

THE PILGRIM REVIEW

SPRING SUMMER 2022



CELEBRATING
THE RETURN OF
LIVE THEATRE!

MULTI AWARD
WINNING SCHOOL OF
THE YEAR 2019 – 2022

LAUNCH OF 'THE
CASTLE' OUR NEW
STUDENT LED
MAGAZINE



REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
School of the Year 2020-2021

HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY'S MESSAGE

.....
 'IF YOU THINK YOU
 CAN, OR YOU THINK
 YOU CAN'T, YOU ARE
 PROBABLY RIGHT!'

**FROM THE HEAD GIRL
AND HEAD BOY**

I'd like to start by saying Happy New Year everyone, and I hope you have all had a relaxing break. I think the start of a New Year is such an exciting time because we have a rare opportunity to reflect on the year gone by and to lay out all our hopes and dreams for the next. Although this sounds incredibly clichéd, I really believe there is so much to be said for laying out your aspirations as we head into a new term and truly believing that you can achieve them. As was once famously said *'If you think you can, or you think you can't, you are probably right!'*

Were there any clubs and societies you wish you had joined last year? Was there a sport that took your interest, but you never tried? Did you sum up the courage to audition for a play? It doesn't matter if you didn't; but perhaps now is the time to try something new. What is there to lose?

This year let us throw ourselves into the term with the same enthusiasm and drive that we had back in September. I encourage everyone to remember that peoples' plans and objectives will always differ from each other and that there is no set path to follow. It's our uniqueness as individuals that make our community so special.

Our Reigatian community has a rich history of contributing not only to the success of the school but also reaching out and benefitting the wider community. The coming year provides us all with the opportunity to write our own unique chapter, and to challenge ourselves individually and as a collective to leave our school and community in a better place than how we found it.

I hope everyone has a wonderful new year,

Jazz Foster
Head Girl

At the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year, the main theme of my address to the school was rhythm, and how by finding a healthy, balanced rhythm at a busy and testing time it can make the stresses of new beginnings seem less profound. After a thrilling first term that bore witness to a fundraising festival on Broadfield Lawn, a highly anticipated and successful return to the stage with the school's production of *Oliver!*, and numerous other sporting and extracurricular activities, I hope that developing those rhythms helped you to navigate your way through the lively first few weeks.

When the new calendar year begins it is often a time that is synonymous with resolutions, with bettering or challenging oneself by trying to achieve something new and exciting, whether it be health or academia related, or something else entirely. However, I'd just like to pose the following question. How many of these resolutions will be 'me' or 'I' related and how many will have a 'we' or 'us' focus?

Whilst it is great to set ourselves personal goals that we'd like to achieve to keep ourselves motivated as they certainly make a difference and are definitely encouraged, I think the biggest and most long-lasting changes are those that we initiate as a collective; as a Reigatian community. The changes that, when taken at face value, may not redefine how the world works or revolutionise how it acts, but that will undoubtedly begin to sow the seeds for a generation that is wiser, kinder and more understanding of the importance of helping others. To tackle the biggest problems in society requires not the loudest individuals, but the tightest community and here at Reigate Grammar School is a community that is strong, proud, inclusive and ready to help make changes for the better.

I wish you all a magnificent 2022,

Tom Dénecé
Head Boy

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

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WHATEVER THE STRENGTHS OF TECHNOLOGY, THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THIS COMMUNITY OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS COMING TOGETHER, FORGING LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS AND LEARNING ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THE WORLD.

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This Pilgrim Review is testament to the way in which Reigate Grammar School students enable a can-do culture. The start of 2021 saw schools closed for weeks and a year full of restrictions but this Pilgrim Review shows just how much and how often the students, staff and parents rose to the challenge producing so many highlights.

2022 sees us embracing every moment: we don't hesitate waiting for a right time, we will take this time and make it right.

The children I meet around the school display a sense of hope and an irresistible energy about life. They have become used to having to adapt and deal with difficult situations, to having to take precautions to keep themselves and others safe. I am not trying to underplay the extent of the challenges for schools and those who work in them. In fact, we all face disruption – businesses, shops and hospitals – all of society struggles with Covid. However, I have seen more educational innovation in the last 18 months than in the previous 30 years of my teaching career. We use technology in lessons so some can access learning from home while others will be present in the classroom; we adapt the timetable if needs be and amend our way of working. One way or another, we will overcome. We owe it to this generation of young people who get one main chance of an education.

You can see in this Pilgrim Review how we harness technology so that a Model United Nations conference could include representatives from around the world rather than just in the UK as was the case in normal times when such a conference was held face to face. It is not about cancelling a school show; it is about making it into a feature film and giving the children a

first night première experience. Rather than cancel school trips, it is about camping and learning bush craft in Britain when overseas travel has to be ruled out.

In the teaching profession we can identify solutions not just spot problems. When we close schools we lock out not only the children, but their future life chances. We know that it is a price our young people will be paying for generations to come. This is not about ignoring risk and, of course, we must adapt in the face of a global pandemic posing some of the greatest challenges, certainly of my lifetime. We will find a way – it is what teachers do. And we are better placed now than a year, or even two years ago because we managed to find a way to come through those extremely difficult, unprecedented, times.

One thing is clear. Whatever the strengths of technology, there is no substitute for this community of children and adults coming together, forging life-long friendships and learning about themselves and the world.

Children only get once chance to enjoy childhood: to learn about themselves and the world, to grow into the best version of themselves. As this Pilgrim Review so clearly depicts, there is so much more to a great education than the goings on of the classroom. The RGS way means that we will always find a way to ensure that the children get what is rightfully theirs; it is what we do.

Shaun Fenton
Headmaster

[@rgsheadmaster](https://twitter.com/rgsheadmaster)



REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
School of the Year 2020-2021

SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR 2021-22

We are delighted to announce that Reigate Grammar School was named "School of the Year" at the UK Social Mobility Awards (SOMOs) ceremony on Thursday 14 October 2021. The SOMOs, now into their fifth year, were set up to recognise the people and institutions dedicated to leading the way in advancing social mobility in the UK.



Reigate Grammar School has been named school of the year for four years in a row now including for its work on pastoral care and community engagement and most recently for a whole school commitment to promoting social mobility.

Headmaster, Mr Fenton stated, ***"The children and adults in our school were determined to show that whilst our doors were closed, our hearts were still open. This defines who we are as a school."***

Over 170 children receive bursaries at the school and the RGS Foundation team raises millions through philanthropic giving to provide life changing bursaries through the award winning *Changing Lives* campaign and the school's Nightingale Fund providing bursaries for children of lower paid NHS and front line workers: part of our thank you to NHS heroes.

The #RGSWeCare project aligns the values and priorities of our wider Reigatian community. Over the last 18 months hundreds of students, staff and parents helped, volunteered, donated food or clothes and, in one way or another, were part of a national response to Covid – we recognised that those who were already less advantaged became even more vulnerable. These are the Reigatian values. The school provides support and opportunity to children around the community in sport, careers advice, music, drama, maths, art, literature and more.

The children also came up with ingenious projects to increase support for local community charities such as a Christmas run to Santa's Grotto at the North Pole, drive through food bank collections, doughnut days and more to help Stripey Stork, Loveworks, The Children's Trust and others.

Tunde Banjoko OBE, Founder of The UK Social Mobility Awards, added:

"We are delighted that the UK Social Mobility Awards shows that there continues to be positive activity being conducted across the country, as corporate Britain comes together to drive forward social mobility. However, as much as has been done, we still have significant work to do, as when it comes to social mobility, there is no limit to better. I would like to congratulate Reigate Grammar School for winning."

Multi Award Winning School of the Year 2019 – 22





SURREY CRICKET GIRLS EMERGING PLAYER GROUP PROGRAMME

Emily B, Lily F and Rosie F have been selected for the Surrey Girls' Emerging Player Group (EPG) programme for the winter of 2021 and summer of 2022. Only nine girls were selected, so RGS represents a third of the group.

The girls' EPG is an enhanced training programme for players deemed to have high potential, who have stood out within their County Age Group (CAG) squad, and provides additional coaching and resources further to aid their development. The programme will consist of group training sessions along with additional strength and conditioning support (with Locker27 coaches) and skill set training throughout the winter. The programme will then

combine with Kent's EPP over the summer to create a training and match programme.

The EPG programme works towards producing players to link into the South East Stars Pathway. There will be opportunities over the winter where players may be invited to attend South East Stars Academy sessions if they are deemed ready for that level.

There are nine players involved in this girls' EPG programme this winter – from U14s to U16s in the 2022 season with the potential for further players to be invited to attend summer training and match day programmes.

Naturally, RGS is very proud of the girls' achievements and will continue to support them along this ever-evolving and exciting journey.

RGS FEATURES IN THE CRICKETER SCHOOLS GUIDE 2022

Reigate Grammar School is delighted to announce they have been included in the annual The Cricketer Schools Guide 2022 for the sixth year running.

The Cricketer publishes its Schools Guide that features the top 100 senior, the top 50 prep/junior and the top 20 all-girls schools in a bumper 156-page supplement. It follows an exhaustive process that saw many schools submitting entries. All entries have been judged against an extensive set of criteria, which include a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching.

Also considered was how schools kept the game alive during the pandemic and how they look to ensure cricket remains a central part of school life.

Head of cricket, Mr James Leck said, 'Cricket is very much part of the sporting offering for boys and girls here at RGS. We have excellent facilities at Hartwood, including three grass pitches, one artificial wicket, six artificial nets and grass practice wickets. The standard of coaching is high, and we cater for players of all abilities.'



CYBER SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2021

Reigate Grammar School were proud finalists in the Cyber School of the Year 2021 awards. The National Cyber Awards reward those who are committed to cyber education, innovation, cyber crime reduction and protecting citizens online. RGS is also pleased that current Sixth Former Max W and ex-student Jack Roberts have both been shortlisted in The Cyber Student of the Year 2021 category. Both Max and Jack completed their EPQs in Cyber related topics.

SCHOOL NEWS



RGS REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021

On Thursday 11 November RGS students and staff gathered on the playground – like so many generations before them – to reflect, to remember and to give thanks for the sacrifices made by so many people in conflicts over the years.

The sun shone over a calm playground as the whole school came together to commemorate this important event in our national calendar. Reverend Phil Jackson led the service, with readings by students Ethan E, Elliot D-G and Head Girl, Jasmine F. The CCF parade was led by CPO Esther W and the Drum Major was WO1 Noah Fenton.

All participants – readers, choir singers, musicians, wreath parties, CCF Corps of Drums and buglers performed so well and made the service both poignant and moving.

We were honoured to welcome Lieutenant Colonel Ashok Rao (RGS 1987-1995), a General Practitioner in the British Army, who read the Act of Remembrance:

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping, those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of others.

They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, not the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

The solemn bugle call of The Last Post signalled the two-minute silence. Following Reveille, Polyphony sang Abide With Me and the wreath-laying party departed.

Headmaster, Shaun Fenton concluded the service with a prayer.



REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
VIETNAM

RGS INTERNATIONAL

REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BECOMES THE FIRST UK SCHOOL BRAND IN VIETNAM!

A global epidemic isn't the best time to enter into complex international negotiations but despite delays and disruptions wrought by Covid, Reigate Grammar School International has succeeded in establishing a new educational partnership in Vietnam. It is the first of its type between a British school and Vietnam.

An official signing ceremony took place at the Vietnam Embassy in London, hosted by Ambassador Nguyen Hoang Long and First Secretary Ms Tran Huong Ly. Joining this special event live from Vietnam was the British Consul General for Vietnam, Ms Emily Hamblin and our new partners, led by Chairman Ms Bich Thuy Mai.

In his opening speech, Ambassador Long said: 'Education is a very important pillar of cooperation between the two countries...this is a flagship project and an example for others to follow.' The International School of Vietnam (ISV) in Hanoi is a not-for-profit establishment that caters for children from pre-kindergarten to Sixth Form and serves both the international and local communities. Under the terms of the agreement, ISV will be renamed Reigate Grammar School Vietnam. A strong IGCSE and A-Level programme will accompany the current International Baccalaureate.

Ms Mai Bich Thuy, Chairman of ISV said: 'We believe that this cooperation will open up many learning opportunities, allowing our students to grow, thereby laying the foundation for them to enter world-class universities.' On signing, Sean Davey, Managing Director of RGS International, highlighted that there



were also plans to open an International Sixth Form college in the city in 2023 and, potentially, a third school soon after. He said: 'This is a great opportunity for us and a privilege to be able to take the outstanding education that RGS provides into a fascinating and vibrant part of Asia.' Reigate Grammar School Vietnam will now join a family of RGS Schools, here in the UK, China and Morocco. At RGS, we relish the fact that all of us, our students and the whole Reigatian community are all part of a global community.

In his closing address, RGS Headmaster Shaun Fenton said: 'It is a great honour to embark on a special journey to make this world better through the children in our care. Today we lay a foundation stone for a global village and we prepare a bridge of understanding. We break down the walls of ignorance and prejudice and offer a hand of friendship instead. This partnership between RGS and ISV is a blend of excellence. Together we can create a new paradigm and stronger version of international education. Every great journey starts with a single step.'



