

THE REGISTER

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RGSG
GUILDFORD

ACADEMIC



AT A PREMIUM

Looking back, there will be no doubt that the success of 2022's Academic Report is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff and students. The report, which was published in the Register, was a landmark achievement for the school, as it was the first time that the school had achieved a 100% pass rate in the GCSE examinations. The report also highlighted the school's commitment to excellence in all areas of its curriculum, and the high standards of its teaching and learning. The success of the report was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff and students, and it was a landmark achievement for the school.



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SCHOOL

HOUSES OF TUDOR



The 2022 community initiative, which was a landmark achievement for the school, was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff and students. The initiative, which was published in the Register, was a landmark achievement for the school, as it was the first time that the school had achieved a 100% pass rate in the GCSE examinations. The initiative also highlighted the school's commitment to excellence in all areas of its curriculum, and the high standards of its teaching and learning. The success of the initiative was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff and students, and it was a landmark achievement for the school.




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ART

BROAD BAND



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MUSIC

VOICE OF TREASON



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PHENOM-EMIL!

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CHALK AND TALK

Founded in 2006, *The Big Draw Festival* is a high-profile arts charity which promotes civic literacy and the universal language of drawing as a tool for communication, learning, expression and recreation. Advocacy, empowerment and engagement are the driving forces behind *The Big Draw*. The festival is a week-long celebration of drawing. An part of this festival *Big Drawfest*, member of RGS Art Department, set up *The Big Draw Festival* in 2007 and has involved RGS students in the running of this event. For the 2014 event, RGS artists helped run drawing stations set up for 'In-Case Primary and Secondary Schools in Ipswich State to make large scale drawings of the Ipswich skyline and the surrounding area. The station theme for 2014 is *Play*. Therefore, unusual drawing materials were used in a playful and exploratory way to create overlapping patterns and shapes. As RGS commitment "The Big Draw inspires artists, nurtures young talent and is a truly inclusive community event, the RGS will enthusiastically and confidently promote drawing practice and advice to the young artist community. It is planned to be a festive event 'back again' after a long hiatus."



GIVING IT A TRY

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SERVICE WITH A SMILE

20 students from the HSI and Terminal School undertook a project expedition to Borekash, Nepal in support of our long standing partnership with schools in the Himalayas basin. This inaugural expedition was the latest development in a charitable link going back to 2004 when HSI and Terminal School first teamed up in a rafting and canoeing race to celebrate the successful completion of three months volunteering as a teacher in two schools in Borekash during the gap year. The foundation established by

HEMI-SPHERE OF
INTEREST

A squad of 44 South Farm boys headed to South Africa at the end of the summer to embark on a two-week rugby tour. The first 10 days were spent in Cape Town, before beginning the journey to Stellenbosch and beyond to the Garden Route. The final days the tour were spent in and around Johannesburg. On the 1st, 1st and 2nd XV fixtures were played against four different schools with excellent progress by all, physically, mentally and technically. The 1st XV showed glimpses of their potential in the opening



OUT AND ABOUT

This team have been over 30 off-site trips, offering 2,000 places, supervised by 237 staff, many of which took place at Field Days. These Field Days are days-involvement in outdoor activities such as bushcraft, expedition skills, swimming, hiking and no cadetlike activities up in the air, on the ground and on the water. Theatre, museums and exhibitions also find ways for our cadets. Numerous academic visits, musical recitals and other activities at the Model United Nations have also taken place. Residents have accumulated 78 nights away and more off-site schools



THE HEADMASTER WRITES ...

There is an inherent tension implicit in all schools: the tension between the individual and the collective or the community. Every single person at the RGS is an individual with their own inherent strengths and weaknesses, their own personality, their own idiosyncrasies. The fact that the RGS community comprises over 1,000 such characters provides a unique richness and freshness to each and every day, and certainly ensures it is never a dull experience! And yet, at the same time, all students collectively belong to one school: they wear one uniform, a word which is synonymous with being constant and unvarying; they abide by the same rules and regulations; they share in each other's successes and set-backs.

As I reflect upon this term at the RGS
and those moments which stand out,

so many of them derive not solely from the talent of individuals – students and staff – but from the result of teamwork which have served to raise the bar of aspiration and allow phenomenal levels of achievement: on the sports ground, in the artistic, dramatic and musical fields, in the academic and co-curricular spheres, and so on. One of the most distinctive features of the RGS is that, rather than creating jealousy or resentment, success is infectious and individuals go out of their way to support each other and share in the communal achievement. A quote by Nicholas Sparks sums this up: “*Sometimes the most ordinary things could be made extraordinary simply by doing them with the right people.*” At the RGS I am proud to say that we most certainly do have the right people, and we most certainly do achieve extraordinary things.

