

# THE REGISTER

The termly newsletter of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford

ISSUE 22 MICHAELMAS 2016



## ACADEMIC

### STAYING POWER



The right amount of staying power is what it takes to win a trophy. In the 2013-2014 academic year, the Register's Academic Award for Staying Power was presented to a student who demonstrated exceptional perseverance and dedication throughout the year.

**THE ROAD TO SOMEWHERE**



For many people, the road to a successful career is a long one. It is a journey that requires hard work, dedication, and a clear vision of where you want to go. The Register's Academic Award for the Road to Somewhere was presented to a student who has shown exceptional promise in their chosen field.

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## ACADEMIC

### A LAW UNTO HIMSELF



The Register's Academic Award for a Law Unto Himself was presented to a student who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a strong sense of justice. This student has shown a commitment to making a positive impact on their community.

#### SCHOOL REPORT

**Academic:** The student has shown exceptional academic achievement throughout the year, consistently earning high marks in all subjects. Their dedication to learning and their ability to tackle challenging tasks have been a source of inspiration for their peers.

**Extracurricular:** The student has been an active member of several extracurricular activities, including the school's debate team and the chess club. Their participation in these activities has helped them develop valuable skills such as critical thinking and teamwork.

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## ACADEMIC

### A SHORE THING



The Register's Academic Award for a Shore Thing was presented to a student who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a strong sense of community. This student has shown a commitment to making a positive impact on their community.

#### GRAND DESIGNS



The Register's Academic Award for Grand Designs was presented to a student who has demonstrated exceptional creativity and a strong sense of innovation. This student has shown a commitment to pushing the boundaries of what is possible.

## ACADEMIC

### OFF ON THE WIGHT FOOT



The Register's Academic Award for Off on the Wight Foot was presented to a student who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a strong sense of community. This student has shown a commitment to making a positive impact on their community.

#### TOP TRUMPS



The Register's Academic Award for Top Trumps was presented to a student who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement throughout the year. This student has shown a commitment to excellence in all their work.

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## BUILDING BRIDGES



## WELD I NEVER

The school's Welding Society is a unique opportunity for students to learn a valuable skill. The society is open to all students, regardless of their previous experience with welding. It provides a safe and supervised environment for students to learn the basics of welding, from cutting and grinding to welding and brazing. The society is a great way for students to develop their skills and interests, and it is a valuable experience that can be used in a variety of ways.



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## AT YOUR SERVICE

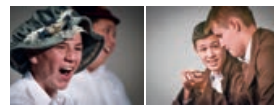
The school's Cadet Force is a unique opportunity for students to learn a valuable skill. The force is open to all students, regardless of their previous experience with the force. It provides a safe and supervised environment for students to learn the basics of the force, from marching and drill to first aid and leadership. The force is a great way for students to develop their skills and interests, and it is a valuable experience that can be used in a variety of ways.



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## PLAYS ON WORDS

The school's drama society is a unique opportunity for students to learn a valuable skill. The society is open to all students, regardless of their previous experience with drama. It provides a safe and supervised environment for students to learn the basics of drama, from acting and directing to set design and costume design. The society is a great way for students to develop their skills and interests, and it is a valuable experience that can be used in a variety of ways.



## FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE

The school's dance society is a unique opportunity for students to learn a valuable skill. The society is open to all students, regardless of their previous experience with dance. It provides a safe and supervised environment for students to learn the basics of dance, from ballet and modern dance to contemporary and street dance. The society is a great way for students to develop their skills and interests, and it is a valuable experience that can be used in a variety of ways.



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## KICKED INTO TOUCH

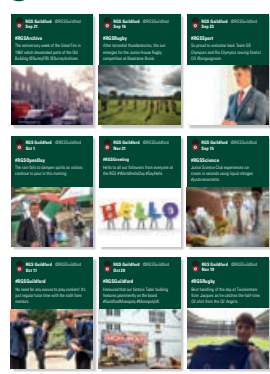
The school's rugby team is a unique opportunity for students to learn a valuable skill. The team is open to all students, regardless of their previous experience with rugby. It provides a safe and supervised environment for students to learn the basics of rugby, from scrums and lineouts to kicking and passing. The team is a great way for students to develop their skills and interests, and it is a valuable experience that can be used in a variety of ways.



