



From the Headmaster

In a new book called *“The Great Acceleration: How the world is getting faster, faster”*, the author Robert Colville investigates how the ceaseless advance of technology and our fundamental appetite for novelty and convenience have continued to speed up every aspect of daily life. The book illustrates this through a range of eclectic examples from the fact that chickens grow four times more quickly now than they did 50 years ago to the statistic that the average walking speed has gone up 10% in the last 20 years. School life is not exempt from this culture: access to information is literally at our fingertips; global communication is instant; results are expected immediately; the desire for everything to be faster and more streamlined is insatiable. Indeed, all of this is within the context of youthful exuberance which means RGS boys seem to be endlessly in an enthusiastic rush!

As we race towards the future – a world packed with new technologies, new ideas and new discoveries – ironically, slowness has, perhaps, never been more important. The chance to reflect, digest and re-evaluate can only occur when time is not the priority. Reading books, true friendship, good conversation are intrinsic parts of an education which simply do not deserve to be rushed. So at a time when speed is of the essence, especially as the examination season approaches, I hope that there is still a place at the RGS for appreciating the importance of taking things slowly.

Latest News

[View the full news archive](#)

Chemistry: The RGS team of **Benjamin de la Court-Wakeling** (3P), **Peter Heylen** (3E), **Samuel Jones** (4H) and **Adam Wills** (5P) competed in the national final of the Royal Society of Chemistry's *Top of the Bench* competition. Out of 32 finalist schools from all regions of the UK, the RGS finished sixth; the stand-out performance was by Adam who received the Jacqui Clee Award for Student Achievement.

Music: Established as one of the highlights of the RGS musical calendar, the third annual Concerto Concert provided the stage for some of our most able musicians to perform solos with Guildford's own professional orchestra, *Southern Pro Musica*. The standard of musicianship and technical mastery on display was quite simply astonishing. **Callum Holmes** (U6) played the Vaughan Williams' *Violin Concerto*, **Joshua Powell** (5P) gave a stylish performance of the Rondo from Haydn's *Oboe Concerto* in C and **Ronan Thomas** (L6) was stunning in Bruch's *Violin Concerto*: a performance which showed real musicality and depth of feeling. After the interval **Alistair Baumann** (L6) performed the incredibly demanding Saint-Saëns *Cello Concerto* with great aplomb and the evening closed with a tremendously accomplished and characterful performance of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* from **Hans Hu** (U6) on the piano.

Music: In the Junior and Intermediate Music Competitions, the winners were as follows: Junior Woodwind – **Patrick Merritt** (3T); Junior Piano – **Austin Humphrey** (1C); Junior Strings – **Eishiv Shah** (2L); Junior Guitar – **James Jenkins** (2E); Intermediate Woodwind – **Henry Forrest** (2P); Intermediate Piano –

Jack Gamble (2P); Intermediate Brass – **Tom Randell** (3T); Intermediate Strings – **Jonathan Wright** (3C); and Intermediate Guitar – **Thomas Jones** (2P).

Robotics: A Sixth Form team comprising **David Buchanan, Robert Fraser, Christopher Green, James Kavanagh, James Nicholls, Robert Phipps** and **Peter Robinson** took part in the national Student Robotics competition run by Southampton University. After months of design, construction and programming, an autonomous robot finally emerged ready to do battle using a camera to find boxes, flip them and return them to the home zone. In the finals the RGS competed against over 40 schools in a series of league matches. Topping the table after the opening rounds, the RGS robot conquered all in the knock-out phase as the RGS team prevailed to claim the prestigious trophy.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Athletics: In the RGS Junior Invitational competition against a number of local schools, the RGS came second in the First Form event, while the Second Form boys went one better to win their age group. **Alexander Braithwaite** (1C), **Samuel Martin** (2R), **Toby Perryman** (1P), **Jamie Stratford** (2L) and **Max Windle** (1P) all won their events.

Cricket: The sun shone as the boys enjoyed idyllic cricket conditions against Trinity School, Croydon. **Alastair Curran's** (L6) maiden century for the 1st XI, a superbly mature innings from the opener, was one of the highlights as the 1st XI won by 67 runs. In addition, the senior teams and Under 15 and Under 12 age groups all secured a clean sweep of victories. On a day in which RGS bowlers impressed, **Samuel Müller** (4P) took 4 – 22 for the Under 15As, **Alasdair Bulman** (4B) 4 – 8 for the Under 15Cs and **Aman Ashfaque** (2P) 4 – 1 for the Under 13As. The following weekend saw convincing performances by all our teams resulting in seven out of nine wins against King's College School Wimbledon, including an 89 run victory for the 1st XI. The game was dominated by captain **Alexander Sweet** (U6) who followed up an innings of 104 with extraordinary bowling figures of 5 – 27; he was ably supported by **Benji Thomas** (5B) making 77. Other innings of note included **Henry Turrell** (2L) with 84* for the Under 13As and **Joe Sheldon** (1P) with 75 for the Under 12As, both against Eltham College. On the bowling front **Eric Roberts** (4B) finished with figures of 3 – 2 for the Under 15Bs, **Ayush Bose** (3S) with 3 – 4 for the Under 14As, and **Barnaby Dunnnett** (2P) with 5 – 4, including a hat trick, for the Under 13Bs. Midweek, the 1st XI enjoyed an honourable draw with the MCC and then in a T20 match against Eltham College won by seven wickets to progress to the regional final.

Fencing: In the British Youth Fencing Championship **Leo Kamstra** (1C) was beaten in the last sixteen in the épée and lost in the last eight of the foil to the eventual champion. Leo remains number two in the England Under 13 boys' épée rankings. In the Under 20 GB qualification tournament, **Peter Robinson** (U6) finished eighth: the first time Peter has reached the quarter finals at this level.

Shooting: In the Sawyer Cup, **Joshua Bell** (L6) won the trophy for the highest scoring individual on the day, achieving an impressive 65 out of 70 in tricky conditions.

Tennis: The Under 15s secured a hat trick of victories against County School, George Abbot School and Rutlish School; the other highlights of the fortnight included two wins for the promising Under 13s.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Friday 20 May	Upper Sixth Form Study Leave begins
Monday 23 May	Field Day 4
Friday 27 May	Staff Inset – school closed for boys
Monday 30 May	Half Term begins