

HEADMASTER'S LETTER 7 March 2024



Dear Parent

School events

It is really rewarding to have such great parental support for events; there are a lot of these at RGS. Tickets are going well for the school show 'Shrek' - this promises to be an excellent demonstration of Musical Theatre with our own students being joined by female students from other local schools.

The Bat Oar Ball is a number of weeks away, but tables are selling quickly, so please do sign up for this sooner rather than later, if this is the type of event you enjoy. All the money raised on the evening goes to support all sports at the School.

Our annual Iftar sold out very quickly indeed and we are sorry that, due to the capacity in the Queen's Hall we cannot accommodate any more guests. I must also send apologies for my absence from this event as I am not onsite on that day. I shall very much miss it.

This Saturday, I am releasing my inner 'clickety click' by calling the Bingo at the Parents' Association Family Bingo and Noodle Night. This has been very well supported and may, indeed, be sold out by the time you read this letter.

Staff are being trained in supporting students with ADHD on Monday. This is followed by an in-person session for parents which will begin at 6pm on Monday 11 March, in the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Sixth Form Centre and will run for approximately 120 minutes. There will be time throughout to ask questions as the presenter has found her presentation will often have parents making links about specific behaviours of/and strategies for their child. To ensure that we have enough seating, **please complete this form to confirm your seats** [ADHD Parent Event](#).

Languages

We were very pleased to welcome a group of students from our Partner Exchange School in Osnabrück, an exchange that has been running for over 50 years. Some say it is the longest running exchange in the UK. The German students spent a day in school; they experienced a House Assembly and a number of lessons and, of course, the concept of uniform is somewhat alien. They also had day trips to Oxford and London. I feel certain, however, that the major highlight will have been the time spent with families. There is no better way to consolidate language learning. Many thanks to our host families. There is a feature on the [German Exchange](#) here.

Choral Evensong

It was a great privilege for me to accompany the Chamber Choir to Queen's College, Oxford, where they sang Choral Evensong in the chapel there, directed by Mr Chitham-Mosley. A goodly crowd of parents, grandparents and visitors were there to support. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to experience a wonderful acoustic and to build their aspirations. The next event is at Birmingham Cathedral in July.

UK Linguistics Olympiad

Zaahir Ali entered the UK Linguistics Olympiad Advanced round before half-term, all off his own bat and practised for it entirely independently. It involved analysing 5 unknown languages: Adinkra, Kannada, Georgian, Zou and Guna and Zaahir has managed to achieve an impressive 87% on the Round One paper. This means he has earned a Gold Award and is through to Round 2 on 13 March. It's a seriously impressive achievement!

Technology Tournament

Although technically "Intermediate level", the RGS Team, made up of Year 10 DT students, were persuaded to attempt the Advanced Level challenge, competing against Sixth Formers and Year 11s. The challenge involved solving a contextualised engineering-based problem using modelling materials such as balsa wood, dowel, elastic bands, string, pulleys, a 4v motor, batteries, wire and glue guns amongst other things. The task was to produce a scaled-down cable-car, designed to "travel along a 2-metre static line, traversing crocodile infested waters to deliver emergency supplies to people stranded on a nearby island and then travel back". Outcomes made use of four pulleys to reduce speed, supported by carefully constructed frameworks made from balsa wood and controlled by switches designed to reverse the polarity of the small motors provided.

Outcomes were variable, ranging from entries that showed a clear understanding of the mechanical principles and limitations of the materials being used, to the barely-functional. In addition to the mechanical model produced, marks were awarded for the quality of each team's design folder and team work, as observed by the ever-vigilant judges. The boys accepted their individual, engraved glass plaques with characteristic modesty, while taking a moment to extend their thanks to the judges and other competitors.

The RGS winning Intermediate team comprised Kavin Venkat, Tommy Tinkler, Hasan Ajaz and Joshua Levan and I was delighted to present their awards in assembly.

World Book Day

We have had a series of assemblies this week on the importance and, indeed, joy of reading. I am writing this a couple of days in advance of World Book Day anticipating, with some trepidation, how some of our students are going to dress on the day to represent a range of books. I am hoping that there is a book entitled 'The Headmaster in a grey suit', as that is what I shall, predictably, be wearing! On a serious note, reading is to be strongly encouraged; please click on the link for further information and a flip book which includes a subject reading list: [A Celebration of Reading](#)

Young Chef Competition 2024

We recently hosted the Young Chef Competition to demonstrate culinary prowess. . Two of the pupils were from RGS, and they were competing in this Area Final with pupils from John Hampden, Wycombe High and Princes Risborough School. The standards were exceptionally high and everyone had to concentrate in order to complete their two-course meal within an hour and a half, whilst all the while being observed by representatives from the Rotary Club of Great Britain who organised this Area Final. The judge was Phil Vickery, well known from his television appearances, most regularly on Daytime television. He was extremely appreciative of the skill and hard work shown and enjoyed chatting to each of the competitors as they cooked. Mrs Crownshaw, our Cookery teacher, reported as follows:

'Our two representatives had made it through two rounds already before Thursday evening; they had entered the first round by bringing in food cooked at home to be judged, and then been chosen from a second-round competition of eight pupils from RGS to represent us in the Area Final. Pavit Pradhan (7Ke) from Year 7 was our first representative. He made a wonderful sticky chicken and vegetable dish with special rice. This dish looked really attractive but Mr Vickery said that the chicken was very slightly overcooked. Mr Vickery asked Pavit to enter the competition next year and hoped that with more experience Pavit could do even better next time. Mr Vickery said he really enjoyed eating the fritters that Pavit had made for dessert. Qasim Mahmood (9Bu) cooked a delicious butter chicken dish served with rice. Mr Vickery was especially impressed with the way that the chicken had been cooked. He said that simple dishes well cooked were very difficult to do well but said that he was so impressed that he gave Qasim First Prize. He was also very complimentary about Qasim's dessert which was a chocolate chip cookie dough pudding. Mr Vickery said that it would have been easy to over sweeten the dough but that Qasim had put in the perfect amount of sugar and that it was just how he liked it. The evening finished at about 8.45 after a lot of washing up! Everyone was tired at the end of the competition but they all felt very impressed with the high standards of skill and commitment shown. A good time was had by all.'

We express our thanks to the Rotary Club of High Wycombe for the time and effort taken to run the competition. They do so to encourage the development of interest and skills in cookery and all the pupils that entered our 1st and 2nd rounds within school showed how strong the interest is at RGS. Well done!

With best wishes

Philip Wayne