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## AND FINALLY ...



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# THE HEADMASTER WRITES ...

The 20th century American architect Louis Khan used to tell his students that if they were ever stuck for inspiration, they should ask the building materials themselves for advice; he believed that materials had a stubborn sense of their own destiny. *Even a brick wants to be something* is one of his most notable quotations.

In 1555, three years after King Edward VI granted the RGS its royal charter, the Mayor and Approved Men of Guildford purchased the School's present High Street site which to this day houses the Old Building. Little changed until the purchase of Allen House by Surrey County Council in 1920; however, due to the economic depression it was not until the late 1950s that this area was developed. The move to independence in 1977 marked a new phase of the School's

growth with new facilities, including the purchase of Bradstone Brook in 1982.

Since 2000, the RGS has continued to improve the site sensitively and imaginatively with the creation of a Sports Hall, shooting range, Sixth Form Centre, Art and Music Schools, to name but a few. The latest project, the razing to the ground of Trevone House and the emergence of the John Brown Building and the linking glass bridge, marks an exciting new phase for the RGS as we strive to provide a dynamic learning environment for all our boys, irrespective of their interests and passions.

A school is so much more than its buildings, more than simply a collection of bricks (with or without their own acute sense of destiny). The care and attention to detail which have gone into

every aspect of this project reflect the importance of delivering a building which inspires: from the views across the rooftops of Guildford – including such iconic landmarks as the Cathedral, the Abbot's Hospital and Holy Trinity Church – to the quotations which adorn the glass panels of each room, we strongly believe that the students will relish an environment which is fit for education in the twenty-first century. Just as Louis Khan championed that every brick had its own personal aspiration, so we hope the buildings will inspire our students to have the most lofty of ambitions.

*John*



# STAYING POWER

Reflecting on the news that the RGS, once again, featured in the top 15 in the prestigious *Sunday Times Parent Power* guide, Dr Jon Cox commented: "I am delighted that the RGS has been formally recognised, along with Guildford High School, as one of the leading independent secondary schools. Guildford is a vibrant town buoyed by the recent High Street improvements, the current retail redevelopment, the excellent sports facilities, even the launch of Guildford *Monopoly* on which the RGS features prominently; however, arguably it is the strength of the educational provision which is the most distinctive feature of the town. There are few, if any, other places in the UK where single-sex education is flourishing in this way, where an education tailored for boys sits so closely alongside opportunities for co-educational experiences with the local girls schools in the spheres of drama and music, as well as social and both curricular and extra-curricular activities." Pride of place in this year's results went to the Fifth Form: in achieving 80% of all GCSEs at A\* (that is 1,203 A\* grades), they eclipsed the previous record set by our current Upper Sixth by over 6%. Forty-six boys managed a full set of 10 A\* grades with a further forty achieving 9 A\* and 1 A grade. For



the Lower Sixth there was the challenge of new specifications to contend with but they built on the potential they had shown at GCSE by gaining

75% of all passes at the top grade; our leavers also achieved impressive results with 37% of all grades at A\*.



## THE ROAD TO SOMEWHERE

For most people the middle of August conjures up images of hard-earned holidays, long balmy evenings, the occasional win for the England cricket team or the return of the football season. Those who have just left the RGS are often slightly more preoccupied: awaiting confirmation that the embryonic university plans forged at the start of the Lower Sixth have been fulfilled. It was, therefore, wonderful to be able to celebrate another year of success as our recent leavers were able to start planning routes along the M11, up the M40 or M6, down the M5 or, more closely to home, around the tube network to the country's leading universities. For the third year in a row Cambridge topped the charts with 24 boys, including no less than ten engineers, securing offers. Durham saw a recent record of 14 RGS boys begin life in the north, with Oxford, once again, taking third place on the podium with 11 places successfully confirmed. Peter Dunscombe, Director of Studies, noted: "The diversity of courses was refreshingly broad with notable increases in the number of students opting for Modern Languages and a continued resurgence of Geography and History alongside the traditional heavyweights of Economics, Engineering, Mathematics and the sciences."



