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PASS IT ON

From the Headmaster

I have spoken on numerous occasions about my commitment to full merit-based open access: that every bright student who earns his place can take it up, irrespective of financial circumstances or background. Inclusivity is at the forefront of our values; our grammar school roots mean that this philosophy is at the very heart of our community. We were founded in 1509 as a *'free schole'* for the benefit of bright local boys without means; our time as part of the state-maintained system from 1945 – 1977, when all boys attended for free, cemented that ethos in our culture. To this day, we are still educating bright local boys, but we are only able to offer bursary support to 7% of the student body. As we look to create 20 new and sustainable bursary places, RGS Giving Day is an exciting innovation and opportunity for the whole community.

It is an experiment. We are one of the first independent schools in the country to host an online fundraising event like this. Our aim is to bring the RGS community together to raise as much money as possible but, equally importantly, to raise awareness about why bursaries matter. I genuinely believe that education is worth little if it teaches only how to make a living rather than how to make a life: this principle underpins the education we offer here at the RGS.

As we look to the complex challenges of the 21st century, one thing is clear to me. These challenges will only be solved with the collaboration of people across potential barriers of age, race, class and belief. Qualities such as resilience and perspective, the ability to work as a team and take appropriate risks will be the skills required by tomorrow's leaders: individuals who have the desire to make a difference. The fact that the young men who possess these attributes come from all parts of our society makes means-tested bursaries more important than ever – for all our futures.

That is why I am so proud of our experiment with RGS Giving Day and so proud to see that we have already risen to the challenge. If I have learned anything about our community it is that the energy, cohesion and determination of the students, the staff, the governors and the parents mean that anything, and everything, is in fact possible. Thank you.

Latest News

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Art: Congratulations to **William Holmes** (2P) who has won this year's Smoothey Art Competition: a competition which celebrates innovation and creativity in art with his 3D piece, a *Japanese Idyll*.

Comedy Evening: A highly amusing night, in front a packed audience and compèred by Old Guildfordian Paul Kerensa, raised an extraordinary £1,738 for *Stand Up to Cancer* and our school's nominated charities.

Design: **Elliott Latham** (L6) exhibited his garden tools storage trolley at the Young Furniture Maker's Exhibition, winning one of the design prizes for his impressive GCSE work.

Drama: A mesmerising performance by **Ollie Taylor** (U6) in the lead role and ably supported by **Joe Field** (U6) as Jason contributed to a powerful student-led production of Euripides' *Medea*. The characters, in a mature and nuanced fashion, captured the emotional torment evident throughout this challenging play.

Independent Learning Assignment: The ILA Presentation Evening showcased seven-minute presentations of the students' research projects. The finalists – from both the Arts and from STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) – presented on topics as diverse as valuing unpaid labour to gecko's feet, from the biology of ageing to how to spot tax fraud. **Tian Fang** (U6) was the winner in the STEM category; he quite literally built a jet engine in his shed. **Alfie Cherry** (U6) was winner in the Arts category, speaking on the political ideology of Democratic Confederalism and its implementation in Syria.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Badminton: **Sam Baker** (5P) is currently ranked in the top 10 in England for his Under 17 age group and recently competed in a Gold Tier tournament for the best players in the country in Leigh, near Manchester. In addition, the Under 19A secured an encouraging 2 – 2 draw against Reed's School.

Chess: In the annual Millfield International Tournament, the RGS finished in a very respectable second place, only losing out to the now six-time consecutive Irish winners, Gonzaga College. **Matt Gray** (5A) and **Omeet Atara** (L6) finished the weekend undefeated; **William Golding** (4N) and **Amardip Ahluwalia** (5V) won their board prizes; **James Golding** (U6) won his board prize and his age group prize. **James Dicker** (3P) achieved a perfect seven out of seven in his games, winning his board prize. **Alex Golding** (5N) won his board prize, his age group prize and the prestigious *Stephen Joseph Award* for Best Player in the Tournament.

Climbing: **Harry Chilcott** (1P), after coming fourth nationally in recent competitions, has been invited to trial for the Great Britain Youth Development squad.

Football: The 1st XI secured an excellent 5 – 0 victory against Frensham Heights with a brace from **Alex Tiplady** (U6).

Hockey: In the England Tier 1 Championship, the 1st XI beat Kingston Grammar School 2 – 0.

Rugby: In the block fixture against St John's School Leatherhead, the Under 16B team continued their fine recent run with a narrow 29 – 24 win. Other highlights included three wins out of three for the Under 12 teams, scoring exactly 100 points in the process. In the Under 15s National Cup, the Under 15As beat Reigate Grammar School 10 – 5. The fixture against The Judd School started with *Super Friday*, where the whole First Form competed in school matches. This was followed by the block fixture, including an accomplished 29 – 5 victory for the 1st XV, as they bounced back from a tough game in the Champions Trophy against Rugby School.

Sailing: **Rob Mawdsley** (3S) finished second out of 153 sailors in the Optimist IOCA End-of-Seasons event in Portland. This was his final ranking event for the year and he is now ranked third in the UK. In light of this, he will now be invited to join the RYA UK National Squad.

Shooting: Our VIII began its indoor season with a comfortable victory against Epsom College; **Cameron Philp** (L6) and **Sam Cherry** (U6) were our top scorers. In addition, **Faraz Ahmad** (U6) and **Peter Carvell** (5B) won the pairs match with a score of 182/200.

Swimming: **Andrew Brett** (3C) represented Surrey in the National County Team Championships, finishing twelfth in the 100m backstroke, and fifth in the medley relay.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Tuesday 5 November Market Day Concert in Holy Trinity Church

Wednesday 6 November King's Lecture in the Auditorium

Thursday 7 November A Level Options Evening in Great Hall

Tuesday 12 November Second Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall

Wednesday 13 November Junior Piano Concert in the Recital Room



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