

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 2 December 2022



Dear Parent

A very warm welcome to Nara MacDermott-Clapperton who has joined the Music Department as Administrator. We also welcome to Fraser Youens House (our boarding facility) Cara Ley as Domestic Assistant.

SIXTH FORM CENTRE CAMPAIGN

I should like to acknowledge the incredible support of parents who have given generous gifts towards our Sixth Form Centre Campaign. At the time of writing, we have received nearly £430,000. This is so very much appreciated. I am very grateful to the Campaign Board who have supported parents in the giving process and have spoken passionately about the gamechanger of a project. There is one final Campaign Event taking place on Monday evening from 7pm, starting with a glass of fizz and a mince pie in the Upper Library. There will be an added bonus for this particular event as I shall be able to show parents the 'work in process' and explain the developments in a little more detail. If you have not yet attended and would like to come to this event, please email campaign@rgshw.com to register your interest. Please be assured that you will not be asked for money during the evening. All gifts are very much appreciated and will be recognised on a donor board, which will be in place before the grand opening in 2023.

There is an architect drawing above showing an area which has been crying out for a better use for 60 years.

The Queen's Hall will close next week for renovation and I am just about to place the order for the new seating, to professionalise the lecture series, which will be in place early in the new term.

The furniture for the downstairs study area is being manufactured and will be delivered and erected before the end of term.

Other capital works

The Sports Hall roof work is almost complete, with the solar panels due to be installed in early January. We are taking the opportunity to redecorate the Sports Hall and surrounding area and, once the Pool work is complete in March, we will refresh the paintwork in the area which leads to the pool, Sports Hall and Restaurant.

There has been inevitable disruption to events, to those who hire the premises and, on a daily basis, to staff who have had talks and lessons interrupted by drills, hammers and saws! This level of investment is unprecedented at the school, certainly in one go, and I know that we shall all appreciate our new facilities. I'd like to thank everyone for their understanding during this time.

CHALLENGE PARTNERS

RGS is part of a network of nearly 600 schools in the Challenge Partners programme. One important part of the work is that school leaders support each other with school Quality Assessment Reviews. We had a team of trained reviewers here earlier in the week; they observed lessons, scrutinised school data, and met with students, staff and governors. There will be a full report published in the next few weeks, but I am delighted to say that the team (comprising a retired Head and Ofsted Inspector, a serving Head, and several Deputy Heads) were very impressed with everything they saw. We felt an enormous sense of pride when the evidence was shared. Fine words butter no parsnips, of course, and we worked together through some areas which would benefit from a review so that further improvements can be made. These will also form a part of the report. Our outcomes for students, progress, emphasis on values and the building of character, the refreshed staff CPD and our co-curricular provision were highly praised for their excellence. I shall look forward to sharing the report with you.

We can learn much from other schools and I am pleased that a number of my Senior Team are trained as reviewers and will, themselves, be undertaking reviews elsewhere. I, too, have recently transformed myself from poacher to gamekeeper and have trained as an Ofsted Inspector which, again, will give me the opportunity a few times a year, to spend a day or two in other schools as well as getting under the skin of the framework through which schools are now inspected.

CAROL SERVICE

Our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which takes place in High Wycombe Parish Church of All Saints on December 12 will be a wonderful occasion of Christmas readings and music. This is one of the events which enables us all to truly appreciate the mass participation in music at RGS. Our student readers, our massed choir, chamber choir, brass ensemble, newly formed staff choir and brass group will get us all in the mood for Christmas. I hope that many parents and students of all faiths and none will come and enjoy being a part of this traditional service which was, initially, designed by the clergy and musicians of King's College, Cambridge. There will be mulled wine/soft drinks and mince pies in the Church Hall afterwards, provided by the Parents Association. Please note the new start time of 7pm, but do arrive early to get a seat!

BURNS NIGHT GALA SUPPER

Friends of Rugby are hosting a Burns Night on January 28th with the traditional 'piping in of the haggis' (vegetarian option available) and a Ceilidh. Please see [here](#) for details.

There has been a lot going on this term, so I shall hope to capture that in my final letter just before we break up.

With my thanks for your support and very best wishes.

With best wishes

Philip Wayne