

The Review

2021 - 2022



The annual review of the
Royal Grammar School, Guildford



RGS GUILDFORD

FROM THE HEADMASTER

We live in an era where the public are obsessed by reviews. Rather than experience things first-hand for themselves, people want the reassurance of trawling through a succession of online comments, often written by unknown individuals, to determine their decision-making. Restaurants, hotels, products, services... the list goes on – the power of the review clearly cannot be underestimated. A study published earlier this year highlighted the “absurdity of taking an anonymous person’s opinion as gospel” before making a decision. To illustrate this, the study looked at some reviews of well-known London landmarks. “Misnamed, should be called Tat Modern” articulated one reviewer of the Tate Modern. The Tower of London? “A poor, wannabe tower.” Tower Bridge? “Just another bridge.” And yet despite this 40% of Britains, according to the survey, are obsessed with reading reviews.

“If our students are happy then they have the potential to harbour the most ambitious of aspirations and then to achieve their goals...”

Reviews then do matter, all the more so when they are provided by an objective, informed, professional body.

The RGS was inspected earlier in the year and you can read more of the ISI Inspection Team’s findings later in *The Review*. The School passed with flying colours, being awarded the top descriptor of “Excellent” in all areas but what pleased me more than those headlines was the fact that the inspectors described the school that I know and love in such glowing terms. They really got to the heart of what makes us tick.

Our values of integrity, scholarship, integrity, respect, courage and collaboration are the life-blood of our school; they are what makes the RGS and our students so special. To me, despite headline reviews, success lies in our ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion, to widening access, to nurturing a culture of respect for all, to being kind and supportive, to having an altruistic outlook, to being resilient and flexible, to embedding those transferable skills – our Learning Habits – which allow our students to thrive in the modern, global world and to be competitive in securing places on the leading course at the leading universities: all of these are aspects of which I am extremely proud.

As I look through this edition of *The Review* and as I walk the corridors of the RGS on a daily basis, however, there is one over-riding impression which strikes me and which is, perhaps, the most important element of success, and that is quite simply happiness. Friendliness, laughter and smiling individuals characterise the classrooms and corridors of the RGS. If our students are happy then they have the potential to harbour the most ambitious of aspirations and then to achieve their goals, and if this edition of *The Review* is anything to go by then our students could not have a more exciting future ahead of them. And that is well worth a comment in a review!



A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Jon Cox'.

Dr Jon Cox
Headmaster

Illustration on the front cover: The courtyard of the historic Old Building

Scholarship

We encourage the growth of intellectual curiosity, independence, creativity, innovation and habits of learning within a scholarly community through inspirational subject specialists who provoke and stretch the students' minds and inculcate a lifelong love of learning.

ACADEMIC REPORT

Academic enrichment is about so much more than grades and percentages in public examinations, never more so than in the current climate. The growth of intellectual curiosity, independence, creativity, habits of learning within a scholarly community are all at the heart of an RGS education. Our students are encouraged to embrace and maximise every opportunity both within and outside the classroom. As well as notable successes in national essay competitions and science Olympiads, the following very selective highlights capture the true spirit of a love of learning:

- ★ **Scholarship Conference:** Our theme for this year's Scholarship Conference, now in its fifth year, was The Unimaginable, as our eminent set of speakers tackled the topic from a range of perspectives: Artificial Intelligence, political diplomacy, drug synthesis and global harmony, to name but a few. The depth and diversity of the talks – and the probing Q & A – perfectly illustrated the philosophy behind nurturing a love of learning, irrespective of individual's particular interests and passions, and succeeded in making the unimaginable just that little bit more imaginable!



- ★ **RGS Explore:** Sixth Form students were given the opportunity to explore academically and intellectually beyond and around the subject they are most passionate about. Submissions did not disappoint. The Most Imaginative Exploration was awarded to Ollie Liversedge, who created his own unique language into which he translated a challenging extract. Other highlights included an exploration on Nietzsche, an investigation into quantum computing and data security, and sensitively curated music for a hypothetical documentary on the British Raj.

- ★ **World Book Week:** World Book Week 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.



- ★ **Young Enterprise:** RGS teams continued to dominate local competitions as the spirit of entrepreneurialism and enterprise shone brightly. In the South Surrey Showcase Competition, RGS teams swept the board with Everdry awarded Best Marketing Team for their RGS branded towels; Dendros won Best Teamwork for their sustainable stationery set; and ShowerSmart secured Best Innovation for their uniquely-designed, high-pressure shower head which monitors water usage. ShowerSmart progressed to represent Surrey at the South-East Regional Finals where they were awarded the Innovation Award and the Best Company Award; they then progressed to represent the South-East region at the UK Finals.

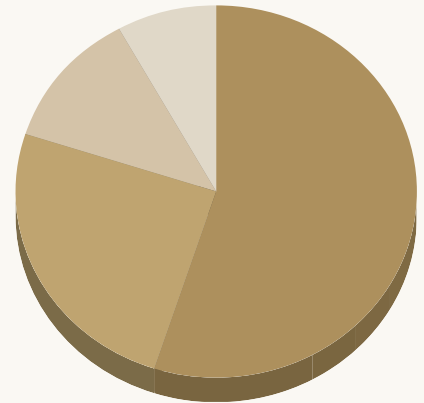
In the Young Enterprise UK Finals, RGS Team ShowerSmart competed against 12 other teams and were delighted to be awarded the Innovation in IT Award; they fell just short, however, of winning the overall competition. Despite the disappointment, the boys deserve huge credit for progressing to the last 13 teams out of the original 635 teams to take part nationally.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

GCSE RESULTS

RGS students were rewarded for two years of impressive endeavour, disciplined application and rigorous preparation with an outstanding set of GCSE results.

