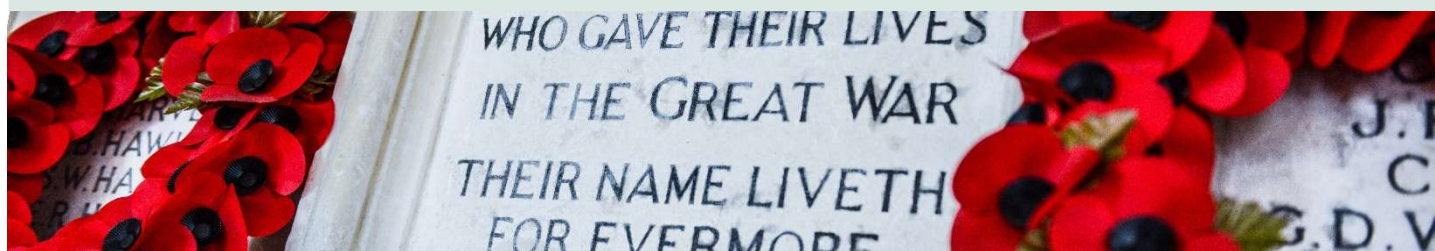


The Bulletin

Friday 15 November 2019

Issue 151



From the Headmaster

As the poet Robert Laurence Binyon wrote in his poem entitled *For the Fallen*, published in *The Times* on 21st September 1914, and now synonymous with the spirit of remembrance: “*They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.*”

The School provides enduring memorials to ensure we will, indeed, remember them. The board in Big School, pictured above, individually names the 58 Old Guildfordians who tragically lost their lives between 1914 – 18; a further 96 are recorded on the board commemorating 1939 – 45 in the same historic location. In addition to these very visible records, our annual Remembrance Service provides the opportunity for the School to come together to acknowledge our debt to those who served in the World Wars and in recent conflict, and to reflect upon their sacrifices.

This year’s service was particularly poignant as the RGS welcomed a number of eminent and decorated former members of our community to mark the occasion. Mr Robert Strick, Old Guildfordian 1949 and Governor 1994 – 2004, laid a wreath in memory of the old boys, while School Captain, Lucas Savage, laid a wreath on behalf of the staff and students of the School. Old Guildfordian Lieutenant Colonel Tom Archer-Burton then delivered an inspiring address in which he spoke about the importance, in the current climate, of ensuring that peace and freedom prevail. He highlighted the values of courage, respect and integrity but also emphasised the fact that every single individual has a role to play in protecting our future. This message was powerfully brought home as Deputy School Captain, Roy Brett, read out the names and ages of those Old Guildfordians who had died on the Ypres salient, the youngest being just 19: individuals who had walked the same corridors and had the same youthful dreams and aspirations as students.

A moving and very personal service proved thought provoking and emotive for boys, staff and Old Guildfordians alike. Despite the famous lines quoted above, it is perhaps the lesser known parts of the same poem by Binyon, however, which resonate for us as a school. The poet notes the youthful tragedy of the war losses: “*They went with songs to the battle, they were young, straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.*” This only serves to make the impact of their deaths all the more acute: “*They mingle not with their laughing comrades again; they sit no more at familiar tables of home.*” As the boards in Big School commemorate and as Binyon said, “*We will remember them.*”

Latest News

[View the full news archive](#)

Environment: James Miller (U6) gave an outstanding speech about the youth environmental movement at The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds’ Annual General Meeting.

Drama: Our GCSE Drama students excelled in their devised examination with a number of mature, nuanced performances. Their atmospheric play, entitled *The Resurrectionists*, explored the history of body snatchers in the 19th century.

King's Lecture: This term's lecture provided a fascinating behind-the-scenes insight into one of Britain's most iconic landmarks, as we welcomed Director of the Natural History Museum, Sir Michael Dixon. With the environment and sustainability at the very forefront of our minds and agenda, the theme of creating advocates for the planet could hardly have been more topical. The extent of scientific research and global collaboration at the Museum, and the greater emphasis on engagement, debate, and solutions provide a source of great hope in striving for a sustainable future.

Mathematics: In the south regional round of the Senior Maths Challenge, our Sixth Form team **Andrew Florescu, Matt Hawkins, Conor Rajan** and **Ben Watkins** won the competition, beating 18 other schools.

Model United Nations: The RGS hosted its first Model United Nations conference for five years with over 80 delegates convening for a day comprising a Women's Rights Committee, a Human Rights Committee, and the prestigious Security Council. In addition, independent candidate for Guildford Anne Milton spoke to delegates about the political landscape. The day concluded with a General Assembly, conducted in cross-school groups, to debate a fictional crisis whereby the USA leave NATO and invade Greenland.

Scouts: **Rishikesh Mistry** (3E) has been presented with the Chief Scout Gold award. This is the highest award that can be achieved in the scout section.

Trips: Recent trips have included the following: the Economics trip to Geneva, the highlight of which was gaining unprecedented access to the World Trade Organisation; the History and German trip to Munich, including the moving visit to Dachau; and the Duke of Edinburgh gold and silver practice expeditions to the Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains respectively.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Chess: The RGS 1st VI beat Wilson's School by 4½ to 1½.

Cross-country: The RGS hosted the annual Haskell Cup cross-country relay on Merrow Downs. The fixture is one of the major cross-country events in the south-east and this year attracted 50 teams, including as a new initiative 12 girls' teams. The RGS A team of **Will Barnicoat** (L6), **Tom Jones** (L6), **Charlie Kershaw** (U6) and **Sam Martin** (L6) won the race to take the Haskell Cup for only the second time in its history, the last time being in its inaugural year in 1954. Of the 200 runners the fastest lap was run by Will who knocked an impressive 16 seconds off the course record; Sam and Tom were third and fourth fastest respectively.

Rugby: On a day when torrential rain and mud necessitated washing machines going into overdrive throughout Surrey, RGS boys played with commitment and passion. In the junior block against Portsmouth Grammar School, the Under 12 and 13 teams recorded six out of six wins, averaging over 45 points scored in each of the matches. In the main block against Cranleigh School, highlights included the Under 15 and 16 teams who were undefeated, recording six wins and one draw. Game of the day, albeit frustrating, was an excellent Under 14A fixture, where – despite putting their bodies on the line – the RGS finished on the wrong end of a narrow 22 – 21 scoreline.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 18 November	Staff Inset Day: school closed for students
Tuesday 19 November	Monday Timetable
Wednesday 20 November	Careers in Finance Seminar in the Auditorium
Thursday 21 November	Ensembles Concert in the Auditorium
Wednesday 27 November	Fourth Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall Junior School Production of <i>The Tempest</i> at G Live
Thursday 28 November	RGS Christmas Fair in Great Hall



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