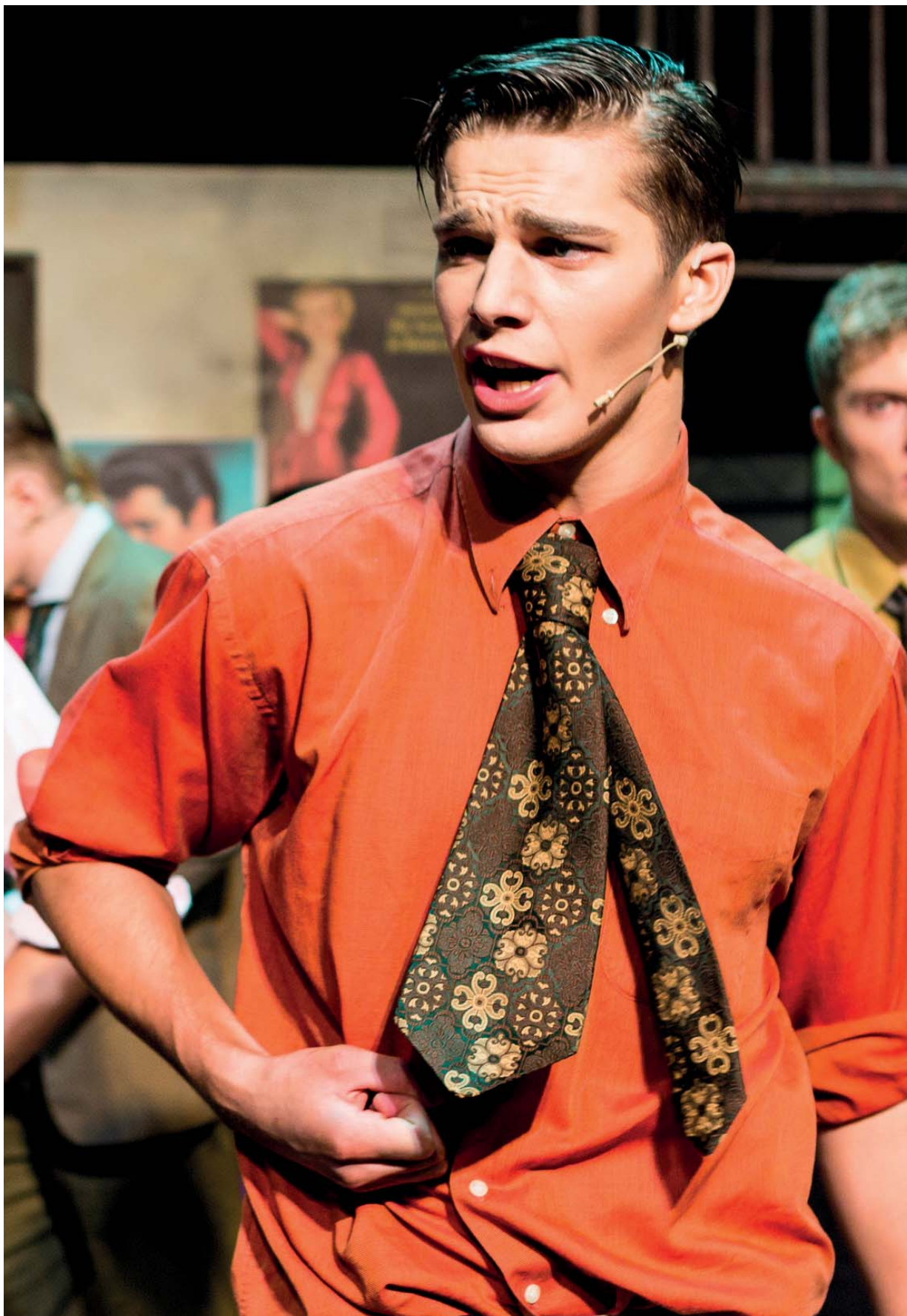


# THE REGISTER

The termly newsletter of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford

ISSUE 24 TRINITY 2017



**ACADEMIC**



**HAUTE CUISINE**

High school students in red aprons are preparing food in a kitchen. The students are focused on their tasks, with some using knives and others stirring ingredients. The kitchen is well-lit and has a professional feel.

**THE X FACTOR**

A student is performing on stage during a talent show. The student is singing into a microphone, and the audience is visible in the background.

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**ART**



**A MAJOR COUP**

Students are playing violins in a music room. The students are focused on their performance, and the room is filled with the sound of the instruments.

