

# The Wycombiensian

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2005

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**

## 1905–2005

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*In the ensuing article we travel back to the Royal Grammar School in 1905. In the article that follows the Headmaster takes a whimsical look at what the school might be like in four decades' time.*

### One hundred years ago

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With this issue of the *Wycombiensian* we mark one hundred years of publication of the school magazine. The first *Wycombiensian* appeared in December 1905 and sold 116 copies. Its editor was the newly-appointed Second Master and Mathematics teacher, Reginald Threlfall, a graduate of Queen's College, Oxford, who subsequently went on to become Headmaster of Ludlow Grammar School in 1913. His opening editorial expressed the hope that the magazine "will serve as a link between past and present generations," and that "those who are now in the School will some day turn with pleasure to the record of their doings in their boyhood".

Initially, the magazine was issued each term, but publication was irregular during the Second World War because of restrictions on the use of paper. Thereafter it appeared biannually, and since 1980 it has been published annually.

"The past is another country", and to revisit the era of the school's first magazine is to enter an unfamiliar land. In Britain, in 1905, the reigns of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra had reached their mid-point. Arthur Balfour resigned that year as Prime Minister, ending two decades of Conservative and Unionist domination of British politics. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman thereupon became head of a long-lasting (and last) Liberal government that would lay the foundations of the welfare state.

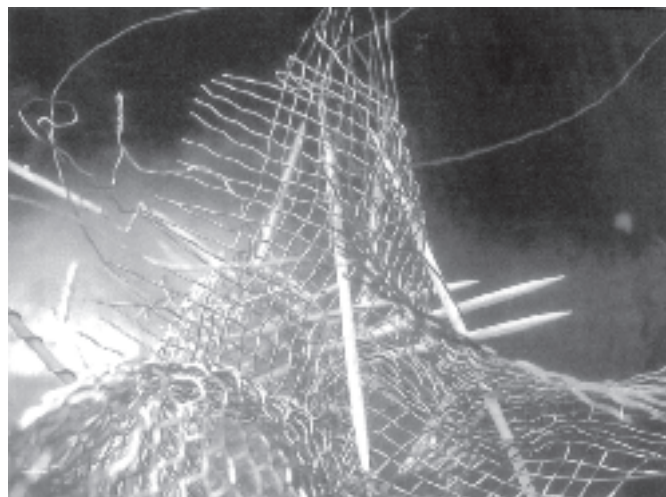
Internationally too, 1905 was a year of considerable importance. Russia, losing a disastrous war against Japan, was in the throes of revolution. Tsar Nicholas II only managed to save his throne by allowing the establishment of a *Duma* or parliament, ending centuries of Romanov autocracy. Nearer home, the sky was darkening. Kaiser Wilhelm II had provoked a crisis to thwart France's intention to proclaim a protectorate over Morocco. Britain, meanwhile, was faced with the challenging growth of the German High Seas Fleet and responded accordingly: two months after the first *Wycombiensian* the launching of HMS *Dreadnought* at Portsmouth rendered obsolete every existing battleship in the world and gave renewed momentum to the Anglo-German naval race. Confronted with German high-handedness, Britain and France embarked in 1905 on the secret military talks that were to culminate in their Great War alliance.

For the RGS, 1905 was also a highly significant year. In April, following the sudden death of the Headmaster, George

Peachell, a new man took the helm. This was George Arnison, aged 30, a graduate of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and formerly Second Master at Bridlington Grammar School; and his appointment coincided with - and to a great extent was responsible for - the beginning of the ascent that would make the RGS one of the leading schools in the country.

The school in 1905 was a pale shadow of what it would become. Firstly, it was very small. Standing on its Easton Street site, its comparatively new building (now St John's Place), dating from 1882–83 and lit by gas, had accommodation for 100 boys. However, although Wycombe's population had risen to 20,000, there were only 46 day boys and 10 boarders in 1905. The staff numbered just four. It was also a very young school: because many of the more affluent parents treated the school as a 'prep' school, few of the pupils stayed beyond the age of 13. A maximum of 10 boys were Foundation Scholars, who occupied free places open to boys from elementary schools; the rest of the pupils were 'capitation boys', charged £6.75p a year if under 12 and £8 if over 12. Boarders paid between £44 and £50.

In fact, for most of its long life the RGS had languished as an educational backwater, small in size and almost wholly lacking in academic distinction. It was particularly hampered by the absence of much 'hinterland' in the town. Two reasons



André Kübler

Year 12

*Experiments in sculpture*

account for this. For a start, there was a long-standing indifference among the mercantile and commercial classes of High Wycombe to the academic secondary education, emphasizing classical disciplines, which the school offered. Religious nonconformity also played its part. In the English Civil War Wycombe had been a stronghold of Presbyterians, Baptists and Congregationalists; Wesleyan Methodism then made inroads in the eighteenth century. The school - with its Latin grammar, Church of England catechism, and Anglican Headmasters (many of whom were in Holy Orders) - therefore stood somewhat apart from the town. Although the RGS had ceased to be an Anglican monopoly in 1856, this tradition of detachment continued.

Also holding back progress was the poverty of the ancient charitable foundation on which the school rested. The foundation's assets consisted of local property and funds invested in gilt-edged securities or 'Consols'. However, the late nineteenth century agricultural depression had cut sharply the rental income of the property portfolio. A further financial constraint was the persistent conflict between the endowment's educational and charitable responsibilities (specifically, the upkeep of 14 local almshouses), a polarity that was only resolved with the final separation of the two roles in 1962. In 1904 the foundation's annual income was just over £700, of which the school received £474. Money was so scarce that Peachell had even subsidized his assistant teachers' salaries from his own pocket!

However, the beginning of the twentieth century - the period coeval with Arnison's arrival in 1905 - was to be the turning point in the school's fortunes. Two developments eased the long-standing financial constraints. In August 1899 the Great Western Railway, in partnership with the Great Central Railway, secured parliamentary approval for the construction of a direct line into Wycombe from London (as opposed to the already existing 1854 branch line via Maidenhead which had been constructed by Brunel). To facilitate construction the railway companies bought 10 acres of land from the foundation, and the school received the substantial sum of £3,750 from the transaction.

Almost immediately after this windfall the 1902 Balfour Education Act opened up another - this time, continuing - source of funds. In return for the inclusion of County Council representatives on the Board of Governors and the admission of a number of scholarship boys whose fees were paid by the Council, the school began to receive grants from the Board of Education and the County Council. One early benefit was the construction of the school's first science laboratory in 1903, filling a long-standing deficiency in the school's curriculum. Government and council funds were to become even more important: by 1916 they equalled the school's endowment income and that from fees. This trend gathered pace as the century progressed, and with the 1944 Butler Education Act all fee-paying places were abolished. The school thus became almost entirely dependent on public funding, as it is today.

Conjoined with these favourable financial developments, Arnison's appointment as young Headmaster steepened the trajectory of progress and produced, as his later valedictory tribute in the *Wycombiensian* put it, "a quickening of life in the old School". In 1905 alone, besides the starting of the school magazine, electric lighting replaced gas in the classrooms, a cricket pavilion was opened on the Rye Mead, a debating society was founded, and the school Library began to extend its range of reference books.

Academic standards, helped by Arnison's establishment of a Sixth Form in 1906, at last began to rise. Before Arnison, few boys had taken external exams, and assessment was by way of regular inspectorial visitation. The polymath vicar of Lane End, the Revd Francis Nash, examined the boys in English

grammar and literature, History, Geography, Holy Scripture, French, Latin and the various branches of Mathematics. The Headmaster of King Alfred's School, Wantage, the Revd Marchant Pearson, reported on the newly introduced subjects, Physics and Chemistry. However, building on a trend tentatively introduced by his predecessor, Arnison began to enter more and more boys for the Oxford Local Examinations - and with growing success. At a more senior level, a particular triumph was achieved in 1907 with the award of an Open Scholarship to D.J. Watson to read Mathematics at Clare College, Cambridge - the first Open Scholarship at Oxford or Cambridge ever won by the RGS. (Watson, who was coached by Threlfall, won it despite being eighteen months below the age limit; Arnison declared a half day holiday in celebration.) This was to be the first of many such successes as the century wore on until the abolition of academic Open Awards in 1984-85.

Parallel to this, in 1906 the school became accredited as a Pupil Teachers' Centre, preparing up to 10 would-be teachers a year for the Elementary School Teachers' Certificate examination.

Along with academic standards, numbers also began to rise rapidly. In Arnison's first three years alone the school doubled in size. The Great Western's new railway line, which opened in April 1906, played a part by enlarging the school's catchment area: by 1912 more than half the boys came from outside Wycombe. On Arnison's retirement in 1933 the school roll stood at 350, and its size has quadrupled since then. To cope with growing numbers, Arnison in 1908 copied the public schools and introduced 'houses' within the school - a system commended by the present government as recently as July 2004 as being worthy of imitation in the state sector!

Finally, the establishment of the Old Wycombiensians' Club in 1909 created a formal link between the past and the present which, along with the magazine itself, has served to preserve the school's 'institutional memory' ever since.

All these developments a hundred years ago - the time of the first *Wycombiensian* - finally lifted the RGS out of its trough. With continued growth the school now became seriously overcrowded, and plans were made to leave its ancient site. In May 1915 the RGS finally shed its medieval links with the crumbling Norman arches of Easton Street and moved to its present, much larger, location on Amersham Hill. There it was to open the next chapter of its long life, the various stages faithfully chronicled in the pages of the *Wycombiensian*, as they will continue to be during the next hundred years.

M.J.S.



Year 8  
Pen and wash drawing



# A Life in the Day of...

## Tim Dingle, June 2046

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*The Headmaster of the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (RGS HW). Age 87. (The most famous School in Europe, having over 200 franchised outlets across the United States of Europe)*

I am woken as usual by the National Ethernet Broadcast Channel and the cheery tones of synthetic Terry Wogan still going strong and laughing at the idiocies of last night's soaps on the holovision. The smell of fresh fair trade coffee is pumped into my room and instantly memories of my early days in teaching come flooding back. Now they have raised retirement age to 90, I can see the end in sight. There were 5 Headmasters last century and there will probably be only two during this one. My successor will be the first female head of the co-educational RGS.

A glance at my timetable, displayed on the giant data wall, tells me that today is one of my 'at RGS' days, as opposed to the 'working from home days', using the VLE (virtual learning environment) bio-terminal. I'm not sorry about this, as although I'm not too bad with bio-computers, I quite like going into School and seeing real people. The sorry fact is that bio-technology still crashes too often, and there has never been any real way to prevent learners from chatting and exchanging genetic hacking details, never mind copying work from the third generation Free World Wide Web and passing it off as their own (despite biometric scanning and recognition programs). These days, partly as a result of continuing teacher shortages, neither staff nor learners (we used to call them pupils) are in school for every day of the week.

The journey to RGS only takes 2 minutes, not because of any great technological advance, but because I live within walking distance. There are both advantages and disadvantages to this. On the one hand I don't have a nightmare journey through the traffic, stopping every half mile or so at pay-booths for the nationwide 'congestion charges', but on the other hand it is a little close to some of the learners sometimes, although the electronic fences, forcefields and alarms make this less of a problem than it might be. I take with me a can of portable oxygen, stungun and my tatty gown. I try to keep a smile throughout the day.

School begins promptly at 0600. Registration is by genetic fingerprinting these days, and there is no assembly as such, religion having been abolished from school as elitist and discriminatory a few years back. I really miss this element and secretly plan that the RGS will once more lead the world in hymn singing. Ho-hum, glory days. However there is a brief two-way holovision ceremony in which we pledge allegiance to the President of the United States of Europe (an OW). Our 'on-time, on-line, on-course' RGS franchises across Europe then all join us for the thought for the day. This morning I ask them to have the 'courage to dream' in 17 languages. Not sure that anyone was listening, but at least I have tried.

We are open for business 364 days a year and I do miss the old 'summer break' and 'terms'. Still it allows for staff to take their holidays anytime. For most of the morning I am in the King William's Sphere (the Old Queen's Hall), with classes of nearly 80 learners, another consequence of the teacher shortage. Older colleagues with whom I worked earlier in my career would be surprised to see this, and more surprised still to learn that discipline has actually improved, despite the larger class size, but the reason for this is that since teachers were allowed to use a quick jolt of electricity, administered from the console at the front of the sphere to those learners



*Nicholas Miller  
Year 9*

*Pen and ink study*

who are disruptive or simply not paying attention, behaviour has improved markedly. Indeed, there has been a recent upsurge in the number of former learners who employ Central Legal Chambers on their behalf to sue schools which allowed the indiscipline of others to affect their education in the early years of the century.

Much of the afternoon session is taken up with individual counselling sessions, either with learners or staff, although this is generally more of an academic than a personal nature. Medical conditions and other special needs seem to have declined in recent years as discipline has improved, and teachers are now able to spend their time either teaching large groups of learners or helping small groups or individuals with specific difficulties rather than doing unpaid and untrained social work. For the first time in years there is a real sense of pride and achievement evident when teachers get together rather than one of despair. Of the 4000 learners at RGS HW, over 500 are now 'Lifers' (Life Long Learners) with the oldest being 67!

School ends at 13.00 for pupils and an hour later for teachers, to allow time for Tai Chi Chuan (standing meditation practices that help develop the root, legs, chi, mind, and spirit). I will lead the standing universal post meditation practice from Kuang P'ing Yang. Tai Chi Chuan removes stress and is a compulsory element of the workforce reforms of the 2030s. It is the end of the school day as far as teachers are concerned. Only those who wish to engage in extra-curricular activities do so, and they are paid top Euros for their time. Rugby was made the National game some years back and as RGS now produces nearly all the team, England now play the 12 Nations tournament in the Olympic Stadium in Wycombe. Tom Rees (OW), the England Manager, still takes time to visit the School and coach.

My evening is spent relaxing, reading, playing holographic rugby (I like to remember the great games and take the role of the players; last night I slotted a drop goal in England's first World Cup victory and tomorrow I shall enjoy the famous fifth win in London). I continue to love my job and am so proud of the RGS. I shall sleep well tonight and look forward with joy to the day ahead. Sometimes I close my eyes and think of the 'good' old days.

T.T.D.

# STAFF LEAVERS

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## Dr Ray Dosser

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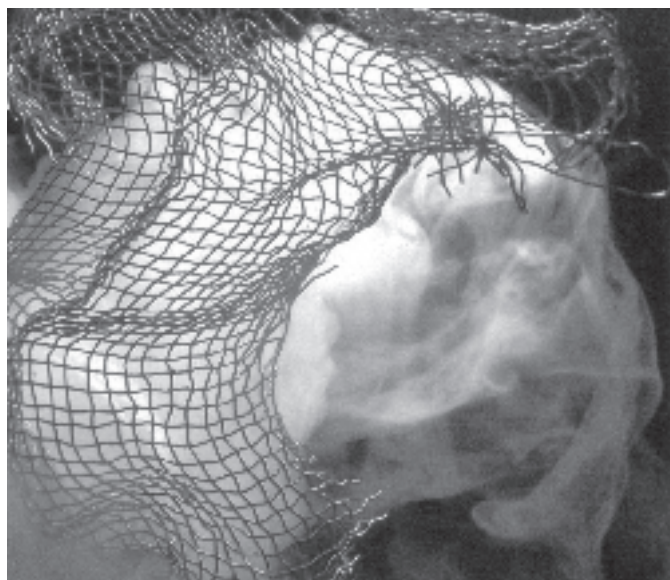
Ray graduated from the University of Wales and after studying for a PhD in transition metal chemistry went on to further research at the University of Sussex. He enjoyed taking tutorials and decided that a career in education was worth considering. However Ray didn't fancy doing any more exams so he did his PGCE at Chelsea College, because it was an exam free zone.

Ray joined the RGS in 1973 along with Mike Earl and Steve Gamester, and as well as contributing to the Chemistry department was asked by Jock Learmonth to run the first rugby 'B' team (U13s) to play on a regular basis. Ray knew so little about rugby, because all his previous involvement was with football, that he had to rely on the guidance of Derek Stubbs and particularly television to learn enough to run the team, which he did successfully for 16 years!

You can say a lot about Ray's character by looking at his life-long devotion to football as a player and a fan. Ian Wilson announced in a staff meeting that Ray had played in over 600 games for the staff over a 30-year period, and even in his last season Ray's skill and commitment were still well respected by the boys.

Ray's perseverance, tolerance and, in fact, fatalism are well illustrated by his support of Wolverhampton Wanderers, man and boy. Despite the Wolves not experiencing a lot of success in recent years, Ray remains convinced that the glory days will return. In fact, Wolves were the early model for the Chelsea revival, having a rich supporter pumping lots of money into the club to buy success. It was only the result that was different.

While carrying out his post-doctoral research, Ray once worked alongside a man whom he described as being pretty quiet, had one research assistant and was yet to make an impact. This turned out to be Dr Harry Kroto, who later won a Nobel Prize for discovering the structure of a completely new and unexpected form of the element, carbon. Ray always was an excellent judge of character!



*Timothy Peplow  
Year 12  
Shadow sculpture*

Joking apart, Ray has had massive respect both from staff and the boys, throughout a career in which he made an enormous contribution to the life of the school. Ian Clark, who worked closely with Ray when Ray was a Middle School Head of Year, describes him as absolutely dedicated to the work, great at dealing with the masses of paperwork involved and very skilled when facing difficult cases, where he displayed care, compassion and determination.

Ray accepted a variety of further roles during his career, including Press Officer, Head of Chemistry and, on a rotating basis with the heads of Physics and Biology, Head of Science. His family were also heavily involved with the school, his son studying at the RGS and his wife contributing to its musical life.

On behalf of the department, you have been a great colleague to work with. Enjoy cleaning out the loft and reading Malcolm Cook's diaries. Happy retirement.

P.B.

## Mr Will Phelan

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Will Phelan was appointed to the History department in 1995 from a very strong field of applicants. He quickly settled in to his HQ in Room 22, despite being the largest member of staff located to the smallest room in the school. There was hardly any room left for the boys and they certainly had no space in which to muck about. In any case that was not going to be an option. Will never put up with any nonsense, and his booming voice would quell dissent not just in his room but also in most of those around him.

He has made an invaluable contribution to History teaching at RGS and put his own stamp on lessons by pursuing his individual enthusiasms. There will be many boys who will cherish memories of the outside enactments of the battle of Hastings and will take to their graves a knowledge of Vlad the Impaler. At Sixth Form level he made himself into something of an expert in nineteenth century Irish history. He has also been a regular staff presence on the French/History trips to France and has taken gangs of Sixth Formers to lectures in London. He has grappled with, and embraced, the bewildering demands flung at us by the merry-go-round of syllabus changes with admirable flexibility. In addition, his contribution to games in the school has been enormous. In particular, he has steered U15/16 rugby teams through successful seasons and through numerous rounds of Sevens competitions. Cricket is a great passion of Will's and in his early days in the school he took on cricket teams. I know that his recent election to the MCC was a highlight of his life.

Headmaster David Levin propelled Will into pastoral work in the Middle School. Here he found his future career development, cutting his teeth on the mad and the bad in Years 10 and 11. His mixture of authority and empathetic understanding of problems enabled him to make this a successful period of his life at RGS. It was on the basis of this that he secured a well deserved promotion that takes him, with his wife Lorna, off to be Head of Sixth Form at Abingdon School.

Will Phelan will be much missed in the History department for his infectious joviality and loyal support, but the video tapes will heave a sigh of relief that they are now less likely to be mangled, mammed or mislaid.

J.R.



## Mrs Elizabeth Edwards

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Liz Edwards joined the staff in September 1999 as second in charge of the English department. We said farewell to her in the summer of 2004 as she left High Wycombe with her husband Paul to live in Wales. Paul is from Wales and has taken up a teaching post near Swansea.

Liz came to us from Bishop Ramsey School in Ruislip, where her energy and enthusiasm had already meant that she was a teacher librarian and a teacher governor in addition to her teaching duties. She settled in to the RGS English department very quickly and was immediately popular with her commitment and her sunny personality. She was a very effective second in department who was happy to take full responsibility for Key Stage 4 and help wherever necessary. Liz is a very efficient person and her tidy desk and organised filing systems were frightening and a lesson to some of the rest of us in the department.

As a teacher she was respected and popular and she worked very hard for the pupils. She showed equal enthusiasm for her Year 7s and her Sixth Form classes.

Liz taught Communication Studies for a while when there was a vacancy, she set up a review reading club, she ran the creative writing club and she was instrumental in starting the Year 7 Accelerated Reader programme. She is an aerobics teacher and one year she ran after school classes for the staff. She is also musical and she performed in one of the staff revues. In fact she entered whole-heartedly into the life of the school and made many firm friends.

In 2002 Liz gave birth to her daughter Caitlin. She returned to work in September of that year but in 2003 decided to work part time.

Liz is sadly missed by the school and the English department for her professionalism, her inspirational teaching and her friendly personality. We wish both her and Paul every success in the future and hope that work and family will prosper in Wales.

J.L.H.

## Mr Ian Fullarton

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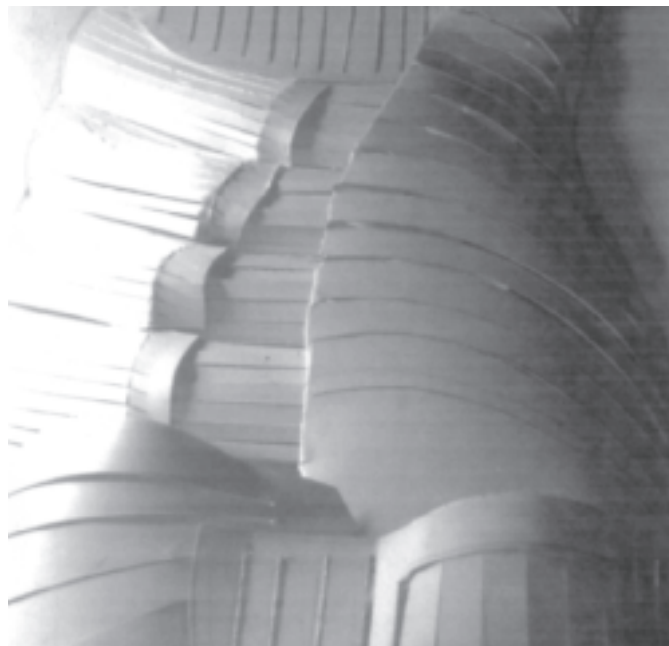
After graduating from Imperial College Ian Fullarton spent 4 years doing research before starting his teaching career at Bedford Modern School, where he was a boarding house tutor. He joined RGS as Head of Physics in September 2001, and immediately made a big impact on the department by reducing its average age to below 55 - although this soon changed with the appointment of Dr Wolfe. He was keen that all members of his department should have hair no longer than grade 4, and he was strongly supported in this by Mr Moore.

Ian was determined to maintain the high standards set by his predecessor, introducing more formal end of topic tests, and acquiring up to date equipment whenever financially possible. He always did his best to ensure that the department ran smoothly, with the boys getting the best possible guidance. In addition to his teaching he was 2i/c of the CCF Naval Section, regularly taking boys sailing on the Thames at Danesfield near Marlow. He also took a World Challenge expedition to Turkey in July 2004, spending a week with 14 boys trekking at above 10,000 feet in central Anatolia.

