



From the Headmaster

Having been deprived of so many traditions in recent months, a return to competitive sport this term has been a welcome reminder of normality. Nothing says summer term like the sight of whites, oversized cricket bags, and the sound of a cricket ball on willow; it is just a genuine shame that we are not yet able to welcome spectators to the boundary at Bradstone Brook. As well as these associations with idyllic summertime, cricket has a particular significance for the School as history suggests that the RGS has an important part to play in the origins of the game of cricket. A well-known record in the Guildford Court Book speaks of a legal dispute in 1598 concerning a plot of land that lay at the junction of North Street and what is now Chertsey Street in central Guildford. Giving evidence in this dispute, a gentleman named John Derrick, then aged 59, said that when he was a scholar at the Free School of Guildford (the RGS) about 50 years earlier in approximately 1550,

"Being a scholler in the ffree schoole of Guldeford, hee and diverse of his fellows did runner and play there at creckett and other plaies."

This reference to cricket is generally thought to be the first mention of the game in the English language.

Nigel Watson in the School History provides many colourful, anecdotal references to the sport as it gained in popularity at the RGS. Students enjoyed a visit from one of the most eminent cricketers of the time, Jack Hobbs, on 25 June 1931. Sir John Berry "Jack" Hobbs was an English professional cricketer who played for Surrey from 1905 to 1934 and for England in 61 Test matches between 1908 and 1930. Known as *The Master*, he is widely regarded by critics as one of the greatest batsmen in the history of cricket. According to the school magazine *The Guildfordian*, on his visit to the RGS, "he delighted a large crowd of spectators with a display of batting". Jack then promised a new bat to any boy who could displace his cap which he hung on the wickets. To his surprise and embarrassment, a Lower Sixth boy, Judd, bowled him out on his first ball with a yorker!

This spirit of healthy competition, good humour and widespread participation remains at the very heart of RGS sport and this made last weekend's high-profile social media campaign against abuse and discrimination resonate all the more. Sport plays a fundamental role in exposing and challenging racism; sport is after all, as we all know, about so much more than simply performance and results. The campaign served as a pertinent reminder to us all of the importance of sport in highlighting inclusivity, tolerance and respect. We have a responsibility to continue to educate all our boys and ensure that, far from rhetoric, respect on and off the pitch, true sportsmanship, and not being afraid to stand up for what's right are a reality at the RGS.

Latest News

Chemistry: Sixth Form students **Salvatore Nigrelli** and **Alex Thow** competed in Round Two of the Chemistry Olympiad after finishing in the top 36 out of 7,160 students in the first round. Salvatore did extremely well and was among the small group of candidates managing to finish the entire paper. Alex, once again, made the top four in the country and has been selected for the national team. He will represent the UK in the 53rd International Chemistry Olympiad to be held in Osaka, Japan. Alex won a silver medal in the 52nd Olympiad and is aiming to go one better this summer!

Classics: **Mattie Sutton** (L6) has enjoyed success in two recent Classics essay writing competitions. His essay on *Democracy in the Ancient World* in the highly competitive St John's College, Oxford, Classics and Ancient History essay competition was commended and Mattie has been invited to attend a Classics day with the other prize winners. Mattie also won the Classical Association South West essay prize with an essay titled *Do ancient historians tell us more about myth than real events?*

Coding: Out of 350 teams who entered the competition, the RGS finished in the top twenty schools in the Perse Coding Challenge. Second Form boys **Yuvan Raja** and **Ronit Sachdeva** earned a distinction; the team of **Ayaan Bhagat**, **Aaron Chamberlain** and **Hugo Dunfield-Prayero** earned a distinction.

Design: Fourth Form students **Harry Shaw** and **Josh Inglesfield** won the Durham University Solar Powered Vehicle design competition, a competition which was primarily directed at Sixth Form students.

Physics: **Nathan Page** (U6) was invited to the Physics selection camp to compete for a place on the UK team for the International Physics Olympiad: a first for the School since 2017. **Alex Thow** (U6) was invited to the Astro selection camp to compete for a place in the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics; he was successful in being chosen as one of the UK team of five: an astonishing achievement.

Young Enterprise: Three RGS teams took part in an invitational event, the Surrey & North Hampshire Festival Competition. *Growful* won Best Financial Management and finished runners-up of the whole competition; *Firefly Technology* with their light-up *Do Not Disturb* signs won Most Innovative Product and also Best Overall Company. All our teams now progress to the Surrey Showcase competition. In addition, *Firefly* won the London & South East Regional Website Competition.

Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

Cricket: The 1st XI enjoyed a 77-run win against Charterhouse School and a 10-run victory against St John's School, Leatherhead in which **Rohan Gupta** scored 77*. In the first block fixture of term, we welcomed Trinity School in 13 fixtures, ranging from the 1st XI to Under 12C, winning nine of the matches. Individual highlights included **Duncan Timberlake** (U18A) 51, **Charlie Walker** (U15B) 58*, **William O'Brien** (U14C) 55*, and **Siddie Pillai** (U13 C) 5 – 1. In the block fixtures against King's College School, Wimbledon, and King Edward's School, Southampton, the RGS again won nine of the fixtures. The following all scored over 50: **Soham Datta** (U12A), **James Rogers** (U12C), **Thomas McMurray** (U13A), **Thomas Bull** (U14A), **Ethan Davey** (U14C), **Johnny Kershaw** (U15A), **Max Kaczor** (U15B). Special mention goes to **Alex Talbot** (U13B) and **Tom Humphreys** (1st XI) who made unbeaten centuries.

Honours: Congratulations to **Henry Turrell** (U6) who was presented with his RGS 1st Team Honours Cap by the Headmaster for representing the RGS in the 1st teams for rugby, hockey and cricket. This is a rare achievement and demonstrates the highest degree of commitment to RGS sport.

Sailing: The RGS team returned to action as they competed at the BSDRA Southern against Sherborne School, Wellington College, and Winchester College. The boys performed impressively to win all their races very convincingly and to be crowned Southern Area Champions. In addition, in the Western Area Championship at Chew Valley, the RGS senior team finished joint first and then overcame Sherborne School, once again, to win the championship.

