



From the Headmaster

In 1919 at the end of his first term, in line with his aim to cultivate the development of the RGS, the Headmaster Arthur J. B. Green wrote that “such a school as this ought to give opportunities to all who have special talents and tastes, that they may develop them and use them to enrich the common life of the School”. Almost 100 years later, it is a source of great pride that this ethos remains at the very heart of the RGS culture. The last two weeks have, once again, illustrated how each individual has the opportunity to flourish and excel in their chosen field, irrespective of their area of passion.

Those of us fortunate enough to witness the final of RGS Musician of the Year were, once again, reminded about the extraordinary depth of talent in the School; it was a real privilege to hear a programme which was uplifting, delicate and surprising in equal measure but all with the same exacting standards of musicianship. This edition of **The Bulletin** also celebrates success in areas ranging from debating and Model United Nations, to hockey of all types including ice and roller, to the Student Investor Challenge, to the Biology Olympiad, to national shooting recognition. This richness of experience is key to an education which stretches and challenges and I hope that such a culture persists well into the future.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy half term. I look forward to seeing the boys on their return ready and refreshed for what is a short, intense second half of term.

Latest News

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Biology: In the national Biology Olympiad, the RGS enjoyed a record-breaking year securing six gold medals; only the top 7% from over 6,000 participants are awarded gold medals. In addition, RGS boys achieved three silver and four bronze medals.

Debating: **Daniel Osborne** (L6) and **Mark Thornton** (L6) have progressed to the third round of the ESU School Mace Competition in the face of stiff opposition from a number of prestigious schools.

Economics: An RGS team has, for the third year running, progressed to the semi-finals of the *ifs Student Investor* national competition; however, for the first time this year it is a Fifth Form team which has enjoyed such success. The NINJA investors, comprising **Matthew Alderton**, **William Ashworth**, **Tobias Fitzsimmons** and **Evan Hynes**, made in excess of £37,000 over the three months of trading and finished eighteenth nationally out of 8,720 teams. They now will be competing in the regional competition over the next month. In addition, the RGS had another Fifth Form team come in the top 150.

Gap Year: After successfully negotiating psychometric tests, in-tray exercises and interviews, **Christopher Farthing** (U6) has gained a place on the prestigious Accenture Gap Year Scheme.

Model United Nations: RGS boys performed exceptionally well at the seventh annual Lady Eleanor Holles MUN competition, winning a succession of top awards: Outstanding Delegation, Highly Commended

Delegation, Outstanding Delegate, and eight Highly Commended Delegates. The boys achieving the outstanding awards were **Matthew Alderton** (5B), **Benjamin Crossley** (4A), **Alexander Denny** (L6), **Gabriel Nicholson** (L6) and **Daniel Osborne** (L6).

Music: The final of the RGS Musician of the Year competition proved to be an exquisite evening of music by the extremely talented finalists: **Michael Collis** (L6) on viola, **Callum Lau** (U6) on piano, **Frederick McGee** (U6) on violin, **Oliver White** (U6) on harp, **Alistair Baumann** (5V) on violoncello and **Rory Wilson** (L6) on tuba. The adjudicator Joy Farrall – one of Britain’s most successful wind soloists – admitted she was taken aback by the sheer quality but in the end awarded the Steynor Prize to Rory Wilson. His first piece *Fnugg*, with elements from the Australian Aboriginal repertoire for didgeridoo as well as Norwegian folk music, included a percussive lip-beat section, the likes of which the Rehearsal Room had not experienced before.

Sports News

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Chess: Against Whitgift School, the 1st team won 3½ – 2½; the 3rd team secured an extraordinary 11 – 1 win. The 2nd VI concluded a successful fortnight with a 5½ – ½ win against Sutton Grammar School.

Badminton: The 1st team recorded a resounding 8 – 1 victory against King Edward's School, Witley.

Football: After a number of cancellations due to the weather, the stand-out performance of the fortnight was an 8 – 1 win for the 3rd XI against King’s School, Canterbury.

Hockey: In the county tournaments, the RGS teams again enjoyed success. At Under 18 level, the RGS finished county runners-up after winning all three group matches and then beating St George’s College, Weybridge 2 – 1 in the semi-final. In addition, the Under 14s qualified for the county finals day after finishing top of their group. In the National Plate, the 1st XI recorded excellent victories on consecutive days: 4 – 1 against Wellington College and 5 – 1 against Cranleigh School. A weather-affected fortnight saw a succession of cancellations; however, the Under 12 A, B and D teams recorded three wins against Reigate Grammar School, scoring 10 goals in the process without conceding.

Ice and Roller Hockey: **William Lawson** (1E) has been selected for the Under 13 South West Conference Ice Hockey team and will play in their tournaments in Holland and Hull. He has also been selected for the Under 12 Southern Snipers Roller Hockey Team, which represents the South of England.

Rowing: **Oliver Lucas** (4V), **Matthew Sargent** (4V) and **George Wedlake** (4P) were part of the crew which won medals for second place in the Junior 15 coxed fours at Hampton Fours and Eights Head, raced over 3,000 metres; they finished only three seconds behind the winners.

Shooting: **William Johnson** (U6) and **Rupert Fitzsimmons** (U6) have been selected to represent England A in the British Schools Small-bore Rifle Association team against Scotland. In addition, an impressive fortnight for school shooting has included victories against Lancing College and Wellington College.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 23 February	A Level mock examinations start
Friday 27 March	A Level mock examinations end
Monday 2 March	Fifth Form Parents’ Evening in Great Hall
Tuesday 3 March	Market Day Concert in Holy Trinity Church
Friday 6 March	Field Day 3