



## The Headmaster writes...

The recent report from the biennial inspection of the RGS Combined Cadet Force served to underline the value of this particular area of school life. Fleet Commander and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Philip Jones CB (Commander of the Order of the Bath) commented in his official report that the activities he had observed were "focused, well organised and an exemplar of what a CCF can offer"; he particularly highlighted the wealth of "development and leadership opportunities" afforded by the RGS CCF.

The spirit of adventure and opportunity for personal challenge are at the very heart of this experience and, indeed, are equally prevalent in Scouts, Outdoor Pursuits, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and so many other activities. Since the last edition of *The Register*, boys have been involved in reconnaissance as well as camouflage and concealment, obstacle courses and battlefield first aid, hikes and expeditions, unique experiences on water and in the air, to name just a few, and these have taken place locally and globally. The activities which have taken place this term have been characterised, for the most part, by atrocious weather conditions. Persistent rain, muddy quagmires, freezing temperatures have proved par for the course and yet the boys have continued to face each challenge with typical energy and humour.

The most pleasing aspect of the report for me, however, was the focus on the leadership opportunities. The fact that the bonds both within and between year groups are so strong contributes to the distinctive atmosphere of the RGS and the role of the senior cadets in mentoring, developing and inspiring the younger boys means the bar of achievement and ambition continues to be raised.





## Cast of Stars

For the second successive year, over 40% of all papers at A2 were awarded the top A\* grade. At a time when more universities are including A\* grades as part of their standard offer, this is fast becoming the benchmark to which boys aspire. With 79.5% of all papers at A/A\* and 85 boys achieving a full set of A/A\* grades, including 14 with 4 passes at A\*, progression to the top universities remained buoyant. Three quarters of all final places were at one of just nine institutions: Bath, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Exeter, Imperial, Nottingham, Oxford and Warwick. Individual performances of note included **Mark Hammond** (Cambridge, Natural Sciences), **Daniel Hunt** (Cambridge, Mathematics) and **Alexander Sharpe** (Cambridge, Mathematics) who, between them, dropped just 58 marks out of a possible 7,000: an average of less than one mark on each paper sat. Over three quarters of all papers at AS Level were awarded A grade while at GCSE A\* grades exceeded A grades by a ratio of almost 2:1.



## Model Ambassadors

The RGS teams participating in the Model United Nations (MUN) have enjoyed significant successes this year. The MUN is the student version of the United Nations which aims to educate participants about current events, topics in international relations, diplomacy and the United Nations agenda. At the Christ's Hospital International Peace and Security Conference, **Sam Hall** and **Sebastian Mansley**, representing India, won a Highly Commended award. At the Reigate School Conference, **Paul Tao** had the privilege of chairing the Environmental and Ecology Committee. As well as RGS boys winning the Highly Commended Delegate and Delegation Awards, **Angus Hammond**, **David Joseph**, **Stephen Lydiard** and **Joshua Merritt** secured the accolade of Outstanding Delegates. **Sophie Blair**, the teacher in charge of MUN, commented: "During a conference, the boys are expected to represent strictly the policies of their country; in addition, they are really tested in terms of their public speaking, group communication, research, policy analysis, negotiation and conflict resolution."



## You're Hired

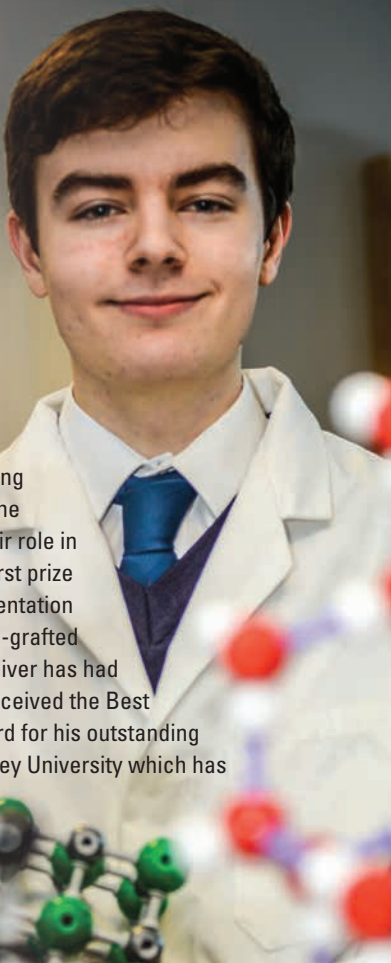
The aspiring entrepreneurs of the Second Form dusted down their briefcases and power-dressed in the choicest ties from their fathers' collections as the whole year group took part in a Business and Enterprise Day, led by *Bright Green Enterprise*. The boys were introduced to various innovative eco-friendly products and invited to design their own, considering also advertising and marketing. The launch then included justification of their product, a short television advert and ideas for promotion. The standard was universally high and the winning group presented confidently, amusingly and professionally their product, "Eclothe", which uses nanofibres in clothing to create electricity. **Ben Baulf**, Head of Second Form, commented: "*Bright Green Enterprise* encouraged the boys to take calculated risks, to think laterally and to improve their confidence through conceptualisation, design and presentation. The boys really impressed with their hard work and creativity."





