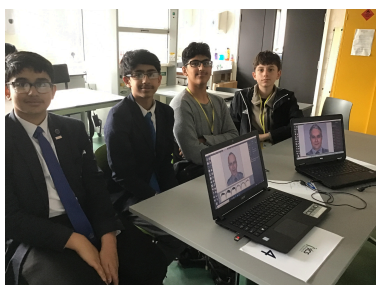


HEADMASTER'S LETTER

11 July 2024



Dear Parent

VALETE

Today we say goodbye to two long serving colleagues:

Mr Andrew Balaam joined RGS in 1997 as a teacher of French and German. Mr Balaam has inspired students over the years, not only in his first-class teaching of languages but also as a committed Year 7 Form Tutor and as Leader of the Stage Light and Sound Team (SLST). Mr Balaam must also take credit, in no small part, for our online provision during 'Lockdown' having, for many years, developed the internationally renowned '[Languages Online](#)' bringing his expertise into School.

Mrs Jane Gazard arrived at RGS in 1996 and has been an exceptional teacher of Geography and Head of Geography. She has built the subject to be amongst the most successful at both GCSE and A Level. A longstanding tutor in the Sixth Form, Mrs Gazard has earned huge respect due to her genuine interest in the activities her students took part in. Mrs Gazard has also overseen our EPQ programme, where results are consistently high, year on year. We will miss the Gazard family as, upon Mrs Gazard's retirement, they head for a new life in Yorkshire

My thanks to both colleagues and I feel certain that you will join me in sending very best wishes to them.

PRIZEGIVING

Congratulations to all Prize Winners. We had two excellent, unashamedly traditional ceremonies with outstanding guest speakers, Hon Air Commodore Peter Drissell and OW Ben Cisneros, who gave inspiring addresses to parents, staff and students. With wonderful musical performances, Canapés and drinks, both were evenings to remember.

OXFORD AND BUCKS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STEM TOURNAMENT - 8th July 2024

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 Ethan Acott and Anish Randhawa, as well as two other students from another school) winning 1st prize for their Medical Diagnostic effort. Other RGS team members achieved runner-up prizes across the other competition areas. The event was intended to develop team building skills, an appreciation of working with people from different schools and a broader understanding of four engineering based professions.

SPORTS DAY

It is hard to imagine that we had neither a House System nor a Sports Day a few years ago. Firstly, congratulations to St James' House on their victory. A superb day of events in the morning, with the whole school, staff and some parents cheering on the final races. To feel the atmosphere at the end of the afternoon was life-affirming and spirit-lifting, the values demonstrated by victors towards their competitors, heart warming.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Six members of the Public Speaking & Debate Society competed in a Buckinghamshire Inter-School Debate Competition. Both RGS teams won each and every debate in their respective rounds, securing a place in the final. Motions debated explored the legalisation of euthanasia, social media damaging human communication, all UK schools becoming private, trans-athletes competing internationally, and finally, veganism as the future of humanity. Proposition or opposition, our boys impressed the judges and walked away with not just the competition trophy, but two individual awards: Best Debater and Best POIs. Considering that this was the competitive debating debut for four of the team members, the result was even more brilliant. The Public Speaking & Debate Society have nearly completed their first full year of competitive debating, and if yesterday's result was anything to go by, our RGS boys are swiftly making a name for themselves in the dynamic world of school debating. Please accept my congratulations.

My next and final letter of the year will be next Thursday, when I'll report on choral events and pay tribute to a colleague who is retiring after 45 years.

With best wishes.

Philip Wayne