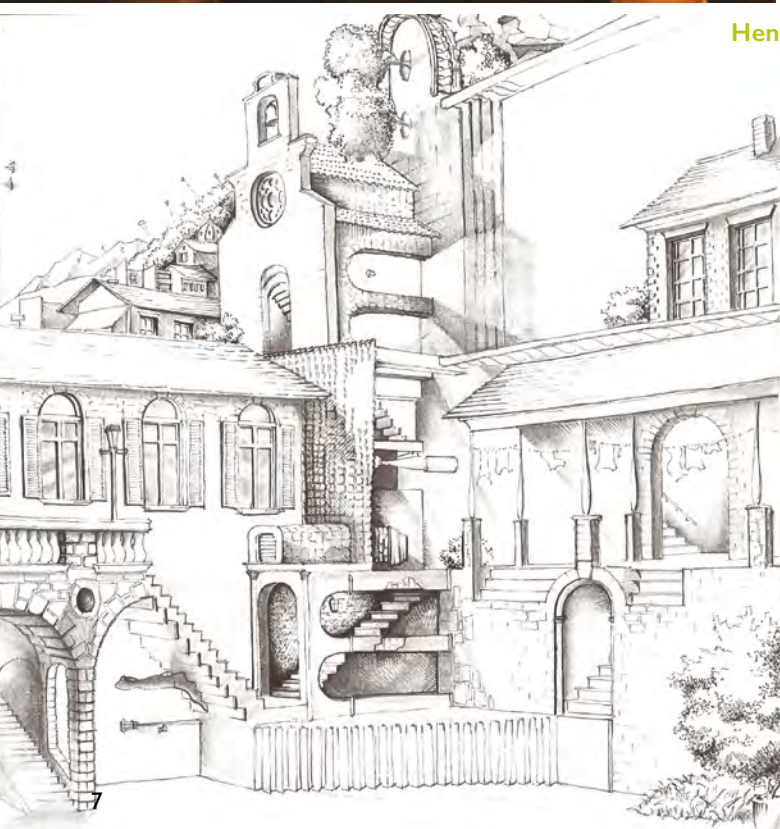
WORKS OF ART



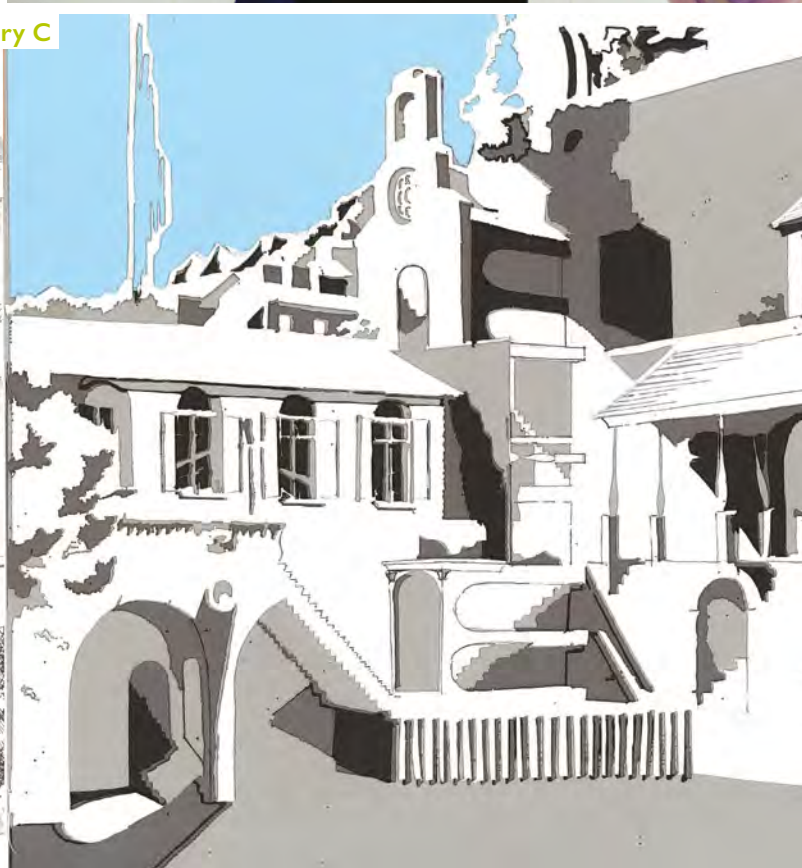
Beth S



Anna G



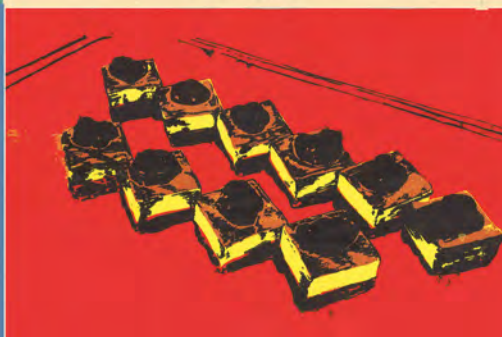
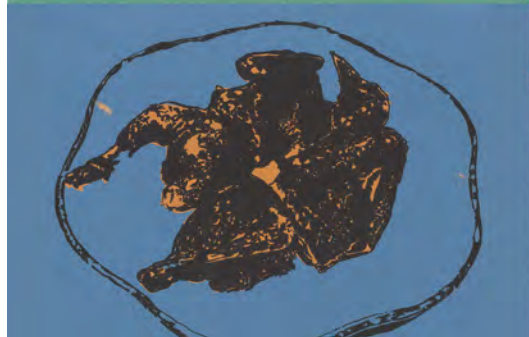
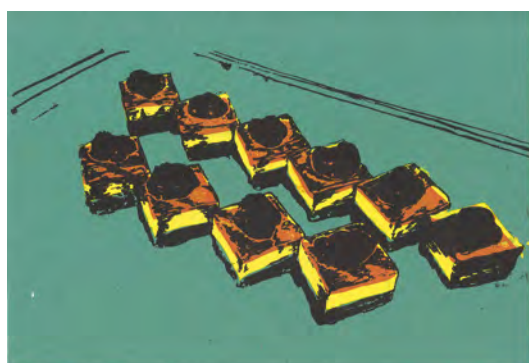
Henry C



Lucy B



Mason L – SilkScreen Printing



Lilly F



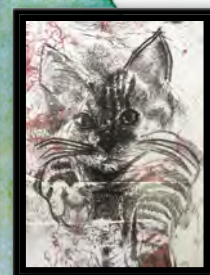
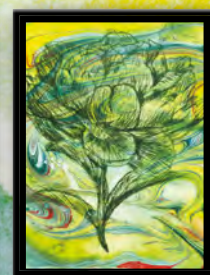
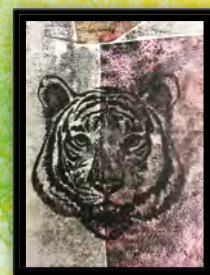
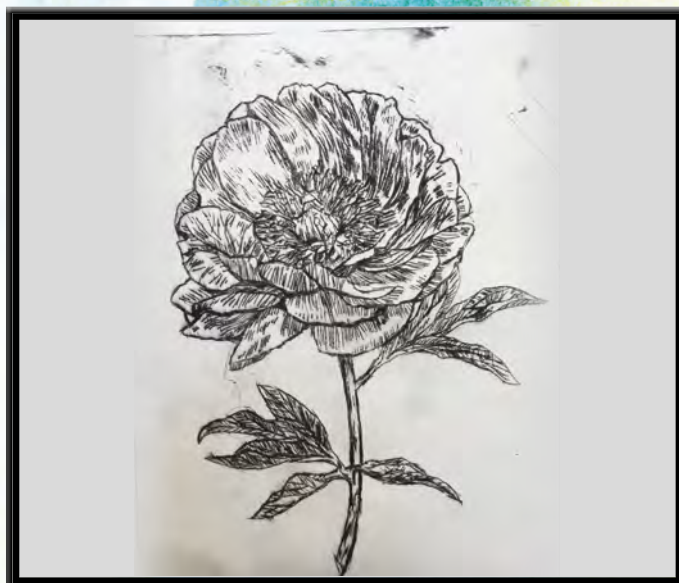
WIRE STRUCTURES



The Second Form has been busy working on creating wire structures inspired by the works of Australian artists James Blackwell and Sally Blake. Take a look at their impressive wire, tissue and acrylic painted seed pod structures.

ART CLUB

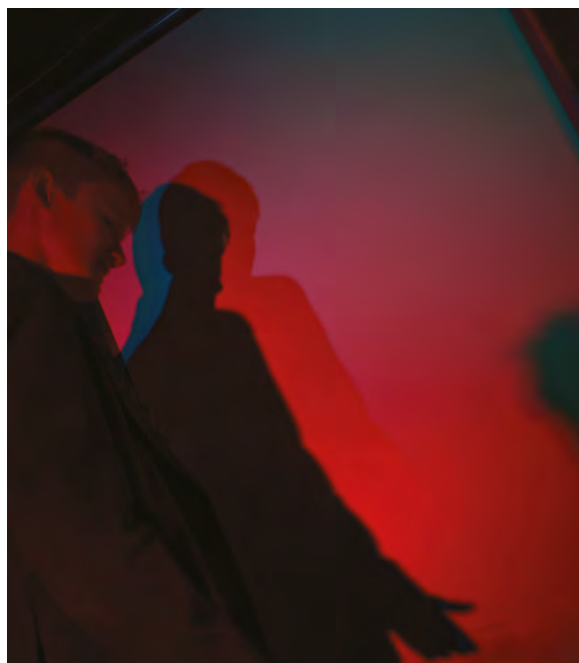
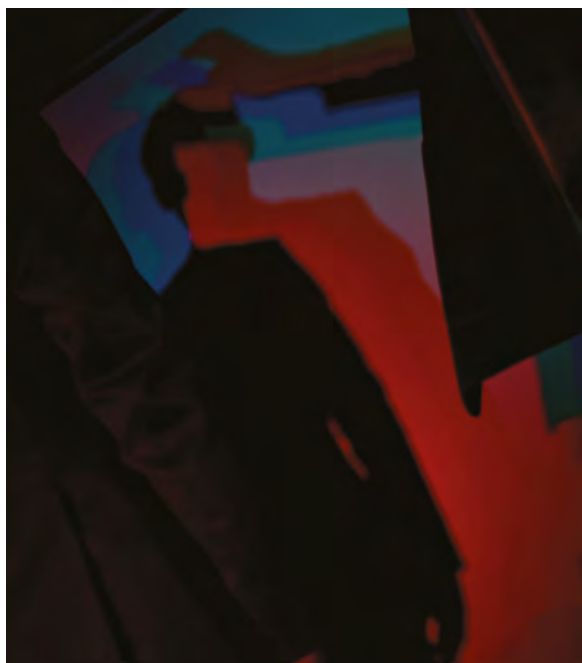
The Second Form after school art club has been exploring new materials, techniques and processes. They produced a dry point etching of natural forms, then thought about different ways to ink up, choosing different colours and printing onto marbled papers which they created themselves. They also created animal mono-prints onto collaged papers. Most recently they have been working on oils, pastel pieces and paintings on canvas. Look out for more beautiful work to follow from this talented and creative group.



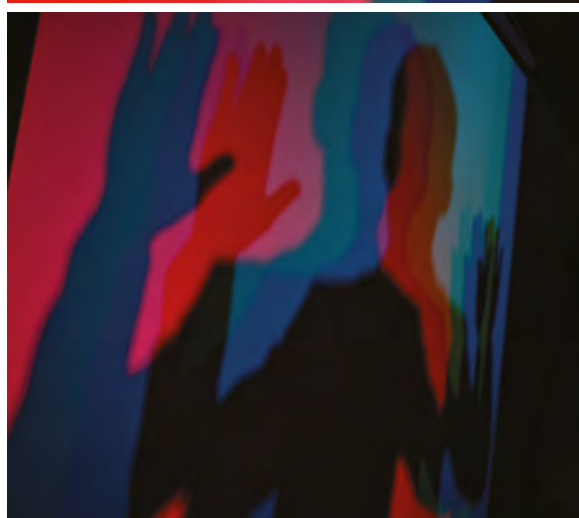
ELECTIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

Taking inspiration from artist Olafur Eliasson, we set up lights of three different colours in the dark room and I had people pose against a white background to create colourful shadows and shapes. These were distorted depending on their distance from the lights and were sharper the closer they were to the white background.

Jemima H



Alby L



Jemima H

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION (PSHEE)



One Kind Word



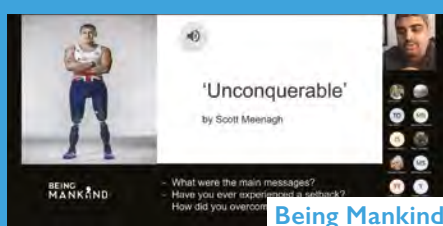
The start of a new academic year always brings with it fresh opportunities to welcome guest speakers – old and new – to talk on a range of topics aimed at inspiring, helping and supporting students' learning within the context of today's complex society.

New First Form students were guided through transition to secondary school with a carefully developed drop-down morning of talks, workshops and group activities addressing themes of road safety, mobile phone use, time management and happiness. Awareness of mental health wellbeing – a key component in all our lives further impacted by the prevalence of Covid – has featured in all areas of the RGS PSHEE curriculum. Dr Aric Sigman returned to RGS and delivered a talk entitled **Preventing Mental Health Problems in Children** to Fourth Form students and separately to their parents during the evening. As ever, Dr Sigman's talk was filled with practical advice for both children and adults alike.

Unity and equality are essential for a cohesive community and this key theme was delivered through a range of events, assemblies and lessons including some Black History Month activities in October which contributed to this year's anti-bullying mantra **One Kind Word**. This became the focus for the second drop-down morning for First Form students in November and featured a one-man anti-bullying drama presentation by Robert Higgs who returned to RGS again this year.



International Men's Day and the Movember movement for men's wellbeing brought a new speaker to RGS – co-founder and creator of **Being Mankind** Darshan Sanghrajka – who spoke to Third and Fourth Form boys sharing impactful stories by men and primarily for men, young and old. His message was one which challenged male members of our community to see beyond sex and encourage them to avoid accepting stereotypical viewpoints and expectations and become all they can be despite challenges. Mr Sanghrajka emphasised the value that being a man can bring to meaningful relationships. He promoted the power that communication with others has and that we can all learn more about ourselves and others. Students thoroughly enjoyed his visit and copies of **Being Mankind** (vol.1) will be made available in the RGS library.



RGS is proud and privileged to have welcomed **Mr Floyd Steadman** to talk to Sixth Form students and all members of staff about **unconscious bias**. Having been Headmaster at four preparatory schools in London and Surrey, Mr Steadman had also captained Saracens rugby team earlier in his career. His inspiring and memorable talk encouraged students and staff to think about and challenge unconscious bias in society.

During the remainder of the academic year the PSHEE programme for the First and Second Forms will continue during form time, in larger group activities, assemblies, lessons and drop down mornings raising awareness on key themes such as puberty, general health and wellbeing. Third, Fourth and Fifth Form PSHEE lessons will continue with essential relationship and sex education whilst Fourth Formers will also receive mandatory careers education as they start to consider possible careers which align with their passions, values and skills. Fifth Form students will also take part in sessions paying attention to resilience, motivation and wellbeing as they manage public examinations; and the Sixth Form will continue to build on themes through the senior school PSHEE programme to enhance their self-efficacy and lives beyond RGS.

RGS students continue to be nurtured and thrive through this holistic, rich and varied curriculum. Resources to support the young people in our care beyond the classroom are available in the parent portal on the school website.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

ReiMUN 25

The MUN leadership team was delighted to host ReiMUN 25 in person on Saturday 2 October 2021. Over 200 delegates from schools across the South of England converged on our twenty-fifth MUN Conference at RGS. A day of fruitful debate was chaired by an enthusiastic student leadership team who realised the skills they had so finely honed at Junior ReiMUN and ReiMUN 24.

Leading the Conference were our ReiMUN 25 officers: Steven C and Piya P (Secretaries General); Karam S and Krishne T (Presidents of the General Assembly); Azsvin M (President of the Security Council); Krish P, Morgan B, Jake B, Riley G, Hannah H, Charlotte T, Douglas Y, Imaan Y, Austin B, Lucas W (Committee Chairs).

“This has certainly been the largest turn out of RGS students since my involvement with MUN. This bodes so well for the values of international respect and collaboration which sit at the heart of the United Nations.”

Mrs Fullalove, MUN Director.



Reigatian James Gater



.....
"This was just the best conference ever – we really loved the Crisis!"
 visiting MUN delegate.



JUNIOR ReiMUN – STILL STRONG IN OUR FIFTH YEAR!

Saturday 8 May 2021, the Model United Nations (MUN) Society at RGS held its fifth annual Junior ReiMUN Conference on Microsoft Teams. Being virtual, we were able to welcome over 120 delegates and advisors from across the UK. Sixth Formers, Steven C and Piya P held the roles of Secretaries General, supported by an outstanding team: Krishne T, Douglas Y, Hannah H, Karam S, Charlotte T, Lucy R, Riley G and Morgan B. The team spent months in contact with other schools, writing resolutions on a myriad of topical debates, such as de-radicalisation and colonisation of the Moon. Workshops were held on "How to write a UN Resolution" and "How to Chair a UN Committee" before the delegates experienced UN-style committees in full debate.

There was much fascinating debate but a real highlight was the MUN Dance, in which Charlotte and Hannah got delegates from across the country up and dancing to the MUN playlist!

A huge congratulations goes to our First, Second and Third Formers who, coached by the Sixth Form team, were able to present resolutions before their respective committees: (First Form) Maya E, Aqsa K, Hannah G, Sofia M, Tabitha B, Robyn L, Holly F, Nicholas R, Luka U; (Second Form) Ella H; (Third Form) Ines M, Matty O, Dominic T and (Fourth Form Assistant Chairs) Austin B and Krish P.

"I am seeing such a range of enthusiastic and talented speakers here – not to mention the dancing!" Mrs Fullalove told us.

Reigatian James Gater, who was Secretary General of ReiMUN in 1996 and 1997, encouraged students to keep taking part in MUN, revealing that he, as a serving Naval Officer who has visited 76 of the 193 UN member states, is still finding out a great deal about the necessity of international relations. His time at RGS MUN, he believes, was the catalyst not only for his career but his world view. As Gater stated, "The capacity to probe, to debate, to call into question others' views and hold them to account; to haggle, to offend, to take offence gracefully and to understand whilst not agreeing are not just techniques for the debating floor, not just things that'll get you noticed here: They are the swords and shields of our age."

Mid-way through the conference, the leadership team staged a mock "Crisis" in which students were informed of an invasion of a coalition of the Taliban, China, Pakistan and Iran who had "invaded" Israel with the aim of creating the State of Palestine. "Troops" (thanks to the CCF!) lined the Sports Hall

in an effort to maintain order as the Crisis was revealed and delegates were asked to arrive at a peaceful resolution.

"This was just the best conference ever – we really loved the Crisis!" Adam from Churcher's College said as the day drew to an conclusion.

