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# The Wycombiensian

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2004

The Magazine of the  
Royal Grammar School  
High Wycombe

**Editor: Dr M J Smith**

**Art Editor: Mr R P Stevens**

**Old Wycombiensians' Editor: Mr S C Molden**

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## STAFF LEAVERS

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### Mr Martin Berry

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Martin joined the RGS in 1982 as Head of Mathematics. He previously taught at Loretto School in Scotland, bringing with him an enthusiasm for Mathematics, hill walking, music and good whisky. I understand from conversations with him, that when asked by the then Headmaster, Rowland Brown, how long he thought he would stay at the RGS, Martin replied 'about 5 years'. It is an indication of Martin's commitment to the school that he found enough to interest and challenge him that he stayed for 22 years. I know his involvement in the last few years with the management of the whole school in the newly formed Leadership Group gave him immense satisfaction, as he felt he was able to contribute to the further development of the school.

Martin inherited a Maths department that was just about embracing the use of an overhead projector, and it was through his initiative, leadership and inspiration that it is commonplace for us all to use, not only overhead projectors, but laptops, LCD projectors, interactive whiteboards and the latest software to enhance the teaching of Mathematics. We in the Maths department have always respected Martin for his knowledge of the subject and also his vision, which always seemed to be a little ahead of the DfES and their thoughts. He was adamant that the interest of the boys must always come first, and with this philosophy a change of syllabus was not entered upon lightly. After much discussion, he persuaded many of us to become fully involved in the development of the MEI syllabus, which resulted in some of us spending our summer holidays in the Mathematics Centre at Oxford University developing coursework scenarios.

Martin's enthusiasm for hill walking was admirably illustrated by the number of trips that he organized and led, persuading boys and staff to spend whole nights in accommodation that can only be described as a little better than the average garden shed. This was all done under the educational desirability of broadening the boys' experience! I am not sure what the intention was for the staff, but it was their representations that persuaded him to upgrade the accommodation to the Youth Hostels of the region they were visiting.

His love of the outdoor life was appreciated by many staff at Christmas, when he composed his own cards, using the wonderful photographs he had taken of his holidays walking in far away places. This joy of travel he has brought to the staff social calendar, instigating regular staff train journeys

that have included trips on Eurostar to Paris and Brussels as well as excursions to Cornwall and the north of England. Martin's enthusiasm for the new technology has resulted in many new initiatives. With the advent of the Language College Initiative, it was Martin who pioneered the use of video conferencing and interactive whiteboards to teach pupils from a school in London, who had no Maths teacher, from the comparative comfort of the Language Building at RGS. He was instrumental in developing and maintaining our much acclaimed Website, as well as bringing the art of timetabling from the Mike Moffatt 'Lego Brick' era to the Martin Berry 'Laptop' era. The ensuing ease of producing data has been appreciated by all staff.

We all wish Martin a long and healthy retirement and we look forward to receiving postcards and Christmas cards that reflect his continuing wish to explore far away places. He can be assured of a warm welcome at the school, particularly as he has agreed to continue to maintain our Website and write the timetable.

R.M.P.

### Mrs Anne Smalley

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Mrs Anne Smalley joined the school in 1989, coming to us from Dr Challoner's Grammar School. She worked full-time for part of her spell here and more lately part-time. Over the fifteen years, Mrs Smalley has guided many boys through the school giving plenty of her time to help their understanding. She has taught boys of all ability levels and ages although the middle and upper parts of the school have been her specialities. Sixth Formers found that she was very active helping in the lunch time extra sessions. If a boy was prepared to turn up, she would be prepared to give him lots of extra help! At the other end of the age range, she contributed hugely to the school's outreach to local primary schools with our enrichment days for Year 6 children. In addition to her teaching, Mrs Smalley proved to be a dedicated and caring form tutor in the middle school, guiding many boys through this vital time of their development. She also cared for her colleagues and was very active socially, helping to organize Maths department meals and various staff functions at the school.

Mrs Smalley worked for a time as the second in the Maths department and efficiently helped in its organization, particularly in the book cupboard and at Key Stage Three. She was also often to be seen at plays and concerts looking after the box office.

Over the last few years, counselling has taken more and more of her time and interest, and she is to take advantage of her retirement from Maths teaching to continue in this area. Anne Smalley has been a professional teacher and friendly colleague; we wish her well in the future.

D.M.B.

## Dr Graham Burford

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Graham joined the school as a part-time Biology teacher in 1996 from Dr Challoner's Boys' School where he had been the Network Manager and had also completed his PGCE. A graduate of London University, Graham had completed his PhD in Pharmacology and had been a clinical scientist at the Royal Free Hospital from 1977 to 1992.

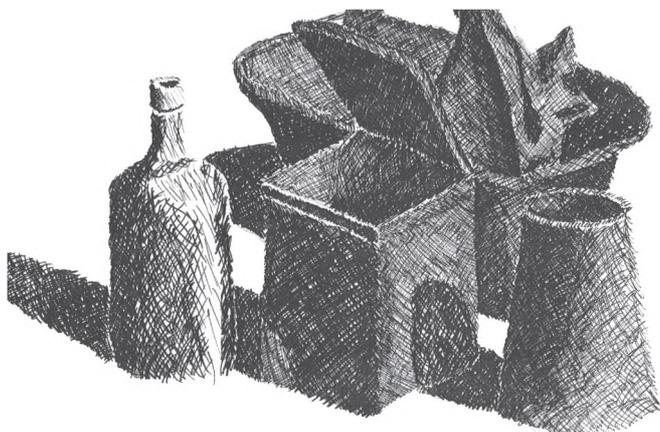
As the school's IT systems developed, it became apparent that we needed a full-time Network Manager. Graham was persuaded to develop this role and his experience at Dr Challoner's was a great help. Graham originally single-handedly managed the ever increasing and expanding demands of the school network. He was instrumental in planning and delivering the new network resulting from our Language College status. Many hours of quiet endeavour in the evenings and at weekends resulted in a much more reliable and quicker system that was appreciated by staff and boys alike. Video conferencing was introduced and interactive whiteboards, a real cutting-edge initiative at the time, were managed with great aplomb by Graham.

It is well documented that the school's ICT systems have expanded into nearly all parts of the school and of course the demands on Graham's time have ever increased. He was joined by a Year in Industry student and more recently the project work passed to another member of staff. This enabled Graham to concentrate on keeping the network up and running, a crucial aspect in any organization, but particularly so in a school when 32 boys are expecting to use computers in a lesson. He achieved this and quietly goes about the business of repairing mice and keyboards, maintaining recalcitrant printers and calming staff when the network crashes.

Besides his interest in computers, Graham has a passion for, and much skill, when working with wood. There are many innovations around the school that have been the result of Graham's attention to detail.

Graham has decided to retire to enjoy more time with his family, I suspect helping his two sons as they acquire their own properties. No doubt his skill as a handyman will be in much demand. We wish Graham and his wife Lynne a long and healthy retirement and we hope that he will find the time to return to the RGS at regular intervals.

R.M.P.



*Benjamin Chandler  
Year 9  
Still life*

## Mr Oliver Godfrey

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This year we shall be saying farewell to Oliver Godfrey who has been the teacher in charge of Drama since 1998. Oliver has also taught Key Stage 3 English.

Oliver came to us with much previous experience both in acting and directing and he was a knowledgeable and enthusiastic Drama teacher from the start. He trained at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art and as an actor he has worked on television and in the theatre. Much of his theatre work was touring with theatre in education companies. This gave him extensive, relevant experience for his new teaching role.

Oliver has directed and co-directed many outstanding productions during his time at the Royal Grammar School. His skill and adaptability are evident from the range. His *Twelfth Night* and his *King Lear* were very rightly highly acclaimed, as was his production of *Twelve Angry Men*. The interpretations showed great imagination and the quality of performance that he inspired was highly professional. However Oliver is equally enthusiastic about encouraging younger pupils and he worked just as energetically to produce some excellent junior plays, a very popular one being *Zigger Zagger*. The junior plays were usually performed in the Arts' Centre but Oliver has also organised *al fresco* performances.

This year's major production was *Singin' in the Rain* and Oliver worked in collaboration with the Music department. Once again performances were of the highest standard and would have graced the professional stage.

As if all this was not enough, he has also found time to continue his studies by completing an Open University degree, act with a local amateur dramatic company and marry Alicia. Oliver will be a difficult act to follow.

Oliver's pleasant, open personality has made him a very popular member of the English department. He is often first to volunteer when there is extra work about. His new post is teaching English and Drama at Cheltenham College. He is looking forward to the new challenges that this will offer and they are lucky to be gaining such an inspirational specialist. We wish Oliver every success in his new appointment and we hope that he and Alicia will be very happy in their new schools.

J.L.H.

## Mr Richard Atkin

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Richard Atkin has been with us for two years and during that time has made his mark in various areas. He has taught a full range of Maths in the school including lately helping those Sixth Formers who wanted to take their statistics to a higher level. He has innovated with the use of ICT in his teaching and has also taught ICT as a separate subject to junior boys. He takes an active part in the running of the Maths department and took on the demanding job of looking after the book cupboard.

In addition to his classroom work, Mr Atkin's enthusiasm shows in his sport. He took over the running of school hockey and has often been on the hockey field, both during and after school, and looking after teams, being a well qualified coach. He has been a useful bowler and member of the staff cricket team.

Mr Atkin leaves us to take up a post nearer to his home; we wish him well in his new position.

D.M.B.

## Dr Ruth Ling

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This year we have said farewell to Ruth Ling who was a full-time teacher of English. She joined the department in September 2002 and immediately impressed us with her knowledge of her subject. Her academic background includes a First Class degree from Royal Holloway and a PhD from St John's College, Oxford. She has lectured to undergraduates on her specialist areas that include Modernist writers, Irish writers and her first love, poetry. She has had articles and essays published in numerous journals.

Ruth taught at Havering Sixth Form College before coming to the Royal Grammar School. She had a huge capacity for hard work; in fact it was rare to see her settle in a chair. She was totally committed to her pupils and very keen to see them succeed.

Ruth was particularly inspirational with able pupils and she generously gave of her time in the lunch hour to run an extra-curricular creative writing society. Another of her extra commitments that she thoroughly enjoyed was coaching the public speaking teams. Her teams always gave polished performances and did well in competitions.

She has a great love and wide knowledge of classical music. Her walk to school was invariably accompanied by music via her Walkman. She was happy to assist at the front of house during school concerts where her encouragement and knowledge was inspirational to the pupils.

The English department will miss her commitment and academic excellence. She was a popular, hard-working member of the department and we wish her every success in the future.

J.L.H.

## Mrs Ann Howarth

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At Easter 2004 we said a sad farewell to Ann, our Biology technician, after 23 years of service to the RGS. Ann came to work for the late Rex Knight when Biology was still on the top floor of the Science building and had a sizeable animal house. In her time here she has worked for and supported four heads of department (Rex, Eric Wolton, Harry Clark, Giles Scoble) and numerous Biology teachers, and they unanimously regard her not only as a great colleague but also a true friend.

Ann was a member of the support staff in the best RGS spirit. She had a job description (she got one eventually after being here nearly 20 years) but it was the willingness to do any task that supported the teaching staff that marked Ann out as an outstanding technician. Whenever the discussion came around to roles or responsibilities the phrase that Ann herself would use was "that's what we are here for, we support".

Colleagues who worked closely with Ann know how loyal and committed she was, and this commitment was set deep in her persona.

I think that some of the people that Ann was most committed to were the boys at the RGS. It was because she genuinely cared about them that she was willing to run practicals for boys who had missed the session, collect in locker keys, and chase up the hundred and one things that boys need chasing for. She certainly gained their respect and they benefited from her generous nature.

This commitment to young people can also be seen in her other love, basketball. She and Mike have been the driving force behind basketball at the RGS for many years, and gave countless hours coaching, travelling and running the table at



*Edward Kelleher  
Year 10  
Charcoal drawing*

fixtures. She gave this time willingly because of the pleasure the boys got from playing, and beating teams, in mini-league matches.

As anyone knows the Biology department will greatly miss Ann. Not just because of the practical being wheeled in and out with such skill, or her ability to tell you exactly what tape contained a video "with the rabbit genetics on it", but because she was a friend and colleague to us all. Social functions were never a chore and tears of laughter were shared in the prep room in the lull between the 'fire fighting' of the daily routine.

Ann has earned a rest and thoroughly deserves a relaxed and happy retirement with Mike. They plan to move to East Anglia in the near future and we wish them well in this next venture. Thank you Ann and good luck in your retirement.

G.T.S

## Mr Mike Howarth

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Mike Howarth joined the school's Technology department in 2000 after retiring from his original career as an electronics engineer. Mike had never taught before, neither had he ever been trained formally as a teacher. Despite this, he instantly gained the respect of the boys largely due to his enthusiasm, attention to detail, infinite patience and compassion. In addition to teaching, Mike demonstrated an immense versatility by providing technical support both to the Electronics and Art departments while also being a highly committed and skilful basketball coach.

Mike actually retired from the RGS nearly one year ago. A genuinely decent man, his easy-going manner, warmth and cheerfulness have been greatly missed. We wish him and his wife Ann, who has just retired after twenty-three years' sterling service as our Biology technician, a long and happy retirement.

D.P.M.

# UNIVERSITY ENTRY 2003–04

## OXFORD

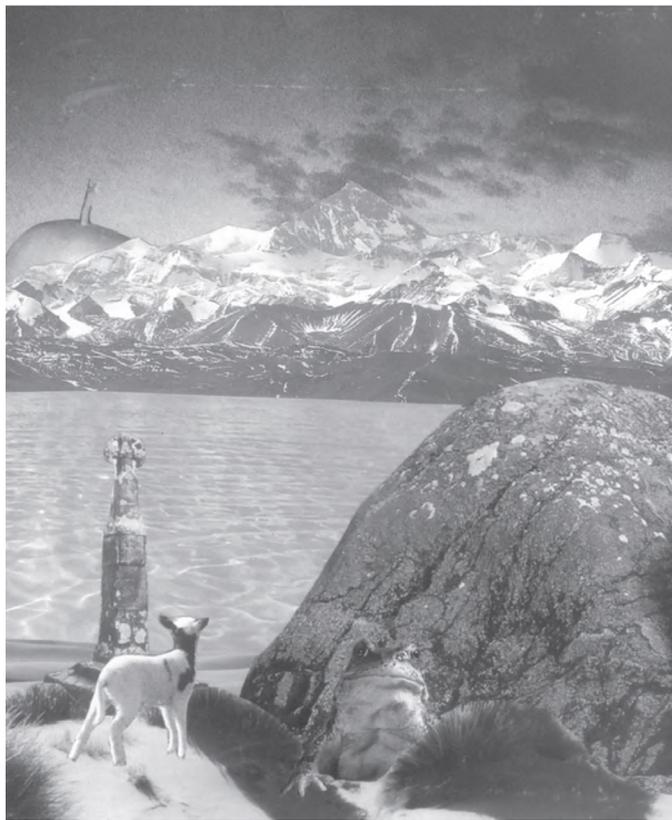
**Afzal, Imran** Merton; Law  
**Bennett, Michael** New; Mathematics and Philosophy  
**Nomura, Jae Jong** Trinity; Material Science  
**Riedl, Tobias** Trinity; Economics and Management  
**Schmidt-Rost, Michael** Christ Church; PPE  
**Van Reijndam, Patrick** St Peter's; Experimental Psychology

## CAMBRIDGE

**Chancellor, James** Pembroke; Engineering  
**Collins, Edward** Downing; Mathematics  
**Dawes, Callum** Peterhouse; Natural Sciences  
**Firth, Robin** Trinity; Engineering (04)  
**Franks, Jonathan** Corpus Christi; Philosophy  
**Grange, Huw** St John's; Modern Foreign Languages  
**Horley, David** Gonville and Caius; Mathematics  
**Khera, Jastinder** King's; Modern Foreign Languages  
**Penman, Stuart** Gonville and Caius; Engineering (04)

## OTHER UNIVERSITIES

**Ahmad, Qasim** St George's, London; Medicine  
**Allen, Christopher** Nottingham; Cultural Studies  
**Anderson, James** Manchester Metropolitan; Consumer Marketing  
**Appleton, James** Birmingham; Philosophy  
**Arora, Indraj** Nottingham; Mechanical Engineering (04)  
**Aston, Richard** Bath; Mechanical Engineering and French  
**Babu, Vinod** Brunel; Financial Computing  
**Barnes, Adam** Exeter; French and Spanish



*Jack Ross  
Year 10  
Photo-montage*

**Barrett, James** Southampton; Law and Politics  
**Bassett, Andrew** Bucks College UC; Art Foundation  
**Berry, Thomas** King's College, London; War Studies and History (04)  
**Bhamber, Nivraj** University College, London; Medicine  
**Burrell, David** Royal Holloway College, London; Computer Science  
**Burton, Sebastian** Birmingham; Law and German  
**Chandler, Philip** University College, London; English  
**Chapman, Benjamin** Oxford Brookes; Computer Science (04)  
**Cheffy, John Mark** Birmingham; African Studies and French (04)  
**Churaman, Devindra** Birmingham; Electrical Engineering (04)  
**Church, Simon** Leeds; English  
**Clark, Oliver** Loughborough; Computing and Management  
**Cohen, Alistair** Manchester; Mechanical Engineering  
**Collins, William** Imperial College, London; Medicine  
**Connors, Patrick** Southampton; English Studies  
**Contractor, Kunal** Kent; Accounting/Finance and French Business Studies  
**Cooper-Davis, Richard** Loughborough; Management and Quantity Surveying  
**Cox, Daniel** Essex; Philosophy and Historical Studies (04)  
**Cross, Adam** Birmingham; Music  
**Da Costa, Nicholas** UWE Bristol; Construction Management  
**Daniels, Matthew** Sheffield; Economics  
**Darghouth, Ramzi** Loughborough; Automotive Engineering  
**Davies, Howard** Liverpool; Philosophy  
**de Looze, Matthew** Manchester; European Studies and French  
**Delo, Charles** Nottingham; Economics  
**Dillon, Matthew** Leeds; Environmental Management  
**Dooley, Liam** Birmingham; Geography  
**Dunlop-Cunnington, Charles** Brighton; Digital Music  
**Edwards, Mark** Southampton; Acoustic Engineering  
**Eldridge, Christopher** York; English  
**Ellender, John** Bath; Physics  
**Emmett, James** Southampton Institute; Advertising (04)  
**Escobad, Pierre** UWE Bristol; International Business Studies  
**Eteson, Paul** Bristol; French  
**Francis, Ravi** Leicester; Law  
**Fuge, Adam** Southampton; Economics and Politics  
**Garrow, Matthew** Birmingham; Business Studies and French  
**Gavin, Anthony** Leicester; Geography  
**Ghafoor, Ramzan** Manchester; Economics  
**Gibson, Oliver** Portsmouth; Geography (04)  
**Goodall, Robert** Southampton; Geography  
**Goode, Edward** Reading; History  
**Greenwood, Christopher** Warwick; European Law  
**Griffiths, Daniel** Surrey; Chemistry  
**Gunton, Marc** Essex; Electronics and Computers  
**Hall, Richard** Manchester; Material Science and Engineering  
**Halls, David** Bristol; Electrical Engineering  
**Harris, Edward** King's College, London; War Studies and History (04)  
**Haydock, Jonathan** Bucks College UC; Art Foundation  
**Hoare, Howard** Birmingham; Ancient and Medieval History  
**Holder, Johan** Southampton; Sports Management  
**Holloway, Alexander** Southampton; Economics  
**Hoult, Timothy** Imperial College, London; Mechanical Engineering  
**Hunjan, Jasdeep** LSE; Economics (04)  
**Hussain, Rashid** De Montford; Law

