



From the Headmaster

In recent times we have developed a penchant for naming and personifying natural phenomena: storms, hurricanes, tropical storms, cyclones, typhoons, none of them are exempt. In October 2013 the UK Met Office decided to introduce a storm-naming system following the St Jude's Day storm which claimed 17 lives in Europe. The rationale behind this was to raise the public awareness of storms, to improve public safety, and to prevent confusion with the media and the public using varying names for the same natural phenomenon. Aileen, Barbara and Gertrude have all battered our shores in recent years; indeed, we may well hear of Karen, Larry and Winifred later in the year!

Predictably and understandably in recent days, the media has become obsessional about the weather, with warnings of *The Beast from the East* and *The Hysteria from Siberia*, and headlines such as *From Russia... with gloves* and *Emmageddon*. All of this hype and the unreliability of forecasts make the unenviable job of making a call on school closure all the more challenging. Our primary concern is always the safety and wellbeing of students, parents and staff travelling to and from school and, as such, we liaise closely with local agencies and also the other local schools. We are fully aware of the significant implications any school closure places on parents and students and we are extremely grateful for your support over the last few days; we very much hope that there will be no further disruption this academic year. We apologise for any inconvenience to you.

Latest News

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Chemistry: The RGS entered four teams into this year's *Royal Society of Chemistry Challenge*. The team comprising **Henry Benett (4B)**, **Andrew Florescu (4H)**, **Muhammed Hussain (4N)** and **Salvatore Nigrelli (4P)** achieved the highest mark in the elimination heats to win the Downland Section. They now progress to the South-East Final of the Chemistry Challenge, which will be held at the University of Greenwich.

Environment: **James Miller (5N)** has continued to gain profile as a naturalist and film maker. Some of his footage on tawny owls was bought by a production company and shown in a Channel 5 documentary, *The Secret Life of Owls*.

King's Lecture: For this term's King's Lecture the RGS was delighted to welcome the BBC Turkey Correspondent, Mark Lowen. Mark provided a candid and honest insight into the world of the BBC, journalism and the current political climate in Turkey, a challenge made all the more acutely challenging by the perception of journalists at a time where there is loss of confidence in mainstream media. An extended *Question and Answer* session elicited a succession of perceptive and probing questions from the audience as Mark openly discussed the current climate of fake news, the perceived decline of conventional media, and the conflicting desire for subjective and objective reporting. As the lecture finished to sustained and heartfelt applause, Mark's humility, integrity and, most of all, his love of his job had shone through.

Mathematics: Well done to our First Form mathematicians who won the latest round of the Guildford Schools Mathematics Quiz to progress to the next round.

Model United Nations: At the three-day Model United Nations Conference held at Lady Eleanor Holles School, the RGS enjoyed individual and team success. **Jack Donnelly** (4P) won *Outstanding Delegate*; **Hugh Jones** (4V) and **Cameron Gardner** (5B) both were awarded *Highly Commended Delegates*. The RGS Senegal Delegation also won *Highly Commended Delegation*: a particularly impressive at a prestigious conference against predominantly Sixth Form delegates.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Chess: In the league, our A team beat King's College School Wimbledon 5 – 1 and the B team drew 3 – 3 with Trinity School Croydon A team.

Cross-Country: Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected for the Surrey team for the 2018 English Schools Cross-Country Championships: **Ben Fitzpatrick** (5B), **Nathan Janmohamed** (L6), **Charles Kershaw** (5B) and **Sam Martin** (4H).

Fencing: Highlights of the fixture against Charterhouse School included a 45 – 31 win for the Épée A team, a victory for the Under 15 Foil by 45 – 27, and a win for the Under 13 Foil by 45 – 14. In the *Leon Paul Junior Series* Under 13 Cornwall Foil Competition **Zed Law** (2E) won silver.

Football: The 1st XI beat Charterhouse School 3 – 2 including two goals from **Ben Harris** (U6).

Hockey: With the onset of freezing conditions, a number of early matches were lost to heavy frost; however, 10 weekend matches still survived. Against King's College School Wimbledon, the 1st XI put in an excellent performance to secure a 1 – 1 draw with the only goal from **Thomas Chua** (L6); other highlights included a 2 – 0 win for the 2nd XI. Against Reigate Grammar School, the Under 12s enjoyed an excellent day with three wins and one draw, including a 7 – 0 victory for the Under 12B team. In addition, Mr Furlong and Mr Shipperley have been selected for Wales to compete at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Shooting: The RGS successfully defended the Suffield-Jones-Hicks trophy against Bradfield College beating them in a ten-bull match 764 – 749. Top scorer was **Miles Horton-Baker** (L6) with 99.

Swimming: **Alessandro Harker** (2L) has enjoyed success at the Surrey County Age Group Championships 2018, securing a silver medal in the individual medley and two bronze medals, one in the 50 metre breaststroke and the other in the 100 metre breaststroke.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 5 March	Staff and Parents' Prayer Group in the Common Room
Tuesday 6 March	Senior Piano Concert in the Recital Room
Wednesday 7 March	Fifth Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall and the John Brown Building
Thursday 8 March	Friday Timetable
Friday 9 March	Field Day 3
Tuesday 13 March	Parent Briefing for the Classics Trip to Greece in Great Hall
Wednesday 14 March	Joint GHS and RGS Orchestral and Choral Concert at <i>G Live</i>
Thursday 15 March	Production of <i>The History Boys</i> in the Auditorium (for three nights)

