



From the Headmaster

The backdrop of the recent tragic events in London, Manchester and Paris have been a sobering reminder of what matters most in life and how core values must remain at the very heart of what we stand for, values which are so much more than mere words and empty rhetoric.

As a country we must celebrate and protect democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and, perhaps most importantly, the mutual respect for, and tolerance of, those with different faiths and beliefs. The values of the RGS, which could be regarded as old fashioned and outdated, in fact could not be more relevant in the current climate. Showing care, consideration and compassion in all that we do and celebrating mutual respect, tolerance and individuality are the hallmarks of our community. All too often it is easy to regard diversity as a threat. In fact, our differences of viewpoint, politics, religion and language enrich our experiences and broaden our horizons, challenging students to reassess their thoughts in the light of others. Indeed, I hope that our links with schools in Cambodia, Nepal and Qatar go some way to establishing the global view that we are all connected and that we can all learn from each other.

I have just had the pleasure of reading the first draft of Nigel Watson's new *History of the School* and he acknowledges that as far back as the 1500s, moral instruction was integral to the education provided at the RGS. The statutes laid down that, "Honesty and cleanness of life, gentle, decent speeches, humility, courtesy, and good manners shall be established by all good means." Five hundred years later, I genuinely believe that our students continue to display these qualities and I hope that the preservation of such values can be a source of hope for the future.

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Charity: At a time when the RGS is actively embracing such intrinsically valuable habits as tenacity, creativity, precision, imitation, independence and reacting positively to failure, the annual Great RGS Bake Off provided the ultimate test of all of these and more! With the book-inspired theme, cakes reflected this colourfully and imaginatively, from the cerebral to the more surprising. *Spot the Dog* made an appearance in a hamper, while others sought inspiration from the *Hungry Caterpillar*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Alice in Wonderland*; even the Periodic Table was showcased! The standard across the board from staff and students was extraordinary as the panel of judges including the Headmaster rated the cakes on taste, presentation and wow factor. Katherine Walker won first prize in the staff competition with Mr McGregor's Garden from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, while **Thomas Ward** (2P) secured first place with his cake inspired by *Animal Farm*. As the post event clean-up operation continued across kitchens throughout Surrey, the event had proved a great success both for the nominated charities as well as the school community which spent the day devoted to dedicated cake consumption.

Field Day: A very busy and varied programme saw all students engaged in a day of co-curricular activities as the School suspended the timetable for the fourth of the five Field Days this academic year. The Army cadets, Tangier Company, spent the day at Longmoor Camp participating in a range of activities which combined marksmanship with fieldcraft and physical challenges. The RAF cadets took part in an overnight exercise on Longmoor Training Area, constructing a shelter before a night-navigation exercise and orienteering course while trying to avoid the NCOs who were patrolling the area. Some Royal Navy cadets completed an RYA (Royal Yachting Association) sea survival course: having learned the theory with the instructor they then went to the Spectrum to put what they had learned into practice including life-raft drills. Other Royal Navy cadets went to Papercourt Sailing Club for a full day of dinghy sailing. In addition, other activities included: a mountain biking and orienteering activity day on Holmbury Hill; a two-day overnight Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice expedition on the North Downs, walking from Hindhead back to the RGS via an overnight camp at Tilford; a cryptic treasure trail for the Explorer Scouts in London; a trip focusing on adaptation, with a backdrop of whooping gibbons, at Marwell Zoo for the Second Form; and many others besides! Field Day 5 takes place in the penultimate week of term on Monday 26 June.

Sports News

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Athletics: **Ben Watkins** (3C) competed in the Surrey Schools' Combined Events Athletics Championships in Crawley. He came second overall in his first ever combined events competition, achieving Personal Bests in every event in the process.

Cricket: Before half term, RGS teams pitted their wits against Hampton School and Hurstpierpoint College. Against Hurst, the Under 15s enjoyed particular success winning all the games in their age group. The Under 15As 61-run victory was aided by **Harry Relph** (4A) scoring 54 and **Alexander Tiplady** (4P) finishing with extraordinary bowling figures of 6 – 1. Highlight of the day for the seniors came from **Dominic Rosevear** (5H) who made 85 for the 2nd XI. In the junior matches against Hampton School, the performance of the day came from the Under 12A team which won by nine wickets, while individual performance of the day came from **Matthew Slominski** (2E) who scored 62 for the Under 13B team.

Fencing: **Leo Kamstra** (2C) achieved his finest result to date by winning a bronze medal in Challenge International de Dieppe Under 14 Épée, a very strong international event. He was the highest placed Briton in a field of 42 fencers. Leo lost the semi-final 9 – 10 to the eventual champion.

Hockey: **Fraser Boulton** (L6) has been selected for the Wales Under 18 hockey development squad and has played a number of training matches in recent weeks.

Rugby: Second Form students **Jack Doyle**, **Thomas Reid** and **Charlie Woodfine** have all been selected for the Surrey Rugby Development Squad.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 12 June Lower Sixth Form return to school

Tuesday 20 June RGS Bursary Campaign Dinner in Big School

Wednesday 21 June New Boys' Reception afternoon

Friday 23 June Sports Day at Guildford Spectrum