

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your children enjoyed a relaxing half term and were able to make the most of the glorious weather which thankfully has continued since we have been back. Indeed, I trust that Y8 have been enjoying their outdoors activities days this week and I am looking forward to seeing the groups taking part in Duke of Edinburgh training this weekend. Those with children in Y9/10 will have received a letter this week about a planned activity day for them post exams next week. Meanwhile, those in Y12 should now be focusing on their UCAS process and also aiming to set up appropriate work experience and volunteering opportunities for the summer.

As with previous communications, this letter includes a number of important, though largely administrative, updates to share with you.

COVID-19 cases and change in guidance relating to COVID-19 close contacts

At the start of last week, we were made aware of four positive cases, one in Y7, one in Y12, one in Y13 and one member of staff. Fortunately, no close contacts have been identified given that these cases came in over the holiday and they had not met recently with other students. Additionally, Public Health Newcastle contacted us yesterday and said that cases amongst young people are rising in the area. As I have stated in the past, this serves as a reminder that we should all continue to remain vigilant; a key element of this is Lateral Flow Device COVID-19 testing, and I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of students continuing to complete these twice a week, please.

I would like to bring your attention to the latest changes in the Government guidance relating to COVID-19. The official advice is that individuals who have been identified as a close-contact with someone who has tested positive are now additionally **advised to access a free PCR test** at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 (free of charge).

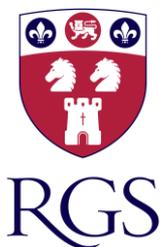
June 14th Government Update

Even with the Prime Minister's update on Monday regarding the easing of the remaining coronavirus restrictions being put back until July 19th, we anticipate that the end of term will continue as planned and we are expecting to continue with school fixtures, new student induction days, year group sports days, year group prize givings and an online celebration of the year on the evening of Friday 2nd. Unfortunately, this latest news does impact the Leavers' Dinner and Class of 2020 reunion which we had been looking to hold at the end of June. Mrs McGough will shortly be sending out more information regarding these two events.

Spectators at Sports Fixtures

As I imagine many of you are feeling, I have thoroughly enjoyed the fact of competitive sports fixtures returning to the school calendar and I particularly enjoyed watching the enthusiasm shown in the U12 and U13 girls cricket matches on Saturday. Unfortunately, we are still unable to allow either RGS or visiting teams' parents to attend these fixtures and I would be grateful for parents continuing to adhere to this. I very much hope that this will all change with the start of the new academic year.

Royal Grammar School, Eskdale Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4DX
T: 0191 281 5711 E: communications@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk



Attempted bike theft and update from Youth Liaison Officer

Last week a young person tried to steal a bike from the front of the school, but fortunately was disturbed by staff. Not all of the bikes were padlocked and on this occasion we were lucky that the thief was interrupted. If your child cycles to school, please reinforce that they must lock their bike to the cycle rack. We have also been contacted by our Youth Liaison Officer; it has been reported that a male is hanging around Jesmond Station and may be selling drugs. Both the Metro Police Unit and Newcastle City Council Community Teams are working together to learn more about this. Both of these matters remind us of the need for pupils to remain vigilant when out and about in the City.

EU, EEA and Swiss RGS Families with UK Settled Status

As parents will be aware, the deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) is 30th June 2021 and all EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members who were resident in the UK by the 31st of December 2020 should apply for settled status so they can continue to work, study and access free healthcare and benefits in the UK. As the RGS holds a Sponsor Licence we need to know of any RGS pupils that have applied for settled status so, if you are in this position, please can you send us copies of that status to our admissions team at admissions@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk.

Wellbeing

And finally, while I hope that both the good weather and the fact of the end of term now being on the horizon have lifted people's spirits, I recognise that there are still members of the community who are finding things difficult. As ever, please do let our pastoral team know if you have any concerns.

With all best wishes,

Geoffrey Stanford
Headmaster