**EPIC PROPORTIONS**

Students are playing violins in a music room. The students are focused on their performance, and the room is filled with the sound of the instruments.

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**ROCKING THE HOUSE**



Students are playing guitars and singing in a music room. The students are focused on their performance, and the room is filled with the sound of the instruments.

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**UP POMPEII**



Students are posing in front of the Colosseum. The students are smiling and looking at the camera. The Colosseum is visible in the background.

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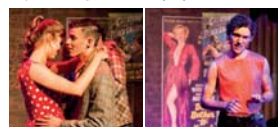
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## WEST END BOYS

The West End Boys are a group of young men who have been involved in the arts for many years. They have been part of the West End Boys for many years and have been involved in many projects. They have been part of the West End Boys for many years and have been involved in many projects.



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# THE HEADMASTER WRITES ...

In forewords and introductions to school publications from headmasters, there are a number of educational clichés which are frequently cited; there are, unsurprisingly, a number of words which rarely feature. Boring, dull, tedious, and ordinary are seldom mentioned, understandably. Earlier in the year, a one-day conference was held in London to celebrate all things mundane: workshops included sessions on the sound made by vending machines and discussions about retail bar codes, toast and yellow lines. James Ward, the brainchild of the event, described the conference as “a celebration of the mundane, the ordinary, the obvious and the overlooked: subjects often considered trivial and pointless, but when examined more closely fascinating in themselves.” In the context of a busy

world where, all too often, immediate gratification, viewing the world through technology, intensity and stress dominate our lives, this reflection and outlook may be a healthy option from time to time.

This edition of *The Register* celebrates many of the highlights of this last term and by their very nature extol the exceptional: those aspects which have stood out in the midst of a very busy, successful term. In this light I would like to thank not only all the students but also my colleagues, the parents and governors for their immeasurable support of the School and for facilitating so many of the events in which the students have participated and flourished. The RGS simply could not flourish without the sense of collaboration, support and pride which lie at the heart of our ethos and community.

The end of the school year provides us all with the opportunity to pause, to reconnect with friends and family, to break away from our usual routine. I hope you all have a very relaxing, restful summer and I would urge you all to open your eyes, embrace all those things you take for granted and celebrate the mundane. The ordinary may, after all, be extraordinary.

*John Ward*



## HAUTE CUISINE

RGS Young Enterprise company *GoBillou* has continued to sweep the board of awards with their multi-lingual cookbook. Having been crowned *West Surrey Company of the Year* and also *Best Trade Stand*, they then won the title of *Best Surrey Business* and *Business Most Likely to Succeed*. Having progressed to the Young Enterprise Regional Finals, *GoBillou* raised the bar once again: their stand was extremely impressive and the addition of their aprons, bow ties and hats highlighted their attention to detail and professionalism. They represented themselves well throughout the gruelling

hour of interviews and got across all of their key messages as well as giving an interview to BBC Radio Surrey. The boys were delighted to win *Best Advert* and now go on to represent the South East in the National Finals. Laura Griffiths, Head of Business Enterprise, commented: "All of the boys have experienced a steep learning curve during the year. They have worked tirelessly growing their business so much so that they received two offers of investment from business leaders attending the competition."



## THE X FACTOR

The iconic TED brand — "*ideas worth spreading*" — came to Guildford for the very first time as the RGS hosted TEDx Guildford in conjunction with *Blue Sky*, a local performance-improvement company. As the Headmaster, Dr Jon Cox, commented in his opening words to the prestigious conference: "TEDx is all about innovation, thinking outside the box, looking at issues from new and diverse perspectives, challenging individuals to think afresh and differently, assuming there are a range of viewpoints, and reassessing opinions in the light of others. This epitomises the culture we are nurturing among our students; all the more so as the theme of this conference is *high-performance mindset* and *being the very best you can be*: qualities which are at the heart of our ethos." In front of a live audience, the nine speakers provided their own original interpretation of the same theme and same brief: from architecture to mental health, from computer gaming to living with disability, from cyber security to puppetry. The underlying message, however, was uniform: that despite flourishing in such diverse spheres, success in each chosen field is only achieved by the highest levels of passion, dedication and resilience. The event was a great success and continued to reinforce Guildford's reputation as a dynamic centre for ideas and innovation.



