

20 May 2021

Dear Parents

Depending on the time I have chosen to leave my office this week I have been greeted with hail, lightning, torrential rain, sunshine and the odd clap of thunder! It could have passed for any time of the year. I took a particular soaking when out doing transition visits to meet our prospective new Year 7s. It is very pleasing that this year we are able to go and meet the next generation face to face or mask to mask. It is a real delight of the job to be able to congratulate them on their success in joining the RGS and to have the chance to reassure them and excite them about the next stage of their educational journey. It is also a great shame for many of them to have had their top year of primary and all that it entails so heavily disrupted by Covid.

I hope when they join us in September they can experience RGS in full swing. A number of Year 7 parents and pupils recently helped plant trees on a corner of the Uplyme Field and for many it was the first time they had set foot in the RGS. In a normal year by this stage, they would already have decided on their favourite parking space (never available), would be able to recognise many teachers by sight and have created strong bonds with other parents. We often consider what the pupils have missed out on but you, the parents, have not had your chance to really become part of RGS. I have experienced this myself. My youngest joined his primary school this year and we don't really know a single other parent from the year group, whereas his older siblings' parents are all well known to us (and probably try to avoid us!). RGS is a community and we are very excited about all our parents coming back on site when it is safe to do so. I know many of us have missed the informal chats with you on the touchline at sporting fixtures or intervals at music concerts. These are only small moments, short conversations, but in our eyes very important.

#### Testing reminder

Once again can I ask for your support in encouraging your son to take part in the Lateral Flow Device testing every Wednesday and Sunday. It is important we maintain extremely high levels of engagement in this process. We need to continue to do all we can to keep the School safe.

#### Assessments underway

Year 11 had their first internal assessments yesterday. We wish them the very best of luck. They have faced plenty of challenges over the last 18 months, they deserve great success and I am sure they will achieve it.

With half term arriving and the End of Year Exams not long afterwards, it is tempting to fill that break with revision. As a school, we do not want your son to spend all week preparing. He deserves a good break, he needs a rest, he needs to see friends and family.

Fingers crossed the weather improves this weekend. Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards

**Alex Wallace**  
Deputy Headmaster