We are all individuals who forge our own paths but solidarity combined with a shared focus and vision provide a strength and a bond which are substantially more powerful than each individual component. That is not to say that the collective constrains our individuality, rather it allows us as a community to continue to strive to fulfil each individual's potential and, as this edition of *The Register* highlights, that potential should be a source of great pride for each and every one of us.





AT A PREMIUM

Looking back, how will we remember the summer of 2018? Weather, sport or politics? All these are possible but for many there is also the memory of clutching a white envelope that contained confirmation of the culmination of looming deadlines, endless revision and the euphoria of walking out of the final examination knowing that it was all over! At A Level the A* rate of 41.8% and combined A/A* rate of 81.3% were the School's second strongest on record. 13 boys achieved the rare distinction of four A* grades with a further 24 achieving that top grade in three subjects. Results were strong across all subject areas but special mention goes to both Economics and Further Mathematics where over 60% of all results were achieved at A*; Religion and Philosophy also produced outstanding results with their first Pre-U cohort. The picture at GCSE was more difficult to unpick as boys sat a mixture of the old A* – G and new 9 – 1 qualifications. Overall, results showed 67% of all grades at A* or equivalent (grades 8 or 9) and 89% at A/A* or equivalent (grades 7 – 9). There had been a lot of talk in the papers about how difficult it would be to obtain the new grade 9: an astonishing 55% of all RGS results were at this new premium grade.





TALKING THE TALK

The Independent Learning Assignment Presentation Evening once again showcased the extraordinary work of the ten finalists as they provided seven-minute presentations of their research projects. The finalists – five from the Arts and five from STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) – presented on everything from German politics to the mathematics of candy, from the flight of javelins to using machine learning to predict the length of taxi journeys. The level of scholarship and quality of presenting were both astonishing and humbling, and the judges comprising three RGS governors debated long and hard before awarding the trophy. The judges commented on, in particular, the flexible lateral thinking, excellent ingenuity, fascinating research and engaging delivery of the two winners: Samuel Jones in the Arts category speaking on *Method in madness: using religion to decipher Messiaen's music*, and Edward Ferguson in the STEM category delivering a talk entitled *Can bioengineering and biomimicry be the solution to our medical and engineering problems?* As Chris Bradford, Head of Scholarship, commented: "It was a truly inspirational evening that reminds me once again why I am so privileged and proud to work at the RGS; it was a true demonstration of scholarship for all."

HITTING THE ROAD

After the celebrations of receiving public examination results were over, it was time for our new cohort of Old Guildfordians to complete the obligatory round of farewell parties and return to the RGS one last time to pick up their Leavers Books before packing up the car and joining the annual mass exodus from Surrey along the motorways of the UK to begin life at university. This year, the most popular route was straight up the A1 to Durham where 24 boys chose to take up offers: the M40 and M11 were also busy as 27 Old Guildfordians began life at either Oxford or Cambridge Universities. As usual, the M4/M5 corridor also attracted many as 12 headed to Bath and 10 to Exeter. Other popular choices included Birmingham, Nottingham, Loughborough and Bristol with a good number choosing to stay closer to home at Imperial, UCL and KCL. For two students, life is looking very different as they took up places to study at Harvard and Yale.





ADE-OOP

For this term's King's Lecture, the RGS was delighted to welcome one of the most recognisable faces on TV, Ade Adepitan. Fresh from appearing as one of the presenters on *Children in Need*, Ade captivated the packed audience with an insight into the challenges of his background and upbringing, his battles with health, his international sporting recognition, and overcoming a succession of setbacks and obstacles. Ade took the audience on his journey through a string of entertaining, instructive anecdotes: be wary of traffic wardens when they have an agenda; being home-schooled by your parents is something of an ordeal; pink chequered flares and a massive afro on day one of junior school are to be avoided; the *Chevron 700* wheelchair for a kid is simply super cool; and racing in a Sainsbury's trolley can be a stepping stone to becoming an international athlete. Despite the amusing, entertaining nature of these, the stories revealed a steely determination and dogged commitment to be the very best he could be. 14 years of rejection from the national team did not deter Ade and his messages of *believe in yourself and never give up and pursue your dreams and do not*



be afraid to make mistakes far from being clichés, resonated with the whole audience. As the applause continued, the audience was genuinely privileged to have heard from such a down-to-earth, charismatic, effervescent and inspiring speaker. As a sign of their appreciation, the evening raised well over £500 for a charity of which Ade is patron, *Go Kids Go!*

SCHOOL REPORT

Army: Charlie Hubbard and William Vaughan have both been awarded prestigious Sixth Form Army Scholarships, paving their way for entry to Sandhurst after graduation. This highly competitive award involves them negotiating a series of academic and medical tests, an intense interview process and a series of command tasks and planning exercises to gain one of just 100 awards available each year.

