



From the Headmaster

After what has probably been one of the busiest terms of my school career I am delighted to welcome you all back to school. Last term resulted in such super outcomes and I hope everyone has managed to have a good break. 2016 looks set to be another fine year for the RGS community much of which I will share with you here via these pages in the weeks and months ahead. There is so much planned in all areas of school life including academia, sport, music and I certainly look forward to watching **The Peter Harrison Foundation Centre** take shape in the coming months (*please see page 3*).

I hope the senior students taking mock examinations have also had a chance to relax during the break, but am very sure, judging by the results we are seeing that they all worked hard. These next four or five months are crucial in their GCSE, AS and A Level preparations and as much as they can do now will pay huge dividends in the summer.

In amongst last term's **ISI Inspection** and **Sweeney Todd**, it was very much business as usual throughout the school with a range of activities taking place. House activities raised **£435.50** for their **charities**—Clic Sargent, Help for Heroes, Motor Neurone Disease and Young Epilepsy; **Model United Nations** delegates attended Croydon High School's first ever conference where RGS represented Sudan (**Harrison Barker, Jamie Cowhig, Joel Martin and Karam Sodhi**) and New Zealand (**Harry Armstrong, Thomas Clark, Mehul Datta, Maximus Sutton-Parker and George Beglan**). Topics such as migrant integration and HIV were debated with passion and conviction. **Miss Williams** reports that with a large number of first-time delegates, a huge amount was learnt and debaters grew in confidence throughout the day. George Beglan was particularly impressive and came away with the most prestigious award of all, **Outstanding Delegate** of the Security Council. Well done, George.



In the **Physics Olympiad** five students entered the three-hour paper with the following results—**Hugh Blayney** (Gold); **Daniel Humphreys** (Bronze 1); **Greg Beazley, James Hawrych and Ben McLaughlin** (Commendations). Hugh's result marks him as one of the top 10% of students taking the test (who represent some of the strongest physics students in the country) and is the first Gold we have received in many years. Well done to everyone who took part.

Sport News

I am proud and delighted to confirm the following **Surrey Hockey County Representatives**. [NB: We await confirmation of other county selections].

- ◆ Girls' U13 Lions: **Bernadette Cheng-Whitehead, Izzy Cooper, Ellie Heron**
- ◆ Girls' U14 Lions: **Amy Wickham, Ella Woods**
- ◆ Girls' U15 Lions: **Eleanor Green, Sophie Nathan**
- ◆ Girls' U15 Panthers: **Timea Culverwell, Stephanie Weber, Taylor Weber**
- ◆ Girls' U17: **Chloe Stimpson**
- ◆ Boys' U13 Panthers: **Benjamin Turrington**
- ◆ Boys' U16 Lions: **Max Clarke, Archie Trevor**

In **Chess**, the RGS U13s comfortably won the **English Chess Federation's Schools U13 Regional Final** at Wilson's School. Congratulations to **Alex Golding, Harry Armstrong, Annalise Hansen, Bernadette Cheng-Whitehead** and playing reserve **Karam Sodhi**. We now qualify for The National Finals in April.

Student Successes

- ◆ **Tom Allen** has been selected for the **Surrey Rugby U15 squad** after a challenging trial involving over 100 players.
- ◆ **Niamh Brown** has been selected to represent Great Britain in Edinburgh on **Saturday 9 January** at the **Great Edinburgh International Cross Country** competition.
- ◆ **Luke Jones** was selected to represent the South East at the **Cadet Winton** at Millfield School. Luke was part of a team of four Mens Epee fencers, within a South East U18 squad of 24 (covering Foil/Epee/Sabre in both Men and Women). The Mens Epee team won eight of their matches against the other nine regions and, as a result, won the Mens Epee competition helping the South East to win the overall Event trophy which combines the results across all weapons. Well done, Luke.

Finally, whilst we were spoilt with some very mild autumn weather, winter may still be around the corner. In case of **extreme weather** an email will be sent to all families and announcements will also be made via the school website to communicate any decisions about school closure. It is unlikely that we will close, but staff and students will not be asked to travel if conditions are not safe.

Best Wishes, Shaun Fenton, Headmaster

NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

From the Director of Music: Mr Toby Carden

I am delighted to be starting this week as RGS's Director of Music. I taught most recently in the busy music department at Sevenoaks School, Kent and previously as Director of Music at Tockington Manor School and at Clifton College. My own musical interests are varied from orchestral and jazz trumpet playing in various professional contexts to singing in the choir of Bristol Cathedral. I am also an ABRSM music examiner.

