

THE REGISTER

The termly newsletter of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford



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THE HEADMASTER WRITES ...



Alfred Adler, a nineteenth century Austrian medical doctor, once said: "*Empathy is seeing with the eyes of another, listening with the ears of another, and feeling with the heart of another.*"

In the current climate it has never felt more important to nurture a sense of empathy and this has undoubtedly been a running theme throughout this term. It is all too easy for any institution to become introspective and focused on the *here and now*, on narrow immediate concerns. As the leaders of tomorrow, as those who will be tasked with finding practical solutions to many of our modern-day challenges, we have a duty to nurture students who have a conscience, who have a determination to make a difference, and who are committed to making the world a better place.

This term has seen RGS students through assemblies, clubs and societies, discussion groups, and outside speakers reflecting on a whole host of topical issues: International Women's Day; Black Lives Matter; LGBT+ History Month; World Book Week; and so

I could go on. On one level these events seem quite disparate and yet they are all united by common threads. The open and frank discussions of these issues by boys of all years – in an age-appropriate manner – centre on equality and fairness, challenging prejudice and bias, striving for positive change and progress. When educating our student's brains it is vital that we do not neglect to educate their hearts, to paraphrase the Dalai Lama. Or as Aristotle said, "*Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.*"

It is at times such as these that, rather than abstract concepts, our School Values and what we stand for really come to the fore. They are living and real and feel ever more practical, ever more poignant: kindness and compassion, integrity and respect, tolerance and inclusion are the keys to unlocking so many of the challenges we face. It is in this light that this edition of *The Register* provides such hope. The successes are many and varied – and I congratulate every one of our boys for making such a positive

and lasting impression on our community – but it is the journey that has led to each of these successes and the transferable skills, including observing, listening and feeling, which the boys are developing in the process, which will stand them in good stead in the future.



MIND-BOGGLING

Our theme for this year's Scholarship Conference, now in its fifth year, was *The Unimaginable*, and so we were really setting our speakers up to fail by attempting to "imagine the unimaginable" in their talks! Nonetheless, they all spoke with real insight and excitement, one commenting that it was novel to be talking to real faces, not just "blobs on a computer screen!". Professor Melanie Bailey from the University of Surrey spoke with real poise about how our fingerprints can convey information which would have been unimaginable in forensic science a decade ago; Martin Harris OBE brought with him his *diplomatic bag*, and spoke with passion about the unimaginable atrocities in Ukraine and the long-term significance of the outcome of this conflict. We were privileged to welcome two Old Guildfordians to speak, too. From the University of Cambridge, Dr Gareth Conduit (OG 2002) re-lived memories of battles between the Chemistry and Physics Departments to see who could produce the largest explosion, before explaining how his company is quickening the process of drug synthesis using machine learning, and Rabbi Alexander Goldberg (OG 1993) told the audience how cohesion and reconciliation can occur between communities which believe they have unimaginable differences. We finally heard from Professor Guy Leschziner, Consultant Neurologist at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals, who stunned the audience by explaining that sometimes we genuinely cannot imagine something before we react to it, and how our brains can trick us into believing things we would not initially deem imaginable. As the probing Q&A drew to a close, a thoroughly absorbing and challenging set of talks had made the unimaginable just that little bit more imaginable!





OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

In what has been an exceptionally competitive year, RGS students deserve huge credit for another successful round of university applications. Traditional routes including Oxford and Cambridge (14 offers) and Medicine (18 applicants) continued to feature prominently, as did significant numbers of offers on some of the most competitive courses at the leading universities in the UK including Bath, Bristol, Durham, Exeter, Imperial, Nottingham and Warwick. As Peter Dunscombe, Director of Higher Education, noted, "Perhaps what stands out most in the last twelve months is the increasing range and diversity of destinations and courses that RGS boys choose to pursue. As well as applications for traditionally popular courses, this year saw the emergence of less common pathways

such as Criminology and Sociology, Film and Television Production, Global Sustainable Development, and Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method, among others. There is a genuine sense that each individual can forge his own path, irrespective of his interests and passions." This year these courses included a rugby scholarship to Canada, a sailing scholarship to the USA, as well as transport management and engineering degree apprenticeships. As Peter Dunscombe concluded, "What remains reassuring is that whatever our students elect to study and wherever they choose to go, boys leave the School confident in their future plans and well set to face the challenges that lie ahead."