A special thanks to all our RGS students who took part.

Representing China:

Arun L, Maame O, Yusuf S, Gautam C and Ailsa L

Representing Israel:

Elenor A-W, Devon M, Aaditya C, Olivia M and Philomena B

Representing Russia:

Charlie W, Dominic T, Rohaan S, Grace H and Roman T-L

Administration support was provided by:

Joe F, Noah F, Kai P, Anna P, Alexander K, Tabitha S, Ayush S, Zabi B, Oscar H, Fayyad F, Krishna K, Juan M and Marcus M

A huge congratulations to our students for their combined enthusiasm and commitment towards the values of cooperation and collaboration – the true MUN spirit!

COMPUTER SCIENCE



THE NATIONAL CYBER AWARDS 28 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Computer Science department was nominated & shortlisted for Cyber School of the year. Computer Science A Level student Max W was nominated & shortlisted for Cyber Student of the year after his success in the Cyber EPQ where he achieved an A*. Former Computer Science & Cyber EPQ student Jack R was also nominated & shortlisted for Cyber Student of the year.

The awards were held on 28 September 2021 at the Novotel Hotel, London.

For more about the National Cyber Awards <https://thenationalcyberawards.org/2021-finalists/>

UK BEBRAS CHALLENGE 8 - 19 NOVEMBER 2021

The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking skills to students. It is organised in over 50 countries across the world for students to compete in challenges that focus on computational and logical thinking. In the week beginning 8 November, over 400 RGS students across all year groups took part in the UK Bebras Computing Challenge, where 27% of students were awarded a Gold, scoring in the top 10% nationally. Students with a Gold certificate are also invited to participate in the Oxford University Computing Challenge which will take place in February 2022.

A special mention and congratulations go to the students who achieved the Best in School Award for their category: John W (Juniors), Raphael V (Inters), Joe F (Seniors) and Elias C (Elite). Well done all who took part, and good luck to those competing in February!

UK Bebras <https://www.bebbras.uk/>

by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) where students were challenged to consider how we can use technology and how digital solutions could be used to make it easier for people to make more sustainable, environmentally friendly and low carbon choices in their everyday life – to ease the effects of climate change and save the planet.

Students worked in form group teams to produce a variety of solutions and create a presentation to present their ideas to their peers and LAB Digital Agency.

All the students had an amazing day learning about the range of careers available in the digital sector and working together to create a wide variety of solutions to the challenge set by the WWF.

LAB Digital Agency: <https://lab.co.uk>

BIMA: <https://bima.co.uk/bima-programmes/bima-digital-day/>

BIMA DIGITAL DAY 10 NOVEMBER 2021

Forty Second Form students participated in the BIMA Digital day led by Gemma Kane and three colleagues from LAB Digital Agency. The BIMA Digital Day gives the students an insight into a world of digital careers. Students compete in a sponsored, nationwide digital challenge. This year the challenge was set





CREATIVE CODING MASTERCLASSES NOVEMBER 2021

The Computer Science department ran a series of four masterclasses in Creative Coding for twenty five students from five different local primary schools including The Hawthorns, Reigate Parish, Micklefield, St Joseph's and St Johns. Over four weekly masterclass sessions the primary school students learnt how to use Processing three software to create, draw and animate a character Zoog by programming in Java.

"Hugo has absolutely loved the sessions and been busily practicing his Java at home. The sessions have been a fantastic experience for him!" A parent

COMPUTER SCIENCE IN ACTION CONFERENCE 3 DECEMBER 2021

The Lower and Upper Sixth Form Computer Science A Level students attended the Computer Science in Action Conference in December. In five lively sessions experts from academia and industry explored relevant topics that complemented the A Level curriculum including:

- **Matthew Scroggs** from University of Cambridge talking about machine learning and machine learning algorithms and demonstrating MENACE, one of the first computers from 1960s capable of machine learning using matchboxes and coloured beads.
- **Jon Macey** from National Centre for Computer Animation exploring algorithms and data structures that make animation possible.
- **Jasmin Fisher** from UCL discussing how state of the art computational models and analysis techniques are being used to study cancer evolutions and mechanisms of drug resistance to identify better personalised treatments for cancer patients.
- **Dave Cliff** from University of Bristol explaining how the world's financial markets are now heavily influenced by new technology either through 'robot traders' driving prices wild or by cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin apparently creating money out of nothing.
- **Amanda Prorok** from Prorok Lab exploring what happens when robots work together to achieve complex tasks and how we can program robots to work together efficiently.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Camping is a crucial skill to perfect for students to pass their DofE expeditions. In autumn camping is more challenging with longer and colder nights.

WHAT ARE THE 5 C'S OF CAMPCRAFT?

CURFEW!
(GO TO BED!)



COOK!





CLEAR UP AND CLEAR OFF!

Leave no trace is a vital element throughout their expeditions... leaving nothing behind.

BRONZE EXPEDITIONS

Bronze groups walked 15 miles over two days across the North Downs between Reigate, Dorking, Banstead and Godstone.

Bronze is the biggest ever cohort this year with 155 students joining the RGS DofE Award Scheme.

In October the days are shorter and groups need to camp, cook and clean in the dark.

Camping overnight on the Bronze hike was cold.



CAMP!



CLEAN!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

SILVER EXPEDITIONS

The Silver hikes crossed the South Downs over three days between Lewes and Arundel.

Groups walked over 50km.

Students travelled by train to the stations where they started the expeditions.

Students enjoyed the wide-open views and freedom of the South Downs

Night times got colder during the expedition with damp and frosty mornings.

Groups went home by train from Arundel station, boarding the first train once they have been debriefed by staff at the last checkpoint and sorted their kit.

The groups this year were fantastic and staff were delighted to provide a challenging opportunity for them to get out with their friends.

**Mr Collins, Miss Cuthbert
and the DofE Team**





COMBINED CADET FORCE

The RGS CCF continues to grow both in numbers and in popularity. This year, and for the first time in the history of the school, we have opened CCF to Second Form students. No fewer than twenty young cadets joined the contingent to enjoy all the activities on offer. This year began with our Recruit Cadre where young cadets learnt the basics of the CCF, how to wear their uniform, how to march and some history of the regiment.

In the Corps of Drums, we kick started the year with a workshop with the Royal Marine Band. Employed all over the world, the RM Band performs at national and international events, major sporting fixtures and in prestigious concert venues. To be able to host them for a workshop was a truly incredible experience for the cadets.





Our October field days were a remarkable success with the Army and Navy sections going to Wellington Barracks to witness Changing of the Guard from within Wellington Barracks' parade ground. The day carried on with a visit to the Guards' Chapel and the Guards Museum. In the meantime, the RAF section went to the RAF Museum in London.

Our inter detachment competition continues with all three sections working hard to win the David Ive trophy at the end of the academic year. Our first event of the year took place just before October half term with a rescuing scenario. The RAF won thanks to their organisational skills and determination to deliver the final message to HQ.



COMBINED CADET FORCE



Remembrance services this year again were very moving. The school event was our first official occasion using our new flagpoles in the playground flying our RGS CCF Colours. The ceremony at Shaw's Corner on Remembrance Sunday was also a poignant moment to share with the wider community.

Later in November, the RAF section took part in the Squadron trophy. The cadets were a true credit to our school even coming second in one of the many skills elements on the day.





In December last year, Cadet Chief Petty Officer Esther W was appointed First Sea Lord Cadet, and it is with great emotion that she served her last duty at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London for the Admiralty carol service in the company of HRH Prince Michael of Kent as well as the First Sea Lord.

As well as this, we are one of the only CCF units in the country, if not the only one, to have both First Sea Lord Cadet and Lord Lieutenant Cadet – Company Sergeant Major (CSM) Charlie B. In this year's Lord Lieutenant ceremony, both CSM Charlie B and Lieutenant Carl Fairclough were recognised for their hard work and dedication to the CCF. Without doubt, RGS CCF is a flagship for the national CCF. Going from strength to strength, we cannot wait to see what the future has to offer once the training environment becomes fully possible.



We have been promised a series of events such as the Tri Service Exercise and the Band of the Irish Guards coming to see us in March, along with a behind the stage tour of Trooping the Colour in June.

We are also working to organise a summer camp in Gibraltar and a winter camp in Canada when international travel resumes. Who would not want to be part of the CCF adventure?



MUSIC

A full complement of live music-making has made its return to RGS and oh so welcome it is too. Ensemble rehearsals have been in full flight with a busy schedule of twenty-seven sessions (in excess of twenty-two hours) a week, all eagerly preparing for a variety of events this term and next.

INFORMAL CONCERTS

We have been delighted to welcome back to the Recital Room a small audience for the return of our series of informal concerts. Featuring a number of students new to RGS plus others making their informal concert debuts, it really has been such a treat. Highlights can be seen via our RGS Sounds broadcasts and the informal concerts playlist on the RGS Music YouTube channel. Many congratulations to all our performers this term.

UNPLUGGED

Those of you who follow us on Twitter will have seen that the RGS Music department is always a hive of activity. We hosted our first live Unplugged concert since autumn 2019 after half term. Always a favourite in the Music department calendar, this time felt all the more special. Expressive and passionate performances delighted the Recital Room audience as we listened to well-imagined, personal interpretations of songs by Amy Winehouse, Billie Eilish, Cher, Bob Dylan, Birdy and many more. It was a delight to welcome back familiar faces and to celebrate the participation of some first-timers too. For those who missed it – or wish to relive it – you'll find a recording on the RGS Music YouTube channel.





RGs IN CONCERT AT DORKING HALLS

In November, RGS ensembles returned to Dorking Halls for the first time since November 2019. A kind parent described the occasion as "utterly joyous" and I couldn't agree more: utterly joyous live music performed by utterly joyous musicians to an utterly joyous audience. Thank you to so many who have offered their kind words of appreciation – it really does mean a great deal. For many of our musicians, this was their first live concert as RGS students. A member of the First Form massed choir penned the following review of his experience:

"I felt quite nervous on the day, but I knew it was going to be amazing. I felt very proud to be representing the school..."

The concert was amazing, I felt very lucky to be there. I could feel the vibrations of the drums flowing through my body, my favourite part was the drum solo, it took my breath away. I felt very proud when we were singing. When we finished, everyone clapped, it made me very happy. I don't think the night could have gone better. The music was brilliant, the songs were amazing, the atmosphere was fantastic. I enjoyed listening and watching everyone and I loved being part of the choir."

If you were unable to attend the concert (or would like to experience any of it again), a recording is available on the RGS Music YouTube channel.



MUSIC

NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR OF GREAT BRITAIN

We are always delighted to celebrate the achievements of our musicians and this term we offer our congratulations to two First Form students, Mia W and Sophie M who have successfully auditioned to join fellow RGS students in the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. A rich experience awaits!

STRINGS SHOWCASE

Further talent was on display in this term's String Showcase. Fantastic displays of virtuosity were heard in performances by students from the First to Upper Sixth Forms of Dvorak, Saint-Saëns, Schubert and more. Very well done to all performers. A very special evening which you can watch again on the RGS Music YouTube channel.

OLIVER!

This year's musical production of *Oliver!* Was an absolute triumph. Being back on the stage working with the Drama department to produce something this special was a real treat for performers, crew and audience alike. To read more about it, have a look at the RGS Drama pages!

PERFORMING IN THE COMMUNITY

RGS musicians have enjoyed the return to performances at venues beyond school. Two lunchtime recitals were given at St Matthew's Church in Redhill, featuring the RGS Godfrey Searle Choir and some highly talented soloists. These are always special events and we really loved returning to the church after two years away. On Saturday 9 October, RGS Saturday Music College hosted an Improvisation Workshop open to all musicians in the community. Led by Sam Walker and Terry Pack, both professional musicians with over twenty years' experience, it was a wonderfully stimulating and fulfilling two-hour workshop. Students explored sounds and ensemble playing through vocal exercises and instrumental workshoping before performing for parents at the end of the session. A really lovely event providing opportunities for musicians of all ages to work together. As we reached the end of the half term, students in the Music department had much to celebrate. They have performed in informal concerts, lunchtime recitals and open mornings, played for residents of local care homes, at parent socials and memorial services, sharing their musicianship far and wide in our local community. On Saturday 27 November choristers and Polyphony brought some early Christmas cheer to the High Street for the Reigate Christmas Fayre, braving the extremely challenging weather conditions!





CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

RGS's annual celebration of Christmas returned to St Mary's Church this year, complete with a joyous congregation in the church and further members of our community watching at home via the livestream. The RGS Godfrey Searle Choir, Polyphony, Boys' Choir and Junior & Senior Girls' Voices sang with characteristic warmth and beauty, further embellished by enthusiastic brass and percussion playing and a moving start to the service from Symphony Strings. A beautiful and moving close to the autumn term.



DRAMA



After an unprecedented 2020, RGS Drama began 2021 with a sense of optimism and endeavour, combining our new streaming and online abilities with plans for careful, inclusive, in-person performance. RGS Live continued, looking back at highlights and memories of our previous productions, and we introduced RGS Masterclass – a series of live, online workshops led by former students and friends of the department who are working in the theatre industry.

This year saw the first online edition of the RGS Choreography Slam, where entrants from all year groups and those who were coming to the school in September were able to submit dances in several categories. These were judged by a West End performer, and you can see highlights on the school YouTube channel.

A MIDSUMMERS NIGHT'S DREAM

In the summer, RGS Drama took over the Headmaster's garden for a celebration of in-person theatre with a full-scale junior production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Featuring over a hundred Second and Third Formers, the show included live music, audience interaction, acrobatics and brilliant storytelling, and was enjoyed by sold out, picnicking audiences. The whole cast was fantastic, including lead roles from Sabina W, Alex C, Billy R, Hannah B, Erinn C-B, Daniel D, Sofiya D and Savannah N.



OLIVER!

The autumn term saw the first return to the Concert Hall for an indoor performance for exactly two years, with Miss Hare's extraordinary production of *Oliver!* - the classic tale of the Victorian orphan who wanted more. Brought up to date with a contemporary twist, the production featured nearly 90 onstage performers, with 30 more behind the scenes. It was incredible to see the space transformed once more into a professional theatre, and the cast stepped up to the challenge of entertaining sold-out audiences over six performances. Eibhlin G dazzled as a female

Fagin, Sephy W brought the audience to tears as Nancy in her first and last RGS performance. Ruth A, Hector G, Harry H and Felicity S were excellent as Dodger, Bill Sikes, Mr Bumble and Widow Corney respectively. Alex J called the show expertly as DSM. But the night belonged to Elliot D-G and Charlie A, alternating the role of Oliver – both bringing a charm, innocence and twinkle to the role which led to standing ovations each night.

DRAMA

STAGE DOOR

STUDENT FOCUS

TOM A

I was in year 6 at Chinthurst having not long finished my interview for an RGS Drama scholarship. Ironically, one of the monologues I had chosen to perform was from the play, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. It was Scorpius Malfoy's emotional monologue, 'Try my life!'

Shortly afterwards I was asked to go for an audition through my Italia Conti stage club which I do on Saturdays. I couldn't believe it when I was told it was for the same play! I was so surprised and as it was my first theatre audition, I didn't really think I would get it so I decided to just embrace the opportunity and experience no matter what the outcome. On the day of my audition, I headed up to London after school and was pretty nervous but when I went in it was actually really fun and we played a lot of the types of games I had done previously with my drama teacher Mrs Stricker-Timmermans. I was called back and again just tried to enjoy it and say my lines but I was even more nervous.

It was several weeks later when my parents got an email that said, 'Welcome to Hogwarts!' - I'd got it! And this is where my theatre journey began. And whilst I was really excited, I had to sign a non-disclosure agreement and that was one of the hardest things, not being able to tell anyone. I met the three other boys who were also playing the role and learnt that we had a chaperone who looks after us (and makes sure we do our homework!) The rehearsals were an eye opener- far more than just acting- things such as how to move with everyone else on a revolving stage. Time keeping is also really important as everything runs to a schedule. You also need to make sure you've warmed up properly before going on stage. I really enjoy the warmups as we have fun doing things like yoga and exercising our vocal cords by saying tongue twisters.

