

**HEADMASTER'S LETTER**  
**30 November 2020**



Dear Parent

**COVID**

I am sure that your various WhatsApp activities have kept you informed over the weekend. In addition to Year 12 working from home for a further week, we have a number of boys in both Years 9 and 10 self-isolating. The letters parents will have received are 'verbatim' from the templates provided by the Public Health Authorities - not, therefore, in my customary Headmasterly tone!

Work for boys will be on the VLE or on Teams; please do not hesitate to contact the School if you require any assistance with online provision. Please ensure that your sons log on to Form Period each day at 0845 and follow their normal school timetable, save for Games/TAA during which they might like to undertake some form of exercise.

We have three weeks to go before the end of term and I would remind the whole School community of our responsibilities to RGS and to one another to be vigilant and careful.

Please read these points carefully.

- The boys have been exemplary in their cooperation with the wearing of masks. Please do check that your sons have masks with them, ideally a few spares too as masks do sometimes become misplaced. The evidence is very clear; masks protect the community, and we thank you for your help in this.
- Once again, please do not send your sons into School if anyone in your household is showing symptoms of Covid-19. To do so presents a significant challenge to the School and is against Government guidance; we would be immensely grateful for your support in this.
- For those boys who are absent whilst self-isolating or whilst waiting for the results of a test, we use the code X in our registers. I mention this for two reasons:
  - Firstly, a code X does not affect your son's overall attendance record.
  - Secondly, our attendance figures, including the number of Xs for students and staff, are reported to the DfE on a daily basis. For this reason, we have chosen not to take part in the Covid-19 by Zoe School Communities programme at this time.

- As I am sure you are aware, the Government has announced that families may come together over the Christmas holiday period. Whilst I will, over the next few weeks, be wishing you all a relaxing, well-deserved holiday and a very happy Christmas, may I please urge caution in your planning. We have already been told to prepare for a very challenging environment in January and we must consider the wellbeing of all members of our School. In particular, Year 11s, 12s and 13s who will be sitting their Mock Examinations; the School must run safely to allow these to happen.

## **WEATHER**

With temperatures dropping, please do encourage your sons to dress warmly. There have been some tentative mutterings about snow from the weather forecasters. I have always been a 'keep open at all costs' Headmaster, however, in the light of our improved capacity to teach and learn online, we are reviewing our procedures. I will update you later in the week if circumstances require it.

## **BUSINESS AS USUAL**

Welcome to Elaine Kemp who joins us as our IT Lead this week. I should like to thank Varsha Kirkby, who retired as IT Manager several years ago, for coming back to RGS to steer us through some very difficult times.

There was a sense of greater normality on Saturday evening as families gathered online for a Virtual Quiz Night, organised by FRORGS. It was super to see so many taking part in this event which required not only a broad general knowledge but also agility to get the answers tapped in quickly. Congratulations to the Taylor and Anderson families who shared the Amazon voucher!

Following two successful Form Tutor evenings, it is now the turn of Year 13 to meet with their parents and subject teachers. Please accept a reminder that boys should be wearing their usual school attire as it is a formal event.

I was very pleased to present Duke of Edinburgh Gold awards to Drew Padfield, Jan Goede and Max Patten - photographs overleaf. I will be meeting more boys this week.

Several of our boys were given the Bucks Young Scientist of the Year Award recently, and the virtual award ceremony took place last week. Congratulations to Parth Potdar (Physics), Shanker Narayan (Biology) and Alex Curran (Chemistry).

With best wishes.

**Philip Wayne**