

**Headmaster's Letter**  
**23 April 2026**



Dear All

### EXAMINATION SEASON

We are fast approaching the examination season, and I feel certain that revision is the talk of the household. I will renew my previous comments about the importance of structured revision processes but also time for relaxation. Once study leave is underway, teachers will be available for support in the periods normally allocated to the lesson, until half term. Students should email in advance. I would also remind students to read all of the regulations before the examinations start - mobile phones, smartwatches, smart glasses, pencil cases etc. Schools have no alternative but to report anything that would be classed as 'malpractice' (intentional or not) to the examination boards-the Exam Boards' swords are Damoclean and it results in great distress for students, parents and staff at the school.

### CAREERS FAYRE

Many thanks to Mrs Thakrar (Director of Careers) and Prefects (Gabby Mason, Ishbir Singh, Yatin Iyer and Harry Dent) for organising a super event. The [Careers Department LinkedIn page](#) has more information than I can write here, so please do take a look.

### CCF

The Biennial Inspection of our CCF took place just before Easter. We were very pleased with a successful outcome. Our Cadets played their part immaculately and I know that the army assessors were very impressed not only with our provision, but the way in which our students engage with passion and pride.

### SENIOR PHYSICS CHALLENGE

Alex Roberts and Josh Robinson scored a Gold Award in the BPhO Senior Physics Challenge with scores that placed them in the top 200 physicists in the UK. Great news, well done.

### SPORT

Many congratulations to the 1st XV on their success in winning the Plate at Sedbergh 10s - a really prestigious School Rugby Contest. I was very pleased to call in at three events: the Rugby Awards, the Rowing Awards and the Cricket start of season barbecue. Well supported events, funds raised and a great celebration of some of the Sports on offer at the RGS. You will know that our provision is much wider than this - please do have a read of the [PE/Sport Newsletter](#). Many congratulations to Dominic Bennoui (7SA) who won a silver medal at Barnsley National Kickboxing championship. This is a great achievement. I will approach Dominic with caution!

### CULTURE and FAITH EVENTS

We are a school of many faiths and of none. We do our best to ensure that all students feel a sense of belonging and to mark key events in a sensitive way. Our annual Iftar was exceptionally well attended. Many thanks to all those who organised it and participated whether as an attendee, speaker or provider of food (and very good it was too). £1,600 was raised for local charities. Just before the Easter break, we held a celebration of the Hindu festival Holi with the customary throwing of paint on Uplyme fields. Mr Booth, our School Chaplain, gave a moving and sensitive assembly to celebrate Easter, inviting students to be scholarly and to draw their own conclusions on the Resurrection. Our Belonging week culminated in an evening celebration with musical performances, dancing and thoughtful speeches and presentations.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

The competitive spirit at RGS continues apace. Here are some recent competitions that our students have taken part in.

### MANGO SUNDAYS

A group of Sixth Form musicians formed a particularly successful band 'Mango Sundays' a few years ago. They recently won the Buckinghamshire Battle of the Bands at the Old Town Hall in High Wycombe - ten bands were in the final and Mango Sundays now get the chance to record an EP in a studio and play in an outdoor Milton Keynes music festival. Congratulations to Jude, Fraser, Josh, Harley and John (see photo).

### DEBATING

Hugo Mundy, Jakub Kusmierak, Sakhran Shaker and Aaliya Imran took part in the Nehru Debating Cup at Harrow School. My thanks to Hugo for sending this report and congratulations to all four students...

*"The competition followed the British Parliamentary debate format and was adjudicated for areas such as rhetoric, structure, and style. This included the effective use of Points of Information (POIs) and the ability to deliver structured rebuttals. Each team took part in four debates over the course of the day. For each round, we were given a topical motion, which made it important to stay up to date with current affairs. We were then given 15 minutes of preparation time. During this time, Jakub and I discussed the motion to ensure we were aligned, decided on our roles within the team (for example, Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister if we were opening government), and then prepared our individual notes before reconvening to ensure consistency in our arguments. Each speaker delivered a speech of approximately five minutes. These speeches included our main arguments as well as rebuttals to opposing teams. This required us to listen carefully throughout each debate in order to identify points, assumptions, or generalisations that we could challenge either through POIs or in our speeches. In each round, we competed against three other teams from different schools. Unfortunately, we lost our first debate against very strong and experienced opposition. However, we improved throughout the day, winning our second debate and placing second and third in the remaining two rounds. Sakhran and Aaliya reached the bronze final, which was a great achievement. We stayed to support them, and it was a very insightful, high-quality debate that also had some unexpected and quite humorous moments in terms of how the discussion developed. It was valuable to observe and learn from more experienced debaters, which was clearly reflected in their performance."*

### RITANGLE EXPERIENCE

Ishbir Singh, Year 13, caught up with me to tell me about the success of our Mathematics students in the Ritangle Experience 2025. As you will read, they did exceptionally well - even better than last year!...

*"After finishing as runners-up, placing in the Top 13 in last year's edition of Ritangle, we returned to the competition this year, with the aim of trying to improve on our previous performance. Weekly questions released over several weeks and solving these allowed teams to collect hints, by the end getting all 20 hints from the 20 questions. We used a mixture of approaches throughout, including graphing software, programming, and good old pen and paper. Unlike last year, however, our team also had to juggle university admissions tests and interviews, leaving us with much less time for the competition. On 5 December, in the middle of interview season, with several of us having interviews that same week, we gathered at a teammate's house, awaiting the release of the eight Stage 2 questions at 4pm. Once they were released, we worked through them quickly, completing Stage 2 without too much difficulty. Combining all of the hints proved more challenging than last year, as their meaning was unclear until the final stage, but nevertheless, we managed to write a program to unlock Stage 3 within about an hour of the questions being released, putting us ahead of many other teams who struggled with this step. In 2024, the Stage 3 challenge had involved solving crossnumber puzzles to reach a set final answer. This year, however, we were faced with an optimization problem involving geometry and unit shapes, which deterred us slightly as it wasn't quite what we were expecting. Using a combination of Desmos, programming, and scribbling on whiteboards, we had a solution within a couple of hours. We weren't convinced that it was the most optimal answer, but after many attempts to try and improve it we were led to accept that our initial answer was the best one we could find. After the submission window closed, we were surprised to learn that we had been leading the competition until the final day. Narrowly missing out on the win at the last minute was disappointing, but we were satisfied that our answer was the strongest solution we could produce within the limited time we had. In the end, we secured a Top 4 finish among nearly 2,000 teams from around the world, resulting in a slight improvement from last year which we are happy with!"*

Our students are excelling in many school and individual pursuits. I'm always delighted to hear of them and appreciate being kept informed so that I can celebrate these achievements with the community.

With best wishes

**Philip Wayne**