

HEADMASTER'S LETTER - 3 April 2025



Dear Parent

Valete

At the end of this term we say goodbye to:

Stephanie Saul - Receptionist

Fee Chandler - Geography teacher, Head of House and formerly Head of Year; a fine, hardworking teacher and year leader who has been immensely supportive of our co-curricular programme including many World Challenge and DofE expeditions.

Beccy Harrison has been the highly respected director of our most recent shows and is stepping down following the birth of her first child. Beccy has taken Music Theatre at RGS to a new level.

I thank all colleagues for their work at RGS and wish them well in the future.

Good Schools Guide

Although less scientific than the Ofsted report and written for a different audience, our recent Good Schools guide [review](#) makes for joyous reading.

#techognition

I was very pleased to celebrate, with our department technicians, the national recognition day 'techognition' - they are often 'unsung heroes' in schools but are pivotal to ensuring that experiments and construction can take place.

Bonnie and Clyde

My thanks to the cast, crew, musicians and direction team for an exceptional Music Theatre production of Bonnie and Clyde. The standard was very high and impressed the large audiences who attended each night. There was a palpable sense of excitement as the audience gathered in the Sixth Form Centre and we were all transfixed by the talent on the stage and in the orchestra (as good as I've ever heard). My hat is also off to the technical team (SLST) who overcame many barriers to make sure that light and sound was effective during the performance.

German Department news - Report from Miss Sheppard

"It has been a busy half term for the German Department. We hosted students and teachers from the Ratsgymnasium Osnabrück just before February half term as the first leg of our annual German exchange. We will be going to Osnabrück in the final week before Easter and are very much looking forward to a week of cultural and linguistic immersion and seeing our exchange partners again. The links between the two schools go back as far as the 1950s and we are very proud to keep the link going in an age when an ever decreasing number of UK schools still run exchanges. The amount students gain from exchanges in terms of resilience and independence, alongside the linguistic gains, cannot be stressed enough and we would encourage all Germanists to sign up when they have the opportunity in Years 9, 10 and 12. In addition to the exchange this term, Frau Hulley, our German language assistant, took two of our Year 12 students to a study day at the Goethe Institut where they participated in workshops about racism, integration and right wing extremism in modern German society and watched and analysed the powerful film, 'Es brennt'. This was both a great supplement to key elements of the German A Level course, but also for our students' wider education and understanding of contemporary issues in society. The day took place during the national #ShoutOutForGerman week and you can see a selection of RGS staff and students' 'shout outs' on the MFL department's [X](#) and [Instagram](#) pages."

Anthea Bell Young Translators Competition - Report from Miss Sheppard

"RGS students from Y7-Y13 have once again submitted entries to this prestigious annual translation competition, run by the University of Oxford. We saw a record number of entries this year in French, German and Spanish, and the top five entries in each language and level have gone forward to the national competition. We look forward to hearing the results in May, but a big well done to everyone who entered and stretched their linguistic skills beyond the classroom."

RGS French Year 7 Spelling Bees buzzing towards the Nationals in June 2025 - Report from Mesdames Godley and Dudrey

"Spelling might seem simple—cat, C-A-T— but what if we make it more exciting and really get your brain buzzing? Imagine taking an English word, translating it into French, and then spelling it out using the French alphabet all in a race against the clock! That's exactly the challenge our Year 7 French students embraced when they entered the Routes into Languages National Spelling Competition for French in September 2024. This was the first time RGS entered a French National spelling competition, but it has been very popular and has been deemed really useful by the pupils taking part. Thank you to our A-Level French students for their fantastic support in this new adventure. See [here](#) what our French Bees thought of the competition. Since September, all 192 of our Year 7 students have been honing their spelling skills and the top 24, four from each form, earned a place in our school competition in February 2025. The competition was fierce, but only three top spellers could move on to represent RGS at the South East Regional Final held in March at Southampton University. Ali D., Ramzi T., and Yusuf K., our three RGS Regional finalists were among the last 38 students selected from nearly 3,000 participants who entered the competition in the South East last September. They all showcased their incredible skills in a nail-biting contest filled with intense tiebreakers. Ali secured 2nd place, and Ramzi came 4th, earning them both a well-deserved spot in the National Finals at Cambridge University this June! To claim the title of the fastest Year 7 French speller in England, Ali and Ramzi will have just one minute to translate and spell as many words as possible from a challenging bank of 300 words. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and wish them the very best in the National Finals!"

