

THE REGISTER

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The termly newsletter of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford





BLUE-EYED BOYS

With a cast of boys from the production of *The History Boys*, the boys of the school pose for a promotional photograph. The boys are dressed in their school uniforms and are standing in front of a building. The photograph is taken from a low angle, making the boys appear to be standing on a high platform. The boys are looking towards the camera with serious expressions.

There is a sense of the school's history in the photograph. The boys are standing in front of a building that has been part of the school for many years. The photograph is a reminder of the school's traditions and the boys' commitment to their education.

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CLOSE-UP

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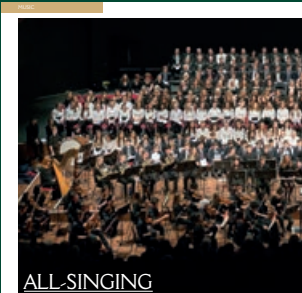
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BLUE-EYED BOYS

RGS students enjoyed outstanding success in the latest round of Oxbridge applications with the final total of 30 offers – 22 from Cambridge and 8 from Oxford – testament not only to their ability but also the strong culture of mutual support which exists among the boys. This figure continued the School's enviable record, with an astonishing 346 offers made from Oxbridge in the last ten years. A range of subject areas were covered with Natural Sciences proving to be the most successful single subject; the broad

spectrum of Ancient and Modern Languages provided a further six offers. Headmaster Dr Jon Cox commented: "The challenge of securing an Oxbridge place is getting harder each year as boys have to navigate a growing number of additional tests and compete against large numbers of very able and well-prepared students. As well as their academic profile, it was the students' genuine love of learning, their tenacity and flexibility at interview and their engagement in many other aspects of school and community life that enabled

them to secure the initial offer. It is this, as much as their grades, that will set up RGS boys for a successful future at university and beyond. My thoughts go out to those very talented students who unfortunately just missed out on being made offers; they should all be proud of their efforts and take heart from the fact that a number of last year's students used the disappointment of missing out on an offer as a springboard to successful applications this time around."



CLOSE-UP

For this term's King's Lecture the RGS was delighted to welcome the BBC Turkey Correspondent, Mark Lowen. Mark provided a candid and honest insight into the world of the BBC, journalism and the current political climate in Turkey, a task made all the more acutely challenging by the perception of journalists at a time where there is loss of confidence in mainstream media. As Nicolas Bentley succinctly commented: "No news is good news. No journalists is even better." Mark took the audience through his career providing anecdotal insight into being tear-gassed in Athens seconds before a live broadcast and being on a flight which landed in Istanbul airport during the tragic terror attacks and

doing live Skype reports as the only reporter inside the perimeter fence. Mark touched on the dangers of a career in which 81 journalists died last year in the line of duty and spoke passionately about the challenges, stresses, highs and lows of his daily routine. An extended *Question and Answer* session allowed Mark to discuss the current climate of fake news, the perceived decline of conventional media, and the conflicting desire for subjective and objective reporting. As the lecture finished to sustained and heartfelt applause, Mark's humility, integrity and, most of all, his love of his job had shone through. As Horace Greeley so neatly summed up: "Journalism will kill you, but it will keep you alive while you're at it."



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Organised by the students themselves, the inaugural RGS Scholarship Conference celebrated free-thinking by challenging the audience to consider conflicting views and varying perspectives on the theme of *Thought* from scholars from diverse fields. From the opening talk which challenged Descartes' *cogito ergo sum* through the rationale of neuroscience focusing on the learning process and memory consolidation, the audience was invited to reflect on modernism and the Cold

War, game theory and Artificial Intelligence, the development of computational theory through thinking machines, and a philosophical insight into human individuality and consciousness. As Chris Bradford, Head of Scholarship, commented: "Intellectually stimulating, the conference forced the audience to think outside their intellectual comfort zones, explore links and consider resolutions to contradiction." What, perhaps, best encapsulated the concept of original thought was

Upper Sixth Form student Matthew Sargent who stepped in with less than 24 hours' notice to write a bespoke talk on the radical thinking of the ancient Greeks, more than holding his own in such elevated company. An animated *Q and A* highlighted how enriching and stimulating the talks had been. As Professor Abhinay Muthoo acknowledged: "Key knowledge and new ideas occur when disciplines intellectually collide." Collisions aplenty had certainly taken place.

