



Royal Grammar School

HEADMASTER'S LETTER



Dear Parent

VALETE

Our final 'goodbyes' to:

RETIREMENTS

- **Steph Russell**, Resources Manager, falls into the 'every school should have one' category. A superbly caring member of 'Team RGS' who will have overseen the move from 'Banda' machines and 'Gestetners' through to digital communication processes, she is retiring after 30 years. As she did with her other responsibilities, Mrs Russell made sure that the logistical nightmare that is school photographs, ran like clockwork.
- **Jean Crombie** is retiring after 20 years in the Resources Centre. Jean has been an immense support in a busy department and has always been a totally reliable and effective member of staff ensuring that staff and boys have the resources they need.
- **Paula Dove**, who is retiring after nine years as a teacher of Physics. Mrs Dove has been an excellent teacher, a proactive and caring form tutor who, having intended to retire last year, agreed to stay on whilst we recruited a good permanent replacement for her (which we have done).

I wish all colleagues a very happy retirement – we will miss them.

PROMOTIONS

- **Pete Mead**, Assistant Subject Leader for History, is moving to a well-deserved promotion at Sir William Borlase's Grammar School as Head of History. As well as teaching History, Mr Mead was active in the Sports Department as a rugby coach and headed up our primary outreach work.
- **Tom Hollyer**, Boarding Housemaster and Teacher of Geography (and active rugby coach) has been promoted to the post of Head of Boarding at Caldicott School. Mr Hollyer will be missed by boarders and their parents for his high-quality pastoral care and guidance.

Messrs Mead and Hollyer have shown real commitment to RGS and I wish them both every success as they progress in their careers.

MOVING ON

- **Nikki McHugh, Matron**, is moving to Pipers Corner School to undertake a similar role. Mrs McHugh has not only provided a high level of care to boys but has also modernised the outdated information systems associated with healthcare.

SENIOR PREFECT TEAM

Please see the photograph above of most members of the new Senior Prefect Team, led by Callum Padfield as Head Boy.

PRIZE GIVING

Our two Prize Giving ceremonies were great events. The atmosphere was warm in more ways than one, but it was a delight to see our boys proudly receiving their awards. We had two excellent speakers. The Hon Rupert Soames, who clearly knows how to command a room, spoke brilliantly drawing upon his experience as a DJ (at Annabel's; not his day job) and quoting lyrics of songs to make the point. Mr and Mrs Soames joined us for drinks afterwards and spoke with many families of prize winners. Andy Cook, our speaker for Junior Prize Giving, was equally excellent with a lively address talking of his work with disadvantaged communities and urging our own boys to make a difference. My thanks to Mrs Hewitt, who organises the evening, the PA and our catering team for providing the refreshments and my congratulations to all prize winners.

Headmaster: Philip Wayne

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CCF ARMY SUMMER CAMP

Report from Mr Rose: The Army Section of the CCF (Youens Company) deployed from RGS on their annual summer camp on Sunday 1st July in glorious sunshine. Camp was a 'self-help' effort run by a total of ten RGS staff and supporting Old Boys who made the week long camp at Brunswick Lines, Pirbright in Surrey possible. Thirty-four boys from Years 10 to 13 carried out a variety of military training activities, including live firing, field exercise and tests of basic military skills including leadership and navigation. The camp culminated in a visit to the Guards Museum in London with some free time to see the RAF 100 celebrations at Horse Guards. The camp was a great success and a lot of fun was had by all, particularly on the ranges where a wide variety of weapons were fired including the LSW machine gun. Cadet Jimmy Partington achieved his Marksman Badge with the LSW, which was a great achievement. Best Cadet on camp was awarded to Cadet Corporal Dom Holland and Most Improved Cadet to Cadet Lance-Corporal Cameron Fisher. Three boys were recognised as 'Chosen Men' (an award for the most able Cadets), Cadets Forster and Feltham and Cadet Corporal Finlay Porter. This year we said goodbye to Cadet Warrant Officer James Finch (pictured) and Cadet Colour-Serjeants Oli Sherwood and Sam Pruszewicz. Both James and Oli already have confirmed places at Sandhurst. We wish them all the best in their future careers.

