

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

4 May 2021



Dear Parent

There is something quite refreshing about writing my letter this weekend. As we start to move back to some sort of normality I'm able to move beyond pandemic issues and back to some of the great things we all treasure about RGS, complemented, once again, by photographs at the top of the letter.

I am very pleased to announced that Miss Gibbs (History) was delivered of a baby girl, Zoe, on 18 April. We all wish her well in her family life.

HOUSE MUSIC

The House System has been in place for around four years with House Music very rapidly becoming a much looked forward to feature of the calendar. As well as the competitive element, House Music has two other important features. It is largely student led in terms of artistic and technical management as well as providing a platform for a more diverse musical offering than would generally be the case in a typical school concert. It was online this year- a pre-recorded event, streamed then followed by the live adjudication in the form of a Teams call. There were some excellent musical performances much admired by the audience as the humdinger of a technical triumph that it was. My thanks to the Music Department, Sound and Lighting Team and the adjudicator, Ashley Buxton who is the Director of Music at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School in the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield (Birmingham, but they wouldn't like me to say that!).

TREE PLANTING

The Woodland Trust have been running a scheme to encourage schools, and others, to plant trees. We were very pleased to receive a number of saplings to grow on the School estate. An area of Uplyme field was identified and a number of Year 7 families gave of their time on Saturday morning to plan the following: 20 Grey Willow, 25 Silver Birch, 30 Wild Cherry, 5 Rowan trees, 10 Field Maple and 15 English Oak trees. By the time the boys leave the School in 2027, one of their legacies will be a small coppice with established trees. Many thanks to all who took part (so many in fact that by the time I arrived the work had been done), and specifically to Howard Yendall our Head Groundsman. He is passionate about the work he does and ensured that the trees were procured then led us through the planning procedure on his well-rotavated ground (thank goodness!). Miss Munday, having suggested that we sign up to the event, ensured that the planting crew were fed and watered by serving refreshments from the boot of her car! A grand social and environmental occasion for all.

SUCCESS

It has been super to be able to present awards and certificates again in person.

House Points: This include the Year 7 boys (photo overleaf) who have all achieved over 100 House Points. To ensure social distancing, I look forward to meeting a further four students this week who have also achieved this.

Swan Colours: (the School's highest award) to Varun Dinesh Raman, Saketh Uppaladadian, Drew Padfield, Lasen Wann-Arachchige, Parth Potdar and Denny Semanaj for participation in a national event, namely the UK Space Design Competition.

Senior Prefect Team: this is a very rigorous process which involves staff and student voting, a day of leadership challenges resulting in a final group of 12-14. A final interview with Mr Noyes, Mrs Tan and me not only secures their place on the team but also selects the 'top jobs' (Mr Wallace conducted one of the interviews this year as I had to declare an interest). I was delighted to offer the role of Head Boy to James Murray and the posts of Deputy Head Boy to Matthew Duxbury, Will Evans and Ted Jeffery. The Senior Prefects are James Barrett, Eshaan Ghanekar, Josh Henry, Oli Meadowcroft, Leo Pennant, Will Rowlands, Ben Taylor, Ben Van Blerk, Steffan Wayne and Dominic Wood. Many congratulations to them all. We are now recruiting for Heads of House, followed by Subject Ambassadors - I have been very keen in recent years to broaden the range of leadership roles not only to give opportunities to more boys, but also to acknowledge the range of skill sets that require development and deserve recognition.

This is a good opportunity to flag up the work of the outgoing senior team. Led by Abhishek Viswanath, they have demonstrated great agility during their term of office and have very much met the challenges of the circumstances. Their resilience will surely serve them well in the future. Thank you.

PHONE FOR THE FISH KNIVES, NORMAN

I thought of this rather eccentric Betjeman line when I was enjoying fish, with 'home-made' batter, on Friday in our school restaurant. Our new caterers have certainly made a great start in running the boarders' dining room, the School Shop, the Brewhouse (coffee not beer) and the Restaurant. Please do encourage your son to give it a try - they will be seeking feedback shortly which is important to the company to ensure they are getting it right for our students and staff.

Yours sincerely

Philip Wayne