SCHOOL REPORT

Biology: In this year's Biology Olympiad, RGS boys were awarded four gold medals and six silver medals, which equates to the top 7% and 11% respectively in the country.

Chemistry: In *The Royal Society of Chemistry Challenge*, the RGS team emerged as winners of the Downland Section to progress to the south-east final of the national competition.

CREST: Following his research as part of a CREST project, Ciaran O'Toole was invited to speak at the Annual Conference of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health alongside some very eminent academics.

English: Joshua McGillivray was the winner of the 2018 *Trinity Schools Book*

Awards Best Review competition for his review of *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan.

Mathematics: First Form mathematicians won the latest round of the Guildford Schools Mathematics Quiz to progress to the next round. In the SATRO Mathematics Challenge, the RGS B team comprising Mikel Bober-Irizar, Hidde de Klerk, Freddie Floyd, Thomas Moores and Christopher Yip Lan Yan won the event.

MUN: At the Model United Nations Conference held at Lady Eleanor Holles School, Jack Donnelly won *Outstanding Delegate* for Political Committee, Cameron Gardner and Hugh Jones both won *Highly Commended Delegates*. The RGS Senegal Delegation was awarded *Highly Commended Delegation*.

Music: Matthew Sargent has been awarded a choral scholarship to the world-renowned choir of King's College, Cambridge. Alexander Acomb, Roshan Patel and Angus Miller all achieved a Distinction for their ARSM Diploma examinations on the cello, clarinet and alto saxophone respectively.

Quiz: The Junior Schools Challenge quiz team of Ferdy Al-Qassab, Joshua McGillivray, Thomas Postance and Matthew Turner made a winning start to this year's competition in the first regional round.

Warhammer: Two RGS Warhammer teams competed in the School Warhammer League Heat 2 at *Games Workshop* in Guildford and have been selected to attend the Warhammer 40,000 semi-final at *Warhammer World*.



WHAT A JOURNEY

In recent years RGS *Young Enterprise* companies have made headlines on the local and national stages. Only last year, RGS company *GoBillou* swept the board with their multi-lingual cookbook, progressing to the National Finals. This year, RGS teams once again are receiving well-deserved acclaim. At the *Y Factor*, *EduNow* with a revision website won the e-advert competition and were runners up in the best trade stand category, while *Evo* secured the prestigious *Y Factor* 2018 title. It is *Lunar*, however, led by Sahej Grewal and Kenny Okoroafor, which has recently been making the headlines with a children's book, *Jacob's Journey*. Laura Griffiths, Head of Business Enterprise, commented on the team's innovation and independence: "The boys have written and illustrated a children's book about bullying. They decided to write it as only 8% of children's books have minority representation and they wanted to create a product reflecting and promoting modern, progressive ideas of inclusivity, respect and acceptance of difference." *Lunar* are about to enter into a partnership with Surrey County Council, adding the book to its recommended book list for all schools in Surrey and also all Surrey libraries. In addition, as part of the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, *SkyNews* have expressed interest in interviewing the team about their book. As the story so clearly articulates: "Beneath their disguises, all creatures are equal. And I hope you now know, so too are all people."



ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON

With a history stretching back to 1509, the task of writing a history of the RGS is not an insignificant one; however, the School was delighted to welcome back the historian Nigel Watson to write the updated version. Nigel, the author of the previous book published in 2004, returned and underwent an exhaustive series of interviews with those associated with the RGS in a number of capacities. In a lavishly illustrated, hardback book, he retraces the sometimes turbulent history of the RGS through key events and personalities that have left a lasting impact upon the School. From the 1640s when John Graile was "the only master to own a pub"; to the 1930s when the boys were given a shilling to spend on their lunch "I could visit Joe Lyons and have spaghetti on toast or steak and kidney pie and ice-cream"; to the 1940s during the war when "boys were playing cricket at Boxgrove as a massive dogfight took place overhead"; to the 1960s when a headmaster "several times slept in the bed available in the ladies' toilets, the school caretaker bringing him bacon and eggs in the morning." The history brings the reader right up to the modern day where the headmaster, Dr Jon Cox, discusses his vision for the future of the RGS. Pleasingly, as Nigel comments in his acknowledgements: "Returning to the School after 12 years, I felt as if I had never been away. There had, of course, been many changes, and improvements are still underway, but the welcome was just as warm."





