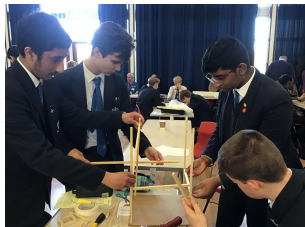


HEADMASTER'S LETTER

6 March 2025



Dear Parents

Welcome

A very warm welcome to Dr Paige Newmark and Mr Michael Sweeney who have joined us in English and History respectively to cover the maternity leave of Ms McDonagh and Miss Gibbs respectively. Many congratulations to Miss Gibbs on the birth of her daughter, Cleo Sofia.

Ofsted

Many thanks to parents who completed the Ofsted parent survey for our recent 'ungraded' inspection. The report will not be ready for a few weeks, however I can report at this stage that I was very pleased indeed. Watch this space!

Pedestrian Gate

The new pedestrian gate is now in use and is the point at which all students, parents and visitors should enter the school and leave the estate on a school day.

Drop-offs and pick-ups on Hamilton Road

We have endured weeks of complaints from staff trying to access the Uplyme Staff and Sixth Form Car Park, local residents sending me video footage of parents reversing onto their drives to drop off their sons (in some cases excavating lawns as they do so), driving into the School House entrance and reversing back onto Hamilton Road (and requiring staff who are trying to access their car park to do the same) and/or parking on the zig-zags. All of the above behaviours are unacceptable; your son's senior staff and maintenance team should be running the school not acting as traffic wardens. What is worse, is that some of my staff have experienced verbal abuse when asking parents to do the right thing. We do not have the resources or space to provide drop-off zones, so we rely on the good sense of those who drop their sons off to be responsible drivers.

House Music

St James house has emerged victorious in a closely fought inter-house music competition, edging out a strong challenge from Windsor, due to a time penalty for the latter, in a night of dazzling performances. The annual event showcased an impressive array of musical talent from across all six houses. From soaring orchestral arrangements to intimate chamber pieces and high-energy rock anthems, the audience was treated to a feast of musical styles. The standard of performance was exceptionally high, making the job of adjudicator, Old Boy Leo Munby, a particularly difficult one. Leo, now a successful musical theatre conductor and musical director in London's West End, praised the students for their passion, commitment, and impressive musicianship. He commented on the remarkable range of talent on display, noting that some of the performances came from students the Director of Music wasn't even aware were musicians! This unexpected discovery highlighted the depth of hidden talent within the school community. You can read more, and see a short video [here](#).

Wycombe MP Visit

The newly elected MP for Wycombe constituency, Emma Reynolds, took time, on her constituency day, to drop in for lunch at which we were joined by Sixth Formers Alex Gold and Cameron Noble. On a tour of the school, Emma called in on the Library, the Careers Office and a Year 9 lesson. Cameron presented the MP with a copy of 'Don't Forget Us Here' by former Guantánamo detainee, Mansoor Adayfi.

Guantánamo Bay

We will be delighted to welcome the above-mentioned Mansoor Adayfi to RGS for a special talk and [Q&A event](#) on Monday 10th March at 15:45 in the Sixth Form Centre, offering a rare and valuable insight into the legal and human rights issues surrounding Guantánamo Bay. Tickets are available via Parent Pay.

Rugby

We had a fantastic turnout of parents, students and staff, past and present at Aylesbury RFC for the Semi-final of the Continental Tyres Cup v Harrow School. The narrow loss (13-15) was gutting for the team who played with great determination, the general consensus being that RGS deserved to win. We are immensely proud of the senior players who have represented their school with pride and skill throughout their time here and I send my heartfelt thanks and, on this occasion, commiserations. We are looking forward now to Sedbergh 10s. Take a look at [Mr Honeyben's interview](#) following the game.

Technology Tournament - Friday 28 February 2025

This year's challenge involved solving a contextualised engineering-based problem using modelling materials such as balsa wood, dowel, elastic bands, string, wire and glue guns amongst other things. The task was to *"Design and build a launcher to fire a space capsule, containing meteorological instruments into the stratosphere. The capsule, with its cargo, was represented by an air tennis ball"*. Outcomes were variable, ranging from being near-expertly engineered to barely-functional. In addition to the mechanical model produced, marks were awarded for the quality of each team's design folder and team work. The students accepted their individual, engraved glass plaques with characteristic modesty, while taking a moment to extend their thanks to the judges and other competitors. The RGS Intermediate Team included Aikithan Geevananthan (10Wi), Arafat Hussain (10SJ), Rehaan Khan (10Sa) and Thomas Lettley (10Sa).

Maths Success

Junior Maths Team Challenge (Regional winners)

On Friday 28 February a team of four students from Year 8 and 9 participated in the regional finals of the UKMT Maths Team Challenge - a maths team competition held amongst 22 schools for a place in the national finals. This year the regional finals were held at Wycombe High School. This full day challenge requires exceptional mathematical problem solving skills, an ability to think fast, flawlessly and tactically. The competition requires the students to work effectively in pairs as well as in a team of four. The students teamed up very well, had so much fun and competed enthusiastically throughout the whole day. The RGS team clearly excelled as the students came out in top position amongst the 22 participating schools - gaining the coveted place in the national finals to be held in Westminster in June! Huge congratulations for an excellent team performance to James Heaven (Y9), Haiyang Sun (Y9), Yusuf Khalid (Y8) and Sugaashan Thayaparan (Y8).

Y12 RGS Ritangle team (International Runners-up)

Ritangle is a Maths competition aimed at teams of Sixth Form students from schools and colleges Nationally, as well as teams from International British schools taking part. Over 1700 teams took part in this year's competition, where teams tackle a series of Maths challenges over ten weeks. The race was then on to be the first team to submit the answer to the final question; a series of 3 crossnumber puzzles. The RGS Ritangle team of Ishbir Singh (Team Captain), Tharul Wannan Arachchige, Ayaan Siyad, Leo Tabram, Alex Summerscale, Ethan Zhou, Michael Wright and Aryan Menon were one of 12 teams that were 'International Runners-up' (runners-up also included teams from Qatar and Cyprus); having submitted completely correct solutions within 24 hrs of the overall winners. This is a fantastic achievement; they deserve recognition of this amazing result.

RGS Hans Woyda team

Having won their Regional group stages, unfortunately our Hans Woyda team lost in the first knockout round against last year's winners in 'a sudden death tie break'; they performed incredibly well and they should be extremely proud of their efforts having tied the match 35-35 after the final deciding questions. The team consisted of James Heaven Y9, Isaac Workman Y11, Tharul Wannan Arachchige Y12 and Shyan Bera Y13.

Congratulations to

Loukas Baker (Year 11) who has been selected to attend a GB U18's Men's Handball training camp in Portugal later this month.

With best wishes

Philip Wayne