"The most common grade achieved by our students was the gold-standard grade 9; in total 874 grade 9s were achieved, 56% of all grades. 386 grade 8s were also secured by our students. 81% of all grades were at grade 9 or 8. 78 students achieved ten or more grade 8 and 9s. 30 boys secured 10 or more grade 9s."



- 56% Grade 9
- 25% Grade 8
- 12% Grade 7
- 7% Other



"To have emerged with such a stellar set of grades is to our boys' great credit. They have conducted themselves with remarkable flexibility, resilience and pride in their work."

"They can rightly have the most ambitious of aspirations from a university perspective."



"Their excellent grades will provide the very best foundations from which to flourish in the Sixth Form as they embark upon four A Levels."



Quotations from Headmaster, Dr Jon Cox

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

A LEVEL RESULTS

We could not be more impressed by the way our Class of 2022 have conducted themselves. Sitting high-stakes A Level examinations, after the significant succession of disruptions caused by the pandemic and having never experienced formal public examinations before, placed real demands on our students.

"Our boys have responded stoically and resolutely to each and every challenge. Their hard work, determination and resilience have been tested to the full and they have emerged with results of which they can all be rightly proud."



50.1% of all grades being the top, gold-star standard

80.9% of all grades – or in total 334 grades – were awarded at A* or A



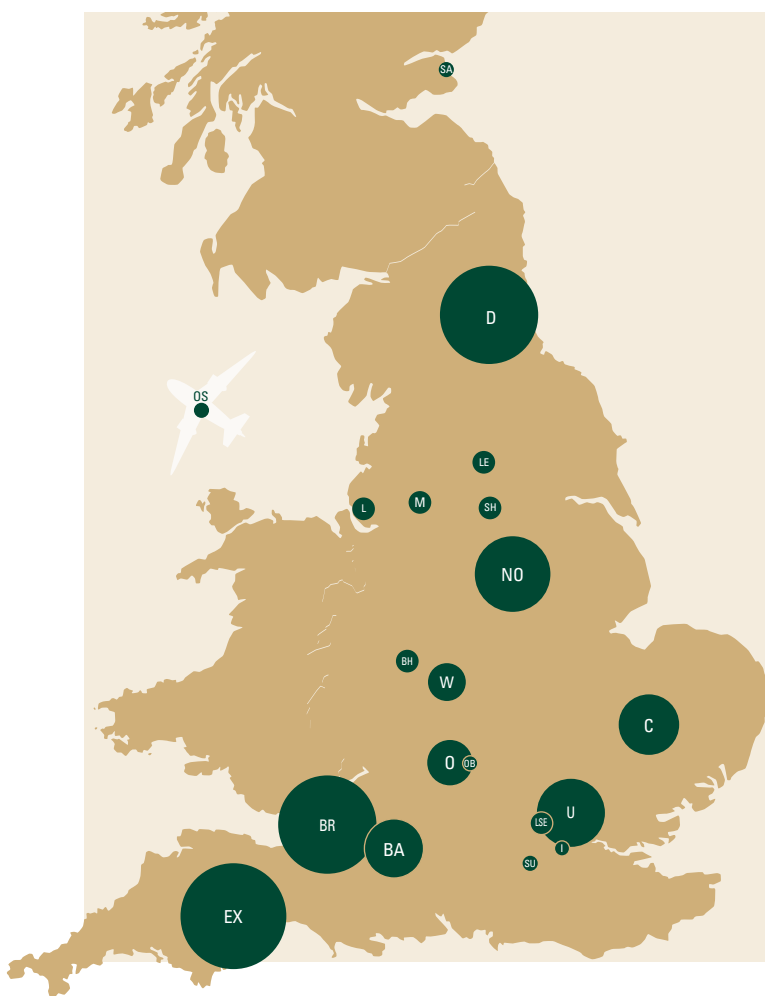
"From a cohort of 129 students, 42 boys achieved 3 or more A*s: an incredible achievement in traditionally robust, rigorous subjects."

"The fact that 11 of our boys have secured places to study Medicine illustrates the levels at which our students continue to perform."



"I am absolutely delighted that our talented students have emerged with such excellent results. These have allowed them to secure places on the most competitive courses at the leading institutions in the country: all the remarkable at a time when the media has been filled with foreboding for this year's students with lower grades and increased competition for university places."

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS



UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

UNIVERSITY	NUMBER OF RGS STUDENTS
EX Exeter	14
BR Bristol	13
D Durham	13
NO Nottingham	10
U UCL	9
BA Bath	8
C Cambridge	8
O Oxford	6
W Warwick	5
BH Birmingham	3
LE Leeds	3
L Liverpool	3
LSE London School of Economics	3
M Manchester	3
SH Sheffield	3
I Imperial	2
OS Overseas	2
OB Oxford Brookes	2
SA St Andrews	2
SU Surrey	2

Bath, Cambridge, Durham and Exeter have been in the Top 5 destinations of RGS students every year for the last six years.

