

THE REGISTER

The termly newsletter of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford

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THE HEADMASTER WRITES ...



Children in Need was first broadcast in 1980, labelled using rather quaint, retro terminology as a telethon. With the inspiring double act of Sir Terry Wogan and Pudsey the Bear, this British institution has now raised well over £1 billion for disadvantaged children and young people in the UK. This was not, however, the BBC's first charity appeal; this took place in 1927 in the form of a five-minute radio broadcast on Christmas Day, raising about £1,342. The first televised appeal, the *Children's Hour Christmas Appeal*, was broadcast in 1955 fronted by the yellow glove-puppet Sooty and Harry Corbett. The ability of the British public to unite, even in challenging financial times, and support others with such generosity of money and spirit is always humbling.

Author Simon Sinek once said, "*The ability of a group of people to do remarkable things hinges on how well those people pull together as a team.*" The RGS is fortunate to be characterised by phenomenally talented students and

staff alike, capable of achieving great things. As I read through this edition of *The Register* and reflect upon those moments which stand out, it is clear that although we nurture young people with the confidence to be individuals, our shared aims, values and vision are our heartbeat. A desire to treat one another with respect and kindness, by a determination to fulfil potential are key to our success. The result of collaboration, teamwork and shared goals were, undoubtedly, the driving force behind outstanding performances in the cross-country Haskell Cup, the shooting Ashburton Shield, the drama productions of *Nicholas Nickleby*, *The Tempest* and the *Medea*, the junior piano and ensembles concerts, and so I could go on.

From a personal perspective, however, what best epitomised this sense of doing remarkable things was our Giving Day to raise profile and funds for the *Twenty for 2020* Bursary Campaign. With the shared aspiration of altruism and philanthropy, the

whole community came together for just over 24 hours and whether it was through inspiring others or by sharing and liking via social media or by pledging money of whatever amount, we surpassed every expectation and target. In so doing, the RGS proved that rather than empty rhetoric, Simon Sinek's words resonate and highlight that, together, anything and everything is possible. And for that I am grateful to every single one of you.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, likely belonging to the Headmaster, positioned to the right of the text block.



ON CLOUD NINE

The RGS achieved another outstanding set of results at both GCSE and A Level: testament to the work ethic, mutual support and ambition of our students. At A Level, the most common grade achieved was the A*, followed closely by the A grade. In total, an impressive 293 A*/A grades were achieved. 53 boys secured a clean set of A* and A grades, 21 of whom secured a perfect set of A* grades. Dr Jon Cox, commented: "Changes to the current A Level system and a move to linear courses created even greater levels of trepidation among students across the country; the examination watchdog Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) even warned schools to be braced for more variation than usual in this year's results. To have achieved such a remarkable percentage of the gold-standard A* grades denotes a consistent performance across the Sixth Form at the very highest level." At GCSE, an astonishing 50% of all results were at the new Grade 9 and 75% at Grade 8 or 9, the equivalent to the old grade A*. In total, an extraordinary 733 Grade 9s were achieved; 16 boys celebrated a clean sweep of the very top grade, and 27 boys in total achieved nine Grade 9s or more. 73 students secured at least nine Grades 8 or 9. These results allow the boys to have the most ambitious of aspirations, just reward for all their efforts.



CON-GRAD-ULATIONS

Laptop – check. Mobile phone charger – check. Tins of *Baked Beans* – check. RGS hoodie – check. Details of the bank of mum and dad – check. Lucky mascot – check. It's

mid-September and the annual migration from Surrey of fresh-faced first-year university undergraduates is well underway. There are some perennially popular destinations for