WITCH CRAFT

Written in 1953, *The Crucible* reflects the anti-communist hysteria inspired by Senator Joseph McCarthy's 'witch-hunts' in the United States. The era and location were brilliantly evoked by an atmospheric set with wooden beams, whitewashed walls and plain wooden furniture that captured the stark simplicity of the religious community. The play was directed with a real focus on the fear, undercurrent of growing hysteria and horrible sense of the noose tightening. Hadyn Millar as Proctor was convincing, his increasingly nervy and strained body language and wringing of hands gradually became more still towards the end of the play as he sensed the inevitability of his fate approaching. Thomas Gumbrell as Reverend Parris gave a wonderful interpretation as a vain and greedy man, eager to keep himself free from any scandal yet happy to incriminate others. Philip Bowler as Judge Danforth showed the sheer force of a man driven by a sense of his own power and status to forget how to be human until it is too late. Stephen Grace equally delivered a fabulous version of Thomas Putnam, dressing up grasping avarice as morality and religious obedience. Daniel Sampson and Alexander Lloyd-Mostyn gave beautifully observed and rendered characterisations of Giles Cory and Francis Nurse, a challenging task as both characters are old men. As Nancy McClean, Head of Drama, commented: "Maturity and commitment to the text and an imaginative connection with the tragic arc of the play made this a vivid and stirring production to watch."





A CLASS PERFORMANCE

Once voted the nation's favourite play, *The History Boys* by Alan Bennett shifts seamlessly between comedy and melancholy, exploring whether education should be pragmatic or idealistic against the testosterone-filled complexity of adolescence, sexuality and identity. With iconic posters from the 80s adorning the classroom walls and the classroom scenes punctuated with blasts from the soundtrack of the time – Madness, The Jam, Bananarama, David Bowie, The Smiths – the audience was whisked to the world of the northern grammar school in the 1980s. Peter Dunscombe captured the maverick, eccentric nature of Hector who delights in knowledge for its own sake while Fraser Dupuis, brought in by the results-obsessed Headmaster Roger Meadowcroft who pompously postured, gesticulated and strutted

deliciously throughout, epitomised the underlying insecurity of pragmatic supply teacher Irwin. The understated Mrs Lintott, astutely played by Laura Griffiths, was the world-weary observer and voice of reason. The playful classroom dynamic, sharp one-liners and boisterous laddishness were delivered with attitude by the boys who showcased the diversity and individuality of their characters, none more so than Oscar Atkinson as the confident Dakin, Oliver Taylor showing the vulnerability and fragility of Posner, Jake Turner as the thoughtful Scripps and Jonathan Andrews as the down-to-earth Rudge. A thoroughly enjoyable production, with a talented cast and excellent staging, absolutely captured the play's beguiling – and sometimes slightly disconcerting – mixture of humour and pathos.







ALL-SINGING

A sell-out audience was treated to a thrilling evening of musicianship as the 400-strong choir and orchestra, comprising students, parents and staff, took to the stage of *G Live*. With a programme including Shostakovich's *Festive Overture*; Vaughan Williams's *Antiphon from Five Mystical Songs*; Rutter's *Gloria*; Verdi's *Overture to La forza del destino*; Puccini's *The Humming Chorus from Madama Butterfly*; Verdi's *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves from Nabucco*; and Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances from Prince Igor*, the audience was enthralled by a concert which was emotive, powerful and inspiring by turn as the astonishing maturity and technical mastery of the playing were evident. Conducted by Directors of Music, Peter White and Grayson Jones, the hours of rehearsal paid off magnificently as not only the levels of musicianship but also the sheer energy and enjoyment of every single performer shone through. As Peter White, commented: "One of the highlights of events such as these is the extraordinary numbers involved and it's fantastic that so many parents join us to make it a genuine combined effort. I fully appreciate that these concerts demand a huge amount of work, but I have no doubt that it is an experience that will remain with every performer for the rest of their lives."