**Jelfs, James** Oxford Brookes; Accounting and Finance  
**Johnson, Gareth** York; Philosophy  
**Keane, Andrew** Sheffield; Accounting and Financial Management  
**Klimovich, Alexander** University College, London; Politics and East European Studies  
**Labri, Idrusu** Birmingham; Mechanical Engineering  
**Langston, Nicholas** Reading; History and English  
**Lavers, Michael** Nottingham; Philosophy  
**Lehal, Karundeeep** Birmingham; Business/Hispanic Studies  
**Little, Nicholas** Birmingham; Law  
**Louttit, Creag** Nottingham; Mathematics and Management  
**Lowson, Robert** Southampton; Spanish and History (04)  
**Lynch, Nicholas** Bath; Economics (04)  
**Macdermott, Steven** Essex; Accounting and Finance  
**Macdonald, Thomas** Manchester; Biology  
**Malti, Sebastian** Nottingham; Economics (04)  
**Martin, Daniel** Bucks College UC; Art Foundation  
**Mason, Mark** Sheffield Hallam; International Business Studies (04)  
**Masters, Benjamin** Southampton; Medicine  
**McClelland, Benjamin** Kent; Law  
**McDonnell, Martin** Southampton; Medicine  
**McElhill, Christopher** Sheffield; Business Studies  
**Melville, James** Nottingham; Electrical Engineering and Languages (04)  
**Morris, Dominic** Reading; French and German  
**Mortimore, Ashley** Westminster; Law and French  
**Moxley, Robert** King's College, London; Geography  
**Muir, Robert** Edinburgh; Veterinary Science  
**Murray, Michael** SOAS, London; Korean  
**Nisbet, Christopher** Nottingham; Financial Accounting and Management  
**Norris, Timothy** Nottingham; Philosophy  
**O'Brien, David** UWE Bristol; Environmental Science  
**O'Brien, Thomas** UMIST; Aeronautical Engineering (04)  
**Orford, Matthew** Nottingham; Civil Engineering  
**Palmer, Allan** Hertfordshire; Aeronautical Systems Engineering  
**Payagalage-Don, Nipun** Imperial College, London; Mechanical Engineering  
**Pearce, Benjamin** Nottingham; English  
**Peck, Anthony** Newcastle; History (04)  
**Phillips, Stephen** Southampton; Medicine  
**Pound, Michael** Nottingham; Computer Science  
**Price, Colin** Bucks College UC; Art Foundation  
**Pringle, Randal** Glasgow; English Literature  
**Rackstraw, Andrew** Essex; Philosophy  
**Raguvaran, Ramesh** Sheffield; Biomedical Science  
**Read, Adam** Imperial College, London; Material Science and Engineering  
**Read, David** Reading; Agricultural Business Management  
**Reid, Oliver** Sheffield; Economics  
**Reynolds, Alex** Reading; Classics and Medieval Studies  
**Robinson, Nicholas** Brunel; Sports Science  
**Routledge, Ian** Durham; Natural Science  
**Ruskell, James** Staffordshire; Computing Science  
**Sabharwal, Sager** Nottingham Trent; Economics  
**Sanderson, Ross** Edinburgh; Law  
**Seys Llewellyn, Aled** Bristol; French and German  
**Shah, Pallav** King's College, London; Medicine  
**Shahzad, Mohammed** Essex; Computing  
**Sheikh, Ummare** Plymouth; Mechanical Design  
**Sherriff, George** Southampton; History (04)  
**Snowden, Peter** Birmingham; Medieval/Modern History  
**Stewart, Cameron** Southampton; Geography  
**Swietochowski, Simon** Liverpool; Architecture  
**Tan, Gavin** Hertfordshire; Aerospace Engineering  
**Taplin, Philip** Nottingham; Chemistry  
**Taylor, Matthew** Nottingham; Computer Science  
**Terrar, David** Southampton; Law  
**Thomas, David** Birmingham; Medieval/Modern History  
**Ting, Craig** Durham; History  
**Ulph, Jan** Portsmouth; Engineering  
**Underwood, Dominic** Portsmouth; Geography (04)  
**Varatharajan, Vinoth** Queen Mary College, London; Economics  
**Vasdev, Ajay** University College, London; Philosophy and Economics  
**Vijayaragavan, Aravinthan** Newcastle; Chemical Engineering  
**Walden, Benjamin** Birmingham; Law  
**Walker, Ben** Leicester; Communications Studies (04)  
**Walters, Nicholas** Reading; Biochemistry  
**Waterfall, Andrew** Reading; Physics  
**Watkins, Matthew** Sheffield; Medicine (04)  
**Weller, Phillip** Leicester; Politics (04)  
**White, Jacob** Liverpool; Arts (04)  
**Whitlock, Simon** Coventry; Communication Studies  
**Whiteman, Mark** Bucks College UC; Art Foundation  
**Wilkinson, Patrick** Nottingham; Spanish/History  
**Wilson, Gareth** Exeter; French  
**Wilson, James** Leicester; English/French Law  
**Wisdom, Dominic** Nottingham; Philosophy  
**Wyllie, Stuart** Leicester; Geography  
**Young, Andrew** Southampton; Geology/Physical Geography  
**Zair, Andrew** Sheffield; Geography



*Stuart Cuss  
 Year 12  
 Fossils, Kilve, Somerset*

## Music Centre

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On 23 October 2003, during the school's Arts' Week, Old Boy and former pop star Howard Jones officially opened the Royal Bank of Scotland Music Centre, housed in the former Staff Room and Economics department. The Music Centre has seven dedicated practice rooms, two recording studios, two Music Technology rooms, and high-tech classroom suites. This wonderful facility was built with the money raised by parents, Old Boys, and friends of the school.

### That'll teach 'em

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Last summer, more by accident than anything else, I made my *début* (and probably my farewell appearance) on television in the Channel Four series *That'll teach 'em* which was filmed at the RGS. For four weeks it became 'King's School', a fictional boarding establishment where food was basic, discipline was harsh and the teaching style was based on the 'chalk and talk' method. For two of the staff, Headmaster Andrew MacTavish and me, this was very much like stepping back into the past as we had both once been on the staff at RGS. I taught French and Spanish from 1968 to 1989. We both agreed that although many things had changed, parts of the school were exactly as we remembered them. Indeed the Gym Block where lessons took place seemed not to have changed at all. The door to the gym did not fit properly in the 1960s and nobody has got round to fixing it yet. The only thing that seemed odd was the presence of girls.

Although they put on a show of bravado, the pupils were nervous at the beginning, not knowing what to expect, but the staff were quite anxious as well. We were acutely aware that these thirty boys and girls were intelligent, confident individuals and that if we did not manage to impose a strict regime in the first few days, we could be in real trouble. Fortunately my colleagues were very strong characters and outstanding teachers. They were all extremely likeable and I was fortunate to get to know them. The matron, Pat Crowe, who came over in the series as a dragon who had strayed out of a *Carry On* film, is in fact a deeply caring person who worried endlessly about the pupils' welfare. Inevitably the boys and girls did not realise this.

I have been asked whether we switched off and fraternised with the pupils when the cameras were not there. This was definitely not the case. The school was run twenty-four hours a day as if it were a real school and we maintained the regime whether or not we were being filmed. At the same time the situation was artificial as it is very difficult to interact naturally with a pupil when there is a TV camera three inches from your left ear. There is no doubt that the students did play up to the cameras and their behaviour noticeably improved when they went away. The main problem we found was that the staff and the production team inevitably had different agendas: we were running a school while they were trying to make interesting, entertaining television programmes and this did lead to some tensions. The camera crews had a natural tendency to concentrate on the "characters" and this tended to encourage rebellious behaviour. However I could see from the start that it would be like this and it was something we had to accept. I was part-time and originally only scheduled to teach two or three music lessons a week but it was difficult not to get more involved and I found myself going in every morning, including Sunday, to play the hymn for assembly. Even so, I was not there all the time. My colleagues who were in school twenty-four hours a day found it quite a stressful experience.

My brief in lessons was to teach singing and I soon found out that many of the pupils did no singing at all in their normal schools. The hymns which we, the staff, had sung all our lives were for the most part totally unknown and had to be taught note by note. At first there was some embarrassment and the sounds the class produced were fairly dire. Contrary to what one might have expected the boys

sang with more confidence than the girls and several had surprisingly good voices. However the standard did improve quite considerably and at the prize giving three weeks later they gave a very creditable rendition of the school song, a suitably earnest ditty full of worthy sentiments which I composed in an appropriately pompous style, and two other pieces. What their performance lacked in refinement of expression it made up in enthusiasm, but, more importantly, I think that many of the pupils found to their surprise that they actually enjoyed singing, perhaps as a welcome relief from academic lessons.

It was fascinating to see how a major TV series is put together. One striking thing is the speed at which everything is done. We were still filming as the first programmes were being broadcast and each episode had to be assembled, edited, have music and commentary added and be presented to Channel Four for their approval within ten days. Another feature is the meticulous attention to detail, down to supplying us with 1950s spectacle frames made up to our own prescription or ensuring that we had authentic-looking magazines lying round in the staff room. It was also unbelievable what a tiny fraction of the material filmed was used in the programmes. At the end of 'term' all the pupils mounted a fully staged, very professional performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which they had learned and rehearsed in under three weeks – a truly staggering feat. I think we were all very sad, both staff and students, that the decision was made to show nothing of this. It was disappointing for Liz Pidoux, the English teacher who produced the play brilliantly, but also for me, since I had composed and arranged the instrumental music, not a note of which was heard. Sometimes too, story lines were begun but not followed up. In the episode in which I featured most prominently I sent a girl to the Headmaster for misbehaving in a music lesson. She claimed that she could not sing, was duly admonished for her attitude and reduced to tears. What the viewers were not shown was that that girl sang a solo very competently in the end of term celebrations and on the last day made a special point of coming to say goodbye to me. I have subsequently had a charming letter saying how well she is doing with her singing.

One of the most interesting things was to read the post-series comments of the pupils on the Channel Four website. Almost all of them viewed the experience in a very positive light, even to the extent of wishing to do it all again. Quite a few said that they had learnt a great deal during the four weeks and could see positive advantages in traditional teaching methods. Although the aim of the series was ostensibly to compare the demands of O Level with GCSE this was never going to be a very scientific experiment, given the short timescale, and it was scarcely surprising that pupils who were not used to learning dates in History or studying French grammar did not do very well in 1950s style examinations.

To sum up, with all its frustrations it was a fascinating experience and I was amazed at how many people watched the programmes. However, perhaps the most touching moment for me was when I played the final hymn in the very last service ever to be held in the School Chapel.

Geoffrey Heath

## File Past

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*From the Wycombiensian of 1911:*

In honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King George the Fifth, three days' holiday were given at the time of the Coronation, and the summer holidays are also being extended. On Coronation Day, a Detachment of our O.T.C. attended the special service at the Parish Church with the Mayor and Corporation and other official bodies, and on July 3rd, thirty-seven cadets were present at the Royal Review at Windsor.

*From the Wycombiensian of 1929:*

On the first day of last term, the whole School was saddened by the news that Cyril Spriggs had been fatally injured in a motor-bicycle accident, which happened on the road between Reading and Henley. The accident was all the more distressing because, after driving for some miles, Spriggs, in a way characteristic of him, had offered his friend a ride on the machine while he himself rode on the pillion. At a very bad corner the machine struck a hedge, and Spriggs was hurled violently against a tree and never regained consciousness. Spriggs, even when a small boy, soon became a conspicuous figure on the playing field, and developed into a very good footballer and cricketer. His cheerful manner made him a host of friends, and he was well known to almost every boy in the School.

*From the Wycombiensian of 1960:*

### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Despite the large number of history students in the first year sixth, their interest in the subject apparently confines itself to reading an "A" level syllabus. Enthusiasm and originality are notably lacking, despite the able support of members of the staff, and, judging from the apathy of recent years, there seems to be a danger that this Society will soon become one of the "has-beens" unless some of the senior members of the school begin to treat history as something more than "the alternative to science, languages and classics." Unless members of the sixth form show some vigorous effort, apathy and degeneracy will continue to pervade the whole atmosphere surrounding the Society.

## Why are you late?

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A selection of some excuses written recently in Matron's Lateness Book:

Went on a holiday.  
Homework fell into the dishwasher.  
Stupid amount of traffic at Handy Cross.  
Mum was being sick so I couldn't get a lift.  
Mum slept in.  
Wedding last night; woke up late.  
Ate dodgy pizza last night.  
Bus decided not to come.  
Went wrong way; got lost.  
Dog ran away and I had to catch it.  
I am ill.  
Hamster died.

## My Dog Chewed Up My Homework

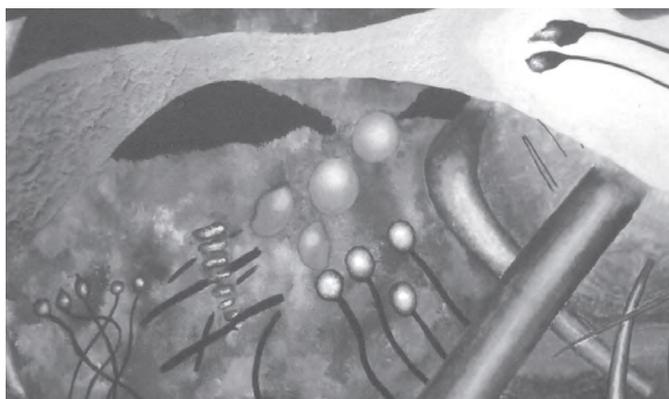
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I'm glad to say my homework's done.  
I finished it last night.  
I've got it right here in this box.  
It's not a pretty sight.

My dog chewed up my homework.  
He slobbered on it, too.  
So now my homework's ripped to shreds  
And wet with slimy goo.

It isn't much to look at,  
But I brought it anyway.  
I'm going to dump it on your desk  
If I don't get an A.

Samuel Pearce 7P



*Christian O'Kelly  
Year 11  
Painting*

## The Royal Grammar School

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The famous Royal Grammar School –  
"Wow!" I thought, this will be cool.  
Navy blazer, rich red tie  
Some passing girls give me "the eye"!  
The day's arrived for me to start,  
Thump, thump, thud goes my heart!  
I cautiously approach the school  
Now I'm feeling less than cool ...  
Walking past those trees so high  
Evokes from me a giant sigh  
My brain is fuzzy and in a tangle  
As I trudge across the school quadrangle.  
Heavy and laden my legs feel –  
Is this situation real?  
Can my heart really beat so loud?  
Head up, I think, I should look proud.  
Suddenly, I am filled with glee  
Because two boys remember me ...  
One called Martin wearing braces  
The other called Henry, making faces!  
Well, here I am for years to come ...  
Ha! Loads of homework for my Mum!  
No doubt, I'll have to do some too  
But I'll enjoy myself through and through  
With all the opportunities, sports and fun  
The RGS is Number One!  
And will it help me? We will see ...  
To become a "Captain of Industry"!

Alexander Kittler 7C

## Normandy Revisited

*2004 is the 60th anniversary of D Day. George Eyles, who was at the RGS between 1915 and 1922, served in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, and took part in the landing on Sword beach on 6 June. These recollections, previously unpublished, were written after a return visit to Normandy in 1984. George Eyles died in 1986.*

I returned to a familiar area of pleasant villages surrounded by fertile farmland with flourishing cereal crops, lush pasture and mature woods, adjoining a coast line of wide sandy beaches in places fringed by groups of holiday villas. How soon nature heals the scars of war!

Of course the differences are apparent too. The cattle are now grazing contentedly, instead of lying dead from bombing or gunfire and stinking to heaven. Gone are the invaders' hastily dug slit trenches, gone too are those wretched mosquitoes that forty years ago made everybody's life a misery, particularly at night.

However, at Ouistreham there remains the Church. Its tower was used by us as an observation post after the Germans, in a strongly fortified position two miles away at Franceville plage, shelled the nearby lighthouse, causing our Royal Artillery observers there to depart at a speed that would have done credit to Light Infantry. However, the flak tower on the adjacent Sword beach has disappeared. From it on D plus 2 emerged some fifty Germans to surrender to a recently arrived light anti-aircraft unit taking up a position nearby, while the pill-box that created mayhem in the assault wave is now a very solid foundation and lower storey of a house.

There remain the tragic reminders of events forty years ago – the acres and acres of war cemeteries, the headstones recording the sacrifices of young men in their early twenties, some with that moving epitaph, "An unknown British soldier" (or sailor or airman) "known unto God", recording that, when found, even the necklaces of two identity discs (one for the body and the other for records) were missing or illegible. To me the vast American cemetery behind Omaha beach makes less impact than the numerous small but immaculately maintained British graveyards such as Ranville (to which I could have claimed a residential qualification) with German dead interred nearby, or the cemetery of the 1st Oxford-Bucks (the 43rd) adjoining the churchyards of Brouay, or small groups of isolated British graves in village churchyards.

Inevitably one endeavoured to recall events in and around Sword beach on D Day: the epic midnight capture of the two bridges across the Orne canal and River Orne by a glider-borne Company of the 2nd Oxford-Bucks (the 52nd), hours before the arrival of the sea-borne armada beaching on Sword at low tide, with duplex drive swimming tanks; Royal Engineers dealing with beach mines (many on long tripods intended to impale craft at high tides); flail tanks to beat roads and tracks for land; and inevitably the assault infantry



*Peter Shadbolt  
Year 12  
Life drawing*

of 3 Division, including elements of the Beach Group with the territorial 1st Bucks battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, in which I was second in command of 'B' Company.

Personally, I landed on second tide on D Day from a Landing Ship Infantry, its two ladders facing forward for quick disembarkation. When it grounded the depth was about five feet, but on a rough and rising tide it rapidly deepened. Indeed my friend and batman George Kattenhorn was swept away but fortunately was rescued and pulled back into the ship by one of the crew, leaving me to go on alone, my clothing and equipment soaked, pack full of water, and even the lining of my helmet wet. I struggled to the point in the sand dunes chosen from aerial photographs as a suitable rendezvous for 'B' company O Group. Fortunately we were not only well briefed but incredibly fit from long, hard combined operations training under severe winter conditions in the north-west of Scotland (indeed but for the presence of well trained, armed and disciplined but unfriendly Germans, physically D Day 6 June 1944 could have been a "doddle").

The Company Commander, Clive le Neve Foster, and Sgt Major Rous were at the rendezvous and one platoon arrived later. At about this time the remaining Companies of the 52nd passed over our heads in gliders which landed in fields less than a mile away – a most reassuring sight. The other two platoons of 'B' Company were delayed by rough sea conditions and joined us on D plus 1.

'B' Company position was on the extreme east flank of the whole invasion, and after a reconnaissance Clive Foster and the platoon that had arrived formed a road block on the corniche. On his orders I returned to the beach with one Bren gunner (Private Thorne, killed later) to block the beach and liaise with the naval beach party of two officers, a petty officer, and a number of ratings armed with rifles and, to my surprise, a Lewis gun.

They were digging in at the base of a sand dune with field of fire of about five feet, and when I politely suggested to their naval C/O that it was possibly rather inadequate, his reply was "Well, old man, we don't really know anything about this sort of thing. Will you put them in position?" Accordingly I gingerly led them in single file through what appeared to be (fortunately it was not) a minefield, and positioned them where they at least commanded an adequate field of fire toward the outskirts of Ouistreham, still occupied by Germans.

It was then dusk, and in accordance with correct infantry practice I led a patrol eastwards along the beach towards Ouistreham, Thorne with his Bren gun (he was a very big strong chap who could if necessary fire it from the shoulder standing), and the naval officers and petty officer. We investigated the landing craft swept easterly by the tide and broached to on the beach, damaged and containing no living survivors but a number of dead crew (including one elderly naval officer wearing his First War medals). When I decided we had gone far enough, just to prove to myself that I was not nervous (which of course in fact I was) I went on alone for an extra distance. Under stress how stupid can one be!

Returning to our position I completed digging for myself a slit trench just above high water with the aid of a shovel taken from the equipment of an East Yorkshireman who had no further use for it, having unfortunately been caught in a burst of machine gun fire from the German pill-box to which I have already referred. This was a fortunate precaution since, shortly afterwards, a solitary German plane flew from the east along the beach and dropped a stick of oil bombs unpleasantly close to me.

This is what, after forty years, I recall of D Day. It was dark and I was still soaked and cold.

George Eyles

# SOCIETIES AND ACTIVITIES

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## Senior Vulture

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Once again Senior Vulture has excelled in organisation and has treated its members to a season of music, comedy, romance and tragedy.

The yearly whistle-stop tour's first point of call was Tom Stoppard's *Jumpers* at the National Theatre – a play about philosophy, love, religion and death (with fantastic acting and acrobatics thrown in!). This award-winning play was a great start to a highly entertaining year.

The second outing of the programme was to see the hit Broadway musical *Anything Goes* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. This world-renowned musical proved to be incredibly entertaining and had us tapping our feet in the audience! Mixed with Mr Cowburn's endless ghost stories of the theatre, that evening ended up being remembered by all who came.

Penultimately we found ourselves watching the brand-new hit in the West End, *When Harry Met Sally*, at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, starring Alyson Hannigan (of *Buffy* fame) and Luke Perry (of *Beverly Hills 90210*). This version, adapted from the film, was incredibly well staged and the notability of the two lead actors made it that little bit more special! The play reminded us all, I'm sure, that love really is still out there.

The final stop on our programme was Stratford-upon-Avon and the RSC to see a new production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Thankfully the company had not changed the play too much and we were given a more traditional performance. Good costume, lighting, staging and, of course, top class acting meant that the 2004 season of Senior Vulture was given a perfect ending and everyone left Stratford smiling (even though it was raining).

Thank you to Mr Cowburn and Mrs Frost for yet another electric year of Senior Vulture and may there be many more! I know I'll be coming back next year and, if you like theatre, I strongly suggest you do too.

Christopher Willey 12GA



*Nathan Moore  
Year 11  
Natural form - plaster sculpture*

## School Chaplaincy

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It has been a thoroughly encouraging year, The number of boys attending events is increasing steadily, demonstrating that spirituality in the school is alive and well. Highlights of the year included a lively series of evening meetings for Year 11, popular and exciting Heatseeker meetings for Year 7 and the stylish and appealing Oxford Dinners for the Sixth Form.

Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of The Christ* has provoked society to discuss the death and resurrection of Jesus. These discussions are ongoing at RGS. The chaplaincy team of Mr Toller (School Chaplain), Mr Ratcliffe (Associate Chaplain), and Mr Potter work to provide opportunities for pupils to find out more about the Christian Faith.

The Chaplaincy is interdenominational. We are available to any members of the school community who wish to speak to us – either as individuals or as groups. It has been a privilege to work with the Sixth Form leadership team of the thriving Christian Union. We remain grateful for the support of a committed group of parents who pray for the school on a regular basis.

P.S.T.



*Life drawing session  
Year 12*

## Assemblies

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Morning assemblies have been varied, uplifting and inspirational this year. The diversity of beliefs held in the school has been suitably reflected in the wide range of speakers and topics. Several pupils and members of staff have spoken on issues about which they feel strongly.

Memorable weeks include the staff's views on 'The Meaning of Life', Mr Wolton's 'Jeans for Genes' band, the Islamic Society's presentation of 9/11 and the senior prefects' word insertion challenge, laid down by Mr Cousins. Dr Wolfe claimed that science and religion are not in opposition and expressed the feelings of many with a quote from Voltaire. Mr Pantridge read a moving series of accounts on Holocaust Memorial Day. We welcomed and were challenged by the work of the Eyeless Trust and School Aid charities, to which the boys gave money via the Benevolent Fund collection. The teaching of Christian faith and moral values remained an integral part of the year's assemblies. My thanks go to all those who have contributed this year.

P.S.T.

## Year 11 Chaplains' Suppers

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These are not just talks about Christianity, far from it. They are evenings held through the kind hospitality of Mr Toller, where a feast of pies, chips, beans and an array of desserts is laid on. Then follows the after dinner entertainment, provided by the witty Mr Ratcliffe, some jokes too witty for even the brightest to understand! Even Mr Potter didn't get the hot custard joke – it went right over his head!

