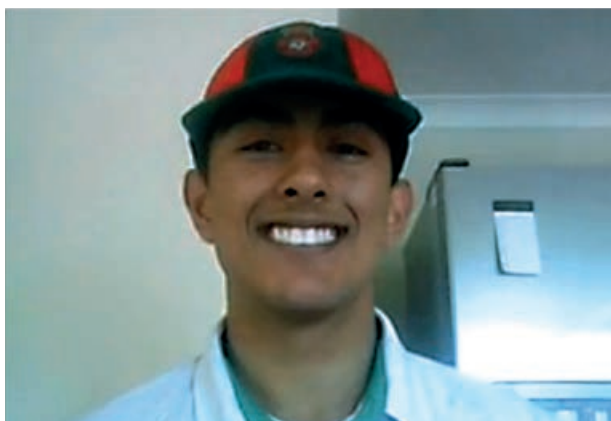
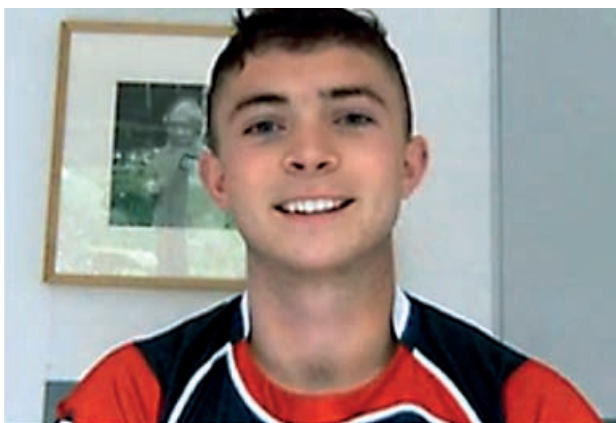


# THE REGISTER

ISSUE 33 TRINITY 2020

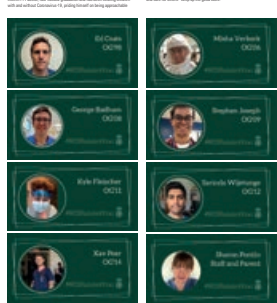
The termly newsletter of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford

## REMOTE SPECIAL



## SUPER HEROES

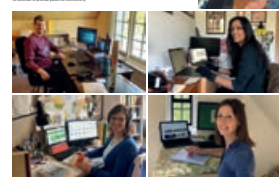
In a world where superheroes are everywhere, it's no surprise that the superhero theme has become a popular one for the Register. In fact, we've even had a few superheroes in our own right. Here are some of the superheroes who have made the Register their home.



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## REMOTE CONTROL

With the world's most powerful remote controls, the Register is now a remote control. In fact, we've even had a few remote controls in our own right. Here are some of the remote controls who have made the Register their home.



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## PULLING TOGETHER

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## A NIGHT WITH THE STARS

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14

## NO NEGATIVES

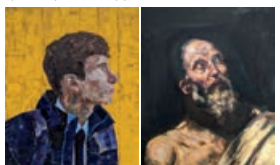
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## BEHIND THE MASK

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## DOWN TO A FINE ART

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## A SPORTING CHANCE

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# THE HEADMASTER WRITES ...



Rainbows, renowned for their beauty and mystical appearance, have always been synonymous with hope and positivity: the sunshine that follows rain, the vibrancy which emerges from, and is contrasted against, grey skies. The rainbow has adopted renewed significance in recent months as a symbolic and vivid representation of solidarity and optimism. Since the very earliest times, however, mythology has been fascinated by this natural phenomenon and it has prompted stories of everything from pots of gold guarded by leprechauns, to floating bridges to another world.

One of these traditions, the Legend of the Rainbow Warriors is said to be an ancient Native American prophecy. The Whirling Rainbow prophecy looks forward to a day when people of all races, backgrounds, and beliefs will put aside their differences and be unified to bring peace, understanding and healing everywhere they go. The prophecy

talks of regeneration of extinct or mythical species, of the flourishing and preservation of nature, of true equality. A new spirit of mutual respect will see an end to war, sickness or hunger forever. With the prominence of rainbows adorning buildings throughout the UK at the moment, so comes an innate desire for a better future.

The last few months have been deeply distressing for so many and have provided significant challenges for us all, but as I read through this edition of *The Register*, I am struck only by the themes of community and collaboration, generosity of spirit and altruism, creativity and resilience. This is a very different edition of *The Register*; it does not contain those articles which would normally dominate a summer term edition – cricket reports, music concerts, school functions – and yet what it does contain proves the remarkable strength of our community, the incredible determination not to be

beaten, and the heart-warming desire to help others. The rainbow, more than just a mythological ideal, is undoubtedly a beacon of great hope for the future.



# SUPER HEROES

As #ClapforourCarers became established as a weekly opportunity for the nation to show publicly our gratitude to the carers, key workers and front-line staff of the NHS, so too at the RGS the daily #RGSSalutesYou social media post provided our chance to thank all those members of the RGS community. Old Guildfordians, parents and staff continue to make extraordinary personal sacrifice for others. What particularly strikes are the very human stories which permeate the statistics and figures which we have all become so used to from the news and government briefings. One Old Guildfordian, as an interim FY1 doctor, fast-tracked graduation and has been treating children with and without Coronavirus-19, priding himself on being approachable

and friendly while hidden behind full PPE. Other stories tell of the amazing support from the public, of the power of sustaining food and chocolate donations, and the incredible courage and bravery shown by all. RGS parent Susan Bruynseels whose four children are all working on the NHS frontline, two of whom were RGS students in the 1990s, expressed her thanks on behalf of her sons for our support: "When you are tired at the end of a busy shift, to know you are appreciated makes a big difference. Thank you also for the values the RGS instils in its students: a strong sense of community, service and care for others. Keep up the good work!"





