



From the Headmaster

Professional sportsmen – especially in the world of football – have rarely been the most convincing role models for young people: inflated wages, an acute sense of entitlement, misplaced superiority, and, in recent times, significant underperformance. This World Cup has, however, seen a shift in this perception. Aside from the progress on the pitch, it is the demeanour of the current England set-up which has elicited much comment in the media. Humility is not a concept which has often been bandied around when talking about the England team and yet that precisely has been their hallmark. Gracious in victory and in defeat alike, taking as much time to commiserate as to congratulate, expressing gratitude and perspective, manager Gareth Southgate has deservedly won plaudits. As reporter Jim White commented in *The Telegraph* this week: "In an age of fractiousness and division, this is a man who represents everything for which we as a nation would like to be recognised: politeness, calm, rationality, dignity."

As I reflect on another intense twelve months at the RGS, so these are qualities which I also recognise and celebrate within our community. Achievements and success are noted but, equally, we use set-backs and disappointments as a way of learning, as a way of improving and returning stronger. Most of all, however, what makes me proud is that the RGS students remain thoroughly decent, grounded young men who approach life with a lightness of touch and acknowledge success and adversity with perspective in a balanced way.

And so, as the school year draws to a close today and as the boys break-up for a very well-deserved rest, I would like to thank you, the parents, as well as the staff, the governors and all those who have contributed so much to this academic year. It has been a memorable twelve months and every individual has had a part to play in our shared successes.

I wish you all a relaxing and restful summer with family and friends.

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Charity: The total amount raised this year in charitable initiatives comes to just under £10,000 and will be split equally between our three nominated local, national and international charities.

Chemistry: The Cambridge Chemistry Challenge is a highly demanding Sixth Form competition which attracted 7,056 students this year. **Tom Moores** (L6) achieved a superb score of 51/65 and won the top Roentgenium Award: the highest ever score achieved by an RGS student. **Harry Grieve** (L6) was joint 55th and secured the highest mark of the Gold Award category. In total, RGS has achieved one Roentgenium, four Gold, eight Silver and seven Copper Awards.

Events: A busy last fortnight of term has seen a number of events including the inaugural Saxton lecture when the RGS was delighted to welcome Professor Alexandra Walsham of Cambridge University who delivered a compelling and thought-provoking lecture entitled *Remembering the Reformation*. The RGS Economics Department hosted its annual Speakers Day which all the Lower Sixth economists attended, along with 180 students from ten other schools. The theme of the event was *inequality*, and whilst this in part considered income and wealth inequality, the core of the event centred around gender inequality. At The Big Bang Fair South East 2018, one of the RGS teams, demonstrating their *Hard Hat for Hot Environments* developed as part of this year's BP Go4SET project, won two awards: the Pyroban Award for Design Technology and Runner-up in the Junior Engineering category.

Staff: We are bidding a sad farewell to the following members of staff: Mr Joe Bate, Mr Paul Bridges, Mr Ali Curran, Mr Gareth Furlong, Mrs Jessica Holland, Mrs Fran Hobbs, Mr Michael Hughes, Mrs Michelle Kennedy, Miss Imogen Morgan, Mr Chris Murray, Mr Harry Prentice, Mr Rupert Shipperley, Mrs Mandy Thomas, Mr Peter Winzeler. In addition, Mrs Mary Booth, Mr Peter Hosier, Mr Mick Jennings, Mr John Saxton and Mr Alan Thorn are all retiring having accrued more than 185 years teaching at the School between them. As Dr Cox commented: "The School is indebted to each one of our retirees and their impact on generations of students cannot, for a second, be underestimated. Although being very different personalities, each of them have been united by extraordinary dedication, phenomenal scholarship, remarkable loyalty, and a desire to put the students at the heart of all they do. They will all be sorely missed." We thank all the staff who are leaving and wish them all the very best in the future.

Sports News

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Chess: In the National Finals of the English Chess Federation Schools' Tournament held at Uppingham School, the top 16 schools in the country competed. Despite the unavailability of one of our top players, the RGS performed exceptionally, only narrowly missing out on first place as they secured second position.

Cricket: In the penultimate block fixture of term against Hampton School, it ended honours even with seven wins each. Highlights included 58* for **Charlie Bird** (4N) in the Under 15C's victory. **Abhay Gonella** (L6) has been selected for the Hampshire County Under 17 squad for a three-day match against Worcestershire. In a disrupted final block fixture of the year, the 1st XI rounded off an accomplished season with an eight-wicket victory over Portsmouth Grammar School; in addition, the Under 14A team impressed with both bat and ball as they emerged as winners by 77 runs.

Fencing: In the Surrey Under 14 Team Foil Championship, the RGS team finished as silver medallists. In the Surrey Men's 1-hit Épée, **Kit Edgecliffe-Johnson** (L6) secured an impressive joint seventh finish, while **Leo Kamstra** (3E) is currently third in the national ranking for selection into the 2019 U15 England Squad. Finally, at the LPJS Welsh Open Under 13 Foil, in blistering heat, **Zed Law** (2E) won bronze.

Hockey: **Caspar Beyer** (2C), **Henry Latham** (3L) and **Toby Perryman** (3L) have been selected for the National Performance Centres. The Performance Centres are part of the England Hockey Player Pathway and this provides a fantastic opportunity to train and compete with the best players in the country.

RGS Cricket Festival: At the annual RGS Cricket Festival, which has been running for 31 years, the 1st XI performed well with results as follows: against Colchester, won by eight wickets; against Lancaster, lost by 34 runs; against High Wycombe, won by three wickets; against Newcastle, won by 149 runs; against Worcester, lost by two wickets. The Festival was won by RGS Lancaster.

Tennis: In the prestigious John Barrett Cup held at Eton College, our two junior teams qualified from the group phase to progress to the finals. **Jamie Diack** (1P) and **Ethan Newbold** (1R) then qualified in first place only to lose in the quarter-finals. The standard of tennis and the sportsmanship impressed in equal measure.

