

29 April 2021

Dear Parents

It has felt even more normal towards the end of this week as we have now been given the green light to allow ball games during break and lunch slots. It makes walking around the school site during these periods far more exciting, dodging running students and flying balls all done under the cover of masks. Being struck by a ball is a bitter sweet moment. The initial pain, swallowing of the expletive and rage in the eyes is quickly undone by the cherub smile that greets you (smiling eyes!), accompanied by the quip “why didn’t you catch it!”. As if I’d ever drop it!

### Keep Testing

I’ve been enjoying mocking the rest of the Senior Team that my vaccine is years away. I was wrong, it was today! I was pleased to get it done and most impressed by the number of volunteers who had given up their time to support this process. They were all so kind, polite and full of good cheer. It just reminds me of the thrill and camaraderie we can get from supporting others as part of a team. It’s one of those win-win situations.

Please can we continue to seek your help in ensuring your son is testing on a Wednesday and Sunday and those results are also being recorded. We need to do all we can to keep the students in school.

### EID

Many staff will be joining our Muslim Community on Friday in their fasting. We will also hear from a number of students about their experience during Ramadan.

As an important celebration for members of our School community, the School is permitted to allocate one day of authorised absence for Eid. Should you wish your son to have this, please email [attendance@rgshw.com](mailto:attendance@rgshw.com) so that we can record this accurately. We appreciate that there may be some flexibility in the date chosen and so will be happy to receive notification closer to the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> of May.

### Masks

Whilst we are delighted with the lowering infection rates in our vicinity, the Government guidance remains that students must wear a mask in communal areas, in classrooms and on transport. Our students are extremely supportive of the mask-wearing requirement, but a number are coming into School without a mask. Please could you check that your sons have packed at least one mask before they leave home, and please ensure they have 50p to purchase a mask from the Student Hub should they forget/lose theirs. We will always ensure that the boys have masks, whether or not they have the 50p, but the small charge is designed to instil a mental reminder to the boys re. packing said mask. All monies raised go back into School funds for your sons.

### Interviews

We are heavily into the recruitment window. It is a privilege to be able to interview potential new members of staff. However, some of the most impressive interviews this week have been as part of the selection process for the next Head Boy and Deputy Head Boys. I know the Headmaster, Mr Noyes and Mrs Tan were immensely impressed by the way in which all candidates presented themselves. It promises to be another stellar group of Senior Prefects. More to follow...

Kind regards

**Alex Wallace**  
Deputy Headmaster