

Issue 155



From the Headmaster

In my opening words to my last Bulletin, I spoke of the importance of the eccentric and the idiosyncratic in bringing colour into our lives and in reminding us all that individuality enriches any community. As I mentioned, if you walk in the footprints of others, you will never make any of your own. These words could almost have been written in response to the tragic death last week of Old Guildfordian Terry Jones (far right in the image above); the world will certainly be significantly less colourful with the passing of such a charismatic individual.

Terry certainly made footprints, footprints which will continue to make a mark and to resonate for us. I have no doubt that Terry contributed, in no small way, to a legacy which I genuinely believe still rings true at the RGS. Terry was a phenomenally talented student as his *valet* in *The Guildfordian* celebrates: School Captain, House Captain, various academic prizes for English Literature, full School Colours for rugby and captain of the 1st XV, chairman of the Debating Society and the English Society, editor of the School Magazine, to name just a few highlights. And yet, Terry epitomised the RGS spirit whereby he took what he did seriously, but he didn't take himself too seriously.

In Terry's Foreword of the RGS Oral History he speaks of "a treasure trove of colourful and often hilarious details and anecdotes" from those interviewed about their memories of the School which, as he goes on to say, "cannot hide the affection which most of us have for the old place!" His memories of the RGS sparkle with personality, "Which headmaster, for instance, called in a graphologist to discover which boys had scrawled graffiti in the school lavatories? Which famous pop musician held a mass burning of caps on Top Court? Which year did the ink wells freeze up in the Old School?" As Terry's final words to this Foreword state: "I hope you enjoy this memorial of what is, when all is said and done, a magical place."

Schools are about so much more than results and examinations. Schools are living, breathing communities which exist on memories, friendship, characters and, indeed, humour. Terry will be sorely missed by all who knew him and the world is certainly a poorer place and certainly a less magical place without him.

Latest News

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Academic: **Alasdair Hopwood** (U6) has won the *Bank of England* 2019 Student Technology Competition, as part of his prize he has been awarded a paid internship this summer. The challenge was to use data to measure the impact of climate change on the economy. Alasdair's in-depth analysis, unique charts, professional production values and well-reasoned conclusions impressed the judges who proclaimed him the overall winner of this prestigious national competition.

Model United Nations: At the Wycombe Abbey Model United Nations conference, a very successful and enjoyable event resulted in three of our five delegations receiving awards. Highly Commended Delegate awards were given to **Salvatore Nigrelli** (L6) and **Omeet Atara** (L6) representing Kuwait in the Security

Council and **Jack Donnelly** (L6) and **Caspar Varoujian** (L6) representing Ethiopia in the Economic and Social Council. Outstanding Delegate awards were presented to **Oliver Walsh** (L6) and **Charlie O'Connor** (4V) representing Saudi Arabia in the Economic and Social Council.

Young Enterprise: At the annual *Y Factor* competition, hosted at the RGS, we welcomed other companies from schools including Tormead and Ashcombe School. The teams were grilled by the judges on their business reports, trade stands and four-minute presentations; all teams offered some strong opinions and spoke passionately about their products. *Fantastic Without Plastic*, the branded flask company, were Highly Commended for both their presentation and their trade stand. *Centauri*, the branded slider company, won Best Company Report, while *Vertex*, with their GCSE and 11+ guides, won Best Use of Innovation.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Chess: Highlights of the last fortnight included a 5½ – 1½ victory for the 1st VI against Trinity School, Croydon. The 2nd VI narrowly lost by 2½ – 3½ against Eton College in the National Schools Chess Championship: a phenomenal achievement against their first team.

Fencing: In the Surrey Youth Fencing Championships, **Freddie Cliffe** (L6) finished as a silver medalist at Under 19 Épée and **Xavier Wallin** (3L) also secured silver at Under 16 Épée. In addition, **Zed Law** (4A), **Rishikesh Mistry** (3E) and Xavier all won bronze medals in Foil.

Football: In the London and South-East England Independent Schools' 1st XI Cup Round 2, the 1st and 2nd XIs both progressed with 4 – 0 and 11 – 1 scores respectively. The 2nd XI also advanced to the second round of the Trinity Schools' Cup having narrowly beaten Alleyn's School 4 – 2 on penalties, after ending all square 2 – 2 at full time. In the block fixture against Sutton Grammar School, the 1st XI won 4 – 0 with a brace from **Daragh Brown** (L6).

Hockey: An ice-affected block against Churcher's College saw nine matches falling foul of conditions. The 1st XI, however, secured an excellent 4 – 2 victory, with five wins and a draw coming from the seven fixtures. In the National Cup Round 1 the 1st XI won by the same 4 – 2 score line against Langley Park to progress comfortably to the next round. Against St George's College, Weybridge, RGS teams recorded six wins and two draws: the 1st XI won 3 – 0, while result of the day was an 8 – 0 victory for the Under 14C team.

Shooting: Our VIII defeated Epsom College by 749 to 744 with a top score of 96 by **Daniel von Hänisch** (U6). This was followed up by a comfortable win against Lancing College by 748 to 715: our top scorers being **Johnnie Matheson** (L6) and **Balazs Rigo** (U6) with 97.

Swimming: At the Surrey Schools Individual Swimming Championships, our medal tally came to six in total: one gold, three silver and two bronze. The Under 13s won the Junior category, and the Under 15s came second in theirs: along with the seniors' tally, this enabled the RGS to accumulate enough points overall to win the Surrey Schools Individual Championships 2020.

Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Friday 31 January	RGS Careers Convention in the Auditorium and Great Hall
Saturday 1 February	RGS Parents' Association Quiz in Great Hall
Tuesday 4 February	Musician of the Year competition in the Recital Room
Wednesday 5 February	King's Lecture in the Auditorium
Thursday 6 February	Oxbridge Seminar in the Auditorium
Tuesday 11 February	Third Form Parents' Evening
Wednesday 12 February	Japanese Drama Production (for two nights) in the Auditorium

