

29/11/2021

Dear Year 7 Parents

Welcome to RGSHW Cricket

As we quickly approach the end of your son's first Autumn Term as an RGS student, now is the perfect time to welcome *you* to the community of players, coaches, and parents (past and present) who make up the RGSHW Cricket Programme.

Thank you for encouraging your son to take the opportunity to engage in the cricket activities that were made available during his first term; it was incredibly pleasing to have over 100 boys attending the sessions and to see their willingness and ability to engage with boys who will undoubtedly become lifelong friends and valued teammates.

Your son has joined a cricket programme that prioritises enjoyment as highly as sporting and personal development as we strive to promote participation at all ages and levels and want players to fulfil their full potential whilst developing as cricketers and young men. We deliver this within a culture and coaching system that will challenge and support them to become game-ready, independent, and confident players who can consistently perform to the best of their abilities. Our core values of accountability, commitment, integrity, and respect, build upon the RGSHW Way (Resilience, Grounded, Selfless, Honesty, Work Ethic) as we believe excellent behaviours drive excellent development. Our standards and expectations allow us to challenge boys to 'lead by example,' 'represent and honour themselves, their family, and the school with their attitudes, behaviours, and performances,' and 'adapt to, embrace, and attempt to overcome any challenges they may face.'

Despite cricket being a Summer Term sport here at RGSHW, we are currently delivering additional cricket training for a randomly selected number of Year 7s who are not on a County or Developmental Pathway. Do not worry if your son missed out as we will be delivering another 6-week programme between January and February for which information will be sent out via School Comms and through our Friends of Cricket communication channels (please see below).

The Friends of Cricket (FOC)

The Friends of Cricket are a group of volunteer parents who organise fundraising events during the year and aid communication between Mr Fletcher and parents. In conjunction with Mr Fletcher and the School, our aim is to provide all boys with the opportunity to participate in the cricket programme regardless of age or ability and develop a life-long enjoyment of the sport. The core Summer Term programme costs around £15,000 to deliver with only a small proportion funded from the school budget, and therefore our focus is on raising vital funds to ensure we can offer these opportunities to as many boys as possible.

Our largest source of fundraising is through a subscription to the Friends of Cricket that goes directly to support our Summer Term Cricket Programme. Many parents choose to donate via a monthly direct debit, with others preferring to make an annual payment. You can set up a direct debit or donate via our dedicated cricket website at [RGSHW Cricket - Support Us](#) – just click on the donate button to Support Friends of Cricket. We also have

fundraising events such as our Welcome to Cricket Evening, an Awards Night, and regular Cricket Camps. By attending these events, donating auction and raffle prizes, and supporting us via a subscription, together we can ensure an enjoyable and enduring cricket journey for your son at RGSHW.

In addition to supporting the Summer Term Cricket Programme, we also aim to improve the facilities available to the boys. Whilst our coaching provision and fixture calendars are very strong, our playing and training facilities require significant modernisation and investment. We believe your son deserves to train in, play on, and use, the best possible facilities and equipment during his (potential) 7-year career at RGSHW so we are currently fundraising to purchase new indoor practice mats, sight screens, wicket covers, and a scoreboard in preparation for a season which culminates with the hosting of the prestigious Royal Grammar School Cricket Festival. Together, these items will reinvigorate our facilities for the benefit of *all* players, create an environment that coaches, parents, and players are proud to be part of, and inspire RGS students for years to come.

Finally, if you would like to receive information regarding the cricket programme or events that we run, please contact me at rgsfoc@gmail.com, with your son's name and form group and we can include you in year group communications.

Thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to meeting many of you on the boundary during what promises to be a fantastic summer of cricket in 2022!

Michele Taylor - Chair, RGSHW Friends of Cricket

Yours in cricket

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A Fletcher".

Head of Cricket