



From the Headmaster

In 1919 at the end of his first term, in line with his aim to cultivate the development of the RGS, the Headmaster Arthur J. B. Green wrote that “such a school as this ought to give opportunities to all who have special talents and tastes, that they may develop them and use them to enrich the common life of the School”. Almost 100 years later, it is a source of great pride for me that this ethos remains at the very heart of the RGS culture; indeed, in valuing our Learning Habits such as precision, creativity and independence we acknowledge that these qualities remain central to our philosophy.

The last two weeks have illustrated how each individual has the opportunity to flourish and excel in their chosen field, irrespective of their area of passion. Those of us fortunate enough to witness the final of RGS Musician of the Year or the senior drama production *Another Country* were, once again, reminded about the extraordinary depth of talent in the School. It was a real privilege to see the level of performance which can be achieved through not only talent but through hours of dedication, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those staff whose own professionalism, pride and high aspirations ensure the bar of achievement is set ever higher for the students. Indeed, in this edition alone of *The Bulletin* we celebrate success in areas ranging from the academic to the sporting to the artistic. This richness of experience is key to an education which stretches and challenges and I have every confidence that such a culture will continue to be synonymous with the RGS.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy half term, after what has been a very busy few weeks. I look forward to seeing the boys on their return ready and refreshed for what will be a short, intense second half of term.

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Drama: *Another Country*: Julian Mitchell's rich and moving drama, *Another Country*, set in an English public school in the 1930s, was by turns funny, painful and relevant as the actors powerfully captured the hierarchies, the endless quest for power and status, and the harsh cruelties and realities of public-school life. Outstanding performances by the leads, **George Reeves** (U6) and **Benjamin Hawken** (U6), were supported by a talented cast which presented the idiosyncratic characters with conviction and no little maturity. Despite the era, the play still resonated as the audience was left to reflect on a play which probes deep into the psyche of each individual and their battles with their private and public personas.

Drama: *The Beecham Boys*: **Harry Somerville** (U6) and **Cameron Brett** (U6) delivered a slick, darkly comic devised examination performance of *The Beecham Boys*. The boys executed the piece in an expressionistic Berkovian style and managed to combine shades of *A Clockwork Orange*, *American Psycho*, a little bit of ballet, choral poetry and a sprinkling of camp silliness. It was a thoroughly entertaining production for which the boys deserve great credit.

Music: The final of the RGS Musician of the Year, *The Steynor Prize*, proved to be an exquisite evening of music which had the appreciative audience captivated from start to finish by the extraordinary talent and diversity of the boys. The Sixth Form finalists – **Joseph Bate** (marimba), **Alistair Baumann** (cello), **Callum Champion** (piano), **Simon King** (piano), **Joshua Powell** (oboe) and **Ronan Thomas** (violin) – performed a programme which was refined, sophisticated and engaging in equal measure but all with the same exacting standards of musicianship. The School was honoured to welcome as adjudicator Michael Chance CBE who has established a worldwide reputation as one of the foremost exponents of the male alto voice in all areas of the classical repertoire and is in equal demand as an opera, concert and recording artist. By the narrowest of margins, Michael awarded *The Steynor Prize* to a performance which had displayed poise, which was scrupulously attentive to the wide variety of markings in the piece and which had lovely overall sense of architecture: Simon King's breathtaking rendition of *Chaconne* by Bach-Busoni.

Social Media: The RGS has won Best Facebook Performance, in the Independent Schools Category, at the Edurank Awards 2017. Edurank focuses specifically on the social media activity of universities, colleges and schools and ranks institutions accordingly.

Trips: A busy fortnight outside the classroom has included students involved in trips to the Schoolboys' International Ski Racing in Wengen, Switzerland; the volunteering working party at Darby Green; an English trip to Stratford-upon-Avon to see *The Tempest*; and the Economics Department visit to the Marshall Lecture series in Cambridge. In addition, over half term, the History Department is visiting the battlefields in northern France while the senior cricket boys are touring in Sri Lanka.

Sports News

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Chess: The 2nd VI won 4½ – 1½ against King's College School, Wimbledon.

Football: The 1st XI secured draws against Cardinal Vaughan and Reigate Grammar Schools while the 3rd and 4th XIs recorded strong wins against Box Hill School scoring 11 and conceding just one in the process.

Hockey: After a weather-affected start to the term, the RGS enjoyed two excellent block fixtures. Ten wins and three draws against St George's College, Weybridge included victories for the 1st XI, 3 – 1, and the free-scoring Under 13s who scored an astonishing 24 goals in just three matches. Against Trinity School Croydon nine wins and three draws completed an excellent first half of term for RGS hockey. Of particular note was the 6 – 0 victory for the Under 15A team with **Harry Relph** (4A) scoring five goals. The senior teams then recorded three excellent wins midweek against Charterhouse School, the highlight of which was a 7 – 2 win for the 1st XI with **Jonathan Ferguson** (U6) scoring a hat-trick.

Shooting: Our VIII won by 1516 points to 1512 against Cambridge University in a 10-bull match firing two cards each. **Alfie Hellings** (L6) was top scorer with 193/200. Then in another 10-bull match against Epsom College the RGS won 746 to 735, our top score being 97 by **Harry Mayne** (5N).

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 13 February	Half Term starts
Monday 20 February	Half Term ends Sixth Form Mock Examinations start
Thursday 23 February	Parents' Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 25 February	Cambodia Charity Ball at Pennyhill Park Hotel
Wednesday 1 March	Fifth Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall and the John Brown Building