# REMOTE CONTROL

Over the last few months, students have quite literally seen their teachers in a new light as remote teaching has become established as the current norm. Students see the staff teaching from their own homes, dressed smartly but not in formal work clothes. Lessons are not infrequently invaded by a household pet or by a young child. Rather than in any way detracting from the experience, this strengthens the sense of humanity and normality; the lockdown has peeled away layers of staged professionalism from all areas of life, which in many ways is a good thing. The #RGSAtHome social media posts have served to reinforce this concept and to continue to provide powerful connectivity

within our community despite the distance. As the Headmaster, Dr Cox, commented: "I would like to express my genuine and heartfelt gratitude to all the staff of the RGS who have reinvented themselves as teachers, who have embraced the technology, but most of all who have remained true to their vocation: passionate about their subject, passionate about education, and passionate about the students. It will continue to be a steep learning curve but rest assured we are fully committed to making this experience as dynamic, challenging and engaging as possible." And if a lesson happens to be gate crashed by a dog or a toddler then so be it!





## TOP OF THE PILE

The RGS Young Enterprise Team *Vertex* was clearly aiming high with their choice of name and they, undoubtedly, have continued to make a point this year. Led by Managing Director Omeet Atara, they started their journey in competitions by winning the Dragons' Den competition, scooping the *Best Use of Innovation* award at the Y Factor, winning Company at Surrey Showcase, runners-up in the South Surrey Area Showcase where they won *Best Teamwork Award*, and winning the South East of England Finals which led to them to representing the region at the UK Finals. From designing a logo to represent the three pillars of wisdom to conducting market research into their product, their level of professionalism has been apparent throughout, with their two study guides covering all aspects of GCSE

and 11+ examinations. As Omeet commented: "We took advice from headteachers, Careers Advisers and mental health experts, placing emphasis on parents supporting their children through critical exams." The approach clearly worked as not only did they represent the RGS at the first-ever remote Young Enterprise national finals but also proactive sales and marketing meant an approach from Penguin Publishers, discussions with Surrey County Council and libraries, plus a healthy financial return. As Head of Business Enterprise Liv Timberlake noted: "The spirit of enterprise and innovation is very much alive in RGS students. *Vertex* demonstrated strategy, professionalism and hard work and their success was very well deserved."



## A CLASS OF THEIR OWN

The RGS has always been fortunate to have loyal, committed staff who have a deeply profound and lasting impact upon those who pass through the School. This term sees the two such long-serving members of staff leave who have accrued 44 years of service to the RGS between them: Shirley Perrett (2003) and Denise Walsh (1993). As well as being a phenomenal teacher of Mathematics, Mrs Perrett rarely sat still! She was responsible for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, participated in the expedition to Cambodia, introduced staff relay teams to complete the South Downs marathon and started a weekly staff running club: even this list of achievements is exhausting! She also ran 17 marathons, including an ultra-marathon of 38 miles and is a Guinness World Record holder as part of a centipede of 47 people tied together in the London Marathon. Mrs Walsh equally made a huge impact, joining the RGS as Library Assistant just as the Mallison Library moved to its present location and shortly after it adopted a computerised library catalogue. Since then she has diligently served three Librarians and assisted countless boys and members of staff. For many, however, the enduring memory of Mrs Walsh will be her meticulous and enthusiastic approach to dressing up on World Book Day: whether as Miss Marple or Mrs Durrell, every detail of her costume and accessories was perfect. We thank them both for their extraordinary service to the RGS and wish them all the very best for the future.





# HOME SCHOOLING

Following the retirement in 2011 of long-standing history teacher and RGS institution Greg Schofield, the School finally removed its last blackboard from a classroom. A weighty wood-framed board, it had three sections which showered clouds of white dust on unsuspecting passers-by as it rotated but which was continually filled with erudite musings, often on Anglo-Saxon history. It seems hard to believe that in such a relatively short period of time, in March

2020, circumstances necessitated a move into a fully remote learning environment, about as far removed from old-school chalk and talk as possible. Almost overnight, a whole new lexicon came into circulation with Teams and OneNote terminology becoming part of everyday parlance; however, to coin a phrase, this became the new normal very quickly. As Director of Studies Peter Dunscombe commented: "It is testament to our boys' extraordinary flexibility,

resilience and also independence that they have taken to remote learning so smoothly. What has impressed me is that the lessons have continued to be delivered with pace and stretch and the boys have also engaged so positively and proactively. What has also been lovely to see is the genuine warmth and humour of the boys' interaction with each other where the RGS spirit and community are clearly very much still alive and well!"

## SCHOOL REPORT

**Biology:** In the Biology Challenge run by the Royal Society of Biology, of the 55 boys who were able to take part before lockdown, RGS boys achieved 11 Gold, 7 Silver, 12 Bronze and 9 Highly Commended awards. Ferdy Al-Qassab top-scored for the RGS.

**Chemistry:** Having made the top 25 in Round 1 of the UK Chemistry Olympiad, Alex Thow progressed to Round 2 of this prestigious competition. After a display of remarkable chemical talent and scholarship, Alex achieved a top four position and was selected as a member of the national team. He was due to be representing the UK in the 52nd International Chemistry Olympiad to be held in Istanbul.

**Chess:** Alex Golding was selected for the England Under 20 chess team in the Lichess International Battles. Alex played against France, Spain, Greece, two teams from Russia, Germany, Ireland and Austria. He was placed fifth overall out of 96 international Under 20 players and he achieved the second highest score for the England Under 20 team.

