

12/07/2021

Dear Parents and Students

Director of Co-Curricular Education – End of Year Letter

I write to you all as we begin the final preparations for the last two trips of this term, DofE Gold Expedition and our inaugural Tall Ships Challenge. As we run through the final checks it has given me an opportunity to reflect on what has been a truly unique academic year.

I want to thank both parents and students for their incredible support, kind words and letters of thanks. It has been an honour to support and facilitate students as they both undertake new challenges and learn what they are truly capable of. I have witnessed first-hand some incredible examples of teamwork, self-sacrifice and genuine spirit of adventure that demonstrate why learning outside the classroom is such an integral part of our students' journeys.

Over the last few weeks, we have seen students wild camping on the remote hillsides of Dartmoor, trekking through the moorland and mountain plateaus of the Peak District, rock climbing on the sea cliffs of the South Coast and navigating the ancient woodlands of the New Forest.

This year has also seen the addition of the School Learning Area which I hope will be of significant benefit to all students in the new academic year. We believe that learning outside the classroom is an integral part of the entitlement of every pupil to an effective and balanced curriculum. The "SLA" will allow teaching staff the flexibility to undertake normal timetabled lessons and learning outside the classroom as they feel appropriate. Staff are being enabled to respond to whatever the school day brings and empowered to deliver the curriculum in a way which is best for the students they teach, with easy access to and use of local resources to enhance learning.

The delivery of all the above is only possible due to the support of the School and its community, the incredibly dedicated staff and volunteers as well as many external partnerships who believe in the School's vision and ethos.

My focus now is for 2021/22 and the drive to ensure all students continue to be able to access the current provision and to grow opportunities to ensure no student misses out on the chance for adventure and growth.

I am confident that the challenges faced, friends made, and skills developed by students in all our co-curricular programmes and clubs will go on to serve them long after their time at RGS.

Memorable experiences lead to memorable learning...

Kind regards

Mr D Clatworthy *FRGS*

Director of Co-Curricular Education