SCHOOL REPORT

Chemistry Olympiad: 8,668 students took part in this challenging competition. Jan Czarnek achieved the top RGS score of 39; Freddie Weir took the test two years early and achieved Silver. In total we achieved 7 Gold, 20 Silver and 14 Bronze awards.

Computational Thinking: All Third Form boys took part in the Bebras Computational Thinking competition with questions designed to test computational and logical thinking. 68 RGS boys qualified for the next round, as being in the top 10%. Yuvan Raja achieved full marks, one of only 30 out of the 155,815 competitors to do so.

European Youth Parliament: At the South Coast regional round of the European Youth Parliament Competition, the Lower Sixth team defended their resolution to progress to the national finals.

Mathematics: RGS mathematicians have challenged themselves on the local and

national stages in some of the most demanding and prestigious competitions. Notable success has been achieved in the Ritangle competition, the Senior Maths Challenge, the Senior British Mathematical Olympiad Rounds 1 and 2, the Senior Kangaroo Challenge, and the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Of particular note were the RGS team in the Ritangle competition which came second out of 714 schools; Freddie Weir and Yuvan Raja achieving full marks in the Intermediate Maths Challenge; and Henry Franke for qualifying and gaining a Merit in the Senior Olympiad Round 2, the first RGS boy to do so in over a decade.

Modern Foreign Languages: Dev Atara had an article published on the all-languages website about his love of languages and their importance.

Physics Olympiad: Alex Jones achieved Top Gold in Round 1, placing him within the top 170 students out of the 2,300 that took part nationally. Efe Görgüner and Thomas

Thevenon achieved Gold, placing them within the top 400 students.

SATRO Problem Solving Challenge: In this prestigious annual engineering challenge, our junior team won their heat and progressed to the finals in which they finished fourth, having been tasked with making a marble transporter using only the materials supplied.

Quiz: In the regional rounds of the senior Schools Challenge quiz competition, the RGS A Team won the plate competition in the final against Bedales School.

Young Enterprise: Teams *Everdry* and *Valto* were joint runners-up in the national YE online advert competition. In the Dragons' Den competition, Team *ShowerSmart* won first prize for their eco-friendly showerhead, while second place went to Team *Dendros* with their eco-friendly stationery sets and activity books for children.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Some of our most talented and promising up-and-coming pianists benefited from two extraordinary experiences in the Recital Room. We were privileged to welcome Chenyin Li, an acclaimed international concert pianist, to give a masterclass for some of our most talented young pianists in the Recital Room. Cheynin listened to performances ranging from Mozart to Gershwin and was astonished at the musicianship and ability on display, and gave each individual valuable, high-level guidance on their playing to challenge and develop their interpretations. For some of the boys, this advice was then immediately put into action during the Senior Piano Concert that evening in front of a full and appreciative audience. It was an impressive event that showcased 18 performances from pianists from the Fourth Form upwards. As Director of Music Sam Orchard noted: "For many of the performers, this was their first opportunity to play in public for two years and to attempt such a demanding repertoire with such exacting standards and with such confidence of performance was to the boys' very great credit." There were some truly impressive, musical highlights including the wonderfully energetic and characterful performance of the 3rd movement of the *Gershwin Concerto*, given by Joseph Howes, that brought the evening to a close.



STRING TO YOUR BOW



Since its inception over twenty years ago, the final of RGS Musician of the Year, The Steynor Prize, has undoubtedly become one of the highlights of the musical calendar. Established to showcase the extraordinary abilities of some of the School's most able musicians, this year's finalists were no exception: Joseph Ryan (violin), Felix Johnson (violin), Thomas McLean (trumpet), Joseph Howes (saxophone) and James Dicker (piano). Together they performed a recital that was remarkable, not only in its breadth of musical programme, but also for the outstanding levels of musicianship on display. The School was delighted to welcome as adjudicator Mr Clive Williamson, one of the country's foremost pianists and former Director of Performance at the University of Surrey. Selecting a winner at a competition where the overall standard is so high is never easy, but this was made even harder when each of the performers tackle extraordinarily complex music and perform it with such astonishing accomplishment. By the narrowest of margins and after lengthy reflection, the adjudicator awarded The Steynor Prize to a performer who exhibited both technical prowess and exceptional levels of musicianship, Joseph. In addition, as Director of Music, Sam Orchard, noted, "Special thanks must go to Head of Keyboards Jan Newman whose faultless and skilful accompaniment enabled each boy to perform to their full potential, and was, as always, a highlight of the evening."





