

Dear Parents and Supporters

I hope you all had a good Easter, May Day Bank Holiday weekend and the Coronation weekend.

I write at the end of what has been a very successful rugby season for RGS HW. I won't dwell on the rugby round-up as below are reports from each of the year groups. I would only note that, as a school that strives to be the best state school at rugby in the country, winning a national title for the first time since many people can remember is a sign that we are achieving what we are aspiring to - our Senior Squad won the Continental Tyres National Schools Plate Final beating Barnard Castle 27-24 having beaten well-known rugby schools like Epsom College and Monmouth along the way.



Also, for the first time since 2018 (when our Y11s had just passed their 11+!) we again have a tour for next year's Senior Squad (this year's Year 11/12). It has been tradition that the Senior Squad tours every two years but, due to COVID, the 2020 tour will now take place in 2023. We wish our tourists well and this 'trip of a lifetime' is something every RGS rugby player can aspire to.

On the fundraising front, we had a hugely enjoyable Burns Night at the end of January. Thanks to some very generous donations and bidding in the auction, we raised over £8,500 on the night and everyone had a great time. There was also a very enjoyable FRORGS Junior Awards evening for Y7-9 that did much to foster the bonds that makes rugby at RGS so special.

Our last event of the year is the Touch Rugby/Beer Festival on 24 June. This takes place on the Saturday after the last public exam and is a fun afternoon of (as the name suggests) touch rugby, beer and barbecue. Details below, please come along and support.

I would like to thank all of you for your support this year - whether it be financial, on the touchline, at our events or 'all the above', I know our boys appreciate it so I am sure your students do too even if they don't say so...!

To all the students who are sitting GCSEs and A Levels, good luck!

All the best

Francis Kucera

Chair, Friends of Rugby of RGS HW

[Friends of Rugby](#)

Sign up to FRORGS

Join the many members of the RGS community who have supported the future of sports at RGS by signing up!

[Donate Online](#)

CURRENT EVENT – BOOK TICKETS NOW!

Touch Rugby/Beer Festival - 24 June 2023

Touch rugby based on year groups; **Y7-9** - buy a ticket on Little Box Office and the PE staff will put you in teams; **Y10-13** - sort yourselves into teams and enter as a team; **Parents/Others** - get yourselves together and put a team in for a bit of fun. Teams of 7; Squads of 10. Tickets available now via

[Little Box Office](#)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE!

Sportsman's Dinner - 2 November 2023

Our signature fundraising evening led by none other than the celebrated TV pundit David 'Flats' Flatman. Comms coming out soon. This is just after the Rugby World Cup ends so, no doubt, a lot to talk about.

Burns Night - 27 January 2024

More Scottish-themed merriment. Stick the date in the diary!



Dear All

2022/23 has been a hugely positive season for RGS Rugby, both on and off the field, with 18 teams regularly competing on a Saturday against top schools from all over the country. It is a privilege to watch pupils from all age groups form friendships that transcend the rugby field, building a sense of belonging and purpose. Welcoming the new Year 7 pupils and parents into RGS Rugby in September, and seeing the U12 squads represent the school for the very first time, is always special.

The home and away support on the touchlines each Saturday, at the fundraisers and awards dinners, from all age groups, has, as always, been fantastic.

NatWest Plate Final

Undoubtedly a highlight of this year was the 1st XV winning the Continental Tyres National Schools Plate Final at the StoneX Stadium in March. The players showed considerable focus throughout the season, along with a commitment to keep improving and a desire to present the best versions of themselves. Their success was just reward for the hard work they had put in week in, week out.

The competition itself demonstrated some of the best aspects of schoolboy rugby. The last three rounds were one score games, played in the right spirit but fiercely competitive. It was also very humbling to see so many supporters at the final, pupils of all ages celebrating together and being part of the wider RGS rugby community.

ROUTE TO THE FINAL

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|----------------------|------------------|----|---|----|------------------|
| Round 1 | RGS High Wycombe | 43 | - | 10 | Caterham School |
| Round 2 | RGS High Wycombe | 29 | - | 7 | Abingdon School |
| Quarter-final | RGS High Wycombe | 22 | - | 20 | Epsom College |
| Semi-final | Monmouth School | 10 | - | 17 | RGS High Wycombe |
| Final | RGS High Wycombe | 27 | - | 24 | Barnard Castle |



FRORGS Awards

A huge thank you to all of you who were able to attend the FRORGS Awards this year, where in excess of 300 people were in attendance to celebrate Junior Rugby at RGS. It is a fantastic way to end the season, listening to pupils talk about their experiences throughout the year, whilst team mates, staff and parents reminisce about the season that has past and celebrating the development in each squad. From the fixtures I have watched this season, the attitude and positive mindset demonstrated during training and the passion with which the pupils talk about RGS Rugby, the next few years will be very exciting indeed.



