

## HEADMASTER'S LETTER

28 April 2022



Dear Parent

Welcome back! I hope you all had a good Easter break. There were a number of religious observances for Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Sikh families and, of course, for us all it is a good opportunity for family time.

### Iftar

I was very pleased to support the Iftar on Tuesday evening. There were three hundred in the Queen's Hall listening to very inspiring addresses from a number of our boys, an opportunity for prayer for those who wished and a sumptuous meal. It was so good to get members of our school community, including many former students, together for an important part of Ramadan. Many thanks to Mrs Khan for organising a superb event and to parents who donated funds and who attended on the night.

**RGSHW 'Digging up the Past' A Collaboration Between the Art and History Departments - A report by Mrs Francis, Subject Leader for Art.**

*It all started with the discovery of the work by a little-known artist, Duncan Cameron, who was inspired by the power and narrative behind various curiosities and artefacts. Cameron produced a series of studies drawn whilst at Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. This captured our imagination and led the Art Department to discuss the concept of archaeological finds, artefacts, and the impact on the society at the time with the History Department. The History Department loved the concept of 'Digging up the Past' and how, by studying the various objects, the pupils could gain an understanding of perceptions and in particular the relationship with the British Empire. We created a cross-curricular project, ending with an A5 two-sided postcard, one side created during their Art lessons, and the other in History lessons.*

*The inspiration for this postcard was gathered on a trip to Oxford that took place just before the Easter holidays. All Year 8 attended the trip. They spent the day sketching and photographing in either the Pitt Rivers Museum or the Museum of Natural History followed by going on a walking tour around the Oxford University area of the city and including a trip up St Mary's Church tower, led by the History Department. The connection with Oxford, the objects drawn within the museum and how they inform ideas within the classroom and between subjects has been an invaluable experience to the students and one that they found incredibly enjoyable.*

I know one of the clergy at The University Church of St Mary - she emailed me to say that the church staff were 'blown away' (sic) by the courtesy and sensitivity of our boys during their visit.

## **Benevolent Fund**

The Benevolent Fund this term is in aid of the Ruth Strauss Foundation. You are probably aware that Ruth was the wife of the cricketer, Andrew Strauss, until her untimely death from cancer. The charity supports families with children following the death of a parent. Mr Atkin, who is a passionate cricketer and supporter of the charity, is leading assemblies next week and will be encouraging boys to give generously to this good cause. The assembly will include a moving video; staff have been asked to be aware that boys who have lost parents during their childhood may find the video upsetting and will talk it through with them before the assembly.

There will be a 'Wear Red for Ruth' day on Friday 20 May which I hope we will all support.

## **OW Success**

Mr Rose was very honoured to have been invited to attend the Sovereign's Parade for the commissioning of Jack Pennant and James Sendall, OWs who were commissioned into the Royal Signals and Mercian Regiment respectively at midnight on 14 April.

## **Soon to be OW Success**

Many congratulations to Billy Kucera, Year 13. Following the end of this year's Wasps Academy season, Billy was offered and signed a full-time professional Senior Academy contract. He will be officially starting his term there in July. Despite Billy's need to demonstrate a strong commitment to Wasps, this has never affected his passion for School rugby and his continued support of, ultimately, the RGS 1<sup>st</sup> XV. Noted and appreciated by your team mates and staff!

## **Ex-Colleagues**

We have lost a number of former staff this year. There is a memorial service for Mr Garth Ratcliffe at St James, Gerrards Cross on Saturday 7 May at 3pm.

Neil Cooper, former Head of Classics who died earlier this year had an extensive collection of Classics books which his widow, Clare, has donated to the School. We are very grateful for this wonderful addition to our collection.

## **Music**

A packed Queen's Hall was moved, amazed and delighted in equal measure by the very fine Spring Showcase with over 250 performers. Every performance was well prepared and executed. Many congratulations and thanks to our Music Department and musicians for keeping the flag flying for school music. Keep an eye out for Jazz in the Quad and our singing of Choral Evensong, as well as the junior show 'School of Rock', all of which take place this term.

## **In Vino Veritas**

Friends of Rowing are holding a Wine Tasting Event in the Queen's Hall this Saturday. The evening is being run by Lloyd's Wines of Hughenden Valley. Event closed on Little Box Office.

## **Jolly Hockey Sticks**

The Annual Hockey Awards take place next Wednesday, 4 May. Another evening not to be missed. Book [here](#).

## **Character Education** (from the Deputy Headmaster)

*As communicated last term, we are evaluating our current provision for the development of character here at RGS and are working with a School for Tomorrow and their research institute CIRCLE education (who have been working with boys' schools around the world since 2011 through the International Boys' School Coalition). My thanks to those who have been able to complete the questionnaire to date. Please may I ask for 20 minutes of your time to complete the survey over the next few days via this [link](#). This is the first step of a very important and exciting part of RGS's journey to develop character education and we wish to thank you in advance for the time you take in completing the survey.*

With best wishes

Philip Wayne