



### From the Headmaster

The school calendar has been frustratingly starved of large-scale events in recent months and this makes each and every event which we are able to stage physically all the more significant at the moment. Sports Day is one of the most evocative memories of school life for old and young alike, for many parents immediately conjuring up images of their own school days: grass tracks, plimsolls, unflattering sports vests, sun-baked fields, old-school egg-and-spoon or sack races. The RGS Sports Day is likewise an established and much anticipated part of the school year and despite the many and varied challenges posed by current government guidelines and regulations, the spirit and energy of the event was very much in evidence. Indeed, this year's Sports Day proved to be the first genuinely physical, whole-school event for the last 18 months or so and it was wonderful to see the whole community together, students and staff alike.

The competitive element of school sport, especially among younger students, continues to be a sensitive, emotive subject. A survey a couple of years ago provided the alarming statistic that two out of three schools ensure all students are rewarded on sports days to guarantee that nobody feels left out: the argument centres around the importance of praising all equally, the fear of negativity, and the need to minimise disappointment. This mindset seems all the more ironic as the very phraseology of athletics focuses around excellence and dedication: setting the bar high, achieving a personal best, going the extra mile, to name but a few. Indeed, the Latin motto of the ultimate Sports Day – the Olympic Games – *citius, altius, fortius* (*faster, higher, stronger*) champions pushing oneself to achieve exceptional performance.

At the RGS as well as celebrating participation and, this year in particular, the enjoyment of a semblance of normality, we unashamedly acknowledge success. Learning to cope with disappointment, under-performance and frustration are more valuable than winning if lessons can be learned and put into practice on future occasions. Healthy competition spurs each individual to push themselves that little bit further and the supportive, positive atmosphere of our Sports Day highlighted the impact of such solidarity. With a collaborative, supportive approach and the aspiration of those who are performing at a higher level, each individual can strive to be the very best they can be. Healthy competition within a positive, nurturing environment has to be to the benefit of every individual – both winners and the not-quite winners – and this attitude will ensure that our students stay right on track throughout their school careers and beyond.

### Latest News

**Combined Cadet Force:** Squadron Leader Ed Bush and Corporal **Omid Hariri** (L6) had the honour of representing the RGS at the flag-raising ceremony held on Armed Forces Day. This annual event, held in the Castle Gardens, acknowledges our debt for the varied duties of our armed forces. Armed Forces Day is a chance to show support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to Service families, veterans and cadets.

## Latest News (continued)

**Drama:** A return to physical drama productions in the Auditorium saw the Second Form and Third Form boys put on *Grimm's Tales for Grim Times* and *Macbeth* respectively. With plenty of young talent on show, the excellent plays served to remind us just how much we have missed live theatre in recent months and also proved that the future of drama is bright at the RGS. To read the reviews of these two performances, click [here](#).

**Duke of Edinburgh's Award:** The entire Fourth Form experienced their Bronze Qualifying expedition in the beautiful Surrey Hills. It was definitely a challenge, being a long route, with some tricky navigation and that was before sustained, heavy rain fell on the second day! All teams should be very proud of their achievements: camaraderie, support and teamwork were very much in evidence.

**Enterprise:** Budding entrepreneurs from the RGS have been crowned Best Overall Company at the Young Enterprise National Final 2021, having – quite literally! – lit up this year's awards ceremony. The RGS team, *Firefly Technology*, shone during the final which celebrated the achievements of 12 Young Enterprise companies and will now represent the UK in the European Finals, hosted by Lithuania, competing amongst 40 other European countries. Against the backdrop of a challenging period for sectors of retail and business, the spirit of innovation and enterprise were absolutely captured by a hugely successful new product from RGS team, *Firefly Technology*. Their *Do not Deskturb* signs responded to the needs of a new working environment by designing and manufacturing their range of technically complex smart signs from scratch – a fully integrated web-app linked to your calendar – which automatically light up whenever users are in a meeting, solving the frequent problem of being interrupted, whether working from home or in an office. The RGS team was judged against a strict set of criteria including innovation, sales, marketing, financial performance, social impact, and teamwork. Despite the challenges posed by Covid, the RGS team created a strong business plan, managed their finances, and sold their products to customers ranging from individuals to companies and even to an MP. The RGS team now look forwards to testing itself on the international stage.

**Essay Competitions:** **Mattie Sutton** (L6) has been shortlisted in the New College of the Humanities London Essay Competition from over 6,000 original entries. His essay was focused on Art History with his title, *Should the West return cultural artefacts to their former colonial territories?*

**Mallison Library:** In the South England heat of the National Reading Champions Quiz, the RGS First Form team came a very creditable second out of 30 teams, only three points behind the winners. **Connor Kruger, Oscar Liu, Noah Luu** and **Jack Thompson** skillfully played their joker on the *Villains* round, doubling their high score, and also did well on *Myths and Legends, Comics and Graphic Novels* and *Blast from the Past!*

## Sports News

**Cricket:** Against the context of a rain-disrupted fortnight for cricket, the block fixture against Cranleigh School saw the sun shining and an uninterrupted day of play as 14 teams enjoyed competitive matches from the 1st XI all the way through to the Under 12Cs. Individual highlights included: **Tom Bull** (Under 14A) 63\*; **Johnny Kershaw** (Under 15A) 52; **Charlie Walker** (Under 15B) 50\*; **Nirek Dandanayak** (Under 15B) 5 – 14; **Satvikya Srivastava** (Under 14B) 66\*; and **Henry Hebburn** (Under 12A) 50\*. In addition, **Tom Humphreys** (Under 16A) scored 51 against Harrow School, while **Tom McMurray** (Under 13A) achieved an excellent 99\* off 54 balls against Downsends School in a cup match.

**Football:** The Under 17s took part in the first competitive RGS football fixture since March 2020, losing 1 – 3 in an enjoyable match against Hampton School. **Charlie Aldridge-Bate** (L6) scored the consolation goal.

**Sailing:** The RGS team won the Thames Valley team racing event hosted by the RGS on home waters at Papercourt Sailing Club. With some good displays of teamwork and skill on display, the RGS team proved to be worthy winners.

