



### From the Headmaster

Schools are in a constant state of change as innovation, fashion and reform cause institutions continually to develop and evolve. This is undoubtedly a healthy culture where we are forced regularly to review practice to ensure we are providing the very best education for each individual student. This, however, coupled with the pace and intensity of modern life means that opportunities to pause and reflect are increasingly few and far between. In this context, therefore, traditions which endure the test of time and which are resistant to change are all the more precious.

For the best part of twenty years, each Thursday morning assembly has included a *Thought for the Day* which is delivered by a member of the Upper Sixth Form on the theme of the week: a message which has been interweaved into the readings and hymns. This term alone the themes include peace and harmony, hope for the future, our duty to others, dignity and sacrifice, to name but a few. The boys are given free rein to reflect in any manner which they choose, thereby producing original, diverse, insightful and frequently topical interpretations of the theme which may have a religious or secular approach. The quality of these talks is remarkable and I am always astonished by the maturity and sophistication of their musings. Such opportunities for public speaking in front of a large audience have innate value in themselves but also for many of the boys in assembly this may be one of the very few times in their week where they have the opportunity for peace and reflection, without the temptation and distraction of technology! We must never underestimate the importance of such moments of contemplation and in this light I have every confidence that this is one tradition which is set to last for many years to come.

For your interest, a transcript of each *Thought for the Day* is posted weekly on the website in the *Daily Life* section of *School Life* or you can access them by clicking [here](#). I would warmly recommend them, when – and if – you can find a few minutes for yourself.

### Latest News

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**Debating:** The RGS team comprising **Samuel Cherry** (3E), **Thomas McCutcheon** (5B) and **George Tench** (4P) progressed to the district finals in the English-Speaking Union national debating competition. **Christopher Gooding** (5V) won the award for best overall chairperson: an impressive accolade.

**Drama:** **Vincent Conquest** (1C) is currently performing in Guildford Shakespeare Company's production of *The Winter's Tale*.

**Young Enterprise:** The RGS was delighted to host the Surrey Y Factor which attracted a record number of businesses and 145 attendees, including three Mayors. The highlight of the evening was the e-advertising competition: RGS teams *Opprimé* and *Sigma* scooped first and second prizes respectively to cap a very successful evening.

**Chess:** The Under 12s won 3 – 1 against Guildford High School while the 1st team continued a successful start to the term with a 4 – 2 victory against Wilson's School.

**Cross-country:** The RGS A team consisting of a runner from each year group won bronze in the Goater Cup relay which attracted almost 30 teams. The School was then well represented in the Surrey Schools Championships at Reigate and seven boys from different age groups have now been selected to represent Surrey in a forthcoming inter-counties event.

**Football:** In the Trinity Cup Quarter Final, the 1st XI recorded an excellent 7 – 2 victory over Caterham School; **Maximillian Cooke** (L6) scored a hat-trick while **Thomas Cullum** (U6) scored two.

**Hockey:** A sharp frost affected the weekend matches against Tonbridge School; however, the surviving games produced four victories including a convincing 5 – 0 win for the Under 15Cs. In the block fixture against Churcher's College, RGS teams secured eight wins, including victories for all the senior teams; the 1st XI won 4 – 1. **Edward James** (4V) scored his second hat-trick in consecutive games in the Under 15A's 4 – 0 success. In the second round of the National Cup the 1st XI beat Hurstpierpoint College 7 – 3: a fantastic achievement against a team who finished third in last year's competition. **Edward Way** (U6) scored three goals while **Cameron Morgan** (U6) scored two. At an individual level, **Joshua Powell** (5P) has been selected for the England national Age Group Academy at Under 17 level.

**Ice-hockey:** **William Lawson** (2E) has been selected for the Under 15 South West Conference ice hockey team and will be representing the South West of England both in the UK and abroad later in the year.

**Sailing:** The RGS won the rescheduled Papercourt Regatta, the result of a fantastic team effort. From many impressive performances, of particular note were **Nicholas Forbes** (5H) and **Henry Woodfine** (4P) who won three of their four races in the Fast Handicap class by a notable margin and a first overall from **Benjamin Mueller** (1E) in the Slow Handicap and Oppy class

**Shooting:** The RGS won by 1506 to 1497 points against a Cambridge University team which included three Old Guildfordians. The top scorer was **Nicholas Lehrter** (U6) with 98 and 97.

**Ski-racing:** The RGS team enjoyed a successful time at the British Schoolboys' International Races in Wengen, Switzerland; **Charlie Aldridge-Bate** (1L) gained a silver medal in the Under 12 giant slalom.

**Swimming:** In the Guildford District Schools Championship, the RGS Under 13s finished in second place overall. **Max Windle** (1P) and **Arvin Rezai-Kalantary** (2L) both won their events. In addition, ten other medals were achieved.

## Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 1 February	Oxbridge Admissions Seminar in the Auditorium
Tuesday 2 February	Third Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall
Wednesday 3 February	Musician of the Year in the Rehearsal Room
Saturday 6 February	RGS Model United Nations in the Old and Main Buildings
Monday 8 February	Battlefields Trip briefing
Wednesday 10 February	Schola Cantorum sing Compline in St Mary's Church King's Lecture in the Auditorium