

**Headmaster's Letter
2025**



Dear All

WELCOME TO:

Sau Pang (Exams Assistant) and Rufus Tarayan-Bibbs (Sports Graduate). I wish both colleagues every happiness and success during their time with us.

It's been a busy and long Autumn Term and I feel certain that we are all looking forward to a break. Here are some highlights:

SCHOOL OF CHARACTER AWARD

We are incredibly proud to announce that we have officially received the School of Character Quality Mark from the Association for Character Education (ACE). This achievement places us among a select group of just 110 schools nationally to have earned this prestigious recognition. If you'd like to read more about it, please click [here](#).

MUSIC

Some exceptional musical events this term include the Autumn Showcase - a concert of bands, choirs and orchestras with a very large audience of appreciative parents. Friends of Music provide vital support, both in 'people power' and in funding for the department. A number of key players are stepping down this year from the committee, many of whom have given a number of years of service. It is very much a case of 'many hands make light work', so I would urge parents of students who benefit from the first class musical education at the school to get in touch and get involved. Please contact the Music Administrator, Fiona Morley-Smith, who will pass on your details.

HOUSE DRAMA - Oh yes, it is!

What an evening ... The Queen's Hall came alive with the spirit of competition, comedy, and sheer creativity. The challenge was set: 15 minutes to stage a masterpiece. And the students delivered. From the dark alleys of Gotham to the swamps of Shrek, and from ancient China to the very halls of RGS itself, the variety on display was nothing short of spectacular. The energy was electric, the jokes landed (mostly!), and the acting talent across all year groups was strong.

The judges had a difficult task separating the performances, as the scores were tight, particularly in the battle for the midfield. However, after calculating the points based on creativity, performance, participation and adhering to that time limit, the results were as follows:

- 1st Sandringham: An RGS Disaster
- 2nd Buckingham: Shrek - Pantomime Edition
- 3rd Kensington: Kung-Fu Panda: Legend of the Dumpling
- 4th St James: Panto Pandemonium
- 5th Windsor: Robin in the Hood
- 6th Balmoral: Batman, a Pantomime in Gotham

Thank you to everyone who wrote scripts, painted sets, donned costumes, or cheered from the audience. You represent the very best of the RGS spirit.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

This annual event, comprising traditional readings and carols, with the now anticipated extra trimmings provided by Mrs Jashari's sparkling orchestral arrangements, was probably the most ambitious ever. Over 200 students participated as choristers, instrumentalists or readers. With a congregation of over 300, All Saints Church was filled with festive singing. The service was not recorded, but [here](#) is a short slide-show which captures the scale of the Carol Service.

GIVING

Royal Grammar School
Amersham Road
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP13 6QT

Telephone
01494 524955

Facsimile
01494 551410

Email
admin@rgshw.com

Website
www.rgshw.com

Headmaster
Philip Wayne

Registered No. 07492198

My final assembly of the calendar year was on the topic of 'giving'. I'm very pleased to report that this term our students and staff have donated £200 to a school in Sierra Leone, towards a vegetable garden project, £1300 to the Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal), £1200 to [The Molly Rose Foundation](#) and over £2000 to Save the Children. Some of this was received in cash, but we also have a Just Giving page should parents, who have not done so already, wish to make a donation [Just Giving -Save the Children](#). Finally, we have been very pleased to receive food goods for the One Can Trust, a local Food Bank service, fortified by around £400 of donations from the retiring collection at the end of the Carol Service. My heartfelt thanks to all who have been able to support these various campaigns.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

750 students and around 100 staff enjoyed an excellent Christmas Lunch in the main Restaurant. My thanks to our Cucina staff who prepared and served lunch last week. It was a very festive occasion with many students and staff wearing a fine array of Christmas jumpers.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION SERVICE

The Charity, the Child Bereavement Trust are offering a Christmas Tree Collection Service with the aim of raising £30,000 to support their important work. Click [here](#) to book and to make a donation.

MOBILE 'PHONES

We are very much aware of the increasing pressure to implement total bans, and we have noted that several schools in Bucks have recently taken this approach. I hope that you have taken time to read the Deputy Headmaster's letter on this important topic. We have decided not to implement a total smartphone ban, instead focusing on developing students' 'digital agency'—the responsible and safe use of technology - to prepare them for a digital future. Our strict school rule remains that phones must not be seen between 08:40 and 15:30, but we also emphasise a vital home-school partnership for managing devices outside of school hours. The letter outlines essential guidance and resources, including the crucial need for parents to set and monitor restrictions on devices at home. The Webinar on the impact of technology on the teenage brain, was well attended by over 250 parents - a sure and certain sign of their interest in this important matter. Lest you missed the letter, [here](#) is the link.

ALL SPORTS BALL - Saturday 7 February, 7.00pm - 1.00am

Join us for what promises to be a fabulous evening in the Queen's Hall, for an evening of fine dining, music and dancing! This black tie event includes a champagne reception, three course dinner by Feast, Heads or Tails game, online auction, Diamond Raffle and dancing into the early hours to live music provided by The Black Sheep of Penn (a great band!). A new addition to the event programme will be the presentation of the Captains' Awards to Senior Captains across nine different sports. An unmissable moment of pride for the students, their parents and family members alike. Tickets (£55.00 per person) are available to purchase individually or as tables of 8, 10 or 12.

CRICKET

RGS has been named as one of the top 25 state schools for cricket, a testament to Mr Pardoe, Head of Cricket, for his development and delivery of our cricket programme and, of course, our committed players.

THE CRICKETER SCHOOLS GUIDE

This year's [guide](#) is the 11th edition & features the top 100 senior, top 50 prep/junior, top 20 all-girls schools and the top 25 state schools for cricket. The roll call of schools emerged from a large number of entrants who were judged against an extensive set of criteria, which included a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, coaching & outreach programmes.

SMALL ALL-WEATHER PITCH - Floodlights

The new floodlights on the RGS small all-weather pitch have now been installed, marking a significant enhancement to our sporting facilities. This installation has been made possible thanks to the generous support of our Corporate Partner, [Hawkinsport](#), whose commitment to the school community has been invaluable. The Parents' Association has also been generously supportive of this important project. This development will allow our students, along with local teams and clubs, to train all year round, supporting our extensive co-curricular and sports programmes and generating additional income for the school.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

OW Fencer, Louis Gosling, who has been awarded his EFC C refereeing licence in sabre. Louis was a key member of the Fencing squad during his time at RGS and represented GB in the U18 sabre competition in Hungary in 2019. The photograph at the top of the letter is of Louis refereeing at the 2024 British Youth Championships.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

I wish you a very Merry Christmas; if you don't celebrate it, a most enjoyable winter break, but all of you a very Happy New Year.

Philip Wayne