

12th July 2024

Dear Parents and Boarders,

As we approach the end of year I want to wish everyone well for the summer holidays and to look back a little at the past year. I would also like to let you know about our final week in boarding and all the events we have going on.

The past couple of weeks have been incredibly busy with Junior and Senior Prize Giving, Year 6 Transition with our new boarding intake, District Athletics, School Sports Day, Jazz in the Quad, the RGS Cricket Festival (which brings together the six Royal Grammar Schools), Arts festival, touch rugby tournament (won by the RGS staff team), a variety of school trips and all our normal boarding activities. In all these events we have seen our Boarders excel in whatever role they have taken or been involved in.

The last week of school will be just as busy starting on Sunday with our final trip of the year to Thorpe Park and of course the final of the Euros. On Sunday evening we would ask that as many as our Boarders as possible to come back to watch the final we will put this on a Giant screen in the Queens Hall and use the new banked seating to create some atmosphere and hopefully to create memories for all. We will put on some snacks and drinks at half time. The boarding house will be closed from 1945 until the end of the match so please drop off before by 1945. We will be asking that if your son does not wish to come and watch the game with the whole house, that the weekly boarders return on Monday morning as we want to offer staff and boarders the chance to corporately come together to cheer England on (hopefully to victory). We do realise that this some may choose to watch at home with families but if the match goes to extra time or beyond it would be a very late night if boarders were then to return to the house.



Some of our Boarding activities and trips this year, paintballing and fun on the Thames.

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

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Sunday will be followed by a reward evening for all boarders to the cinema on Monday after school, a FYH cricket tournament on Tuesday, our annual Boarders Walk and BBQ on Wednesday and our final night of the year with several themed activities including Mrs Gallagher last ever Egg catching competition. Please can I urge parents and boarders that we try to avoid any activities outside of boarding for final week to allow the boarders to enjoy one another's company before the summer break. This will make sure that our evening activities run smoothly as all of the boarders have been split into teams, selected by our Senior Boarders.

The boarders have done exceptionally well this year and we are so proud of them. There are some stunning internal exam results and I'm convinced that our GCSE and A level will also be very impressive. For those who have not done quite as well as they would have hoped in their end of year exams, students should be able to identify areas that they need to target for next year. However, I would like to state that whilst academic success is important this is not our main focus within boarding. We want the boarders to enjoy themselves and have a great time as well as make the very most of their academic ability.



Year 13's Leaving – we wish them all the very best for the future

There have been many highlights for lots of our boarders earlier in the year both within FYH and school, and we want to celebrate the many successes of our boarders, whether they be in boarding, school or at home. Indeed, some of our 'Boarders of the Week' have received awards for academic grades, DofE, passing musical exams, improvement in work ethic, Fasting during Ramadan, sport, and theatrical performances. Over forty boarders have gained this accolade during the year.



Boarders at House Music, halloween costumes and West End trip to see The Lion King

In terms of reports, all of the boarders with the exception of Year 11 and Year 13 (who have already had their report) should receive a boarding report early next week, the report will make reference to how your son has done within the boarding environment and will make some reference to his academic studies. Personally, I see so many students working exceptionally hard within the boarding environment. This isn't just from an academic perspective but to see students excel in so many areas that are personal to them is humbling. Whether it be passing a musical grade, selection for a sports team, a lead role in the amazing musical Shrek, or helping as a Leader in Scouts I truly believe that we should be encouraging our boarders

to develop a passion and for the vast majority of the time 'we get out of life what we put in' is especially true in terms of enjoyment and striving to be the best versions of ourselves.

At the end of the academic year, it is often a time to wish students and colleagues the very best for the future. All old boys are welcome back at Fraser Youens, so please stay in touch if you are leaving. I would like to wish everyone a great summer and it would be remiss of me not to thank all the boarding team for their hard work across the year, especially those behind the scenes in terms of maintenance, catering and the domestic staff. I have already mentioned that Mrs Gallagher will be leaving boarding at the end of this term, having dedicated 17 years to working within the boarding environment at RGS. We wish Ginny, David, Lucy, Emily and Thomas well.

Enjoy the summer break and I look forward to seeing you back in Fraser Youens in September. All rooms need to be cleared of all possessions and any rubbish and the boarding house closes for the summer at 1700.

The key calendar dates for next year are on the information/fees section on the boarding area of the RGSHW website, alongside all our new flipbooks that give tips and helpful information to parents and boarders alike. [Key calendar dates](#)

Friday 19th July – School closes at 1300 FYH closes at 1700. Boarders can be collected at any point from 1300 onwards and all rooms need to be completely cleared of all possessions.

Tuesday 3rd September – Yr 12 arrive at 1900.

***Wednesday 4th September - Induction Day for Year 7 & Year 12.
Year 7 to arrive at FYH 8.15am***

Wednesday 4th September - Yr 8-11 and Yr 13 Boarders to arrive from 7.00 pm.

Yours sincerely

J I Scourfield jis@rgshw.com (Assistant Head/Director of Boarding)