



From the Headmaster

The final two weeks of term have encapsulated so much of the infectious energy and enthusiasm of the RGS community where hard work and commitment go hand in hand with good humour and cohesion. Events as diverse as the Senior Piano Concert and the Ensembles Concert, the drama productions, the sporting successes and the Charity Day assembly have seen students of all ages focused on a common goal and achieving the very highest standards in the process. I would especially like to take this opportunity to highlight the extraordinary amount of time which has been devoted to preparations for tonight's joint RGS and Guildford High School Concert, *Verdi Requiem*, at G Live. The fact that over 420 boys, girls, staff and parents have worked together to perform such a technically demanding concert is a great credit to all those involved.

As the term comes to an end next week, so the thoughts of many of the boys and, indeed, their parents now turn to the impending public examinations. This marks a stage in the school year when a significant number of boys are united in their attention on, and preparation for, the challenges ahead. The boys should take reassurance from the fact that we have every confidence in them and have seen a spark of genuine potential which they have the ability to realise. It is not enough, however, simply to wear the RGS blazer or to put on an RGS tie; it is now time for the boys to reinforce this natural ability with sustained, targeted focus and consolidation. With industry and commitment, the boys can fulfil their potential academically, and I wish them all the very best of luck over the revision period.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a relaxing Easter break and look forward to seeing the boys return refreshed and ready for the Trinity Term.

Latest News

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Biology: 7,200 students took part nationwide in this year's Biology Olympiad and RGS boys secured three gold, six silver and four bronze medals. **Mark Thornton** (U6) was invited to the finals of the Biology Olympiad for selection to represent the country at the International Olympiad in Vietnam.

Book Awards: At the second annual Trinity Schools Book Awards ceremony at Trinity School, Croydon **Jack Donnelly** (2C) was declared the overall winner of *Best Review (Junior)* and received his prize from Philip Reeve, author of the subject of his review, *Mortal Engines*.

Chemistry: In the UK Chemistry Olympiad the RGS achieved our best ever results: in total, achieving eight gold, 23 silver and 23 bronze awards from the 5,822 students who took part. **Mark Thornton** (U6) was one of the highest-scoring gold medallists and was invited to the national selection event at Cambridge. In addition, Upper Sixth Form boys **Piers Cole**, **Martin Dibb-Fuller**, **James Hilditch** and **Peter Robinson** also came in the top 50 nationally.

Music: RGS boys have enjoyed great success at the annual Godalming Festival. The Sixth Form Senior String Quartet of **Alistair Baumann**, **Michael Collis**, **Callum Holmes** and **Dan Nguyen** won their class with a performance of Shostakovich's *String Quartet No. 8*; they also won the Mayor Martin trophy, awarded to the best performance over a range of classes. In addition, **Henry White** (4V) won the Dines Trophy for the Junior Challenge Class, and **Simon King** (L6) won the Baxter Hull Trophy for the Senior Recital Class. **Ruben Berstecher** (2C), **Harry Hodge** (2P) and **Hans Hu** (U6) also enjoyed success. Ruben won both his competitions, gaining Honours in the Challenge Cup (Under 15 recital class) and winning the Skelton Cup and Harry came second in the same event. Hans won the Concerto Trophy playing *Rhapsody in Blue* by Gershwin, also with Honours.

Quiz: In the inter-regional round of the Schools Challenge Quiz, the RGS team of **George Glover** (L6), **Harry Johnson** (3C), **William Klintworth** (L6) and **Alexander Norris** (3E) earned the RGS a place in the last eight of the nationwide competition. This will be the School's first appearance at the National Finals since 2002, when the School finished as runners-up.

Sports News

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Chess: Highlights of a busy fortnight included a win for the 1st VI against King's College School, Wimbledon by 4½ – 1½ and victory against Wilson's School by 5 – 1 in the Zone Final of the English Chess Federation competition to ensure progress to the National Finals.

Cross-Country: The junior team competed in the invitational schools cross-country race at Claremont Fan Court School. **Thomas Jones** (2P) and **George Manolis** (2E) came second and third respectively in the race and overall the RGS retained the team trophy for another year.

Hockey: A heavy frost resulted in widespread cancellations in the block fixture against Whitgift School with only four matches surviving. The traditional final school fixture of term, however, against Reed's School produced a fitting end to the season. In a series of competitive, tight matches, the 3rd XI drew 1 – 1 to complete two consecutive years unbeaten. The Under 16C and Under 15C teams both won narrowly 1 – 0 against an opposition which was previously unbeaten this season. At county level, the Under 15s won the County Cup to become Surrey Champions. A nerve-wracking final against Trinity School went to penalty flicks with goalkeeper, **Jake Willshire** (4B), saving at the crucial moment. Even more impressive was the fact that the team did not concede a goal throughout the whole tournament. The Under 14s also continued their run of impressive form in the National Cup; they are now at the regional semi-final stage, just one win away from the National Finals.

Rowing: After a tough ergo test and long-distance trials at Boston, **George Wedlake** (5P) has reached the level required for invitation to the Great Britain J16 sculling camp. **Lawrence Turner** (3E) attended the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships; his relay team won gold medals in the Under 14 event and gained a national title for Guildford Rowing Club.

Shooting: Our VIII had two victories in matches against Bradfield College and St John's School, Leatherhead with **Miles Horton-Baker** (4V) and **Alexander Jones** (L6) as our top scorers.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Friday 18 March

Joint RGS and GHS *Verdi Requiem* Concert in G Live
Fifth Form GCSE drama performances in the Auditorium

Monday 21 March

Lower Sixth Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall

Wednesday 23 March

Normal teaching timetable: term finishes at 4.00pm

Thursday 24 March

Senior Classics Trip to Sicily departs