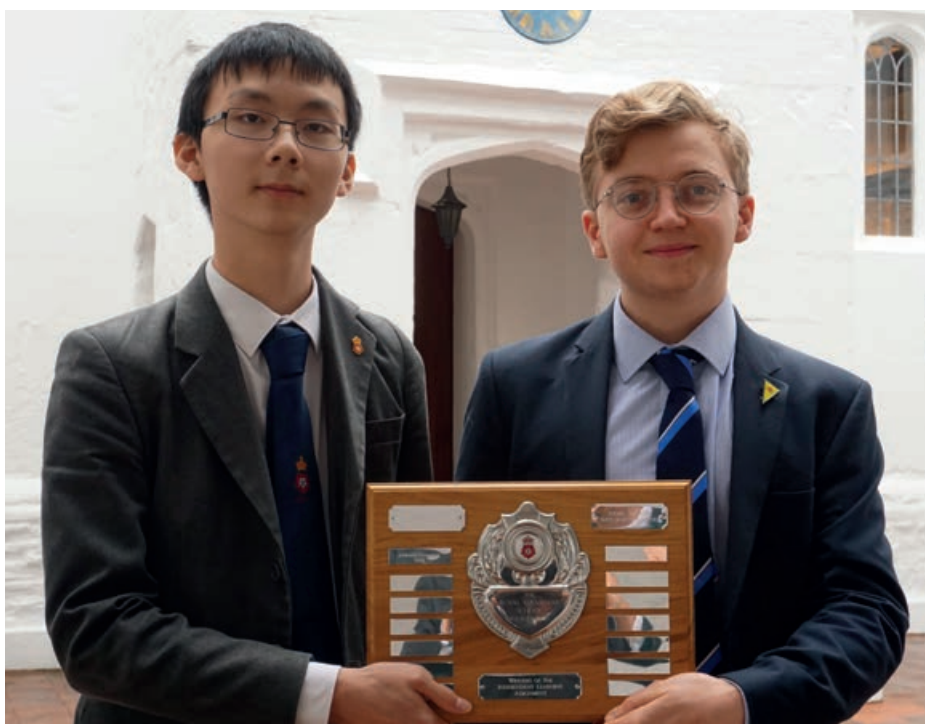
RGS students with significant numbers as ever heading to Cambridge (which reclaimed its number one position this year), Durham, Exeter, Nottingham, Oxford, Bath and Bristol. What was particularly notable this year, however, was the emergence of some new entries amongst the top 10 destinations with Loughborough and Southampton both featuring for the first time in a decade. This was also the year that saw the largest ever number of different university destinations with 33 UK and three overseas institutions welcoming Old Guildfordians to their communities. Peter Dunscombe, Director of Studies, commented: "Healthy patterns have continued to emerge in terms of the university admissions process. RGS students are continuing to receive an astonishing number of offers on the most competitive courses at the leading universities in this country and beyond; equally, however, with so many options available, we have been delighted to see that with tailored advice, each individual is able to find the course and destination which will allow him to flourish and fulfil his potential."



ROCKET MAN

As always, a genuine buzz of anticipation greeted the finalists as one of the highlights of the year, the Independent Learning Assignment Presentation Evening, showcased seven-minute presentations of the students' research projects. The finalists – from both the Arts and from STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) – presented on topics as diverse as valuing unpaid labour to gecko's feet, from the biology of ageing to how to spot tax fraud. Despite the distinctive nature of each topic, what the students all shared was a singular passion for their respective disciplines and a maturity of presentation. All those in attendance

commented on the staggering complexity of the ideas, ideas which were presented in a way that allowed all the audience not only to access the research but also to capture the energy and excitement which each assignment generated. After much deliberation and agonising, the judges, comprising RGS governors, crowned Tian Fang as winner in the STEM category who quite literally built a jet engine in his shed and Alfie Cherry as winner in the Arts category who spoke on the political ideology of Democratic Confederatism and its implementation in the region of Rojava, north-east Syria.



DEEPLY DIPPY

With the King's Lecture renowned for scholarship and erudition, a talk which included reference to Dippy, Chi Chi and Archie may well have raised some eyebrows; however, rather than characters from a children's show, they formed part of a fascinating behind-the-scenes insight into one of Britain's most iconic landmarks, as we welcomed Director of the Natural History Museum, Sir Michael Dixon. Knighted for his services to museums in 2014, Sir Michael provided a sense of the sheer scale of the Museum: approximately 20,000 items on display; a further 80 million in store; 5.4 million visitors each year; and almost 1,500 staff in the museum at any one time. The museum's main narratives, however, as well as

identifying the origins and evolutions of our past paving the way for the natural diversity of the present, were firmly forward-looking. The extent of scientific research and global collaboration, and the greater emphasis on engagement, debate, and solutions provide a source of great hope in striving for a sustainable future. An extended Question and Answer session from the captivated audience highlighted that there is no shortage of concern or compassion and with the enduring attraction of Dippy the diplodocus, Chi Chi the giant panda, and Archie the giant squid, creating advocates for the planet rather than just rhetoric can, indeed, become a reality.

