



From the Headmaster

Passionate, fervent singing has an infectious quality. One of the enduring memories of the Rio Olympics and Paralympics was the succession of gold medal winners standing on the podium singing with heartfelt emotion their respective national anthems. Indeed, for many students and staff, past and present, one of the most evocative memories of the RGS is the rousing rendition of the School Hymn, John Bunyan's *To be a Pilgrim*, which marks many formal school occasions throughout the year. The combination of a rousing melody and poignant words is sufficient to rouse boys from adolescent reservation to belting out the hymn with pride and conviction.

Despite dating back to the 1600s, the sentiments underpinning the words of the school hymn still feel particularly apt. The successes and achievements of the boys would not be possible without *labour night and day* – the perseverance, dedication and industry which John Bunyan champions. Setbacks and obstacles will always provide challenge *come wind, come weather* and yet, as long as there is an innate desire – *his first avow'd intent* – each set-back will only strengthen each student's resolve and not *daunt his spirit*.

We are proud of how impressive our students are: engaged, motivated and curious. We are acutely aware, however, that the realities of a challenging, fast-changing, stressful modern lifestyle which will face our boys at university and in the work-place demand a range of skills in addition to strong examination results. Grades undoubtedly open doors but the habits and attitudes nurtured at school are going to be fundamental in allowing our boys to continue to flourish once they leave the RGS. In this light, as a school we have been reflecting on the learning habits which will allow us to remain loyal to our ethos while developing resilient, resourceful and reflective students who can approach the future with confidence whatever it holds. This year's school-wide learning habit of precision seems particularly appropriate as we look to marry our traditional and robust grammar school values to key habits of mind and practice in the modern world. Our continued focus and insistence on the highest levels of precision in all that we do and learn are timeless and will ensure for each student *his strength the more is*.

Latest News

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Biology: James Miller (4N), who last year won the Cairngorms Young Nature Presenter Award, was interviewed by BBC Radio Scotland during their *Out for the Weekend* programme. The interview can be heard by clicking [here](#).

Design Technology: Edmund Milton-Seall (L6) has won a prestigious Arkwright Design Technology Scholarship and will be sponsored for the next two years by *The Kobler Trust*.

Drama: In the LAMDA Speech and Drama examinations RGS students performed exceptionally, achieving nine distinctions and thirteen merits in total.

Illustration: The culmination of the third annual *Illustration* project, on the theme of home, was an extraordinary exhibition and presentation evening in Big School. With artwork beautifully hanging from the historic beams and images projected on a translucent screen, the poets and artists provided insight into the motivation and inspiration behind their work. Once again, the range of talent and diversity of submission on display, as well as their sophistication and sensitivity, were remarkable.

Music: **Thomas Jones** (3P) has been invited to join the National Youth Guitar Ensemble, a group which comprises just sixteen young people.

Photography: **Thomas Randell** (4P) entered a photography competition at the Ben Uri Gallery in London. He entered three black and white photographs taken in Venice, one of which was selected as runner-up.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Chess: **Amardip Ahluwalia** (2C) was crowned Under 13 Chess Champion in the British Chess Championships. **James** and **Alexander Golding** (4N and 2L) competed in the European Youth Chess Championships in Prague, finishing respectively 70th out of 131 competitors and 48th out of 141. In team competitions, in the final stages of the National Schools Chess Competition, the RGS team was undefeated and finished fourth out of sixteen teams. In the Eton tournament, the RGS 1st team came an impressive fourth again.

Fencing: **Leo Kamstra** (2C) claimed a bronze medal in the prestigious invitational Elite Epée Grand Final and earned 157 points towards his England ranking.

Football: **Ryan Hoffman** (L6) has been selected to attend trials for the Independent Schools Football Association Under 18 south team.

Golf: The RGS team, consisting of **Henry Doyle** (5V), **Max Higgo** (L6) and **Oliver Taylor** (5V), beat Winchester College in the first round of the Independent Schools Golf Association knock-out competition.

Rugby: In the first block fixture of term against Portsmouth Grammar School, RGS sides secured ten wins and one draw from the eleven matches. This was all the more impressive as a number of boys were representing the RGS for the very first time. Against Reed's School, the RGS won seven and drew one of the twelve matches to complete a really positive start to term for all age groups.

Scuba diving: **Dimitri Perricos** (4H) achieved the status of Master Scuba diver, the highest level qualification for recreational scuba diving.

Tennis: In the Aegon semi-final against Hinchley Wood School, the Under 15 team won a narrow and nail-biting super doubles tie-break to secure the match and progress to the final.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Saturday 24 September RGSPA First Form Welcome Dinner in Great Hall

Monday 26 September Field Day 1

Thursday 29 September Speech Day (no afternoon school)
Senior Prizegiving in Holy Trinity Church

Saturday 1 October RGS Open Day

Tuesday 4 October Market Day Concert in Holy Trinity Church

