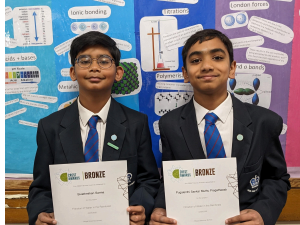


HEADMASTER'S LETTER
10 July 2025



Dear Parent

Welcome

Liam Coleman who has joined our Estates Team as an apprentice.

Valete

Jane Lawrence, LSA, joined 2022 has given great support to students. We are pleased that she will help with cover from time to time. Lucy Marshall, Alumni and Development Consultant joined in 2019 and has built a growing network of OWs, securing nearly £400k of donations from former students towards the Sixth Form Centre, set up a Legacy programme and, generally, left philanthropic energy in a better place. Lucy has gone to an executive role in the independent sector.

Caroline Cope joined us for a short period of time in DT, to cover for Mrs Morsing. She has made a very positive impact on the department and we wish her well as she moves to a new life and job in Dorset.

Heather Harries joined RGS in 2021 as an LSA and this academic year she changed her career to become a teacher. Heather has just successfully completed her teacher training with us, through the Astra Alliance, and has secured a well-deserved post at Thorpe House from September.

The bulk of my letter this week is formed of contributions from departments.

Bronze CREST Awards

Congratulations to our Y7 and Y8 students Siva Sarma, Pugalenthil Pragasheeth and Jai Marandi (not present for photo) who achieved their Bronze CREST Awards last term. Through ten hours of independent research, experimentation and analysis, the students devised different methods of securing clean drinking water in hostile environments.

Open Events

Our Sixth Form taster day was well-attended by our own students and external ones. We have received good feedback and I would like to thank parents for their understanding following our decision to ask students in Years 7-11 to work from home. We had a very large gathering for our Open Evening receiving excellent feedback on the ambassadorship of your sons and the passion of our staff. As well as informative events, the Open Evening is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the work that we do at RGS. There will be Open Mornings in October once the results of the Secondary Transfer Test (11+) are known. Do encourage prospective families to get in touch if they need any information about RGS.

Spanish: Paella Cooking Session - report from Harshaan Webhra

"Last Tuesday, the Year 12 Spanish class took a delicious detour from our usual classroom learning with a paella cooking session. As part of our A Level studies, we've been exploring Spanish culture beyond just grammar and vocabulary, and this experience gave us a real taste of Spanish culinary tradition - quite literally!" Throughout the year, we have learnt about the importance of regional ingredients, and how food plays a central role in Spanish family and social life. There is no better way to experience this than cooking it ourselves! With options for both non-vegetarians and vegetarians, everyone was able to get involved, and the aroma alone was enough to transport us straight to Spain! A special thank you to Mrs Langan for arranging this amazing opportunity and also to Gary, who guided us in cooking such an amazing, authentic Spanish dish. It was not only a fun and memorable lesson but also a fantastic way to engage with Spanish culture in a practical, meaningful way. ¡Deliciosa y educativa!"

Mathematics - report from Mr Busschop

"Last week, a team of four Year 8/Year 9 students travelled to Westminster, London, to compete in the National Finals of the Maths Challenge organised by the UK Maths Trust (venue at the Royal Horticultural Society). The competition promised to be fierce with 64 winning school teams from Regional Finals convening from across the whole UK. Ten top Chinese schools had also travelled to London to participate. The teams not only needed to bring their best mathematical and problem solving skills, but also a strong ability to think tactically and work effectively in pairs and in a team of four. One part of the competition also included assembling a poster of materials they prepared around the theme 'Mathematics in Nature'. We are very proud of our RGS team who performed superbly throughout the whole day challenge and ended in 15th place out of the 64 finalists. Congratulations to James Heaven & Haiyang Sun (Y9) , Yusuf Khalid & Sugaashan Thayaparan (Y8)!"

Victory at the Keats-Shelley Association Memorial Young Romanticism Essay Prize - report from Aydin Aslam-Denn's - Y13

MFL Competition News - report from Mrs Sheppard

"The summer term saw results come back from two very popular national MFL competitions: the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators and the May Languagenut competition. We had a record number of entries this year for the Anthea Bell prize and are delighted to report that Pavit Pradhan in Y8 won a commendation for his very well written and thoughtful translation of a French poem. This puts him at the top of nearly 5000 entries that the University of Oxford received, so félicitations indeed to Pavit. In the Languagenut Competition, which ran from 5-20 May, students competed nationally to try and win as many points as possible, completing activities on Languagenut, a website we subscribe to to support student learning in languages. Hayden Gandhi in Y9 came top in the school and 68th out of thousands of students nationally. Nearly all the other students in the top 10 in RGS were in Y7, so a particular well done to this year group for their enthusiasm! The final competition this term is the prestigious Stephen Spender translation prize for poetry translation. The deadline for this is Friday 11 July and entries are coming in from all year groups, so do keep them coming. Results from this will be released in the autumn term."

Oxford and Bucks Science and Technology STEM Tournament Tuesday 1th July 2025 - report from Mr Marshall

"Twelve of our most able Year 9s took part in this regional event, that included mixed team based activities where participants competed in a number of industry style engineering related events such as E-FIT (using facial recognition software), Robotics (building and programming a robotic vehicle), Medical Diagnostics and Vehicle Challenge (constructing a battery powered vehicle calculating transmission, speed and torque). Over a dozen teams took part from within the area and it was pleasing to see one of the RGS Teams (comprising Zach Richards (Wi) and Kenan Adjei Agye (9Wi)), as well as two other students from another school) winning first prize for their Medical Diagnostic entry. Other RGS team members achieved runner-up prizes across the other STEM challenges, while one of the RGS teams was awarded Overall Winning Team. This team included Lev Owen (9Sa) and Matty Cooper (9Sj). Lev and Matty will go through to the regional finals in September. The event was designed to develop team building skills, an appreciation of working with people from different schools and a broader understanding of four engineering based professions. The event took place at the University of Oxford, Educational Department and the organisers were MCS Science and Technology Ltd."

RGS Cricket Festival - report from Mr Pardoe

"There are six Royal Grammar Schools, unrelated apart from name, but a common denominator in an annual cricket festival. A fantastic week at the RGS Festival last week. The boys played very well and they were fantastic off the pitch too. They represented the school brilliantly. We finished 2nd beating Worcester, Colchester and Guildford. We were in a position to beat Lancaster when the match was rained off on the final day. We narrowly lost (10 runs) to Newcastle who won the festival."

Our team members performed very well on the individual performances too:

Player of the Festival: Monty Evans

Leading Run Scorer: Monty Evans (1st), Nipun Chopra (2nd)

Leading wicket taker: Tharul Wanniarachchige (Joint 1st)

Most catches: Nipun Chopra (1st), Alex Lloyd Taylor (2nd)

Video from the Headmaster

Thank you for the positive feedback about the video version I sent out a few weeks ago. I have another one in the planning in which I will cover Prizegiving, DofE, Creative Olympics, Sports Day and Arts Fest.

Finally, may I thank all staff and students for coping so well with higher temperatures than we are accustomed to. We have aimed to be reasonable with the summer dress code continuing to the end of term; in the rooms most affected, chiefly the 'Junior Block' (Amersham Road) we have hired in basic air conditioning units which I think will become something of a hardy annual.

Trips

My best wishes to those currently on their DofE Expedition and to staff and students going on the World Challenge trip to Eswatini and on the Rugby Tour to South Africa.

With best wishes.

Philip Wayne