



From the Headmaster

In a rapidly-changing, fast-moving world, schools face a number of challenges: how to ensure wellbeing and happiness are at the heart of all we do; how to nurture resilience in young adults; how to encourage students to be altruistic, politically aware, tolerant; how to prepare students for jobs which may not yet exist; and so the list could go on and on. There is one aspect, however, in the current climate – and, indeed, about the current climate – which arguably is of more pressing concern than all others.

Environmental issues rightly continue to dominate the media and this term's King's Lecture had the environment as its sole focus. Our students are going to be the generation which most acutely feels the repercussions of previous generations and they will need to take the initiative in finding creative and sustainable solutions to many of the problems. Our three speakers, rather than focusing exclusively on statistics and scaremongering, showcased genuine ingenuity in identifying practical solutions. Trewin Restorick, the founder and CEO of award-winning charity *Hubbub UK*, gave a fascinating insight into how to tap into the public's mindset to encourage recycling using truly original techniques and strong, modern and compelling design: everything from burping, bubble-blowing bins to football-poll-voting recycling units. It is reassuring that, as a community, our students and staff also have been so proactive and dynamic in discussing the issues in a considered and objective fashion, coming up with sensible ways in which we can make – sometimes quite small – changes in our lifestyles to address some of the many concerns which face us. Trewin's philosophy of engaging everyone in green issues and coming up with imaginative suggestions certainly struck a chord.

The overwhelming message of the evening was one of positivity and hope; however, the message was also clear: if our students can, in an innovative way, embrace the fact that small things matter, that everything counts and that it's everyone responsibility, then the next generation can face the future with greater confidence. The challenge for us all now is to make this happen.

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Biology: In this year's national Biology Olympiad, RGS students did extremely well achieving seven gold, five silver, twelve bronze and fourteen Highly Commended or Commended awards. Gold award winners, placing them in the top 7% of all entrants, were Sixth Form Biologists **Ed Ferguson**, **Josh Han**, **Gabriel Johnson**, **James Miller**, **Josh Mulligan** and **Luke Nelson** as well as, impressively, Fifth Form student **Andrew Florescu**.

Coding: In the national Perse Coding Challenge Round 1, boys worked in teams of two to solve complex coding problems. **Aaron Chamberlain** (3R) and **Alastair Stenning** (4P) both earned distinctions, while **Ertan Holt** (1E) and **Felix Johnson** (1E) earned merits.

Debating: In the Oxford Schools Debating Competition, 80 teams competed in the regional heat for just eight coveted places in the national final. Although just missing out on a final place, Sixth Form students **Peter Heylen** and **Hugh Jones** gave an impassioned argument about the necessity of separate arts awards for both genders. **Sam Cherry** and **Cam Gardner** also gave convincing speeches about the benefits of reinstating National Service.

Mathematics: In the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge, a national competition aimed at high-attaining mathematicians, over 150,000 pupils entered. The RGS received a record-breaking set of results: 53 gold certificates (the top 7% of students nationally), seventeen silver and three bronze. In addition, an amazing 48 students qualified for the follow-up rounds: seven for the Olympiad and 41 for the Kangaroo. **Luke Wyllie** (5B) individually set a new RGS record with the top score of 132.

Model United Nations: At the Wycombe Abbey MUN Conference, RGS delegates were representing two committees: the Commission on the Status of Women and the Security Council. **Alasdair Hopwood** (L6) was awarded one of four prizes for Best Interviewee; in addition, **Alfie Cherry** (L6), **Alex Freaney** (L6), **Callum Gardner** (L6) and **Aradhya Soneja** (4B) received Highly Commended delegation awards.

Sports News

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Chess: In the NSCC Cup, our 1st VI won 6 – 0 against Yateley Manor. Meanwhile, in the Briant Poulter Division 1, our 1st team secured an impressive 4½ - 1½ victory against King's College School, Wimbledon.

Cross-Country: In the South London Harriers cross-country race, the RGS team secured first place.

Fencing: In the British Schools Team Fencing Championship, all five of our teams won medals or plates. The RGS has now won back-to-back national team titles (Under 18s in 2018 and Under 15s in 2019) and we have now finished on the podium in this event for the ninth consecutive year. Of particular note among the many highlights were our Under 15 team in the Épée – **Freddie Edgecliffe-Johnson** (4V), **Leo Kamstra** (4B) and **Boldi Paladi-Kovacs** (3C) – who achieved gold and were thereby crowned the new national champions.

Football: The 1st XI beat Wilson's School 4 – 3; **Javier León-Ayarza** (U6) scored a last-minute winner.

Hockey: In the first block fixture of the second half of term, the RGS entertained a very strong set of Whitgift teams. It is credit to the boys that so many games were keenly contested, finishing as draws or narrow single-goal defeats. The Under 14Cs produced the performance of the day with a 4 – 0 victory; the Under 16Bs kept alive the dream of an unbeaten season with a fiercely contested 2 – 2 draw against impressive opposition. Finally, the 1st XI was also involved in the curtain-raiser fixture for the Varsity hockey match winning the Bogdan Trophy; the Varsity match featured three Old Guildfordians in the main event.

Ice Hockey: **Michael Goncharuk** (1E) gave a strong performance amid fierce competition at the 60th International Pee-Wee Tournament in Quebec with the Guildford Under 13s, representing the UK.

Rugby: The RGS Under 14 team won the Vase at the Surrey Rugby County Sevens Tournament.

Skiing: **Jack Weeks** (1R) competed in the English Alpine Championships held in Italy: one of the premier events on the British ski racing circuit. Jack did well, including a fourth and seventh place finish.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Wednesday 13 March	Orchestral and Choral Concert in Holy Trinity Church
Thursday 14 March	Friday Timetable
Friday 15 March	Field Day 3
Monday 18 March	Parental Briefing for the Junior Classics Trip to Italy in Great Hall
Wednesday 20 March	School Drama Production of <i>RENT</i> for four performances