20/20 VISION

The RGS held its first ever Giving Day, one of the very first schools in the UK to host an online fundraising event of this kind. Raising funds for the Twenty for 2020 Bursary Campaign, the Giving Day was the latest in a series of initiatives aiming to create 20 transformational bursary places for 2020. Utilising video, social media and digital communications, members of the RGS community all around the globe were given the opportunity to take part. In particular,

the response to the clip of the School Hymn, filmed by Fifth Form student Ronan Lenane, was phenomenal; it has already been viewed on YouTube almost 2,500 times. Georgie Grant Haworth, Development Director, commented: "A staggering 431 Old Guildfordians, parents, parents of OGs, staff past and present, governors, friends and students raised an incredible £132,271.64, surpassing all our targets and expectations." The day created an

inflation-proofed, transformational bursary which will take a boy on an 80% bursary through his entire education. This is the 17th means-tested bursary, from our target of 20 for 2020, to be funded by the community. To see everyone uniting with such energy and generosity was a source of great pride to all concerned, a sentiment encapsulated by an Old Guildfordian's comment: "An immense achievement all round, pride doesn't do the result justice."



SCHOOL REPORT

Chemistry: Alex Thow received a trophy for his Roentgenium Award in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, one of only four students below the Sixth Form in the UK to win the top Award.

Design and Technology: Elliott Latham exhibited his garden tools storage trolley at the Young Furniture Maker's Exhibition and his design won one of the School's Prizes: impressive for a GCSE student in a competition open to A Level students.

Environment: James Miller spoke about the youth environmental movement at both the *Youth Voices* panel discussion live at the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Annual

General Meeting. Freddie Lonie won the Trinity Group Geography essay prize with his submission entitled, *The Role of Geopolitical Constraints on Global Interactions*.

Mathematics: In the Senior Mathematics Challenge, entered by over 80,000 Sixth Formers, the RGS received an impressive 23 gold certificates, 27 silver and 13 bronze. 19 boys were invited to take the follow-up Senior Kangaroo and four qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad, including Andrew Florescu who top scored with 116. The RGS team won the South Regional Round of the Senior Mathematics Team Challenge, beating 18 other schools, to qualify for the National Final.

Science: Eight boys were successfully awarded *ORIS* awards: Original Research in Science whereby students complete a minimum of two weeks of original research in any area of science at a university or in industry to qualify. Alasdair Hopwood and Kai Rohde secured Platinum awards; Matthew Williams achieved Gold.

Scouts: Rishikesh Mistry received the Chief Scout Gold award; the highest award that can be achieved in the Scout section.

REST IN PEACE

The whole community joined together in an act of remembrance as the School united in memory of those who have lost their lives in warfare since the First World War. During our service of remembrance, Mr Robert Strick, Old Guildfordian 1949 and Governor 1994 – 2004, laid a wreath in memory of the old boys, while School Captain, Lucas Savage, laid a wreath on behalf of the staff and students of the School. Old Guildfordian Lieutenant Colonel Tom Archer-Burton then delivered an inspiring address in which he spoke about the importance, in the current climate, of ensuring that peace and freedom prevail. He highlighted the values of courage, respect and integrity but also emphasised the fact that every single individual has a role to play in protecting our future. This message was powerfully brought home as Deputy School Captain, Roy Brett, read out the names and ages of those Old Guildfordians who had died on the Ypres Salient, the youngest being just 19. As the Headmaster said: "On the War Memorial in Big School are listed the names of all 58 Old Boys of this school who died in the Great War: RGS students who walked the same corridors as you; had the same dreams and aspirations as you; and whose loss of life was a source of devastation for their friends, families and the School alike."



