

February 16th 2022

Dear All,

As we reach the mid-point of this academic year, I thought it would be a good idea to update you on life in Fraser Youens House. For many of our boarders, the academic challenges this year are rapidly approaching. Year 11, 12 and 13 will have recently received their mock exam results. Year 10 receive Target grades this half term and Years 7-9 at the beginning of next half term. I hope that your son has done well and will be able to reflect on his latest grades. As a boarding team, our tutors will have met, or shortly be meeting your son to discuss the latest grades and to help support your son to set targets to ensure that he can achieve his considerable potential, whatever that may be. We have reached a pivotal period of the year for boys in Years 11 and 13 as they prepare for their public exams which begin in May, all be it with the unfortunate gift of extra set of short mock exams in March (a Government requirement this year).

The last week of this half term will hopefully see our first House debate for almost two years. It will be fantastic to see both younger and older boarders challenge one another and the motion that will be discussed has been driven by the boarders themselves. 'This House believes that the current Prime Minister is no longer fit for Office' I will be intrigued to listen to some compounding arguments on both sides led by some of our eloquent debaters. We have not been able to do enough as a whole house of the past eighteen months and boarding should be all about giving students a voice and having a knowledge of the wider world outside RGS.



House trip to London to see Wicked at Christmas and February Year 8 Merit Evening Reward Pizza and a movie.



House Football 2022 as competitive as ever. Finals night delayed due to Covid!

This half term the boarding house competition was House Football, with the finals night unfortunately delayed after a rise in cases amongst Sixth form students. This is entirely run and refereed by our students and played in a tremendous spirit. The well-deserved eventual winners were Guy's Giants unbeaten on Finals night.

As our Year 13s turn their focus on university 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

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that will get them to some of the incredible institutions that they have offers from. This year these include Cambridge, Oxford, Exeter, Durham and a host of other top universities. Fantastic to see so many offers with such diverse courses; Anthropology, Art, Economics, Maths and Medicine to name a few. What a talented group of young men we have!

Now the evenings are getting lighter and hopefully Spring is around the corner many of our boarders will want to be back outside after school, enjoying the opportunities to play football or just be outside in the fresh air. I would like to say that the vast majority of boarders involve themselves in the wider aspects of school and boarding life; DofE, CCF, and clubs like Warhammer, or indeed school music and sport. I truly think that those who invest in the wider aspects of school generally get much more from school life and I urge every one of the boarders to do something outside of academia. We currently have a FYH photo competition running with the best photos making up a new display within boarding. Details of the photo competition are attached to the letter.



Final matches hurrahs for Year 13 rugby and Hockey term with the county finals plus Capt Fantastic our HOH.

The Year 8 Boarders won the first two merits competition and it looks like a close-run competition this half term with Year 7 currently leading. The following boys have won 'Boarder of the week' since the start of the academic year; Noah B, Raymond, Xavier D, Alex D, Vandan, Toby, Jonathan, Sammy, Jack, Will E, Finn M, Gareth, Gabe, Arya, Bethel, Ben, Riwaaz, Esa, Ibrahim and Oliver. These boarders have all won the award for a variety of reasons; academic success on a national level, improvement in effort, supporting others, music, sport and many other reasons. Please encourage your son to pass on their good news to the boarding staff in order that we can all share

The latter part of this half term has been another challenging one with a spike in positive cases and having avoided Covid for eighteen months I had my own brush with this pandemic and an enforced bout of isolation. Our overarching aim whilst keeping everyone safe, has been to remain open and I would like to thank you all for the role you have played in this. It has been a huge juggling act covering staff absence in boarding and whilst none of us have enjoyed mask wearing or regular testing it has meant that for the majority of the time we have been able to remain open and minimise absences. With the recent Government announcement, we may well find that the situation is very different when we return from half term and we will of course keep you abreast of any changes that impact on the boarders.

Finally I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a fantastic half term and I know that several of the boarders will have an amazing time on the RGS ski trips to Europe. Please be aware of the following upcoming holiday and exeat dates;

Friday February 18th, School closes for half term at 3.00pm, Fraser Youens closes 7.00pm.

Sunday February 27th FYH reopens 7.00pm - School resumes Monday 28th February.

Friday March 18th FYH closes for Exeat at 7.00pm and reopens Sunday March 20th at 7.00pm.

Thursday April 7th School closes for the end of term - 3.30pm, Fraser Youens closes 6.00pm.

Sunday April 24th, Fraser Youens reopens 7.00pm - School resumes Monday April 25th.

Yours sincerely

J I Scourfield (Assistant Head/Director of Boarding)