## Exh-ila-rating

The ILA presentation evening provided the climax to the Independent Learning Assignment completed by all members of the current Upper Sixth Form. The students focused on areas of personal academic interest with an eclectic and challenging range of topics. The entries were whittled down to the finalists and, in front of a panel of governors, the boys gave presentations which included a piano demonstration of music cryptography; molecular modelling in drug design; the struggle for the spice routes; and prions and their role in neurodegenerative diseases. First prize went to **Oliver Page** for his presentation on the alkali stability of radiation-grafted anion-exchange membranes. Oliver has had an impressive year as he also received the Best Sixth Form Chemist County Award for his outstanding original research project at Surrey University which has now been published.



## War and Peace

The School was delighted to welcome back Colonel David Benest, OBE. A pupil at the RGS from 1965 to 1972, David joined the Parachute Regiment in 1973. He spoke movingly and honestly about his experiences with Second Battalion, Parachute Regiment during the Falklands War. His personal recollections and extraordinary insight into the largest naval action to take place since the Second World War highlighted, with poignancy, the devastating implications of the conflict as he spoke passionately of a war in which nearly 900 men lost their lives. In this 30th anniversary year of the Falklands conflict, his words, expressed with genuine humility, captivated the packed audience and prompted a succession of searching questions. Over £750 was raised on the evening for the *Help for Heroes* charity from ticket sales and donations from the appreciative audience.



## Knickerbocker Glory

47 Sixth Form boys studying Economics and Politics spent a week in New York and Washington experiencing the economic and political heart of the world's most powerful democracy. In New York, the boys had a tour of the financial district, the Federal Reserve, the 9/11 Memorial, the Statue of Liberty, and the Empire State building. The itinerary also provided an opportunity to see *War Horse* and a very exciting Knicks game. The Knicks, or to give them their full title, the New York Knickerbockers, are a professional basketball team based in New York City and the game showcased American basketball at its most dramatic and exciting. A buzzing pre-election Washington then provided the base for a busy itinerary which included visits to the Capitol, the Pentagon and Arlington Cemetery, and an engaging talk by *The Times'* political correspondent, Nico Hines, who had been following the campaign trail. An intense itinerary provided an inspiring experience for all the boys and staff alike.





## Teaming with Fun

The annual First Form Adventure Weekend to the Isle of Wight provided three days of bonding, team-building and physical challenges for the whole year group. A trip to the beach to play football, frisbee and tug-of-war was the perfect start to the bonding experience with staff providing a musical accompaniment on the ukulele as the sun set. A varied and dynamic programme was provided including the eagerly-anticipated culmination to the



weekend, the Inter-House Dragon Boating Competition. Abseiling, Aeroball, Jacob's Ladder, Ladderlogic, Wacky Races and Zip Wire all proved as popular, and competitive, as ever. **Debbie Whitehead**, Head of First Form, commented: "The spirit of good humour and camaraderie ensured that new friendships were forged and existing friendships were strengthened. The boys' willingness to tackle each and every challenge, however daunting or physically demanding, was notable."

