

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

4 April 2022



Dear Parent

Valete

We are saying goodbye to a number of staff at the end of term:

Domnhall Corcoran has worked in the English Department since 2016 and has been an Assistant Subject Leader and Literacy Co-ordinator. He is moving to a similar post at Pipers Corner School.

Sehar Naqvi has taught chiefly Psychology with some Geography since her arrival in 2017. She has a very well-deserved promotion as Head of Psychology at Rickmansworth School.

Simon Armitage joined RGS in 2019 and has taught Mathematics. He has also been an important part of the Sports Department. Mr Armitage is relocating to Ireland with his partner.

Sandie Black joined us to set up the HR department which has made an enormous difference to many aspects of the running of the school. We wish her well as she returns to the commercial sector.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing our colleagues well and thank them for their contribution to RGS.

Easter Revision Courses

Places still available – click [here](#).

Hans Woyda Mathematics Competition – Written by Tharul Wannan Arachchige

The Hans Woyda Maths competition is an exciting and fun battle between schools from all around Britain. Students are challenged individually and as a team with puzzling questions, testing mathematical ingenuity and speed of thought under serious time pressure, racing against students from another school. This year, our team included Tharul Wannan Arachchige, Aryan Menon, Henry Daley, Harman Punchi, Nakul Nataraj, Keiran Cranley, Aditya Mahesh and Shiv Mistry. Coming up against the likes of Highgate School and John Hampden School, the RGS team came top of their group and then won their quarter-final match before being beaten by St Paul's School in the semi-final. We are very proud of how far we got and look forward to the chance to get even further in future years.

Two quick questions if you want to test yourself: 1) list all the integers between 100 and 300 the product of whose digits is prime; 2) 100 cards numbered 1-100 are placed randomly in a pile. Find the probability that the top four cards are in ascending order.

RGS has fantastic fun at the feast Written by Shyan Bera, 10TW

On Tuesday 22 March, RGS sent two teams to compete at the local Year 10 Maths Feast, hosted at John Hampden Grammar School. The event lasted half a day, and consisted of four challenging rounds where we collaborated in teams of four to find the answers to a host of Mathematical problems and questions. They were very interesting and encouraged us to think outside the box. In total, there were 14 teams taking part from 9 local grammar and private schools. Our teams placed 3rd and 7th overall with a team from Beaconsfield High School being crowned the overall winner. The day was great fun and everybody had a wonderful time!

Congratulations

I was very pleased to meet Ollie Godsell-Tag and Boran Celik who have produced some fantastic work inspired by the ArtsAward trip to the Harry Potter studio.

MEDSOC:

On Tuesday 15th March, 14 Y11/Y12 students looking to study along the medical route had the opportunity to attend the IBMS (Institute of Biomedical Science) conference in Birmingham. The aim of the trip was to showcase the many different technologies, companies and work being completed in the world of Biomedical sciences as well as listening to open forums and talks by professionals in the field. It was great to see all the students involved ask questions in an area of biology they may not have considered and the different career paths it can take them on such as virology or parasitology. All students found it incredibly interesting and represented the school at the highest of levels, as well as getting a lot of freebies from the various companies – a brilliant day!

Year 7 International MFL Poetry Competition

Poesiae is an international poetry recital competition and this year there were schools participating from 22 different countries worldwide. In the Spanish Department we decided to trial this and it was a huge success among our Year 7s. The competition consisted of an initial school round and successful candidates then went through to the international round. The students needed to choose a Hispanic poem to learn and recite and were judged on the quality of their pronunciation, intonation, body language and overall interpretation of the poem. I am delighted to announce that Edward Lewis, Luke Thomas and Akhilan Balasundaran all made it through to the final round. We eagerly await results after the Easter holidays

Music

I am very much looking forward to the Spring Showcase on Thursday. I'm afraid that it sold out a couple of weeks ago, but I shall report on it after the holiday. Keep an eye on Twitter as I shall endeavour to tweet a few highlights during the evening.

The next event will be our summer musical - chiefly aimed at a junior cast, but supported by more experienced performers and girls from local schools. School of Rock will take place in early July. The Department auditioned over 150 youngsters and have selected a cast of 88. It will be quite a spectacle.

Sport

I could quite easily fill a letter just with sporting news. Here are some highlights:

It was a real pleasure to be on the touchlines at the prestigious Sedbergh 10s Rugby tournament. The weekend saw the final matches of the rugby season with the Senior squad travelling to Sedbergh for a two-day tournament, in which RGS were the only state school. They played 7, won 6, lost 1. In winning the Plate they became the first RGS side ever to win silverware at both the St Joseph's Festival and Sedbergh Tens in the same season. On Sunday they beat Seaford and Cokethorpe, but lost narrowly to Barnard Castle. Instead of feeling sorry for themselves after defeat they bounced back on Day 2 scoring over 150 points on the last day in beating Hurstpierpoint, KES Bath, Hampton and finally Felstead in the final. This was a fitting end to a tough season impacted by injuries and Covid and the team should be proud of how hard they have worked over the entire season to overcome any setbacks and finish so impressively. All augurs well for the U13s in the future who got to the final of the Northampton Saints 7s - another prestigious competition involving over 70 schools.

It was a great pleasure to welcome parents to the FRORGS U12/13/14 Rugby awards. Three hundred parents, staff and boys gathered to socialise, eat and to celebrate the game. The pride of those who won an award was deserved and we were entertained by the various team captains speaking with passion about their sport, delivering speeches with confidence and much humour. I have shared with you [here](#) the speech given by the 1st XV Captain, Jack Pargetter, which I found particularly inspiring, embodying the ethos which is so much a part of RGS. I was also struck by the passion and commitment of the staff who give freely of their time in all sports. Without FRORGS, furthermore, we would not be able to provide so great a rugby programme. Many thanks.

Hockey has also had a great season (more in my next letter) and we are just at the start of the cricket season. I will shortly be popping into School for the Friends of Cricket BBQ - another example of stellar parental support. Look out for photos on Twitter!

Date for your diary

We will, with the support of our school families, be holding an [Iftar](#) on April 26. It is a wonderful event and is open to those of all faiths, and none.

All good gifts

Many thanks to the Senior Prefect Team, led by Oli Meadowcroft and Steffan Wayne, for organising a fun run in aid of the eating disorder charity BEAT. With online and cash donations over £2000 is going to this great cause. We are also sending in the region of £1000 to the British Red Cross to support their efforts in Ukraine.

Just a reminder that the Easter term, for students, finishes on Thursday at 1530. We are using Friday to undertake training in the new MIS software which will be live in the Summer term. Please note that in order to accommodate the Jubilee bank holiday with relatively little disruption to the learning of your sons, we will be closing for the summer holidays on Thursday 14 July at 1530.

I wish you all a very enjoyable holiday and, if you celebrate it, a very Happy Easter.

Best wishes
Philip Wayne