Something that struck me was all the other aspects involved in putting on a theatre production. There are so many. One of my first appointments was with WHAM (wigs, hair and makeup). It is amazing to see the transformation the actors go through, which is perfectly replicated every night. There are lighting designers, sound designers, props supervisors, illusions and magic, special effects, video design, costume design, movement directors, composer and sound arrangers, music supervisors, a casting director, marketing, advertising and promotions, social media and content, the box office and of course the producers and directors.

When people ask me what it's like being in a West End play it's pretty hard to answer. Awesome for sure! At first, I was frightened at being in front of an audience of 1400. But when you're on stage you can only see the first few rows in the theatre because of the lights. The first show I did, I looked at the people in the front row. They were smiling and seemed so delighted to be watching it helped calm any nerves I had. The best thing though is the people I have met who are all really friendly and supportive. The more time I spent at the theatre I realised it's actually about the people and relationships, it feels like a real theatre family.

The reason I understand more about what the theatre means to me now is because of the terribly abrupt way everything stopped when Covid came along. I was just getting used to going up and getting back late (sometimes on school days!) and working in the Palace Theatre, with my new friends and being in London every week. It was such fun and I experienced many new things - attempting to speak Mandarin to the lady in the local restaurant who would always greet me like a long-lost son, sitting at the top of the double decker bus driving up Shaftesbury Avenue watching all the hustle and bustle of the West End. It seems like another planet!

Covid had hit after four months of doing the show. All of the theatres closed and the West End went dark. Month after month I would check my emails desperately hoping to return. But it wasn't to be until a year and a half later. I was worried that I'd grown too tall but they asked me to come back for the relaunch.



I was thrilled to be back. After Covid the first thing I remember is going into London for our rehearsals. I was excited to meet all the new actors and see my chaperone again. The other actors spent time hugging each other, some crying, some laughing. The joy of being back together was overwhelming.

I had the honour of performing on opening night - the first show of the new cast. We had a famous producer speaking to us and watching the show. The atmosphere on the night was something I'll never forget. The utter joy from everyone on stage, backstage and in the audience. The idea of forgetting for a few hours about what had been going on in the outside world is what makes theatre so great but particularly so that night. There was even a lady in the audience who has seen the show over 150 times!

To mark the occasion, we had a photo taken with everyone in and I mean everyone involved in the play including the audience. These highly skilled people who had trained so hard and had sacrificed so much were back doing the things they love and have spent years training for. 'The art of storytelling,' as one of the actors said.

I hope that when I am older I can be as good as they are.

I believe I am the third boy from RGS to have been in the play, it will be interesting to see if any others follow in our footsteps.

I am really going to miss this when it ends.....except for the itchy wig!

DRAMA



RGS MONOSLAM

The first RGS Monoslam of the year happened in the autumn term, and the first in-person since 2019. It was fantastic to be back in the room to see all the hard work and effort that had been put in by the competitors, and the standard was incredibly high across the board. There was a diverse range of speeches chosen, from comedy to hard-hitting material, and the two judges - former student Izzy Radford and our very own Mrs Harvey – our new Head of English were incredibly impressed.

Prizes were awarded to Sam G, Alice P, Elsa D, Niamh M and Kieran A, with the top prize going to Tilly A! Congratulations to everyone who took part.

ENGLISH

BOOK BUZZ: FIRST FORM

This term we have launched an exciting new reading programme to inspire First Form students to read for pleasure. Students had the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 17 titles. They are all carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure. We were lucky enough to book in Kereen Gretten, author of *'When Life Gives You Mangoes'*, for a virtual chat and Q&A, as well as Penny Chrimes, author of *'Tiger Heart'*.

The First Form has been encouraged to continue to spread the love of reading by dropping their Book Buzz book into their form's 'drop box', allowing other students from their form to enjoy their read.



DROP EVERYTHING AND READ! WEEK (DEAR)

Joseph Addison once said that "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." Losing yourself in a book can be a wonderful way to exercise your mind: reading for just a short time can clear your mind of everyday worries and enable you to focus on a different world. It can be a truly enriching experience to set aside time for some uninterrupted reading and a touch of escapism. This is especially important for young people who have come to rely on technology more than ever.

Therefore, during Drop Everything and Read Week, we promoted the pleasures of reading for enjoyment, adventure, enrichment, and fun, not to mention to read about shared experiences, feelings of otherness and the trials and delights of navigating those teenage years! During this week, the only homework was reading so that our students were able to embrace this opportunity.

We really hope this week provided students with a unique opportunity to engage with reading, be truly open-minded and take the time really to get into their book without having the usual homework timetable to also keep up with.



ENGLISH

THE LAUNCH OF
THE CASTLE NEWSPAPER

LITERARY TOUR OF LONDON: SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form students had the pleasure of embarking on a literary tour of London in October, involving a jaunt around St James's and a trip to The British Library. The bespoke tour introduced students to Modernist British writers, with two expert guides who walked and talked us through one of London's most literary areas. The tour had been created specifically with RGS English Literature students in mind and provided an opportunity to introduce them to the Modernist period of literature, which will support an aspect of their A Level course. The visit to the 'Treasures Exhibition' allowed students to see, first hand, some of the world's most exciting, beautiful and significant books, maps and manuscripts – from the Magna Carta and the Folio editions of Shakespeare to Florence Nightingale's diaries and Gandhi's letters.



HARRY BAKER VISIT

We held a very special event this year in the run up to National Poetry Day which involved a visit from the amazing Harry Baker. As well as being a full-time poet since graduating from university with a Maths degree, Harry became the youngest ever Poetry World Slam Champion in 2012, and his first collection of poems, *The Sunshine Kid*, was published with Burning Eye in December 2014. Students were invited to a one-off workshop which involved performances from Harry, a Q&A, and a chance for students to write their own poetry.

ENGLISH

HAPPY NATIONAL POETRY DAY!

National Poetry Day October 2021. Have you ever seen a poet doing a convincing imitation of a dinosaur? From the first roar of 'Dinosaur Love',

'RRRAAAAWWW

(insert best dinosaur noise here)...'

Virtuoso performance poet and youngest ever World Grand Slam winner Harry Baker captivated staff and students alike. Popularly known as 'The Sunshine Kid', Harry proved to us, if it still needed proving, that poetry has the power to dazzle, to make us laugh and more than that, brighten our day by distilling some of our most profound human emotions into words which we wish we had thought of ourselves. On a grey morning in October, the Old Library was fizzing and popping with Harry's verbal pyrotechnics. Second Formers gaped, Fourth Formers clapped along and students packed into the library lunchtime session and afternoon creative writing workshop.

We are so grateful to Harry for taking time to judge our first ever RGS Poet of the Year competition. With high calibre writing from all year groups, it was a tough call to pick first, second and third place poems. At 3.45pm came the moment we had been waiting for: much to her surprise, First Former Shivali V was plucked from her Maths lesson and announced RGS Poet of the Year 2021. Niamh D and Nithya S from the Fifth Form gained well-earned second and third places. Elsa D, Tabitha B and Hugo R were shortlisted and highly commended. Congratulations to everyone who entered the competition. Keep writing! We are delighted to share the winning poems with you here:

Meanwhile, thanks to Mrs Walker and the RGS Poetry Doctors, prescriptions for common student 'ailments' were popping up all round the school. Need to get off your phone? Be reminded how awesome you are? Looking for a moment of peace? The RGS Poetry Doctors were on hand with a poem prescribed specially for you. As one student said, with a smile, 'I've picked up my poetry prescription and I've had a really happy day'.

¹ I Quotation from 'Dinosaur Love' The Sunshine Kid by Harry Baker, p. 109.



Congratulations to everyone who entered the competition. Keep writing! We are delighted to share the winning poems with you here:

TERE MARZJE

'Tere marzje'

My grandma said to me...

'It's your choice'

What you choose to see.

There are a thousand suns.
There is a thorn on every rose.
When one door opens,
Another one has to close.

'Tere marzje'

My grandma smiled to me...

'It's your choice'

What you choose to be.

Into the horizon one runs.
Your destiny who knows?
Fairies disguise as goblins;
Friendship always grows.

'Tere marzje'

My grandma hugged me.

'It's your choice'

Today you're alive and free.

By Shivali V.

'The phrase in my poem means "It's your choice." It comes from the language Punjabi which is spoken in India.' Shivali V

RGS POET OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2021

Poet of the Year 21 WINNER

Shivali V *Tere Marzje*

2nd Place Niamh D *Ophelia's Curse*

3rd Place Nithya S

My dearest Summer

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS
WERE SHORT LISTED AND HIGHLY
COMMENDED:

Elsa D *Choices*

Tabitha B *Leaf Life*

Hugo R - special commendation for
submitting over ten poems. Shortlisted
for *Sea Haikus*.

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WERE
HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Rebekah B *Pandemic Reality*

Matthew A *Choose*

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WERE
COMMENDED:

Emma B *Choices*

Ellie P-H *Once I saw the Endless Blue*

Shreeyana R *Do you remember?*

Hannah G *The Seasons*

Theodore M *Ignorance of Humanity
and Demise of Humanity*

Riya M *The Jungle*

Nicolas R *Choices*

Abi S *The Enchanted Forest*

Jasmine D *The smallest word*



OPHELIA'S CURSE

Auburn red corn stalks sway in the
watery river breeze,
Between stems, tadpoles skip like
wisps-
Roots stretch deeply down through
the landscape of her scalp
And evanesce gently into the steely
blue abyss
Open and peer in- she invites you in
her silence,
Down those ivory canyons struck
across freckled plains
All that remains is opal-cracked
coloured cloudy iridescent
Veiled with a film of slate water over
the iris
O, my poor child, nature coldly
croons,
Weeping branches arching as her
nymph turns to dust-
Madness did not become her, but
death cast her stony beautiful
And so, she fell as she must.

By Niamh D

MY DEAREST SUMMER

It has been so long since I last saw
you,
Running down the lane, your golden
tresses swaying like wheat in the
fields.
I can still remember the warm kiss
you threw upon my cheek
Your mouth was sticky with fresh
honey from the hives.
I wish I could be more like you,
Always ready for the next adventure-
To dance in the orchard, before the
apples had fallen,
And dip your toes in the stream
I could hardly keep up-
Maybe catch a glimpse of your
cotton dress
And the warm glow reflecting
off your tan cheeks
Before you turned the corner.
My darling Summer,
I hope to see you again before
the days are short-
But I know you will not come
around till the new year.
And when you do,
We will make the most of your
joy again!

by Nithya S

SEA HAIKUS

Rain at sea

Droplets falling
Into the deep dark abyss
Of swirling water

Fog at sea

Visibility thin
Tiny speck in a vast ocean
Every direction bleak

by Hugo R

A HUDDLE OF HAIKU'S

Sin

Lurking within us
Ingrained deep in our darkness
Rarely visible

Love

Love is powerful
Love is irresistible
Love can never die

Earth

Senseless destruction
Damaging our unique globe
Devastation...death

Fire

Dainty as lilies
A little flame dancing
In the wind of life

Friendship

Friends are many things
Kind, loving, understanding
Always there for you

Poetry

Poetry is music
Poetry is passion, love, power
Poetry is freedom

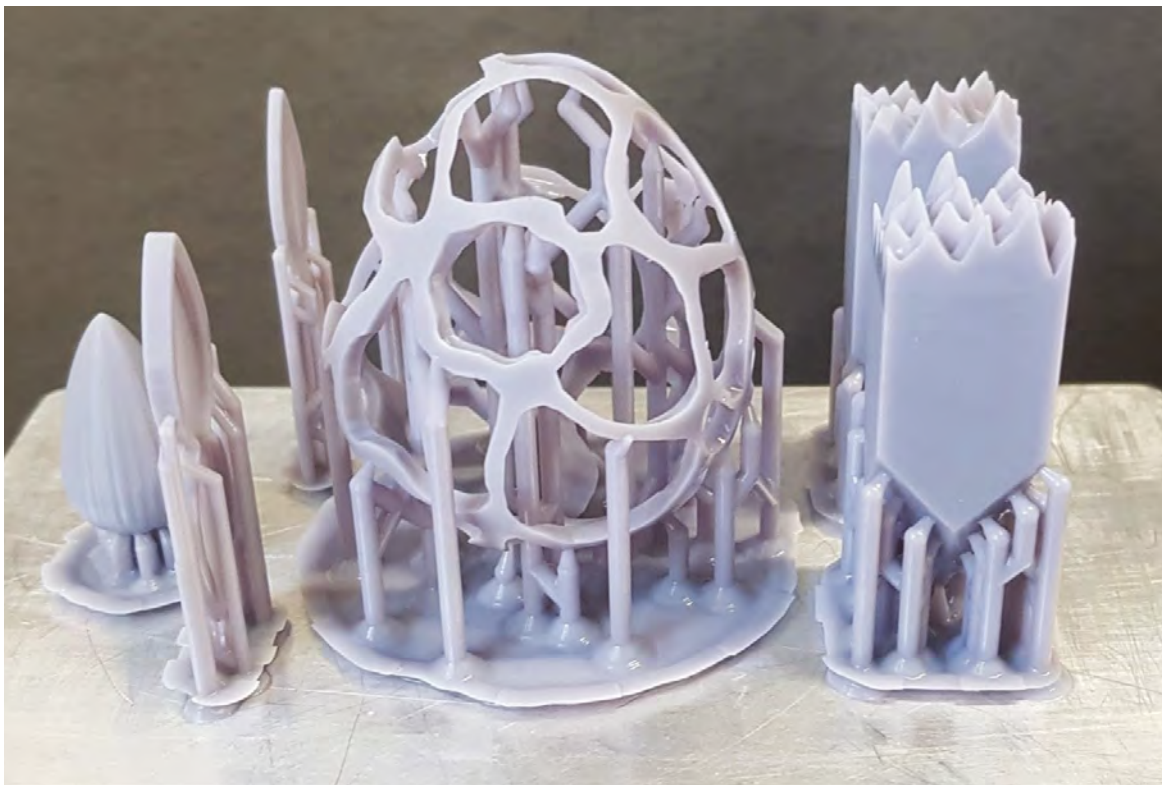
by Hugo R

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

This term has been a busy one for the Design and Technology department. Students embraced newly installed *Blender* software and produced an array of impressive work. *Blender* has the capability of producing complex organic shapes quite quickly and then enabling photorealistic renders of the final form. This enables students to check ideas visually, make changes quickly and speeds up the development process so that time is not wasted on building physical prototypes of ideas that don't work.



Blender Generated 3D Design Project – Jonathan G.

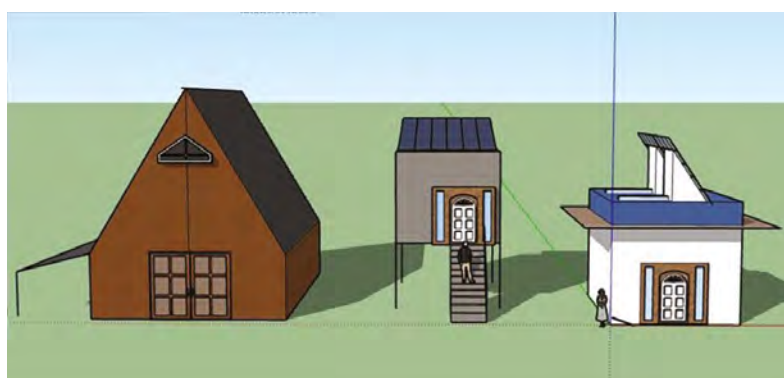


In many cases, this work can be outputted to the newly acquired 3D printers to generate 'actual' products. This is useful as a method of rapid prototyping ideas for 3D Design projects.

A selection of Fifth Form 'virtual' now 'actual' ideas on the 3D printer build plate. Only the support needs to be removed.



Abi S



Lola S



Ori C-S

A series of developments for a lamp project based on bone structures and influenced by the work of Ross Lovegrove. Such curving, organic, complex shapes would be difficult to create without 3D printing and allow students to iterate ideas more quickly. They can even sketch on the actual form to decide what changes to make for the next iteration Ori C-S.

