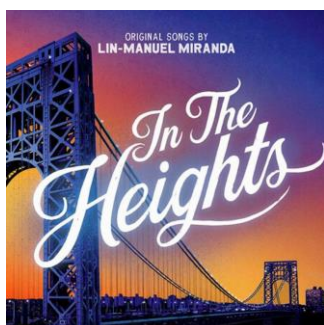


HEADMASTER'S LETTER 7 September 2021



Dear Parent

The fine weather contrasts with the autumnal gloom of the end of August. It was a beautiful day yesterday, as we all gathered together for the first time for many weeks.

The staff, of course, were in work for some of the previous week and there was a palpable 'buzz' as we held various staff meetings, training sessions and had our communal lunches.

Yesterday, however, for most staff was the day they had been looking forward to. It was a sheer delight to be able to hold assemblies again in the Queen's Hall, albeit in much smaller groups than we had before the pandemic. As I walked around the School, it was clear that lessons were underway and that the calm, relaxed but purposeful atmosphere was here again.

Many thanks for your support in ensuring that son arrived for his first day back looking smart and professional. We had more pressing matters last year than sartorial etiquette but it is something that I strongly believe in and I was pleased to see that my beliefs were shared by the students in front of me.

As we have been for the last four years, we are oversubscribed (by a considerable margin) in Year 7, we are full in boarding and have welcomed 33 new Lower Sixth students. All of our new boys and their families are very welcome.

As usual, School Comms will generally be emailed on a Monday and Thursday. I try and write a letter most weeks to highlight forthcoming events and to keep you all informed and to talk about the future plans. Occasionally, I may express an opinion or two, but the soap box is brought out on special occasions only!

Please do follow the School **Twitter** account @RGSHW and on **Instagram** @rgs_high_wycombe.

Welcome, also, to new staff:

Teachers: Alex McDonald-Smith (Biology), Fergus Butler (Mathematics), Nick Cossins (Mathematics), Iain Wilson (Deputy Head), Jack Burroughs (PE), Miranda Stocks (English), Barry Cooper (History – mat cover), Ben Shepherd (Physics) and also to Fee Chandler and Manon Stowe who are staying on after completing their teacher training with us last year.

Astra Trainee Teachers: Joanna Boothroyd (French), Tim Horn (Physics), Kurt Busschop (Mathematics), Ted Stanford (PE) and Charlotte Cooper (Art)

Support Staff: Saray Herranz (FLA Spanish), Andrea Hulley (FLA German), Hollie Kennerley (Biology Technician), Caroline Howlett (LSA) and Devi Sundaram Thangmani (LSA).

I will write again on some of the plans we have to take us into this academic year and beyond. In the meantime, may I flag up a couple of events?

IN THE HEIGHTS: Friday 10 September - Sunday 12 September

In the Heights is an excellent show, a great story with foot-tapping music. A film version was released early in the year. Our premiere of 'In the Heights' was due to take place last spring. A rather optimistic postponement to the end of term did not come to fruition, but I am delighted that the ever-determined Music Department are going ahead this weekend - Friday, Saturday x2 and Sunday in order to be fair to the two casts.

The show is of a very high standard with a stellar cast (some of whom go to university in the next couple of weeks) of boys from RGS and girls from local schools, a fine band and professional direction. All underpinned by quality technical, stage, costume and props support. Please do click [here](#) for tickets. Our young people deserve good audiences and, to boot, it will be an exceptional evening of entertainment.

FRIENDS OF RUGBY: Sportsman's Dinner - 16 September 2021

Our 'Friends of' groups raise considerable amounts to enable our exceptional sports programme to operate effectively. This is through their custodianship of donations, subscriptions and events. The Sportsman's Dinner is one such event – a fixture of the South Buckinghamshire calendar which reaches way beyond the School. The Chair of the Friends of Rugby, Fran Kucera, has written a note below, chiefly to parents of boys in Year 7.

*'As mentioned in your New Joiner information before the summer, the Friends of Rugby of RGSHW (FRoRGS) are holding their biggest fund-raising event on Thursday 16 September 2021. We have held back up to 40 places for **incoming Year 7 parents** and hope you will be able to attend and get into the swing of RGS life and sport with a great night out.*

The event, which takes place in the Queen's Hall, includes a four-course dinner, celebrity guest speakers and auction and costs £80 per head. This year, back by popular demand, the Master of Ceremonies is the well-known pundit David Flatman and the Guest Speaker is England international referee Wayne Barnes. This is a hugely entertaining evening, the highlight of the rugby fund-raising calendar and one of the key events in the School's calendar. To have a look at the Programme for the evening, please [click here](#).

*If you would like to come, please email Vik Kapoor (vikrugby@gmail.com) and your Year 7 FRoRGS rep Teffany Fyfe (teffanyfyfe@hotmail.com) by **Wednesday, 8th September 5.00pm** with the number of places and vegetarian meals required. Vik will send you a wine order form, so your wine can be ready on your table when you arrive. Please also indicate your son's form and Teff will try to sit you with parents of other boys in your son's form.*

We apologise for the timing. This dinner is usually held at the end of the season, however having had to postpone it three times since March 2020, we need the fund-raising as soon as possible in the new term.

If you are not able to join us for the evening, please support by bidding for an auction prize using this [link](#). If you or your business would like to donate an auction prize, please email sarah.kucera@btinternet.com before 14 September and she will add the description of your prize and any link to your contact details/website etc, to the auction site.'

CONGRATULATIONS

Lower Sixth Biologists (now in the Upper Sixth) sat the Royal Society of Biology's Intermediate Biology Olympiad last term and we now have the results. There were 3x gold, 5x silver, 9x bronze awards. Students that achieved gold awards were Xavier Davis, Shiv Mistry and Jan Poulton – a great achievement in a challenging nationwide competition.

I am always willing to share good news about achievements either in or out of school - please do let me know.

FINALLY

I wish everyone a happy, rewarding and successful year at RGS.

With best wishes

Philip Wayne