# #REGISTER

The termly newsletter of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford









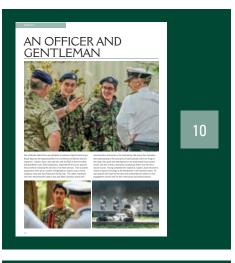






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### THE HEADMASTER WRITES ..

Foreign words come and go in common usage: words which seem to encapsulate concepts in a way which the English language is simply unable to convey succinctly. How could we portray the idea of feng shui without resorting to discussion of energy forces or individuals harmonised with their surrounding environment? Before the emergence of the Danish word hygge, how did we express the cosiness and comfortable conviviality associated with sitting around a fire in the winter with close friends, engendering a feeling of contentment and well-being? At the moment, the Swedish word lagom has gained traction which in a nutshell means not too much, not too little, but just about the right amount.

This year's football World Cup provided plenty of scope for the headline writers of the tabloid newspapers, in typically understated (!) fashion, to indulge

in plenty of linguistic word play. As Germany crashed out of the tournament to South Korea, *The Sun* headlined with *What's the German for Schadenfreude?* As the headline inferred, we have no word which in such a pithy fashion describes the strange experience of self-satisfaction which comes from witnessing others' troubles, or failures, or humiliation: a reaction which seems totally at odds with the way individuals should respond to the misfortunes of others.

This edition of *The Register* celebrates many of the highlights of this last term.

These successes are only achievable through the spirit of community, positivity and energy which is derived from a school in which all are pulling together in the same direction and where all of us celebrate and take equal pleasure in each other's achievements. So, in the spirit of resorting to beyond these shores to capture an idea in a concise fashion, let us — as we reflect on

the year which has gone past – embrace the polar opposite of *schadenfreude*, the concept of *mitfreude*: the unequivocal joy and pleasure derived from acknowledging and celebrating the successes of others.

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 over the last 12 months and as we start the summer holiday, let us all – just for a while – immerse ourselves in *mitfreude* and collectively bask in our shared achievements.

So



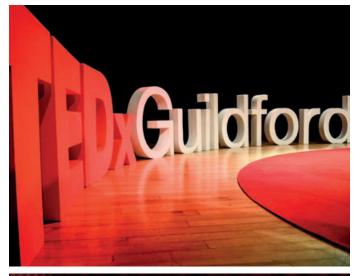
### DRAGON FLYERS

The entire Fourth Form competed in the National Enterprise Challenge and with 147 students working in teams of six, the day was always going to be highly charged and competitive! The day started with a welcome from Theo Paphitis, the retail magnate and entrepreneur who has gained national profile through Dragons' Den, before the serious business started. Each team had to select an item of stationery, develop the item so that it had a Unique Selling Point, before creating a marketing communications campaign. The winners were Panther Pens led by Mylo Farman with their erasable pen idea; however, the team from the Enterprise Challenge was so impressed by the standard of the presentations that, after a call to Head Office, they also invited a second team to progress to the National Finals, GCSE Easy, led by Salvatore Nigelli for their revamp of GCSE stationery. As Laura Griffiths, Head of Business Enterprise, commented: "The spirit of innovation, creativity and enterprise is very much in evidence and alive in our students and this type of experience will start to equip the students with the skills which they will need if they are to flourish in a fast-changing world."



# A LITTLE RESPECT

In a world where all too often differences evoke fear, or mistrust, or censure, the second-ever TEDx Guildford confronted face-on Audre Lorde's famous quote: "It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognise, accept, and celebrate those differences." TED believes passionately in the power of ideas to change perception and a succession of hard-hitting short talks tackled issues as diverse as living with HIV, physical disability, racial discrimination, self-esteem, preconceptions through physical appearance, speech impairments, and facing religious hatred and prejudice. And yet the over-riding message was one of hope and positivity, a message which was beautifully encapsulated in the finale as the 40-strong Guildford Rock Choir sang A Little Respect. By the end of the event it was fitting that the audience were left to reflect on two quotes: firstly that of Jo Cox from her inspirational maiden speech to Parliament which sparked the #MoreInCommon movement after her tragic death, "We are far more united and have far more in common with each other than things that divide us"; and secondly from Gareth Davies the final speaker who championed that we should all celebrate with confidence and pride "our true glorious unedited selves."