IN MEMORIAM

In Ypres there are two historic memorials to the fallen of the First World War. The best known is perhaps the Menin Gate; St George's Memorial Church, however, can be viewed with equal importance. Every item in the church is in memory of someone who gave their life for freedom. Many of the walls are dominated by dedicatory plaques from schools throughout the UK, illustrating on a very personal level and on a human scale the cost of war. A new brass plaque was recently dedicated to those Old Guildfordians who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the First World War, including those who died on the Ypres Salient. As part of the Evensong, a very moving service included readings from the School Captain, Lucas Savage, and from the Headmaster, Dr Jon Cox, as well as the singing of the School Hymn, *To be a Pilgrim*. The Evensong concluded with the dedication and blessing of the plaque which was made all the more poignant as the names and ages of those who tragically lost their lives on the Ypres Salient were individually read out. Mr Robert Strick, Old Guildfordian and former Governor, laid a wreath on behalf of the School.





HOUSE OF COMMONS



The RGS community – students, staff, governors and guests alike – united in the beautiful setting of Guildford Cathedral on a stunning September afternoon to welcome those new to our community and to celebrate and give thanks for the School’s founders and benefactors. The service provided the opportunity to highlight the rich diversity of our 500-year history and to remember all those whose generous gifts of money, time and expertise provided the foundations for the RGS of the twenty-first century. The Housemasters and House Captains provided insight from a historical perspective into the families and individuals synonymous with the modern-day Houses and served to create a sense of belonging and pride in the House system. The School was also delighted to hear the thoughts during the sermon of The Reverend Robert Cotton who engaged the congregation with an inspiring message. With an uplifting service of rousing hymns concluding with a passionately-sung rendition of the school hymn, *To be a Pilgrim*, the service proved to be an inspiring way for the whole community to mark the start of a new school year.



SCROLL UP, SCROLL UP

Back in 2015 the Joint Schools' Chamber Choir became the first ever school choir to sing Evensong at Trinity College, Cambridge and so it was with genuine pride that the choir made a return visit. The choir was treated to a tour of the college by renowned physicist Hugh Osborn, followed by a private tour of the spectacular Wren Library, including sighting of a Shakespeare *First Folio*, a first edition of Newton's *Principia* (complete with annotations in Newton's own hand), and manuscripts by Housman, Milton and Milne. The highlight, however, was undoubtedly an up-close look at the famous Trinity Carol Roll, a manuscript roll of music dating from the 1420s, containing, amongst other things, eleven Christmas carols written in medieval notation and a song celebrating Henry V's victory at Agincourt. Rehearsal in the College's stunning chapel then beckoned and the choir's final performance during the service did not disappoint. The setting of the evening service was Stanford's grandiose and much-loved *Service in C major* and the choir handled the musical challenges with aplomb. This was followed by Howell's beautiful setting of Psalm 42, *Like as the hart*, with its sublime melodic lines and its rich, almost intoxicating harmony in the organ accompaniment.





