



From the Headmaster

I hope you and your family had a relaxing summer holiday and that your son is refreshed and ready for the start of the school year. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new boys and their parents. The beginning of the academic year and a fresh intake mark an exciting stage and I have every confidence that the new boys will make a real impact upon the School. I look forward to getting to know them individually and to observing them as they develop and flourish.

We are justifiably proud of the success of our boys and, indeed, striving for excellence and harbouring healthy ambition are admirable traits which epitomise our community; however, these are achieved in a caring and compassionate way. For us as a school, inclusivity, integrity, respect, tenacity and service are equally as important as scholarship and achievement. The RGS is a welcoming environment where a mutually supportive ethos is at the very heart of our philosophy. Each individual at the RGS has so much untapped potential; to unlock this, the boys must be confident and happy. If you have any concerns with regard to your son, however seemingly trivial, please do not hesitate to contact the School via his Tutor. Each boy has a number of members of staff he can turn to if he wants advice or guidance. His Tutor is likely to be his first point of contact; however, every individual also has their Head of Year, Head of Section, Housemaster, Personal Tutor (Fourth Form and above), the Deputy Head (Pupils), the School Nurse, and the Counsellor. In addition, the senior boys, with the benefit of professional training, take an active role in the mentoring of junior boys to provide peer support; this has proved to be a highly successful initiative. By talking openly and airing concerns, we can help swiftly to resolve any issues as they arise.

For the benefit of those parents new to the School, the RGS newsletter *The Bulletin* is published electronically every two weeks. We are very proud of the efforts and achievements of our boys and this fortnightly publication provides an opportunity to celebrate the many diverse successes enjoyed by our community. I am always keen to hear news of RGS boys so that their energy, industry and achievements can be recognised; please do not hesitate to keep me informed. As well as *The Bulletin*, the RGS website and social media platforms – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter – also provide invaluable means of staying updated with news from the School and gaining an insight into daily life. In addition, each day, *The RGS Today* is emailed to all students and this, again, provides the boys with an invaluable way of keeping aware of the many diverse opportunities open to them.

As I have mentioned, the strong sense of community is very important to us and we greatly value the involvement and support of parents and family at school events. The *Forthcoming Events* section at the end of this newsletter highlights those events in the School Calendar – in addition to the sports fixtures – which may be of special interest to parents or to which you are warmly invited to attend.

I wish your son a very happy and fulfilling year and look forward to meeting you during the course of this academic year.

Academic: The RGS was ranked top boys school in the country at A Level, as the School recorded its second highest ever percentage of A*s at A Level. In total, 41% of all grades were at A* and 81% of the grades were secured at A* or A grade. 94 boys achieved the extraordinary accolade of a clean set of A* and A grades. At GCSE RGS students received a mix of numerical and traditional grades for the first time. In those subjects where students received numerical grades, an astonishing 54% of all grades were secured at grade 9, the gold-star standard, and 82% were at 8 / 9 which equates to the old A*. 26 boys achieved the prestigious accolade of straight A* or 9 / 8 grades in their 10 – or more – subjects. In addition, 22 boys secured straight A* / 9 grades. Particularly noteworthy was the boys' performance in Mathematics where 92 grade 9s were secured.

Philosophy: **Kieran Galpin** (U6) was awarded a Highly Commended prize for his essay entitled *Is beauty in the eye of the beholder?* in an essay competition for the Oriel College Lloyd Davies Philosophy Prize. There were two joint winners and seven highly commended essays so this is a fine achievement.

Staff: The RGS is delighted to welcome the following new members of teaching staff: Miss Bell (Classics), Mr Clarke (Modern Foreign Languages), Mr Dennett (Mathematics), Mr Fishpool (Geography), Miss Hayes (History), Mrs Marsden (Learning Support), Dr McEwan (English), Miss Ward (Mathematics), Mrs Wellard (Mathematics), and Mr Yardley (Modern Foreign Languages). We also welcome back recent RGS leavers Max Dobinson and George Eves (Sports Gap Year Assistants), and Robin Meinert (German Assistant) and Anne-Marie Paré (French Assistante). We wish them all a very successful and enjoyable career at the School.

Trips: There were a vast number of trips, tours and expeditions over the summer holidays. These included: the Joint Guildford High School and RGS Big Band tour to Catalonia; the South Africa rugby tour; the German trip to Koblenz; the Combined Cadet Force summer camp at Nesscliff; the Explorer Scouts summer camp in Jersey; and the pre-season football training camp in Amsterdam.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Chess: **Harry Grieve** (U6) won an international chess competition in Budapest over the summer which confirms that he is now has the title of FM (FIDE Master).

Football: **Nicholas Scott** (L6) was selected for one of the regional representative sides which competed in the Gothia World Youth Football Cup held in Sweden. With 1,800 teams from 85 countries, the Gothia World Youth Cup is the world's biggest youth event. Nicholas's team made it through to the knock-out stages but was then eliminated on penalties.

Hockey: **Edward Ferguson** (U6) participated in the UK School Games over the summer: a multisport event for the best young athletes in the country. Edward competed in the hockey, as part of the England Blue team, finishing in bronze medal position and scoring a goal in their win against Scotland.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Saturday 8 September	Second Form House Rugby at Bradstone Brook
Wednesday 12 September	UCAS Application talk for Upper Sixth Form parents in the Auditorium
Friday 14 September	Commemoration Service in Guildford Cathedral
Wednesday 19 September	Classics Lecture by Edith Hall in Big School
Thursday 20 September	Senior Prizegiving in Holy Trinity Church