



RGS's out for summer!

From the Headmaster

An article in this week's *Telegraph* entitled *A word or two of advice before you go* provided parting words of inspiration from head teachers at the end of the summer term to boys and parents alike. These words were intended, as the article highlighted, "to be remembered long after the intricacies of French grammar, Reformation politics and photosynthesis have been forgotten". Comments from headmasters ranged from the importance of being brave and positive and not being afraid to fail, to staying in touch with who you are and keeping a sense of perspective. All of these are, in themselves, very admirable traits which, indeed, I hope we continue to nurture at the RGS.

On reflecting on what has been an extraordinary term even by RGS standards, however, there is a recurring theme which for me epitomises the last few months. Having ambitious aspirations and being willing to push oneself outside the comfort zone are characteristics which allow an already talented group of students and staff to raise the bar of achievement even higher. In music, performing alongside the professional orchestra Southern Pro Musica, was one such example. Other such highlights included: the 1st XI dominating and winning the RGS Cricket Festival; the science students earning worldwide recognition in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge; phenomenal Model United Nation success; the amazing talent on display during Arts Festival Week; the number of boys successfully negotiating the Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions. All of these events – and many more besides – required single-mindedness, a courage of convictions, even a risk of failure but, above all, this desire to push the boundaries.

As the boys break-up for a very well-deserved rest, I would like to thank you, the parents, as well as the staff, the governors and all those who have contributed so much to this academic year. I would also, in keeping with the words of wisdom articulated in the *Telegraph*, urge all the boys to continue to challenge and stretch themselves. With extraordinary effort comes extraordinary achievement and I look forward, with anticipation, to what next year brings at the RGS.

Latest News

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Chemistry: 8,481 Lower Sixth Form students took part in the written Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and the highest award, Roentgenium, was awarded only to the top 0.7%. **Piers Cole (L6)** won this top award and overall RGS boys received one Roentgenium, eleven Gold, eleven Silver and seven Copper Awards.

Drama: The annual house drama competitions by year group challenged the boys to devise, rehearse and then stage a play within just one school day. The Second Form boys devised pieces based upon the Odysseus and the Cyclops story, while the Third Form were set the task of adopting a soap opera format incorporating specific location, subplots and episodic scenes. Set variously on a cruise liner, at Glastonbury, in Kentucky Fried Chicken and as a courtroom drama, there were dramas aplenty!

Model United Nations: The RGS hosted its very first Model United Nations Conference. On the topic of terror, 86 students from seven different schools and representing 23 UN member states spread out across four committees to debate a range of questions: deploying peace keepers for the purpose of counter terrorism; weapons of mass destruction in the hands of non-state actors; and the use of sanctions to combat Islamic State. Due to this being a junior training conference the morning was spent instructing new delegates in the art of debate etiquette, resolution writing and lobbying technique. The event also welcomed ex-Detective Superintendent Julian McKinney of the Metropolitan police's counter-terrorism command who gave an exciting and informative key note speech on the UK's response to threats from both foreign nationals and British citizens. The day was capped by a fast-paced and thoroughly engaging General Assembly where the delegates debated an emergency resolution designed to combat extremist, anti-Muslim sentiment in Europe.

Sports News

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Chess: **James Golding** (2E) has been invited by the UK Chess Academy to be their representative in the World Youth and Cadets Chess Championships (WYCC) Under 14 Open Section. The WYCC is arguably the most prestigious junior chess event in the World Chess Federation's calendar and around 2,000 of the best junior players from around the world are expected to play in this year's event in Greece.

Cricket: In the block fixture against Whitgift School, performance of the day with the bat came from **Alastair Curran** (5N) with 73* in the 2nd XI's victory and **George Mackenzie's** (U6) four wickets for the 1st XI. The final Saturday of term proved to be a fitting climax to the season as the RGS won eight out of the nine fixtures against Reigate Grammar School. **Abhay Gonella** (3C) scored 104 for the Under 14A team while **Matthew Harris** (2P) finished with bowling figures of 5 – 10 for the Under 13B team.

Cricket Festival: The annual RGS Cricket Festival brought together six Royal Grammar Schools to compete for the crown. Hosted by RGS High Wycombe, the teams each played five fixtures in just five days in idyllic summer conditions. Going into the penultimate day with a 100% record, a convincing 117 run victory over the hosts in which **Alexander Sweet** (L6) picked up five wickets at a cost of just 25 runs, prelude a final day winner-takes-all decider against Worcester as the two teams with four wins from four enjoyed a final-day showdown. **Alexander Sweet's** 81 set the foundation for success as the RGS posted 247 – 7; **Benjamin Shaw** (5P) then took four wickets as Worcester, in reply, were bowled out for 205. A victory by 42 runs secured the crown for the RGS for the seventh time in thirteen years. A remarkable team performance throughout the week also proved to be a fitting finale on an individual level for **Samuel Jelley** (U6) who, having claimed 95 wickets over a five-year period from the age of 14, returned to the bowling attack to take the final wicket, clean bowled, in the final game and spark his side's celebrations. It was also a fine way for **Jonathan French** (U6) to end his captaincy as he combined tactical mastery with 610 runs to ensure a very successful final season at the helm.

Holiday Trips

[View the School Calendar](#)

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| 4 July – 2 August | Cambodia Expedition |
| 11 – 16 July | Choral and Orchestral Tour to Barcelona |
| 12 – 14 July | Scouts Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge |
| 13 – 24 July | CCF Adventure Training in Monserrat |
| 16 – 30 July | Hockey and Rugby Tour to South Africa |
| 18 – 25 July | RAF Summer Camp to RAF Benson |