



LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

From the Headmaster

As far back as the 1500s, moral instruction has been integral to the education offered at the RGS. The original statutes laid down that, "*Honesty and cleanness of life, gentle, decent speeches, humility, courtesy, and good manners shall be established by all good means.*" We are proud that these aspects, which remain at the heart of our modern-day School Values, are as relevant now as they have ever been. The Latin inscriptions on the old schoolroom walls – which remain to this day in School Room – gave students at the time a further indication of the educational philosophy of the RGS. These include a number of pertinent instructions: one translates as *the diligent man is busy even in leisure*; another advises *the master to be slow to punish and swift to praise*; and yet another reminds the boys that *it will be pleasant in some future time to remember these things*. Not all of them, however, have the same sense of tolerance, kindness and compassion as we would champion in the 21st century. The inscription *AUT DISCE AUT DISCEDERE* loosely translates as *either do your work or clear off*. Although this sentiment does have its attractions (!), it's the inscription above *LABOR OMNIA VINCIT* (work conquers all things) which particularly chimes with me as I reflect on this term.

The last few weeks have epitomised how hard graft, dedication and devotion yield remarkable results: the hours spent behind the scenes practising to allow the pianists to perform so magnificently at the Senior Piano Concert; the succession of rehearsals which culminated in the joint production of *Little Shop of Horrors* and our production of *DNA*; the communication and planning to organise an outstanding Scholarship Conference or DofE expedition or Young Enterprise success; the intensive physical and tactical training, session after session, which allowed our sportsmen – notably in hockey and rugby sevens – to enjoy such success in recent tournaments; and even those boys and staff who put in extraordinary effort to overcome the challenges of the SleepOut or the sporting challenges this week all in aid of charity. In particular, seeing some of our Upper Sixth Form putting themselves well outside their comfort zone – and skill-set! – to swim length after length in the Memorial Trust Channel swim was genuinely inspiring.

The same now holds true for those students about to embark upon public examinations. The boys should take reassurance from the fact that we have every confidence in them and know they have the ability and potential to have the most ambitious of aspirations this summer. It is not enough, however, simply to wear the RGS blazer or to put on an RGS tie; it is now time for the students to reinforce this natural ability with sustained, targeted focus and consolidation. With industry and commitment, the boys can fulfil their potential academically, and I wish them all the very best of luck over the revision period. I would also like to remind the boys that my staff are here to provide all the support as they can, both academically and pastorally. If you have any concerns about any aspect of your son's progress or wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact, in the first instance, his Tutor. Our first priority will always be the happiness and welfare of every boy in our care.

So, as we break-up for a well-deserved Easter break, we can all reflect on a term which has seen a welcome return to something approaching normality. The trips, sporting events, plays, concerts, lectures, and so on have been appreciated all the more in the light of their recent absence from the School Calendar. I would like to thank all my staff as well as the boys for their infectious enthusiasm and engagement. I would also like to express my gratitude to you, the parents. As I mentioned recently, we were incredibly grateful to the extraordinary number of you who reacted so swiftly to fill in the Inspection parental questionnaire. Your exceptional support of the School is greatly appreciated and never taken for granted. I very much look forward to sharing the Inspection report with you in the not-too-distant future.

I wish you all the very best for a relaxing, healthy and enjoyable Easter holiday and look forward to seeing the boys return, refreshed and ready for the Trinity Term.

Latest News

CHARITY: A busy last two weeks of term has included our own clothes day, Second Form SleepOut, the staff versus leavers football match, the Max Windle Memorial Channel Swim and cross-country event. These contributed to our community raising a staggering sum of just under £12,000 this term: an astonishing total which will make a genuine impact to the *Disasters Emergency Committee* and *Transform Housing and Support* as well as our three school-nominated charities, *The Max Windle Memorial Trust*, *Compassion UK*, and *Alzheimer's Society*.

COMPUTING: In the Oxford University Computing Challenge, outstanding performances from **Yuvan Raja** (3P), **Freddie Weir** (5N) and **Adam Wang** (5N) saw them scoring full marks, placing them in the top 20 in the country for their respective age groups. **Ronit Sachdeva** (3R) scored 52/66, placing him in the top 0.1% of the country. Yuvan, Freddie and Adam qualified for the final round of the competition. Yuvan achieved second place nationally while Freddie narrowly missed out on a prize, achieving fourth place.

DRAMA: The GHS/RGS joint production of *Little Shop of Horrors* was a fantastic spectacle. **Parus Mehra** (L6) was exceptional in the lead role of Seymour; he was barely offstage and sang in virtually every number. His characterisation of the hapless, lowly, love smitten amateur botanist was brilliant. **Jack Fuller** (L6) was also incredible voicing and singing Audrey II, the blood thirsty plant. Jack's range of accent, tone and humour was absolute perfection. **Ferdy Al-Qassab** (L6) was superb as the sadistic, leather-clad, maniacal dentist and **Moog Clyde** (U6) captured the role of Mushnik as the stingy, dishonest owner of the flower shop with impressive skill. Sixth Form students **Ben Cruttwell**, **Luke Galpin**, **Lorcan Read**, **Harry Simmons**, **Alex Vale** and **Aaron Venter** were all part of the joyfully energetic chorus.

