



From the Headmaster

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." I have quoted these words from Henry Ford before and they resonate strongly for us as a school, irrespective of whether we are talking about the cohesion of our students, the shared vision of our staff and governors, or the support of our parent body.

This past year has demonstrated starkly the importance of community and family. Most of us take human contact and a sense of belonging for granted, until that opportunity is removed or diminished. I am delighted to say, particularly during such difficult times, that the sense of belonging at the RGS has remained as strong as ever. It is, however, no longer possible for an institution to exist as an island, as an introspective establishment. Connectivity and perspective, partnership and collaboration have never been more important and that is just one of the reasons why our increasingly global dimension is such a defining part of our future.

This term has seen a succession of exciting developments for our flourishing global family: our school in Qatar celebrating International Day; the opening of our new school in Nanjing, China; and the appointment of our first headteachers for our school in Dubai which opens next year. As we welcome new RGS schools into our community, and work together to develop opportunities for meaningful interaction, so our students will realise increasingly that they are part of a larger and growing family of RGS schools around the world. Global co-operation will define our future and our students now have an opportunity to be part of a family which stretches well beyond the confines of the school buildings in Guildford. Our students will increasingly appreciate the importance and value of the micro- and macro-community as they develop the skills and the sort of collaboration and cross-cultural understanding that will see us in the best possible position to overcome the significant challenges in the decades ahead.

The sense of community and collaboration within our international schools is already very much in evidence as the Heads of each of our international schools articulate below. For each one of our schools there is a genuine pride in, and understanding of, what makes the RGS so special as an educational environment. Our shared values and ethos are just one of the ways that despite the distance between the schools, despite the very distinctive cultural setting of each institution, and despite the range of individuals, personalities and characters in each one of our RGS family, there is a strong and consistent appreciation of what it truly means to be part of the RGS #RGSTogether.



Clare Turnbull,
Head of Prep RGSG Dubai

“Our values and ethos at RGSG Dubai are not just words, they are what we live and breathe. Our students will experience an education of colour and depth that supports them to become confident, courageous and caring individuals, intellectually curious and kind. We are very proud to be part of the expanding international family, united by our common quest for excellence, care for our pupils and a deep determination to prepare our young people to be resilient and adaptable global citizens all brought together in the spirit of the RGS.”

“A school is first and foremost a community, and upon walking into any school, the mood and atmosphere are quite evident. When I walked into RGSG Nanjing I could sense that it was a happy and positive community. Students were excited to see a new teacher, they had questions, there was a buzz about the place, smiling and laughter. With a happy, positive and mutually-supportive environment, anything is possible. Without it, few will realise their potential.”



Matt Ford, Headmaster RGSG Nanjing



Thomas Rolt,
Headmaster RGSG Qatar

“RGSG Qatar has responded to this 21st-century challenge in spectacular fashion and has ensured that during such challenging times our students continue to reach their full potential through academic growth, developing as international learners and working collaboratively to achieve success.

We have come together to deliver a unique learning experience, taking the RGS values and delivering them in a truly international pedagogical manner. Our teachers have responded with enthusiasm, passion and commitment to ensure that RGSG Qatar continues to be a hub for collaboration, research and development in the Middle East and continues to offer a modern education underpinned with traditional RGS values.”

“Tradition with innovation define us as an institution. The RGS family is steeped in a history which owes much to our founder Robert Beclingham and King Edward VI. After 500 years of evolution and change, while remaining strictly loyal to our ethos and values, our new global family provides the next exciting chapter in our history, one which will be characterised by global perspective and co-operation, by collaboration and partnership, but – most importantly – by empathy, inclusivity and a passionate desire to make a difference to others.”



Jon Cox, Headmaster RGS Guildford