TOP DEGREE COURSES

SUBJECT	NUMBER OF RGS STUDENTS
1 Sciences	18
2 Business/Management/Finance	15
3 Economics	15
4 Engineering	15
5 Medicine/Dentistry	11
6 Geography	10
7 Maths/Computer Science	9
8 Combined Honours	5
9 Modern Languages	5
10 Politics/International Relations	5
11 History	4
12 Philosophy/PPE	4
13 Classics	3
14 English	3
15 Sociology	2
16 Law	1
17 Music	1

95%
RUSSELL GROUP

95% of all offers held to UK institutions were to a Russell Group or Times Top 20 Institutions.



293 boys have received Oxbridge offers in the last ten years.

107
1st

107 students went to their first-choice institutions: securing places on the most competitive courses at the leading universities in the country.

Inclusivity

We remain loyal to our founding principles to educate bright local students, irrespective of background or financial circumstances, and we inherently believe in establishing a culture of diversity and acceptance, and in educating our students in a welcoming, tolerant community where each individual is valued and enjoys a deep sense of belonging.

OUR RGS COMMUNITY

Our relationship with you and the boys does not end with the completion of their education. Every year we hold many lively events which celebrate the friendships forged at the school with boys, staff and parents. These include reunions, sporting and musical events and supporter receptions. Our diary includes socials for university students and those who left the school decades ago, and we welcome parents and staff at many of these evenings. Many former students return to the School to share their knowledge of what happens next, or to give insights into their chosen career, to current students.

We also provide a closed digital network platform - RGS Connect - accessible after A Levels that gives members direct access to over 2,400 former students, staff and current parents.

When you and your son celebrate finishing the end of A Levels at their Leavers Ball, it is not so much a farewell, more a "Hello ... and Welcome to the OG & RGS community."

Peter Dunscombe, Director of Higher Education, welcomes back two undergraduates he helped navigate through their sixth form years.



RADA alum Jack Bardoe OG 2014 returns to the School to help judge House Drama.



Headmaster's XI vs OG's XI at Bradstone Brook saw the OGs, captained by Alexander Sweet OG 2016, victorious at the end of a good-humoured match.



Football commentator and voice of FIFA, Martin Tyler OG 1964, greets the RGS boys after his King's Lecture evening.



Reunions are always big occasions. The Classes of 1971 & '72 enjoy reminiscing about their RGS days in the Old Building.



Monica Popa is an experienced fundraising director, who has brought the community together in support of our Bursary Campaign.



Because of our close relationship with the RGS community, we can ask representatives from a broad range of industries to help guide current students through their career choice. Here Dr Arjun Odedra OG 2010 and Calvin Ngwena OG 2015 give aspiring students an insight into their careers.



Graduates enjoy a spirited speech from the Headmaster at an event held at one of the UK universities.



OPENING THE DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY

Widening access and opening the doors of the RGS to every bright local boy is at the heart of our philosophy. In 2016, the Headmaster, Dr Jon Cox, announced the School's long-term ambition to be able to offer a place to any boy who has earned their place, irrespective of their financial means.

What is the RGS Foundation?

The RGS Foundation is a team within the School who raises money to sponsor the places of bright local boys who would otherwise not be able to afford an RGS education. From early beginnings over a decade ago, under the leadership of the Headmaster and with the support of the whole school community, we are now able to fund the places of 20 RGS boys. The Foundation team is led by Monica Popa, an extremely experienced Director of Fundraising with previous experience working for the University of Oxford.

How does the RGS Foundation raise money?

Capital for the programme is raised by a variety of initiatives and from our community. Central to our fundraising is the regular giving programme, with regular donations from our alumni (OGs), and others connected with the School including current and former staff, current parents and parents of OGs. By giving regularly, we are able to plan our finances and ensure we have enough funds to support all the boys through their entire seven-year journey. We also organise several school and community online events where we seek one-off donations alongside regular donations. We ask parents of boys in the Upper Sixth to commemorate the sons' time at the school by contributing to a 'Class of ...' Bursary, which is an excellent way to mark their time with us. The Road to 2035 is the launch of our fledgling endowment fund, raising further philanthropic income by asking members of our community to remember us in their legacy planning and in doing so, supporting not just current RGS boys, but providing support in perpetuity.

How is the money used?

100% of all money raised is used to pay the fees of promising boys awarded a bursary. We are fortunate that the school absorbs the costs of this small team who undertake incredible work. All your support is dedicated to the education and scholarship of these bright boys who go on to achieve remarkable distinction in their own careers, and when the time is right, often choose the RGS Foundation as one of their selected charities, thereby opening the door to the next generation.

We also support a small number of hardship bursaries for families who are experiencing an unexpected loss of income. This ensures that no student suffers any disruption to their education, especially in the important GCSE and A Level years.

Why should I support this charity?

A very important question. The RGS is a school renowned for its scholarship and for establishing an unrivalled framework for personal growth in all our boys. An RGS education opens doors and creates a network of opportunities. By investing in these young men, we create the scientists, the leaders and the changemakers of the future who in turn will make a difference in their communities and in the world.



"...now sponsoring 20 life-changing bursaries for bright young boys to benefit from an RGS education."