# QUIZ MASTERS

Which lexicographer described the Giant's Causeway as 'worth seeing but not worth going to see'? Which Irish writer won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1923? These were just two of the questions which the all-conquering Junior Schools Challenge quiz team answered correctly as they were crowned national Junior Schools Challenge Quiz champions. The team comprising captain Sebastian Norris, Ferdy Al-Qassab, Joshua McGillivray and Alex Mitchell travelled the length and breadth of England in their pursuit of quiz glory, including wins away in Bournemouth in the inter-regional round and then in Hull. After three home fixtures at the start of this year's campaign the RGS became Regional Champions without setting foot outside the John Brown Building. Their relentless pursuit of the national title then required breaking out of the confines of Surrey and vanquishing two Kings and a Dragon in the process: two King Edward VI Schools and the Dragon School, Oxford. In the National Finals at Hymers College in Hull, the RGS trailed for most of the match against King Edward VI School, Stratford-upon-Avon, though managed to keep within reach of their opponents before finally overtaking and opening up an unassailable lead of their own to become officially the national champions.



## SCHOOL REPORT

**Biology:** RGS students achieved a record 20 Gold, 22 Silver and 20 Bronze awards in the UK Biology Challenge.

**Chemistry:** In the UK Chemistry Olympiad, RGS boys secured six Gold, 29 Silver and 13 Bronze awards. Adam Wills set a new school record for the highest mark ever achieved by a Lower Sixth Form student.

**Chemistry:** In the first round of the RSC Challenge, Fourth Form team comprising Peter Heylen, Oliver Perkins, Luke Nelson and Benjamin de la Court-Wakeling achieved 84% and progressed to the Downland Final at Kingston University where they came third overall.

**CREST Awards:** The Lower Sixth Form engineering team was awarded a Gold CREST Award for their project *To Design a Detection Technique for Hot-Tapping Incidents*.

**CREST Awards:** The Third Form *Go4SET* team gained their Silver CREST Awards as well as winning the award for the Best Project Display with their projects, *Keeping Hydrated* (designing an emergency still) and *Keeping Warm* (clothing for very cold climates).

**English:** Austin Humphrey submitted his Second Form Independent Reading Project, a character diary entry called *The Loop*, into the BBC 500 Words competition for creative writing. Out of 132,000 entries, Austin's was one of 5,000 to be selected for the second round of judging.

**Geography:** Oliver Perkins published an online book entitled *The Message of the Clouds* investigating how to use clouds to forecast the weather; the foreword to this sophisticated and academic work is written by Tom Cunliffe, author and yachtmaster.

**LAMDA:** In the latest set of LAMDA public speaking and drama examinations, RGS students achieved excellent results including nine distinctions and two merits. Particularly noteworthy were Harry Dennis, Daniel Sampson and George Tench who all reached Grade 8 while in the Fifth Form.

**Mathematics:** In the Junior Mathematics Challenge, the Second Form students received an impressive 37 Gold, 26 Silver and 21 Bronze certificates. Top scorer was Hassan Ishaque; he qualifies for the Junior Olympiad along with Sebastian Norris and Alexander Golding. 13 other students qualified for the Kangaroo round.



## A MAJOR COUP

RGS musicians had the honour of joining forces with professional orchestra *Southern Pro Musica* for a concert in the atmospheric surroundings of Holy Trinity Church. Alexander Acomb performed the first movement of the *Lalo Cello Concerto in D minor* with great drama and poise, setting the musical standard astonishingly high. The audience was then thrilled to hear the exciting and exotic *Marimba Concerto* by Rosauro performed with great humour and style by Joseph Bate who demonstrated masterful technique in what was a challenging piece. The second half was opened by Alistair Baumann who gave a deeply moving performance of the entire *Elgar Cello Concerto in E Minor*. It was testament to Alistair's musicianship that his performance of this very familiar and well-loved piece received a rapturous round of applause. Finally, Callum Champion delivered the first movement of the *Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1* with incredible passion and energy, a performance in which his deep understanding and love of the work shone through. As always, Director of Music Peter White conducted the orchestra in this gruelling programme with great skill and sensitivity as the audience was left profoundly moved by an evening of extraordinary musicianship.