CREST: Salvatore Nigrelli has successfully gained a CREST Silver Award with a very impressive research project on the synthesis and analysis of aspirin and paracetamol. He analysed his products at Surrey University using a nuclear magnetic

resonance spectrometer. This is the first time that a student in the Middle School has carried out a Chemistry CREST Silver project.

English: Kieran Galpin was awarded a Highly Commended prize for his essay entitled *Is beauty in the eye of the beholder?* in an essay competition for the Oriel College *Lloyd Davies Philosophy Prize*.

Senior Mathematics Challenge: RGS students received an impressive 25 gold certificates, 18 silver and 17 bronze. The top 1% take part in the British Mathematical Olympiad: 5 RGS boys qualified for this: Salvatore Elia, Thomas Eves, Harry Grieve, Henry Thake and Ben Watkins.

Model United Nations: At the Croydon High School MUN conference, the RGS boys participated in three delegations, representing Jordan, Malaysia, and Peru. Boldi Paladi-Kovacs and Gabriel Levesque impressed and were awarded highly-commended delegate certificates for their performance in their council chambers.

Music: Samuel Jones has been awarded an Organ Scholarship to Clare College, Cambridge, where he will also read Music.

Schools Challenge Quiz: The RGS team emerged as winners, defeating the current regional champions, Hurstpierpoint, in the final, to reclaim the title of South Central Regional Winner last held in 2015-2016 and now qualify for the Inter-regional round.

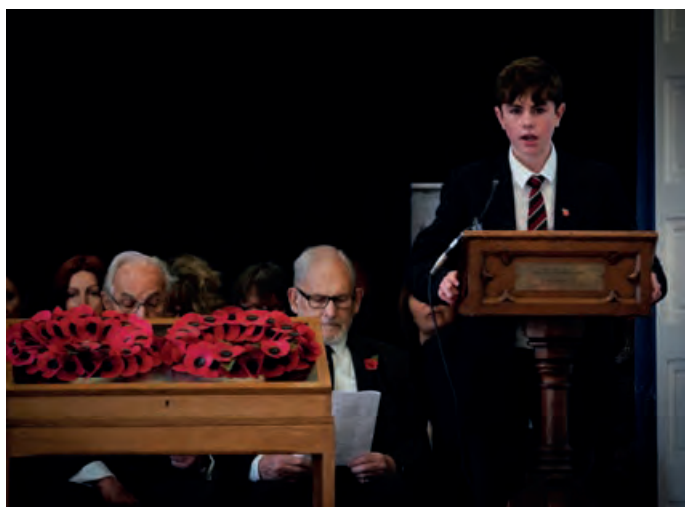
HOUSES OF TUDOR

The RGS community – students, staff, governors and guests alike – united in the beautiful setting of Guildford Cathedral to welcome those new to our community and to celebrate and give thanks for the School's founders and benefactors. The service provided the opportunity to highlight the rich diversity of our 500-year history and to remember all those whose generous gifts of money, time and expertise provided the foundations for the RGS of the twenty-first century. The Housemasters and House Captains provided insight from a historical perspective into the families and individuals synonymous with the modern-day Houses and served to create a sense of belonging and pride in the House system. The School was also delighted to hear the thoughts during the sermon of The Reverend John Witheridge, former Headmaster of Charterhouse School and Chaplain to the Queen, who spoke passionately about the value of an independent education, day schools in particular, and the mark of a leader. With an uplifting service of rousing hymns, the service proved to be an inspiring way to start the school year.



AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM

The whole community joined together in an act of remembrance as the School united in memory of those who have lost their lives in warfare since the First World War. The service was particularly poignant as this year marked the centenary of the end of the First World War and provided an opportunity to pay our respects to those from the RGS community who paid the ultimate sacrifice. As the Headmaster said: "On the War Memorial in Big School are listed the names of all 58 Old Boys of this school who died in the Great War: RGS students who walked the same corridors as you; had the same dreams and aspirations as you; and whose loss of life was a source of devastation for their friends, families and the School alike." The names, and ages, of each one of those Old Guildfordians were read out: many of them the same age as the senior boys. The RGS welcomed a number of eminent and decorated Old Guildfordians to attend the service. Commander Raymond Hale (OG 1956) laid the wreath on behalf of the Old Guildfordians while the current School Captain, Oscar Atkinson, lay the wreath for the staff and boys of the School. An address by Harry Dennis then gave an insight into how the events of 1914 – 1918 would go on to shape the world in which we live today.



