



From the Headmaster

In 1919, as one of a generation of teachers believing fervently in the value of education for its own sake, Arthur Green took over as Headmaster of the RGS. Education, he believed, was for life, not just for a career. He fought constantly against what he described as the popular idea that education should be judged solely by examination results; indeed, he regarded league tables as *"the deadliest of enemies of schools"*. One of the School's first duties, in his view, was to instil the values of co-operation, loyalty, and service; these characteristics resonated all the more in the aftermath of the First World War. Experience had taught him that shared activities not only bound the School together but also stimulated the individual development of each boy. He worked hard to ensure that the School equipped boys with those qualities which mattered in life: readiness to accept responsibility, the spirit of willing service to the community, the determination to increase their efficiency in whatever branch of life they were called to work, courage to face with a grave heart and a cheerful disposition all blows that adverse fortune might bring on them. He believed that the values inherent within the work of the School should be a constant in a changing world.

Last term, we went through a lengthy and fascinating process of consultation as we tried to articulate those values which are at the very heart of our ethos, which reflect what we fundamentally believe in, which define who we are. As Headmasters, buildings, educational trends, governments come and go with the passage of time and as we embrace change, the fundamental ethos and character of a school should stand resolute. It was reassuring that there was an astonishingly high level of agreement from students, staff, parents and governors alike as to those values which both epitomised and characterised the RGS. These are attached to this edition of *The Bulletin* for your interest: inclusivity; scholarship; integrity; respect; tenacity; and service.

It was only after the publication of these new school values that I came across the thoughts of Arthur Green outlined above. It highlighted how, for all our innovation and development in recent years, the RGS has remained true to its core beliefs. Green's reflections served to prove that these are, in fact, timeless qualities which have stood and, which we hope, will continue to stand the test of time.

As the school hymn – *He who would valiant be* by John Bunyan – champions, *"One here will constant be, Come wind, come weather."*

Latest News

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Charity: 699 votes were cast by students and staff for the selection of this year's RGS-nominated local, national and international charities. Our local charity for this year is *The Fountain Centre*, based at the Royal Surrey Hospital, which aims to empower cancer patients and their families. Our national charity is *The CALM zone*, the Campaign Against Living Miserably: a movement against male suicide. Finally, our international charity for this year is *World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)*, the world's leading independent conservation organisation.

Commemoration: The school community came together at Guildford Cathedral to give thanks to all those who, throughout our 500-year history, have supported the School with their gifts of money, energy, time and creativity. It also provided an opportunity to welcome all those new to the RGS. In a service of thanksgiving and celebration, we were delighted, during the sermon, to hear the thoughts of The Reverend John Witheridge, former Headmaster of Charterhouse School and Chaplain to the Queen, who spoke passionately about the value of an independent education, day schools in particular, and the mark of a leader.

Music: **Sam Jones** (U6) has been awarded an Organ Scholarship to Clare College, Cambridge where he will also read Music. Sam is our third Organ Scholar in the last few years following on from Eric Foster and, more recently, Nicholas Edwards.

Sports News

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Chess: RGS Guildford A won the Russell Jamboree Chess Championship, maintaining their title from last year; the B team came tied fourth in the Russell Jamboree Chess Major.

Cross-Country: The RGS junior team won convincingly in a fixture at Charterhouse School; this was all the more impressive as, from a strong, competitive field, RGS runners occupied the first four positions in the race.

Fencing: At the British Junior Fencing Championships, in the Under 20 Épée, **Kit Edgecliffe-Johnson** (U6) came a creditable 46th and **Sam Ellis** (U6) 71st despite being very young for their age groups. In the British Cadet Fencing Championships, at Under 17 Foil, **Freddie Edgecliffe-Johnson** (4V) finished 40th and at Under 17 Épée, **Leo Kamstra** (4B) came 17th: again impressive considering their respective ages.

Football: In the ISFA Under 18 National Cup Round 1, the 1st XI lost 2 – 4 against Kingston Grammar. **Jamie Adair** (U6) scored two goals including a spectacular 30-yard finish off his wrong foot.

Golf: The RGS team took part in the first round of the Independent School's Knock-out competition, playing against Gordon's School at Guildford Golf Club. In very challenging conditions with extremely high winds, the team, consisting of captain **Henry Doyle** (U6), **Lucas English** (1C) and **Yuvraj Gandhi** (5A), played with great skill and determination, coming out 2 – 1 winners. Special mention should go to Lucas and Yuvraj who were both playing in their first school match, and who both beat players with lower handicaps.

Rugby: An excellent first block fixture of term saw the RGS emerging victorious against both Portsmouth Grammar School (PGS) and King's College School, Wimbledon (KCS). Against PGS, the 1st XV got off to an excellent start to the season with a 29 – 21 victory; seven out of the eight matches were also won, with the only defeat being the Under 14As who emerged with great credit from a narrow 14 – 19 loss against talented opposition. Against KCS, the junior teams won five and drew two of the games with the Under 12s, representing the RGS for the first time, impressing with their commitment and pride in the RGS shirt. In the block fixture against Reed's School, RGS teams again impressed. The 1st XV continued their fine recent form with a 41 – 10 victory. The four Under 14 teams completed a clean-sweep of wins, scoring 193 and conceding just seven points in the process.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Saturday 22 September	Parents' Association First Form Dinner in Great Hall
Friday 28 September	Drama Production of Sophocles' <i>Antigone</i> in the Auditorium
Saturday 29 September	Parents' Association Third Form Dinner in Great Hall
Monday 1 October	Field Day 1



RSGuildford

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