



From the Headmaster

As a school in the heart of the local community, a school which has service as one of its core values, the themes of self-sacrifice, charity, collaboration and altruism would seem particularly poignant. In this light, our annual Commemoration Service last week served to remind us all of the extraordinary debt we owe to those individuals and families without whom the modern RGS would not exist.

Guildford Cathedral provided the wonderful setting for the staff and students to unite in communal celebration: an opportunity to welcome those new to our community, staff and students alike, and to reflect on a rich tradition of which we are all currently proud to be a part. The Service allowed us to express formally our gratitude to *“our founders and many benefactors, men and women whose generous gifts and dedicated service have built, maintained and improved the School over the centuries”*. These individuals showed exceptional vision and benevolence to support an institution which, more than 500 years since its original foundation, continues to educate and inspire so many talented local students.

One of the central messages of the service was the importance of not wasting this opportunity. I firmly believe that our values, our learning habits, our focus on perspective mean that we are nurturing students who do have a conscience and who do have an awareness of their responsibility as citizens to make a difference, students who are capable of listening and collaborating with others. Pleasingly, this was perfectly illustrated by the response to our annual nomination process for those charities which the School will support this year. Not only were a record number of excellent causes put forward but the response, in little more than 24 hours, was phenomenal with over 720 individuals taking the time to engage with the process and vote for their chosen charities. Such a level of engagement bodes well and if we can embed this altruistic ethos, this compassion and this genuine desire to help others, then this is, perhaps, our greatest legacy of all.

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Charity: The charities voted for by students and staff to support this year are as follows. The local charity is *Shooting Star Children's Hospices*, a leading hospice charity caring for babies, children and young people with life-limiting conditions, and their families. The national charity is *Cancer Research UK* which pioneers life-saving research to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured. Finally, the international charity is *WaterAid*, determined to make water, sanitation and hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere.

Geography: **Freddie Lonie** (U6) has won the Trinity Group Geography essay prize with his submission entitled *The Role of Geopolitical Constraints on Global Interactions*: a mature and insightful piece of research focused on Russia and China.

Music: A memorable concert in Holy Trinity Church presented the programme that the GHS/RGS Chamber Choir and Orchestra had performed in Italy on their summer tour, and also served as an opportunity to

celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Joint Chamber Choir. An evening of remarkable music-making demonstrated the extraordinary quality of music with a diverse programme including Rossini's evergreen overture *The Barber of Seville*, some movements from Sibelius's *Karelia Suite*, Walton's stirring *Crown Imperial*, and *Hail Gladdening Light* by Charles Wood.

Model United Nations: 35 boys of all age groups visited Wycombe Abbey for a pre-season Model United Nations (MUN) Conference. The event offered a valuable opportunity to acquire more advanced public speaking and resolution-writing know-how, as our students learned new MUN techniques and skills, while debating current global issues.

Sports News

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Chess: The RGS 1st VI won the Eton College Rapidplay Tournament, beating 54 other teams including many of the best school chess teams in the UK and Ireland. It was a very tight affair, with the team beating Gonzaga College from Dublin in the final match to take the title, as well as beating National Champions King's College London 6 – 0 in an earlier round. Particular congratulations go to **Omeet Atara** (L6) who won all five of his games. The RGS has now won the trophy for an unprecedented three years in a row.

Cross-Country: The cross-country team met with considerable success in the first fixture of the season at Charterhouse School. The junior team impressed, taking the bronze medals on a challenging course: **Joe Thorneycroft** (2L) being our first runner home. The seniors were convincing winners in their race with **Will Barnicoat** (L6) on his first competitive race for the RGS dominating in first place. He was closely followed by **Sam Martin** (L6) in second, **Andrey McIntyre** (L6) fourth and **Sam Perryman** (U6) in seventh position.

Football: The first three fixtures of term saw the 1st XI competing against the RGS Leavers 2019, Eton College and Kingston Grammar School. **Nicholas Scott** (U6) scored in all three fixtures to cement an impressive start with four goals. A tight 4 – 3 win against Kingston Grammar School showed promising signs for the season ahead.

Rugby: The opening block fixture saw 14 teams pitting their wits against King's College School, Wimbledon. The 1st XV made an impressive start with a 24 – 15 victory. In addition, highlights included strong wins for the Under 16B and Under 15B teams. This was then followed by the traditionally challenging block against Epsom College. The RGS teams emerged with real credit, remaining competitive in the face of a succession of physical matches. The Under 16Bs maintained their perfect start with a 38 – 24 victory and the Under 14s, as an age group, emerged on top with three out of four wins, including a 36 – 0 win for the Under 14Ds.

Sailing: **Rob Mawdsley** (3S) won the silver medal at the Optifall Open Belgian Sailing Championships 2019: an admirable achievement bearing in mind he was competing against a field of 84 competitors from all over Europe.

Skiing: The RGS ski race team was out in force with seven teams competing in the English Schools qualifying round in Southampton, with boys from all year groups. With some accomplished performances on the slopes, although the results have yet to be published, we are hopeful of qualification to the next round.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Saturday 21 September First Form Parents' Association Dinner in the Great Hall

Friday 27 September Third Form Parents' Association Dinner in Great Hall

Monday 30 September Field Day 1

Tuesday 1 October Market Day Concert in Holy Trinity Church

Thursday 3 October Cambodia 2021 Launch Event at Tormead School