We shall miss Ian's participation in a wide variety of staff sports, including basketball, soccer and golf, where his somewhat unorthodox but fully committed approach seemed to be based around keeping his head down and charging at anyone who dared to get in his way.

Ian is looking forward to his new position as Head of Science at the International School in Milan, where he hopes to enjoy teaching classes of 12, drinking espressos, and watching a slightly higher standard of football in a rather more pleasant climate. He leaves behind a flourishing, if somewhat aged, department and we, rather enviously, wish him every success for the future.

M.E.



*Edward Dickson*

*Year 13*

*Musculature relief sculpture*

## Mr Peter Turner

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Peter Turner taught Maths in the school from 2000 to 2004 and will be remembered as a dedicated schoolmaster. Previously he had been teaching in north Buckinghamshire and, from 1997, at Giggleswick School. Although originally coming from Sussex, he had spent 27 years teaching in Rhodesia at St George's College and St John's College. Peter was a valued member of the department who was always keen to demand high standards from his pupils. In his final year (2004) his GCSE set 3 achieved 13 As out of 17. In addition to his teaching, he took a full part in the social life of the department and will be remembered for his superintending the barbecue at the departmental end of year social.

Much of his time abroad was spent coaching cricket and rugby teams and he was to bring this considerable expertise to the RGS. For instance, he had some outstanding success with the 2nd XV rugby sides of 2002–3–4. When he took over the running of the 1st XI cricket team he invited the famous Sir Garfield Sobers to visit the school, and then Peter masterminded the 2003 tour to Barbados for Sir Garfield's International Cricket Festival for 28 teams. This proved to be a great success, with RGS reaching the quarter-finals and only losing at this stage to the eventual winners.

He will be remembered by many boys for his running, with his wife, of the Tuck Shop at morning break and lunch, where he introduced several new developments. In 2004 he left us to develop his entrepreneurial skills in France with his family in running a Bed and Breakfast. We wish them all well in this new venture, and hope that he has tremendous success and perhaps visits us again.

D.M.B./D.G.S.



*Nicholas Miller  
Year 9  
Studies for sculpture*

## Mrs Lyn Turner

Lyn made a very distinct impression on the Business Studies department from the moment she joined us in 2001. Her no-nonsense approach to teaching left some of the more lethargic members of the Sixth Form stunned, but her rigorous and systematic teaching undeniably dragged many pupils to higher grades than they would have expected.

Although possessing a reputation for toughness with the less willing pupils, she was extremely generous with her time when pupils needed help outside class, and she was often to be seen offering individual help and advice.

Lyn's commitment to the department was clear, and her dry sense of humour enlivened department meetings, formal and informal. She was a valued colleague, who made many contributions to our resources and methods.

Lyn also made two other major contributions to RGS life, firstly in her enormous contribution to the Young Enterprise scheme, where she put in a very large amount of time and effort to encourage and support our successful teams, but also of course in running the Tuck Shop with Peter. Here she was able to put her Business Studies theory into practice, and give her assistants practical experience of marketing and stock control (and crowd control).

In July 2004 Lyn and Peter escaped the world of lesson-planning and Ofsted inspections, and our best wishes go with them in their new life in France.

P.X.B.

## Mrs Kirsten Daley

Mrs Kirsten Daley, who left us in July last year, joined RGS as a teacher of French and Spanish in September 2003. Her enthusiasm for languages was evident from the start, and her artistic flair did not go unnoticed by all who taught in her classroom. She willingly became involved with pupils with Special Needs and her approachability proved invaluable in this field. We greatly appreciated her lively contribution to the Modern Languages department and wish her well in her new post closer to home in London.

H.R.M.

## Mr Martyn Tinnion

Martyn Tinnion joined the Biology department at RGS in September 2004. Previously he had been Deputy Head at Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School in Aylesbury but decided he wanted to get back to the chalk face - only to find it replaced by the slippery slopes of the RGS whiteboards.

Martyn came at a fortuitous time for the department when he took over Dr Philpott's exam classes whilst she was very ill. The pupils have been stretched and extended on Mr Tinnion's educational rack and have emerged this year with the benefit of his excellent teaching. Martyn was just carving out his ecological niche in the school when he was enticed by the Head of Biology post at Aylesbury High School, and he has decided to migrate to an environment closer to home. We wish Martyn well in his new post.

M.E.R.

## Mrs Deborah Knight

Deborah joined the Royal Grammar School in September 2004, having taught in Scotland for a number of years. She brought with her an enthusiasm for Strategy Games and swimming, both of which she had started to run as extra-curricular activities, when she was sadly forced to leave due to ill health.

C.A.W.

## Mrs Margaret Carroll

Margaret Carroll joined the Royal Grammar School in 1976 as Assistant Caretaker. At the time, RGS had an all-male caretaking staff under the leadership of Fred Brown. Margaret's appointment certainly provoked comment at the time, but her service to the school over 29 years has underlined the wisdom and foresight of her appointment. She left as Senior Caretaker with a full grasp of all that happened at the RGS.

As with all long serving members of staff, Margaret will have witnessed several changes, all of which she has embraced with her personal style of phlegmatic observation, and then quietly got on with her job. She has served under three Headmasters, all of whom quickly learnt the wisdom of not upsetting Margaret, and she has seen off various Bursars and Estate Managers as the school responded to the ever-changing demands made on it.

Margaret was never one to hold back when she had a clear view or opinion on any school matter, but underneath was a heart of gold and a real love for the RGS. She gave willingly of her time to supervise evening lets until she decided that the comfort of home was far more appealing than locking doors on a cold, wet, windy night.



It is interesting, and a credit to Margaret, that whenever Old Boys gather, the character of Margaret is always mentioned with affection, and their respect for her is obvious.

We wish Margaret a long and healthy retirement where she can enjoy the delights of her grandchildren and the continued pleasures of the Irish Club. We will miss Margaret and we hope that she takes with her many happy memories. It is obvious from the reception she received on the day of her retirement that she will figure long in the reminiscences of staff as they muse over their favourite tippie. Margaret will approve of that!

R.M.P.



*Benjamin Smith  
Year 13*

*Chantraine dancers (graphite drawing)*

## Mr Bill Dobbs

Bill joined the Royal Grammar School in 2002 as our first Enterprise Manager, having had a successful career with BT. He took over from Comptons International, who had inaugurated the Campaign for Excellence that had raised £1m. As well as working with the Campaign Committee in continuing to raise money for the school, now over £1.4m, Bill also embraced the lettings' side of the school. Under his leadership and innovative ideas, this has now become a major source of income for the RGS. Here his commitment was clearly evident from the number of hours he gave to supervise personally the letting facilities, often requiring unsociable hours.

Although Bill is not a qualified teacher, he has contributed not only to the fundraising of the school, but also to the extra-curricular side of the school curriculum. His willingness to be involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, the South American World Challenge adventure and various field trips has been very much appreciated. He even supervised a Sixth Form disco at Wycombe Abbey, being the only RGS member of staff present. His commitment and enthusiasm have been first class and he will be long remembered for it.

We wish Bill and his wife, Ann, a long and healthy retirement as they plan to move to their new home in Crete. Should he be foolish enough to leave his address in Crete at school, he can be assured of regular visits from ex-colleagues.

R.M.P.



*Year 8  
Pen and wash*

## Mrs Christine Walker

Christine joined the RGS in February 2004 as Receptionist. Christine quickly settled into the busy routine of the School Office, ensuring everything was just right. Staff soon learnt that it was inappropriate to leave filing in the wrong place, but this was always done with a cheery smile and a willingness to help. We wish Christine well in her new venture and hope that she takes with her happy memories of her short time at the RGS.

R.M.P.

# UNIVERSITY ENTRY 2004–05

## OXFORD

<b>Abram, Simon</b>	Christ Church; Medicine
<b>Allfrey, Julian</b>	Wadham; Medicine
<b>Berry, Nicholas</b>	Magdalen; Physics
<b>Coles, Matthew</b>	Magdalen; Modern History
<b>Kelleher, Neil</b>	Exeter; Law
<b>Moore, Robert</b>	Balliol (05); Classics
<b>Ravenscroft, Thomas</b>	Merton; Economics and Management
<b>Strange, Darren</b>	Queen's; Physics
<b>Taylor, Matthew</b>	Wadham; Physics
<b>Willcock, Simon</b>	Jesus; Biological Science

## CAMBRIDGE

<b>Booth, Richard</b>	Clare; Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic
<b>Crabb, Michael</b>	Girton; Natural Sciences
<b>Drofiak, Alexander</b>	Robinson; Engineering
<b>Johnson, David</b>	Queens'; Music
<b>Monteiro, Barnaby</b>	St Catharine's; Engineering
<b>Tooke, Philip</b>	Jesus; Natural Sciences
<b>Warren, Sean</b>	Queens'; Computer Sciences
<b>Zydron, Aleksander</b>	Fitzwilliam; Geography

## OTHER UNIVERSITIES

<b>Anderson, Michael</b>	Leeds; French/Spanish
<b>Appleton, Joseph</b>	Leeds; Medicine
<b>Arif, Amand</b>	Southampton; Medicine with Foundation Year
<b>Armstrong, Alexander</b>	Nottingham; Medicine
<b>Babumba, Arnold</b>	Manchester; Medicine
<b>Bartlett, Mark</b>	University College, London; Human Genetics
<b>Batten, Mark</b>	Nottingham; Mechanical Engineering
<b>Baxter, James</b>	Bristol; Physics
<b>Beloff, Jonathan</b>	Oxford Brookes; Film and English Studies
<b>Bennett, Thomas</b>	Royal Holloway, London; Environmental Geoscience
<b>Blampied, James</b>	University College, London; Law
<b>Bromley, Matthew</b>	St Andrew's; History
<b>Brown, Peter</b>	Harper Adams University College; Agricultural Engineering
<b>Bryant, Oliver</b>	Oxford Brookes (05); Real Estate Management
<b>Bugden, Harry</b>	Leeds; Philosophy
<b>Bull, Christopher</b>	Surrey; Biochemistry
<b>Burke, Michael</b>	Bath; Business Administration
<b>Cabral, Matthew</b>	Southampton; Mechanical Engineering
<b>Chaffey, Simon</b>	Staffordshire; Geography with Mountain Leadership
<b>Chancellor, James</b>	Bristol; Mechanical Engineering
<b>Chowdery, Mehran</b>	Westminster; Law
<b>Clark, Thomas</b>	East Anglia; English Literature and Philosophy
<b>Clarkin, Philip</b>	Leeds; Applied Chemistry

<b>Daniel, Andrew</b>	Loughborough; Sport and Exercise Science
<b>Davey, Andrew</b>	Southampton; Electronic Engineering
<b>Davies, Thomas</b>	Durham; Geography
<b>Daynes, Nicholas</b>	Bristol; Mechanical Engineering
<b>Deeley, Alexis</b>	Buckinghamshire Chilterns; Music Production
<b>Dernulc, Janez</b>	Exeter; Mechanical Engineering
<b>Desai, Amit</b>	Bristol; Physiological Science
<b>Devine, Mark</b>	Liverpool; Physiotherapy
<b>Devlin, Hayden</b>	Birmingham; Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science
<b>Dharamsi, Imran</b>	Birmingham; Economics
<b>Downs, Fabian</b>	Bangor; Sports Science/French
<b>Farrell, William</b>	University College, London; History
<b>Fearon, Edward</b>	Southampton; English
<b>Feery, Alexander</b>	Goldsmiths' College, London; English and History of Art
<b>Fenn, Matthew</b>	King Alfred's, Winchester (05); Archaeological Practice
<b>Ferguson, Thomas</b>	Nottingham; Economics
<b>Fletcher, Christopher</b>	Liverpool; Marine Biology
<b>Fulker, Andrew</b>	Nottingham; American Studies
<b>Gabe, Jonathan</b>	Newcastle; Architectural Studies
<b>Garlick, Andrew</b>	Birmingham; African Studies with Anthropology
<b>Garratt, James</b>	Bristol; French and Spanish
<b>Glover, Alexander</b>	Bristol; Medicine
<b>Gower, Samuel</b>	Bath; Psychology
<b>Gray, Jamie</b>	Bournemouth (05); Leisure Marketing
<b>Guliani, Hari</b>	University College, London; Law
<b>Guttfeld, Max</b>	Nottingham; Law
<b>Habib, Rizwan</b>	University College, London; Economics
<b>Hagan, Simon</b>	Reading; English
<b>Hanif, Habib</b>	Sheffield; Accounting and Financial Management
<b>Harding, John</b>	Birmingham (05); Sport, Physical Education and Community Studies
<b>Haussauer, James</b>	Bath; Natural Sciences
<b>Heavyside, Andrew</b>	Aberdeen; Medicine
<b>Henderson, Thomas</b>	Bath; Psychology
<b>Hewitt, Peter</b>	Plymouth (05); Psychology
<b>Higginson, Thomas</b>	Birmingham; Business Studies/French Studies
<b>Hill, James</b>	Oxford Brookes (05); Business Economics
<b>Howlin, James</b>	Southampton; Archaeology and History
<b>Humphreys, Benjamin</b>	Southampton; Computer Science
<b>Hussain, Osman</b>	Aston; Optometry
<b>Hutchinson, Jack</b>	Nottingham; Philosophy
<b>Iqbal, Favaad</b>	Durham; Chemistry
<b>Isaac, Thomas</b>	Newcastle (05); Marine Biology
<b>Islam, Muhammad</b>	SOAS, London; Arabic
<b>Jackson, Jonathan</b>	Brunel; Computer Science
<b>Jackson, William</b>	Durham; General Engineering
<b>Jeavons, Ross</b>	Sheffield; Journalism Studies
<b>Jones, Edward</b>	Leeds; International Relations
<b>Kaczmar, Darius</b>	Imperial College, London; Applied Business Management



<b>Kang, Paul</b>	Nottingham; Ancient History	<b>Searby, Glenn</b>	Bristol; History
<b>Lea-Wilson, Simon</b>	Nottingham (05); Civil Engineering	<b>Sharman, Peter</b>	Nottingham (05); Mechanical Engineering
<b>Lee, Marcus</b>	Huddersfield; Music Technology and Audio Systems	<b>Sheppard, David</b>	Bristol (05); French
<b>Lloyd, Nicholas</b>	University College, London; Astrophysics	<b>Simpson, Anthony</b>	Exeter; Mechanical Engineering
<b>Luff, James</b>	Anglia Polytechnic University; Optometry	<b>Simpson, Robert</b>	SOAS, London (05); Japanese
<b>Lunn, Eric</b>	Greenwich; Environmental Sciences	<b>Solf, Christopher</b>	Sheffield; East Asian Studies
<b>MacKenzie, David</b>	Southampton; Economics	<b>Sprigge, Thomas</b>	Leeds; Philosophy
<b>Mann, Euan</b>	Aston; Business and Management	<b>Stern, Mark</b>	Lancaster; Operations Management
<b>Manning, David</b>	University College, London; Physics	<b>Stock, Jonathan</b>	King's College, London; English and French Law
<b>Mastenbroek, Luc</b>	Bath; International Management and German	<b>Tattersall, Simon</b>	University of Wales Institute, Cardiff; Sport and Physical Education
<b>Matcham, Lindsay</b>	Leeds; History and Philosophy	<b>Thaker, Joshan</b>	Portsmouth; Accounting with Finance
<b>McKenzie, Graeme</b>	Nottingham; Biochemistry and Genetics	<b>Thirkell, Alexander</b>	Manchester; Classical Studies
<b>Milsted, Ashley</b>	Durham; Natural Sciences	<b>Treagus, James</b>	Coventry; Transport Design
<b>Muir, Robert</b>	Edinburgh; Veterinary Medicine	<b>Tweedy, Stuart</b>	Loughborough (05); Mathematics
<b>Mulder, William</b>	Surrey; Psychology	<b>Varley, Luke</b>	Aston (05); Human Psychology
<b>Murphy, Christopher</b>	Nottingham; Economics	<b>Walker, Christian</b>	Salford; Media, Language and Business
<b>Neville, Rickie</b>	Central Lancashire (05); Psychology and Criminology	<b>Wallbank, Oliver</b>	Reading (05); Management and Business Administration
<b>Nicholls, Graham</b>	Oxford Brookes; Architecture	<b>Whyte, Richard</b>	Loughborough; Communication and Media Studies
<b>Niedzwiedzki, Alexander</b>	York (05); Computer Science/ Mathematics	<b>Wideson, Paul</b>	Swansea; Spanish and French
<b>Nightingale, Donovan</b>	Imperial College, London (05); Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering	<b>Wildman, Matthew</b>	Nottingham (05); Electronic Engineering with a Modern Language
<b>Noble, Robert</b>	Nottingham; Economics	<b>Wood, Christopher</b>	Bristol; Aeronautical Engineering
<b>Norris, Robert</b>	Sheffield; Animal Behaviour	<b>Wood, William</b>	Durham; Human Sciences
<b>North, Oliver</b>	Bristol (05); Mechanical Engineering	<b>Wright, Craig</b>	Loughborough; Politics
<b>O'Keeffe, Christopher</b>	Nottingham; Contemporary European Studies and Chinese Studies	<b>Yates, Matthew</b>	Warwick; Economics and Economic History
<b>O'Neill, Benedict</b>	Southampton; Computer Science	<b>Yousuf, Mubeen</b>	Queen Mary, London (05); Medicine
<b>Parrett, Adam</b>	Lancaster; Environmental Science	<b>Zair, Andrew</b>	Leeds; Geography
<b>Patel, Rajiv</b>	Aston; Pharmacy	<b>Zywina, Michael</b>	Nottingham; Portuguese and Spanish
<b>Pearce, David</b>	Nottingham; Sociology		
<b>Perren, Edward</b>	Manchester; Dentistry		
<b>Power, Thomas</b>	Birmingham; Sport, Physical Education and Community Studies		
<b>Poynter, Christopher</b>	Durham; Geography		
<b>Prentice, Alexander</b>	Birmingham; Public Policy, Government and Management		
<b>Price, Colin</b>	Birmingham; Media, Culture and Society		
<b>Ramanabalan, Nishanthan</b>	King's College, London; Biomedical Science		
<b>Rashid, Arie</b>	Aston; International Business and French		
<b>Relph, Richard</b>	Northampton; Law		
<b>Rose-Nokes, Joshua</b>	Leeds; International History and Politics		
<b>Rundell, Edward</b>	Nottingham; Biology		
<b>Rutter, Andrew</b>	Newcastle; Zoology		
<b>Sandhu, Mandeep</b>	De Montfort; Human Psychology		
<b>Saunders, Benjamin</b>	Warwick; History		
<b>Saward, James</b>	Queen Mary, London; French and Linguistics		
<b>Schafer-Peek, William</b>	Southampton; Modern Languages		
<b>Scrivener, Neil</b>	Buckinghamshire Chilterns; Music Industry Management and Studio Production		



*Benjamin Saunders and Simon Willcock celebrate their A Level successes, 19 August 2004.  
Photograph: courtesy of the Bucks Free Press*

### Matthew Dawson: the early years

*Matthew Dawson was a pupil at the RGS between 1985 and 1991. A gifted rugby player, he went on to play for Northampton, Wasps and England. He was a member of the squad which won the rugby World Cup in 2003, and was awarded the MBE in 2004. In this extract from his autobiography he describes his youth in Marlow and at the RGS.*

I enjoyed rugby, but I also loved football, which I started playing when we moved to Marlow in 1980, and it was the only sport on offer at the Holy Trinity primary school... I continued to play rugby on Sundays at Marlow RFC, where Dad coached me (he'd initially just come along to watch, but after a while standing on the touchline someone asked him to help out; he agreed, he worked hard for his certificates and coached for the next 11 years), but football was my main love and before too long I was picked up by Chelsea Boys. A Chelsea scout had seen me and Spencer Tuckerman, my best friend, playing locally for Flackwell Heath, and the pair of us were invited to play for the baby Blues. To this day, Spencer's dad, Alec, is convinced I would have gone all the way had I stuck with it. I was a right-back, 'fearless yet quite skilful at the same time' in Alec's opinion - which, of course, I value. The reports coming back to my parents also suggested I had a good chance of making it. I was very dedicated and I wanted it badly.



*Joshua Gladman  
Year 9  
Monoprint*

But by that time I had left primary school and started at the Royal Grammar School, Wycombe, where rugby was the main sport, and I had only played a handful of games for Chelsea when I got the nod from RGS that I needed to concentrate on my work and rugby rather than go to Chelsea twice a week. I was reluctant to give up football, though, even when Dad told me I had more chance of making it in rugby because 'every kid wants to play football'.

As far as I was concerned, it wasn't as simple as that. I was a typical teenager and I wanted to break away from Dad's rugby coaching. We got on, but we were often at each other's throats. 'God, why are you always having a go at me?' was the sort of attitude I'd quickly developed...

My cause with Dad was not helped when I was arrested for petty theft. I was kicking around with a dodgy bunch of boys who were teaching me bad habits. One was that you save money if you don't pay for goods. So there I was in a shop on the high street in Marlow, stuffing one of those party streamer sprays into a pocket in my jeans, when I felt a tap on my shoulder. The two lads I was with bolted out of the shop and got away but I was banged to rights. The police were called, and I was ushered into the back of their car and driven all of 200 yards down the road to the police station. I thought the world was going to end. Mum, who was working part-time at the local post office, got the call to come and get me, and I felt so ashamed that I could not look her in the eyes. I was given only a warning by the police and was grounded by Dad...

Being grounded was an annual feature of my childhood. I would take my summer exams, my report would follow me home on the last day of term and my first week's holiday would be spent paying for my poor results alone in my room.

'This is not good enough, Matthew,' Dad, it seemed, always said on opening the envelope. 'You're grounded. Go to your room.'

'Right. Whatever.'

I was under orders to read for an hour each morning, but that was way beyond my powers of concentration. So I waited until my parents had both left the house for work and then jumped on my bike and went to meet my mates. It required military precision to get back home, return the bike to exactly the same position I'd found it in the garage, then to jump onto my bed and open the book 50 pages on from where I'd left it before Mum's car turned into the drive.

As I got older I gradually began to realize what a fool I was being, in my rebellious attitude towards Dad in particular. He was my biggest supporter; nobody wanted better things for me than him. But that realization took time to dawn on me; initially I agreed to go back to rugby only if he stopped coaching. With time, though, I welcomed his support and indeed sought his approval, even if his vociferous backing wasn't to the liking of everyone. In assembly one day at RGS he was named and shamed for over-exuberance on the touchline during a school match. I was so proud of him. I thought it was hilarious. It was the one and only time my name was read out during assembly without me being told off as a result... Happily, certainly from Dad's point of view, I became more committed once I turned 17. Two or three times a week I would go on an eight-mile run, up to the M40 roundabout, back down a little lane, then all along Marlow Bottom. I'd get home from school, change into my kit and set out. The best times were always in the summer when I could wear a vest and run past the girls coming home on the school buses. It was both a pleasure and a pain.