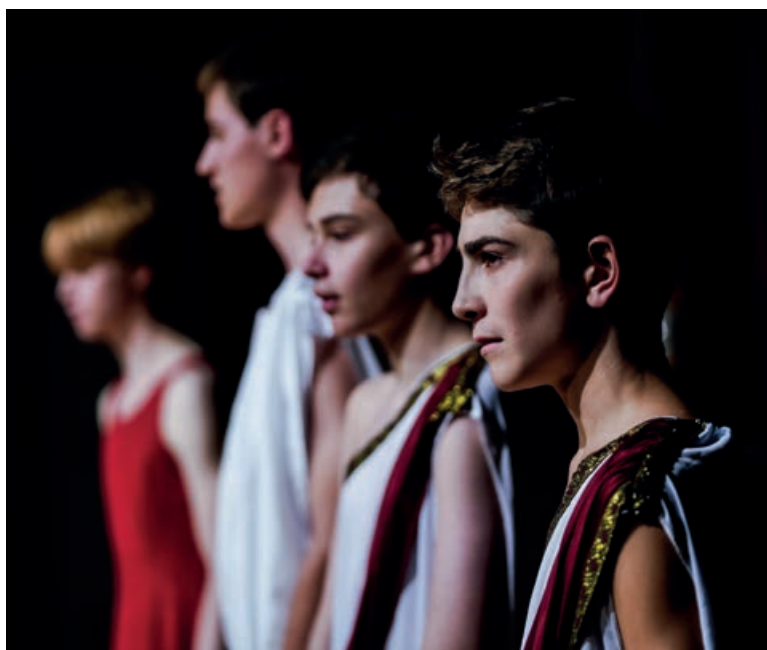
JUST ONE CONCERTO

Inspired by the culture, cuisine, climate of Italy – and also influenced, perhaps, by pizza, pasta and gelato – the 70-strong combined forces of the Joint RGS and Guildford High School Chamber Choir and Orchestra ventured to the picturesque Tuscan hills for an immensely enjoyable six-day tour. The trip also marked the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Joint Chamber Choir; the combining of musicians from the two schools continues to produce music of quite exquisite quality. The itinerary was as busy as ever, with five concerts across the region with some in spectacular venues including performances in Florence, Lucca and San Gimignano. The soaring temperatures did not

diminish the outstanding levels of musicianship on display from choir and orchestra alike and the large audiences at each concert were hugely appreciative. Particular highlights included stunning performances of Harris's *Faire is the Heaven* and Charles Wood's *Hail Gladdening Light* sung by the choir and rousing renditions of Rossini's evergreen overture to *The Barber of Seville* by the orchestra. Particular mention should also be made of the soloists from both schools in Mozart's *Coronation Mass* who sang with astonishing confidence and style.



HELLO M'DEAR



Fear of foreigners; banishment from one's homeland; controversial proclamations from a stubborn leader; gender inequality; betrayal and desire for revenge: far from a contemporary commentary these resonant topics are those which pervade Euripides' play *Medea*. From the opening words, Ollie Taylor intuitively captured in mesmerising fashion the strong-willed, defiant nature of Medea as she moves from suicidal despair to homicidal revenge, her emotional torment evident at every turn. In contrast and driven by his own tactless self-interest, Jason's whiny justification and weak, unsympathetic character was presented convincingly by Joe Field. A talented cast included a number of nuanced,

sensitive performances: George Hewitt and Gabriel Meadowcroft were mesmerising as they painted a visual picture in gruesome, vivid detail of the off-stage deaths of Glauce and Creon. With atmospheric lighting, the chorus of Corinthians – led ably by Alexander Norris – provided a brooding presence, switching seamlessly between English and ancient Greek, and keeping the original Fifth Century BC Athenian setting very much in mind. With choices and consequences at the heart of the play, the audience was left to reflect on an outstanding production which proved that classical tragedy remains as current and topical as ever. Hell hath, indeed, no fury like a woman scorned.

STORMING PERFORMANCE

A play infused with magic, betrayal, love and forgiveness, and even mention of unicorns, contained the perfect ingredients for a fantastic junior production. The RGS was delighted to perform an abridged version of *The Tempest* in the *Shakespeare Schools Festival at G Live*. With the whole cast on stage throughout, the performance was characterised by creative and energetic physical theatre, carefully staged choreography, stunning freeze frames, and plenty of theatrical flourishes: the shipwreck, the gaudy clothes-hanging scene, and the spirits being chased away by the baying dogs will long linger in the memory. Atmospheric sound effects transported the audience to the eerie island setting: the haunting sound of the drums, bird cry, and acapella singing led by James Nicholas, as one of the cleverly-cast four Ariels, were all particularly memorable. A number of impressive performances included Zac Warham as the complex protagonist Prospero, James Patterson as the compassionate Miranda, and Louis Kinsler conveying the insolent and rebellious Caliban. Milo Findji and Charlie Webster showed good comic timing as they provided light relief as the jester Trinculo and drunken butler Stephano respectively. With sustained applause from the appreciative audience, a thoroughly absorbing performance on a professional stage came to a close. As Prospero so eloquently expresses, *"We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep."* And this was, indeed, the stuff of dreams.







WHAT THE DICKENS

A story which switches from horrendous cruelty and abject poverty to kindness, generosity and love, from tragedy to comedy and back, provided an emotional roller-coaster ride as audiences were treated to a thoroughly slick, professional production of Charles Dickens' play *Nicholas Nickleby*. A 37-strong, combined RGS and Guildford High School cast tackled the complex tale with sensitivity and perception; narrative and dialogue were skilfully woven together and the stage was frequently filled with absorbing hustle and bustle. Plenty of rousing gusto and movement; a feast of colour; moody, evocative lighting and sound; innovative, expansive staging; and intricate costumes all served to transport the audience to early nineteenth-century England.