KER-POWELL

The final of the RGS Musician of the Year, *The Steynor Prize*, proved to be an exquisite evening of music which had the appreciative audience captivated from start to finish by the extraordinary talent and diversity of the boys. The finalists – Ciaran O'Toole (piano), Matthew Sargent (counter-tenor), Roshan Patel (clarinet), Nicholas Edwards (piano), Yousuf Mirza (tenor) and Joshua Powell (oboe) – performed a programme which was refined, sophisticated and engaging in equal measure but all with the same exacting standards of musicianship. The School was honoured to welcome as adjudicator Neville Creed, renowned Chorus Master and conductor of *The London*

Philharmonic Choir. Neville had the unenviable task of selecting a winner and admitted that the decision was made all the harder as the standard was extraordinarily high. As he acknowledged, each of the performances demonstrated astonishing virtuosity and composure and it was humbling to hear such extraordinary talent. By the narrowest of margins, Neville awarded *The Steynor Prize* to a performance which had displayed poise, which was scrupulously attentive to the wide variety of markings in the pieces and which had lovely overall sense of architecture: Joshua Powell's expressive performances on oboe.





PISTE DE RÉSISTANCE

As the perfect antidote to dull, grey December skies in the UK, the start of the ski season in Les Deux Alpes in France was the best for the last five years, with plenty of snow on the ground, plenty of fresh snowfall and a succession of blue-sky days. As Assistant Head (Co-curricular), Steve Yetman, confirmed: "The boys and staff experienced some superb skiing conditions and definitely the most impressive for many years with groomed runs and Champagne-style powder." The daily routine settled into ski lessons in the morning provided by the *Ecole du Ski Français* (ESF) who have over 17,000 instructors based in resorts all over the French Alps, followed by further lessons and some free skiing. The evening



activities provided the perfect respite from a day on the slopes with movie nights, bowling, ice skating, crêpe nights, fondues, quizzes and town tours. Although the Winter Olympics

2018 in PyeongChang in South Korea came just too soon for the boys, every individual not only made significant progress technically but had also enjoyed an amazing week on the slopes!

TAILORED TO PERFECTION



With the Lower Sixth boys starting to strut down the corridors and in the lunch queue, it could only mean one thing – the annual GHS Fashion Show. This year's theme was *Around the World* which took the audience on a whistle-stop, global, trans-continental trip from Bollywood to Texas, from Milan to the Caribbean, with each walk and dance representing a different culture and country. A London Classic section celebrated the very best of quintessentially iconic British clothing, including trench coats, wellies, tweed and tartan. With tight choreography, creative dance routines, diverse music and over 100 students involved, the latest trends in the fashion industry were elegantly modelled on the catwalk. The boys looked surprisingly at ease as they modelled an array of clothing far removed from their usual RGS sports kit! The evening finished, in the traditional way, with prom dresses and dinner jackets being fashioned, to rapturous applause from the audience. As professional and as slick as ever, the event raised significant funds for the Alice Ramsay Cancer Trust, a charity established in memory of a former GHS Head Girl who tragically died of a brain tumour.





SPONGEBOB SPARE PANTS

Aesop once said that no act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted; this year's focus on House charitable events shares this philosophy as every single boy is encouraged to participate in whatever way they can to support the initiatives. This term, two houses, Austen and Valpy, organised events. The annual inter-house, pancake-tossing extravaganza once again saw an alarming – rarely in a positive sense – standard of co-ordination and sporting prowess as pancakes exited frying pans, rarely to return. As always, however, it captured the imagination of spectators and competitors alike. The Austen charity events continued the sporting theme – some more tenuous than others – with various rugby and physical challenges, and the eagerly anticipated staff sponging where despite the boys' best efforts staff's spirits failed to be dampened, pretty much everything else, however, was! Becky Rathmell, Charity Co-ordinator, said: "Every individual's willingness to throw themselves into charitable initiatives is commendable. To combine fun, good humour and support of others is at the heart of our approach to charity; the fact that all our boys participate so readily is to their great credit."



