



Dear All

Welcome

We are very pleased to welcome Dr Liz Chare, who has been appointed as a teacher in the Chemistry Department and Tim Waterhouse who has joined our Team as HR Manager.

Birds, Bees and Plumbing

We have had some unusual issues to deal with, including a colony of bees on the Sports Hall roof, pigeons in the Sixth Form Centre and flooding in Maths. All under control thanks to our proactive Estates Team. The bees were an initial worry - a member of staff was stung, but the advice from bee experts proved correct and they are now busy making their honey; the pigeons, aware of 1400 outdoor diners during the week, are a bit of a nuisance, but under control. Of greater concern has been the plumbing which is decades old and, of course, costly to resolve. Apologies for any inconvenience caused to students and staff in recent weeks.

Examinations

The examination season is underway and I renew my best wishes for students in Years 11 and 13 who are sitting their GCSE and A Level exams respectively.

See you soon

Our Leavers' Day was the usual celebration for Year 13 with inflatable activities, barbecue, costumes and speeches. My speech was, perhaps, the most humdrum, but it was genuinely meant as I thanked our leavers for their contribution to RGS over the years, wishing them well as they move to the next stage of their lives. I will be writing to leavers in the next few days with some information about staying in touch with us in the future. OWs have an enormous amount to offer current RGS students as they progress in their careers - many do like to 'give back' in a number of ways. I've had the privilege of seeing ten year groups from Years 7 through to Year 13 at RGS alone and it is always super to see former students when they return or, indeed, if I bump into them when shopping, on the train etc.

We do not have a tradition of end of Year 11 celebrations on the grounds that the majority of students have stayed on into the Sixth Form - I am however aware that some students felt the loss of the Friday before they went onto study leave. Just a reminder that, for this week, teachers are available for Year 11 and 13 in their normal lesson periods - always worth emailing the teacher in advance so that they can arrange to be in the usual classroom.

Music

We had an excellent concert on 23 April. Many vocal, choral and instrumental ensembles took part; particularly impressive to see 150 boys singing in the massed choir. Choral singing in state schools is at 'rock bottom' - our massed choir is the acorn from which our chamber choir grows early next month, four of our musicians will be providing background music at the Houses of Parliament - an event for Grammar School Heads; I shall be particularly proud to be there this year! Viva la musica.