BROAD BAND



Over the summer, 31 RGS boys were joined by 28 girls from Guildford High School for a Big Band trip to the beautiful Catalonia region in north-eastern Spain. Peter White, Director of Music, commented: "This was one of the most talented and experienced groups of students to tour abroad and the quality of musicianship certainly did not disappoint." Based in the seaside resort of Coma Ruga – chosen for its location rather than for its 2.4 kilometre fine golden sand beach and its average July temperature of 27 degrees – the musicians performed fantastic concerts to large crowds in various venues in the Barcelona area. In addition to the performances, the

students were able to make sight-seeing trips to Barcelona itself as well as Tarragona, a port city boasting ancient ruins from its time as the Roman colony of Tarraco, and the multi-peaked mountain range of Montserrat. As Peter White noted: "To pick out individuals would be invidious; however, the performances of Philip Bowler and Matthew Hawkins as singers with the slightly smaller Swing Band were particularly impressive." Once again, the sheer professionalism and energy of the students were noteworthy as appreciative Spanish audiences acknowledged the extraordinary standards of concerts they had witnessed.



STRIKING A NOTE

The Joint Schools' Chamber Choir of Guildford High School and the RGS continues to cement a formidable reputation and it will be hard to beat the extraordinary last twelve months which saw performances of the highest quality at both St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, to single out just two highlights. The singing at Choral Evensong at Keble College, Oxford, however, easily matched these heights. Keble's richly decorated chapel in the neo-gothic style, opened in 1876, seemed a fitting venue for Hugh Blair's characteristically Victorian and somewhat bombastic setting of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* in B Minor. This was contrasted with an austere yet highly effective anthem, *The Deer's Cry* by Arvo Pärt. As Sam Orchard, Assistant Director of Music, commented: "This deceptively difficult piece requires singing of the utmost skill and technical control and the choir did not disappoint." The service was accompanied magnificently on the chapel's organ by Upper Sixth Form student Samuel Jones whose sensitive accompaniment throughout supported the choir in both the canticles and psalm whilst fully exploiting the rich timbral possibilities of this superb instrument. An inspiring evening in an inspiring venue was appreciated by all who were fortunate enough to witness it.



TAKING THE ROUGH SEA WITH THE SMOOTHIEY

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 provides the inspiration for students to express themselves with imagination and no little technical skill and with no theme or media restriction. Aidan Beaumont's sculpted playful gnome house and Alexander Howey's clay mobile phone, complete with humorous text messages, encapsulated this flair and enterprise, as did Ethan Newbold's pen drawing of cartoons springing out simultaneously from a single felt tip. The stand-out work and eventual winner was a gloriously moody seascape by Kiran Wright who managed to capture the feeling of an approaching storm at dusk, the sky melding ominously with the sea, and the beach reflecting light on the horizon. We have no doubt that Ronald Smoothey would have approved!





VOICE OF TREASON

Political uncertainty; controversial proclamations from a stubborn leader; tensions between personal beliefs and those of the city: far from contemporary theatre these resonant and contemporary themes were those which pervaded Sophocles' play *Antigone*. From the opening words, Oliver Taylor captured the strong-willed, defiant nature of Antigone as she becomes increasingly isolated and desperate, her emotional torment evident at every turn. In contrast and driven by his own self-interest and self-will, Creon's wrathful accusations of treason were presented in a commanding, convincing portrayal by Jack Feakes. A talented cast included a number of charismatic performances: Dominic Baker portraying the dark, humorous side to the sentry; Oliver Jansen encapsulating the emotional timidity

of Ismene; and Patrick Merritt deliciously capturing the eccentric, idiosyncratic spirit of the seer Teiresias. With atmospheric lighting and careful choreography, the chorus of Theban Elders provided a brooding on-stage presence and as they seamlessly switched between English and ancient Greek it served to remind the audience of the original Fifth Century BC Athenian setting. With choices and consequences at the heart of the play, the audience was left to reflect on an outstanding production which proved that classical tragedy remains as current and topical as ever. As the audience showed its appreciation, particular credit was reserved for all-round motivator, director and actor Old Guildfordian Matthew Sargent who single-handedly made the play a reality.



