

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

26 September 2024



Dear Parent

DROP-OFF

I fully appreciate that public transport may be inconvenient for families and the cost of school transport is anything from off-putting to unaffordable. As a result, we have many students who are now brought to school by car. If you are conveying your son to home and school by car, please drop off on Green Road (from which students can walk through the Boarding Gate) or in Chadwick Street - at the extreme ends to allow school coaches to park at their stops. Please do not enter the Uplyme Car Park. This is causing major headaches for staff both in the morning and in the evening. Thank you.

COED SIXTH FORM

'We are a school which proudly respects our traditions whilst embracing innovation to prepare our students for the modern world' - a quote from our Assistant Head and Director of Sixth Form, Mr Sheehan. As you are aware, we will be 'coed' in the Sixth Form from 2025. There is a feature here, should you know of young people who may be interested in joining RGS for the Sixth Form. As ever, a reminder that all current Year 11 RGS students are guaranteed a place in the Sixth Form here and are allocated to subjects first, assuming they meet the relevant school and subject requirements.

ROWING

Rowing is in very good heart at RGS. It was a pleasure to be amongst almost two hundred members of the RGS community at the Friends of Rowing Barbecue, totally undaunted by the weather, with a number of awards being made to rowers across the age range.

It was also an opportunity to thank our coaches and, in particular, our Head of Rowing, Bruce Gascoine who is moving on from RGS to coach adult rowers. Particular lauds, also, to Wendy Goodier who gives so freely of her time in managing many aspects of the Club.

It is an exciting time for the sport. Our old 'School Shop' has been converted into a permanent home for the rowing machines. This will be known as the Blyth Room, named after Ian Blyth who was Master-in-Charge of Rowing from 1966-2000. We will invite Ian, at a later date, to formally open the room. Furthermore, our long association with Longridge is coming to an end as we rent a new space within the Marlow and District Schools Boathouse. We look forward to a fruitful relationship with Sir William Borlase and Great Marlow schools as we approach our seventieth anniversary of rowing at RGS. If you would like to see a rowing slide show, click [here](#).

The next Rowing fundraiser is a Wine Tasting Evening on 23 November.

RUGBY

What a start to the season. Very high levels of participation, skill and dedication. There have been some phenomenal wins against Wellington College, St John's Leatherhead and Hampton for the Seniors. A great turnaround for the U15s in the first round of the National Cup on Tuesday resulted in a well-deserved, albeit close victory. The 1st XV played St Edward's, Oxford 'Teddies' in the first round of the Cup with a phenomenal 43-7 victory.

If you like rugby and you're new to RGS, you may enjoy our Sportsmans' Dinner on Thursday, 7 November. The MC is David Flatman (Flats) and the Guest Speaker is Ben Youngs. It's an evening not to be missed; tickets are priced at £80 and are available from [Sportsmans' Dinner application](#)

CARRY ON CAMPING

I was not particularly envious when I saw Mr Durning and his team boarding a coach with almost all Year 7 students yesterday morning. It seems, however, that they are having a wonderful time. It has given students, new to the school, the opportunity to work together, to bond and to team build. I shall look forward to hearing more about the trip on their return. Take a look at my X account @rgshw where there are some photographs.

YEAR 7 PARENTS INFORMATION EVENING

A reminder to Year 7 parents that there is an informal Information and Welcome Evening tonight at 7pm at which Mr Durning, the Parents' Association and I shall speak. As this is a fundraiser for the Parents' Association, there is a small charge and you are asked to book in advance through this link [RGS PA WELCOME EVENT](#).

YOUR VIEWS

We will be running a Parent Survey in the next couple of weeks to garner your views on various aspects of your son's education and RGS provision; look out for the link. I am also very keen to share parental appreciation of individual staff with my colleagues. Many of you tell me about the extra mile that staff go on behalf of your son(s) and I should like to capture this information - so if you have a story to tell, please click [here](#) to fill out a Staff Appreciation Form.

Furthermore, don't forget to let me know about your son's achievements - I am always happy to celebrate success in the 'Headmaster's Letter', which I write every couple of weeks (dmc@rgshw.com).

LOST PROPERTY MOUNTAIN

The Resources Department has been inundated with lost property this term. Please ensure that every item is named and impress on your sons not to leave their property around School.

SENIOR PREFECTS

When you receive Monday and Thursday communications from the school there is nearly always a 'story' which captures an aspect of RGS life. A recent one which caught my attention was the introduction of the new Senior Prefect Team. This week, the Head Boy introduced his team in a round of assemblies - a very impressive group of students who are an immense support to those of us leading the School and exceedingly good role models to younger students. Have a read of the [story](#).

With best wishes.

Philip Wayne