



### From the Headmaster

History suggests that the RGS has an important part to play in the origins of the game of cricket. A well-known record in the Guildford Court Book speaks of a legal dispute in 1598 concerning a plot of land that lay at the junction of North Street and what is now Chertsey Street in central Guildford. Giving evidence in this dispute, a gentleman named John Derrick, then aged 59, said that when he was a scholar at the Free School of Guildford, the RGS, about 50 years earlier in approximately 1550, "*Being a scholler in the ffree schoole of Guldeford, hee and diverse of his fellows did runner and play there at creckett and other plaies.*" This reference to cricket is generally thought to be the first mention of the game in the English language.

Nigel Watson in his new School History provides many colourful, anecdotal references to the sport as it gained in popularity at the RGS. Students enjoyed a visit from one of the most eminent cricketers of the time, Jack Hobbs, on 25 June 1931. Sir John Berry "Jack" Hobbs was an English professional cricketer who played for Surrey from 1905 to 1934 and for England in 61 Test matches between 1908 and 1930. Known as *The Master*, he is widely regarded by critics as one of the greatest batsmen in the history of cricket. According to the school magazine *The Guildfordian*, on his visit to the RGS "he delighted a large crowd of spectators with a display of batting." Jack then promised a new bat to any boy who could displace his cap which he hung on the wickets. To his surprise and embarrassment, a Lower Sixth boy, Judd, bowled him out on his first ball with a yorker!

After a successful first block fixture of term and with our new Head of Cricket, Mr Black, now in post, it is a source of great pride that cricket maintains its profile and popularity at the RGS. I very much look forward to watching games this season on the impressive wickets at Bradstone Brook, British weather permitting!

### Latest News

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**Biology:** In the Biology Challenge, RGS students achieved an impressive 20 gold awards, 25 silver awards and 27 bronze awards.

**Chemistry:** In the UK Chemistry Olympiad, 6,527 students nationwide took part and the RGS achieved a new departmental record of 10 gold awards. In addition, RGS students achieved 20 silver awards, 10 of which were from Lower Sixth Form students.

**Electronics:** A team of Lower Sixth students **Mikel Bober-Irizar**, **Killian Clarke**, **Salvatore Elia**, **Samuel Ellis** and **William Shrubbs**, took part in the *SourceBots* finals at Southampton University: a national competition in which students design, build, programme and challenge an autonomous robot. The RGS robot *Out of the Blue* impressed, being placed second and winning the award for the most ambitious robot.

**English:** **Sahej Grewal's** (L6) poem submitted to this year's *Christopher Tower Poetry Competition* was selected from nearly a thousand entries for the long-list for the 2018 awards.

**Science:** **Salvatore Elia's** (L6) extremely high mark in the AS Challenge resulted in an invitation to the British Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad Training Camp in Oxford. He was one of only 12 students, from which a team of five will be chosen to represent the UK at the international competition in China.

**Staff:** We are delighted to welcome the following new staff to the RGS this term: Miss Bains (Religion and Philosophy), Mr Black (Physical Education and Head of Cricket) and Mr Curran (Physical Education) returning as a Gap Student. We wish them all the very best as they join the School.

**Trips:** Over the Easter holidays, 139 students from all year groups along with 29 staff were involved in various trips nationally and internationally; indeed, there were only three days of the whole holiday when RGS students were not involved in trips. These included the Senior Classics trip to Greece; the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver expedition in Exmoor; a History trip to Paris; languages trips to Bordeaux and Normandy; a Geography trip to Barcelona; and the tennis and surfing trip to Cornwall.

**Warhammer:** After success in the local rounds and semi-final of the Warhammer National Schools' League, the RGS team has qualified for the finals.

## Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

**Cricket:** An encouraging start to the cricket season against Dulwich College resulted in 10 wins out of 15 fixtures for RGS teams. Highlights included, with the bat, **Joe Sheldon** (3P) with 113\* for the Under 14As and, with the ball, Rohan Gupta bowling figures of 6 for 16 for the Under 13As, **Thomas Humphreys** (2L) with 5 for 16 for the Under 13Bs, and **Nirek Dandanayak** (1C) with 5 for 6 for the Under 12As.

**Fencing:** In Challenge Wratislavia in Poland, **Leo Kamstra** (3E) came 101st out of 205 fencers in the Under 15 épée and **Freddie Edgecliffe-Johnson** (3S) finished 129th out of 223 fencers in the Under 15 foil.

**Shooting:** In the first competition of the fullbore season, the Clayton Challenge, the RGS team was victorious, finishing in first place a narrow one point ahead of Wellington College (scoring 515 to 514). Captain **Alfie Hellings** (U6) scored a maximum 35 with four v-bulls at 300 yards.

**Speed Skating:** **Theo Collins** (3S) won all his races in the British Short Track Speed Skating Championships and is now British Champion for Boys (aged 13 – 15). In the Long Track Championships, he gained a silver medal in the junior category and also bronze medals in the team sprint, team pursuit and super sprint.

**Sailing:** In the BSDRA Southern Race, the RGS team came through a tightly-contested final to win the event.

**Tennis:** At the Surrey Schools Tennis Festival, **Jamie Diack** (1P) and **Ethan Newbold** (1R) secured six victories before losing to Reed's School in the final.

## Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Friday 27 April	Parents' Association Spring Party in the Big School
Tuesday 1 May	Market Day Concert in Holy Trinity Church
Wednesday 2 May	Concerto Concert in Holy Trinity Church
Thursday 3 May	Careers in Marketing, Advertising & Retail seminar in the Auditorium
Friday 4 May	Fifth Form Study Leave begins
Monday 7 May	Bank Holiday Monday: School closed
Wednesday 9 May	Monday timetable Lower Sixth Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall

