



From the Headmaster

As the term finishes today, we are all looking forward to a well-deserved break after a very busy Michaelmas Term. The end of each term is a chance to reflect upon the past few months; equally, the New Year provides an opportunity to look forward with anticipation to the future. As always, to pick out just a few highlights seems invidious after a succession of memorable school events. There has been a diverse range of exquisite concerts – notably the extraordinarily accomplished Orchestral Concert – culminating in the two Carol Services this week. In drama, the junior production of *Something Wicked* showcased a number of extremely talented young actors in a play which demanded maturity and sensitivity. On the sporting front, a cohesive team spirit has been at the very heart of a number of impressive successes in rugby, cross-country and indoor hockey, where RGS teams have competed against some of the strongest sporting schools in the country. In addition, there has been a host of individual and team achievements, too numerous to mention individually here but all equally worthy of praise.

The New Year, however, also provides the opportunity to be forward looking and, indeed, the future for the RGS is as exciting as its past. Educational institutions must continue to evolve and one constant in the School's 500-year history has been its ability to adapt to changing times and trends while staying true and loyal to its ethos and core values. This could not be more appropriate at the moment. The phased building programme which is now well underway will provide an environment conducive to teaching some of the finest young minds in the country; the focus on learning habits will ensure our students are prepared not only for the challenges of examinations but also the demands of life at university and in the work-place; partnerships will continue to allow us to share our expertise and benefit from the experiences of others; and our establishment of an international school in Qatar will ensure that the global element to our outlook is a reality. It is an exciting time for the RGS and I have no doubt that our current students will emerge at the end of their time at the School more resilient, more flexible, more independent and more ready for the future, whatever it holds. Most importantly, however, the qualities which define us – humility, a sense of community, pride in all that we do – will remain at our core.

I wish you and your families a very peaceful and happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing the boys refreshed and ready for the new term in January.

Latest News

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Chemistry: Peter Robinson (U6) has been awarded Best Sixth Form Chemist Thames and Kennet Award by the Society of Chemical Industries in a presentation at Reading University for his CREST Gold project.

Christmas Fair: The annual fair saw hundreds of visitors enjoy a range of diverse stalls, Santa's grotto and festive cheer. All proceeds went to the School's three charities; the event was a great success.

Drama: The ambitious double-bill junior production of *Something Wicked* saw over 50 boys involved both on stage and backstage. A talented young cast captured perfectly the spirit and nuance of Richard III and Macbeth, with stand-out performances from **Dominic Baker** (4P), **Philip Bowler** (4H) and **Jack Gamble** (2P). The disquieting and ominous music – which was created specifically for the plays by **Samuel Cherry** (3C) – as well as the excellent costumes, atmospheric lighting and staging all created a suitably dark, sinister mood which was appreciated by the packed audiences at each performance.

Mathematics: The RGS won third place in the regional final of the UKMT Senior Team Mathematics Competition. The challenge consisted of three 40-minute team-based tasks, involving challenging mathematical puzzles including a relay, shuttle and cross number, with 26 schools competing.

Model United Nations: A successful day at the Benenden Conference for RGS boys included four highly commended delegates, four outstanding delegates and a highly commended delegation.

Music: The extraordinary orchestral concert in Holy Trinity Church proved to be one of the musical highlights of the term. A demanding programme of Stravinsky, Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky, Ireland and Poulenc was tackled with sensitivity and no little technical expertise, resulting in a truly memorable evening of musicianship of the very highest standard.

Quiz: In this year's Schools Challenge General Knowledge quiz the RGS team won two pool matches against Lady Eleanor Holles School and Bedales School, before holding on to clinch the regional semi-final against Kingston Grammar School.

Science and Engineering: Upper Sixth Form boys **Rufus Frew** and **Jae-Yeon Lim** have qualified for the National Science + Engineering Competition Finals at The Big Bang Fair 2016.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Chess: The 2nd VI won 4½ – 1½ against Sutton Grammar School; this impressive result was then followed by a 9½ – 2½ victory for the 3rd team against Hampton School.

Cross-country: The Intermediate team ran in the English Schools Cup finishing tenth from over 200 schools which entered the competition.

Football: The 1st XI recorded an excellent 5 – 2 victory against Frensham Heights School including two goals from **Andrew Parrott** (L6).

Rugby: Against Wimbledon College, a commanding 20 – 3 win for the 1st XV, alongside straight wins for the senior, Under 16 and Under 14 teams, contributed to a highly successful day of sport. In the final block fixture against King's College School, Wimbledon, RGS teams recorded seven victories. The Under 15C team produced the result of the day with a 27 – 12 victory to make it nine wins from nine matches this term and complete the perfect season, finishing with a positive points difference of 325.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Friday 11 December

Junior Ski Trip to Alpe d'Huez departs (returns 19 December)
Term ends

Saturday 12 December

Senior Ski Trip to Les Deux Alpes departs (returns 19 December)
MUN Conference at Croydon High School

Monday 4 January

Staff Inset Day (no school for students)

Tuesday 5 January

Beginning of Lent Term