

**HEADMASTER'S LETTER**  
11 March 2019



Dear Parent

**Wellbeing Week**

We have been very pleased with our Wellbeing Week, which has seen a number of activities taking place. Mr Zair, as coordinator, kicked the week off with a great assembly followed by a useful talk by Ben Jackson, a corporate life coach talking about resilience. On Wednesday we were treated to a somewhat larger than life Roan Hemming (businessman, health industry) who had the great knack of talking about the ‘old chestnuts’ – resilience, perseverance, making the most of opportunities etc in an entertaining way. Ripping off his jacket, he was wearing a T-shirt which revealed the impact of his gym sessions, caused much amusement but certainly captured the engagement of the boys in senior assembly. He put even our gym regular Mr Wallace to shame – I remained firmly in my seat! A series of lunchtime talks on wellbeing, yoga, African drumming together with a staff ‘buddy’ system week has given us all the opportunity to consider our mental health as we try to be as good as we can be.

**Wycombe Management Conference**

Last week was the annual Wycombe Management Conference, which we jointly run with our partners, Wycombe Abbey School. ManCon, as it is known in the vernacular, has been a joint venture for 28 years. Year 12 students from both schools benefit from leadership training with professional mentors and motivational speakers from a range of businesses. I was fortunate to hear a truly inspiring address by the crossbench Peer Lord Karan Bilimoria, Founder and Chairman of Cobra Beer, in which he talked about turning his desire to create a suitable beer to drink with Indian food into a multi-national business. ‘To aspire and achieve against all odds, with integrity’ is the company motto and this came across very strongly in his talk.

**Trips**

We had two very successful ski trips over the half term break, the Junior one to Italy and the Senior to Canada led by Mrs Smith and Mrs Forster respectively. As ever we hear great things about your sons and both staff came back proud of the compliments they had received about our boys.

I very much look forward to accompanying the first part of the European Work Experience Exchange to Toulouse later in the week and to paying a flying visit to Osnabrück to attend the celebration of the ‘golden jubilee’ of our German exchange which is, one of the longest running exchange programmes in England.

**Crossing**

Finally, our Hamilton Road crossing has been installed. Although there is some signage still to be completed, it does at least provide a marked regular route to cross a busy road and hopefully the local rally drivers will become accustomed to its presence. It somehow seems to cohere the two parts of the estate. Many thanks to Cll Arif Hussain for his support.

## Sporting Events

**Squash:** We have had some very successful sporting events. Rory Brady, Year 11 writes about squash: *'Recently on 13 February the U16 squash team consisting of Ben Holmes, Rory Brady, Konrad Pompe, Thomas Scott and Isaac Plunket made their way to Marlborough College for the semi-final of the National Squash Competition. Firstly we played Millfield which we won 4-1 in a comfortable match where Thomas put in a great win to beat a Japanese national player who was 10 years old. Next we played Marlborough and again we won the match 4-1 with great performances from everyone. So that left us top of the group and into the National Final at Nottingham on 21 March.'*

**Hockey:** Our U13 hockey players finished second in the County Cup and have qualified for the regionals.

**Rugby:** Our U12 rugby players had a great day in a 9s tournament at John Fisher RC School in Croydon, losing only in the final. There were some outstanding U13 performances in the Solihull 7s, winning every match. The U15s won four and lost two in Solihull and head to Stowe this week for a further tournament. Congratulations to James Tunney, Year 13, who has signed a contract with Wasps.

## OW News

Josh Sneesby, who left RGS in 2008 has a part in the tour of Amelie the Musical at Wycombe Swan in June.

Our former 1<sup>st</sup> XV Captain, Ben Harris, was capped for England 7s last weekend in Las Vegas.

Adam Bourne, who left RGS in 2006, has enjoyed an excellent career in sound, most recently working on Mary Poppins and being a part of the Oscar winning sound crew (foley editor) in Bohemian Rhapsody.

Many congratulations to the OWs.

## OW Committee

We hosted a meeting of the Old Wycombiensien Committee last week. If you are an OW, or know any OWs, please do be encouraged to sign up to the [alumni website](#).

## West Side Story

Tickets are selling well through the [RGS Little Box Office](#) for what promises to be a stellar production superbly acted by students from RGS and local girls' schools. Please do support the production so that we can ensure that the hard work of the cast and crew is rewarded by a packed house each night. As I said in my previous letter, shows are costly to put on, particularly if they are to be done well and go beyond a 'village hall' type experience. The cost of royalties and technical equipment runs into many thousands of pounds, only partially offset by ticket revenue. If you are able to make a donation to reduce the impact on the school budget, we have set up a link on [parent pay](#).

## Duke of Edinburgh Awards

I was very pleased to present Duke of Edinburgh Gold awards to Tom Allen, Matthew Craggs, Matthew Gallagher, Max Jankiewicz, Kiran Modi, Oliver Stone, Ben Webber and Jonathan Yeates. We are all aware of the commitment involved to achieve this Award and we are very proud. The boys will be attending Buckingham Palace later in the year to be presented with their badges again by a member of the Royal Family.

## Governance Statement

Our Governors work exceptionally hard on behalf of the school, bringing high levels of expertise in a spirit of support and challenge in a non-executive function. I am really pleased that they produce a governors' statement which tells you about their work. Click [here](#) if you would like to read the 2017/18 report.

*Philip Wayne*