

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

9 December 2024



Dear Parent

As we approach the end of term, I should like to thank you all, as ever, for your support. There has been so much going on and I have received a number of reports from various members of staff, which can be accessed by clicking on the various links.

VALETE

Mr Peter Meads has been one of our grounds' keepers for 30 years. He has been passionate about this work, in preparing pitches and keeping on top of the extensive foliage around the School estate. I feel certain that you will join me in thanking him and wishing him a very happy retirement.

Dr Mitlehner, who has been teaching Geography and **Mr Dillamore**, who has been teaching Maths, this term, will be leaving us at the end of term. I thank them for their work in the relevant departments and wish them well in all future endeavours.

RUGBY - GS QUARTER FINAL WINNERS

My heartfelt congratulations to our 1st XV who beat Kingswood School in the Quarter Final of the Continental Tyres National Schools' Cup (formerly known as the NatWest Trophy). This was a magnificent achievement in difficult pitch and weather conditions. We had good support from parents and, at the end of the school day, enthusiastic support from a phalanx of our boys. The Semi Final will be against Harrow School at Aylesbury RFC, 1545 Saturday 1 March. We would love to have a good crowd there and will keep you all up to speed with arrangements. A [match report](#) was written by NextGen XV's Peter Crawshaw.

PROGRESS 8

We are delighted to inform you that our GCSE students last academic year achieved one of the highest progress scores in the country, ranking 38th out of 6542 schools. You can find the full national ranking on the Gov UK website [here](#). Progress 8 measures how students are expected to perform based on their end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) exams. A score of +1 means that, on average, each student at RGS has performed one grade higher than they would have been expected to achieve in each of the measured subjects. Our overall score of +1.13 is therefore a fantastic achievement and the students should be rightly proud of the progress they have made.

MODERN LANGUAGES

Our MFL department has been busy with competitions which aims to deepen our students' knowledge, understanding and proficiency in languages. [Here](#) is a report from our Head of MFL, Miss Sarah Shepherd.

HOUSE DRAMA

As a part of our burgeoning House System, I was delighted that, after a couple of years of private showings, we were able to hold a public event. Over 200 parents came to support the event. Mr McDonald-Smith, himself an excellent actor (I recently saw him perform superbly in a production of 'Beauty and the Beast', playing 'Gatston'), runs the competition and has written a [short account](#) of the event.

CUBING COMPETITION

In November, RGS welcomed Daniel Evans from speedcubing.org ahead of our Cubing Competition. The students were treated to try out a range of cubes, the chance to solve a giant cube and to see Daniel solve various cubes in superfast times.

Our House Cubing Competition started this week, kicking off with pupils from all years groups and houses. Students with the best average solve times are through to our final taking place at the end of this week. Well done to Buckingham, who organised this for the second year running.

CAREERS

Our recent Degree/Higher Apprenticeships Evening showcased the growing interest in this increasingly popular and rewarding alternative to traditional university routes. With 122 families in attendance, the event featured panelists from renowned organisations such as BAE Systems, PwC, Cisco, Dyson, Investin and Zenopa, providing invaluable insights into these exciting pathways. The positive feedback highlights the importance of supporting our students in exploring diverse post-18 options.

LECTURE SERIES

RGS welcomed Michael Warner last week, a leading expert on climate change and sustainability. Michael came to speak to both our Y12 and Y13 students about climate change, the challenges faced and progress made to date, outlining what the future might hold and the huge opportunities it brings for young people in terms of career opportunities. A fascinating insight for our students.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

There are two events this week which signal the start of Christmas for those of us associated with RGS:

Tonight, is our Festival of Lessons and Carols at All Saints Church, High Wycombe, commencing at 7pm. There are no tickets required, but do arrive in good time as the church is usually full. Look forward to some excellent choral singing from our massed, chamber and staff choirs, accompanied by an instrumental ensemble and organ. As ever, there are congregational carols and traditional readings.

Tomorrow, it's Christmas Lunch. Too late to buy tickets now, I'm afraid, but our caterers will pull off the magnificent feat of serving hundreds of Christmas Dinners in record time. Christmas jumpers advised.

With best wishes.

Philip Wayne