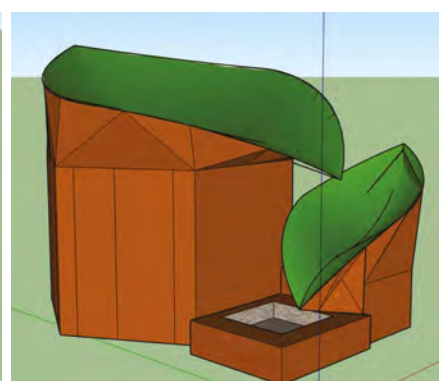
Design and Technology continues to introduce the Lower School to CAD packages and provide challenges by setting real world problems. Second Form students have been looking at sustainable design in housing and producing their own responses to the challenges of sustainability, climate change and a rising global population. They produced 3D CAD models using *Sketchup* and created scale models of their solutions using a range of materials.



Vivienne P



Erin H



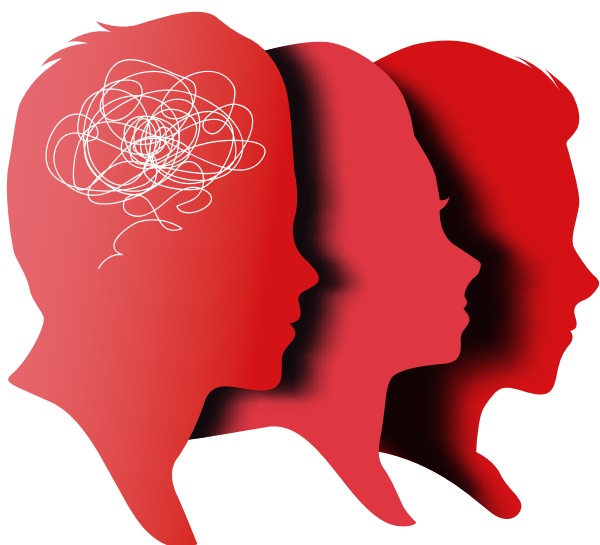
Daisy P

PSYCHOLOGY & ECONOMICS

ANTHROPOS REVIEW

Anthropos, a weekly society bringing together students of philosophy, psychology and economics, encourages sharing opinions and debates on various topics impacting society today. The discussions are started by a short presentation from a student, informing listeners of their chosen topic. After the informative presentation, the floor is opened to debate to all participants on the particular question proposed on the chosen subject. Talks across all three subjects have ranged from the 'impact of elite sport on mental health', 'should business be ethical?', 'and how good is the definition of criminal insanity?' and many in between. The discussion and debate allow for a range of perspectives to be put forth from different areas of knowledge, creating links between the subjects and broadening knowledge of topics inside and outside of the school curriculum. The club is open to the Fifth and Sixth Forms encouraging the years to come together and learn from each other, inspiring areas of further research for all students to think about. I was keen to be involved from the very beginning as I felt it would be a great opportunity to learn more about different topics that my peers are passionate about beyond the classroom and be able to create links which could help me in my own study. I especially enjoy the atmosphere of debate, listening to and understanding such a wide range of viewpoints which I hadn't considered previously.

By Bella E (Upper Sixth Form)



MATHS MASTERCLASSES

For four weeks in September and October, Reigate Grammar School hosted the first Royal Institute Primary Maths Masterclass series in our local area. Twenty-three 9 and 10 year old students from local primary schools came to sessions held in the Old Library on topics ranging from binary numbers to models of rabbit populations. Our guests included pupils from The Hawthorns School, Reigate Parish Church Primary School, St John's Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and St Matthew's Church of England Primary School.

Sessions were expertly planned and delivered by RGS A Level Maths students.

Izzy vd S, Annalise H and Lily F-J ran a session on curve stitching; Sara M, Anthony G and Gautam C presented a session on sequences and rabbit populations and Omair S and Dan S presented a session on moments. Students left each session enthused and having been introduced to a new area of maths.

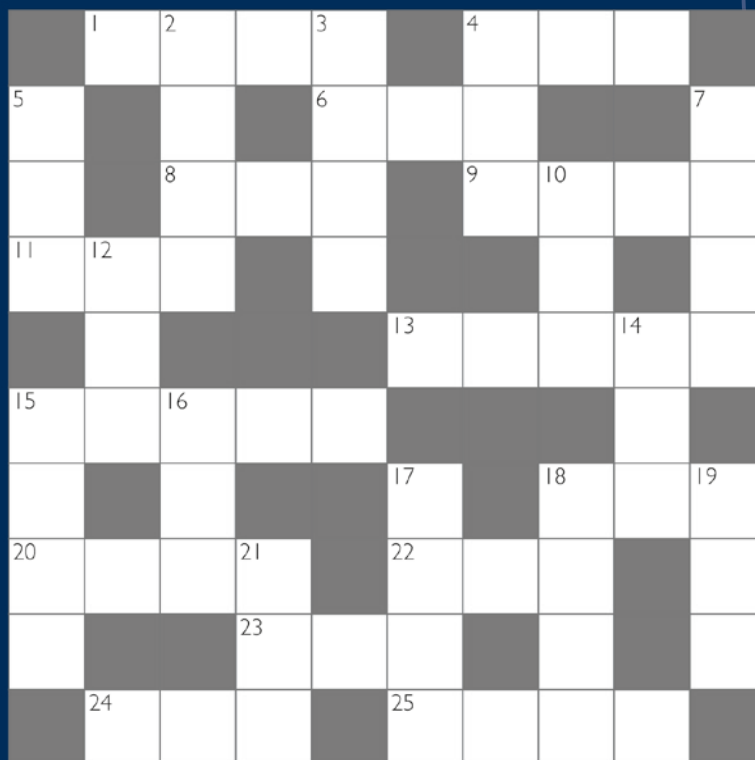
Well done to all involved.

PUZZLE

For 2 consecutive birthdays this decade (2020s), a member of the Maths department's age is a factor of the year. How old was that teacher on their birthday in 2021?

MATHS

CROSSNUMBER



Across

1. A Fibonacci number (4)
4. A multiple of the positive solution of $m^2 - 120m - 21$ **Down** = 0 (3)
6. A cube (3)
8. A multiple of 11 (3)
9. 3 **Down** + 12 **Down** (4)
11. The smallest positive integer that is divisible by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 35, and 105 (3)
13. The product of 18 **Down** and $\sqrt{\sqrt{21}}$ **Down** (5)
15. The product of 10 and the mean of 1 **Across** and 18 **Down** (5)
18. $(25 - \sqrt{14})(25 + \sqrt{14})$ (3)
20. $(6 \text{ Across})^{\frac{4}{3}}$ (4)
22. The number of degrees in each internal angle of a regular polygon with $\frac{2}{3} \times 19$ **Down** sides (3)
23. $6x + 7y$ where $x : y = 21$ **Down** : 24 **Across** is in its simplest form (3)
24. The n^{th} triangular number, where $n = \sqrt{21}$ **Down** (3)
25. 18 **Down** minus 12 **Down** (4)

Down

2. The smallest positive integer that is divisible by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14 and 63 (4)
3. The mean of 20 **Across** and 2 **Down** (4)
4. $(24 + \sqrt{15})(24 - \sqrt{15})$ (3)
5. The number of degrees in each internal angle of a regular polygon with 19 **Down** sides (3)
7. A factor of 18 **Down** that is smaller than 1 **Across** (4)
10. A multiple of 11 (3)
12. $18x - 4y$ where $x : y = 4$ **Across** : 19 **Down** is in its simplest form (3)
14. A triangular number (3)
15. The sum of 23 **Across** and triple 9 **Across** (4)
16. A cube (3)
17. A multiple of the positive solution of $m^2 - 30m - 6$ **Across** = 0 (4)
18. A Fibonacci number (4)
19. See 5 **Down** (3)
21. n^{n-1} where n is a positive integer (3)

GEOGRAPHY

Whilst complex geographical issues play out in the world around us, RGS students have continued to endeavour to understand and consider critically their place and role as global citizens. Students across the year groups continue to learn about highly relevant content such as the dynamics of the carbon cycle, the role of place in managing crime and challenges of urban management in the emerging world.

Students, particularly at A Level, have been able to apply their knowledge of the importance of flood management and waste water treatment at Gatwick Airport and investigate the role of varying physical factors on interception levels at Box Hill. Students also visited Brixton to experience the unique combination of factors such as demographics and land use which give urban areas their own sense of place.



GEOGSOC

The GeogSoc has seen brilliant engagement from presenting and attending students. Two Sixth Formers who presented superbly for their peers and staff were Lucy R and James C.

Lucy R (Upper Sixth Form) writes:

I presented a GeogSoc entitled 'The Coal Millionaire and the Climate Bill', which outlined the energy grid of the USA and how Biden's Infrastructure Bill, which was being blocked by Joe Manchin – a coal millionaire, could impact America's non-renewable sector. I chose this topic to allow other members of the Sixth Form a forum to discuss ideas for how countries can feasibly change their energy usage, as well as debate to what extent politics is economically centred. All of which was discussed bearing in mind the approaching COP26 and climate demands.

James C (Lower Sixth Form) writes:

I presented to GeogSoc about 'The Covid Vaccine Rollout - How Rich Countries are Making it Last Longer', this covered the international effectiveness of how we have globally protected the citizens of the world. I was interested in this topic when I heard about the COVAX initiative and how it isn't as effective as initially perceived, delving into why some less fortunate countries haven't been able to vaccinate frontline health workers when places like the UK are offering booster jabs. Also, I opened the question to the audience of whether this was a problem in the supply chain, a problem with the WHO, or is it the more fortunate countries dominating the vaccine market?



STUDYING GEOGRAPHY

Jasmine F (Upper Sixth Form) is applying to study Geography at university, she writes about why she has chosen it:

Why is Geography an important subject to study at degree level?

Geography gives you such an insight into the challenges we are facing today. There has never been a more important time to understand and help to alleviate inequalities, political unrest, and famine that we still face today. We know climate change is occurring at an unprecedented rate, and it's crucial that we understand why it is happening and how everyone can help to mitigate it. Geography is brilliant because I feel it galvanises people to take affirmative action and I certainly feel inspired by it.

What would you like to do beyond university?

Although I haven't 100% pinned this down, I would really love to do some sort of humanitarian aid or conservation related work.

Geography teaches you about a lot of inequalities that go on in the world, and obviously, the devastating impacts of climate change. I think it's difficult to finish studying Geography without having a deep care for the planet and wanting to help.

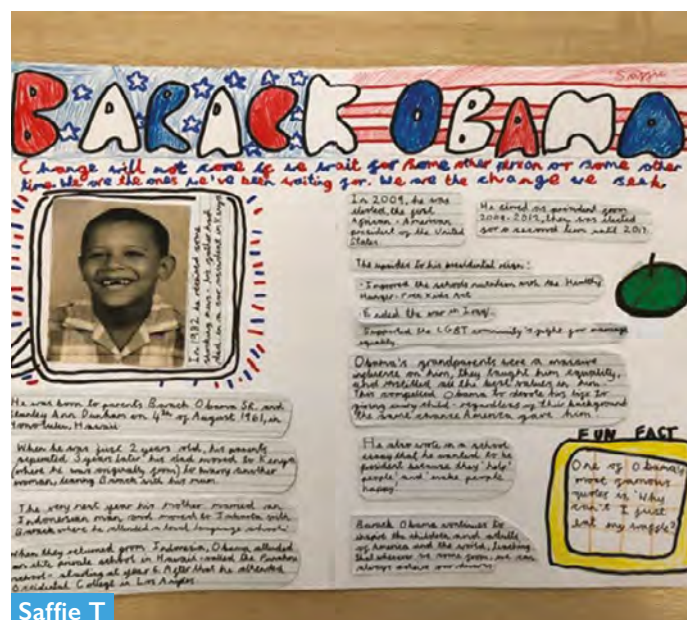
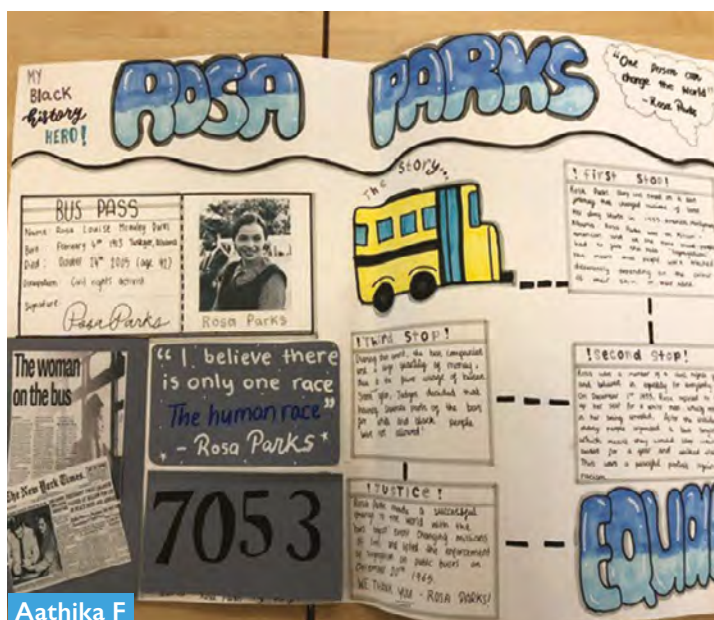
What aspects of Geography have you enjoyed the most?

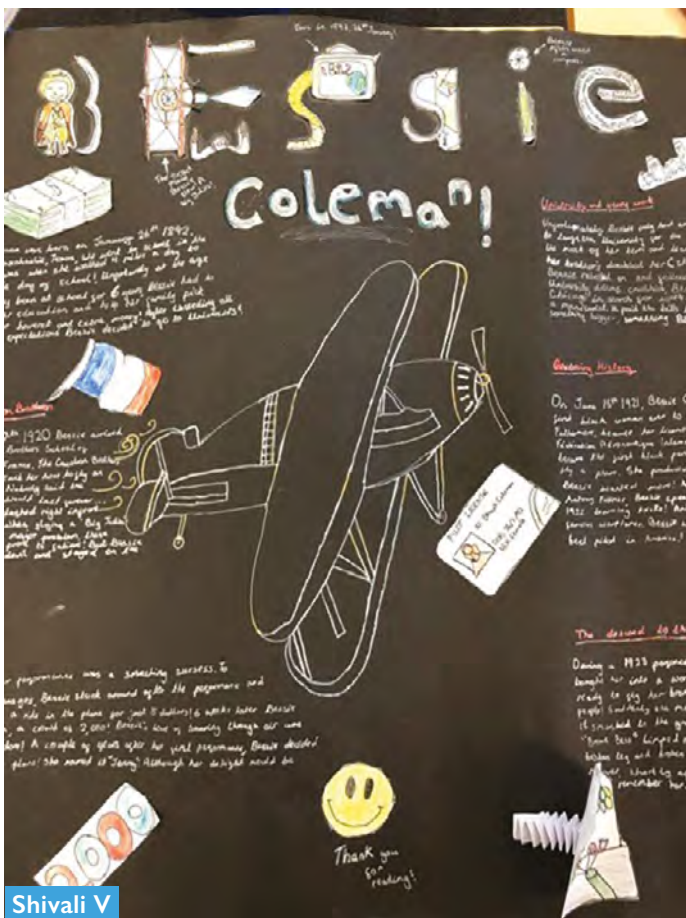
I found the globalisation topic fascinating because it amazes me to think about how quickly the spread of ideas, technology and communications have spread across the globe, and how globalisation has come in different waves, dating all the way back to the silk roads in 130BC! It sparked interesting debates in my class as to whether globalisation is a good or a bad thing. I also love the field trips we go on; it's always utterly inspiring as a geographer to go and visit the places we are learning about.

