

## HEADMASTER'S LETTER

2 October 2023



Dear Parent

### Sixth Form Centre

I am delighted to inform you the Royal Names Team has recommended to His Majesty the King that we are to call our new facility 'The Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Sixth Form Centre'.

### Music

Our new Director of Music, Mrs Natasha Jashari, has a very exciting programme planned. Later in the year, the production will be 'Shrek the Musical'.

### Learn an Instrument

In the meantime, The Peripatetic Music Workshop on 5th October is for our Year 7s to try out new instruments they would otherwise never explore. The demands of the national curriculum, and a shortage of dedicated music teachers inevitably means that children in state primary schools are often not routinely given the opportunity to learn to play an instrument. We want to address this at RGS. Having worked as a Musician, alongside my career in education, I can vouch for the great joy and benefit of being able to play a musical instrument.

On 13 October the Household Cavalry will visit the school for a workshop. I recently learned that the largest employer of performing musicians in Britain is the Ministry of Defence. The British Army alone has 22 full-time bands with 800 professional players. The RAF has three professional bands; the Royal Marines has six. All told, there are well over 1,000 full-time professional musicians employed by the armed forces. One of my former A level Music students; which he passed handsomely in 2001 (writing this letter is making me feel old!) has had a fantastic career as an Army Bandsman, recently leaving the Household for a senior post within the Army Music Department.

The Autumn Soiree takes place on 18 October; a feast of Music with our new DoM putting her stamp on it!

### CMA

#### Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> October - FREE Big Noise 2023 Orchestral Day for Year 7-9 musicians at RGS!

Although half term at RGS will be underway by Friday, 20 October, we are delighted to say that RGS musicians in Years 7-9 have been invited to take part in the FREE [Big Noise](#) day led by Chiltern Music Academy. Click [here](#) for further details and reserve a place in the massed local schools' orchestra of over 100 players!

CMA has groups, bands and orchestras for every age and ability here at RGS on Tuesdays and Fridays and at Wycombe High School on Saturdays. The Tuesday timetable includes a new Rock and Pop Club led by Simon Davie and two music theatre classes (Showstoppers for Years 5-8 led by Alice Martin of RGS and MT Voices for years 9-13 led by Natasha Marsh). View the [timetable](#) and email the office: [office@chilternmusicacademy.org](mailto:office@chilternmusicacademy.org) for further details. Come and try!

## Development Fund

My thanks to all parents who have already responded to my recent letter about the RGS Development Fund. This is an important Fund for the School, supporting boys throughout their time at RGS, and I am extremely appreciative of any donation you can make towards it. For more information, or to make a donation, please visit [RGS Development Fund](#).

## Sport

There were medals for J16 & J15 A Quads at Wallingford Long Distance Sculls @regattareresults on Sat. Superb results for Matthew Turner: J17 rowing as J18 1x 7th of 44. Brian Drees: 2nd and Stephen Russell: 3rd in J17 1x with 37 entries. J18 Quad 3rd of 8. Congratulations to all 15 boats & their coaches.

We are through to Round 2 of the NatWest Rugby trophy. A truly fantastic start for our 1st XV in the Schools Cup coming out on top in a good contest against Canford School. Our next round is again Bishop Wordsworth's Grammar School, away.

## Old Wycombiensians

We are very proud of the success of our Old Wycombiensians. Three OW's in the news recently are:

- Tommy (Tommaso) Allan played for Italy v New Zealand
- Luke Donald - Captain of the victorious European Team in the Ryder Cup
- Howard Jones is celebrating forty years since his debut single 'New Song' was released. (I bought it - I'd just started the Sixth Form) The anniversary is the focus of his latest UK tour

## Congratulations to:

Cameron Cole, Daniel Matthew and Torr Ramsden have each been awarded one of the prestigious scholarships following a rigorous selection process. With three scholars, the RGS has the rare distinction of having what is considered a high number.

An Arkwright Scholarship is one of the most prestigious awards in the Engineering profession. Only those who demonstrate an extremely high aptitude achieve it. Overall, 1391 hard-working students applied to the 2023 programme, with 622 reaching the final interview stage and slightly less than 300 awards issued this year throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

With best wishes

**Philip Wayne**