

21 March 2022

Dear Parent

Character Education

I am delighted to write to you about the work we have been doing surrounding character development at RGS.

We continually review our offering to ensure that when students leave RGS, they are fully equipped to thrive in a world beyond school. Our aim is to provide an experience whereby students become well-rounded, confident, happy and resilient individuals, thereby maximising their academic potential, employability and ability to engage in society as active responsible citizens. Often, beyond school, emphasis is placed on “soft skills”, however we feel that this phrase almost belittles the vital importance of the character traits this phrase tries to capture!

We value the importance of character so highly, that we have formed a collaboration with [a School for Tomorrow](#). Their research institute CIRCLE education, have been working with boys’ schools around the world since 2011 through the [International Boys’ School Coalition](#) (IBSC) on what character education should look like. We have asked them to conduct a survey independent of the school which is the first step to ensure we accurately measure our current provision with no bias or preconceptions. We felt it crucial that this stage should be undertaken by a group who are not only external to the school, but have led on global research in this area.

The findings from this survey will allow us to build a thorough strategy, taking into account the review of the current perception of all members of the RGS community alongside what we already offer. A lot of what we currently do at RGS supports the character development of our students and as such, we hope that this independent survey will help us to highlight it all; we also hope that it will help identify aspects that we need to develop strategically to ensure we maximise the character outcomes. This is the first step of a very important and exciting character journey at RGS.

The survey can be accessed here <https://rgshwcharactereducation2022.questionpro.com/>

It should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete the survey. Thank you in advance for the time you take to complete it and to quote an earlier, less well-known piece of work from Martin Luther King, ‘*We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education*’.

Kind regards



Iain Wilson
Deputy Headmaster