# A LAW UNTO HIMSELF

The eighth annual Independent Learning Assignment Presentation Evening impressed and bewildered in equal measure as the boys delivered presentations with an extraordinary level of sophistication and complexity. In front of boys, parents and staff, the finalists – Jack Biddlecombe, Henry Bowler, Joshua Cudby, Ravi Desor, Jonathan Ferguson, Robert Fraser, William Heylen and Alexander Peer – presented to a panel of governors comprising Chris Critchlow, Lorraine Linton, Shirley Price and Nick Vineall. Subjects ranged from gene manipulation to space travel, from flipping robots to financial models, from the Antigone myth to a to-do-list app. Director of Studies Peter Dunscombe commented: “The level of scholarship, the passion for their subjects and the engaging presentational skills meant that any one of the finalists would have been a worthy winner.” That accolade, however, after lengthy deliberation from the judges, went to William Heylen for making the complex issue of the law on joint enterprise so accessible and clear through his Simpsons-inspired presentation. A thoroughly inspiring evening served, yet again, to highlight to an appreciative audience the extraordinary independence and sophistication of our students.



## SCHOOL REPORT

**Art:** James Miller was runner-up in the RSPB's *WildArt* Competition with his painting of a fox: an exhibition, including James's work, was displayed at *The Mall Gallery* in London.

**CREST Awards:** The number of RGS boys awarded their CREST Gold Awards stands at a school record of 18. Each project involved spending up to four weeks at a university doing original scientific research, spanning topics including Safeguarding Sea Bass Populations, Soft Matter Physics and the synthesis of Organometallic Compounds.

**Design and Technology:** *The Schools Design Prize* rewards high-quality design from entries from promising young students from over 1,100 schools nationally. Luke Kelly's innovative and professional design for a floor lamp received the award.

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

**Economics:** James Palles-Clark entered the highly prestigious John Locke Institute essay competition for students of Economics, Politics and Philosophy. James was awarded a Commendation for his essay, “What is the optimum amount of government debt?”

**Engineering:** Edmund Milton-Seall has been officially awarded the prestigious Kobler Arkwright Engineering Scholarship.

**Kids' Lit Quiz:** In the South England heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz, our first team comprising Second Form boys Oliver Liversedge, Joshua McGillivray, Alex Mitchell and Samuel Rooke emerged as winners to progress to the National Final.

**Mathematics:** In the Senior Mathematics Challenge, from over 100,000 entrants nationally, RGS boys secured 32 Gold, 28 Silver and 14 Bronze Awards. Seven boys qualified in the top 1% to reach the Mathematical Olympiad, and seventeen more progressed to the Kangaroo round (top 3%).

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



## SOLDIERING ON

For this term's King's Lecture, Sgt Johnson Beharry VC promised his audience a journey not only geographically but also emotionally as he engaged every individual through his honest, humble, humorous, terrifying, tragic, inspiring story of extraordinary courage and bravery. After periods in Northern Ireland and Kosovo, he was transferred to Iraq in 2004, with searing 56 degree temperatures, fierce fighting, and intensely hostile conditions. The audience was captivated as Johnson humbly spoke of his heroic saving of 19 of his comrades from ambush and then his return to front-line action. These acts resulted in a five-month coma, loss of 6½ stone in weight, the removal of shrapnel from inside his skull, the loss of 40% of the frontal lobe of the brain, and six years in hospital. For these exceptional acts of bravery Johnson was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military decoration for valour in the British and Commonwealth armed forces. In the light of such physical and emotional trauma, Johnson spoke movingly about his personal challenges, as well as his work in raising awareness and funds for medical and educational projects. The sustained and appreciative applause from the audience was heartfelt and touching, and the evening raised £600 for the *JBVC Foundation*.