Dad wasn't the only guiding light during my formative

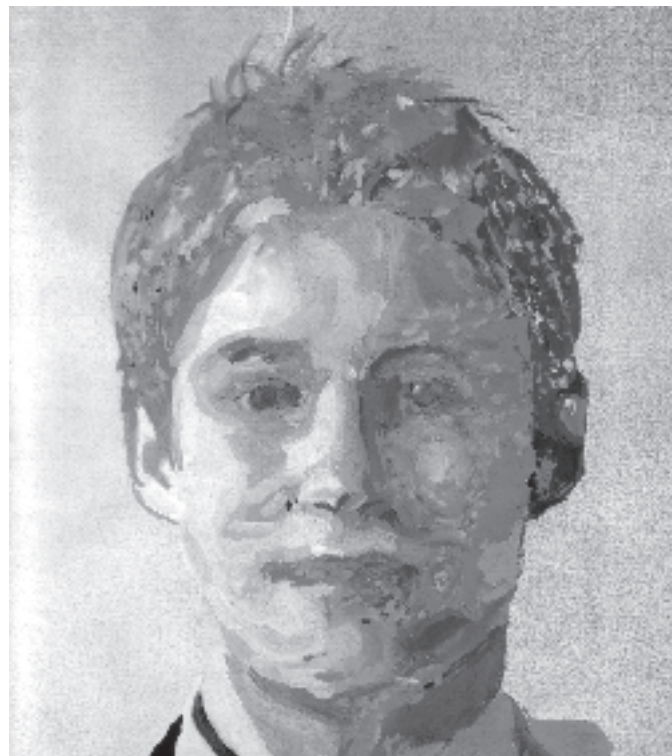


rugby-playing days. From the age of 13 through to the first XV my coach at RGS was Colin Tattersall, and he had a huge influence on my game. We were a successful school side, losing only two or three games a season, but when I was in the Sixth Form we played against hardly any public schools. They wouldn't take our fixture because we were a state school, albeit a very good one with a strong set-up. That has since changed. RGS now plays against the likes of Radley, Millfield and Harrow, but at that time we only got to play against those sides in the *Daily Mail* Cup.

It was probably a good thing that I showed promise in sport because my academic accomplishments were average, as most of my tutors never tired of telling me. How I ever got into the Royal Grammar School in the first place I will never know. We had to take a 12-plus to secure a place, and how I passed that remains a mystery to me. Me and exams don't get on. To this day I hate the words 'exam' and 'test'. I managed to scrape four GCSEs first time round, adding another four later on, but I failed all my A Levels, primarily because I was away playing with the England 18 Group for six to seven weeks during the lead-up to the exams. I came back not much more than a week before my first paper, so it was hardly perfect preparation. And believe me, I needed perfect preparation. Fortunately, the school allowed it, but mine was a poor show academically. It's not something I'm proud of, but at that time of my life I was just not tuned in to working, be it homework or writing essays. All I wanted to do was play rugby. Or football, or snooker, or golf, or cricket.

I played all five matches for England under-18s in that 1990-91 season, forming a half-back partnership with Epsom's soon-to-be-Irish Paul Burke. The following season I moved up to the England under-21 side. At the end of August 1991 I was invited to join Northampton Rugby Club. I accepted. Life was good for me in the early 1990s, and it was about to get a whole lot better.

From Matt Dawson, with Alex Spink, *Nine Lives: the autobiography*, CollinsWillow, © Matt Dawson, 2004. Reprinted by courtesy of HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.



Jamie Williams  
Year 9  
Self-portrait

## File Past

*From the Wycombiensian of 1907:*

### DEBATING SOCIETY

The first debate of the Easter term was held on Saturday, Feb. 16th, the subject being that, "In the opinion of this House, it would be a national calamity if women were given the suffrage." In the absence of the Proposer, Rose opened the debate, and in a short but courageous speech demonstrated the inferiority of woman to man, and the absurdity of women meddling with politics, when they had quite enough to do in looking after their domestic duties. Mr Bartle opposed the motion, pointing out that many women at the present time had given proof of possessing more intellectual power than men, and Stone seconded him with one of the best speeches of the evening. The following members also spoke: Mr Arnison, Mr Lawson, Stephenson, Birch, Youens.

The voting was as follows:

For the motion .....	10
Against the motion .....	6
Neutral .....	1

The motion was thus carried by 4 votes.

*From the Wycombiensian of 1931:*

### THE YOUENS V.C. MEMORIAL FUND.

Most of our readers are now acquainted with the object of the Youens V.C. Memorial Fund which was opened at Armistice Day. The appeal issued by the Committee for £1,000, the minimum required in the first instance to establish a School Scholarship to perpetuate the memory of Sec.-Lieutenant Frederick Youens, V.C., has produced a generous response, and over £600 has already been subscribed. A glance down the list of subscribers reveals the fact that the scheme has been fairly well supported by friends of the School and by the inhabitants of High Wycombe. We should like, however, to see on the list the name of every Old Boy of the School. The heroic deed of the School's gallant V.C. cries aloud for recognition, and no more fitting memorial could be found than a Youens Scholarship which will enable boys of the School to proceed to a University career. We feel confident that the scheme will enlist the whole-hearted support of those who received their education at the School and we should welcome subscriptions, large or small, but our chief desire is that every possible Old Boy should do his share.

*From the Wycombiensian of 1949:*

### EDITORIAL

There are still boys who look on the School merely as a place where they receive 5¾ hours of education a day, a place that, apart from homework, they can leave behind them at 4 o'clock. Yet, if we consider the number of out-of-school activities promoted by the School, no one is uncatered for. There are the School matches, three or four each Saturday, which anyone is free to watch, even if he is not a player. Then, if there are some who abhor fresh air, or think with Euripides that "Ten thousand plagues beset our native land, But nothing's plagues than the athletic band," they may turn to one of the School societies - Chess, Debating, History, Marigals, Music or Science; and if they have any literary ambitions they may contribute to the *Wycombiensian*.

## My Dream Birthday

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I dream of my birthday...what should I eat?  
Luscious chocolate éclairs packed with cream,  
Home made Lemon cake (it's ever so sweet) ,  
Or mouth-watering tarts?...that is my dream!

I dream of my birthday...what would I like?  
A gadget from James Bond (not what it seems),  
A wardrobe of sports wear, all made by Nike,  
Or a Nintendo D.S?...those are my dreams!

I dream of my birthday...what should I do?  
Go to watch Wolves, they're my favourite team,  
Shoot the wild rapids (but would I get through?),  
Or a trip to Paris?...each is my dream!

Douglas Stevens 7AB



*Linda Whalley  
Belem, Lisbon. Easter 2005*

## World Poverty Recipe

---

Take some North Americans, British, and some west Europeans  
And let them settle,  
Then leave them to cool and you've got the rich countries.

In a separate dish sprinkle in some Pakistanis and some Indians  
Add some flavourings  
Then put them in a fridge and you've prepared developing countries.

Take some Africans, and some South Americans  
Boil them on the cooker for a while  
Drain the water and you've produced 3rd world countries.

Go back to your rich countries, throw in some computers  
And invent some electronics  
And they will mix perfectly.

Receive your developing countries from the fridge  
Add very little education  
And whisk them into a perfect liquid: they need this for some taste.

Take the third world countries out from the sieve  
Add diseases and hunger  
Turn up the heat in the oven.

Now add them all together and you have the world  
Finally add some help and love  
If these ingredients are not added now the world will have a bitter taste.

Warning: An unequal spread of justice will damage the people and cause pain!

Oliver Grasham 8K

## Your Birthday!

---

Wow, it's your birthday, another year on,  
Do you feel any different or not?  
Now you're a teenager, childhood all gone,  
Sixty more years and you may lose the plot.

It's just like you've won the lottery,  
You have lots of cracking models to do,  
Except your grandma bought you pottery,  
Just let her think you love that too.

Your mates are coming for a sleepover,  
You will probably get no sleep at all,  
You want your brother to go to Dover,  
Because he is a pain and far too small.

Anticipation is driving you wild,  
You feel like a cat on a hot tin roof  
Your mum talks to you in a voice so mild,  
But inside you know that is not the truth!

Now it's all over and you're back to school  
Your birthdays just get better and better,  
Your friends enjoyed the party, really cool,  
All that remains is a thank you letter.

James Bennett 7AB

## Why are you late again?

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

Road closed.  
Didn't wake up.  
My birthday.  
Dad busy.  
Took different route - bad idea.  
Hockey kit needed to be tumble dried.  
Bad blisters.  
Breakfast late.  
Forgot it was Mufti Day; went back to change.  
Estate agent coming so I had to clean my room.

## Birthday Poem

---

It's not long till your birthday comes around  
You can't wait for your party to begin  
Your family and friends wait for the sound  
"Your cake is here and it's time to tuck in."

On your birthday you should have lots of fun  
From opening the presents to the cake  
And going outside to play in the sun  
This is the excitement birthdays make

But, the time has come for your friends to go  
Say goodbye to all of those who are dear  
Put all your cards that were given on show  
The fun and games have stopped until next year

Thomas Ball 7AB



## SOCIETIES AND ACTIVITIES

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### Osnabrück 2005

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34 pupils from Years 9 and 10 made the return trip to Osnabrück in April following the visit of their partners in November.

They spent a weekend with their host families before experiencing a day of lessons at the Ratsgymnasium and trips to Bremen, Münster and Berlin.

The Headmaster of the Ratsgymnasium, Herr Ranke, was in High Wycombe in November and Mr Dingle reciprocated with a visit to the Rats during the boys' stay.



*Osnabrück, April 2005*

### Lübeck 2005

---

It is hard to imagine that a school trip could be surpassed in terms of educational value and sheer pleasure as the Sixth Form trip to Lübeck last winter. On the Thursday before the February half term 13 scholars of matters Teutonic and 3 members of staff left Stansted airport for the frozen, windswept climes of Lübeck, the home town of our excellent German Assistante, Jennifer Törber.

We arrived well past Mr Yeates' normal bed-time, and were welcomed by Jennifer's incredibly generous parents, who had brought a veritable feast of German victuals to the airport lounge, to sustain us on our way to the 'Jugendherberge vor dem Burgtor' - our youth hostel accommodation, conveniently situated within walking distance of the historic town centre.

The pupils were immersed in German on many occasions, notably at the 'Johanneum', Jennifer's old school, where we took an active role in the morning's lessons; at the town hall, where Jennifer's father gave us an illuminating tour; a sub-zero nocturnal guided tour of the Altstadt given by a lady in medieval costume; a guided tour in a snow storm of the clipper ship *Passat*, which a former octogenarian member of its crew opened up especially for us; in the Dungeons at Hamburg Docks, where an assortment of actors took it in turns to insult and terrify various members of our party, especially Christopher Brzezicki; and at the cinema, where we watched *The Aviator* in German, though Mr Yeates fell asleep as it was well past his normal bed-time.

Highlights of the trip include the sight of Guy Burkitt hitting the town on the Saturday evening, sporting his pale green light-weight suit and open-necked shirt, blissfully unaware of the driving rain and gale force winds, and Michael

McEvoy reducing Jennifer to tears with his midnight thank you speech in German, delivered in front of the youth hostel in a blizzard.

The success of the trip owes much to the superb planning from Jennifer and Mr Crease, to Mr Stubbs transporting us to and from the airport at extremely short notice, to the first-class hospitality we enjoyed throughout our stay, and most of all, to the enthusiasm and bonhomie of the pupils - Daniel Bailey, Christopher Brzezicki, Guy Burkitt, Christopher Duncalf, James Greenwood, William Hoult, Kris Lamberton, Michael McEvoy, David Ramsbottom, Sean Rippington, Andrew Thomas, Richard Vere, and Jonathan Worboys.

A.R.Y.

### Toulouse French Exchange 2004/05

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The success of this year's French exchange has been noted by all participants. After spending a week in December staying with host families and working at placements, ranging from schools to pharmacies, endless streams of anecdotes and incidents have come back with us all. Not to mention the return visit in February!

Mark Jordan and I stayed with Clara and Albane, known to all their friends as "Les Jujus" (The Twins). They did everything together, including drinking Mark and me under the table.

After formal introductions and a considerable amount of close linguistic analysis we became great friends. They had organised a busy schedule of activities including skating, archery, shopping and parties. We even visited a castle.

Not only did the trip offer a great opportunity to socialise with our new friends but to work with locals in our placements. The school where I worked was full of enthusiastic kids eager to test out their English on me (and teach me all the naughty French words I didn't know).

Every one on the exchange was sad to be leaving but safe in the knowledge that we would stay in touch, and perhaps see each other again in the summer. Without a doubt the French exchange was well worth while and I would strongly recommend it to anyone thinking of going next year, even if your French is as bad as mine was before I left for Toulouse - it's a steep learning curve, but we got there eventually!

George Thompson 12 PG

### Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers meeting

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In October Dr Stuart Downward of Kingston University spoke on 'Managing Floods on British Rivers' at a Royal Geographical Society lecture at the school. Stuart emphasised that dealing with flood hazards requires careful planning to predict, and the need where possible to try to manage and adapt to the problems that floods bring.

M.C.A.

## Friends of Music Report

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An Evening of Italian Food and Music was hugely enjoyed by a good number back in November. The entertainment was provided by a variety of boys and guest artistes, ending with our own "Three Tenors", Signor Erico Woltone, Giovanni Overtone and Giacomo Hill (Ed - what's Italian for Hill - I've forgotten!), accompanied by your Director of Music on a piano accordion! In February, we were treated to a selection of virtuoso piano works, played by rising star, Warren Mailley-Smith, who also gave a fascinating master class for some of our top pianists. The efforts of the Friends are never ceasing, and are much appreciated by the Department - special thanks to Alison Kelleher, Chairman, for all her work, and to Shahida Taylor, for leading the catering organisation on the night of the Italian Evening.

TP.V.

## Music Report

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As I sit in the splendour of the RGS Music Office on a Thursday afternoon, I am regaled with sound from every direction - the bottom corridor resounds to the beat of a "progressive melodic death metal" band from Year 11, next door a saxophone is being tamed by one of the thousands (it seems) of boys who desire to learn that particular instrument, under the enthusiastic direction of Miss McInerney, down the corridor boys are variously having singing lessons, practising the piano, picking a tune on a mandolin or even "quietly" getting on with some homework. Elsewhere in the department, some Sixth Formers are creating songs, recording for their Music Tech coursework (probably due in tomorrow...), discussing the world or even just wandering the corridors playing on a saxophone (again!) while searching for a room. To say that the new music facilities at the RGS have made a big difference is not even to start to explain how the musical landscape of the school has changed. The technological improvements have, of course, made a vast difference, and there is no doubt that this year's GCSE candidates are indeed fortunate to be the beneficiaries of a whole year using the computer room - all bar one of the group have created their compositions on the Sibelius music programme, which has undoubtedly maximised their efforts. This year's November concert was recorded by Mr Sampler using 10 quality microphones, all running down to the master mixing board downstairs, and the resulting depth in sound quality needs to be heard to be believed. Music Technology received a visit from the Chief Examiner, who was very encouraging in all we were trying to do, and as the recording facilities have come on stream, groups of boys have been benefiting from these hugely. But the whole ambience of the department has been enhanced, so that the department is a very pleasant place to be, for boys and staff - with the peripatetic instrumental staff now all under one roof, there is a much greater sense of belonging, with everyone working together. Regarding quality of life, RGS musicians have much to be grateful for.

After the heady stuff of last year, with the opening concert of the new Music Centre, a visit from the Argentinians from St Andrew's Scots School, and *Singin' in the Rain*, this year has been a little quieter, but many fine performances have been heard. Last summer, two groups distinguished themselves at the National Festival of Music for Youth, our Senior Guitar Quartet, and our modern jazz group, The Peak Quintet. The November Concert ended with the RGS

Orchestra in fine form, in lively renditions of Haydn's Symphony 104 and Rossini's *William Tell Overture*. At the beginning of the summer term, a full house in the Queen's Hall enjoyed this year's joint event with Wycombe High, a choral and orchestral concert. It featured the exciting *Chichester Psalms* by Leonard Bernstein (sung in Hebrew!), Elgar's wonderful overture *In the South*, Handel's *The King Shall Rejoice*, some Vaughan Williams (the beautiful *Lark Ascending*, stunningly played by Charlotte Reid, in the Lower Sixth at the High School, and currently leader of the NYO!), and finished with the Henry Wood *Fantasia on British Sea Songs*, which, as befits St George's Day, concludes with *Rule Britannia!* The way some of these demanding works were tackled reflects enormous credit on our young musicians at both schools - a night to remember!

Last term, we entered several groups in the National Festival of Music for Youth, and have just heard that the First Wind Band have been selected to play, so on 15 July, they will be performing in the Symphony Hall, in Birmingham, where this year's festival is being held. Meanwhile, life in the Music Department seems ever busier, as deadlines for coursework crowd in - but at least we now have the facilities to do justice to the work being created. As usual, my sincere thanks to all my peripatetic colleagues, without whose ground work the concerts would not exist, and to Mr Sampler, for coping with all my schemes!

TP.V.



Douglas Stevens  
Year 7  
Pencil drawing

## Benevolent Fund

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As we enjoyed our Christmas celebrations events were taking place in another part of the world that would touch the hearts of RGS pupils. By the middle of January we had donated £3,500 to the DEC Tsunami Appeal and by the end of that month had sent a further £2,300 after a Mufti Day collection, a truly outstanding response to this disaster.

During the previous term we had already given over £2,600 to The Red Cross Beslan Appeal, Myeloma Foundation UK, Jeans for Genes, Children in Need, the NSPCC and Leap School in South Africa.

I would like to thank everyone who helps me with the weekly tasks of the Benevolent Fund, especially prefects Thomas Rendell, Thomas Evans and Hammad Ayub, and of course a big thank you to all the parents and boys who give so generously every week in, week out.

L.W.



## Year 10 Geography Fieldwork Trip - Osmington Bay 2004

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The Year 10 Geography group enjoyed a fieldwork trip to Osmington Bay, Dorset, early in the summer term as a foundation for their GCSE coursework. We were housed in comfortable chalets at the 3D centre and enjoyed good food, which provided a relaxing escape from the hard work of the day. The hospitality and enthusiastic approach of all the instructors helped make the stay as pleasant as possible during the evenings, as pupils enjoyed activities such as aero-ball, basketball or just socialising with the other schools. On our first evening, however, we walked down to the beach and investigated fossils along the ancient cliffs and competed in a tiring relay race!

The two groups switched activities over the weekend so that on one day, one group would carry out the river research, whilst the other explored the effects of the sea along the intriguing coastline. On the day of the river research all the pupils got stuck into the work and also had a bit of enjoyment on the side as they plunged into the deepening river. Measurements of all sorts were taken, ranging from investigating pebble sizes to the width and depth of the river itself. On the day in which each group researched the coastline the pupils, accompanied by their instructors, studied the effects of the sea along the coast and the defences in place. This also included a short visit to the local town and a chance for everyone to enjoy the local fish and chips!

On both evenings the groups participated in brief ICT activities recapping what they had discovered during the day's work. On the final day the groups ventured to local quarries, some of which proved to be interesting sources of fascinating art work, as well as studying the coastal defences along Portland. After a long lunch hour and farewells both groups once again began the four hour journey back to the RGS. On behalf of all the pupils I would like to thank Mr Ashby and his colleagues for giving up their time to make this trip possible and also for their enthusiasm which made it all the more enjoyable.

Ahmed Osman 11 PG



Waiting for the pub to open?  
Osmington Bay, May 2004

## Senior Vulture

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Having been a member of Vulture for seven years now, I can say with legitimacy that this year was by far the best since I joined the school. The year kicked off with a trip to the Duke of York's Theatre to see R.C. Sherriff's *Journey's End*, a disturbing insight into the workings of a trench in the Great War. Successful in combining all aspects of modern drama - comedy, action and, ultimately, poignancy - the play was lauded by all who attended. Having previously seen the rows and rows of graves in northern France on the French/History trip, I can honestly say that this play was far more successful in hammering home the true personal implications that war entails.

On a more positive note, we were accompanied by Jonathan Stock, an Old Boy of the school, who took time out of his busy schedule to join us for the evening. He was in buoyant form as always, and when he started singing along to, and conducting, the Last Post, it certainly lightened the atmosphere.

Our next trip was to see Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* at the New Ambassador's Theatre. The story of the 'Demon Barber of Fleet Street' was an abnormal yet engrossing tale, and while the play was mildly disconcerting at times, Sondheim's rousing score kept everyone interested throughout. The appearance of Sheila Hancock in the audience provoked a *mélange* of enthusiasm and apathy among the group, the balance of which was comprehensively decided when Mr Cowburn asked her to sign his T-Shirt.

Moving on from a tale of torture, murder and people being made into pies, we then went on to see *Festen*, at the Lyric Theatre, a play based around a much more cheery concept - incest. I was unlucky enough to miss this scintillating piece of contemporary drama, but I am reliably informed that it was a truly fantastic night. This time, it was the turn of Simon Pegg - famous for his roles in *Spaced* and the legendary brit-flick *Shaun of the Dead* - to make an appearance.

Shortly, we will be embarking on yet another crusade to the heart of our nation's capital to see *The Dresser* at the Duke of York's Theatre. Ronald Harwood's critically acclaimed comedy should be a fitting end to what has been a sensational year - unfortunately my last. Our thanks go to everyone who has helped out over the last year and to Mr Cowburn and Mrs Frost for their efforts over the past seven.

Guy Burkitt 13LY

## Years 7, 8 and 9 Heatseeker

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At Heatseeker, we offer the current Year 7 pupils the opportunity to participate in fun and interesting lunchtime meetings with games, talks and discussions. As the boys arrive, they are offered light refreshments, usually linked to a theme within the talk. Our liturgy (as it were) usually consists of a game such as 'Chubby bunnies' followed by a short talk from Mr Potter on an aspect of the Christian faith. We have recently been dealing with the life and teachings of Jesus, and just before Easter we focused on the meaning of his death. The boys then have the opportunity to ask questions. Interesting and intellectual questions are asked and we give our honest opinions and attempt to relate our answers to real life. Heatseeker has been a lot of fun and due to an increase in popularity, we may have to put on more meetings. The group has grown together and we have been able to get to know each other well. I have fully enjoyed the experience and would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow leaders

Francis Mostyn, Spencer Bullent, Andrew Koo, Graham Jeal, Akindiji Akinwale and Mr Potter for being good and honest leaders.

The Year 8 group was led by four Year 11 pupils Benjamin Gower, Thomas Cozens, Matthew Watson and Nicholas Haydock, under the guidance of Mr Toller. The favourite game has been 'Empires', with 'Balderdash' coming a close second. Perhaps the highlight of the year was hearing the testimonies of the Year 11 leaders as they explained their faith and took questions from the Year 8 pupils.

This year I had the enjoyable task of helping out with the Year 9 Heatseeker meetings along with two other Sixth Form leaders, David Hazelton and Christopher Caddell. We learnt how to read and understand the Bible and what it means to live the Christian life to the full. We studied a variety of books of the Bible and from each gained a better understanding of God's love for us. For me, going along to these meetings and seeing a group of Year 9 boys eager to learn more about God, has inspired me to deepen and strengthen my own faith.

Joseph Barber 13CS and Benjamin Steele 13BS

## Year 10 Christianity Explored

The Year 10 Christian meeting this year has been run on a mixture of Tuesdays and Fridays on every other week. It is organised by Mr Toller with the help of Sixth Formers Christopher Burton, Andrew Malliff and Henrique Campos. It is a growing group that attends to find out more about the Christian faith and is definitely not just for Christians. New things are learnt every meeting about the Christian faith through discussion and games. Firstly we get stuck into some cake and juice - usually blorange - and then play some strange game devised by Mr Toller, which is always great fun. A chat and discussion about the Christian faith then follows. We begin with a prayer and look at different parts of the Bible, discussing what the messages in the stories mean. We may watch a video that explains clearly different aspects of what we have discussed. So if you're interested in finding out about the Christian faith, or you are not sure about certain aspects, come along and find out.

