

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

26 November 2019



Dear Parent

VALETE

We say goodbye to Suzanne Wagg, Learning Support Assistant, who has been training as a counsellor and is relocating to the Midlands as she takes up a post at Queen Elizabeth's Hospital in Birmingham. Suzanne has been excellent in this role and we wish her well in the future. Also to John Ross, part of our Estates Team - with us for a short time and has now retired.

We are very pleased to welcome to the RGS Family: Callun Akerman and Simon Davies to the Estates Team, and Katarzyna Strzelecka and Nazia Anwar who, as LSAs, join our Student Development Team.

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

We were delighted to welcome you all to the Sixth Form Open Evening. The feedback has been very positive and it's clear that parents found the formal part of the evening informative with parents and boys, in equal measure, finding the departmental presentations truly inspiring. We hope it gave a good glimpse of our Sixth Form life both academically and in the other areas in which we excel with our senior students. With the current Sixth Form cohort in both years having achieved the best GCSE results for a decade we are confident of future strong performance – of course the headline figures are made up of excellent individual results. The film, produced by one of our Young Enterprise teams, was abandoned as the sound had been turned off (!). [Here](#) it is for you to watch.

ALL YE WHO SEEK FOR SURE RELIEF

Many apologies to our rugby parents for the poor cleaning of the toilets during the first part of this season. Our cleaning contractors have taken a while to 'bed-in' but their work is being monitored carefully. There is now a 'Ladies' on the corridor towards the swimming pool for your convenience.

REMEMBRANCE

The weather held for our annual Service of Remembrance in the Quad on 11 November with the two minutes' silence at 11:00. It was an excellent occasion with a superb band to accompany the hymn, a fine performance of the Last Post and Reveille by Angus Whittam, uniformed CCF and the formal laying of the poppy wreath by Wing Commander Dr Denise Dexter, a parent. Many thanks to the Sound Team for ensuring a crystal clear transmission and to the many parents and OWs who joined us for the event. Here's a [link](#) to the Remembrance news story, with photo album.

HARRY JONES RIP

Harry was one of our Fencing coaches who died recently in his late 80s. He had been a fencer who turned coach and armourer and was still working and being appreciated in both roles up to the very end, both at RGS and in a number of fencing clubs. There was an RGS representation at his funeral and we sent our condolences to his son and daughter.

BENEVOLENT FUND

This half term we are raising money for Oxfam through our Benevolent Fund. Following the stellar generosity towards the Jeans for Genes charity we hope that we will raise a similar amount for Oxfam. One of their volunteers spoke in Senior Assembly and demonstrated how a small amount can make a real difference to the communities they support. I was fascinated by the 'Lifesaver Cube' which turns dirty water into clean water - please see the [video link](#) if you are interested.

Last week was Anti-bullying Week. Mrs Booth gave an address in assembly and the mufti day, in aid of mental health charities, was well supported. We take the rare incidences of bullying very seriously seeking to resolve such matters swiftly, thoroughly and supportively.

OW VISIT

We were very pleased to welcome back OW Stuart Woodward who was an RGS student in the 1970s, progressing to Jesus College, Oxford followed by a career in the City. He is now Bursar of Jesus College and spoke to boys about Oxbridge and the Finance Sector. Our OW website is enabling us to connect with many OWs – rarely a week goes by without an OW coming back to RGS to give a talk, help in some way, or simply have a look around the school.

FUNDRAISING

A number of fundraising activities to suit all tastes and pockets.

- There's still time to sign up for your tickets for the Comedy Night on Saturday. This is the fourth such event and has been an excellent evening out.
- Tickets for the Bat Oar Ball are now on sale. Please book via the [Little Box Office](#) (and for further information).
- As many of you will be sourcing bargains during Black Friday, Saturday, Sunday etc., there's no easier way than to make your purchases via 'Easy Fundraising'. Boys going on the rugby tour have their own EF account. Choose the destination for your [donations](#)!

It is timely for me to once again thank all parents who support the Annual Fund, 'Friends of' groups or who attend functions at school. As I say often, we could not do what we do without your help.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT: Mr Marshall has written a [report](#).

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON TRIP: Mr Hammons has written a [report](#).

NOVEMBER SHOWCASE

The Music Department excelled in the most recent concert. A truly memorable event with 215 boys taking part. Please see @RGSHW for some clips of the concert.

TRAINING DAY

Just a reminder that the School is closed to students this Friday. Subject Leaders and members of the Senior Team will be working on the development of an 'ambitious curriculum' to fit in with the new framework. Teaching staff will be visiting other schools as a part of their professional development. Support staff will, as usual, keep the good ship RGS afloat.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Cameron Stephenson, Saksham Kapoor and George Ashton who are in the photograph being presented with awards at the Bucks Young Scientists event this week.

Best wishes

Philip Wayne