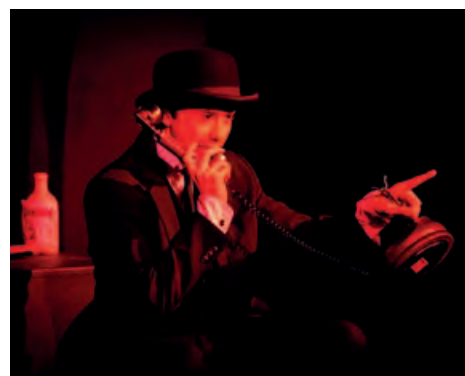


PHENOM-EMIL!

Erich Kastner's much-loved 1929 novel is a funny, wishful tale about the solidarity and resourcefulness of a gang of children who join forces to outmanoeuvre the nefarious and obstructive adult world. With the Auditorium transformed into 1920s Berlin, evoking a place full of surprises and danger, where everything moves at the speed of imagination, it was the perfect seasonal offering. An upbeat soundtrack, evocative sound effects, imaginative costumes and props all added to the sheer exuberance and feel-good factor. With inspiration from German Expressionism and Chiaroscuro lighting, the stage had a visual richness which set the tone for a frantic, breathless production as Emil and his side-kicks give chase to the dastardly moustached and bowler-hatted villain, Mr Snow, played by a suitably sinister and charismatic Alejandro Scholfield Perez.

A talented cast really got to grips with the zeitgeist, mood and characterisation, embodying the rich personalities of the play with

maturity and sensitivity. Gabriel Meadowcroft was superb as the plucky, anguished, and yet fiercely loyal Emil, and there was lovely work too from Jack Fuller as the omniscient professor and Jack Williams as the school teacher. The choreography was memorable; as Director, Sophie Cox, commented: "My focus was on using physical theatre to aid the story of chasing a villain through a bustling city. The challenge of representing a train, tram, taxi, going into the sewers and running and cycling across the width of Berlin on stage was addressed by creating a train using umbrellas, human bodies for a tram, suitcases for a taxi, and hula hoops and torches for the sewers." As the savvy, street-wise Toots, played by James Majumdar, acknowledged: "This is ace! It's like being at the movies! It's like being in the movies!" As the sustained applause continued, an ace night out for all had certainly succeeded in bringing the glitz and glamour of the movies to the Guildford stage.





CHALK AND TALK

Founded in 2000, *The Big Draw Festival* is a high-profile arts charity which promotes visual literacy and the universal language of drawing as a tool for communication, learning, expression and invention. Advocacy, empowerment and engagement are the driving forces behind the *The Big Draw Festival* which is the world's biggest celebration of drawing. As part of this festival Ruth Shepherd, member of RGS Art Department, set up *The Big Draw Epsom* in 2017 and has involved RGS students in the running of this event. For the 2018 event, RGS artists helped run drawing stations set up for local State Primary and Secondary Schools in Epsom Square to make large-scale drawings with coloured tapes, chalk and stamps. The over-arching theme for 2018 is *Play*; therefore, unusual drawing materials were used in a playful and exploratory way to create overlapping patterns and shapes. As Ruth commented: "The Big Draw inspires artists, nurtures young talent and is a truly inclusive community event: the RGS students enthusiastically and confidently provided practical help and advice to the young artists involved. It proved to be a fantastic event from which everyone benefitted."



GIVING IT A TRY

Guildford students experienced at first-hand high-performance training as the RGS was joined by local schools and put through their paces. Ben Dudley, Head of Rugby at the RGS, and Chris Alder, Old Guildfordian and Director of Rugby at Guildford Rugby Club, organised a Harlequins Rugby Masterclass. Harlequins' hooker Dave Ward and lock George Merrick, all 6'6" and 118kg of him, trained boys from the RGS and other local schools including George Abbot School, Howard of Effingham School and St Peter's Catholic School. The event was a rare opportunity for the young players to experience the kind of training Premiership-level players take part in every week. The boys played a variety of conditioned games and looked in detail at aspects including tactical technique and offloading. Tom Shimell, Assistant Head (Partnerships), commented: "Seeing the boys training and learning together in a cohesive unit regardless of their school affiliation was really heartening. We have all really enjoyed being part of this amazing opportunity and it exemplifies the type of local partnerships which can bring significant benefits to the young people of Guildford."



