

Headmaster's Letter
13 July 2026



Dear All

As the academic year 2025-26 draws to a close, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. The unprecedented heat has been challenging and I should like to thank all students and colleagues for their resilience in recent weeks. Parents, too, for their understanding when we needed to ask students to work at home.

VALETE

As ever, we are saying goodbye to a number of colleagues:

RETIREMENTS

Mrs Nicky Catling is retiring after 39 years as a teacher of Biology at RGS, having worked with five Headmasters and several Heads of Department. This is an exceptional level of service to the school and to education. Mrs Catling will have played her part in many a student's scientific or medical careers and personal development should be rightly proud of her long and successful teaching career.

Mrs Carol Watts has worked in SEND since 2008 as a Teaching Assistant, formerly LSA. Countless students have benefitted from her support over the years.

Mrs Lisa Woodbury (Maths) followed two careers in the commercial sector before bringing that experience into the teaching profession. She joined RGS fifteen years ago. As well as being a fine maths teacher and supporting the Maths Department in a leadership role, Mrs Woodbury has been at the forefront of our Tennis programme.

Mrs Julia Morrice (Art) also joined RGS fifteen years ago after a successful career in the Music Industry. A truly inspiring teacher of Art, Mrs Morrice's classroom was a hive of creativity and enthusiasm. She has been, to the very last last week, a lively presence around the school - 'tuck that shirt in'!

OTHER LEAVERS

Mrs Louise Simon (HR Assistant) has moved to a role in the commercial sector.

Bhavin Thakkar (Chemistry teacher) is relocating to North London and taking a break from teaching.

Craig Catling (Teacher of Geography and EPQ Lead) is moving to a role at Mill Hill International School.

Harry Rodger (Physics teacher) has made a strong impact in his short time with us, but the lure of a post at the school where he was a student, Wellington College, was too much to resist.

Ying Cheng has spent a year with us as a Music Grad; her excellent piano accompaniment has been a real help to the Department. She is returning to Korea to pursue a career in music.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all colleagues who have contributed to the life of RGS for their commitment, hard work and to wish them every happiness in the future - whether in retirement or pastures new.

PRIZEGIVING

Last week, we held two excellent prizegiving ceremonies for Senior and Junior students. We were delighted to welcome back two OWs: Lt Col Ed Harris, who attended RGS in the 1990s, and Toko Avaliani, who left RGS a few years ago. Both spoke warmly about their very positive experiences at RGS and how the school had set them up for life. Many congratulations to all prizewinners. We held this year's event outside in the Quad, which worked well, and was, of course, a good deal more bearable than the Queen's Hall would have been in the summer heat! An event that was in need of a little refresh, the weather did the job for us!

REPORTS FROM STAFF

There has been a lot going on this term. Staff have sent some reports to me; please click on the links below to read about the successes and experiences in their own words.

- **French History Trip** - [Report](#) from Mr Wellirang
- **The RGS Cricket Festival** - [Report](#) from Pardoe
- **Oxford and Bucks STEM Tournament** - [Report](#) from Mr Marshall
- **First Aid training** - [Report](#) from Mrs Gallagher
- **MFL Summer Term News** - [Report](#) from Ms Sheppard

TAA Japanese Course

Congratulations to James Braganza, Nitish Dhanashekar, Charlie Fidler, James Gage, Oliver Gage, Bruno Gismondi-Jones, Trustin Heung, Yusuf Nabi, Muawiyah Siddiqui and Mohsin Waheed, who have completed their TAA Japanese Course. I was very pleased to present some of them with their certificates.

As I draw to a close, may I renew my thanks for your support this academic year and wish you all a very enjoyable, relaxing summer break.

With best wishes

Philip Wayne