



From the Headmaster

There are a number of buzz words which recur all too frequently in an educational context, and citizenship is certainly one of them. In Athens, widely regarded as the birthplace of democracy, the concept of citizenship was clearly defined in terms of each individual's public and political duty. So expected was an Athenian citizen's involvement in the civic life of the city that in Thucydides' famous account of Pericles' address to the assembled citizens, the city leader declares: "We do not say that a man who takes no interest in politics minds his own business; we say he has no business here at all." In Athens to be unengaged was to be useless and worthless. And yet nowadays, apathy in making your voice heard, especially among the young, is all too prevalent. Indeed, in the 2015 General Election only 56% of 18 – 24 year-olds exercised their right to vote.

Within this context, recent events have proved that RGS students are more than aware of the world outside the confines of the School and Surrey, and their associated responsibilities. This week the School held a snap mock General Election and despite the obvious distractions of imminent public examinations, campaigns were run with no little energy, wit, insight and irreverence. A turnout of over 75% of the boys over one lunch hour proved their levels of engagement and highlighted that our student body not only has the compassion and the ability but also the desire to engage in the electoral process. Our boys value the all-too-important right to vote and this can only be a good thing for the future.

Latest News

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Biology: RGS Fourth Form students set a new record for the School with a very successful year in the Biology Challenge, achieving 20 gold, 22 silver and 20 bronze awards. **Oliver Perkins** (4B) gained the highest mark out of the RGS cohort with an impressive score of 89.

Chemistry: This year's prestigious UK Chemistry Olympiad competition attracted 5,386 entries and once again the RGS achieved astonishing results: six gold awards (two of which were from Lower Sixth Form students); 29 silver; and 13 bronze. **Adam Wills** (L6) set a new school record for the highest mark achieved by a Lower Sixth Former beating the previous record set by Martin Dibb-Fuller by a single mark.

Drama: Right from the initial welcome from **Matthew Sargent** (L6) as the charismatic and erudite Station Master, the audience of *RGS Linguists and Other Animals* was transported on a transatlantic train journey from Mexico, to Saudi Arabia, to France, to Germany, with the final destination China. The use of masks – as well as the imaginative and emotive music, costume, lighting, animation and staging – added to the exotic mystery as the characters effectively conveyed each scene through expressive and engaging delivery which meant that even the most linguistically-challenged members of the audience enjoyed the full global experience. To pick out individuals from such a talented cast would be invidious but **Nicholas Hall** (U6) deserved special mention as he displayed extraordinary diversity to capture with equal authenticity both the rustic farmer in Spanish and the utterly mesmerising paranoid madman in Chinese.

Music: One of the musical highlights of the year took place at Holy Trinity Church as four of the RGS's most talented musicians performed an evening of concertos with the South's leading professional freelance orchestra, *Southern Pro Musica*. Conducted by Director of Music, Peter White, the musicianship of the four soloists – **Alexander Acomb** (L6), **Joseph Bate** (U6), **Alastair Baumann** (U6) and **Callum Champion** (U6) – was simply breathtaking and with a programme ranging from Elgar, to Lalo, to Rosauro, to Tchaikovsky, the audience experienced an evening of exquisite performance. On an individual level, **Ronan Thomas** (U6) has been awarded a Distinction for his ABRSM Violin Diploma examination.

Quiz: The Junior Schools Challenge quiz team of **Ferdinand Al-Qassab** (1R), **Joshua McGillivray** (1P), **Alex Mitchell** (2E) and **Sebastian Norris** (2E) were crowned regional champions after emerging victorious in the Regional Final against Dulwich Prep School.

Sports News

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Chess: **Alexander Golding** (2L) has been selected to play for England in the European Youth Championships in Romania. Alexander is currently the highest ranked player in England for his age and has recently become the 2017 English Youth Grand Prix Under 14 Champion (the fourth time in five years that he has won his age-group title), and also finished first in the National Junior Squad Under 14 Championship.

Cricket: The opening block fixture of the term against Lancing College provided the away teams with the picturesque backdrop of the largest school chapel in the world. Undaunted by this, RGS teams enjoyed an excellent day winning all their matches, and the junior teams followed suit with six out of six wins against Portsmouth Grammar School. For the 1st XI, **Abhay Gonella** (5A) scored 60 and then took 5 – 17, while **Harrison Green** (L6) made 105*. Other highlights with the bat included 88 for **Harry Relph** (4A) and 100* for **Joe Sheldon** (2P); with the ball **Alexander Tiplady** (4P) finished with figures of 4 – 4 and **Ishan Nathan** (2P) 4 – 8 for the Under 15A and 13A teams respectively. The 1st XI then continued their excellent start with a 19-run win over Trinity School; Abhay scored 105 while Harrison achieved 72*. Other highlights against Trinity School included **Finn Cooper** (3S) with 82* for the Under 14Bs, **Thomas Humphreys** (1C) with 81 for the Under 12As and **Charles Kershaw** (4B) with bowling figures of 5 – 20 for the Under 15As.

Hockey: In the Under 18 Plate Finals of the National Schools competition, the 1st XI secured the bronze medal after an impressive performance against a strong team from Millfield School. **William Norton** (U6) scored the winning goal.

Rowing: **Joseph Bryant** (3E) was part of the quad representing the Thames London region which won the Junior Rowing Nationals to be crowned Junior National Champions.

Shooting: In the Combined Cadet Force's major smallbore competition, the RGS came second; our captain **Alexander Jones** (U6) achieved the only maximum score of 95. In the Surrey ten-bull competition our senior four managed to win the Lord Mancroft Trophy after, frustratingly, finishing second for the past seven years. Our second place in the Country Life competition was, therefore, the only time that the RGS did not come in first place in any match or competition throughout the whole of last term: a phenomenal achievement.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Wednesday 10 May	<i>Life after the RGS</i> Reception for Upper Sixth Parents in Big School
Monday 15 May	AS Level Examinations start
Wednesday 17 May	A Level Examinations start
Friday 19 May	Upper Sixth Form Study Leave begins