



From the Headmaster

The concept of values may seem like a rather quaint anachronism: in a world dominated by technology, artificial intelligence, and electronic communication, one could easily question the relevance of such abstract ideals. Indeed, if evidence is needed that such qualities belong to another era, Nigel Watson in his *History of the School* acknowledges that as far back as the 1500s, moral instruction was integral to the education provided at the RGS. The statutes laid down that, "*Honesty and cleanness of life, gentle, decent speeches, humility, courtesy, and good manners shall be established by all good means.*" The Latin inscriptions on the old schoolroom walls – which remain to this day in School Room – gave a further indication of the educational philosophy of the RGS. These include a number of pertinent instructions: the inscription above translates as *the diligent man is busy even in leisure*; another notes that *work conquers all things*; and yet another reminds the boys that *it will be pleasant in some future time to remember these things*.

Yet, with division, dissension and distrust continuing to dominate today's political landscape, our values, which could so easily be regarded as old fashioned and outdated, in fact could hardly be more relevant. Showing care, consideration and compassion in all that we do and celebrating mutual respect, tolerance and individuality are the hallmarks of our community. All too often it is easy to regard diversity as a threat. In fact, our differences of viewpoint, politics, religion and language enrich our experiences and broaden our horizons, challenging students to reassess their thoughts in the light of others. Indeed, I hope that our links with international schools are just one of the ways in which a global view of connectivity and collaboration is nurtured at the RGS.

As the media continues to paint a bleak picture of the current political climate, so I am convinced all the more that the preservation of our core values – inclusivity, scholarship, integrity, respect, tenacity and service – can be a source of hope for the future and can nurture citizens who are better placed to navigate a successful pathway through conflict and disagreement. And this belief has, and will, stand the test of time.

Latest News

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Field Day: Field Day 1 saw the whole school off-timetable and involved in a range of co-curricular activities, activities which reinforce so many of the School's values and learning habits such as teamwork, resilience, leadership, and self-discipline. Activities included: the Art group visit to the Royal Academy of Arts; the CCF army cadets at Longmoor Barracks, Delta Force and Wildwood; the CCF RAF students visit to Brooklands aviation and motor museum; the CCF RN cadets experiencing a day aboard the RN HQ's largest yacht, a Halberg Rassy 49'; the Drama group refining their improvisatory and performance skills and the Technical Theatre group preparing the rigging, angling and focusing of lights for the forthcoming plays; hiking, kitesurfing, lifesaving, mountain biking, overnight expeditions, trekking and karting, to name but a few. The First Form spent the weekend on the Isle of Wight on adventurous activities and the Second Form enjoyed a Business Enterprise Day, while the Third Form were at Bentley Copse Activity Centre.

Music: The annual HMC Conference (the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference) is a professional Association of heads of the world's leading independent schools. At this year's conference, the combined RGS / GHS Choir performed as part of the Annual Service which, this year, was held in the Old Royal Naval Chapel, Greenwich. The choir excelled itself producing music of such a high quality that one headmaster of many years' experience commented that he had never heard a better school choir in all the years he had been teaching.

Sports News

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Chess: The RGS hosted the Russell Trophy which included Hampton School, Tiffin School and King's College School, Wimbledon; unusually, this is an annual tournament for teams of eight. RGS students impressed as our 1st team won their bracket, The Championship, and our 2nd team won their bracket too, The Major. This result was followed up in the domestic league by a 6 – 0 success for the 1st VI against Reigate Grammar School.

Fencing: In the Cadet Under 17 National Championships, highlights included **Leo Kamstra** (5B) coming sixth in the Épée while **Freddie Edgecliffe-Johnson** (5V) came thirtieth in the Foil. These were particularly good results as our fencers are young for the Under 17 age group. This was one of Leo's best results this season earning him 2,295 points towards his England ranking.

Football: The 1st XI lost narrowly 1 – 2 against Sutton Grammar School despite playing some progressive, fluent football. **Jake Sloggett** (U6) scored the only goal for the RGS.

Rugby: In the Champions Trophy Round 1, the 1st XV made an impressive start to the prestigious tournament with a 19 – 3 victory against Bryanston School. In the traditionally tough block fixture against Wimbledon College, our teams emerged with credit winning ten of the matches and drawing two of the nineteen fixtures played. Highlights included a 51 – 0 for the 2nd XV and the Under 16s and Under 13s secured a clean sweep of wins out of the six matches played. The RGS then competed for the first time as a block fixture against Emanuel School in Battersea, south-west London. An enjoyable set of matches resulted in fifteen wins and one draw out of the seventeen fixtures: the matches were characterised across the board by expansive, running rugby which bodes well for the rest of the term. The 1st XV impressed during a 62 – 17 victory; at the other end of the age range, our Under 12s showed promise for the future with five wins out of five from the A to E teams.

Swimming: In the 2019 Surrey Secondary Schools Team Championships, a large squad of RGS swimmers represented the School in the relays. The Junior team of **Hayden Amiss** (2C), **George Fowler** (2P), **Joe Thorneycroft** (2L), **Zac Tinkler** (2L) and **Angus Whyte** (1L) won their Medley Relay and came second in their Freestyle Relay. The Intermediate came third in the Freestyle Relay where they gained third position.

Forthcoming Events

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Saturday 5 October	Open Day
Thursday 10 October	Stand-up Comedy Evening in the Auditorium
Friday 11 October	Performance of Euripides' <i>Medea</i> in the Auditorium
Monday 14 October	Oxbridge Interview Seminar in the Auditorium
Tuesday 15 October	New Parents' Reception in Great Hall ILA Presentation Evening in the Auditorium
Wednesday 16 October	Upper Sixth Form Parents' Evening in the Main Building
Thursday 17 October	Start of Twenty for 2020 Challenge Day

