



From the Headmaster

The thirteenth **RGS Choral and Orchestral Concert** at Dorking Halls last night was a celebration of choral and orchestral music, featuring huge numbers of pupils in a variety of groups. This was a fabulous example of RGS teamwork – stalwart Sixth Formers packed vans, set up rehearsals and helped with supervision; whilst staff ensured a slick presentation of a logistically complicated programme. The music itself did not disappoint, ranging from Henry Purcell to Sam Smith, with Puccini, Elgar and Stevie Wonder along the way. The choirs were on great form, with the RGS Chamber Orchestra accompanying Polyphony very stylishly, and massed singers making a surprise appearance with the chorus of Toto's *Africa* alongside the Concert Band. The Intermediate String Orchestra performed two dramatically outstanding pieces with Elgar's rousing *Nimrod* and Jenkins *Palladio*; and the Symphony Orchestra tackled Mendelssohn as well as Chabrier's Joyous *Espana* with energy and panache. As ever, the Swing Band entertained with a range of pieces and some impressively mature jazz. There were some memorable solo performances from members of the Upper Sixth Form—**Hugh Blayney, Rachel Dungate, Miranda Harding and Jack Kelly**—for whom this is their last RGS concert at Dorking Halls.

Earlier this week audiences were also treated to superb performances in the **Ensembles** and **Informal concerts** which again showcased the range and talent of RGS students. Yet again, there was something for everyone—classical music to rock drums—with many younger students performing. Photographs from the Ensembles concert may be viewed via this [link](#).

On Tuesday, the **Higher Education Evening** was attended by close to 500 students and parents. We were fortunate to be able to welcome Mike Nicholson, Director of Student Recruitment and Admissions at Bath University and member of the UCAS council, to address students and parents on a range of issues around becoming excellent university applicants. Mike was formerly the Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach at Oxford University, so it really was wonderful to be able to invite him to the school. He was hugely informative, but also amused everyone by regaling tales of the problems faced by students, who do not know how to cook, budget or use a launderette! After a brief Q&A with Mike, **Mr Buzzacott, Mr Jones and Dr Carter**, students with an interest in Oxbridge were then addressed by Dr Carter. Thank you to all students and parents, who came along and made it such an enjoyable evening.

On Wednesday afternoon RGS hosted 60 very enthusiastic Year 5 netball players (*below*) from five local junior schools for the annual **Primary Schools Netball Rally**. The children had an action packed netball training session led by our senior netball players and I am very grateful to our students and staff for everything they put into making this such a success.

The **Senior House Quiz** took place this week and saw fierce competition—University Challenge-style—in front of the whole school, with **Bird House** eventually defeating Hodgson in the final. The students' general knowledge about all things ranging from children's novels to modular arithmetic was impressive and the whole school also took part in a fun 'true or false' game.

On Thursday the **MFL Sixth Form Blog** was launched to a captive audience of A Level French, German and Spanish students. The blog has been designed to support students' independent study by sorting the most up-to-date current affairs from France, Germany



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FROM THE HEADMASTER

and Spain on one easily accessible page—it might also prove popular with teachers, students and parents alike! The blog can be accessed via [MFL Blog](#).

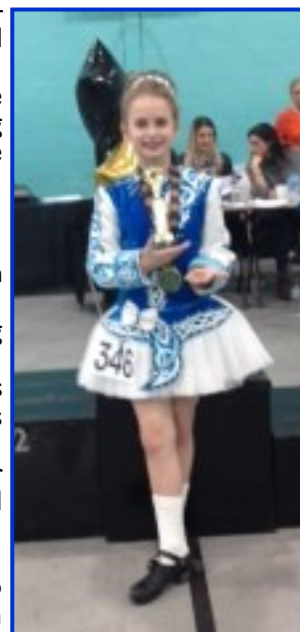
A small group of Fourth Form students have enjoyed a Theology & Philosophy trip to Oxford. **Ambah Brondum-Christensen** writes: “The trip was led by Miss Penman and Dr Carter, the latter being a former student of Oxford. We left school bleary-eyed at 7.30am and arrived in Oxford at 9.30. We listened to a series of speeches until around 3 o'clock. These speeches took a scientific approach on Philosophy, including how our brains affect our morals, and why science does not necessarily displace religion. The last man to give a lecture even used an electric guitar to accompany his talk. Afterwards, we visited a local student hang out and stuffed our faces with waffles and ice cream before getting a tour around one of the Oxford colleges. Although the talks were very challenging, it broadened my understanding of certain Theology and Philosophy topics.”



