



New Staff



Teaching Staff

- Greg Roberts - Teacher of Design Technology
- Harry Rodger - Teacher of Physics/ASL
- Amaan Kayani - Teacher of Mathematics
- Alan Miscampbell - Teacher of Mathematics
- Sam Connor - Teacher of PE
- Kay Dyas Subject - Leader of Psychology
- Daniel Monteiro - Teacher of Economics
- Leanna Roberts - Teacher of Biology

Teacher Training

- Kenny Sands Astra Trainee - English
- Molly Muncie Astra Trainee - Maths

Support Staff

- Claire Wielechowski - Senior Chemistry Technician
- John Miller - Estates Manager
- Kiranmai Pillaram - LSA
- Saraswathi Lingam - LSA
- Ying Cheng Graduate - Music Assistant
- Hannah Harris - Cookery Assistant

Dear Parent

WELCOME

I hope you have enjoyed the summer. I have been so very pleased to greet our students back at The Royal Grammar School. An especial welcome to our Year 7 and Year 12 students. I am exceedingly proud that we have enrolled almost 40 girls into our Sixth Form, which marks an excellent start to our co-educational Sixth Form. I feel certain that all students new to the school will find great reward during their time with us. Boarding is an important part of school life; Fraser Youens House is a home away from home for our boarders. It's great to have everyone back, and, of course, with an assured warm reception to those new to the House.

After eighteen years as a Head, I never take exam results for granted; we were simply delighted with the A Level results with 85% being at A*-B. This has propelled our students to excellent universities and (increasingly, and understandably) apprenticeships. GCSE results were also pleasing, as expected, and very competitive locally. As I said in my first assembly of the year, school leaders are held to account for student results (rightly so) but I never forget that it is the individual work of young people, supported by the staff at the RGS, fortified by that of parents which enables students to achieve well. Many congratulations to all.

We also have new staff joining the Royal Grammar School. Please see the slide above. I wish all new colleagues a happy and rewarding time with us.

COMMUNICATION

I write a Headmaster's Letter around twice a month. It is generally a round-up of activities, celebrations and my musings on aspects of RGS life. Occasionally the letters are followed up with a video. I do not routinely write about operational matters, apart from at the start of the year, as I am going to do now with a few points.

Currently, we have 'School Comms' on Mondays and Thursdays. I introduced this in my first week at the school (when I was also a new parent) and became tired, rather quickly, of being bombarded with emails every day. There is a lot of traffic. **It is therefore essential for parents to keep on top of the information which comes from the School.** Most 'letters' come through School Comms, though there are other systems used on occasion. Letters are posted on the School Website [Parent Letters 2024-2026](#) if they apply to the whole school or a year group.

Do follow me (RGSHeadmaster) on X (Twitter) @RGSHW - this is an instant update on activities; I retweet the posts of departments, so you can follow those too. We also have an Instagram account, as do many departments.

OTHER POINTS

Thank you for your support in purchasing the right uniform/dress code. Most of our students dress smartly and know that they are expected to do so - they looked very impressive in assembly last week. I've asked staff to take a firm line on white socks and that panacea for all podiatric ailments - the trainer! Trainers should not be worn at all unless their use is backed up by some medical evidence; in the case of 'lost shoes' (which seem to sprout legs more readily than the prized pair of trainers!) their use should be kept to a minimum duration.

Please could you help us by encouraging organisation 'the night before' - this hopefully will keep the need for you to make emergency missions to Reception (whose staff then have to do the same) with forgotten laptops, lunchboxes to a minimum.

A reminder that students should be dropped off responsibly, ideally in Green Road. Parents should not attempt to enter the Staff/Sixth Form car park. A barrier is to be installed in the next couple of months.

NEW PARENTS

I was very pleased to meet so many Year 7 parents at the inaugural coffee morning. All Year 7 do seem to be settling in well and are becoming more confident by the day, learning the RGS ways as they find their way around the School and understand the routines of a large institution. I will be meeting my first round of 'Birthday Boys' next week as I celebrate the 12th birthday of Year 7 who will, in seven years' time, be the oldest in the school! There is a Team Building event at Woodrow on 29th September and we would encourage all to participate. It is a really important bonding event, complementing the Sports' Camp that many students attended in the summer. It is such fun and, of course, we use the opportunity to embed our RGS values to boot. There is also a two-day Team Building event for Year 12, run by a professional organisation.

STAFF AT RGS

The School's Safeguarding Team and Pastoral Team are:

DSL: Mr Durning

ADSL: Mr Scourfield, Mrs Herath and Matron (Mrs Barry)

HoYs: Mr Phillips, Mr Mulholland, Mr McDonald-Smith, Ms Wafa, Mr Carr, Mr Gallagher and Mrs Byrd

CONTACTING STAFF

We have very good relationships with parents - long may that continue. Staff are only too happy to help and understand the need for early intervention. Staff are asked to reply to parents within 48 hours at most, but are not expected to reply in the evening. Unless it is a safeguarding or very serious issue, or you have previously built that mutual relationship with a teacher, please do not email staff in the evening or at weekends (use a delay function if necessary). Sometimes, frustration can get the better of any of us; I expect RGS staff to be treated with courtesy and respect, so do take a deep breath before pressing 'send'. You may be sure that staff will do the same.

THE FORTH BRIDGE

We have had no major building projects this summer but have carried out a significant amount of remedial work in several areas of the school. We have improvements to toilet facilities, a new wellbeing area and counselling area for students, repairs to science facilities, the swimming pool and entrance gates.

PRIORITIES FOR THE YEARS

As well as a comprehensive Five-Year Plan we have an annual Operational Plan which is distilled into 'Priorities' for staff to focus on. This year we will be focussing on:

- **Consistency** - to ensure that students know what is expected of them in every lesson. (Teachers have the autonomy to decide how they deliver lessons, but routines should be universal.)
- **Digital Learning** - this year, a particular focus will be on the ethical and intelligent use of AI. I believe we have a duty to promote digital agility
- **Form Time** - students spend 81 hours per year in forms. I want these hours to be rewarding for staff and productive for students
- **PSHE** - ensuring that we all understand our role in supporting the personal development of students
- **Inspirational Facilities** - speaks for itself, with challenges in the current financial climate, balanced with the provision of good day-to-day facilities
- **Sustainability** - working on a Sustainability Action Plan; student eco group and staff working group

FINALLY...

I wish your families a long and productive relationship with RGS and all RGS students all the very best for the year ahead.

With best wishes.

Philip Wayne