The evening then moves on to its most important aspect, the Christian Faith. A guest speaker is invited to explain what the Bible says about Christianity and what it means to us. The evening draws to a conclusion with several questions from the boys and many an insightful answer. Christians, sceptics, non-believers – everybody is welcomed.

Cameron Law 11R

## Sixth Form Chaplains' Suppers

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Throughout the year the School Chaplains have held evening suppers in Mr Toller's flat in Fraser Youens House. They offer members of the Sixth Form a chance to learn more about Christianity, whilst having a meal fit for a king!

Before the food arrives, you can chat with the Chaplains and others about whatever you like, in a friendly atmosphere. After you have eaten, a short talk is given and questions are taken. You can ask whatever you want and they won't be offended in the least and I assure you that they are not trying to force their own Christian views upon you. You can hear a good range of responses to your questions and get a well-informed answer. If you are remotely curious about the Christian Faith and would like a good meal and a chance to get to know the Chaplains, I strongly suggest you attend a supper in the future – highly recommended!

Jonathan Young 12MT

## Christian Union

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Due to popular demand, the Christian Union has increased the number of meetings it runs as well as introducing a daily prayer meeting before school in the Music Centre. Presently there are three break-time meetings during the week: the general prayer meeting on Tuesdays, the main meeting on Thursdays and the Bible study meeting on Fridays. The Bible study has consisted of reading through the book of Acts and some New Testament letters. During the main meetings, we have looked at Jesus and the importance of Him in our lives. Pupils have given talks on the different promises that Jesus made in the gospels. The meetings are rather informal, allowing friendships across the years to be built up. They also provide an easy atmosphere for any questions or opinions to be voiced.

The Christian Union leadership team works alongside the Chaplaincy to provide several specific year group meetings, which have all provided fun and games whilst learning about God in the Bible.

Anyone is welcome to the Christian Union meetings, no matter what their beliefs. It would be great to see many new faces.

Samuel Gower 13EB, Andrew Malliff 12EB, John Bowen 12EL

## Oxford Dinners

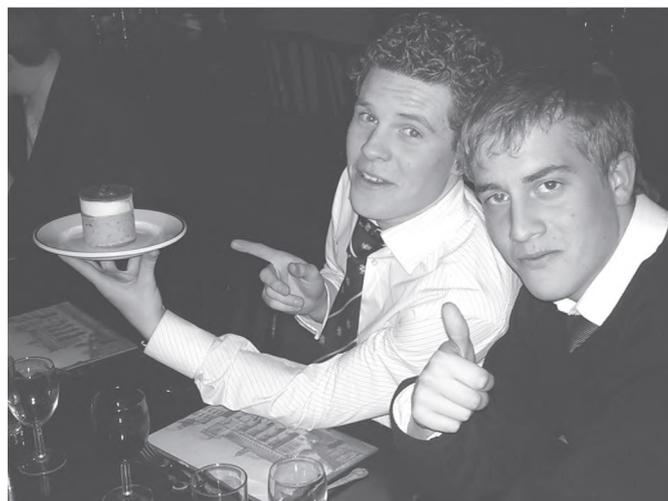
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The Oxford Dinners become available to pupils in the Sixth Form and are an event that I recommend to every pupil given the opportunity to attend. On arrival at the college, we are treated to a glass of Buck's Fizz or orange juice on the gallery overlooking Pembroke Hall. We then move downstairs into the candlelit Forte Room where the tables are decorated with the college silver.

After a delicious three-course meal, coffee is served. The main event, of course, is the chance to sit back to listen to the guest speaker, who is always happy to take questions from the floor. My personal favourite is the irrepressible Vijay Menon who manages to silence even Mr Ratcliffe. Once the formal part is over, there are more opportunities to discuss the talk in small groups.

The food and wine are matched only by the conversation, company and ambience. The evenings are a healthy combination of chatting, eating, drinking and discussing the Christian Faith. They are enjoyable occasions for all – don't miss out on these terrific opportunities!

Matthew Robinson 12EL



*Tom Young and Jack Spearman enjoy an Oxford Dinner*

## Islamic Society

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This year, the Islamic Society has seen a number of successes. With our ever-increasing involvement of younger pupils, the society has had a considerable attendance throughout the school year. In our first assembly, the society explored some of the causes of terrorist attacks and their links to certain foreign policies, at the end of which there was warm applause from the audience. Other assemblies addressed issues such as the basis of Islamic thought. A recent open discussion also saw a joint debate between the Christian Union, the Debating Society and the Islamic Society on the question "Does religion cause more harm than good?" We hope that other such discussions in an open and intellectual manner will be forthcoming in years to come. This year has also seen the birth of the Buckinghamshire Inter-Schools' Islamic Society, with the RGS Islamic Society playing the lead role in its development and progress. We hope that the Islamic Society will, in years to come, play a positive role in the school community and continue to grow from strength to strength.

Imadul Islam 13C

## Year 7 Heatseeker

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Once again, Heatseeker has proved a great hit. Aimed at Year 7s, its devastatingly effective combination of silly games, drinks, food and teaching about the Christian Faith drew about twenty boys to each meeting. Jonathan Overton became resident games master, including a version of the ever-popular 'Fluffy Bunnies' and countless rounds of 'Squirt'. Then followed the 'God bit'. This comprised Bible teaching conducted in an accessible way, which the boys seem to appreciate. Indeed, of the pool of about fifty boys who attended at some point during the year, many had thoughtful questions which were both impressive and encouraging.

A quote from Year 7 punter: "Heatseeker is a great way to learn about God and have a good time. Mr Potter's humour adds to the all-round fun. First we pig out on sweets and drink, then we play stupid games. After that we listen to a superb talk about Christ." Thanks to the Sixth Form leaders, to Mr Potter, the continued support from the Chaplaincy, as well as the Year 7 form tutors for their co-operation. To have hyperactive Sixth Formers interrupting form period first thing on a Monday morning to sell Heatseeker tickets cannot have been easy, and their good nature was appreciated.

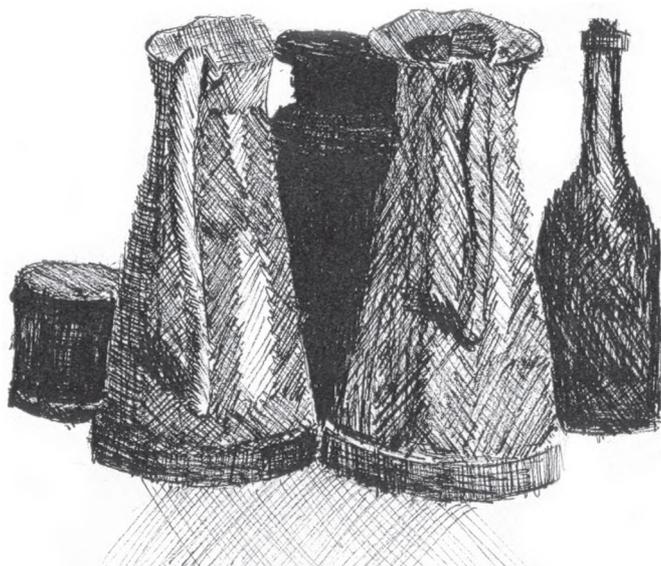
Benjamin Saunders 13HK, Nicholas Saunders 7P, Samuel Sackville 7P

## The Year 9 Cake and Coke Thing

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Every other Monday lunchtime, a group of around ten Year 9 boys and two Sixth Form helpers, James and Barnaby, meet up to have a good laugh, drink coke and eat cake and most importantly to investigate Christianity. No matter what our views, we all learn something new from the Bible and play a fun game. I went along to this group unsure about religion and Jesus, but now I'd like to give Christianity a go. It is a really good way for Christians and non-Christians to find out about the Christian Faith in a fun, relaxed manner with other people from your year group. I would highly recommend it.

Joseph Price 9DWO



*Daniel Jenkins  
Year 9  
Still life*

## Year 8 Heatseeker

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This is a group that meets on alternate Monday lunchtimes in L13 for any Year 8 pupil who wants to find out about Christianity. It's run by two Sixth Formers, Andrew and Samuel, with the help of Mr Toller. Starting with a drink and a muffin, we then play a crazy game, which is usually a lot of fun. After this we read and discuss a portion of the Bible and then end with a prayer. Occasionally there are special events like the 'Easter Party' in which we played even more crazy games like 'Mini-Egg table football' and 'How do you eat your Cadbury's Cream Egg?' This creates an enjoyable mix of fun, food and learning about God.

Joshua Gladman 8W

## Year 10 Christianity Explored Group

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During this year we have looked at the basics of the Christian Faith. We have been using a set of videos that was kindly lent to us by the Chaplaincy. After watching these videos we would discuss what we have seen, with many of the Year 10s making intelligent contributions on varied subjects. It was particularly pleasing to see the members of the group becoming much more involved in the discussions. My thanks go out to Mr Booth and Alistair Payne who played a huge part in every meeting with valid contributions which started debates.

John Bowen 12EL

## Team Challenge Ecuador July 2003

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RGS sent 43 boys (3 teams) on a World Challenge Expedition to Ecuador this July on the trip of a lifetime.

The expedition training began nearly two years ago when the boys began raising the money for the cost of the trip, which was a mighty £2,800. This was a major feat and the boys did incredibly well both individually and as a team raising the cash. There was a whole range of excellent fundraising ideas from car washing to bag packing at supermarkets to parachute jumps.

The actual month long expedition consisted of 4 phases: a brilliant jungle trek in the Amazonian rainforest with an immense variety of insects and vegetation; a challenging acclimatisation and main trek in the Cotapaxi National Park up to a height of around 15,000 feet with spectacular views; a thoroughly rewarding time renovating a school and teaching and playing sports with the local children; and finally rest and relaxation on the Pacific Coast, which included whale watching around the Isla de Plata (the poor man's Galapagos Islands). An excellent round-up to a superb expedition.

During all these phases the boys ran the entire expedition, which is the World Challenge ethos. They were each made leader for 24 hours and generally had two goes at it. They were also running to a budget and were responsible for all the logistics. They all did incredibly well and will have fond memories of this expedition for the rest of their lives.

C.H.

## Public Speaking

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Once again the RGS dominated the Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' competition held at Wycombe Abbey in January, and repeated last year's success of winning half the prizes.

In the Senior Section, a Year 10 team composed of chairman Matthew Dawes, speaker Luke Bullock, and vote of thanks Jack Merriman, were highly commended for their speech 'Difference – cost or reward?' This argued that discrimination was not always bad, and that differences were necessary for society to progress. The Lower Sixth team, Guy Burkitt, Byron Thomas, and Thomas Rendell, gave a closely argued presentation entitled 'Individuals without individuality', warning against the dangers of runaway research into genetic engineering and human cloning. The team won third prize – their third award in four years.

There was even more success in the Junior Section, where two Year 9 teams competed. Alexander Aldren, David Maunder, and Christopher Finn, spoke on 'Fun, fantasy, fear – the future', arguing that future human progress needs to be governed by ethically correct decisions. They won third prize. The stars of the competition were the team of Alexander Americanos, William Johnston, and Andrew Quigley, whose speech 'Football – end it or mend it' lamented the excessive prominence of football and footballers in our national life. Although the team had never participated before in this competition, the judges awarded them first prize, and they went through to the Zone Final at Christ Church, Marlow (which was won by Gayhurst School).

This is the sixth year in a row that the RGS has won either the junior or the senior trophy in the Wycombe competition. My thanks to Dr Ling for her invaluable contribution to this year's success.

M.J.S.



Year 10  
Study visit to the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford

## Chess

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It has been another very eventful chess season. In the *Times* National Tournament, a team of youngsters, Edward Basham 8P, Christie Goodman 8S, David Saunders 7C, Michael Ball 8M, Patrick Stockwell 7W and Luke Tompkins 7S, were put together to gain a handicap that would be much needed against Dr Challoner's Grammar School. RGS scored a victory over Dr Challoner's for the first time in decades. Winning thanks to the age handicap, this win took the youngsters into the regional knockout final, a great achievement for such young players. RGS young minds were outdone by Magdalen College School from Oxford, three of whom play for England.

Bucks Youth League featured two RGS teams in the First Division. The season started with RGS 1 and RGS 2 defeating Caldicott 5–1 in both games. The next match was against Dr Challoner's after their early season defeat in the *Times* National Tournament. The Amersham team took no prisoners as they beat RGS 1 5–1 and RGS 2 6–0. It was a brave effort from our boys, especially since we were two players short (and fatigued from the wild coach ride). The final match, soon to be played, will be between RGS 1 and RGS 2. No doubt this will be a hard fought battle. UK Chess Challenge is under way again, and if it's anything like last year it should be a cracker. The Megafinal as before will be taking place at the Royal Grammar School. High scoring players will earn a place in the Gigafinal which this year will be held in the University of Manchester. Last year a few RGS boys, me included, travelled to Keele University in Staffordshire to represent Buckinghamshire in the Gigafinal and play against some of Britain's finest in their respective age brackets. This season the RGS gratefully received an anonymous donation towards chess. Many chess books have been added to our library as well as Fritz 8, a leading title in chess software. Also a number of digital chess clocks were purchased. As my brief two years at RGS are coming to an end, I can only hope that the school chess players continue to make excellent progress.

Alexander Niedzwiedski 13SB

## Debating Society

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Following its creation but a term ago, the Debating Society has gone from strength to strength. After informal discussion sessions under the guidance of Dr Ling, formal speeches have been made on topics as wide-ranging as smoking, ID cards, homosexual marriages, cultural identity, the role of America and the place of religion in the world today.

The society has relied much on the willingness and political astuteness (to some extent!) of the speakers to research the various topics, many of whom have braved indignation and the wrath of their peers – particularly in the advocating of gay marriages! It is also indebted to the participation of the audience, whose questions and comments have provoked much thought.

The society is open to all. Indeed, any proposals for motions will be welcomed, however obscure! The society meets on Wednesdays in the Upper Library (for the formal speeches) or in Room 20, now to be overseen by Mr Keysell.

In closing, I would like to thank Dr Ling and Mr Keysell for their tireless preparation, to the many acting chairmen, and to all teachers who have given up their lunch-hours to contribute.

Douglas James 11R

## Arts' Week

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In order to mark more fully the opening of the Music facility in October, it was decided to dedicate a whole week to a celebration of the Arts in all forms practised in the Royal Grammar School.

Consequently for a whole week, from Monday 20 October to Friday 24 October, the school hosted a series of events which went some way to show the great diversity of talent within the school. Each day in assembly we were treated to original works and tested classics from musicians from all levels of the school, followed by several daily events.

Monday was marked as Art Day with exhibitions of work in the Queen's Hall and the newly extended foyer area beneath the Queen's Hall. The theme of the day was Art, Nature and Place, a theme actively explored by the Art department and children from Hamilton School during the day, whilst the evening was set aside for more practical workshops and a public exhibition of pupils' work.

Tuesday was a complete departure from anything witnessed before at the Royal Grammar School. At eleven o'clock the emptied quadrangle was thrown open for a "showcase of talent" when boys were given the freedom to show publicly the diversity of their interests and talents not necessarily a normal part of school curriculum. It was a risk but turned out to be a spectacular success with over 40 separate acts ranging from rock groups to WWF wrestling, from poi (fire juggling) to stand-up comedy, from magic to unicycling. There was a tremendous atmosphere throughout the special hour and many asked for the event to be repeated at a future date.

On Tuesday evening in spite of the chilling October weather the quadrangle lawn was the setting for a dramatic presentation of Peter Terson's *Zigger Zagger* by the Year 9 Drama Club. A short and vigorous production meant that the audience was happily seated in the marquee and thanks to hot mulled wine and several patio heaters the evening was regarded as an unqualified success.

The Music department came into its own territory on Wednesday with the Autumn Recital in the Queen's Hall. An evening of ensemble and solo pieces ensured that the audience was treated to the very best of the school's musical talent. For the official opening of the Royal Bank of Scotland Music Facility on Thursday 23 October we were privileged to welcome Old Boy and famous rock musician, Howard Jones. He was delighted to see the changes and new technology in the music suite and promised to return to the school at a later date with an accompanist to give a concert.

The culmination of the evening was a Music Concert in the Queen's Hall with many diverse items, ending with a



A 'showcase of talent': the Quad on 21 October 2003

magnificent rendition of *Zadok the Priest* in which the school choir was joined by members of the Parents' Choir and members of the High Wycombe Music Centre.

The Arts' Week came to a successful but somewhat exhausted conclusion on the Friday when a master class for brass workshop was held in the Queen's Hall by Crispian Steele Perkins for RGS pupils and for interested pupils from our neighbouring schools.

P.G.C.



The cemetery at the Railway Dug-out, June 2003

## French/History Trip

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This trip takes place each year in June and because of the timing rarely has a report in the *Wycombiensian*. It is, in fact, the largest organised trip the school puts on. It involves about 160 Year 9 boys travelling in four coaches to Armentieres where they are housed, in pairs, with French families for five days. For three of those days they follow a well trodden path to major battle sites around Ypres and in the Somme area. Suddenly the names of battles, so far seen on film or identified on a map, come to life: Vimy Ridge, Beaumont Hamel, Pozieres, the Ypres Salient and many others. A poignant visit to the grave of VC winner and Old Boy Frederick Youens brings the whole experience back to the RGS. The enormity of the human cost on both sides is overwhelmingly apparent at the numerous cemeteries and monuments to the fallen, all beautifully maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. But the history does not dominate. For the other two days (le 'weekend') they are with their families and get the French language and culture 'down them'. It is, in many respects, a perfect trip, a balance between history and language, a group experience but also an individual challenge, a chance to rise to new social challenges as well as reinforce school friendships. The level of learning is enormously high and the educational focus has a direct relevance to both subject areas at Key Stage 3 and 4. Years later pupils remember with pleasure their five intensive days in France and prominently quote it in their UCAS applications.

As the deadline for this year's *Wycombiensian* contributions approaches the arrangements for the 2004 trip are well advanced; the gang of teachers assembled, the four coaches booked, the briefing meeting arranged...

J.R.

## BAE Systems Summer School 2003

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Last summer, five members of the A Level German set followed up their weekly video-conferences with BAE Systems Germany by visiting the company's headquarters in Munich. For ten days, the group was shown the sights of Bavaria and Austria, including the Olympic Stadium and EADS, Manching, home to the Eurofighter.

Our trip to Munich was a once in a lifetime experience and one that the group will always remember. We were given the chance to visit the incredible city of Munich and there really is no better way to learn a language than by actually being there. We also met an amazing group of people from whom good friends have been made.

The programme included visits to two schools to take part in discussions with the pupils about issues studied during our A Level course, a day in the BAE offices, several afternoons spent in beer gardens, and even a day seeing the sights that Austria has to offer.

Ten days spent immersed in German culture have greatly improved our knowledge of the German language and society, and we would recommend the trip to future German students. Special thanks must go to Peter, Madeleine, Petra and Christine at BAE Systems, without whom the trip would not have been possible, and also to Mr Crease for organising the video-conferences to Munich at the school end.

James Seward 13LY and Andrew Davey 13LY



*The BAE summer school in Munich*

## Young Enterprise

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Young Enterprise has had a reasonable year with a number of unusual projects taking place. Again, over 40 pupils have taken part and learnt a great deal from their advisers, despite a few problems.

121, who hoped to do tuition for the eleven plus, decided against this, as it was too politically sensitive. However they did win the award for corporate image at the Wycombe Trade Fair held in March and for this should be congratulated.

Elysium and Echelon dealt mainly with organising events ranging from a wrestling match to a battle of DJs and an evening of speed dating at a restaurant in Wycombe. Both groups acquitted themselves very well at the Trade Fair and have made reasonable profits, which they are now dividing up amongst their shareholders.

The boys recently sat the Young Enterprise exam and we look forward to matching the number of distinctions and credits achieved by last year's groups.

L.E.T.

## Year 10 Geography Field Trip

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From 9 to 12 May 2003, nearly 100 Year 10 pupils spent their time in and around Osmington Bay in Dorset, studying both physical and human geography.

After a lengthy journey by coach we arrived at Osmington Bay Activity and Field Studies Centre where the boys were welcomed and shown to their rooms. An induction lesson followed a bit of free time, where the weekend's activities were explained to everyone.

At a bright and early 7.30 wake up, our first excursion was ready to begin. We spent the day studying the River Bride, specifically 10 sites from the source to the mouth representing changes in the river. The source is in the grounds of the Brideshead Estate, which inspired Evelyn Waugh to write his novel *Brideshead Revisited*. The area where the river met the sea was spectacular. When the tired boys arrived back at the Centre, the results were written up and various graphs were drawn. We then played football and aero ball – basketball for four on a trampoline inside a large cylinder.

The following day was spent in Swanage. We first studied coastal defences and how Swanage town has dealt with the threat from the sea. We then studied tourism and its effects on the town. Land use surveys and questionnaire surveys were carried out. £26 million has been spent on a state of the art sewage treatment plant making the sea cleaner for swimmers, divers, sailors, and jet skiers. Our results for the day were reinforced whilst doing activities, for example, role plays on the management of the town.

After another good night's sleep, we set off on our final trip of the weekend. Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door are highlights along a beautiful stretch of coastline that has World Heritage status. This proved to be a great end to a great few days, and after saying our goodbyes, we left for the RGS, to do more work! Thanks to all the staff for organising and joining us on the field trip.

Richard Pyke 11B



*Neil Cottrell and Richard Pyke measuring the width of the River Bride, May 2003*

## Belize 2004

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On 31 March 2004 a group of 16 pupils from the RGS/ Misbourne Sixth Form embarked on their Biology field trip of a lifetime to Belize.

On arrival we were greeted by the 40°C midday heat of Belize and our legendary guide, Joe. Travelling in a classic "Simpson's" style yellow school bus, we set off for the Tropical Education Centre, our home for the next 3 nights. Here we acclimatised and apprehensively sampled our first

Belizean cuisine. We visited the Belize zoo, where Jamie Clayton experienced first hand the projectile dangers of a tapir. We spent an exciting day at a howler monkey reserve, experiencing their Jurassic territorial 'howl' and being lucky enough to feed them.

