



From the Headmaster

Working together is a recurring theme in the media at the moment, whether it is in relation to the discussion over Europe and the Referendum, or tackling immigration, or dealing with the current tensions between fans in France at the European Championships. Co-operation and partnership are at the heart of addressing such issues. In this light, the parallels with education in the current climate could not be more pronounced. Private schools have traditionally been able to act, to a large extent, autonomously and independently, becoming islands which are introspective and focused on their own systems. The era of single schools which stand alone, relying on their own resources to innovate and develop, however, is coming to an end. The future is about partnership: local, national and international. The RGS as a grammar school in the heart of Guildford has never been subject to such isolation; community, service and altruism are fundamental pillars upon which the School was founded and has continued to flourish.

As I highlighted in my recent vision for the School, we must look out to the world which our students will experience. The growing complexity of the global challenges we face will need future generations to work together for solutions, across national borders and the potential barriers of religion, culture and language. Opportunities currently abound: building a mutually beneficial relationship with our Old Guildfordians; links with United World Schools, the Guildford Education Partnership, local state schools and United Learning; our link schools in Cambodia and Nepal; and recently the establishment of our first international school in Qatar. In all these partnerships, our aim is to learn, to share our expertise and to enhance the reputation of the RGS by developing academic excellence more broadly.

It is a time of change and an exciting future, a future where, while remaining loyal to our values as a school, our students can only benefit from co-operation and partnership.

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Nepal: Over half-term, Messrs Gough, Rothwell and Shakeri visited our partner schools in Nepal. Two days were spent in our two partner schools: Janabikas government school in Chandidanda and Bhu Pu school in Besisahar itself. The RGS staff were overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome received and were physically overwhelmed by the volume of flowers offered by students and staff in the traditional Nepali welcome: flowers which had been collected individually by the students themselves during the dry season when flowers are scarce. As well as observations and various visits, the highlight of the whole trip was the Saturday, where, on their only day off of the week, 63 teachers from 10 different schools in Besisahar climbed up to Janabikas to have a day's training from the three RGS staff. The training session – including the use of lessons filmed at the RGS which delivered technology-free lessons that were easily transferable to Nepali schools – covered the basics of planning, teaching, assessment and behaviour management and was translated into Nepali by teachers from our partner schools. The feedback was universally positive and provided inspiration for further initiatives in the future.

Badminton: **Christopher Chong** (2P) participated in the inaugural National Junior League competition at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes where he helped his team, Swifts Junior Badminton Club, win gold in both the Under 16 and Under 14 sections. Christopher won 25 out of 29 matches he played over two days of competition.

Cricket: A very successful block fixture against St George's College, Weybridge resulted in victories across the board with 10 wins and three matches abandoned due to the unpredictability of British summertime. The 1st XI won by 222 runs, a performance which Head of Cricket, Chris Sandbach, regarded as the most comprehensive since he started at the School. Scores of 79, 67 and 52 for **Alastair Curran** (L6), **Max James** (L6) and **Joshua Powell** (5P) respectively were followed by bowling figures of 4 – 14 by **Thomas Hartley** (U6) as the RGS emerged as comfortable winners. Other highlights included 61* for **Fergus Middleton** (4H) for the Under 15As and 64* for **Aman Ashfaque** (2P) for the Under 13A team. With the ball, the stand-out performances of the day came from **Ollie Matthews** (1P) for the Under 12Bs with 3 – 3 and **James Blackburn** (4N) with 4 – 9 for the Under 15A team. **Freddie Cliffe** (2P), **Thomas Eves** (4H) and **Kishan Patel** (2E) also all took three wickets. The closest game of the day was against Dulwich College where the Under 15C team enjoyed a tense two-run win with confident contributions from **Angus Lovatt** (4V) with 58 and **Benedict Cox** (4N) with 50.

Fencing: **Leo Kamstra** (1C) won a bronze medal in the Tournoi International d'épée, held in Luxembourg. Leo is the first RGS boy to win a medal in an international fencing competition, an event which welcomed competitors from Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the UK.

Rugby: **Charlie Hubbard** (4A) played for London Irish Academy against Worcester, and in tournaments at Bristol and Harrow. In light of these performances, he has been selected for the London Irish Under 16 Academy pre-season training squad.

Swimming: **Max Windle** (1P) competed in the second weekend of the South East Regional Swimming Championships. He added four more medals to his tally, winning gold in the 50m breast, silver in the 200 Individual Medley and 400 free and bronze in the 50 free. He finished the Regional Championships with an impressive eight medals in total and is now training hard in preparation for the Nationals in Sheffield.

Weightlifting: **Christopher Murray** (L6) has qualified for the European Youth Championships in Poland and the World Youth Championships in Malaysia in the weightlifting 69 kilogramme category.

Forthcoming Events

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Wednesday 22 June	New Boys' Reception Afternoon Fifth Form Book return Sports Day
Friday 24 June	Arts Festival Private View in the Art School Drama production <i>DNA</i> in the Auditorium (for two days) Opera performance of John Blow's <i>Venus and Adonis</i> in the Old Building (for two days)
Monday 27 June	Field Day 5
Wednesday 29 June	Charity Bands Concert in the Auditorium
Friday 1 July	Leavers' Ceremony in Holy Trinity Church Leavers' Ball in the Old and Main Buildings