

The Bulletin

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From the Headmaster

Winning and losing, success and failure, victory and defeat. These words dominate so much of not only the back pages of every newspaper but even, in recent months, the front pages at a time when the political landscape is so focused on votes and motions. Schools, equally, are not immune from focusing on such a polarised, black-and-white way of looking at achievement; indeed, this is just one of the many reasons why school league tables only tell part of the story with regard to the value of the education offered.

At our end of term assembly in December, our Head of Rugby Mr Dudley spoke passionately about winning being about far more than who scores the most points: "I have witnessed many different types of 'win' this season: gestures of great sportsmanship in house rugby; senior boys devoting time to coaching other year groups; younger boys staying on to support the 1st XV; tidying the changing rooms; putting into practice plays learned in training; changing plans at the last minute to be available for selection; rallying around injured teammates; congratulating a boy selected ahead of you; and playing out of position if needed. In isolation, these wins are sometimes overlooked, taken for granted, and possibly viewed as insignificant but collectively these small victories have greater, longer-lasting impact than any scoreboard win."

This attitude translates to every aspect of life at the RGS. We are proud of headline successes: public examination results, university offers, and success in national competitions. It is, however, undoubtedly those successes which do not provoke such acclaim and profile which provide greater satisfaction and which, in the long run, will be the foundations of individuals who are altruistic, tolerant, respectful, and – most of all – kind citizens. Helping voluntarily and proactively someone who is struggling emotionally or academically, being sensitive to the needs of others, being willing to compromise, even just the small acts of courtesy such as holding a door open or saying thank you: all of these are significant in themselves. Time and generosity of spirit invested in others and the cumulative effect of small daily victories contribute to a school where our values – qualities such as service, integrity, inclusivity, respect – really are at the heart of what as an institution makes us tick. They serve as a pertinent reminder to us all that success can be measured in so many different ways.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Happy New Year and the very best wishes for a successful, in every sense of the word, 2019.

Latest News

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Entrance Examinations: The RGS 11+ Entrance Examinations took place on Saturday and we were delighted to welcome through our doors just under 400 boys from over 120 different schools. With applicants from both State Primary Schools and Prep Schools, boys had travelled from near and far: from Guildford to Abu Dhabi, from America to Dubai. The calibre of applicants impressed and this healthy competition for places and the quality and diversity of the intake continue to bode well for the future of the School.

Literature: **Mikel Bober-Irizar** (U6) has published a scientific paper entitled *Deep Learning for Classical Japanese Literature* with co-authors from Google Brain, the University of Montreal and Japanese institutions. This success follows close on the heels of last October when Mikel was an invited panellist in the H2O AI World London 2018 Conference: an impressive honour.

Physics: It has been a particularly successful year for RGS students in the British Physics Olympiad. Nearly 3,000 students participated this year, including 1,000 from China. The top 100 students received *Top Gold* awards and will be invited to participate in the next round in the British Physics Olympiad competition, and also the British Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad. Five Sixth Form students achieved this impressive level: **Salvatore Elia**, **Freddie Floyd**, **Edward James**, **In Kyu Kwon**, and **Tom Moores**.

University: At a time when university entrance has never been more competitive, our Upper Sixth Form students are continuing to receive offers onto some of the most prestigious courses at leading universities, a reflection of the strength of their applications. In addition, RGS students have received 18 offers from Cambridge University and 10 from Oxford University. These offers covered a range of courses across both the sciences and the arts/humanities/social sciences with, for the first time in a number of years, the latter proving the more successful. All the boys who applied worked with commendable dedication and commitment and our thoughts go out to those very talented students who unfortunately just missed out on being made offers; they should all be proud of their efforts and take heart from the fact that several of last year's students used the disappointment of missing out on an offer as a springboard to successful applications this time around.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Chess: **James Golding** (L6) came second in the Under 21/Under 18 London Junior Chess Championships; his brother, **Alex** (4N), came sixth. James and Alex, along with **Amardip Ahluwalia** (4V), have also been invited to be part of the National Junior Squad that will participate in the 3rd ChessMate International FTPA Youth Chess Teams Tournament in Paris in March.

Football: A busy start to the year for the four XIs has included matches against Christ's Hospital, Royal Russell School and St John's School Leatherhead. The 1st XI followed up a narrow 2 – 1 victory against the Old Guildfordians with goals from **Oliver Taylor** (U6) and **Benedict Cox** (U6), with an impressive performance as they beat Royal Russell 3 – 2 with two goals from **Matthew Ledbury** (U6) and one from **Javier León-Ayarza** (U6).

Hockey: The hockey season kicked off on Friday night under the floodlights as the junior teams played against Guildford Hockey Club, with many boys making their competitive hockey debuts for the RGS. The matches were played in an excellent spirit and the work ethic, stick skills and use of possession all bode well for the season ahead. The traditional first block fixture of term against Tonbridge School then saw competitive matches across the board. The 1st XI lost narrowly 0 – 1; however, the RGS recorded five wins with highlights including a 6 – 0 victory for the Under 16Bs in which **Joseph McMurray** (5H) scored five goals, a 5 – 0 win for the Under 15C team, and a dramatic 4 – 3 win for the 2nd XI including two goals for **Edward James** (U6).

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Tuesday 22 January	Young Enterprise <i>Y Factor</i> competition in Great Hall
Thursday 24 January	Launch of the Swaziland & Mozambique Expedition in the Auditorium
Thursday 31 January	First Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall
Friday 1 February	Careers Convention in the Auditorium and Great Hall



RSGS Guildford

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