

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

1 February 2021

Dear Parent

Mr Wallace covered most bases in his Thursday letter which means that I can be concise this week.

Happy retirement

We said 'farewell' to Mrs Sarah Bailey on Friday. Sarah had worked at RGS for 22 years. During this time, she worked in various administration departments, was the PA to the previous Deputy Headmaster and, most recently, the Student Development Administrator. The Student Development team, comprising the Heads of Year, SEND and the Student Hub will greatly miss her hard work and experience. In recent years, as we have welcomed more external students to our Sixth Form, her care and attention to the applications process has been much appreciated. We all wish Sarah a very happy retirement.

Online lessons

We have two weeks before half term, a break which will then be much needed by students and staff. I remain very impressed with the level of engagement of your sons in their lessons and thank my staff for ensuring that 'business as usual' is very much the hallmark of what we aim to achieve.

We have resisted the urge to mess around with the School timetable too much as consistency is so much easier to achieve with predictability. With most lessons being 'live' in some form or another, 'screen time' is the latest area of concern. I would ask you all to insist, weather permitting, that your son gets some fresh air in the breaks during the day. I was on a late Zoom meeting on Tuesday and, somewhat concerned that others said that I looked 'tired', I took a quick look at my calendar which showed that I had been 'on screen' for almost nine hours that day.

As per our recent emails, we will be working towards much greater use of cameras by students in the coming weeks. We would welcome your support in this matter and the forthcoming co-curricular activities. As all boys at RGS take part in PE and Games for most of their time with us, the Sports Department are very keen to ensure that boys remain fit and healthy. Do take a look at the [RGS Sport](#) You Tube Channel for sporting inspiration.

Physics Olympiad

A number of our boys took part in the British Physics Olympiad with considerable success. It was an even greater challenge this year for organisers, teachers and students. Many congratulations to: Harry Langford and Jack Zhu-Capp (Top Gold), Saketh Uppaladhadiam, Tommy Muir and Parth Potdar, (Silver) Luke Vong (Commendation).

As we have further snow forecast this week, a reminder that we will continue with our online provision and will inform the families of those boys coming into School and boarders directly if there are any changes.

With best wishes

Philip Wayne