## GOODBYE MR. (AND MRS.) CHIPS

Schools are synonymous with their history and their buildings, their curricula and their policies. Schools are influenced by government, by trends in education, by examinations. At their heart, however, they are about individuals and personalities and it is the staff which have the most profound and lasting impact on the students who pass through the School. The RGS has always been fortunate - and the School History attests to this - to have loyal, committed staff who have in their own colourful, idiosyncratic ways inspired students through their passion, subject knowledge and focus on each individual. This summer sees the retirement of five RGS legends, members of staff who have accrued more than 185 years teaching at the School between them: Alan Thorn (joined the RGS in 1971), Mary Booth (1978), Peter Hosier (1980), John Saxton (1987) and Mick Jennings (1989). As the Headmaster Dr Jon Cox commented: "The School is indebted to each one of our retirees and their impact on generations of



students cannot, for a second, be underestimated. Although being very different personalities, each of them has been united by extraordinary dedication,

phenomenal scholarship, remarkable loyalty, and a desire to put the students at the heart of all they do. They will all be sorely missed."

### SCHOOL REPORT

Astrophysics: After being invited to the British Astronomy & Astrophysics Olympiad (BAAO) Training Camp, Salvatore Elia was selected to be one of the five students on the UK team to compete at the International Olympiad in China.

Chemistry: In the Cambridge Chemistry
Challenge, Tom Moores achieved a
superb score of 51/65 and has won the
top Roentgenium Award. This award was
achieved by just 54 students nationally
and is the highest ever achieved by an
RGS student. In total, RGS achieved 1
Roentgenium, 4 Gold, 8 Silver and 7 Copper
awards. In addition, the Fourth Form team
won the Downland Section of the Royal
Society of Chemistry Challenge to progress
to the regional final at Greenwich University
where they secured second place.

Classics: RGS Classicists were victorious in every age category of the Guildford Classical Association *Certamen* Classics general knowledge quiz, demonstrating their outstanding knowledge of Latin, mythology and Roman history, taking a clean sweep of the prizes.

Electronics: Lower Sixth Form students took part in the *SourceBots* finals at Southampton University: a national competition in which students design, build, programme and challenge an autonomous robot. The RGS robot *Out of the Blue* impressed, being placed second and winning the award for the most ambitious robot.

**English:** Sahej Grewel's poem submitted to this year's Christopher Tower Poetry Competition was selected, from nearly 1,000 entries, for the final 50 long-list for the 2018 awards.

**Geography:** Oliver Perkins' book on meteorology *Reading the Clouds* is being published by Bloomsbury.

**Music:** Sam Jones has been appointed Organ Scholar of HM Chapel Royal, St James's Palace.

**Olympiads:** RGS students achieved an impressive 20 Gold and 25 Silver awards in the UK Biology Challenge. In the UK Chemistry Olympiad, RGS students achieved a new school record of 10 Gold and 20 Silver awards.

Physics: Harry Grieve was invited to take part in the Senior Physics Challenge, a residential course run by the University of Cambridge; he finished in the top 20 students nationally who took part in a problem-solving competition on the Isaac Physics website. In addition, Samuel Heatley won a prize in the Crystal Poster Competition run by Oxford University Physics Department and Rutherford Appleton Laboratories.

Politics: Kit Edgecliffe-Johnson was successful in winning top prize in the Corpus Christi College Bacon Essay Prize for Politics and International Relations. His essay investigated whether or not referendums are the best way to determine public policy.

Science: Mikel Bober-Irizar was part of the University of Surrey Artificial Intelligence team to win the latest worldwide competition in image recognition technologies, organised by *Google*.