Our home for the next two nights was the Cockscomb Basin, the world's only jaguar reserve. En route we 'grabbed some tubes' and rubber-ringed it through the caves and down the rapids of the Cave Branch River. The Cockscomb Basin was an idyllic setting in the rainforest offering fairly basic facilities (yes, a non-flushable toilet!). We trekked to the top of Ben's Bluff, a mountain with stunning views, and in the afternoon had a choice of trails to explore. The majority chose the sensible 1 - 2 miles trails, one of which led to the Tiger Fern waterfall, voted the greatest site on the trip. However our group extremists, Action Man (Michael McEvoy), Casper (Jamie Clayton) and Hawk (Michael Hoy) tackled the 9 mile over-night hike to the peak of Mount Outlier. The trio returned 5 hours later, having conquered their task, dehydrated but proud of their achievement.

Reluctantly we left the Cockscomb Basin for Martz Farm, a clearing in the forest ringed by tree houses. The company, food and the stunning trek up river made the Martz Farm experience the most unforgettable part of the trip. This was also the setting for our 30-foot rock jump which, due to encouragement and team spirit, we all completed. Here we saw at first hand the beautiful Macal River valley and the wildlife threatened by a Canadian-funded dam project. All of us forged a close relationship with Joe Martinez, his family and poetry(!) and were sorry to leave for the Mayan ruins at Xunantunich the next morning.

For our last day on the mainland we were treated to a mouth watering meal in the air conditioned luxury of the Radisson hotel by Lord Ashcroft, an RGS Old Boy. During the meal Emery King gave us an insight into the history of Belize. From here we took a speedboat to our final destination, Calabash Caye. On this island paradise, we snorkelled twice a day, exploring coral reef and mangrove ecology, seeing nurse sharks, sting rays, barracudas and a loggerhead turtle.

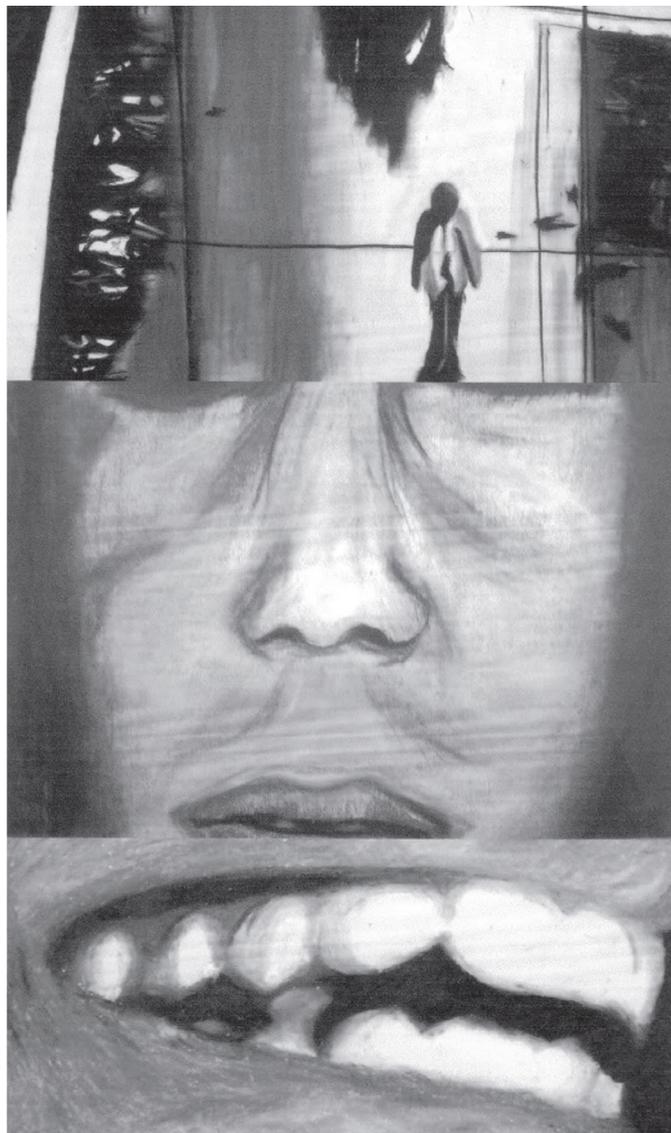
We presented Joe with our benevolent fund collection to help his son Rowan, who is blind.

Our final evening was danced away to the rhythms of African drumming. Without a doubt each pupil was overwhelmed by what he/she experienced and our thanks go to Ezzo (Mr Wolton) and Higsy (Miss Higley) for their time and effort throughout the trip.

David Pearce 13EL and Thomas Davies 13LY



*Art weekend  
Year 12  
Somerset 2003*



*Robert Simpson  
Year 13  
Work in progress*

## Animé Club

For the first time at RGS, the Animé Club was formed, and with it came mixed opinions. Some embraced the opportunity with open minds, others with different attitudes (bakas). Despite the clash of views, I know any light-hearted child, teenager or adult enjoys watching Japanese cartoons (there's an Animé Society at Oxford University with 50:50 ratio of girls to boys), but everyone is entitled to their own opinion.

We exist to bring people the opportunity of watching a selection of animé films/series and to learn the drawing techniques required to distinguish it from other cartoon styles. It takes place on a weekly basis every Thursday lunchtime at 1:35 in L1 (thanks Mr Villatoro!) and all year groups are welcome.

So far, we have absorbed the contents of Monster City, Gatekeepers 21 and Gundam Wing (movies), and we are currently viewing "experimental quack animé" Excel Saga (series) which is guaranteed to make you smile at the very least due to its spoof format, taking silliness and cheesiness (I really do stress the cheese) to the extreme.

It's all good fun and everyone's invited to check it out.

Andrew Wong 12BS

## Music Report

The year from April 2003 has, without any shadow of doubt, been the most eventful and dramatic in the ten years I have had the good fortune to lead the music at RGS. By far the most far reaching event of the year was the construction of a new Music Centre, converting the old Staff Room and Economics classrooms (and former headmasters' study!) into a well-equipped department of two major teaching/rehearsing rooms, a music technology centre with twelve computer stations, two recording studios, a percussion room, an ensemble rehearsal room, five other smaller individual teaching rooms for the peripatetic teaching staff, decent loos and a small kitchen, and vast numbers of purpose-built racks and a store room to house all the instruments. The Music Centre was officially opened in October by Howard Jones, famous rock musician and OW, before an invited audience of all those who have given so generously to the fund-raising project of 2003–04. The assembled company were then invited to stay for a spectacular opening concert, featuring many of the school's major groups and climaxing with a rousing performance of Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, in which the school choir was joined by the Parents' Choir and the High Wycombe Music Centre Youth Choir – I'm told the first choir entry really did pass the tingle factor test! During the concert's interval, the audience were invited to wander around the new Music Centre, where they were able to see the various rooms in action, including an Indian drumming exhibition by the talented Ghalley brothers.



*The First Wind Band preparing for their appearance at the National Festival of Music for Youth on the South Bank, London, in July 2003.*

*Photograph: courtesy of the Bucks Free Press*

This would all have been exciting enough for one year, but the excitement has been ever-present this year. In July, two of the school's groups were selected to go through to the National Festival of Music for Youth at the South Bank in London, with the First Wind Band appearing at the Festival Hall and the Close Harmony Singing Group singing in the Queen Elizabeth Hall – the first week in July was ridiculously busy for some of the boys in these groups, since they were also in the *Sound of Music* at the High School, and in our Open Air Gala Concert at the end of the week! One boy said he was in 25 musical events in 10 days! With some of our groups reaching the heights, it seemed a good time to make another CD, so we recorded the First Wind Band, the Close Harmony Group, and the choir in their performance of Rutter's *Gloria* at the summer concert in May – CDs still available!

The new academic year was dominated by getting ourselves organised in the new department, and getting two

concerts ready for the seventh week of term (we still presented our normal Autumn Recital on the day before the opening ceremony!), which formed the backbone of a memorable RGS Arts' Week. With the usual November Concert and the Carol Service to prepare for, the pace never slackened, even with addition of auditions and rehearsals for the school musical. In the New Year, there appeared to be a little breathing space for a few weeks – until a group of 51 pupils and 4 staff from St Andrew's Scots School in Buenos Aires got in touch through a tour agency, desperate for a place to stay a couple of nights, and give a concert to round off their tour of Britain. The day they wanted to give a concert was the day before our Winter Recital, and we were by now well into rehearsals for *Singin' in the Rain* – but it seemed a shame to say no! So we said yes – and we were so glad we did! The choir and wind and jazz bands were superb, the young people (and their teachers) absolutely delightful, and a truly memorable event was enjoyed by all present. The Argentineans were particularly keen that we should play to them, as well as them to us, so we mobilised our First Wind Band and Close Harmony Group (again!), and shared a truly wonderful evening. The sound of their choir was particularly stunning – a mixed choir of about 36 young people, who made a thrillingly rich sound! They were only with us 48 hours, but the impact they made was extraordinary, and somehow, the excitement of their concert continued into the following evening, when we enjoyed another wonderful evening of music-making by our own pupils.

Finally, the term ended in equally exciting manner with this year's joint musical production with the High School – *Singin' in the Rain*. This must rate as one of the happiest shows ever written, and certainly our production was one of the happiest I have had the pleasure of being involved in. Jonathan Overton and John Bowen delighted us all with a fantastic display of tap-dancing (learnt from scratch in three months!) and quick-fire humour, and they were joined by the sweet charm of Cate Goode as Kathy, and the hilarious comedy of Fiona Hamilton's Lina Lamont – but a fantastic show is the sum of many parts, and everyone on stage, in the orchestra, controlling the sound, the lighting, the props and set deserve credit for a most joyous production.

As ever, my thanks go to all who support the music at RGS, and especially the peripatetic staff, whose work goes largely unseen but is vital to the health of the department, and to my colleague Mr Sampler, whose unfailing good humour and excellent organisation has helped keep the department on an even keel with all this excitement around!

T.P.V.



*Building work in progress on the new Music Centre, 18 July 2003*

## Friends of Music Report

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After a very high profile year last year with the visit of the City of London Sinfonia, the Music Society, or rather the Friends of RGS Music, as it is now to be known, has had a quieter time this year. However, it has not been inactive. We have enjoyed two splendid evenings of top quality professional music. In the autumn, the Salem Trio, a talented chamber ensemble consisting of violin, clarinet and piano, delighted us with the Mozart *Keigelstatt Trio*, among other things. In March, we were wonderfully entertained by the stunning horn playing of Roger Montgomery, one of the principal horns at Covent Garden. Of particular note was his virtuoso display on the natural, or valve-less horn. Everyone who was there felt not just uplifted by the brilliance of the playing, but also enriched by the discovery of fresh avenues of knowledge which they were not even aware existed. What education is all about!

Meanwhile, the Friends have given considerable help on the financial front, helping with the new Music Centre by paying for one of the splendid instrument racks which now adorn the department. They have also enabled the purchase of a xylophone to take place, and made a major contribution to the purchase of a virtually new Yamaha upright piano for one of the new practice rooms. The task ahead for the next few years is to continue the provision of decent pianos for the department, and to upgrade and expand various areas of the percussion department.

May I take this opportunity to thank Ian Duncalf for all his work as Chairman over the last four years, and also to thank Alison Kelleher, who has already put in many hours on the catering front for functions, and has now taken over as Chairman. Thanks go also to every member of the committee, who all contribute in so many ways to the success of music functions at RGS.



*Cameron Clark, Ian Cottam, Michael Mooney, Elliot Irwin, Alexander Bovy, Samuel Cooper, Amir Khan and Khuram Akram making music in the Music Centre*

## Year 9 Drama Club

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The Club performed in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* during the spring term of 2004 in the Arts' Centre. The tale of Scrooge's gradual conversion from a miser to a charitable man was performed with spellbinding integrity by the whole cast, complete with musical accompaniment.

O.C.G.



*Thomas Phillips  
Year 8  
Sculpture*

## Benevolent Fund

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The Benevolent Fund has had another busy year with over £6,500 collected in the first two terms, notable donations being made to Jeans for Genes, School Aid, Agape in India and Shelter.

Many thanks must go to the boys, form teachers and parents for the weekly donations but special mention to Sean Warren for his work as Fund prefect each Wednesday and to form 8S who have given more than any other form in the school.

In recent years the Fund has given over £500 to Wycombe Hospital's Scan Appeal, so it was with great pleasure that I recently attended a reception with the appeal's Patron, Miss Cilla Black OBE. I was accompanied by Thomas Davies and Thomas Ferguson, senior prefects, and two representatives of form 8S, Timothy Stevenson and William Philpott, who met and chatted with Miss Black.

L.W.



*Thomas Ferguson, Thomas Davies, Cilla Black, Timothy Stevenson and William Philpott having a lorra fun*

## Stage Lighting Team

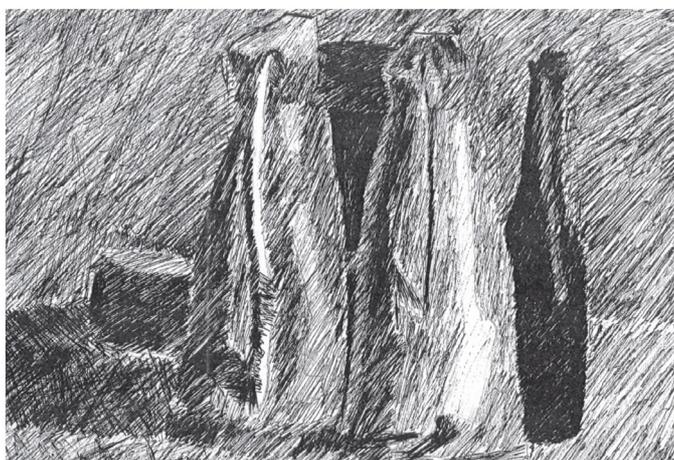
Once again the lighting team has had an eventful year with the highlight being the school musical *Singin' in the Rain*. This production was the most exciting that I've been involved with and posed technical challenges like no show previously attempted at RGS. The efforts and commitment of all involved in rigging and operating helped to stretch the capacity of our system to new levels and in the process we've smashed records. The rig itself contained 76 lanterns (14 more than *West Side Story*) and I ended up reading 303 technical cues per show! *Singin' in the Rain* marked the first time the team has used colour scrollers (which after initial teething problems with a couple doing remarkable impressions of a swarm of angry hornets, proved to be great fun to use and really enhanced our creative potential), a haze machine (which illuminated the light beams magnificently or set off the fire alarm) and a rotating rain effect which subtly suggested the required damp atmosphere (as long as it rotated in the right direction!). This allowed many of us to develop our skills further, learning about the use and control of technical equipment often used in modern professional theatres.

Another event of note was the first 'Lighting Team Trip' to see a magnificent production of *Hot Mikado* with a lighting rig designed and controlled by Old Boy Simon Hicks. Here we received an animated talk on lighting design and a full backstage tour of the theatre.

Throughout the year the team has continued to provide original lighting for numerous events including the Jazz Evening, the Arts' Week concerts and an outdoor drama presentation on the quad lawns. The team also provides invaluable help during school assemblies and I've been increasingly impressed when arriving in school well before assembly to find the Queen's Hall ready for laptop projection!

Special thanks must go to Mr Balaam for the amount of time, energy, biscuits and 'Dandelion and Burdock' drink he somehow manages to find for the team. The results in *Singin' in the Rain* are a fantastic tribute to him. I would also like to thank all the parents for not only giving the team members lifts at unearthly times but also for supplying unbelievable quantities of food!! Finally I wish to thank all the team for the glowing wonders they have repeatedly produced and for their support and commitment throughout the year. It has been a privilege to work with them and I wish them the best in the exciting times ahead!

Alexander Drofiak 13MB



Christopher Finn  
Year 9  
Still life

## Role-Playing Society

This has been yet another interesting year for the Role-Playing Society, and one which has seen an increase in interest. Despite the difficulties presented by the relatively short sessions at lunchtimes, we nevertheless managed to run several parallel 'Dungeons and Dragons' campaigns, some of which have been excellent.

The other main front was the increase in the number of individuals taking part in our activities. Some of these events transcended the perimeters of the school when several of our members took part in a team 'Magic: the Gathering' tournament, in which we were soundly beaten despite some accomplished play by most players.

Thus, to conclude, it has been a pleasing year (despite being my last), and one can only hope that next year such growth will continue.

Jonathan Stock 13HR



Max Ridley  
Year 11  
Mixed media

## Work Experience

Work experience is a valuable part of every RGS pupil's time at school. It offers the chance to gain a real insight into an area of work requiring skills, knowledge and experience, beyond that already encountered. Often work shadowing/experience is crucial in investigating a career involving a high level of responsibility, skill or knowledge. Typical examples would include managers, doctors, vets, engineers or lawyers.

Shadowing can be a stimulating experience, allowing you to reflect on the skills required in a particular job, to improve understanding of business, industry or commerce, and to identify the suitability of a particular career. It is an important inclusion on UCAS forms and *curriculum vitae*.

Present Year 11 and Lower Sixth, you are the target groups for taking this opportunity to broaden your horizons and improve your chances, when applying for further education or jobs. Year 11 may use the summer holiday which stretches before them; others, often the majority, wait until the Lower Sixth when the Education Business Partnership offers a placement service.

Please see the handouts issued to Year 11 before Easter for further details and contact Mrs N.J.G. Catling for any additional information.

N.J.G.C. Work Experience Co-ordinator

## Singin' in the Rain

At the end of March for four nights and an additional matinee performance, the Queen's Hall vibrated to the foot-tapping strains of the glorious musical *Singin' in the Rain*. Once again we were privileged to be joined in our production by the girls of Wycombe High School who added the final delicate touches to this superb production.

This stage musical, perhaps wrongly, will be forever immortalised by Gene Kelly dancing his way through the title song on that rain-washed New York street in the 1940s Hollywood film, and who can forget those famous parodies of Morecambe and Wise and even Paddington Bear! However, the RGS gave them a run for their money with atmospheric 'rain' courtesy of the RGS stage lighting team and convincing sound effects by the sound team, not forgetting the trays of 'real' water for Jonathan Overton to dance through each evening. A magnificent achievement for all concerned!

The story is a classic tale of chorus girl makes it to "the top" with a fair scattering of setbacks on the way. The location is Hollywood and New York at the start of the 'talkies' era, an era wonderfully evoked by appropriate art deco sets (Rob Stevens), props (Diana Hazzard) and a triumph of authentic costuming by Mrs Sally Finn and Mrs Mary Webb.

The almost faultless cast allowed their enthusiasm to work overtime and their enjoyment of the production was apparent from the opening chords to the final dying of the rapturous applause. Special mention must be made of several individuals – as Lina, the acerbic 'prima donna' of the silver screen, Fiona Hamilton was superb and utterly convincing as the starlet who glittered until she opened her mouth to sing! Yet for me, one of the most moving moments in the evening was her rendition of *What's wrong with me* in the second act. A triumph, Fiona!

The star of the show is, of course, Don Lockwood, stylishly and energetically undertaken by Jonathan Overton, well known for his singing expertise but his tap dancing prowess amazed everyone. Jonathan was rarely off stage in this production but in spite of the rigours gave a flawless performance each night.

As his side kick, Cosmo Brown, John Bowen was perfect for the role, the energetic cheeky chappie with a heart of gold. I watched in awe as John flung himself and contorted around the stage in *Make 'em laugh*; he was equally versatile in *Moses Supposes*, *Good Morning* and *Broadway Melody*. I look forward to John's next acting performance with eager anticipation.

Cate Goode was delightful as Kathy Seldon, the vivacious chorus girl who speaks her mind, but in true Hollywood tradition makes it to the top by her own efforts and gets her man at the end of it all! Cate endeared herself to Don and to the audience alike with her faultless acting and her perky enthusiasm throughout.

Special moments in this musical were numerous. Who can forget the onstage showing of the première of the silent movie *The Royal Rascal* in which our stars were joined by what seemed to be a contingent from the Staff Revue against the background of a very familiar French chateau? The dance numbers were stunning and the innovative and energetic choreography of Pat Joy who has previously worked on our productions of *Crazy for You* and *West Side Story* once again came up trumps – this year assisted by a High School Sixth Former, Ashley Sand, they provided us with a visual feast of dancing styles which could easily have graced a West End stage.

The young soubrettes in *All I can do is dream of you* and the Busby Berkeley elegance of *Broadway Melody* were total showstoppers.

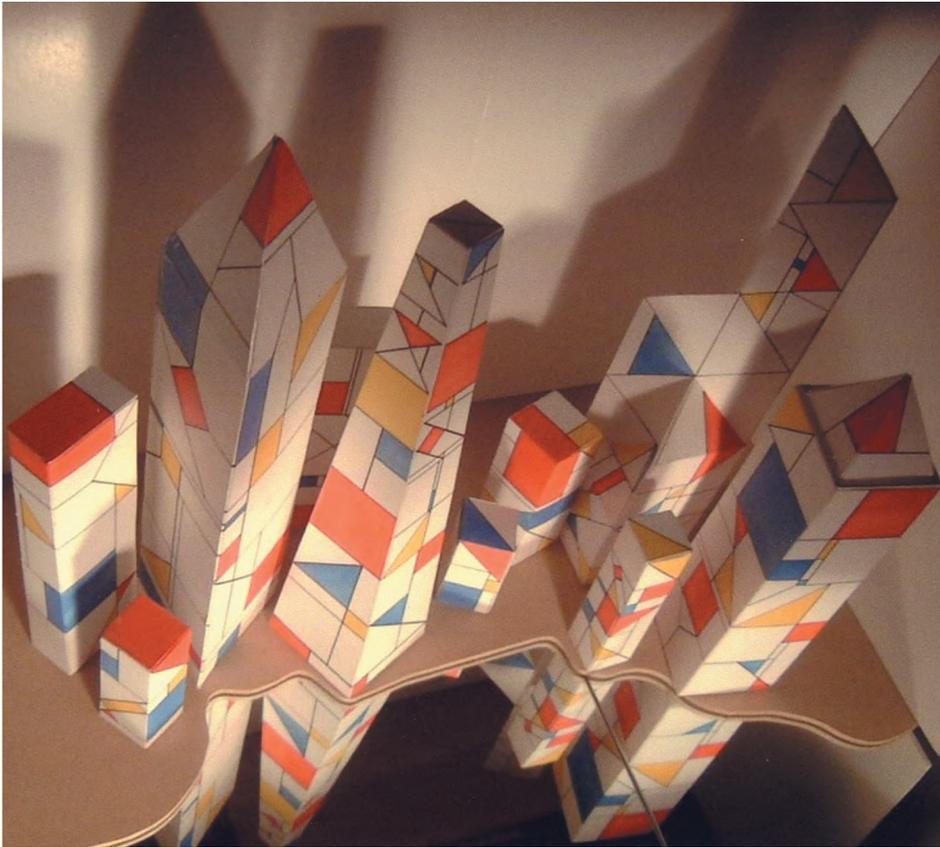
Tim Vennell's musical direction as ever was precise and as fluid as required, whether it was raising the roof with foot-stomping, sing-along numbers or filling in to cover longer than usual scene changes. He and his 30+ musicians provided the icing on a very fine cake.