## LEST WE FORGET

Our Remembrance Service provided the opportunity for the whole community to unite in an emotive act of remembrance and acknowledge our debt to those who have lost their lives in conflict. At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the School observed a two-minute silence, the beginning and end of which were marked by the cannons fired in the castle grounds. The service was particularly poignant as the RGS welcomed a number of eminent and decorated Old Guildfordians to mark the occasion. Laurie Weeden (OG 1938) laid a wreath in memory of the old boys, while School Captain, Max James, laid a wreath on behalf of the staff and students of the School. Two addresses then provided an insight into the act of remembrance from varying perspectives. Upper Sixth Form student Matthew Alderton gave a powerful and thought-provoking address, inspired by a letter from Old Guildfordian Eric Heaton to his parents dated 30 June 1916, the day before his death on the battlefield. This was followed by Dominic Masters (OG 1996) who provided a very personal recollection of war focusing on the loneliness of leadership based upon his own experiences of command in Iraq and Afghanistan.





# A SHORE THING

According to Peter White, the Director of Music, the choice of Croatia as a destination for the joint RGS and Guildford High School tour had absolutely nothing to do with the fact that the country has well over 1,000 miles of coastline onto the beautiful, turquoise Adriatic Sea and certainly the fact that it averages 13 hours of daily sunshine was not even a consideration! The Joint Concert Band and Swing Band based themselves in the Istrian peninsula in the historic old town Poreč and every evening the students performed at different outdoor venues in busy town squares and other venues where locals and tourists gathered to listen to music from 70s disco hits, *Disney* favourites, songs from West End shows and other popular numbers. A particular highlight was the performance in the Roman Forum at Pula where the group also visited the fantastic arena: the only remaining Roman amphitheatre to have four side towers and with all three Roman architectural orders entirely preserved. As well as playing to enthusiastic



audiences in Krk and Rovinj, there were plenty of opportunities to enjoy scenery and spectacular Mediterranean towns and a perfect

day was spent sailing along the coast of the island of Krk, exploring coves, swimming and diving from local fishing boats.



## GRAND DESIGNS

Any evening's entertainment which includes *Willy Wagglesticks Walkabout*, *I'm a Pirate*, *Sweet Mister Jelly Roll* and *Chocolate Car Park* is never going to disappoint and, once again, the Junior Piano Concert showcased the very best young talent at the RGS. An appreciative audience in the Rehearsal Room enjoyed a varied programme as a record 34 of our young pianists came together to perform a wide-ranging concert of solo piano music. To pick out individuals would be invidious; however, Harry Hodge deserved special mention as he began the evening with a sensitive and delicate performance of *Prelude no 1* by Lennox Berkeley – no mean feat when only 10 days previously he had his wrist in plaster due to breaking it in rugby! As Jan Newman, the Head of Keyboard, commented: "The standard of pianism seems to get higher every year as does the level of musicianship: from Oliver Jansen's interpretation of *Valse Lente* to some convincing improvisation from Stanley Lawrence, from Henry Forrest's rendition of *Carousel* by Bodorova to the fresh talent of Benjamin Edwards and Salvatore Nigrelli." The concert was brought to an impressive conclusion by Ruben Berstecher's virtuosity in the demanding *Etude in E major* by Moszkowski: a technically demanding end to an extraordinary concert.



# OFF ON THE WIGHT FOOT

Anxious, nervous and tearful, the departure from Guildford for the annual RGS invasion of the Isle of Wight is traditionally an emotional scene. Fortunately, the boys were on hand to provide comfort and reassurance to their parents and avoid them indulging too excessively in their melancholy! The trip is now a well-oiled machine and the logistics of transporting over 100 First Form boys, prefects and staff were seamless as always. The sun shone as the entire First Form enjoyed three days of bonding, team-building and physical and mental challenges on the annual adventure weekend. After some successful crab hunting and games on the beach, a varied and dynamic programme included Abseiling, Aeroball, Dragon Boat Racing, Jacob's Ladder, Ladderlogic, Low Ropes, Wacky Races and Zip Wire. All the activities proved as popular, and competitive, as ever; the Giant Swing continued to prove far more daunting and intimidating than it sounded. Giles Cover, Head of First Form, commented: "It was really rewarding to see the boys grow in stature and confidence throughout the weekend. The boys threw themselves into each and every challenge with energy and good humour. The spirit of camaraderie and teamwork was notable as they enthusiastically supported each other."