**Enterprise:** In the Student Investor Challenge run by the London Institute of Banking & Finance, teams were given £100,000 of virtual money to invest in the London Stock Exchange. The RGS team *RGS Stonkbrokers*, after progressing through several stages, was one of only eight teams to qualify for the national finals from well over 6,000 original entrants.

**Humanities:** Omeet Atara was shortlisted for the New College of Humanities (London) Essay Competition in International Relations.

**Law:** George Hargreaves won the Trinity College 2020 Robert Walker Law Essay Prize from 175 entries. Lord Walker, himself, adjudicated between the top-rated entries. The judges were impressed by George's well-written and persuasively argued essay. Tom Welsh received a Commended in the same competition.

# LOCKDOWN LINES

As is often the case during times in crisis, there has been an outbreak of artistic innovation recently as people have sought creative outlets to express their reflections on the current climate. Poetry has often proved to be the medium capable of expressing complex emotions in a way which instantly captures the zeitgeist of the time. Indeed, many of the world's most iconic pieces of art have been inspired by writers, authors, painters, musicians whose lives have been dominated by extreme emotion or upheaval. The current times have been no exception and Coronavirus has already been the seed which has stimulated the growth of a number of creative projects. Not surprisingly, our students have been similarly inspired and having studied poems of hope from poets such as Robert Browning and Philip Larkin and poems of death and despair by WH Auden and Dylan Thomas, they put together a fantastic anthology of poems. As English teacher Ms Clarkson commented: "The maturity of the students' reflection was extraordinary as they interpreted the current situation with no little sophistication and insight. To do this within the medium of polished, structured poetry was all the more impressive."

## Poem for May Day: May Day 2020

Huddled but decidedly apart we stand,  
Darkness, pain, loss the mood,  
Candles and flowers littered across the land.

Just days prior, not far from here, we heard the joyful band,  
At this place a happy wedding we viewed,  
Yet none of this sorrow had been planned.

No bouquet of flowers held in her left hand,  
No wedding ring, which seemed now so crude  
Against the price which the disease did demand.

Ripped untimely from a now forever dreamland  
A nightmare now, she must conclude  
As far apart he now stands.

His face now given to the land  
The person, the man, the husband who'd  
Been part of the merry life she'd planned.

And as the day passed to a lonely night  
She reflected: no person did the potent danger exclude  
On no person did it bestow the right  
To have their moment, to avoid its plight.

*Mattie Sutton*



## The Careful Path Ahead

Almost three months of eternity, we've all been trapped at home;  
Anticipating the moment, this pandemic goes and we can roam;

The speech is played on telly, as we sit - we wait - we watch;  
To see the measures outlined, what we can do - what we cannot;

His face is painted serious, yet words of hope he speaks;  
"The rate of infection is now below one, thanks to the efforts of both you  
and me;"

He talks about a plan, a way to escape this war;  
A potential path to see the life, the one we used to adore;

This life is now attainable, it's now a light at the end;  
But this new path needs to be careful, lest we accidentally overextend;

This new plan will be flexible, a system from one to five;  
An indication to inform us, the pace we return to our lives;

With measures slowly easing, former liberties we can assume;  
But we still must maintain two metres, else the lockdown shall resume;  
This reopening of society, prompts a motto newly revised;  
To "STAY ALERT," "CONTROL THE VIRUS," and this will now  
"SAVE LIVES."

*Aradhya Soneja*

# PULLING TOGETHER

At a time when our School Value of Service has never felt as poignant and important, the RGS community rose to the remote challenge of supporting those locally in need. In recent months, through the extraordinary generosity of spirit, time and money, our whole community has been making a real difference. The Design Technology Department produced over 400 free visors for 25 different organisations including care homes, pharmacists, vets, physiotherapists, community schemes, hospitals, GP surgeries and schools; student Will Munroe made 'no-touch tools' and attachments using his 3D printer in his garage. Families have donated food either at Guildford County School or local food banks and, incredibly,

over 50 devices to support the remote learning of pupils at Kings College in Guildford. The String Scheme tuition has continued online: students and staff have recorded concerts for key workers and our students wrote greetings cards to care home residents. As Tom Shimell, Assistant Head (Partnerships), commented: "It has been gratifying and humbling to witness the character of the RGS community; in a time of challenge everyone has looked up and out and pulled together to benefit others. There has been a genuine desire to make a difference as well as action to make it happen and we can all feel proud of what we have achieved."



# UPBEAT

Not to be beaten by food shortages, including lack of flour and eggs, by being separated from each other, or ground down by the difficult circumstances, the Royal Grammar School Guildford community rose to the challenge as the annual *The Great RGS Bake Off* continued as always, but with an irresistible difference! The cupcake special #NHS #bakeforourcarers had as its theme positivity and, as a remote competition, each cupcake was judged purely on the decoration, on wow factor and on the ability to make people smile. The cakes reflected colourfully and imaginatively the theme, often with a dry sense of humour simmering close to the surface: toilet rolls were a particular butt of people's culinary jokes. The standard across the board from students,

staff and the new family category was extraordinary. The Student Category was won by Ayaan Bhagat with *I need my vitamin sea*; the Staff Category was won by Head of Admissions Kathryn Sweet with *The Masked Corona*; and the Doyle Family secured the Family Category with *Bog standard*. As the post-event clean-up operation continued across kitchens throughout Surrey, the event had proved a great success in raising over £1,700 for our wonderful NHS and front-line carers. Organiser Katherine Walker acknowledged, "The competition gave a much-needed creative outlet during this challenging period and our philosophy of #RGSTogether was very much in evidence as the whole community united behind such an important cause."





