

HEADMASTER'S LETTER OCTOBER 2025



Dear Parent

ALL IS SAFELY GATHERED IN

We have had a pleasing start to the school year. Many visitors I have received in the last few weeks have commented on the very positive, purposeful atmosphere and the warm relationships between staff and students. I should like to thank you for your support in sending our students to school smart and well-equipped, ready to make the most of the opportunities made available to them.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

We aim to celebrate diversity throughout the year, rather than taking the 'flash in the pan' approach. Black history is a focus in many subjects at different stages within subject curricula but we did take the opportunity to have a special assembly for Black History Month. Hamid, Louis and Zeph gave a powerful presentation on 'Standing on Power and Pride' that was both educational and inspiring. From highlighting the legacies of figures such as Walter Tull and Claudia Jones to their call for amplifying Black voices in literature and getting proximate to others, you gave us all a lot to reflect on. Thank you for sharing your voices and perspectives with us all so confidently and eloquently.

MUSIC'S MEASURE

An excellent concert, the Autumn Soirée, was a great start to the Music season. From classical 'cello, piano to jazz, vocals and rock, we all enjoyed a very high standard of performance, auguring well for the remainder of the year. It was an especial pleasure to mark the début of our co-ed Sixth Form with fine performances from girls who joined in September.

We are incredibly proud of Thomas Parkes, year 9, who reached the final of Songs of Praise Junior Chorister of the Year. Most entrants to this competition are choristers in cathedral or Oxbridge college choirs so this a particularly spectacular achievement. His very fine voice impressed the judges. This was filmed a few months ago and Thomas' voice has since broken but I feel certain that his technique and interest will ensure that we continue to enjoy his performances, albeit in a lower register. [BBC Songs of Praise Chorister of the Year](#)

Our partners, the Chiltern Music Academy, who are based at RGS are providing opportunities for young people to learn the trombone and viola. Both instruments are 'shortage areas' nationally. There is also a final opportunity to join 'The Big Noise' on Friday 24 October. Please click on the link to learn more [Learn the Trombone or Viola](#)

RUGBY

Congratulations to our First XV who are through to Round 3 of the U18 Continental Tyres Schools Rugby competition! Congratulations to the 1st XV on their performance against Shiplake College on Wednesday. Thank you to all who showed their support from the side-lines - it was great to see so many parents and students - go RGEES! My best wishes to the team as they head to the St Joseph's Rugby Festival at the weekend - we are the only state school in the contest -quite a feather in the RGS cap.

PADEL

Well done to Oliver, Daniel, Musa and Amrit as part of the 132 players competing in the largest ever junior Padel event in the UK. A display of strength and determination which was highly commended.
Our thanks to UK Padel CEO Nick Baker for creating this fantastic event.

BRONZE CREST AWARDS: Report from Miss Brown, Senior Chemistry Technician

"Good news to start the year! Congratulations to our current Y9 student Kian Mistry and Y8 student Tristan Bird who achieved their Bronze Crest Awards last term. The theme was Survival in Harsh Environments - Kian chose to investigate how to maintain good hygiene if you are stranded in the rainforest and Tristan chose to investigate how to obtain clean drinking water if you are lost in the jungle. CREST is a national award which recognises over 10 hours of independent scientific planning, research, experimentation, analysis and evaluation. Quite the achievement for our youngest students."

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Please do support our Parents Association. They work really hard to put on events to raise money which, ultimately, benefit our students. Their large fundraiser is the Year 7 and 8 Disco, which took place on Saturday - a great success and an event which sold out very quickly.

One very easy, and cost effective, way to support is to join the 500 Club. Details here: [500 Club](#)

ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARS: Report from Mr Marshall

"An Arkwright Scholarship is one of the most prestigious awards in the Engineering profession. Only those who demonstrate an extremely high aptitude achieve it. There were slightly more than 300 awards issues this year throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Those successful enough to impress the judging panel this year include Sanjit Kumaramuthu and Josh Levan (both in Year 12). We should also recognise our existing Arkwright scholars, Siva Balasundaram, Hasan Al-Zarrad and Arran Patel, all of whom are currently in Year 13. With five scholars, the RGS has the rare distinction of having what is considered a high number. Achieving the scholarship entails completing an application form detailing extra-curricular engineering participation, team and leadership experiences and information about their GCSE DT project; a very rigorous aptitude paper and, for those who are selected, an intensive interview by members of the Arkwright panel (conducted on-line). In addition to an award of £250 per year, during Year 12 and 13, the Arkwright Scholars will be assigned to a mentor (someone currently in industry who is a specialist in their chosen career) and access to a range of on-line and virtual training events and work experience events at a subsidised rate, or entirely free."

MATHS COMPETITION: report from Mr Butler

"On Thursday 25th September, the UK Maths Trust (UKMT) launched its inaugural Maths Competition for Girls and this new opportunity was taken up by several of our new Year 12 students. We estimate the difficulty of this new UKMT challenge to be on a par with completing the Kangaroo round of the UKMT's Senior Maths Challenge. It is with great pleasure that we can announce the successes of our girls in this competition. We would like to congratulate Triaksha Bahu who achieved both the 'Best in School' and also a Distinction in the challenge which placed her amongst the top 25% of those nationally who entered this challenge. Additionally, we would like to commend Lily Phimister, Ella Price and Ayesha Irfan for achieving a Merit which placed them in the top 40% nationally of those who competed. It was fantastic to see the aspiration and enthusiasm for maths that all those who took part displayed - though ultimately, we hope it was an exciting and enjoyable maths experience. We look forward to seeing both our current and new girls take part in this competition next year."

REMEMBRANCE: 11 November

A highlight of our school year is the Outdoor Service of Remembrance. It is a traditional service with the Last Post, wreath laying, music, prayers and readings. All parents, of all faiths and none are welcome to attend to arrive by 10.30am please - there are refreshments, provided by the Parents Association, following the service.

With best wishes.

Philip Wayne