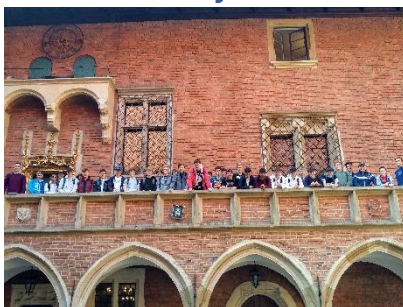


HEADMASTER'S LETTER 24 May 2019



Dear Parent

Exams

The examination season is underway. I'm sure you will join me in thanking staff for their preparation of your sons for their GCSE and A level exams. I wish them continued good luck and fortitude in the coming weeks. Years 7-10 should now be busy revising for their end of year exams. Do support them during half term, encouraging them to work hard but also to take some time to relax so that they can be content with themselves as much as with their exam performance.

This is also a good opportunity to wish all Leavers every success in the future and to thank them for their contribution to RGS over the years. We had a series of Leavers' events, including a fun day on the sports fields, a parent tea and a Leavers' Ball, organised by the Senior Prefect Team for which they hired the Queen's Hall. We do hope that you will stay in touch with the School and will register on the [alumni website](#) so that we might keep you informed of events.

In Town tonight....

For former students who may be interested in joining a private members' club in 'Town', the Lansdowne Club in Mayfair encourages alumni to take advantage of their 1824 Club which offers a considerably discounted one off membership fee to 18-24 year olds. Click [here](#) to join.

Beware the Ides of (Lord) March

Those of you with older sons may remember that we had a Caterham Club – boys would build a Caterham Kit Car, but could not actually drive it. Dr Brown has converted this Club into a battery powered car club known as 'the Greenpower Club' during which the boys build and drive their car. The team had an excellent day at Goodwood with the Senior team's scratch build car passing its first ever scrutineering and completing its first ever 100m. This was a great achievement and they learned much from being put out due to chain alignment. All in all a great first event.

Economics success

The Institute of Economic Affairs offers an annual economics essay competition called 'Dorian Fisher Memorial Prize'. One of the oldest think tanks, the IEA is dedicated to research into markets and other economic issues. We enter all our Year 12 economists (first prize is £500) and this year we had three winners – Hugo Shotter, won a £250 runner-up prize. Alex Rizvi and Nick Evans each won a commendation for being in the top 10% of entries for this national competition. Well done, chaps!

Carry on Camping

111 Year 10 Bronze DofE participants successfully completed their expedition after ten days walking in the local area and one night of camping at Woodrow High House in Amersham. New skills were learnt and they all demonstrated fantastic attitudes and great teamwork.

Says Alice...

I was also delighted to join the very proud parents in Buckingham Palace Gardens as 17 of our boys were presented with their D of E Gold awards by BBC Breakfast sports presenter, Mike Bushell with Sophie, Countess of Wessex, being the royal presence for our group. It was a magnificent occasion in a perfect setting with our boys thoroughly deserved.

History trip to Krakow: Report by James Miller (Year 10)

On 6 April 2019, a group of GCSE and A level history students, boarded a flight to Kraków, Poland. As we arrived in Poland, it was clear that many of us were excited but nervous about what was to come. Many of us had never been to Poland before, so we gladly took the opportunity to get a glimpse at the local culture while out for dinner on our first night, then it for now, as it was back to the hotel to get some sleep. We had a big day waiting for us. We woke up early and, coming down to breakfast, it was clear that people didn't know what we were going to see, as, for once the dining room was quiet, everyone deep in thought about the sights they knew they were going to see that day, Auschwitz. On arrival we stepped off of the bus to see something that would undoubtedly change the way we look at the world. We were given a tour around the camps by two excellent guides who knew every detail of the fascinating, but sad history. They took us to the humbling sights where the Nazis conducted the second largest genocides ever. After the upsetting scenes of the effect of the Nazi occupation, we then travelled back to Krakow to see the impact of Soviet occupation at Nowa Huta. After a much-needed night's sleep, we were ready to tackle a day of sightseeing in Kraków old town. We saw the university, the cathedral where the remains of the patron saint of Poland are buried and finally spectacular views of the city from the top of the tower and from a river cruise. It was then time to head home, but first we were to stop at the world-famous salt mines. After a great tour, showing us what can be made from salt 300m under the ground was time to head to the airport. Overall, it was a great trip that led us to see some great sights that will stick with us forever. On behalf of everyone that went, I would like to thank the History teachers for organising such a great trip.

School events

It was super to welcome so many to our Iftar last evening. Particular thanks to the Right Start Foundation International and several parents who generously sponsored the fantastic meal. A great night for those of all faiths and none to celebrate the breaking of the fast with Muslim families.

We have a number of great events coming up and I would urge you to check the School Calendar on the website to see what is of interest to you. May I flag up the following:

22 June - is an important day for sport with the RGS and OW Touch Rugby Tournament 1430-1900 followed by the (schhh, you know what) RGS Beer and Gin Festival (with wine and music) running to midnight.

30 June - we have Jazz in the Quad. This is a great event with fine music, bar and BBQ. Not to be missed if you enjoy live music!

Congratulations to:

- Toby Bradshaw, Tom Cocking and Billy Kucera for their selection in the Wasps U16s at the Wellington Festival.
- Harry Turnbull for delivering a superb lecture on the link between Physics and Music to a small but fascinated audience.
- Harry Turnbull and Cameran Johal for undertaking roles as Organ Scholars at All Saints Marlow and All Saints High Wycombe respectively. For many, the sound of the organ conjures up memories of 'The Old Rugged Cross' at Great Aunt Jennifer's swansong at the crematorium, but some of the country's finest and most respected musicians are organists and these roles will set them up well for a successful musical life.

I wish you all a very happy half term break.

Philip Wayne