JUST MAGNIFICAT

The Joint Schools' Chamber Choir, in conjunction with Guildford High School, ventured to Winchester for their first visit to sing Evensong in the Cathedral since 2016: a welcome return to singing on location in one of the UK's most historic and most prestigious settings. This magnificent building, which has been at the heart of Christian worship for over 900 years, contains unique heritage of the life of the English nation and its stones tell the stories of Kings and Queens, statesmen and politicians. From the opening responses to the closing anthem, the choir was on top form and sang with a real sense of poise and sensitivity. The repertoire included the soaring lines of Howell's beautiful setting of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis - Collegium Regale*, which filled the awe-inspiring surroundings. The musicianship of the choir was impressive throughout, but particular mention should be made of Noah Campbell who sang the Tenor solo in Howell's *Nunc Dimittis* with real tenderness. The musical part of the service closed with Stanford's anthem *Lighten our Darkness*. As Director of Music Sam Orchard noted, "Written during the Great War, this wonderful setting of the third collect seemed particularly apt for such troubled times."





KEPT IN THE DARK



A leaf-strewn woodland setting, polluted by litter. A dumped shopping trolley; a discarded kids' tricycle. Pools of ambient lighting and the incessant, inescapable backdrop of bird song. The mundane, the sinister, and the comedic sat uncomfortably side-by-side as Dennis Kelly's dark play *DNA* explored the desolate and warped worlds of a group of teenagers. The plot and the dilemma the teenagers face served to bring out each individual's character – the good, the bad and the distinctly ugly. The production was particularly successful in painting vividly the distinct personalities of each individual: from the moody and silent Phil (Ronan Lenane); to the endearing, yet needy and verbose Lee (Vinnie Conquest); to the engaging, chatty and likeable Mark (George Hewitt); to the angry, volatile John Tate (Benji Chapman) as he desperately struggles to keep things together; to the snivelling and increasingly odd Brian (Richard Clyde). The undercurrent of fear, the desperation to trust and believe in each other, the desire to look out for each other all permeated the play as it built to the climax, as Adam (Ashwin Vishwanath) effectively conveyed his wild and confused insanity, his fear and hysteria with maturity and depth. A thoroughly impressive production left the audience disturbed yet amused in equal measure, as Lee so succinctly surmised: "*Omelettes and eggs: as long as you've your waffle, who cares.*"



FLOWER POWER

Escapism has, perhaps, never been more important than in the current climate and the joint Guildford High School/RGS production as a colourful, vibrant, musical extravaganza had it in spades as the audience was whisked away from Guildford. A rundown flower shop that slowly gets taken over by a gigantic man-eating plant; high-energy, toe-tapping musical numbers; slick choreography; and a flamboyant, visual spectacle, *Little Shop of Horrors* provided the perfect evening's entertainment. Parus Mehra 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

was also incredible voicing and singing Audrey II, the blood-thirsty plant. Jack's range of accent, tone and humour were absolute perfection. Ferdy Al-Qassab was superb as the sadistic, leather clad, maniacal dentist and Moog Clyde captured the role of Mushnik as the stingy, dishonest owner of the flower shop with impressive skill. With RGS boys throwing themselves into the joyfully energetic chorus, the audience was swept along with the energy and sheer effervescence of the production. And after all, what could be better than an evening spent with a singing plant with a thirst for blood, hell-bent on world domination!



