

## HEADMASTER'S LETTER

27 June 2024



Dear Parent

### Valete

**Mrs Sylvia Hutchinson** will no longer be teaching at the RGS. My thanks to the Geography Department for ensuring the students are taught until the end of the academic year.

**Mrs Manon Stowe** has taught Spanish and Italian for three years and is leaving the profession to move into the commercial sector.

**Mr James Chapman** joined the IT department as a technician five years ago. He is moving to a position in the commercial sector.

**Mr Gary Kirkham** joined seven years ago as a teacher of English. Having previously served in the Royal Air Force he has willingly and expertly contributed to the Combined Cadet Force at RGS.

**Mr Luke Huelin** joined eight years ago as a teacher of PE and was promoted to the post of Head of Physical Education. He has supported the development of a wide range of sports both at competitive and participation level. Mr Huelin has gained an excellent opportunity as Director of Sport at Westminster Cathedral Choir School.

I thank all colleagues for their contribution to the RGS and wish them well for the future.

### Welcome

In spite of the much talked-about challenges in teacher recruitment (though I don't, after 32 very rewarding years so far, believe that the hyperbolic narrative is particularly helpful) we have recruited excellent members of staff to our teaching and support teams, as well as three trainee teachers for September. We welcomed them yesterday to their Induction Day where they got to know their colleagues and learned about the way we 'do things' at RGS. I was greatly encouraged. See the photograph above.

### Medics

Amersham Hospital opened its doors to teachers from local schools to see real life examples of curriculum subjects being put to work in the workplace - in this case a Cottage Hospital. The 'Teacher Encounter' scheme is to enable teachers to motivate and inspire students and to bridge the gap between classroom and career. Many thanks to Mr McDonald-Smith for representing RGS, wearing his Biology teacher hat.

### Summer Dress

I have agreed to Summer Dress during this (long awaited, in my view) warmer period. Students may remove ties and blazers AFTER assembly for the remainder of the day and teachers should insist that they redress before leaving the school at 15:30. Aside from the fact that a state of *déshabillé* does not represent the School well, it is much easier to reinstate full uniform if students routinely have blazers and ties in their bags. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your son leaves home with the appropriate wherewithal.

## Talk /Sport

I try to attend as many events as I can and, sometimes, this may just be dipping in and out of school activities. I was struck one day this week that, post 15:30 all the courts were in use on the Astro for Recreational Tennis, there was a Handball session in the Sports Hall (led by Baz, the boarding Head Chef), Senior Rugby Strength and Conditioning in the gym, alongside recreational users. Our new pool is serving us well, not least in our partnership with Wycombe Swimming, whose coaches were instructing a Years 7-9 stroke development session. And, of course it is the Cricket season and there was Senior training in the nets and on the pitches. I then went to the Upper Library to watch the captivating 3-minute talks, without notes, given by the current Year 12 cohort of our Presentation Course. Witty, entertaining and thought-provoking in equal measure. See a collage of photos overleaf. Well done and many thanks to Eddie Maguire, a Transformation Coach, for his expert tuition. Such a useful skill to learn.

## Open Events

A reminder that it is our Open Evening on 4 July where we will welcome local families to have a look around the school. We are closing at 13:25 on that day. Many current students participate in the evening and if staying for the afternoon, should be sure to let the Head of Department know if they require food (free!). I am sorry for the inconvenience caused. I felt it important to ensure that staff could vote prior to returning to the school for the evening. [Year 7 Open Evening for Day & Boarding.](#)

## Arkwright Scholarship Successful Recipients 2024

An Arkwright Scholarship is one of the most prestigious awards in the Engineering profession. Only those who demonstrate an extremely high aptitude achieve it. There were just under 300 awards issued this year throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Those successful enough to impress the judging panel this year include Siva Balasundaram, Hasan Al-Zarrad and Arran Patel. We should also recognise our existing Arkwright scholars, Cameron Cole, Daniel Matthew and Torr Ramsden, all of whom are currently nearing the end of Year 12. With six scholars, the RGS has the rare distinction of having what is considered a high number.

Achieving the scholarship entails completing an application form detailing extra-curricular engineering participation, team and leadership experiences and information about their GCSE DT project, a very rigorous aptitude paper and, for those who are selected, an intensive interview by members of the Arkwright panel (conducted on-line).

In addition to an award of £300 per year, during Year 12 and 13, the three Arkwright Scholars will be assigned to a mentor (someone currently in industry who is a specialist in their chosen career) and have access to a range of online and virtual training events and work experience events at a subsidised rate, or entirely free.

## Sixth Form Taster Day

I was delighted to chat to a number of 'soon to be Sixth Formers' on their Taster Day as well as welcoming students from other schools who have applied to join us in September, subject to qualification. I hope that all Year 11 students have a lovely relaxing summer before they embark on the next, pivotal stage of their education.

## Y13 Leavers' Ball

The Leavers' Ball at Moor Hall, Cookham, was a truly wonderful evening. Many thanks to the Senior Prefect Team, most assiduously supported by Mrs Wallace, for sourcing a great venue (such places are not queuing up to hold these events) and to staff who attended. My greatest tribute, however, is to the boys who had a fantastic time and were quite immaculate, not only in their dress but also in their spirit and conduct. My best wishes to you all for the future. You may wish to take a look at our inner 'Tatler' [Making Memories](#)

## Chiltern Music Academy.....one of our partners

CMA are recruiting a Concerts Manager and School Partnership Manager - two important roles. Please take a look and share this [link](#) with anyone you think would be wonderful for CMA. Deadline Sunday 30 June.

CMA Big 10 Concert, Sunday 7 July - Pipers Corner Marquee, Great Kingshill, HP15 6LP - Bringing the Big 10th celebratory year to a close, come and enjoy [CMA's concert](#); a varied programme of items by Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra and Youth Choir followed by a more relaxed opportunity to socialise to the sounds of Big Band and our Function Band. Tickets £10. Bar available. Event 5.00-9.00 pm. Great musicians, great music, a great night!

With best wishes.

**Philip Wayne**