# TOO HOT TO HANDEL

For the very first time, at least in recent memory, the English weather came up trumps for the annual RGS opera. Under clear blue skies and in almost Mediterranean heat, two packed audiences were treated to wonderful performances of Handel's *Acis and Galatea* in the inspiring setting of the

atmospheric, historic courtyard of the Old Building. Written and first performed in 1718, this opera proved to be one of Handel's most popular works in his lifetime and, under the direction of Sam Orchard, the orchestra, chorus and soloists all faced the technical and musical challenges of this





ambitious score with great aplomb. The chorus work was always assured and impressive but particular mention should be made of the soloists, all of whom were outstanding. The School was delighted to welcome back Bethan Thomas who took the role of Galatea while from the RGS, Yousuf Mirza, Philip Bowler and Ridley Hymas all gave accomplished solo performances. Yousuf's lyrical tenor perfectly suited the role of the shepherd Acis while Philip's bombastic portrayal of the Cyclops Polyphemus was a real showstopper.

# SINGING THE PRAISES

The annual Concerto Concert took place in Holy Trinity Church with eight of our most talented musicians performing solos, accompanied by Guildford's resident professional orchestra, *Southern Pro Musica*. We have come to expect performances of an astonishingly high standard and this year was no exception with all the boys delivering very impressive performances to a large and appreciative audience. In a programme that included some gems such as the Mendelssohn *Violin Concerto*, performed with great aplomb by Jonathan Chong, it was also fascinating to hear some less well known works such as Guilmant's splendid *Organ Symphony* played by Nick Edwards and Debussy's wonderful *Premiere Rhapsodie* for clarinet, which Roshan Patel performed with great musicality and sensitivity.





It was a delight to introduce two singers into the evening's performances and both Yousuf Mirza (*Every valley shall be exalted* from Messiah) and Matthew Sargent (*Che faro senza Euridice?* from Gluck's *Orfeo*) produced astonishingly confident performances of great maturity. Alexander Acomb's deeply felt and very moving performance of *Kol Nidrei* by Bruch was beautifully performed and Joshua Powell's rendition of the notoriously difficult Vaughan Williams' *Oboe Concerto* revealed a young musician with both a great understanding of the music and a formidable technique. The final performance, Ciaran O'Toole's gorgeously rhapsodic *Ballade*, brought the evening to a perfect close.





# STRINGS TO THEIR BOW

The RGS String Scheme has continued to grow and flourish and now teaches around 250 pupils per week in four local schools. The boys and girls are given weekly lessons by a team of staff during school time and take their instruments home each week to practise at home, culminating in a concert at Boxgrove School which was, this year, attended by The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP. As Dale Chambers, Head of Strings and mastermind of the scheme, commented: "The majority of pupils only experience music-making, whether singing or playing instruments, at school but, unfortunately, it is increasingly rare for primary schools to be able to

recruit music specialist teachers. We firmly believe that all children should have access to specialist music tuition and that music-making becomes a normal part of life from an early age." At the end of the concert, members of the audience expressed their huge admiration for the standard and discipline that the children brought to the complex art of playing a string instrument. In the light of the continuing success of this scheme, Dale Chambers has been awarded the 2018 European String Teachers' Association UK Award in recognition of exceptional services to ESTA and to string teaching in the UK.





### CLASS ACT

An evening of performed extracts took the audience on a journey from Fifth Century Athens right up to the current day. In front of an external examiner our GCSE Drama students presented their final practical scripted pieces. The evening got off to a brilliant start with Dunsinane, a contemporary play reimagining the events following the defeat and death of Shakespeare's Macbeth, complete with non-naturalistic choral movement, physical theatre sword fighting and naturalistic duologues in the fight for succession of the Scottish throne. Two comic extracts from Oscar Wild's Importance of Being Earnest then saw Ben Fitzpatrick and Matthew Gaseltine portraying vivacious Victorian bachelors who created alter egos named Earnest to escape their tiresome lives. In The Dumb Waiter both Henry Spence and Jonathan Gathercole were able to perfect the Pinter Pause whilst portraying hit-men tediously waiting for the call to kill. Next, tapping into impressive levels of anger, corruption and despair, Daniel von Hänisch



and William Jordan presented extracts from Sophocles' masterpiece *Antigone*: an updated version of this classic struggle-for-power into a corporate setting. Jack Sweetbaum and Alexander Freeney's performances in *Journey's End* explored

the full horror and futility of the First World War trench warfare before a dazzling performance of *A Butcher of Distinction* concluded proceedings: a dark comedy involving a butcher, a goatherd and an East End pimp.