## Another Fine Mess

The budding actors of the RGS have continued to extend and enhance their experiences of all things theatrical. A professional make-up company gave a workshop on trauma make-up, teaching the boys how to create the goriest and most realistic wounds imaginable, including a severed finger and various open wounds and scars. On a lighter note, a circus skills workshop tested the boys' coordination to the full with juggling, plate spinning, diabolo and devil sticks. A lighting company provided an interactive session on the hows and whys of lighting design for theatre; a scale model allowed the boys to experiment with smoke and pyrotechnics. Finally, the boys were introduced to Commedia dell'Arte where physical comedy and exaggerated characterisation provide the direct antecedent for silent movie greats such as Charlie Chaplin as well as modern day slapstick humour and pantomime. The session, appropriately, was full of laughter and hilarity.





# Pride of Britten

With 2013 being the centenary of the composer's birth there will be a flood of performances of Benjamin Britten's music; the Chamber Choir and Orchestra of the RGS and GHS, directed by Sam Orchard, however, were ahead of the game when they gave an outstanding performance of Britten's Cantata, *St Nicolas* to a packed audience in Holy Trinity Church. In a programme that showcased English music of the twentieth century, the Chamber



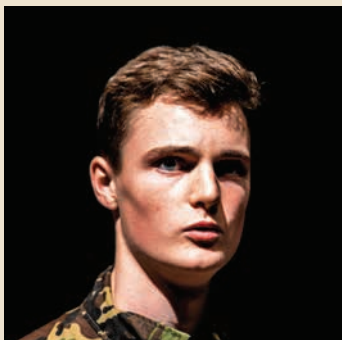
Choir first presented a group of folk song arrangements penned by Vaughan Williams. The orchestra then gave a faultless and deeply moving performance of Edward Elgar's haunting and beautiful *Sospiri*. Finally, the forces combined for *St Nicolas* and they were joined by nationally and internationally renowned tenor, Thomas Hobbs supported by the soloists **Alistair Baumann, Philip Bowler, Matthew Hawkins** and **Ridley Hymas**. It was a remarkable evening which resulted in sustained and richly-deserved applause.





# No Holds Bard

A joint RGS and Tormead cast performed an abridged version of *Macbeth* as part of this year's Shakespeare Schools Festival (SSF). The SSF is the UK's largest youth drama festival involving over 700 schools and 90 theatres across the country. A very talented and committed company included **Jack Morris'** charismatic portrayal of Macbeth, which demonstrated real power and emotional maturity, fantastically supported by the soldier-witches **William Cowie, Philip Grace** and **Alexander Hartley**. **Andrew White** was commanding as King Duncan with **Christopher Cooksley** and



**Edward Cook** as his sons. A really strong sense of the military environment was provided by tightly choreographed battle sequences and inventive camouflage netting. **Christopher Hore** played Banquo as a suspicious and fretful man and **Alexander Bowes** gave a strong performance as the fearsome Macduff. Live drumming and percussion were provided onstage by **Gregory Chapman** and **Benjamin Hawken** giving the whole performance immediacy, excitement and threat.

# An Easy Conversion

Through a structured coaching programme, the RGS continues to develop rugby players ready to play at the very highest level. In the same month that *The Times* highlighted recent RGS student and current Harlequins first team player Jack Clifford as one of three potential open-side flankers of the future for England, other current and recent RGS boys have also received recognition. **James Chaumeton** and **James Sweetland** have both been selected for the Harlequins School of Rugby. This process allows boys in the Surrey area to come together once every three weeks and train under the supervision of Harlequins coaches at the side's training headquarters, Surrey Sports Park. In addition, recent leavers Alastair Adam-Cairns and Matthew Shorthose have been representing Oxford University 1st XV in the run-up to the annual Varsity Match. Both are vying for starting positions as they look to emulate Karl Outen who has represented the Blues in the past two seasons.





## Hi-Fives at Highfield

The Under 13A rugby team have had a phenomenal season, recording comfortable victories against schools including Abingdon, Hampton and Portsmouth Grammar School. A sterling performance in the Surrey County Rugby Festival saw the boys fall to an unfortunate defeat in the plate semi-final, losing to a golden point try. The team, however, used this defeat as motivation as they approached the Highfield 10s Tournament. Playing a committed style of rugby, the RGS powered their way through the tournament. A concerted effort in the forwards with **Edmund Milton-Seall** leading by example with his four tries was matched by the hard-running of debutant **Oren Hargreaves** who also scored four times. In the five games against Aldro, Feltonfleet, Highfield, Portsmouth Grammar and St Anselm's School, the RGS breached defences regularly, scoring thirteen tries, while conceding only two. This outstanding performance saw the boys winning the Highfield 10s Trophy for the first time.



