

23rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Boarders,

As we approach the end of the first half term, I wanted to update everyone on boarding life thus far. Our Year 7 students, and indeed all our new boarders, have settled in well and we are impressed by how quickly they have adopted new routines, homework and fully immersed themselves in boarding activities. It has been a busy end to half term as we've had two open mornings for Year 7 entry and one open evening for sixth form entry. Lots of positive comments have been received from prospective parents about our boarders who have ably led the tours. To ensure we also have some fun in the last week, on the penultimate night we will be hosting a boarding football tournament for the whole house.



First day for Year 7 and some memories so far, Divali cooking & BPL Football Winners this term. Last weekend saw our first weekend boarding trip of the year to Longridge activity centre on the Thames. Boarders took part in laser tag, crate towers and some raft building. A real bonding event for our new Year 7 boarders. We're already looking forward to our next trips which will include, Oxford Ice skating and a West End theatre show closer to Christmas.



Challenging boarders to be outside their comfort zones.

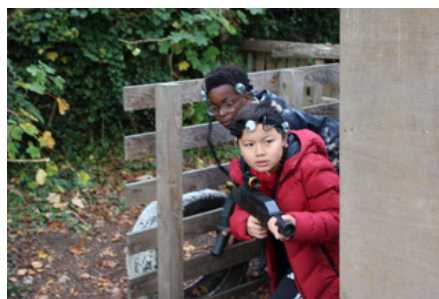
I would like to congratulate all our 'Boarder of the Week' winners who have chosen meals of the week this half term. They have been awarded for a huge variety of accomplishments including; best GCSE results in house, England Judo selection, Assemblies on Black History Month, photography competition and exceptional Academic mentoring. They were Gareth W, Harry P, Hamid, Louis, Jayden A, Jude Kand Thomas D. Please encourage your sons to inform us about their successes both in and out of school as we really would like to celebrate with them. Boarding should not be an extension of school, and finding a passion outside of academia is vital. Whether it be by practising an instrument, martial arts, involvement in

choir or orchestra, representing the school at sport or simply having time out with your mates playing on the Switch, pool or table tennis, everyone needs a break from their studies. We encourage all our boarders to be living that concept of 'work hard, play hard'. Many of our new boarders have joined RGS clubs, played their first rugby match for school, sang in the School Choir or have become involved in one of our many co-curricular societies in the 6th form. I encourage everyone to be doing something in addition to academic lessons.



Boarders at a Nationalrugbyfestival,BoardersleadingBlackHistory Month, Newest arrival in FYH
 The half term race towintheboardingmeritscompetitioniscurrently being led by Year 10 just ahead of Year 9 who are onlyjustaheadofYear7. Thewinnerswillreceive a merit evening prize early next half term, either a cinematrip,tenpinbowlingoratakeawaypizzaevening.

Please can I takethisopportunitytoremindparentsthatwereally would encourage you to be regular visitors in the house;FridayorSundayatpickupanddropoffare ideal times. This is a great time to catch up with staff andany smallissuescanbedealtwithbefore they become bigger problems, early intervention is alwayskeywhen70studentsarealllivingtogether. Do go up and see your son's dorm but your son does needtobepresentifyouareinasharedroomarea. This helps support us in encouraging your son to be organisedandkeepareastidy.Ifyouarehelping, please make it collaborative rather than simply doing it for him.Wearetryingtodevelopourboarderstobe organised and self-motivated and if we all work as a team, weknowthattheycanallachievethatlevel of independence. As we approach half term, there is a plea fromourDomesticteamtoensurethatalclothing is named as the unnamed laundry pile is growing week onweek.



Boarding should be about enjoying life as well with friends as well as workinghard at school. On the academicfront,ourLeaversdidincredibly well in their A levels achievingconsiderablyhigher results than theirdaystudentcounterparts,infact the average boarder last year achieved AAAatAlevel, with almost 70%ofallAlevelgradesforboarders being at A*A. We now have RGS Freshersspread across the country.Overthepasttwoyearsthe most popular universities for our boardershaveseen Nottingham andDurham.Althoughwecurrently have boarders at Oxford, Cambridge, Exeterandmany other top universities.Manyofthesehavepopped back to say hello and pass on tips to thoseapplying this year. If anyYr13hasnotaskedforsupport in this process please do ask them to chat totheirtutor and Housemasters.Aswereachhalfterm,we would like to thank so many of our 6th formstudents

(including many new Yr 12s) for the Academic mentoring that they have provided during this half term. This is a great opportunity to give back to the boarding community and support fellow boarders.

With regards to devices, please ensure that your son has only one phone and one iPad/chromebook within FYH and we would not really recommend boarders below Yr 11 having a laptop unless there is a specific need. This, in addition to a phone and iPad/Chromebook means the temptation to play games or spend a lot of time online is too great. We have an Oculus and a Nintendo Switch and it is great to see the boys socialising in a variety of ways using these. There is a temptation for all of us as parents to see a mobile phone as a huge distraction, which it definitely can be. We should be seeing them as a way of interacting with one another, they can be used for students to play together but the amount of time spent on a device has to be managed and this is about education. We will be having a particular focus on the use of phones, screen time, social media and online behaviours next half term. It would be hugely helpful if parents have also have a discussion with their son regarding this. I have embedded a letter that refers to the use of mobile devices, appropriate settings and parental guidance. We really do want the boarders to use our filtered Wi-Fi and they certainly should not be using VPNs to get around the RGS monitoring and filtering processes. Please take the time to read the [Internet Letter](#) and the [FYH Digital Devices Copy Guidance](#)

Finally and perhaps our best piece of news - We have also had a new addition to the house with the arrival of Dougie Clark and I am sure that we all wish Sam Clark, Emily and Maggie the very best in helping Dougie settle into life at Fraser Youens.

Upcoming Important Dates

Thurs 23rd Oct RGS finishes at 1530 – Boarders can be collected from 1530 onwards. If a sixth form boarder does not have afternoon lessons he may leave at lunchtime. FYH closes at 1900.

Mon 3rd Nov – FYH reopens from 1900.

Tues 4th Nov – RGS restarts after half term.

Thurs 27th Nov Boarding Exeat – FYH closes at 1900

Fri 28th Nov - RGS closed for staff training.

Sun 30th Nov Boarding reopens at 1900 after boarding exeat.

Friday 19th Dec – RGS finishes at 1230. FYH closes at 1700.

I hope you all have had a great half term.



JScourfield (AssistantHead/Director of Boarding)