## EPIC PROPORTIONS

This year's – now traditional – opera performance in the courtyard of the Old Building was Purcell's much-loved *Dido and Aeneas*, accompanied by British summertime's – now traditional – unreliable weather! Once again, audiences were delighted and amazed in equal measure by the extraordinarily accomplished playing and singing that was produced by the RGS forces under the direction of Assistant Director of Music, Sam Orchard. The chorus work was always assured and impressive but particular mention should be made of the soloists, all of whom were outstanding. Matthew Hawkins' confident *Aeneas* was marked by a warm tone and a real sense of line while Matthew Sergeant's *Sorcerer* demonstrated that he could already tackle a really demanding counter-tenor role with ease. Other soloists, Ridley Hymas, Yousuf Mirza and Roshan Patel were also in fine form, as were our two visiting sopranos, Bethan Thomas and Anna Leon as *Dido* and *Belinda*. The orchestra, led by Ronan Thomas, accompanied with sensitivity and style and it was good to see the RGS's new harpsichord being put through its paces by continuo player extraordinaire, Joe McHardy.





# ROCKING THE HOUSE



The Auditorium has enjoyed many and diverse uses this year from lecture hall, to theatre, to examination and interview room; however, for one night only, it was transformed with attitude into a rock venue as some of the School's brightest talents performed to a packed audience for RGS's *Lockefest 2017*. The headline acts included established RGS bands *25 Pound Hug*, *Los Angelos* and *Avalanche*, as well as new bands including *Mish* and *the Goldfish*. The set-lists ranged from Green Day, to Oasis, to Radiohead, to Red Hot Chili Peppers, to covers of new bands and modern classics. The event was organised by the RGS's very own rock guru and guitar teacher, Dave Locke, who noted: "The boys put in some great performances: their talent, levels of performance, passion and confidence were extraordinary. The atmosphere was electric and saw every act receive a great reception: the highlight of the night being *25 Pound Hug's* closing rendition of *Hey Jude*." Over £500 was raised from the evening, all of which will be reinvested into contemporary music at the RGS to ensure that next year's gig is even better, and louder.







# UP POMPEII

The tempting allure of pizza, pasta, ice-cream and, of course, breath-taking classical sites once again proved to be irresistible as the biennial Junior Classics trip saw a well-drilled army of 89 boys and 10 awe-inspiring legionary commanders, also known as members of staff, invade Italy. The boys enjoyed an action-packed itinerary which embraced the classical and contemporary, sunshine and Mediterranean blue skies, haute cuisine and, perhaps, more rustic fare. The first two days were spent in Rome; the next five days were based in Sorrento visiting Capri, Herculaneum, Naples, Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii, with a number of UNESCO world heritage sites explored in the process. The iconic Colosseum, the imposing Baths of Caracalla, the beautifully preserved streets of Herculaneum, the haunting expressions of the plaster-casts in Pompeii, the idyllic beauty of the fountains and tranquillity of the gardens at Villa d'Este in Tivoli were real highlights. Climbing Vesuvius and taking the ferry to Capri in idyllic summer conditions were also particularly memorable. The trip proved informative, entertaining and amusing in equal measure and the boys were outstanding ambassadors of the RGS.





# FULL STEAM AHEAD

Right from the initial welcome from Matthew Sargent as the charismatic and erudite Station Master, the audience was transported, with an evocative soundtrack and colourful authentic costumes, on a transatlantic train journey from Mexico, to Saudi Arabia, to France, to Germany, with the final destination China. Rooted in the zeitgeist and traditions of the respective cultures, the Modern Languages play *RGS Linguists and Other Animals*, related tales of their mysterious animals, from the cheeky and playful to the powerful and destructive. The use of masks – as well as the imaginative and emotive lighting, animation and staging – added to the exotic mystery as the characters effectively conveyed each scene through expressive and engaging delivery which meant that even the most linguistically-challenged members of the audience enjoyed the full global experience. To pick out individuals from such a talented cast would be invidious but Nicholas Hall deserved special mention as he displayed extraordinary diversity to capture with equal authenticity both the rustic Spanish farmer and the paranoid Chinese madman. As Julien Marchiafava, the Creative Director, commented: “You can have a few unexpected encounters on the same journey, but if you dare to follow mysterious paths, you may become aware of your inner animalistic nature. For, after all, men are nothing more than just other animals.”







# WEST END BOYS

The ambitious joint GHS and RGS production brought the spirit of the West End to Guildford as the students tackled one of the most famous and iconic musicals, *West Side Story*, originally performed on Broadway in 1957. With music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, the production transported the audience to the Upper West Side neighbourhood in New York City in the mid-1950s. With the rivalry simmering between the two street gangs, the Jets and the Sharks, the social problems are exacerbated when Tony, a former member of the Jets

and best friend of the gang leader, Riff, falls in love with Maria, the sister of Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks. The actors demonstrated remarkable maturity, nuance and confidence, none more so than Myles D'Angelo playing the star-struck lover Tony. Flamboyant costumes and staging, slick dance routines, a technically-gifted orchestra, and an instantly-recognisable sound track – including *Maria*, *America* and *I feel pretty* – ensured the audience were fully immersed in the spirit of the time and humming the infectious tunes long into the night.





