



From the Headmaster

The dominance of the General Election in the media in recent days – and, indeed, an intriguing and significant night for the country's political landscape – was reflected with equal profile in the corridors of the RGS as the mock election captured the imagination of the whole school. From the First Form to the Upper Sixth, the boys immersed themselves in the energy and excitement of the occasion. Witty poster campaigns, vigorous electioneering and impassioned candidates' debates addressed topical political issues with conviction and no little rhetoric and knowledge.

In 1997, Tony Blair set out his priorities for office by claiming that he had three priorities: education, education, education, as Labour campaigned to put teaching and learning at the top of the agenda. In 2010, David Cameron responded that his priorities were the same, but just not in that order. Although not having had quite the same prominence in the current election, education continues to be a key issue. The RGS, as is the case in the independent sector as a whole, can remain to a large extent protected from successive government changes, although the potential impact on A Levels and university tuition fees is indisputable. The innate characteristics of the RGS remain the same irrespective of which party, or parties, control the country: the sense of community, the pride in all that we do, the ambitious aspirations and the desire for striving for the highest possible standards. The RGS mock election encapsulated these qualities so well. Passion, pride and commitment, but with liberal doses of humour and humility: these elements remain the RGS way.

Latest News

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Biology: Fourth Form boys achieved the School's best ever results in the National Biology Olympiad with 15 Gold, 22 Silver and 15 Bronze Medals, and six Highly Commended places.

Drama: **James Hancock** (L6) and **Charles Spence** (L6) have had their plays long-listed for the National Theatre New Views Playwriting Competition.

Global Community Week: The RGS was delighted to welcome for the week two senior colleagues from our partnership schools in Nepal: **Khila Dhital**, Headmaster of Janabikas School, and **Chandra Gurung**, Secondary English teacher at Bhu Pu School. Their arrival and the tragic recent events in Nepal made the timing of RGS Global Community Week all the more poignant and significant; our thoughts continue to be with all those affected by the devastating earthquake. The week of events was designed to recognise our responsibilities as citizens in a global community. As well as signing up for environmental pledges and a global focus in lessons, other events included a talk from writer, explorer and film-maker Matt Dickinson, lunch-time kabaddi matches, and Question Time on global issues. Just under £2,500 was raised to support the international relief effort for Nepal and, in addition, the generous provision of 147 kg extra luggage allowance by *Etihad Airways* allowed Khila and Chandra to take equipment to aid those most in need.

Mock Election: After two weeks of the RGS mock election, masterminded by Head of Politics **Tom Owens**, voters – with a turnout of up to 86% in some year groups – confidentially submitted their ballot papers at the Polling Station. In third place came **Rupert Fitzsimmons** (U6) for the Conservatives, in second place **Timothy Foster** (U6) for the Green Party and in first place – and thereby elected to the constituency of RGS Guildford – **Jack Bell** (U6) of the Liberal Democrats with 29.5% of the vote.

Music: The Concerto Concert at Holy Trinity Church was one of the most memorable occasions in recent years as five boys performed with the professional orchestra, *Southern Pro Musica*, under the baton of Director of Music **Peter White**. The quality of musicianship on display was extraordinary and **Michael Lan's** (U6) flawless performance of the Rachmaninov 2nd Piano Concerto was a truly masterful performance which had the audience enthralled from the opening chords to the virtuosic final cadenza.

Sports News

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Athletics: In the Gomme and Goddard athletics competition, the juniors came first and the RGS team finished second overall. **Samuel Martin** (1R) won the 1,500 metres at Under 15 level, two years young. In the Invitational Athletics Competition at Guildford Spectrum the RGS won both the Year 7 and 8 age-groups.

Chess: In the quarter finals of the English Chess Federation Schools Tournament Plate Competition, the RGS team was victorious against Dulwich College 5½ – ½.

Cricket: In the block fixture against Hampton School the 1st XI won by 93 runs and the 2nds won by 75 runs. In total there were seven wins including 10-wicket victories for the Under 14B and Under 12A teams. Highlight with the ball was **Matthew McLachlan** (4H) who ended the match with figures of 4 – 7 for the Under 15C team. Against Trinity School, the Under 15 and Under 14 teams recorded a clean sweep of six victories. Highlights of the day with the bat included **Henry Cronk** (3S) with 110* for the Under 14Cs, **Ciaran Taylor** (3P) with 86 for the Under 14Bs and **Alexander Sweet** (L6) with 73 for the 1st XI.

Fencing: **Peter Robinson** (L6) came in 26th place in the British Youth Championship Final in Sheffield.

Hockey: **Oliver Duckworth** (L6) and **Alexander Sweet** (L6) were part of the Surrey Under 17s Junior Academy Hockey team which remained undefeated in the South JAC Championship this year. At the end-of-season presentations for Surrey Boys' Hockey, **Benji Thomas** (4B) was awarded the Under 16 Player of the Season and **Hantian Wang** (4B) was awarded the Under 15 Player of the Season. Sixth Form boys **Oliver Duckworth**, **Harry Ferguson**, **Jonathan Ferguson**, **Euan Middleton**, **Finlay Robertson** and **Maxim Robertson** were all part of the Haslemere U18 Hockey team which won the Hampshire Under 18 Cup.

Rugby: **Henry Paremain** (5H) has been selected for the Harlequins Elite Player Development Group. Lower Sixth boys **Enrico Cadoux-Hudson**, **William Eves**, **Joseph Flanagan**, **George Mason**, **Fraser Mills** and **Alexander Vassallo** were part of the Guildfordians squad crowned National Under 17 Cup Bowl Champions.

Tennis: The 1st IV beat KCS Wimbledon 4 – 1 in the Rootham Shield while the 1st VI Under 14 team beat Whitgift School 5 – 4 in the Surrey League.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 11 May	AS examinations start
Friday 15 May	Upper Sixth Form Study Leave begins
Monday 18 May	Field Day 4
Friday 22 May	Staff Inset: school closed
Monday 25 May	Half term starts