Peter Elder 10D and Matthew Nally 10D

## Year 11 Chaplaincy Meetings

In the autumn term, the Chaplains' meetings were held fortnightly on Wednesday lunchtimes. They involved consuming cake and then listening to Mr Ratcliffe give a short talk about the Christian faith (with a few bad jokes thrown in!). This was followed by a question and answer session.

In the spring term, we were invited to a series of evening events held in Mr Toller's flat in the boarding house. The meal was followed by a game of some sort, either involving a whistle or an egg. 'One egg is un oeuf' was a favourite (try to work out what that involves!). This joviality was followed by a short talk on the Christian faith. Finally the floor was opened up for questions with the Chaplains attempting to answer some challenging questions. Overall, a fun time was had by all and on behalf of everyone who attended, I wish to thank the Chaplaincy for putting on the events.

Ellis White 11P

## Christian Union

The Christian Union this year has seen many changes, most notably the movement of the main meeting from a Thursday break time to a Monday lunchtime. During this longer time period, the group has heard longer talks on varying subjects covering ideas such as 'Leading our lives for God', and talks on the Holy Spirit and the Prophets. The meetings also provide valuable study of the Bible and chances to respond with questions and prayer.

The CU has continued to grow in fellowship as we meet on a Thursday break for a social time and get to know one another better. Tuesday break sees the group meet for a prayer meeting, where we call on God to change us, our lives and the lives of those around us.

As the Upper Sixth leaders leave the school to move onto university, we wish the new leaders Nicholas Haydock and Adam Barr all the best in taking on the role of running the CU.

All members of the school are welcome to attend any of the meetings whether they are of Christian belief or not. So, if you have a spare break or lunch, come armed with your questions. All of the meetings take place in the Arts' Centre.

Andrew Malliff 13EB

## Chaplains' Suppers

Members of the Sixth Form have once again this year been able to spend the evening in warm, informal surrounds chez Toller. All those who have attended have marvelled at the wonderful cuisine (will it be steak or chicken?) and the sight of Mr and Mrs Toller's new baby. The evenings provide fascinating opportunities to discover and explore the Christian faith. Thought provoking and insightful, the talks have ranged from themes as diverse as the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, to the practical applications of belief and faith. People of all beliefs are welcomed and likewise any points of view are willingly discussed. The evenings have proved to be a huge success and run in tandem with, and perhaps provide a middle ground to, the Oxford dinners. On behalf of all those who have attended the suppers over the course of the year, I would like to thank the Chaplaincy staff for their kind hospitality and willingness to make these opportunities available to pupils.

Douglas James 12C



Oliver North  
Year 13  
*Human form*



## Oxford Dinners

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This year, many members of the Sixth Form have enjoyed the privilege of dining at the prestigious Pembroke College in Oxford with the school chaplaincy. We leave RGS around 6 pm dressed in suits. On arrival at the college, we're treated to 'Bucks Fizz' on the balcony overlooking the banquet hall. We then move downstairs into a private dining room where we're treated to a superb three-course meal accompanied by wine and finally coffee.

A guest speaker then gives a talk on the Christian faith. This year's speakers have included Bishop Colin Fletcher, RGS Old Boy Revd Dr J.P. Aranzulla, and Revd Vaughan Roberts, all of whom were of the highest calibre. After the talks, the pupils have the chance to 'grill' the speaker, asking questions on what they have just heard. The speakers are all open-minded and their answers stem from either personal experience or logical argument from the Bible. We depart for home, arriving back at about 10.30 pm, thoroughly contented.

A common misconception of many pupils is that the Oxford Dinners are reserved for Christians or those interested in religion. This could not be further from the truth. They are brilliant evenings, thought-provoking and in some cases life-changing, and I would urge any pupil to try them.

Alexander Johnstone 12 MT and Christopher Johnstone 12MT



*Marcus Da Costa, Fraser Raleigh, Oliver Cox and Mark Penwill enjoy a pre-prandial Bucks Fizz at Pembroke College, Oxford*

## School Chaplaincy

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The school chaplain is Mr Toller who is assisted by the associate chaplain Mr Ratcliffe, and Mr Potter. The Chaplains are available to speak to boys at any time to offer support, advice or simply a listening ear. We organise a variety of lunchtime and evening meetings and offer these to boys as a way of deepening their understanding of the Christian faith. As you will see from the reports, we hold separate meetings for each year group, all of which are lively, interesting and well attended. We are keen to involve senior pupils in the leading of junior groups and are very grateful to a significant number of boys who have helped out this year.

We are delighted to be supported by a group of parents who meet twice a term to pray for all aspects of the school (email [pst.staff@royalgrammar.buck.sch.uk](mailto:pst.staff@royalgrammar.buck.sch.uk) for details).

P.S.T.

## Work Experience

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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

## Management Conference

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The annual Management Conference, which took place in early March, saw some 100 Lower Sixth pupils converge on the luxurious surrounds of the Wycombe Abbey School. The conference itself is a unique gathering of some of the most highly respected figures - not only from British business, but from global enterprise - and gives pupils the wonderful opportunity to benefit from their unrivalled expertise.

After an introduction in the now famous Theatre, the teams separated to meet their advisers and partake in that notorious opening session: the team-bonding ice-breaker. This involved designing a Value and Finest mobile phone for the Tesco Finance Director and Chairman of Governors, Andrew Higginson - it is nice to think that we are perhaps contributing to some of those record £2bn profits.

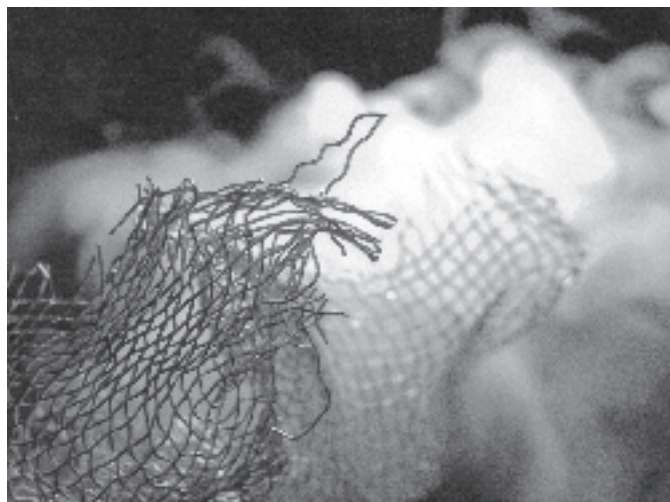
Throughout the conference, all the young managers involved themselves in a business simulation: the unenviable task of taking over a leisure boat dealer. The results varied wildly! One team achieved superb figures, enjoying huge profits, whilst another ended with a capital gearing of 1000 and are probably still in court filing for bankruptcy. Despite the misfortune and stress, everyone obtained vital management skills and business strategies.

There followed, interspersed with the lavish cuisine from the Dining Hall, a series of informative and engaging talks covering all areas of product and personnel management, from delegation to cooperation. Several corporate spheres were covered, including retail, law, manufacturing and entrepreneurship to name but a few, before Old Boy Steven Bourne bounded down energetically, and yet casually, to give his two part (he smartened up for the second half) presentation on communication.

The lessons to be learnt were huge. One pupil found it to his advantage actually to read the pre-released booklet, whereas one team found fortune in coming last in the 'City' challenge, getting radios for conspiring to lose several thousands of pounds. The two days were rounded off in

style with a key-note speech from Mary-Jo Jacobi, vice-president of Shell, who shared her own business experiences as examples to us all. We are, as a school, indebted to each and every speaker, who gave us his or her time to spread their wisdom and offer advice, and to all the advisers who demonstrated insurmountable levels of support, and above all patience in guiding us through our tasks. Likewise to the two schools' staff for organising the seminars and activities, and for hosting us so welcomingly.

Douglas James 12C



*Timothy Peplow  
Year 12  
Shadow sculpture*

## Young Enterprise

A very successful year for our companies. In September we started with two companies, Eclipse and CCS (Consummate Computer Services), due to a shortage of advisers. Later in October a third company started in conjunction with pupils at Pipers Corner and Dr Challoner's schools. Their products varied from photographing events, art, computer repairs, gifts for special occasions and customised 'T' shirts.

Apart from achieving financial success all companies competed at the Trade Fair at Bucks University in March against 19 other companies. Raw Dynasty, the combined company, were runners up in the Presentation section, while CCS were outstanding and were awarded Best Innovation, Best Corporate Image, Best Trade Stand and Interviews, and Best Overall Company. Eclipse were runners up in Best Corporate Image.

The company is made up of Adam Bailey, James Eustace, Sean Hale, Oliver Hart, William Powell, Christopher Smith, David Wang and Simon Williams, all from Year 12, and they will now represent both RGS and the Wycombe Area at the Buckinghamshire YE County Final at Quainton in May.

CCS is a profitable, high-tech company that fixes computer problems with a 'no fix, no fee' policy. It has established a good customer base out of school and receives very positive feedback from its many clients.

CCS also has provided voluntary help in the community and welcomes any redundant computer equipment that it can refurbish and pass on to a good cause.

It must not be forgotten that none of this could be achieved without the help of the voluntary advisers from industry. If anyone would like to help next year please contact the school.

R.W.

## Library

In today's ever-changing social climate the Library has adapted and recognizes the impact and value of electronic resources. Whilst the network terminals in the library are in constant use as research tools, books are equally in demand. For many of the boys, the reference and non-fiction collection remains the principal source of information relevant to the curriculum. However, the fiction section is increasingly popular, owing in part, to the software-based Accelerated Reader scheme initiated in the Lower School. Through this, a recreational reading habit is formed which stays with many of the boys during their time at RGS and beyond. This can literally bring its own reward, as was shown by the achievement of two teams from the lower school who took part in the Kids' Lit Quiz in Aylesbury at the end of last year. They acquitted themselves well, some of them even coming home a pound or two wealthier at the end of the day.

Between the stocking of shelves and the stamping of books the librarians are often busy assembling material for a display on a topical event. This year has seen displays on the Olympics, the Paralympics, the school trip to China, and more recently the centenary of Albert Einstein's theory of relativity. This last one certainly tested the librarians' research skills and they are still waiting for an RGS boffin to point out an error.

World Book Day, celebrated in March each year, sees librarians the world over casting about for original ideas to mark the event. At RGS a number of budding detectives attempted to solve a conveniently timed murder mystery in the Library. The sleuths were required to identify a number of aspects of the crime, clues to which could be found by using the library catalogue and being familiar with the Dewey classification scheme. This only goes to show that regular users of the library will always come out on top.

S.P.

## China Immersion Trip

Sweltering temperatures, intense humidity and the searing sun of Xiamen - a luxury to all the Chinese immersion pupils for just under four weeks. The Chinese Immersion trip was organised through the British Council, with three other schools participating. The Council arranged everything from the food we ate to the activities we were involved in.

After arriving we were allowed a few days to adjust, and adjustment of palates was greatly needed as shark, chicken feet and a variety of other unknown meats were on the menu. From then on it was three hours of Mandarin in the morning, consisting of oral Chinese, phonetics and history/culture. This was followed by cultural visits in the afternoons that provided us with the initial immersion into the Chinese culture. The lessons seemed all too difficult for us, being so different from anything we had experienced before. Eventually, after some hard work and persistence, the lessons paid off and the group was able to hold a conversation in Mandarin, albeit a basic one.

The true insight into the Chinese people came when we were paired up with the pupils of Xiamen and taken to their houses for the day. Eating everything they ate, doing everything they did and going everywhere they went, meant we truly got a feel for their lifestyle. Some even had the media following their activities. News reports were aired on the CCTV 9 about the trip and its purpose, and several newspapers featured articles involving the RGS boys. It seemed that our time in China had evoked much interest from the Chinese people.



Weekends were free for leisure activities and general relaxation. For a lot of us this meant taking advantage of the exchange rate - shopping - and DVDs were on the top of our list at only 60 pence each. In terms of culture, the temples were by far the most fascinating part of the trip for all, where we saw some exquisite detail and architecture, as well as phenomenal views from the tops of small mountains. The attitude of the teachers and the freedom they granted us allowed this trip to be less of a school trip and more of a holiday.

Thanks to the all-round hospitality of the Chinese people, our stay was an unforgettable one, and China seemed to be a home away from home!

Cameron Law 12SD



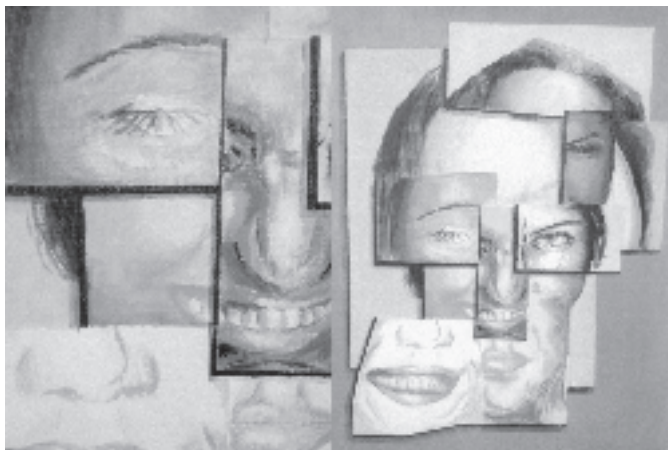
Samuel Denny  
Year 12  
AS Level photography

## Photography Club

The Photography Club meets every Tuesday after school, from 3.50 pm to 4.50 pm. It is open to any boy who wishes to develop and print black-and-white photos from conventional camera film.

The club meets at the Darkroom (opposite the waiting area by Mr Cowburn's office) and anyone interested should come along on Tuesday after school, or ask Mr Willmot or Mr Tinnion for more details. At club meetings, members must bring along an exposed black-and-white film (preferably Ilford FP4, HP5 or Delta 100) and some suitable photographic paper.

Samuel Young 9S



David Green  
Year 11  
'Human Form' Acrylic on canvas

## Stage, Lighting and Sound Team

The team had a hectic start to the year as well coping with five shows in one week. This included both Prize Giving Evenings, the Open Air Music Extravaganza and culminated in RGS' own musical *Heated House of Horror*, written and directed by former staff member, Mr Godfrey.

After a long summer rest, the team went back into action with a number of concerts including the ever-successful Jazz Evening where yet again the lighting team utilised all of the versatile Parcans to provide a flamboyant lighting show.

Both the teams were pushed to provide a professional set-up for the return visit of Howard Jones. A blacked-out stage and haze allowed us to play with contemporary back lighting effects, whilst the sound team produced one of their most complex set-ups in recent years.

For the school play this year, *Death of a Salesman* was chosen. The irony was not lost on us when Arthur Miller was found in the Obituary section a few weeks earlier. Due to the complexity of the set, an ambitious design was needed and new gels were purchased in order to cope with the macabre effects. We set about rigging on the ever-tightening schedule. This was made ever more difficult by the scaffolding which seemed to change and grow overnight on the stage; however, the team pulled together magnificently, maintaining our professionalism to produce effects any theatre would be proud of. The recent addition of a permanently rigged LCD projector in the hall enabled us to provide a multitude of effects we were previously unable to produce.

For the sound team as well this was a new level of show, with recorded sound effects (courtesy of the recording studios in the Music Department) and the first use of a surround sound system in the Queen's Hall, an effect the team is sure to use again.

Thanks go to the team for their efficiency and professionalism throughout the year, making this an enjoyable time for both of us.

Robert May 13MT and Matthew Willmot 13SF

## Proshare Portfolio Challenge

This year 3,900 teams from schools across the country entered this stock market investment competition, including eleven from the RGS. Investing a "virtual" £100,000, each team attempted to maximise the value of their portfolio. RGS's "Elite Investments", comprising James Eustace, Oliver Hart, William Powell and David Wang, increased the value of their investments by £18,000 in just three months and thereby won for themselves a place in the quarter-finals. A persuasive report outlining their investment strategy then took the team through to the regional finals in Birmingham. Here they delivered a very effective presentation on how to invest in the stock market and produced several written pieces of economic analysis. The team, with their ability to work together, as well as their analytical skills, greatly impressed the financial experts who comprised the judging panel. On the strength of their work Elite Investments was awarded one of only six places in the national final of this prestigious competition. This is a tremendous achievement in which all members of the team can take equal credit. We wish them continued success in the final on 9 May.

N.B.

## Fraser-Youens Coolly Rocks and Rolls

Let's face it, a boarder's life is about as cool as it gets. We (especially Virg) get up later than everyone else going to school. We live only 10 minutes from the epicentre of the universe, that is Wycombe Town, and, to be honest, with an older lady serving us at the neighbouring Tesco Express, what else could a maturing young man ask for?

In terms of the social perspective, Davinder 'R.D.B.' Dhillon states that the main advantage of boarding is "Cotchin' with the natives", while the more academic types are keen to draw attention to the thriving studious culture of Fraser-Youens, boasting a 65% Oxbridge application rate in 2005.

During the evening a vast range of activities including archery, badminton, swimming and tennis keeps the younger boarders entertained and the extraordinarily high standard of senior football during 'Happy Hour' in the Sports Hall is a joy and spectacle to behold.

As far as daytime diversions go, the boarding house provides a warm and comfy common room for each of the year groups to return to at break times. Each of these bachelor-pad-esq equipped common rooms contains pool tables, stereos and TVs. Meanwhile, their 'less-cool' day-boy counter-parts are left to fend for themselves in the unruly MDF stricken jungle that is the RGS school corridors.

Food in the boarding house is of Michelin star quality. Having 'Sodexo' provide all our meals throughout the day, we all wait in suspense for the next culinary delight to grace our tables. The queues are small and the food is described by the infamous socialite James Sanderson as nothing short of "trekking scrumptious".

No one can deny the value of communal living in the boarding house in preparation for University. Amongst other things, it develops the independence to live away from home, the confidence to manage personal problems and the tolerance to endure the inevitable boarding oddball.

The universal feeling throughout Fraser-Youens is a stoical "make do with what you got"... it goes without saying...

Jae 'The' Teh on boarding: "I'm living on a prayer. Hallelujah!"

Rock on stoicism... whatever it is and stay cool Fraser-Youens... whoever you were!

F-Y Coalition

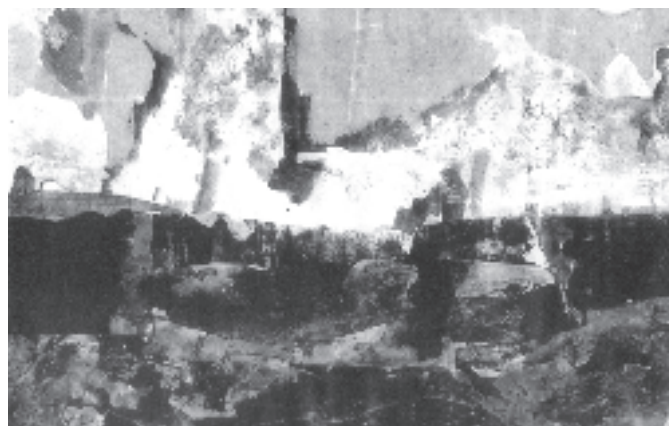
## The Heated House of Horror

At the time of writing, the Junior Musical created by Mr Sampler and Mr Godfrey seems distant and the work put into its writing seems an eternity beyond. The performances of the *Heated House of Horror* in the Queen's Hall at the end of the summer term marked the culmination of eighteen months' hard work of writing and of dedicated rehearsal by the junior members of the school. The result was a hugely enjoyable tongue in cheek re-working of *King Lear*, enabling the cast to enjoy themselves as members of a film company against a backdrop of sibling rivalry, deception and murder. The protagonist brothers, David and Sam Goldberg (Joachim Cassell and Jacob Reading), were perfectly opposed in style and look; and Sam's lack of trust in his father's decision to divide their film company ultimately lead to the death of his father, Jerry (James Waite), and of the villainous Steven Whiteside (a very icy Thomas Cozens). Joining in with the fun were Andrew Noble, Christopher Crowley-Jenns, Omar Abdullah and others as the company struggled to make "Dracula Returns": the very Shakespearian play within a play.

The music was written and accompanied by Mr Sampler and his Band (Thomas Evans, Austin Anderson, Edward Lucas, Chaz Keiderling and Thomas Sears), and the trebles of the choir also boosted the chorus numbers. The young cast did fantastically well, confidently belting out their solos whilst not straying too far from the mics!

On reflection I wonder what it was that tipped Vanessa (Laura Wolton) over the edge so drastically, why Frankenstein's monster wore glasses and why the most effective and popular song (it seems!) was the number hurriedly added in at the end? No matter: it was all tremendous fun and I thank all involved for their hard work to make Mr Godfrey's swansong the success that it was.

B.R.S.



*Jonathan Gabe*

*Year 13*

*Mixed media landscape study*

## Debating Society

The society has undergone a remarkable transformation into a lucid, relevant and central pillar of the school community, catering for both diverse beliefs and abilities. New speakers have grown in confidence, and experienced debaters have been able to expand vastly their existing talents through extensive extra training. The core committee has given a sense of direction and purpose. Motions put before the House this year have been extremely varied in topic, ranging from censorship to the re-introduction of conscription, and from the ban on fox hunting through to the abolition of the monarchy. The school has also fielded a debating team for the first time in a decade. Douglas James and Luke Bullock progressed to the Second Regional Round of the Cambridge Union Schools' Debating Competition, while Oliver Cox and Fraser Raleigh competed in the Regional Rounds of both the Cambridge Union and Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competitions, the standard of which was exceptional. We have also recently fielded a team for the Debate Chamber Open Pairs Competition, all feats that merely a few months ago would have been impossible, allowing the RGS to become a respected debating school once more and creating a firm platform from which to achieve further success in the coming years. The society would like to thank all those speakers who have demonstrated not only competence but flair in front of an audience this year, to all the Chairmen and especially to Mr Keysell for taking control of the activity and playing no small part in the revival of debating success at the RGS. We now look forward to the rigours, challenges and successes of next year as well as an influx of new speakers and a continuation of our weekly debates.

RGS Debating Society Central Committee



## Public Speaking

The RGS had its most successful season ever, with our Upper Sixth team winning the National Finals. It began with our customary domination of the Wycombe round of the Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' competition, held at Wycombe Abbey in January, when we won half the prizes.

In the Junior Section a novice Year 8 team of chairman John Pawley, speaker Thomas Aldren and vote of thanks Jonathan Collin gave a thoughtful presentation on 'Parents' - their uses, as well as their limitations - and won third prize. My thanks to Miss Pickruhl for coaching them as well as our other Year 8 team, Kar Shui Ho, Martin Joly and Naeem Mahmood, who spoke on 'Heroes'.

In the highly competitive Senior Section our Year 11 team of chairman Stevan Jordan, speaker Jack Merriman and vote of thanks Luke Bullock spoke on 'Testing, testing, 1,2,3...4'. This was a considered critique of the over-examination of pupils in today's educational system, and clearly much informed by personal experience! They won third prize - a good omen for next year, when they will be our most experienced team.