I thoroughly enjoyed attending some of the music events last term and meeting members of the RGS community at the Harlequin Concert, the Choral Recital, Sweeney Todd, and the Carol Service. There were some highly inspiring musical performances; the bar has been set high! I really look forward to working with our enthusiastic and high-achieving students and RGS' expert staff and to seeing many of you at some of the musical events later in the term.

Best wishes for the new term, Toby Carden



From a Teacher of English: Mrs Victoria Ellwood

Hello! I write to introduce myself as the new Teacher of English at Reigate Grammar School. After gaining a BA (Hons) in English Literature from Durham University and a PGCE in English and Drama from Homerton College, Cambridge, I join RGS from Whitgift School, where I have been a member of the English Department for 11 years. Since 2010 I have been Head of Junior English; prior to this post, I established rowing at Whitgift and was Head of Smith's House.

I am very excited to be joining the English Department at Reigate Grammar School and look forward to making a positive contribution to the study of English at RGS. Following my recent work with the charity, The Artemis Network, I am also very much looking forward to working with students to develop their self-esteem and confidence and to help focus their career aspirations.

Best wishes and Happy 2016, Victoria Ellwood



From the Art Technician: Miss Aimee Parr

I am thrilled to be joining the Art Department Team at RGS as an Art Technician. Formerly I have worked as a freelance Art Department Assistant in the Film and Television industry and have also had the rewarding opportunity to be trained in Prosthetic Makeup and Creature Special Effects, by renowned special effects artist Neil Gorton and I continue to pursue this specialism in my spare time.

I studied Art and Design at the University for the Creative Arts in Epsom and continued my studies at Farnham University for the Creative Arts where I undertook a degree in Digital Film Screen Arts, which covered all aspects of filmmaking and specialist computer programmes.

I am really looking forward to working with the students and teaching staff at Reigate Grammar School and to what the coming year will bring.

Best wishes for the new term, Aimee Parr



BIOMETRIC REGISTRATION—12 JANUARY 2016

The whole school registration for Student Biometrics will take place on **Tuesday 12 January 2016**. Pupils will go to the PMH during the day and be registered on the system. If you have already given consent, then your child will be registered.

If you have not yet replied giving consent, please follow the steps below in order that your child's biometrics can be used from next week.

Consent for the use of Biometric Information in School

Please send an email by return to biometrics@reigategrammar.org stating clearly:

- ◆ The name(s) of your child(ren)
- ◆ That you give consent for the biometrics of your child(ren) to be used by Reigate Grammar School for use as part of a recognition system

OR

- ◆ You do NOT give consent
- ◆ Please state your child(ren)'s name(s) in both cases.

Reminder: Cashless Catering

Cashless Catering is planned to be implemented from **Tuesday 2 February 2016**. This means that pupils' lunch accounts may be topped up via the **Parent Online Payment System**. Further details and information will be provided in the next week. If there are any queries, please contact the Bursar.

