

## HEADMASTER'S LETTER

28 April 2021

Dear Parent

### PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH

We were saddened by the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. Our Union Jack flew at half-mast throughout the period of mourning. It occurred to me, when I gave a short tribute to him in my recent assembly, that he was over 80 years old by the time many of our boys were born. Not surprising, therefore, if he was not on the radar of most young people, save for the general knowledge of his marriage to the Queen and his lasting legacy, the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Many millions have benefitted from the scheme over the years, including thousands of students from RGS. This weekend alone we have 90 boys working towards their Silver Award. Many thanks, indeed, to staff who made the weekend possible.

### THANK YOU

The generosity of so many parents is much appreciated, whether this be through the Annual Fund, Friends of Groups or one-off donations. The PA were very keen to support the School through a CrowdFund. It has just run its course and I am delighted to say that the total is £29,036, a business gift of £500 and Gift Aid of £6,139. This means a final total of £35,675 can be put to great use for the benefit of your sons. I will write again soon once we are ready to undertake the projects. Thank you all.

### DEPUTY HEADMASTER

I feel certain that parents will be sad to learn that Alex Wallace, Deputy Headmaster, will be leaving us at the end of the academic year after five years of exceptional service in this role. He, and his family, are relocating so that Mr Wallace can take up a residential Deputy Headship at Leighton Park, an independent Quaker school. I will say more about Mr Wallace in a future letter. The recruitment for his successor has been in progress for many weeks and I can now inform you that I have appointed Iain Wilson, currently Assistant Head at the Royal Latin School (co-ed grammar school in Buckingham) to this post. Mr Wilson, an alumnus of Aylesbury Grammar School and a graduate of Sheffield University where he took a degree in Neuroscience, commenced his teaching career at Dr Challoner's Grammar School in Amersham. Still a passionate sportsman (in his youth he spent four years at Chelsea FC, was captain of a semi-final team in the Rugby National 7s, and the County 200m champion), he is very much looking forward to joining me on the touchlines. He has considerable experience in leading change and, having worked in two grammar schools which respect tradition, understands how this might be achieved. We wish Mr Wilson well in his final months at Royal Latin School and look forward to his promotion to the Deputy Headmaster's office in September.

### TESTING, TESTING

Having just administered my Sunday Lateral Flow Test, it is perhaps timely to remind your son to do so each Wednesday and Sunday.

### HOUSE MUSIC

It's hard to imagine that, five years ago, there had been no House System for 50 years! It has been a challenge to keep house activities going during the pandemic, but we are starting to see green shoots of recovery.

Sacha Tomkins, our Music Department Administrator, has been working at her video editing skills and has put together a great preview of our House Music competition which goes live on Wednesday at 7pm. Here is the [link](#).

## TEACHER ASSESSMENT GRADES

Our TAG policy is now at the governor scrutiny stage and will be sent to Ofqual this week. The regulatory body will be reviewing school policies to ensure that they are deemed sufficiently robust in the evidence compiled to award grades to students. I remain aware of the concerns of both Year 11 and 13 at this time - be assured that we are here to help in any way we can.

## SPORT

Please do keep an eye on our [sports Twitter feed](#) for updates on sporting events. Cricket has really got going with training and fixtures already taking place.

Yours sincerely

**Philip Wayne**