We have again been very pleased to welcome our **French Exchange** students (pictured below) to Reigate this week and the return trip is currently underway in Lille—in the care of Miss Pargue and Mme Chartrain—where students will be improving their French and discovering the real French way of life. There was a real buzz on Tuesday when the French students spent the day at school. They had a lovely time and were very well looked after by our students and their families. Thank you.

Sport News

- ♦ The **U14s** had a fantastic day at the **National Rugby 7s** and are through to the 16 teams—an incredible achievement.
- ♦ In swimming, ten RGS swimmers (below right) travelled to the Olympic Park to compete in the **U18 Independent School Bath Cup** (with one of the youngest average ages of any team) where personal bests were achieved in three out of four events; three RGS teams swam in the **Dorking Deepdene Annual Charity Swimathon** raising money for Tuberous Sclerosis Association; and 21 RGS students took part in the **Surrey Individual Championships** with every student finishing in the top ten bringing home seven medals: **Ashleigh Smith** (100m Butterfly – silver); **Georgina Robinson** (100m Backstroke – Bronze); **Anya Panose** (100m Breaststroke – Bronze); **Madison Desroches** (200m IM – Bronze); **Owen Knowles** (100m Breaststroke – Silver); **Jake Maxwell** (100m Freestyle – Silver); and **Thomas Elkeles** (100m Butterfly – Silver). This weekend, over 20 students will represent RGS at the **Biathlon Nationals**.
- ♦ Congratulations to the 2nd VII Senior Netball team who won the Plate competition at the **Surrey U19B Netball Tournament**. The girls beat many teams along the way including 1st VII teams from St Teresa's, Claremont, Godalming and Lingfield Notre Dame in a tense final. Well done!



Student News

- ♦ **Lucy Broderick** and **Theo Ellis** are running in the Inter Counties Athletics Competition on Saturday.
- ♦ **Katie Cassin** (right) achieved a first and two fourth places in a recent Irish dancing competition.
- ♦ **Leilah de Meza** has appeared in Stan Lee's recent TV production *Lucky Man* and has completed filming for *Alice Through the Looking Glass* which is scheduled to be released later this year.
- ♦ Having recently won both the Prelim and Novice Qualifying Tests, **Millie Gover** and her horse, Kamil, are now Individual County Champions and have qualified for the National County Finals in April.

Please do continue to send me any news items, comments or feedback by email to headmaster@reigategrammar.org. I always enjoy hearing your news and if there is anything I can do to help, please just let me know.



DRAMA: FROM MISS BRANSTON

National Youth Music Theatre Success

Congratulations to **Gwen Subuh-Symons** for getting into the National Youth Music Theatre ensemble performing at The Drum, Plymouth in the summer. Gwen auditioned with thousands of students nationally, to achieve a place working with West End choreographers and singing coaches—a superb achievement.

Second Form Shakespeare

Students in the Second Form are currently competing in class for awards on Shakespearean monologues. The top five winners in each form will be going forward to the **Shakespeare MonoSlam** after school on **Thursday 21 April** where students will perform their monologues to a team of professional casting directors and actors.

Star for a Night Success

Leah Beglan, Talia Goss, Hannah Griffin, James Grimstone and Krishne Thevarajah are all performing in Reigate & Banstead **Star for the Night** event at The Harlequin, Redhill on **Thursday 7 April** and **Friday 8 April**. If you would like to support these students, tickets are available via The Harlequin Box Office ([link](#)).

Culture Vultures and GCSE Drama Students (current and future)

The amazing **Brighton Fringe Festival** brochure is now online and booking is open! From Music to cabaret via theatre, opera, dance and puppetry there is something for all the family. Go on: expand your cultural horizons and have a day by the sea. Tickets are available via this [link](#).