PREMIER LEAGUE

The RGS was delighted to welcome Martin Tyler to deliver this term's King's Lecture. From Anfield to the Auditorium in successive nights, the fervour and passion of the capacity crowds were well-nigh identical! Martin attended the RGS as a student from 1956 to 1964, and then continued his link with the School as an RGS parent. Martin started the talk by flicking through his tiny, red pocket diary from 1956 including scrawled reflections from his school days, including such profound comments as "Didn't do much at school today!" With football his burning passion from childhood, his favourite memory remains scoring literally hundreds of goals on a goal post painted on the side of the Chemistry lab. After a circuitous route into broadcasting, Martin perfectly illustrated that, "you might not find your path by an orthodox route, but if you have genuine passion you'll find your path." With anecdotes from his early experiences at World Cups in the 1970s right up to the modern day, Martin proudly spoke as to how his mantra of the three 'I's of commentary – identification, information and interpretation – had been sown from his schooldays: the value of detail, research and accuracy, as well as the importance of compassion, kindness and humility. "Talk a little, say a lot" remains his mantra to this day. As Martin reflected on his enduring passion for the game, he appreciated what a privilege it is to still be going strong well into his seventies: it's just "going to footy with your mates, and a microphone!"





COVER TO COVER

World Book Week 2022 provided the perfect opportunity for our boys to both immerse themselves in reading and in the shoes of others. Thought-provoking, challenging and broadening, the books recommended by various RGS departments covered everything: from the Nazi occupation of Italy in World War II; to a journey on the seemingly impossible task of measuring the world; to immigration and coming to terms with sexual identity; to consent, the objectification of the female body, and the ways in which social expectations can limit individual freedoms; to political issues and sensitivities. As Head of English Thishani Wijesinghe acknowledged, "There was certainly something for everyone in this year's selection of books: whichever book the boys chose they would learn something new." An action-packed week also included author visits from Sarah Govett and KL Kettle, as well as the year-group House reading competitions and the daily Book Quiz. To conclude a busy week the *Poetry By Heart* finale took place in Big School: a national competition in which children across the country learn a poem and perform it from memory. Every student in the First to Third Forms participated in the early rounds but the deserved winners were Theo Odhams, Jack Thomson and James Webster.





OUT AND ABOUT

For five days each year, the timetable is suspended so that boys in all year groups can devote time to a range of co-curricular opportunities. As a result, this is one of the dates each year where torrential rain can be pretty much guaranteed; this year was certainly no exception! Despite the challenging conditions, fully-outside activities included: visiting a zoo, conservation projects in the Surrey countryside, navigation training, hiking, powerboating, kayaking, rafting, CCF teamwork exercises and leadership tasks, paintballing, surfing and mountain biking. Indoor activities

– for those slightly more fortunate! – included visits to galleries and museums, indoor skydiving, bouldering, stage make-up training, theatre technical work, go karting, rock band practice and taking part in the European Youth Parliament Regional Forum. In addition, we also had several groups taking part in volunteering projects including working in charity shops, visits to residential care homes and maths tutoring in local schools. A very successful day was then followed by washing machines, tumble driers and hot baths running overtime throughout Surrey and beyond!







POWERHOUSE

When the House System, as we know it, was introduced 100 years ago, the students were afforded the opportunity to compete in twelve events, mostly with a sporting theme. Today, there are over 20 different competitions, several that are not restricted by year groups. Music, for example, is undertaken by grade, not age, and with over 150 participants spread across different instruments, boys had the opportunity to perform publicly, often for the first time since lockdown. Golf, quiz, and debating are other such events that promote vertical integration and, as Karim Tayar, Senior Housemaster and Housemaster of Nettles acknowledged: "This is important because at the heart of the House system is the promotion of skills and values, not simply the championship – a sense of participation and belonging, pride, and above all fun." This has been evident throughout the term, never more so than in this year's hotly-contested pancake race. Austen House's Lower Sixth Form helped organise and run the non-scoring event and, in so doing, raised proceeds for the school charities, another key facet of the House system. Members of the Lower Sixth Form also participated in hustings-style assemblies, in an attempt to convince their peers of their suitability for future House leadership roles. The votes are being counted and we wait with bated breath for what the future holds!





LIVING IN A BOX

The *Big Yellow Storage* company, a reclining garden chair, *Ikea* flat-pack furniture, to name but a few, provided the cardboard packaging for protection against a night spent under the stars at the RGS. A shoe box provided slightly less coverage! Inspired by Second Form student Umu Atara, 35 of his year group, three members of the Lower Sixth Form and six members of staff braved the elements to sleep out at the RGS to raise money for *Transform*, a local charity based in Leatherhead which supports homeless and vulnerable people and helps them to live independent and fulfilling lives. After setting up their makeshift shelters, boys enjoyed football and other creative games such as creating cat-walk outfits from newspaper. The results were remarkable! The positives of the clear skies were soon outweighed by freezing temperatures as the boys hunkered down to get as much sleep as possible. As Charity Co-ordinator Becky Rathmell commented: "Charity at the RGS is about more than just fundraising. Events such as this allow the boys to empathise more closely with those who are less fortunate and give a greater awareness of just how tough and demoralising homelessness must be." A successful event raised well over £4,800 for *Transform* and the relieved boys – and staff! – fully appreciated a welcome return to their beds.





