

6 May 2021

Dear Parents

The shortened week has rather caught me on the hop! The Summer Term always vanishes in the blink of an eye and a 4-day week does little to help. It is strange to be in a job where I find myself clock watching and desperate for more time at work (quite the opposite approach to many of my jobs during my youth!).

Time

Time is certainly moving on and I know this is keenly felt by the Year 11 and Year 13 pupils. For many of them and you, it probably feels like it was just yesterday they were joining us in Year 7. What a journey they have been through and what disruption they have faced. These will arguably be some of the most resilient pupils to come through RGS. They have one week left before their study leave begins. I would urge them to use this time to speak with their teachers so that they are comfortable and confident when embarking on the May Assessments.

Parents' Evening

Once again, the craft of finding a parking space at Parents' Evening was not required. Year 10 experienced their first online evening and early feedback suggests it was a success. Whilst I can see great merit in remote evenings, I do miss the buzz of the Queen's Hall and the chance to have some impromptu catch up with parents and friends of the School.

Lessons from Covid

The Senior Team will be meeting next week to review the key learning points from the pandemic. The aim will be to look at all that we have been forced to change, and which of these changes have been positive and are worth keeping, an example of which being online Parents' Evening. The pandemic forced our hand in many areas, including teaching and learning. Staff's use of digital technology developed significantly over the last year. We all now have a much wider set of tools which we can take into the classroom. Of course, there are so many things we have missed. Group gatherings of staff and pupils are invaluable. Zoom and Teams are still not the same as the physical presence when delivering important messages.

Bouncing back

The co-curricular team are working incredibly hard to bounce back from Covid. We are offering trips for many year groups this summer and places are filling up fast. I am starting to see the RGS minibuses out and about; fixtures in the summer sports are now a daily occurrence. Please do encourage your son to get involved in as much as possible.

Kind regards

Alex Wallace
Deputy Headmaster