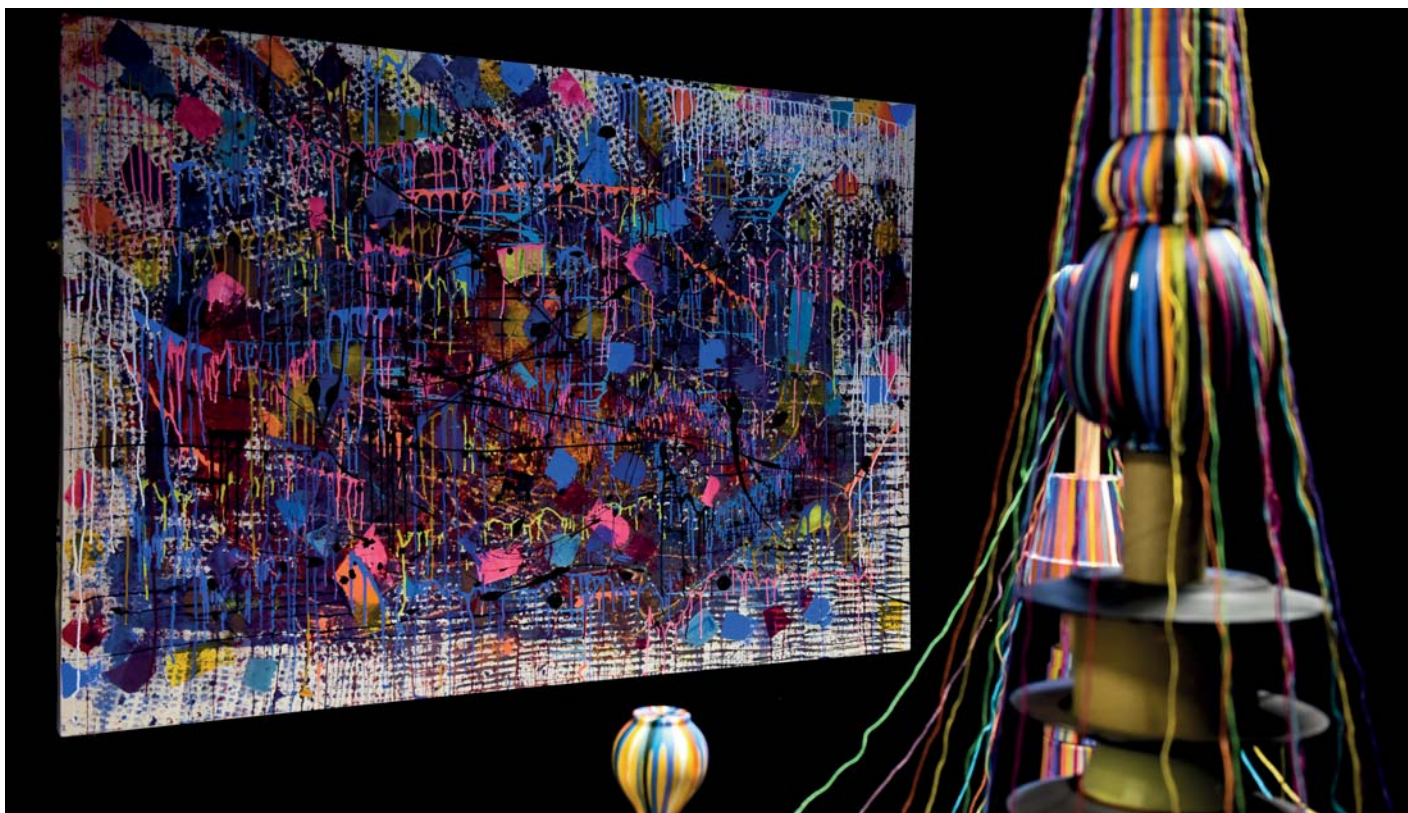




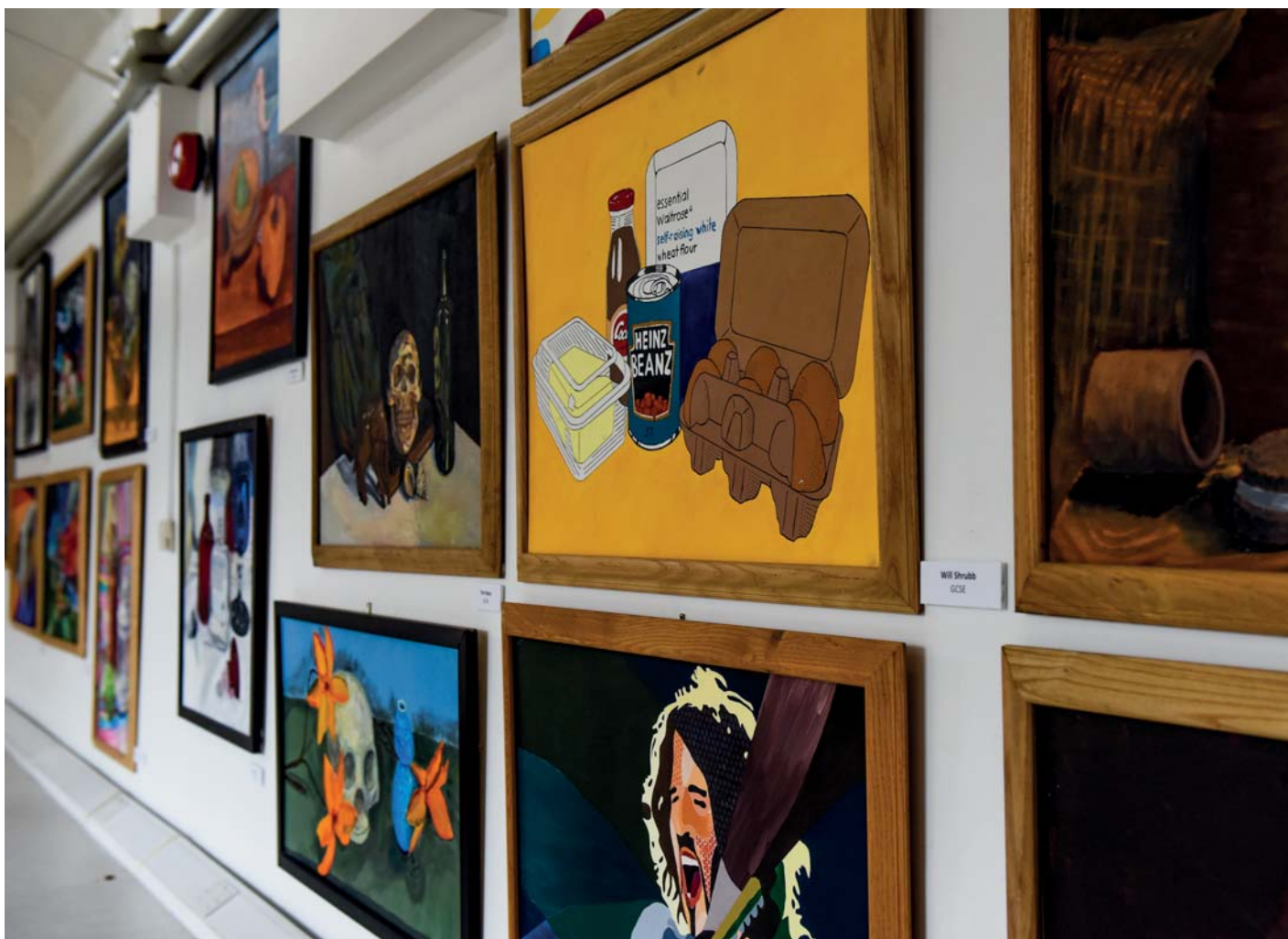
# DOWN TO A FINE ART



With artwork on display of quite extraordinary technical mastery, guests were continually challenged and enthralled by the high quality of the students' work. The Private View of the Art Exhibition once again gave the opportunity to showcase work of remarkable maturity to an appreciative audience of boys, staff, governors, parents and guests. The exhibition displayed some of the finest pieces of the GCSE and A Level students, many of whom were on hand to provide context and insight into their work. To pick out any highlights from so many exceptional pieces would be invidious, however, particularly noteworthy was an eerie installation piece by Toby Inchbald. As Toby commented: "*Dynasty* is set in a post-apocalyptic era where relationships between empires are weak and outcasts struggle to come to power. The five totems represent the powers that have risen from the ashes of sand and broken ceramic and now have to fight for survival and power after their previous world was stripped from them." In addition, the astonishing self-portrait by Jack Biddlecombe, and still-life by Robert Fraser – which was inspired by the Surrealist and *Metafisica* paintings of Salvador Dali, Giorgio de Chirico, as well as the still life work of Chardin – would not have looked out of place in a professional gallery.