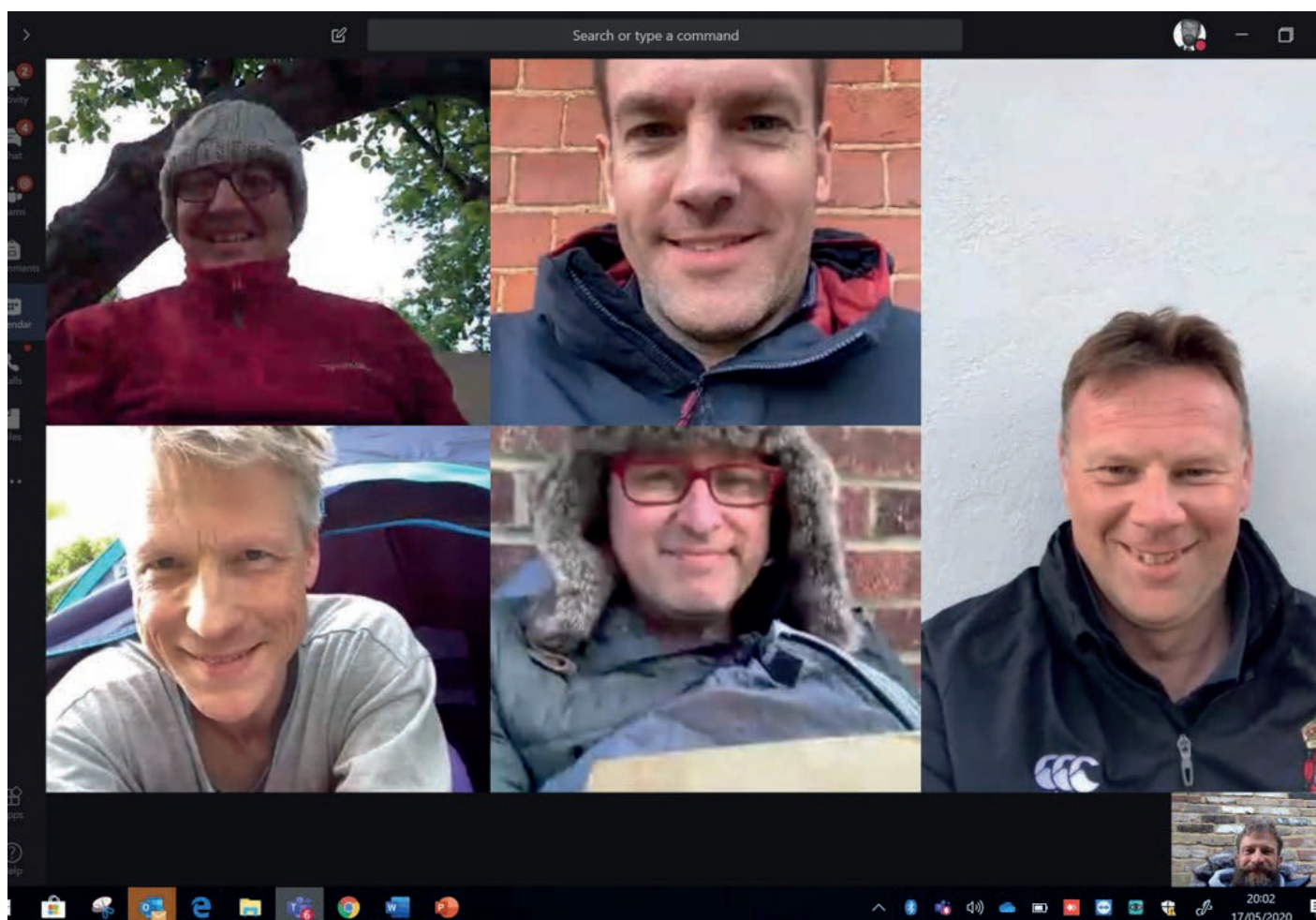


# A NIGHT WITH THE STARS

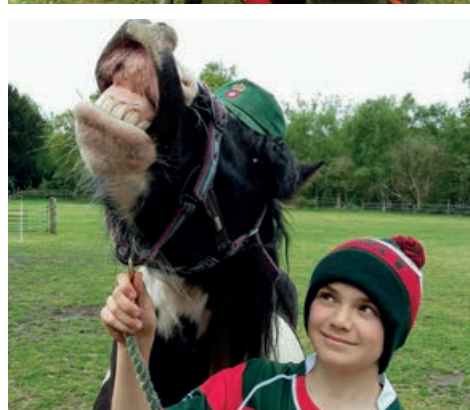
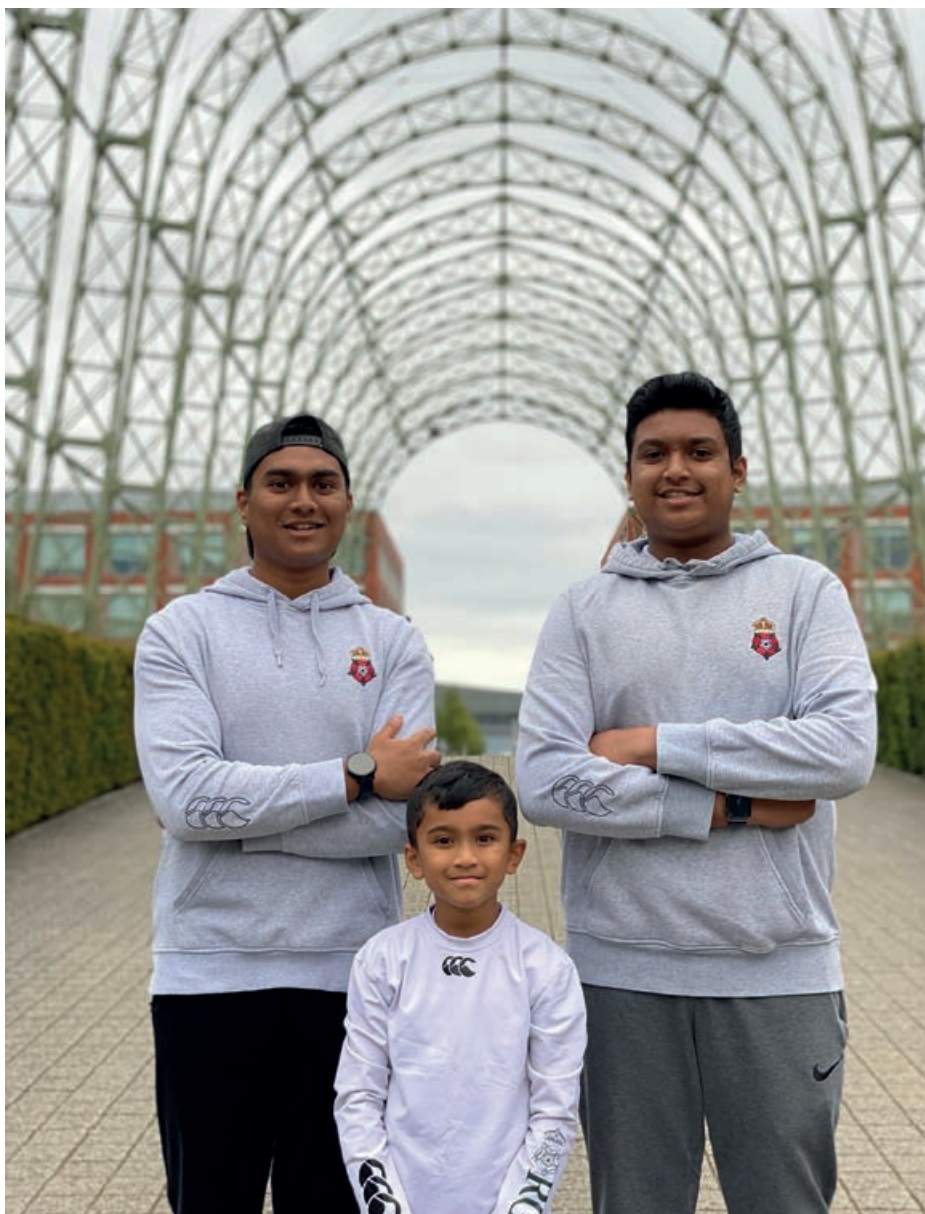
With hotels closed and travel restrictions in place, the prospect of a night away was an appealing one – or certainly that was the *sell* to the Senior Management Team; the reality proved to be somewhat different! For – supposedly – one night only, the SMT, including Dr Cox, swapped the comfort of their beds, pillows and duvets for a night out with, and under, the stars. In an act of solidarity, the SMT slept out remotely together in their gardens, using everything from cardboard boxes and impromptu shelters, to benches and bashes. With money pouring in, the Head offered to do another night under the stars if a £6,000 target was reached; as the SMT settled down

outside the following evening, this seemed like a slightly less good idea! An impromptu Teams conference call, however, provided the necessary motivation and humour. With an incredible sum of just under £8,700 raised as much-needed funds for *Centrepoin*t, the UK's leading youth homelessness charity, the short-term pain was definitely well worth it. The online audience and our extended community were left to reflect on a series of photos and videos which captured early morning bed-hair and slightly forced smiles but illustrated perfectly both #WarmHeartsColdToes and more importantly #RGSTogether.









