



From the Headmaster

The last few weeks of the Trinity Term bring into sharp focus the cyclical nature of the school year as the culmination of so many elements of the academic year coincide with occasions which have the future very much in mind. The last fortnight has been a time of celebration as the diversity of boys' talents has been very much in evidence: Sports Day, the Design and Technology exhibition, the performance of *The Judgement of Paris*, the Private View of the Art Exhibition, the Charity Bands Concert, Michael Lan's Piano Recital, to name but a few. Although I am always loathe to highlight any one occasion, there was one event which to me epitomised the zeitgeist of the RGS: the *Illustr poetry* Recital and Exhibition Evening which was a truly memorable occasion. Over the last twelve months, poems have been composed based on the themes of space and time then handed over to someone else to create illustrations inspired by the words. This is purely optional and fully inclusive as it caters to a wide range of age groups, talents and interests. The recital evening was remarkable: the creativity of the presentation of the poems hanging from the beams to the understated openness of the boys as they provided insight into the thought-process behind their creativity. The talent of the boys on display was breath-taking and yet the humility and honesty of the boys left an equally lasting impression and truly encapsulated what makes RGS boys so special.

In the midst of such uplifting occasions, we welcomed to the School this week the new boys and parents who will be joining us in September for the reception afternoon. The energy and excitement of the boys were palpable as a new cohort, with their future RGS careers ahead of them, met together for the first time. It was a genuine pleasure to talk to so many boys about their hopes and aspirations for the next stage of their education and we look forward to seeing the impact of this talented fresh intake. This reflection on the past, while looking ahead to the future, ensures that as a school we never rest on our laurels, rather we continue to embrace the future with anticipation.

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Art: The Private View of the Art Exhibition once again provided the opportunity to showcase work of extraordinary quality to an appreciative audience. The diversity, originality and standard of art was notable; the presence of the artists provided further insight into their work.

Charity: A significant number of Sixth Form boys and staff participated in the 2015 Charity Bike Ride from Southwater Country Park and back, a total of 43 miles off-road via the Down's Link.

Economics: Over 200 students from 13 schools attended the annual Economics Speakers' Day where four speakers introduced the audience to topical, economic concepts beyond the confines of the syllabus.

Politics: **James Sweetland** (L6) was one of three winners in the inaugural Orwell Youth Prize with his essay entitled *Tribunal fees are a silent bedroom tax*.

Music: The last fortnight has witnessed musical performances of extraordinary diversity and talent. A first for the RGS saw the opera *The Judgement of Paris* performed in the courtyard of the Old Building: atmospheric, powerful and intimate, it was a great success. British summertime, however, stayed true to form and the second night did not enjoy such clement conditions! The Charity Bands Concert, then, provided the forum for music from the Concert Band, the Nick Edwards Clarinet Quartet, Roshan Patel and the Big Band. Music ranged from *Eye of the Tiger* and *Crocodile Rock* to *Porgy and Bess* and *Hits of the 60s*. The RGS String Scheme gave a very well received concert at St Peter's School and finally, those privileged enough to be in attendance at Michael Lan's Piano Recital enjoyed an evening of astonishing depth and talent. A programme of stunning complexity included pieces from Bach, Beethoven, Liszt, Ravel and Rachmaninov. The long and heart-felt applause and ovation at the end confirmed that the RGS had experienced one of the finest RGS musicians of recent times.

Sports News

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Athletics: An excellent Sports Day resulted in a narrow victory for Beckingham House. One school record was equalled as **George Eves** (4H) ran the 100 metres in 11.2 seconds. On an individual level, **Gus Cockle** (U6) has received a call-up from British athletics; he has been selected to run for Great Britain at the European Championships in Sweden next month, running the 5,000 metres.

Cricket: In the block fixture against Portsmouth Grammar School, the RGS recorded eight wins including victory for the 1st XI where a nine wicket victory included 78* by **Alexander Sweet** (L6). Other stand-out performances included 128* by **Edward Ferguson** (3S) for the Under 14Bs and bowling figures of 5 for 8 by **James Blackburn** (3S) for the Under 14As. Rain impacted upon the fixtures against Cranleigh School with four cancellations and abandonments. The Under 13s, however, enjoyed a good day with two wins against Wilson's School.

Hockey: **Edward Way** (L6) was selected for the Under 18 England hockey team against Scotland.

Ice Hockey: **William Lawson** (1E) has been invited by the English Ice Hockey Association to attend the England Under 14 National Team Training Camp.

Sailing: The sailing team of **Patrick Croghan** (5B), **James Dickinson** (4B), **Nicholas Forbes** (4H), **Max Male** (4A), **Oliver Perkins** (2E) and **Mark Thornton** (L6) had a fantastic day of racing at the Southern's finishing fourth out of 25 teams, and only just denied third position.

Tennis: The U19 tennis team beat Epsom College 5 – 0 in the semi-final but then lost to St George's College in the final of the Rootham Shield.

Weightlifting: **Christopher Murray** (5V) has been selected to represent England at the Commonwealth Games in September, taking part in Olympic Weightlifting.

Forthcoming Events

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Monday 29 June	Field Day 5
Tuesday 30 June	Barcelona Choir Tour meeting for parents in Big School
Wednesday 1 July	Joint Orchestra Concert in the Auditorium
Thursday 2 July	Junior Prizegiving in Holy Trinity Church
Tuesday 7 July	Market Day Concert in Holy Trinity Church Junior Drama Arts Festival in the Auditorium
Friday 10 July	Term ends