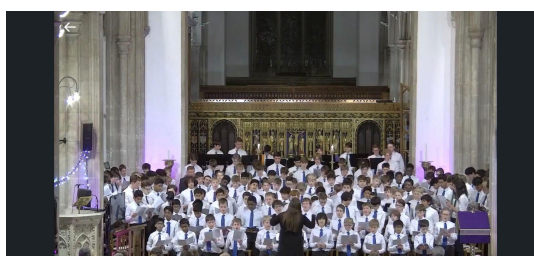


HEADMASTER'S LETTER

14 December 2023



Dear Parent

Bon Appétit

I have just returned, content, from our school Christmas lunch. 750 staff and students enjoyed a wonderfully prepared meal with all the trimmings, in our School Restaurant - a culinary and logistical masterpiece. Many were wearing Christmas jumpers (a long standing tradition) - the staff gathered for a photo in their Common Room as they embraced the festive spirit.

Rugby

I should like to congratulate the Senior Rugby Squad on reaching the Quarter Finals of the Continental Tyres Schools Cup, the only state school team to get this far in this prestigious competition. Commiserations on their narrow loss against Blundell's.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Another logistical feat as well as being a seasonal musical feast is our Festival of Lessons and Carols. The Christmas story unfolds through traditional Old and New Testament readings, a dash of humour thrown in with a performance of T S Eliot's 'Journey of the Magi' by three senior students. Our School Choir performed some challenging repertoire - it is simply wonderful to see nearly 200 boys singing in various choral ensembles. I do hope that they will be inspired to continue with some element of choral singing once they have left school. The brass group tackled the accompaniments, mostly specially arranged by our new Director of Music Natasha Jashari, which really lifted the experience for the congregation.

For many, it is the start of Christmas. As an organist, I estimate I will have played 'O Come all ye Faithful' ten times by the time we reach Christmas Day. Many thanks to those who contributed generously to the retiring collection in aid of All Saints' Church, Wycombe Homeless Connection and Save the Children.

We are supporting Save the Children, a charity who supports suffering children and their families across the globe. If you would like to donate, please click on the relevant QR code below:.



£1.00



£2.50



£5.00

Ofsted

There has been a lot in the news about Ofsted recently. I can only speak as I find, but the two Inspectors who visited boarding in our latest inspection were very professional, friendly and approachable. They were very impressed with the provision, general atmosphere, attention to safeguarding and the cheeriness of the boys. They are not generally called Ma'am when they inspect settings. The report is [here](#).

Development Fund

My ongoing thanks to all parents who support the [RGS Development Fund](#). In November I oversaw the disbursement of funding following a bid process, open to all departments across the school to apply for funds to support teaching and learning within their subject areas, over and above the essential requirements that are funded by their Academy budgets. This year your donations have been used to benefit all boys at RGS, funding equipment and projects across subject areas as diverse as Maths, Music and PE. For example, DT students in all years will now be able to use scroll saws in their work and our GCSE and A level students will have access to a bobbin sander machine, adding an additional layer of complexity to their coursework projects. Our Biology Department will benefit from the purchase of 20 stage micrometers and 18 stage callipers for microscopes, helping to enhance the practical skills of our students and encourage a deeper understanding of cellular structures whilst supporting teachers to provide more engaging and effective educational experiences and our SEN Department will be able to purchase two new seating 'sofa pods'. These practical seating solutions offer privacy and comfort for meetings with students and parents.

Parental support of the Development Fund is crucial to the School; it ensures that we are able to enrich our provision across the breadth of subjects, sports and activities on offer. If you do feel able to support the Fund with either a regular or one-off donation please [click here](#).

Finally, Valete

We say goodbye to Mrs Melanie Paternoster, teacher of Geography and Professional Mentor (overseeing trainee teachers new entrants to the profession) who has a well deserved promotion to Subject Leader for Geography at DCGS

We also say goodbye to Andrew Fletcher, Head of Cricket, who is relocating to his native East Midlands and has secured a similar post at Leicester Grammar School

Both colleagues have made significant impacts in their respective areas and they go with our grateful thanks and very best wishes

I wish you all a wonderful holiday period and, if you celebrate it, a very Happy Christmas.

With best wishes

Philip Wayne