Integrity

We promote the development of self-discipline and responsibility, spirituality and a personal moral code, and cultivate an ethos where enduring qualities of decency, honesty, courtesy, humility and good humour are celebrated.

JUST ANOTHER YEAR AT THE RGS





Courage

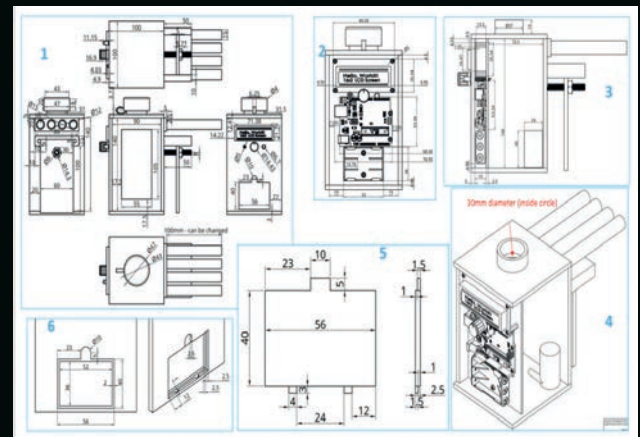
We develop leadership, teamwork, resilience and life skills through a diverse range of activities where all boys, regardless of their talents and attributes, are encouraged to challenge themselves, take appropriate risks and work hard to fulfil their potential.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

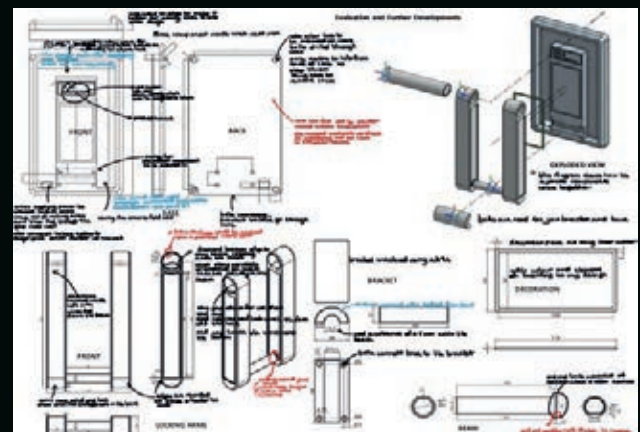
The John Brown Building continues to house a stunning Design and Technology Centre with state-of-the-art rooms and cutting-edge technology. This environment has allowed the students to continue to innovate, to refine and develop a range of practical skills and to realise their ambitious designs in various media: whether it is junior boys participating in the Great Egg Race or older students completing more advanced projects and design.



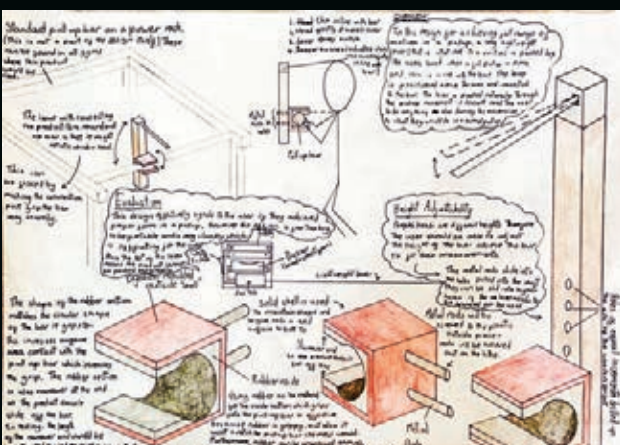
The Great Egg Race



GCSE Gabriel Correia



A Level Kiran Wright



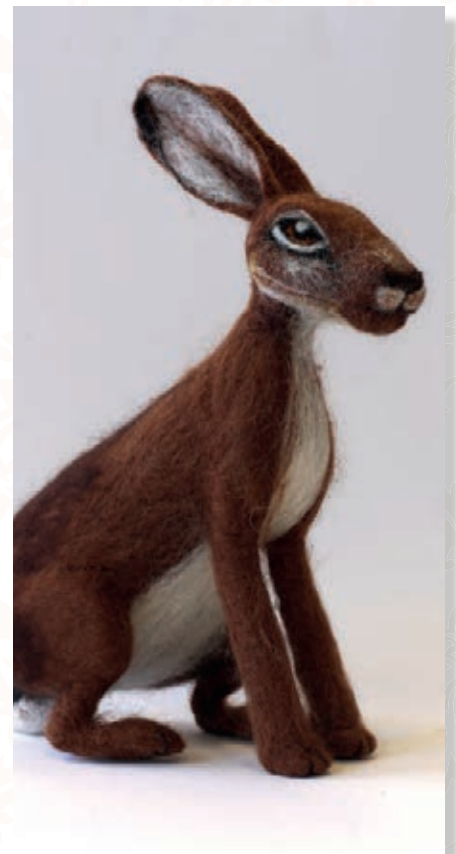
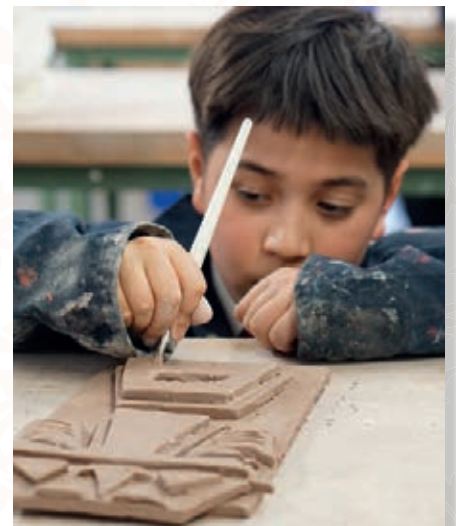
GCSE Charlie Robertshaw

