



From the Headmaster

The RGS has always placed equal emphasis on the value of the learning experience both inside and outside the school buildings. I continue to believe strongly that education is about more than just the classroom. The wealth of activities, trips and tours available to our boys provides them with the skills and experience which a classroom alone can never offer, as skills such as independence, resilience, tenacity and creativity are nurtured. As I have been reading through the UCAS Personal Statements currently being written by our Upper Sixth Form boys, the importance of these extra-curricular opportunities could not be clearer. The boys speak passionately and articulately about how formative experiences such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, the Combined Cadet Force, the Explorer Scouts and Outdoor Pursuits have been to their development as they have learned as much about themselves as they have about leadership and teamwork. The boys genuinely value these shared exploits as an intrinsic part of the process of developing strong bonds of friendship, bonds which last far beyond their time at the RGS.

The last inspection report highlighted our extensive programme of extra-curricular activities and complimented us on the fact that this provision, which in the previous inspection report had been described as "extraordinarily broad for a day school", has been enhanced still further, providing even more opportunities for boys to engage and excel. The first Field Day of the academic year showcased this diversity of opportunity and this energy. Nowhere, perhaps, were the effervescence and exuberance of the boys more evident than among the First Form boys during their adventure weekend on the Isle of Wight and among the Second Form as they tackled the *Dragon's Den*-style challenge. The number of opportunities on Field Day was notable, catering to each individual: from a professional drama workshop on trauma make-up, to surfing and lifesaving, to mountain biking through the Surrey countryside. The fact that, as a school, we have the confidence to suspend teaching and devote five such days to these activities highlights how key these experiences are to each boy's education.

Latest News

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Chemistry: Michael Collis (U6) carried out his research project entitled *Fabrication of printed heterostructure source-gated transistors* at Surrey University and was awarded the CREST Gold Award. In addition, Michael won the prestigious accolade of the *Mayor of Guildford Award for work experience in a research environment*. As well as Michael, eleven Upper Sixth Form boys have also completed their research projects and will be assessed for CREST Gold later in the term.

Speech Day: Speech Day provided the opportunity for the whole community to reflect upon, and celebrate, the RGS past and present. In the morning, the Commemoration Services focused attention on the School's founders and many benefactors whose gifts and dedication built, maintained and improved the School over the centuries, since the foundation in 1509. The House Captains led the thanks for Robert

Beckingham, John Austen, William Hamonde, Joseph Nettles, three generations of the Powell family, and Canon Arthur Valpy; the Headmaster then led the remembrance for King Edward VI who "more than 460 years ago, granted his Royal Charter to the Mayor and Approved Men of Guildford, directing them to establish, and continue for all time, a Grammar School". In the evening, the School came together again for Senior Prizegiving and the RGS was delighted to welcome guest of honour, Lord Sharman, who distributed the prizes and gave an address, as we celebrated the extraordinary achievements of the senior boys academically and in the broader life of the School.

Sports News

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Badminton: In the Surrey County Badminton Association tournament **Christopher Chong** (2P) won gold at Under 13A and silver at Under 15A while his brother **Jonathan Chong** (5P) won gold at Under 17B. Christopher played a total of twelve matches to secure the medals!

Chess: The RGS entered two teams in the Eton Chess Tournament; out of the forty teams competing, our 1st team came fourth and our 2nd team came thirteenth. The RGS then competed against Whitgift School and recorded an impressive 6 – 0 victory.

Football: In the first round of the English Schools tournament the 1st XI won 4 – 2 against Riddlestown Collegiate with two goals apiece from **Jérôme Espitalier-Noël** (U6) and **Thomas Cullum** (U6).

Golf: The RGS team comprising **Henry Doyle** (4V), **Max Higgo** (5P) and **Oliver Taylor** (4V) competed in the first round of the Independent Schools Golf Association knock-out tournament against Lord Wandsworth College at Guildford Golf Club. All the boys won their matches to ensure progress into the next round.

Hockey: Highlights of the last fortnight have included an accomplished 2 – 2 draw for the 1st XI against Portsmouth Grammar School and a 6 – 1 win for the Under 16s against Kingston Grammar School.

Rugby: In the block fixture against Reed's School, RGS teams produced ten wins from the thirteen fixtures. The Under 15s were worthy of special mention as the three teams scored 132 points between them without conceding a single point. The set of matches against St Paul's School provided the traditional tough challenge for our boys; however, both the spirit and determination of the boys were notable throughout as despite a number of defeats the boys persevered with pride. The performance of the day came from the Under 15C team who played with real grit to secure a 39 – 10 victory.

Forthcoming Events

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Saturday 3 October	RGS Open Day
Tuesday 6 October	Market Day Concert in Holy Trinity Church New Parents' Reception in Great Hall
Wednesday 7 October	Preparation for university interview seminar in the Auditorium
Thursday 8 October	Scouts AGM in Great Hall
Saturday 10 October	Parents' Association Third Form Dinner in Great Hall
Monday 12 October	Upper School Parents' Pastoral Evening in Great Hall Staff and Parents' prayer meeting in the Staff Common Room
Tuesday 13 October	King's Lecture in the Auditorium
Wednesday 14 October	ILA Presentation Evening in the Auditorium