## TOP TRUMPS

With the race for the White House entering the home straight, the RGS headed off on the Washington and New York trip and it did not take long for the boys to pick up their (ironic) Donald Trump stash! A packed itinerary in New York included visits to the Top of the Rock, Statue of Liberty, 9/11 Memorial and Museum, Financial District Tour and *Aladdin* the musical. This was followed by a tour of the UN, walk around Central Park and a visit to the Met museum. An evening watching a thrilling 7 – 5 ice hockey game at Madison Square Gardens was the perfect end to a whistle-stop tour. On to Washington the group visited the Pentagon and Arlington Cemetery, the Capitol building, the Senate and the Smithsonian museums. A particular highlight was a tour of the Washington Post where they were using the final live TV debate between Trump and Clinton as a dry run for the election itself. This was followed by a *Question and Answer* session with Steven Pearlstein, who won the Pulitzer Prize for his work on the 2008 financial crisis. Once again, the boys rose to the occasion and asked questions for well over an hour. A – quite literally – breath-taking tour at a historic time ensured that this was one school trip the boys and staff would never forget.





# SPACE INVADERS

Undoubtedly one of the most extraordinary and ambitious school trips offered, a group of RGS students once again made the ultimate sacrifice of leaving behind bleak British winter for the sunny 31°C Florida coastline and NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The boys experienced at first-hand what it is like to be a member of a large scale engineering project in the very grounds of the Apollo and Shuttle missions, the highlight of which was the official launch of the RGS's very own weather balloon. The balloon was the culmination of a week-long project in which they designed, trialled and re-designed every aspect of the mission. From the on-board computer and sensor circuits to the parachute and balloon's helium content, the boys had direct control and ultimate responsibility for the entire mission. In addition, the group enjoyed visits to the awe-inspiring Saturn V Rocket Centre, home of moon landings; the Space Shuttle Atlantis exhibition and launch experience; the sobering and emotive astronaut memorial; and the fantastic new Mars Mission Center. After such erudite stimulation, Cocoa Beach provided respite with some surfing and beach-time proving the perfect end to a truly amazing experience.







# BUILDING BRIDGES







It seemed particularly apt that in the same week that the iconic brand *Monopoly* – a board game synonymous with development and property – launched its eagerly anticipated Guildford edition featuring prominently our historic Tudor building, so we opened the John Brown Building, an environment which has both the present and the future very much in mind. Named after a man who was synonymous with innovation and inspiration and with an architecturally stunning glass bridge linking with the main building, the Classics, Design and Technology, Economics, History and Politics Departments are now housed in an environment suitable for cutting-edge education in the twenty-first century. Students are challenged to reflect both inside and outside the classroom as they muse the famous quotations which line the corridors. *"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."*, *"Take chances, make mistakes. That's how you grow."*, and *"If everybody is thinking the same way, no-one is really thinking."* are just some of the quotations which challenge the boys to think critically and keep the spirit of John Brown himself very much alive.

