

## HEADMASTER'S LETTER 21 January 2019



Dear Parent

It seems rather late to be wishing you a Happy New Year, but please accept my good wishes all the same. I hope that all has gone well for students in Year 11 and Year 13 who will, by now, have a good idea of how they have fared in their mock exams.

### WELCOME

I am very pleased to announce that, following the recent election, Dr Raghbir Ali has been appointed a Parent Governor. We have a further new governor joining our board as a Community Governor, Mr Ben Casemore. We thank both gentlemen for being willing to give of their time and expertise in this important role.

We welcome new colleagues to our staff team. Mrs Kerry Holmes has joined our Careers and Higher Education Department as Administrator. Our thanks to Mrs Tomkins who, along with her role as Music Administrator, was Careers Administrator until Christmas. She will now concentrate on her work within the Music Department.

Mrs Lucy Marshall has joined us as Campaign Manager to work on capital fundraising.

We wish our new colleagues every happiness at RGS.

### MIND THE GAP

You may have heard your sons refer to 'the Gaps' - we have for many years offered placements to Australian/South African/NZ school leavers to support our work in sport. We are delighted that one of our 'Gaps', Luke Phipps, is staying with us and the Sports Department have decided to enhance our staffing through the appointment of graduates who are working for their Masters degrees. They have Sports Science degrees and are therefore more able to lead on aspects of strength and conditioning during curriculum and co-curricular time and sporting fixtures etc. We welcome Mr Lee and Mr Slade to these roles.

### GOVERNOR STRATEGY MORNING

The Governors and Senior Team took part in a strategy day earlier in the month. It was an excellent opportunity to evaluate the progress of our strategic objectives. We discussed, in some depth, the culture and direction of the School as well as confirming the direction of the current Five Year Plan. We are very fortunate to have a strong Governing Body who bring a broad range of expertise to the table.

## SNOW

Just a reminder that, should a school closure be necessary, parents will be notified through the school website and the County Council [website](#). I will neither issue announcements nor correspond through Twitter. Remaining open (the default position) or the decision to close is based upon the intelligence I receive regarding a) the safety of the school estate and b) whether sufficient staff can get into school for it to operate effectively. The coach companies make their own decisions and it is for parents, rather than the School, to assess the risk of their son's undertaking the journey to RGS and back.

## HOCKEY

Just before Christmas, a very successful 'hockey party' jointly led by RGS Friends of Hockey and Wycombe Hockey Club was held on our all-weather pitch. Mr Clark and his team of Sixth Formers did a great job of promoting RGS and its hockey provision by organising some fun skills challenges and a mini tournament which allowed us to involve the RGS and WHC boys and make it a real community event. Ex GB International, Zoe Shipperley was also present, assisting with coaching. We received great feedback from both sides with a number of our boys expressing an interest in the Hockey Club and others interested in joining RGS! During the course of the evening, there were over two hundred on the pitch.

## YOUTH COUNCIL

In Year 8, Jay Tamber and Huw Davies are representing the School on a two-year Youth Council Programme. They will be working to give a voice to young people in High Wycombe, particularly on behalf of those in RGS, to tackle the issues which they together feel are the most pressing.

We had good representation in the Rotary Club 'YouthSpeaks' competition this year. Particular congratulations to Dominic Martin, George Cook and Rohan Chopra pictured with Mrs Corbishley, for winning the senior competition locally, entitling them to compete in the regional heats.

## CCF ARMY SECTION - A report from Mr Rose: Military Interest Visit to Bovington Tank Museum

*'On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 41 cadets and three members of staff took the long drive down to Dorset to visit the recently refurbished Bovington Tank Museum. The museum is an excellent day out, although there was so much to see it was difficult to pack it all into one day. The boys were also fortunate enough to be allowed to inspect and climb into the British Army's current main battle tank, the Challenger 2, and use the driver simulator which nicely finished off a very interesting day out at the end of a very busy term for the Army Section of the CCF.'*

## EXCHANGE VISITS

I attended a Grammar School Heads meeting recently and noted, avec tristesse, the number of schools who have decided to abandon foreign exchange visits. This is due to the cost and inconvenience of the statutory guidance (ie ignore at one's peril) to police check British parents before they receive an exchange student. We are very grateful for the support we have received from our parents which has enabled us to continue this year with exchanges to Germany, France and Spain. As an 'amateur' linguist, I know that my ability to converse in French is in no small part due to the time I spent with a French family. We are shortly to welcome 18 young people from Toulouse and later this term we pay a return visit. We also have a Year 10 exchange visit to Barcelona and will be celebrating the amazing golden jubilee of our Osnabrück partnership.

*Philip Wayne*