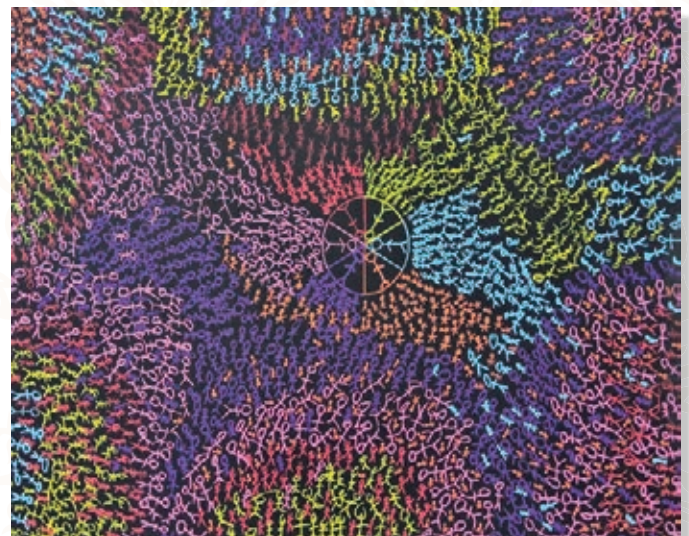
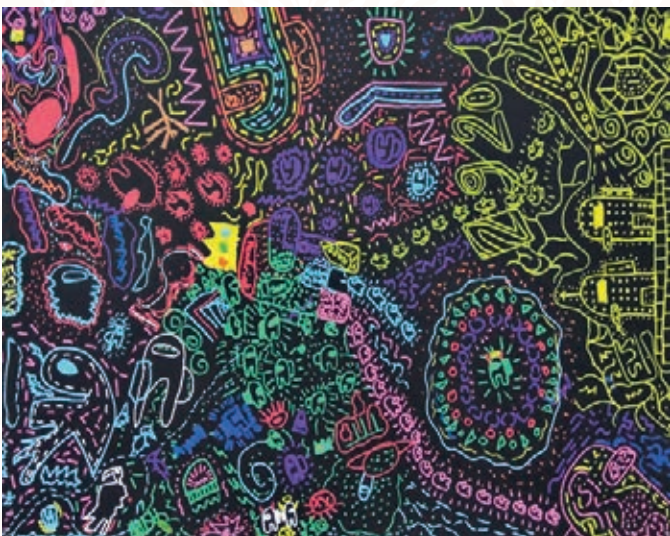


A Level Seb Burrage

ART

The stunning architecture and design of the Art School, and the inspiration and guidance of the staff, once again provided the inspiring setting for work of quite extraordinary quality and originality from our students; the climax of which was the annual Art Private View. A wide range of style and media from GCSE and A Level students was very much in evidence as work of remarkable diversity, innovation and maturity was produced.





That most important outcome of artwork, self-expression, is best achieved for boys through a training in technical skills and they are encouraged to work as ambitiously as possible.

CO-CURRICULAR

The exceptional range of co-curricular activities is one of the greatest strengths of the School. Such activities are central in developing the character of the boys and in nurturing teamwork, leadership, independence and resilience. Equally importantly, the diversity and richness of experience allow each boy to find their passions and follow their own path, wherever that may lead them.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM:

“The range, number and diversity of Clubs and Societies continues to impress catering to every interest and passion, for the active and the cerebral equally!”



The Climbing Group boys refine their bouldering skills.



RAF cadets enjoy indoor sky diving on a Field Day.

“On our five Field Days each year, the normal teaching timetable is suspended; every single boy and member of staff is involved in co-curricular pursuits.”



First Form boys get hands-on with wildlife at Marwell Zoo.

The Third Form boys enjoy field work in the Lake District.



Sixth Form Biologists on a field trip to South Wales.



CCF RN cadets involved in yachting in the Solent.



Gold DofE expeditioners refine their cooking skills.



The EXAD boys prepare to set off on their Bronze DofE overnight expedition.

“Every Monday afternoon, the co-curricular life of the School takes precedence during Period 8 activities; half the boys are involved in the Combined Cadet Force and Outdoor Pursuits.”



A Gold DofE expedition team pauses on Pen y Fan in the Brecon Beacons.



The Surfing and Lifesaving Group hit the waves in Cornwall.

“During the last 12 months over 400 boys have taken part in Duke of Edinburgh’s Award expeditions; we have also presented 12 Gold, 32 Silver and 114 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards.”



The CCF cadets test their teamwork on an Army Assault Course.



CCF RAF cadets experience a range of aircraft first hand.