HISTORY AND POLITICS

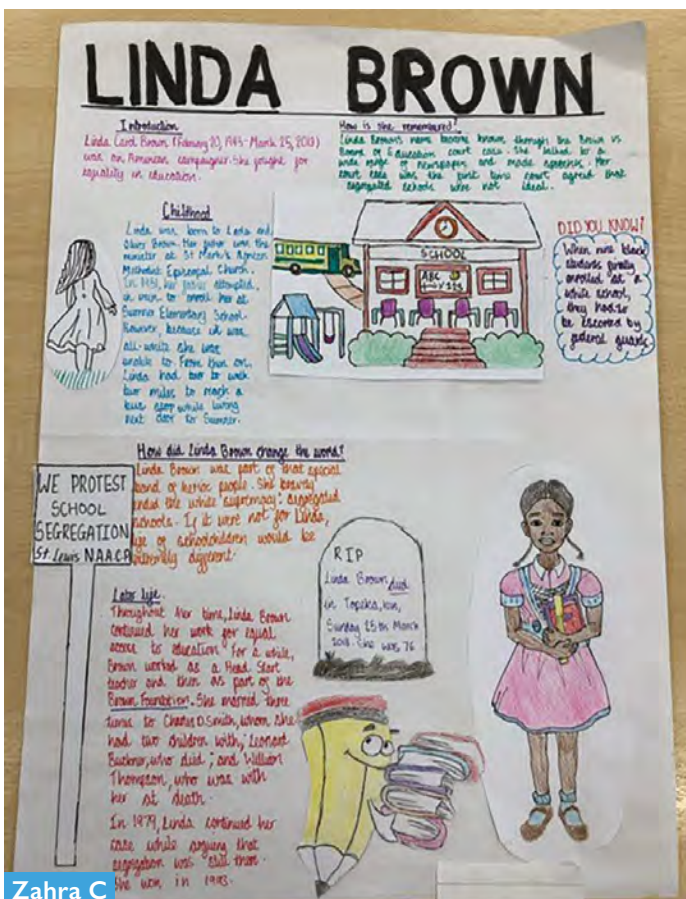
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

For October's Black History Month, the History department ran a competition amongst all First Form students to produce a project on the historical contribution of an individual. We gave the students a list of possible names to research. Projects included a wide range of people including: Olaudah Equiano, Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela, Doreen Lawrence, Jesse Owens, Linda Brown, Andrew Watson and many others. Indeed, one of the most pleasing aspects of this task has been that the students have even taught us about names that we did not know about. In Mr Haskey's class, students were introduced to the amazing story of Bessie Coleman, who was the first African-American woman and first Native American to hold a pilot license in 1920. We were so pleased with the enthusiasm and efforts of the First Form, who fully embraced this independent learning task. The six overall winners, who have received a prize from the Headmaster, were: Aathika F, Shivali V, Leah D, Zahra C, Saffie T and Johan M.





Shivali V



Zahra C

HISTORY AND POLITICS SIXTH FORM TRIPS

For activities day, we were lucky to have our first post-Covid day trip. We took 20 Lower Sixth Form History and Politics students for a guided walk around Westminster. We were told stories of the rich 1000 year history of Westminster and how it has been the centre of developments in the UK. It was a lovely day as London was at its finest with smaller crowds and good weather.

On Tuesday 16 November 2021 Upper Sixth Form Politics students went to the British Library USA Politics Today Conference. Students listened to academic lectures and were able to question two former members of the US Congress – Tim Hutchinson (R-AR) and Larry LaRocco (D-ID). It was interesting to hear Professor Robert McKeever's view that the present US Supreme Court will change abortion rights in the USA in the case *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organisations* (2022).



CLASSICS

It has been a busy term in the Classics department, and we have got lots to look forward to in the year ahead. Here is an overview of some things we have been up to.



CLASSICS CLUB

Lower School Classics club this term has been alive with the stories of Greek mythology. The students have been diving into the weird and wonderful world of Lyncurgus and Arachne among many. They even created their own mythical monsters.

The most impressive of all was a 3D construction of the Trojan Horse which is now sitting proudly in the Classics department.

CLASSSOC

Classics Society, for Upper School and Sixth Form students, has met regularly to discuss a variety of topics related to the classical world, particularly where they have a contemporary relevance too. Rebecca W in the Lower Sixth Form gave a fantastic presentation on the Roman archaeology she had discovered on holiday in Croatia, while Mr Ingham followed up with his summer holiday experience exploring the acropolis of Lindos on Rhodes. In another session we debated the return of the Elgin Marbles to Greece and there were some passionate opinions about where they best belong! We explored ancient plagues to see how similar or different they were to our current pandemic, and reviewed the range of modern female writers re-telling Greek myths and legends from a fresh, contemporary perspective.

MYTHOLOGY ART COMPETITION

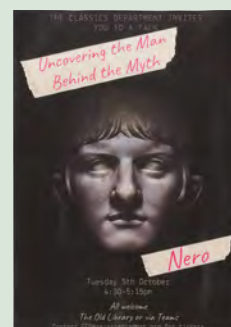
We put out the call for some artwork for our displays and were overwhelmed with the response! We received beautiful paintings and drawings from students throughout the school, and what amazing talent there is out there. Thank you to everyone who entered and congratulations to our winners: Mawadda E for Sixth Form, Zayna A for Upper School, Alice P and Tabitha B for Lower School.



Mawadda E

CLASSICS TALKS – EMPEROR NERO

We decided to celebrate the British Museum's exhibition on the notorious Emperor Nero by hosting the first in what we hope will become a series of twilight talks for parents and students alike. Miss Waters helped us explore the man behind the myth by talking us through the archaeology and evidence for his life – how bad was he and how can we know?



ACTIVITIES DAY IN LONDON

Roman London is a bit of a hidden gem! There are many fascinating sites, all within walking distance of the City. We started at the Museum of London, which has a superb collection of artefacts and displays about the Roman occupation of Britannia, and really set the scene for the rest of the day. We explored the remains of the original defensive wall and its forts, much of which can still be found by the Museum of London and down by the Tower of London. Perhaps the two most spectacular sites are the amphitheatre deep beneath the Guildhall Art Gallery, and the Temple of Mithras on Wallbrook amongst the skyscrapers of the financial district. The audio-visual show at this temple is wonderfully atmospheric and transported us back in time to the secret rites of this ancient Roman cult. Unfortunately, the Billingsgate Roman Baths were closed, but we did eventually find the statue of Trajan by the Tower of London and enjoyed the eccentric story of its erection there. We paused to test our Latin on the lengthy Latin inscription of the Albert Monument, before crossing London Bridge (right next to where the Romans first bridged it) on our way to get the train home. A fantastic range of sites that really bring the Roman history of our capital vividly to life.





CLASSICS CHRISTMAS FILM SCREENING

At the end of the term we had the chance to sit back and enjoy Mrs Brickley's favourite event of the year; the Classics Christmas Film Screening. This year we watched the epic *Troy* and cried over our pizzas at the horrible death of *spoiler*. Looking forward to next year already!



CLASSICS AT THE GLOBE

In October we were lucky enough to take two groups of students into London to see a production of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* at the lovely Sam Wanamaker playhouse. It was wonderful to head out to the theatre again, and the production showcased a brilliant collection of Ovid's stories performed with minimalist flair. As Mr Ingham put it, the show was 'a masterclass in storytelling' and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

BUILDING POMPEII IN MINECRAFT





At the very end of term a group of intrepid First Form students took on our very first Minecraft Build Challenge. The students were asked to recreate a Roman villa in authentic style in only one hour! We were absolutely blown away with the results, with students creating amazing, imaginative designs that really brought Pompeii to life. We were really pleased with the students' response to this challenge and we hope to deliver more Minecraft events in the future.



In the spring we are looking forward to our Second Form Roman Ready Steady Cook and we are stirring up plans for the *Ides of March*. Watch this space!

MODERN LANGUAGES

LINGUIST OF THE TERM

	FRENCH	GERMAN	SPANISH	MANDARIN
First Form	Elsa D	Eddie B	Ashwin S	Leah D
Second Form	Michael R	Saniyah M	Theodore M	Lola S
Third Form	Pepper J	Tom T	Lily B	Gabriela J-G
Fourth Form	Edie W	Daniel R	Cara K-R	
Fifth Form	Nithya S	Jake H	Lucy D	
Lower Sixth Form	Rebekah B	Anuja S	Neyha K	
Upper Sixth Form	Bella E	Samuel G	Elise H	

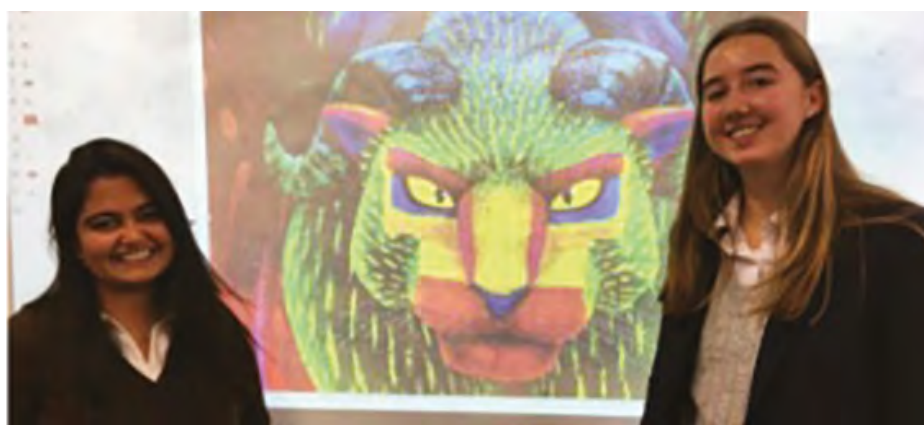
EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

To celebrate European Day of Languages the Modern Languages department organised a treasure hunt for Lower School pupils to find the *Secret Linguists* among the RGS staff body. An impressive 20 different languages are spoken by our staff. Winners were Mimi D and Shreeyana R. Well done!



EL CINE ESPAÑOL CLUB

This half term the Spanish cinema club showed the film *Elisa and Marcela* to Lower Sixth Form students. The film is set in 1901 Spain and is based on true events. Elisa Sánchez Loriga adopts a male identity in order to marry the woman she loves, Marcela Gracia Ibeas.



Junior Culture Club celebrating Harvest Festival the traditional way with some corn weaving.

JUNIOR CULTURE CLUB

Junior Culture Club celebrated Day of the Dead this week. They conducted a survey and most of our members now think we should celebrate the Day of the Dead in the UK as well as in Mexico. Our papel picado was shaped like skeletons and the alebrijes were out of this world!

INTRODUCING...



‘Reimagining sustainability within our community’

WHAT IS IT?

You may have heard of the Earthshot Prize. It is the most prestigious prize in history, with David Attenborough and Prince William at the forefront of the movement. It is designed to incentivise change and help to repair the planet over the next 10 years. The prize aims to turn the current pessimism surrounding environmental challenges into optimism. It is separated into 5 main Earthshots. These are the environmental aims we must achieve in order to create a sustainable and brighter future.

PROTECT AND RESTORE NATURE**CLEAN OUR AIR****REVIVE OUR OCEANS****BUILD A WASTE FREE WORLD****FIX OUR CLIMATE**

As a school, it would be inspiring to use The Earthshot Prize as the foundations of our own environmental movement. Let's stop focussing on the negatives and the challenges associated with becoming more sustainable and work out what we **can** do as a community to make a change.

The RGS Earthshot will look like a series of initiatives to encourage both RGS and the wider community to live more sustainably.

Together, we will achieve this by:

1. **Changing our habits as a school.** As individual students, families and the wider RGS community.
2. **Design and innovation.** Inspiring individuals within our community to get involved in research and innovation... what can we come up with as a community?

WHY RGS EARTHSHOT?

The why is simple to be honest. It goes without saying that there has never been a more critical time to focus all our effort and attention into protecting the planet. We are at the ultimate tipping point in terms of our climate, which underpins the urgency for projects such as RGS Earthshot to make positive strides forward in becoming sustainable.

This is exactly why we have decided to launch this project as a school. It's a way of tackling this problem as a community, between all of us we truly can do some great things!

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM RGS EARTHSHOT IN 2022?

- We have plans to plant trees for the Jubilee in the new year!
- Launch of the RGS Earthshot Lecture series
- Outreach initiatives to local schools by launching RGS Earthshot workshops
- Look out for a weekly 'RGS Earthshot spotlight' in the weekly bulletin – let us know if you or your family have done anything brilliant sustainability wise, big or small!
- RGS Earthshot competitions, such as 'Design the best use of an item that would have been thrown away' or the 'RGS Earthshot Art Competition', and many more!

WE NEED YOU!

If this is of interest to you, please get involved! Come to Eco Committee on a Monday lunchtime. The more of us, the more we can get done!

Best,

Jazz Foster
Head Girl

Tom Dénecé
Head Boy

OUTREACH

This year RGS launched an extended Outreach scheme, which saw Outreach Electives for the first time across the Third and Forth Form pupils. This has proved tremendously popular with our students and the local community. Students have been visiting local care homes, primary schools, Stripey Stork and Loveworks.

BEAUMONT AND EVERSFIELD CARE HOME

In the Third and Forth Form students have visited the elderly residents of Beaumont and Eversfield on a weekly basis. During this time they have participated in portrait drawing, card games, Scrabble and given musical recitals.

PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTREACH

The primary school visits have been very popular with our students and they have all enjoyed visiting the early years pupils of two local primaries: St John's and St Joseph's in Redhill. During their afternoon visit RGS students helped with reading, drawing, writing and sport.

STRIPEY STORK

RGS has continued to develop its partnership with Stripey Stork this year by introducing the elective. Students have visited the warehouse, helped with donations and created fundraising ideas for this worthy charity.

LOVEWORKS

RGS has supported Loveworks with foodbank collections for a few years, but this year students had the chance to see first-hand what happens behind the scenes and to help at the Loveworks warehouse. They have also actively helped collect donations in Reigate town centre and raise awareness within our own school and the local community.



MASTERCLASSES

RGS launched a programme of Masterclasses in October, aimed at providing enrichment for year 5 and 6 pupils of local primary schools. Mr Marley ran the Maths Masterclass alongside the Royal Institute with the help of maths teachers and Sixth Form students. Miss Lewty ran a Creative Coding Class with the help of ICT staff and Sixth Form students. These proved very popular with all the feedback and we received many emails commenting on how valuable the children had found them.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE LIVE AT HOME SCHEME

The First Form spent time creating their own personalised Christmas cards for the Live at Home Scheme. Cards were designed, written and posted to a vast number of elderly people living alone in our local community.



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ORPHEUS CENTRE

This year RGS began a partnership with the Orpheus Centre. Orpheus is an independent specialist post 16 college in Surrey that increases the confidence and skills of young disabled adults through the performing arts.

During the last week of school in December RGS Students and staff wore cosy jumpers in return for donating money to their Big Give Campaign which aims to raise money to enable the centre to build a new café. This new café will be open to the public, the profits of which will go back into the charity. The café will also provide a place of rest and relaxation for the pupils, but more importantly give them the opportunity for work experience, which is so hard for them to find.

Some of our Fourth Form students also wrote cards to their pupils and hand delivered them to the Orpheus centre.



CHILDREN IN NEED

This year, students were permitted to come in non-uniform to raise money for Children in Need in November. Students voted for their teachers to wear a Pudsey costume for the day. Mrs Shivashankar, Monsieur Pruvost and Miss Paine were the lucky winners. The Charity Committee also raised money throughout the day by a variety of fun activities.

FIRST FORM SUPPORTING LEPROA

This term the First Form has been learning about and supporting the worldwide work of the charity Lepra. Lepra aims to support people who are suffering from leprosy and prevent others from contracting it. First Form students raised money by completing a 'Move for Leprosy' challenge where they have been running, cycling and walking as much as possible to try and travel the 4176 miles between Reigate Grammar School and New Delhi in India, where much of Lepra's work is carried out. Whilst they have been completing this challenge they have been collecting sponsorship on their Just Giving page and encouraging their family and friends also to get involved.

We are so proud that through all their efforts and logging distances travelled the First Form managed to surpass its targeted destination and travelled enough miles to reach Kanpur! The First Form has raised £1117 for the charity and is planning to continue to raise even more money next term by completing a Zumbathon! Well done!

LOVEWORKS CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

In the spirit of giving, Reigate Grammar School students donated over 1000 items for the Loveworks Christmas Parcels. Each year group were asked to bring in a specific item, which made up over 120 Christmas parcels for families in the local area.