### SILENCE IS GOLDEN

The boys showcased remarkable creativity, imagination, teamwork and – for once (!) – silence as mime was the focus of the junior House Drama competition. Inspired by a team of professional mime and movement teachers, the boys embarked upon a morning of skill building before devising their own original six-minute performances, set against a mix of silent movie tracks shifting the emotions from happiness to tension, from

suspense to sadness, and back to happiness. The pieces were really varied and included: a day at the beach being spoilt by loutish drunken thugs; a new television delivered to a house which is possessed with characters stepping through the screen to interact with the viewers; a piece set in the mind of an author, who, when pausing for inspiration, all the characters onstage (and in his mind) were suspended in motion. As Nancy

McClean, Head of Drama, commented: "What was really pleasing was to see all the boys working with focus, commitment and good heart, creating cohesive ensemble performances. I was particular taken by the range and confidence of the boys' acting." Nine Oscar-style statuettes were awarded for mimetic and sustained performances and Beckingham House emerged as worthy winners of the event.

# AN OFFICER AND GENTLEMEN



The Combined Cadet Force was delighted to welcome Captain David Joyce (Royal Navy) as the Inspecting Officer for our Ministry of Defence biennial inspection. Captain Joyce, who had links with the RGS as both his father and grandfather were Old Guildfordians, inspected the tri-service guard of honour before reviewing the activities of all three services. From a diverse programme, there were a number of highlights as Captain Joyce visited Longmoor camp and also Papercourt Sailing Club. The cadets impressed with their demonstration harbour area and flight simulation stand; their

communication and tactics in the forested tag rifle arena; their discipline and understanding of the principles of marksmanship while live firing on the range; their good skill development on the dismounted close combat trainer; and their bravery, teamwork and physical fitness over the Army assault course. Having completed the inspection, Captain Joyce returned to school to report his findings to the Headmaster in the Chained Library. He was pleased with what he had seen and commended the cadets for their engagement and the staff for their enthusiasm and professionalism.