DRAMA



AN EXCITING YEAR FOR DRAMA SAW A DIVERSE RANGE OF PLAYS BEING STAGED — FROM TRADITIONAL CLASSICS TO ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS — MAINTAINING A COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE ACCESS FOR ALL TO EXPERIENCE AND CONTRIBUTE TO EVERY ASPECT OF THE CREATIVE PROCESS FROM PAGE TO STAGE.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS



With no PCRs or travel restrictions, no airport delays or last-minute cancellations, audiences enjoyed a rare opportunity for carefree escapism as Jules Verne's classic story *Around the World in 80 Days* provided fantastic, feel-good, festive entertainment. From the evocative set to the atmospheric sound, lighting, costumes and props, the audience was immediately immersed in a truly global experience. Racing at break-neck speed through Europe, Asia and America in a bid to win a fortune-changing bet, the audience was whisked from train to ship, from sailing boat to elephant, and back again, pausing only to save the engaging, plucky Indian princess from certain death. High-spirited throughout and never taking itself too seriously, humour and farce bubbled close to the surface. At times a carefully-executed romp with general shenanigans, at others a touching reflection on companionship and friendship, and at others simply a preposterous and gloriously silly and slapstick extravaganza, a whistle-stop journey abruptly and far too quickly brought us back to Guildford, but all the richer for the experience, and all the happier for a holiday of a lifetime!



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



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, the joint Guildford High School/RGS production of *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!



DNA

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. 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 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."



Music

Another inspiring year for music at the RGS incorporated performances in settings from the intimate to the grand scale, from local to further afield, from the Recital Room, St Mary's Church and Guildford Cathedral to Winchester Cathedral. The quality of musicianship impressed appreciative audiences and further cemented the School's established reputation for musicianship at the very highest level.



Musician of the Year

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

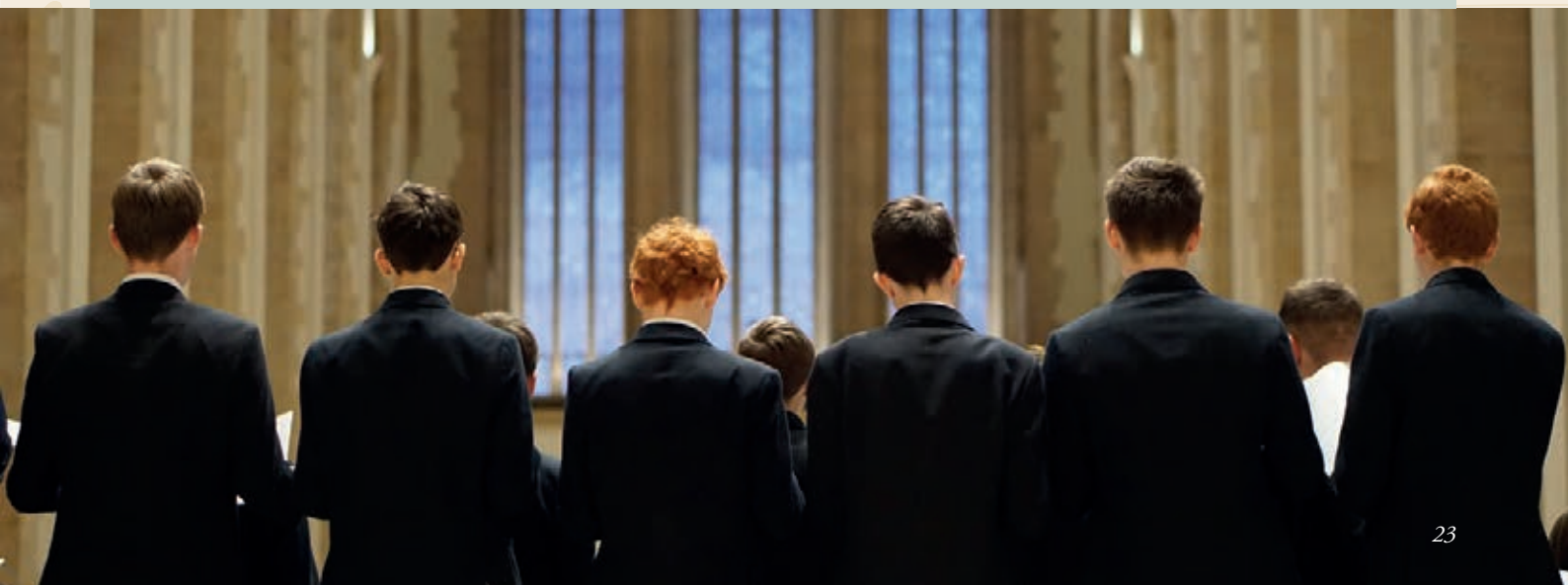
remarkable, not only in its breadth of musical programme, but also for the outstanding levels of musicianship on display. By the narrowest of margins and after lengthy reflection, the adjudicator Mr Clive Williamson, one of the country's foremost pianists, awarded The Steynor Prize to Joseph.





Musical notes

A return to a full and varied programme included a succession of highlights: 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; RGS musicians participated at Guildford Cathedral in the premiere performance of Samson by Jonathan Willcocks, one of the country's foremost composers; Holy Trinity Church staged a simply stunning choral and orchestral concert as 200 performers delivered a repertoire of extraordinary diversity, sophistication & musicianship; and Lockefest 2022 saw a number of bands performing on stage for the first time with amazing energy, originality and musicality.



SPORT



The philosophy of Sport for All was very much in evidence throughout the year as over 20 teams regularly played competitive fixtures against other schools each weekend. Wide-spread participation, energy and passion, sportsmanship and fair play, diverse opportunity, along with elite coaching and performance continued to be the hallmarks of RGS sport.



