

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 12 September 2022



A very warm welcome back and, indeed a renewed welcome to families who have joined RGS.

Your sons are looking very smart, and I should like to thank you all for ensuring that they returned to School looking so well turned-out. I wish I had shares in the shoe industry!

A warm welcome, too, to new staff:

Mr Horn (Physics); Mr Busschop (Maths); Ms Bradley (English); Mr Sarsons (History); Mrs Godley (French); Mrs Fernandez Ruz (SL Spanish); Mrs Turrisi (Geography); Miss Martin (Graduate Music Assistant); Mr South (Resident Graduate Athletic Development Coach).

I wish all new colleagues a very happy and rewarding time with us.

Valete

We say goodbye to Nicky Wood, who has worked in the Curriculum Support Office since 2015. As well as being part of the team which works with student data, the school census and reports, Nicky has worked as a part of our timetabling team which, as you can imagine, is an enormous task. We all wish Nicky every happiness and success in her new role.

Graham Eadie joined RGS in 2011 as Physics technician. Our technician colleagues play a very important role in ensuring that science lessons are set up with appropriate equipment, lesson by lesson, day by day. We thank Graham for his service to the School and wish him well in the future.

Her Majesty the Queen

It was a fairly subdued start to the day on Friday as the School community came to terms with the death of the Queen.

Winston Churchill's opening speech on the death of King George VI is one of the greatest openings of a speech that I know. I have edited it slightly to be relevant to 2022.

'When the death of the Queen was announced to us on Thursday afternoon, there struck a deep and solemn note in our lives which, as it resounded far and wide, stilled the clatter and traffic of twenty-first century life in many lands and made countless millions of human beings pause and look around them.'

I cannot get out of my mind the photograph, published on Tuesday, of the late Queen's meeting with the new Prime Minister. She was so frail and presumably a good deal more ill than any of us had realised. This 96-year-old lady, nevertheless, made it her business to get up, get dressed, have her make up put on, wear her jewellery, smile, be interested and do her duty.

Her reign was the epitome of love and service undertaken with a constancy, gentleness and humility rarely seen in public life.

We held a minute's silence on Friday, with a toll of seventy bells from our clock tower. Our flag is at half-mast for the period of mourning.

You will have read that the State Funeral will take place on September 19 and that it has been designated as a Bank Holiday. The School will, therefore, be closed on that day.

Events

I have not asked for the cancellation of events as I feel that continuity is important for young people.

- The Parents' Association, however, feel that they should like to postpone the Year 7 Welcome Event this coming Thursday. I respect their wishes.
- The Campaign event, to which Year 9 parents had been invited, on Monday 19 September (now a public holiday) has been postponed to Tuesday 4 October.

I have a lot of news to share with you, but I will capture that in my next Headmaster's Letter.

God save the King.

Philip Wayne