



From the Headmaster

With the term fully underway, so the thoughts of the majority of our boys and indeed their parents are now focused on both public and internal examinations. This marks a stage in the school year when the whole community is united in its attention on, and preparation for, the challenges ahead. In this phase of the students' career those learning habits which we continue to embed come to the fore: the tenacity to persevere; the skill of imitation to replicate exemplar material and approaches; the criticality to challenge and question; the reflection to evaluate and improve learning; the independence to plan, take responsibility and have pride in every element of preparation; and so I could go on.

The boys should take reassurance from the fact that we have every confidence in them and have seen genuine potential which they undoubtedly have the ability to realise. Striving for excellence and harbouring healthy ambition are admirable traits which epitomise our community; to unlock this potential, however, the boys must be confident and happy and not be afraid to express their concerns or worries, especially at times of stress. A caring and compassionate environment and a mutually supportive ethos is at the very heart of our philosophy. Our Mental Health Awareness Week has encouraged this openness and reinforced the support mechanisms in place. Drop-in sessions have included daily themes such as *Relaxation: finding space in the crowd*; *Time to talk*; and *The glass is half full: the art of positive thinking*. If we can nurture a culture where our students have the confidence to be honest about their feelings, to share their concerns, and to seek help when required, then they can tackle the challenges ahead with greater confidence. Showing vulnerability is, in fact, to show great strength.

I wish the students all the very best of luck over the revision and examination period. I would also like to remind the boys that my staff are here to provide as much support as they can, both academically and pastorally. If you have any concerns about any aspect of your son's progress or wellbeing, please never hesitate to contact us.

Latest News

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Drama: In the National Theatre New Views playwriting competition, the RGS continued its recent record of success. Upper Sixth Form student **Olly Pinhey** impressed the judges with his script *Hypnic Jerks* and has been long-listed.

Economics: The Financial Times and the Bank of England recently ran a competition to find the best blog by a school pupil on the future of money. **Utkarsh Dandanayak** (L6) was one of the two runners-up; his blog on the problems with cashless societies was published 'in the pink' of the Financial Times.

Languages: **James Harper-Jones** (3P) has been selected as a finalist for the National Japanese Nihongo Cup Speech contest. The finals will take place at the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, University of Oxford where he will perform his speech.

Music: One of the annual highlights of the RGS musical calendar, the Concerto Concert, provided some of our outstanding solo instrumentalists an opportunity to perform with a professional orchestra. The level of musicianship was so high that this year nine boys performed concerto movements with local professional orchestra, *Southern Pro Musica*. A talented line-up and diverse repertoire included our 2019 Musician of the Year, **Philip Bowler** (U6), who gave a dark and powerful rendition of Sondheim's *The Ballad of Sweeney Todd*. The evening closed with **Ridley Hymas** (U6) and **Sam Jones** (U6) playing the Saint-Saëns *Cello Concerto in A Minor* and Ravel's *Piano Concerto in G Major* respectively. Both of them performed this hugely challenging repertoire entirely from memory and with a musicality that was quite simply awe-inspiring.

Quiz: In the Junior Quiz regional final, the RGS avenged last year's defeat at the same stage of the competition as they beat Hampton School 540 – 490. The team comprising captain **Tom Postance** (2L), **James Trowbridge** (1R), **Matthew Turner** (2L) and **Zac Warham** (1L) now progress in the competition.

Rock Music: The RGS Rock Gig, otherwise known as *Lockefest 2019*, took place in the Auditorium with a healthy turnout of over 200 people. Four bands, including a guest band from GHS performed, showcasing everything from new rock to older grunge classics, from pop punk to full-blown metal.

Young Enterprise: In the Surrey Finals, RGS team Delta won the Best Innovation award for their environmental children's book *How can I help?*

Sports News

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Cricket: In the block fixture against King's College School Wimbledon, the senior teams performed well with notable victories for the 1st XI and 2nd XI. The juniors played against King Edward's School Southampton winning all five fixtures. On an individual level, the following deserve mention: **Will Perceval** 70 (1st XI); **Fergus Middleton** 78 (3rd XI); **Charlie Woodfine** 88 (Under 15B); **Tom Colby** 72* (Under 15B); from Under 13As, **Johnny Kershaw** 73, **Peter Jansen** 4 wickets for 1 run, **Will Houghton** 3 wickets for 0 runs; **Sachein Sanmugam** 3 wickets for 0 runs including a hat-trick (Under 13B). In a rain-affected block against Reed's School, the RGS won six out of the eight surviving matches, with the 1st and 2nd XI continuing their winning run. Special mentions go to: **Abhay Gonella** (1st XI) 101*; and from the Under 14As, **Rohan Gupta** 81*, **Sebastian Stuart-Reckling** 77*, and **Matthew Reed** with 4 wickets for just 3 runs.

Fencing: In the British Youth Championships held in Sheffield **Freddie Cheng** (3S), **Freddie Edgecliffe-Johnson** (4V), **Ben Kamstra** (1E) and **Zed Law** (3R) all represented the South-East and Southern Regions. All performed very well but a particular highlight was Ben's bronze medal in the Under 12 Épée. Ben has moved up to fifth place in the England Under 14 Épée ranking while Zed is ranked sixteenth in the Under 17 Foil.

Hockey: Seven RGS boys played in the National Club Finals for Guildford Hockey Club. **Ollie de Gentile-Williams** (3L), **Daniel Hitchcox** (3R), **Zack Kennedy** (3L) and **Cole Powell** (3C) played in the Under 14As while **Joel Cant** (L6), **Harry Relph** (L6) and **Jake Sloggett** (L6) won the Under 18 National Final.

Shooting: In the London and Middlesex Rifle Association meeting, only narrowly losing out to Wellington College after four consecutive victories; top scorer was **Luca O'Flynn** (U6) with an impressive 68 out of 70. In the second full-bore competition of the season, the Surrey Schools' meeting, our VIII picked up the trophy for the best Surrey school. **Miles Horton-Baker** (U6) won the competition for the best over-16 firer; **Lawrence Duggan** (4H) narrowly missed out on winning the U16 competition, losing out only on v-bulls.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 20 May	Field Day 4
Friday 24 May	Staff Inset Day: school closed except for those taking public examinations
Monday 27 May	Half term starts
Monday 10 June	School Examination Week starts

