

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 24 May 2021



Dear Parent

Covid Update

The School is grateful for the ongoing support of the boys and their families in maintaining as safe an environment as is possible during this ongoing strange time; whilst there is some welcome return to normality, it would be naive to assume all 'bumps in the road' are past. However, whilst we have had two more cases in the last fourteen days, we have **not** had any in-school transmission and we thank the boys for their support in achieving this.

We are monitoring reports from PHE and the Government, and would ask for caution in family plans over the half-term break. There is concern over the transmission of the B.1.617.2 variant, particularly amongst young people.

Our School's assessment window is in the coming weeks, and having solid data means that our teachers can identify and address learning gaps from the past year. Our focus on supporting our boys, positively addressing any areas of lesser understanding and using the second half of the summer term to prepare them well for the next academic year is dependent upon the School's ability to run safely. Please do all that you can in supporting us to achieve this.

RGS Leavers

Years 11 and 13 have started their study leave and are, in many cases, well under way with the May assessments which will form one of their 'baskets' of evidence to inform their Teacher Assessment Grades.

As I have said on many occasions, we are striving to give every student the opportunity to provide the right evidence to achieve the right grades to take them to the next stage of their education. For Year 11, most will stay at RGS into the Sixth Form and we shall look forward to seeing their work on the online Into the Sixth programme. For Year 13, most will go on to university (this year or the year after) and a gradually increasing number will consider higher/degree apprenticeships. We will be holding the customary barbecue for Year 13 in early June and the Senior Prefects have organised their own sell-out Leavers' Ball at a venue locally. All the very best to our 'exam year' students.

Success

RSC Schools' Analyst Competition

A few weeks ago, a group of Year 12 boys took part in the first round of the Royal Society of Chemistry Schools' Analyst Competition. The boys worked in groups of three to apply what they have learnt throughout their A level course so far to a new practical situation. The Schools' Analyst competition enables students competing to demonstrate and expand on their existing chemistry knowledge and skills and aptitude for analytical science, through practical analytical experiments based on relevant societal or industrial problems. Each competition aims to provide some tasks which are relatively familiar to the students such as titrations and others which are likely to be unfamiliar, such as chromatographic separations or atomic and molecular spectroscopy. Congratulations!

Achievement Points

I was very pleased to meet, for a second time, George Risness. He has now clocked up over 150 achievement points. Very well done.

OW News

Many congratulations to [OW Tom Mole](#). Tom was very involved in vocal music whilst a student at RGS. Tom is this year's winner of the prestigious 2021 Gold Medal awarded by the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He recently graduated from the Guildhall and is surely set for a great career in opera.

I am always delighted to hear of the successes of Old Wycombiensiens; I don't have a press team to scour the news agencies, so please do drop us a line if you have any information that would be of interest and inspiration to the current School community.

Sport

Our 1st XV played their one and only game of rugby against Seaford College last week. We met at the half way house venue of Cobham Rugby Club in Surrey. We had some injuries and were missing a few of our Wasps Academy players who had not been released. Our team played a great game and, although Seaford won by six points, it was tightly contested and a pleasure to watch. For some boys and parents this was their last rugby game for RGS. May I take this opportunity of thanking boys for so readily representing their School and parents for their stellar support of rugby over the years.

Cricket, despite some weather-related interruptions, is having a good season. We are looking forward, very much, to the Duncan Moore Memorial match (1st XI v OWs from Duncan's era) which takes place on 24 June. Duncan's father still takes great interest in the School though he now lives abroad and cannot easily get to High Wycombe. We also have our MCC game (23 June) - a popular event which welcomes back OWs from across the years. These are two great occasions which offer engagement between our heritage and the present day.

Yours sincerely

Philip Wayne