Junior Tour

This season saw the Junior Tour return for the first time since 2020. The Year 9 Junior Rugby Tour to Jersey took place across the weekend of the 24th - 26th February and consisted of two hard fought matches against De La Salle College and Jersey Rugby Club. Despite some excellent rugby from the Jersey sides, RGS came out on top on both occasions, with two brilliant performances. The students also experienced some of Jersey's history and scenery with a trip around the WW2 bunkers built during the occupation, as well as a coastal speed boat tour with Jersey Seafari. Well done to all students involved, the trip will have provided a brilliant foundation for next year's NatWest Cup endeavours.



Senior Tour

Towards the end of the Summer Term we will be taking 47 players from our Senior squad on tour in preparation for the 2023/24 season. The group, along with five members of staff, will be touring South Africa, renowned for schoolboy rugby. There is a lot more to touring than playing rugby and the boys will be taken out of their comfort zone at times, with experiences that will help them grow as people, as well as players.

When I was a pupil at RGS, I was lucky enough to tour South Africa, so I know, from experience, the journey they are about to embark upon. The rugby will be uncompromising but the memories will last a lifetime. I am really looking forward to seeing how this group of players develop over the course of the tour and am sure it will be excellent preparation for another successful season next year.

As we come to the end of the season, I would like to say a huge thank you to pupils, parents and staff for all the time and effort you have made to support the rugby programme over this academic year. We will use the Summer Term to identify those areas where improvements can be made to ensure that we give each and every pupil the best experience of rugby we possibly can and keep sport as a positive focal point in their school lives.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Beer & Touch Rugby Tournament on Saturday 24th June, tickets now available via [Little Box Office](#), and throughout the Summer Term.

Kind regards
James Honeyben
Head of Rugby

[Sports Fixtures](#)

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All team photos are available to purchase from:



U12s

A wonderful first season of RGSHW rugby for the U12s. Mr Burroughs and his team did an excellent job of coaching the players, many of whom were playing their first competitive matches. On many occasions the boys came up against opponents that had been playing together for many years, and they acquitted themselves admirably, showing great spirit even when results (and weather!) did not go their way.

A real highlight from the year is the depth of talent in the squad. Fifty-nine boys wore the school colours with pride and we frequently fielded at least four teams – six at Reading Blue Coat! The memories shared at the FRORGS awards speak to the camaraderie the U12s now enjoy after just one season together and they look set for a rugby future filled with success and friendship.

The U12 parents were a highly supportive group and travelled far and wide to cheer on the boys. The support for FRORGS events and fundraising was equally impressive and we hope to welcome even more parents to events next season!

Jamie & Luke



U13s

This season has been an excellent year for U13s. The boys have really thrived under Mr Chitham-Mosley, who has been brilliantly supported by Mr McDonald-Smith and Ms McDonagh on match days.

The season got off to a very successful start at St John's Leatherhead (a new fixture for this season) with 3 teams playing and comfortable wins for the As and Bs. Next up were Hampton, both As and Bs won tight matches, a significant turn-around from the heavy defeats they had suffered the previous year. Next up was the local derby against Challoner's with both teams victorious. We were successful against RBCS before suffering our first defeat of the season against Whitgift, although there we managed a notable win for the Cs 25 v 10. We managed to come away from Caldicott undefeated, which was a fantastic achievement against one of the best schools in the country. We had mixed results against Warwick, but further comprehensive wins over RBCS. The last fixture of the season against Campion produced a hard-fought victory for the As with the Bs and Cs having a tough afternoon.

The boys have worked hard at their skills and techniques, and we have seen a lot of improvement. Their game management is also improving and they have some really strong foundations to build on and improve further next year. Mr Chitham-Mosley has instilled a collective responsibility and discipline in the students and the positive team spirit the students share is a delight to see.

The students have enjoyed a short but enjoyable 7s and 10s season playing at Warwick, Stowe and Northampton Saints for 7s and RBCS and Caldicott for 10s. The tournament at Caldicott was a real highlight particularly given the quality of the opponents. They finished the day undefeated but narrowly missed out on the trophy to QEGS Wakefield by a solitary bonus point. Thank you to also to Mr Honeyben and Mr Huelin who have supported Mr Chitham-Mosley and worked hard with the boys in games. We look forward to seeing what the students can achieve next season.

