



From the Headmaster

Last weekend we hosted, for the third year in succession, TEDx Guildford. The philosophy of the iconic TEDx brand centres on communities coming together to think outside the box, to look at issues from new and diverse perspectives, to tackle issues afresh and differently, and to assume there are a range of viewpoints.

The theme of innovation was particularly apt as the spirit of enterprise chimes closely with our values at the RGS. A succession of thought-provoking short talks from individuals predominantly based in the Surrey community tackled issues as diverse as technological advances, hyper-reality, collaboration and partnerships, mental health, and behaviour change with regard to recycling. From a school's perspective, we are increasingly preparing our students for jobs which are yet to exist and our students need to leave the RGS armed with the skills and attitudes to make an impact irrespective of their chosen path: flexibility and resilience; leadership and teamwork; a willingness to take appropriate risks and not be frightened by the fear of setbacks; but, most of all, a genuine desire to make a difference and find solutions to the challenges which face them.

Old Guildfordian Alex McCallion delivered one of the talks, illustrating the power of social enterprise to open doors and transform lives. As founder of *Greater Change*, his innovative approach uses digital technology to provide targeted and tailored support for the homeless. One of the pillars of the RGS values is service and Alex served to illustrate how, I hope, we can embed a culture within our students of altruism, perspective, giving back to the community, passing on our good fortune, and working in partnership with others to make a real difference.

As a society we need the brightest minds to collaborate and innovate if we are to meet the global challenges of the twenty-first century. Each of the TEDx talks embraced the cliché of *where there is a will, there is a way*. Combining the desire and the vision to find imaginative solutions to current-day challenges is the very real challenge which faces us as a school and also our students; the spirit of enterprise, however, which I see at the RGS on a daily basis gives me great hope for the future.

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Drama: Based on the classic seventeenth-century novel by Miguel de Cervantes, the Modern Foreign Languages Department production of *Don Quijote de la Mancha* provided an evening of dashing knights, swashbuckling action, fair maidens and delusional high-jinx. With faultless Spanish, the cast captured the spirit of the original novel: **Alejandro Scholfield Perez** (4N) was perfectly cast as the deluded, ageing eponymous hero with just the right amount of nuttiness; **Parus Mehra** (3R) as the subservient and fiercely loyal squire Sancho provided the perfect foil. Among a number of stand-out performances, narrator **Gabriel Levesque** (4V) knitted the story seamlessly together and **Benjamin Chapman** (4N) irresistibly portrayed the coquettish, skittish damsel in distress. The soundtrack by the phenomenally talented **Tom Jones** (5H) on guitar took the audience on a musical journey from the up-tempo and flamboyant to the moody and sultry sounds of Spain. Delicious eccentricity with a feel-good factor served up a perfect night's entertainment.

Enterprise: The entire Fourth Form competed against each other to win a place at the National Enterprise Challenge Grand Finals. The day, facilitated by four members of *The Inspirational Learning Group*, focused on building a strong campaign to encourage girls to take up football. The winning team *Football for the Future* comprising **Omid Hariri**, **Edward Osborough**, **Ollie Robinson** and **Alejandro Scholfield Perez** showcased vision, strategy and innovation as well as the ability to express their ideas articulately and concisely, both in person and via online channels. They now progress to the finals at Wembley Stadium.

Mathematics: The Second Form team of **Andrew Brett**, **Will Fish** and **Tom Postance** achieved first place in the Guildford Schools Mathematics Quiz held at St Catherine's School, Bramley.

Trips: Over the Easter holidays, 239 students and 43 staff were away on residential trips in the UK and further afield. These trips included: the junior Classics trip to Italy visiting Rome and the Bay of Naples; the Spanish homestay visit to Seville; the Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition in Exmoor; the Geography fieldtrip to Barcelona; the French Revolution trip to Paris; the surfing and tennis trip to Cornwall; the spectacular Physics Department NASA trip; and the highly enjoyable cricket tour to Sri Lanka.

Sports News

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Cricket: Despite threatening weather, the cricket season started with a challenging block against Trinity School, Croydon. The RGS sides emerged on top winning seven of the 13 fixtures, including a six-wicket win for the 1st XI. The team highlight was the 2nd XI which showed the depth in the senior teams with an excellent six-wicket victory: **Dom Rosevear** (U6) scored an unbeaten 79* in his first game as captain. Other individual highlights included **Joe Sheldon** (4H) with 50* for the Under 15As and **Henry Amis** (1C) for his 66 retired for the Under 12As. With the ball, captain of the 1st XI, **Abhay Gonella** (U6), took four wickets in a devastating spell of bowling. In the National T20s a youthful 1st XI emerged from a strong pool to progress to the final. After a tense, tied game, the 1st XI was narrowly defeated on the number of wickets lost.

Fencing: **Freddie Edgecliffe-Johnson** (4V) has qualified to represent the Southern Region at the British Fencing Championships in Sheffield.

Hockey: The Under 16A team finished runners up in the England Hockey Tier 2 national competition at the Lee Valley Olympic Hockey Centre. After a convincing 5 – 1 semi-final victory against Ashby School, in the final at the Olympic stadium against Trinity School, Croydon, a tense match finished 3 – 3. The two teams could only be separated by sudden-death penalty strokes.

Sailing: **Ben Mueller** (4A) has been invited to attend the annual Optimist GBR Team Selection regatta to select teams for the Optimist World and European Championships. Ben recently competed in two international regattas: the *Optispring International Regatta* in Holland where he finished second out of 220 competitors, and the *Lake Garda Optimist Meeting*, the largest single class sailing regatta in the world with over 1,000 competitors, where Ben finished in 30th place.

Tennis: In the qualifying rounds of the Surrey Schools Pairs Tournament, our team of **Ethan Newbold** (2R), **Gabriel Correia** (2P) and **Ollie Binns** (2C) won the trophy for excellent sportsmanship. The team now progresses to the quarter-final stages against St George's School, Weybridge.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 6 May	Bank Holiday Monday: School Closed
Tuesday 7 May	Parental Workshop on <i>Resilience and Motivation</i> in Big School
Wednesday 8 May	Monday Timetable Concerto Concert with Southern Pro Musica in Holy Trinity Church
Monday 13 May	Life after the RGS for Class of 2019 in Big School
Tuesday 14 May	Lower Sixth Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall and the Main Building