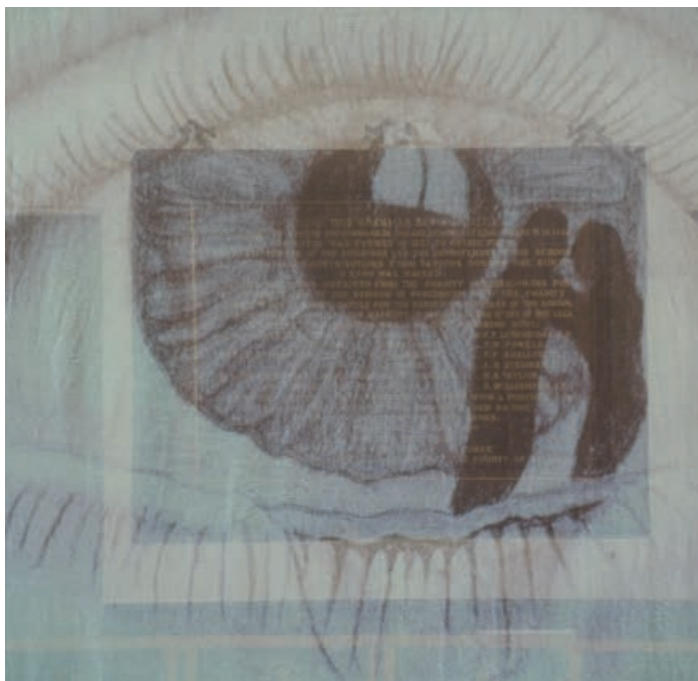


John Fergieve Brown served the RGS with distinction as a student in Nettles House from 1921 to 1930, as an active member of the Old Guildfordians' Association, as a governor from 1947 and as Chairman of Governors from 1967 to 1988. He continued to maintain a strong and close relationship with the School as the first Governor Emeritus of the RGS. In honour of this extraordinary service, John is the only person in the modern era to be named on a beam in Big School.

His tenure as Chairman coincided with arguably the most defining period of the School's history, when the RGS returned to the independent sector in 1977. The School History notes that John epitomised the RGS philosophy "with absolute honesty and modesty and with unfailing courtesy combined with quiet determination". His lifelong devotion, legacy and service to the RGS and his appreciation of the central importance of excellent facilities make it entirely appropriate that a building which provides such an inspiring learning environment should bear his name.



# NO PLACE LIKE HOME



Now in its third year, *Illustroetry* is a collaborative project with the aim of exploring the relationship between written and visual means of expression. After recent themes ranging from *childhood and conflict* to *space and time*, this year's focus was *home* which elicited an intriguing range of responses. The remit of the project was expanded to incorporate work from Primary Schools as well as from members of the public and this simply added to the diverse nature of submission. Having attended the prestigious international *Art, Language, Location* festival at Cambridge earlier in the year, the exhibition was brought back to Big School for the *Illustroetry* recital evening. In the atmospheric

surroundings of Big School, the artwork was ingeniously displayed over the historic beams creating in itself an engaging exhibition space. Phil Leamon, the co-organiser of the project, commented: "The evening provided the opportunity for boys to discuss the inspiration and thinking behind their works, speaking eloquently and with passion about what had inspired their writing and images. Some works were joyous and some much darker, but all were deeply personal and the sophistication and imagination of the boys were remarkable. It is testament to how involved the boys were that some of last year's leavers even sent in video links to talk about their work."





# WELD I NEVER

The annual Smoothey Art Competition produced a wide range of submissions in various media from students throughout the School. The spirit of Ronald Smoothey MBE, a former pupil and art master from the 1940s, remains very much alive in this competition as the energy, creativity and innovation – and, indeed, eccentricity – which epitomised Ronald provide the inspiration for students to express themselves with imagination and no little technical skill and with no theme or media restriction. Despite an astonishingly high standard

of entry, the overall winner was the impressive scrap metal sculpture of two fighters created by Darcy Elliott, inspired by his grandfather's collection of scrap metal and brief introduction to the art of welding. Darcy's eye for detail and vision were very much in evidence in this original and carefully crafted piece which remained truly loyal to the spirit of flair and enterprise of Ronald Smoothey.



# AT YOUR SERVICE

It is reassuring that some things truly stand the test of time and the Combined Cadet Force epitomises this perfectly. Formed in 1909 the RGS contingent's goals and ambitions remain the same today as 100 years ago and chime easily with the School's timeless desire to nurture responsibility, pride, teamwork, leadership and tenacity. Steve Yetman, Contingent Commander, who was recently awarded the Cadet Forces Medal in recognition of his twelve years of service to the CCF, commented: "In the last two years, cadets have learned how to stop flooding and prevent the spread of fire on a ship; taken the controls of aircraft; had practical sessions on clearing mines and improvised explosive devices; been on expedition diving in Montserrat in the Caribbean; tackled the Stubai High Route in Austria, to name but a few activities on offer. As well as such extraordinary experiences, however, it is the skills developed which are likely to have the most enduring impact: the teamwork and communication required to get over the 10 foot wall, the self-discipline when live firing on the range or the personal administration to survive the night in comfort under a basha. It is these moments of personal challenge which will provide the skills to cope and indeed thrive with new and challenging situations."