# DOGGED DETERMINATION



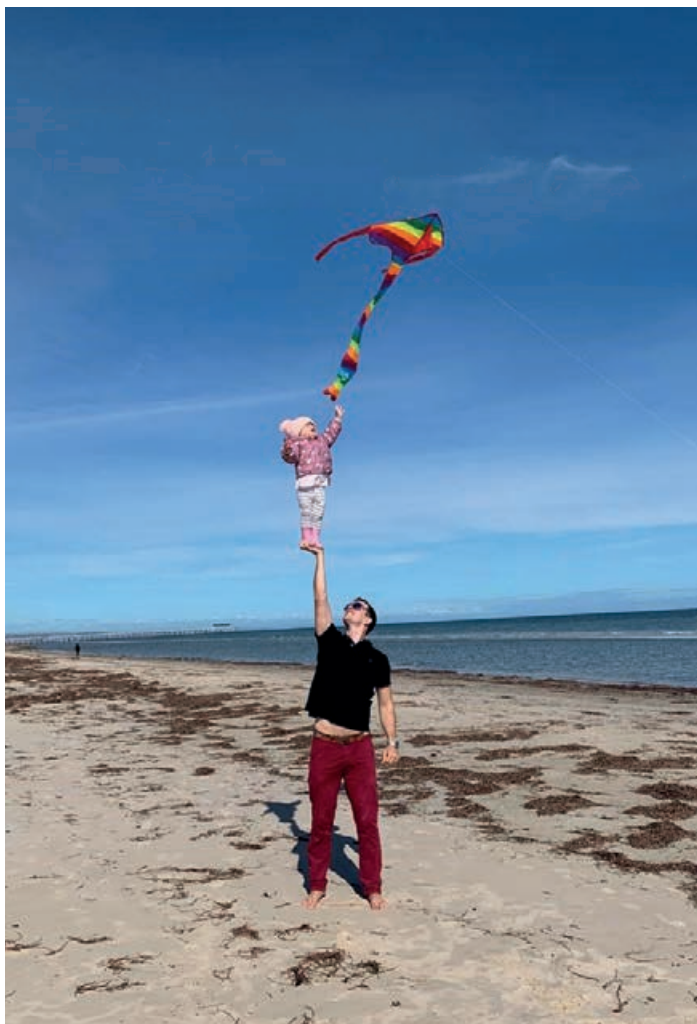
As so much policy across the country has had to be re-written and re-invented, so the RGS too had to reflect that our definition of community is seemingly too narrow! When #RGSTogether was coined we envisaged it referring to students, staff, governors, parents, Old Guildfordians and their families, but the phenomenal charity walk/stroll/jog/run/cycle initiative saw the need for us additionally to incorporate cats, dogs and even horses into the definition, as for one day only the animal kingdom united with us – voluntarily or not (!) – for #WearItWithPride by sporting RGS ties, scarves and branded sports kit. As the streets of Surrey and beyond were decked with families wearing or squeezing into their son's rugby shirts, PE tops, and hoodies for their daily hour's exercise, so the event sent out a powerful message that during times of difficulty, looking out for others and supporting others has never been so important. As Becky Rathmell, Charity and Volunteering Co-ordinator commented, "The photographs of this charity event capture so much of the spirit of warmth, togetherness, solidarity and also the gentle humour of our community as we came together to show how much we care, irrespective of our distance, and to support our local nominated charity, *Shooting Star Children's Hospices*." With over £6,000 raised, despite being a remote event, the day was a huge success and proved that where there is a will, there is most certainly a way.

