



From the Headmaster

"A bird gets up every morning and sings its song. It does not wait to hear what other birds are singing, nor does it look to see if another bird is getting more notice. This is nature: knowing your own song." As I reflect on the last twelve months, this quotation by American artist and author Michele Oka Doner seems strangely apt as the academic year at the RGS comes to an end.

This has, undoubtedly, been an extraordinary academic year even by RGS standards and for me there is a recurring theme which epitomises the last few months. Ambitious aspirations and being willing to follow one's own passions and dreams are characteristics which allow an already talented group of students and staff to raise the bar of achievement even higher. In music, the massed ranks of choir and orchestra performing Verdi's Requiem at *G Live* was one such example. Other such highlights included: an array of outstanding drama productions; the amazing talent on display during Arts Festival Week; academic, sporting and extra-curricular successes; energetic and entertaining charitable and community initiatives; even the emergence of a number of OGs onto the national and international sporting stage. Indeed, the Leavers' Ball, and the dramatic firework display which provided the climax to the evening, was a fitting way to mark the end of the school year. All of these achievements – and many more besides – required single-mindedness, dedication, even a risk of failure but, above all, this desire to develop and flourish as an individual.

As the boys break-up for a very well-deserved rest, I would like to thank you, the parents, as well as the staff, the governors and all those who have contributed so much to this academic year. I would also, in keeping with the words of wisdom imparted by Michele Oka Doner, urge all the boys to continue to know their own song and to pursue their dreams. With extraordinary effort comes extraordinary achievement and I look forward, with anticipation, to what next year brings at the RGS.

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Charity: Over £6,300 has been raised this academic year, to be distributed equally between our nominated school charities: the local charity, *Christopher's Smile*; the national charity, *Prostate Cancer UK*; and the international charity, *United World Schools*.

Drama: Right from the emotive opening music and the first words "Dead? ...Like dead dead.", DNA sucked the audience into the desolate and warped worlds of a group of teenagers who decide to cover up the death of their friend. The actors conveyed the diversity of personalities – fluctuating from bravado to insecurity – with empathy and no little attitude, none more so than Richard and Mark, powerfully played by **George Tench** (4P) and **Daniel Sampson** (4A) respectively. As the play drew to a close, **Dominic Baker** (4P) gave an arresting performance as the victim Adam. The play proved to be a convincing, thought-provoking and unnervingly realistic portrayal of the power of teenage group mentality, all the more sinister for the undercurrent of black humour and the earthy grittiness of the dialogue.

Events: A busy final few weeks of term included, amongst others, the following events: the Art Private View in the Art School; the seventh annual Leavers' Ball in the Old and Main Buildings; trips to Dinorwig in Wales, Iceland and Spain; Nepal Day; Field Day 5; Junior Prizegiving in Holy Trinity Church; the Great Egg Race; Economics Speaker Day; Sports Day at the Spectrum; and Swimming Sports at the Lido.

Politics: **George Clark** (L6) has had an article on the EU Referendum published by *The Day*, a daily news service. It will also be printed, with the other winning articles, and handed in to Downing Street.

Sports Day: There were some notable individual achievements at this year's Sports Day, including school records for **Max Windle** (1P) with 8.05m in the shot, **Matthew Harris** (3P) with 10.84m in the triple jump on his first ever-attempt at the discipline and **Henry Doyle** (4V) with 35.90m in the javelin. Beckingham House continued their recent good form by winning back-to-back Sports Days after finally ending Powell's eleven year dominance of the competition last year. The shield was presented to the victorious House Captain of Beckingham, **Alexander Peer** (L6), by the Mayor of Guildford.

Sports News

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Cricket: A really competitive final three block fixtures of term saw RGS teams playing Cranleigh and Whitgift Schools, while, unfortunately, the weather hit the fixtures against St Paul's and Portsmouth Grammar Schools. Two wins for the Under 12s at Portsmouth were among the only matches to survive torrential rain. **Ananmay Rathore** (1P) finished with extraordinary figures of 4 – 4 for the As; **Matthew Slominski** (1E) dominated with both ball and bat, finishing with figures of 3 – 8 and 51* for the Bs. In the final fixture of term, there were again some impressive individual performances against talented opposition, none more so than the four-fer by **Luke Nelson** (3P) with 4 – 2 including four wickets in four balls for the Under 14Cs.

Fencing: At the England Youth Fencing Championship in the Under 13 Foil **Leo Kamstra** (1C) finished 23rd; in the Under 13 Épée Leo came 18th while **Joseph Bryant** (2C) came 29th.

Football: The Fourth Form cadets were victorious in the Somme Commemorative Football Tournament at Surrey Sports Park, marking the centenary of the start of the battle.

Mountain Biking: **Charles Griffith** (5B) has won another Southern Region Enduro mountain bike competition; his team is now leading the series.

Rugby: **Charlie Woodfine** (1E) has started training with the Harlequins rugby academy.

Sailing: **Patrick Croghan** (L6) and **James Dickinson** (5B) were crowned national champions for the second year running at Schools Week at Itchenor Sailing Club.

Tennis: In the Surrey League, the Under 15s recorded an 8 – 1 victory against Tiffin School; they also beat Charterhouse School 8 – 4 in the AEGON League. The Under 14s secured wins against Kingston Grammar and Reigate Grammar Schools, while the Under 12 beat Howard of Effingham School.

Holiday Trips

[View the School Calendar](#)

8 July – 15 July	Scout Summer Camp in Kandersteg
8 July – 15 July	Combined Cadet Force Camp in Okehampton
9 July – 14 July	Big Band Tour to Croatia
11 July – 14 July	NRA Schools' Meeting in Bisley
26 August – 30 August	Football Tour to Holland