



From the Headmaster

Henry Ford, the founder of the *Ford Motor Company*, once said: "*Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.*"

Our last full inspection included mention of *excellent interaction* and *mutual respect* and as I reflect upon the last two weeks, and indeed the term as whole, I am struck by the fact that far from just being rhetoric these aspects are, in fact, a reality at the RGS. Within the last fortnight, there have been a succession of events which have epitomised this sense of togetherness and shared goals: the outstanding staff and student production of *The History Boys*; the 400-strong choir and orchestra which took to the stage of *G Live*, comprising students, parents and staff from both RGS and Guildford High School; and even the various charitable initiatives today, including the eagerly anticipated Great RGS Bake Off and the staff-against-boys football match. This cohesion means as a community we can share in each other's successes and equally importantly support each other in disappointments.

The culture of mutual support and respect at the RGS remains as strong as ever and allows our students to set the bar of aspiration ever higher, inspired by a talented staff body. Every individual at the RGS gives of their time selflessly and willingly and I would like to take this opportunity, once again, to thank formally the support and teaching staff, the boys, their parents, and the governors for the pride they take in every aspect of school life and their commitment this term.

As Henry Ford commented: "*If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.*" This could not be more true of life at the RGS.

Latest News

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Classics: In the annual regional Classics reading competition at Guildford High School, the RGS emerged with ten prizes including a first place for **Aradhya Soneja** (3L) and **Leo Kamstra** (3E).

Dance: **Andras Csakany** (2L) and **Boldi Paladi-Kovacs** (2E) have both been invited by the Hungarian Cultural Centre to dance at the Hungarian Embassy to celebrate the national holiday.

Drama: Alan Bennett's play *The History Boys* shifts seamlessly between comedy and melancholy, exploring whether education should be pragmatic or idealistic against the testosterone-filled complexity of adolescence, sexuality and identity. Alongside members of staff – **Peter Dunscombe** as Hector, **Roger Meadowcroft** as Headmaster and **Laura Griffiths** as Mrs Lintott – and **Fraser Dupuis** (U6) as the supply teacher Irwin, the boys showcased the diversity, individuality and attitude of their characters through playful classroom dynamic, sharp one-liners and boisterous laddishness. A thoroughly enjoyable production, with a talented cast and excellent staging, absolutely captured the play's beguiling – and sometimes slightly disconcerting – mixture of humour and pathos.

Literature: **Joshua McGillivray** (2P) was the winner of the 2018 Trinity Schools Book Awards Best Review competition for his review of *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan.

Mathematics: The Lower Sixth cryptography team finished fourth out of over 350 teams in the University of Manchester Mathematics Bombe competition, named after the machine used to crack the Enigma code. In the SATRO Mathematics Challenge, our A team finished second while our B team finished first!

Music: A sell-out audience was treated to a thrilling evening of musicianship as the 400-strong choir and orchestra, comprising students, parents and staff, took to the stage of *G Live*. With a programme including Shostakovich's *Festive Overture*; Vaughan Williams's *Antiphon from Five Mystical Songs*; Rutter's *Gloria*; Verdi's *Overture to La forza del destino*; Puccini's *The Humming Chorus from Madama Butterfly*; Verdi's *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves from Nabucco*; and Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances from Prince Igor*, the audience was enthralled by a concert which was emotive, powerful and inspiring by turn as the astonishing maturity and technical mastery of the playing were very much in evidence.

Music: At the Godalming Festival, **Nicholas Edwards** (U6) won both of his organ classes, Sixth Form as well as adult, gaining Honours in both. **Sam Jones** (L6) also received an Honours place.

Science: **Ciaran O'Toole** (U6) addressed the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Annual Conference with the findings of his research on bone mineral density in children and adolescents with cystic fibrosis: an astonishing for a Sixth Form student at a professional conference.

Young Enterprise: At the *Young Enterprise* area finals, RGS companies *Lunar* were placed as runners-up for their children's book *Jacob's Journey* and *EduNow* with their revision website won. For the second year running, two RGS teams took the top spot to progress through to the next stage of the competition.

Sports News

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Cross-Country: Following on from the success of the junior team winning the Claremont Fan Court trophy, the combined middles and senior team won the prestigious Ranelagh Trophy; **Charlie Kershaw** (5B) and **Ben Fitzpatrick** (5B) finished first and second respectively. In addition, **Sam Martin** (4H) competed in the UK intercounties for Surrey and finished second from a top quality field of 400 runners.

Fencing: In the Public Schools Fencing Championship **Leo Kamstra** (3E) won gold to be crowned Mount-Haes Under 14 Epée Public Schools Fencing Champion after winning the final 15 – 8. In the Southern Region BYC Qualifier at both Under 18 Épée and Under 18 Sabre **Kit Edgecliffe-Johnson** (L6) secured bronze.

Hockey: In the Third Round of the National Cup against Portsmouth Grammar School the 1st XI won 2 – 1; the Under 16As won 2 – 0 in the regional cup against Wellington College but unfortunately were knocked out of the competition. Super Tuesday then returned as every single member of the First Form played in competitive fixtures also against Portsmouth Grammar School and, with six wins and two draws, enjoyed success. In the block fixture against Reed's School, the competitive tone of the matches was set by the exciting 4 – 4 draw for the 1st XI; other highlights included victories for the Under 16 A and B teams without conceding: an impressive feat against strong opposition.

Rugby: **Hugo McGuire** (1E) has been selected for London Irish's Under 12s tour of Dublin.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Wednesday 21 March	Ensembles Concert in the Auditorium
Thursday 22 March	Senior Classics Trip to Greece departs from <i>G Live</i>
Friday 23 March	Normal school day Term ends at 4.00pm

