



From the Headmaster

The town of Guildford is currently bucking a national trend which continues to be at the heart of heated discussion in the press; the single-sex versus co-education debate flared up again in the light of the release of league tables in *The Sunday Times Parent Power 2017* this week. The head of a leading independent school suggested pupils at girls-only institutions were at “a huge disadvantage” living in “a deeply unrealistic world” as they risked growing up unable to communicate with the opposite sex.

The number of single-sex schools continues to drop and yet the RGS remains proud to have offered boys-only education in the centre of Guildford for over 500 years, an education which not only allows students to emerge with exceptional results, as evidenced by our elevated position in *The Sunday Times* league tables, but also to develop into confident, grounded, thoroughly decent individuals. The smooth co-existence with the neighbouring girls schools means that RGS boys get the very best of both worlds: an education tailored for boys where the teaching and support are geared specifically to the learning style of boys without stereotype, prejudice or distraction, while in every other way allowing the boys – with the freedom which a town-centre school affords – to enjoy healthy and normal interaction with girls in the academic, artistic, co-curricular and social spheres.

To provide balance, however, the picture has not always been so rosy. Nigel Watson in the *School History* notes that in 1952 the Headmaster, Michael Hallows, gave his blessing to the first formal links with the local girls' schools, starting with a formal Sixth Form dance in Holy Trinity Hall. The history records: “Apparently the dancing skills of many of the boys left much to be desired, with their partners resorting to inventing new steps to keep them on the dance floor – ‘the results’, reported the school magazine, ‘would have paralysed Victor Sylvester (a noted dance band leader of the day)!”

There are great schools which are single-sex or co-educational, which are day or boarding, which are independent or maintained: the important thing is not, however, the label but an institution in which students are happy, have the scope to flourish and grow, and where they can fulfil their potential. It is in this light that we continue to be proud of all those boys who have worn, and currently wear, the RGS blazer.

Latest News

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Music: After a very successful and enjoyable Ensembles Concert, the Joint Chamber Choir of the RGS and GHS sang Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral. The repertoire included the soaring lines of Howell's beautiful *Collegium Regale* setting of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*, which filled the enormous acoustic. The intonation of the choir and their dynamic variety were impressive throughout but particular mention should be made of **Yousuf Mirza** (U6) and **Ridley Hymas** (L6) who jointly sang the Tenor solo in Howell's *Nunc Dimittis* with tenderness. The choir then performed Henry Balfour Gardiner's Evening Hymn, *Te lucis ante terminum*. The long, seamless phrases, carefully written dynamic changes and effective use of harmonies,

drew the service to a close. The congregation were also treated to a stunning version of the *Allegretto* from Mendelssohn's Organ Sonata in B Flat Major performed by **Nicholas Edwards** (U6). A truly memorable evening provided an experience which will stay with the members of the choir for many years to come.

Young Enterprise: Six of our *Young Enterprise* businesses took part in a Dragons'-Den-style event at the Guildhall in Guildford. The competition was very high but all of our businesses presented a clear business strategy with confidence, detail and passion, responding well to tough questioning. In an unprecedented result, our businesses were awarded first and second place: *Edunow* was placed first for their revision website, taking the £100 prize money; *Evo* took second place for their teenage survival guide.

Sports News

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Chess: In the top division of the Surrey Chess League, the RGS played Hampton School. Our 1st team won and, although our 2nd team lost, they played extremely well to take two points off Hampton's top team.

Cross-Country: In the Judge Cup held at Tiffin School, the RGS team came third overall: an excellent result against the best schools in the South East. The intermediate team competed in the English Schools finals where, from over 340 schools, the RGS squad reached the final for the third consecutive year, being placed a creditable 11th overall. In a high-class field of over 150 runners **Samuel Martin** (4H) finished seventh.

Fencing: **Leo Kamstra** (3C) has been selected to be a member of the Under 15 England Fencing Squad, having finished ninth in the England ranking with 2,555 points. His successes this year include three silver and bronze medals in qualifying competitions and a fifth place finish in the England Youth Championship.

Rugby: The highlights of a challenging block fixture against Epsom College were four wins for our Under 15 teams, scoring 131 points in the process; RGS teams emerged with nine victories overall. This was then followed by an equally competitive set of matches against Abingdon School. Performance of the day came from the Under 16Bs who won by a single point in a hard fought encounter with an excellent kicking display from **Harry Relph** (5A).

Shooting: Our VIII continued its winnings ways, defeating Lancing College by 755 to 715: **Balazs Rigo** (5H) was top scorer with a superb 99/100 while **Luke Grivell** (5H) won the reserve match. Against Wellington College, the RGS team suffered its first loss at smallbore for a year, going down by 764 to 753.

Swimming: Our junior team – **Alexander Atkinson** (2C), **Andrew Brett** (1C), **Alessandro Harker** (2L), **Tommi Nebuloni** (2P), **Milo O'Sullivan** (2P) and **Joseph Perry** (2E) – qualified for the English Schools Swimming Association National Finals at the London Aquatic Centre. The Freestyle Team performed superbly to come in a very close fourth out of 30 teams, only missing bronze by 0.06 seconds, and silver by 0.45 seconds. All the boys scored Personal Bests.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Tuesday 5 December	Market Day Concert in Holy Trinity Church
Wednesday 6 December	Orchestral Concert in Holy Trinity Church
Thursday 7 December	School Production of <i>Bugsy Malone</i> in the Auditorium (until Saturday)
Friday 8 December	Mufti Day for charity
Wednesday 13 December	School Carol Service in Holy Trinity Church
Thursday 14 December	Senior Carol Service in Guildford Cathedral
Friday 15 December	Term ends