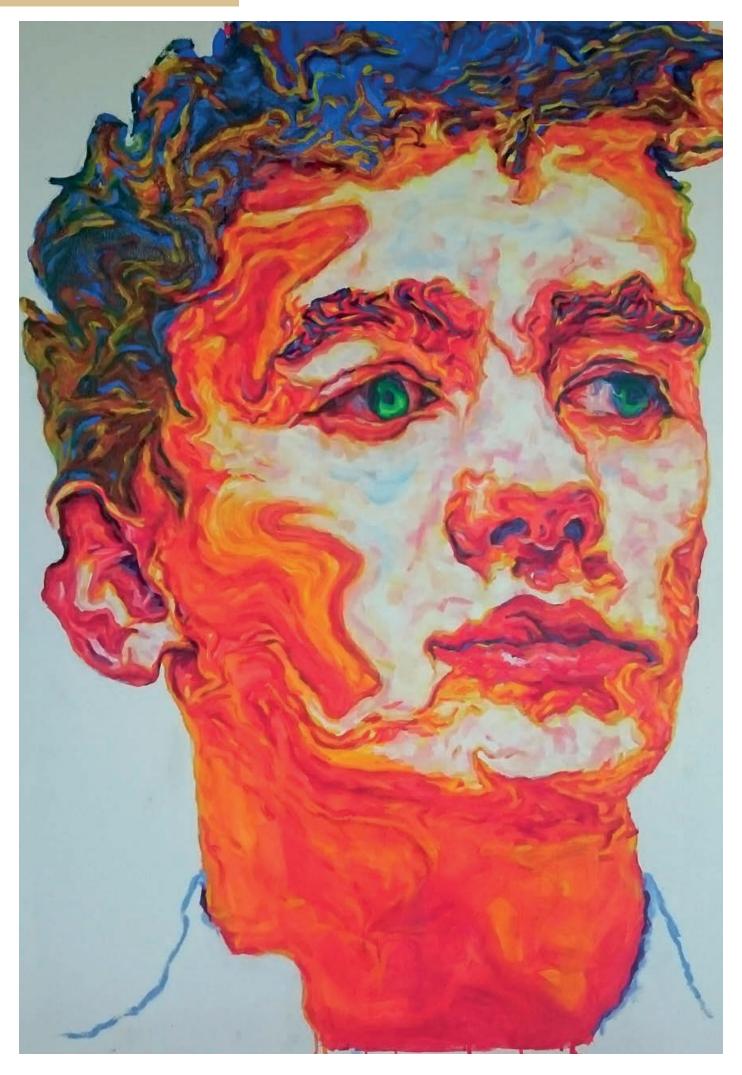


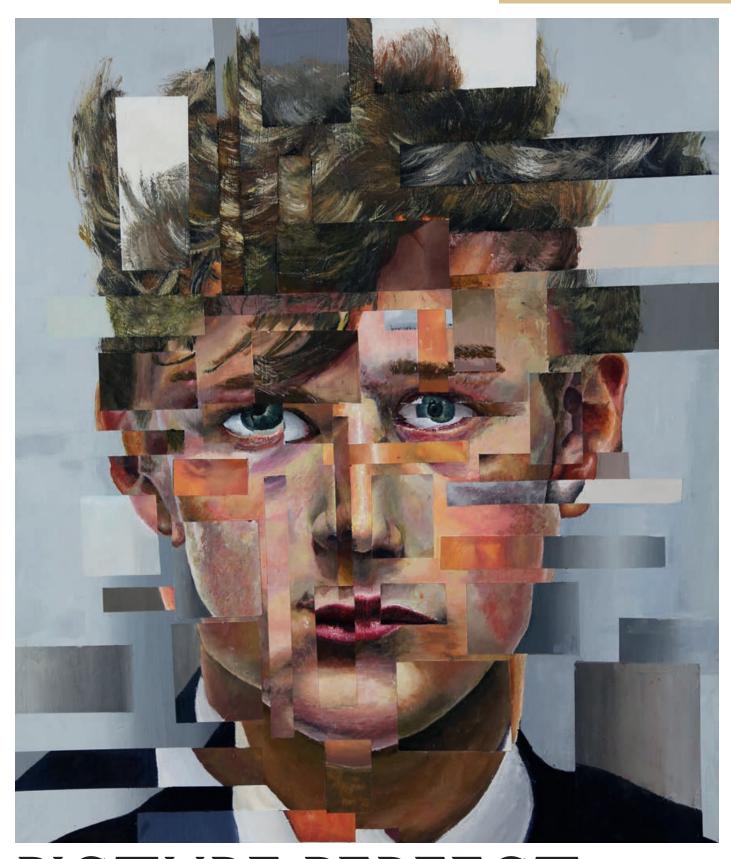












# PICTURE PERFECT

With artwork on display of quite exquisite 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, the paintings by Jamie Gray and Tom Robinson showed extraordinary creativity and diversity in coming up with original interpretations of their own self as they produced self-portraits of astonishing complexity. In addition, Thomas McGillivray's atmospheric and moody coastal scene drew many compliments from the appreciative visitors. With canapés and Champagne as the perfect accompaniment to art critique, a humbling evening reinforced the incredible artistic talent of the boys.

# BAKE IT EASY

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 theme of *My day off*, cakes reflected colourfully and imaginatively the theme, from the cerebral to the more surprising. Surfing, swimming, chilling out on the beach and reading featured highly, as did, predictably, staying in bed! 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. Jenny Crouch of the Biology Department won first prize in the staff competition with her cake inspired by a picnic on the beach, while Thomas Ward secured first place for the second year in a row with his bee-keeping cake. 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 focused cake consumption.

