



From the Headmaster

Buzzwords come and go in the media and this week has seen the term mockney coming to the fore across the front pages of many national newspapers. The former head of Harrow School, Barnaby Lenon, said that former private school students often speak in a mockney accent to seem less posh: mockney being a form of speech regarded as an affected imitation of cockney or working-class London speech either in terms of accent or vocabulary. According to Mr Lenon, students from elite private schools go out of their way to hide their education, to present themselves as men of the people: something which those in the public eye, including our politicians, are certainly not immune from doing.

In a similar vein an entertaining article published in *Tatler* this month also gained profile. The article, firmly tongue-in-cheek, investigated what it means to be upper class (U). Back in 1955, Nancy Mitford, set out in print what had never been written before: the unspoken rules for being U. Her article in *Encounter* magazine provoked an outcry at the time, not least from Evelyn Waugh who in an open letter denounced her for lobbing this controversial hand grenade into society saying: "There are subjects too intimate for print. Surely class is one of them?" Interestingly, Mitford's observations were based on language and perception; she also claimed, unsurprisingly, that vocabulary and accent were noteworthy in defining status and class. The article then fast-forwarded to modern day and set out the new rules for being U in 2019. The 'new' U reinforced Lenon's comments that normal and understated is very much the new U: eating bread; having a job; flying with *EasyJet*; *SodaStreams*; Yorkshire Tea; reading books; politeness; to name but a few.

The days of independent schools being ivory towers characterised by airs and graces are pleasingly and increasingly anachronistic. Retaining our grammar school ethos, having such a diverse intake from State Primary as well as Prep Schools throughout the county and beyond, and striving for full merit-based, open access are all aspects of our community of which we are justifiably proud. Our boys are phenomenally grounded and down-to-earth and through embedding our values – such seminal qualities as service, integrity, inclusivity, respect, and so on – we hope to nurture young men who will be altruistic in outlook and who will become positive, influential members of society. And so irrespective of taste, choice or preference, whether it is eating the odd loaf of bread, flying from time to time on *EasyJet*, or even talking in a certain way, each one of us should embrace and celebrate ourselves without fear of labelling or pigeon-holing; and that really is class.

Latest News

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Chemistry: In the regional heat of the Royal Society of Chemistry *Top of the Bench* competition, the Fourth and Fifth Form team of **Janek Czarnek**, **Salvatore Nigrelli**, **Aradhya Soneja** and **Michael Wu** won their heat to finish second in the region, and first reserve for the national competition.

CREST Awards: 12 Upper Sixth Form students carried out original scientific research during the summer holiday at a number of leading universities. Six Gold CREST awards have been awarded so far to **Harry Grieve**, **In Kyu Kwon**, **Tom Moores**, **Sam Müller**, **Josh Mulligan** and **Nathan Seto**.

Young Enterprise: In *The Y Factor 2019* Young Enterprise Competition, five RGS companies competed, showcasing their products on trade stands and delivering four-minute presentations. RGS team *Vynup*, selling upcycled vinyl records, were announced as *The Y Factor 2019* winners; *Delta* were highly commended for their environmental children's book *How can I help?* All five teams now progress to the Area Finals.

Sports News

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Badminton: In the National Schools Championships, the 1st IV won the County Round to qualify for the South-East Regional Round where they will be competing against seven other county winners.

Chess: In the NSCC Cup Competition, the RGS 2nd VI won 6 – 0 against Cedars School; in the Briant Poulter League Matches the 1st VI and 3rd VIs both recorded victories.

Fencing: In the Surrey Championships Under 14 Foil **Freddie Cheng** (3S) won gold to become County Champion; in the Under 16 Foil **Freddie Edgecliffe-Johnson** (4V) qualified for the British Youth Championship.

Football: In a well-contested block fixture against Sutton Grammar School, the 1st XI narrowly lost 2 – 3; the game of the day involved the 4th XI with a convincing 5 – 1 win including a brace from **Ben Stott** (L6).

Hockey: In the block fixture against Churcher's College, 10 victories were achieved by RGS sides; the 1st XI bounced back after a disappointing result in the National Cup and played some of the best hockey of the season so far to win 7 – 2. A mini mid-week block against Charterhouse – in which the Under 16s secured a clean sweep of victories – was then followed by a full block against St George's College. The Under 13s and Under 15s impressed winning five matches; however, it was the Under 16Bs who continued their attacking, free-flowing hockey to secure four out of four wins, with 20 goals scored and just one conceded. On an individual level, **Harry Relph** (L6) and **Jake Sloggett** (L6) both were part of the Guildford Hockey Club team which emerged as champions at the Under 18 Club Indoor Championships: a phenomenal achievement.

Karting: Out of 50 drivers from all over the world, **Arvid Lindblad** (1E) came second in a race at the Adria International Raceway, outside Venice.

Rugby: **Alasdair Bulman** (U6) has been selected to join the Canada Rugby Under 18/Under 20 team on an upcoming tour of Portugal and Spain.

Shooting: Our VIII secured victory against Charterhouse School by 755 points to 739 in their first 10-bull match of the term. **Luca O'Flynn** (U6) and **Miles Horton-Baker** (U6) were joint top scorers with 97/100.

Speed Skating: **Theo Collins** (4H) has been selected by the British Olympic Association to be part of Team GB at the European Youth Olympic Winter Festival in Sarajevo in Short Track Speed Skating.

Swimming: The Under 14, 16 and 18 teams performed well in a gala against Charterhouse School, with a final points tally of 110 to 102 in our favour; the Under 14s and 18s had convincing wins in their age group.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

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| Friday 1 February | Careers Convention in Great Hall and the Auditorium |
| Wednesday 6 February | Musician of the Year in the Recital Room |
| Thursday 7 February | Singapore and Malaysia Tour Parents' Meeting in the Auditorium |
| Monday 11 February | Lower Sixth Oxbridge Seminar in the Auditorium |
| Tuesday 12 February | Third Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall and John Brown Building |
| Wednesday 13 February | Student Finance and Life after Graduation in the Auditorium |
| Friday 15 February | Fourth Form Battlefields Tour departs |

