

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

7 October 2024



Dear Parent

Unaccustomed as I am to repeating myself...

DROP-OFF

I fully appreciate that public transport may be inconvenient for families and the cost of school transport is anything from off-putting to unaffordable. As a result, we have many students who are now brought to school by car. If you are conveying your son to home and school by car, please drop off or pick up on Green Road (students can walk through the Boarding Gate) or at Chadwick Street - at the extreme ends to allow school coaches to park at their stops. Please do not enter the Uplyme Car Park. This is causing major headaches for staff both in the morning and in the evening. Thank you.

STAFF APPRECIATION

[Staff Appreciation](#) - please let me know if you would like me to acknowledge the work of a member of staff at the School. A number of parents responded last week and the comments have been gratefully received.

THE LATE SHIV MISTRY

Shiv Mistry was a student here, 2015-2022, who sadly died whilst on a post-A levels holiday with his RGS friends. A very able young man, Shiv had a place at Cambridge. He died from anaphylactic shock having been in a coma shortly after taking a sip or two of a non-alcoholic drink which he had been assured was dairy-free. This was a very distressing incident - his friends bravely attempted CPR - and, of course, devastating for his grieving family. His friends have been very keen to raise money for Anaphylaxis UK and I have agreed that the 'non-uniform' day in October can be the 'good cause', which indeed it is. Shiv's father has created an App called 'Shivlet' which is an allergy communication tool.

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING 22 OCTOBER

This is an important event for our Year 11 students to attend, as they consider their A level courses. The vast majority of our students stay on at RGS and, assuming they qualify, are allocated ahead of external students into A level courses. The fact that we are admitting female students (not 'allowing girls to join the Sixth Form' as the Bucks Free Press put it!) has attracted attention locally with even the BBC taking an interest; I was interviewed on the Three Counties Radio breakfast show last week, with RGS being the main item of news. More information will be sent on Thursday.

MUSIC'S MEASURE.....

I'm going to focus on Music this week....

Our Chamber Choir travelled to St Peter's College, Oxford, last week to sing Choral Evensong alongside some other boys' grammar schools, conducted by the college Director of Music. Another great opportunity - our Chamber Choir sings to a high standard and there is a chance to hear them at future events this term, alongside the many other excellent ensembles.

This week, on Thursday 10 October, is our Autumn Soirée. Tickets are available on Little Box Office [Autumn Soiree](#). This is an informal 'round tables' event, with a bar and you'll be entertained by various jazz groups and soloists.

You will have seen the flyers regarding auditions for Bonnie and Clyde, this year's Music Theatre performance. Here is the link to the West End publicity [Bonnie & Clyde The Musical](#) if you would like to know more about the plot. RGS shows have a long history of excellence and attract a diverse cast from a number of schools, including Wycombe and Beaconsfield High School and Pipers Corner. We engage a professional director and choreographer and Mrs Jashari, our Director of Music, plays professionally outside of her work here, so it is a really great opportunity for young people to work together to a very high standard.

I believe strongly in supporting Music and Music Education - my musical activities have greatly enriched my life. When I arrived at RGS in 2015, I became a Trustee of Chiltern Music Academy, a position I held for around five years. CMA is a Music Education charity which is based at RGS, hiring our facilities and those of Wycombe High. I am always very pleased to host the 'Big Noise' event on the first day of the half term holiday, when sometimes 200 young players of all ages and abilities come together from many different schools to enjoy a day of music, culminating in a performance for their parents and headteachers. If this would be of interest to your son in Years 7-9, please click [here](#).

Students of Grade 5 and above can sign up to another event hosted by RGS on Sunday the 26th of January - Film Music From Scratch (10.00 am - 5.30 pm). Again this will involve instrumentalists from all local schools. It promises to be a lovely event. Please click [here](#) to sign up.

YEAR 7

It has been a delight to meet a number of Year 7 boys on their twelfth birthday - there is a photograph overleaf of my most recent gathering. I was pleased to meet a number of parents at the most recent 'Welcome Evening' and on the touchlines at Rugby on Saturday morning; feedback I am receiving from parents is very positive; I am pleased. There were lauds from Phasels Wood, regarding the superb conduct of our group at the Year 7 camp - so pleased that the vast majority of the year group were able to go. We expect no less, but it is good to hear.

SOLD OUT! The next event is Saturday's [Glow in the Dark](#) Year 7 and 8 Disco for RGS, Pipers Corner, Beaconsfield and Wycombe High students. It is a very well organised Parents' Association event with a strong adult presence and one of my senior colleagues will also be on hand, though possibly not dancing!

HANS WOYDA COMPETITION

Shyan Bera, Year 13 has written a piece regarding our success in this prestigious competition - and a win against Wellington:
'The RGS High Wycombe Hans Woyda Maths team took part in the 1st Regional Round against Wellington College on Tuesday 1st October. Hans Woyda is a competition containing both 'individual' and 'team rounds' of mathematically based questions to be solved under tenacious time pressure. The squad began strongly, gaining a two point lead in the starters and steadily building that up through to the team round. Tasked with finding as many ways as possible to compose 500 from square numbers, the team smashed this round, demonstrating resilience and scoring 7 points to Wellington's 4. For those interested, here's an interesting question with a twist : What's the next term in the sequence 61, 52, 63, 94, 46, ...?'

Overall, the RGS HW team of Shyan Bera (Y13), Tharul Wanniarachchige (Y12), Isaac Workman (Y11) and James Heaven (Y9) put in a great performance to defeat Wellington College by 47 points to 28. Congratulations to the 4 students that took part, with a special 'shout out' to James for an amazing first Hans Woyda performance, and a thank you to Mr Gallagher for organising and hosting the event.'

Congratulations to...

Josh Arauj won both the U11 singles and doubles tennis tournament at Great Missenden. Photo overleaf. We look forward to Josh representing the School in due course.

Our new Head of Cricket, Mr Pardoe, is not only an experienced coach who spent last year coaching on Worcestershire's Academy, but he also continues to play at a high level himself. Mr Pardoe is captain of Herefordshire who play in the National Counties competition - which is 2nd class cricket. Herefordshire gained promotion in the Championship this season and reached the QF of the T20 competition under Mr Pardoe's leadership. Mr Pardoe was awarded Herefordshire's Player of the Season for his all round contributions with bat and ball, including a season high score of 184 v Dorset. He also had a successful club season at Halesowen CC in the Birmingham League. He was awarded Players Player of the Season, 1st XI player of the season, and Best Individual Performance of a season for a game in which he scored 150 and took three wickets to secure a victory for Halesowen. In addition, Mr Pardoe is a member of the MCC and played a number of fixtures this season including a 3-day game v Zimbabwe A and a match against England Over 40s. His involvement within the MCC will undoubtedly be beneficial to the RGS cricketers.

With best wishes.

Philip Wayne