



From the Headmaster

I am frequently asked by prospective parents as to whether there is such a thing as a stereotypical RGS boy; I believe that one of the great strengths of our community is that there is no such cliché, no set formula. Our boys are united by an unwavering sense of pride – a quality which underpins all they do – as well as a strong sense of loyalty and community; however, it is as individuals that they forge their paths through the School and it is as individuals that they define themselves.

Two events on successive nights this week epitomised and aptly illustrated this belief. The King's Lecture and the Independent Learning Assignment Presentation Evening both provided the forum for students of exceptional ability to showcase their talents in the sporting and academic spheres respectively. From rowing to rugby, from a discussion on cyanide crystals to criminal punishment, the boys spoke with sophistication and conviction about their passions. Their talent and ability were indisputable but the overriding and lasting impression of both events was that the boys were thoroughly humble, grounded and decent individuals. In a climate where results can dominate the headlines, perhaps the greatest testament to RGS boys is that these traditional qualities are very much alive in our community and this is something which is truly worthy of note and celebration.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very relaxing and happy half term.

Latest News

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Independent Learning Assignment: The seventh annual ILA Presentation Evening provided the forum for the Upper Sixth Form finalists – **Duncan Ashworth, Michael Collis, Callum Holmes, Hans Hu, George Mason, Aran Macfarlane, Daniel Osborne, Mark Thornton** and **James Whipman** – to deliver presentations with an extraordinary level of complexity. Any one of the finalists would have been a worthy winner; that accolade, however, went to Callum for his outstanding presentation and forensic investigation into the world of Group 11 cyanide crystals.

King's Lecture: A chat show format, complete with leather sofas and our own sparkling host Director of Sport **Ian Wilkes**, provided the setting for this term's King's Lecture. The School was delighted to welcome back a panel of four Old Guildfordians – Jack Clifford, Angus Groom, Jonny Hay and Mark Lambert – who have achieved, and continue to achieve, national and international recognition in athletics, rowing and rugby. The sportsmen shared their schoolboy memories as well as providing first-hand insight into the realities of being professional sportsmen. An inspiring and entertaining evening was greatly enjoyed by all those present.

Modern Languages: The annual Modern Languages Conference attended by a number of local schools also coincided with a visit by students and staff from the Lycée Saint-Pierre de Bourg-en-Bresse. The

programme included a fascinating talk by Christopher Dennis, a multilingual broadcast journalist, as well as sessions on the best universities and courses for linguists and an interactive, dynamic analysis of French, German and Spanish texts. The conference was challenging and interesting in equal measure.

Talks: In the past fortnight the School has been delighted to welcome: Barry Evans to talk to the Sixth Form about the social scene and legal and illegal highs; Alex Scarrow, the author of the popular *Time Riders* series, as part of Guildford Book Festival; and Murray Letham who spoke about e-safety providing practical advice on protecting online identity and footprint.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Badminton: **Sam Baker** (1L) won the Surrey Under 13 closed badminton mixed doubles and was also third in the boys' doubles.

Chess: The 1st VI recorded a 4 ½ – 1½ victory against Wilson's School, the 2nd VI won 4 – 2.

Cricket: **Oliver Cronk** (1L) has been selected for the Under 12 Surrey County District Cricket Performance Programme.

Cross-Country: In the county round of the English Schools' Cross-Country Cup, the juniors and intermediates both won to qualify for the South-East England regional finals. In the junior event **Sam Martin** (2R) was placed second; in the intermediate event the individual winner was **Charlie Kershaw** (3P). Then in the fixture at Charterhouse School, the Junior A Team finished first, the B team third. **Sam Perryman** (3T) came third individually from a field of 50 runners on a notoriously demanding course.

Fencing: In the London International Open, the 79th Miller-Hallett Cup, **Peter Robinson** (U6) won four of his six fights before he was knocked out by the current Under 16 Public School Epée Champion.

Hockey: The 1st XI recorded a thrilling 5 – 4 victory against a direct and determined Brunel University team who posed a very different challenge to those offered by regular schoolboy opponents. The RGS recovered from 0 – 2 and 1 – 3 down to secure a really pleasing win.

Rugby: Highlights of a busy fortnight, involving block fixtures against Epsom College and St John's School, Leatherhead, included back-to-back wins for five of our teams. In addition, ten sides recorded victories by 50 or more points with some strong, competitive performances.

Sailing: **Ben Mueller** (1E) has earned a place in the 2015/2016 Optimist Intermediate Squad: the training squad below the National Squad, which is a main source of Team GB sailors of the future. Ben is one of only five eleven-year olds ranked in the national top 48.

Ski-racing: The RGS ski-race team – comprising **Alexander Acomb** (5A), **Charlie Aldridge-Bate** (1L), **Toby Fitzsimmons** (L6) and **Marcus Hinton** (3S) – was invited to take part in the English Schools dry slope selection and has now progressed to represent England in the British finals.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 2 November	Staff Inset Day (no school for boys)
Tuesday 3 November	Monday timetable Market Day Concert in Holy Trinity Church
Wednesday 4 November	Upper Sixth Form Parents' Evening First Form Parents' Pastoral Evening in Big School
Thursday 12 November	Second Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall
Friday 13 November	Field Day 2