



From the Headmaster

The final two weeks of term have encapsulated so much of the infectious energy and enthusiasm of the RGS community, where hard work and commitment go hand-in-hand with good humour and cohesion. Events as diverse as the concerts, Charity Day and the musical *Grease* have seen students of all ages working together towards a common goal and achieving the very highest standards in the process. I would especially like to take this opportunity to highlight the outstanding production of *Grease* where the combined endeavours of students and staff, as well as backstage crew, musicians and actors – all masterminded by Head of Drama Nancy McClean – were very much in evidence and resulted in a quite remarkable musical which would not have looked out-of-place on a professional stage.

As the term finishes today, so the thoughts of many of the boys and, indeed, their parents now turn to the impending examinations. This marks a stage in the school year when a significant number of boys are united in their focus on, and preparation for, public examinations. The boys should take reassurance from the fact that we have every confidence in them and have seen a spark of genuine potential which they have the ability to realise. It is not enough, however, simply to wear the RGS blazer or an RGS tie; it is now time for the boys to reinforce this natural ability with sustained, targeted focus and consolidation. With industry and commitment, the boys can fulfil their potential academically, and I wish them all the very best of luck over the revision period.

As always, I wish you and your families a relaxing Easter break and look forward to seeing the boys return refreshed and ready for next term.

Latest News

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Charity Day: The eagerly anticipated Charity Day was a day packed with a succession of fundraising events. After the hilarious Upper Sixth form assembly and the inaugural House Music Video Competition, other events included the dodgeball match, the staff sumo wrestling competition and a whole host of stalls, including the ever-popular opportunity to sponge a teacher. Approximately £6,000 was raised for the three charities: Treloar School, CRY, and our International link schools and Isiqalo.

Cambodia Ball: The charity black-tie ball held at the Radisson Blu Edwardian hotel transported guests back to the 1920s. A sumptuous three-course meal, casino, raffle, disco, and auction all helped to raise money for the link schools in Cambodia; the highlight for many, however, was the slick magic act by the comedy duo **Thomas Phipps** (U6) and Deputy Head **Garth Williams**. Approximately £7,000 was raised towards, among other projects, repairing the roof of Tien Kram School and restocking the library.

Debating: The team of **Oliver Northover Smith** (U6) and **Daniel Sutton** (U6) represented the RGS for the first time in the final of the Oxford Union Schools Debating Competition. The boys impressed with their rhetoric and versatility as they tackled debates on issues as diverse as immigration control, the rise of

women's magazines, the banning of payday loans, and the use of torture. Speaking with conviction and authority, the boys performed admirably and finished in the top 30 schools out of the 95 competing teams.

Drama: The joint RGS and GHS production of Grease proved to be an exuberant blend of dance, song and colour as for one week the School was transformed into Rydell High School and the 1950s. Slick choreography, iconic tunes supported by a live band and, of course, the arrival on stage of Grease Lightning entertained audiences with a spectacular show which highlighted the extraordinary talent of the students.

Music: An intense final fortnight of term included a range of technical and exquisite performances: the String Concert at Chichester Cathedral; the Senior Piano Concert; the Chamber Choir who sang evensong at Winchester Cathedral; the Orchestral Concert and the Chamber Choir at Holy Trinity Church; a concert performed by *Total Brass* for the Guildford International Music Festival; and the Ensembles Concert.

Sports News

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Chess: At the Inter-County Chess Tournament, hosted at the RGS, a number of our boys impressed: **Luke Nelson** (2R) scored 3 out of 3 and **Timothy Foster** (U6) scored 2½ out of 3. At a school level, against Hampton School, the 1st and 2nd VIs both won 4 – 2 while the 3rd VI secured an 8 – 4 victory. As a result, the 1st team has won every league game this season and will receive the Surrey Division 1 Trophy.

Cross-Country: **George Gathercole** (U6) has been selected as captain of the Surrey team competing in the English Schools Cross-Country Championships. The RGS junior team continued to impress as the A team came away with the trophy at Claremont Fan Court School; the overall winner was **Charles Kershaw** (2P).

Fencing: At the Public Schools Fencing Championships, **Peter Robinson** (L6) won bronze in the Under 18 category putting in a superb performance, winning seven out of his eight fights in the poules and only lost in the semi-finals to the eventual champion.

Football: The 1st XI followed up a 5 – 0 win against Bancroft's School, with a 3 – 1 victory against Wilson's School, a battling 0 – 0 draw against Cranleigh School and a great 1 – 0 win against Sevenoaks School.

Golf: The RGS team beat Seaford College in the first round of the Independent Schools Golf Association's Plate competition; the RGS will now play Charterhouse in the area final.

Hockey: In the Under 15 County Tournament, the RGS convincingly won their pool and then, after wins against Dulwich College and Reed's School, beat Whitgift School in the final to be crowned Surrey and London Champions. This was all the more impressive as the team went through the whole tournament without conceding a single goal. The final two block fixtures of term were against Whitgift School and Reed's School. Highlights included a 4 – 2 win for the 1st XI against Reed's under the floodlights, as the 1sts finished their season in style with a fluent performance. The 3rd XI and the Under 15B teams both avoided defeat to ensure that they went through the whole season unbeaten in block fixtures.

Shooting: The RGS VIII beat St John's School, Leatherhead by 759 points to 746 in their last match of the small-bore season, with **David Cavanagh** (U6) achieving the top score of 99/100. This victory meant that the RGS, for the first time, has remained unbeaten in matches against other schools this term.

Holiday Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

19 – 23 March	Upper Sixth Form Geography Field Trip to Tenerife
19 – 26 March	Junior Classics Trip to Italy
29 March – 2 April	Tennis and Surfing Trip to Cornwall
8 April – 11 April	Cricket Pre-Season Training (see website for further details)