

Dear Parents,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I have a few brief updates to share, starting with the most exciting news that in this Sunday's edition of The Sunday Times' Parent Power league tables, RGS Newcastle will be named 'North East Independent School of the Decade'.

This is a significant achievement for the school and is hugely uplifting news as we come towards the end of such a challenging year. I hope that parents and all other members of our community feel an enormous sense of pride in this award, as each has contributed to establishing all that RGS Newcastle is today. I would particularly like to thank all staff, both past and present, who have been instrumental in making this achievement possible.

On Sunday, you might want to pick up a copy of the paper and enjoy reading about us in the spotlight over a cup of tea! Please also keep an eye on the RGS Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn pages for more about the news. You can also read the news article shared on [our website](#).

Tier 3

Meanwhile, we are, of course, processing the information that Newcastle will be in Tier 3, when we exit lockdown next week. We will be in touch with parents regarding any possibly impact, although our initial assessment is that there will be limited change to school-life. Parents may find this graphic [helpful](#) in deciphering the rules.

Autumn Recitals

Tonight (Friday 27th November) we have the first of our Senior School Autumn Recitals and we would be delighted if you could join us for this virtual event from 6pm using this link to [Teams Live](#). The concert features soloists of all musical disciplines, ages and of varying experience. We have been thrilled by the huge student response to this event and have therefore created two recitals, the second of which will also take place virtually, at 6pm on Friday 4th December (link to follow next week). I am sure you will enjoy the musical talents of our students and I must express my thanks for all of the hard work of students and staff involved.

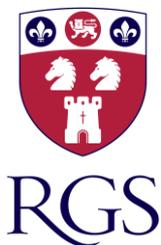
2021/22 Term Dates

Term dates for the 2021/22 academic year have now been finalised for both Senior and Junior School and have been published on the website. You can find the Senior School term dates [here](#), the Junior School ones [here](#).

Year 11 exams

I am very happy to report how successfully this week's Year 11 exams have gone. Understandably, many of our students had been anxious about taking these November exams, given the uncertainty that Covid-19 is bringing, yet we were happy to see how quickly the Year 11s got into their stride. The Year 11 team and exam team have reported that there has been a palpable sense of comradery and mutual support. It has been wonderful to see them develop a greater sense of independence and engage with the process really positively. Your children are remarkably resilient and are surrounded by a great team to support them through this year. Students will begin to receive feedback from Thursday onwards, and begin a stage of evaluation and reflection with teachers and Form Supervisors, from which to build and progress further.

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Student-led charity activities

Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting our Feeding Families Campaign – we and the charity hugely appreciate your help. The student-led Charities' Committee have one last request before term ends and I would appreciate it if parents would consider supporting this. This year will be extremely difficult for many families across the North East, not least for those struggling to provide Christmas presents for their children. Metro Radio's Cash for Kids Charity is running 'Mission Christmas', aiming to make this Christmas Day different for local children living in poverty. From Tuesday 8th December to Wednesday 16th December we are asking you to donate gifts – new and unwrapped – which will contribute to the 'Mission Christmas' appeal. Students can place gifts in designated drop off spots within their bubbles. I would deeply appreciate your help with this endeavour, especially if you are willing to ask your child to take responsibility for choosing and buying the gift for a child just like them.

Thank you in advance for this support.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Geoffrey Stanford
Headmaster