HOUSE NEWS



SINGING THEIR WAY TO VICTORY IN THE ANNUAL HOUSE SINGING CONTEST

The House system at RGS is a very important part of life in the school and the annual House singing contest saw intense competition between the four houses – Bird, Cranston, Hodgson and Williamson. Each of the Houses performed their house shout, followed by singing a verse of To Be a Pilgrim and then finally their House harmonies.

Huge congratulations to Cranston who secured the overall winning position – you can watch their harmonies performance on our school You Tube channel.

The House system is led by Upper Sixth Form students, guided by the Heads of House. Students compete in a range of events including sport, art, debating and chess. We look forward to seeing this sense of belonging combined with teamwork, creativity and responsibility across these events over the year.



SENIOR HOUSE DEBATING

Senior House Debating ran in two heats across November and December 2021. Following the rules of Oxford Schools' Parliamentary Style debating, students were not given topics until 15 minutes before debate commenced and had to brainstorm ideas with their teammates, sans phones or electronic help. This made for some focussed and exciting debate on some very timely topics, which in some cases were diametrically opposed to the students' own points of view. In the great spirit of debate, students assumed the roles of the House and Opposition, mimicking the roles of cabinet and shadow cabinet.

"This House would legally require all keyworkers in the UK to be vaccinated against Covid 19" Was the focus of our first heat with Bird overtaking Williamson and Cranston defeating Hodgson.

"Britain is full and will allow no further immigration" was the topic for the second heat, in which the final results emerged as: Cranston (1st place), Bird (2nd place), Hodgson (3rd place) and Williamson (4th place).



ESPORTS

Students from every year group took part in the second annual House eSports event in the run up to Christmas. Students played MarioKarts and demonstrated incredible skills going around the tracks. There were some real cliff hanger moments with many of the events decided on the very last corner!

The final results were:



1ST PLACE: WILLIAMSON



2ND PLACE: HODGSON



3RD PLACE: CRANSTON



4TH PLACE: BIRD



HOUSE NEWS

WINTER HOUSE SPORTS

The Winter House Sports competitions at the end of the Autumn term were an enormous success. The weather was superb and Hartswood was a sea of colourful House shirts. There were many successes for all houses, and it was great to

see students challenging themselves and supporting each other. All students demonstrated a fantastic House spirit, and it was a great way to bring the sporting calendar year to a close.

BOYS RUGBY	BIRD	CRANSTON	HODGSON	WILLIAMSON
First Form	2	2	4	1
Second Form	4	1	1	3
Third Form	2	4	1	2
Fourth and Fifth Form	1	2	3	4
Sixth Form	1	4	3	2
Total	10	13	12	12
Positions	1st	4th	2nd	2nd



GIRLS HOCKEY	BIRD	CRANSTON	HODGSON	WILLIAMSON
First Form	2	1	2	4
Second Form	1	1	4	1
Third Form	3	1	3	1
Fourth Form	3	4	1	2
Fifth Form	4	3	2	1
Sixth Form	3	4	2	1
Total	16	14	14	10
Positions	4th	2nd	2nd	1st



RGS PARENT COMMUNITY UPDATE



Involving yourself in your child's education and their journey through the school is an exciting and rewarding challenge. The more we collaborate, the greater the benefits will be for you, your child and the whole RGS community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who already support and enhance our whole school community: from the RGS PFA, completing school surveys, attendance at parents' evening to our individual parent helpers who assist at one of our term-time working open mornings, 11+ interview days, the annual open morning, or bespoke tours.

DID YOU KNOW?

RGS is working towards a nationally recognised accreditation called **The Leading Parent Partnership Award**. Research shows that when parents are involved in their child's education it raises their achievement.

HOW WILL THE RGS COMMUNITY BENEFIT FROM BEING A LEADING PARENT PARTNERSHIP AWARD SCHOOL?

The school will implement a series of actions that will:

- Enhance my child's progress and experience in all aspects of school life
- Improve communication between home and school
- Increase parent participation and involvement
- Enhance parents' support in children's learning

A big thank you in advance to all those parents who will take the time to support this initiative. We will keep you updated on our progress and look forward to the benefits this award will bring our valued community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Caroline Lawson, Assistant Head and Director of Community Partnerships.

LPPA

improving
parental
engagement

WHAT IS THE LPPA?

The Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) will help to strengthen RGS's partnership with you as parents and provide us with a valuable school improvement tool. We hope to achieve the accreditation during the academic year 2021-2022, when the final assessment will be made by an external advisor.

SPORT

SPORT

It's an exciting time to be part of the Team Reigate community as we continue to develop the sporting programme at Reigate Grammar School to focus on our two key pillars of sport: **Engagement Sport** and **Performance Sport**. While not mutually exclusive, we see engagement sport being our pathway to involve, inspire and support pupil's participation in sport and physical activity, while our performance sport pathway aims to develop athletes to be the best they can possibly be at a competitive level. Through pupil forums and parent feedback we realise that these two pillars of sport are of fundamental importance to the Team Reigate community and believe they can be equally important parts of our journey to develop great people through sport.

This year has seen a return to the traditional sporting calendar in many ways. The following pages will review our recent achievements in the major sports of Rugby, Hockey, Netball and Cricket. However, there is so much more as well that has been going on at RGS. One challenge is to balance the range of our sport offering and yet still support the highest level of performance in terms of high performance. Some highlights of Engagement and Performance sport are shown here.

ENGAGEMENT SPORT

There are now more than thirty different sporting activities available at RGS. We aim to offer such a range so that everyone can be part of something they enjoy and may develop a passion for. From adventurous activities to more established team games.

SPORT DIVERSIFICATION: We are continuing to diversify our games options during curriculum time. In 3rd, 4th and 5th Form we have increased the options available to pupils in the second half of each of the Winter and Spring Terms so that students have more choice. We also now offer more than 30 sports in our Sport Enrichment provision. For example, we now offer five different dance classes on a weekly basis including Hip-Hop, Contemporary and Zumba.

PARTICIPATION: In a typical year at RGS, there will be over 80,000 active hours of structured PE and Sports coaching across more than 30 different sports and activities. Pupils will represent the school on more than 3000 occasions. There are more than 50 sport enrichment clubs each week with more than half the students at RGS having taken part in one or more in 2021.

ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES: Sailing, Mountain Biking, Climbing, Archery and Skiing are now all part of our Enrichment Sport provision.



PERFORMANCE SPORT

While some of our major sporting programmes will be reviewed over the following pages, here are some highlights from our other performance sports.

SKIING: Our UI9 Girls finished 8th in the UK in the National Ski Championships. One Upper School RGS skier came 2nd overall. Tallulah W and Scarlett W have been selected for the England Schools National Training Squads in Norway. Tallulah W won the ERSA UI2 group timed individual ski slalom AND she won the mixed parallel-slalom.

MULTI-DISCIPLINE: Twenty RGS students took part in the 2021 Pentathlon GB School Biathlon National Finals. The Girls UI7 team won the event with a 1st, 2nd and 15th place finish to be crowned National Team Champions. Gabi H, Issy H and Eva M have achieved individual recognition and are part of the Team GB performance pathways in Modern Pentathlon and Triathlon. Gabi H won double gold in the British Modern Triathlon and Tetrathlon Championships in the winter term.

GOLF: Our senior golfers took 3rd place at the prestigious Smarden Bell Competition having fielded the youngest team in the tournament. The future looks bright for our golfers and we now have a dedicated golf option during curriculum games for all Year 10-13 golfers.

GYMNASTICS: Owen W in the First Form has been crowned British Champion as part of a team who won a National Gold Medal in Team Gymnastics. He has been asked to attend the UI4 team GB Training group for TeamGym. Eddie B came 2nd in the South East Men's artistic gymnastics competition and has therefore been selected to represent the South East of England UI2s at the Men's Artistic Gymnastics National Finals in November. Poppy E placed 3rd in the South East Regionals in the Velocity Gymnastics competition!

CROSS-COUNTRY: Inter and senior boys both won the District Championships. The First and Second Form girls were both crowned District Champions too.

SQUASH: Rory C has gained national representative honours with Scotland, while Gus L and Tom L both represented Surrey.

CRICKET

The cricket programme at RGS is continuing to build on excellent foundations and was again recognised as being one of the Top 100 Cricket Schools in the Country by the Cricketer Magazine this year. This is the sixth year running RGS has made the Top 100 showing real consistency. While nice to have external validation, it is far more important to see how the students and teams are progressing within the school environment.

The U15 Girls cricket team came 3rd nationally after an unforgettable cup run that saw them reach the National Finals day of a tournament which spanned three months and 10 fixtures. Entering the Nationals as both County and Regional Champions, the girls played against Ipswich, Shrewsbury School and Clifton College, eventually coming third.



Success stories have also been evident with individual representative honours for many of our pupils. Emily B, Lily F and Rosie F have been selected for the Surrey girls' Emerging Player Group (EPG) programme for the winter of 2021 and summer of 2022. Only nine girls were selected, so RGS represents a third of the group. The girls' EPG is an enhanced training programme for players deemed to have high potential, who have stood out within their County Age Group (CAG) squad, and provides additional coaching and resources to further aid their development. The programme will then combine with Kent's EPP over the summer to create a training and match programme. There will be links with the South East Stars Pathway staff throughout the programme.



RGS students continue to flourish at Surrey County Cricket Club. Along with Emily B, Lily F and Rosie F, several other students have been selected for Surrey CCC County Age-Group representation. Amelia H, Lucy H, Lauren P, Louie L, Bertie M and Sam R are all part of the squad. They have been working hard since the end of the summer term and will continue to train over the winter in preparation for the summer of 2022.

Many will have noticed the significant works that have helped to develop excellent facilities at Hartswood over the last year or so. The two main pitches now play as well as any in the region and a suite of six relayed nets mean RGS can boast some of the best outdoor facilities around. There are plans to further enhance our cricket programme and the future looks very bright for our pupils.

RUGBY



It has been fantastic to be back to a season full of fixtures. With over 160 fixtures played across 17 different teams we have had one of the most successful seasons in recent years. The partnership with Richmond Rugby Club has allowed for even more high class coaching for the students. That, along with Harlequins 1st XV player George Head joining the staff, further enhanced the experiences of our students.

The seniors this season have worked really hard to develop their style and have won 11 out of 13 matches including close victories over local rivals Caterham, City of London Freeman's and Reed's. They have been outstandingly led by captain of rugby Dom F.

The numbers playing in school and electing to play contact has grown once again and the addition of a girls rugby option during Sixth Form games has proved to be extremely popular. We were able to play our first ever XV a-side match in a triangular with Tiffin Girls and Reigate College which was a fantastic experience for all.

The 1st XV led from the front this year and produced a fantastic set of results - only losing one Saturday fixture all term and recorded a few notable wins on the way including against Reed's, Sevenoaks and Caterham. Our UI4A team won every Saturday fixture this term and are through to the last 16 of the School Sports Magazine national competition, to be played in the new year.

The season would not be possible without the support of many so our thanks go out to the players for their efforts and dedication to the programme; the parents for their never-ending support and feedback; and also the staff who give up enormous amounts of time and effort to help make the rugby programme the success it has been this season. Now we look forward to the 7's season with huge excitement.

Individual success was also achieved with Matthew W being selected for the Harlequins U18 Academy and with Euan R selected in the Harlequins U16 PDG group. 1st XV captain, Dom F, represented Surrey U18s. Lyle W and Henry R continue to be part of the Harlequins DPP programme.

SWIMMING AND BIATHLON



#TeamReigate

It has been wonderful to be back racing in competitions this term with friendly galas against CLFS, Caterham and Whitgift. For the first time ever we fielded an A, B & C Team against Whitgift in all age groups due to the boys' enthusiasm to take part. We have also had several successes in higher level competitions in both swimming and biathlon.

In September we performed exceptionally well in the Surrey Schools Relay Championships to medal in five events. We were crowned County Champions in the Senior (U18) Boys & Girls Medley Relays as well as the Senior Girls Freestyle Relay. RGS Intermediate (U15) girls also performed well to achieve 2nd place in the Freestyle and 3rd place in the Medley. Following on from these successes the Senior and Intermediate Girls qualified for the English School National Relays Championships in both of their relays. An exciting competition was held at the Olympic Park in November with our Seniors reaching the top 10 final and placing 8th nationally for the Freestyle Relay and the Intermediate girls place 13th in both events.

38 students qualified for the British Schools Modern Biathlon Championship Finals held in Bath in October which was carried over from the last academic year. It was the first time we had competed in Bath, and it was wonderful for the students to experience the fantastic facilities on offer and to meet Tokyo 2020 Gold Medallists. Special mentions to our top 10 finishers:

TOP 10 FINISHERS

Girls U17 Team – Gold Issy H, Clara A and Lily F-J

U17 Individual Gold Issy H

U17 Individual Silver Clara A

U16 Individual Gold Eva M

U15 Individual Silver Gabi H

Boys U13 Team 4th place Sam A, Kiran M & Michael R

U15 Individual 5th place Brayden J

U16 Individual 8th place Lukas K

U17 Individual 9th place James C



INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES

Toby S, Issy H and Millie W qualified for and swam at the Swim England Winter Nationals.

Issy H selected for the England Next Generation Programme for Triathlon

Eva M and Gabi H on the Pentathlon GB Talent Pathway

ONES TO WATCH

Four First Form students with bright futures have been selected below to shine a spotlight on their sporting passions and what drives their enjoyment of sport.

TALLULAH W

I started ski racing at eight years old and I just loved it. I competed in three national races that year where my best results were 2nd in the Welsh Championships in Champéry, Switzerland and 3rd in the Anglo-Scottish Championships in Pila, Italy. I had only ever intended to be a snow racer but since the Covid pandemic where most snow races were cancelled I have taken to dry-slope races too and podiumed in every race, usually winning my category.

I train on snow during the ski season spending around two weeks at a time abroad. I usually go and train on the mountain just before a race. I also train in August and October on a glacier where there is snow all year round. The rest of the year I train on dry and indoor slopes as well as regular ski fitness sessions.

I love skiing. I love the speed, I love being in the mountains and I love the friends I've met along the way. This year it would be great to win the British Champs in Tignes and qualify for the Welsh team like my older sister, Scarlett.



POPPY E

I love gymnastics! I practise 16 hrs per week at Velocity and will soon compete for Grade 2 (Grade 1 being highest, Grade 8 lowest). Gymnastics is a sport that requires strength, flexibility, dedication and determination. It is a great way of boosting your overall fitness, agility and muscle strength. Leading up to a competition can be incredibly stressful but you just need to enjoy the moment!

At the South East Regionals in 2021 I was ranked highest in my squad and 3rd overall. This was my best performance of the year. A day has only 24 hours and I'm trying to find the right balance between the two things I enjoy most: 16hrs of gymnastics per week and RGS. A goal for 2022 and beyond!

Reigate Grammar School is a complete journey. RGS helps us all to excel in our academic needs and we are taught life lessons that we can incorporate in our daily lives. RGS helps us to develop academically, mentally as well as physically. You get to enjoy most sports at RGS!



#TeamReigate



EDDIE B

I am an elite gymnast and compete in Men's Artistic Gymnastics. I compete on the rings, vault, floor, parallel bars and the high bar. It is a tough sport requiring up to 25 hours of training each week. I have been in the Team GB Foundation squad for two years.

Recently, I took part in the gymnastics South East Championships, where I won the silver medal and was selected to represent the South East of England at Men's Artistic Gymnastics National Finals. At National Finals I placed 5th in my competition and also helped my South East team to win the National Finals Bronze medal. As a result of doing well at National Finals, I was invited to a selection day with Team GB and I also attended a Team GB reward camp in December 2021.

Men's Artistic Gymnastics is my big passion. In 2022, I am looking to increase the difficulty levels in my routines and compete at the English and British Championships next year. My ambition in the future is to represent Great Britain at the Olympics.

I joined RGS in First Form in September 2021. The sport at RGS is brilliant. I love the new subjects I am learning and there are also so many exciting extracurricular activities to try out. I have made lots of new friends and the teachers are great.



