

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 18 January 2024



Dear Parent

I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed New Year festivities. Years 11,12 and 13 walked straight back into their Mock exams. I hope that they have gone well and, where not, there are things to take away from the experience. Invigilators have commended your sons for the way in which they have approached the examination season. Thank you.

Welcome

We are very pleased to welcome some new colleagues:

- In boarding, Nelma Sofia has joined the Domestic Staff team, and Jaro Ilski who has been appointed to focus on the maintenance of Fraser Youens House.
- Stacey Jones is our new Receptionist and will be the first point of call for visitors, parents and the 'emergency drop-off' for packed lunches, sports kit which has been forgotten in the morning rush.
- Lucy Patten has joined the Sports Department administration team.
- Sylvia Hutchinson -Teacher of Geography has joined us from Bedford School.

We welcome all new colleagues and wish them a rewarding, successful and enjoyable time with us.

Italian

Many congratulations to Ayaan Siyad who won in his age category in the International Poetry Recitation Competition he entered last term. This meant his recitation of an Italian poem came 1st out of entries from around the world. I will be presenting Ayaan with his certificate in an assembly soon.

Year 7 First Aid Workshops

Year 7s have had a First Aid workshop this week covering life saving skills such as primary survey, recovery position, CPR and controlling bleeding. They enjoyed the practical elements and asked a lot of questions. They have been encouraged to practise doing the recovery position at home on a family member, so be warned! A presentation from the workshop will be shared via Teams, including a voluntary quiz to recap knowledge.

Year 8 have their First Aid workshop next week which includes basic life support skills and dealing with asthma attacks and severe allergic reactions.

These are very important skills which may result in a life being saved. Many thanks to Mrs Gallagher, Maths teacher, Boarding Housemistress and very experienced First Aid Trainer for running these courses.

Shiv Mistry

You may recall that one of our students died whilst on holiday abroad in Summer 2022, from an allergic reaction to an unlabelled dairy product in a Pina Colada. This was despite the very best efforts of some of his friends who put the life saving skills they had learnt at School into practice. Sadly, it was not to be, due to the nature of Shiv's allergy and his reaction to the smallest amount of the drink. His parents have put their energies into an App in the hope that the same sorrow will not fall upon another family, with the loss of a young life.

Please do share the [Allergies Communication App](#) with others.

RGS Gazette

Hot off the press at the end of term was the latest edition of the RGS Gazette - Whether it's the upsurge in armed conflict and the political climate here in the UK, the latest mission to uncover the secrets of dark matter and dark energy in our universe or rapid progress in artificial intelligence (AI), the world is rapidly changing. Our correspondents at The RGS Gazette consider politics to sport, the rapid advances in technology to the Arts. Please do have a [read](#).

Easter Revision Courses

The Easter Revision Courses are renowned in the area and are open to students from any school. Details are [here](#) if you feel they may be of benefit to your son.

Co-Ed Sixth Form

You may recall that I sent an email a couple of times before Christmas regarding the proposals to admit a number of girls into the Sixth Form (only) from September 2025. [Here](#) it is again - do not hesitate to send your feedback to my PA, Denise Chick, dmc@rgshw.com. If necessary we will put out some FAQs.

For the avoidance of doubt, this applies to Sixth Form students only and will not in any way change the current situation where all RGS boys, who meet the entrance and subject requirements, are treated as internal applicants and are guaranteed a place in their Sixth Form.

Dates for your diary

There are a lot of events happening this term; I won't repeat them here, but the email on which this letter comes has information about academic, cultural and social activities you may wish to participate in.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and a relaxing weekend.

With best wishes

Philip Wayne