



From the Headmaster

A brief hailstorm followed by a light dusting of snow yesterday afternoon resulted in gridlock on the roads of Guildford as people had to cope with a change to the normal routine and had to deal with an unexpected situation. In an increasingly global context to education and with so much of our world and technology changing, yesterday's disruption on the roads provided a pertinent reminder that we have to learn to be far more versatile and adaptable. The reality is that all schools are preparing their students for a world which will be very different to that in which we now live and for jobs which may well not even yet exist.

In this light, as well as securing excellent qualifications, it has never been more important for our students to develop a range of transferable skills which can only be nurtured by embracing the true wealth of opportunity and experience which the School has to offer. As our boys progress through the RGS, they need to develop resilience, flexibility, innovation, an inner strength which will allow them to cope not only with the pressures of a modern lifestyle but the challenges of a rapidly-changing world. We strive to nurture students who, rather than being fazed by a light dusting of snow, relish the opportunity to adapt and cope with the unexpected. Let it snow!

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Charity: Following a request by a student at Ripley Church of England Primary School for more books in their school library, Second Form boys were asked to bring in a book or two that they no longer read, suitable for a student in Years 5 or 6. The response was overwhelming with nearly 200 good-quality books donated, including another 25 books from the Mallison Library.

Classics: In the Guildford Classical Association Reading Competition, RGS boys really impressed with their spoken Latin. **Casper Varoujian** (1R) and **Edward Sharpe** (1L) came second in the Latin dialogue and **Jack Donnelly** (1C) and **Jack Farrant** (1C) came third.

Debating: The RGS team comprising **Daniel Sutton** and **Oliver Northover Smith**, both of the Upper Sixth Form, participated in the Oxford Union Schools debating competition. With other schools involved including Eton College, Guildford High School, Tormead School, Wellington College and Winchester College, the RGS's progression to the prestigious final was all the more impressive. The boys faced two motions as to whether the CIA and MI6 should be allowed to assassinate terrorists at will and as to whether maternity / paternity leave should be equally distributed between both parents.

Public Speaking: **William Heylen** (5N) won Best Speaker in the English-Speaking Union's Schools Public Speaking competition. William gave a humorous and insightful speech entitled *Image has become more important than substance in music* and answered challenging questions from the audience with a maturity well beyond his years.

Chess: **James Golding** (2E) has received an invitation from the Head England Coach, Nick Pert, to attend a lecture and simultaneous chess match against the famous former Russian World Champion, Gary Kasparov. In addition, at a school level, the 1st and 2nd teams recorded excellent wins against Wilson's School.

Cross-Country: The RGS had a strong presence in the Surrey Schools County Championship with eleven boys qualifying to run for Guildford District in various age groups. All boys ran extremely well with **Samuel Martin** (1R) coming fourth in a strong field; **Charlie Kershaw** (2P) and **Ben Fitzpatrick** (2P) had an excellent race and were selected to run for Surrey in a forthcoming inter-counties event. **George Gathercole** and **Gus Cockle** of the Upper Sixth Form dominated the senior boys' race with George reversing the results of the previous week to become County Champion with Gus in the runner-up position. Both will go on to represent Surrey in the English Schools Championship.

Fencing: In the Surrey County Fencing Championships, **Max Tether** (L6) won a silver medal and **James Hilditch** (L6) won bronze in the Under 18 age-group.

Football: A busy couple of weeks have seen fixtures for the senior teams against Christ's Hospital, Claremont Fan Court School and King's College School Wimbledon. The highlight, however, was a convincing 4 – 0 victory against St James Boys' School with two goals from **James Maloney** (L6).

Hockey: The traditionally tough block fixture against Tonbridge School produced an excellent set of results, including three wins for the Under 16 teams, scoring nine goals and conceding none in the process. The free-scoring Under 15 A and B teams also recorded wins, scoring 11 goals between them. Against Churcher's College, the Under 15 teams continued this good vein of form with another two wins and eight more goals; however, the Under 15C team achieved the score-line of the day with an extraordinary 11 – 1 victory. The four Under 13 teams all secured wins, averaging over five goals scored per game. In recent weeks, a number of boys have been selected to represent their counties at hockey, and this is testament to the calibre of player the RGS continues to nurture. To add to this growing list, brothers **Edward Ferguson** (3S) and **Jonathan Ferguson** (5P) have been selected for this year's Under 14 and Under 16 Hampshire County Hockey teams respectively, following the final stages of county trials.

Shooting: In the final round of the Staniforth Trophy the RGS A team came third, three points behind the winners, Epsom College, with a score of 779; both **William Johnson** (U6) and **Luke Fernandes** (L6) scored a maximum 100. The RGS B team came seventh with a score of 759; this was the best score by a B team. In addition, in the first Country Life match of the year the RGS VIII enjoyed a good win over Bradfield College by 719 points to 606, with **Rupert Fitzsimmons** (U6) gaining a maximum score of 95.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Saturday 31 January	Parents' Association Quiz in Great Hall
Monday 2 February	Third Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall
Tuesday 3 February	Oxbridge Admissions Seminar in the Auditorium
Wednesday 4 February	Musician of the Year in the Rehearsal Room
Tuesday 10 February	King's Lecture in the Auditorium
Wednesday 11 February	Careers Seminar in the Auditorium