

25 March 2021

Dear Parents

I arrived on Monday morning to mild commotion as we had 5 boys who had tested positive on Sunday evening. Five phone calls later and we discovered all were false alarms as boys had ticked the wrong box on the MS Form! It perhaps is an indication of how busy everyone is at the moment (or the 11+ has become too easy!). I really hope Easter will provide a chance to pause and reflect on what has been an unrivalled year. It will also be the first opportunity for us all to start to see the signs of lockdown easing. This is certainly exciting, but I imagine a little daunting for some too. I know many people have enjoyed the excuse that Covid has provided to enjoy one's own company. That said, if your sons are anything to go by, the chance to see your friends will hopefully bring a smile to your face too. It has been great to see the School back in full swing and the sun shining. We are lucky to work at the RGS.

### Thank you

Thank you so much for all your generous contributions towards the [Crowdfund Campaign](#). This will make such a difference to the School and your sons. We hope the donations will continue throughout the campaign so we reach our target.

### To infinity and beyond...

Congratulations to the following Sixth Form students: Varun Dinesh Ramanan, Saketh Uppaladhiam, Parth Potdar, Drew Padfield, Denny Semanaj and Lasen Wann-Arachchige for being part of the winning team in the 2021 National Space Settlement Design Competition.

The RGS boys had previously won their regional heat in November 2020, when they were tasked with designing a settlement on Mercury in 2061. For the National Competition the challenge was to design an Aerostat (like a Zeppelin) for over 10,000 people in the Venus' atmosphere in 2071. The RGS boys were joined by students from four other schools to form a company called Kepler Automation with four main engineering sections: human, structural, automations and operational. The event was run virtually, which allowed the boys to compete with students from all over the country. The competing companies presented their concepts to a team of judges and answered questions on their proposals.

The Kepler Automation team displayed excellent teamwork and communication skills, as well as specialist knowledge, and was judged to have the best proposal. Some of the winners will be invited to join the UK Team and attend the International Space Settlement Design Competition at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Huge credit to the boys, who worked tirelessly over the weekend and produced an outstanding presentation to **win** on the day!

### Walking with you

This week as a nation we have marked a year since the first lockdown, and with this anniversary comes reflections on the impact of COVID on us in school. Sadly, an area of impact that has been talked about in the media and we have also seen in school is on mental health. Please can we encourage you to talk to us if your son is struggling; sadly, we cannot guarantee school counselling for all as the need is great at the moment, but we are experienced in helping our students and would certainly want to work with you and your son in supporting him during challenging times. If you would like to contact us about your son's wellbeing, your son's Form Tutor and/or Head of Year are the best people to contact initially, and they will seek the support of other colleagues as well if appropriate. I have attached a poster about a parent led support group for anyone who is supporting a young person with mental health difficulties in case this is of interest to you.

### Put your oar in!

It has been a hard year for all sports at RGS, not least rowing. With Covid restrictions, bad weather and flooding, the boys have not had as much rowing time as in previous years. It is great to see a fundraising event to support this sport and you can provide much needed funds for the Club by buying tickets for the on-line treasure hunt on 31 March. A brilliant way to break up the week and bring the family together. Please sign up [here](#). We are looking forward to seeing the boys out on the water again soon.

### Covid symptoms

**If a person has symptoms of Covid, they should not use the LFD test as a diagnostic tool. They must book a PCR test as this is required by the Government.**

If your son, or anyone in your family, has symptoms of Covid, they must follow government guidance in that the whole family must self-isolate and **the person with symptoms must book a PCR test**. Please use the following link to do this, clicking on the green tab found when you scroll down the page: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

The LFD tests that the School has given to families are to detect asymptomatic cases within our community.

### Home Testing over Easter

We are very grateful for your support with the home testing programme. It is much appreciated. Please continue to encourage your sons to test every Sunday and Wednesday evening by 6pm. **This testing must also continue over Easter**. Your son will need to continue to report his result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online [here](#) or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. **He will also need to report the test result on the School's register [here](#)**. Please also contact [attendance@rgshw.com](mailto:attendance@rgshw.com) if the result is positive.

Kind regards

**Alex Wallace**  
Deputy Headmaster