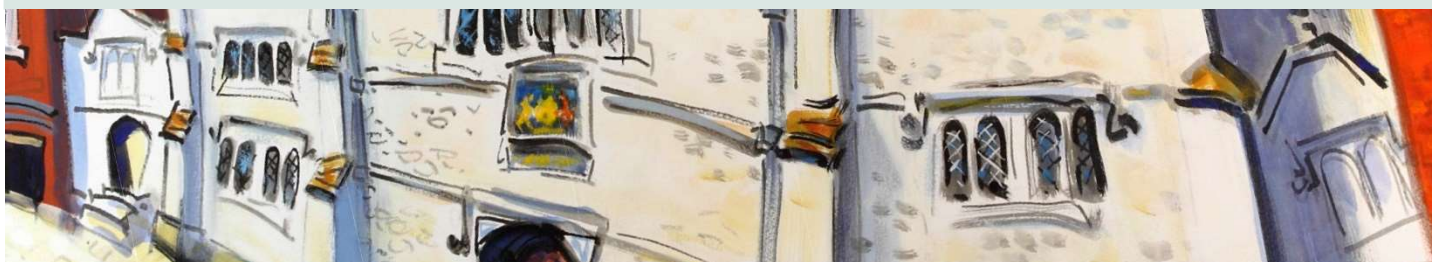


## The Bulletin

Friday 17 January 2020

Issue 154



### From the Headmaster

A world dominated by rule, regulation, and policy inevitably leads to a greater degree of conformity. In contrast to this, however, and especially during grey, wet January days I firmly believe that the eccentric and idiosyncratic are all the more important in bringing colour into our lives and in reminding us all that individuality is a key factor in enriching any community. After all, if you walk in the footprints of others, you will never make any of your own.

This week marks the anniversary of the death of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, known more commonly as Lewis Carroll, who died in 1898 aged 66. Lewis Carroll and the whimsical, wonderful world of *Alice in Wonderland* would not, on face value, have an obvious connection with the RGS. Flamingo croquet, mad tea parties, jam tarts, the appearance of Humpty Dumpty do not, regrettably, feature highly in daily school life. And yet the links are compelling. Lewis Carroll's funeral was held at St Mary's Church in Guildford and his resting place is The Mount Cemetery in Guildford. Guildford is veritably dotted with allusions: *The March Hare* pub; the traditional hat shop *Mad Hatter*; the statues of Alice with her sister watching the rabbit go down the hole near *Debenhams*; the permanent exhibition in the Guildford Museum; to name but a few. Indeed, this link will strengthen further later this term as we collaborate with the Rikkyo School on a bilingual (English/Japanese) drama production of this literary masterpiece.

With charismatic characters, a compelling storyline, and memorable quotations, *Alice in Wonderland* continues to fuel the imagination with colour, creativity and possibility. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Happy New Year and, as we embark upon a new decade, we should never forget the quirky and the kooky, and perhaps we can also learn something at the same time.

As the Mad Hatter said: "*Have I gone mad?*"

"*I'm afraid so. You're entirely bonkers.*" said Alice. "*But I'll tell you a secret. All the best people are.*"

### Latest News

[View the full news archive](#)

**11+ Entrance Examination:** The RGS 11+ Entrance Examinations took place on Saturday and we were delighted to welcome through our doors just under 400 boys from over 120 different schools. With applicants from both State Primary Schools and Prep Schools, boys had travelled from near and far: from Guildford to Trinidad, from America to Hong Kong. The calibre of applicants impressed and this healthy competition for places as well as the quality and diversity of the intake continue to bode well for the future of the School. Of particular note was the involvement of the Lower Sixth Form students who provided support to the candidates throughout the day; prospective parents were effusive in their praise for the positivity and friendliness of the welcome. Some boys had, apparently, even enjoyed the experience of sitting examinations on a weekend!

**Trips:** Just under 100 students and staff travelled to Les Deux Alpes in France for the annual junior and senior ski trips over the Christmas holidays. The students experienced conditions with everything from idyllic snow conditions to the closure of the whole resort on the last day due to a storm and associated adverse weather conditions. Crêpes, fondue, bowling, a bespoke quiz all formed a key part of the après-ski on what was another very successful trip.

**University:** At a time when university entrance has never been more competitive, our Upper Sixth Form students are continuing to receive offers onto some of the most prestigious courses at leading universities, a reflection of the strength of their applications. So far, boys have received over 400 offers which include 54 from Exeter, 35 from Nottingham, 31 from both Bath and Bristol, 25 from each of Durham, Warwick and Leeds and 24 from the London quartet of Imperial, University College London, King's College London and London School of Economics. At the time of writing, RGS students have so far received 17 Oxbridge offers. These offers cover a range of courses balanced across both the sciences and the arts/humanities/social sciences. All the boys who applied worked with commendable dedication and commitment and our thoughts go out to those very talented students who unfortunately just missed out on being made offers; they should all be proud of their efforts and take heart from the fact that several of last year's students used the disappointment of missing out on an offer as a springboard to successful applications this time around.

## Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

**Badminton:** **Sam Baker** (5P) won a silver medal in the Men's Doubles Badminton tournament held in Cyprus; he has now climbed in the rankings to number five in England for his age group.

**Cross-country:** **Will Barnicoat** (L6) has been invited to run, for a second time, for the England Under 20 team in Seville.

**Football:** In the traditional opening fixture, the 1st XI won 5 – 2 against the Old Guildfordians XI, including a brace from **Henry Spence** (U6).

**Hockey:** The traditional opening to the hockey season saw eight junior teams play under floodlights against Guildford Hockey Club; well over 40 First Form boys made their RGS debuts. The Under 16A team had an excellent week, beginning with a thrilling 1 – 1 draw against Kingston Grammar School in the first round of the National Cup, narrowly losing out on penalty strokes. This was followed by an exceptional result against Tonbridge School, a resounding 8 – 1 victory. The 1st XI reclaimed the 500th Celebration Trophy, which has been held by Tonbridge School for the last seven years, with a 4 – 2 victory.

**Orienteering:** **Lucas Mills-Hicks** (1E) has been selected to race in the World Championships in Denmark.

**Shooting:** **Johnnie Matheson** (L6) and **Peter Wilkinson** (L6) have been selected for the British Cadet Rifle Team's tour to Canada; this continues a rich tradition of RGS boys being selected for The Athelings. **Cameron Philp** (L6) is first reserve for the tour.

**Speed Skating:** **Theo Collins** (5B) is currently representing Great Britain in the 2020 Winter Youth Olympics in Lausanne, thereby becoming GB's first Olympic speed skater since 1992. Theo has started the event successfully, already winning a silver medal in the mixed relay event as part of a quartet with skaters from Finland, Japan and Poland.

## Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Wednesday 22 January	Parents' Choir rehearsal at Guildford High School
Wednesday 29 January	Parents' Choir rehearsal at Guildford High School
Thursday 30 January	Fifth Form Parents' Evening in the Main Building
Friday 31 January	RGS Careers Convention in the Auditorium and Great Hall



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