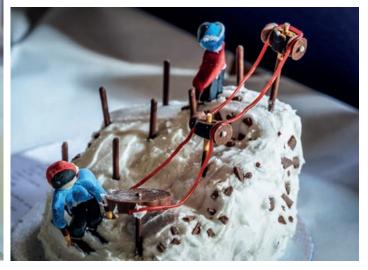












### SITES TO BEHOLD

The perfect combination of climate, culture, cuisine and countryside ensured the Classics Department's senior trip to Greece proved to be a great success. A tour of the stunning country, which was bathed in beautiful Mediterranean sunshine for much of the week, began with a visit to the capital Athens where the students enjoyed their first glimpse of the Parthenon as they absorbed the architecturally stunning Acropolis Museum, as well as the atmospheric ancient agora and Pláka, the old historical neighbourhood of Athens with its labyrinthine streets and neoclassical architecture. The students then enjoyed a whistle-stop tour of Greece: Delphi, the home of the oracle of Apollo; Olympia where the Olympic Games were established; and finally Tolon, a seaside base from which to visit Mycenae, Epidaurus, Tiryns and Corinth. As Head of Classics, Ed Bush, commented: "The sites were spectacular and the boys appreciated the beauty and historical importance of the places they had previously only studied in the classroom."



### OOH LA LA LAND

35 junior boys embarked upon a completely immersive French experience as they based themselves in Normandy for a week of culture, adventure and language. The programme was really diverse and saw the boys – primarily in the target language – experiencing everything from a circus workshop to outside brain teasers, from a climbing wall to a massive scavenger hunt, from a farm to the highlight for the many of

the boys, Market Day. The market provided the perfect opportunity for the boys to put to good use the language work from the classroom as they quizzed the locals, bartered, negotiated and used their irresistible charm! With the boys returning laden with an astonishing array of local delicacies and trinkets, the hard work in the classroom had clearly paid off. The trip continued onto the veritable historic jewel of Lower Normandy,

Mont Saint Michel. This magical island, topped by a gravity-defying monastery, is one of France's most stunning sights; it is a major pilgrimage destination and is classed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A fantastic trip finished, appropriately, with baking as the boys tried their hands at bread-making French style. The results varied from the almost authentic to the slightly less so.







## CRACKER OF AN EVENING

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, and eating an extraordinary selection of cupcakes and ice-creams. 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 way to thank and send off the Class of 2018.

















# BROKEN RECORD

With Guildford Spectrum resplendent in an explosion of colour, 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 and also the reorganisation of previous records into current competition age groups, there were a record number of school records broken. Stand-out performances included the following new records: Andrew Brett in both javelin and shot; Zack Kennedy

with 32.40m javelin, a five metre increase from previous record; Sam Hinton in both 300m and 800m; Toby Perryman in the 1500m breaking a record set in 1995; Harry James in the high jump; and Matthew Harris in the 100m with a time of 10.91, the previous record was set in 1990. Despite the impassioned and effervescent efforts of the Housemasters, only one House could emerge victorious and, after a tense finale, Austen House emerged triumphant. The shield was presented by the Deputy Mayor of Guildford to the victorious current and former House Captains of Austen, Abhay Gonella and Jonathan Andrews.









### SUPER BOWL

An uninterrupted summer of sultry Surrey weather was the perfect accompaniment to a superb season of cricket under new Head of Cricket Richard Black, as boys played on the beautifully prepared Bradstone Brook wickets and outfield. Boys across every year group represented the School in 16 teams, ranging from the Under 12Ds all the way up to the 1st XI, with notable success

enjoyed. The Under 12As only lost one game by a narrow margin: John Kershaw's batting, especially his brilliant unbeaten hundred against Reading Blue Coat School, was undoubtedly a highlight. The other centurions also deserve special mention: Abhay Gonella reached the milestone on two occasions for the 1st XI (119\* and 107), Harrison Green (105\*), Joe Sheldon





(113\*), Adit Gandhi (100\*) and Harry James (100\*). Winning seasons for both the U13As and U14As show that the future of RGS cricket looks very bright; in fact, the three Under 14 teams lost just two games between them this term. A highlight in this age-group was Henry Latham's hat-trick, making him the third boy to accomplish that feat, alongside Oliver George and Tom Dowdeswell. Two boys, Matthew Sutton and Rohan Gupta, achieved six wicket hauls of 6-10 and 6-16 respectively. Five wicket hauls were also achieved across a number of ages: Nirek Dandanayak (5-6), Tom Humphreys (5-16), Ned Walker (5-25), Yusuf Hafiz (5-27), Zain Hafiz (5-28) and Tom Hemsworth (5-32).