Our Upper Sixth team, making their final appearance after several years' participation, scored a triumph. Chairman Guy Burkitt, speaker Byron Thomas and vote of thanks Thomas Rendell spoke on 'Fifteen minutes' fame, or legendary legacy?'. This analyzed the differences between temporary celebrity and enduring reputation. An early death was considered to be one of the ingredients necessary to attain the latter status! They took first prize with a superbly professional display of eloquence, conviction and wit. This was the eighth consecutive year the RGS has won either the senior or the junior first prize in the Wycombe round, a record unmatched by any other school.

Thereafter there was no stopping them. The team won the ensuing Zone Final at Christ Church, Marlow, later in January, and then went on to win the District Final, back at Wycombe Abbey in March. In April, this time at Waingel's College,



*Jack Merriman, Stevan Jordan and Luke Bullock examine the current education system, Wycombe Abbey, 20 January 2005.*

*Photograph: courtesy of the Bucks Free Press*

Woodley, they won again to become South East of England Regional Champions; and on Saturday 7 May they reached the National Finals, staged at Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln, and held in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire and the chairman of Lincolnshire County Council. Here they competed against seven other regional champions, which included schools from as far away as Belfast, Glasgow and Chester. In the individual prizes Byron Thomas won 'Best Speaker' and Thomas Rendell won 'Best Vote of Thanks'. The team emerged with first prize yet again and were crowned National Public Speaking Champions of Great Britain and Ireland.

This is an unsurpassed - and unsurpassable - achievement and the team deserve the highest congratulations for their commitment, determination and stamina. My thanks also go to the parents and families for their presence and encouragement at the numerous rounds, and to Christopher Brezizicki, our ever-loyal supporter and lucky mascot.

M.J.S.



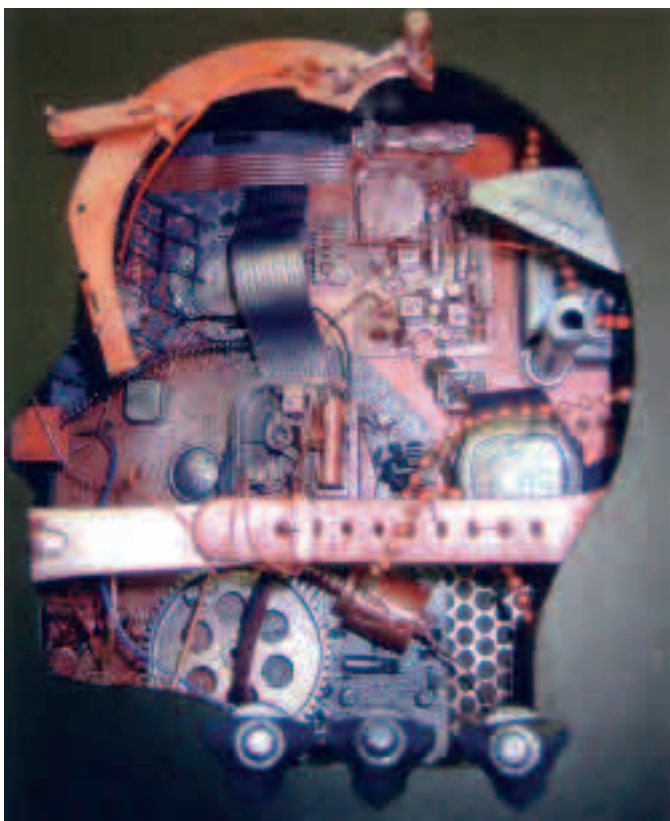
*The school's most successful public speaking team: Thomas Rendell, Guy Burkitt and Byron Thomas. Quintuple winners and National Champions of Great Britain and Ireland*



*William Eustace  
Year 7  
Sculpture*



*Edward Kelleher  
Year 11  
Clay sculpture*



*James Dawkins  
Year 11  
Sculpture*



*Harry Bugden  
Year 13  
'Abstract structures'*





*Christopher Hayhurst  
Year 11  
Sculpture*



*Seamus McKimm  
Year 11  
Painting*



*William Powell  
Year 12  
'Centre of a Lily' AS Level photography*



*Oliver North  
Year 13  
Human form*

## Death of a Salesman

With immaculate timing Peter Cowburn chose to produce and direct Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* as the 2005 main RGS drama production. As far as we know ours was the first British production of this modern classic since Miller's death in his 90th year on 10 February this year. We were delighted to have the female roles played by pupils from Wycombe Abbey School and our thanks go to the Headmistress, Mrs P. Davies.

The play explores the modern tragedy of an ordinary man, Willy Loman, who is thwarted by his unrealistic ambitions for himself and his sons - ambitions inspired by the empty promises of the American Dream. Miller's exposition of the darker side of capitalism earned him a leading role in the McCarthy witch hunts of the 1950s but this play reminds us of the current relevance of Miller's message.

The initial impact of Robert Stevens' set was stunning. The house with its kitchen and two bedrooms exuded a shabbiness to reflect the decline in Willy's fortunes. Mark Penwill, who played Willy Loman, managed to involve us emotionally in the character's turmoil in the closing hours of his life. He moved from false optimism to despair, from confronting reality to hallucination, from youth to age until we were faced with the pathos of his final actions at home - trying to plant vegetables in a garden that light did not reach.

Willy's wife, Linda, is a complex contradiction and she was very effectively played by Eliza Cardale. Eliza portrayed with great maturity Linda's strength and weakness - her strength being that she loved Willy and her weakness that she loved him too well. She gave Linda dignity, ensuring that we retained our respect for the character and saw her as a further victim of the pressures of society.

The Loman sons were Biff, played by Jonathan Buchanan, and Happy, played by Edward Smyth. Some of the lighter moments of the play were produced by the brothers in their earlier incarnations. Jonathan played a Biff who seemed confused about himself and was constantly trying to establish his own personality in spite of pressure from Willy. Edward's Happy had already sold out. Jonathan and Edward were highly effective in the scene where they cruelly abandoned their father in the restaurant. Happy in particular was revealed as callous and self-centred.

The characters of Charley and Bernard reflect that elusive achievement that Willy is chasing. Priam Soni effectively portrayed a sometimes sympathetic, sometimes frustrated Charley who highlighted Willy's blindness to people's worth. The performance by Jordan Anderson was a gem - or perhaps two gems. His amusing caricature of the all-American high school kid, the young Bernard, contrasted sharply with the successful lawyer that Bernard became. Success for his sons was Willy's driving force and the pathos was not lost on the audience as Bernard's success drives Willy closer to death. Jordan's older Bernard was very subtly executed as we felt his sympathy and respect for Willy turning into embarrassment.

George Thompson had a commanding stage presence as Uncle Ben. The ghostly overtones were perfect and he excellently represented the strength of Willy's illusion. George's Uncle Ben was surrounded by the aura of success but not far beneath the surface lurked exploitation, the unacceptable face of capitalism.

*Death of a Salesman* is a play with a small cast and hugely significant minor roles. Without exception these roles were solidly and professionally executed. Christian Sargent was a highly convincing Howard Wagner who had faced the difficult decision that he could not be a charity any more and



"The ball's in your court now, son"

the business had to come before loyalties to Willy. Miss Forsythe was played by Pia Dutton, Katherine Moseley was Jenny and Antonia Bick played Letta. The woman with whom Willy had an affair was played by Mandy Morris. Stanley was Saeed Abdel-Gadir and the waiter, Andrew Noble.

There can't be many plays where the lighting is more important than *Death of a Salesman*. Andrew Balaam's lighting team worked hard to produce lighting that reflected the different time settings and moods and even produced the leaves that were symbols of the original rural setting of the house. As usual the stage teams produced support of the highest order with excellent costumes and make-up. The pre-recordings were particularly effective as was Chaz Keiderling, the flautist. School productions involve numerous people who give generously of their time to ensure success. The Resources Centre once again has masterminded Box Office and printing.

Peter Cowburn and the cast and team can be justifiably proud of a play that evoked strong emotions and left the audience as Arthur Miller intended with more questions than answers.

J.L.H.



André Kübler  
Year 12



## French/History Trip June 2004

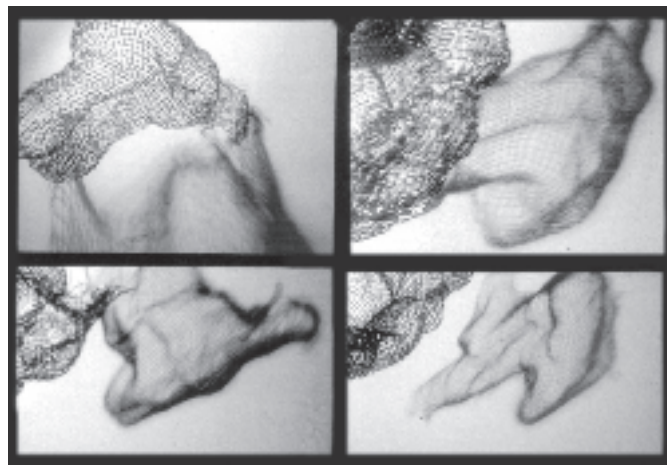
In June 2004 165 Year 9 pupils and 15 staff in 4 coaches flung themselves in convulsive surges into the First World War front line trenches in Belgium and north France. The whole operation has an echo of the war years of 1914 to 1916 to it. We recruit (conscription was not introduced until 1916), we prepare them (History lessons on life in the trenches and lessons in polite conversational French), we embark from the dépôt (the RGS) with our equipment (walkmen and cameras) for the port and the troopship (the ferry). Each coachload is roughly the size of an infantry company and the staff roughly the right number of officers: a captain and three or four lieutenants. In France the motor transport takes us to our billets (the French families). We go 'up to the line' on Thursday, Friday and Monday and do our bit 'for King and country' in the waterlogged trenches round Wipers (Ypres) before a quick transfer to the open country of the Somme valley. Here we get out of the front line trenches at Beaumont Hamel, just like they did on 1 July 1916, and walk towards the German lines about 400 yards away. It is usually sunny, and no-man's land is cratered and the screw pickets trail wire, just like in July 1916. Along the verges and in the churned up fields the poppies wave in the breeze, just like in 1916. On Saturday and Sunday we return to the billets behind the lines (the French families) for delousing (showers), bully beef and Ticklers' jam (pizza and chips) and concert party entertainments (TV and computer games).

The differences, though, are obvious and the main ones are there in the massive monuments at Thiepval and the Menin Gate and in the 300 military graveyards scattered over this landscape. It is a sober reminder of the inevitability and pointlessness of war, and for that reason alone the trip stands out as a vitally important educational experience. It is also fun.

J.R.



*The remains of a trench pump, Vimy Ridge, June 2004*



*Timothy Peplow  
Year 12*

*Shadow drawings*

## Barcelona March 2005

El sábado doce de marzo, un grupo de treinta y cuatro alumnos del año diez y tres profesores, Sr Villatoro, Señorita Brass y Señorita Dickson se levantaron muy temprano para ir a España. Antes del mediodía estábamos en el aire y cada uno estaba entusiasmado. Por la tarde llegamos al Hotel Saint Jordi en Calafell. Calafell es una ciudad bastante grande y está en la costa al suroeste de Barcelona. El día siguiente pasamos un día fantástico en el parque de atracciones que se llama 'Tibidabo'. El parque de atracciones está muy en una colina grande y hay vistas pintorescas de la ciudad de Barcelona y del mar. Mis atracciones preferidas fueron los coches que se chocan y el 'Tibidabo Express' que era un tren muy emocionantes y divertido.

El lunes hicimos un viaje en autocar de la ciudad de Barcelona. Visitamos la Plaza Cataluña, Las Ramblas y La Pedrera y vimos la Sagrada Familia - una iglesia de Gaudí.

El martes fue un día muy ocupado. Por la mañana visitamos el acuario de Barcelona que fue muy divertido. Había peces tropicales, tiburones y pingüinos. Por la tarde visitamos el Parc Güell y el Estadio Nou Camp del equipo de fútbol de Barcelona. Me gustó mucho el Parc Güell porque es muy bonito y los monumentos fueron muy interesantes con muchos colores vivos. Sin embargo mi atracción preferida fue el Nou Camp porque el estadio es fantástico pero los precios fueron exorbitantes. En el estadio compré un balón y por la noche yo y mis amigos jugamos al fútbol en la playa y lo pasamos bomba.

El miércoles antes del desayuno vi la televisión. Me reí a carcajadas porque ponían los 'Tweenies' en español ¡Qué risa! Esa mañana viajamos al Sitges, una ciudad preciosa con una iglesia vieja. Por la tarde visitamos la Sagrada Familia. Pudimos ir al interior y subir a la parte superior de las torres. ¡Fue una experiencia increíble! Después tuvimos mucho tiempo libre en el centro de Barcelona. Mis amigos y yo fuimos de compras y luego fuimos al restaurante de tapas y comimos chipirones. Creí que fueron repugnantes pero en realidad fueron muy sabrosos.

El jueves por la mañana tuvimos que levantarnos muy temprano porque tuvimos que volver a Inglaterra. Nadie quiso volver porque fue un viaje muy inolvidable. Lo pasamos bomba pero no me gustó tener que ir al colegio el viernes.

Daniel Cutter 10D

## Chess

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This has been a very good year for the Chess Club. Three promising new chess players, Susruta Manivannan, Jack Hankinson and Thomas Ball joined us in September and have already represented the school in league matches.

At the end of last year RGS U12 and U14 teams went to Pontins for the National School Championships. The U14 team, Edward Basham, James Ralphs, Michael Ball, Christie Goodman, Matthew Plato and Jonathan Ooi, came first and the U12 team came third.

We also played against other schools in a league in which our 'B' team is currently in third place whilst the first team is in first place, ahead of Dr Challoner's by 10½ points to 9. RGS and our chief rival, Dr Challoner's, have yet to meet to decide the final outcome!

In TAA we took part in a hard-fought Chess League, and Robert Baines played a considerable part in our success.

Luke Tomkins 8S and Robert Baines 12HK

## Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions

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From the Peak District to the Ardennes in France, it goes without saying that Duke of Edinburgh expeditions have been unique experiences for me and will remain a series of explicit memories etched into my brain for years to come. These expeditions not only build up your stamina and team working skills, but they also give you the opportunity to take in the breathtaking scenery and truly appreciate the sheer biodiversity of our planet. What made my Bronze, Silver and Gold award expeditions even more intriguing was that I was the sole male in a group consisting entirely of the opposite sex (that is to say, females). Some said it was an advantage whilst others uttered the word "gutted". But in all honesty, I couldn't have had a more enjoyable time doing the expeditions. It is the sense of achievement at the end that makes it all worthwhile. I would definitely recommend planning and carrying out such expeditions to those who are old enough to do so, as the experience gained is second to none.

Jitin Verma 13BS

## CERN 50th Anniversary Competition

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Congratulations go to William Powell in Year 12 who was awarded the Runner-Up Prize in the CERN 50th Anniversary competition. William wrote a thousand word article on 'The History and Achievements of CERN'. This national competition was sponsored by CERN, the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council and the Institute of Physics. CERN is the European Organization for Nuclear Research, the world's largest particle physics centre. It is located near Geneva in Switzerland. Here physicists come to explore what matter is made of and what forces hold it together. CERN exists primarily to provide them with the necessary tools. These are accelerators, which accelerate particles almost to the speed of light, and detectors, to make the particles visible. The largest accelerator ring has a circumference of almost 17 miles. Founded in 1954, the laboratory was one of Europe's first joint ventures and includes now 20 member states.

I.C.F.

## Lower Sixth Geography Field Trip

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This year's February trip to Hallsannery Field Centre was marred by terrible weather. No sooner had we jumped off the coach in bleakest Exmoor than we realised that the school had chosen the wettest, windiest and coldest weekend of the year. All the hallmarks of a good and memorable field trip then!

The group of 33 was staying just south of Bideford in Devon in a converted mansion called Hallsannery, complete with 50 acre grounds. Apparently it had a great view over Bideford - although we couldn't see through the fog and rain. Nevertheless, the accommodation was excellent and the food great. The staff at the centre were wonderfully enthusiastic and knowledgeable.

Our outings each day were designed to cover as many eventualities as possible for our A Level Geography coursework. Visits around the area included Hartland Quay, a beach dominated by 200 foot tall cliffs with very interesting rock formations; Westward Ho!, the only place in Britain to have an exclamation mark in its name - despite this the general consensus on a wet and windy day was the place is foul; and Braunton Burrows, which was visited on the windiest of the five days - and can only be placed second behind sitting in a sandblaster in a long list of things never to be done again. To make matters worse, half my notes taken on the trip can still be found on the burrows, wrecking one of the most delicate ecosystems in Britain.

Regardless of the weather the trip was immense fun. The excitement was topped off when the party went ten pin bowling one evening - Christopher Zair blitzed the field scoring an impressive 122 points - I brought up the rear with a pathetic 42.

All in all the trip was an overriding success and undoubtedly helped everyone broaden their geographical knowledge and appreciation. Thanks go to the superb staff who looked after and catered for us all over our five day stay.

Nicholas Haynes 12C



*'The wettest, windiest and coldest weekend of the year'*



## Rugby

### 1st XV

Three weeks in South Africa and Swaziland was an exceptional opportunity for the 40 boys who toured. We arrived in Jo'burg, travelled up to Pretoria and onto the High Veldt around Nelspruit where we played our first matches. We experienced dawn and dusk game drives in the Kruger and were truly close to the wildlife in Swaziland, saw snow in the Drakensberg mountains, sharks at Durban and finally the awesome Table Mountain overlooking Cape Town. We met some of the richest and the poorest in the Cape, playing against Rondebosch and visiting Langa. I believe that the most moving experience of the tour was in visiting Langa township and seeing the pupils at the Leap School. I am sure that the touring party would agree that donating several thousand pounds to the Leap School was well worth the fund raising and the gruelling triathlon to support this worthy cause.

South African schools' rugby is second to none and we had some bruising encounters on tour. The senior squad played with heart and passion to lose closely to Glenwood, Rondebosch and Nelspruit. The second side bounced back from a first match hammering at Nelspruit to win at Glenwood, Swaziland, and against Primrose RFC. In fact they almost pulled off a stunning win, losing closely to Paul Roos, one of

South Africa's leading schools complete with 21 stone prop. The 1st XV won a physical encounter against Swaziland, beat Primrose U19s, and then beat Wynberg in their final match. The last try of the tour, some 80 yards, going through eight sets of hands, was a true team try and showed how the tourists had bonded together over the three weeks. I am sure that everyone has their own tour highlights. These may include: the pupils of the Leap School singing for us, the appearance of the Super Heroes, or lunching next to hippos and crocodiles in Swaziland. I would like to thank all the boys and Adam Stubbs, Simon Copeland, Clive Greenhough and Andrew Pearson who made the tour extremely enjoyable and relatively stress free for me.

Onto the season itself. A one point loss against John Fisher did not show our true potential; the first half against a Millfield side with numerous internationals did. Whitgift arrived next. Boasting five international caps they were beaten 15–10 with Toby Hunt smashing his way to the tryline. Harrow away brought a first win there in 4 years with Christopher Robinson holding his nerve to kick four penalties in a tense 12–11 win.

At St Joseph's wins against Scottish school Merchiston Castle and Filton College qualified RGS for the main cup. Close defeats to Millfield and Colston's were followed by a win against Ivybridge. After half term Wellington College were also dispatched three tries (4 actually) to one, with one of the best solo tries of the season from Philip Kelleher. The *Daily Mail* Cup had seen nine tries scored against Henley



*The RGS Tour squad 2004 at the Natal Sharks Stadium, Durban*

College and a win away at Clares Court before a very tough 5th round encounter away at Downside. We trailed 11–6 with two minutes to go before captain Christopher Record scored from open play. The conversion was kicked and a tense game finished 13–11.

In the new year a strong Tiffin side were beaten 39–7 with Alexander Groom getting the backs firing from quick ball. Against Colston's torrential rain and wind favoured their huge pack and despite leading 9–5 we could not hold them out, our final score 9–15. This was truly one of the bravest performances I have witnessed as RGS defended superbly throughout. The final matches of the season saw RGS score 80 points against Champion and Hampton with both forwards and backs combining to score some exceptional tries. The team finished the season by travelling north to the Sedbergh Super Tens, and comfortable wins against QEGS Wakefield and Millfield (4 tries to 1 against the National 7s winners) qualified RGS for the main competition. By the second day many of the side were carrying injuries; however, we rallied well and scored ten tries in beating KES Bath and Bristol GS. The final was lost three tries to two against a strong King's, Macclesfield, school and a season that started in July finished in late March.

The first team squad worked hard all year. Our line-out was excellent with David Lloyd-Williams and Christopher Robinson taking much of the opposition ball and Thomas Collins hitting his men. Despite our front row often giving away several stone in weight they battled well, and props that can handle and throw dummies against the likes of Millfield are always good value for entertainment (Andrew Todd). On occasions Toby Hunt was unstoppable and the back row of Toby, Christopher and Johan were a tight unit. The halfbacks were possibly our best asset and André Kübler helped fly half Alexander Groom to finish top try scorer. The two centres Christopher Record and Philip Kelleher will be sorely missed next season. Out wide Akindiji Akinwale, Edward Dickson, Jamie Blackie and Nathan Lambden all ran strongly on their day.

I wish all those who are leaving every success. Many of this team will remember three seasons of unbeaten rugby. I hope that you all continue to play. Off the field the parents have given great support as have FRORGS, without whom none of this would have been possible.

Next season a rebuilt team and a South American tour beckon.

J.I.S.

## 2nd XV

**Played 20 Won 16 Lost 4**

After the successful South African tour, the team had high expectations for a season of running rugby. Physical contests in the first two games against Dulwich College and John Fisher gave a hint of the open style the team was to adopt. Millfield were dispatched with ease a week later, but the incisive back line of Whitgift proved too strong and RGS missed out by a single point late in September. Victories followed against Harrow, Brighton College and Dr Challoner's 1st XV before the team faced the might of Colston's. Against a team who fielded several of the players who later featured in *Daily Mail* side, RGS were outstanding. Trailing by ten points with fifteen minutes to go, RGS camped on the Colston's line. The opposition proved very adept at slowing the ball down, and despite a late try to bring us within five points, the win escaped us. Colston's certainly knew they had been in a game, and I will long remember the look of relief

on their players' faces when the final whistle went. Fourteen tries in the two games against Berkhamsted and Bromsgrove, and a dogged victory against Uppingham, got the season back on track, only for the side to lose by a single point to a well drilled Wellington College team. The remainder of the season proved very successful, and the team won seven of the eight matches, conceding only two tries between December and March.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those boys who represented the 2nd XV this year. The side had considerable team spirit and were always prepared to give of their all, a trait which made coaching the side a pleasure. I wish the Upper Sixth boys well with their rugby careers in future years. Finally, my thanks must go to Michael McEvoy, who captained the side with distinction before earning a first team place, and Alexander Hawes, who deputised admirably in his absence.

A.J.S.



Year 8  
Pen and wash drawing

## 3rd XV

**Played 13 Won 13 For 355 Against 54**

Every once in while, a season comes along which exceeds our wildest dreams. That was the 2004–2005 season for the 3rd XV. We began, as in the previous season, with comfortable wins at home and away against Dulwich, John Fisher, Millfield (who decimated their team to cover injuries in their 1st and 2nd XV) and Whitgift. The first test came at Harrow. Despite our playing well, they led us 12–0 at half time. Any lesser team might have given up there and then, but we fought like tigers and when we drew level, the supporting parents cheered us on to a 22–12 victory. A resounding thrashing of Brighton College on a sloping ground at the seaside, the following Saturday, convinced us that this was going to be a great season. Next we disposed of our old rivals Colston's at home. After the St Joseph's Festival interlude we continued our winning ways by beating the Sir William Borlase 1st XV.

