



## HEADMASTER'S LETTER

17 July 2025



Dear Parent

My final letter of the year comes with thanks for your support and help in so many ways.

### Valete

**Hannah Jarvis** has worked with us this year as an LSA and is to complete a Master's Degree in Speech and Language Therapy.

**Paul Gale**, Estates Compliance Manager, is returning to the commercial world. He has overseen many changes in Health and Safety compliance, including RGS being awarded the Safety Mark accreditation.

**Izzy Cave**, Music Graduate, has ably supported the department, using her excellent musical skills. Izzy is returning to London to pursue a playing career.

**Jaime Nichols** joined us for one year as a teacher of PE in 2024. We wish him well as he returns to his native Northern Ireland working on a Rugby programme.

**Jamie Drage**, Gap PE, completed his two years with us and is going on to work in the sports industry.

**Vivienne Cameron** has worked as our Cookery Technician since 2015. A very capable and supportive colleague to the Design Technology /Cookery Department.

**Shannon De Alwis** joined RGS in 2021 as an LSA, but quickly put her qualifications to good use in teaching A Level Psychology. Shannon has also been a Boarding Tutor.

**James Chitham Mosley** was the first candidate I interviewed virtually, as he was appointed during 'lockdown'. He has made very strong contributions to the Music Department as Assistant Director of Music and more recently, in addition, as Head of Year in the Sixth Form. James has also been on the staff of the CCF and has supported the Rugby programme, coaching the U15As.

**Kevin Watson** joined RGS in 2017. An Old Wycombiensian, Kevin has brought great expertise to the leadership of Physics, initially as Subject Leader and, most recently as Assistant Subject Leader, as he planned for retirement.

We also have a number of governors stepping down, having given many years of service to the school. Ben Casemore - Chair, Dominic Hayes, Gerard O'Keefe and Belinda Avery. Governors generally serve a four year term, but each of my colleagues have gone well into a second term. These governors were formally thanked at the final Main Board of the year; they have jointly and severally brought expertise to the board and have supported the Senior Team in so many ways. We wish them every happiness in the future. I was greatly heartened, against national governor recruitment challenges, to have so much interest from current parents and community members. We were, therefore, able to fulfil all governance positions from September.

### And finally... goodbye to Year 13

A Levels over, our Year 13 leavers enjoyed the attractive surroundings of Moor Hall in Cookham - the venue for this year's Leavers' Ball. A great evening with welcome drinks, a good meal, lots of dancing, socialising, reminiscing and talking of the holidays that were to follow. My thanks to Mrs Wallace and Mrs Warner for their stellar organisation, ably supported by the Senior Prefect Team. We wish all Years 11 and 13 a well deserved break from their studies and look forward, with anticipation, to seeing the fruits of their labours on the results days in August.


### Prize Giving

Many congratulations to this year's prize winners; we enjoyed two excellent ceremonies greatly enhanced by musical performances and a canape and Bucks Fizz (with non-alcoholic alternatives) reception on the lawn. Our Guests of Honour were Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea (House of Lords Crossbencher and founder of Cobra Beer) and OW Finn Cormican who was Deputy Head Boy at RGS in 2017, has a degree from Cambridge and is pursuing a very promising career in the commercial world.

### Sports Day

Excellent team work between the House and Sports Staff, there were some examples of stunning athleticism and doughty determination as each competitor gave their all. Fortified by cheers from keen spectators comprising students, staff and parents there was a perfect example of competitive spirit throughout the afternoon. Many congratulations to Windsor House who won Sports Day and St James House, who were the overall winners.

### Musicals in the Making

RGS, along with our partner, Chiltern Music Academy, is hosting a Music Theatre playing and singing event; two workshops, one for singers and one for instrumentalists. It is an opportunity for young people from any school to benefit from working with industry professionals leading to a performance for parents. Click  Musicals in the Making for more information.

### Smart Phones

'Ban smartphones in schools' makes a good headline and is something of a hot topic. My view is that, at RGS, we have it about right - 'phones away at 0840 and not seen until 1530. This allows for emergency lunch payments, the occasional 'phones out with permission' to record an interview etc. and safety to and from school, whilst keeping lessons disruption free and break and lunchtimes times for personal interaction. Teenagers are very adept at circumventing measures which cause them inconvenience, hence my aversion to pouches and lockers. Schools absolutely have a part to play in addressing matters of social concern but cannot, nor should they, try to resolve them alone. We are constantly reviewing how we deal with this issue and I, for one, am acutely aware that we may be out of kilter with what seems like momentum building. Thoughts welcome - in September. In the meantime, I do hope that you read the Deputy Headmaster's informative letter about technology, including smartphones in comms today ([linked here for convenience](#))

### Duke of Edinburgh Award

Yet again, this was a very successful expedition (Bronze: 139 students, Silver: 33; Gold: 45). It is a great experience and I do hope that the large number of students who complete the Bronze will consider the Silver and Gold in the Future. Volunteering alone puts 3016 hours back into the community which, if paid at the minimum wage would result in a material cost of £19,302.

### Finally...

We started the year on the back of excellent examination results, with a progress measure at GCSE which puts us in the top handful of schools, numerous co-curricular successes and a very pleasing Ofsted inspection. No organisation is perfect - when things have gone awry I hope that we have been reflective, when things have gone well, your appreciation has been welcomed.

We have exciting plans for the next academic year as we work through our Five Year Plan - I will share in the new year and, of course, we will be welcoming female students into our Sixth Form for the first time in September.

Wherever your travels take you, I wish you a relaxing summer break and renew my thanks to you all for your support this academic year.

With best wishes.

**Philip Wayne**