# A KNIGHT'S TALE

Swashbuckling heroes and fights. Medieval madness. Dastardly dragons. Evil wizards and magic spells. *The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew*, written by Robert Bolt, was the perfect festive production as the heroic and strait-laced knight, Sir Oblong Fitz Oblong (Max Fleming) is sent by the suitably pompous and dim Duke (Max Birtley) to slay a vicious dragon on a far-away island. Here he tangles with Baron Bolligrew (Ellis Baker), the deliciously flamboyant and crooked tyrant of the island, along with his henchman and charismatic partner in wickedness Squire Blackheart (Jack Gamble). Humour is never far below the surface with slapstick moments, sharp one-liners, pantomime-style action, clever musical interludes, fantastic costumes, imaginative staging and some great cameo roles including the savvy yet mischievous Mike Magpie (John Gray). The enchanting double act of Dr Moloch (Aradhya Soneja) and Mazeppa Magpie (Solomon Poole) as well as the emergence of the flaming-red eyes and booming voice of the dragon take the action in a more sinister, mysterious direction as the final denouement sees the eagerly-anticipated slaying of the dragon. Sustained applause was well deserved for a talented cast and a ripping yarn which had more than delivered all the ingredients for an irresistible fairy tale.





# PLAYS ON WORDS

The GCSE drama devised plays provided a fascinating – and, at times, alarming! – insight into the workings of teenage minds as the four groups presented their devised plays based on set stimuli with very eclectic and idiosyncratic end results. One group developed a piece set in a fictitious country, Bastonia, which was a metaphor for Stalinist Russia, cleverly presented as a black comedy with bizarre ritualistic veneration of the leader, His Huge Importantness. Another group created a comedy called *The Fire of Mundon* where the Great Fire of London was reimagined as a vendetta between two pie-making families, one of whom deliberately starts the fire

to prevent the other family winning the annual pie-making competition. The other two groups took facets of *Macbeth* and both chose to set their stories in World War I: one from the point of view of the three witches who persuade Macbeth to rise through the ranks to change the outcome of the war, while the other group told a moving story of Banquo's defeat through the ambition of his fellow officer Macbeth. Nancy McClean, Head of Drama, noted: "The boys were imaginative in scripting and staging and assured in performance; they deserve great credit for four entertaining productions."





# FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE

With the Lower Sixth boys suddenly starting to strut down the corridors and in the lunch queue, it can only mean one thing – it is time for the annual GHS Fashion Show. This year's theme was musicals which took the audience on a trip down memory lane from the 1920s classic production of *Bugsy Malone* to the modern-day *Mamma Mia*, from *Singing in the Rain* to the *Wizard of Oz*, from *Grease* to *Cats*. With tight choreography, memory-provoking music and almost 200 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 £5,700 for the Alice Ramsay Trust, a charity established in memory of a former GHS Head Girl who tragically died of a brain tumour.





# KICKED INTO TOUCH

RGS rugby has continued to thrive in the very harshest of environments. South East England is saturated with some of the strongest rugby playing schools in country and yet the RGS more than holds its own in this company. The Under 16s led the way with the A team securing a succession of excellent results, including wins over Cranleigh School, Epsom College and St Paul's School. The 1st XV improved steadily as a unit, the highlight being a 29 – 17 win against *NatWest Cup* quarter finalists The Judd School. The 1st XV also took huge credit for two extremely narrow losses to Cranleigh School and Epsom College, two of the country's most formidable rugby opponents. The Under 15A team impressed in the *NatWest Cup*, a win away from being the first team in a number of years to remain in the premier national cup competition after Christmas. Tom Rogers, Head of Rugby, commented: "Whether it is through a determined narrow loss, a convincing win or a well-earned draw the commitment of RGS boys continues to impress staff, spectators and society referees each week. Looking ahead to next term, rugby sevens continues to grow exponentially on both a global and schoolboy level. I hope the excitement of seeing the shortened format of the game included in the Olympics inspires the boys to participate in this fantastic sport."