SERVICE WITH A SMILE

30 students from the RGS and Tormead School undertook a poignant expedition to Besisahar, Nepal in support of our long-standing partnership with schools in the Himalayan town. This inaugural expedition was the latest development in a charitable link going back to 2004 when RGS old boy Alex Ewart tragically lost his life in a rafting accident that was meant to celebrate the successful completion of three months volunteering as a teacher in two schools in Besisahar during his gap year. The foundation established by his family and friends in his name has since raised over £250,000 to improve education facilities in this rural part of Nepal. As Ash Shakeri, International Links Coordinator, commented: "A central part of this visit was pairing the Guildford students with 30 students from Besisahar to jointly complete a range of activities including the renovation of facilities in the Nepalese schools and a trek to stay with host families in the Himalayan village of Ghalegaun." As student Harry Foster perfectly summed up: "Despite the differences between us, it was astonishing how much we actually had in common and how quickly we were able to make friends." The expedition was, undoubtedly, transformative for all those involved, developing resilience, confidence and, most of all, the desire to make a difference to others both locally and farther afield.





WIGHT OF PASSAGE

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 a well-oiled



machine and the logistics of transporting well over 130 First Form boys, prefects and staff across the Solent were seamless as always. The sun – mostly – shone as the entire First Form enjoyed a weekend of bonding, team-building and physical and mental challenges. A varied and dynamic programme included Abseiling, Aeroball, Dragon Boat Racing won by Powell House, Jacob's Ladder and Zip Wire, all of which proved as popular and competitive, as ever; the Giant Swing continued to prove far more daunting and intimidating than it

sounded. Ian Wilkes, Head of First Form, commented: "The culture of mutual support was particularly noticeable as with humour, kindness and enthusiasm the boys brought out the very best in each other." As First Form student Daniel Hughes said: "At the close of an adventurous day, we were met by a campfire and the incredible sight of the distant lights of England. Sitting round the campfire with my friends watching the flames and talking about the highlights of the day, tired but happy, was one of the stand-out moments of the trip for me."

DUTCH COURAGE

With a Hall of Fame boasting such names as Johan Cruyff, Ruud Gullit, Dennis Bergkamp, Marco van Basten, and Frank Rijkaard, Holland provided the perfect location to inspire the next generation of footballers as a squad of aspiring 1st XI players travelled to Amsterdam for a pre-season tour. With the intention of giving the boys an insight into life as a professional footballer, training sessions

were run at the Ajax Academy in their superb facilities: an eye-opening experience for the boys. As Adam Lowe, Head of Football, commented: "The opportunity to train at one of the most successful academies in world football, to follow in the footsteps of some of the best players in the history of the game, and to experience first-hand the demands placed on aspiring professional footballers, was a

once-in-a-lifetime experience for the boys." With two wins and a loss and three training sessions in five days, it was an extremely busy schedule mixed with recovery sessions, pool work and video analysis. There was also time to take in a stadium tour, a tour of Amsterdam, a visit to the cinema and the chance to watch Ajax comprehensively beat FC Emmen 5 – 0 at the Johan Cruyff Arena.





HEMI-SPHERE OF INTEREST

A squad of 44 Sixth Form boys headed to South Africa at the start of the summer to embark on a two-week rugby tour. The first few days were spent in Cape Town, before beginning the journey to Stellenbosch and beyond to the Garden Route. The final days of the tour were spent in and around Johannesburg. On the field, 1st and 2nd XV fixtures were played against four different schools with excellent progress by all, physically, mentally and technically. The 1st XV showed glimpses of their potential in the opening three games before putting in an extremely impressive performance

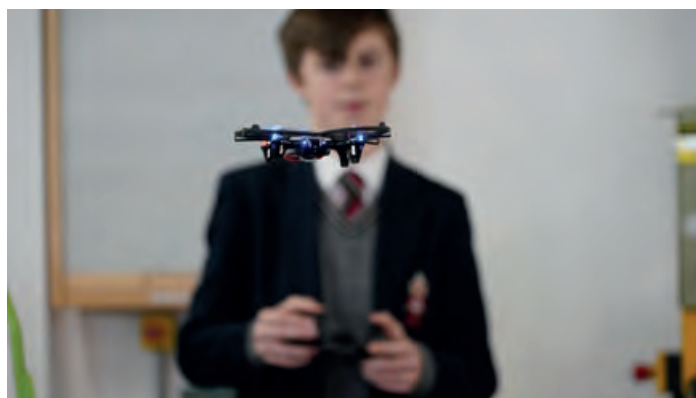
against Jeppe, one of the top-ranked rugby-playing schools in South Africa. The tour was, however, about far more than rugby. The boys obviously did their fair share of sightseeing including trips to Table Mountain, Robben Island and two unforgettable game drives but also devoted a large amount of time working with and supporting two children's charities. An evening spent with the *Path out of Poverty* children at Goedgedacht farm and a morning coaching young players at the Green Valley township rugby club were unanimously highlights of the tour.





