



From the Headmaster

In our fast-paced, rapidly-changing world, manners could easily be regarded as a rather quaint, dusty concept, better consigned to the bookshelves, alongside such guidelines as *Debrett's Handbook*. This compendium, first published in 1769, was the self-acclaimed authority on all things etiquette and behaviour: everything from the correct usage of cutlery in formal dining to the accepted methods of greeting members of royalty. Pre-dating this, in the fifteenth century, William Horman, a Headmaster at both Eton College and Winchester College during the early Tudor Period, coined what was to become a mantra for many – *Manners maketh man* – in other words, an acknowledgement that good manners define and characterise an individual.

This was by no means a philosophy restricted to Horman. In the early 1600s, George Austen drew up Statutes for the RGS which consisted of 31 articles relating to the organisation of the School. One of the Articles stated that every scholar was to pay eight pence per year, four pence of which was for the purchase of rods and brooms for use in the school. Discipline was harsh and Latin was beaten into unwilling students, hence the need for a plentiful supply of rods. As well as discipline, a code of conduct was laid down in Article 29: "honesty and cleanness of life, gentle and decent speeches, humility, courtesy and good manners shall be established by all good means. Pride, ribaldry, scurrility, lying, picking, swearing, blasphemy and other such vices shall be sharply punished."

Over five hundred years later – with, unsurprisingly, the exception of extreme punishment through rods and beating – these old-fashioned, traditional guidelines remain as relevant as ever. Although in 2014 *Debrett's* launched a new handbook which gave instruction on modern phenomena of behaviour and manners – vaping at work; reclining your seat on a plane; using your mobile phone while with another person; eating on public transport – I genuinely believe such an update is not strictly necessary for us at the RGS. As a school, we continue to celebrate kindness and consideration. Opening doors, wishing each other "Good morning", politeness, all remain as valued and important as ever. It is reassuring that manners do, indeed, maketh man.

Latest News

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CREST: **Salvatore Nigrelli** (5P) successfully gained a CREST Silver Award after carrying out a very impressive research project on the synthesis and analysis of aspirin and paracetamol. He analysed his products using an NMR, a nuclear magnetic resonance, spectrometer at Surrey University. This is the first time that an RGS student in the Middle School has carried out a Chemistry CREST Silver project.

Music: Over 30 of our young budding pianists performed – many of them for the first time on a public stage – at the annual Junior Piano Concert. In a varied programme, the event showcased some exciting young talent, none more so than a controlled, mature performance by **James Dicker** (2P).

Partnership: 30 students from the RGS and Tormead School undertook a poignant expedition to Besisahar, Nepal in support of our long-standing partnership with schools in the Himalayan town. This inaugural expedition was the latest development in a charitable link to the town dating back to 2004, when Old Guildfordian Alex Ewart tragically lost his life in a rafting accident that was meant to celebrate the successful completion of three months volunteering as a teacher in two schools in Besisahar during his Gap Year. The foundation established by his family and friends has since raised over £250,000 to improve education facilities in this rural part of Nepal. A central part of this visit was pairing the Guildford students with 30 students from Besisahar to jointly complete a range of activities including the renovation of facilities in the Nepalese schools and a trek to stay with host families in the Himalayan village of Ghalegaun.

Remembrance: The RGS community joined together in an act of remembrance in memory of those who have lost their lives in warfare since the First World War. As the Headmaster said: "On the War Memorial in Big School are listed the names of all 58 Old Boys of this school who died in the Great War: RGS students who walked the same corridors as you; had the same dreams and aspirations as you; and whose loss of life was a source of devastation for their friends, families and the School alike." The names, and ages, of each one of those Old Guildfordians were then read out. Commander Raymond Hale (OG 1956) and current School Captain, **Oscar Atkinson** (U6), laid the wreaths, before an address by **Harry Dennis** (U6) gave an insight into how the events of 1914 – 1918 would shape the world in which we live today.

Trips: Over half term, trips included: 35 boys travelling to South Wales for the annual Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Gold practice expeditions in the Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains; the Middle School Spanish trip to Madrid; the Politics Department Sixth Form trip to Washington DC and Philadelphia; and the surfing trip to Cornwall.

Sports News

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Martial Arts: **Dimitri Perricos** (L6) competed in the Taekwondo British Open in Cheltenham and won a bronze medal in his category for sparring. **Alex Jackson** (2E) successfully defended his Kata title at a karate competition in High Wycombe. After becoming a black belt two years ago, he secured a gold medal at this event for the fourth year running.

Rugby: On a classic November day at Bradstone Brook, the British weather threw everything at the block fixture against Cranleigh School and Portsmouth Grammar School from blinding sun to torrential rain. As always an eagerly-contested set of matches saw a number of tight games; of particular note were the clean sweep of victories in the six junior fixtures against Portsmouth Grammar School and an excellent, narrow 12 – 10 win for the Under 16As against Cranleigh School. The 1st XV coped admirably with quite appalling conditions despite losing 12 – 27 to a strong Cranleigh side.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 19 November	School Closed: Staff Inset Day
Tuesday 20 November	Monday Timetable Upper Sixth Form <i>Planning for Life after University</i> in the Auditorium
Wednesday 21 November	Ensembles Concert in the Auditorium
Thursday 22 November	King's Lecture in the Auditorium <i>Talking Teens</i> Workshop for Parents
Tuesday 27 November	Fourth Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall and the John Brown Building
Wednesday 28 November	Lower Sixth Form <i>Preparation for University Applications</i> in Great Hall
Thursday 29 November	RGS Christmas Fair in Great Hall