## NO DRY RUN REQUIRED

Despite the fact Guildford is rarely uttered in the same breath as Méribel, Courchevel, Verbier, Val d'Isère, Chamonix or St Anton, the RGS has continued to enjoy national profile in skiing and this year the RGS made a real impression on the English Schools Ski Association UK ski race circuit. 18 boys opted to train after school at Alpine Snow Sports in Aldershot, under the guidance of race coach Pete

Jesse. From this, four teams were selected to race in the qualifying round of the English School's UK competition at Southampton. Two of the teams qualified and went on to Norwich to the English finals and the qualifiers for the British Finals. Our Under 16 team was placed eighth in England, while our Under 19 team finished fifth to progress to the British finals, which brings together the top school

teams from all of the home nations. The team comprising Alexander Acomb, Charlie Aldridge-Bate, Toby Fitzsimmons and Marcus Hinton skied beautifully and after some nail-biting competition were placed as sixth best English school and fourteenth in the UK: an astonishing achievement which may well serve increasingly to make Guildford synonymous with skiing!

## SPORTS SHORTS

**Badminton:** Christopher Chong won the silver medal in the Surrey Badminton U15 boys singles tournament.

**Chess:** Amardip Ahluwalia was crowned Under 13 Chess Champion in the British Chess Championships. James and Alexander Golding competed in the European Youth Chess Championships in Prague, finishing respectively 70th out of 131 competitors and 48th out of 141.

**Cross-Country:** Having qualified through the county round and South-East England regional final, the intermediates travelled up to Formby near Liverpool to compete in the national finals of the English Schools Cup. Ben Fitzpatrick, Tom Jones, Charlie Kershaw, George Manolis, Sam Martin and Sam Perryman produced excellent performances to finish third in the country from an original entry of nearly 400 schools.

**Eventing:** Joseph Lethbridge took the top spot in the British Eventing 90 on Maris Piper III with a dressage score of 21.

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

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

**Judo:** Oliver Platt competed in the Warsaw Open Judo Championships, a very strong international event. He also represented the South of England in the National Team competition; the South won the gold medal and Oliver won all his own fights.

**Sailing:** Patrick Croghan has been selected for the UK National Youth Sailing Squad for 29ers; he recently finished third overall at the

National Grand Prix down in Weymouth, his best result to date. The RGS team enjoyed an excellent second day of racing at the National Schools Sailing Association competition, winning all their races.

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

**Skiing:** Charlie Aldridge-Bate, Marcus Hinton and George Kemkers have been selected to ski in the English Ski Racing Championships to be held in Bormio, Italy.

**Tennis:** Our Under 15 tennis team comprising Jimmy Comiskey, Samuel Hodges, Edward James and William Murray secured third place in the regional LTA team tennis finals day.

# AND FINALLY ...



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Sep 21

## #RGSArchive

The anniversary week of the Great Fire in 1662 which devastated parts of the Old Building @SurreyFRS @SurreyArchives.



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Sep 16

## #RGS Rugby

After torrential thunderstorms, the sun emerges for the Junior House Rugby competition at Bradstone Brook.



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Sep 23

## #RGSSport

So proud to welcome back Team GB Olympian and Rio Olympics rowing finalist OG @angusgroom.



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Oct 1

## #RGSOpenDay

The rain fails to dampen spirits as visitors continue to pour in this morning.



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Nov 21

## #RGS Greeting

Hello to all our followers from everyone at the RGS #WorldHelloDay #SayHello



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Sep 15

## #RGSScience

Junior Science Club experiences ice cream in seconds using liquid nitrogen #justonecornetto.



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Oct 11

## #RGS Guildford

No need for any excuse to play conkers! It's just regular tutor time with the sixth form mentors.



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Oct 20

## #RGS Guildford

Honoured that our historic Tudor building features prominently on the board #GuildfordMonopoly #MonopolyUK.



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Nov 19

## #RGS Rugby

Best handling of the day at Twickenham from Jacques as he catches the half-time O2 shirt from the O2 Angels.







**RGS Guildford** @RSGuildford  
**Apr 19**

### #RGSImages

Team photographs taking place today in beautiful sunshine in the Old Building & on the Headmaster's Lawn.



**RGS Guildford** @RSGuildford  
**Jun 17**

### #RGSCharity

Just another day as a teacher: the anticipation followed by the reality  
#spongeateacher