



From the Headmaster

The word enterprise originated in the 1400s and was derived from the old French word *entreprendre* meaning *to undertake* but more specifically, with its etymological origins of capturing and seizing, it became associated with ventures of a particularly bold or ambitious nature. It is therefore unsurprising that *Enterprise* is a name frequently given to military ships or spacecraft (including the fictitious *Starship Enterprise* of *Star Trek*), wholly suitable for vessels designed to navigate stormy and turbulent seas or for a craft venturing into the unknown where an element of risk is unavoidable.

This all seems particularly apt as I reflect on the last 18 months; indeed, if tasked with renaming the School, the *RGS Enterprise* would seem a fitting suggestion! The good ship RGS, along with all schools and businesses in the country, has been sailing in choppy waters for what seems an interminable length of time. However, rather than simply keeping afloat and surviving, I would argue that we have, in fact, thrived. With challenge comes change and opportunity, and this has certainly been true of the RGS. This year has seen us having to re-invent so much of the established routine of school life: teaching and learning, assessment, the co-curriculum, school events, pastoral support, admissions, marketing and so I could go on. This has required flexibility and strategy, clarity of thinking, collaboration and teamwork, hard work and dedication. Most of all, however, our planning has been driven by a genuine desire to do the very best for our boys, to ensure that they do not suffer or are disadvantaged, and to maintain an education which is as rich, challenging and inspiring as possible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole staff body, with the unwavering support of the governors, for going above and beyond what could reasonably be expected this year, often in very taxing conditions.

This spirit of enterprise, however, has not been restricted to the staff alone and it has been pleasing to see that the boys have been equally flexible, resilient and innovative. The success of our Young Enterprise team *Firefly Technology* being crowned *Young Enterprise UK Company of the Year* is testament to this: using the challenges of the current climate to come up with original, innovative solutions to new 21st-century problems. Equally, however, I would like to celebrate how each one of our boys has coped in recent months, coming up with creative solutions to address a host of challenges: re-inventing clubs and societies, finding novel ways to train, practise or rehearse, coping with a succession of restrictions and guidelines, conquering their own personal challenges. As a community we should all be proud of what we have achieved.

The last 18 months have seen so many of our School Values in action, proving that far from rhetoric they are indeed a reality. In fact, I have never been more confident that the essence of the RGS – inclusivity and integrity, courage and collaboration, scholarship and respect – are the hallmarks of a modern man and as we continue to voyage into the unknown I have absolutely no doubt that, with this generation of impressive characters at the helm, we are in in good hands.

This time last year in my final *The Bulletin* of term, I mentioned how I often talk of what an extraordinary twelve months it has been and that the last few months had certainly lived up to the billing of being extraordinary. This could not be more true this year. Once again, I echo my sentiment and sincerely hope that, in the best possible sense, the next twelve months are as ordinary as possible; we could all do with some plain sailing! I thank you all for your support and kindness this academic year and wish you and your families a restful, relaxing and safe summer.

Latest News

Drama: A return to physical drama productions in the Auditorium continued with the First Form production of *Us and Them*. A very talented young cast threw themselves into a very impressive performance. To read the reviews of this and other recent drama productions, click [here](#).

Music: Head Chorister of the Guildford Cathedral Choir from September will be **Deshan Pethiyagoda** (1S); the Deputy Head Chorister will be **Akshay Wechalekar** (1S).

Music: The final of the RGS Musician of the Year Competition, *The Steynor Prize*, was held in front of a socially-distanced audience at Holy Trinity Church. The finalists, taken from a preliminary round of sixteen hopefuls, were **Alex Thow** (Piano), **Joseph Ryan** (Violin), **Henry Forrest** (Saxophone), **Johnnie Matheson** (Piano), **Stan Lawrence** (Trumpet) and **Ruben Berstecher** (Piano). The School was honoured to welcome as adjudicator Mr John Holmes, Chief Examiner of the ABRSM music exams. By the narrowest of margins, Mr Holmes awarded *The Steynor Prize* to a performer who exhibited both technical prowess and conveyed a fantastic musical connection with the audience, Stan Lawrence. Jan Newman's faultless and sensitive accompaniments of some astonishingly difficult music was, as always, a highlight of the evening.

Young Enterprise: We wish RGS team *Firefly Technology* as they represent the UK at the European finals of Young Enterprise. They, however, need your vote! Just a few clicks and you will be helping our team to win the public choice category by clicking [here](#). If you have a Google or Facebook account you can then go to the sign-in tab and log in there, otherwise you can create an account using your email. Finally, click the vote button. It's that simple to play your part. Please share with friends and family and let's all get behind our RGS team *Firefly Technology*.

Sports News

Athletics: **Will Barnicoat** (U6) clinched the men's Under 20 3,000m on the line to book his place at the European Under 20 Championships: a phenomenal achievement. At school level, the RGS hosted five local schools at Spectrum for our first ever Combined Events fixture. Our First Form team came second; our Second Form team finished in third place.

Hockey: At the Finals of the England Under 18 Hockey Plate, **Dan Price** (U6), **Dan Hitchcox** (5) and **Alastair Stenning** (L6) were part of the winning team playing for Woking Hockey Club.

Sailing: The RGS team were worthy winners at the Thames Valley Team Racing event hosted by the RGS on home waters at Papercourt Sailing Club.

Wakeboarding: **Jacy William** (3E) won a silver medal in in the Wakeboarding Under 14 Nationals.