Theatrical Competition: Leatherhead Drama Festival

RGS' award winning Drama students are competing once again to retain last year's trophy. On **Tuesday 3 May** GCSE students will perform their superb pieces of theatre on diverse issues such as challenging everyday sexism and the effects of Alzheimer's disease. Do come to watch and support our students along with other schools and youth theatres as they compete for the **Michael Caine Trophy for Outstanding Theatre**. Tickets are available via this [link](#).

First Form Drama: Much Ado About Nothing

Next term, Wednesday's First Form Drama Club will become First Form rehearsals (directed by Drama staff) for First Formers who would like to take part in the RGS summer production of **Much Ado About Nothing**. To perform in this open-air, summer production, students will need to attend **all seven** of the rehearsals starting on **Wednesday 13 April** from 4.00-5.00pm. Students may not miss rehearsals: they will be learning skills for public performance which will take all seven hours to learn, polish and perfect. Therefore, a sustained commitment is required from all participants. First Form students must be available on the dates listed below. **Please note: This schedule is not for the faint-hearted—Friday 1 July is also Sports Day!**

- **Sunday 26 June:** rehearsal 10.00-12.00pm.
- **Tuesday 28 June:** rehearsal all day; dress rehearsal 2.00pm; show 6.00pm.
- **Wednesday 29 June:** matinee 2.00pm; show 6.00pm.
- **Thursday 30 June:** matinee 2.00pm; show 6.00pm.
- **Friday 1 July:** show 6.00pm.

First Form students must be committed and willing to contribute to the production as actors with all the discipline and long hours theatre requires. Please discuss with students whether they can commit to the project before students attend the Wednesday rehearsals after Easter. If you have any queries please contact **Miss Branston** via skb@reigategrammar.org.

Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2016: Book your holidays now!

Advanced warning for all theatre goers and loyal audiences who enjoy RGS Drama. We are performing at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival from **Monday 22 August to Saturday 27 August**. Students are performing a new, original piece of theatre at the Fringe which will appeal to all RGS students, friends and parents at a brilliant Fringe venue: Greenside—click [here](#) for further information. The piece is supported by Radio 4 broadcaster and journalist, Libby Purves and promises to be a very special production. More details will follow in due course... in the meantime, why not book flights and accommodation now to support the first RGS Theatre Company Edinburgh Performance?



It's back! The RGS Foundation Sixth Annual Charity Golf Day is on **Friday 27 May** at Reigate Heath Golf Club.

A hugely popular event amongst the Reigatian community, not only through participation, but from sponsorship and the wonderful array of generously donated raffle and auction prizes.

Tickets cost £50 per player, which includes tea and coffee on arrival, 18 holes of golf and an evening gourmet BBQ. Guests for the evening BBQ are welcome at £20 per adult, £7.50 per child.

For bookings or if you would like to donate a raffle prize or sponsor a hole please email Hazel Cornick hkc@reigategrammar.org or visit www.rgs.foundation/golf-day-may.



NOTICES

Parents' and Friends' Association Comedy Night, Saturday 19 March Featuring Jonny Vegas

Anyone able to help on set up and clear away for this event, please contact the PFA via pfa@reigategrammar.org.

PFA Nearly New Sale: 23 April

The PFA is seeking donations for the Nearly New Uniform and Sports Kit Sale on Saturday 23 April. Instructions are available on the Parent Portal and labelled items may now be left with at the Porters' Desk.

Dance & Choreography Evening: Tuesday 24 May

If you are a dancer or would like to dance and either perform or choreograph, then this is for you. Anyone interested should see **Miss Hare** or email her via mgh@reigategrammar.org.

RGS Cycling Club

After Easter we are hoping to start an RGS Cycling Club. We are looking to organise group rides and to enter some sportive events this summer, hopefully culminating in the **Reigate Rouleur Sportive** on **Sunday 3 July**. We will meet most **Sundays at 8.30am** to go for a ride of one and a half to two hours—all abilities welcome—we will also have guides from **Maison Du Velo** to help us. Rides will start with relaxed country rides around Leigh and Newdigate as well as some hill riding up Box Hill.