Sedbergh Super 10s

My heartfelt congratulations and commiserations, in equal measure, to our Senior Rugby Squad who played magnificently at Sedbergh winning five games losing 17-19 to Kirkham in what was, essentially, a semi-final. You can read more about it [here](#) My thanks to Messrs Honeyben and Scourfield and the entire sports staff who have inspired our boys to represent their school so ably and with such pride over the years.

Foundations

A fantastic evening on Wednesday as the FRORGS Awards celebrated the 2024/25 season. This event is a testament to the hard work, dedication and spirit of the entire RGSHW rugby community. A huge thank you to all parents, family members, FRORGS Reps, Yr 7-9 students, senior rugby players and staff who attended and congratulations to all the players who received FRORGS Awards from 1st XV Captains, Adam and James. The evening was highlighted by heartfelt and hilarious speeches from the players, capturing the essence of what the rugby programme at RGS truly means to them. As one player eloquently expressed: *"It's about resilience, teamwork and passion - we are bound by the moments we've shared on and off the field."*

Fencing

Our Fencing Squad competed in the Public School Fencing Competition, performing well against tough opponents. My thanks to our Fencing Coaches who inspire the boys weekly. Many congratulations, in particular, to Daniyal Hussain finishing 4th overall in Champion-at-Arms for Mount Haes age group and 8th in the whole contest.

Interact - Report from Charlie Kingsford - President of RGSHW Interact

"This year has been an exceptional one for RGSHW Interact. Thanks to the generosity of RGS students and teachers, we have successfully raised over £8,000 for charities such as Oddballs, Red for Ruth, and Mary's Meals, making it one of the most successful years in the School's recent history. Throughout the year, we have organized a variety of fundraising activities, including doughnut sales, 'sponge the teacher' events, and refreshments at Sports Day, with our most recent event generating nearly £3,000. We are extremely grateful to the Rotary Club for its ongoing support, particularly for its generous contributions, which have added over £1,400 to our fundraising efforts. The future of Interact is also looking particularly bright; a strong cohort of Year 12s will be led by Hamid, who has already proven himself, demonstrating outstanding leadership and salesmanship. As such, we are confident that during his tenure, the group will continue to build upon the progress made over the past few years."

RGS working in partnership with local Primary schools - Report from Mrs Tan

"RGS Senior prefects have been working with the Year 6 Prefect team at Beechview Academy. The theme of the mentoring session this term was on teamwork and collaboration. RGS Senior prefects delivered team building activities using marshmallows and spaghetti. The Beechview Academy pupils were very excited and worked well in their teams. The RGS Senior prefects enjoyed breaking the tasks down and teasing out solutions from the teams they were mentoring. Students from both schools benefited hugely from the experience. RGS Year 12 and Year 13 students have continued to visit local Primary schools to provide support in subject specific classes and to deliver assemblies on the values of the schools we are working with."

Religious events

We are very well aware that our student population comprises young people of all faiths and none and we aim to support boys on their various journeys. We celebrated the Hindu festival of Holi on the Nick Duncombe rugby pitch, followed by, a day or two later, an Iftar (so popular that it had sold out some weeks before the event). Our School Chaplain, Mr Booth led an assembly about what Christians regard as 'the Queen of Festivals', Easter. Deputy Headmaster, Mr Wilson, drew together lessons we can all draw from our mutual understanding.

I wish you all a relaxing holiday and, if you celebrate it, a very Happy Easter. With many thanks for your support and my renewed best wishes.

Philip Wayne