

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

23 November 2020

Dear Parent

It was only a matter of time. We now have a year group studying at home. We will provide the best possible online education, and we thank boys and parents for playing their part by ensuring the response at home is one which is rooted in maximum effort to ensure continued progress.

It has been super to have received so many messages of support from Year 12 parents, for which 'thanks'. We have, of course, reviewed our processes; however, I am pleased with feedback from Thames Valley Health Protection Team who are happy with our robust and rigorous approach. We will continue to work with TVHPT in the coming weeks, and to respond to the latest guidance where appropriate.

May I please ask the following of our parent community:

- If your son has taken a Covid test, even if this is part of a survey process by eg Imperial College or King's College, do not send him into School until you have had a negative result.
- Do not send your son into School if he, **or any member of your household**, has a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.
- We would much rather receive too much, than too little, information; please continue to send information or questions to attendance@rgshw.com.
- Neighbouring Headteachers have experienced some difficulty when students have taken to social media to share news of positive tests before their schools have had the opportunity to respond appropriately; please impress upon your sons how much harder this makes the process for a school.
- Please do not allow your son to break the self-isolation rules; all Year 12s should now be isolating following the [attached guidelines](#) until Monday 7 December when we will be delighted to welcome them back to school.
- We ask you to support us by reinforcing the need for social distancing and regular hand sanitising (the Estates Team report the reduction in the refilling of hand sanitising dispensers).

Here endeth the lesson.

Notwithstanding the above, it does look as though the end of all this is in sight, even if through a fine set of binoculars. The Government appear to be rendering Christmas celebrations a possibility. Furthermore, there is a vaccine on the horizon - which can only be good news.

Mrs Tan has taken over the leadership of Oxbridge preparation this year, with a number of additional opportunities to prepare boys for this often daunting experience. In particular, we have been thrilled to see over 50 Oxbridge educated Old Wycombieniens who have given freely of their time to conduct mock interviews. This is in addition to the usual, welcome collaboration with Wycombe Abbey. I have been very happy to support this process. One of the points behind decoupling Oxbridge from the university process is to give the Careers and HE Department more time to focus on students who are applying for the other stellar institutions which our boys attend year after year.

We are very proud of all of our students, whithersoever they goeth.

Last week, Year 13 received some coaching from Kate Chacksfield, a former Sky News and Tomorrow's World (gosh, remember that, parents?) presenter - a good friend of the school - her brother attended RGS. Next week we will be pleased to welcome Neil Record, who is going to speak to the Sixth Form about business and finance. Neil's sons attended RGS in the early 2000s. We are very grateful for the support of our friends and I hope that this inspires our current boys to consider doing the same in twenty plus years' time to assist future generations of RGS students.

Congratulations to Ted Jeffrey, Year 12, who competed to become a Financial Times Student Advocate. This is a prestigious role in which he will collaborate with other students around the world. Do remember that we have a School subscription. To receive complimentary access, students should visit FT.com from within the school's network. Students will need to log in using their school email address as their username in order to re-authenticate their account and reinstate their complimentary access.

New students can also sign up for complimentary access using this [link](#). Students must sign up while connected to the school's computer network and should use their school email address as their username.

I remain very impressed with the response of our boys to the current situation, and I thank you for all that you are doing to support the School.

With best wishes

Philip Wayne