

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents,

Spring is supposedly now upon us, although as I sit and write this there appears to be a snow blizzard outside. However, with the return of lighter evenings it has been brilliant to see so many boarders outside enjoying themselves playing football, tennis and touch rugby, in the sunshine last week, and the snow and hail this week.



**The Year 13s enjoying a last trip out this week before exams and revision seriously kick in.**

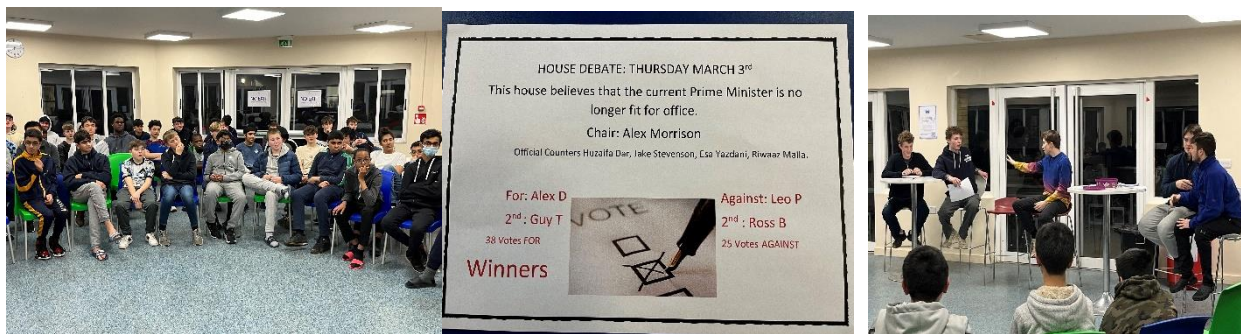
At this point of the year our Year 13s look towards their final A level exams and therefore our Year 12 will soon take over as House Prefects. All of the house (students and staff) will vote for the Prefects and then those selected will be interviewed by the resident house staff and outgoing Head of House for the Senior Prefect positions. I would like to thank the Year 13s for their work as prefects, they have been an outstanding group coping admirably with all the pandemic has thrown at them and I wish them well for their first ever set of public exams and of course the future. The end of March is traditionally the date when most universities have let Yr 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. I realise that some universities have been a little late this year but between them the Year 13s have three Oxbridge offers, a Medical offer and other offers from top universities including LSE and Durham. The courses are incredibly diverse from Anthropology, Art and Fashion Design to more traditional courses of Engineering, Maths and Medicine. Our leavers look like they will be spread over the whole of the UK from Exeter up to Glasgow.

In terms of reports or grades Year 11 and 13 should currently be receiving their March assessment results and should be bringing home their final boarding report of the year. All year groups have had school reports or grades with 10-13 just before half term and 7-9 over the past few weeks. Our Year 11 students will be the first group to sit GCSE exams in two years and we wish them well they are working hard and have even started to withdraw from some of their beloved Boarder's football to engage in extra revision sessions. I would though urge that time spent productively outside of revision can really help the stress levels over the coming weeks.



**Kai in the last 16 of the Public School Fencing and rugby and hockey final matches of the season, all hugely successful. Rugby winners at Sedbergh, hockey beat JHGS and Shiplake comprehensively.**

After two years of very little sport it has been brilliant to see lots of boarders representing the school at either rowing, hockey, cross-country, fencing, fives or rugby over the past two terms, well done to one and all. It is great to see so many Year 9s take on the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, very few schools would have up to 130 students partaking in this award and the weather was glorious for their expedition. From our point of view we are huge advocates of educating students outside of the classroom environment and we have just surveyed the whole boarding house in terms of their co-curricular involvement, over 95% of the house immerse themselves in the wider offering at RGS with many partaking in several school activities. These include school productions, orchestra, choir, CCF, DofE, stage sound and lighting, sports teams and of course all the normal academic mentoring and symposiums that exist. I also know that many of the boarders are involved in their own activities outside of school and we are always keen to hear their progress. The most recent news for some of our boarders were the auditions for the summer musical of 'School of Rock.' It will be brilliant to see several of the boarders starring in this production in the summer.



**A heated debate with some really well constructed arguments for both sides.**

This half term also saw many Year 12 students participate in the Management Conference at Wycombe Abbey and we held our own debate for the first time in almost two years. The House debated whether our current Prime Minister is fit for Office. The boarders choose the topic, chaired the debate and argued vociferously for both sides. The debate was well argued and the result much closer than many anticipated due to some very cohesive points put across by both sides. Having the confidence to stand up and argue points of view in front of an audience of 70, or indeed for a 12 year old to intellectually challenge a 17 year old with a well thought out question is exactly why we hold these debates.



**Boarders on the Italian slopes, on the first RGS ski trip for two years**

I want to wish everyone a great break over Easter and especially those who are away on a school excursion, such as the Berlin trip, have an amazing time. I know that a significant number of our boarders had a brilliant time in February half term on the two school ski trips. Our last week of term will culminate in an Easter Egg scavenger hunt, Go karting for those who opted to sign up and a School Musical concert. This half term's merit competition is very close and it will be a close contest, with Year 7 just in the lead, although last term they were pipped at the post by the Year 11s who enjoyed a night off from homework to watch the latest Batman film.

One thought from me is that all of our boarders even those with impending exams need some time away from academic work over Easter, doing whatever it is that makes them happy. Be that Lego building, gaming, sport, baking or listening to music anything that makes them genuinely relaxed and happy. Life should not be just an academic focus and the ability to relax and recharge batteries is so important. I would also like to take this

opportunity to wish Mr Armitage the very best for the future as he embarks upon a new journey as he leaves us for Ireland. Mr Armitage has been a boarding tutor for five terms and is due to get married and start to build a new home in Ireland this summer.

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: **Please be aware that there are changes to the published dates at the end of both Spring and Summer terms. There is an extra Staff training day and therefore school finishes on Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 3.30pm and the school have opted to take the extra Jubilee holiday on the final half day of term so we will break up for summer on Thursday July 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Easter Holidays:**

School ends at 3.30pm Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>

Fraser Youens House closes at 7.00pm on April 7<sup>th</sup>. School Concert participants will be able to collect belongings after the concert.

Fraser Youens House reopens at 7.00pm Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>

School restarts at 8.40 am Monday April 25<sup>th</sup>

**Summer Exeat:**

Fraser Youens closes at 7.00pm Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April

Fraser Youens reopens at 7.00pm Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

End of Summer Term – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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.

Yours sincerely

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