



From the Headmaster

Over the holidays, in addition to the numerous school trips and events, we were delighted to host for the very first time a TEDx conference. The philosophy of TEDx centres on innovation, thinking outside the box, looking at issues from new and diverse perspectives, challenging individuals to think afresh and differently, assuming there are a range of viewpoints, and reassessing opinions in the light of others. This epitomises the culture we are nurturing among our students at the RGS. The conference was all the more appropriate for us as the theme of the conference was *high-performance* mindset and *being the very best you can be*: qualities which are at the heart of our ethos.

What particularly struck a chord with me, however, was the fact that the nine speakers approached the same theme and the same brief from such differing perspectives: from architecture to mental health, from computer gaming to living with disability, from cyber security to puppetry. The underlying message, however, was uniform: that despite flourishing in such diverse spheres, they were all motivated by a shared passion, dedication and resilience.

Indeed, as I reflect on our recent set of appointments for the new Senior Prefect team, appointments which are made as the result of both a student and a staff vote, I see how these new prefects are all united by pride in their performance but have chosen very different paths through the School. Celebrating unity and individuality at the same time will mean that we continue to nurture a tolerant, diverse and dynamic community of which we all can be very proud.

As we embark on a very busy and important term I wish the boys the best of luck for a happy, healthy and successful final term of the academic year.

Latest News

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LAMDA: In the latest set of LAMDA public speaking and drama examinations, RGS students achieved excellent results including nine distinctions and two merits. LAMDA is one of the UK's oldest and most respected awarding bodies; their ultimate aim is to provide students with the opportunity to develop the life skills they need to be a success: attributes such as self-confidence and the ability to communicate clearly and present ideas. Particularly noteworthy among the RGS results were **Harry Dennis**, **Daniel Sampson** and **George Tench** who have all reached Grade 8 in the Fifth Form: an impressive achievement at this age.

Photography: **James Miller** (4N) won the 15 and under category in the annual Mammal Photographer of the Year competition with a stunning photograph of a pipistrelle bat.

Reading: Out of 132,000 entries **Austin Humphrey** (2C) has progressed to the next round of the BBC 500 Words competition for creative writing with a character diary entry called *The Loop*.

Robotics: After winning last year's Student Robotics competition, an RGS team again entered to defend its title. The competition challenged Sixth Form students to design, build and programme an autonomous robot to compete against three other robots in a three-minute arena game. This year's game, *As easy as ABC*, simply involved finding boxes and bringing them back to the home zone; all four robots targeted the same boxes so speed was vital. The RGS team performed impressively – displaying high-level technical and programming skills – and were unlucky to go out at the quarter-final stage.

Senior Prefects: The Headmaster is delighted to announce the Senior Prefect appointments for 2017/18. School Captain is **James Dickinson** and he is supported by the two Deputy School Captains **Jonathan Andrews**, who is also House Captain of Austen, and **Max Dobinson**, who is also House Captain of Nettles. **Frederick Cousins** has been appointed Senior Prefect Co-ordinator. The other House Captain appointments are as follows: Beckingham House is **Joseph Crolla**; Hamonde House is **Nicholas Forbes**; Powell House is **Edmund Milton-Seall**; and Valpy House is **Thomas Gordon**. In addition, the Headmaster has appointed **Nicholas Edwards, Benjamin Hawken, William Moss, Joshua Powell, George Ridley, Thomas Risby, Matthew Sargent** and **Hantian Wang** to the Senior Prefect team. We wish the boys all the very best of luck in their new roles.

Staff: The RGS is pleased to welcome Mr McDonald to the Classics Department who will be covering Mrs Besly-Quick's maternity leave. We are also delighted to welcome back from her maternity leave Mrs Suenson-Taylor to the Religion and Philosophy Department.

Trips: Over a quarter of all students and 31 staff were involved in the various trips which took place over the Easter holidays. These included: the junior Classics trip to Italy; the Geography fieldtrip to Tenerife; the tennis and surfing trip to Watergate Bay and the Heron Tennis Centre in Cornwall; the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to Exmoor; the Spanish trip to Córdoba; and the French trip to Nice.

Sports News

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Cricket: The RGS Under 14A team and 1st XI prepared for the start of the new season with pre-season fixtures against, respectively, Epsom College and an All-Star XI comprising recent Old Guildfordians, many of them former 1st team stalwarts. Both matches were tense and went down to the last ball; **Alastair Curran** (U6), Captain of the 1st XI, made a century.

Fencing: **Leo Kamstra** (2C) impressed in his maiden international competition representing England. In the Under 13 Épée tournament of the Challenge Wratislavia competition in Wroclaw, Poland, he came 22nd out of 206 fencers and was the second best fencer in the England squad.

Rowing: **Joseph Bryant** (3E) has been selected as part of the Junior 14 quad to represent the Thames London region at the national regional finals.

Forthcoming Events

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Monday 24 April	Parents' Association Meeting in the Staff Common Room
Tuesday 25 April	Nepal 2018 Expedition Launch at Tormead School
Thursday 27 April	Drama production of <i>MFL Linguists and Other Animals</i> in the Hansford Room (for three nights)
Monday 1 May	May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2 May	GCSE Study Leave starts
Wednesday 3 May	Monday Timetable Concerto Concert in Holy Trinity Church