Initially, the group will be open to Sixth Form students and any keen parents, who want to join us. Please contact **Mr Haskey** via ith@reigategrammar.org for further information.

Junior Ski Trip: 2016

The last date for applications for this year's junior ski trip—open to students in the current First to Fourth Forms—is **Thursday 24 March**.

Senior Sports Dinner at Denbies Tuesday 22 March 2016

Thank you to all of you who have submitted reply slips and payment for the Senior Sports Dinner. If you have not received an email receipt please contact **Mrs Massey** as a matter of urgency via arm@reigategrammar.org.

CCF Update

- ♦ **Mess Dinner:** 16 April; RGS PMH; 19:00-23:00.
- ♦ **Weapons Handling Test Day:** 23 April; Broadfield House; 09:00-16:00.
- ♦ **Outdoor Range Day:** 24 April; Pirbright; 08:00-17:30.

Please direct any queries to **Fg Off Rusbridge** via sar@reigategrammar.org.



Saracens v Harlequins: Saturday 16 April 2016

We are delighted to announce our partnership with **Saracens** for their forthcoming fixture against **Harlequins** at Wembley on Saturday 16 April 2016. Tickets are only £20 per adult and £7.50 for junior under 16. In addition to this, our very own **Changing Lives** campaign will receive £5 for every adult ticket and £1.50 for every junior ticket purchased, so you will also be doing your bit for a very worthy cause!

To buy tickets, [Click here](#).

CCF Mountain Biking Weekend



All three sections of the CCF enjoyed a weekend of Mountain Biking at Coed-y-Brenin National Park and Betws-y-Coed North Wales. Cadets learned basic and advanced MTB skills then, using all of their new skills, took on the trails weaving through Green and Blue runs with amazing backdrops of rugged Welsh Snow topped Mountains and tranquil forests. All the Cadets thoroughly enjoyed the hill climbs and descent back down—and, in all, had amazing time.

Le Grand Bake Off

In French, Second Form students have been busy preparing dishes (mostly cakes) to present in French to their classmates. Some superb entries were brought in and the eagerly anticipated tasting and judging sessions were a real success. The following students are through to the finals after Easter: **Lydia Barker-Field, Isabelle Blakeley, Oliver Wyse, Lucy Allen, Fred Jebson, Maddy Hopkin, Freya Biggs, Freya McTavish, Amélie Davies, Josh Fry, Shakib Ahmed, Jenni Stern, Alex Hanlon, Harry Armstrong, Simone Kellard, Leah Beglan and Olivia Swinn.**



March

- 19 Sa Music: ABRSM exams (MS)
RGS Primary Schools Sports Outreach (HW) 09:00-13:00
Boys' Hockey v St John's Leatherhead:
UI5A, UI4A (A) 10:30
Boys' Hockey v Lord Wandsworth's School:
UI3A&C, UI2A (A) 11:45
UI2B&C (A) 12:45
UI5B, UI4B (H) 14:00
Netball v St Mary's Ascot:
UI3ABC&D (A) 09:30
1st VII, 2nd VII, 3rd VII, 4th VII (H) 09:30
UI2ABC&D (A) 10:30
UI5A&B, UI4A&B (H) 10:30
Swimming British School Championships by qualification:
(Crystal Palace)
PFA Comedy Night (SH/CH) 19:00-23:55
- 20 Su Drama: A2 Theatre Studies Rehearsal (DS/BH)
MUN: Haileybury Conference (*returns*)
Swimming British School Championships: by qualification:
(Crystal Palace)
Much Ado About Nothing: Whole cast rehearsal (DS)
10:00-17:00
KES Bath Hockey Festival: Senior Boy (*returns*) (Bath)
17:00
- 21 M Drama: A2 Theatre Studies Exam (provisional)
(DS/BH/6FC) 09:00-19:00
Sixth Form photograph (Broadfield) 13:15-14:15
House: Third Form Netball and Boys' Hockey
14:30-15:50
Staff: Form Tutors' Meeting 16:00-17:15
Lower Sixth Form Enterprise Event (Library) 16:00-18:00
- 22 Tu Drama: A2 Theatre Studies Written Exam
Fourth Form French Exchange students (*return*)
(Lille, France)
Upper Sixth Mentors Breakfast with First Form Mentees
(PMH) 08:30-09:00
Lower Sixth Form Epsom Downs Oxbridge Conference
(Epsom) 08:45-16:30
DofE: Third Form Bronze Conservation Day 09:00-15:50
Careers Talk: *Music and Media* with Dan McGrath (C2)
13:30-14:10
House: Second Form Netball and Boys' Hockey
14:30-15:50
Senior Sports Dinner (Denbies Wine Estate, Dorking)
19:30-23:00
- 23 W Third Form Art Examination (Art Studio)
Golf HMC Semi Final v Reeds: 1st VI (Burhill GC)
12:20
House: Staff Netball (MUGA) 13:15-14:00
House: Senior Netball and Boys' Hockey 14:30-15:50
Much Ado About Nothing: Rehearsal 16:00-17:30
Boys' Hockey v Box Hill School: UI5A, UI2A (H) 16:15