## Totally Oarsome

**Edmund Haws** has joined an impressive list of current RGS boys who have recently received national and international sporting recognition. Edmund built on his silver medal success in the Under 16 K2 and gold in K4 at the National Championships with two silver medals at the French National Marathons at K1 and K2. In the light of these achievements, he was invited to represent Great Britain in the Olympic Hopes International Regatta in Hungary to take on competitors from 38 countries worldwide. Edmund set personal best times in each of his events; he performed magnificently in the K2 over 200 metres and made the final, finishing an excellent ninth place. Edmund has been a member of Wey Kayak for ten years and commented: "We have got a number of Olympians in the club and they provide a great inspiration and example for all the young budding rowers."



## Sports Shorts

**Cricket:** **Alexander Sweet** has been involved in the Under 15 England Development Programme Talent Testing at the National Cricket Performance Centre in Loughborough.

**Fencing:** **Laurence Peplow** will be representing the Great Britain fencing team to compete in Helsinki.

**Hockey:** **Edward Way** has been selected for the England Hockey's Under 15 High Performance Academy Centre.

**Judo:** **Oliver Platt** took part in the British Judo Championship. He won five of his six fights and finished third in his weight, winning a bronze medal.

**Rugby:** **Cameron Appel** has been invited to attend Under 17 trials for the USA in Arizona.

**Sailing:** **Joshua Voller** finished an impressive seventh overall at the 420 National Championships and won the 420 National Junior Champion title. He then competed in the 420 sailing event in Bordeaux where he finished fifth overall out of 85 boats, including some of the top national French sailors.

**Sailing:** **Patrick Croghan** is the 2012 Topper 4.2 World Champion after achieving six first places, two second places and a third place in the World Championships.

**Sailing:** **Thomas Goodbourn** competed in the Topper 5.3 Fleet in the same World Championships; against a strong international field he secured a very accomplished 36th place out of 150 competitors. He is now competing in the 29ers and has already made the advanced national squad.

**Sailing:** **Tim Gratton** competed in the ISAF Youth 29er World Championships finishing seventh in the world. He then took part in the 29er Class Worlds finishing fourth and eighth in the youth category.

**Skiing:** **Toby Fitzsimmons** has been selected for the English Schools' Ski Association training camp in Norway which prepares a team for the biennial World Schools' Championships.





# A Peach of a Day

To celebrate 30 years of the BFG, the Big Friendly Giant, and to commemorate the passing of everyone's favourite children's author, the RGS celebrated Roald Dahl Day in style. For the first and probably only time, the corridors of the RGS were filled with Oompa Loompas and members of staff enthusiastically – perhaps rather too enthusiastically – dressing up as characters from Dahl's books. Throughout the day, boys took part in the Roald Dahl character treasure hunt as sightings of Mr and Mrs Twit and, of course, a giant peach were commonplace around the School. The theme of



the day continued as the catering staff produced fantastic Revolting Recipes to put a truly Dahl-themed taste in everyone's mouths. Talks, readings and performances took place and the new film *Fantastic Mr Fox* was shown. The Mallison Library held a 'Dream Jar' writing competition where boys described and illustrated their strangest and most bizarre dreams. Over £150 was raised for *Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity*. As Willy Wonka himself once said: "a little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men." So true.

# And Finally

In the inaugural 9/11 National Schools Competition, **Max Beech** was runner-up in the Film Category and joined the five other category winners on a visit to New York to mark the eleventh anniversary of the terror attacks. The competition, organised by the educational charity *9/11 London Project*, required British students to submit essays or short films tackling the question "How did 9/11 change the World?" In a five-minute video, Max focused on the fear that was evoked by the attack and the issues with regard to Islamophobia, the subsequent Iran and Afghanistan wars, and the impact upon the infrastructure of New York. During their visit to New York the winners toured the Tribute World Trade Center, Visitor Center at Ground Zero and Memorial Plaza; they also had the privilege of meeting Rudy Giuliani, New York Mayor at the time of the 9/11 attacks.