Teff



U14s

A fabulous season for all the U14s who represented RGS during the terms. Mr Fossey and team did a superb job coaching and encouraging new players to attend sessions and represent the school in exciting fixtures culminating in the C team even having 7 fixtures so there were multiple opportunities to don the shirt and represent RGS with passion & pride, whilst creating invaluable memories along the way.

These recollections and attitudes were expertly regaled by a few of the students who gave humorous, and inspiring speeches at the end of year FRORGs awards.

An extended squad were able to experience a tour to Jersey back in Feb where they visited some WW2 war tunnels, assisted with a beach clean and memorably won both tour matches. The boys had a fantastic trip and were grateful to experience such a wonderful opportunity.

The 7s season was a mixed bag – not progressing from a tough pool at Warwick but a few weeks later they won their pool at the Rosslyn Park 7s so headed back the following day where they were eventually knocked out by Rugby School in the latter stages of the tournament. They nearly completed a remarkable comeback losing 29-27 after having been down 29-0 within a few minutes of the 2nd half. All in all, a great success.

Once again, the Year 9 parents were avid supporters of all things social and took many tables at the various fundraising events – keep it up parents!

Gerry & Debs



U15s

Year 10 have put out two sides throughout the season. Both teams have shown great pride in their performances and camaraderie on and off the pitch.

The A team started the season where they left off as U14, posting some big scores early on and notching up over 100 points in their first three matches. Some challenging contests followed but a return to winning ways against Seaford, always tough opposition, and a convincing win against Champion closed out the 15-a-side season. This form was carried forward into a first foray into 7s rugby with great results at Warwick making it to the Cup quarter final.

The B team's season followed a similar pattern to the A's. A strong start, some tough but very close matches mid-season and a strong finish. There were convincing wins against Hampton, St Edwards and Champion. Defence was dogged and flashes of attacking brilliance often broke the deadlock in tight games. When, at times, they looked as though they were playing teams a year group older, RGS demonstrated great commitment and physical courage.

Thanks to the staff for all their extra-curricular commitment and vocal support on the touch-line from parents.

Rich



U16s

The U16s have had another strong season, continuing to successfully field two teams for most weekend fixtures. Four U16s have also regularly made the step up to the 1st XV; thank you to Adam, James, Braden and Charlie for effortlessly transitioning to Senior Rugby! Unfortunately, our season was book-ended by some notable injuries, however, the depth of the squad and enthusiasm to play, meant the A Team was still largely victorious. Notable matches against some of our regular, strong opposition were as follows: 26-5 vs Hampton; 52-12 vs St Paul's; 31-4 vs Seaford (away).

The most satisfactory victory was possibly away vs St. Edwards in Oxford, where under difficult circumstances, the boys showed their maturity and fought determinedly to an eventual impressive 10-3 win.

The B Team has also continued to enjoy a spirited season with more mixed results, but some strong victories too. With injuries and 1stXV call-ups, the squad was a little reduced, so huge thanks to the U15 players who joined us on occasion, showing great energy and commitment.

Highlights for the U16Bs included 21-5 vs St John's (away); 28- 7 vs St Paul's; 65-5 vs Seaford (away). Both U16A and U16B teams ended the season with gritty away victories against The Champion School in Essex.

Whether on the pitch or on the touchline, it's been another hugely enjoyable year of rugby. Thanks to all of the teachers, coaches and not to mention parents for your continued support. A special thank you to Mr Fleming, for leading the team. Despite the academic pressures of year 11, it's clear the students have really appreciated the contrast rugby brings and enjoyed every minute of their season.

Looking forward, our best wishes to all our players recovering from injury, good luck to everyone touring in South Africa and hope to see many of you back on the touchline in Autumn!

Nathan & Jane



Senior Squad

What a year! The crowning glory of a busy and successful year of senior rugby came on 14th March. In front of hundreds of cheering fans, the 1st XV won the Continental Tyres National Schools Plate Final by beating Barnard Castle 27-24 in a tense and hard-fought match at the StoneX Stadium. We think this is the first national U18 15-a-side title for the school. The team were competitive in the 10 a side format, with good performances at Seaford and an agonising last second defeat in the Plate Final at Sedbergh.

This capped a busy and successful year for the whole senior squad. The 2nd XV grew in strength and confidence, with notable wins against Berkhamsted, St Edwards and St Johns. And the 3rd XV proved too tough for all those they faced (with 4 wins from 4). Great news for RGS Rugby that we were often fielding three competitive sides. The prospects for next year are excellent with a great crop of players coming through from Year 11 (a couple making their first team debut this year). South Africa awaits for the Year 11 and 12 players!

Thanks to all the staff, and to all the parents who stood on a series of wet and windswept touchlines throughout the season.

Ian & Vik