



From the Headmaster

In a book called *The Great Acceleration: How the world is getting faster, faster*, the author Robert Colvile investigates how the ceaseless advance of technology and our fundamental appetite for novelty and convenience have continued to speed up every aspect of daily life. The book illustrates this through a range of eclectic examples from the fact that chickens grow four times more quickly now than they did 50 years ago to the statistic that the average walking speed has gone up 10% in the last 20 years. School life is not exempt from this culture: access to information is literally at our fingertips; global communication is instant; results are expected immediately; the desire for everything to be faster and more streamlined is insatiable. Add to this, in a school setting, youthful exuberance and it means RGS boys seem to be endlessly in an enthusiastic rush! There is, of course, a certain irony in mentioning this at the end of a fortnight into which an extraordinary number of events and trips have been squeezed, including an event for which speed is one of the primary goals, Sports Day. Yet, perhaps, within this context this message is all the more potent and poignant.

As we race towards the future – a world packed with new technologies, new ideas and new discoveries – ironically, slowness has never been more important. The chance to reflect, digest and re-evaluate can only occur when time is not the priority. Reading books, spending time with friends and family, good conversation are intrinsic parts of an education which simply do not deserve to be rushed. Robert Colvile mentions that, “We are becoming butterfly brains, our attention spans truncating. We risk information overload, stripped of the time to think. And when we do have that time, it becomes an alien, unnerving experience.” So at a time when speed is of the essence and as we catch our breath after a year of great intensity, I hope that there is still a place in all our lives for appreciating the importance of taking things slowly. And that is something surely worth taking the time to reflect upon.

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Music: An extraordinarily varied fortnight has seen the Music Department showcasing the versatility and technicality of RGS musicians. The mesmerising opera by Handel, *Acis and Galatea*, was performed on two idyllic summer’s evenings in the picturesque setting of the courtyard of the Old Building. The Sixth Form soloists **Yousuf Mirza**, **Philip Bowler** and **Ridley Hymas** were all outstanding, supported by the Chamber Choir and Orchestra. Concerts on successive nights then saw appreciative audiences enjoy in equal measure the inaugural Leavers’ Concert, the Charity Bands Concert and the Old Guildfordian Recital Evening.

National Enterprise Challenge: With 147 Fourth Form boys working in teams of six, the day was always going to be highly charged and competitive! The day started with a welcome from Theo Paphitis before the tasks started. Each team had to select an item of stationery, develop the item so that it had a USP, before creating a marketing communications campaign. The winners were *Panther Pens* led by **Mylo Farman** (4P) with their erasable pen idea and also *GCSE Easy* led by **Salvatore Nigelli** (4P) for their revamp

of GCSE stationery, both of whom progress to the national finals at Telford International Centre.

Quiz: In the Guildford Classical Association *Certamen* Classics general knowledge quiz, RGS teams swept the board with victories in all three age categories. The Junior and Middle School boys demonstrated their outstanding knowledge of Latin, mythology and Roman history, as they beat opposition from a number of local schools throughout Surrey.

Science: In the prestigious Regional Royal Society of Chemistry Challenge, our Fourth Form team was awarded second prize and finished just two points behind the eventual winners.

Young Enterprise: RGS companies *Lunar* and *EduNow* represented Surrey in the Young Enterprise Regional Finals at Guildford Cathedral. Competing against twelve other schools, both teams represented themselves well and after a nail-biting and intense day, *Lunar* were awarded Best Business Plan and *EduNow* were highly commended and finished runners up.

Sports News

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Cricket: In the block fixture against Cranleigh School, the Under 14 matches saw particular stand-out performances. In the Under 14A victory by one wicket, **Zain Hafiz** (3L) took 5 for 28 while in the Under 14B win by 96 runs **Ishan Nathan** (3P) scored 71 and **Ned Walker** (3P) finished with bowling figures of 5 for 25. Against Reigate Grammar School, the junior teams enjoyed a clean sweep of wins, including **Seb Lear** (2E) for the Under 13C team retiring on 95 runs and **Adam Hafiz** (1P) securing 61*. Our penultimate block fixture of term saw RGS teams taking on St Paul's School and Emanuel School. Stunning summer conditions on beautiful wickets at Bradstone Brook provided the setting for some exceptional team and individual performances: none more so than in the Under 14A victory by 114 runs **Joe Sheldon** (3P) scored 68 while **Mattie Sutton** (3T) recorded extraordinary match-winning bowling figures of 6 for 10.

Kick-Boxing: **Ilhan Mosobbir** (L6) came first in two weight categories at the Wako GB Grand Slam. Ilhan fought three fighters over the two weight categories, seven exhausting back-to-back points-based fights, losing just one of them to come first overall.

Sports Day: An entertaining and competitive Sports Day saw a record number of school records broken, in part due to the reorganisation of previous records into current competition age groups. Stand-out performances included the following new records: **Andrew Brett** (1C) in both javelin and shot; **Zack Kennedy** (2L) with 32.40m javelin, a five metre increase from previous record; **Sam Hinton** (2L) in both 300m and 800m; **Toby Perryman** (3L) in the 1500m breaking a record set in 1995; **Harry James** (4H) in the high jump; and **Matt Harris** (5H) in the 100m with a time of 10.91, the previous record was set in 1990. In the tightly contested House competition, Austen House emerged winners.

Forthcoming Events

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Friday 29 June	Leavers' Ceremony in Holy Trinity Church followed by the Leavers' Ball
Monday 2 July	Field Day 5
Tuesday 3 July	Market Day Concert in Holy Trinity Church
Friday 6 July	Art Private View in the Art School
Tuesday 10 July	Junior Prizegiving
Thursday 12 July	South Africa rugby tour departs
Friday 13 July	Term ends at approximately 12.30pm after Final Assembly