PULLING TOGETHER

The RGS was delighted to host the inaugural Max Windle Memorial events. The Memorial Trust was established to support mental health in children and young adults including depression, anxiety and suicide prevention. The events which focused on just some of Max's sporting passions were united by a spirit of camaraderie and friendship, sportsmanship and competition, and participation by boys of all age groups and abilities. The eagerly-anticipated staff versus Upper Sixth Form football match literally kicked-off proceedings; a passionate and vociferous crowd ensured the atmosphere was buzzing. 1 – 1 after full-time, much to the delight of the crowd, the match went straight to penalties. A composed final penalty by Senior Master Jimmy Pressley ensured victory for the staff. The Memorial Swim then saw almost 80 boys swimming 3,276 lengths of the pool in just one hour, travelling 81.9km, the equivalent of 2.4 times the distance of the Channel. Alessandro Harker completed an astonishing 122 lengths in the allotted time. Swimmers and non-swimmers competed alike as pleasure and pain were equally on show! Finally, boys of all age groups took to the Surrey Hills, bathed in spring sunshine, as they ran, jogged or almost-jogged on one of the stunning cross-country courses. As well as raising significant funds for the charity, the events served as a powerful reminder of the importance of sport for the wellbeing of us all.





THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

It has been a superb year for football at the School and it has been great to have so many boys out on the grass, playing with friends and enjoying competitive fixtures after two significantly disrupted seasons. The Under 15s (finally!) started their training sessions and will continue into the summer term as they build for next season, while the Under 16s have had a hugely encouraging start to competitive football at the RGS. Captain Berty Chilcott, Vice-Captain Paddy Kerr and Kian Moodley have been standout performers in a strong side. Despite missing out on last season, the senior players have been genuinely impressive, with the 1st to 4th XIs producing some flowing and incisive, attacking football. Notable highlights include the 4th XI's famous away win at Cranleigh School, the 3rd XI enjoying a six-goal frenzy at Charterhouse School, the 2nd XI's impressive attacking display against Bede's School and the 1st XI's dramatic comeback against Charterhouse. As Adam Lowe, Head of Football noted, "The 1st XI, led by captain Sam Astles, has had an impressive season, where character and determination have been allied to attacking flair and intelligence. Fixtures against schools such as Hampton, Bede's and Charterhouse continue to reflect the progress of RGS football and the boys' encouraging performances on the pitch."





SQUAD GOALS

RGS hockey enjoyed a superb season and as Head of Hockey Craig Mullon noted: "After some time away from a regular season, it was evident that all the staff and boys were raring to go." Just short of 200 games were played across all 27 teams as RGS played some of the strongest hockey schools in the area from St George's College Weybridge, to Kingston Grammar School, to Whitgift School. The 2nd XI was undoubtedly the team of the season, playing with confidence and flare from start to finish: highlights included a 5 – 0 victory against Trinity School, Croydon. To put this achievement into context, including the RGS, only three 2nd XI teams went unbeaten in the whole country. 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. The highlight

for the senior teams was the first team's success in the St George's College 6s competition, in an event which attracted 28 teams. This event has been running since 1978 and this is the first time that RGS has won the competition. On an individual front, Charlie Wareing in the First Form and George Wilson in the Fourth Form were the leading goal scorers with 14 and 17 goals respectively. As Craig Mullon commented: "The ethos of RGS hockey remains focused on enjoyment and participation, aspiration and opportunity. To see so many boys representing the School each weekend, enjoying their hockey and the camaraderie that team sport brings, and developing technically as hockey players gives me so much pleasure. The future of RGS hockey is exciting."





SPORTS SHORTS

Badminton: Siddhanth Shirol won silver medal in the Under 15 Badminton National Circuit Gold tournament in Milton Keynes: an incredible achievement playing above age group.

