

## HEADMASTER'S LETTER 20 September 2022



Dear Parent

### Welcome

I am very pleased to welcome to the following staff to RGS:

- Jack Webb (SL Religious Studies), Jane Lawrence (LSA), Hanusha Ravitharan (LSA) and Gemma Waddell (PE)

### Valete

- Jessica Bailey (Domestic Assistant) 2022 in Fraser Youens House (our boarding house) and Lisa-Marie Gibson (HR Assistant) 2022. I thank both colleagues for their contribution to RGS and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Despite the School resembling a building site at present, the natural rhythm of events has got underway.

I have held my first celebration of 12<sup>th</sup> birthday gatherings; I hold these most weeks and it means that I have spoken to every boy in the school at least once. A Twix and carton of juice awaits and an opportunity for me to find out how your son is settling into RGS life.

I'm delighted that Year 7 are participating in a residential event at Phasel's Wood in Hertfordshire; this will enable bonding of the year group, the embedding of the RGS values as well as being great fun. Travel light is the advice.

Year 7 do indeed seem to be enjoying life and many boys are becoming more confident by the day as they find their way around the School and learn the routines of a large institution. I was particularly pleased to catch the end of the Rugby training on Saturday morning.

Year 12, which includes around 30 students who have joined us from other schools, have enjoyed several events, in addition to the satisfaction (some would say 'relief') of studying the four subjects of their choice. A 'Fresher's Fair' gave the students an idea of what was on offer. Last Friday, a Character Education Day comprising a range of outdoor leadership activities was to relate the challenges faced by Ernest Shackleton's Endurance expedition to our school values of Respect, Integrity and Aspiration.

Sports practices, fixtures, music rehearsals, CCF and all manner of co-curricular opportunities are now up and running. We have had two successful Rugby fixtures against Berkhamsted and St John's, Leatherhead, and it was especially pleasing to see large numbers of supporters - parents, of course, as well as a number of OWs who were on the touchlines prior to returning to university. Matches were preceded by a period of silence, respectfully observed.

Our Rowing teams rowed at Isis Sculls, entering 23 boats in 11 classes. Eight medals were won -many congratulations.

### School Estate

You will be aware that we are currently investing in the School Estate.

- A government grant has enabled us to replace the Sports Hall roof, part of which will result in the redecoration of the interior; we are going to take the opportunity to install solar panels and to freshen up the surrounding corridors. We are expecting the Sports Hall to be re-opened just after Christmas.
- The School's Foundation with a contribution from the Academy reserves is funding the rebuilding of our swimming pool. The pool has been out of use for the last few years for health and safety reasons. As well as being used for PE lessons, boarders' activities and staff recreation, it has the potential to generate income for the school. The pool will be open after Easter.

### Sixth Form Centre Campaign

If you have driven past the school you will have seen the work underway from Amersham Road. This is the Sixth Form Centre. All parents will be invited, by me, to a Campaign Evening - an opportunity to meet informally with canapés and drinks, to hear about the project, about the money raised so far and information as to how you can help. Please be assured that you will not be asked for money on the night, but will be informed as to how you might be able to contribute at a level which will suit you. We are inviting parents by year group, though we will run some extra events later on to cater for those who cannot make a specific event or missed the initial invitation. We are very much hoping that as many parents as possible will get behind the campaign and support the completion of a vital step forward for the School. Please do keep an eye out for the invitation and come along to hear more. Dates are as follows:

- Year 9                      Tuesday 4 October
- Year 7                      Tuesday 13 October
- Years 10/11                Tuesday 18 October
- Years 12/13                Monday 7 November

The Campaign Team are looking for volunteers to support the events; if you are interested please email [campaign@rgshw.com](mailto:campaign@rgshw.com).

### Congratulations to:

- Our CCF Staff Sergeant Instructor, Colour Sgt John Barrett, for being selected by the Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire for a Meritorious Award. There will be a ceremony later in the term where Sgt Barrett will be presented with his award by Countess Howe, the Lord-Lieutenant.
- Ben Hinves, OW, Oxford Brookes student and former RGS Rower who was selected to row for GB in the U23 World Championship. His crew won the Coxed Four event by a margin of 3.23secs in a U23 WC best time in Varese, Italy.

Philip Wayne