- 24 Th Third Form Art Examination (Art Studio)
House: Fourth Form Netball and Boys' Hockey
14:30-15:50
Term ends 15:50
Drama: Edinburgh Festival Rehearsal (DS) 16:00-18:00

Easter Holidays

- 29 Tu Rugby UI4 Tour (Biarritz, France) (*departs*)
Senior Golf Tour (Dorset) (*departs*)
RGS Hockey Camp (HW)
- 30 W RGS Hockey Camp (HW)
- 1 F Senior Golf Tour (Dorset) (*returns*)
- 3 Su Rugby UI4 Tour (Biarritz, France) (*returns*)
Senior Netball Tour (Barcelona, Spain) (*departs*)
- 6 W Fourth Form Spanish Exchange (A Coruña, Spain)
(*departs*)
- 7 Th Senior Netball Tour (Barcelona, Spain) (*returns*)
EVO-RGS Hockey Camp (HW)
- 8 F EVO-RGS Hockey Camp (HW)
Drama: Edinburgh Festival rehearsal (DS/BH) 10:00-17:00
- 9 Sa Cricket v Dulwich College: 1st XI (A) 12:00
- 11 M Pre-Season Tennis Training
Cricket v Sevenoaks: 1st XI, UI5A (A) 14:00
UI4A (H) 14:00
Fourth Form Spanish Exchange (A Coruña, Spain) (*returns*)
Drama: Edinburgh Festival rehearsal (DS/BH) 10:00-17:00

Summer Term

- 12 Tu **Term starts 08:30**
South Surrey AGM: RAAS
Girls' Tennis Trials: UI2 16:00-17:15
- 13 W Cricket v Wilson's: 2nd XI (H) 14:15
Girls' Tennis Trials: 1st 16:00-17:15
Drama: *Much Ado About Nothing* rehearsal (BH)
16:00-17:30
- 14 Th RSM Year 5 Scholarship Assessments 08:45-15:50
Girls' Tennis Trials: UI3 16:00-17:15
- 15 F RSM Year 5 Scholarship Assessments 08:45-15:50
Girls' Tennis Trials: UI4&UI5 16:00-17:15
First and Second Form Disco (PMH) 19:00-20:30
Student Leadership Event (London) 19:00-23:00

PARENTS' ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

The following trips, services and items are now available for payment via the Parents' Online Payment System.

- History & Politics, New York & Washington
- CCF Easter Camp

The link to the Parents' Online Payment system is on the school website and on Parent Portal.

If there are any queries regarding the payments listed or any other matter, please email: finance@reigategrammar.org

Parents' and Friends' Association

If you are interested in helping at any events or becoming involved in any way, please email pfa@reigategrammar.org.

March

- 19 Sa Comedy Night (CH/SH) 19:30

April

- 23 Sa Nearly New Uniform Sale (PMH) 10:00-11:00