



TEDx

From the Headmaster

This weekend we are looking forward to hosting, for only the second time, TEDx Guildford. The philosophy of TEDx centres on innovation, thinking outside the box, looking at issues from new and diverse perspectives, challenging individuals to think afresh and differently, assuming there are a range of viewpoints, and reassessing opinions in the light of others. This mindset closely mirrors our philosophy at the RGS.

With this year's theme of tolerance, the ethos of respect and inclusivity chimes particularly closely with the values of the RGS. You only need to look at our Learning Habits to appreciate that qualities such as perspective, criticality and reflection are at the heart of our education. Since the School's foundation in 1509, the RGS has strived to educate local boys regardless of their social, cultural, religious and financial background in a welcoming community where each individual is valued and enjoys a deep sense of belonging. I genuinely believe that celebrating diversity, nurturing tolerance and fostering mutual respect epitomise the RGS as community.

Indeed, as I reflect upon our recent set of appointments for the new Senior Prefect team, appointments which are made as the result of both a student and a staff vote, I see how these new prefects are all united by pride, decency and humility in their performance and yet have very different strengths, personalities and interests and have chosen very different paths through the School. Celebrating individuality means that we will continue to nurture a tolerant, diverse and dynamic community of which we all can be very proud.

As the TED website states: "TED is a global community, welcoming people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world. We believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and, ultimately, the world." We are proud to be part of this philosophy and hope, that in our own way, we can continue to promote a culture whereby the beliefs and choices, as well as the eccentricities and foibles, of every individual are to be embraced rather than denounced.

Latest News

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Engineering: At the Celebration and Assessment Day run by the Engineering Development Trust, RGS Go4SET Team 1 won the Best Overall Project category for their high level of research and testing, while RGS Go4SET Team 2 was awarded the pupils' choice category for Best Display Stand.

Music: The annual Concerto Concert took place in Holy Trinity Church with eight of our most talented musicians performing solos, accompanied by Guildford's resident professional orchestra, *Southern Pro Musica*. In a programme which included some gems such as the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto, it was also fascinating to hear some less well-known works such as Guilmant's splendid Organ Symphony. Sixth Form students **Jonathan Chong, Nicholas Edwards, Roshan Patel, Yousuf Mirza, Matthew Sargent, Alexander Acomb, Joshua Powell** and **Ciaran O'Toole** all performed with astonishing maturity and sensitivity, and the audience was left to reflect on an evening of quite exquisite musicianship.

Quiz: The Junior Schools Challenge quiz team suffered a narrow defeat at Hampton School in the Regional Final, losing 670 – 620. The team ably led by **Ferdy Al-Qassab** (2R) acquitted themselves well and were unfortunate to come up against such strong opposition.

Young Enterprise: At the Surrey County Finals, Lunar was awarded *Best Company Report*. Then, as the climax of the evening, EduNow was announced as *Runner-up Company* in Surrey, while Lunar went one better to emerge as *Best Company* in Surrey. With only two Surrey teams progressing to the South East finals, it is to the great credit of the RGS students that those two teams are RGS Young Enterprise companies.

Sports News

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Athletics: At the District Sports at Guildford Spectrum, the Under 13s came first, the Under 15, 14 and 12 teams all finished in a close second position. A number of Personal Bests were achieved.

Cricket: In the annual fixture, the 1st XI secured a phenomenal victory against the MCC. On a very slow pitch and outfield, the RGS bowled MCC out for 125. In reply, RGS just managed to get across the winning line with one wicket to spare. In the block fixture against King's College School, Wimbledon, the RGS teams emerged with seven victories from the eight fixtures. Individual highlights included for the 1st XI **Abhay Gonella** (U6) with 119* and **Benji Thomas** (U6) with 97*, and **Yusuf Hafiz** (U6) with bowling figures of 5 – 27. For the 2nd XI Joshua Powell took three wickets and finished on 61*. In the Under 14s, **Matthew Sutton** (3T) and **George Williams** (3E) both took three wickets at the expense of ten and twelve runs respectively. The junior teams also enjoyed a successful weekend with four out of five wins against King Edward's School, Southampton. The bowlers were of particular note with **Mohammed Hussain** (2L) 3 – 3, **Nirek Dandanayak** (1C) 5 – 6, and **Thomas Dowdeswell** (1C) an astonishing hat-trick with figures of 3 – 1.

Fencing: At the British Youth Fencing Championships in Sheffield, **Leo Kamstra** (3E), **Kit** (L6) and **Freddie** (3S) **Edgecliffe-Johnson** were representing the South-East and Southern Regions in the British Youth Fencing Championships. All the boys acquitted themselves admirably; however, of particular note, in the Under 14 Épée, Leo secured the bronze medal and is currently second in the England Ranking.

Karate: **Ilhan Mosobbir** (L6) won silver in the CIMAC Superleague British Karate Open in High Wycombe.

Shooting: At the Surrey Rifle Association Schools' Meeting, our shooting team excelled picking up three trophies. **Alfie Hellings** (U6) won the trophy for *Best Marksman*; our VIII won trophies for being both *Best Surrey School* and *Best School* overall. **Luca O'Flynn** (L6) scored a maximum 35 at 300yds. This was followed up by further success at the LMRA Schools' Meeting where first places were secured in the Cadet IV and Ashburton VIII competitions. This is the first time in memory that the RGS has won three full-bore competitions in one season: an incredible achievement.

Swimming: **Max Windle** (3L) has qualified for six events at the Cardiff International Open Meet where he will compete alongside European and Olympic champions in a bid to qualify for the Nationals.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Wednesday 16 May	Author event: Nigel Watson signing copies of the new School History <i>Life after the RGS</i> for Class of 2018 parents in Big School
Friday 18 May	Upper Sixth Form Study Leave begins
Monday 23 May	Field Day 4
Friday 25 May	Staff Inset Day: no school for students
Monday 28 May	Half Term begins