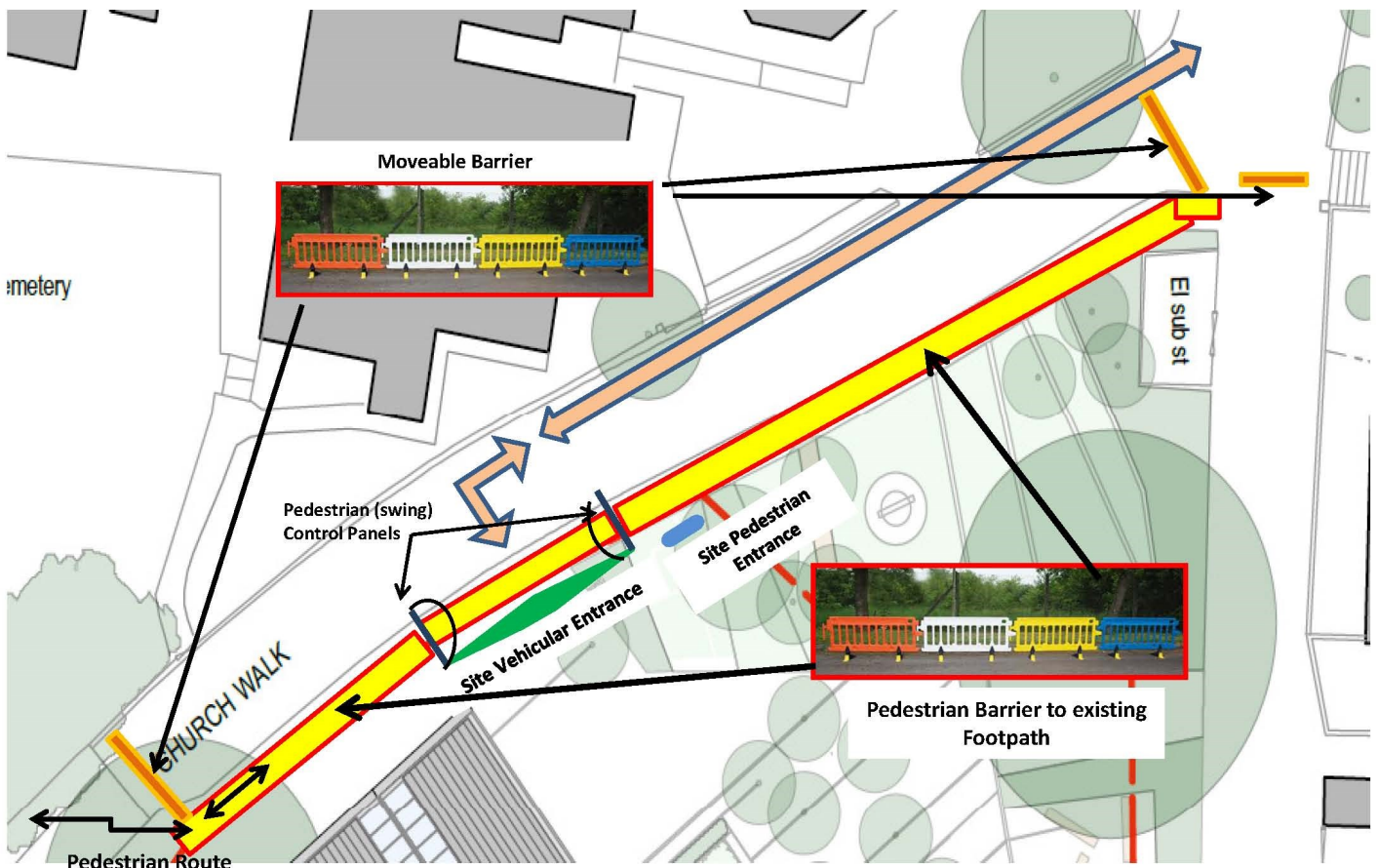
THE PETER HARRISON FOUNDATION CENTRE



We are delighted to confirm that work has started on **The Peter Harrison Foundation Centre**. The appointed contractor is Beard Construction who have been busy preparing the site after term finished in mid-December. Some trees have been removed and hoardings put in place to secure the site ready for demolition. An important part of the preparation has been the implementation of pedestrian segregation plans to ensure the safety of all pupils, staff and members of the public. Church Walk is now **closed to traffic** and pupils have a designated route that they will follow when passing the site. Site traffic will be carefully managed and controlled by a full time banksman. This exciting new project is finally underway and is scheduled for completion during the Spring Term 2017.

All students and staff have been briefed about the importance of utilising the signposted routes, observing instructions from both staff and contractors and avoiding walking on either Church Walk or the coach road outside PMH. At times the pedestrian route may be temporarily closed for a minute or so, to allow movement of vehicles in or out of the site. It is critically important that pedestrians wait behind the barriers and observe instructions when told to do so! Your support with this at home is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Proposed Pedestrian Segregation – Church Walk Rev01: Following meeting with R&B + RGS



NOTICES

Drama: from Miss Branston

Much Ado About Nothing: Auditions

Auditions take place next week for Second and Third Form students who would like to perform in the summer production of **Much Ado About Nothing**. **Miss Branston, Mr Edwards** and **Miss Aczel** will be looking for excellent verse speakers and a keen ensemble willing to develop an inventive approach to Shakespeare. Rehearsals for principals are likely to take place on Mondays and Wednesdays after school and at lunchtime. There will be some Sunday rehearsals as indicated in the calendar and commitment will increase in the Summer Term. Students wishing to take on a principal role should be aware of the commitment needed for productions and think about potential clashes with summer activities before they audition. Students may not be able to do everything, although we do try to accommodate rehearsal schedules around other commitments!

What do the students need to do?

