

## HEADMASTER'S LETTER

5 May 2023



Dear Parent

### Welcome

A very warm welcome to Mr Paul Gale who has joined us as Compliance Officer, working with our Estates Team.

### Examination Season

As we approach the examination season, may I take this opportunity of wishing all Year 11 boys every success in the forthcoming couple of months. Please be assured of our continued support during the study leave period - your son's teachers are only too willing to help.

### Iftar

We had a wonderful Iftar which was, as it happened, very close to Eid. An incredible turnout from our student, parent and staff community - inspiring speeches, readings and chanting from Muslim students and a sumptuous meal. It is a real privilege for us to host this event though the thanks must indeed go to the parents who organise and sponsor it. It is truly inspiring to see how Muslim families have maintained the practice of worshipping together.

### Chemistry

Well done to the students detailed below whose Bronze CREST awards have arrived. The award recognises over 10 hours of scientific planning, researching, experimenting, analysing, concluding and evaluating on a topic of their choice. A second run of Year 7 and 8 scientists are currently mid-investigation and we hope to launch a third opportunity soon.

Please see the photo above of: Y7 Don Herh, Ege Celik, Aryan Judge and Y8 Arafat Hussain, Kai Kukadia, Aaron Grant, Emad Haroon, William Kisler.

### Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators

The Spanish Department is delighted to have some students taking part in the annual competition of Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators run by Queen's College in Oxford. The students produced a translation of a Spanish text using their previous knowledge and glossaries provided. Thank you for your effort in participating and all the best to Rithik Gali, Danyal Baber, Max Brown, Jake Brown and Ayaan Siyad!

### Spanish Author of the Month Competition

Congratulations to Henry Wang who won the Spanish Author of the Month Competition this term! Henry translated a passage from Manolito Gafotas, a well acclaimed book for children from Spanish author Elvira Lindo. Students can find a copy of this book now in the library.

### Barcelona exchange trip

Mrs Tan (many thanks for stepping in at the last minute - HM) and Mrs Fernández took sixteen Year 10s to Barcelona for an exchange trip. The students stayed with their host families and got to experience the Spanish language and culture in person. During the week, the boys visited some of the most emblematic sites such as Sagrada Familia, el Barrio Gótico, Las Rambas, Sitges, etc. Overall, a fantastic trip and we will be welcoming the Spanish students in July.

### CCF

Matthew Yarwood (Yr12) has recently been placed onto the Master Cadet Course. It is a significant achievement that out of 60,000 army cadets in the country he has achieved the top 60 listed for placement. Daniel Van Blerk (Yr 13) was also selected to represent the Top 10 Army Cadet forces in the country and whilst he unfortunately did not place, it is the first time in RGS history that we have had a candidate selected. We are pleased also to congratulate the three RGS Old Boys who have recently graduated as Army Officers from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

### Oarsome Achievements

From our Head of Rowing (Bruce Gascoine) *'Firstly some news about three RGS boys who have been competing at the highest level of junior rowing – The GB Under 19s Rowing Team Trials to form the crews that will compete at the World Rowing Junior Championships in Paris, the Coupe de la Jeunesse in Amsterdam, the European Rowing Under 19 Championships in Brive and the Munich Junior Regatta. The GB Under 19 trials regatta took place last Sunday in Nottingham and is an important early indication as to which athletes could eventually make it through the process of final crew selection with the goal of a podium finish in these targeted events. The trials regatta is to ascertain competitiveness of rowers (from across the UK) in small boats; singles for sculling and pairs for the sweep candidates. The following boys qualified to participate by surpassing the challenging 2K and 5K ergo cut off times. Their results were as follows:*

- *Jerry Anderson, who sculls with Marlow Rowing Club, won the B final in a time that placed him 7<sup>th</sup> overall out of 36 finalists.*
- *Archie White (J17), who moved over to scull with Leander Club this season, won the F Final in a faster time than some in higher finals.*
- *Owais Hammad, came in a very creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> in the G Final which places him as the 38<sup>th</sup> fastest single sculler in the UK.*

I am delighted that rowing is burgeoning at RGS and proud that our coaches have been involved to varying extents in the rowing careers of these remarkable young athletes.

### Guantanamo Bay

We are very keen to promote debate at RGS. Following another school having to dip out, I was delighted that Mr Sarsons stepped up to the plate and organised a showing of 'The Mauritanian' at RGS. This was wrapped in a Q&A panel led by Andy Worthington, Historian, Journalist and UK Guantanamo expert, alongside a former detainee, Mohamedou.

Max Littlewood, Year 12, attended and, clearly inspired, wrote the following: *'Before watching 'The Mauritanian' and speaking with Mohamedou, a former detainee, I thought I knew what Guantánamo Bay was. We had briefly covered the facility in a politics lesson, and I knew that it was illegal, but not much more than that. The reality shocked me. Mohamedou's story remains important as both a powerful tale of human resilience but also as a study into the rule of law; America's continued violations of law and human rights persist even today, with over thirty detainees still being held in Guantánamo Bay. It is important now more than ever to educate ourselves about this issue so that we can act against it and prevent these atrocities from happening again in the near future.'*

### If Music Be...

We had a superb Spring Showcase concert, packed to capacity with a number of very fine performances from Classical to Jazz, Orchestra, ensembles and choral groups (very) large and small. Many thanks for pulling off such a gig, so shortly after the Music Theatre extravaganza that was 'The Producers'.

### Legs Eleven

They say you never stop learning. I'm currently learning the lexicon of a Bingo Caller, in advance of the PA Bingo and Noodles night. Please do support this event; it should be great fun as well as raising money that, at the end of the year, the PA will donate back to support the School in educating your sons. If nothing else, come along and hear me stutter my way through Kelly's eye, Danny La Rue and Top of the Shop... Tickets available on <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/rgshwpa>.

### King Charles III Coronation

I wish you all a very relaxing Coronation weekend; whether glued to the TV, attending a street party, mingling with the crowds in London or Windsor or, indeed, avoiding it all - enjoy! During the Coronation service, the choir will sing I was Glad, by Parry. Half way, there is the sung exhortation 'Vivat Rex Carolus.

Philip Wayne

Headmaster