SPORT



SPORTS DAY

On a record day for temperatures, so it was fitting that six school records also were broken, the majority of which - unsurprisingly given the heat - were in field events. With perfect blue skies, cotton wool clouds, and incessant sunshine, Guildford Spectrum was the picturesque setting for a morning of competitive - if slightly sweaty! - athletics, with a lovely spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie throughout. With the House competition tight right up to the end, Austen House finally emerged triumphant to retain the Sports Day shield. House Captain of Austen, Ollie de Gentile-Williams, was awarded the shield by the Mayor and Mayoress of Guildford.





Collaboration

We work closely with others for mutual enrichment, and encourage a spirit of generosity and service, a sense of perspective, and a firm belief that we can work in partnership with others, locally and internationally, to make a difference and have a positive impact on society.

COLLABORATION

RGS boys and staff continued to make an impact upon the world outside the RGS as they seized the initiative to involve themselves with humour, energy and enthusiasm in community and charitable events as well as volunteering and conservation projects. Collaboration, altruism, perspective, and generosity of time and spirit remained the hallmarks of students determined to make a difference, as just under £25,000 was raised during the year: a phenomenal achievement.

Nominated Charities

With over 50 charities put forward by staff and students and over 700 votes, the phenomenal engagement in this year's charities spoke volumes for the desire of the whole community to make a difference to others. In addition to individual events which fund raised for Transform Housing and the Disasters' Emergency Committee, our nominated local, national, and international charities were as follows:

Max Windle Memorial Trust (local): which focuses on mental health in young people.

Alzheimer's Society (national): which provides information and support, funds research and creates lasting change for people affected by dementia.

Compassion (international): which tackles children's poverty all over the world.

Auction of Promises

RGS students enjoyed getting involved in various community projects as they gave generously of their time for the benefit of local residents. Initiatives included trips to Pilgrim Wood, Sunrise Senior Living and Signature Care Homes, among others where the junior boys engaged with and entertained locals. RGS students energetically threw themselves into a range of conservation projects for the benefit of the local environment. In addition there were a number of charitable events including the RGS Race across the World, non-uniform days, the Christmas Fair, doughnut sales, pancake races, clothing donations, Food banks and events to support Ukraine, and the Max Windle Memorial sporting events including a swimathon, to name but a few!



COLLABORATION

Bake Off

For the ultimate test of tenacity, creativity, precision, imitation, independence and reacting positively to failure, the eighth annual Great RGS Bake-Off once again provided to be the ultimate test of all of these and more! As is only appropriate for a regally entitled institution such as ours, this year's theme was The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: all the more poignant in the context of her sad passing this year. Cakes reflected colourfully and imaginatively the theme, with corgis and crowns particularly prominent! There were some very impressive bakes and, once again, the standard across the board from staff and students was extraordinary as the panel of judges rated the cakes on taste, presentation, originality and wow factor.





Sleep Out

Just under 50 junior boys and staff braved the elements to sleep out in the Quad to raise money for Transform, a local charity based in Leatherhead. After setting up their makeshift camps, boys enjoyed football and other games on North Court before heading to "bed" at about midnight. With temperatures dropping to almost freezing, it did give a taste of what it must be like to sleep outside, making the experience more meaningful for the boys. With over £5,000 raised, the event was a great success.

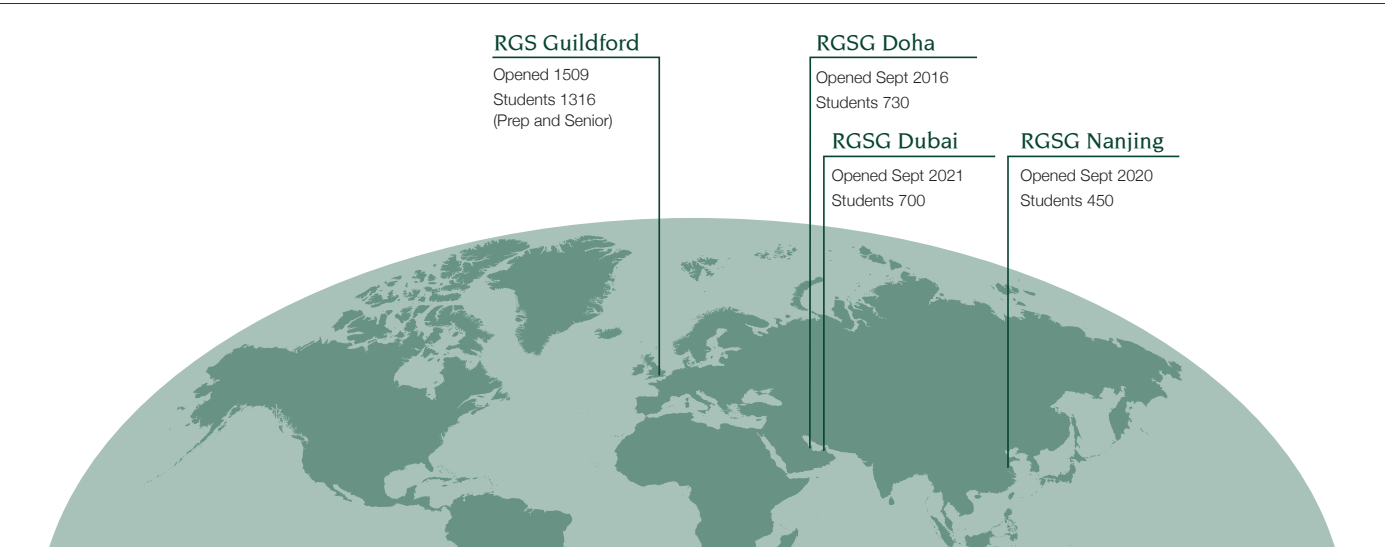


OUR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

All schools have continued to develop strongly, despite challenges over the last year. There are now more students overseas than in the UK, which highlights the continued global demand for an international education.

