



ADMISSIONS  
OFFICE

From the Headmaster

It has been a busy start to the Lent Term for us all and none more so than for those candidates sitting the RGS 11+ Entrance Examinations and the members of the Upper Sixth Form who faced a nervous wait for news of whether their Oxbridge applications had been successful. The cyclical nature of school life is a familiar part of education: just as one year group which has made a profound impact upon the School prepares to leave, so another talented set of individuals looks forward to making its own impression upon the RGS. Meeting prospective pupils for the first time is traditionally an exciting time and we were delighted to welcome through our doors on Saturday just under 400 boys from 128 different schools, ranging from Guildford to Grand Cayman, Singapore to the USA. The boys really impressed throughout the day with their academic rigour and their charisma, and this competition for places and the quality of the intake continue to bode well for the future of the School.

Likewise, university entrance has never been more competitive; however, the period of anxiety for those boys who had applied to Cambridge and Oxford Universities was rewarded by a record-equalling 42 Oxbridge offers. 22 offers from Cambridge University and 20 from Oxford spanned 24 different courses with an identical split between the sciences and the arts/humanities/social sciences. It was also the second time in six years that over 40 offers had been achieved. All the boys who applied worked with commendable dedication and commitment and my 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 a number of last year's boys used the disappointment of missing out on an offer as a springboard to successful applications this time around.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Happy New Year and best wishes for 2015. I look forward to reflecting upon the individual and collective achievements of the boys in **The Bulletin** as the term progresses.

Latest News

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**Charity:** The Christmas Fair raised almost £2,800 for the School's chosen charities. In addition, the RGS donated children's books from the Santa's Grotto to Treloar School, a local non-maintained specialist school for disabled children. This was the first event of its kind held by the School for many years and the hard work of all those involved – especially the Parents' Association – was very much appreciated.

**Chemistry:** After making the sacrifice of spending the first hour of 2015 on Round 3 of the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, a number of Sixth Form Chemistry students were rewarded as they now dominate the World Honours Table, holding five of the first six places. In the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, new challenges – set by Cambridge University – are released at 00:00:01 (UK time) on the first day of the month. In total, 1,900 chemists worldwide have so far taken part in this year's competition. **Peter Robinson** is currently in first place, followed by **Martin Dibb-Fuller**, **Piers Cole**, **James Hilditch** and **Callum Holmes**.

**Physics:** In the latest British Physics Olympiad, RGS boys enjoyed great success. **Matthew Cockerill** (U6) was awarded a Top Gold, placing him in the first 50 students in the whole country; **Shyam Tailor** (U6) also gained a Gold Award. In addition, twelve other awards were received, including four Silver Awards.

**Science:** Upper Sixth Form students **David Cavanagh**, **Sebastian Morton** and **William Scott** have individually progressed to the final of the National Science and Engineering Competition with their CREST Gold research projects. Their work was judged to be of an extremely high standard and their projects will be showcased in the Big Bang Fair at the Birmingham NEC.

## Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

**Chess:** **Harry Grieve** (3S) has been invited by the England Junior Chess Squad to play in a tournament in Poland.

**Cross-Country:** The prestigious Knole Run at Sevenoaks celebrated its fortieth anniversary as it welcomed 43 boys' teams comprising 338 competitors. **Gus Cockle** (U6) and **George Gathercole** (U6) finished first and second respectively: an extraordinary achievement bearing in mind the calibre of the athletes competing.

**Fencing:** **Peter Robinson** (L6) has been selected to fence in the final European Cup Épée event in Bratislava.

**Football:** The football teams have started the term well. After a tight 1 – 1 draw with The Oratory School, the 1st XI beat Royal Russell School 6 – 3; the 2nd XI recorded a convincing 4 – 0 victory against the same school.

**Hockey:** The first block fixture of term against Charterhouse School highlighted the depth of talent as 15 teams represented the School, from A to D teams. 11 wins and one draw included 35 goals scored and only 13 conceded. Highlights included a 3 – 1 victory for the 1st XI and a clean sweep of wins for the seven Under 15 and Under 16 sides.

**Sailing:** **James Dickinson** (4B) competed in the Mirror World Sailing Championships in South Africa. In the pre-tournament, the African Championships, he achieved fourth place overall and was the second placed British boat. In addition, **Patrick Croghan** (5B) has been selected for the Royal Yachting Association UK Youth Squad which recognises his potential to progress within the British Sailing Team, with the aim of winning selection for the UK Youth Squads or beyond into the Olympic Development programmes.

**Taekwondo:** **Charlie Dorkins** (3E) participated in the Global Taekwondo International (GTI) British Open Championships. Charlie performed well in the patterns discipline (a traditional form of training where competitors are marked on their technical excellence in performing a pre-arranged sequence of block, kicks and punches against two or more shadow opponents); however, it was in the sparring event where he excelled, winning the Bronze Medal in a fiercely-contested category.

## Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Wednesday 21 January	Instrumental Teacher Parents' Evening in Big School
Friday 23 January	Careers Convention in Great Hall and Auditorium
Wednesday 28 January	First Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall
Friday 30 January	English Department Burns' Night Supper in Great Hall