

February 2nd 2024

Dear All,

As we rapidly approach the mid-point of the school year, I thought it a good idea to update you on life in Fraser Youens House and at RGS. For many of our boarders, the academic end goals for this year are coming ever closer. Year 11, 12 and 13 will have recently received their mock exam results; I hope that your son has done well and will be able to reflect on his latest grades. As a boarding team, our tutors have met, or shortly will be meeting your son to discuss his latest grades and to help support him in setting targets to ensure that he can achieve his considerable potential, whatever that may be. I know that Years 11 and 13 are fully focused on their public exams which begin in May. For those in all year groups please do not forget that any student who would like support including being stretched can get involved in our academic mentoring and utilise specific subject staff on duty to further their studies.



Our House trip to London @The Lion King and the infamous After Eight Challenge.

Whilst academics are very important at RGS, those who reside at Fraser Youens should also pride themselves on excelling outside the classroom and enjoying life to the full. Last week saw a very engaging House debate on the advantages and disadvantages of single gender education. Although the debate topic was very interesting, (especially as RGS prepares to welcome girls into the 6th form in 2025 with no plans for mixed boarding or for girls entry below sixth form) this is more about standing up and debating in front of 70 of your peers and for boarders across all year groups and to have the confidence to intellectually challenge differing view points and arguments.



A hot debate topic on mixed gender education - Mario karts in junior activity on the giant screen

During this half term, the Prefects Football League has continued along with all our normal boarding activities and this has included our own version of Junior Bake Off. As the evenings get brighter we will finish our Winter ladders in Table Tennis, Table Football and Pool and the top four will be playing against one another at the beginning of next half term to see who will be crowned champions as well as the hotly

Ofsted Boarding Inspections 2013,2017,2019,2023 'Outstanding'

contested Sixth Form Darts competition. In a recent survey it appears that over 95% of our boarders are involved in clubs and societies at RGS, be that DofE, CCF, Warhammer, RGS music and sport to name a few. Indeed, I cannot wait to take the entire house to the school musical of Shrek which has several of our boarders in leading roles.



For some after seven years of commitment the final matches for senior rugby and hockey happen this term and a boarder shooting for glory in a senior basketball match in the National Cup.

As our Year 13s turn their focus to life beyond RGS and final exams, we will begin the process of electing new House Prefects. I would like to thank the current Year 13s for their overwhelming support and help in ensuring Fraser Youens is a fantastic place to live. I want to wish them well with the remainder of the year and gaining those grades that will get them to some of the incredible institutions that they have offers from. This year these include Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Warwick, Leeds and Liverpool amongst a host of other top universities. It is fantastic to see so many offers with such diverse courses; Veterinary Medicine, Law, Economics, Material, Earth & Natural Sciences. We also have two of our boarders considering apprenticeships with some top companies as opposed to the more traditional post 18 route.

The Year 7 Boarders lead the latest Merits competition and our Year 8 boarders enjoyed their Merit winning trip to the cinema earlier in the half term. The following link shows all those that have won 'Boarder of the week', [Boarder of the Week 2023-24](#). These boarders have all won the award for academic and sporting success, improvement in effort, promotion of boarding, community spirit, music and debating amongst others. Please encourage your son to pass on their good news to the boarding staff in order that we can all share. The 'Boarder of the week' chooses their favourite meal on a Thursday evening for the entire house.

Finally I would like to welcome our newest addition to boarding who is the lovely Maggie Rose Clark, born on Monday 29th January.



Mr Clark is currently on paternity leave with Mr Richardson our Senior Boarding Tutor covering as Housemaster.

Hope everyone has a good half term break.

Please be aware of the following upcoming holiday and exeat dates;

Friday February 9th School closes for half term at 3.00pm, Fraser Youens closes 7.00pm.

Sunday February 18th FYH reopens 7.00pm - School resumes Monday 19th February.

Friday March 1st FYH closes for Exeat at 7.00pm and reopens Sunday March 3rd at 7.00pm.

Thursday March 28th School finishes at 1.00pm - FYH closes 6.00pm.

Sunday April 14th FYH reopens 7.00pm - School resumes Monday April 15th.

Yours sincerely

J I Scourfield (Assistant Head/Director of Boarding)