

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 17 October 2022



Dear Parent

Our vision, at RGS, is to offer an exceptional all-round education.

Valete

We are very sorry to say goodbye to our Music Administrator, Sacha Tomkins. She has provided an excellent service to the busy Music Department, not only organisation and administration but, as a graduate musician, has also added 'bench strength' to the academic and co-curricular provision. Sacha will still be on our 'on-call' cover team, another role which she has undertaken very well.

Welcome

We have taken the opportunity to re-organise some aspects of our administration team and are very pleased to welcome Robina Khan to join our Sixth Form Team, expanding in advance of the opening of our Sixth Form Centre; and after half term, Lihanne Nelson as Middle School Administrator and Susan Jones as Junior School Administrator.

We also welcome Ankita Kumar who will be joining our SEND Department as a Learning Support Assistant.

Sixth Form Centre Campaign

We have now placed the order for the furniture for the Sixth Form Centre; I'm delighted that we have been able to work with a local manufacturer, Verco, even more so as the family owners are Old Wycombiensians. The audio-visual equipment is also on order. Again, we are pleased to have the services of a local tech company, SmartComm, who have given excellent advice enabling us to turn our aspirations into reality.

It has been wonderful to see such a positive response to our Campaign evenings; tomorrow evening looks to be a busy one for parents of boys in Years 10 and 11. A reminder email has gone out today - if you can attend, it is really helpful to know so that we get the catering right. If you are unable to attend tomorrow, there will be some 'catch-up' events towards the end of term and in January.

Our boys deserve far better than they currently have as a Sixth Form study environment; please do get behind the Campaign and help us to offer the best possible facilities. By raising £500k we will protect school reserves from further erosion. If our campaign succeeds in raising more than this target, we will begin to think seriously about a further phase.

Rugby

A very busy weekend for Rugby with some super games and several wins against Brighton College. The 1st XV were at St Joseph's Rugby Festival this weekend.

Jolly Boating Weather

It was a real pleasure to attend the Rowing BBQ, a couple of weeks ago. It was a fine afternoon both in terms of weather and the quality of the food (the local butchers never let us down). I was particularly pleased to be able to present J14 students with certificates for their rowing success. A highlight was welcoming back OW Ben Hinves, now an Under 23 World Champion, having been a part of the Coxed Four who achieved the best time. Ben gave an impromptu but inspiring address which was greatly appreciated by an enthusiastic audience.

Continued success on the water has included two medals at Reading Small Boats Head and taking two J14 Quads out for the first time in that age group. Congratulations to Thomas Dean and Edward Baker.

World Challenge Training Weekend

37 students took part in our bespoke RGS World Challenge Training weekend held at Braidwood Activity Centre, Chesham. The aim was to prepare our three teams for their expeditions, with two teams heading to Morocco at Easter and one to Eswatini (which used to be called Swaziland) in July 2023. The World Challenge programme is a core part of the RGS experience-based, Character Education programme inspiring boys to live lives of consequence, as lifelong explorers and as a positive force for good. Our outdoor classroom delivered essential skills and knowledge, developed a sense of team identity and seeded aspirational leadership traits. One-to-one coaching conversations for our senior boys explored individual strengths and areas for development, as well as highlighting learning outcomes. Plans are currently being made for future expeditions for students in Years 8/9 and 11/12 in the 2023-24 academic year.

Music

RGS Music's first event of the 2022/2023 calendar is a free-of-charge event in the Queen's Hall. The evening will be an informal concert format, with guests sitting at round tables and a bar in the hall, which will be running throughout the evening's performances.

Performers this year include Big Band, Swing Band and Trad Jazz, a few select solos from our Year 13 students, and even some special staff performances – further details to follow! We are especially blessed this year to be able to include our Chamber Choir, fresh off the back of their exquisitely sung evensong at St Peter's College Oxford earlier this term.

RGS Photography Club - Equipment request/donations

The famous photographer **Chase Jarvis once said "the best camera is the one that's with you"**

We are very excited to be launching this new co-curricular programme at RGS with the aim to support students of all levels regardless of their previous experience as long as they have a passion. **In order for the school to support students we would gladly accept donations of any old or unused camera equipment.** Our primary needs are for cameras (Nikon or Canon DSLR's would be particularly useful but any donation is welcome, digital or film) as well as lenses, tripods & dark room or digital editing equipment; however, most photography items would be cherished and put to good use by students. Would you please take a second and look through your wardrobes and lofts? If you've outgrown your older lenses, or upgraded your camera to a newer body, or have an older tripod, we can find a home for it.

Congratulations to

Harry Scott, Year 13, who has won a commendation for his essay entry into the Institute of Economic Affairs competition. He will be going to a presentation in Westminster.

The Economics Department has also won £500, not for the first time, having been the school that submitted the most entries.

Half Term

Many thanks to you all for your support this half term. A reminder that we break on Thursday at 3pm and return on Tuesday November 1.

With best wishes

Philip Wayne