

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 20 February 2023

Dear Parent

I trust that you had a good half term break. A short 'keep in touch' letter as I am busy compiling information about activities from the last few weeks for a more substantial letter soon.

There were two very successful ski trips: Junior and Senior. I will report on these in a future letter. My thanks as ever to staff who run these trips and to our students for being superb ambassadors for the School.

Welcome to:

Louise Simon (HR Assistant), Cassie Pickering (Office Manager and Deputy Headmaster's PA), Charoula Blackwood (Senior IT Support Officer), Cara Ley (Domestic Assistant) and Jackie White (Domestic Assistant).

Valete:

Nasir Bandy – worked in our IT Department and has now returned to his work in the recording industry

Sonia Booth – has supported our excellent and burgeoning Careers Department as Administrator

Lihanne Nelson – Student Support Administrator

Linda Hobbs – Linda has worked in our boarding facility since 1991. She initially worked in School House (where Reception is) which was a boarding house until Fraser Youens was built in 1999. Linda has been an excellent and popular member of the boarding team and we wish her a very happy retirement.

House Drama:

Our first House Drama event took place a few weeks ago. The highlights have been put together in a '[Vimeo](#)' compiled by Mr McDonald-Smith. It is a lovely record of the event. Many thanks also to our competitors and to the industry professionals who adjudicated.

Celebrating success in The Maths Department:

BMO1 - British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1 - In the second half of last term, 200 Year 11, 12 and 13 students sat the Senior Mathematical Challenge, a 90-minute multiple-choice competition which emphasises mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and problem-solving fluency.

Those who scored in the top 10% of entries nationwide went through to further rounds with the top 1000 in the UK qualifying to sit the British Mathematical Olympiad 1, a very challenging 3.5 hour written paper! We are thrilled to announce that Henry Daley, Jonathan Cunnane and Nakul Nataraj all received this prestigious invitation.

Jonathan and Henry's excellent solutions earned them a Merit certificate, while Nakul gained a Distinction and a Bronze Medal, having been placed in the top 100 participants in the whole of the UK. This outstanding performance qualified Nakul for the British Mathematical Olympiad 2, sat at the end of January, and we await his result with eager anticipation.

Our congratulations on these excellent accomplishments.

Grammar School Mathematician of the Year

'The All England Grammar School Mathematician of the Year' is a new national competition, compiled and hosted by Dr Tom Crawford of Oxford University. Students from over a third of all grammar schools in England entered November's inaugural contest, including 22 RGS mathematicians across the Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 categories.

Congratulations go to James Heaven, Ishbir Singh and Nakul Nataraj, who were top RGS scorers in their age group. We were particularly delighted to learn that Nakul has been crowned the national Key Stage 5 'Grammar School Mathematician of the Year'. He wins £500 and a place in a Masterclass at Oxford University with Dr Tom Crawford.

Dates for your diary:

PA Quiz night - this takes place this coming Saturday. Tickets available on our website.

Our Music Department is putting on a production of The Producers. As ever, it will be a first-class Musical Theatre experience with great direction, acting, music and tech. The dates are 22-25 March 2023. Tickets available on [Little Box Office](#).

One of our great social events of the year is the [Bat Oar Ball](#). It is always a super evening, with a very fine meal prepared and served by FEAST of Beaconsfield, the usual Heads and Tails, an auction of great prizes and an opportunity to 'dance the night away'. 11 March - £70 a ticket.

With best wishes

Philip Wayne