



Dear All

Welcome to:

We are very pleased to welcome Tony Rushworth (Teacher of Economics) who will be joining us after half term to cover a maternity leave.

Our German guests from Osnabrück. Having been linked for over fifty years, we believe this is the longest running exchange visit in the UK. Many thanks to the German department for their enthusiastic support of this wonderful opportunity and to our families for hosting (see photo above of the students enjoying a joint bowling trip).

Valete:

Helen Manners - Helen has been an excellent Teacher of Chemistry and we wish her a very happy retirement.

Jonathan Armour - Sports Grad who has moved to Brunel University as a Strength and Conditioning Coach

Kasia Strzelecka (TA) - an excellent support to students and a key member of the SEND department.

Rachel Gilyeat We wish to inform you that Rachel Gilyeat has decided to leave The Royal Grammar School. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Rachel for her contributions during her time with us and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Paige Newman - has been working with us for the maternity leave of Mrs McDonagh, whom we welcome back after half term.

Michael Sweeney - has been covering maternity leave of Ms Gibbs, in History and has also supported the PSHE programme.

All Sports Ball

Lauds to Mr Honeyben and Mrs Henry for resurrecting what used to be called the 'Bat Oar Ball'. A long-standing event, somewhat thwarted by the Pandemic, I was delighted to welcome over 200 people who enjoyed a sumptuous meal, an 'esprit' of bon vivant and plenty of dancing (I was, uncharacteristically, home by 10.45pm to minister to our rather unwell dog, Freddie). Whilst the Ball has raised vital funds for our sporting programme, it also brought together many aspects of our sporting community - students, staff and parents. Mr Rowe-Elliott made his debut as Master of Ceremonies - and what an excellent job he did.

A particular highlight was to present the caps to our team captains: Thaurl Wann Arachchige (Cricket), Jude Kloppers (Rugby), Mariette Cheung (Netball), Alex Roberts (Fencing), Zain Khan (Fencing), Josiah Arowojolu (Basketball), Oliver Connor (Tennis), George Cornford (Swimming), Joseph Smith (Rowing), Owen Folmer (Hockey).

Inquires and Places

What a treat for our Chamber Choir to join the Chapel Choir of Jesus College, Cambridge to sing Choral Evesong. It was surely an experience to sing under the direction of their Director of Music alongside choral scholars. I was very pleased to join a number of parents and grandparents in the congregation and listen, with exceeding pride, to our students.

House Music

What a truly wonderful night - House Music, an organisational feat and an exceptional array of talent. The House System, ably led by Mr Clatworthy, the Heads of House and House Captains, has grown considerably in the last few years. For many weeks, House groups were rehearsing student-led activities not only resulting in great music, but also a sure demonstration of the School's values. Thank you to all involved.

Guys and Dolls

Please do get in early and buy tickets for [Guys and Dolls](#) - a fabulous show performed by a stellar cast. The pattern with school shows is that the first night is generally quiet but once the community realises how good it is, tickets sell out for the rest of the week. So, get in early!

Ready, Steady Cook: report from Mrs Crownshaw

"On Wednesday 14 January, two pupils from RGS represented the school at the Area Final. Armaghan Ullah and Will Moss acquitted themselves admirably, making us all proud. Will made a duck breast with cherry sauce served on a bed of pan fried chard, followed by a plum pudding, served with a quenelle of creme fraiche. Armaghan served crispy chicken pieces covered with a barbeque sauce accompanied with vegetable rice, followed by a chocolate cheesecake with a marbled top. Both boys produced delicious food with care and attention. Sadly the competition was very fierce and despite their excellent efforts they were pipped at the post by representatives from John Hampden and Princes Risborough School. I was very proud of the boys' achievements, and even more so because of the friendliness displayed towards other competitors and the sportsmanlike way they immediately congratulated the winners. They were truly wonderful representatives of the school."

Racing

Our students took part in the STEM Racing London West Regional Finals (which used to be called F1 for Schools). Here is a comprehensive review of the event. [STEM Racing Article](#)

RGS Victory at MFL Y7 Spelling Bee!

On Thursday 29 January nine champion Y7 spellers travelled to DCHS for the inter-schools final of the MFL Spelling Bee, where they competed against five different local schools. The event was a great opportunity for young linguists to showcase their language skills in a fun but challenging setting. It was also a great chance for students to meet others who share an interest in languages. The competition was very close, with a clean sweep of winners shared between RGS and our hosts at DCHS. All students performed brilliantly, demonstrating impressive spelling, pronunciation, and confidence in a second language.

Results:

German:	1. (DCHS)	2. Sayon N (RGS)	3. Zohaar S (RGS)
Spanish:	1. Aadam M (RGS)	2. (DCHS)	3. Matthew K (RGS)
French:	1. Aarav K (RGS)	2. (DCHS)	3. Dylon J (RGS)

Chess

Congratulations to the RGS Chess Team (Sivasatyan Balasundaram, Ishaan Chadha, Trustin Heung, Max Fisher, Daniel Daulagala and Toby Lacey), who have reached the second round of the regional stage of the English Schools' Chess Championship. Most recently, they beat Wycombe Abbey convincingly by a score of 10-2. This is the first time RGS has progressed to this stage of the competition in more than five years. In online events, the team has also won the fortnightly inter-school tournament twice, finishing ahead of more than 40 schools nationwide. This is a remarkable achievement, and I wish the team every success in the rounds ahead.

Photography Competition

Congratulations to the following students who achieved the first place winners in each category of the competition:

Nature:

"A Liquid Mirror" by Kavin Venkat (SA1)

Vehicles:

"Cutting the Silence" by Hasan Ajaz (WI2)

Architecture:

"Spinnaker with Plane Trail Over the Top" by Sebastian Filer (9Bu)

Contrast:

"Taking Shift" by Robin Guha (WI2)

I wish you all a very relaxing half term

With best wishes

Philip Wayne