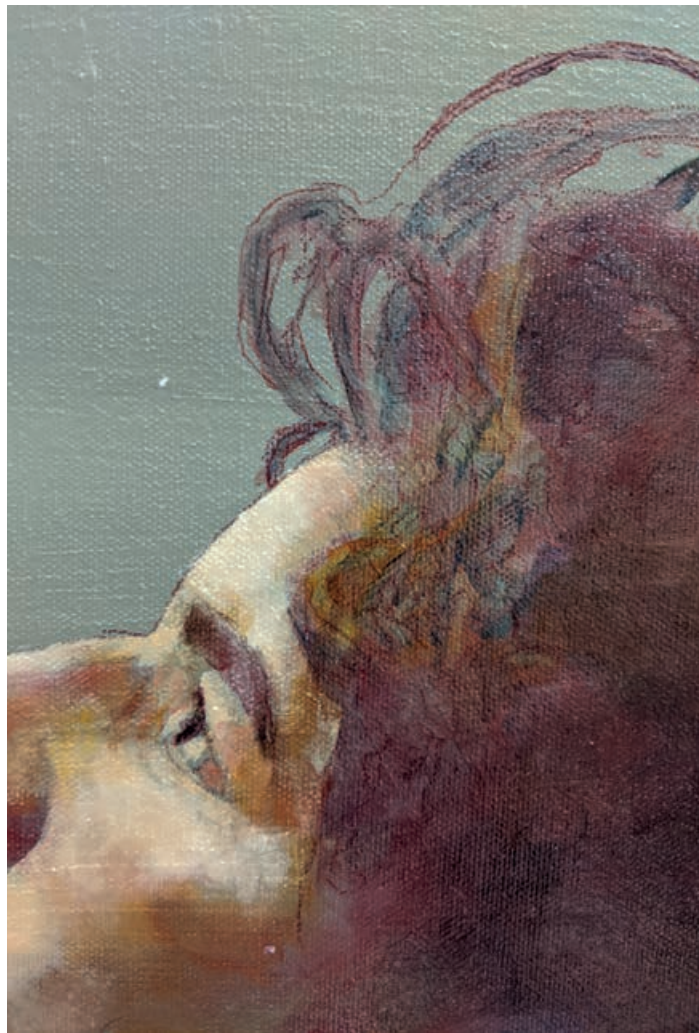


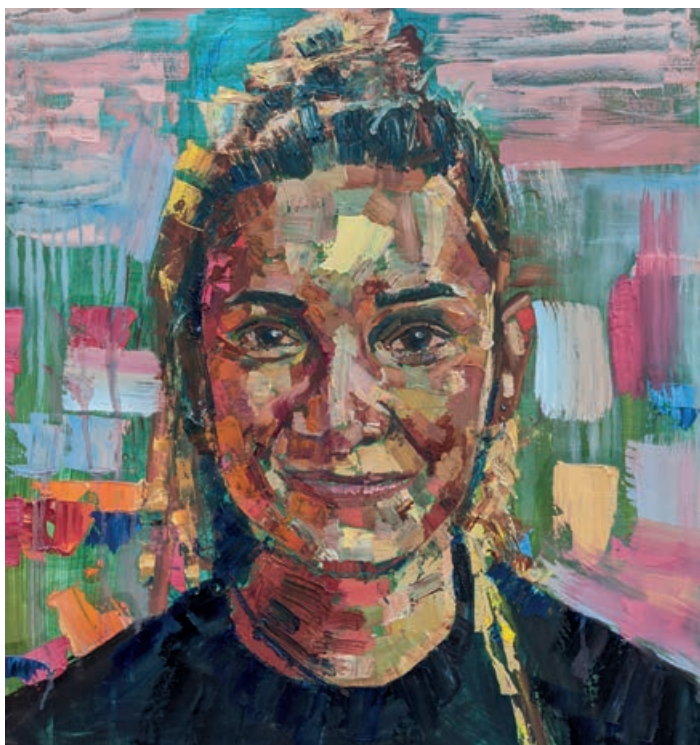
# NO NEGATIVES

With the nation in real need of an injection of energy and positivity, the RGS Photography Competition celebrated all those things which on a daily basis bring happiness and a little smile to us all! This year's theme of *My World* provided the opportunity creatively to capture in a photograph anything within the lockdown limitations which just conveyed a sense of positivity and joy. As organiser Gemma Spencer highlighted: "The creative and technically impressive entries included some truly wonderful masterpieces: from beautiful garden scenes, to lockdown rainbows, to cute pets galore." Judging was challenging as both the quantity and quality of submissions were remarkable but, in the end, Ashwin Vishwanath was declared as the student winner, Ms Helen Dixon the staff winner, and Mr Richard Hyde the family member winner. As Miss Spencer concluded: "The entries more than satisfied the brief and proved a fitting reminder to us all of the magic and wonder of the natural world which surrounds us and yet, perhaps, we do not always notice and appreciate. It was heart-warming to see the RGS community once again pull together and donate for our wonderful local charity, *Shooting Star*."









# BEHIND THE MASK

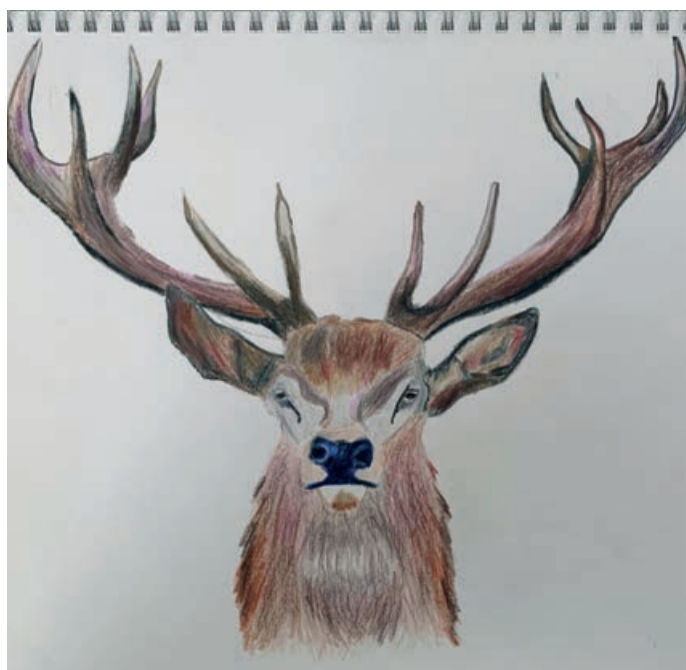
