

## HEADMASTER'S LETTER 20 March 2023



Dear Parent

### Farewell

We say goodbye to Simon Davies who has been a member of our Estates Team. We wish Simon well in his retirement and thank him for his contribution to RGS.

### We welcome

- Mackenzie Smith-Bees who is joining our Estates Team
- Renuka Bhardwaj who will be working in the Student Hub as Key Stage 3 Administrator
- Georgina Redican as our Physics Technician

### Sport

It will not have escaped the notice of anyone involved with the RGS community that our 1<sup>st</sup> XV won the National Plate last Tuesday at StoneX stadium. A brilliant game against Barnard Castle, with RGS winning 27-24. It was a triumph for the team, but also a fantastic occasion in which over 300 students, staff, many parents and OWs were there to cheer them on. 'Quote of the week' for me was from England Schools Rugby 'RGS Wycombe's (sic) mauling has been divine today. If it was a painting it'd be hanging in the Louvre, admired by tourists everywhere'. Many, many congratulations.

We have also seen some excellent results in Hockey, with the 1<sup>st</sup> XI through to the Plate Quarter final tomorrow, having beaten Kimbolton 3-2. In the T2 South Finals, 15 (some unbelievable, I understand!) goals were scored, with only one conceded. All augurs well for our younger players with three U12 teams going to the Mixed Bucks tournament and matches against Manchester Grammar School and The Beacon.

Twenty-two RGS fencers travelled to the Lee Valley Athletics Centre on Tuesday to Thursday last week to take part in the Public Schools Fencing Championships. The competition is the biggest schools' event of the year and brings together many of the best fencers from around the country. In the youngest age-category, our Year 9 fencers performed well, with Ayaan Khan, Tommy Tinkler, Isaac Collier and Alex Roberts all coming through the group phases to win matches in the direct elimination rounds of the competition. Isaac was our highest-placed Year 9 fencer, finishing 10<sup>th</sup> in the sabre after narrowly losing his last 16 match. In the Junior (Years 10 and 11) category, Sarim Baig and Liam Sheehan both finished in the top 64. Alex Stewart, however, advanced furthest, becoming the first RGS fencer to reach the quarter-final stages of the PSFCs since at least 2016 when he finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the sabre. Among the Seniors (Years 12 and 13), Henry Daley and Gavin Harries reached the last 64 stage of the epee and foil competitions respectively. Team captain Sam Holden also enjoyed good runs in both the foil and the epee competitions, finishing in the top 25 in both weapons despite fencing with reduced mobility after turning his ankle badly. With Sam out of the sabre, it was down to Ben Kirby (Year 12) to fly the RGS flag in the later rounds of the senior competition, where he eventually finished an excellent 12<sup>th</sup>.



Our swimmers gave a really strong performance at the Wycombe Abbey League event – Seniors came 1<sup>st</sup>, Intermediates 2<sup>nd</sup> and Juniors 3<sup>rd</sup>.

You may wish to take a look at this short [video](#) which highlights some of the sporting events of the last week.

## The Producers

Our School shows are very highly regarded. Over the years, a number of our performers, technicians and musicians have progressed to professional careers in the arts industry, often citing their experience at RGS as pivotal. After 2022's more Junior-focussed show, this year is more Senior-focussed, allowing the cast to open up a dialogue where students can thrive when tackling more sensitive issues and themes (2019's West Side Story and 2015's Carousel spring to mind as recent examples).



Whilst The Producers is officially a 12-rated musical, Mel Brooks' satirical comedy is sharp, subversive and often seen as a weapon of ridicule. As a WWII serving combat engineer and the son of Eastern European Jewish immigrants, it's clear to see how this impacts his writing, where the theatre is "a spiritual and social X-ray of its time" and "created to tell people the truth about life and the social situation", in the words of Stella Adler. Thematically, focussing on one aspect often ignores many other reasons why this show retains the record to this day of the most Tony award wins (12). This celebration of Broadway is littered with theatrical in-jokes within an all-encompassing musical score. Max's cunning and greedy plan to create a Broadway flop for financial gain is later atoned for in a rather touching courtroom scene, cementing a powerful friendship with Leo. Leo himself follows his dreams and breaks out of a miserable existence whilst developing a budding romance with Ulla. There are rarely shows where Franz, Roger and Carmen are also so clearly defined as characters – all with a chance at stealing the show tonight! Please do come along and support this production which takes place from Wednesday to Saturday this week. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

## Year 7 Spanish Poetry Competition

All Year 7s participated in a Spanish reading poetry competition where they had to select a poem by a Hispanic author, recite it and explore the meaning behind it. All students did extremely well and after three rounds, we hosted our final on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Congratulations to the worthy winners:

1 <sup>st</sup> Daniel Edwards	2 <sup>nd</sup> Adam Curtis	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ayan Noman
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## Physics

I am delighted to say that three of our Year 13 boys have achieved a Silver Award in Round 2 of the British Physics Olympiad, placing all three of them in the top 100 Year 13 Physicists in the country. Congratulations to:

James Edwicker	Giorgio Amasanti	Nakul Nataraj
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This is a superb achievement and the culmination of several years of Physics Olympiad competitions. Round 2 is the final selection for the British Physics Olympiad team, and students are invited to participate subject to their having achieved top results in Round 1. Most years the RGS is lucky if we have one student selected to Round 2, often we have none. This is the first time to my knowledge that we have had 3 students selected to participate.

## Year 8 Trip to Oxford

The whole of Year 8 went to Oxford for the day to explore the City and to learn about its rich historic, cultural and natural history. The boys went to the Pitt Rivers or the Natural History Museum for their Art work and explored the city from an historic perspective. A very beneficial day all round, the School received a very warm email of commendation from the Museum about the conduct of our boys.

## Grammar School Mathematician of the Year 2022-23

The **All England Mathematician of The Year Competition** celebrates England's overall best Grammar School mathematician at Key Stages 3, 4 & 5. The aim at GSMOTY is to create a real interest in maths in a fun and innovative way for all abilities. As well as celebrating the overall winners, the top 3 internal winners of each key stage in each school is recognised.

We are delighted to announce that **Nakul Nataraj** achieved an outstanding score and has won the first ever **Grammar School Mathematician of the Year 2022-23 for Key Stage 5**. He has been presented with a trophy and a cheque for £500.

The following students are the RGS internal winners:

### Key Stage 3

1 <sup>st</sup> James Heaven	2 <sup>nd</sup> Joshua Levan	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ryan Allbrook
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### Key Stage 4

1 <sup>st</sup> Ishbir Singh	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tharul Wanni-Arachchige	3 <sup>rd</sup> Basil Qureshi
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### Key Stage 5

1 <sup>st</sup> Nakul Nataraj	2 <sup>nd</sup> Henry Daley	3 <sup>rd</sup> Pratham Bhargava
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These students were all presented with certificates from GSMOTY.

With best wishes

**Philip Wayne**