

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

13 July 2023



Dear Parent

VALETE

I'll focus this week on staff who have been with us for a shorter time, by RGS standards. They have all made an impact and are pursuing a range of opportunities in furtherance of their careers.

- Nara McDermott-Clapperton joined us this academic year as Music Administrator. As a qualified teacher she is moving to Didcot Girls School to take up a post as Teacher of Music.
- Hollie Kennerley, Biology Technician, will be working as an Associate Scientist in the Process Development Team at Replimune in Oxfordshire.
- Jack Burroughs, PE, is leaving the profession to pursue a career elsewhere.
- Kevin Tilbrook has been promoted to Head of Biology at Vandyke School in Luton.
- Candida Javaid, Head of German, is leaving to pursue her passion for coaching, via a term as a temporary teacher at Leighton Park School. Candida took over the RGS German Department at an emotional time, following the untimely death of her predecessor and has built on a solid foundation admirably. Her support of digital learning during the pandemic was particularly noteworthy.
- The following staff have been with us on temporary contracts and have, admirably, filled the breach in important areas: Ben Shepherd (Physics), Dawn Spears (Computing), Za Hussenbux (Mathematics). We wish these colleagues every success in the future.

PRIZE GIVING

We have had two wonderful Prize Giving Ceremonies for Senior and Junior students. An unashamedly traditional ceremony, the pride of boys as they come onto the stage to collect their awards is obvious. We are very grateful to our Foundation Trustees and the RGS Parents' Association who provide many of the prizes. There are, however, many awards in memory of OWs or those offered by OWs who are very much alive and enjoy coming along to see them being presented. We were delighted to welcome Her Honour Judge Anu Thompson and OW Michael Hemmings (who was Head Boy at the time of my appointment here) as Guests of Honour for Senior and Junior respectively. My congratulations go to all prize winners.

COLOURS

Congratulations to Year 9 boys who have been awarded their Junior Colours for a range of co-curricular activities in Fencing, Rowing, Rugby, Hockey, Cross-Country, Swimming, Judo, Athletics, Musical Theatre, Music and Stage and Lighting. Photograph above.

CHEMISTRY

Well done to the Year 12 Chemists who secured 4 Gold, 9 Silver and 9 Copper awards in this year's Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. It is a 90-minute written paper designed to challenge top Year 12 students. A Gold award represents scoring in the top 10.8% of students that entered from over 600 schools across the country. Well done too to Oscar Panayi in Year 10 who also secured a high scoring Copper award.

CCF – RAF CAMP

The RAF section of the CCF took five Y10 cadets on a week's camp, based at RAF Boulmer in Northumberland. The behaviour and level of participation of the RGS cadets was excellent, and many new friendships were formed with the cadets from the other three schools present. Boulmer is the main UK Air Defence Control Centre, and the group were allowed down into the underground bunker that houses the controllers. Great excitement ensued when the alarm went off for a possible incident, but, due to the bunker's classified nature, we were ushered out while it was resolved. Activities through the week included shooting, teamwork and leadership tasks, plus a visit to the electronic range at RAF Spadeadam. The week ended with us enjoying the final evening's fish and chips whilst watching dolphins at Seahouses Harbour, followed by frisbee on the beach. A very successful camp, enjoyed by all cadets and staff present.

CRICKET

Cricket Programme:

- Over 250 boys selected cricket as their Summer Term Games option
- PE and non-PE staff supported the delivery of 73 fixtures during the Summer Term which allowed over 200 boys to represent the school in at least one external fixture
- A-D teams at U12-U14
- A-C at U14

County Cup Success

- U12 in the County Cup Final's Day on Friday 14 July
- U13 County Cup Winners
- U14 County Cup Winners
- U15 lost to Stowe in the County Cup Final in an unprecedented Super Over
- Reached the Second Round of the National T20 U18 Cup
- Reclaimed the Duncan Moore Memorial Trophy v OWs
- Narrowly lost to the MCC

Cricket Festival

- Joint winners alongside Worcester and Lancaster (each winning 4 of our 5 games during the week). *Had it gone to Net Run Rate, we would have been crowned Winners!*
- Broke the record for the most runs scored in a Festival week (1059)
- Broke the record for the highest Festival team score (423 v Colchester)
- Two additional 300+ scores (351 v Worcester & 323 v Newcastle)

SPORTS DAY

We had a wonderful Sports Day organised jointly by the House Team and the Sports Department.

450 boys competed in some very exciting events.

It was great to see some parents there and the competitors were cheered on by enthusiastic spectators fuelled by the Heads of House and the refreshments sold by Interact and the Parents' Association!

Windsor were the overall winners. Congratulations!

Philip Wayne

Headmaster

