



From the Headmaster

As the poet Robert Laurence Binyon wrote in his poem entitled *For the Fallen*, published in *The Times* on 21st September 1914, and now synonymous with the spirit of remembrance: *"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."*

The School provides enduring memorials to ensure we will, indeed, remember them. The board in Big School, pictured above, individually names the 58 Old Guildfordians who tragically lost their lives between 1914 – 18; a further 96 are recorded on the board commemorating 1939 – 45 in the same historic location. In addition to these very visible records, our annual Remembrance Service provides the opportunity for the School to come together to acknowledge our debt to those who served in the World Wars and in recent conflict, and to reflect upon their sacrifices.

The service was particularly poignant as the RGS welcomed a number of eminent and decorated Old Guildfordians to mark the occasion. Laurie Weeden (OG 1938) laid a wreath in memory of the old boys, while School Captain, James Dickinson, laid a wreath on behalf of the staff and students of the School. The addresses then provided an insight into the act of remembrance from different perspectives. Two Third Form boys – George McGrath and Michael McNally – read out beautiful poems which they had composed on the theme of remembrance. This was followed by an address from our Head of History, Mr Bass, who spoke on the value of pausing and reflection.

A moving and very personal service proved thought-provoking and emotive for boys, staff and Old Guildfordians alike. Despite the famous lines quoted above, it is perhaps the lesser known parts of the same poem by Binyon, however, which resonate for us as a school. The poet notes the youthful tragedy of the war losses: *"They went with songs to the battle, they were young, straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow."* This only serves to make the impact of their deaths all the more acute: *"They mingle not with their laughing comrades again; they sit no more at familiar tables of home."* As the boards in Big School commemorate and as Binyon said, *"We will remember them."*

Latest News

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Academic: The ninth annual Independent Learning Assignment Presentation Evening impressed and bewildered in equal measure as the boys delivered presentations with an extraordinary level of sophistication and complexity. Subjects ranged from social inequality to breach of contract, from modelling water to Islamic religion, from translation of literature to whether the ancient Greeks, given a rocket, could have reached the moon. After a succession of erudite talks and lengthy deliberation from the judges, the ILA trophy was awarded to **Matthew Sargent** (U6) for tackling the complex issue of Pericles' rule and its perception with extraordinary fluency, confidence and passion.

Literature: Author of a book shortlisted for the *Trinity Schools Book Awards*, Sarah Govett talked about her inspiration for *The Territory* and how dystopias have always reflected the concerns of the society: issues around allocation of resources, financial and educational inequality and assessment of ability.

Trips: Over half term 155 boys and 23 staff were involved in trips both locally and further afield on a range of academic and co-curricular activities. These included the junior surfing trip to Cornwall, the Biology field trip to Pembrokeshire, the Under 15 rugby tour to Edinburgh, the Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Gold practice expeditions to the Brecon Beacons, the History and German trip to Berlin and the Physics trip to CERN in Switzerland.

Sports News

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Chess: The 1st team beat Trinity School Croydon 6 – 0, while the 2nd team continued the School’s excellent recent form with a 4 – 2 victory over Sutton Grammar School.

Fencing: In the Cocks Moors Woods Épée Championships at Under 13 level, **Leo Kamstra** (3C) emerged as bronze medallist while **Frederick Edgecliffe-Johnson** (3S) finished in seventh place.

Hockey: **Edward Ferguson** (L6) has been selected for the prestigious England Hockey Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence programme run by England Hockey and Loughborough University.

Karate: **Alexander Jackson** (1E), who achieved his black belt in karate a year ago, recently won the gold medal in a prestigious karate competition in Hemel Hempstead.

Rugby: After nearly a month since the last block fixture, 21 RGS rugby sides were back in action against Cranleigh School and Portsmouth Grammar School. Honours ended even in the junior fixtures against Portsmouth with three wins a piece. Against Cranleigh, highlights included the Under 15A’s performance. The boys played with excellent positional rugby and dominant forward play in their outstanding 17 – 7 victory. **Jamie Stratford** (4A) capped a fine individual performance with a match-winning try and **Thomas Roberts** (4A) kicked superbly under pressure to ensure victory.

Shooting: The VIII was in action against Epsom College, competing against them in a 10-bull match for the first time. The RGS won convincingly by 744 to 715 with **Luca O’Flynn** (L6) top scorer with 97/100. In the pairs match the RGS occupied the first three positions; **John Matheson** (4N) was top scorer with 93.

Squash: In the National Schools Squash League, the Under 19 team beat Guildford County School 3 – 2.

Tae Kwon Do: Despite only taking up the sport in January of this year, **Dimitri Perricos** (5H) entered the British Open Championships and won a silver medal in sparring. This is a fine achievement as he was competing against people who were up to three belt grades above him.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 20 November	Staff Inset Day: no school for students
Tuesday 21 November	Monday Timetable
Wednesday 22 November	Ensembles Concert in the Auditorium
Tuesday 28 November	Fourth Form Parents’ Evening in Great Hall and John Brown Building
Wednesday 29 November	Lower Sixth Form <i>Preparation for University</i> seminar in Great Hall
Thursday 30 November	RGS Christmas Fair in Great Hall