Having had a very bad experience at Bromsgrove last year, we were determined to get revenge when they visited us. Revenge was sweet to the tune of 32–0. We had also suffered defeat at the hands of Uppingham last time, so it was their turn for a pummelling, and we managed an 18–0 win. The next game was the climax of the season. We were beginning to think that we might do something very special, but Wellington were the opposition that stood between us and



our goal. A long hard-fought game was won by a single outstanding try by Daniel Czasznicki. Suddenly we realised that we might make it through the season without defeat. That's when opponents began to pull their thirds from the arranged fixtures and we had only one more game before Christmas, at Bedford. Ramsay Kerr got us under way with a brilliant run up the right-hand wing to score his first try for the team. Two further tries cemented the result in our favour.

By now it was broadcast across the country that RGS had an unbeaten senior team, and more games were cancelled. Our final game was at Warwick, where we had to fight to get a reasonable lead at half-time. Then, in the second half, there was stalemate and neither team made any progress towards scoring, leaving us winners but a bit deflated.

We were the first RGS senior team to go an entire season unbeaten for more than 15 years. The end of the season was celebrated with a traditional curry night out at the Bucks Tandoori in Beaconsfield.

The outstanding players in the backs were Iain Littlemore, captain, who made them into an unbeaten team; Joseph Whiteaker, who kicked 60% of the attempts and scored 70% of the goals; and Marcus Da Costa, who ran in 13 tries. The forwards included Daniel Czasznicki, with three tries, who did an excellent job as pack leader; Edward Smyth, on the front row, with three tries; Thomas Gregory, lock, who scored four tries before being whisked away to the 2nd XV; and Adam Francis, star of the line-out and always darting through the opposition forwards. They were ably assisted by two scrumhalves: Cameron Law and Ben Francis.

We say goodbye to several of the team, who leave RGS. Among them, Joseph Barber, who was always able to turn on the speed and scored 4 tries in 5 games; and Thomas Kilpatrick, who ably assisted in the second row of the pack.

R.I.S.

## U16 XV

The current U16 'A' team had a highly successful season. Although they collected no silverware they dominated some of the best school sides in the south of England (Brighton, Whitgift, Campion, Tiffin, Bedford Modern, John Fisher, Warwick and Dulwich amongst others). The team secured an extremely satisfying and comprehensive win over the "Auld enemy" Wellington to whom they had lost in the *Daily Mail* last year, and thrashed a Colston's side on their 1st XV pitch by 40 points, putting a clear marker down for the next two years. However the undoubted highlight was beating a previously unbeaten Harrow side with an interception try in the last minute by William Holland to secure a 7-0 win. This was simply brilliant.

The only full 'A' team fixture lost was against an organized and able Millfield side on a dreigh rainy Saturday afternoon. This served to highlight the need for the team to play an organized and structured game, particularly in inclement weather, and was a lesson which was required. The victory against Harrow was only possible after being taught this. Indeed on a dry day (and with me coaching and not refereeing) I have little doubt that the team would now beat Millfield. They should be relishing the return match in two years' time.

The majority of the team played at county level, with Richard Sturla (hooker) and Elliott O'Brien (centre) being selected for the South West at Divisional Level. Additionally Ellis White was selected at full England 'B' level as prop and gained three caps. However there are other fantastic players in the year. Certainly higher honours should have been gained by Edward Kelleher and Stevan Jordan, both hugely

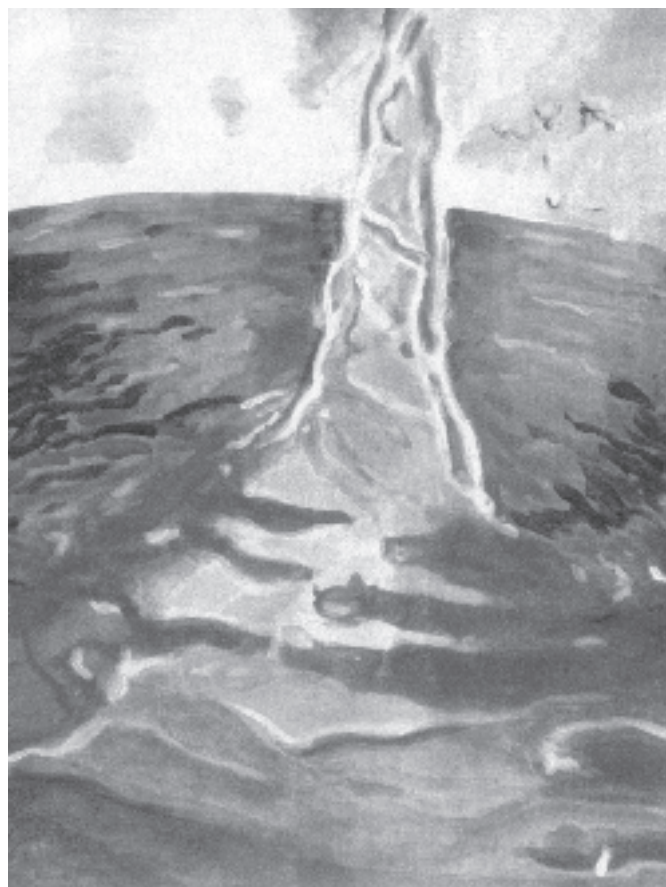
talented players, but also by many others who gave up a lot of time for the county without much reward such as Alexander Mair, William Holland, Frederick Stockwell, Seamus McKimm, Nicholas Johnstone and Robert Record. Indeed I will be interested to see who makes the "step up" to the 1st XV next year.

A fantastic year group to coach, the team are all great friends and play for one another with huge determination and motivation. They are eager to learn and will play the highest quality of rugby in the senior sides. I look forward to coming back to watch them and hear of their progress through J.I.S. My thanks go to Robert Record as captain and Seamus McKimm as vice-captain and to each and every member of the squad who have made this such an enjoyable and inspiring season (including Alexander Mair!). Good luck and remember to build your game and apply pressure in their half of the pitch!

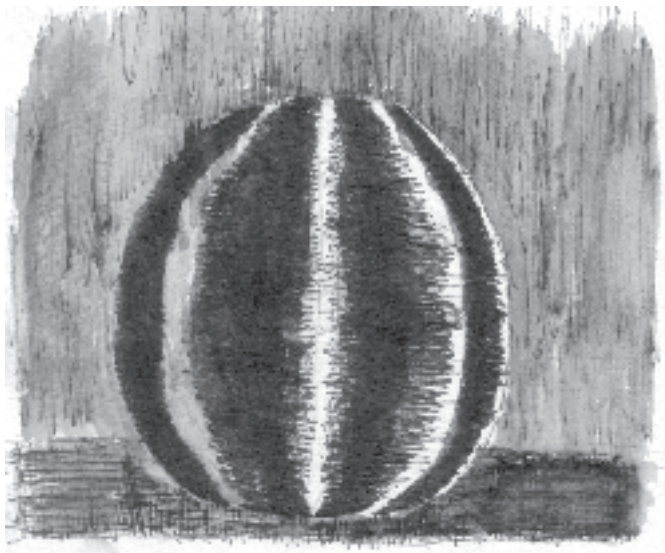
Captained principally by Jack Merriman at fly half the U16 'B' team had quite a successful season. Their camaraderie was certainly second to none and this was apparent right from the start with the memorable 3-0 victory against Millfield. This spirit stayed with the team throughout the year and was a principal ingredient in their success.

Our three losses were against formidable opposition: Whitgift, Wellington and Harrow. All of these matches could have gone either way and we were unlucky not to have won them, but it will be a good lesson for their future development. They have learnt that they need to keep their work rate and concentration levels high, right up to the final whistle, and I look forward to hearing how they develop in the senior teams.

W.M.P/C.G.



David Maunder  
Year 10  
*Painting study of water*



Stephen Jones  
Year 7  
Pen and wash

## U15 XV

**Played 20 Won 17 Drawn 1 Lost 2**

This season again was all about the *Daily Mail* Cup and lots of chopping and changing took place at the beginning of the year to find the strongest squad. There were only two defeats for the 'A' team this year, a poor display against Harrow and a narrow defeat against Whitgift, even though the boys felt they had scored in the last seconds of the game. A classic 5-5 draw against Millfield, who boasted a bigger set of players than RGS, meant that the game was a pitch battle that took place between the two 10 yard lines. Not for the first time, a rather boring day for the backs.

The rest of the season consisted of wins, (almost) confidently moving through the *Daily Mail* Cup rounds, thrashing Sherborne 45-3 in the fifth round and disposing of St Peter's in the sixth round away in Gloucester. The quarter final was a hard fought battle against future finalists St Paul's. It ended with a defeat of 6-3, and with St Paul's only losing to St Benedict's by a few points in the final it shows how close the boys have come to match the best team in the country.

The 'B' team also had a successful season under the guidance of Mr Wolton. With many players battling for a place in the 'A' team the quality of the rugby was outstanding at times, being led by the captaincy once again of Alexander Pyke.

Although the 'C' team only played a handful of games there were some very good performances by the team and individuals, such as James Corley, Vijay Shah and George Francis. There have been some outstanding individual performances this year and all the boys should be determined and focused on making the tour squad going to South America in 2006. With the 'A' team affectionately known as the 'Land of the Giants' by the PE staff, the forwards have always been a real strength of the team. Matthew Nally and Peter Elder have improved their work rate and aggression this year, and Anthony Silvey, 'The Man no-one Can Knock Down', cemented his position as hooker. The backs' improvement in performance has been incredible. A fluid, creative backline now exists with strength on the wing in Matthew Saunders, creativity and individual talent in Thomas Lukjaniec, and silky hands and strong defence in Nicholas Aris.

I.R.G

## U14 XV

'A' XV	Played 18	Won 7	Lost 11
'B' XV	Played 15	Won 10	Lost 5
'C' XV	Played 9	Won 6	Lost 3

This was a hard season for the U14s. They took several matches to come together as a team, and while they won some of those early games - including good performances against John Fisher and Brighton College - they were vulnerable in close contests. The second half of the season saw them play with more collective endeavour and they finished the 15 a-side season with some excellent performances against Hampton and Champion and a rousing final victory away at Oundle. They showed how far they had come in the Sevens and Tens tournaments in March, reaching the semi-final at Warwick and playing outstanding rugby in Bradford, only losing narrowly to QEGS Wakefield - a team unbeaten for 3 years. These players have a lot of potential and have many positives to take into next season. Some of the boys deserve special mentions: Benjamin Newberry led by example throughout and never gave up, Lloyd Peters improved after being injured and was able to take control of games, and Alastair Jeal and Charles Wheeler made great strides and should look back on the season with pride.

The U14 'B' team had a very successful season demonstrating high levels of skill throughout. They were led well by Timothy Grocott-Mason and kept pressure on the 'A' team for several positions. All the boys who played for the Bs during the season have the potential to improve still further and I look forward to seeing them progress. Some great results against Colston's and Berkhamsted this year gave them reason to crow over the 'A' team and they have much to be proud of.

Some of the 'C' team results were outstanding this year. The quality of the players showed the strength in depth of the U14 squad. Many of the 'C' team regulars played in the 'B' team and some made their way up to the As as the season wore on. They played the game in a good spirit and their skill and enthusiasm were often too much for their opposition - results against Brighton College and Bromsgrove spring readily to mind.

A.J.P.



Toby Holmes  
Year 9  
Line drawing



## U13 XV

The U13 'A' team came into the season having won every single game as U12s. The expectation was there for another outstanding season. No pressure at all then on the players or coach!

The unbeaten run didn't last long. One game played, one defeat! Despite this early setback, the boys responded with a 12 match winning run including excellent wins over Whitgift, Colston's and Bedford. Although we were to suffer a second defeat at Warwick, the boys finished the season on a high with another 3 wins, the best of which was a spirited win away at QEGS Wakefield. Julien Morlet led from the front in every game. Alongside him in the pack Alexander Palmer, Daniel Wood and Jonathan Collin all had excellent seasons. The backs looked a threat in every game, with Jolyon Kelleher, Steven Edwards, James McCue and Simon Beecroft causing opposition defences huge problems. Unfortunately the poor weather blighted our 7s season. During the two tournaments that were played, the boys played some exciting and intelligent rugby to beat some very good schools.

The 'B' team followed up last year's excellent performances with another very strong season. Amongst their wins was a hard fought 15-10 defeat of Wellington College. Oliver Brookes, Thomas Brown-Lowe and Matthew Sephton have enjoyed good seasons in an athletic pack.

Despite a lack of fixtures, the 'C' team have again produced some excellent rugby. Alexander Jewell, Oliver Vassie and Stuart Payne have moved up and established themselves as 'B' squad players. I look forward to their continued development.

S.J.C.

## U12 XV

**'A' XV Played 11 Won 6 Lost 5**  
**'B' XV Played 9 Won 2 Lost 7**  
**'C' XV Played 5 Won 1 Lost 4**

It hasn't been the most successful of opening seasons, but the talent and potential are definitely present and growing in this squad. After two tough opening fixtures, the 'A' team enjoyed their first victory against our arch rivals Colston's. Following that boost to their morale, they went on to win four matches on the spin. The team won the respect of some tough opposition at the Bradford Tens tournament and ended the year with narrow defeats against two of the best sides in the country, QEGS and the hosts. Next year they will be looking to win those tight encounters.

The team eventually realised they had pace on the wing in the form of Zachariah Theodore, who became the top try scorer. The power of Michael McGirr in the forwards also became evident as the season progressed. Christian Scotland-Williamson, the gentle giant, dominated the line-out and it usually took five people to bring him down. Luke Martin orchestrated countless turnovers and was notoriously difficult to tackle going forward, as was Will 'Carling' Sage as he took crash balls at centre. Daniel Avery and Nicholas Salmon were technically brilliant in key positions. The team was superbly led by the captain Matthew Labron, who inspired his fellow players by his own example and by his half-time analysis of the game.

It took time for the boys to gain the confidence they needed. Slowly but surely they are improving and developing into competent rugby players. We wish them every success next season.

The 'B' XV had some strong battling performances both as a team and from individuals. The team will need to learn how to turn possession into points if they want to get some more wins under their belt.

Christopher Clarke came and went as he made his way into the 'A' team after some fine performances. James Bennett led the team well and found his strength in the centre. Connor Hamilton fitted in well at fly half and Angus Lees Fitzgibbon and Daniel Smith fought for the Number 9 jersey. Niema Jafari showed his potential as he moved up to the 'A' team and was selected for the Bradford Tens tournament. Daniel Pain showed great determination and got his deserved promotion. Elliot Grogan did well in the front row, Kevin Ring wasn't afraid to put his body on the line, and Ewan Lusty ran hard at the opposition. Forrest Bibeau and Alexandre Imre both made great progress as they too were selected for Bradford.

The biggest disappointment had to be the last game of the season against Warwick. RGS led 14-12 with a couple of minutes to go, but Warwick scored and won the game 17-14. Hopefully that gut-wrenching moment will help the boys with their rugby careers at the RGS, and made them realise how much it hurts to lose.

Many of the 'C' XV players had not played rugby before arriving at RGS and so the transformation during the season was remarkable. Victory against London Oratory was well deserved and down to a team performance. Characters like James Goody, Benjamin Thomas, Arran Speding and Ryan Gordon are surely going to be stars of the future.

P.S.T./T.A.W.



*Joshua Gladman  
Year 9  
Charcoal drawing*

# Hockey

## 1st XI

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RGS hockey has once again gone from strength to strength this year, with many creditable wins and performances throughout. For many of the team, the highlight of the season will have been the first match of the season, a 12–4 victory over local rivals Sir William Borlase with Patrick Ashton scoring 5 goals. A demanding programme of friendly games against various local schools followed before the end of the autumn term.

After the Christmas break, the business end of the season commenced with friendly games away to Eton and at home to Hitchin. These games gave us good warm-ups for the all important National Schools' Cup. In the Bucks round of the competition, RGS entered at the semi-final stage with another match against a much improved Sir William Borlase side which ran the RGS team close. RGS persevered, moving into the next round with a 2–1 victory in extra time. They then moved onto the Bucks Cup Final against Stowe School. A good performance by the entire team led to a 3–1 victory and progression to the South East Finals of the National Competition.

Due to snow, the original date for the South Finals was cancelled and after much political wrangling, RGS moved on to play Merchant Taylors' School and Eastbourne College for a place in the National Quarter Finals. In a hard fought match, RGS managed to beat Merchant Taylors' School 2–0. 2 days and 3 hours in a minibus later, the team emerged onto the pitch at Eastbourne College. Unfortunately the tiredness struck the team who conceded 4 very good short corner efforts, losing 4–0.

The team should be proud of their achievements, managing to reach just one game off the National Quarter Finals with several good team performances throughout the year. Thanks to Mr Clarke, Mr Stiff and Martin for organising the year.

Philip O'Hagan 13LY

## 2nd XI

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While the 2nd XI has not had a huge number of fixtures this season they have always been committed to their hockey. Throughout the season they have shown a desire to perform to the highest possible standard, and in places have shown an impressive standard of hockey. Many of the squad have also represented the 1st XI, which is testament to this desire to perform to the highest level, and I am sure that many will gain full 1st team honours next season.

Whenever the team have played there has also been a great team spirit with the banter entertaining the opposition almost as much as the hockey!

Finally, a big congratulation to all the boys who have played this season from both Jeremy Clarke and me.

P.S.

## U16 XI

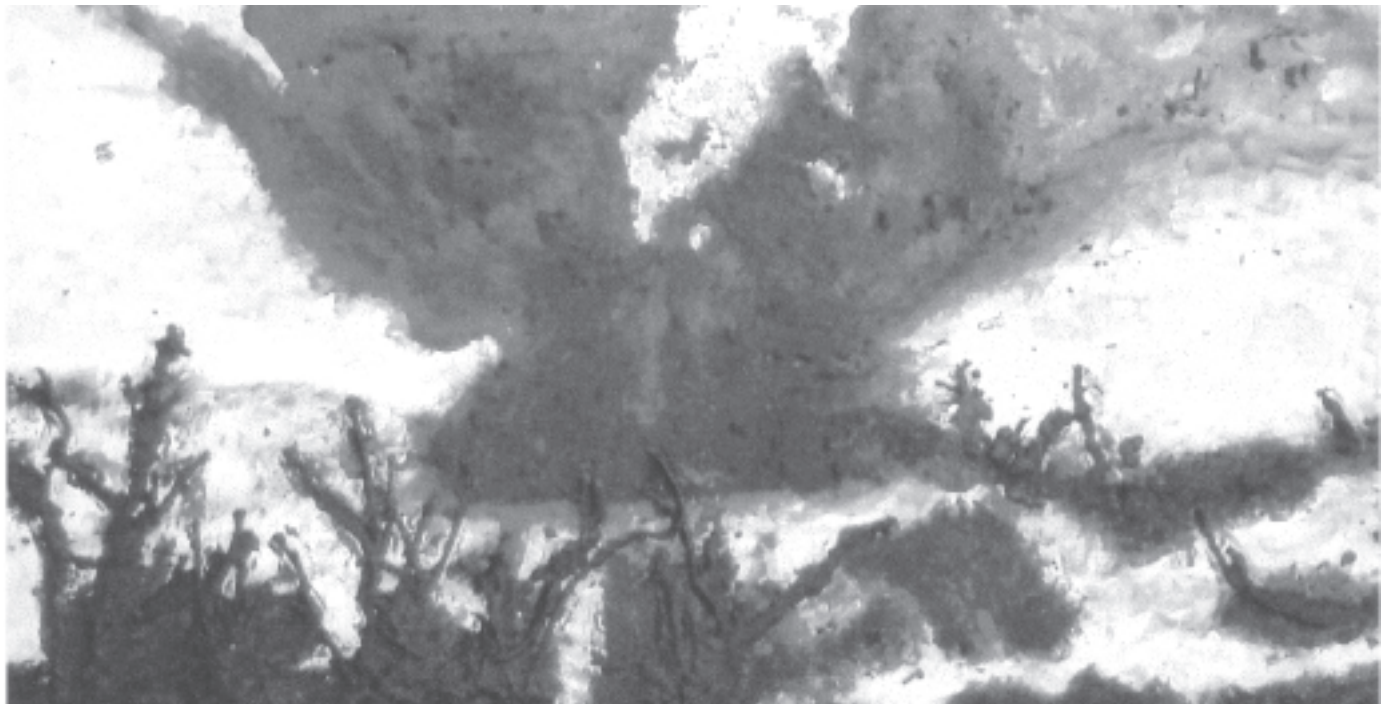
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Whilst the U16 hockey team ended the season with a disappointing run of form the squad should be pleased with the level of success that they managed to achieve. Yet again the side managed to deny Sir William Borlase the Bucks County Cup title, but unfortunately this cup run ended in the next round with defeat by a very skilful and organised side from Eastbourne College.

The team are now looking forward to next season, playing senior hockey, and hope that the successes of this season can be built upon to generate future successes.

I would like to thank all of those who have remained committed to the team over the last few years.

David Green 11IG



*Ishaan Malhi  
Year 11  
'Conflict' mixed media*



## U15 XI

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The U15 team has made huge progress this year. There were good wins against Haberdashers' and others on an increasingly strong fixture list. Throughout the season the team played well and the high level of morale was evident in all that we did. Indicative of the standard of hockey is the fact that six members of the U15 side also represented the U16 side in their cup run. Following on from this we are very hopeful about our prospects in the competition next season.

Congratulations to everyone, and thank you to Mr Clarke and Mr Stiff for all their hard work.

Jonathan Lanchbury 10MS

(Congratulations to Jonathan on being selected for the South-East hockey side - P.S.)

## U14 XI

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This season has been one of development and learning for the U14 hockey side. They have been committed to improving their hockey and despite some disappointing score lines the performances throughout the season have reflected this.

The team took full part in the Bucks County Cup and after a fine semi-final win finished runners-up behind a very strong Stowe side.

Throughout the season there have been some outstanding individual performances, most notably Andrew Hammond and Michael Eden, who have also represented the U16 side on occasions. These individual performances have not restricted the development of a strong team spirit, which has helped them through what has been a difficult season.

I must offer my thanks to the team for their hard work and commitment, which has made this a very enjoyable season for me as well.

P.S.

## U13 'B' XI

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This has been an extremely frustrating season for the group of boys whose enthusiasm for hockey must have been at its limit at times. An almost empty fixture list, practices cancelled, buses commandeered and a lack of staff have all been obstacles in the path of the squad. The purpose of the U13s is to learn the game, to gain match experience and to incorporate the skills and techniques which will turn them into competitive hockey players. But if there is no end product to work towards, the boys very quickly get dispirited. I salute the boys who turned out week after week with no inter-school game on the horizon and who turn up expectantly at the beginning of lunchtime to find their bus has been taken by one activity or other. Nevertheless the boys have worked hard at their skills through the term and are showing signs of improvement and confidence with the ball at the end of their sticks. Daniel Coward, Luke Tomkins and Philip Thomas have improved beyond measure and Hugo Jafari and Lucan Carter have played with aplomb at times. I thank the squad for their enthusiasm every Thursday and wish them luck in the future: they deserve as much as anybody else the chance to compete and grow as players.