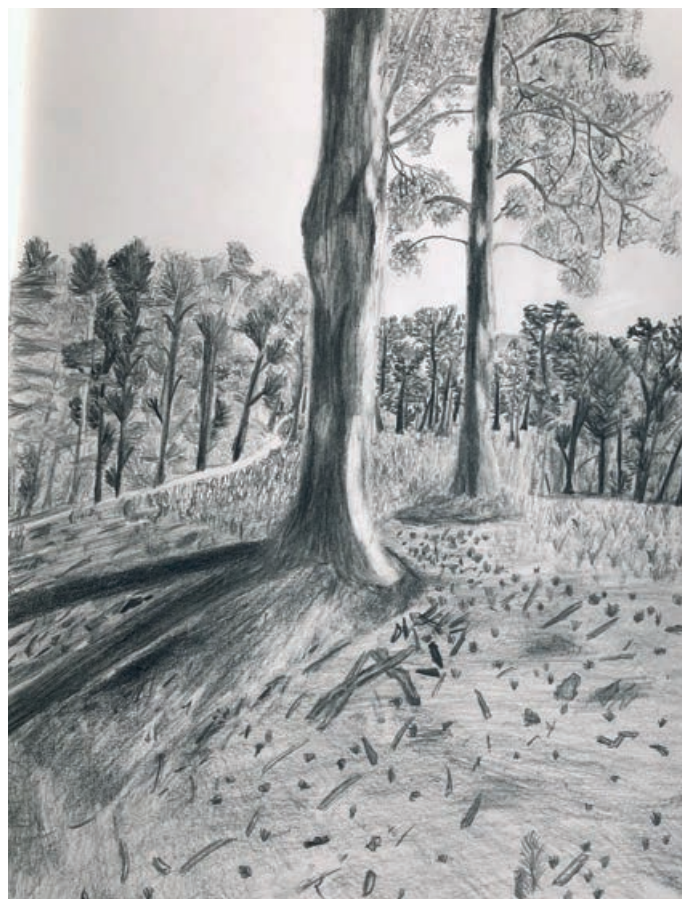
In almost prophetic fashion as he looked to a post-Coronavirus world even before the word had entered common usage, Milo Coombes produced A Level work of quite extraordinary technical ability and insight. In his fascinating investigation into the Human Psyche, he explores the totality of the human mind, conscious and unconscious. Milo's premise is built on the fact that in the past social hierarchy was more apparent and transparent, whereas in a modern era of social media and technology, the identity of individuals is far more complicated. As Milo explains in his introduction, "People wear masks. They cover themselves with layers of different identities in an attempt to please

others, striving to become what they perceive as normal." Through the medium of portraiture, he explores what it actually means to be human in the modern world with a focus on personality and emotion. As Head of Art Alastair Rozier noted, "This is a project of extraordinary depth and perception where Milo uses canvas and other media to show individuals' outside appearance as well as their inner emotions. The juxtaposition of photography and artwork, brought to life through detailed commentary with reference to a diverse range of artists, mark this out as a piece of work of the very highest quality."