OUT AND ABOUT

This term there have been over 94 off-site trips, offering 2,608 student places, supervised by 271 staff, many of which took place on the two Field Days. These Field Days see boys involved in outdoor activities such as bushcraft, expedition skills, lifesaving, hiking and numerous cadet force activities up in the air, on the ground and on the water. Theatres, museums and exhibitions also host visits for our students. Numerous academic visits, musical recitals and other activities such as the Model United Nations, have also taken place. Residential trips have accumulated 73 nights away and once all trips are back for Christmas, boys will have visited the USA (Politics), Nepal (Links and Partnership), Spain (Modern Foreign Languages), Germany (History) and France (junior and senior ski trips) as well as Brecon and the New Forest (Duke of Edinburgh), Isle of Wight (adventure weekend), Somerset (chess), Edinburgh (rugby and ski racing), Cornwall (lifesaving), and Weymouth (sailing) in the UK.



FUNNY MONEY

The second RGS comedy night provided many of our students with their first experience of Stand-up Comedy and the excitement was palpable. The compère was Paul Kerensa (OG 1997) who started off with the gag, "I'm here as a lesson. Study, kids, or you'll end up like this!" An unexpected element of entertainment was that of Noel James, one of the acts, who was stuck in heavy traffic somewhere up the M1 and the audience had regular updates on his slow progress towards Guildford. After non-stop gags from the compère, James Sherwood took over and invited a group of understandably nervous First Form boys to sit in the front row. James clearly had no idea what he was letting himself in for and for the first ten minutes, Elliot King in the First Form stole the show with his witty repartee which had the audience in stitches. James' main act was singing some well-known songs with their grammatical inaccuracies corrected, such as Salt-N-Pepa's *Push it real good* which became *Push it really well*: our pedantic and scholarly audience found this particularly amusing! In the nick of time, Noel James somehow managed to get to Guildford and to our students' delight he pushed the remit of what was suitable humour for a schoolboy audience! A brilliant night was had by all and the proceeds of the night raised an extraordinary £1,643 for charity.





RIGHT ONSIDE

Rugby remains extremely popular as more than 400 boys have represented the School in at least one of the 250 competitive fixtures played by RGS teams this term. The annual *Super Friday* fixture has become an integral feature in the calendar, an evening where every First Form boy is given the opportunity to play in A – F team matches against the Judd School. Such has been its success, a second U12A – F team fixture has been added against The Skinners' School, giving even more boys the opportunity to represent the RGS. Highlights of the term have included the 1st XV's memorable victory away to Tonbridge in front of a large home crowd en route to the last 16 of the Champions' Trophy

for a second successive season. A 23 – 7 victory for the 1st XV over Abingdon, the first against Abingdon in more than a decade, was another stand-out fixture. The Under 15A team have made it to Round 4 of the National Schools' Cup where they will play Brighton College. Ben Dudley, Head of Rugby, commented: "Irrespective of team or year group, the commitment and dedication shown by our boys to their rugby development is incredible. Whether the goal is to make a representative team, move up a school team or play for the first time, it is a privilege to witness first hand the dedicated approach of RGS students as they learn the game and progress through the School."



MASTER MIND

The RGS has a long and established reputation for nurturing exceptional talent in chess so to stand out within this lofty company is quite some achievement. Harry Grieve has been playing chess for about ten years; Harry's longest ever game was just under seven hours. He remembers finishing at about 9.30pm and the hotel having to reopen the kitchen so the two competitors could eat dinner! Harry really started to hit the headlines when he won the Terafinal of the Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge in 2017, the largest youth chess tournament in the world. Harry then took another significant stride forwards this summer, achieving his long-term aim of gaining the title of FIDE Master (FM) while competing at the IM tournament in Budapest. Harry commented: "I suppose my inspiration in chess is just to be the best player that I can be, keep improving for as long as I can



and hopefully one day achieve the title of International Master or Grandmaster, which would be considered the ultimate goal for most chess players. The appeal of chess for me lies in the constant mental challenge to

find the best move in a position. Due to the sheer number of possibilities in a game, you are constantly encountering new positions and ideas, which makes it extremely challenging, but rewarding."

GO KART!

RGS students have continued to express themselves in a diverse range of ways on the sporting stage: in all cases proving that commitment, dedication and phenomenal determination can lead to high-level success. First Form student Arvid Lindblad won the British Championship in karting: a highly competitive Championship and a success which he now shares with none other than Lewis Hamilton, no mean feat.

