

HEADMASTER'S LETTER
18 July 2024



Dear Parent

VALETE

Miss Hilary Munday

We are saying goodbye at the end of this year to Miss Hilary Munday, following an incredible 45 years at RGS. Following her graduation from Aberystwyth, she took up her first post here in 1979 as a teacher of French. Miss Munday was one of only seven female teaching staff of a total staff of 70. Female teachers had their own Common Room in those days! She was promoted initially as 'Mistress of the Canteen' (sic) followed by leadership roles in Careers and Languages. With the support of the then Headmaster, Mr Roy Page, Miss Munday applied for and the school was awarded 'Specialist Status' in Modern Languages (specialist colleges ceased to be funded about fifteen years ago). It was this work that put RGS on the map nationally and has fortified the provision of MFL teaching since.

As an Assistant Head, Miss Munday has continued to fly the flag for languages not only in the classroom, but also on many trips over the years. Careers Education - another topic close to her heart which she champions passionately, has been on the RGS Vanguard, with a vision that we should have professional Careers leads in the school to offer the right level of support, soundly fulfilled.

Miss Munday has essentially been the School's engine room for twenty years, making sure that processes from timetables, rotas, parent letters, option choices, university entrance and the school calendar are well-oiled and provide the framework for RGS to operate effectively.

Countless hours have been spent supporting individual students on their future pathways as well as being a welcoming, listening ear to staff.

When I arrive at work in the morning, Hilary's car is invariably there before mine; unless there is an evening event, when I leave at the end of the day it is still there. I have had nearly nine years of the calming, reassuring presence of her BMW being in the car park in the morning.

We will all miss Hilary, terribly, softened by the fact that she will be returning on an occasional basis for the next few years as the RGS Archivist.

I am sure that you will join me in thanking Miss Munday for an incredible contribution to RGS. 45 glorious years. Happy retirement!

CRICKET AWARDS

There was a great turn out on Tuesday at the cricket awards. Our catering team, Jen and Lewis, prepared an excellent curry, students gave witty speeches and proud cricketers were awarded their prizes. This together with a great corporate spirit made it a super evening. I offered a vote of thanks to staff who have stepped up to the plate this season as we await the arrival of our new Head of Cricket. Despite the weather resulting in many cancellations, 224 players competed across the year groups with many successes locally and in the RGS Cricket Festival (runners-up). Unfortunately, my welcome speech was interrupted by 'RGS microphone syndrome' and I was put off my stride by bizarre noises, forgetting to thank Friends of Cricket for their wonderful support. So, thank you!

SHEER POETRY

I wrote a few weeks ago about Heritage Week which was organised by Mrs Tan. The whole week was an exploration of what Heritage means to us and how it connects with our sense of Belonging. A 'finale' to this week was a corporate poem. All Year groups were also asked by Mrs Tan to submit a 10 syllable line of poetry reflecting on a particular aspect of heritage. The areas of focus for the RGS Poem on Heritage were: Year 7: Physical place; Year 8: Music; Year 9: Art; Year 10: Food; Year 11: Words/Language; Year 12: The feeling of heritage; Year 13: The impact of heritage on our future. [The RGS Poem on Heritage 2024](#). Thank you to Ms McDonagh for compiling the submissions to form the RGS Poem on Heritage 2024. Congratulations and well done to all who submitted such thoughtful reflections on what heritage means to RGS.

CHORAL EVENSONG - in quires and places

Our 80 strong choir (incorporating our 20 strong Chamber Choir) sang a service of Choral Evensong at High Wycombe Parish Church last week. It was some of the finest choral singing I have heard in a school in the last 30 years. I have included a link [here](#) which you may like to dip in and out of or, of course, watch the whole service. Many thanks to Mrs Jashari and Mr Chitham-Mosley for directing the choirs and for inviting me to accompany the service on the organ.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Toby Marshall, Akash Suresh, Oliver Gage and Ege Celik - all Year 8 for achieving more than 150 Recognitions for commendable effort this year.

Finally, I should like to thank you all for your support this year. I very much appreciate the feedback we receive whether in written form or, more casually, at events. I feel certain that you will join me in thanking our staff, many of whom really do go that extra mile on behalf of your sons.

With renewed thanks and with very best wishes for a great summer break.

With best wishes.

Philip Wayne