B.R.S.

## Cricket

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### 1st XI

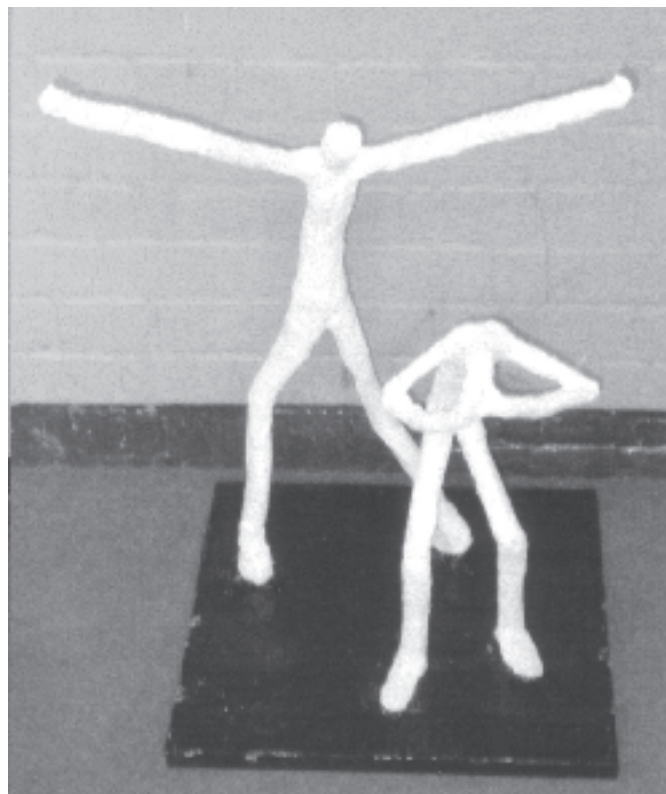
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**Played 13 Won 5 Drawn 1 Lost 5 Abandoned 2  
Cancelled 6**

We shall look back on the season and remember umbrellas and waterproofs rather than sun cream and shades. Only two matches were played in what could be described as summery conditions, and 8 of the 10 scheduled games were either abandoned halfway through or never took place at all. Lord William's, Challoner's, Windsor, Watford, Colchester and Guildford all fell victims to the rain. Even the RGS Festival, magnificently hosted by ourselves, was partly spoiled by 4 out of 10 of the matches having to be abandoned. The Festival performance, however, rather summed up the 1st XI performance throughout the season: one bad defeat, one convincing win, and two very tight but ultimately unfinished games. Looking at the record, as many games were won as lost, which rather showed up an inconsistency of performances, something which we have to address next season.

In truth, despite 5 defeats the team rarely played poorly. Poor performances were restricted to Haberdashers' and RGS Worcester. Whilst three further defeats were suffered the team, sometimes weakened through absence, fought bravely and never gave up on any match.

The team was ably led by James Howlin this year. I could not have wished for a keener, more motivated captain. James held the utmost respect of his players. He led from the front and was an excellent captain, though he was upset by his lack of contributions with the bat - he scored 50 runs this season, with an average of around 20. He has, however, the potential to be a destructive batsman and as an opening bowler he always looks threatening.



*Timothy Burton*

*Year 11*

*'Human Form' plaster and wire*

The bulk of the runs were scored by Luc Walker and Thomas Collins, both of whom next year will be very senior and experienced cricketers. Luc has played 1st team cricket for several years now and this year he began to flourish, particularly as a batsman. He rarely failed and was able to push the scoring along and dominate some attacks. It was great to see him score 100 against the Old Boys in the penultimate fixture of the season. His bowling, which has great flight and some variation, was at times disappointing by his high standards, but against Newcastle RGS he showed us all what he can do, recording remarkable figures of 10–6–12–5 and effectively setting up this convincing win.

Thomas Collins started the season keeping wicket but shed the gloves to become our most successful wicket taker. He also opened the batting and was usually a calm, stabilizing presence at the crease. Jonathon Cooper and James Cousins also contributed greatly to the overall batting success, both boys being superb strikers of the ball and destructive in the extreme when the mood took them. James Cousins' 36 ball 66 against the MCC will long be remembered as will his crowd-pleasing sixes. Mention must also be made of John Stevens and Ben Francis who, both in Year 11, played a full season and will come back stronger for it next year. John, opening the batting all year, did not have a season he will look back on with any affection but 87 not out against RGS Colchester in the Festival is proof that he has what it takes, and Ben played steadily, contributing with both bat and ball in fine style. The bowling honours were shared around. James Howlin, Amit Desai and Luc Walker all took 5 wickets in a match but the pick of the bowlers was Thomas Collins who managed to ally wicket taking with a degree of consistency and economy. Jonathon Cooper and Kim Langley-Hunt also contributed to the bowling attack in no small measure.

It was my first season in charge and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. My thanks go to James Howlin in particular who, as my captain, gave me good support, but also to the players for making it so enjoyable.

S.J.N.

## 2nd XI

### Played 3 Won 2 Lost 1

Despite a good fixture list, with ten planned games, bad weather reduced the 2nd XI season to three matches.

We lost our first game. This was at home, against Hampton, who won by 4 wickets. They put us in to bat, and we only scored 87. It did not take Hampton long to reach the required target.

There was another match in the same week, against Magdalen College School. Put in to bat, we scored 128 in the 40 overs. When Magdalen came out, they lost two early wickets. However, their openers were followed by Shaw, their captain, who made an impressive 63, holding their innings together. When he went, the tail end collapsed, giving us victory in 33 overs.

The final game was at St Albans. They batted first and were soon losing wickets. They fought hard to get 105 runs in 29 overs. We went in like lions, scoring freely from the outset. Our openers scored 20 runs off the fourth over! Unfortunately when we were in sight of victory, the heavens opened and we were deluged. However, the sun reappeared, the ground quickly dried out and we were out playing again. With different playing conditions, though, both our openers were soon out. It looked as if St Albans might win, when their bowlers ran out of steam. We scored freely again, with the

winning 4 being struck at the end of the sixteenth over.

There was good batting by Matthew Bailey, Lindsay Matcham and Matthew Clark. On the bowling account, Clark had the best figures, but Matcham also did well, with best one-match figures coming from Nicholas Daynes.

A few of the team played in the RGS Festival.

R.I.S.

## U15 XI

The U15 team had a mixed season last summer, with the first few games affected as usual by the English summer. Some decent victories followed against Haberdashers' and Aylesbury, and narrow wins over Abingdon and Dr Challoner's.

It was disappointing that the County Cup again eluded the squad. However, this year it has been encouraging to see so many of last year's Year 10 involved in the RGS's Cricket Academy, training with the senior teams and working towards a tour selection for next Easter to Barbados. These boys will make up the core of the senior teams over the next three years.

There were some good performances by a number of the team. Manoj Sharma showed promise with an early season 46 against Aylesbury. Hashim Hussain showed he had an eye for the ball. Although not always conventional he is always entertaining. A century innings for Graham Cochrane against Haberdashers' proved his excellent batting abilities. Both Thomas Lees Fitzgibbon and Frederick Stockwell bowled consistently and were the main wicket takers.

A player who has made rapid improvements from the 'B' team and now opens the batting for the 2nd XI is Jack Duffy. He has ability in both his batting and bowling.

I.R.G.



*Nicholas Drofiak  
Year 11*





*Samuel Denny  
Year 12  
AS Level photography*

## U14 XI

The season started well with 4 straight victories, all by comfortable margins, against Desborough, Magdalen College, Aylesbury and Burnham. By this time we had shown an ability to score both quickly and heavily, and to take wickets with both seam and spin. So it was with great confidence that we approached our crucial Lord's Taverners' Cup match against a previously defeated Aylesbury Grammar. Then disaster struck! We were 0-4 after the first over, from which we never recovered and went down by 8 wickets. We lost the next match also to a talented Haberdashers' team but not before Nicholas Aris smashed two bats on his way to a belligerent 70, our top score of the season. But we finished superbly, defeating local rivals Dr Challoner's by a resounding 9 wickets. Oliver Lowe led the side well, with main batting support from Johannes Potgieter, while top bowling honours went to the spin of Edward Greenland. Nicholas Aris won the award for most-improved player for his controlled big hitting and his performances behind the wicket.

As usual the 'B' team suffered from lack of fixtures but thoroughly enjoyed the games they played. Jonathan Lanchbury was the pick of the bowlers, while Peter Elder improved so much with the bat that he ended up in the first team, and won the 'B' team player of the year award.

I.J.W.

## U12 XI

**'A' XI Played 8 Won 8**  
**'B' XI Played 2 Won 1 Lost 1**

The U12 'A' cricket team continued where the rugby team left off, showed a great team spirit, and were unbeaten throughout the season. The first and normally hardest game against Hampton was cancelled due to the weather, and RGS Worcester did not tour because of the RGS Festival being here at Wycombe. This meant that the boys missed out on facing two of the most challenging opposition. However the team did produce some top class cricket and were in fine form when they won the County Cup by beating Dr Challoner's in the final. There were plenty of runs scored and some fine knocks. Christopher Elder bludgeoned his way to 49 not out against Dulwich (Andy Flintoff style, or should I say Kevin Pietersen style) and Jolyon Kelleher scored 43 against Aylesbury as RGS mustered 193-4 off 25 overs. However, the

two boys who starred with the bat were Tom Francis and James McCue. Having been confident enough in opening the batting Tom had knocks of 38 not out, 59 not out and a 91 against Aylesbury. James scored 50 not out against Magdalen and a fine 46 not out in the County Cup final to win the match.

With regards to bowling, the opening partnership of Jonathan Maunder and Thomas Hemmings worked well. A fine example was against Magdalen as they worked their way through the top order and had the opposition reeling at 17-5 (although they went on to score 109 in the end), and Aylesbury at 9-5. Jonathan showed real control with the ball as he managed to swing it both ways and bowled a good line and length. Patrick Stockwell did well against Royal Latin getting 4-12, but we struggled to bowl out sides. However the boys worked out how to keep the scoring rate down, and put on the pressure even if wickets weren't falling.

Hugo Jafari did well behind the stumps, and Daniel Wood improved together with the likes of Charles Needham and Zohaib Saeed who I am sure will be pressing for a permanent 'A' team place next year.

Unfortunately, due to the weather, the 'B' team only had 2 games. However, there were players who were knocking on the door of the 'A' team. Matthew Earnshaw did well against Haberdashers' and James Hayward scored some runs. Stephen Thomson showed signs of becoming a good cricketer. Jonathan Collin needs a mention as his fielding was awesome, taking 2 fantastic catches. I have not seen many better at U12 level. Ross Thomson helped beat Haberdashers' almost single-handedly. With the opposition cruising at 46-3, he entered the fray and with figures of 5-7 bowled out the opposition for 56.

T.A.W.



*Omar Abdullah  
Year 9  
Pen and wash drawing*

## Fencing

**Played 11 Won 9 Lost 2**

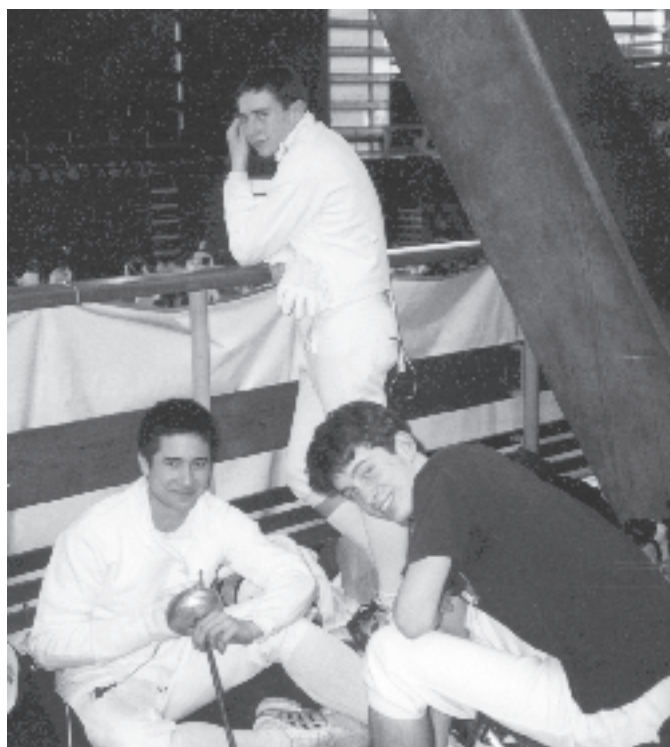
It was a very busy season with renewed fixtures against Winchester College, Harrow and Westminster and a new fixture against Bradfield College. Mr Roebuck's excellent services were secured on a full-time basis in order to cope with the heavy schedule.

The fencing team enjoyed considerable success and were inspired by the captain Paul Dazeley. Paul continues to impress and his progress in the last year or two has been remarkable. He lost only 2 fights out of 57 for the school, and was crowned U17 British Epée Champion at Norwich. He was duly rewarded by being selected to represent Great Britain at the recent world Cadet and Junior Fencing Championships in Linz, Austria. He came a respectable 43rd in the world, but was knocked out 14–15 on the flip of a coin, as his fight was tied 14–14 after extra time (devastated is the word that comes to mind). He was also selected to fence for the U20 Junior team.

However the school's success wasn't down to Paul alone. Spencer Bullent got through to the Nationals when he won the clean sweep by winning all 3 weapons at the U18 Southern Region qualifying event. David Ramsbottom also got through to the Nationals as well as up and coming Joshua Radvan.

Maximilian Sloan also made excellent progress and came 1st in the Bucks, Berks & Oxon U18 Epée competition, and he has cemented a place alongside Paul in the Epée team for next year.

The one disappointment would be the Public Schools' Championships at Crystal Palace. With the memory of last year's 'double' still fresh in our minds, we came back empty handed. However there were some battling displays. Maximilian Sloan came 17th in the Senior Epée, Spencer Bullent came 17th in the Senior Foil and Benjamin Radvan came 18th in the Junior Foil. However the highlight was Joshua Radvan coming 12th in the Mount Haes' Foil, just missing out on a medal. With 14 of the 15 boys fencing a year below their respective age groups, we hope for better things next year.



*Not eliminated...yet!!*

The highlight of the year would have to be the match against Wellington, where 15 fencers all represented the school, which was a first for the RGS. 1st team fencer and mascot William Carter is the only pupil to be leaving and we thank him for his services to RGS fencing. He was always the moral victor and always fenced with a smile on his face (and nearly always got fired from his job when he fenced at away matches; now that's dedication for you!!). He will be missed but I look forward to the battle next year to see who will step into his shoes. A big thank you must go to our coach, Harry Jones, who continues to help in the boys' success and always supports the RGS.

T.A.W



*The Junior Quadruple Scull at the Kingston Head of the River race. Bow to stern: Christopher Taylor, Alexander Auld, Joseph Abdallah, Adam Seward*

## Boat Club

The organisation of rowing at RGS has come on leaps and bounds since the start of the year. The appointment of a 'Master-in-charge' in the form of Mr Roberts has meant that many advances, most of which other rowing schools take for granted, have taken place. These are due, for the most part, to his hard work and the help of many members of the Boat Club, as well as time given by many other members of staff. As a result, rowing is beginning to move away from constantly playing second fiddle to rugby and other sports at the school, and is beginning to get the recognition it deserves amongst pupils and staff.

This is most evident in pupils' willingness to take up the sport during games sessions, and I am reliably informed that even Mr Roberts has to fight for his place on the minibus to Marlow of an afternoon!

The Head of the River (long distance time-trial) season is now over, and the Regatta (sprint) season lies ahead of us. The Club has had a promising winter, finishing in style with a win for the Junior Quadruple Scull at Kingston Head and a respectable result for the J16 Quad at the Schools' Head of the River on the Tideway in London.

All that remains is to thank all the teachers for driving minibuses, especially Mr Shreeve for his selfless dedication, our coach Geoff Baker for his expertise and time as always, Peter 'Blazin Pete' Blaseby for his help whenever needed, and of course Mr Roberts. Last of all, we owe a debt of gratitude to various employees of a non-profit organisation known, if only to themselves, as Dad's Taxi Service.

Adam Seward 12MW  
Captain of Boats



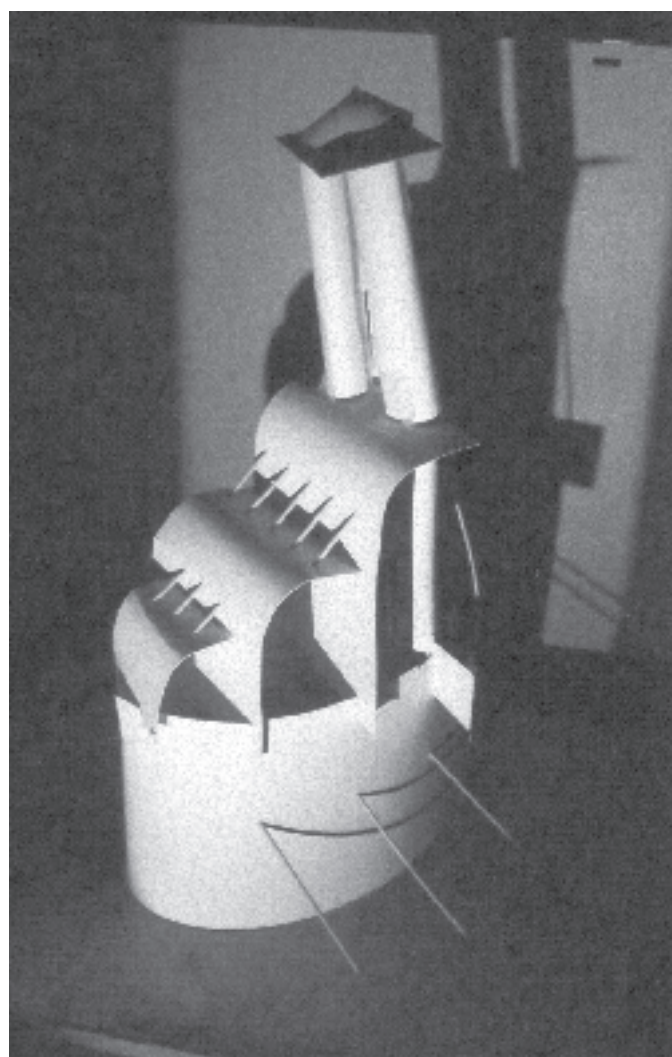
## Cross Country

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This year's cross country season saw a number of good results at the usual fixtures with the addition of a number of new runners joining the teams. Timothy Henshaw (who had previously never run in a cross country fixture) joined the team at the beginning of the season and has proved to be an outstanding runner. The rest of the senior team, comprising Joseph Chapman, Samuel Rolfe, Francis Mostyn (who gained a place in the National Championships), James and David Loveday, gave some of their best performances, bringing the RGS team some very respectable finishing positions in the senior fixtures. Undoubtedly, the team's finest achievement of the season was finishing in first place at the annual Wycombe Phoenix Harriers race in Hughenden Park.

The junior team also saw success in a number of fixtures. Highlights include finishing fourth (out of twenty teams) in the ESAA first round, in seventh position out of twenty-one other teams in the County Championships, and finishing second in the District Championships. The teams comprised Mark Salmon, Alexander Halms, Lawrence Holloway, Joe Avery, Amaran Uthayakumar-Cumarasamy, Joshua Radvan, Daniel Graham, Michael Eden, Joseph May and Duncan Foster.

The intermediate teams gained similar levels of success in the same fixtures and included Justin Moore, John Hillier, Colin Blunden and Andrew Armitage.

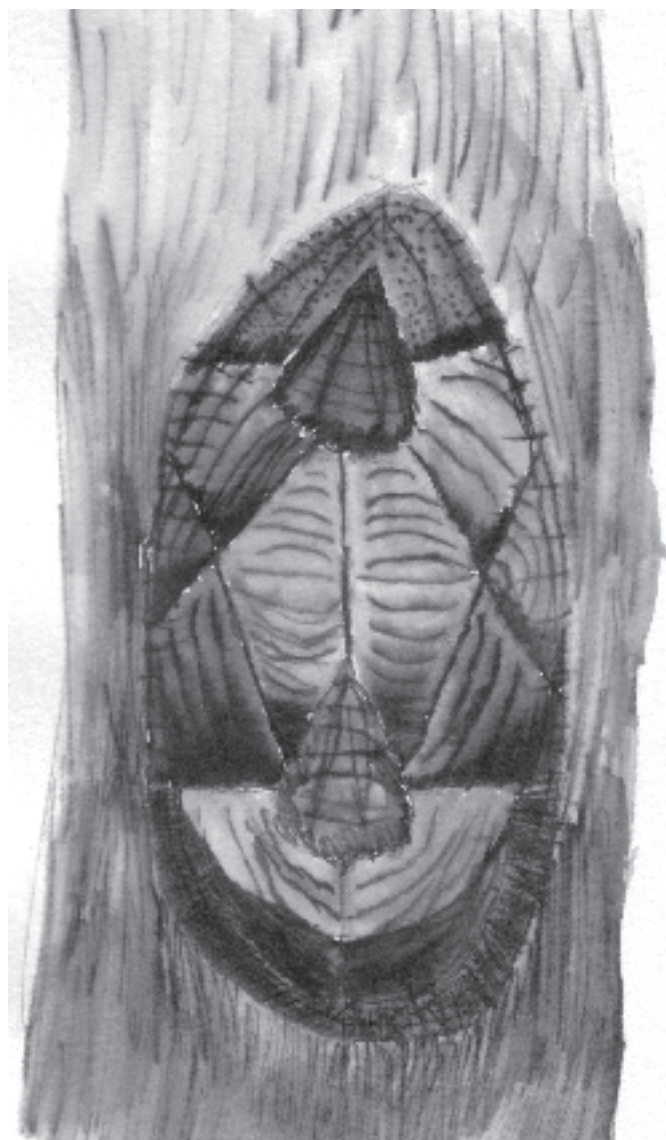


*Year 7  
Architectural forms*

The Year 7 team made a promising start, finishing second in the District Championships and sixth in the County Championships. The team members, Luke Bailey, Douglas Stevens, Philip Dodwell, Ashley Bartlett, James McGregor, Christopher Saunders and William Eustace, certainly have shown themselves to be very fine runners.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all of the parents who patiently gave up a number of their Saturday mornings (all in what had been a very cold winter) to support their sons, and to Mr Ian Wilson for his much appreciated help during the County Championships.

D.P.M.



*Thomas Weeds  
Year 7  
Pen and wash*

## Squash

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This is a new extra-curricular sport that started this year. Boys have always been able to choose squash as a Games option but for the first time we entered the National Championships at both U15 and U18 age groups. The U15s had a decent victory over Berkhamsted School and some good individual performances versus Brentwood and Wycliffe. At the moment 12 boys are involved in the teams but hopefully this will grow as the sport becomes more widely promoted.

I.R.G.



*Simon Lowe  
Year 11*

## Athletics

RGS dominated the District Sports, winning all but one of the age groups where they finished second to a strong John Hampden squad. Several boys set district records, and nearly 20 boys were subsequently selected to represent Wycombe district at the County Championships in June. Congratulations to Peter Elder (shot put), Johannes Potgieter (discus), Nicholas Aris (javelin), Robert Record (100m hurdles), and Neil Cottrell (pole vault) who were all crowned county champions.

