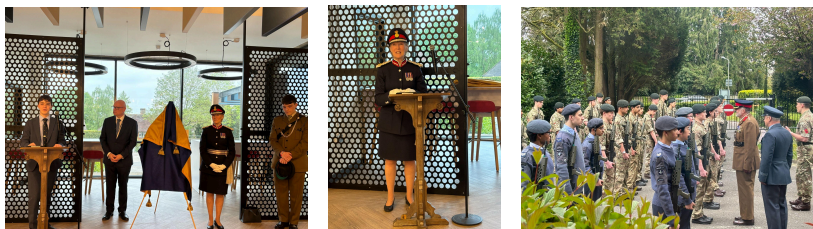


## HEADMASTER'S LETTER

8 May 2024



Dear Parent

### 'In this transitory life'

I took the opportunity to wish Year 11 well after their most recent assembly, urging them to balance solid revision with relaxation time. Please do refer back to the 'Headmaster's Revision Guide' in my last letter to you - slightly tongue in cheek but may, in some small way, help through the next few weeks. The language orals are nearly over and, as I write, the Queen's Hall is being dismantled as an assembly hall and rejigged as an examination centre. In most cases, Year 11 students will be returning to RGS for the Sixth Form and I shall look forward to meeting them on induction days and in their suits (clarification to follow!). If your son is moving on, then I do indeed wish him well and thank him for his contribution to RGS over the years.

A week or so ago, there was a day's amnesty on the very fine 'quarter-zips' which form a part of the 'Leavers' Kit' - I am always so pleased that 'RGS Merch' has such currency. On Friday, however, our Year 13s will arrive dressed in all manner of costumes for their Leavers' event - breakfast, inflatables, BBQ lunch, a few speeches and an 'awards ceremony' (in quotes to emphasise the light-hearted nature'). Of course, in a few weeks' time the Leavers' Ball takes place - always a great event. I believe that I am not wide off the mark if I describe the event for students, staff and parents alike, as bittersweet. Excited for the years ahead but a sense of loss following, in most cases, seven years in the RGS family. My heartfelt thanks to Year 13 students and their families for what they have given to RGS over the years. I hope that you will stay in touch with us. My very best wishes to you all.

On Tuesday, we held the Information Evening for boys who are joining us in Year 7 in September. An array of talks and presentations by staff, Year 7 students (Leo Overman and Ismail Malik) and our newly appointed Head Boy (Torr Ramsden), hopefully reassured the parents and inspired the youngsters. They also learned some of our RGS ways, such as standing up for staff and calling them 'Sir' and 'Ma'am' - whilst it sounds terribly formal from the mouths of eleven year olds, it morphs over time into a genuine, warm mutual respect as students progress through the school. Welcome!

### Such things as their wellbeing doth require.....

Our Wellbeing week gave us all the opportunity to consider the RGS Six Areas of Wellbeing 'SPRING'. Please click here [Spring Wellbeing Week 2024](#) to find out what SPRING means and to find out more. Staff were also invited to participate in a Secret Buddy week - I know that many staff (including the Headmaster!) were treated to some delightful actions - be it flowers, books, an act of kindness or coffee delivered to the door.

### **Sixth Form Centre**

We were very pleased to be joined by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, The Countess Howe, who formally opened the Sixth Form Centre on Wednesday last week. Lady Howe was welcomed by the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, our own Matthew Yarwood. She gave a charming address and, hindered by me, unveiled a plaque on a rather precarious easel, prior to its being fixed permanently to the wall. Following a suggestion to name the centre in memory of the late Queen, the Cabinet Office gave the school permission to call it 'The Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Sixth Form Centre'. As well as being a great celebration, it enabled me to thank those who had so generously donated towards it - without that parental support we would not have been able to complete it, certainly not to the standard that it was.

### **CCF**

The Combined Cadet Force is a thriving, well-led part of RGS life. Due to Covid, we had not received a Biennial Inspection for some years so we were very pleased to welcome the Reviewing Officer, Colonel A. Holder, Commander of Bucks Army Cadet Force to RGS. A fine phalanx of cadets paraded and lined up for their inspection. The inspection went exceedingly well with very positive feedback. I was able to host Colonel Holder and RGS CCF leaders to the Biennial lunch (no 'pass the Port' on a school day!). My thanks to both cadets and leaders who give so much time to maintaining and developing this important activity from which students learn so much.

### **Teacher Training opportunities with Astra SCITT from September 2024**

Whether you or someone you know is a recent graduate or potential career switcher, teaching offers a rewarding, challenging and varied career. RGS works in partnership with [Astra School Centred Initial Teacher Training](#) to provide training for new primary and secondary teachers on a full-time or part-time basis. Astra works in partnership with over 60 local schools across Buckinghamshire. All courses lead to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), and most applicants also study for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). Generous tax-free bursaries are available in many secondary subjects and all courses are eligible for student finance.

The next Train to Teach Information Event will be held at The Misbourne School on Tuesday 14 May from 4.30pm to 6pm. Please see [here](#) for more information and details of how to register. Applications for teacher training are made through [DfE Apply](#). Do contact Astra ([hello@astra-alliance.com](mailto:hello@astra-alliance.com)) / 01494 787573 if you would like to know more.

### **On the slopes...**

Many congratulations to Monty Cheung who participated in the English Schools Indoor Ski Championships '24 at Hemel Hempstead Ski Centre, having not had any previous race training. Although 11 years old, he was competing in the U14 category, against tough, seasoned competitors and was placed, admirably, at 20 out of 46.

With best wishes.

**Philip Wayne**