

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

30 January 2025



Welcome

We are very grateful to Mr Christopher Gillham who has stepped in to teach Latin to cover Mrs Dicks who is recovering from major surgery. Latin teachers are not '*facile inveniendus*' so we feel very fortunate to have secured a teacher who is so well qualified and experienced.

and Welcome Back!

My good wishes for a happy new year are tardy, but sincere. I hope that Year 11 and 13 students have benefitted from their mock exams experience and that they feel a combination of encouragement, sure relief and an understanding of what they need to do to achieve the results, in the summer, which reflect their true potential.

Rugby Semi Final - Aylesbury RFC 1 March 1545

Our Senior Rugby Squad have reached the Semi-Final of the Continental Tyres Schools Cup (which was formerly known as the 'Nat West Trophy' and, before that the 'Daily Mail Cup'). It is a truly magnificent achievement and one which deserves our full support. The semi takes place at Aylesbury Rugby Club at 1545 on 1 March. I hope that as many students and parents as possible will make an effort to cheer our lads on. The School will have some coach seats available and the Sports Department will be in contact with students about that. [Match centre | Rugby Football Union](#)

Easter Sports Camp

Now in its third year, this popular event for Years 7 and 8 is an excellent way to keep your son fit (and occupied) over the Easter holiday! Outdoor adventure, invasion games, strike and field games, net games and team challenges are all included in the three days from 8-10 April. Booking closes on 28 February. Click here [Easter Sports Camp](#) for further information.

Bat Oar Ball

Our popular black-tie dinner will take place in the Queen's Hall on Saturday 26 April 2025. This is not only an evening of socialising, dining and dancing, alongside friends and parents, but also a vital opportunity to contribute to supporting all sixteen sports at the school. RGS HW takes pride in its rich history and tradition of sporting excellence. Sports play a crucial role in the curricular, co-curricular and social fabric of the school. Tickets are available on [Little Box Office](#) until Friday 28 March. Secure your tickets now and be a part of a night that celebrates the spirit of sportsmanship at RGS!

Easter Revision Courses

You will no doubt know that RGS is renowned for its Easter Revision Courses. They are commercially run with small classes being taught by teachers with a good track record of running these sort of revision sessions. If you feel that your son may benefit, here is a [link](#) providing further information.

Science Awards

Congratulations to our Y7 students Udayvir Singh, Bradley Knight and Aditya Courmaraval who achieved their Bronze Crest Awards last term. Crest is a national award that recognises over 10 hours of independent scientific planning, research, experimentation, analysis and evaluation on a topic of the students' choice. Udayvir and Aditya chose to investigate the strength of various bridge designs by adding masses to the models they built and Bradley tested the safety of ships by making hulls of various shapes and seeing how long they would stay afloat if damaged.

Young Citizens Bar Mock Trial

I was chatting to Cameron Noble, Year 12, in our Restaurant whilst he was on duty, ably supporting staff in supervising the lunch queue! Having told me about the Mock trial, he kindly wrote this review, which I share with you now.

'On Saturday, we participated in the regional heat of the Young Citizens Bar Mock Trial competition at the Inner London Crown Court. This competition provided us with a fantastic opportunity to step into the positions of legal professionals and gain an insight into how our justice system operates. As a team, we assumed key roles within a typical Crown Court trial, such as barristers, witnesses, court clerks, and ushers and we drafted legal arguments for both the prosecution and defence of specially written cases. After weeks of preparation, we brought our cases to the courtroom where we went head-to-head with other schools. This tested not only our critical thinking and public speaking skills but also our determination and teamwork under pressure. Out of twelve competing schools, we secured third place, narrowly missing out on a spot in the national finals. Nevertheless, this experience has been both rewarding and inspiring and we look forward to achieving even more success next year.'

AI

We are grappling with the fast changing world of AI. We were very pleased to welcome Chau Woeste, a partner at KPMG who shared insights into how AI is reshaping the workforce, boosting creativity, productivity and industries in a very well-received talk to Years 12 and 13. Chau stressed the importance of adaptability, digital fluency and critical thinking. Many students stayed behind afterwards with the curiosity which we expect from our students.

Year 7/8 Disco

Many thanks to the Parents' Association for their exemplary running of the Year 7 and 8 disco. 375 boys and girls had a great time! This important PA fundraiser enables the committee to support the school with grants - and we are very grateful that they have agreed to contribute £10,000 towards the floodlights for the small All-weather Pitch which was rebuilt last year. Floodlights will not only facilitate our training programmes but also enable us to rent the pitch to community groups in the winter months. Their next event is a Magic Evening on 8 March. More details to follow.

Volunteer Support

Academy schools (which is our status) are required to formally appoint an Accounting Officer (usually the Head), a qualified CFO (in our case, the Finance Director) but also appoint a [Responsible Officer](#). Our current RO (a parent) is stepping down at the end of this financial year and we are looking for a parent who may be interested in this role. It requires three visits to Finance per year with a report being presented to the Board on an annual basis. If this would be of interest to you and you wish to support your son's school, please do get in touch with my PA, Denise Chick, dmc@rgshw.com.

We also have another opportunity for a parent to take on a voluntary key role within our DofE team at school - and you don't have to sleep in a tent! We are looking for someone to become our DofE Award Verifier. This vital role provides the final sign-off for a young person's award and does not require involvement in the actual delivery of the programme to students but is an integral part of our quality assurance process before students can be issued their awards. If you are interested in supporting the programme and would like some more information, please get in touch with Dominic Clatworthy on dec@rgshw.com. You can view the job description by clicking on this [link](#).

Philip Wayne