Students should refer to the email sent in December and the calendar for dates. They must prepare and perform a monologue from a Shakespeare play of their choice in their audition (of no more than 2 minutes' duration, please); the monologue should be performed with movement and characterisation. This is a free choice of monologue from any Shakespeare play, but those wishing to play principal roles should choose monologues wisely to fit the part they wish to play. For example, it is entirely sensible to audition for Benedick with one of his speeches. Students will be asked to perform this monologue in many different ways. They should learn the speech by heart; will be performing in front of others; and should feel confident about delivering their monologue, even if they wish to be part of the ensemble. The aim is to explore who is right for which role. Advice on auditions can be found at www.rgsdrama.net

Audition Times

Students should attend ONE audition in B1 on either:

- ◆ **Monday 11 January** from 4.00-6.00pm; **OR**
- ◆ **Wednesday 13 January** from 4.00-6.00pm

If a student cannot manage either of those days, they will be able to attend a lunchtime audition in B1 from 1.20-2.00pm on either of those days.

Recalls: Thursday 14 January

Students MUST be available for recalls in B1 on **Thursday 14 January** at **1.20pm** or from **4.00-5.30pm**. If recalled, students will receive an email via their school accounts with the details. A recall does not indicate either a successful or unsuccessful audition—rather that we would like to see more of an actor!

Sixth Form Trip to Wonderland: Sunday 17 February

All Sixth Form Drama/Theatre Studies students are expected to come to see **Wonderland** at the National Theatre on **Sunday 17 January**. **Mr Edwards** and **Mrs Wilson** have already contacted pupils.

First Form Drama Club: Wednesdays 4.00-5.00pm From **Wednesday 20 January 2016**.

Careers

London University Taster Days Programme

Registration for this programme has now opened. These are free one-day courses for Lower Sixth Form students at London universities in a wide range of subject areas. They are particularly useful as they may help students to get an idea of appropriate university courses for them; provide a taste of university study; and attendance at one of these will show universities that students have made an effort to find out about courses they may study.

All information is available on www.london.ac.uk/tasters. The chances of securing a place are increased by applying by **11.00am on Wednesday 13 January**.

Students must seek permission from their **Form Tutor** and **Miss Green** before missing any school days, and they should not miss more than two days.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Bank of America Merrill Lynch is running a two-day course for Sixth Form girls on **15/16 February** in London. This is an excellent opportunity to find out more about Investment Banking, and includes some work shadowing. Interested students need to apply using this [link](#) below by **25 January**. The Careers Department is happy to help with any application.

RGS' Biannual Careers Convention: Monday 8 February

On **Monday 8 February** RGS is holding its Biannual Careers Convention. A large number of delegates will represent a wide range of professional fields from finance to policing, from medicine to conservation. There will be information about internships; gap year programmes; and talks by careers advisors and experts in higher education abroad. Students in the Second Form and above are invited to attend the event to find out more about potential career paths.

Careers Department Volunteers—Can you help?

The RGS Careers Department is looking for volunteers to share their expertise with students through a range of careers events. Every year RGS offers a plethora of information evenings and lunchtime talks and we would love to hear from any parents and friends who are able to support and contribute to this programme.

The next big event is on **Monday 8 February** (see above) and we are in need of delegates to join our wonderful volunteers. In particular, we are looking for representatives from the following fields: Design, Education, Dentistry, Law, Media, Pharmaceuticals, Sport, Advertising and the Creative Arts. If you would like to get involved and can offer an hour or two of your time, please contact **Miss Williams** via trw@reigategrammar.org.

Digital Careers Evening: Monday 29 February

The Careers Department is looking for guest speakers and Q&A guests for the Digital Careers evening on **Monday 29 February 2016** from 7.00-9.00pm. We are looking for volunteers from all digital paths, for example, IT, technology, communications, Social Media, Bloggers etc. If you are interested in taking part please contact **Miss Vaughan** via amv@reigategrammar.org.

NOTICES

Student Absence

Request for Absence Forms must be completed in advance of a student being taken out of school for any reason including routine matters such as medical appointments. The form is available on the front page of the Parent Portal under School News and copies are available from the School Office.

In all cases: Please email the Request for Absence to the Form Tutor and office via absence@reigategrammar.org.

On the day of absence: Students should sign out of the office as usual, where the reason for their absence will be checked against the form. Students are also required to sign in again on their return to school during the day if this is appropriate. It is a requirement that we know where your son or daughter is during the day.

Sixth Form Students

Registration: Sixth Form students are required to be in school to register every morning.

Absence: Request for Absence Forms must also be completed for Sixth Form students.