Arvid also won the LGM Championship, the biggest UK Cadet Championship in karting, by just 0.04 seconds. In other sports, Ilhan Mosobbir in his first international event, the Flanders International Kickboxing Cup 2018, was placed third in his under 79kg category and then stepped up to a higher weight category of under 84 kg and achieved a silver. In the Taekwondo British Open, Dimitri Perricos won a bronze medal in his



category for sparring. Meanwhile Alexander Jackson defended his Kata title at a karate competition with resilience and strength of character. After becoming a Black Belt two years ago, he secured a gold medal at this event for the fourth year running. As Giles Cover, Director of Sport, commented: "Our boys take phenomenal pride in all they do: they have a thirst to listen, take on board advice and then apply this as they compete. Each of these boys prove just what can be achieved if you work hard and train hard."

SPORTS SHORTS

Badminton: Christopher Chong won the Surrey County Schools Under 17 Boys Singles Championship held at Epsom College.

Chess: The RGS A team won the Eton College Team Rapidplay chess tournament from a total of 48 teams, making them back-to-back champions, in addition to winning the Russell Jamboree. In the Millfield International Chess Tournament, the RGS team finished an excellent second overall. Harry Grieve won *The Stephen Joseph Award* for best player in the tournament, Best Under 18 and Best Board 1.

Fencing: In the British Junior Fencing Championship, in the Under 20 Épée, Kit Edgecliffe-Johnson came 46th and Sam Ellis 71st. In the British Cadet Fencing Championships in the Under 17 Foil, Freddie Edgecliffe-Johnson came in 40th place with Leo Kamstra coming 17th in the Under 17 Épée. Freddie Cheng achieved silver and Zed Law bronze in the Cardiff LPJS Under 13 Foil.

Football: Nicholas Scott was selected for one of the regional representative sides which competed in the Gothia World Youth Football Cup. With 1,800 teams from 85 countries in the Gothia World Youth Cup, held in Sweden, Nicholas's team made it through to the knock-out stages but were then eliminated on penalties.

Golf: The RGS golf team won the first round of the Independent School's Knock-out competition, playing against Gordon's School at Guildford Golf Club.

Hockey: Edward Ferguson participated in the UK School Games, a multisport event for the best young athletes in the country. He competed in the England Blue hockey team and finished in bronze medal position, scoring a goal in their win against Scotland. At school level, our Under 18s have progressed to the indoor England Hockey South Finals for the first time in a number of years.

Martial Arts: Alexander Braithwaite came first for his age category in the Kuk Sool Won martial arts championships and was awarded the title Grand Champion 2018.

Shooting: In shooting the RGS has continued to impress, easing to victories against a number of traditionally strong schools including Epsom College, Lancing College and St John's School, Leatherhead. Against Wellington College in the 10-bull match, our VII was defeated by 769 points to 761. Wellington has not lost a home match for more than 12 years; the RGS continues to be the team that pushes them closest, and again came close to ending their proud record.

Skiing: The ski team competed in the English Finals and the British Qualifiers achieving ninth place in the English finals, thereby qualifying to represent England in the British finals in Edinburgh. The RGS was placed as fourth English school and tenth in the Three Nations: our best performance since records began.

AND FINALLY ...



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Oct 7

#RGSOpenDay #DiscoverTheRGS

Thank you to everyone who braved the weather conditions to attend yesterday's RGS Open Day #smilingintherain



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Sep 5

#RGSGuildford

A pleasure to welcome all the new students to the RGS community today. We wish you all the very best of luck.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Sep 19

#RGSActivities

The Upper Sixth Form students refine their cooking skills during joint cookery classes @TormeadSchool #haute cuisine



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Sep 18

#RGSActivities

Over 50 Clubs and Societies on display in the Auditorium at the annual Fair: from the cerebral to the slightly less so!



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Sep 28

#RGSGuildford

RGS Old Building and the Headmaster's Lawn looking fabulous in the autumn sun this week.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Sep 24

#RGSGuildford

Hope you had a good weekend. Welcome back to the RGS. #MondayMotivation



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Oct 14

#RGSGuildford

A pleasure to be at a Future Schools' Event this weekend. Lots of interest in the RGS branded @JellyBellyUK #guesstheflavours



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Oct 7

#RGSOGs

Lovely to welcome Les de Belin, great, great grandson of former Headmaster Rev Charles Joseph de Belin (1837 to 1852).



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Sep 18

#RGS Rugby

Lots of pride & passion on display as the boys represent their Houses @RGSGRugby.

