

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 8 February 2024



Dear Parent

Boarding

Although 5% of the student population are boarders, boarding punches above its weight in terms of its impact on the school as a community. Please click on the [link](#) to read the Fraser Youens newsletter.

Sport

Tickets for the social event of the year, the Bat Oar Ball, are now on sale. This is a wonderful occasion, with many former parents coming again year after year to enjoy the Champagne reception, a fine meal and dancing until carriages. The Ball sells out quickly, so do [book](#) soon.

It has been an epic season for the 1st & 2nd XVs with only one loss between both sides in the regular Saturday fixtures. The 2nd XV remained unbeaten during the season, the first time in 25 years!

Your son, if in Years 7 and 8, may be interested in the [Easter Sports Camp](#) Cost: £150 per child for three days, or £60 per individual day. This event has been kindly sponsored by Azets of Beaconsfield. Bookings will close on Monday 4 March. Boys can attend all three days or individual days.

Uniform/Dress Code

School rules can appear petty to the adult world and many of us will have attempted to run rings round them in our youth! My mother still has my Year 10 (4th year, in my day) photograph proudly displayed in her living room, complete with my undone top button and a large knot in my tie, as was the fashion in the early 1980s. I am, however, now leading a school.

I am very pleased overall with the way our students wear their uniform or fulfil the Sixth Form dress code; most know that I can see a shirt out from several hundred yards away! There is, however, some creep.

- Trainers seem to have become an elixir for podiatric ailments. To avoid debate, please provide your son with a note to confirm medical evidence that trainers are necessary. Shoes should be proper shoes and black, for all years.
- Aiming always to be reasonable, I have held my breath during the cold weather. Quarter zips are not part of our uniform or dress code. Mid-layers, in school branding or otherwise, are part of the sports kit, not the uniform or Sixth Form Dress Code. Should an extra layer be required, it should be a V neck jumper. This applies to all years.

A 'tight' uniform prevents a lot of wasted time and avoids unnecessary confrontation. I hope I can count on your support should your son be challenged over uniform infractions and, ideally, please have these conversations before he leaves for school.

Casual Clothes Day

Tomorrow we are supporting the Thames Valley Hospice and Comic Relief; students can wear their own clothes (subject to the email from Mr Durning, yesterday). Please ensure that your son has £2 available to contribute to these two important charities.

Co-ed Sixth Form

Thank you to those who responded to the consultation either directly to the school or through the Admissions consultation. Most respondents were positive; I should clarify that we are planning to admit a number of girls - we do not have the capacity for 50/50. All our Year 11 students are eligible for a place in the Sixth Form (as internal candidates) assuming they meet the entry requirements overall and for the subjects they wish to study.

Congratulations to:

The Head of Nene rowing event saw a number of our boys returning with silverware. I was delighted to present the following year 9 boys, J14 in rowing parlance, with rather splendid tankards: Arshaan Patel, Ollie Forrest, Leo Sauer, Noah Brookes and Toby Woods Ballard.

British Algorithmic Olympiad

BAO (British Algorithmic Olympiad) is a new competition launched in 2023. Problem-solving, logical thinking and programming are combined in a single paper covering Mathematics and Computer Science. The competition allows students to explore their interests in either subject.

The BAO was attempted by 13 students. Zaahir scored 87 out of 100 and has been awarded a gold certificate and invitation to the second round. In addition, Zaahir also participated in BIO (British Informatics Olympiad) and scored 100%. He has been invited to the second round.

RGS Easter Revision Courses

The RGS Easter Revision Course for Year 11 and Year 13 students has been running with great success for over 20 years. Details are available on the RGS website via this [link](#). The course is open to RGS students and students from other schools, and we currently still have places available for all listed subjects.

Corporate Partnerships with RGS

I'm delighted that RGS continues to attract corporate support with representatives of many eminent companies often visiting RGS to speak to our boys. Corporate relationships with RGS encompass everything from talking about career opportunities and post-school training options, support for staff-led initiatives such as Young Enterprise or our Sixth Form lecture series through to financial support to help improve the facilities and programmes on offer to our boys. This term our recent partnerships with [Azets](#), [Beaconsfield](#) and [Hawkinsport](#) have helped to fund the resurfacing of our new all-weather pitch and plans are underway to attract more corporate funding for future developments.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing half term.

With best wishes

Philip Wayne