Chess: After a 4 – 2 victory in the regional final, our 1st VI has once again qualified for the National Finals where the top 16 teams nationally battle it out for the title of National Champions. The RGS 2nd team were victorious 5 – 1 against Reigate Grammar School's 1st team.

Cricket: Tom Humphreys has been selected in the prestigious Surrey Cricket Academy for 2022.

Cross-Country: Eddie Wilson came 7th in the Knole Run at Sevenoaks. George Vickers took 6th place in the Surrey Schools County Championships at Reigate Priory and has been selected for the Surrey Team. In the South London Harriers Hampshire cup, George came in 5th, Ted Edwards-Davies 6th, Ollie Atkinson 7th and Thomas Dreyer 19th.

Fencing: Felix Johnson won Silver in the Surrey Men's Intermediate Épée. Xavier

Wallin was selected for the Under 17 national foil squad and represented Great Britain in the European Fencing Confederation event in Slovakia. Freddie Cheng was selected to represent the South-East Region in the Cadet Winton Cup. He was part of the winning South-East foil team who won the overall title. In the Surrey Youth Fencing Championships, Valentine Wallin won Silver in Under 12 Épée; in the Under 18 Foil Xavier secured Silver while Zed Law won Bronze. In the South-East Region Championships & Qualifier for the British Youth Championships Zed achieved Bronze medal position in Under 18 Foil. Xavier, Zed, Freddie, Felix and Valentine all qualified for the British Youth Championships. Ronit Sachdeva won Bronze in the Under 14 Épée at the Public Schools' Fencing Championship.

Sailing: Ben Mueller has been selected for the RYA 29er Youth Performance Squad, recognising his potential to progress within British Youth Sailing to the British Sailing Team and into the Olympic Development programme.

Shooting: The RGS won the IVs match against Epsom School with Joshua Myers top scoring with 92.

In the fixture against Imperial College, London, the result went down to the wire on the last shots. Imperial won by 730 to 724 with its team featuring OGs In Kyu Kwon and Lawrence Castle.

Skiing: Jack Weeks has been selected for the London Region Academy which is part of the British Triathlon talent pathway. He attended the London Academy warm weather training camp in Portugal.

Speed Skating: Theo Collins was selected to represent the GB team in the Junior World Short Track Speed Skating Championships in Poland.

Swimming: In the Surrey Schools Swimming Championships, across the three sections, four golds were achieved by William Jones, Noah Bourne-Waterhouse, Lorcan Road and Tommi Nebuloni as well as three bronzes from Galahad Reeve, Thomas Fowler and Alessandro Harker. Combining all three age groups, the RGS came out on top. In the event against Reed's and ACS Cobham, the RGS claimed victory in the very tense final to win the gala overall with 292 points.



LUCKY SEVENS

After an enforced break of nearly two years, it was fantastic to see boys from across the year groups involved in Rugby Sevens action once again this term. The 1st VII made an impressive start to their season reaching the Shield Final of the South Coast Sevens and, more recently, qualified for the last 16 of the Edwin Doran Surrey Sevens for the first time in more than a decade. Agonisingly, they were beaten by

Harrow School in extra time. In the Surrey Sevens, the Under 13s were unbeaten within their tier, while the Under 14s reached the cup quarter-finals. Our excellent Under 15s were cup winners at the Perins Sevens, cup runners-up at the John Fisher Founders' Day Sevens and vase winners at the Wimbledon College Pieroni Sevens. After four cancelled tournaments in the past six years, it was also wonderful to

finally welcome an outstanding line-up of teams to Bradstone Brook to participate in our very own RGS Under 16 Sevens. As Head of Rugby Ben Dudley reflected: "After such an absence from competitive fixtures and tournaments, the quality of performance in all age groups has been remarkable. The boys have learnt quickly and proved they can be competitive against some of the best sides in the country."

