

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

6 June 2024



Dear Parent

Co-educational Sixth Form

The Royal Grammar School is proud to announce that our Sixth Form will become coeducational from September 2025. This decision firmly underscores our commitment to nurturing a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that is rooted in our core values of Respect, Integrity and Aspiration.

At the RGS, our mission is to deliver an exceptional, all-round education, developing minds and character. We are committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment where students of all backgrounds feel valued and empowered to succeed. Through becoming coeducational, we celebrate diversity and enrich the educational experience of students with a wide variety of perspectives and talents. We are preparing our students to thrive in an interconnected world, equipping them with the skills and understanding to navigate complex challenges with empathy and resilience.

As we begin this exciting new chapter we are confident that the transition to a coeducational Sixth Form will enhance the educational journey for all members of our community. We look forward to welcoming new members of our Sixth Form family and witnessing the transformative impact of this decision.

A FAQ's section will go live on our website tomorrow. Please email coedsixth@rgshw.com with any queries.

RGS CCF RAF Section

On Thursday 9 May, the RGS CCF RAF Section was invited to tour the Harris Rooms at RAF High Wycombe. Our Year 10 and 12 cadets enjoyed the presentation regarding the use of the rooms by Air Chief Marshal 'Bomber' Harris during World War 2. It was packed with interesting facts, as well as amusing anecdotes.

The photograph shows Flt Lt Kirkham sitting at ACM Harris's desk, with the Section's Cadets and NCOs behind him. On the right is Sqn Ldr Rob Kemplay from RAF Space Command, who kindly arranged the visit for us.

Exam Week

The Exam School Week at RGS gives students the opportunity to undertake structured, supervised revision and assessments. I have spent much time this week, observing really good focus and commitment to achieve. Whilst I expect no less, my congratulations to all students for their resolve and I hope that they will use the feedback from their teachers to good effect. Many thanks to Mr Atkin who has masterminded the timetable and to staff who work tirelessly to turn the marking and assessment around as quickly as they can. This is all happening, of course, during the Public Examinations season which is so ably led by the indefatigable Mrs Hogarth and her team of invigilators.

Boarders

To add to my good wishes to Year 13, please see a photograph above of boarders who are leaving. For boarders, Fraser Youens House is their weekday, if not term-time, home, and they build a great connection with each other and the staff. They celebrated the end of their education at RGS with a sumptuous meal, prepared by the excellent chef Baz. Thank you.

Science Club

We had record participation at Science Club last term and are delighted that five Year 7 students: Aaron Chan, Gavin Bhinder, Samuel Ma, David Lazar and Boaz Makongo and six Year 8 students: Kian Byne, Sai Thyagarajan, Oliver Koralage, Mohsin Waheed, William Monniot and James Martin achieved their Bronze Crest Awards.

This national award recognises over ten hours of independent scientific planning, research, experimentation, analysis and evaluation on a topic of the students' choice; a huge achievement for our youngest students. The topics this term ranged from "How to Stop a Runaway Car" to "Bugs as an Alternative Food Source".

Dinner at Peterhouse College, Cambridge

Mr Watson, (Peterhouse College, Cambridge alumnus) accepted an invitation to a formal dinner at Peterhouse with the six students who gained places to study Engineering at Cambridge from RGS last year. The boys from the left are: James Edwicker, Giorgio Amasanti, Charlie Marsh, James Hanrahan, Raghav Rajesh and Frank Burton. They were joined by Mr Harris, Head of Physics.

We are very pleased for the boys; this is also a testament to teachers who inspired our students to pursue a coveted place for Engineering at Cambridge - Giorgio Amasanti, who was awarded the RGS Physics Prize in 2023, is currently the top first-year engineering student at Cambridge, having achieved 97% in his recent exams.

The boys reported back that the RGS is very well known by all of their supervisors as one of the top schools in the country.

Language Competition

Rohan Boulenc, Year 7, along with many other RGS students, entered the Anthea Bella Prize for Young Translators and has received a regional commendation for his translation of an A Level standard text from French into English. Over 16,000 students participated in the prize in 2024 and they judged over 3,600 entries. This is, therefore, a great achievement.

Mayor's Sea Cadet for 2024 - 2025

The new Mayor of High Wycombe took office on May 25; one of the ceremonies is the 'Weighing-In', dating back to 1678. When it was first introduced in 1678, it was used as a real tool to measure corruption in the town of High Wycombe. By weighing the Mayor each year at both the start and end of a tenure, the citizens of the town could see if the mayor was "getting fat" off of the taxpayer's pound. At its inception, the Mayor was apparently corrupt and frequently 'in his cups'. Today it is, of course, ceremonial. We were delighted to receive a letter from the Mayor's office that Yatin Iyer, Year 10 has been nominated as the Mayor's Sea Cadet for this year and attended the Weighing-In ceremony.

With best wishes.

Philip Wayne