### SPORTS SHORTS

**Badminton:** Christopher Chong won bronze in the final tournament of the competitive season at the Badminton England Warwickshire Open Boys Singles event.

Fencing: At the British School Team
Fencing Championships, the Under 18 Épée
team won gold to become new National
Champions. The Under 15 Épée team
and Under 13 Foil team were both silver
medallists. This is the first time that the
RGS has won a national team title and have
now finished on the podium in this event
for the eighth consecutive year. On an
individual level, at the British Youth Fencing
Championships in Sheffield, Leo Kamstra was
a bronze medallist in the Under 14 Épée.

**Karate:** Ilhan Mosobbir won a silver medal for his category in the CIMAC Superleague British Karate Open.

**Kick-boxing:** Ilhan Mosobbir came first in two weight categories at the Wako GB

Grandslam. Ilhan fought three fighters over the two weight categories, seven exhausting back-to-back points-based fights, losing just one of them and still coming first overall.

Sailing: Following the recent Optimist Sailing Selection Trials, Ben Mueller was selected for the GB Development Team to represent Great Britain at the US Optimist National Championships in Florida, USA.

Shooting: The RGS VIII competed in the Clayton Challenge and won the cup, beating Wellington College by one point. Then at the Surrey Rifle Association Schools' Meeting, the team excelled itself picking up three trophies: Alfie Hellings won the trophy for the best marksman and our VIII won trophies for being both the Best Surrey School and the Best School overall. Finally, in the London and Middlesex RA Schools' meeting, the VIII won its third competition in a row, defeating local rivals, Epsom and Wellington for the third time.

Speed Skating: Theo Collins is the current British Champion for Juvenile Boys, having won all his races in the British Short Track Speed Skating Championships. In the British Long Track Speed Skating Championships, he gained a silver medal at 500m in the Junior category.

Swimming: Max Windle qualified for six events at the Cardiff International Open Meet, providing Max with the opportunity to compete alongside European and Olympic champions in a bid to qualify for this year's age group Nationals.

Tennis: Jamie Diack is currently ranked number 1 in Surrey at Under 12, leading to attendance at a national camp in La Manga, Spain and selection to represent Great Britain at the Queenswood Cup against the Czech Republic, Netherlands, Croatia and Slovenia.

## AND FINALLY ...



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford

### **#RGSImages**

Spring has finally arrived at the RGS as the Headmaster's lawn looks resplendent in the sunshine.



### RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford Jun 20

#### #RGSGuildford

The perfect end to the New Boys' Reception Afternoon: a simply stunning selection of food from @HolroydHowe. Thank you.



### RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford Jun 26

#### #RGSGuildford

#RGSECA Live from the 2018 Warhammer Schools' League National Final! The RGS team has arrived, armies are being assembled.





RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford Jun 18

#### #RGSCharity

Thanks to all those who contributed to today's really entertaining charity coin trail. Every single penny goes to charity.





#### #RGSTrips

A well-deserved day @THORPEPARK for the First Form to celebrate the end of the school examination week @RGSACTIV.



### RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford May 8

#### #RGSArt

The A Level Art coursework deadline is approaching...





#### **#RGSYE**

We are delighted to welcome David Munro, Surrey's Police and Crime Commissioner to the RGS.





#### #RGSArchive

@RGSGuildford

A youthful looking Mr Simpson, former - and, indeed, the original - Director of Studies, teaching a Biology lesson from last century!





#### #RGSFootball

The fiercely contested Fifth Form house football matches took place during games yesterday afternoon.

