



ADMISSIONS OFFICE

From the Headmaster

It has been a busy start to the Lent Term for us all and none more so than for those candidates who are sitting the RGS 11+ Entrance Examinations this weekend and the members of the Upper Sixth Form who faced a nervous wait for news of whether their Oxbridge applications had been successful. The cyclical nature of school life is a familiar part of education: just as one year group which has made a profound impact upon the School prepares to leave, so another talented set of individuals looks forward to making its own impression upon the RGS. Meeting prospective pupils for the first time is traditionally an exciting time and we are looking forward to welcoming through our doors on Saturday just under 400 boys from 133 different schools, ranging from Guildford to Bahrain, Beijing to Dubai. The calibre of applicants continues to impress and this healthy competition for places and the quality of the intake continue to bode well for the future of the School.

Likewise, university entrance has never been more competitive; however, the period of anxiety for those boys who had applied to Cambridge and Oxford Universities was rewarded by an excellent 30 Oxbridge offers. 22 offers from Cambridge University and 8 from Oxford University spanned a vast number of courses with an equal split between the sciences and the arts/humanities/social sciences. All the boys who applied worked with commendable dedication and commitment and my thoughts go out to those very talented students who unfortunately just missed out on being made offers; they should all be proud of their efforts and take heart from the fact that a number of last year's students used the disappointment of missing out on an offer as a springboard to successful applications this time around.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Happy New Year and best wishes for 2018. I look forward to reflecting upon the individual and collective achievements of the boys in *The Bulletin* as the term progresses.

Latest News

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Chemistry: Cameron Allan (3E), Andrew Florescu (4H), Luke Nelson (5H) and Oliver Rathmell (3E) represented the RGS in a regional heat of the Royal Society of Chemistry's *Top of the Bench* competition. The boys tested their practical skills as well as knowledge against seven competing schools and were narrowly piped to first place.

Music: Nicholas Edwards (U6) and Samuel Jones (L6) took part in the London Organ Competition at St Clement Danes Church. The RGS musicians made a clean sweep of the top awards with Nicholas receiving the first prize and Samuel second place.

Programming: Four teams of students from across the School participated in the first ever RGS Maker Day. They were given computers, equipment and some support from staff and senior boys to build a *thing*, any kind of thing, to make the RGS better. The teams' work ethic was inspiring and the standards astoundingly high. Projects included various combinations of the school services – including *Firefly* and *Office 365* email – as well as a motion-activated intercom system and a purported redesign of the study area based on the most modern computing technology. The day proved to be a great success.

Promotional Film: Following on from the award-winning success of the *always part of the RGS* film, the School is delighted to be launching in the next few days a new promotional film. Entitled *a day in the life of*, the film shadows a student for a whole day and views a normal day at the RGS from his perspective, right from the wake-up alarm in the morning to his return home. At a time, from a marketing perspective, when authenticity is a buzz word we hope the film serves to highlight the energy, diversity and good humour of RGS students. Follow the School's social media channels for further information.

Trips: The day after the Michaelmas Term ended, 75 boys and 8 staff travelled to *Les Deux Alpes* in France for the annual snow sports trip. The season proved to be one of the best for the last five years, with plenty of snow on the ground, fresh snowfall and almost exclusively blue skies, providing fantastic skiing conditions. Evening activities consisted of movie nights, bowling, ice-skating, crêpe nights, fondues, quizzes and town tours. The boys had a fantastic time and made significant progress technically.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Chess: **James Dicker** (1P) competed in the Under 12 Minors section of the London Junior Chess Championship. After playing nine games in just over three days, each game averaging around two hours in duration, James managed to win the overall title, his biggest chess achievement to date.

Football: The 1st XI played their traditional beginning-of-season curtain raiser against the Old Guildfordians' XI. A competitive fixture finished 2 – 2 with goals from Upper Sixth Form boys **Bryn Bennet** and **George White**. This was then followed by the first block fixture of term against Royal Russell School; highlights included 2 – 1 victories for both the 3rd and 4th XIs.

Shooting: The School has continued its long and distinguished tradition in shooting with a succession of individual and team achievements. On an individual level, Lower Sixth Form students **Miles Horton-Baker** and **Luca O'Flynn** became the School's 28th and 29th Athelings since 1962. The Athelings, derived from the Old English word meaning prince or lord, is the title given to UK Cadets, aged under 19 years, who have been successful in the sport of target rifle shooting and represented Great Britain. Miles and Luca will be part of the tour to Canada this year. In addition, **Balazs Rigo** (5H) has also been shortlisted for the UK Under 17 cadet rifle squad. 12 from the 17 shortlisted cadets will make the team to tour Jersey in the summer.

Tennis: **Jamie Diack** (1P) has been selected to represent Great Britain in a friendly match against France in Paris and also the Tennis Europe Winter Cup, a European tournament where 22 countries compete in different pools. Great Britain has been drawn in a pool competing in Austria.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Saturday 13 January	RGS 11+ Entrance Examinations
Wednesday 17 January	Instrumental Teacher Parents' Evening in Big School
Tuesday 23 January	The Young Enterprise <i>Y Factor</i> competition in Great Hall
Friday 26 January	Careers Convention in Great Hall and the Auditorium

