



Good Afternoon Parents and Guardians,

I trust that you enjoyed a good weekend and managed to get outdoors while the weather is still so mild. I also hope that you achieved some respite from the news, as we await clarification about potential further restrictions in our region. By now, you will know that the school will work constructively with any of the actions necessary to bring transmission down in our area – and thank you again to our Sixth Former, Krish Gupta, for sharing in a recent assembly, such a personal reason for our community to pull together to keep us all safe. I also care most deeply for our young people's mental health and it is so important for our families to focus on the many wonderful things that are still happening (in and out of school), more on this in a moment...

In the meantime, I am sorry to confirm that a further member of Senior School teaching staff tested positive for Covid-19, on Saturday. This means that they, and two close colleagues, will be self-isolating and therefore some students will be taught by their teachers from home this week. While this is not what any of us wants, I am happy to say that as we gain in experience, we are becoming better equipped for this scenario.

In addition, this morning we have also received notification that a Lower Sixth student has confirmed positive with Covid-19. We have already been in contact with the parents whose children have identified as being in 'close proximity' of the affected student, and they will now be moving to remote learning while they self-isolate. I know that our whole community's thoughts will be with those affected by these two new cases.

Finally, speaking of the wonderful things that continue to take place within our community, I should highlight that we are tremendously proud that one of our Sixth Formers, Theo Wride, is the youngest person to be named in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, after dedicating hundreds of hours to making more than 1,000 protective visors for frontline workers. His efforts took place at the beginning of lockdown, alongside our EDT department who employed all of RGS's 3D printers in the manufacture of visors. I know that many parents and Old Novos donated towards the cost of materials, so Theo's most wonderful award is a very fitting recognition of how so many people in the RGS community supported the Covid-19 frontline response. I shall be intrigued to note if Theo will ask us to add his new formal title 'Theo Wride BEM' to his school reports...! On a serious note, many congratulations to Theo. We are very proud of your inspiring example to us all.

With all good wishes for whatever this week holds.

**Geoffrey Stanford**

Headmaster

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