

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 22 November 2021



Dear Parent

We are approaching Christmas quite rapidly. I am writing this on what used to be known as 'Stir up' Sunday, the day on which the Church urged the faithful to be stirred up, but in more secular times was a reminder to stir the mix of the Christmas pudding.

REMEMBRANCE

We are all very proud of our Remembrance Service, year on year. We had to hold a pared-down version last year, but we were so pleased to be able to return to normal. The solemnity of the band, the poignancy of the readings, the presence of the CCF and a very fine rendition of the Last Post and Reveille (Tom Aston, Year 12) all added to a memorable occasion. The most excellent part of the service is, of course, the fact that the whole School community comes together – 1436 boys and 150 staff, plus Friends of RGS, to remember as the School clock strikes eleven.

Our CCF also took part in the High Wycombe Remembrance Parade - the staff were very pleased that the marching drills had paid off - click [here](#) for a brief video of our lads heading towards the Church.

MUSIC

The Music Department presented an excellent concert last Thursday. Every ensemble performed to a high standard, from the Junior strings right the way through to the Big Band. There are around 100 boys in the Junior Choir and I am pleased that so many boys took up the opportunity to sing together. This is a good time to remind parents of the benefits of playing a musical instrument. We have a very experienced team of visiting instrumental teachers (known as 'Peripatetics'), most of whom play, or have played, on professional circuits and who teach the whole range of orchestral and keyboard instruments, as well as guitar and drums. Classic FM have produced a [short document](#) which outlines ten reasons why one should learn a musical instrument. The next musical event is the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at the Parish Church in High Wycombe.

I called in, albeit briefly, to the Chiltern Music Academy Gala Concert this evening (Sunday). Once again, some very fine music-making was to be heard. CMA is one of our key partners and it was great to see so many RGS boys taking part, including our Sound and Lighting Team. We were very pleased that the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, Steve Baker MP and Earl and Countess Howe were in attendance. Countess Howe is the Lord-Lieutenant (the Queen's representative) and a keen music lover.

BIRTHDAY BOYS

It is impossible for me to know 1400 students by name, though I very much do my best! One way I try to get to know the boys is to invite them for a gathering around the time of their 12th birthday. This has not been possible during the Covid period but I have been pleased to resurrect the practice. I have a bit of a backlog, but you can see in the photo overleaf my first group of the year; all boys were thoroughly enjoying RGS and getting involved in the range of opportunities on offer to them.

SPORT

We have had successful fixtures in Rugby. After a period with a number of boys out with injuries, the 1st XV had a very good win against Bromsgrove School. I was pleased to watch the U16As in a very tight, exciting game winning 7-5 against Bromsgrove; on the opposite pitch the Bs enjoyed a fantastic 33-0 victory. It was super to see so many families, on both sides, supporting their sons.

We have also taken part in squash fixtures, cross country, swimming and Eton Fives events - great to know that so many of our boys are involved in this wide range of sports.

ROWING

Ten RGS boats competed on Saturday at Teddington Head. Congratulations to the J16 single, J16 double & J14 Quad who came 2nd against boats with local knowledge. Very impressive.

EVENTS

Please do put the following events in your diaries:

- **Comedy Night:** Saturday 29 November 2021
- **Burns Night:** Saturday 21 January 2022
- **Music 'Quiz and Musicals' night:** Saturday 29 January 2022

With best wishes

Philip Wayne