Nicholas, a young man sets out in the world to win fortune and love despite encountering a rogue's gallery of villains. Nicholas, played by Ellis Baker, is

perfect as the noble and earnest lead, in stark contrast to Dan Cobley who sparkles as the detestable, chillingly cruel and sneering Wackford Squeers. Joe Field is suitably evil as Sir Mulberry Hawk while Edward Osborough captures the vindictive nature of Ralph; Alex Vale is outstanding as the vulnerable and meek Smike. Teeming with a multitude of vivid characters, the cast do a superb job of juggling so many different roles to portray the rich tapestry of human life.

The 2002 film adaptation of this tale included the line, "*Happiness is a gift and the trick is not to expect it, but to delight in it when it comes.*" When a production comes along where every constituent part is so beautifully crafted then happiness is quite simply guaranteed.







MANIFOLD SUCCESS

The annual Smoothey Art Competition produced a wide range of submissions in various media from students throughout the School. The spirit of Ronald Smoothey MBE, a former student and Art master from the 1940s, remains very much alive in this competition as the energy, creativity and innovation – and, indeed, eccentricity – which epitomised Ronald provides the inspiration for students to express themselves with imagination and no little technical skill and with no theme or media restriction. This year's winner was Second Form student William Holmes with his Japanese idyll, created using origami. Inspired by a visit to Japan, William visited the *Ochanomizu Origami Kaikan* in Tokyo, a museum which celebrates the traditional art of origami and where he sourced a lot of the intricate patterned paper used in his Smoothey entry. As William commented: "I started making the figures as a focal point, then I got really involved trying to make the whole scene out of paper, right down to every individual blossom on the cherry trees. It took a long time and a lot of folding but it was a joy to make and I am over the moon that I won!" We have no doubt that Ronald Smoothey would have approved!





OUT AND ABOUT

This term there have been over 88 off-site trips, offering 2,600 student places, supervised by 278 staff, many of which took place on the two Field Days. These days see boys involved in outdoor activities such as bushcraft, expedition skills, lifesaving, hiking and numerous cadet force activities up in the air, on the ground and on the water. Theatres, museums and exhibitions also host visits for our students. Numerous academic visits, musical recitals, sporting competitions and other activities such as the debating and visits

to local community organisations, have also taken place. Residential trips have accumulated 39 nights away and once all trips are back for Christmas, boys will have visited Germany (History), Switzerland (Economics) and France (junior and senior ski trips) as well as Brecon and the New Forest (Duke of Edinburgh), Isle of Wight (adventure weekend), Somerset (chess), Edinburgh (rugby), Cornwall (lifesaving), and Oxford (sailing) in the UK.



TRIPPING THE FLIGHT FANTASTIC



With learning outside the classroom an integral part of each students' development, RGS students travel near and far on a range of academic, adventurous, cultural and sporting trips. The last few months alone have seen, as well as established events such as the Isle of Wight team-building weekend, a number of new initiatives. As well as a rugby tour to Edinburgh, a combined hockey and football tour travelled to Singapore and Malaysia where high-level training and competitive fixtures were experienced. Temples, night markets and beaches were enjoyed; a particular highlight was the visit to the Batu Welfare Home where the students had an opportunity to give of their time to those less fortunate. The History Department visited Munich, including the site of the Munich Putsch, the White Rose Monument, the iconic Olympic Tower, the picturesque Bavarian National Museum, the Allianz Arena - home of Bayern Munich FC, the superb Munich Documentation Centre, BMW World and Dachau for a touching and memorable tour. The highlight of the Economics trip to Geneva was an invitation to attend a series of lectures and talks at Unige, Geneva University. In addition, there were visits to the United Nations, the Red Cross and the World Trade Organisation, as well as multi-national businesses such as *Evian*, the largest bottling plant in the world processing 6.3 million bottles per day, and the chocolatier *La Maison Cailler*.







