

26th March 2024

Dear All,

Spring is supposedly now upon us, and even if the weather seemed to have only improved for a short while, that along with the lighter evenings means that our boarders are now outside a little more enjoying themselves playing basketball and cricket. We might even manage a first BBQ of the year before study leave begins for Year 11 and Year 13 shortly after the Easter break. The last two weeks of term have seen the whole house watch the brilliant musical Shrek and this week we have two house events with a switch competition on the giant screen in the sixth form centre organised by Mr Rowe-Elliot and then on Wednesday our annual Scavenger Hunt, where we will have some mixed teams with Juniors right up to Sixth form competing against one another for some giant Easter Eggs.

At this point of the year, our Year 13s look towards their final A-level exams and therefore our Year 12s will soon become the House Prefects. All of the house (students and staff) will be voting for the Prefects and then those selected who wish to apply for the senior boarding prefect roles will be interviewed by the resident house staff and one of the Senior Boarding prefects. I would of course like to thank the Year 13s for their work as prefects, they are an outstanding group of young men. As we move towards the final term please could I ask all of the parents to complete our annual survey [Parental Survey for Boarding](#). I will leave the survey open for the next three weeks, your feedback is really important to us and helps us to make Fraser Youens a great environment for your son.



The very talented Louis and Arya playing Shrek and Lord Farquaad

Last week we took the boarders to RGS’s musical extravaganza of Shrek. Two of the leads were our very own Shrek (Louis) and Lord Farquaad (Arya). We also had key musicians in Charlie, Josh and Timmy and other students involved backstage. It was an amazing night and we all should be so proud of those involved.

On the co-curricular front, it is great to see so many Year 9s take on the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, very few schools would have up to 150 students partaking in this award. We wish those well with Bronze and Silver expeditions in the summer term and well done to Theo who has already completed Gold. From our point of view, we are huge advocates of educating students outside of the classroom environment and within boarding we have over 90% of the house involved in co-curricular school events. These include school productions,

Ofsted Boarding Inspections 2013,2017,2019,2023 ‘Outstanding’

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orchestra, choir, CCF, DofE, stage sound and lighting, sports teams and of course all the normal academic mentoring and symposiums that exist.



Final hurrah for senior rugby and first tournament for Year 7s plus 3 National Finalists.

On the sporting front this is always a busy term and we've had boarders rowing, fencing in the Public Schools Championships, rugby at both Rosslyn Park National 7s and Sedbergh National Tens which is the final match for our Year 13s. The hockey term is just coming to a close with some great performances, our Year 7s won the county tournament on Monday and several boarders have helped teams reach the latter stages of national cups. It is not only sport though that we reach National Finals in, as Gareth, Rowan and Jay (all Year 13s pictured above) reached the National Olympiad in their academic A-level subjects, Physics, Biology and Economics.

In terms of reports, Year 11 and 13 should have received their final boarding report of the year, which for some is their final boarding report ever. For these two-year groups, public exams will soon be here and we have seen Year 11 students withdraw from some of the activities to engage in extra revision. I would urge that time spent productively outside of revision can really help the stress levels over the coming weeks, so it is important to all that there is a good balance between revision and downtime. The end of March is traditionally the time when most universities have let Year 13 students know about their offers and I would like to commend the Year 13s for some of the exceptional offers they have gained for some incredible institutions. We have two Oxbridge offers, a veterinary offer and others from top universities including Warwick, UCL, Durham and Edinburgh. The courses are incredibly diverse from International Politics, Earth Sciences to Law, Economics and Engineering. Our leavers look like they will be spread over the whole of the UK from Exeter up to Edinburgh. This half term also saw many Year 12 students participate in the Management Conference at Wycombe Abbey.

I want to wish everyone who is away with family or on school trips such as the World Challenge to Croatia the very best.



Musicians at Shrek, Karting trip, newest member of FYH & our long serving Housemistress

Finally, some of you may be aware that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Gallagher after 19 years involved in boarding, we wish her and her family the very best for the future outside of Fraser Youens. Mrs Gallagher will be remaining at RGS as a Maths teacher. At the same time, we'd like to congratulate Mr Richardson who will be taking over as the Academic Housemaster from September.

As we quickly approach the Easter break, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the holiday arrangements, including the May Bank holiday exeat:

Easter Holidays:

School ends at 1.00pm Thursday March 28 Fraser Youens House closes at 6.00pm

Fraser Youens reopens at 7.00pm Sunday April 14

School starts at 8.40am Monday April 15

Summer Exeat:

Fraser Youens closes at 7.00pm Friday 3 May

Fraser Youens reopens at 7.00pm Monday 6 May

We would like to wish everyone an enjoyable Easter and look forward to welcoming the boys back for the final term of this academic year.

Kindest regards

Jon Scourfield (Assistant Head/Director of Boarding)