Alongside our international schools providing a good income which is used to support our school and boys in Guildford, our core reasons for our international schools remain to engage in global cultures; to encourage partnership; and to further enhance the strong reputation of the School.

We continually strive to increase the collaboration between our schools and were especially proud of how our inaugural whole-school event, Race Across The World, brought together students, staff and families across the entire School community. Over a weekend in October, using any method of non-motorised transport, the RGS family of schools managed to travel an impressive 8,150km: the equivalent of travelling from Guildford to Qatar, onto Dubai and part way to Nanjing.



Our international website, www.rgsi.com has been launched with information about each of our schools overseas.



Our school in Doha will shortly be opening their new secondary building which will enable the school to grow further.



Our school in Nanjing, China continues to grow in student numbers and we continue to work very closely with the Head and our partner, Gemdale Education.



RGSG Dubai has begun its second academic year with a total of 700 students: significant growth on its opening intake of 250 students. We look forward to collaborating further with Dubai in the coming months.



Respect

We nurture an atmosphere of mutual respect between all members of our community, and foster self-respect and self-esteem in terms of physical health, emotional maturity and personal well-being, while establishing lasting friendships in a positive, happy environment.

STAFF

Schools are synonymous with their history and their buildings, their traditions and successes; at their heart, however, they are about individuals and personalities. The staff have a deeply profound and lasting impact upon the students who pass through the School and their legacy is a lasting one.

The RGS has always been fortunate to have loyal, committed staff who have in their own colourful, idiosyncratic ways inspired students through their passion, pride and loyalty. This year saw the retirement of eight long-serving members of teaching and support staff who, in their own ways, made a phenomenal impact on our community.

Mary Buylla (Headmaster's PA), Tony Dubois (Biology), Alastair Rozier (Art), Charlotte Smith (Modern Languages), Debbie Whitehead (Physics), Fiona Wimblett (Mathematics), David Woolcott (Classics) and Helen Way (Biology Technician) all influenced the lives of generations of boys. They were united by their dedication to the boys, their professionalism, and the fact that they embodied the values and ethos of the RGS. They will all be sorely missed.

As the Headmaster Dr Jon Cox commented: "The School is indebted to each one of our leaving staff and their impact upon the RGS cannot, for a second, be underestimated. Although being very different personalities, each of them has been united by an innate loyalty to the School and steadfast devotion to our community. We wish them all the very best for the future."



ISI Inspection

We were delighted to welcome the inspectors to the RGS in February and they spoke in glowing terms about all aspects of school life. The School was awarded "Excellent", the highest possible rating, in every category.

The report celebrated the quality of our boys' academic and other achievements, as well as their personal development.

In particular, the inspectors captured the essence and spirit of the RGS which makes us such a close-knit and special community where the richness of opportunity, as well as the culture of humility and decency, tolerance and mutual respect are noted as defining qualities.



High levels of self-esteem & self-confidence



A mature understanding of, and respect for, cultural diversity & tolerance of individual differences



An academically challenging, positive & welcoming community where they can develop & flourish as true individuals



Passionate, motivated & enthusiastic



Effective & frequently reviewed systems & measures in place for promoting pupils' well-being



Places inclusivity at its core which permeates every aspect of school life



RGS GUILDFORD



A clear & deep understanding of what is right & wrong



Scholarship for all, growth of intellectual curiosity & the opportunity to establish important life skills



Providing challenge & being challenged intellectually



Respectfully confident & display a natural, polite, & engaging way of communicating

THE FINAL WORD

Previous school:

City of London Freeman's School

Couldn't survive without:

Spotify

Sporting highlight:

Winning the 1st VI, St George's 6's tournament: the first RGS hockey team to do so in the history of the competition!

Most enjoyable aspect of being School Captain:

Being able to make a difference to the school community and meeting people from all year groups

Most embarrassing moment at RGS:

Dropping my lunch tray in the canteen in Second Form

Favourite meal at the RGS:

Fish and chip Friday, of course!

Favourite item from Sainsbury's:

The hazelnut chocolate croissants are divine: great for a morning snack.

One thing that makes you proud of the RGS:

The inclusive community and friendly atmosphere.

Choice of famous actor to play you in a film of your life:

Tom Cruise

As a child what did you want to be when you grew up:

F1 Driver

If you could be any cartoon character who would you be:

Aladdin

If you were a superhero what super power would you choose and why:

Regenerative healing – would be cool to rapidly heal!

Karaoke song of choice:

You're Welcome, Dwayne Johnson

Final nugget of wisdom:

Take it in your stride

Ishan Nathan

School Captain