ON POINT



The International Youth Fencing Cup was organised for the very first time in February 2017: an initiative of the Fencing Club Latem-Deurle. With 151 participants from eight countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Luxembourg, Oman, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America), the second year of the International Youth Fencing Cup has grown into one of the major épée youth tournaments in Europe. After impressive

recent form nationally, Leo Kamstra took part in the Under 14 Boys Épée, the Thebae Cup. After securing five wins and one loss in the poules, Leo was seeded fourth going into direct elimination. After three more successive wins, Leo edged a close victory against the French number one seed 13 – 12 in the semi-final. The final was an exciting contest against the Belgium number two seed. Despite trailing 5 – 0, Leo demonstrated remarkable courage and

tenacity to eventually triumph 11 – 10 thereby becoming the first RGS fencer to win an international event. Leo commented: "It was a superb experience to be at the international tournament and face a new set of competitors. I was pleased with my performance as it was quite a challenge to work out how to overcome a range of new opponents."

SPACE INVADERS

Despite the seasonal weather challenges of snow and rain in the latter part of term, the boys defied the conditions to cram in over 50 competitive fixtures with more than 65 senior students representing the School in the five teams. Across

a challenging fixture list against some of the strongest schools in the south, the 4th XI remained unbeaten throughout the season with Thomas Risby leading the goal scoring charts. The 1st XI, led by captain Ryan Hoffmann, impressed with

their commitment to attacking football. Highlights included reaching the Trinity Cup quarter-final and also defeating opposition including Charterhouse School in an encouraging season. Adam Lowe, Head of Football, commented: "As well as providing plenty of opportunities to play competitive football for all levels of ability, the philosophy and brand of RGS football continued to be established. It was pleasing to see the hard work and hours on the training ground put into action as the 1st XI, in particular, created, maintained and exploited space by playing forward between the lines, engaging defenders, and exploiting the space in behind. 2017 – 18 was a good year for RGS football as the nation's game continued to go from strength to strength at the RGS."





STROKES OF GENIUS

Hockey continued to flourish at the RGS in line with the School's philosophy of *sport for all* while encouraging excellence for elite performers, as the RGS offered opportunities for every boy who wanted to be involved in hockey. Participation continued in an upward trend from last year, with 27 teams playing in competitive fixtures across the board. Highlights included the Super Tuesday event and the mid-week Fourth Form block fixture against Cranleigh School, where the Under 12A

all the way through to the J teams and the Under 15A to E teams all walked out onto the pitch in school colours to represent the RGS. The 2nd XI, 3rd XI, Under 14B, Under 12C and Under 12D teams were all unbeaten throughout the season: an outstanding achievement. The Under 14A and Under 16A teams both won the Surrey heats and the 1st XI progressed to Round 4 of the National Cup competition. Individually, a number of boys have represented the RGS at county and

national Level, with special mention to Edward Ferguson who was selected for the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence Programme. As Craig Mullan, Head of Hockey, however, acknowledged: "This would not be possible without the hard work and sacrifices made by our dedicated hockey coaching staff, as well as the commitment and dedication of our boys and parents. Thank you to everyone for contributing to such a successful season."



ABSOLUTELY BUOYANT

For a school with no swimming pool and for whom the nearest beach is 35 miles away in Worthing in West Sussex, it may be natural to assume that swimming is a sport which lacks profile or success at the RGS. This could not be further from the truth as the profile of swimming has soared recently. With new recruitment and talent-spotting systems in place, record numbers of RGS students have represented the School in locations including the English Schools Swimming Association National Finals at the iconic pool at the London Aquatic Centre, which hosted the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic games. In addition, as well as the regular local and county competitions, new ventures have included the joint Guildford High School and RGS inter-school gala against Churcher's College and also the weekly RGS swimming club, nurturing and refining young talent. Head of Swimming, Fiona Wimblett, commented: "The fact that there have been too many individual and team successes to mention speaks volumes for the progress which has been made in swimming at the RGS. What, perhaps, makes me most proud, however, is the depth of talent and willingness of RGS boys to represent the School: over 55 boys have swum competitively for the RGS so far this year, and this bodes well for the future."