# A NOVEL IDEA

At a time when the RGS is actively embracing and nurturing such intrinsically valuable habits as tenacity, creativity, precision, imitation, independence and reacting positively to failure, the annual Great RGS Bake Off provided the ultimate test of all of these and more! With the book-inspired theme, cakes reflected colourfully and imaginatively the topic, from the cerebral to the more surprising. *Spot the Dog* made an appearance in a hamper, while others sought inspiration from the *Hungry Caterpillar*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Alice in Wonderland*, even the Periodic Table was showcased! The standard across the board from staff and students was extraordinary as the panel of judges, including the Headmaster, rated the cakes on taste, presentation and wow factor. Katherine Walker won first prize in the staff competition with Mr McGregor's garden from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, while Thomas Ward secured first place with his cake inspired by *Animal Farm*. As the post-event clean-up operation continued across kitchens throughout Surrey, the event had proved a great success both for the nominated charities as well as the school community which spent a day devoted to cake consumption.







# WHAT A FINALE!

As traditional and quintessentially English as Ascot, Henley and Wimbledon and with a strict dress code to match, the who's who of RGS donned black tie for the event of the summer. With the new and old buildings of the School having received their annual radical and impressive make-over, the RGS was once again ready to host the Leavers' Ball and to thank formally the boys and the parents, many of whom were coming to the end of a seven-year, or longer, association with the School. After the formal Leavers' Ceremony in Holy Trinity Church, the boys were joined by their guests for a drinks reception which signalled the start to the Ball. With the Great Hall transformed into a casino, the Auditorium a dance floor and the Headmaster's Lawn a sophisticated drinks reception, guests enjoyed an evening where reminiscing gave way to live music and dancing. The climax of the evening, now an established part of the proceedings, was a glittering firework display – accompanied by Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture – which lit up the night sky of Guildford and provided the perfect culmination to a stunning evening.





# HOUSE PROUD

With Guildford Spectrum resplendent in an explosion of colourful shirts and bespoke sunglasses, RGS students proudly donned their house colours for this year's Sports Day. The pinnacle of all house competitions, the boys participated and cheered as energetically and enthusiastically as ever. High-level athletics was accompanied by an equally impressive range of ice-creams which provided the perfect sustenance for high-level performance. Fuelled by such a sugar rush, there were some notable individual achievements, especially in running events, including school records for Third Former Jamie Stratford with 11.7 seconds in the 100 metres and Fourth Former Matthew Harris with his second school record in two years. Following his 10.84m in the triple jump on his first ever-attempt at the discipline last year, Matthew broke the 200 metre record with 22.58 seconds. In addition, Second Form student Jack Doyle achieved a new record with 27.92 metres in the javelin and, finally, George Eves achieved an extraordinary 11.1 seconds in the Open 100 metres. Despite the impassioned and effervescent efforts of the Housemasters, only one House could emerge victorious and, after a tense finale, Beckingham House continued their recent good form by winning their third consecutive Sports Day. The shield was presented to the victorious House Captain of Beckingham, Joe Crolla, by the Deputy Mayor of Guildford.











# NO SWEAT

The prospect of a summer's day spent on the picturesque South Downs Way should conjure up images of a clichéd idyll of British summertime. Instead, for 28 members of RGS staff from the young to the slightly less young but still young at heart, the experience proved synonymous with pain, sweat and tears! On one of the hottest days of the year with temperatures soaring to over 30 degrees, seven teams of four runners each participated in the South Downs Way Relay Marathon from Slindon College to Queen Elizabeth Country Park. With a succession of

hills, difficult terrain and extended sun exposure to contend with, the staff did phenomenally well with all seven teams finishing in times under 4 hours 40 minutes. The winning RGS team finished in an impressive time of 3 hours 48 minutes. Member of the Mathematics Department Shirley Perrett, who co-ordinated the RGS teams, commented, "I was really proud of all the staff who defied really challenging conditions to complete the relay marathon. The mutual support, humour and camaraderie were very much in evidence and helped to get us all over the line."





# PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES



You know it has been a hugely enjoyable season when the Head of Cricket, Chris Sandbach, reflects on the term: "I cannot remember the last time where we had to cancel only three matches out of the 140 games played!" With the backdrop of summer conditions, immaculately-prepared wickets and rolling Surrey countryside, RGS teams flourished in the sunshine. Success ran through the School right from the youngest students with the Under 12A team losing only once all term. Thomas

Humphreys was the mainstay of the team scoring two centuries against Caterham School (107\*) and Reed's School (150\*). Other highlights of the season included the fabulous cup runs by the Under 13As and Under 14As with both teams making the finals day in their respective competitions. Our block fixtures against Dulwich College, Lancing College, Reed's School and St John's School were extremely pleasing with so many notable individual and team performances throughout. The other

centurions also deserve special mention: Abhay Gonella (105), Harrison Green (105\*) and Joseph Sheldon (100\*). With the bat there were both six- and five-wicket hauls for Yuvraj Gandhi (6 – 12), Alexander Tiplady (6 – 18), George Kemkers (5 – 15), Abhay Gonella (5 – 17), Charlie Kershaw (5 – 20) and Alistair Curran (5 – 51). Team of the year, however, was undoubtedly our Under 15B team which remained unbeaten all season to be ranked top Under 15B team in the country.

## SPORTS SHORTS

**Athletics:** Ben Watkins came second overall in the Surrey Schools' Combined Events Athletics Championships in Crawley, achieving Personal Bests in every event in the process.

**Badminton:** Sam Baker won a gold medal in the Under 14 York Open Singles event. Sam is the current Surrey county champion in Under 15 Doubles, Under 14 Doubles, Under 14 Singles and Under 14 Mixed Doubles. Sam is also currently ranked number seven for his age group in the country.

**Chess:** Alexander Golding is currently the highest ranked player in England for his age with an ECF grade of 196. His live international FIDE rating is currently 2237 and he is close to obtaining the FIDE Master title from FIDE which requires a live rating of 2300. He also was crowned

the 2017 English Youth Grand Prix Under 14 Champion, the fourth time in five years that he has won his age-group title, and finished first in the National Chess Junior Squad Under 14 Championship.

**Fencing:** After a number of recent notable successes, Leo Kamstra achieved his finest result to date by winning a bronze medal in Challenge International de Dieppe Under 14 Épée and was the highest placed Briton. In the England Youth Fencing Championships, he came 5th in the Under 13 Épée and Leo is currently fifth in the England ranking.

**Hockey:** The 1st XI secured third place in the National Plate Finals after winning against Millfield School at the Lee Valley Hockey Centre. On an individual level, Fraser Boulton was selected for the Wales Under 18 hockey development squad.

**Rowing:** Representing the Thames London region, Joseph Bryant and his quad won the Junior Rowing Nationals and are now the Junior National Champions.

**Rugby:** Jack Doyle, Charlie Woodfine and Thomas Reid have all been selected for the Surrey Rugby Development Squad.

**Sailing:** Benjamin Mueller competed in the GBR Optimist Selection Trials in Weymouth, a four-day invitational event to select teams for the Optimist international squad. Oliver Perkins has been selected to sail in the GBR Team at the Laser 4.7 World Championships in Belgium.

**Shooting:** The RGS team won the Surrey Junior 10-bull completion for the Lord Mancroft Trophy, after finishing second for the past seven years; meanwhile, the VIII won the Surrey Challenge Bowl for the Best Surrey school.



# AND FINALLY ...



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Jun 15

## #RGSArt

Tonal drawing with charcoal using masks the students have created and projected life-size onto large sheets of paper.



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Jun 21

## #RGSGuildford

Thank you to @HolroydHowe for making such an amazing impression on the new boys and parents today. Simply beautiful.



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Jun 14

## #RGSArt

Impressive artwork from students creating masks out of clay slabs coated in iron oxide.



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
May 5

## #RGSAcademic

The boys absolutely loved the irresistible combination of martial arts and literature at today's talk @YoungSamurai @RGSGLibrary



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
May 22

## #RGSFieldDay

Fourth Form boys soak up the sunshine as well as leadership and teamwork tasks at High Ashurst.



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
May 3

## #RGSGuildford

The votes are in and currently being counted as RGS voters turn out in numbers at today's snap election @RGSGPolitics



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Apr 26

## #RGSImages

Perfect day for sports team photographs in the courtyard of the Old Building.



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Jun 10

## #RGSOGs

The Headmaster addresses guests at this afternoon's garden party on the Headmaster's Lawn in the picturesque Old Building.



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
May 12

## #RGSArt

Second Form boys spent a fantastic day drawing and discussing art during a workshop in the National Gallery in London.

