

1 October 2020

Dear Parents

As I drove into work this morning listening to the doom and gloom of the news, arriving at school in the morning darkness, one could be forgiven for thinking that all was not well in the world. And you would be right, to a certain extent. However, the clock only needs to tick towards 8.45am at RGS and your faith is restored. Over 1,400 pupils conducting themselves just as one would want, enjoying each other's company, chatting, playing, smiling, laughing and being boys. RGS is much more than exam results and we hope we can provide your sons with a safe, hardworking, supportive and fun environment.

Indeed, this weekend looked up for the Wallace family as my brother got married, planning the entire day within 72 hours to ensure they could have their closest 30 guests. In all honesty, my wife and I hoped the restrictions might have meant we could attend without our 3 little hooligans, but apparently the bridesmaid and page boy roles were deemed crucial. I fear they may have regretted their decision when my 8-year old threw the confetti. He threw the hard basket at the happy couple rather than just the confetti within it!

As we start to adjust to the new normal here at RGS we wanted to make you aware of the following points:

Uniform

- The weather is becoming colder and we are obliged to ensure windows are open for ventilation. It is therefore a little chilly, even now. Please do encourage your son to wear a jumper (blue/black V-neck jumper) and bring a coat (of a sombre colour). **Please do not allow them to wear hoodies.**
- On a day when your son has Games, please could he wear school PE kit. If your son does not have RGS tracksuit bottoms please can he wear blue/black tracksuit bottoms. If he does not have a school tracksuit top please ask him to wear his school jumper and/or blazer/coat.
- Please be aware that we cannot allow any boys to take part in Science practicals if they are wearing shorts. Furthermore, please equip your sons with Science goggles; we are no longer allowed to lend these to boys.

The NHS Covid App

- It is possible that students or staff could receive a notification via the app that they have been in close contact with a confirmed case and should therefore self-isolate.
- We have informed all our students to contact a member of staff if they receive a notification during the day that they have been in contact with a positive case. The staff member will then implement the School's agreed process, including Attendance, making appropriate arrangements for the student to leave the setting at the earliest opportunity to begin self-isolation.
- An information pack for parents, further information about the app, and frequently asked questions are available on the [NHS COVID-19 app website](#).

Dropping off and picking up students

- We are having some serious issues at the beginning and end of the day due to the congestion around Hamilton Road. It would greatly assist the smooth arrival and departure of all boys if you could refrain from dropping off or picking up your son outside the School along Hamilton Road, in Uplyme Car Park (which is for staff or designated Sixth formers only) or on the driveways into School House or the Quad.
- Apart from the congestion there is a real risk to both pedestrians and other road users.

In conclusion, your support through these early weeks has been much appreciated. It has also been a delight to see the co-curricular side of school starting to flourish again. Your sons continue to impress us and a walk around the school classrooms is the greatest tonic if you are listening to a bit too much news.

Kind regards

Alex Wallace
Deputy Headmaster