RGS Family and Staff Swimming

Families: Sundays 3.00-5.00pm

Staff: Thursdays 5.15-6.15pm

Sundays 2.00-5.00pm

First Form Trip Cancellation

With regret the First Form trip to *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* has been cancelled.

PFA Nearly New Uniform and Ski-Wear Sale

Saturday 16 January; 10.00–11.00am; PMH

There are some great bargains to be had including ski wear as well as uniform for sale!

Second Form Enterprise: Unwanted Gifts

The Second Form is collecting unwanted Christmas gifts to be donated to the **Children's Trust Shop** in Reigate. Items should be placed in the Food Room.

Boys' Hockey Training

Training this term is listed below. Transport will leave from PMH at 3.50pm; collection is from Hartswood at 5.30pm. A minibus back to school is also available.

- ◆ **Monday** Senior & U15
- ◆ **Wednesday** U12/U13
- ◆ **Thursday** U14
- ◆ **Friday** Performance Session (*by invitation*)

Fourth & Fifth Form Theatre Trip Confusions

Reply slips should now all have been returned for the above trip taking place on **Tuesday 19 January**. Please ensure they are returned ASAP to avoid missing the trip.

Fourth Form Spanish Exchange Information Evening: Tuesday 26 January 2016 7pm PMH

Squash Club: Thursdays; meet at 4.00pm at PMH

Squash club commences on **Thursday 14 January** after school — all students are welcome. Meet **Mr Mann** outside the PMH at 4.00pm.

RGSweather: Winter Update

Cold snap is possible next week as Arctic air digs south, drier too under rising pressure. Weather Club meets Friday lunchtimes in the Geography department. Local weather updates [@rgsweather](https://twitter.com/rgsweather) and www.rgsweather.com

DofE this term

- ◆ **Third Form New Bronze:** Thurs 1.25pm (CH). Please return enrolment slip on the letter which came home last term (spares available from DofE Office).
- ◆ **Fourth Form Bronze/Silver:** Tues 1.30pm (GG).
- ◆ **Fourth Form:** Tues 4.00-5.00pm (Dance Studio). First Aid course continues, completes in March.
- ◆ **Lower Sixth Form Gold Expedition Planning:** Tues 4.00-5.30pm (GG).

All queries should be directed to **Mr Collins** via sac@reigategrammar.org.

CCF Update

- ◆ **CCF Staff Training: 8-10 January 2016**, RGS, 16:00-21:00hrs.
- ◆ **CCF Recruit Cadre: 15-17 January 2016**, Napier Barracks, 16:00-18:00hrs.
- ◆ **RAF AEF Flying: 21 January**, RAF Benson, 06:45-14:00hrs.

All queries should be directed to **Flt Lt Ellen** via rse@reigategrammar.org.

PARENTS' ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

The following trips, services and items are now available for payment via the Parents' Online Payment System.

AVAILABLE FOR PAYMENT

France, Chateau du Broutel – Second Instalment
Geography, Belize 2016
Golf Tour, Bryanston 2016
Hockey Tour, Bath
Netball Tour, Costa Dorada, Spain
Andalucía, Spain

National Ultimate Frisbee Tournament 2016
Theatre Studies *Confusions*

If there are any queries with any of the payments listed, or Any queries, please email finance@reigategrammar.org

