

**HEADMASTER'S LETTER**

**12 May 2025**



Dear Parent

**Welcome**

I am very pleased to welcome the following staff, who have joined the team at RGS:

**Caroline Cope** has joined us in Design Technology for this term during the absence of Mrs Morsing

**Laura Liddle** has joined the team in Geography

**Matt Ross** has joined the Estates Team as Assistant Groundsman

**Valete**

**Science** Technicians play a vital role in ensuring the safe and efficient running of lessons and experiments. We are saying goodbye to Sue Phelps, who is leaving us after 16 years at RGS and to Georgina Redican, who is relocating to Australia. We wish both colleagues well in the next stages of their lives and thank them for their work at RGS.

**Ian Ruddick**, Estates Manager, has moved to a similar role in the Higher Education sector. Ian has overseen some large projects as well as the day-to day-management of the 'Forth Bridge'. We all wish him well in the next chapter in his career.

**Teachers of Classics** are *rarus at dentibus gallinarum* and we count ourselves very fortunate to have secured the services of Chris Gilham who has ensured continuity for GCSE and A Level students during Mrs Dicks' absence. (We are, of course, now delighted to have Mrs Dicks back following her illness.)

**Best wishes to Year 11 and the Upper Sixth**

Year 13 had their annual Leavers' Day last Friday, which included a barbecue and several inflatable conveyances to keep the students entertained! Mr Sheehan, Mr Chitham-Moseley and our outgoing Head Boy, Torr Ramsden, addressed the year group, preceded by a short introduction from me. It was a fitting end to a wonderful contribution to RGS.

Year 11 commenced their Study Leave the week before and are already in the midst of Modern Language Orals - we shall look forward to welcoming most back into our Sixth Form. For those who do move on to pastures new, I thank them for their participation in RGS life.

I wish all students every success in their forthcoming examinations. It goes without saying that a structured revision programme is essential, but also that our young people balance this with some downtime. My 'Headmaster's Revision Guide', albeit a little 'tongue in cheek' may be of use [here](#).

**Interact**

The RGS Interact team were excited to present one of their chosen charities, Mary's Meals, a cheque for £3000. We were humbled and proud to hear that this will feed over 120 children for a year. Charlie Kingswood and Billy Ray collected a certificate that was awarded to them by the Rotary Club for all the funds they raised this year (£8000 in total). This is an entirely student lead team who raised the money this year through events they planned and carried out themselves.

### **Primary Outreach - Report written by Tharul Wannu Arachige and Finn Sutton-Lucas (Year 12)**

*"Two weeks ago, Finn and I had the wonderful opportunity (thanks to Mrs Tan) to deliver an assembly on Curiosity to all the students at Highworth Primary School. We enjoyed it so much that we thought it would be great to share our experience in the weekly letter, to inspire even more students to get involved! As part of RGS's Widening Access programme, we spoke about how curiosity can open doors - encouraging students to ask questions, seek out knowledge, and aspire to exciting futures, including opportunities like studying at RGS. It was truly inspiring to see the enthusiasm of the Highworth pupils, and we're proud to have played a small part in helping them dream big and believe in their potential. We ended the KS2 assembly with a special Q&A session, where pupils asked us thoughtful questions about secondary school as they prepared for their transition into Year 7. We really enjoyed sharing our experiences and, hopefully, helped to ease a few nerves! A huge thank you to Highworth Primary School for their warm welcome, and to Mrs Tan for organising it."*

### **German Exchange 29 March - 5 April Report written by Ishaan Kalbande (Year 10):**

A group of ten Year 9, 10 and 12 students headed off to Osnabrück on the German leg of the German exchange in the last week of term, accompanied by Frau Sheppard and Frau Bray, and alongside Year 10 students from Pipers Corner School and their German teacher, Frau Lomax.

*"The German Exchange Trip is definitely one of the more valuable and informative trips that RGS has to offer. Having said that, my friends and I had a blast! We lived for a week with our German exchange partner, which I will admit was a bit nerve-racking in the first few days, but later on, you will get used to living with people you don't know yet. You spend a weekend getting to know who you're living with a bit better and visit their school for an insight into the differences between our two schools and their way of life. Every weekday you have a day trip in a different city, which has new surprises every day - overall a really great trip! They had a similar experience when they came to us in February, seeing our way of life and education. I would highly recommend this trip!"*

### **MFL Department News: Kings' College, Cambridge Virtual Language Bus Event - Report written by Charlie Air (Year 9)**

Lots of university language departments run events and competitions for school students and often these are aimed at A Level linguists, but King's College, Cambridge ran an online outreach event over the Easter holidays targeted at Year 9 linguists, and Charlie Air in Year 9 was lucky enough to attend.

*"We were given talks by current students and lecturers at King's College, who were very informative about their subjects. The Language Bus was mainly about understanding the development of language over time, and how language as a concept is taught and understood, but we were taught a few phrases in Russian, and got to hear an Old French ballad, and some Italian (Tuscan) poetry from Dante Alighieri's Inferno. Overall, it was a brilliant event, and I would definitely recommend it to those interested in languages and their impact."*

### **Advanced Notice**

We are holding our 'Into the Sixth' day on Friday, 27 June for our own Year 11 students and for prospective new students. Due to the unprecedented number of applications (a reminder that our own Year 11, suitably qualified, students have priority over prospective new students), Years 7-10 and Year 12 will have a 'remote learning day'. Further details will follow, but it is likely that teachers will be setting assignments to be completed rather than a series of 'live lessons' as many teachers will be delivering sessions to prospective Sixth Formers.

With best wishes.

Philip Wayne