

The Bulletin

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From the Headmaster

A school Sports Day is one of the most evocative memories of school life for old and young alike, for many parents immediately conjuring up images of their own school days: grass tracks, plimsolls, unflattering sports vests, sun-baked fields, old-school egg-and-spoon or sack races. The RGS Sports Day is likewise an established and much anticipated part of the School Calendar, the only element which has so often been missing, however, has been that quintessentially British summer tradition, the weather. 2019 certainly more than made up for that. For the first time in recent memory, brooding dark grey skies and bouts of torrential rain simply added to the atmosphere of the event.

The competitive element of this competition, however, has been a sensitive subject in education recently. A survey a couple of years ago provided the alarming statistic that two out of three schools ensured all students were rewarded on sports days to guarantee that nobody felt left out: the argument centred around inclusivity, praising all equally, fear of negativity, and minimising disappointment. This seems all the more ironic as the very phraseology of athletics focuses around excellence and dedication: setting the bar high, achieving a personal best, going the extra mile, to name but a few. Indeed, the motto of the ultimate Sports Day – the Olympic Games – *citius, altius, fortius* (*faster, higher, stronger*) champions pushing oneself to achieve exceptional performance.

At the RGS as well as celebrating participation, we unashamedly celebrate success. Learning to cope with disappointment, under-performance and frustration are more valuable than winning if lessons can be learned and put into practice on future occasions. Healthy competition spurs each individual to push themselves that little bit further and the supportive, positive atmosphere of our Sports Day highlighted the impact of such solidarity. I have no doubt that healthy competition within a positive, nurturing environment (with, of course, the added challenge of British summertime) is to the benefit of every individual – both winners and the not-quite winners – and this mindset will ensure that our students stay right on track throughout their school careers and beyond.

Latest News

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Classics: In the Guildford Classical Association general knowledge quiz, *Certamen*, local schools and RGS teams battled for supremacy with their classical knowledge. Both our teams made it through to the finals and the junior team comprising **Matthew Turner** (2L), **Zac Warham** (1L) and **Marcus Woodhouse** (1L) were victorious in their age group.

Modern Foreign Languages: **James Harper-Jones** (3P) represented the RGS in the final of the Nihongo Cup held at the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies at the University of Oxford. The Nihongo Cup is a nationwide speech competition for learners of Japanese in UK secondary schools. James spoke articulately and confidently about topics including Tokyo, capsule hotels, temples and even Tokyo Disneyland.

Physics: **Peter Heylen** (L6) has been invited to attend the Senior Physics Challenge Conference at Cambridge University. This is an annual conference where the top 30 students nationally who have taken part in the Isaacs Physics Challenge attend a series of lectures and workshops on Quantum Mechanics.

Quiz: The national final of Junior Schools Challenge came down to the final round of questions and the RGS lost out after an incredibly tense match to the Perse School, Cambridge, where the lead changed hands many times. The final score was 610 – 630. The RGS team of **Tom Postance** (2L), **Matthew Turner** (2L), **James Trowbridge** (1R) and **Zac Warham** (1L) did themselves and the School great credit with their knowledge, teamwork, speed of thought, and grace in victory and defeat alike.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Athletics: In this year's Sports Day, 16 school records were broken in total, across all age groups, including a 13-metre improvement in the Fourth Form javelin record by **Jack Doyle** (4A) (40.55m), and a storming run in the 200m from **Joe Thorneycroft** (1L) with a time of 26:11. In the Open events, **Ben Fitzpatrick** (L6) just pipped **Charlie Kershaw** (L6) in the 800m in an astonishing time of 2:00:9, smashing the record last set in 2000. Sprinter **Matt Harris** (L6) 200m best of 22:53 beat a record set even earlier in 1986. Other highlights included **Sam Hinton** (3R) who broke the 800m record with 2:13:8, previously set in 2001 and **Will Peasey** (1R) who was a double-record-breaker in shot and discus. In the House competition, in one of the tightest contests in recent memory, Austen just beat Nettles to first place by 1½ points.

Cricket: In the junior block against Dunottar School, the RGS teams emerged with five wins. Pick of the victories was a nine-wicket victory for the Under 12Cs, while the Under 12Bs secured a nail-biting win by four runs. The seniors enjoyed some fantastic matches against Cranleigh School: a tie for the Under 15As and a last-ball finish for the Under 15Cs were just two highlights. The challenging block fixture against St Paul's School then yielded some of the best performances of the term so far with the RGS recording an impressive seven wins out of the ten matches played. Some tight matches included a victory for the 1st XI who won off the last ball, after chasing 237 from 50 overs. Equally impressive, although unfortunately not with the same outcome, the Under 13As managed to fall one run short of their target after being set 183 runs to win. Individually with the bat, performances of the day came from **Joe Dewar** (4V) who scored 71* in the Under 15A team 77-run victory and **Harvey Brooks** (L6) with 66 in the win for the 2nd XI.

Fencing: In the England Youth Championships in the Under 13 épée, **Ben Kamstra** (1E) performed impressively finishing in ninth place.

Karting: **Arvid Lindblad** (1E) is now racing on the European Tour and he had his first win in at South Garda Karting, near Lake Garda in Northern Italy. In a field of 80 drivers from all over the world he managed to win from P9 on the grid in the final: an extraordinary achievement.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Friday 28 June	Opera performance in the courtyard of the Old Building (for two nights)
Monday 1 July	Field Day 5
Tuesday 2 July	Leavers' Concert in the Recital Room
Wednesday 3 July	Junior Instrumental Concert in the Recital Room
Thursday 4 July	Drama production, <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream Goes Wrong</i> , on the Headmaster's Lawn (for two nights)
Friday 5 July	Art Exhibition Private View in the Art School
Tuesday 9 July	Junior Prizegiving in Holy Trinity Church
Friday 12 July	Term ends (at approximately 12.30pm)



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