January

- 9 Sa CCF: Staff training (BH/SH)
Boys' Hockey v Dulwich College:
U13ABC&D (7-a-side) (H) 09:30
U15A&B (H) 10:30
U14A&B (A) 11:30
1st, 2nd XI (H) 11:45
Netball v Lingfield Notre Dame:
1st, 2nd, 3rd VII (H) 10:00
U15A&B, U14A&B (A) 10:00
U13ABC&D (H) 11:00
U12ABC&D (A) 11:00
- 10 Su Drama: Edinburgh Festival rehearsal 10:00-17:00
CCF: Staff training (*ends*) (BH/SH)
- 11 M Supplementary 11+/13+ Pre-Test Entrance Examinations
08:30-15:45
Much Ado About Nothing: Auditions (Second & Third Forms) 13:20-14:00
Swimming v Dunottar:
U12, U13, U14 Girls & U12, U14 Boys (A) 15:50
Much Ado About Nothing: Auditions (Second & Third Forms) 16:00-18:00
Governors: Finance & Foundation Committee Meeting 17:30-19:30
Sixth Form Tropical Ecosystems trip to Belize Parents' Information Evening (PMH) 19:00-20:00
- 12 Tu Mathematics: *It All Adds Up* (14 Fourth Form girls) (Mathematical Institute, Oxford)
Drama: ~~First Form trip to *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* 17:00-23:00~~
CANCELLED
- 13 W *Much Ado About Nothing*: Auditions (Second & Third Forms) 13:20-14:00
Much Ado About Nothing: Auditions (Second & Third Forms) 16:00-18:00
Angus, Thongs and Snogging: Rehearsal 16:00-18:00
First Form Parents' Evening (PMH/Ballance Building) 18:00-21:30
Cantata Choir: singing workshop (RR) 19:45-21:45
- 14 Th Mathematics: *It All Adds Up* (14 Sixth Form girls) (Mathematical Institute, Oxford)
Much Ado About Nothing: Recalls (Second & Third Forms) (DS) 13:30-14:00
Mixed Swimming v Trinity Group Schools: U12, U13 (Whitgift) 15:40
Much Ado About Nothing: Recalls (Second & Third Forms) (DS) 13:30-14:00
- 15 F CCF Third Form Recruit Cadre (*departs*) (Napier Barracks, Folkestone) 16:00
Chess v Wilsons: AB&C Teams 16:00-18:00
- 16 Sa Boys' Hockey v Hawthorns: U13A&B (7-a-side) (H) 09:00
Boys' Hockey v Windsor Boys' School: 1st XI (A) 09:30
U15A&B (H) 10:00
2nd XI (A) 10:45
U14A&B (H) 11:15
PFA: Nearly New Uniform Sale (PMH) (PMH) 10:00-11:00
Netball v Priorsfield: 1st, 2nd, U15A&B (A) 10:00
U12A&B (H) 10:00
U14A&B (A) 11:00
U13AB&C (H) 11:00
Rugby v Glyn: 1st & 2nd XV (A) 10:30
- 17 Su *Angus, Thongs and Snogging*: Rehearsal 10:00-17:00
Theatre Studies: Sixth Form trip to *Wonderland* (National Theatre) 12:30-18:00
CCF Third Form Recruit Cadre (*returns*) (Napier Barracks, Folkestone) 18:00
- 18 M Boys' Hockey v Hawthorns: U14B (A) 15:30
Girls' Swimming v St Teresa's:
U12, U13, U14, U15, Snr (A) 16:00
Staff: Heads of Department Meeting (Rm15) 16:00-17:15
Much Ado About Nothing: Rehearsal 16:00-17:30
Netball v CLFS: U13ABC&D (H) 16:10
PFA Meeting (M2) 19:30-21:30
- 19 Tu Netball v Brighton College: U14A&B, U15A&B (H) 16:00
Drama: Trip to *Confusions* (Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford) 18:15-22:30
- 20 W Netball County Tournament: U12, U13 (A)
Boys' Hockey Lingfield Notre Dame Tournament: U12 (A) 13:00
Music: Polyphony Southwark Cathedral Evensong (London) 14:00-20:00
Football v Reigate College: 1st XI (A) 14:30
Girls' Hockey v KGS: 1stXI (A) 14:30
2ndXI (H) 15:00
Much Ado About Nothing: Rehearsal (DS) 16:00-17:30
Angus, Thongs and Snogging: Rehearsal 16:00-18:00
Lower Sixth Form Parents' Evening (CH/SH) 18:00-21:30
Cantata Choir: Rehearsal (RR) 19:45-21:45
- 21 Th Netball v Brighton College:
1st VII, 2nd VII, 3rd VII, 4th VII (H) 16:00
Parents' Forum: Biometric Registration (PMH) 19:00-20:00
- 22 F Lower Sixth Form trip to Churchill College (Cambridge) 08:00-19:00
11+ & 13+ Pre-Test Scholarship Assessments (IR) 08:45-15:50
CCF: Shooting Team training (CW) 09:00-16:00
Careers Talk: *Engineering at Thales* with Susan Ayling (CW) 13:30-14:10
Chess v Trinity: A&C Teams 16:00-18:00
Boys' Hockey v Cranmore School: U12A&B (H) 16:45
Boys' Hockey v Eltham College: 1st XI (A) 17:30

Parents' & Friends' Association

If you would like to join our team of helpers or become involved in any other way, please email

pfa@reigategrammar.org

January 2016

16 Sa Nearly New Uniform & Skiwear Sale (PMH) 10:00-11:00

March 2016

19 Sa Comedy Night—Details to follow