

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 8 November 2021



Dear Parent

I trust that you had a break during half term. The School was certainly ready for a break but it is, as ever, super to see the boys and staff back. I was fortunate to enjoy a short city break in a very balmy Barcelona, returning to work for the second half of the week.

APOLOGY

We had two challenging issues to deal with last week. The failure of our Management Information System server caused many difficulties for staff who could not produce progress cards or take registers, and parents who could not access the Parent App. This is in addition to the disruption of back-office services which would hinder the work of any organisation. The resilience and expertise of our IT department got to the bottom of the issue and we are up and running again. We are looking seriously at Cloud based options with the current provider as well as other MIS systems which operate successfully in schools.

Secondly, the data breach has caused me great concern. Please be assured that we are injecting significant time into working this through, with the support of our Data Protection Officer. I will keep you informed.

Please accept my sincere, personal apology for any inconvenience you may have suffered as a result.

VALETE

We have said goodbye to our Estates Manager, Sue Osborn, who has taken a more senior role in a larger organisation. Sue made considerable strides in Health and safety, Fire Prevention and the administration of the Estates work. Sue can be proud of the government grants she helped secure to replace the school boilers and, very soon, the windows in the Language Block. We thank her for her time with us and wish her well in the future.

Nazia Anwar has been an LSA with us for two years. A demanding, but rewarding role, Nazia has made an impact on the lives of individual, able boys by helping them overcome some of the barriers to their learning.

DIWALI

I hope that our Sikh and Hindu families have enjoyed their Diwali, Festival of Light, celebrations. Diwali, which for some also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations, is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

REMEMBRANCE

On Thursday of this week, we will be holding our annual outdoor Service of Remembrance in the Quad. In the presence of friends of the School, parents, the CCF, the School Band and a representative from the Royal Air Force, this unashamedly traditional C of E service enables us to reflect on the sacrifices made by armed forces and the eternal hope for world peace. I hope that those of all faiths and none will very much appreciate the opportunity to reflect and to remember.

AUTUMN SOIREE

The Music Department, supported by Friends of Music, put on an excellent evening of entertainment just before half term with performances by senior soloists, Big Band and the Chamber Choir. Friends of Music adeptly weaved their AGM into the evening. Please do support the FoM by clicking [here](#).

The next event is the November Showcase - this is an event not to be missed. We have immense musical talent in the school and the boys deserve good audiences. Tickets available [here](#):

GAME FOR A LAUGH

This half term sees us holding a Comedy Night on Saturday 27 November at 7.00pm in the Queen's Hall. This has proved to be a fun evening in past years with the emphasis on a casual evening of laughs, curry and beer and wine. We promise that the Queen's Hall will be heated this year! This is a first-class comedy night, with professional comedians and not an evening with Carmelite Nuns. There may be the odd expletive!

TESTING, TESTING

I hope that you have managed to escape the recent wave of colds going around. I have always been proud of the fact that I have had 2.5 days off sick in 29 years. However, I was knocked sideways last week by a cold which not only made me feel dreadful, but also made me cough as though I was a shareholder of Benson and Hedges. Over the worst now, thankfully, I am still lateral flow testing rigorously. Cold or not, may I ask parents to insist that their sons conduct an LFT regularly and to report any concerns to the School immediately. Please use the email address attendance@rgshw.com to notify the school if your son has a positive LFD test result (please also advise the date of PCR when booked).

With best wishes

Philip Wayne