BORDER TERRIERS

Now an established part of the sporting calendar, the annual rivalry between the Home Counties – Hampshire and Surrey – continued as ranked masses of First Form boys crossed the county border in both directions as every single member of the First Form competed simultaneously in competitive hockey fixtures against Portsmouth Grammar School. Well over 100 RGS boys were involved and ten fixtures were played, both home and away. The matches served to highlight the value of such an initiative: irrespective of the team, boys represented the School with pride, spirit, good humour and no little skill as evidenced by the fantastic set of results. The Under 12As set the tone for the competitive nature of the matches with an excellent 4 – 4 draw; with 42



goals scored and two victories by more than six goals, RGS boys did themselves proud and emerged with significant credit. After the event Head of Hockey, Craig Mullan, commented: "From elite sportsmen to enthusiastic novices, these

matches provide the opportunity for every single individual to be involved in competitive team sport. To see the enjoyment and passion from all boys as they put on an RGS shirt was absolutely fantastic."

SPORTS SHORTS

Chess: A highlight of a very successful term in both the league and the cup competitions for our chess teams was the visit by International Master, Malcolm Pein, to play a clock simul with the RGS 1st team, with a 3 – 3 final result.

Cross-country: Following on from the success of the junior team winning the Claremont Fan Court trophy, the combined middles and senior team won the prestigious Ranlaugh trophy. Charlie Kershaw and Ben Fitzpatrick finished first and second overall respectively. Sam Martin competed in the UK inter-counties race for Surrey and finished second from a top quality field of 400 runners.

Dance: Boldi Paladi-Kovacs is one of the most accomplished and experienced Hungarian child dancers in Britain. He is a member of the Csillagszemuek Anglia

Hungarian Folk Dance Group and was invited to participate in a cultural event to celebrate Hungary's national holiday.

Fencing: In the Surrey Championships, Rishikesh Mistry was silver medallist in Under 12 Foil, Freddie Edgecliffe-Johnson was silver medallist in Under 14 Foil, Leo Kamstra was gold medallist and new County Champion in Under 14 Épée, Freddie Cliffe was bronze medallist in Under 16 Épée and both Kit Edgecliffe-Johnson and Kenny Okoroafor won bronze medals in Under 19 Épée.

Rugby: Hugo McGuire has been selected to represent London Irish Under 12s in their rugby tour of Dublin. Jack Doyle has been re-selected in the London Irish DPP squad for the 2018/2019 season.

Shooting: The RGS continues its long tradition of students being selected for the

British Cadet Rifle Team, The Athelings. Miles Horton-Baker and Luca O'Flynn have both been selected to tour Canada. Balazs Rigo was been shortlisted for the UK Under 17 Cadet Rifle squad.

Speed Skating: Theo Collins represented Great Britain in Finland in a Long Track Speed Skating match between Sweden, Finland, Norway and a combined team of Great Britain and Denmark.

Tae Kwon Do: Dimitri Perricos won the gold medal in his sparring category at the English Tae Kwon Do Open Championships.

Tennis: Jamie Diack was part of the Under 12 Great Britain team which competed in the Tennis Europe Winter Cup. They won the qualifying tournament in Austria to progress to the finals in the Czech Republic where again Jamie impressed.

AND FINALLY ...



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Feb 8

#RGSSport

House basketball in action: passion, talent and no little enthusiasm on display as the boys represent their Houses.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Feb 8

#RGSGuildford

A true RGS legend. Congratulations to Mrs Booth from the Mathematics Department on completing her 100+ terms at the School.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Feb 21

#RGSSport

A beautiful sunset provides the perfect back-drop to hockey training last night @RGSGHockey.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Jan 19

#RGSGuildford

Delighted to launch in full the new RGS promotional film #dayinthelifeof. Let us know what you think.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Feb 26

#RGSGuildford

The Beast from the East finally comes, and goes, to leave a picturesque blanket of snow on the Headmaster's Lawn today.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Feb 5

#RGSECA

Intensity, focus and concentration as the Junior House Quiz continues today.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Feb 7

#RGSGuildford

Thanks to @HolroydHowe for making Wednesday just that little bit better ...



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Feb 15

#RGSOGs

Congratulations to @angusgroom who finished top of the single sculls standings in the GB Rowing Team 3rd Winter Assessment.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Mar 9

#RGSFieldDay

CCF Royal Navy Cadets took part in ceremonial duties @HMS_Range and performed a range of navigational tasks.