MUSIC: The Joint Schools' Chamber Choir sang Evensong in Winchester Cathedral for the first time since 2016. We were then privileged to welcome pianist Chenyin Li, internationally acknowledged as one of the most exciting and sought-after musicians of her generation, to give a piano masterclass. This was followed by the Senior Piano Concert, with a varied programme from Bach to Beethoven and Dring to Hough. A wonderfully energetic and characterful performance of the 3rd movement of the Gershwin Concerto, given by Joseph Howes, brought the evening to a close. This term's musical programme finished in style with the uplifting Ensembles Concert in the Auditorium providing the perfect culmination to the term.

SENIOR PREFECTS: The Headmaster is delighted to announce the Senior Prefect appointments for 2022/23. School Captain is **Louis Wilby** and he is supported by the two Deputy School Captains, **Dev Atara** and **Edward Eves**. Senior Prefect Co-ordinator is **Joe Colton**. The other House Captain appointments are as follows: Austen House is **Ollie de Gentile-Williams**; Beckingham House is **Ro Wright**; Hamonde House is **Boldi Paladi-Kovacs**; Nettles House is **Tom M Humphreys**; Powell House is **Ben Isherwood**; and Valpy House is **Patrick Majumdar**. In addition, the Headmaster has appointed **Ferdy Al-Qassab**, **Thomas Bamber**, **Harry Boczkowski**, **Inigo Burrell**, **Janek Czarnek**, **Daniel Taylor**, **Aaron Venter** and **Andrew Zhang** to the Senior Prefect team. The School wishes the boys all the very best of luck in their new roles.

Latest News (contd.)

READING: In the National Reading Champions Quiz, after eight rounds of challenging questions on categories such as Dystopian and Science Fiction, Comedy and Horror, and Pets, the RGS Team A secured second place.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE: In the Dragons' Den competition, Team *ShowerSmart* took first prize for their eco-friendly showerhead which has an integrated chip to monitor water use. Second place went to Team *Dendros* with their eco-friendly stationery sets and activity books for children.

Sports News

BASKETBALL: Our Under 18 basketball team signed off in style with an 83 – 15 victory against Leighton Park School in the final match of term.

CHESS: After a 4 – 2 victory in the regional final of the National Schools Chess Competition, our 1st VI has once again qualified for the National Finals of the competition to face the top 16 teams nationally.

FENCING: In the Public Schools' Fencing Championships there were a number of notable performances. **Ronit Sachdeva** (3R) secured Bronze in the Under 14 Épée having won eight victories and remaining undefeated in the two rounds of poules. **Zed Law** (L6) finished in an impressive seventh place in the Under 18 Foil.

FOOTBALL: A 1 – 1 draw for the 1st XI and 2 – 1 win for 2nd XI against Kingston Grammar School were followed by a fluent 2 – 1 win for the 1st XI against Westminster School to bring the season to a close.

HOCKEY: Our 1st VI won the famous St George's College Weybridge 6s tournament for the first time; this competition has been running since 1978. The Under 14A team came second in the South-East Finals and the Under 16A team enjoyed an extraordinary journey to the semi-final of the National Tier 2 competition. Successful block fixtures against Reed's School, Langley Park School and Charterhouse School brought an excellent hockey season to a close. The 2nd XI was undoubtedly the team of the season remaining unbeaten throughout the season: an impressive feat and one of only three 2nd XIs in the country to achieve this, playing with confidence and flare from start to finish: highlights included a 5 – 0 victory against Trinity School, Croydon. On an individual front, **Charlie Wareing** (1S) and **George Wilson** (4A) were the leading goal scorers with 14 and 17 goals respectively.

RUGBY SEVENS: The 1st VII reached the last 16 of the Edwin Doran Senior Surrey 7s – the biggest tournament outside of Rosslyn Park Nationals – for the first time in more than a decade; they were narrowly beaten by Harrow School on a golden point in extra time.

SHOOTING: RGS boys were in action in the final set of head-to-head matches for the small-bore season, including a win against St John's Leatherhead. Against Bradfield College, **Adam Zhang** (5V) and **Scott Swanepoel** (5A) both scored a maximum of 100, while against Wellington College, **Joshua Myers** (4H) scored a maximum 100.

SKIING: The RGS ski team competed in the postponed British Ski-racing Championships, having been selected in a national qualifier last term. Teams from England, Scotland and Wales took part and after good performances by all, the RGS was placed seventh team in Great Britain. **Jack Weeks** (4A) finished eleventh in the individual event and, notably, this was **Charlie Aldridge-Bate's** (U6) last time in the finals for the RGS, having been selected in our British Team every year since he was in the First Form.

SWIMMING: In a swimming gala against Reed's School and ACS Cobham, in the final event of the day – the double points squadron relay – **Lorcan Read** (4A) and then **Tommi Nebuloni** (L6) created just enough of a gap to claim victory. The Under 13s, Under 16s and Under 18s all won their age groups, and thanks to this last-gasp win in the relay, the RGS won the gala overall with 292 points.