Final praise must go to Oliver Godfrey, the producer/director of the show who expertly and with complete aplomb brought the whole production together. This sadly will be Oliver's final production as he leaves us at the end of term for pastures new. We thank you sincerely Oliver, not only for this triumphant production but for the many other plays and studio productions that you have given to us in your five years in the Drama department – you will be missed.

P.G.C.



*Everybody is Singin' in the Rain!*



*Nicholas Haynes  
Year 11  
"Urban scape" painted card construction*



*Year 8  
Natural form structures*



*Stuart Cuss  
Year 12  
Aluminium and light relief sculpture*



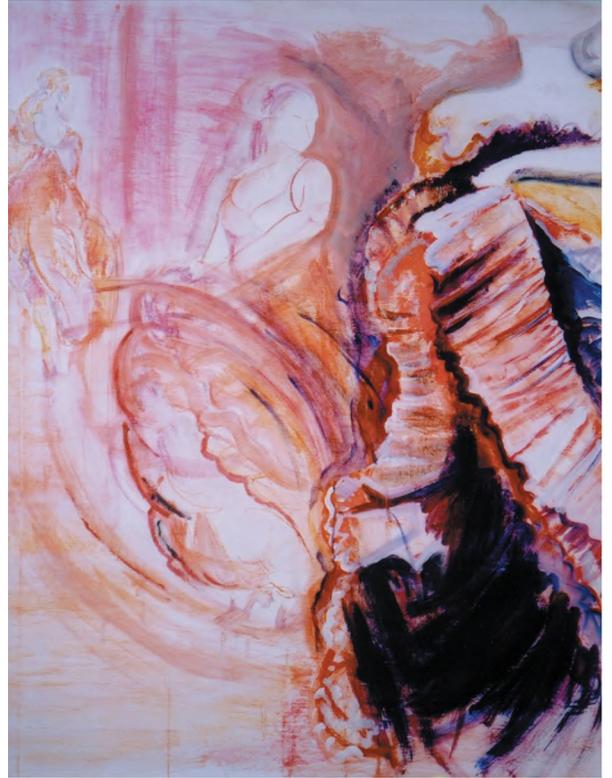
*Alexander Hawes  
Year 11  
Painting*



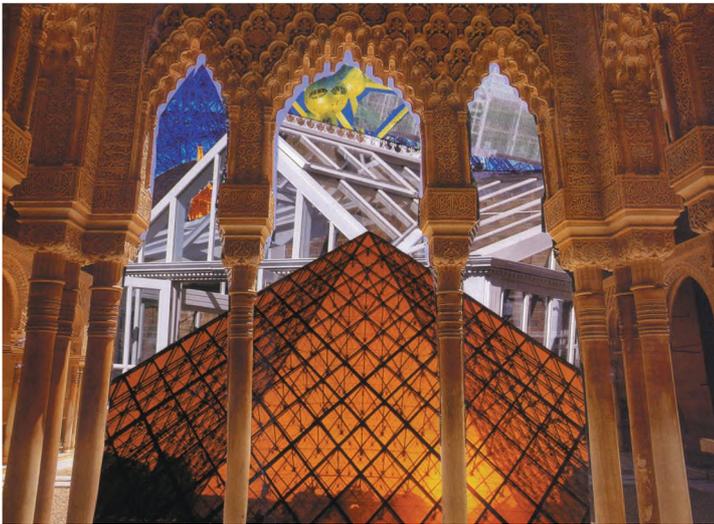
*Thomas Sprigge  
Year 13  
Acrylic on canvas*



*George Thompson  
Year 11  
"the architecture of interior spaces"*



*Cameron Law  
Year 11  
Painting*



*Thomas Winsor  
Year 7  
Photo-montage*



*Alexander Johnstone  
Year 11  
Natural forms, cement block*



*Hayden Devlin  
Year 13  
Work in progress*

## Lower Sixth Geography Field Trip

Thirty-two pupils set off in February for five days of enjoyable and informative Geography fieldwork.

On Exmoor we went to the source of the River Lyn to do some hydrology, carrying all sorts of measuring equipment – this was done in a particularly beautiful area of Devon.

The Halsannery Field Centre, where we were staying, is a converted manor house with classrooms, bedrooms, a kitchen, a pool table, lounge area with TV, internet access, a dining area and approximately 50 acres of surrounding land which pupils can roam free in. We were very impressed and to top everything off the food was above average as well! All of it was homemade and it made a good end to every day.

We studied coastal processes and management on Friday and sand dune succession on the Sunday – with human geography and bowling thrown in on the Saturday! Westward Ho! was the location for the coastal processes, Braunton Burrows for the sand dunes, and the busy shopping town of Barnstaple for the human geography. Each of these 3 days was extremely interesting and equally fun to take part in – it really is an incredible place to be with your friends doing Geography fieldwork.

The trip was an educational one and, obviously, it was not a holiday. However, the information you will obtain from it, if you go, is incredibly valuable; not only for the A2 coursework (almost impossible to do unless you go on this trip) but also for the final exam. You will gain a lot of background information and the excellent teaching will help anyone understand better most parts of the A Level course. The price is good value for money as well so if you are doing A Level Geography then make sure you sign up to go on the field trip to Halsannery!

Christopher Willey 12GA and Daniel Wicks 12GD



*Adam Daniels and Sean McIlhone adding up all the pebbles at Westward Ho! beach*

## Photography Club

The Photography Club is run by Mr Willmot on Tuesday afternoons and is attended by a wavering group of participants. All of them are interested in photography for various reasons, whether because it is useful for art or just as a hobby. An interesting experience is always had amidst the developing and printing processes and the enjoyable range of radio stations High Wycombe has to offer.

James Moore 12HK, Andrew Jones 12CS, Stuart Cuss 12MB



*James Walton, Nicholas Haynes and James Cleaver have the world at their finger tips*

## Geography Worldwide Quiz

After the RGS' brilliant performance in the regional heats of the competition, the team travelled to Perse School, Cambridge, for the South of England Finals in late February.

The competition was formatted in to a number of rounds, each testing a different area of geographical knowledge. After a poor start, and some very harsh questions in the first two rounds, the RGS finished last. However, after a storming 3rd round, testing knowledge on rivers, the RGS came back into contention. After two more rounds the RGS attained second position, which they held for the rest of the quiz, beaten only by Spalding Grammar School from Lincolnshire.

This result is an outstanding achievement for all the RGS team comprising Nicholas Haynes, James Cleaver and James Walton, all in Year 11. Unfortunately, the same team cannot compete next year due to age restrictions. Nevertheless, this excellent result has gained a lot of praise throughout the Geography department at RGS! The regional heats for next year's competition will be held at the RGS, in the winter term, in light of the result.

Nicholas Haynes 11RS



*Linda Whalley  
Porlock, Somerset, September 2003*

## Rugby

### 1st XV

A roller coaster ride of a season, finishing with some exceptional rugby at both sevens and tens. However, this squad of players will know that they failed to realize their potential.

The season started with several key players missing and this theme continued for six months; in fact the team that I would have selected as my first choice XV never played together due to injuries. We started with a defeat at John Fisher, who were outstanding; we regrouped with a spirited performance against Millfield but despite leading 9–3 at half-time we ran out of steam; and at Harrow we were poor and managed to throw away what should have been a convincing win. The boys did however comfortably beat Bedford School before travelling to Colston's. We simply did not compete in the first half and to be fair to the boys Colston's were outstanding and are comfortably the best schoolboy team in England. The first half-term finished with a new fixture against Brighton College, who scored a drop goal in the last minute to beat us. The match will be remembered for one of the biggest tackles of the season in which Alexander Groom injured two Brighton players.

Half-term saw the St Joseph's festival, and we travelled to Ipswich with a very young squad who did well to qualify on the first day, beating Glantaf who went on to win the plate. The second day injuries and a lack of confidence led to a very difficult day against the likes of Blackrock College, Millfield and Colston's.

Returning from Ipswich, victories against Berkhamsted and Forest School 49–11 in the cup set up a tie against Jonny Wilkinson's old school Lord Wandsworth, the game ending 17–17 with RGS scoring twice in the last ten minutes to go through on try count. We then travelled to Bromsgrove and a week later to Uppingham without the services of the first choice second rows. Two narrow defeats were testament to the conviction of many young players making their 1st XV *débuts*. Whitgift came next and with eight players still missing it looked like another defeat was on the cards; however an excellent defensive display saw RGS win 9–6 and then follow this up with a 38–0 win over Bedford Modern.

The fifth round of the *Daily Mail* saw the team travel to play against the new Bristol rugby academy, Filton College. In a bruising encounter RGS gained a 14–14 draw and went through as the away team. Just before Christmas the seniors hosted King's School, Paramatta, one of Australia's strongest rugby schools, and in what was to be our best performance of the season RGS ran out victors 27–23.

After a three week break and with several players now fit the team truly believed that we could reach the quarter finals of the *Daily Mail* cup. However a narrow win against Tiffin was followed by a poor performance at Reading where we lost 19–16 despite outscoring the opposition two tries to one.

I think that injuries played a huge part in a disappointing season where only glimpses of the side's true ability were shown. It is however not just ability that makes rugby teams but commitment and passion. The season however finished in style with the Senior Seven winning their first tournament in five years, beating Wellington College to take the Windsor Sevens. This was followed up by a creditable performance at Sedbergh Super Tens, only losing one match in two gruelling

days with a very young side.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those senior players I worked with this season, even if so many of them missed games due to injury. Julian Allfrey showed flashes of brilliance and has worked hard on his game for several years. He deserves his England U18 cap. James Honeyben was truly inspirational as captain and led by example: he was never second best and his England selection was no surprise. We wish him well at Wasps next season. Simon Tattersall led the team well in James's absence and if it were not for a season disrupted by injury, who knows? I look forward to our tour to South Africa and truly believe that next season the side will do well with so many having already experienced 1st XV rugby.

J.I.S.

### 2nd XV

The hard grounds early in the season saw the 2nd XV open their account with wins over John Fisher and Millfield, both games dominated by open, running rugby. Millfield in particular was a hard fought victory, with the lead changing hands several times before Tom Young clinched the win with an injury time penalty, RGS winning by a single point. The team again showed good spirit at Harrow, Callum Wilkinson diving over for a try in the dying seconds of the match to level the scores. Two defeats followed at the hands of, rather disappointingly, Bedford and, rather unsurprisingly, Colston's, who fielded three internationals in their second string side!



*Plaster sculpture  
Year 10  
"Natural and constructed form"*

Considerable effort was invested in improving the squad's defensive capabilities, and the hard work was rewarded with four consecutive victories. The win away at Bromsgrove was particularly pleasing against a well-drilled and tenacious opposition. The run-up to Christmas saw the team lose its focus somewhat, with the World Cup Final and the weather proving to be contributory factors in losses against Uppingham and Whitgift respectively.

The team responded well though, and finished the season with three more wins. A 65–0 demolition of Bedford Modern preceded two tough games against Tiffin and Hampton; in both cases RGS clawed back a half-time deficit to end up as worthy victors.

Notable performances came from a variety of positions. In the pack Thomas Collins outpaced the entire John Fisher defence in the opening game of the season and galloped into a first team shirt. Richard Lees rarely took a backward step whilst scrimmaging, and Michael McEvoy, Andrew Brodie and Samuel Rogers proved to be a constant menace in the loose. Next year the team will miss the thundering charges of Luke Varley and Christopher Fletcher, who often got the ball moving forward despite the attention of several opposition players. Brian Conway's and Jonathon Cooper's spatial awareness led to them gaining many yards in open play but only after David Lloyd-Williams and Sean Warren had won good ball from the lineout.

Behind the scrum Nicholas Williams and Harry Bugden finished clinically from the wings. Luc Mastebroek, Robert

Noble and Thomas Davies were strong with the ball in hand, and even stronger when it came to removing the opposition from their feet! Tom Young and Philip Kelleher excelled as a midfield partnership, both receiving deserved call-ups to the first team squad at the end of the season. Finally I must thank the captain, Imran Dharamsi, who led by example at all times, refusing to take defeat lying down. I look forward to a significant contribution from all the 2nd XV players who are touring to South Africa in the summer.

A.J.S.

## 3rd XV

**Played 9 Won 5 Drawn 1 Lost 3**

The hard dry pitches at the end of the summer suited the 3rd XV and, adopting their usual tactic from last season of setting out to win the fixture in the first 20 minutes, they had a clean sweep of matches up to half-term. Included in the early set of matches was a revenge home win against Colston's, who had beaten us on their ground last season.

Settling rapidly together as a team, the squad saw a number of seasoned players continuing where they left off in the previous season, as well as many new faces making their mark in senior rugby. Most of the better players from last season's team played once or twice this year, but then were promoted into the 2nd XV and even the 1st XV. Among those who made the move up were Sean Warren and Luc Mastebroek.

There was a welcome back to rugby for Peter Brown this year. His favourite play, of charging forward as far as he could, then kicking and following the ball up to make the try, won the match for us on three occasions this season.

After half-term, the wetter weather had softened the ground, and the team struggled to find their earlier form. Away from home, they tried hard to hold their own against strong teams at Bromsgrove and Uppingham. The team were as determined as ever to win and returned to their earlier winning form with a decisive victory over Whitgift at the end of the autumn term. Fixtures were hard to find after Christmas, but there were two games in the spring term. An away match was staged at Burnham Grammar, against their 1st XV. The Thirds did well under the leadership of Luke Varley to hold the opponents to a 7–12 defeat. The return journey to RGS was spectacular as the minibus was caught in the heavy snowfall that brought most of southern Buckinghamshire to a virtual standstill. Samuel Rogers will also remember that game as he went off with concussion, and lost the keys to the Burnham changing room. Later in the term, nearly at the end of the season, we turned out to host the John Colet 1st XV, which we held to a 7–7 draw.

Even the 3rd XV had their share of injuries this year, resulting in both Colby Short and Daniel Ward from the U16 squad making their senior *débuts* with the 3rd XV. Many of the team will have a chance to try out for the 1st and 2nd XV's next year.

Notable performances this year came from: Vikram Bains and Andrew Rajkumar in the front row; Thomas Kilpatrick and Rishi Sehgal, locks; Edward Gamester and Luke Varley, flankers; Peter Neill and Michael McGonigle who shared the honours as scrum-half; Joseph Whiteaker who had an outstanding season as outside half, and kicked most of the goals; Iain Littlemore worked well as centre, as did Peter Brown and Andrew Malliff; and Philip Tooke maintained last year's performances on the wing, where he was joined this year by newcomer Joseph Barber.

R.I.S.



*Plaster sculpture  
Year 10  
"Natural and constructed form"*

## U16 XV

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This year was a highly successful one for the team. As the season developed so did the determination, focus and grit of the squad. Having narrowly lost three matches out of the first five (Millfield 15–31, Harrow 0–3 and Colston’s 6–10), the team only lost one other fixture and that was against touring side Sedburgh (14–23). Notable victories were scored against Whitgift (last year’s *Daily Mail* winners), Uppingham, Bromsgrove and, most satisfyingly away, Wellington. This match took place following the England–South Africa World Cup game, and having been thoroughly well entertained by the Wellington boys and staff, the team then proceeded to score a last minute try on the 1st XV pitch to clinch the game 22–19. It was a pattern that was to be repeated in the latter part of the season. It was really from this game that the team started to gel and play as a unit. Number 8 James Turner had been “called-up” to the 1st XV with Adam Francis taking his place. This meant that the pack, whilst not being small, was based on speed backed up by a tenacious and skilful back row of Colin Hudson, Richard Pyke and Christopher Johnstone. The backs were tremendous all year with Jamie Blackie and Edward Dickson running straight lines for the wings and full back. The area which saw the most improvement, however, was the development of trust, understanding and mutual confidence at half-back between captain André Kübler at scrum-half and Douglas James at fly-half. These two players really shaped the way which the team played. This team tenacity, heart and “Never say die” attitude, was best highlighted at the RGS Guildford 7s.

Having won through to the final, beating the hosts by 30 points in the semi-final, RGS found themselves 19–0 down in the final at half-time against the “Auld enemy” Wellington. In a remarkable second half RGS scored 24 unanswered points in seven minutes to win the championship. It was without doubt the best moment of my rugby coaching career at RGS and one which will never be forgotten.

This has been a fantastic bunch of players to work with and I look forward to hearing great things of them in South Africa, next season, and in their future rugby careers. Well done to James Turner and André Kübler who both represented the England President’s XV, a huge honour. My last thanks must be to André Kübler who has had a great season as captain, earning the players’ respect as well as mine. If all of these players build on this in South Africa then they will acquit themselves nobly. Good luck.

W.M.P.

## U15 XV

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**‘A’ XV Played 19 Won 16 Drawn 2 Lost 1 For 621 Against 127**  
**‘B’ XV Played 12 Won 11 Lost 1 For 340 Against 53**  
**‘C’ XV Played 4 Won 2 Lost 2 For 94 Against 63**

The U15s returned this year to the coach they had had as U13s. The season started with one of the toughest games of the season vs John Fisher, a game that in the last few years had only left one try between the sides. This year was no different with RGS winning 24–19.



*One minute after the final whistle at RGS Guildford 7s*

The season continued in amazing fashion, the team demolishing Millfield 22–0, and beating rivals Whitgift 17–12. By the beginning of December the team remained unbeaten and in the 5th round of the *Daily Mail*. Unfortunately it was in this round that the U15s lost their only game of the season 12–10 to Wellington.

Once again the team showed their resilience and picked themselves up to continue the season without defeat, culminating in a 19–0 win over QEGS, Wakefield, who were *Daily Mail* quarter-finalists this year.

Congratulations must go to the whole team on a very successful season, especially Robert Record and Seamus McKimm for their leadership, Edward Kelleher and the backs for their skill and creativity, plus Frederick Stockwell, James Young and the other forwards for their hard graft and effort supplying the possession for the backs.

The 'B' XV, captained ably by Thomas Lees Fitzgibbon, had a very successful season. They took every game seriously, loved scoring lots of tries, hated conceding any, and lost only the one match against Wellington. The most improved player was Florian Dechanet; the best forward was Jamie Power; and the best back was Christopher Mason.

I.R.G.

## U14 XV

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**'A' XV Played 15 Won 12 Drawn 0 Lost 3 For 489 Against 172**

**'B' XV Played 10 Won 9 Drawn 0 Lost 1 For 315 Against 82**

**'C' XV Played 5 Won 2 Drawn 1 Lost 2**

This has been an immensely successful season for the whole squad with some thoroughly enjoyable victories and two pieces of silverware to add to the trophy cabinet. The U14 sides are overflowing with talent, strength and commitment.

Mr Ashby's 'C' team has had one of the most successful seasons for a while, facing a tough fixture list of top public schools. The likes of Alexander Giles and Benjamin Murphy have made training a priority and have developed into quality rugby players. James Corley has been powerful in the forwards and Oliver Cottam elusive in the backs.

The 'B' team has had an enormously successful season under the careful guidance of their coach Mr Pearson. They have at times played champagne rugby with backs Michael Sanderson, Nicholas Aris and John Spicer combining to produce some devastating tries. The forwards have developed a well-organised defensive system and benefited from the pace of James Hill and the reliable Benjamin Murray. This side has spirit and tenacity. They have the ability to grind out tough victories as well as engineer spectacular drop goals. Well done for their hard work during the season.

The 'A' team notched up memorable victories against top rugby schools Colston's, Brighton College, QEGS, as well as avenging last season's defeats against John Fisher and Whitgift. They were, however, caught daydreaming by Harrow and Sedburgh in the two after-school fixtures. It's fair to say that the side began the year playing forward-dominated rugby and has finished playing as a fifteen-man team. Credit must go to all the players who have tolerated Mr Toller's experimental approach to team selection. Their sevens and tens tournament performances at Sherborne, Bradford and Queen Elizabeth, Barnet, were outstanding. To win 17 games out of 18 in just eight days against top sides from all around the country shows the standard of rugby that has been reached. Memories of the year include: Sebastian McDonald's hits when angry, Antony Silvey's whirlwind drives, Alexander Americanos' winning tries, Jack Whitehouse's impressions of Forrest Gump, Matthew Nally's boshing, Thomas Fryer with a yard of space, and the

oppositions' faces when Peter Elder catches the ball from the kick-off. Thanks go to my fellow coaches for their dedication and support. We wish the squad all the best for the next season.

P.S.T.

## U13 XV

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The season started well with a comfortable 35–0 win over John Fisher. However, this bright start was not built on. The following six games read won three, lost three. Although the team hadn't been playing well, certain individuals had been outstanding. Captain Benjamin Newberry led by example with some crunching tackles in the centre. His centre partner James Rogers was equally destructive in defence and made some powerful breaks. The real match winner though has been Christian Wade on the wing. He made and scored several tries with his pace and elusiveness. Christian has the magical ability to create something out of nothing. Without these three players the team would have struggled further in these games.

