



### From the Headmaster

A school Sports Day is one of the most evocative elements of school life to old and young alike, for many parents immediately conjuring up memories of grass tracks, sunbaked afternoons and old-school egg-and-spoon or sack races. The competitive element of this event, however, has been a sensitive subject in education in recent years. A survey in 2010 provided the alarming statistic that two out of three schools ensured all students were rewarded on sports days to ensure that nobody felt left out: the argument centred around inclusivity, praising all equally, and minimising disappointment or disillusionment. This seemed all the more ironic as the very phraseology of athletics focuses around excellence and dedication: *setting the bar high, achieving a personal best, going the extra mile*, to name but a few. Indeed, the motto of the ultimate Sports Day – the Olympic Games – *citius, altius, fortius* meaning *faster, higher, stronger* champions pushing oneself to achieve exceptional performance.

At the RGS as well as celebrating participation, we unashamedly celebrate success. Learning to cope with disappointment, under-performance and frustration are more valuable than winning if lessons can be learned and put into practice on future occasions. Healthy competition spurs each individual to push themselves that little bit further and the supportive, positive atmosphere of today's Sports Day highlighted the impact of such solidarity. I have no doubt that healthy competition within a supportive, nurturing environment is to the benefit of every individual – both winners and the not-quite winners – and this mindset will ensure that our students stay *right on track* throughout their school careers and beyond.

### Latest News

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**New Boys Reception:** On officially the hottest June day since 1976, we were able to provide a genuinely warm – possibly too warm – welcome to the School to the new boys and parents who will be joining us in September for the reception afternoon. The energy and excitement of the boys were palpable as a new cohort, with their future RGS careers ahead of them, met together for the first time. It was a real pleasure to talk to so many boys about their hopes and aspirations for the next stage of their education and we look forward to seeing the impact of this talented fresh intake.

**Staff:** The prospect of a summer's day spent on the picturesque South Downs Way should conjure up images of a clichéd idyll of British summertime. Instead for 28 members of RGS staff, from the young to the slightly less young but still young at heart, the experience proved synonymous with pain, sweat and tears! On one of the hottest days of the year with temperatures soaring to over 30 degrees, seven teams of four runners each participated in the South Downs Way Relay Marathon from Slindon College to Queen Elizabeth Country Park. With a succession of hills, difficult terrain and extended sun exposure to contend with, the staff did phenomenally well with all seven teams finishing in times under 4 hours 40 minutes. The

winning RGS team, comprising Miss Goul-Wheeker and Messrs Gyford, Wright and Woolcott, finished in an impressive time of 3 hours 48 minutes. Mrs Perrett who co-ordinated the RGS teams commented, "I was really proud of all the staff who defied really challenging conditions to complete the relay marathon. The mutual support, humour and camaraderie were very much in evidence and helped to get us all over the line."

**Young Enterprise:** RGS team *GoBillou* had the honour of representing Surrey in the Young Enterprise Regional Finals at Dorking Halls. The team was fantastic at every stage, their stand was extremely professional, and the addition of aprons, bow ties and hats were received with great enthusiasm! They represented themselves well throughout the gruelling hour of interviews and got across all their key messages as well as being interviewed, again, on BBC Radio Surrey. The team won *Best Advert* and now go on to represent the South East in the National Finals: a deserved achievement for an innovative and professional team.

## Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

**Cricket:** As the season draws to a close, RGS teams have continued to enjoy very successful seasons. In the block fixture against Dulwich College, RGS teams secured an impressive 10 wins, including a clean sweep of victories for the Under 15s, 13s and 12s. Highlights with the bat included **Luke Turner** (3C) with 92 for the Under 15B team, **Lewis Hill** (3R) with 70\* for the Under 14As and **Harry James** (3C) 87\* for the Under 14Bs. With the ball **George Kemkers** (3P) finished with extraordinary figures of 5 – 1 for the Under 14As. This was followed by a weekend of matches against Cranleigh School for the seniors and Eltham College for the juniors, with nine wins recorded and another full set of wins for the Under 13 and 12 sides. Highlight of the day came from **Thomas Reid** (2E) who made 88 for the Under 13As.

**Fencing:** In the England Youth Fencing Championships, **Leo Kamstra** (2C) came fifth in the Under 13 Épée and **James Harper-Jones** (1L) came 62nd in the Under 13 Foil. Leo earned 712 points towards his qualification for the Under 15 England Squad and he is currently fifth in the England ranking; he is in a strong position as 12 fencers in total will be selected.

**Tennis:** The Under 15 and 13 teams have both qualified top of their group for the next round of the Aegon Team Tennis Competition. Both teams secured 8 – 4 victories over George Abbot School in the latest round of matches.

## Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Friday 23 June	Performance of <i>Dido and Aeneas</i> in the Old Building (for two nights)
Monday 26 June	Field Day 5
Wednesday 28 June	Charity Bands Concert in the Auditorium
Thursday 29 June	Piano Recital by Michael Lan (OG) in the Rehearsal Room
Friday 30 June	Leavers' Ceremony in Holy Trinity Church Leavers' Ball in the Old and Main Buildings
Sunday 2 July	Headmaster's XI v OGs' XI Cricket Match at Bradstone Brook
Monday 3 July	RGS Cricket Festival begins (for five days) Art Department Private View in the Art School
Tuesday 4 July	Junior Prizegiving in Holy Trinity Church
Friday 7 July	Term Ends

