



### From the Headmaster

I hope you and your family had a relaxing summer holiday and that your son is refreshed and ready for the start of the school year. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new boys and their parents. The beginning of the academic year and a fresh intake mark an exciting stage and I have every confidence that the new boys will make a real impact upon the School. I look forward to getting to know them individually and to observing them as they develop and flourish.

We are justifiably proud of the success of our boys and, indeed, striving for excellence and harbouring healthy ambition are admirable traits which epitomise our community; however, these are achieved in a caring and compassionate way. The RGS is an inclusive environment where a mutually supportive ethos is at the very heart of our philosophy. Each individual at the RGS has so much untapped potential; to unlock this, the boys must be confident and happy. If you have any concerns with regard to your son, however seemingly trivial, please do not hesitate to contact the School via his tutor. Each boy has a number of members of staff he can turn to if he wants advice, guidance or reassurance. His tutor is likely to be his first point of contact; however, every individual also has their Head of Year, Housemaster, Personal Tutor (Fourth Form and above), the Deputy Head (Pupils), the School Nurse, and the Counsellor. In addition, the senior boys, with the benefit of professional training, take an active role in the mentoring of junior boys to provide peer support; this has proved to be a highly successful initiative. By talking openly and airing concerns, we can help swiftly to resolve any issues as they arise.

For the benefit of those parents new to the School, the RGS newsletter, *The Bulletin*, is published electronically every two weeks. We are very proud of the efforts and achievements of our boys and this fortnightly publication provides an opportunity to celebrate the many diverse successes enjoyed by our community. I am always keen to hear news of RGS boys so that their energy, industry and achievements can be recognised; please do not hesitate to keep me informed of any such successes. As well as *The Bulletin*, the RGS website and social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter and YouTube – also provide invaluable means of staying updated with news from the School and gaining an insight into daily life.

As I have mentioned, the strong sense of community is very important to us and we greatly value the involvement and support of parents and family at school events. The *Forthcoming Events* section at the end of this newsletter highlights those events in the School Calendar – in addition to the sports fixtures – which may be of special interest to parents or to which you are warmly invited to attend.

I wish your son a very happy and fulfilling year and look forward to meeting you during the course of this academic year.

**Dr Jon Cox**  
Headmaster

**Academic:** The RGS celebrated a record year for results as the School was once again ranked in the top three boys schools in the country at both A Level and GCSE. At A Level, over 78% of grades were achieved at grade A\* or A; 36% of all grades were at A\*. 72 boys achieved the extraordinary accolade of a clean set of A\* and A grades. At an individual level, Mark Thornton dropped only nine marks out of a possible 2,400 in his four subjects; he also gained a D1 in Chemistry Pre-U, the highest level. Mark has now secured his place to read Natural Sciences at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. Mark has also recently returned from the International Biology Olympiad in Vietnam where he won a silver medal and finished first out of the four United Kingdom team members. At GCSE, 79.4% of all grades were at A\* with 43 boys achieving straight A\* grades in their 10 – or more – subjects. In total, 118 boys secured straight A\* and A grades across all their subjects. Finally, 96 boys took IGCSE Mathematics a year early achieving 95 A\* grades and 1 A grade. We congratulate all the boys, and the staff, on an outstanding set of results in the public examinations.

**Promotional Film:** We are excited to be releasing the much-anticipated RGS promotional film *#AlwaysPartofRGS* at the end of September. A series of clips are currently being posted on the School's social media channels – Facebook, Twitter and YouTube – and we invite you to follow and engage with these prior to the film's full release. The film celebrates the School's strong sense of community and close ties of friendship. RGS boys are proud to be part of such a positive, happy, vibrant school where they have the opportunity to flourish and develop. This sense of pride extends to staff, governors, parents – past and present – and alumni alike and ensures that once you have been part of the RGS, you will always be part of the RGS. We hope you enjoy the film.

**Staff:** The RGS is delighted to welcome the following new members of teaching staff: Mr Dan Amis (English), Mr James Bass (History), Mr Max Burgin (Religion and Philosophy), Ms Joanne Clarkson (English), Miss Grace Clements (Geography), Dr Morven Creagh (Modern Foreign Languages), Mr Ben Dudley (Physical Education), Mr Gareth Furlong (Sports Professional), Dr Victoria Henshaw (History), Mr Alex Jessett (Mathematics), Mr Alastair Kirkland (Mathematics), Mr Richard Lemaire (Modern Foreign Languages), Mr Craig Mullan (Physical Education), Mr Harry Prentice (Classics), Mr Josh Richards (Biology), Mr Philip Robinson (Mathematics), Miss Gemma Spencer (Modern Foreign Languages), Dr Eleanor Thackrey (Music), Mrs Jillian Thorpe (Biology), and Dr James Wisson (Economics). We also welcome back four Upper Sixth Form leavers – Dan Allchurch, James Cashman, Will Eves, and Alexander Sweet – working in the Music or Physical Education Departments during their Gap Years. We wish them all a very successful and enjoyable career at the School.

**Trips:** There were a number of trips, tours and expeditions over the summer holidays. These included: the Big Band tour to Croatia in conjunction with Guildford High School; the Combined Cadet Force camp at Okehampton; the Scout summer camp in Kandersteg; the Modern Foreign Languages trip to the Rhineland; and the football tour to the Ajax training academy.

## Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 12 September	Parents' Association Committee meeting in the Staff Common Room
Tuesday 13 September	UCAS evening for Upper Sixth Form parents in the Auditorium
Friday 16 September	Junior house rugby and Tacklebag sale at Bradstone Brook
Monday 19 September	New York and Washington trip information evening in the Auditorium
Thursday 22 September	<i>Illustr poetry</i> recital evening in Big School