STANDING JOKE

The excitement built from the previous two comedy evenings was palpable as the third RGS comedy night kicked off with a sparkling opening from the compère, our very own Old Guildfordian, Paul Kerensa. As amusing as ever, Paul engaged with the front row of First Form students who stood up to his entertaining questioning. The first act Tony Cowards, a rapid-fire gag merchant, had the audience in stitches with his sharp one-liners. He reminisced about his school days, when in a geography lesson, he mixed up the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn: his teacher told him he had a latitude problem. The jokes continued in abundance, ranging from blood group types: B positive for optimistic people, through to choking on a German sausage and fearing the *wurst*; the audience were grateful for the interval to compose themselves. Patrick Monahan then took to the stage after the break and launched into his own high-energy comedy style by singling out individual teachers in the audience, including Mr Vickers, a member of the PE Department, who he said could have been on *Love Island*; the boys found this particularly amusing! A brilliant night was had by all and the proceeds of the night raised an extraordinary £1,738 for *Stand Up to Cancer* and our school's nominated charities.





TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

As if requiring any further negativity on a freezing cold, grey November afternoon with the accompaniment of steady drizzle, the dictionary definition of gunge - soft, sticky matter, or goo – would not have inspired much confidence in the minds of the five intrepid, nay foolhardy, members of staff. Indeed, suddenly, the old adage of *it's all for charity* may not have provided much consolation either. For this term's Nettles House charity event, the ever-popular *Gunge the teacher* made a welcome return with students able to vote for who they would like to see gunged out of a line-up of Messrs Dennett, Herman-Wilson, Meadowcroft, Whitehead, and Wilkes. With keen voting throughout the week, Mrs Whitehead emerged on top and, as a reward, received the lion's share of gunge buckets in front of a baying crowd; not to be disappointed the other staff were also gunged, including Nettles Housemaster, Mr Tayar. All the staff were unbelievably good sports and with the last-minute addition of further contributions, the event raised an astonishing £716 for the School's nominated charities.



LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL

The climax of the shooting calendar is the main Imperial Meeting which culminates in the Ashburton Shield: the most prestigious competition for cadets, dating back to 1861. The Ashburton Shield is one of the oldest competitions in the country; it originally took place on Wimbledon Common but subsequently moved to Bisley Common, the home of the *National Rifle Association*. This year, the RGS team performed fantastically and won a number of trophies: the East Surrey Bi-Centenary Bowl for the best team in the south east; the Garry Cup for schools competing against the Canadian National Under 18 team; and the Kinder Cup for the best score at 300yds. The highlight, undoubtedly however, was winning the Ashburton Shield for only the second time; the only other time was in 1986, some thirty-three years ago. As David Woolcott, Master in charge of Shooting, commented: "This is truly a fantastic achievement by our VIII, and represents the reward for the time, commitment, effort, and skill which were required to achieve what is regarded as the top trophy in the cadet world." In addition, our score in the Ashburton, combined with the score achieved by our Old Guildfordian team which fired in the Veterans' match on the same day, resulted in the RGS securing the Lucas Trophy, dating back to 1859, for the very first time.



BEEN THERE, RUN THAT

The RGS once again hosted the annual Haskell Cup cross-country relay on Merrow Downs. This is one of Surrey's most historic races,

dating back to 1954 when the Haskell Cup was donated to the School at a time when the RGS had an extraordinary six English school athletics

champions; this was all the more remarkable as in 1954 the RGS had no PE teacher, so the students were put through their paces by Sgt Major Stent by being sent out on a daily six-mile run. The fixture is one of the major cross-country events in the south east and this year attracted 50 teams, including – for the first time – a girls' competition within the race which attracted 12 teams. Having last won the cup in its inaugural year, the RGS team of Will Barnicoat, Tom Jones, Charlie Kershaw and Sam Martin addressed this by taking the Haskell Cup for only the second time in its history. Of the 200 runners the fastest lap was run by Will who knocked an impressive 16 seconds off the course record; Sam and Tom were third and fourth fastest respectively. Dai Cowx, Master in charge of Cross-country, commented: "For the RGS team to excel in such a talented field highlights just how impressive the current team is. To have written themselves into the record books is just reward for their dedicated training, mutual support and genuine determination."



