

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 4 July 2022



Dear Parent

We are rapidly approaching the end of the School Year. There is a lot going on.

5G MAST

I have received several communications from local residents and parents expressing concern about the proposal by CK Hutchinson to construct a 15-metre mast in Hamilton Road, near the entrance to the RGS Reception.

This is currently at the planning stage. If you wish to submit an objection, [here](#) are the details - the application reference is 22/06650/PNP16A. I should like to point out that this is not an RGS innovation; but a private company seeking planning permission to install the mast.

VALETE

As ever, at this time of year we have a number of staff leaving. I will say 'farewell' a few at a time in the next couple of weeks.

Sarah Shaw joined RGS in 2008 as a Learning Support Assistant; Sarah has been a great support to and advocate for many students with special educational needs. Sarah and her family have recently re-located.

Beth Haynes joined in 2012 and has undertaken roles as a Learning Mentor and most recently as Deputy SEND Manager. Beth has had an impact on the progress of boys as well as providing leadership capacity within the Department.

Devi Thangamani joined us last September as an LSA. Whilst we are sorry to lose her, I am delighted that she is going to train as a teacher with the excellent Astra Alliance.

Oli Bird has worked in a one-year post of Graduate Assistant within Sport. Oli is returning to his home town of Devizes to work as a personal trainer and resume his place in Devizes Rugby Club.

We work very closely with the Astra Alliance to train teachers; I am very pleased that the following colleagues have passed their training and have secured their first teaching posts - Charlotte Cooper, Ted Stanford, Joanna Boothroyd, Tim Horn and Kurt Busschop.

CRICKET FESTIVAL

There are six Royal Grammar Schools namely RGS Colchester, Guildford, High Wycombe, Lancaster, Newcastle, Worcester. Having enjoyed their hospitality in recent years, it is now our turn. Our MarComms team have compiled an excellent [on-line brochure](#). Many thanks to our [sponsors](#) and to local cricket clubs who are giving us access to their facilities [for the fixtures](#). I am indebted to the Sports Department, Events Team, Mr Fletcher and Friends of Cricket for their work, both jointly and severally, to bring this great event to High Wycombe.

FRENCH HISTORY TRIP

The French History trip has been running for many years. It was a huge privilege to be a part of the trip in which we all learned so much from passionate History teachers who were able to bring the stories of the First World War to life through commentary and visits. It was moving to see a couple of lads pay respects at the graves of their great-grandfathers and we held our annual Remembrance Ceremony at the grave of OW Frederick Youens VC. We stayed in a former 'chateau' which had been converted for school residentials – the staff were not accustomed to such well-behaved students and underestimated the level of French our boys have. Nonetheless, the boys got a 'taste of France' by trying 'escargots' (if they wished), French cheeses and made their own crepes. Having cleared the Carrefour shelves of water guns, a massive water fight on the playing fields cooled everyone down on a hot afternoon. A memorable trip.

FRORGS TOUCH RUGBY AND BEER FESTIVAL

It was Rebellion all round (of the beer variety), a barbecue and lots of fun touch rugby. Our U16s adopted Hawaiian shirts, some Dads imagined they were twenty years younger than they were and the staff brought in reinforcements. A fabulous afternoon hindered only by the British weather! My thanks to all those who supported our rugby programme through their generosity in attending.

MUSIC

Tickets are selling very well for our Musical Theatre production - School of Rock. Our own students are being joined by students from Pipers Corner, Beaconsfield and Wycombe High Schools. It looks to be a fantastic production; it's quite a familiar pattern in the world of school shows for a sudden rush of ticket sales to occur once the community hears how good it is only to find the last two performances are already quite full. Take my word for it! Two stellar casts, band, direction, technics. See you there!

SUNNY AFTERNOON?

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed 'Jazz in the Quad' which also celebrates our departing musicians, thanking them for their contribution over the years.

IN QUIRES AND PLACES...

On Wednesday, 6 July the School Choir (well over one hundred singers) will be singing Choral Evensong at the church of St George, Hanover Square. The church is in Mayfair and has been the venue for many a Society wedding and is the church at which Alfred Doolittle got 'married in the morning' in My Fair Lady. This is a great opportunity for our young musicians to sing fine choral repertoire in wonderful surroundings.

SAILING BY

A great day for Harry Prior and Joe McCann in the National Schools Sailing Championships representing @RGSHW. More places gained in a very competitive fleet of trained school squads some of whom are junior GB sailors. Finishing 55th out of 97 boats, this is a very impressive achievement. Well done boys! To see the competition, click [here](#).

Philip Wayne