

**HEADMASTER'S LETTER**  
28 June 2021



Dear Parent

We are always very sorry to say good bye to colleagues, but my first round of farewells are new chapters for the staff concerned. We work very closely with the Astra Alliance which is one body which oversees the graduate trainee programme for teachers locally. This year we have had five trainees with us, two of whom will be staying with us (more later) as they were the strongest candidates for the vacancies we had.

Sian Slade - Art, Craig Turner – Maths and Nalina Pitt – French, have all secured posts at great local schools. We thank them for their contribution to RGS and wish them well in their careers. Eddie Fuller, one of our sports grads on a one-year placement is going to develop his career training professional sports people and up-and-coming athletes.

Our Biology Technician, Dr Marianne Horn is also leaving us to train as a teacher, through the Astra programme. We wish her every success in this new venture.

#### **ANYONE FOR.....**

Tennis has certainly bounced back. We have 80 boys, from Year 7-10 enrolled in weekly coaching sessions and around 40 attending the 'all play' sessions on a Monday. Four teams are playing regularly; in particular, the youngest team has won many matches against local schools including DCGS, Borlase and Great Marlow. It is so good to see so many boys involved; and we thank Mrs Woodbury, whose enthusiasm and love of tennis is the inspiration behind this burgeoning sport. She is ably assisted by qualified coaches and our own Sixth Form helpers.

#### **SURVEY**

Feedback is very important to us. Please do take some time to complete our annual [parent survey](#). It is really important for us to know areas where parents feel we can improve as well as our knowing where there is a groundswell of satisfaction with what we offer. The survey closes at midday on Tuesday 13 July.

## CRICKET

We were unable to be the good hosts we usually are for the MCC and Duncan Moore Memorial matches. The current situation made the provision of lunch unwise. Nonetheless, the games went ahead as planned.

The MCC game was played in a great spirit. As Mr Fletcher, our Head of Cricket reported '*Unfortunately, our batsmen could not match the performance of our bowlers, as we were bowled out for 72 to lose by 71 runs. Thank you to everyone involved in the planning and delivery of an excellent day's cricket. Lots learned to take forward into future games.*

The Duncan Moore game, held in memory of an OW (whose father, although he lives abroad, still takes a keen interest in the event) was equally enjoyable. Having taken some early wickets, the OWs batted well to set a very challenging target. Despite several starts from the RGS batsmen, the experience of the OWs was clear as they finished the game as comfortable victors. There is always some learning to take away.

## MEMORY LANE

We were very pleased to welcome to RGS the Cricket Captain from 1975/76, Charles Lloyd. He was able to pay a short visit to our Pavilion and take a photograph of the honours board whereon his name is proudly inscribed.

A few weeks ago, I received a letter from a descendent of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Frederick Youens VC, asking if he could bring his mother (3<sup>rd</sup> cousin, thrice removed) to view a memorial tablet. Frederick Youens was an RGS student who joined the Durham Light Infantry in the First World War and was killed by a hand grenade in 1917. He was posthumously awarded a VC. We were delighted to welcome Martin and Joan (a very sprightly 89 year-old) and show them the memorial tablet. Mr Rose, himself a former serviceman, was able to spend time with them, imparting much historical knowledge.

## CONGRATULATIONS

- I was delighted to meet and congratulate Seb Gould, Year 7. We received notification from a member of the public that he showed 'calm and collected' leadership in handling a serious first aid situation whilst on a mountain bike ride. This is very good news and I am sure that the boy's family were as grateful to Seb for his swift action, as we are proud of him.
- OW James McDonald left RGS in 2017. I remember his very fine performance as Colonel Pickering in the production of My Fair Lady. In 2020, James graduated from the Bristol School of Animation at UWE with a First-Class Honours Degree in Animation and he is now carving out a career for himself in the world of animation. Last week, James presented at an international conference - not only the first student from UWE to do so, but the very first person from his university to do so. The title of his dissertation was "A flight through time: the animated incarnations of the Dr Who title sequence". As ever, we are very interested to hear news of OWs.
- We have enjoyed success in the ESAA Track and Field Cup in Bucks. We came top of the Junior Boys event and joint first (with DCGS) in the Inter Boys competition. Well done to all boys who took part.
- Many congratulations to Alden Collier who has been selected as one of 40 Buckinghamshire athletes to participate in the National Championships at SportsCity, Manchester. Alden has excellent times, better than many Olympians when they were the same age.

Yours sincerely

Philip Wayne