A LEVEL AND GCSE RESULTS DAYS

The School would like to remind Year 11 and 13 boys and their parents that A level and GCSE results days are on Thursday August 16th and Thursday August 23rd respectively. The Queen's Hall will be open for boys to pick up their results envelopes from 9am – 11am on both days. If your son cannot collect his results in person, please ensure he contacts the Exams Officer, Mrs Hogarth, in person or by email at exams@rgshw.com no later than Friday July 20th. Further information regarding post-results services, including reviews of marking, script returns and who to contact for advice about [results](#) may be found on the School's website.

MATHEMATICS

Congratulations to the Junior Maths Challenge Team, Clement Dusserre-Cordonnier, Nakul Nataraj, Aditya Mahesh and Shiv Mistry for their great achievement. A grand total of 384 boys took part. A record 48 won Gold certificates, 102 won Silver and 89 gained Bronze.

Report from Mrs Wells: As part of the STEM Interview Group, members of Year 12 have been encouraged to take part in two competitions involving different applications of Mathematics. The BASE Competition, organised by the ICAEW, gave the boys a chance to explore the world of business and accounting through a range of individual and team challenges. 38 boys from the School took part, with our eventual team of Ben Hooker, Finn Andrews, George Higham, Aaderss Rajakulasingham and Jon Long being selected by the ICAEW for the National Final as a result of their success in several previous rounds. From an initial field of over 4,000 participants this was quite an achievement. They joined 49 other teams at the Hilton in Birmingham on the 27th and 28th June for the final task.

AEROSPACE CHALLENGE

Report from Mrs Wells: RGS once again entered the Aerospace Challenge, this year tasked to design new disruptive technologies that might interest the RAF. Team Sirkorsky, made up of Matvey Boguslavsky, Abhuday Luthra and Harry Walden and Team Sentry comprising Daniel Carr, Ethan Collins and Thomas Barrett, have both made it through to the National Final that will take place over the Summer Holidays at Cranfield. This means that for the second year RGS will make up a sixth of the teams in the National Final. Last year's two finalist teams performed well in a series of challenges and competitions, winning all of the mathematics and physics tasks, but unfortunately losing out when it came to business ethics!

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Around 35 of our staff, drawn from teaching and support staff took part in a tennis tournament culminating in a final comprising Mr Wood, Miss Brown v Mr Wallace, Mr Smith. The very competitive Deputy Headmaster was not impressed by his being knocked out by the Wood/Brown duo.

MUSIC

Two coach loads of boys travelled to Oxford last week to sing Choral Evensong in Hertford College Chapel. A cathedral repertoire, including the setting of Murrill in E for the canticles, Clucas responses and a section of Vivaldi's Gloria for the anthem were very well sung. I was very pleased to be involved by playing the organ for a part of the service, but even more pleased that we have, in Cameron Johal, a most accomplished organist who shared the playing with me. As ever, the Junior Concert was of a very high standard with a wide range of styles and genres, superbly executed.

PARENT SURVEY

We had a pleasing response to our recent parent survey - 338 respondents (compared with 170 last year) I will share a fuller version with you in September complete with metrics, but here are the key points:

- 96.94 (95.88 last year) of respondents are 'generally happy with RGS'. If you are one of the 3.06 % who are not, please do get in touch and tell me why!
- There was more than a groundswell of satisfaction for SEND provision with some suggestions for improvements
- The 'what do you most value about RGS?' elicited some delightful responses which I was very proud to share with staff
- The general comments section included positive remarks and points for improvement. The key points I will take away is the quality assurance - of temporary teachers, speed of response to concerns, and consistency of teaching quality. A few respondents had clearly had a run of disappointment - for your own sanity and for the sake of your son, please do not wait until an anonymous July survey. Write to me and I will ask one of my team to sort it!

Overall we are, as a Senior Team, very pleased with our operational progress and even more so given that the metrics suggest that parents recognise it too. Thank you.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very enjoyable summer break. Your support of RGS whether an employee, parent, student, governor or OW has been magnificent.

With very best wishes

Philip Wayne