After half-term, with some minor personnel and positional changes, the hard work in training really began to pay dividends in matches. The team won every match thereon until the very last game. These wins included a 65–0 thrashing of Bromsgrove with William Collier, Joel Catterall and Jonathan Lai in fine form. Everyone in the squad had really raised their game since the early games. People began to take responsibility on the pitch rather than rely on others. Simon Mason grew in to the scrum-half role with increasing maturity. Lloyd Peters was controlling the backs well at



*Nicholas Fischer  
Year 11  
Painting*

fly-half with some sublime pieces of skill. Ben Farr and Anish Vinayak provided the strength and pace out wide to finish off moves. The forwards showed a huge improvement, with Stewart Fraser, Alexander Kemp and Alistair Cooper at the heart of this.

Although the team lost their final game against QEGS, Wakefield, they gave an excellent account of themselves in restricting the score to 24–0. This was the closest game QEGS have ever encountered in their 2 year unbeaten run! However, the season was to finish on a high note. After reasonable performances in the Bradford Tens, Bedford and Berkhamsted Sevens, the boys hit top form at exactly the right time in the National Sevens. They won their group comfortably, then beat Wellington School to secure a quarter-final spot. They continued the run with another excellent display in disposing of Glantaf 35–5. The semi-final was against our old rivals QEGS, Wakefield. Again, the boys played very well but lost 21–7. QEGS did go on to win the title to maintain their 2 year unbeaten run in all competitions.

It was a near perfect way to end the season in reaching the national semi-final, and I hope the boys take a lot of confidence forward for next season.

The U13 'B' team had a decent season with 8 wins and 3 defeats. Captain Ben Kershaw was inspirational all season with Thomas Slade, Samuel Scott and Michael Eden also adding considerable support. The backs looked exciting all season, with James Galvani, Jamie Williams and Hudson Rolfe providing the firepower.

The U13 'C' team played only 5 matches, recording 2 wins and 3 losses. Their commitment and enjoyment in training and in the matches will hold them in good stead for the future.

S.J.C.

## U12 XV

The 2003/2004 season was quite amazing even by RGS standards and expectations. In 41 competitive games of rugby the U12 squad lost just *one* game in the entire season. The 'B' team was the only team to lose a game against Dulwich College, with the 'A' and 'C' teams both unbeaten. There were clean sweeps over the likes of Bedford School, Colet Court, London Oratory and Portsmouth GS.

The 'A', 'B' and 'C' teams were led superbly by the three captains Julien Morlet, Tom Francis and Sean Phillips; each of these players epitomised the spirit of RGS rugby by working their socks off, supporting the rest of the team and leading by example.

There were some excellent displays both individually and collectively. The 'B' XV were able to demolish Bromsgrove 64–0, and the 'C' XV did even better by thrashing Portsmouth GS 109–5. The 'A' XV were steady in their results and were nearly beaten by a very organised Bedford Modern team, Tom Francis scoring the only try in the game which RGS won by 7 points to 6.

There was also some excellent progress by certain members of the squad. I look back to the start of the season when I had the likes of Robert Leybourne and Matthew Chatten playing for the 'C' team, but ended up playing a game for the 'A' team. Matthew Dickinson did well for the 'B' team, joining the squad in the middle of the season, and both Alexander Palmer and Matthew Sephton worked tirelessly and showed a tremendous attitude playing for the 'A' XV.

The *coup de grâce* certainly has to be the Sevens and Tens tournaments at the end of the season. The RGS entered the Dulwich and London Oratory Sevens, and the Bradford Tens tournaments. The RGS had not won any of these

tournaments previously at U12 level. Not only did they win one of the tournaments, but they won *all three*!! (This was extra special when you think that the two Sevens tournaments were played on consecutive days.)

The Sevens team were very strong in their determination and style of play, and won convincingly over some very strong sides including Whitgift, John Fisher and QE, Barnet. A special mention must go to those seven boys who were Julien Morlet, Jolyon Kelleher, Christopher Elder, Daniel Wood, Patrick Stockwell, James McCue and Steven Edwards (ably supported by Hugo Jafari, James Hayward, Joshua McGee, Tom Francis and Charlie Wyatt).

The Tens team tried to play an open style of rugby, moving the ball around the pitch with some quick handling, but were nearly undone by Arnold School, with Steven Edwards scoring in the dying seconds to win 12–7! Steven must get a special mention together with Christopher Elder, who between them scored 36 tries over the three tournaments.

Finally I would like to say a big '*congratulations*' to the whole squad for their commitment and hard work. They show excellent promise for the future and I urge them to continue with the same enthusiasm and dedication.

To finish with, the one word that has driven them on for the whole season ..... '*Unbeaten!*'

T.A.W.



Luke Phillips  
Year 13  
Life drawing

# Hockey

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## 1st XI

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This season has been a decidedly mixed bag for the 1st XI. From the quiet triumph of starting the season better than any other RGS sports team, things became considerably harder with a crushing 8–2 defeat at the hands of Kingston Grammar School, who are to schools' hockey what Wellington College are to schools' rugby. However, this served only to augment the determination of the team, spurring them on to memorable victories against first Sir William Borlase and then Magdalen College School, Oxford, both of which beat the RGS 1st XI with more individual talent and experience last season. Indeed, it is here that this year's team has impressed so much. Whereas last year's team comprised several phenomenally talented individuals, this year we played much more as a team, and reaped the consequent improved results.

The season peaked in early February with the euphoria of a 10–3 drubbing of the 'Old Enemy' Sir William Borlase in the County Cup Finals at Stowe School. From there we proceeded to the Regional Finals in March at Seaford College, Kent, where we were beaten soundly by Kent College (without a doubt the best school team we have ever played) but defended like Trojans against Merchant Taylors', where a last minute diving save ensured we fared better than our classical counter parts, drawing 1–1.

We were hit mid-season by the untimely injury of Howard Sayers, who did us all the service of demonstrating what a dislocated knee looks like. He recovered quickly though and made his comeback at the St George's six-a-side tournament in March. This was great fun, but the absence of captain Matthew Yates was felt and we under-performed, our eventual lowly standing belying our ability.

The season finished as triumphantly as it began, with a satisfying 6–1 victory against John Hampden. In recent years, we have performed spectacularly badly against John Hampden but this season's performance was calmer and more composed than usual and several second half goals ensured victory was never really in doubt.

Thanks go to Mr Atkin and Mr Clarke, whose efforts ensured a full and enjoyable programme of hockey this season. Next year will see a First Team lacking old hands Matthew Yates, Barnaby Monteiro, Benjamin Saunders, Dorian Proudfoot, Thomas Chick and Christopher O'Keeffe, but with the experience and emerging talent to go far.

Benjamin Saunders 13HK

## U13 'B' XI

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The squad this year was, as always, a mixed bag of abilities, but enthusiasm for learning hockey was high. The squad tends to be up against it for the first year, and this year proved to be no exception as we competed against schools who had a number of years' experience. Nevertheless the boys worked hard to improve their skills and our numbers were regularly depleted by boys moving to the 'A' squad. We have been able to get to Handy Cross in order to practise on a 'real' pitch and this has helped the boys to develop awareness of position. The squad was captained by Nicholas Miller, and I thank them all for their enthusiasm and enjoyment every Thursday.

B.R.S.



*Linda Whalley  
Paris, Easter 2004*

# Cricket

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## 1st XI

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Once again the RGS 1st XI experienced a season of varying success. A highly experienced and well-bonded team began the season in good form against Lord William's School, reducing them to 69 for 4, with captain Oliver Clark taking 2 for 15, before traditional English weather brought an abrupt end to the game. The season continued with a draw against a strong Hampton side and a highly convincing victory over old rivals Dr Challoner's, with some fine bowling performances coming from James Anderson and William Collins (each taking 3 wickets). Following this, victories over both Windsor Boys' and Abingdon boosted the team's confidence. Despite this, the season closed rather disappointingly with a draw away at Watford and a loss to St Albans at home.

The ever entertaining and challenging MCC match was again fought out this year. Strong batting from the MCC caused continuous problems for the RGS bowling attack and the visitors eventually declared on 245 for 2 off 41 overs. Despite this, the RGS batsmen attempted to put up a fight with a strong partnership between Howlin and Anderson. However, this was eventually broken and the RGS collapsed to 175 all out with James Anderson smashing a superb 110 off 74 balls.

Shortly after, the RGS 1st XI jetted off to Barbados to participate in the Sir Garfield Sobers International Cricket Festival. Fine all-round performances from the entire squad saw us through to the knockout stages of the tournament, a feat achieved by no other English side. Having defeated some high class opposition from across the Caribbean, we finally met our match, the eventual winners of the tournament, a combined schools' team from the Dominican Republic whom we eventually met at the Bajan Defence Force Cricket Ground. Unfortunately RGS's opening bat John

Stevens was on the receiving end of one of the finest deliveries of the tournament, and was dismissed by the first ball of the game (not a good start). The game continued in a similar fashion and RGS uncharacteristically collapsed to 51 all out, a score that was surpassed by the Dominican team for the loss of only 2 wickets. Despite this loss the RGS still achieved the highly respectable position of 5th out of 25 teams. The overall team's performance was superlative with fine performances coming from all. However, special mention should be made of Nicholas Robinson (who scored two centuries during the tour), of Ramzan Ghafoor and James Anderson who shone both with bat and ball, of William and Thomas Collins whose economical bowling performances were vital, and of James Cousins whose late appointment as wicket-keeper proved both a wise and invaluable decision. Finally, mention should be made of captain Oliver Clark, who managed and led the team in an exemplary fashion. The selection of six of our players (including the squad's youngest member John Stevens) for the Rest of the World vs the Caribbean match was a testimony to the team's outstanding performance in Barbados. Endless thanks must go to both Mr Turner and Mr Stone whose hard work and thorough planning made the tour extremely enjoyable and beneficial for all.

While in Barbados, the annual RGS festival, this year held in Newcastle, was attended by a very strong 2nd XI led by 1st XI veterans Julian Allfrey and Luc Walker. Although they put up a good fight, their lack of experience playing together as a team showed as they managed to win only 1 out of 4 matches.

The end of the year saw the loss of some of our most experienced and key players including captain Oliver Clark, opening batsmen William Collins and Nicholas Robinson, opening bowler James Anderson and all-round performer Ramzan Ghafoor. Nevertheless, the experience and talent of some of the senior players such as Amit Desai, Lindsay Matcham and Luc Walker, combined with the talent of our younger but still highly experienced players such as Jonathon Cooper, Thomas Collins and John Stevens, will provide the core for a very strong side next year.

James Howlin 13HK

## U15 XI

Unusually the season for the U15s started way back in September when they played in the Lord's Taverners' County final against Aylesbury GS, and what a final it turned out to be! In a game which either side could have won in a gripping finish, RGS emerged as victors beneath a harvest moon by just 8 runs with 8 balls to spare.

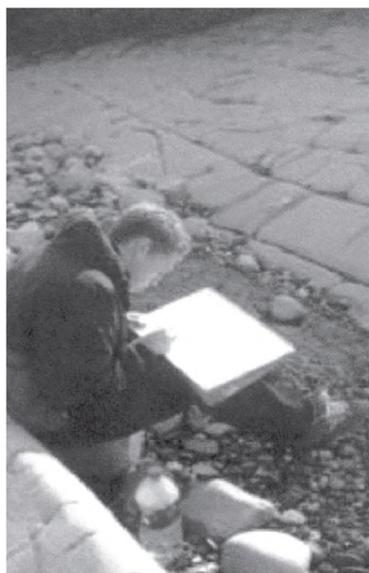
Consequently we played Magdalen College School in the first round of the National competition, and in an even more exciting finish we won through by a margin of 4 wickets with just 3 balls to spare. Set to score a massive 205 to win off 35 overs, some immense hitting in the final overs by Paul Bradshaw and Christopher Zair set up a second round tie against one of the tournament favourites, Ilford County School from Essex. Alas we were soundly beaten on this occasion by 70 runs, but the tournament certainly provided lots of great cricket from our boys.

The only disappointment in an otherwise successful season, which saw good wins against Abingdon, Aylesbury (again!), and Dr Challoner's GS, was the defeat in the County Cup to Chesham High which we lost by 10 runs.

The batting was very sound, led by skipper John Stevens (who toured the West Indies with the seniors in the Gary Sobers Tournament), Ben Francis and Adam Francis (who both played in the senior RGS festival at Newcastle). And while there was plenty of pace from the likes of Christopher Zair, Richard Pyke, Paul Bradshaw and George Jafari, the bowling lacked penetration and variety. But there is no doubt that many of this team will go on in life to become very good club cricketers.

Finally I must record our delight at the return to cricket of Stephen Thompson, who played in the first cup match against Aylesbury, only to become the victim of an M.E.-type illness for almost two terms. He was well enough to play in our final match of the season, scoring 39 not out in a match-winning partnership of 80 against Dr Challoner's with Ben Francis. Well done Stephen!

D.G.S./I.J.W.



*Art weekend  
Year 12  
Somerset 2003*

## U14 XI

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A poor result in their very first match, against a very skilful Hampton School, seemed to galvanize the U14s into action. They then proceeded to win all but one of the remaining games. Four matches were cancelled because of rain. The 'B' team got no matches at all.

In all, 7 matches were played; 5 were won and 2 were lost. The most crucial match, against Chesham in the Lord's Taverners' Cup, was conceded without the opponents losing a wicket. The ignominy was made all the worse because the boys played exceptionally well in the matches before and after this fixture.

The best performance of the season came as we went away to Abingdon on a hot afternoon. RGS were put in and scored a creditable 121 all out. Abingdon followed to collapse from the outset, eventually finishing on 32 all out, thus securing a win by 79 runs with more than 24 overs to spare.

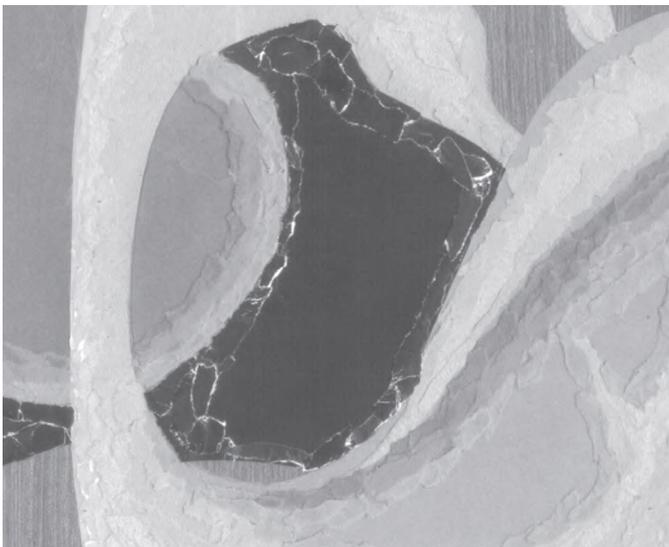
Batting averages had to be based on the limited number of innings, but the best four were Graham Cochrane (way out in front, which explains his selection to take part in the RGS Festival in Newcastle), Luke Power, Paul Langley and Manoj Sharma. All four of these had reasonably good seasons too, in club cricket.

The bowling was dominated by the pace of Jack Merriman, followed by Thomas Lees Fitzgibbon, with David Green (spin bowler) and Frederick Stockwell hot on their heels in the performance table. Frederick was devastating when on form, knocking stumps flying on occasion. Richard Sturla led with wicket-keeping, but Timothy Block was introduced to the gloves this year and made some spectacular catches.

Aside from their disappointment at dropping out of the cup, the team pulled together well and enjoyed some exciting and rather one-sided matches. The hardest-fought match was at Watford, where it all hung on the last few deliveries, but the RGS bowlers kept their cool and held Watford off to win by a handful of runs.

Fielding was the strongest point of the team. There is clearly a need to sharpen up on 'line and length' with the bowling, and too many wickets were lost too cheaply when batsmen took unnecessary risks. All of this will be addressed in the new season. The two best all-round players of the year were Graham Cochrane and Thomas Lees Fitzgibbon.

R.I.S.



*Stevan Jordan  
Year 10  
Painting*



*Year 9  
Sculptural assemblage*

## U12 XI

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The season started poorly as the first fixture of the season saw RGS struggle against a clearly superior opposition. With Hampton scoring 133 all out, captain George Walker (5–32) showing great variety with his off-spin, and Anish Vinayak (3–3) showing a good variation in pace, RGS could only muster a total of 69 all out in reply. The captain was the only batsman to get himself in, scoring 27.

From that moment the team gained in confidence and scored some good totals. The captain led the way, doing well with the ball as well as the bat. He scored 51 against Watford and was well supported by Ian Cottam (38) as RGS reached 141–4 off 25 overs, with RGS winning comfortably. Another easy victory followed over Misbourne School, which saw RGS through to the semis of the Calypso Cup.

Benjamin Newberry scored a creditable 31 as RGS scored 116–9 against Aylesbury GS. In reply Aylesbury could only manage 97–5 off their 25 overs with George Walker's 3–15 helping RGS seal a 19 run victory. A ten-wicket victory ensued over John Hampden as RGS reached their victory target of 81 without losing a wicket; George Walker was 29 not out and Gaurang Taparia 17 not out. Unfortunately this is where things started to slide a little.

The semi-final draw of the Calypso Cup saw RGS come up against Chesham, who had the other County U12 opening batsman. With our opener George Walker scoring 58 not out, RGS reached a more than creditable 134–8 off their 25 overs. Unfortunately the pressure told as their key batsman was dropped a number of times, and he went on to score 70 not out. Chesham scored 134–7 off their 25 overs – a tie!! Unfortunately having scored 3 more runs after the first 10 overs Chesham got through.

Another poor display followed as RGS lost convincingly to RGS, Worcester, although the 'B' team won by 6 wickets; Sean Wilson (4–9) was the pick of the bowlers, and Cameron Clark (20) top scorer with the bat. However this RGS side battled back to beat the eventual Calypso winners Dr Challoner's. A solid knock of 28 from Gaurang Taparia saw RGS score 113–8 off 30 overs. A stronger fielding display saw Dr Challoner's bowled out for 89 with Ram Kumar (3–9) showing his full potential, and George Walker (3–9) tight as ever.

This was a thoroughly entertaining season with some good cricket being played, superb bowling and excellent knocks. Hopefully this team will learn from their mistakes and will learn how to handle the pressure situations. All the squad improved as the season progressed and learnt the intricacies of the game. I look forward to seeing how they all do next season.

T.A.W.

# Athletics

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## School Records

Several school records were broken this season.

### Year 7 Record Breakers

J Rogers 200m 28.1secs      C Wade 100m 13.2secs  
S Still Shot 9.10m

### Year 8 Record Breakers

S MacDonald Hammer 30.56m

### Year 10 Record Breakers

N Cottrell Pole Vault 3.50m (senior record)  
R Bushrod 400m Hurdles 63.1 secs

### Year 11 Record Breakers

Hawes, Hunt, Record, Rodgers 4×100m 46.9 secs

### Senior Record

Bugden, Labri, McElhill, Macdermott 4×100m 45.5 secs  
N Cottrell Pole Vault 3.50m

### District Sports

District sports took place for Year 9 and a combined Year 10/11 team in early May 2003. The 10/11 team contained only one Year 11 due to exams and finished a creditable second with most other schools fielding Year 11 athletes. The Year 9 team won by a massive margin with Matthew Lyon picking up the award for best District athlete for Year 9. The Junior Championships came later in the season and RGS may have felt a little under pressure having won the Year 8 trophy for the last nine years and the Year 7 trophy ever since this age group came back to the school. The boys performed superbly on the day, once again winning by huge margins. Philip Sole won best athlete in District for Year 8 and James Rogers for Year 7.

### County Championships

The County Championships fell on the same day as the French/History trip, and this decimated the district team with the majority of RGS juniors unable to compete.

County Champions were Robert Record winning the Junior 80m hurdles, Neil Cottrell winning the Intermediate pole vault (a year young), Kim Langley-Hunt winning the triple jump, Christopher Record retaining both the javelin and the 100m hurdles and Toby Hunt winning the Intermediate shot. Both Christopher and Toby went on to represent Buckinghamshire Schools at the English Schools' Championships. Toby was to finish 4th in the English Schools' shot put.

### Combined Events

Once again at Milton Keynes the Individual County Pentathlon took place with Junior athletes having to compete in five events in one day (100m hurdles, long jump, high jump, shot and 800m). RGS gained second (Nicholas Johnstone), fourth (David Bushrod) and sixth (Robert Record) and all three were selected for Buckinghamshire in the Midlands Championships. A special mention should go to

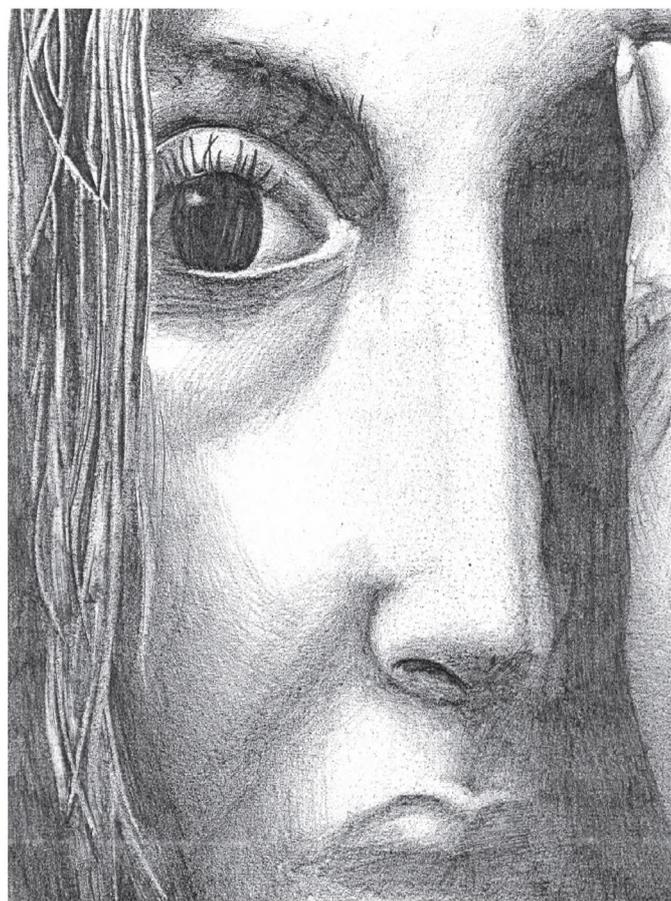
Elliott O'Brien who finished eighth despite only scoring in part in four events. Christopher Record and Toby Hunt were pre-selected for the Octathlon at the Midland Championships, and helped Bucks Schools win this event.

