

28 January 2021

Dear Parents

It is probably fair to say we have all been anxiously awaiting the Government announcement with regards to when we will see a return to school. We have now been given an indication of 8 March. Whatever this looks like in reality, I have no doubt that the whole school community will be forced to accept and then adapt to the situation. However, we do not underestimate the challenges many of you will face, and have been facing.

In the previous lockdown, we still had a child not old enough to join the key worker group at school; juggling the delightful ball of joy between two working parents was incredibly taxing. I am sure many of you are facing similar battles. However, not only were we adjusting, so was he; by the end of the lockdown, he would cruise into our Senior Team meetings with a smile, a wave and a knowing nod of the head to the Headmaster!

The point is that the youngsters of this pandemic are having to show more adaptability and resilience than any other generation. And crucially, they have adapted very well indeed and this will no doubt hold them in good stead as they move on through the rich tapestry of life. That is not to say this is all straightforward. It is not, it is draining, it is exhausting and incredibly worrying. Our aim, as it is in “normal times”, is to continue to provide you with the best possible education that these restrictions allow.

### **Assembly on RGS Old Boy Ian Fraser VC**

Mr Taylor, has produced an excellent five-minute assembly based on the heroics of Old Boy, Ian Fraser (hence the naming of The Fraser Youens Boarding House at RGS). This is a great story of courage and resilience. It will not be aired to the pupils for a couple of weeks but it felt quite timely to share with you all now. Please click [here](#) to view, I hope you enjoy it.

### **Cameras**

Body language and eye contact can tell us so much about how someone is feeling. When in the classroom it is very easy to pick up when a class is drifting or the work is not stimulating or when a child has fallen asleep! During this remote period, it is much harder to gauge the temperature of the lesson. As the lockdown continues, it is important we do see the boys' faces on the screen, so that we can endeavour to deliver of our best and to help them feel part of a community. This is an area we will look to build on.

### **Pedagogy (still not sure how to pronounce it!)**

We are continually looking to improve our online provision. We hosted a very well attended Teachmeet last Friday. The ideas shared were excellent as was the keenness! Such was the uptake, we are hosting weekly opportunities for the staff to share best practice. It is quite inspiring to see how innovative our staff are. We hope the boys continue to benefit.

## **Work with Style**

Many staff have reported the benefits of using a stylus pen. This essentially allows you to write on your iPad screen. Pupils have also found this beneficial in a number of subjects, particularly those requiring formulae or equations. If you are interested in purchasing one here are a couple of links:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/MEKO-Exclusive-Universal-Ballpoint-  
Replacement/dp/B08LD4PNT5/ref=sr\\_1\\_10?crd=3AAB4XAR9GPD8&dchild=1&keywords=meko+stylus+pen+for+ipad&qid=1611676275&sprefix=ipad+pen+stylus+meko%2Caps%2C156&sr=8-10](https://www.amazon.co.uk/MEKO-Exclusive-Universal-Ballpoint-Replacement/dp/B08LD4PNT5/ref=sr_1_10?crd=3AAB4XAR9GPD8&dchild=1&keywords=meko+stylus+pen+for+ipad&qid=1611676275&sprefix=ipad+pen+stylus+meko%2Caps%2C156&sr=8-10)

Or you can get 4 in a pack (I love a bargain!)

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/MEKO-Capacitive-Replaceable-Micro-Fiber-Smartphones-Tips-  
4colour/dp/B00LTAL2TI/ref=sr\\_1\\_17?crd=3AAB4XAR9GPD8&dchild=Fiber&keywords=meko+stylus+pen+for+ipad&qid=1611676275&sprefix=ipad+pen+stylus+meko%2Caps%2C156&sr=8-17](https://www.amazon.co.uk/MEKO-Capacitive-Replaceable-Micro-Fiber-Smartphones-Tips-4colour/dp/B00LTAL2TI/ref=sr_1_17?crd=3AAB4XAR9GPD8&dchild=Fiber&keywords=meko+stylus+pen+for+ipad&qid=1611676275&sprefix=ipad+pen+stylus+meko%2Caps%2C156&sr=8-17)

## **Responsibility for work**

Whilst we have a wonderfully committed pupil body here at RGS, there is the odd occasion when a student might misplace his homework. In normal times this can easily be picked up and rectified (assuming the dog hasn't had the whole lot). However, it is not so easy when working remotely. Can we please continue to ask for your support in ensuring your sons are keeping up to speed with required work? All your son's work will either be posted in Teams Assignments or on the VLE. Both are simple platforms to view outstanding work, so please do ask your son to show you the Assignment Tab on their Teams App. If there are any concerns that are stopping the work from flowing, please contact the Form Tutor in the first instance.

Kind regards

**Alex Wallace**  
**Deputy Headmaster**