



### From the Headmaster

Mythology and folklore are littered with tales which serve to illustrate the power derived from unity and cohesion. Aesop's fable about the bundle of sticks and the symbolism of the Roman *fascēs* are just two such examples. Irrespective of the era, the culture or the specific details, each story shares a similar message: no individual is greater than the sum of its parts. Solidarity combined with a shared focus and vision provide a strength and a bond which are substantially more powerful than each individual component.

As I reflect upon this academic year at the RGS and those moments which stand out, so many of them derive not solely from the talent of individuals – students and staff – but from the result of teamwork which have served to raise the bar of aspiration and allow phenomenal levels of achievement: on the sports ground, in the artistic, dramatic and musical fields, in the academic and co-curricular spheres, and so on. One of the most distinctive features of the RGS is that, rather than creating jealousy or resentment, success is infectious and individuals go out of their way to support each other and share in the communal achievement. A quote by Nicholas Sparks seems to sum this up. *"Sometimes the most ordinary things could be made extraordinary simply by doing them with the right people."* At the RGS I am proud to say that we most certainly do have the right people, and we most certainly do achieve extraordinary things.

As the boys break-up for a very well-deserved rest, I would like to thank you, the parents, as well as the staff, the governors and all those who have contributed so much to this academic year. It has been a memorable twelve months and every individual has had a part to play in our shared successes.

I wish you all a very relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

### Latest News

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**Biology:** In the Royal Society of Biology's Intermediate Biology Olympiad RGS boys achieved five gold, five silver, six bronze, six highly commended and one commended awards. Over 5,600 students in the UK took part and our gold medallists achieved top 7% national ranking.

**Charity:** Including the recent Junior School Charity Stalls event, an incredible £15,492.58 has been raised so far this year for our three nominated school charities: *Shooting Star Chase*, *Parkinson's UK* and *Born in Africa*. Thank you to all those who have so generously donated their time, money and energy.

**Chemistry:** In the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge from 7,056 initial entries **Jack Xia** (L6) has been invited to the Cambridge Training Camp as a result of his Roentgenium Award. In total RGS students received one Roentgenium, 11 Gold, 10 Silver and 14 Copper Awards in total. **Adam Wills** (L6) finished in the top 1.2% while **Benjamin Steel** (L6) secured a top 1.6% finish.

**Events:** A packed final fortnight of term has seen a succession of high-profile events: the opera *Dido and Aeneas*; Field Day 5; the Second and Third Form House Drama competitions; the String Scheme Concert; the Charity Bands Concert; the Michael Lan Piano Recital; the Leavers' Ceremony; the Leavers' Ball; the Great Egg Race; the Art Private View; Junior Prizegiving; Economics Speakers Day and Swimming Sports. Each event has been highly successful and serves to illustrate the sheer diversity – and intensity – of life at the RGS.

**Music:** **Edward Ball** (U6) gained a London College of Music Performance Diploma on the harp (DipLCM) with an exceptional mark of 92% (distinction).

**National Recognition:** Two Sixth Form students have impressed in Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University, competitions. **Matthew Leslie** (L6) won the prestigious Land Economy essay competition for his research on regional inequality in the UK; **Nicholas Ratcliffe** (L6) won their inaugural Design Competition, designing an extension for the College Library. Meanwhile, the RGS team won the Institute of Mechanical Engineers Award for Engineering Design at the Big Bang Science Fair.

**Quiz:** Our Junior Quiz Team has been crowned National Junior Schools Challenge champions after wins over King Edward VI, Louth, Dragon School, Oxford and King Edward VI, Stratford.

**Staff:** We are bidding a sad farewell to the following members of staff: Miss Sophie Blair, Miss Victoria Henshaw, Mr Ken Knight, Mrs Nicole Knight, Mr Phil Leamon, Miss Karen Price, Mr Tom Rogers, Mr Tim Rothwell, Mr Andy Skitt and Miss Lucy Simpson. In addition, Dr Steve Thornhill retires after a long association with the RGS. Since joining the School in 1989 as Head of Science, he subsequently took on the role of Head of Physics as well. Dr Thornhill has been a master practitioner, an inspirational teacher who is highly respected by all in this school as well as those in wider educational circles. We thank all the staff who are leaving and wish them all the very best in the future.

## Sports News

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**Athletics:** At Sports Day, four records were broken: **Jamie Stratford** (3E) in the 100 metres (11.7 seconds); **Matthew Harris** (4H) in the 200 metres (22.58 seconds); **Jack Doyle** (2E) in the javelin (27.92 metres); and **George Eves** (L6) in the Open 100 metres (11.1 seconds). Beckingham House won the overall competition.

**Basketball:** **Findlay Laffan** (2L) was part of the victorious Under 13 Surrey County basketball team in the County Championships.

**Chess:** In the England Chess Federation School Championships, the RGS Under 19 team beat Hampton School in the final to be crowned national chess champions.

**Cricket:** The Under 13As won the semi-final of the County Cup against Cumnor House before narrowly losing in the final to Trinity School. In the block fixture against St John's School Leatherhead, RGS teams won eight matches with the Under 15, Under 13 and Under 12 age groups all emerging victorious. The undoubted highlight with the ball was **Yuvraj Gandhi** (3S) with 6 – 12 for the Under 14Bs; with the bat **Jack Paulson** (4B) scored 73\* while **Joe Sheldon** (2P) scored 82. Finally, against St Paul's School, the Under 13s excelled with two strong wins. **Abhay Gonella** (5A) scored 90 for the 1st XI; stand-out performance of the day, however, was **Jack Donnelly** (4V) with 114\* for the Under 15Bs.

**Fencing:** In the Surrey County Foil Championships, our Under 14 team was crowned county champions, having remained unbeaten throughout the tournament.

**RGS Cricket Festival:** Coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the festival which was initiated by former Head of Cricket, Steve Shore, the RGS has hosted the tournament which sees all six Royal Grammar Schools competing for the trophy. With just the final day of the festival to come, RGS Guildford has so far seen off all the other teams with four successive wins; the final match is against Worcester.

**Sailing:** **Oliver Perkins** (4B) and **Etienne Westphal** (4A) came fourth at Itchenor Schools week.