### ESAA Track and Field Cup

RGS hosted the South East of England Final after both Juniors and Intermediates had comfortably won the county rounds of this national competition. We had high hopes that both teams might make the national final and with one event to go this was in the balance. With just the relays to run RGS were second in both the Junior and Intermediate competitions. The Intermediate team ran an excellent race to win and helped RGS to win the South East of England final for only the second time in 23 years. Unfortunately a disastrous change-over led to disqualification for the Juniors and the loss of a guaranteed place in the National Final. None the less this Junior team will be very strong in the future and should qualify for the Intermediate final in two years' time.

The National Final was held in Southampton and the team went into the final as the second highest scoring team. The team competed well and were probably the second best team in the country. Unfortunately a series of foul throws led to a no score in one event. The boys rallied well and we had winners at a national final with Alexander Johnstone winning the discus and Neil Cottrell the pole vault. The relay team also stormed through to win the final event. A final score of 505 placed the team fifth out of the twelve finalists. A creditable performance; however the fact that the boys were disappointed with this shows how far RGS athletics has come in the last few years.

J.I.S.



*Stephen Thompson  
Year 10  
Drawing*

## Cross Country

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The 2003/04 season has been one of the most erratic, largely due to the limited number of talented runners in the Upper and Lower Sixth Form. In order to put together competent teams, I frequently found myself supplementing the Sixth Form teams with Year 11 runners. In contrast, this year group boasts a large number of highly talented runners. Those who made their running *débuts* in senior races this season included Barney Collins, Joseph Chapman, Francis Mostyn, Robert Bushrod and, from Year 10, Justin Moore. Of the small number of talented cross country runners from the years above, Christopher Bowles, Benjamin Johnson and Fabian Downs (in what was his final year at the RGS) ran exceptionally well. Despite ever changing teams, the RGS still managed to achieve some high finishing positions.

The lower school years saw much greater stability and success. In the ESAA Cross Country Championships, the Junior Team finished fourth out of thirteen other teams while the Intermediate Team finished in first position both in the Wycombe Phoenix Harriers Race and the District championships (allowing us to hold onto the District Shield for a second year). The Junior Team finished in second place in the same race. This was followed by an amazing third victory as the Intermediates again finished first in the Buckinghamshire County Championships at Stowe.

Those representing the Junior and Intermediate Teams include Duncan Foster, Timothy Grocott-Mason, Jamie Hillyar, Andrew Armitage, Colin Blunden and many of the runners already listed who stood in as senior runners.

I would finally end by noting the very promising Year 7 runners who represented the RGS in three Saturday fixtures early in the year. Joshua Radvan, Joshua Quigley, Lawrence Holloway, Amara Uthayakumar-Cumarasa and Simon Beecroft were among the fastest and most enthusiastic.

A good season although I am looking forward to even better results next year when many of the current Intermediate runners will become the Senior Team.

D.P.M.

## Swimming

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RGS entered the National Schools' Swimming Championships with hopes of qualifying for the finals, where the fastest 12 teams in the country would compete. The Junior team of Geraint Evans, Jonathan Lai, William Philpott, Benjamin Eddings, and Benjamin Radvan performed well to finish mid-way in the region. The Intermediate team of James Poulter, Robert Matthews-Stroud, Timothy Philpott and Oliver Baird swam both relays in very quick times to finish second on the night but just missed out on the national finals by two-tenths of a second. They finished as the thirteenth fastest team in the country. Still a fine achievement.

In the Buckinghamshire Schools' Swimming Championships, the Juniors finished third. The team was mainly filled with Year 7 boys swimming against an age above so they deserve a lot of credit. The Intermediate team finished second with Robert Matthews-Stroud outstanding once again. The Senior team of James Poulter, Toby Hunt, Matthew Clark and Thomas Bennett won the Championships with some great displays from Toby Hunt and James Poulter. We look forward to defending the title next year.

S.J.C.

## Badminton

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The school does not have a regular badminton team, but after the success of our U14 team in last year's National Carlton Top Schools' Tournament, we entered the U16 competition this year.

The regional qualifer was held at Slough, and a terrific performance by the whole team saw us win every match to qualify for the finals in Luton on 28 March. James Morris was unable to play in the finals due to Duke of Edinburgh commitments, but fortunately the school's English International, Robert Hird, was able to slot into the vacancy.

Thus it was that the team of Robert Hird, Samuel Johnson, David Macmillan (all from Year 10), and David Stone (Year 9), were caught cold in their first match in the finals, going down 1-4 to St Michael's of Chorley. All our other matches were won comfortably (meaning that we won all but one of our matches in 2 days of competition), enabling us to finish in 7th place in the country. With all the team being young enough to play in the same competition next year, we shall look forward to doing even better then.

I.J.W.



*Luke Phillips  
Year 13  
Life drawing*



*Nicholas Johnstone  
Year 10  
Painting*

## Tennis

Few matches were played in summer 2003, both at U13 and U15 level, due to administrative difficulties.

The highlight of the term was winning 10 tickets for Wimbledon in an LTA ballot. Mrs McDavitt and Mr Earl took eight boys to the Finals Day at this Premier Tournament, which was extremely enjoyable. Hopefully, 2004 will prove to be a more competitive year for RGS tennis players.

J.R.McD./M.E.

## Rowing

This year has been a very successful one as far as rowing at the RGS is concerned. Having taken on the role of instructor, Geoff Baker helped continue the facility, enabling several year groups to choose rowing as their games option. He also supervises their training outside school hours. The J16 boys (including some boys from the J15 age group) had an eventful winter calendar, taking part in a large number of heads and achieving a good degree of success. Very high rankings were attained by more than one crew at several sculling events and particular congratulations should go to Adam Seward and Christopher Taylor who won the J16 doubles event. We hope that all crews can continue their success into the summer events and next year. The boys would like to thank Geoff Baker for his time and effort in coaching them, Laurie Tilbury for doing his part, Mr Gamester, Mr Turner and Mr Greenhough for driving the minibuses to and from the rowing club, and Peter Blaseby (a.k.a. Blazin' Pete) for putting in a sterling effort as always.

Hari Guliani 13HR  
Captain of Boats

## Fencing

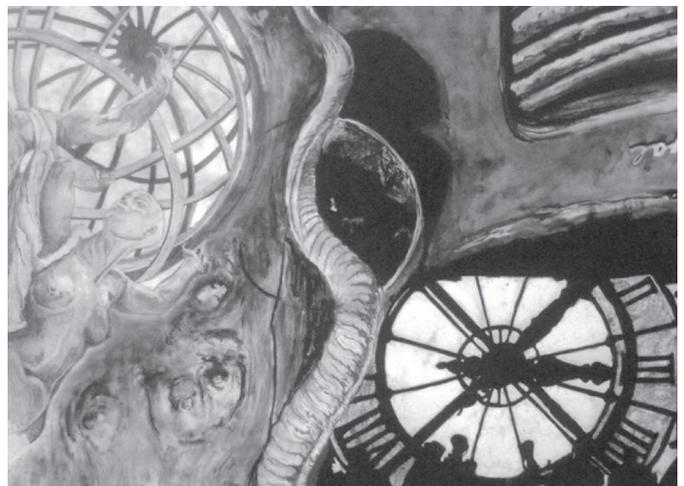
This year has been a very successful year for RGS fencing. Although there have only been two school matches, many of the team are now travelling to competitions and thus gaining valuable experience. The 2004 Public Schools' was one of the most successful years for the RGS, coming away with three trophies. Thomas Bennett fought well to retain his senior épée title with tight semi-final and final victories, both ending 15–14. Paul Dazeley won the junior épée with a close final in which he came back from 13–9 down to win 15–13. He then went on to come 3rd in the junior foil and 12th in the junior sabre to earn the title Master-at-arms and win his Swan Colours. Spencer Bullent did well in both the junior épée and sabre, making the L32 in both events. Other good results were George Thompson and Maximilian Sloan, both making L64 placings.

Aside from school fencing, Thomas and Paul have also been excelling in national and international performances. Thomas competed in the U20 European championships as well as four other international A-grades in his most successful season yet, ending with three L32 positions and two L64s. His results earned him a place on the British team once again for his 3rd successive World Championships, in which he finished in the L64 after being defeated by a Venezuelan in a close bout ending 13–15. Thomas also captained England (fencing in the U18 épée) in their Home International victory over Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Paul has proved himself on the U17 circuit this year with consistently good results in domestic opens. As part of the U17 British squad, he has competed in three international tournaments, his best result being Bonn (Germany) where he finished 38th out of 200 competitors. At the end of the U17 season, he ended in 6th place, unfortunately missing out on World Championships' selection in the last international held in Austria. However, he has great potential for the future and is in a good position to show what he is capable of in the U17 2004–5 season. Paul was also part of the England team that won the Home International, fencing in the U16 épée. He has become the first person to be sponsored by the new scheme 'Youngblades', receiving £1,000 from the company 'King of Shaves'.

A big thank you to coach Harry Jones and Mr Roebuck for their continuing support to fencing.

T.A.W./Thomas Bennett 13GA



*Oliver North  
Year 13  
"Structures"*

## OC's Report

This is my second report as OC CCF and I still feel that the learning curve is pretty steep. It is a reflection of the help I receive from such a wide range of people that the CCF training programme has continued to provide such fantastic opportunities for the cadets.

I am pleased to say that the numbers joining the CCF remain buoyant and those that join seem to stay in and take part in a huge number of activities. It is difficult to avoid clashes with other activities when you are at a school as busy as the RGS but we do our best so that boys can benefit from a breadth of activities.

This year has seen all of the traditional camps going ahead although there have been some changes of venues. This has enabled a larger number of people to attend many of these activities and camps. In October we tried out some new camping barns in Nant Peris in the shadow of Snowdon. These allowed 20 boys to be in barns and the twelve Kenya expedition volunteers to camp outside. The weather was not kind and there was snow on the tops of the walks. Our most recent camp was in the Peak District as usual but again due to numbers we opted for Leek Training Camp on Blackshaw Moor. The modern facilities such as showers and permanent beds were nice but the drying room proved the most valuable commodity for the week. We took 30 cadets on this camp, a higher number than in recent years.

We have continued to take part in the competitions such as *Country Life* shooting, CADSAM and the 145 Brigade Cadet Skills Competition. This last competition is where I first met Roger Hollingworth MBE and it was a treat to go back after missing it last year. The training programme delivered by the senior NCOs is clearly as good as it ever was as we finished

fourth overall, the highest position for quite some time.

As you read this we shall have been to Kenya with 12 cadets and two officers in association with World Challenge. This will enable us to visit Roger, do a project at our partner school Marinyin Secondary School, do some trekking and climb Mt Kenya. A report will be on the website next term.

I would like to thank all the adults who so willingly give up their time. Joining the staff this year was 2Lt Harris (former RSM) and JWO Tom Sawyer. We also benefited from Zoe Hatch (a former cadet) helping get the climbing club in action again. The CTT continues to support us and we bade farewell to Sgt I. Whyte and welcomed Sgt Dave Lawrenson to the team. The team of senior NCOs have been outstanding this year and how they manage to balance the amount of time they give to their studies with their CCF commitments is a wonder. There have been changes in the officers this year in that Tony Haynes has run the RAF Section supported by Keith Ellen, and Sandra Purdy has effectively run the Army Section supported by Chris Cunningham. The Naval Section has remained under the steady helm of Joan Henderson, supported by Ian Fullarton.

As I write plans for the Black Mountains expedition, summer camps and the Kenya expedition are being finalised. We also await the report from the biennial inspection that took part in March. This was a huge success and the informal feedback has been very positive. Yes it is hectic, the paperwork continues to increase but it is so worthwhile when you see the qualities the boys develop and leave with in Year 13. If you would like to find out more then please go to the CCF section of the website where there are numerous reports and photos from our trips and activities.

Major G.T. Scoble  
OCCCF



*The inspection of the Royal Navy Section, 25 March 2004*

## Royal Navy Section

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This has been a busy and enjoyable year for the RN Section. The year of the General Inspection is always challenging and this year, as always, the cadets rose to the occasion and performed excellently on the day. We are inspected at the sailing club on the Thames and this year Thursday 25 March was particularly cold. No-one complained, not even the inspecting officer who was picked up by one of our rescue boats from Medmenham Ferry and was brought downstream to Danesfield where he stepped ashore and began his inspection. As well as the formal inspection he saw some of our regular activities including PLTs, bridge-building and sailing.

The Section would not be able to perform in the way that it does if it were not for the senior cadets. This year our Coxon was Andrew Heavyside who has passed his AIB and is looking forward to a career with the Royal Navy. Other Year 13 cadets have supported the Section well including Michael Anderson, Mark Bartlett, Samuel Gower and Simon Willcock. These students have been with the Section since Year 10 and I wish them every success with their future studies and careers.

I would like to record a special thank you to the Year 12 cadets this year who have been particularly effective, which heralds another very good year next year. The leadership potential that is developed in these students is one of our key aims.

If you have read previous years' reports you will know the saga of the safety boats. You will be pleased to hear that this year all is well. The two new Jeanneau craft that we purchased are performing well. Security at the club has been further increased.

Our Year 10 and Year 11 cadets have enjoyed the usual activities that the Section offers this year and in addition we were lucky to be offered sea days on board HMS *Cardiff* in December courtesy of her Commanding Officer, Mike Beardall, who is an Old Boy of the school. As the summer progresses the cadets are hoping for good weather for the summer sailing season and are looking forward to participating in the Black Mountains expedition in June.

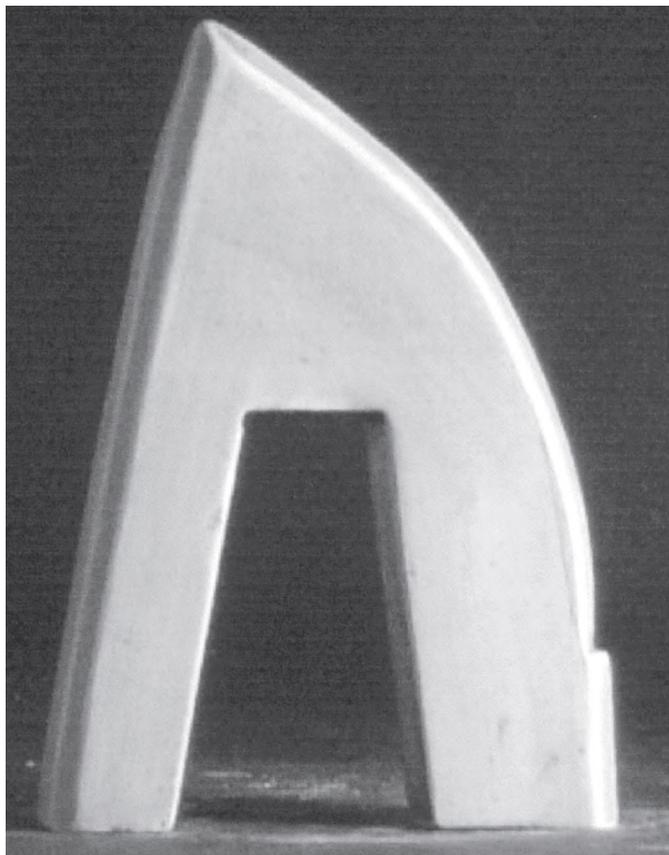
We are trying a new venue for our summer camp this year. After we break up in July we shall be spending a week at the UK Sailing Association in Cowes, Isle of Wight. There are lots of waterborne activities available to the boys and it should be enjoyable and challenging.

My thanks go out once again to Lt Fullarton and the other CCF officers who so generously and enthusiastically support the CCF at the Royal Grammar School.

Lt Cdr J.L. Henderson  
OC RN Section



*Oliver North*  
Year 13  
Painting



*Plaster sculpture*  
Year 10  
"Natural and constructed form"

## Aboard HMS Cardiff

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On Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 December 2003 HMS *Cardiff* (Type 42 destroyer) received a party of RGS CCF cadets at the invitation of her Captain, RGS Old Boy Cdr Mike Beardall RN. We boarded her by tender in Portsmouth water where she was waiting for us, before heading out to sea for chaff firing and helicopter exercises. Once aboard we stowed our gear and commenced our tour of the ship's departments. We visited all the expected locations on board (bridge, galley, stores, machine control room and flight deck), but we also visited several highly restricted compartments that rarely feature on public tours. We were guided around the command centre with its communication, radar and fire control systems, the Lynx's magazine (containing missiles, torpedoes and depth charges for the ship's helicopter), as well as seeing the ship's gun with its 4.5" shell. For most, the highlight was being allowed into the Sea Dart control room, where crew demonstrated the hydraulic loading system preparing Sea Darts (£½ million each) for launch in about 15 seconds. After a night living on a mess deck with some of the crew, we met the Captain, with whom we exchanged crests and talked about the ship and her role in the fleet. Before we came along side at HMS *Nelson* (Portsmouth docks), there was just time to see the Lynx take off and practice its final exercises, as well as seeing the phalanx gatling guns, an autonomous system that protect the ship from missile and aircraft attack.

Our greatest thanks to the commander and crew of *Cardiff* who were outstanding hosts, welcoming us aboard their home at sea and allowing us to experience a warship at work. All cadets involved would also like to thank CCF officers Lt Purdy and Lt Cdr Henderson, who made the trip both possible and enjoyable.

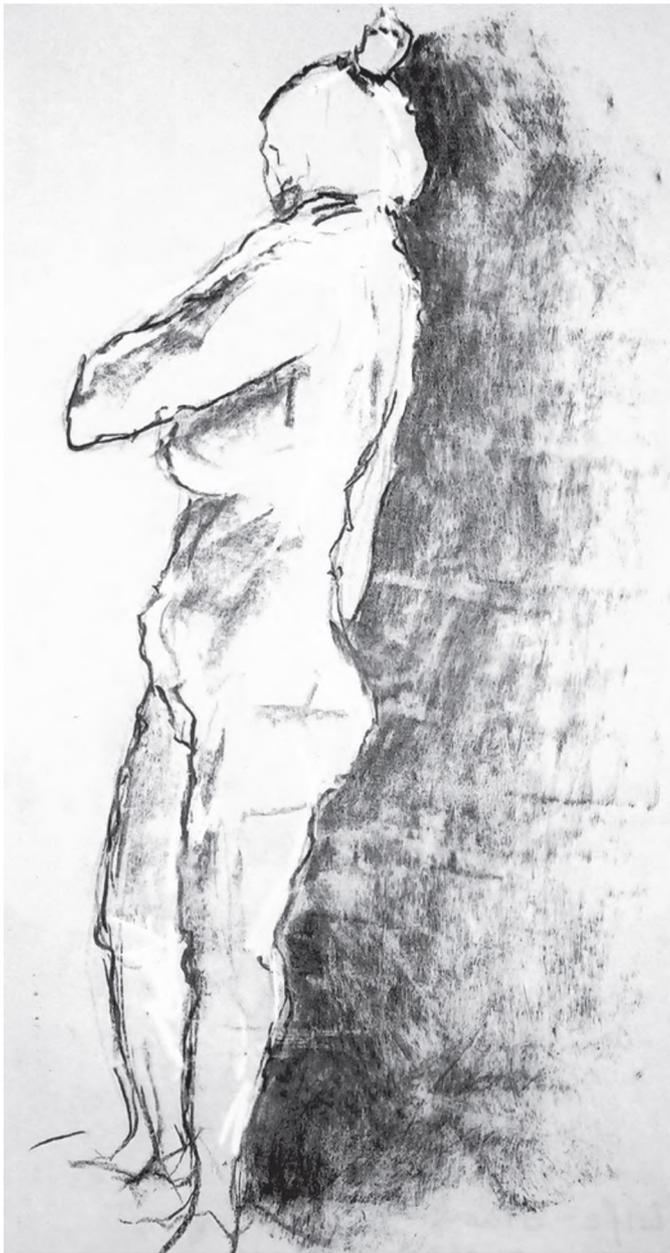
LS Richard Boarder

## Army Section

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September saw the start of another exciting, hectic year within the Army Section. Apart from the weekly planning and running of the Thursday afternoon activities there were weekend exercises, Easter and Summer Camps, patrol competitions and a General Inspection to arrange. Numbers joining were a little down on previous years but we will still have keen enthusiastic cadets to work with and they are eager to learn and practice their new found skills.

In November we took a group of 30 cadets to the Bramley Training area, where under the command of the more senior cadets they conducted a tactical weekend including section attacks, night navigation and the final platoon attack. This was the weekend of the Rugby World Cup Final and the weather was more than unkind to us. We left the RGS on Saturday morning in torrential rain, arrived at the training area in torrential rain and the rain did not ease up for the whole of the exercise. Despite these conditions the exercise was a success, and due credit must go to all involved.



*Peter Shadbolt  
Year 12  
Life drawing*

In December Michael McEvoy and I joined a group of Navy cadets on an invited trip to spend a few days on board HMS *Cardiff*, whose Captain is an RGS Old Boy. We felt privileged to be allowed to put to sea with them and spend a night on board, and although HMS *Cardiff* is a working warship the officers and crew took time and effort to show us about life on board.

