

21 January 2021

Dear Parents,

We, as staff members, are incredibly fortunate compared to many during this time. We still have a secure job, we have interaction every day and we continue to do what we love. Of course, we have had to adapt and be flexible which is certainly challenging but it can also be enjoyable learning new skills (we need to practise what we preach!) Importantly, we are still part of a special community working together.

We hope you and your sons still feel part of the RGS family. It must be especially challenging for those younger pupils and their parents who are yet to experience a proper full year at RGS. When the time comes, we will welcome you back to watch matches, go to dinner dances, meet new friends, support fundraising events, cheer at music concerts and it will be great to look you in the eye and shake your hand. We are very grateful for the warmth you have demonstrated towards the school during this time, it allows us to continue to operate with a community feel.

Food Banks

Every day now, I hear people informing me that their granny, aunt, uncle, father have received the vaccine; progress is being made but there are many still facing significant challenges at the moment.

Form Tutors have recently focussed on wellbeing in form period, and also on others who are struggling, particularly at this time. This week the focus is on food banks; [attached](#) is what Form Tutors have shared with their tutees this morning. If you and your family are interested in supporting a local food bank there is information, and links, in the attached information about One Can Trust.

Sushi Master Class

The PA are running a family friendly sushi making evening on Saturday 20 February. Please [click here](#) to support the event which in turn raises crucial funds for the School. Hopefully this will be the first of many.

International Involvement- The Pathway to Excellence

This is a project looking at character development which is being overseen by Mr Rowe-Elliot and run alongside the International Boys' Schools Coalition (IBSC). It is being piloted by our students. The RGS is one of 13 other top schools from across the globe working their way through the course, with students learning what it takes to become a leader of tomorrow.

The course allows students to reflect on their pathway to excellence. They will look at their character, wellness and the competencies of learn, live, lead and work as well as building an understanding of their mission and how they can grow in each of the previously mentioned competencies. All in all, it is about the students recognising who they are and how best to build on the qualities that allow them to succeed in life out of school. We felt this flows on perfectly from the Ethos of Learning which we promote at the RGS.

Currently, we have a small number of students involved as learner researchers working alongside The School for Tomorrow to give honest feedback on the course. Our aim is to roll this out to a larger audience. We are incredibly excited to have the RGS involved in leading the way in character development.

Inset Day- Friday 22 January

Just a reminder that tomorrow is a staff training day. We hope this provides your son with an opportunity to have a rest from the rigours of remote learning. We appreciate it is a demanding way to learn and it can be quite exhausting. We hope the long weekend gives them a chance to recharge their batteries, do some housework, wash the car, tidy their rooms, play quietly with their siblings and cook a meal for the whole family!

With kind regards

Alex Wallace
Deputy Headmaster