

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 22 February 2021

Dear Parent

I know that in normal times many of our families like to get away at February half term. I do hope that, despite the restrictions, you managed to get some family time; I am confident that your sons enjoyed a break from online lessons.

We are expecting an announcement from the Prime Minister this afternoon, so it makes better sense for me to write to you at greater length tomorrow. It is quite clear that the national ambition is the 're-opening of schools' on March 8 and we will move heaven and earth to do whatever is asked of us.

Staff who have been working in School have undertaken weekly Lateral Flow Testing; this has been superbly run and it augurs well for when we are all back on site. Despite the excellent 'bedside manner' of the staff, it is not the most pleasant experience (I dare not eat or drink anything for a good hour before!) and it will be worthwhile for your sons to watch a YouTube video showing what to do, before they return.

AD ASTRA

Mr Harris has been running the Astronomy Club every Thursday after school for the past 2 ½ years. It is open to all year groups, and, in addition to taking part in seminars and discussions on items of interest, two of our boys have carried their interest further and have been studying during Year 9 and 10 to take their Astronomy GCSE. I am delighted to say that we have just heard that both of our Astronomy GCSE students - James Edwicker and Charlie Marsh (now in Year 11) - achieved a Grade 9 in the November 2020 exam. This is a challenging course, undertaken in the boys' and teacher's own time, and this year compounded by the remote learning in the summer term. My congratulations to both boys!

ASSEMBLY

Assemblies are an important part of our school day because they both bring the school community together and give us the opportunity to nourish the ethos of RGS. We also impart messages and promote tolerance. I have been delighted to see so many online assemblies being delivered during the lockdown. This week, Mr Wallace is sharing a video about LGBT History Month.

With best wishes.

Philip Wayne