



### From the Headmaster

The RGS has always focused on the value of inspiring the students so that there is a culture where a love of learning is at its core. If the boys are to receive a stimulating, challenging education which fosters a sense of wonder and enquiry then it is of equal importance that the staff body is likewise enriched. Indeed, it is often said that a school's most valuable resource is its staff and I feel very fortunate to have such a dedicated team, both support and teaching.

The School takes genuine pride in a structured programme of Continuing Professional Development for all our staff and, among other things, this term's training will focus on bringing out the best in individuals irrespective of their learning styles and needs, and will also address further the all-too-important concepts of wellbeing and resilience. In addition, an integral – and, indeed, unique – part of our professional development is offering the staff an enrichment opportunity whereby individuals broaden themselves in a way which will further improve the quality of the teaching or support provision. A dynamic, energised staff can only be to the benefit of the boys and help to ensure that there continues to be an ethos at the RGS whereby a love of learning and a thirst for personal development is at the very heart of what we, as a community, believe in. No institution can afford to stagnate and through this restless desire to improve as professionals we can strive to bring out the very best in every single student at the RGS.

### Latest News

[View the full news archive](#)

**Engineering:** RGS boys were among students from Surrey completing a six-month STEM challenge (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) developing solutions to real-life engineering projects. The STEM Festival, held at BP's International Centre for Business and Technology (ICBT) in West London, is the culmination of that project and gives the teams an opportunity to present their findings to parents, teachers and a panel of judges. The RGS team won the coveted *Pupils Choice Award* on a project entitled *Challenging Environments*.

**Geography:** **Oliver Perkins** (4B) has published an online book entitled *The Message of the Clouds* investigating how to use clouds to forecast the weather. The foreword to this sophisticated and academic work is written by Tom Cunliffe, author and yachtmaster, and the book is already receiving rave reviews: <http://oliverperkins.com/the-message-of-the-clouds-book/>.

**Literature:** The School was delighted to welcome Chris Bradford, the author of the exciting Young Samurai and Bodyguard series. In a hugely entertaining and successful day, he showed off his skills in martial arts, sword skills and surveillance to the junior boys, as well as demonstrating defence techniques and answering questions with boys of all ages in the Mallison Library.

**Mathematics:** Out of an entry of approximately 200,000 students in the national Junior Mathematics Challenge, RGS students achieved extraordinary success: an impressive 37 Gold, 26 Silver and 21 Bronze certificates. **Hassan Ishaque** (2L) led the way with 113 points; he now qualifies for the Junior Olympiad along with **Alexander Golding** (2L) and **Sebastian Norris** (2E). In addition, 13 other students qualified for the Kangaroo round with **Oliver Liversedge** (2E) and **Jacques Pressley** (2E) joint top scorers with 105.

**Quiz:** The Junior Schools Challenge quiz team of **Ferdy Al-Qassab** (1R), **Joshua McGillivray** (1P), **Alex Mitchell** (2E) and **Sebastian Norris** (2E) have qualified for the National Finals – the final eight schools – in Hull after a convincing away win at Bournemouth School for Girls in the inter-regional round.

**Young Enterprise:** In the Surrey Young Enterprise Finals, *Zenith* won *Best Presentation* and *Best Use of Technology* and wowed the judges with their digital buying system. *GoBillou* was awarded *Best Reports and Accounts* with glowing praise from the judges. With three of the five awards under our belt, the RGS topped a highly successful evening with the news that *GoBillou* had been crowned as the winning team; they now progress to the south-east regional finals.

## Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

**Badminton:** **Sam Baker** (2L) won a gold medal in the Under 14 York Open Singles event. He then won silver as part of the Surrey county team in the subsequent inter-county event.

**Cricket:** In the block fixture against Trinity School Croydon, RGS teams enjoyed notable success. The three Under 15 teams secured a clean sweep of victories and it was a good day for the batsmen as **Alastair Curran** (U6) scored 73 for the 1st XI and **Tom Hardy** (4P) finished 78\* for the Under 15Cs. The junior teams enjoyed across-the-board success as they chalked up a full set of wins; performance of the day came from **Thomas Humphreys** (1C) with an impressive 107\* for the Under 12As. Against Reed's School the junior teams again dominated with six out of six wins for the Under 12 and Under 13 sides. The undoubted highlight of the day was Thomas who eclipsed his previous weekend's score with an astonishing 150\*.

**Fencing:** In the British Youth Fencing Championships Under 14 Épée, **Leo Kamstra** (2C) finished in twenty-first place. Leo won four fights out of five in the opening rounds before suffering a narrow 13 – 15 defeat in the final 32.

**Sailing:** The sailing team competed at the BSDRA Easterns. A team of mainly Fourth Form boys acquitted themselves superbly finishing fifth out of 13 teams against some tough competition from schools who were represented by their senior quads.

**Shooting:** Our team took part in a five-way match against Bradfield College, Epsom College, St John's School Leatherhead and Wellington College and continued our good form by beating all the other schools. Firing at 300 and 600 yards our VIII scored 500 points, six more than our nearest rivals Wellington College. **Alfie Hellings** (L6) was the highest scorer of all the firers, gaining an impressive 68/70. At the Surrey Schools' Meeting our VIII came second and won the Surrey Challenge Bowl for the best Surrey school.

## Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 22 May	Field Day 4
Thursday 25 – Friday 26 May	Staff Inset Days
Monday 29 May	Half Term starts
Monday 5 June	School Examination Week starts