

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

16 December 2024



Dear Parent

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

A packed All Saints' Church enjoyed carols from our massed, chamber and staff choirs and sang lustily in the congregational items. Our Director of Music, Mrs Jashari, is an expert arranger of music and the hardy annuals were leavened with some fantastic instrumental accompaniments. Nearly 250 boys were involved in the service which I know, for many, represents the start of their Christmas season. Many thanks for the generosity in the retiring collection, some of which goes to the Church and some to our charity, Anaphylaxis UK.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Academy schools (which is our status) are required to formally appoint an Accounting Officer (usually the Head), a qualified CFO (in our case, the Finance Director) but also appoint a '[Responsible Officer](#)'. Our current RO (a parent) is stepping down at the end of this financial year and we are looking for a parent who may be interested in this role. It requires three visits to Finance per year with a report being presented to the Board on an annual basis. If this would be of interest to you and you wish to support your son's school, please do get in touch with my PA, Denise Chick, dmc@rgshw.com.

We also have another opportunity for a parent to take on a voluntary key role within our DofE team at school - and you don't have to sleep in a tent!

We are looking for someone to become our DofE Award Verifier. This vital role provides the final sign-off for a young person's award and does not require involvement in the actual delivery of the programme to students but is an integral part of our quality assurance process before students can be issued their awards.

If you are interested in supporting the award and would like some more information, please get in touch with Mr Clatworthy on dec@rgshw.com. You can view the job description by clicking on this [link](#).

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

I was sorry to miss the RGS Christmas Lunch this year; it is a feat of organisation from both the school's and caterer's perspective. Nearly 600 servings of Roast Turkey/Vegetarian Wellington, with all the trimmings was, I understand, greatly enjoyed.

AI

We are, naturally, exploring AI and we are signing up to the Google Trailblazers programme to support us in this work. Mr Wilson has written a letter, which you can read [here](#), on some of the less savoury aspects of AI and the concerns that many parents will have about online safety. I would strongly recommend all parents read it.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

The Senior Prefect Team from RGS, ran a Leadership afternoon for the Year 6 Prefects at Beechview Academy this term. The afternoon focused on leadership and communication skills, learning how to deliver an impromptu assembly-style speech, learning how to brainstorm and present ideas for school improvements and how to work collaboratively to solve problems. The RGS Prefects thoroughly enjoyed working with the Beechview Academy Prefects who embraced the opportunity and worked with great enthusiasm and creativity. This mentoring activity is the first of many that RGS will be rolling out with local Primary schools. The aim of the project is to inspire and support the Primary school pupils and for RGS pupils to develop their own leadership skills and build on empathy from the process. Next term this project will see RGS students supporting local Primary schools further, in subject specific areas and offering assemblies and mentoring on a regular basis.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Alex Roberts, Year 11, who has been selected to represent Southern Region fencing Sabre at this year's Cadet Winton event - an annual inter-regional team competition for all three weapons for U18 Fencing. All the best, from us all.

Our Senior Tennis Squad Oliver Connor, Charlie Lawrence, Hugo Dighe and Daniel Cazak on their success in the LTA Youth Schools Yr 11-13 Competition at Bucks Indoor Tennis Centre.

J14 Rowers who organised an Erg Relay when their races were cancelled due to Storm Darragh sending its disruption along the river. Hugo, Dominic, Harry and Nitesh (pictured above) completed 2km in 7.55.9.

With my thanks for your continued support in what has been a very busy term.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing family time together during the festive season and, if you celebrate it, a very Happy Christmas.

With best wishes.

Philip Wayne