



From the Headmaster

This week the media has welcomed the increase in the proportion of women receiving the highest level of awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, rising to 41 per cent for the first time. In fact, the number has risen by 10 per cent in the last three years. This was particularly poignant as it coincided with the 100th anniversary of the first women being given the vote.

We know that the impact of the First World War on the RGS was considerable and, like many schools throughout the country, the common room was severely depleted as school masters joined the services. The Headmaster of the time, John Honeybourne, appreciated that if he could not find men to fill job vacancies, then for the very first time in the School's history he would need to make female appointments. In February 1917, Aimée Burdett Dawes became the first female member of the common room. She was an English and History teacher who was an inspiring and enterprising personality; she later spent several years in the USA as a newspaper editor.

A number of other women were also appointed during this period, the vast majority were spinsters who, in the event of marriage, were often required to resign. These so-called *marriage bars* were commonly used by many local educational authorities and were only banned in 1944. Yet, the shortage became so acute that Honeybourne appointed to the School the first married woman, Mrs Daisy Francis. In addition, as Nigel Watson mentions in the School History, Miss Grace Kynoch also joined the staff. "She stayed for nearly 30 years, establishing a formidable reputation as a disciplinarian in the Lower School. Known as Ma Bobs from her page-boy haircut, she helped to introduce young boys to the English classics, like *The Wind in the Willows*, and, through the many rambles she led, to the world of nature."

As a school in the twenty-first century, of the 193 staff, 80 are female (ironically, this also equates to 41 per cent, matching the Honours List statistic), and it is significant that we say farewell at the end of this term to a modern-day Grace Kynoch who has also established a formidable reputation and has had such a profound impact on generations of boys as a Mathematics teacher, as a Tutor and as my Head of Admissions, Mrs Booth, who joined the RGS in 1978. I thank her for her extraordinary contribution to the RGS and also continue to be indebted to all my staff who give of their time and expertise so willingly and generously and prove to be such excellent role models for our students at the RGS.

Latest News

[View the full news archive](#)

Charity: In addition to the various House and other charitable initiatives which continue to raise money for the RGS's nominated charities, the retiring collection following the school production of *The History Boys* raised over £1,000. £549 was distributed to the local *Challengers* charity to support their work with disabled young people and £549 was handed over to *Stonewall UK* to support its work in campaigning for equality.

Physics: **Samuel Heatley** (1P) won a prize in the Crystal Poster Competition run by Oxford University

Physics Department and Rutherford Appleton Laboratories. He was given a tour of the ISIS Neutron source at Rutherford and presented with his certificate.

Scholarships: We are delighted to announce the scholarships awarded to the RGS for 2018, as published in this week's *Times* and *Daily Telegraph*: **King's Academic:** Oliver Billingham (Lanesborough), Maximilian Weston (Danes Hill); **Academic:** Jan Czarnek (Lanesborough), Killian Hess (Cranmore), Thomas Millar (Lanesborough), Stanley Myles (Danes Hill), George Rudman (St Andrew's), Mattia Santoni (Cranmore), Joseph Thorneycroft (Cleves); **Art:** Noé Findji (RGS Guildford), Oliver Lytle (St Andrew's); **Music:** Hayden Amiss (Lanesborough), George Christiansen (Cranmore), Luke Coulson (Lanesborough), Killian Hess (Cranmore), Felix Johnson (Holy Trinity, Guildford), Robert Mackay (Lanesborough), Parus Mehra (RGS Guildford); **Sports:** Edward Eves (RGS Guildford), Oliver de Gentile-Williams (RGS Guildford), Sam Hinton (RGS Guildford), Tom Humphreys (RGS Guildford), Matthew Reed (St Neot's Prep), Louis Wilby (RGS Guildford).

Science: **Mikel Bober-Irizar** (L6) was part of the University of Surrey Artificial Intelligence team which won the latest worldwide competition in image recognition technologies, organised by *Google*.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Cricket: After the half-term break, RGS teams returned to action in the block fixture against Reading Blue Coat School, winning nine of the eleven fixtures. The 1st XI won by 138 runs with **Abhay Gonella** (L6) continuing his excellent recent form with the bat with 107. The Under 14 teams enjoyed a clean sweep of victories; **Will Craven** (3L) was the stand-out batsman making 93* for the Under 14B team while, in the same game, **Henry Latham** (3L) secured a hat-trick with the ball. Other highlights included the Under 12A team's win by 123 runs in which **Johnny Kershaw** (1E) made 100* while **Oliver George** (1P) scored 93.

Fencing: In the Hampshire Open Men's Épée, a men's event with no age restriction, **Kit Edgecliffe-Johnson** (L6) emerged as a bronze medallist, **Samuel Ellis** (L6) finished in an excellent seventh place.

Tennis: Congratulations to the Under 12 and 13 team which has won its group, Division 2, of the Lawn Tennis Association Team Tennis Schools League. On an individual level, **Jamie Diack** (1P) has been enjoying success at national and international level, playing within the last few weeks in Slovenia and Spain. He is currently ranked number 1 in Surrey at Under 12 level and has been selected to represent Great Britain at the Queenswood Cup against Croatia, the Czech Republic, Netherlands and Slovenia.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Wednesday 20 June	Reception for Class of 2019 Parents in Big School
Thursday 21 June	Pastoral Evening in the Auditorium: <i>Understanding the Teenage Brain</i>
Friday 22 June	Sports Day at Guildford Spectrum Opera performance of Handel in the Old Building (for two nights)
Sunday 24 June	Headmaster's XI vs OG XI cricket match & family day, Bradstone Brook
Monday 25 June	Fifth Form Work Experience Week
Tuesday 26 June	Leavers' Concert in the Recital Room
Wednesday 27 June	Charity Bands' Concert in the Auditorium
Thursday 28 June	OG Recital Evening in the Recital Room
Friday 29 June	Leavers' Ceremony and Leavers' Ball, starting in Holy Trinity Church

