

The Bulletin

Friday 6 September 2019

Issue 147



From the Headmaster

I hope you and your family had a relaxing summer holiday and that your son is refreshed and ready for the start of the school year. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new boys and their parents. The beginning of the academic year and a fresh intake mark an exciting stage and I have every confidence that the new boys will make a real impact upon the School. I look forward to getting to know them individually and to observing them as they develop and flourish.

We are justifiably proud of the success of our boys and, indeed, striving for excellence and harbouring healthy ambition are admirable traits which epitomise our community; however, these are achieved in a caring and compassionate way. For us as a school, inclusivity, integrity, respect, tenacity and service are equally as important as scholarship and achievement. The RGS is a welcoming environment where a mutually supportive ethos is at the very heart of our philosophy. Each individual at the RGS has so much untapped potential; to unlock this, the boys must be confident and happy. If you have any concerns with regard to your son, however seemingly trivial, please do not hesitate to contact the School via his Tutor. Each boy has a number of members of staff he can turn to if he wants advice or guidance. His Tutor is likely to be his first point of contact; however, every individual also has their Head of Year, Head of Section, Housemaster, Personal Tutor (Fourth Form and above), the Deputy Head (Pupils), the School Nurse, and the School Counsellor. In addition, the senior boys, with the benefit of professional training, take an active role in the mentoring of junior boys to provide peer support; this has proved to be a highly successful initiative. By talking openly and airing concerns, we can help swiftly to resolve any issues as they arise.

For the benefit of those parents new to the School, the RGS newsletter *The Bulletin* is published electronically every two weeks. We are very proud of the efforts and achievements of our boys and this fortnightly publication provides an opportunity to celebrate the many diverse successes enjoyed by our community. I am always keen to hear news of RGS boys so that their energy, industry and achievements can be recognised; please do not hesitate to keep me informed. As well as *The Bulletin*, the RGS website and social media platforms – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter – also provide useful means of staying updated with news from the School and gaining an insight into daily life. In addition, each day, *The RGS Today* is emailed to all students and this, again, provides the boys with an invaluable way of keeping aware of the many diverse opportunities open to them.

As I have mentioned, the strong sense of community is very important to us and we greatly value the involvement and support of parents and families at school events. The *Forthcoming Events* section at the end of this newsletter highlights those events in the School Calendar – in addition to the sports fixtures – which may be of special interest to parents or to which you are warmly invited to attend.

I wish your son a very happy and fulfilling year and look forward to meeting you during the course of this academic year.

Latest News

[View the full news archive](#)

Academic: RGS students, once again, performed impressively as the School recorded its second best set of results at GCSE. In total, an astonishing 50% of all results were at the new Grade 9 and 75% at Grade 8 or 9, the equivalent to the old grade A*. In total, an extraordinary 735 Grade 9s were achieved by this talented cohort of students. 16 boys celebrated a clean sweep of all Grade 9s, and 27 boys in total achieved nine Grade 9s or more. 73 students secured at least nine Grades 8 or 9. At A Level, the most common grade was the A*, followed closely by the A grade. In total, an impressive 299 A*/A grades were achieved. 55 boys secured a clean set of A* and A grades, 22 of whom secured a perfect set of A* grades. Of a talented cohort, 28 students received offers from Cambridge and Oxford Universities as the students secured places on some of the most competitive courses at the leading universities in the country.

Chemistry: **Alex Thow** (L6) attended the training camp at Cambridge University and received a trophy for his Roentgenium Award in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. He was one of only four students below the Sixth Form in the UK to win the top Award.

Staff: The RGS is delighted to welcome the following new members of teaching staff: Mrs Busby (Mathematics); Mr Cornwell (Economics); Mr Eburne (Chemistry and Biology); Dr Fanti (Classics); Mr Foster (Religion & Philosophy); Mrs Gericke (English); Mr Griffin (English); Dr Jackson (Mathematics); Mr Oliver (Geography); Mr Royds (Physics and Mathematics); Mrs Taylor (Mathematics); Mrs Wood (Art); Mr Xuan (Economics); and our two language assistantes Sophia-Maria Sieber (German) and Sophia Benmoussa (French). We wish them all a very successful and enjoyable career at the School.

Trips: There were a vast number of trips, tours and expeditions over the summer holidays. These included: the Joint Guildford High School and RGS orchestra tour to Tuscany; the Cambodia expedition; the hockey and football tour to Singapore and Malaysia; the Geography trip to the Azores; the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award yachting in the Solent; and the various rugby pre-season training camps.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Canoeing: **Jordan Martyn** (U6) competed for Great Britain in the European Junior K2 marathon canoe championships where he finished in fifth place. He subsequently won the National Junior title and, together with his partner, has now been selected to represent Great Britain in the World Championships in China.

Hockey: **Finn Cooper** (L6) has been selected to join the England Under 18 Hockey training camp.

Shooting: In the Imperial meeting the RGS won the East Surrey Bi-Centenary Bowl for the best team in the south east, the Garry Cup for schools competing against the Canadian National Under 18 team, and the Kinder Cup for the best score at 300 yards. The highlight, however, was winning the Ashburton Shield for only the second time in 100 years. This is the oldest and most prestigious competition for cadets, dating back to 1861. The combined scores resulted in securing the Lucas Trophy, dating back to 1859, for the first time.

Swimming: **Andrew Brett** (3C) has been selected to represent Surrey in the England National County Team Championships at the International Sports Centre in Sheffield.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 9 September	Class of 2021: Welcome to the Sixth Form for Parents in the Auditorium
Wednesday 11 September	Italy Tour and Chamber Choir Concert in Holy Trinity Church
Thursday 12 September	Guidance for Upper Sixth Parents on UCAS Application in the Auditorium
Friday 13 September	Commemoration Service in Guildford Cathedral
Saturday 14 September	Heritage Open Day in the Old Building



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