YOU WIN SCRUM, YOU LOSE SCRUM

Another action-packed term for RGS rugby has seen 25 teams competing in more than 250 matches, festivals and tournaments. A refined and improved fixture list included blocks against Emanuel and Brighton College for the seniors,

against Reading Blue Coat School, Eltham and Dulwich College for the juniors. The annual Super Friday fixture against the Judd School remains a highlight with approximately 100 First Form boys representing Under 12A – G teams. The Under 15



tour to Edinburgh was a huge success, with the tour party recording close-fought victories over a Borders select XV and Peebles High School. The 1st XV has enjoyed another good season with highlights including a 26 – 13 win over local rivals Reed's School in front of a large, vociferous crowd at Bradstone Brook and victory over Bryanston School to reach the last 16 of the Champions' Trophy, for a third successive season. Despite losing to Rugby School, it was an unforgettable experience to play on the field where it all once began! Ben Dudley, Head of Rugby, commented: "Watching our boys develop in both skill and character continues to be a source of great pride. The level of engagement and the desire to improve their game are evident in boys throughout all age groups and ability levels, something I feel is unique to the RGS."

SPORTS SHORTS

American Football: Thurston Ford has been selected for the Under 19 GB American Football squad, at the age of only 16.

Badminton: Sam Baker is currently ranked in the top 10 in England in the Under 17 age group.

Canoeing: Jordan Martyn has represented Great Britain in the European Junior K2 marathon championships, where he finished fifth, and in the World Championships in China. He has also won the National Junior title.

Chess: The RGS 1st VI won the Eton College Rapidplay Tournament for an unprecedented third year in a row. In the Russell Trophy tournament, the RGS 1st team won the Championship, while in

the Millfield International Tournament the RGS finished in a very respectable second place. Alex Golding won his board prize, his age group prize and the prestigious *Stephen Joseph Award* for Best Player in the Tournament. Alex has also achieved a 2300 FIDE Chess rating in August when he was 15 years old and now has his FIDE Master title; he is the youngest English player in the country with a FM title.

Climbing: Harry Chilcott, after coming fourth nationally in recent competitions, has been invited to try out for the Great Britain Youth Development squad.

Fencing: In the Épée Cadet Under 17 National Championships, Leo Kamstra achieved sixth place: one of his best results this season.

Football: Encouraging early performances have included a 7 – 1 victory against Bedales School and a 4 – 3 win against Kingston Grammar School.

Hockey: Finn Cooper was selected to join the England Under 18 Hockey training camp and made his Men's Premier League debut for Surbiton Hockey Club.

Sailing: Rob Mawdsley won the Silver medal at the Optifall Open Belgian Sailing Championships and finished second out of 153 sailors in the Optimist IOCA End of Seasons event in Portland. He is now ranked third in the UK and is part of the RYA UK National Squad.

Swimming: In the Surrey Schools Team Relay Championships, the junior team won their Medley Relay and came second in their Freestyle Relay; the intermediate team came third in the Freestyle Relay.

AND FINALLY ...



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Oct 3

#RGSOpenDay

Looking forward to welcoming visitors for our annual Open Events on Friday evening and Saturday morning.
#openingthedoortotheRGS



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Oct 18

#RGSArt

Congratulations to Seb Chaumeton (OG15) on his incredibly successful 'Fuzzy Futures' ingenious exhibition, now @MaddoxGallery.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Nov 18

#RGSCommunity

Fantastic to welcome 120 Year 6 pupils for Masterclasses in a variety of engaging subjects. #powerofpartnerships



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Sep 10

#RSGuildford

This year's Upper Sixth Form step up for their final year photograph on the front lawn.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Sep 11

#RSGuildford

The night sky over the bridge of the John Brown Building rivals the Italian idyll of Tuscany in mid-September.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Oct 5

#RGSOpenDay

A huge thank you to our fantastic caterers @HolroydHowe for serving up delicious treats to our visitors.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Sep 12

#RGSArchives

Students hard at work (and/or posing for the camera!) during a science lesson from 1922. #ThrowbackThursday



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Sep 16

#RGSSocieties

A fantastic turnout at the Societies' Fair with boys signing up to join the huge range of clubs and societies available.



RGS Guildford @RGSGuildford
Nov 4

#RSGuildford

The work on the courtyard of the Old Building is now finished. The reclaimed Yorkstone looks fantastic.

