent concert: a great variety of music from an excerpt from West Side Story sung by an enthusiastic Junior Choir to our fine Jazz and Wind Ensembles. Two particular highlights were a 'male voice choir' discovering the joys of Gilbert and Sullivan in their entertaining performance of the Peers Chorus from Iolanthe which we all enjoyed (*and so did their sisters and their cousins and their aunts!*) and a concerto for four harpsichords. It was a peculiarly RGS problem for our Director of Music trying to source four harpsichords for a concert but with some assistance from Technology the item went ahead and was superbly played. #onlyatRGS, I say.

CAROL SERVICE

Our School Carol Service takes place at All Saints' Church on Monday 10 December (no tickets required). This is a traditional nine lessons and carols service led by our large school choir, readers and, this year, accompanied by student organists. There will be refreshments afterwards provided by the PA in the Church Hall (Oakley Hall).

LEST IT SNOW(S)

Some areas had a flutter of snow last week. Just a reminder that, should a closure be necessary, parents will be notified through the School [website](#) and the County Council [website](#). Much as I enjoy tweeting, I will not use Twitter to make these announcements. A decision to remain open (the default position) or to close the school is based upon the intelligence I receive regarding a) the safety of the school estate and b) whether sufficient staff can get into school for it to operate effectively. The coach companies make their own decisions and it is for parents, rather than the School, to assess the risk of their son undertaking the journey to RGS and back.

SCIENCE

The three boys proudly displaying certificates are Thomas Allen, Luke Maxwell and Matthew Gallagher, who received their Young Scientists of the Year awards for Chemistry, Biology and Physics respectively. This is a Buckinghamshire Award in which recommended scientists are nominated by their schools.

TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT

I am delighted to announce that RGS won the Rotary Technology Tournament. One of the victors, Andrew Hayes, 10TW, has written a [report](#)

ALAN YEATES ROOM

We were very proud to welcome staff, OWs and former colleagues to the opening of the Alan Yeates Room. Alan's classroom has been re-furnished thanks to the generous donations from the RGS community. We were delighted that Mrs Yeates, who 'cut the ribbon' was present along with her sons, Jonathan and William.

OARSOME NEWS

Our RGS rowers recently took part in the Henley Long Distance Sculls. All performed well, said Mr De Kock, with great performances on the water against a very high level of opponents and the best performances coming from the J14 rowers who took part in the first event of their rowing careers.

Notable Results

1st - J/18 Double: Ben Hinves, Duncan Huntley

3rd - J/16 Coxless Quad: James Bignell, Jamie Over, George Anderson, Fraser Clark

2nd - J/16 Double: Charlie Manning, Jimmy Partington

5th - J/15 Coxed Quad: Maxim Dusek, Benjamin Taylor, Joshua Emslie-Henry, Krishnan Tewari, Saul Gunning

5th - J/14 Coxed Quad: Sam Long, Karolis Turek, Daniel Furness, Nimer Shah, Thomas Yam

All other results can be found on the School website (sports section).

REPORT FROM MRS BOOTH:

'As parents, we are all somewhat concerned about the less palatable side of technology. Year 7 boys had a Childnet presentation during Wednesday afternoon and the presenter was pleased and impressed that the boys' resounding response to the question, "What would you do if you saw something online that you thought was wrong?" was "TELL SOMEONE!" E-Safety is a topic we take very seriously at RGS and it is a good opportunity to remind you of the helpful [information](#) that Mr Rose, Head of Year 7, sent home to parents on mobile phones earlier this term. Many thanks to the Year 7 parents who attended the Childnet presentation on Wednesday evening. The feedback was extremely positive and one parent made a particular point of asking if the leaflets, which were handed out at the end, could be sent to parents as the next best thing to attending the presentation. I would strongly encourage all parents to look over the following Childnet leaflets as the information is very helpful and focusses on the key issues of conduct, content and contact online:

[Information and Online Resources](#)

[Supporting Young People Online](#)

[Young People and Social Networking Services](#)

[Childnet and their other resources'](#)

COMEDY NIGHT

Many thanks to those who organised / attended the Rugby fundraiser Comedy Night on Saturday. There were four excellent acts, which were much enjoyed by the audience. Food, also much enjoyed, was provided by Noodle Nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Joshua Franklyn who has won the U15s Woodwind Recital in the Marlow Festival of Music. It is the second year in a row that he has won and he has been awarded the Burnham Cup for the most outstanding player 15 years and under.

I was very pleased to meet Jack Darvell and Ollie Kenyon following a letter I received from the parents of a child with Pulmonary Hypertension. Jack and Ollie were commended for their support of fundraising efforts for the Pulmonary Hypertension Association.

I am always pleased to hear of good news about your sons and to celebrate it with the School community. Please do let me know.

GOOD LUCK TO ...

The U15 rugby side who play in the next round of the NatWest Trophy v Cheltenham College tomorrow.

Philip Wayne