



### From the Headmaster

As the term finishes today, we are all looking forward to a well-deserved break after a very busy few months. As I read through both *The Bulletin* and also the termly newsletter *The Register*, once again we can celebrate so many successes in so many different areas. On this occasion, however, I do not want to focus on the obvious headlines. For every headline and every story, there is so much context which does not feature or gain the same level of profile. I am reminded of – what is increasingly and alarmingly becoming an outdated concept – the wristwatch. Traditional mechanical watches can have upwards of 200 individual, separate working parts: although no individual part is ever viewed, the efficiency and success of the timepiece rely not only on the functioning, but also the smooth co-operation and co-existence, of every single constituent item. If any one element does not work harmoniously then failure and breakdown result immediately.

As a community, this sense of the equal value of every single individual certainly holds true: the main parts in *Bugsy Malone*; the violin soloists in the Orchestral Concert; the try scorers against The Skinners' School all – deservedly – received the plaudits. I would like, however, to highlight all those individuals whose contributions did not take centre stage in the same way but without whom the events simply could not have taken place. The orchestra for *Bugsy Malone* is just one such example: no individual was ever seen by the audience, no one individual was more important than any other, no public profile was enjoyed and yet the harmonious cohesion of the orchestra produced a soundtrack of quite extraordinary professionalism. I could also mention the lighting team, the make-up artists, the stage crew, the props department, and so on: all understated, all behind the scenes, all essential.

As we look forward to a holiday spent with friends and families, I would like to thank every single wheel, every single cog and every single spring for ensuring that the RGS continues to tick like clockwork. As Helen Keller famously said about the power of unity: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

I wish you a very joyful and relaxing Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2018!

### Latest News

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**Chemistry:** Jack Xia (U6) was one of the top 55 students out of 7,056 participants in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and won a Roentgenium award. He attended a reception held in the Goldsmiths' Hall to receive a crystal trophy featuring an atomic orbital. Jack gave a presentation on the properties of silver at the event.

**Drama:** With two gangsters well and truly scrambled by splurge guns within the first couple of minutes, the audience was whisked into the – one moment gritty, next moment glamorous – world of 1920s Chicago mobs and street life. John Gray (3L) as Bugsy, Ishan Nathan (3P) as Fat Sam and Gabriel Levesque (3C) as Dandy Dan sold their roles with all the sizzle and razzle dazzle that you would expect, supported admirably

by an utterly convincing performance from the knuckle-cracking **Joseph Field** (4B) as Knuckles. Among a host of colourful, charismatic cameo roles, the double act of **Max Birtley** (3C) and **Toby Perryman** (3P) brilliantly conveyed the comedy and slapstick absurdity of O'Dreary and Smolsky. The well-known songs were joyfully delivered, augmented by slick choreography and phenomenally talented musicianship.

**Music:** An intense last few weeks of term has seen RGS musicians performing regularly, including the Market Day Concert and the Carol Services at Holy Trinity Church and the Cathedral. The Orchestral Concert was an evening showcasing the ballet music of Delibes, Gounod and Tchaikovsky, interspersed with some concerto and chamber music performances. The standard of musicianship was astonishing especially the four violin soloists: **Jonathan** (U6) and **Christopher Chong** (4P), **Thomas Chua** (L6) and **Henry White** (L6).

**Music:** **Sacha Meadowcroft** (4V) has been awarded his Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Gold Award: an extraordinary achievement for such a talented, understated musician.

**Science:** Upper Sixth Form students **Oren Hargreaves**, **Jack Lee**, **Ciaran O'Toole**, **Ewen Ward** and **Adam Wills** progressed to the finals of the Big Bang UK National Science and Engineering Competition, with their CREST Gold projects. The boys will be showcasing their projects to more than 70,000 people in the Big Bang Fair at the Birmingham NEC. Remarkably, this is the seventh consecutive year that RGS boys have made the final of this prestigious event.

## Sports News

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**Chess:** The 1st VI produced a convincing 6 – 0 victory against the International School, Egham; this was then followed up by 4½ – 1½ win against Sutton Grammar School.

**Fencing:** In the Hampshire Under 14 Foil, **Freddie Edgecliffe-Johnson** (3S) achieved silver narrowly losing 14 – 15 in the final. In the Surrey Men's Foil, **Freddie** finished seventh defeating the Under 16 county champion in the process. In the Surrey Men's Intermediate Épée, **Leo Kamstra** (3C) was gold medallist, while in the Men's Novice Épée **Sam Ellis** (L6) was also gold medallist; brothers **Kit Edgecliffe-Johnson** (L6) and **Freddie** finished sixth and eighth respectively in the Men's Épée Championship. These results were all the more impressive as all the boys were competing in an adult competition.

**Football:** The 1st XI showed composure and organisation to record a tight 0 – 0 draw against Lingfield College.

**Rugby:** In the penultimate block fixture of term, the junior teams completed a clean sweep of victories against King's College School, Wimbledon, averaging over 40 points scored in each of the games. The five senior teams also emerged victorious with the 1st XV narrowly edging a 21 – 17 win and the 2nd XV enjoying an even more dramatic 21 – 19 victory. The only fixtures to survive a heavy frost on the final weekend against The Skinners' School were the senior teams: the 1st and 3rd XVs rounded off their seasons with tight 19 – 17 victories.

**Shooting:** In the British Schools' Winter Open at Bisley against 200 other competitors, the RGS VIII came third, picking up bronze medals. The junior pair of **Thomas Randell** (5P) and **Balazs Rigo** (5H) came third in the junior pairs' competition; the RGS captain, **Alfie Hellings** (U6) not only came an impressive fifth overall but also won his age division, being the only firearm to score a maximum 100 in any set of ten scoring shots. The RGS VIII then won the Suffield-Jones/Hicks Trophy for the first time in three years: **Luca O'Flynn** (L6) was top scorer with a maximum 100. **Peter Wilkinson** (4V) and **John Matheson** (4N) won the pairs competition with 196/200.

**Tennis:** **Jamie Diack** (1P) was crowned tournament champion having won a regional Under 12 Grade 3 tennis competition in Suffolk.