CAELAN S-D

My name is Caelan S-D and I am 11 years old. My main sport is golf, I represent the U14 Sussex County team and play for the first team at RGS. I have been playing golf since I was six and a half years old and currently hold a 7.8 handicap. Some highlights of my golf to date are:

- **2021 U12 Sussex Championship Gross winner**
- **2021 Nevill GC Junior Open Gross winner**
- **2021 Smarden Bell Competition (3rd place) representing RGS**

A quote by baseball player, Derek Jeter, that resonates with me is "There may be people that have more talent than you, but there is no excuse for anyone to work harder than you." My goal for 2022 is to train hard and play well to achieve a handicap of less than 5.

I have enjoyed all sports at RGS, in particular representing the RGS golf team. As well as golf, I have also enjoyed hockey and cricket, which will widen my functional and physical skills to support my development in golf. I have been made to feel very welcome at RGS both academically and through sport.

NETBALL

Netball continues to go from strength to strength at RGS. It is very much an annual programme with a full engagement and performance programme built in around the academic year. Surrey is traditionally the strongest county in England and so competition is high. The UI4s finished third in the County Championships. The UI5s made it to the final 16 nationally in the Independent Schools National Competition, and the UI9s followed suit making the last 16 nationally before narrowly losing in a point for point contest. The UI9s won six of seven county games to make the semi-finals of the regional competition in November. A narrow loss to a school who are National Championship contenders show how far the netball programme has come.

Individual success has been equally impressive, and four pupils have been selected for Superleague franchises – a new school record. Anna M and Amelie H have gained a place in the Surrey Storm UI7 academy. Antonia H has been selected for the UI7 London Pulse academy and Freya T in the UI9 London Pulse academy.

At the time of writing the girls are looking forward to continuing this form in the main netball season. Numbers at training are incredibly high and the competition for places is excellent. With the proposed development of an RGS Sports Centre to host regional games, the Netball programme is in an exciting place.



#TeamReigate



HOCKEY



#TeamReigate

It was great to come back from the summer break straight into a full programme of block Saturday fixtures and cup runs reinstated for all age groups. The hockey programme has been in full swing with the added benefit of extra specialist coaching in the form of Mr Quartermaine offering goalkeeper clinics and 1:1s and Miss Bourne (England International U16, U18, U21) providing technical sessions for all age groups.

The programme has equally looked at enrichment for all with the First Form being able to be involved from A to F teams and the U14s having matches for a competitive C team. Those looking to take their hockey to a more competitive level have been involved in cup runs with the girls U15s and U19s getting to the last sixteen in the National Independent Schools Hockey Cup, and at the time of writing the U13s are in the last eight and still going strong. In addition, the U16s and U18s are progressing to the last rounds of the England Hockey competition with a hope of reaching the quarter final stage.

After half term the indoor season brought early morning sessions of indoor training to multiple age groups, and the junior boys started their pre-season training in anticipation of their season starting in January.

Many pupils had worked hard throughout the summer months and beyond and this hard work paid off with a number being recognised by gaining success on the England Hockey player pathway system.

Congratulations to all those RGS students who have been selected within their county hockey programmes:

- **Surrey:** BUI4 - Sam A; Leo F; Charlie G; Harry H; Freddie H; GUI4 - Naomi B; BUI5 - Alex B; Bobby G; GUI5 - Martha C; BUI6 - Alex J; GUI6 - Lucy D; Clara E; BUI7 - Oscar G; Tom L.
- **Sussex:** GUI5 - Amy R.

In addition, a number of RGS pupils were selected at Regional and National level:

- **Performance Centre (Regional):** BUI5 - Felix F; GUI7 - Amelie H; BUI7 – Oscar G, Matt W.
- **National Age Groups (England):** GUI8 - Sophia C.

In a year in which the number of teams within the county set up has been greatly reduced we are extremely proud of our students representing the school at this level.

Continuing with the representative theme our very own Mr Field represented Scotland in the World Cup qualifiers and our Hockey Coach Miss Bourne was selected for the England U21 Junior World Cup Squad before it unfortunately had to be cancelled due to Covid.

It is great to be back on the astro and this term it has provided much enjoyment for so many.





STUDENT FOCUS

AUSTIN S BALLROOM DANCER

Following recent success at the British National Ballroom and Latin Championships Austin S and his new partner Valerie achieved 7th and 8th in Ballroom and Latin respectively, in what is the most prestigious competition in the UK dancing calendar. Whilst this was just outside the final they had only formed a partnership four weeks earlier when most couples had been together for at least a year so this was a massive achievement and indicates an exciting future is ahead. We caught up with Austin despite his busy training schedule to catch a glimpse of why dance is his sport of choice and what it takes to be successful at his greatest hobby.

Austin, tell us how you first got into dance and what you most enjoy about ballroom dancing? I watched Strictly with my family and worked out I had a talent for dancing so I asked if I could start some lessons, from there my skills and passion developed. I would say that what I most enjoy about ballroom dancing is getting to know the people and the friendly environment which has kept me in it for five years and made me as committed as I am.

How do you prepare mentally for competitions, and do you ever get nervous? I most definitely get nervous before competitions. It's only natural, however I try to focus on how good it would be holding the trophy to prepare and calm my nerves.



What does your training consist of and what is your weekly workload?

I train at least three times a week for a minimum of three hours each training session in addition to regular competitions. Also, we add extra training sessions in the school holidays. My dance partner Valerie lives in Bexley in London – I am incredibly lucky as some people's partners live many hours away. We train near Dorking for Ballroom and near Bromley in Kent for Latin so there is some travelling involved for training but a lot less than others I know. Many of the competitions we enter include travel all over the country including regular trips to Blackpool, the home of ballroom dancing.

How do you balance academic work and sporting excellence? Do you have any tips for other students who may be in a similar situation?

I try to do my homework straight away when it is set. But I must say dance comes first over other sport and extra-curricular clubs. My biggest tip for any students who are looking to take their sport to the next level is - if you are really committed to a sport like I am to dance, to always put it first compared to other hobbies.

What are your ambitions for the future? I would like to become world youth and amateur champion plus I would love it if I could get into Strictly Come Dancing in the future.



THE NIGHTINGALE FESTIVAL ROCKED!

On Saturday 11 September, Broadfield Lawn was transformed for an epic evening of entertainment at the Nightingale Festival! With sensational music, delicious food and drinks that just kept flowing, a fantastic time was had by all. With the generous support of sponsors and festival-goers, the event raised an incredible £43,400!

Head of Foundation, Sean Davey opened the event by welcoming guests and introducing the first act. Artaca (pictured), which features RGS students, Omar A, Annis W and Taylor S and former student, Oscar LD, kicked off the festival in style with a mixture of brilliant covers, such as Nirvana's *Smells Like Teen Spirit*, as well as some catchy original songs. Their new single, *In The Plains*, has recently been released.

Chas and Dave tribute act, Gertcha, brought a bit of the East End to Reigate! Then Erasured transported us back to the 80s and 90s with iconic pop classics such as *Sometimes* and *A Little Respect*.

Headmaster, Shaun Fenton, highlighted the important role of the festival in raising funds for the Nightingale Fund and the life-changing opportunities this provides to children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Sue Jenkins, Director of Kaizen at Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust spoke about the challenges faced by her colleagues over the last year, and reinforced how well-received the Nightingale initiative had been.

Sean Davey then welcomed Dame Judi Dench to the stage. After some light-hearted banter about the TikTok videos she made

with her grandson during lockdown and her rapping experience with grime MC, Lethal Bizzle, Judi then explained why she was so passionate about endorsing the Nightingale Fund.

She explained that her father and brother had both been doctors. She encouraged everyone to look for the good that had come from Covid – the sense of community, with neighbours and strangers going out of their way to support one another.

As the sun began to set we returned to the music with a blend of reggae and blues from RGS parent Tim Hain and his band Jam Side Up!

The London Soul Band turned the energy up a notch and had everyone up on their feet with floor-filler favourites, such as Bruno Mars's *Uptown Funk*.

Closing the show in style was the incredibly talented JJ Rosa whose rendition of Prince's *Purple Rain* was truly breathtaking.

We would like to say an enormous thank you to all those who helped make the event so special, including the organising committee, sponsors and donors and everyone who bought tickets and came along to eat, drink and dance the night away in support of the Nightingale Fund!

**NIGHTINGALE
GIVING DAY
16 SEPT 2021**



On 16 (and 17) September, Reigatians from across the globe came together for Nightingale Giving Day 2021. As a community we raised a staggering £105,139 from 363 donors!

Our amazing global community helped unlock five challenge gifts and wrote some fabulous messages of support, including:

Ian Howick (RGS '57): Keep up the amazing effort. I am very proud of the achievements of the school I was privileged to attend seventy years ago

Catherine Brown (parent of former student): So close to challenge #5! I hope you make it! [we did!]

Steve Purser (RGS '93): A small contribution to the huge opportunity that the Foundation offers its pupils to have a fulfilling education and realise their potential

Camila Diniz (current parent): What a great initiative and we are so happy to be part of this community. Good luck!

As part of wider activity in the school, Sixth Form Foundation Ambassadors sold Krispy Kreme doughnuts on the day, raising over £900.

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to all those who made a donation and joined in with the excitement. We cannot emphasise strongly enough the impact that your ongoing support has on deserving young people and their families. We are so proud to be part of such a positive and caring community.

The Nightingale Fund forms part of the wider Changing Lives campaign. Our work continues in order to raise funds for NHS and other key-worker families and children from poorer backgrounds – visit rgs.foundation/support-us/nightingale-fund for more details.



GRADUATION BRUNCH FOR THE CLASSES OF 2016 AND 2017

On Saturday 4 September, we were delighted to welcome the Class of 2016 (postponed from last year) and the Class of 2017 back to school for their Graduation Brunch reunions.

There were lots of squeals and laughter when over 100 former students and staff reunited to catch up on each other's news and future plans.

The event began in the PMH with teas, coffees and a feast of croissants, sausage and bacon baps, fruit and other treats. A presentation of old school photographs elicited a few chuckles!

Guests included Head Girl, Megan Woods and Head Boy, George Elliston as well as House Captains, Ailie McGilligan, and Ciaran Nestor. We were also pleased to see RGS heroes, Hannah Garmston, who worked on the acute Covid ward at East Surrey Hospital at the height of the pandemic, and Ollie Driscoll, who was one of our RGS We Care volunteers, collecting and delivering shopping to local Reigatians who were isolating.

After picking up a glass of bucks fizz, we headed outside to the terrace outside the Harrison Centre for speeches.

Headmaster, Shaun Fenton, began by toasting the Classes of 2016 and 2017, wishing them the very best now and for the future.

He touched on the challenges of Covid, with lessons delivered via Microsoft Teams, and music and drama coming up with creative alternatives to large-scale performances.

There was a round of laughter and much nodding as Mr Fenton mentioned the joy of welcoming the new First Form students to school, with skirts down to their shins and blazers that they will grow into by the Third Form!

Finally, he underlined the important message taken from the school song (guests looked a bit nervous that he was going to ask them to remember the words!) – of being a Reigatian Pilgrim on a journey of noble purpose.

Head of Foundation, Sean Davey spoke about the value of connecting and engaging with the wider Reigatian community for introductions and support.

Former students then took the opportunity to tour the Harrison Centre, which they were all quite awed by!

We look forward to seeing them again in 2026 and 2027 for their 10 Years On reunions – if not before!



RUN AND RIDE REIGATE SUCCESS!

A huge thank you to all those who took part in Run and Ride Reigate. With 23 runners and many more sponsors, the event raised over £2,300 with Ride Reigate participants adding another £700 towards the Nightingale Fund!

Run Reigate

The full breadth of the Reigatian community was represented, with students, parents and staff as well as former students and parents of alumni, forming the RGS Run Reigate team. Everyone had a fabulous time and commented on the great atmosphere.

First Form pupil, Sophie P said, "I really enjoyed Run Reigate and, knowing I was raising money for such a worthwhile cause really motivated me – especially on the challenging hills. I was happy to complete the 5k in 25.22, a personal best and was delighted to achieve fourth girl in the U15s. I am proud to be a Reigatian and look forward to supporting the Nightingale Fund again."

Congratulations also to another of our younger pupils, Sam B, who came fifth in the U15s (he's only 12) and 11th overall, with a time of 21.48.

Parent, Tina Baklanov reported, "The half marathon was such a challenging (but stunning) course and the other runners were extremely supportive of each other, smiling or passing the odd positive comment. I was also staggered how well attended it was – one lady I was chatting to now lives

in Cornwall, having previously lived in Reigate. She travelled all the way back just to run the race! I found that very moving. Finally, the students from RGS who were giving out water around mile 11 were all full of energy and encouragement. It was just what was needed, so, thank you RGS!"

Ride Reigate

Ironically, this cycling event was nearly cancelled due to the fuel crisis, with emergency and maintenance support vehicles wondering whether they would make it! Fortunately, things started to ease up just in time and the sun came out making it a beautiful Sunday morning ride through the Surrey and West Sussex countryside!

We were delighted to have eight cyclists take on the 50k or 100k challenge as part of team RGS.

Current parent, Matt Jones, said, "The weather was lovely but the course a little hillier than I expected! All in all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable Sunday morning with the added benefit of raising some money for a worthy cause."

Linda Stephens, RGS staff 1984-2018 and parent of two former students completed the 50k route and told us, "We had great fun, but will definitely do the 100k next time!"

If you are interested in taking part in Run or Ride Reigate 2022, please email the Foundation team at

foundation@reigategrammar.org



RGS WE CARE UPDATE

As part of RGS's ongoing commitment to support the wider community through the #RGSWeCare initiative, we put out an urgent appeal for donations of toiletries to help Afghan refugees and the response from Reigatians was incredible.

The crisis in Afghanistan resulted in many families arriving in the UK with no personal items. They were having to quarantine in hotel rooms for three weeks, before being relocated to temporary housing. They could not leave to go to the shops to buy provisions, as they were limited to 15 minutes of outdoor time in 24 hours.

We are proud to work closely with local charity Strikey Stork who highlighted this urgent need for toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower gel, soap, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, nappies and much more.

Within hours of circulating this request, donations started arriving! We received an overwhelming haul with over seventeen boxes of items collected. We are so grateful to all those who supported this initiative.

We have recently trialled an outreach elective where students spend time each week with the Strikey Stork volunteers, with a different challenge set at each session. The sessions have been productive and fun and students have contributed lots of good ideas. The Afghan refugee appeal helped these young people see how much these items were needed and the immediate impact they had... a really rewarding project for all involved.



THE RGS APP



Keep up to date with Reigate Grammar School

Prospective Reigatians, current parents and members of the Reigatian community can now download the new RGS app for on-the-go, up to date information, stories and resources.

The RGS app provides an interactive mobile platform that:

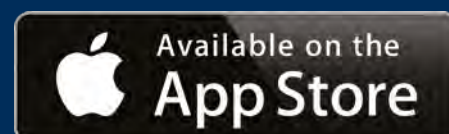
- **Connects members of the Reigatian community**
- **Answers all of your admissions needs**
- **Keeps you informed about school and RGS Foundation news and events**
- **Live streams RGS events**
- **Updates your tailored news feed with school community information**

For prospective Reigatians, the RGS app offers the opportunity to visit RGS virtually, via an interactive tour. It also allows you to sign up to open events and apply online. You can view all admissions publications, including the school's online prospectus and view guidance to help you with your application.

For the Reigatian community, encompassing current parents, former pupils, former parents, staff and friends of RGS, the app provides a wealth of content from the school and the RGS Foundation. For current parents the app offers school news at your fingertips, as well as the school calendar and other important information and resources.

You can view school updates and events on your tailored news feed just as you would with other school social media channels. It also offers an interactive mobile platform for members of the Reigatian community to connect with each other as well as receiving Reigatian news on-the-go. You can view information about the RGS Foundation and their work, receive push notifications for upcoming events and access live streams of Reigatian community events.

To access the app, simply scan the QR code and set up your account indicating whether you are a prospective parent or a member of the existing Reigatian community.





RGS Hartswood Sports Ground

CATCH UP ONLINE

As this Pigrim Review illustrates, RGS is an action-packed school with a wealth of news and activities happening around the clock. To keep up to date, visit our website or join in with RGS online:



facebook.com/reigategrammarschool



reigategrammar



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