

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

7 March 2022



Dear Parent

VALETE

We have recently said 'goodbye' to Jade Spence a member of our Maintenance Team. She is progressing her career in pest control. Pigeons, in fact. We wish her well.

We will shortly be welcoming back Miss Gibbs, following her maternity leave. We were very fortunate to secure the services of Barry Cooper who has been an excellent colleague. We wish him well in the future and thank him for the contribution he has made to the History Department and to the School.

SKI TRIPS

We had two ski trips out over half term. In terms of skiing, they were very successful. I feel certain that the jungle drums will have informed most of you that the Senior Trip was disrupted by the airline losing the majority of the baggage. I take my hat off and offer sincere thanks to the staff and boys who had one mission - to get onto the slopes as soon as possible. I was both amused and impressed in equal measure with the reports of staff scouring the supermercati for 90 toothbrushes and other personal effects, which enabled everyone to crack on with the skiing. Many thanks to parents for your support and your messages - some examples below, a very small sample - your emails were much appreciated.

- *We felt so much for all the staff having to negotiate your way through such unexpected issues while keeping the boys on track. We so appreciated all the clear and regular updates and we always knew our son was being well looked after.*
- *We are overwhelmed with the dedication of all the staff on the ground and back in the UK to ensure the boys get home as swiftly as possible. Everything you're all doing goes way above and beyond.*
- *Many many thanks for the sterling effort of the staff in Italy and to you for sorting out a most colossal logistical nightmare. We are deeply grateful to you all for the excellent communication and the tremendous care of the boys.*
- *Dear Mr Fossey
Am nominating you for a Knighthood when you get back!!*

UKRAINE

We are all concerned about the situation in Ukraine. We held a short period of reflection in each of the assemblies last week; I used the fourth century prayer of St Augustine (slightly amended) to focus our thoughts on the suffering. In practical terms we will be asking boys to support the Red Cross next week through a financial collection, rather than a collection of goods. The History Department will be delivering a lesson on the Ukraine situation to every Key Stage 3 class and boys will be able to submit questions in advance.

MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

I was very pleased to deliver the opening speech at our joint Management Conference with Wycombe Abbey School. The Conference has been running for 31 years and has moved with the times to give students from both schools a greater understanding of the choices and challenges faced by businesses within the UK economy. Working under the guidance of a business mentor, the aim is for students to develop an awareness of the commercial decision-making process, from marketing and product development to financial negotiation and sales. This, in turn develops commercial awareness, leadership and teamwork, creativity and innovation, project and task management. Around 100 of our Year 12 boys with a similar number of Wycombe Abbey girls took an active part in the simulations and heard inspiring talks given by Lord Bilimoria (Founder of Cobra Beer), Peter Higgins, the co-founder of Charles Tyrwhitt and Tamsin Todd, the CEO of Find My Past. Many thanks to our Sixth Form Team for their hard work and collaboration with staff at Wycombe Abbey.

MUSIC

Much work has been going on behind the scenes both musically and technically in preparation for House Music. Only a few years old, this event has very quickly become a fixture in our calendar. It offers a broad range of opportunity to a diverse range of musicians. Please do click on the link for the preview. The event will be streamed live from 7pm tomorrow, Tuesday 8 March. This is a good time to flag up the work of our excellent Stage and Lighting Team overseen by Mr Balaam. It is all too easy to overlook the technical aspects of productions; the lads involved are superbly committed, well organised and are learning very useful skills. As I am not particularly technical, I rely on them very much for sound and screens when I am delivering assemblies and other talks for which they support me, and others, so well. <https://www.rgshw.com/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=270>

In a month's time, the RGS Music Department returns to you with the perfect end to another busy term - our Spring Showcase concert. Despite the busy schedule of House Music Competition rehearsals this past half-term, many of our ensembles have been working hard behind the scenes to present a new repertoire. Groups performing at the Showcase include 1st Wind Band, 2nd Wind Band, Senior Strings, Junior Strings, Senior Choir, Junior Choir, Chamber Choir, Close Harmony, Swing Band, and Big Band. It promises to be a musical extravaganza to suit all! The Department has been shortlisted nationally for the "Outstanding Music Department" Award at the 2022 Music and Drama Education Awards - very well deserved.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association are hosting another on-line Sushi Making class this Saturday, 12 March. These events have been very popular and have inspired many families to make sushi together. The event also raises funds to support the work of the Parents' Association. Click on the [link](#) for further information.

SPORTS NEWS

Despite the rain and the cold, it was great to see 32 U13 Hockey players out in an RGS shirt across four fixtures. This follows strong performances earlier in the week. The U16s had an absolute 'belter' of a game and are through to the 4th round of the Cup. U14s put in a sterling effort at their County Cup tournament.

There were outstanding performances from all our squads at the Warwick Rugby 7s yesterday. Special mentions to our U15s who were Cup winners, our U14s who won the Plate and our U13s who were unbeaten!

I must also congratulate our swimmers - our Senior and Inter squads have both won their Hertfordshire swimming leagues!

Many thanks to our teams who represent their School with pride and to all parents, staff, coaches, umpires and referees!

PROOF READER

Finally - an eagle-eyed Mateo Morton (Year 7) spotted a grammatical error on a packet of crisps. Having informed the company of their sloppiness, he has received some vouchers from the company! Crisps are on Mateo - Thank goodness I have a good proof reader here!

Best wishes

Philip Wayne