



### From the Headmaster

Pick up any newspaper and read education stories and it is all too easy to assume that it is a bleak picture facing our students in the current climate. Articles abound on issues with regard to problems with examinations, pressure and stress levels, concerns about health and wellbeing, and so I could go on. From the outside, schools can be regarded as institutions inhabited by students for whom the challenges are significant and insurmountable. Yet, as I reflect on not only the last two weeks, but the term as a whole, this could not be further from my perception.

Those who were fortunate enough to see the recent junior production of *Emil and the Detectives* could not help but be swept along by the sheer infectious enthusiasm and energy of the boys. That same *joie de vivre* has epitomised so many events this term: from the charitable initiatives such as the Stand-Up to Comedy evening or Christmas jumper competition; to our dynamic partnerships and links with local school children such as the Masterclasses or weekly Primary School Project; to the House competitions where boys have competed against their peers with no little commitment and entertaining rivalry! Even the recent uplifting Carol Services in Holy Trinity Church and the atmospheric Guildford Cathedral incorporated carols which had at their very essence the themes of joy, rejoicing, triumph, and praise. On the sports fields, in concerts, on stage, in the classroom, in the co-curricular sphere I continually see RGS boys who are united by genuine pride in their performance and who inspire each other to strive for ever higher standards. This is, however, achieved with a lightness of touch, a humility, and – most importantly – a sense of humour and fun which means that the staff and the boys alike take what they do seriously but do not take themselves too seriously.

So, as term finishes today, we should all take a moment to reflect and to celebrate. I would like to personally offer my thanks to all the staff and governors who give of their time so generously and willingly to support and inspire the students; to you, the parents, who are supportive of the School in so many ways; and most of all to the students whose talent, commitment, and, indeed, good humour make this such a wonderful community of which to be a part. I wish you all a very relaxing, enjoyable and happy Christmas period and offer you the very best wishes for the new year. I look forward to seeing you in 2019!

### Latest News

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**Charity:** Our various Christmas-related charitable initiatives, including the Christmas jumper day, the sale of *Krispy Kreme* donuts and the annual Christmas Fair, raised over £4,000 for our three nominated charities: *The Fountain Centre*, *The Calm Zone* and *The World Wildlife Fund*, and also for *Macmillan Cancer Support*. In total, almost £7,000 has been raised through charitable events this term: a phenomenal achievement.

**Combined Cadet Force:** **Charlie Hubbard** (U6) and **William Vaughan** (U6) have both been awarded prestigious Army Scholarships. This highly competitive award involves them negotiating a series of academic and medical tests, an intense interview process and a series of command tasks and planning exercises to gain one of just 100 awards available each year.

**Drama:** A frantic, breathless production of *Emil and the Detectives* proved to be the perfect festive entertainment as Emil and his sidekicks give chase to the dastardly moustached and bowler-hatted villain, Mr Snow, played by a suitably sinister and charismatic **Alejandro Scholfield Perez** (4N). A talented cast really got to grips with the zeitgeist, mood and characterisation, embodying the rich personalities of the play with maturity and sensitivity. **Gabriel Meadowcroft** (2R) was superb as the plucky, anguished, and yet fiercely loyal Emil, and there was lovely work too from **Jack Fuller** (3C) as the omniscient professor and **Jack Williams** (2L) as the school teacher. Imaginative staging, an upbeat soundtrack, and evocative sound effects all added to the sheer exuberance and feel-good factor of this fantastic junior production.

**Mathematics:** Over 80,000 students entered the Senior Mathematics Challenge and the RGS received an impressive 25 gold certificates, 18 silver and 17 bronze. In the light of this, five RGS boys qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad: Upper Sixth Form students **Salvatore Elia** (who top scored with an excellent 120 out of 125), **Henry Thake**, **Thomas Eves** and **Harry Grieve**, and also **Ben Watkins** (5H).

**Model United Nations:** Twenty RGS boys participated in the Benenden School MUN Conference. **Pradeep Buttar** (U6) and **Cameron Gardener** (L6) received highly-commended delegate awards; **George Tench** (U6) was awarded an outstanding delegate award for his confident stance in the Future Committee.

**Music:** The excellent Orchestral Concert in Holy Trinity Church included Bizet's *Carmen Suite* and Walton's *Crown Imperial*. Three Carol Services in three days then truly welcomed in the festive period. After singing at the Guildford High School service, the musicians then performed at the school service in Holy Trinity Church and then the senior service at Guildford Cathedral. From an impressive programme, the choir introit – *Matin Responsory, Palestrina* – was particularly noteworthy and memorable.

**Science:** **Charlie Dorkins** (U6) entered his CREST Gold project into the Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Competition and has progressed to the final with his project entitled *Measuring the dynamic strength of metals using the reverse Taylor impact test*. It will be showcased to more than 70,000 people in the Big Bang Fair at the Birmingham NEC: the eighth consecutive year that RGS boys have made the final.

## Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

**Cross-Country:** In a competition at Hampton School, a number of strong individual performances resulted in two out of our three teams taking first place in their age groups.

**Fencing:** In the Surrey Men's Intermediate Épée held at Epsom College, **Samuel Ellis** (U6) was crowned Champion, while in the Surrey Men's Novice Épée **Matthew Williams** (L6) finished as Silver medalist.

**Football:** A free-scoring match against Lord Wandsworth College saw the 1st XI scoring six goals, with two goals apiece from **Jamie Adair** (U6) and **Javier León Ayarza** (U6).

**Rowing:** **Jack Weeks** (1R) competed in the British Indoor Rowing Championships at the Olympic Velodrome. In the junior 500m sprint Jack won gold and in the two-minute sprint he won silver.

**Rugby:** In the Fourth Round of the National Schools' Cup, the Under 15As won 12 – 10 against a very strong Brighton College team. The RGS will now play Harrow School in the last 16. In the block fixture against King's College School Wimbledon, the 1st XV recorded an excellent 40 – 7 victory and, on a rain-affected day, other highlights included a convincing 52 – 5 win for the 2nd XV. The season came to an end against The Skinners' School with the 1st XV rounding off an excellent season with a hard fought 33 – 15 victory. Game of the day was the tense 7 – 7 draw for the Under 16Bs where they showed real grit and determination.

**Sailing:** In the Schools National Match Racing Championship, the RGS team of **Charlie Dorkins** (U6), **Charlie Fernandez** (U6), **Ben Mueller** (4A) and **Oliver Perkins** (L6) emerged as National Match Racing Champions.

**Shooting:** **Balazs Rigo** (L6) and **Samuel Cherry** (L6) have been selected for the Athelings, the British Cadet Rifle Team, to tour Canada. They are the twenty-ninth and thirtieth RGS members of this prestigious team. At team level, the RGS team brought a successful term to a close as they retained the Suffield-Jones Hicks Cup and at the annual Surrey Smallbore Rifle Association Dinner received a variety of individual and team awards including the prestigious Lord Mancroft Trophy.