# DOWN TO A FINE ART

With sustainability and careful use of resources gaining even more profile, RGS artists showed incredible ingenuity to unleash their creative side during recent months. With the luxury of time, the students rose to a succession of challenges. The First Form boys were given a brief to design and make their own contemporary art totem in 3D, a drawing or a collage. Joseph Ryan produced an eye-catching balloon totem, thanking the NHS by using rainbow colours, which he dramatically released during the lesson. He then made a semaphore totem, spelling out Nelson's famous message on HMS Victory after the battle of Trafalgar: *England expects that every man will do his duty*, a particularly relevant sentiment for lockdown. Other students used their initiative to create astonishing pieces of work: Mark van Eykenhof's depiction of the Surrey Hills influenced by Van Gogh's ink drawings and David Hockney's rural Yorkshire sketches; Laurent Spilstead's artwork based upon traditional Chinese art; and a papier-mâché Corona Bobbles, Phillis and Eugene by Inigo Schybergson. As Art teacher Ruth Shepherd remarked: "It has been wonderful to see how creative the boys have been. Irrespective of the lack of materials and equipment, they have still been able to produce some phenomenally high quality artwork of which they can be incredibly proud."







# PERFECT HARMONY

In a term of firsts for the RGS, the Music Department continued the trend with the remote RGS Chamber Orchestra showing that distance and isolation are simply no barriers to ensemble performances! True to form, the boys more than rose to the challenge and recorded their parts for the Bach *Double Violin Concerto* with Head of Keyboard Jan Newman providing the continuo part from the comfort of her living room. It was released into the virtual world in time for the first Holy Trinity Church lunchtime concert in May and was proof of the resilience and talent of RGS musicians. Not to be overshadowed, the pianists then had their chance to show what they could do in the virtual world, performing music that had mostly been learnt and perfected in their online piano lessons. Jan Newman noted: "The repertoire was wide-ranging and complex, showing how music, despite the technical limitations of the sound quality on Teams, has continued to help to keep the boys involved and engaged." Highlights included James Dicker playing Chopin *Ballade No. 2*, Max Weston with Hindemith *Praeludium*, Killian Hess with Elizabeth by Parry, Stan Lawrence with Janacek's *In the Mist* and Solomon Poole playing Ravel's *Pavane pour une Infante Defunte*. In addition, RGS students both past and present joined forces remotely to record Stanford's *Magnificat* in B Flat Major under the guidance of Sam Orchard, resulting in another wonderfully uplifting, positive community performance. As Sam Orchard commented: "So much of musical performance and the terminology surrounding it – concert, orchestra, band, choir – rely on musicians coming together to perform; the fact that all these initiatives were done remotely, without a loss of quality, is all the more remarkable."





## A SPORTING CHANCE

Summer terms usually conjure up idyllic images of beautifully prepared wickets, the distinctive sounds of a cricket match in progress or tennis, the buzz of athletics and the traditional school Sports Day. The lockdown period has presented many challenges to schools but one of those most acutely felt by staff and students alike was the loss of competitive sport. Distance, however, once again proved little more than an inconvenience as thanks to creative thinking, Director of Sport Giles Cover ensured that sport remained a central part of the boys' diet. As well as the weekly sporting challenges, which combined stretch and enjoyment, the RGS enjoyed two whole-school fixtures against other schools, including local rivals King's

College School Wimbledon, where students had to run either set distances or times. As Giles Cover noted: "While not a surprise to me, the response from our boys has been characteristically outstanding both in terms of performance and participation. Our results and sense of community were the envy of many other Directors of Sport and drew deserved plaudits. Leading sport in a school where, despite the most difficult of circumstances, so many students throw themselves into competition with phenomenal self-discipline, enthusiasm and industry, and so many parents show such unwavering support, fills me with great pride."



# AND FINALLY ...



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Jun 16

## #RGSGuildford

Have you got a moment to work out what this close up is and where it can be found at the RGS? #TuesdayTeaser



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Jun 2

## #RGSMusic

In today's remote concert, RGS students perform piano pieces that they have learnt, practised and perfected remotely. #RGSTogether



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Jun 4

## #RGSArchives

As we continue to miss the opportunities for trips & expeditions, a photo from the RGS's earliest rugby tour to Wales in 1967. #ThrowbackThursday



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
May 18

## #RGSGuildford

Head of Academic Physical Education, Mr Lythgoe, has a very sensible motto in life, particularly apt during these times. #MeetOurTeam



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
May 3

## #RGSSharity

Showing we care. RGS kit being seen throughout Surrey and beyond, including OG Nathan Janmohamed. #RGSTogether #WearItWithPride



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
May 10

## #RGSImages

The Headmaster's Lawn continues to look blooming lovely, keenly awaiting the return of RGS students and staff. #RGSTogether



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
May 8

## #RGSImages

Totally unedited photographs. Mediterranean blue skies. Bradstone Brook resplendent. Hope we soon return to the home of sport! #RGSTogether



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
Apr 17

## #RGS Rugby #RGSOGs

A fantastic piece on 2019 Old Guildfordian Alfie Johnson. Schoolboy to full international in only a few short months! #Aspiration



**RGS Guildford** @RGSGuildford  
May 7

## #RGSGuildford

The wonderful Ms Clarkson, in her spare time, is sewing scrubs for the NHS through the national project For the Love of Scrubs #RGSTogether

