



### From the Headmaster

It seems particularly apt that in the same week that the iconic brand *Monopoly* – a board game synonymous with development and property – launched its eagerly anticipated Guildford edition featuring prominently our historic Tudor building, so we opened the John Brown Building, an environment which has both the present and the future very much in mind.

I have talked before about how no institution can afford to stand still and rest on its laurels. Just as we continue to reflect and innovate in terms of our educational strategy and policy so the physical buildings must equally provide an atmosphere conducive to dynamic and inspiring learning and teaching. This is, however, nothing new. The opening of the John Brown Building marks simply the latest in a succession of initiatives which have transformed the RGS in the last 15 years. The development of a bespoke Sixth Form Centre, Art School and Music School in the Old Building have provided state-of-the-art facilities which have allowed our students, irrespective of their interests, to benefit from outstanding opportunities. The new John Brown Building now houses the Classics, Design and Technology, Economics, History and Politics Departments and provides an environment suitable for cutting-edge education in the twenty-first century.

I would like to take this opportunity to record formally the School's debt to the gentleman after whom the building has been named. John Fergrieve Brown was a dedicated Guildford resident who was born close to the RGS in the High Street and was actively involved in the civic and public life of the town which included his work for Guildford Cathedral and the School. He served the RGS with distinction as a student in Nettles House from 1921 to 1930, as an active member of the Old Guildfordians' Association, as a governor from 1947 and as Chairman of Governors from 1967 to 1988, after which he continued to maintain a strong and close relationship with the School as the first Governor Emeritus of the RGS. In honour of this extraordinary service, John is the only person in the modern era to be named on a beam in Big School.

His tenure as Chairman coincided with arguably the most defining period of the School's history, when the School returned to the independent sector in 1977. DM Sturley in the School History notes that John epitomised the RGS philosophy "with absolute honesty and modesty and with unflinching courtesy combined with quiet determination". His lifelong devotion, legacy and service to the RGS and his appreciation of the central importance of excellent facilities make it entirely appropriate that a building which provides such an inspiring learning environment should bear his name.

I wish all the boys a very happy and successful second half of term.

### Latest News

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**Charity:** Mufti Day raised just under £2,000 for our three nominated charities for this year: *Shooting Star Chase Hospices, Parkinson's UK* and *Born in Africa*.

**CREST Awards:** The number of Upper Sixth boys awarded their CREST Gold Awards for projects carried out now stands at a school record of 18. Each project involved spending up to four weeks at a university doing original scientific research. The breadth of research spanned topics including Safeguarding Sea Bass Populations, Soft Matter Physics and the synthesis of Organometallic Compounds.

**Economics:** *Chance to be Chancellor* was launched by the RGS with local schools participating. The competitors explained to a panel from Surrey University how they would reset UK fiscal policy in a post-Brexit world. The event was a great success and whilst each school took a different angle they were united in their view that it was time to put a stop to austerity and take advantage of low borrowing rates to help fund growth.

**Independent Learning Assignment:** The annual ILA Presentation Evening impressed and bewildered in equal measure as the boys delivered presentations with an extraordinary level of sophistication and complexity. The finalists presented on topics ranging from gene manipulation to space travel, from flipping robots to financial models, from the Antigone myth to a to-do-list app. After lengthy deliberation, **William Heylen** (U6) was crowned the winner for his presentation on the complex issue of the law on joint enterprise.

**Trips:** Over 250 boys were engaged in some sort of school activity over half term. Activities included: the Economics trip to New York and Washington; the Biology field trip to Dale Fort; the Physics trip to the NASA Kennedy Space Centre in Florida; the annual Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver and Gold practice expeditions in South Wales; the History trip to Berlin; the Independent Schools Surfing Championships 2016 at Perranporth Beach, Cornwall; the English trip to the iconic Skirrid Fawr in the Black Mountains; and the Spanish trip to Madrid.

## Sports News

[View the full sports results](#)

**Chess:** In the Millfield Chess Tournament, the RGS came second. Best player prizes were awarded to **Omeet Atara** (3P), **James Golding** (4N), **William Golding** (1L) and **Matthew McLachlan** (L6).

**Rugby:** The block fixture against St John's School Leatherhead and St Paul's Junior School resulted in eight wins; of particular note was the strength in depth as our C and D teams won seven out of eight matches.

**Sailing:** **Patrick Croghan** (U6) has been selected for the UK National Youth Sailing Squad for 29ers; he recently finished third overall at the National Grand Prix down in Weymouth, his best result to date.

**Skiing:** The RGS Under16 and Under 19 ski teams raced in the English Schools' finals. In their age groups, the Under 16s were placed eighth in the country and the Under 19s placed fifth. Our Open age group team was also selected to represent England in the British finals.

## Forthcoming Events

[View the School Calendar](#)

Monday 7 November	A Level Options Evening in Great Hall
Tuesday 8 November	First Form Parents' Pastoral Evening in Great Hall
Saturday 12 November	RGS Scouts Family Quiz in Great Hall
Monday 14 November	Parents' Association AGM and Committee Meeting in the Staff Room
Tuesday 15 November	Careers Seminar in Finance in the Auditorium
Wednesday 16 November	Second Form Parents' Evening in Great Hall
Friday 18 November	Field Day 2