March brought with it our General Inspection. This is a biennial event and this year the Inspecting Officer was Colonel Stephen Oxlade. The cadets excelled themselves, and Colonel Oxlade highly commended them for the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm they had displayed.

Following the Easter Camp in March, which is described below by CSM Moore, on 23 to 25 April I took a team of 7 cadets to the Bordon Patrol Competition. This involved camping out for two nights and completing a series of stands run by the Cadet Training teams. The stands were completed on Saturday, and Sunday saw the gruelling March and Shoot Competition. I am both pleased and proud that we finished 4th in the overall competition of 20 plus teams, and 2nd in the march and shoot element. The team of M. McEvoy (Captain), G. Jeal, R. Kiederling, J. Ryan, W. Taylor, C. McVeigh and R. Beesley were a team whose enthusiasm and commitment were second to none. The team work they displayed was commendable, and they were a credit to the Army Section, the school and themselves.

Our next major event will be Summer Camp at the end of term, which is to be a greenfield camp on Dartmoor.

As a Section, our strengths are growing not only among the cadets: the officers have this year attended many weekend courses, which allows us to offer a wider range of activities. We now have the expertise of Mr Tom Sawyer who is awaiting his final interview for his commission. Tom is experienced in climbing and mountain walking, which allows us to extend the more able cadets in these activities.

All in all an excellent year, and without the enthusiasm and commitment of the cadets themselves none of this would be possible.

Lt Sandra Purdy  
OC Army Section (acting)

## Stowe Competition March 2004

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On Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 March, the Army Section sent a team to Stowe School to compete once again in the Royal Green Jackets-run patrol competition, this time with victory in mind. Unfortunately, victory was not achieved, and to add insult to injury we were also beaten by the same team of Royal Marine cadets as last year.

The team took a little while to work together initially. However it must be said that as the weekend went on we became more consistent, achieving high scores on the Milan anti-tank stand, the patrol lanes and even coming top in the .22 shoot. Unfortunately things began to falter when C/Sgt Thomas Sprigge made several unprovoked errors on the assault course, and most notably on the timed run where we came a shameful last – those responsible shall remain nameless! Had we achieved a respectable time we could have managed fourth or even third place. However in the end the RGS CCF came a mediocre seventh. Despite this and the unpredictable weather conditions it was an enjoyable weekend and much fun was had by all. Thanks go to Captain Ellen and 2Lt Ellen for providing the transport and staff support. Good luck to next year's team!

C/Sgt Thomas Sprigge

## Easter Camp March 2004

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Easter Camp was held at the end of the Lent term at Leek Camp, in sunny Staffordshire. The first day was spent practising orienteering and military skills in preparation for the two-day exercise. Most cadets enjoyed the exercise of attacks and ambushes concurrent with strong winds, rain and ferocious hailstorms, against the backdrop of beautiful Peak District scenery. This was followed by a walk up Kinder Scout, in a blizzard. Those going on this summer's expedition to Kenya enjoyed a different experience. During the exercise and Kinder Scout walk these bold pioneers mounted a three-day trek around the local countryside, carrying all their equipment and supplies with them. The final day was spent rock climbing and doing command tasks, such as raft building.

The camp was a great experience, enlivened by the presence in camp of 400 Marching Band cadets, and the mess hall food, always an interesting topic for conversation. Easter Camp is the occasion when the Pattinson Shield is awarded by senior cadets to the most promising Year 10 cadet, and the winner this year was Andy Wan.

The following paragraph is an account of the CCF Kenya team's experience of the Easter camp.

'In the first week of Easter the whole team, all but two, went off to "sunny" Staffordshire for a training expedition. During the expedition we hiked approximately 30 miles. The first day was interesting with respect to the weather, enjoying rain showers with brief moments of sunshine. By the end of the day we were all pretty tired and were banned from frequenting the pub which lay agonisingly close to our campsite. The next day featured more encouraging weather and also a test of our eyesight when we lost Richard Boarder in open fields. Unfortunately he was found quickly as it was only a drill. Shame. On our final day we hiked back to camp and upon arrival marched and whistled our way back into camp. Everyone enjoyed the trip apart from the odd expletive during one of the rougher hailstorms, of which there were many.'

CSM Robert Moore

## RAF Section

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The RAF Section has had another busy year. Flt Lt Seymour left the Section in the summer after giving nearly 14 years' service and will be sorely missed. However, she continues to provide much-needed support for visits away from the school. Capt Ellen has been on loan from the Army Section this year and has given much additional time as well as continuing his unstinting support to Army Section and combined events.

36 new cadets joined us in September, which was the largest intake for all 3 Sections. Five cadets stayed on in the Upper Sixth and we retained 16 in the Lower Sixth, which made for a rather cumbersome command structure with so many junior NCOs. Nevertheless we have managed to find meaningful employment for all, with the NCOs being closely involved with the support and instruction of their juniors.

A team of 12 cadets entered the area finals of the Ground Training Competition in October and narrowly missed being selected for the National Finals. A bit more attention to drill would have helped matters! Flying at RAF Benson has proved popular as ever, although some of our afternoons have had to be cancelled because of bad weather. Our formal inspection at the end of March involved much hard work in

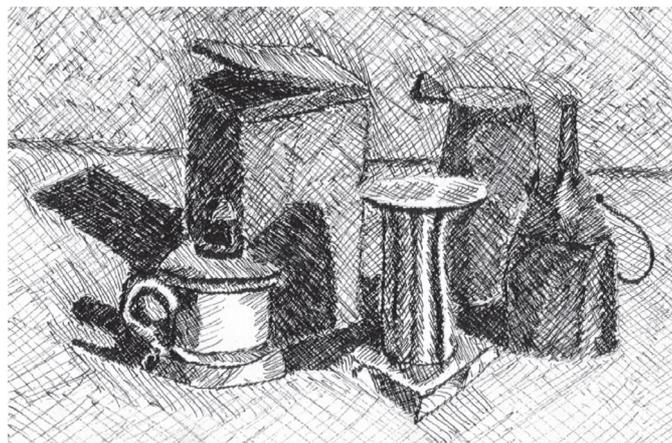
preparation, but in the end all went extremely well, and our activities were highly praised by the inspecting officers. Our camp last summer was cancelled because of operational commitments at the RAF station involved, but several of our cadets joined the Army camp instead. Eleven of our boys went to Easter Camp at RAF Cosford, escorted by Flt Lt Seymour, and a very good time was had by all. One boy from Year 11 has been selected to attend adventurous training in the Lake District in July.

Two cadets were awarded flying scholarships last year, and one has been selected for the next. In addition, several boys undertook gliding scholarship last year, but none has applied for this summer.

Two of our cadets are going to Kenya with World Challenge this summer and have consequently had to undergo arduous training with the Army Section in Snowdonia and at Leek, and I have accompanied them. I must say Leek was a challenge carrying an overnight pack for the first time since I was the boys' age!

All in all we have had a very successful year, and we look forward to the challenge of continuing the tradition with next year's entry.

Flt Lt A.R. Haynes  
OC RAF Section



*Jack Whitehouse  
Year 9  
Still life*

## RAF Easter Camp 2004

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This year's camp included highlights such as L98 shooting, flying in both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, and visits to the various sections on the station. This was mixed in with long walks, night exercise using camouflage, drill, drill and more drill. In fact, people who went on camp can be recognised around school by the way they are walking in step with the person next to them!

As a primary training station, RAF Cosford has many different sections to visit such as aeronautical engineering, propulsion and the RAF regiment. There were cadets from four other schools around the country, and it was interesting to see how other schools ran their Sections. It was a great opportunity to meet new people. During the camp, there was much emphasis on leadership training and teambuilding, which should set the cadets well for promotion and future careers.

Congratulations must go to all the cadets for the way they conducted themselves on camp and especially the two Junior NCOs, Cpls Edward Nisbet and Henry Litchfield, for their responsible positions within their respective flights, and to

Jnr Cdt Mark Quinnell for being voted as best RGS cadet and second best cadet on camp. A great time was had by all – despite the early mornings and late evenings – and all seem to be looking forward to more camps in the future.

NCO i/c Sgt David Quinnell

## RAF Junior Cadet Leadership Course, Aldershot

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Saturday 24 April 2004 saw the culmination of weeks of meticulous planning by Sgt Matthew Phillips and me.

Alpha and Bravo flights advised by Senior Cadets Corbell and Raleigh set off after a brief training session. Their first exercise involved signalling a helicopter to land and performing reconnaissance on an enemy base. This was followed up by a helicopter crash rescue and field lecture on first aid by LS Wood of the Navy Section. In the afternoon the cadets were captured and quizzed whilst attempting to intercept stolen documents! They were then attacked by the 'enemy' whilst running a vehicle checkpoint. The final exercise involved planting a bomb within the enemy base itself.

"The exercise went excellently and all involved had tremendous fun!" exclaimed Cpl Litchfield and several others as the day came to an end. The following Thursday, Alpha Flight was awarded 'Best Flight', whilst Matthew Bunn was deemed to be the 'Most Improved Cadet'. Sunil Francis was awarded 'Best Cadet'.

Special thanks must go to Capt Ellen and Flt Lt Haynes for their great help and support in running the course. Sgt Matthew Phillips and I would also like to thank all NCOs who helped us to run the course.

Sgt Luke K. Martin

## Cadet Warrant Officer's Report

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During my time as Cadet Warrant Officer in charge of the RAF Section, we have come forward in leaps and bounds. I put this down to my solid NCO base including my 2 i/c, Flight Sergeant Thomas Ravenscroft, and our other Year 13 Flight Sergeants coupled with our Year 12 Sergeants and the remainder of our Year 12 Corporals.

This year, we have focused on our Year 10 training syllabus, consisting mainly of RAF history, protocols and aircraft of the RAF. These lessons were fully prepared and taught by the NCO team in charge of the cadets.

Thanks to our NCO i/c Flying team, consisting of Corporal Nisbet and Corporal Brzezicki, we have had many successful Thursday afternoons flying in the Grob Tutor at RAF Benson, and have also taken many cadets to the RAF Halton civilian gliding club.

Not only do we concentrate on basic RAF subjects, but we also expand into other areas such as weapons training, field craft and signals, which many of our NCOs are exceptional at teaching. This year, many cadets have enjoyed learning how to fire an L98 A1 Cadet GP Rifle, or how to operate a 349 Clansman Radio.

This year, in order to develop skills and to help pick out the NCOs of the future, the junior cadet leadership day (after several setbacks due to weather) was successfully run by Sergeant Luke Martin and Sergeant Matthew Phillips. They had invaluable assistance from the remaining NCO base and Year 11, as well as Leading Seaman David Wood from the

Navy Section and Colour Sergeant Nicholas King from the Army Section.

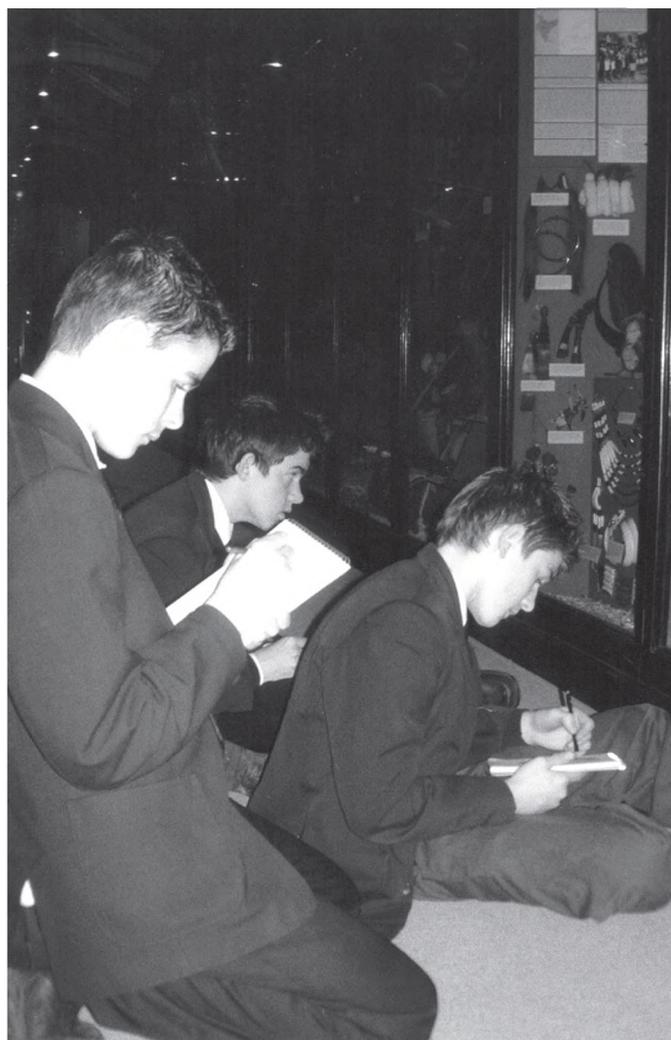
We also had a success in the Regional Ground Training Competition at RAF Uxbridge, where we competed against 40 other CCF (RAF) Sections from the region and came 3rd overall, putting us well into the top 20 out of nearly 200 CCF (RAF) Sections nationwide.

Recently, we also had our biennial inspection, in which we demonstrated a wide spectrum of Thursday afternoon activities to the inspecting officers, Colonel Oxlade (the overall Inspecting Officer), and Squadron Leader Quick (the RAF Inspecting Officer). All officers were full of praise and we performed to the best of our ability.

The success of our Section has also influenced the futures of several of our NCOs, with me and at least five others considering a future in the RAF.

Finally, I would like to thank on behalf of my entire staff the officers who have given up their time to assist us: Flight Lieutenant Haynes, who has had a very successful year as OC of the Section; Captain Ellen, who has stepped into the breach left by having only one officer – his enthusiasm and endless supply of ideas have been invaluable throughout the year; and Major Scoble, who has offered support and advice throughout the year. I must also thank my team of NCOs for their hard work and effort, and wish the cadets and management team the best of luck for next year.

Cadet Warrant Officer Matthew Wildman  
Section Warrant Officer



Year 10  
Study visit to the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford

# OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

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## Annual General Meeting

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The Annual General Meeting of the Club took place on Saturday 24 April 2004. The financial report was presented, and the committee was re-elected. Prior to the dinner, Old Boys were given tours of the school, highlighting the new developments. That afternoon, Old Boys took on the school fencing team in the Sports Hall and the shooting team on the rifle-range; others played hockey in the very warm conditions.

## Annual Dinner

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The Annual Dinner was attended by 88 Old Boys, 18 past and present teachers, and 7 prefects. The Deputy Head, Mr Roy Page, gave an account of the school's activities. The Guest of Honour was Mr Michael Moffatt, who taught at the RGS for 29 years and was Deputy Head for most of that time. His speech reminisced about his days at the RGS, and how much he had enjoyed his time there.

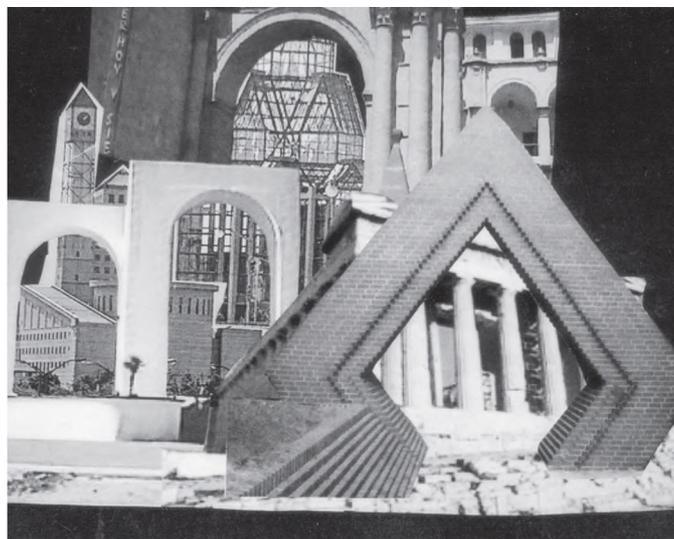
If any Old Boys would like to become members of the OW Club, please contact Ian Clark, 5 Foxhill Close, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 5BL, or [ianrclarkuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ianrclarkuk@yahoo.co.uk)

## Old Boys' Notes

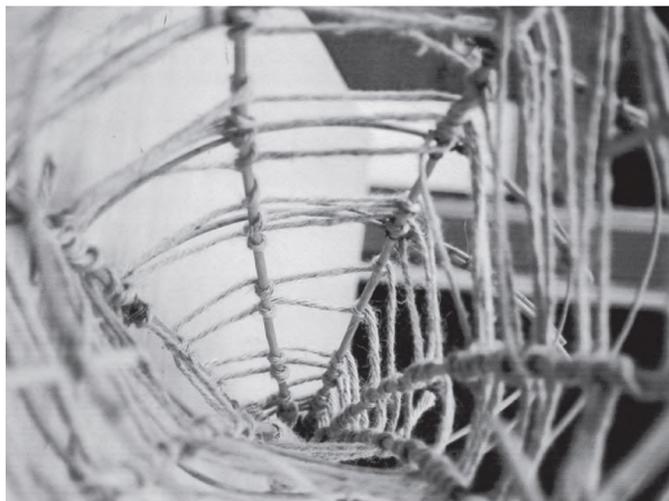
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**BREWER. R** (1992–98) Ross won the British Men's Gymnastics Championships title at Fenton Manor Sports Complex at Stoke on Trent in November 2003. This was in spite of dislocating one of the fingers on his right hand while warming up on the parallel bars!

**COLLARD. D** (1943–49) Dudley was present on the final VIP flight of Air France's fourth *Concorde* from Paris Charles de Gaulle airport to Toulouse on 27 June 2003. Dudley was the Chief Lead Aerodynamicist in the original design team. He went on to be a leader of other design teams on the *Airbus* and *Hermes Space Shuttle*. From 1989, he was Director of Studies on the Alliance, the proposed successor to *Concorde*. He retired in 1992.



Year 7  
Photo-montage



Year 8  
Natural forms

**DAWSON. M** (1985–91) Matthew, who is England's most capped scrum-half, was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours for being a member of England's victorious World Cup rugby team. His Benefit Dinner was held in the Queen's Hall in February, and his autobiography, *Matt Dawson, Nine Lives*, co-written with Alex Spink, has recently been published by CollinsWillow, price £18–99. Extracts from the book will be published in the 2005 edition of the *Wycombiensian*.

**MacTAVISH. A J** (1948–56) Andrew was Headmaster of 'King's School', the fictional 1950s grammar school which was filmed on location at the RGS by Twenty Twenty TV in July–August 2003 and broadcast by Channel 4 for the series *That'll teach 'em*. He was seen taking assemblies, appointing the head boy and head girl, and dealing with disciplinary problems in a no-nonsense manner!

**MADELIN. R** (1968–75) Robert has been appointed Director General for Public Health and Consumer Affairs at the European Commission.

**MERRYWEATHER. E** (1972–77) Edward is now working at the Abbey National as a technical support programmer on a variety of hardware and software and in several different computer languages. He is married with one daughter who has just started at grammar school in Aylesbury, and in his spare time he plays the guitar badly, hikes and researches his family history. He also occasionally goes with his brother, also ex-RGS, to watch Leicester Tigers, but his allegiance is with Wycombe in the round ball game! He is in regular contact with **Simon HILL**.

**NIXON. P** (1988–91) Peter still lives in Johannesburg, South Africa, and is now a qualified chartered accountant, currently working in the Internal Audit Department of Standard Bank, a large South African bank. Most of his work is around IT auditing and treasury systems. He has however decided that accountants are boring, and he is also studying part-time. His majors will probably be International Relations and Economics (with some Politics and Sociology thrown in). He is still single but living the good life and would love to hear from anyone in his year.



*Year 7  
Architectural models*

**NOAKES. N** (1991–93) Neil was nominated for a Bafta for his work in the interactive media section.

**PITT. D** (1993–99) David completed his training course at RAF Cranwell in May 2004, and was voted by his peers the cadet who made the greatest contribution to the course. He is now starting his professional training as a weapons systems officer, after which he hopes to fly in the rear seat of a Tornado GR4.

**WEST. A** (1966–73) After graduating in law from Southampton University, Andrew practised as a solicitor in that city and then studied at the University of Aix-en-Provence. He became a lecturer in Comparative Law, and is now at the University of Wales, Swansea, specialising in the French legal system. He is also a part-time lay preacher, and is working towards a Theology degree in his spare time. He is married to Claire, a midwife, and they have a young daughter called Cathy. He keeps fit by cycling and playing tennis.

## Obituaries

### Old Boys

**O’SULLIVAN. J** (1995–99) James was killed in a tragic car accident in Knotty Green on 16 December 2003.

**PEDDER. IM** (1936–42) Air Marshall Sir Ian Pedder, KCB, OBE, DFC was born on 2 May 1926 and was at the school in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and went up to Queen’s College, Oxford, in 1943. In 1944, he was commissioned in the RAF and was sent out to the Far East. He did not return to Oxford in 1945 and went on to an action-packed career on operations in many international post-war flashpoints, as Britain – and other nations – withdrew from their colonial empires. After the RAF, he successfully switched to air traffic management and was Controller of the National Air Traffic Services from 1981 to 1985. He died on 4 December 2002 and an obituary appeared in *The Times* on 20 December 2002.

**TIMPSON. N G** (1935–40) Norman Gerald, always known as ‘Nobby’, spent most of his working life in the planning department of Wycombe District Council. After leaving school he had jobs at Broom and Wade and Ernest Turners before signing for war service with the Fleet Air Arm. Nobby was born, and lived most of his life, in Great Kingshill. His love of cricket was legendary: Nobby led his village team from the third division to the first division of the Wycombe Cricket League which they won in 1951, 1952 and 1957, and he captained the side which won the 1966 knock-out cup. He served on the League’s council for several years, and was president of his village club from 1988 until his death in June 2003. Nobby was truly a ‘Chiltern man’ with an extensive knowledge of local matters; he will be sadly missed by family and friends.



*Jay Vincent  
Year 11  
Human form - movement*