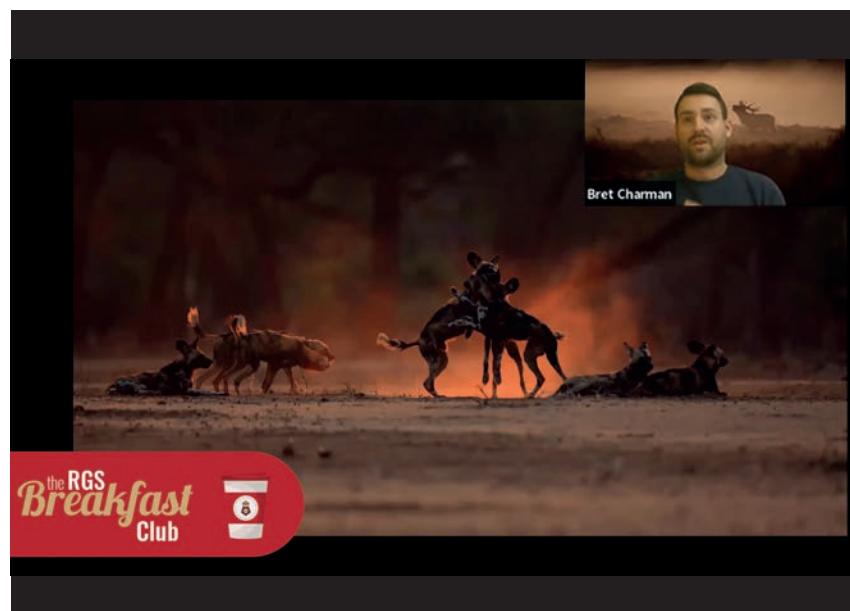


BACK TOGETHER



It has been an exciting time within the Development and Alumni team; once again we are writing invites, booking venues, and opening the doors to welcome back our Old Guildfordians. Our two reunions this term catered for very different ends of the OG spectrum. We organised a lunch for OGs from the Classes of the 1960s at the exclusive *Looking Glass Room at The Ivy*. On a grey January day, we brought lightness and laughter to Guildford as our old boys reunited at last. It was a particularly uplifting afternoon as this was the first time in decades many of them had come together to share their anecdotes of the School from over 60 years ago. We also hosted the Oxbridge reunion drinks at the *Cambridge Brew House* to assemble younger OGs and

reconnect them with some familiar staff faces. The popularity of these events has encouraged us to broaden our horizons and we are looking forward to hosting similar receptions for OGs at other universities across the country. It is genuinely uplifting to be able to bring old friends together again, but it is just as fun to catch up with our community who do not live so close to Guildford so we will continue the online events programme. Our annual favourite, the *BIG RGS quiz*, was as entertaining as ever and our series of interest talks, *The Breakfast Club*, continued to attract a strong audience. This term's online Q&A featured Bret Charman OG06 and award-winning wildlife photographer giving a breath-taking behind the scenes talk on the nature of wildlife.



AND FINALLY ...

 **RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford
Feb 1

#RGSGuildford
The MFL corridor – including our Mandarin teachers Ms Pei and Ms Li – provides an explosion of colour & energy to celebrate #ChineseNewYear.



 **RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford
Mar 24

#RGSGuildford
Lunch-time Ceramics Club sees the boys getting up close with a range of exciting projects: from dragons, to pots, to masks. Can't wait to see the final results!



 **RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford
Mar 18

#RGSGuildford
That Friday feeling...! Some of our fantastic Upper Sixth Form mark their final charity own clothes day by making just that bit of an effort!



 **RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford
Mar 11

#RGSGuildford #RGSDrama
A hands-on workshop on stage make-up training including creating realistic wounds, injuries, scars and ageing.



 **RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford
Feb 4

#RGSGuildford
The Valpy senior team proudly sport their House ties, with Housemaster Mr Baker & Deputy Dr Whall in attendance.



 **RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford
Feb 4

#RGSGuildford
When life gives you a rainy day, just play in the puddles. Boys still have that Friday feeling as torrential rain welcomes them to the RGS this morning...



 **RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford
Feb 28

#RGSGuildford
We bid farewell to RGS legend John after 18 years' loyal service: endlessly smiley, engaging & chatty. You'll be sorely missed.



 **RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford
Mar 11

#RGSGuildford
The First Form are enjoying some jaw-dropping experiences today @Marwellwildlife & keep smiling despite the rain. @RGSGACTIV



 **RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford
Mar 24

#RGSGuildford
Fourth Form DT students have developed their 3D Computer Aided Design skills to build robotic Buggies. Racing them was fun too!

