



From the Headmaster

This week it has emerged that students nationally have chosen a Victorian poem about finding personal strength to deal with adversity as their most popular option in a poetry recital event. In the *Poetry By Heart* competition, *Invictus* by W E Henley – a poem which ends with the lines, "I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul" – proved to be the most popular choice. The poem became associated with Nelson Mandela who recited it for inspiration while being held in prison for fighting apartheid and encapsulates so many of the characteristics with which he became synonymous. The fact that a poem, which champions the qualities of tenacity, resilience and perseverance, was chosen by the students themselves highlights that despite this poem being published in 1888 the themes still remain resonant and relevant.

Indeed, our own school hymn, *To be a Pilgrim* by John Bunyan which dates from the late seventeenth century, captures the same sense of spirit and determination in its stirring words: "*He who would valiant be...; There's no discouragement shall make him once relent...; His strength the more is...; He'll fear not what men say, He'll labour night and day...*". The hymn is always sung with great gusto by the boys and clearly the themes of courage, single-mindedness, determination and industry resonate with the boys as much as the melody underpinning the words.

As education continues to move on apace, if we are to prepare our students for the challenges of a rapidly changing and increasingly competitive world, it is these very qualities which we must nurture and engender in our students so that our boys can persevere *come wind, come weather*.

Latest News

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Chemistry: The eight rounds of the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge take place at 0:00:01 UK time on the first day of each month from November to June and more than 1,100 young chemists worldwide have participated. RGS boys have remarkably taken all top eight places in the world for the Under 18s, with **Piers Cole** (L6) scoring the maximum 550 points in this round and **Peter Robinson** (L6) claiming the top spot.

Computing: **Daniel Sampson** (3T) has qualified for the UK finals in the annual Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) World Championships after finishing in the top five in the Microsoft Word competition. He has now been invited to attend the UK Final of the MOS World Championships in Microsoft's UK Headquarters.

Music: The Junior Choir performed in the Guildford Choral Society's 175th Anniversary Concert in the Royal Albert Hall, accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The conductor, Jonathan Willcocks commented: "I just wanted to say how really delighted I was with the outstanding way that the boys from the RGS participated in last night's major choral concert at the Royal Albert Hall. I knew that they would

be musically assured and confident, but you would also have been really proud of the extremely attentive and disciplined way that they acted throughout the rehearsal and evening concert. Besides making a major musical contribution to the *Berlioz - Te Deum* performance, they were quite simply a real credit to RGS."

Sports News

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Athletics: In the Harrow School Athletics competition, notable performances included: **Edward Robinson** (3L) won his 800 metres with a time of 2.08 minutes; **Daniel Aldwinkle** (3E) won his 300 metres with a time of 41.10 seconds; and the juniors won the 4 x 400 metres.

Chess: **Harry Grieve** (3S) has been invited to represent England in the World Youth Chess Championships in Greece later in the year. This is probably the most prestigious world junior chess event.

Cricket: In the block fixtures against St George's College Weybridge, the RGS achieved seven wins, and against Hurstpierpoint College all three Under 14 teams recorded victories. The centurions in the 2nd XI match provided the batting highlight as **Alastair Curran** (5N) scored 134* and **Max James** (5H) achieved 118. With the ball, **Fraser Boulton** (4N) took 4 – 9 for the Under 15Bs; in addition **Thomas Hartley** (4N), **Nicholas Ratcliffe** (4H) and **Alexander Sweet** (L6) all took four or more wickets in their respective matches.

Gymnastics: **Jack Mellors** (1R) competed in the Middlesbrough Festival of Gymnastics competition as part of the Tolworth Gym Club team. He won a silver medal with a co-ordinated musical routine using floorwork and trampettes.

Rowing: RGS boys were successful at the National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham: the biggest and highest profile regatta in the junior calendar. In the Junior 15 coxed fours **Oliver Lucas** (4V), **Matthew Sargent** (4V) and **George Wedlake** (4P) won silver, missing out on gold by under a second. George also came fifth in the Junior 15 double sculls in which there were 42 boats in this category.

Sailing: In the Thames Valley Round of the BSDRA team racing competition, hosted at Bray Lake by Eton School, the RGS sailing team achieved the bronze award in challenging conditions.

Tennis: The 1st IV beat Tiffin School 3 – 2 in the Rootham Shield. Other tennis highlights of the fortnight included the Under 15s beating Claremont Fan Court School 9 – 0 in the Surrey League and then winning 4 – 2 in the Aegon League against Woking High School.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Wednesday 17 June	First Form Classics Trip to Bignor and Fishbourne
Thursday 18 June	GCSE examinations end
Friday 19 June	Fifth Form Book Return Sports Day
Saturday 20 June	Fourth Form Trip to Dinorwig departs
Monday 22 June	Arts Festival Private Viewing in the Art School Second Hand Uniform Sale in the Undercroft
Wednesday 24 June	New Boys' Reception Afternoon Illustratioery Recital and Exhibition Evening in Big School
Thursday 25 June	Michael Lan Piano Recital in the Recital Room