Robert Record and Neil Cottrell went on to represent the county at the English Schools' Athletics Championships in Gateshead. Neil finished sixth in the final, despite jumping well below his personal best. Timothy Henshaw, Robert Record, Ashley Bailey, and Robert Bushrod all represented Bucks at the Inter Counties' School match at Ashford in June.

In the ESAA track and field cup both the Year 8 and the Year 10 teams won the county round of the competition. In the South East Regional Round we had high hopes that the intermediate team might make the National Final, but despite some creditable performances from the boys, both teams exited the competition at this stage. Next season promises to be a successful one for RGS with a strong intermediate team leading the way for RGS athletics.

A.J.S.

## Basketball

Teams covered every age group from Year 7 to the Upper Sixth. Most games were against local schools in the Chiltern League. For the first time this year a County Cup competition was organised and all age groups entered from Year 8 to Year 11. The school came up against some strong opponents from Milton Keynes and almost all of our teams were knocked out by the semi-final stage. However the U15 team led by the determined and enthusiastic Mr Parsons made it through to the final at Milton Keynes. With Matthew Saunders always being the most dangerous player on court the boys easily won the final by 60 points, becoming the first County Champions.

I.R.G.



*Michael Ball  
Year 9  
Pen and wash drawing*

## Swimming

Another good year of swimming at the RGS. Although we didn't qualify for the National Championship Finals, the current Year 8s (Ross Thomson, Joshua Radvan and Sean Phillips) are looking a good bet for future years.

At the Buckinghamshire Schools' Championships both the Juniors and Seniors achieved second place. James Poulter continues to excel for the school and competed at the British Championships. A second place for Robert Matthews-Stroud at the British Championships highlighted the outstanding progress he has made. Robert is now training with the Great Britain squad.

S.J.C.



## OC's Report

Another hectic and successful year draws to a close and it is a chance to reflect on the training and progress made this year within the CCF. Central to everything we do is the development of the cadets and this has certainly been a very successful year by this measure.

The end of the summer term last year saw a very successful expedition to the Black Mountains. This was the final training and preparation for the Kenya Expedition, so these twelve volunteers and the two officers trekked the weekend with full packs. The remainder enjoyed the more leisurely and social element that is the traditional end to the year's training. This weekend encompasses a walk along the Black Mountains from the campsite to the reservoir, and on Sunday a walk up Sugar Loaf Mountain.

As a contingent we have not only maintained the level of training but also introduced a new activity. The academic year now starts with a recruit weekend in September at Mop End near Amersham. This is non-tactical but does introduce a practical element to the training very early. This fits in with my belief that the CCF should be as active as possible. Why talk to people about cooking and camping when they can go out and do it themselves? This first run saw fifty cadets from all three sections completing a 'round robin' of stands run by the senior cadets. The skills introduced were first aid, cooking, building shelters, camouflage and concealment, signals, patrolling and movement. Perhaps the highlight was the movement at night, which proved testing but popular with the cadets. This weekend certainly proved successful and will be a central part to their contingent training next year. It enabled the Army Section to introduce a higher level of tactics earlier and ensured that RAF and RN recruits had the basics needed to allow them to go to Snowdonia or other expeditions.

October saw the annual pilgrimage to Snowdonia. We returned to the camping barns at Nant Peris, which proved successful last year, and we broke our previous record with 36 boys and 7 officers attending. The now traditional snow was much in evidence and a 'dynamic risk assessment' meant that we had to abandon the Snowdon Horseshoe and settle with walks along the Ranger Track and the Llanberis spur. This didn't dampen spirits and a great 3 days of walking was had by all.

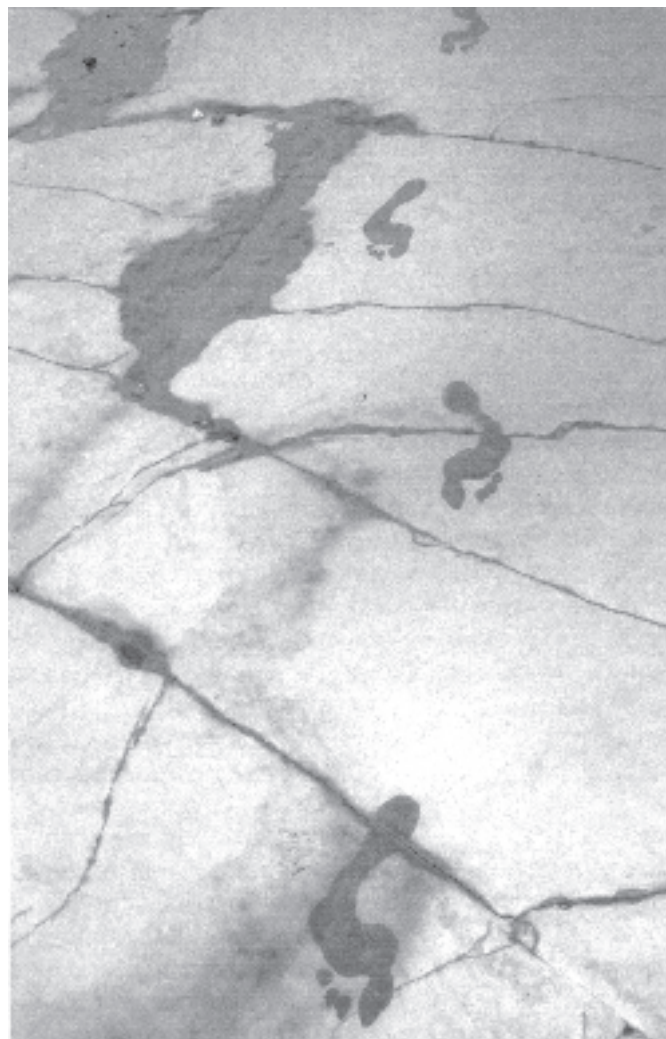
We competed at CADSAM, gaining a team bronze, and are due at the Cadet Skills competition on 29 April. Unfortunately the 25m Indoor Range has been closed pending repairs to the floor and targetry so we were unable to shoot in the *Country Life* competition. We are even hoping to compete at Bisley in 2005/06 for the first time in recent years using the newly acquired Cadet Target Rifle (7.56mm). UO B. Lacey and Capt C. Cunningham have completed their training and have plans afoot.

Easter saw a change in direction (geographically and training wise) at Easter Camp. This year we headed south to Dartmoor under the guidance of 2Lt T. Sawyer. He planned and supervised a highly successful camp at Okehampton Camp. This contained slightly less military training and a longer 4-day expedition. Expedition skills are something that I believe the senior cadets should leave with. I would hope that these skills and experiences would stimulate them to take themselves with a few friends into the mountains once they have left school. Please note that the website contains photographs and further reports on CCF activities.

On the staffing front we are very sorry to lose Joan Henderson who is stepping down as OC RN Section. Joan has been the 'steady hand on the tiller' and great fun on the numerous trips. We also lose Ian Fullarton as he moves on to international pastures new. On the positive side we have a great asset in Tom Sawyer whose commission this year enabled him to plan and run the successful Snowdonia and Easter Camps. A name familiar to some will be Brian Lacy who was the RSM a few years ago and is currently being commissioned. We have been fortunate to have Steve Taylor, a parent volunteer, as an adult instructor (AI) and whose help was invaluable at Easter Camp. We also gained two young under officers (UO) in Phillip Stiff (PE) and John Minnis (Mill Hill Old Boy). In summary the numbers are good, if a little more fluid than we are used to. In this state the continued support of Christopher Cunningham, Vivien Seymour and Anthony Sollars is much valued.

The year is not yet over. We have the Black Mountains expedition in July and Summer Camps for the RAF and Army Sections. We also have a number of commissioning interviews for Year 12 and 13 boys and the plans for next term crystallising before us. The CCF continues to be a hectic but extremely rewarding part of my life. I hope that those who have taken part in it remember it with fondness and use the skills developed.

Major G. T. Scoble OC CCF



George Thompson  
Year 12

*Barefoot in Kilve, Somerset*

## Royal Navy Section

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This has been another busy and enjoyable year for the RN Section. Once again we have our full complement of cadets and our new Year 10 ordinary seamen have worked hard to ensure very creditable results in their promotion examinations with many achieving able seaman rating before Easter. The Year 11 navigation course has been similarly successful and thanks and congratulations go to the Senior Rates who so ably instructed the Naval Proficiency and Advanced Naval Proficiency. Instruction of these courses requires organisation and commitment and this year's coxon, Richard Boarder, has very effectively led his team of Senior Rates. Richard has developed into an exceptional leader and we wish him every success in his Admiralty Interview Board this May.

It will be sad to see the team of Year 13 cadets leaving. They have served the Section very well and they will be greatly missed. David Wood has been excellent as 2i/c to Richard. David's skills come to the fore during the sailing season where his professionalism and ability are outstanding. Both Richard and David have been tirelessly supported by Edward Griffiths and Philip O'Hagan. The level of commitment by this core has been exceptional. Daniel Wicks and Jonathan Worboys have also contributed to the team. These senior cadets have profited from their experience with the Section over the years. They have developed leadership skills that will stand them in good stead in their lives ahead.

We are at present looking forward to another season of sailing at the Danesfield club. We are hoping for good weather this season - which for us means sunshine and wind. We are planning dinghy sailing, canoeing and in July jet skiing.

The Summer Camp last year in the Isle of Wight was very successful. The cadets stayed at the UK Sailing Academy and they participated in a variety of waterborne activities. The instructors were particularly popular. They were professional but retained a good sense of fun, ensuring that the boys enjoyed themselves while they were learning.

My thanks go to Lt Fullarton and the other CCF officers who so generously and enthusiastically support the CCF. I joined the RN Section in 1993 and I have decided that 2005 will be my last year. I feel I need to make way for someone younger! This will be the final report I write for the Section so I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who have supported their sons as they have progressed through the Section. Parents have driven boys to Reading station, collected them from school at all sorts of odd hours, helped boys with their uniform, provided money for trips, and countless other tasks. Without your support the boys would not have been able to profit from the experiences on offer in the same way.

Lt Cdr J.L. Henderson OC RN Section

## RN Chief's Report

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This year started with a major overhaul of the Section's syllabus, caused by changes at CCF HQ. Thanks to a highly proficient team of NCOs, all of the subjects have been covered with all cadets being recommended for promotion, allowing us to maximise our time at Danesfield. This year has seen the RN at its capacity of 40 cadets, having accepted sixteen new recruits, with only one changing his mind after "jumping" in the river for his swim test. The Section's ethos has always been focused on using teamwork, gaining

knowledge, and developing leadership, but more importantly, it should be enjoyable. Both the cadets and officers have adopted this, and I am proud to have been a part of the Section.

Next year sees a new team of NCOs take charge, and I wish them luck in their new roles. They will face the different challenge of adapting to new officers, as this year sees the departure of both Lt Fullarton and Lt Cdr Henderson. Both of these officers have been pivotal to the Section's operation, and they will both be missed. Our thanks go to them both for their time and dedication. Lt Cdr Henderson, out of seeming chaos, has organised trips, sailing, range activities... We wish her all the best with her new "free" time!

CPO (Cox'n) LLCB R.J. Boarder



*Linda Whalley  
Torres de Belem, Lisbon. Easter 2005*

## Army Section

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This year has been the most successful year in recent times for the Army Section. The new recruits were put through their paces very early on, with a weekend at Mop End, designed to give the cadets an insight into campcraft and first aid, culminating in their first night under a Basha. The tri-service camp was well attended by the Year 10 recruits and well run by the NCOs. Whilst the Year 10s were being taught the basics of handling a weapon safely, the Year 11 potential NCOs undertook a Methods of Instruction course, run by our regular Cadet Training Team Instructor, Sergeant David Laurenson, whose help we are most grateful for. All passed, and I am confident they will make excellent NCOs next year.

In November the Army Section's first overnight exercise of the year was hugely successful and proved that our new 'style' of weekend worked well. It benefited the NCOs where they began to learn the methods of writing orders and also briefing their sections on the orders they are to undertake, which helped keep the cadets more involved. The Army Section competed against the other services at the CCF Night Navigation competition in January. I am pleased to mention Cpl Ross Keiderling and Cpl Jet Ryan won the Senior Shield. Many cadets turned out for the evening and congratulations are due to all who participated.

The second exercise fell in March and was at Bramley. This camp revised the section tactics that were taught on the previous exercise and introduced platoon tactics. The weekend culminated in a fun packed day beginning with a dawn ambush and ending in a platoon assault on an enemy



position. In between exercises and busy Thursday afternoons we have slotted in three Range Days. It was nice to see all sections represented but the Army Section always put in a good turn out. The cadets have now fired on many types of range and have also experienced the Assault Course at ATR Pirbright. On an adventurous training note, the cadets visited Snowdonia for some challenging walks, and the Black Mountains, where we said farewell to the senior NCOs who have worked very hard over the year.

At Dartmoor, during the Easter holidays, the cadets fully immersed themselves in their week of adventure training and a Range Day and Military Skills Day were also included. Cadet Charles Baird was awarded the Patterson Shield for most promising cadet over the camp.

Finally may I thank everyone who has given time to ensuring all the activities run smoothly, in and out of school. Thank you to Capt Ellen, Capt Cunningham, Lt Purdy, SSI Macreeedy, and our newest officers, 2Lt Tom Sawyer and UO Brian Lacy whose help is both appreciated and invaluable.

Lieutenant Stuart Ellen OC Army Section

## Kenya Expedition July - August 2004

A group of twelve cadets, two officers and a World Challenge leader set off for Kenya instead of Summer Camp in Dartmoor. We arrived at Nairobi on Saturday evening and after a white knuckle ride across the city slumped into our beds at the International Youth Hostel. This relative luxury of flushing toilets and showers with a roof seemed rather basic on day one but by our last night on the way back to Blighty our values had changed drastically.

Sunday morning saw the daily ritual of waiting for the 'taxi' to arrive and us haggling with our transport manager about what was required for the next 16 days. The World Challenge philosophy is that the boys are the leaders per day and that they negotiate everything. This and the rather laid-back attitude meant that we were still discussing details at midday. We eventually got off and had to drop photocopies of passports at the British High Commission. It was here that one boy learnt a valuable lesson: don't take pictures of embassies unless you want to examine an armed guard up close. Minus one film but still with his camera we all departed slightly wiser.

The first phase of our project was to put up some ceilings in three classrooms of Mariny Secondary School. This is our partner school in Kenya and temporary home to Roger Hollingworth, the previous CO. A long, bumpy taxi (matatu) ride through the Rift Valley and into the Western Plains saw us arrive at the tea plantation that contained the school. After pitching camp in the grounds of one of the houses on the tea plantation we were treated to dinner prepared by the scout troop of the school. This was their way of saying 'Karibou' and was very welcome. This hospitality and generosity was to become an abiding memory of the Kenyans.

The next four days saw us complete the ceilings. These will keep out the summer heat, keep in the warmth on winter evenings and reduce the noise from the daily deluge at 4 pm. We also played a football match against the school, gave talks on life in England and met with the local education officials who thanked us for our work. All the materials were paid for by a Benevolent Fund collection at RGS.

After this project we did a taster day of safari in matatus and an acclimatisation trek up Mt Longonot with Roger Hollingworth. This proved successful, and the added bonus

of finding a campsite with hot showers lifted our spirits. The toilets also flushed, which made a welcome change from the 'Kenyan long-drops' as they came to be known.

We then set off for a three day camel trek in the company of the Masai. This was a fantastic experience: visiting a Masai village, seeing how they collect honey, camping out in a nature reserve and observing game from an outcrop. The boys had a go at the famous Masai jumping (it's a lot harder than it looks!) and we had a chance to ride camels (they're a lot more uncomfortable than they look!).

We met up with the scouts from Mariny School at the very plush Naro Moro lodge and set off early the next day for the ascent of Mount Kenya. The scenery, wildlife and sheer scale were breathtaking, as was the pace at which the porters moved with their packs. As we climbed the temperature dropped, the vegetation got sparser, and the apprehension grew at the prospect of altitude sickness.

The group held up well and everyone made the trekking summit for dawn. This final climb was tricky in places and I was glad for the darkness of a 4 am start so that some of the drops were not clearly visible. It was bitterly cold but hugely rewarding.

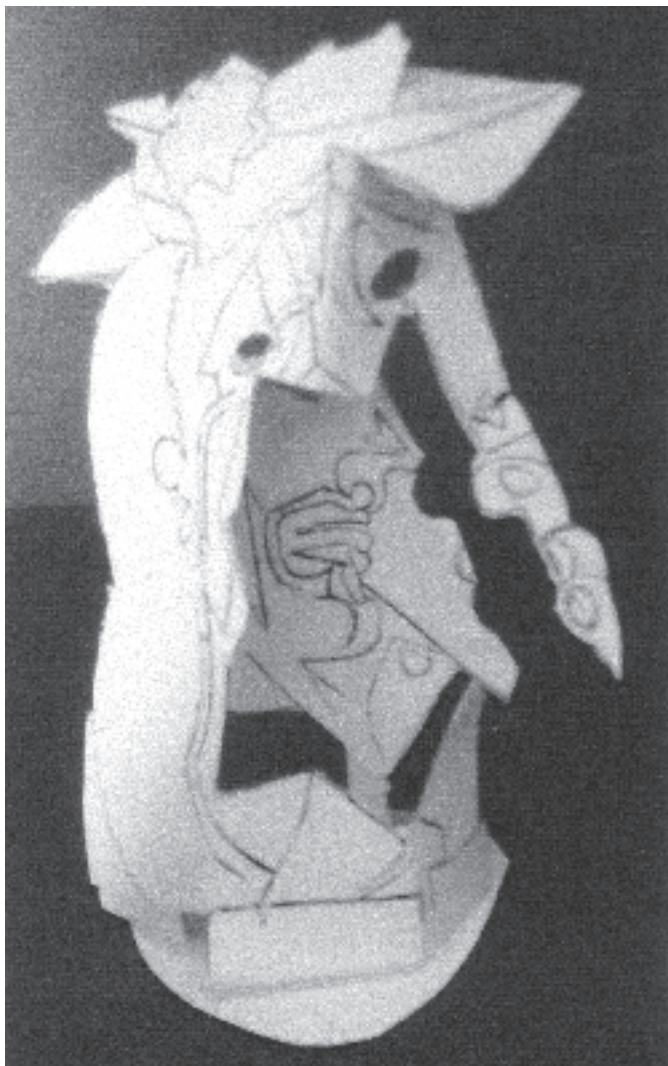
The descent was rapid. We left the Mariny scouts to a more normal descent rate and scampered off to a day of white-water rafting and general larking around in the river. The rapids, waterfall and boat raiding fights ensured that everyone was soaked and happy.

It was then back to Nairobi to the Youth Hostel and into the city for a well deserved meal. We opted for a pizza as we had been living off freshly prepared stews and vegetables for the past two weeks. The next morning saw a dirtier but wiser group of cadets board the plane back to Heathrow. I certainly learnt a lot about Kenya and its people. The ability to see the real people, shop at the markets and buy meat from the sometimes dubious looking shops is something the average tourist is protected from. This is a shame as it is a wonderful country with some wonderful people. I also hope that I learned to appreciate all that we have in this country. The basics (hot water, a shower, decent roads) became luxuries that for a short time you appreciated every time you used them. I hope that others on the trip feel the same and if you ever get the chance to climb Mt Kenya I would thoroughly recommend it.

GT.S.



*The expedition takes a breather on Mount Kenya*



Year 8  
*'Weeping Woman' folded card sculpture*

## Easter Camp March 2005

Our Easter Camp this year was spent at the Okehampton Training Camp at the northernmost point of the Dartmoor National Park. Friday was mostly spent issuing and testing kit before it was packed ready for starting the three-day expedition. Detailed route planning, food and rest followed this. Saturday dawned bright and not too sunny, a perfect day for walking. The senior group were sent off on their own to make a predetermined rendezvous and was overseen by Tony Haynes. Clive Greenhough accompanied the intermediate group. The junior group was instructed by me. All groups met at a campsite in Princeton some 13 miles later where we were entertained by the variety of our fellow campers.

Sunday dawned cloudy to drizzle to downright blooming wet and so the lovely views of the previous day were replaced with mist, rain and cloud. It did improve though, and by the time we arrived at our "wild" campsite at Willsworthy, again some 13 miles later, the rain had stopped so that at least we could start to dry some kit.

Easter Monday started a bit grey and blustery but proved to be an excellent day for all three groups to complete their walks. All got back safely in good order and apart from some sore feet and a few blisters, "sound as a pound".

Tuesday was to be a day of patrolling skills, prepared by John Minnis, out on the moor, but the weather was atrocious

and so we spent only 3 of the 8 programmed hours getting wet through by attacking me and my 4x4 (enemy tank). The rest of the time we spent in the DCCT (Demountable Close Combat Trainer), which proved to be a real treat.

Wednesday was split between the Assault Course in the morning which was the one used by 29 Cdo for Royal Marine pre Cdo Course training. This was exhausting but exhilarating with many thanks going to QMSI Hayes of 29 Cdo for coming in from leave to run it for us. The afternoon was spent lighting fires and cooking chicken to practice self-sufficiency in the field.

Thursday saw us off to the rifle ranges for a live firing day, controlled by Christopher Cunningham, before preparing for our return the next day, April Fool's Day.

All in all we had a great time. The lads were a credit to the school, the CCF and themselves, and we all agreed that the enthusiastic and helpful staff at Okehampton makes it a place we should return to in the not too distant future.

2Lt T. Sawyer

## RAF Section

The RAF Section of over 100 members has had an excellent year. It started with a visit to a Duxford air display. Two days after the start of the autumn term the whole Section, from Years 10 to 13, was on parade in blues, thanks to sterling work by Flight Sergeant Robert Kemplay and his team who had ordered boots and uniforms well in advance. Maximum use was made of the early autumn weather with orienteering at Keep Hill, the use of one of the country's best obstacle courses at Pirbright and plenty of command tasks and expedition training in the school grounds. Cadets used the maximum number of flying opportunities at RAF Benson, flying the powered Grob Tutors, and gliding at RAF Halton. Further flights took place at the local gliding club. Flight Sergeant Christopher Brzezicki (the Section's cadet 2i/c) reached the peak of his CCF achievements by flying solo on a two-week course in Scotland. Flying has been coordinated by the Section 2i/c, Flight Lieutenant Tony Haynes, and Flight Sergeant Edward Nisbet. The Section has been working in eight separate flights each under the command of Year 13 and Year 12 NCOs, and they have carried out most of the instruction involving all the subjects already mentioned plus navigation, .22 shooting, first aid, airmanship, principles of flight, fieldcraft and drill. The OC RAF, Captain Keith Ellen, managed to acquire enough green 'DPM' uniforms to equip the whole Section for dirty/outdoor activities. Our two new officers, Flight Lieutenant John Titchen and Officer Cadet Phillip Stiff, both skilled lifeguards amongst other things, have introduced swimming and survival skills into the programme and the Section has continued to use the climbing wall. In October the ground training team were narrowly beaten into 3rd place in the regional finals by the two teams who went on to win the national championships. Our young team are determined to win next autumn. Increasing numbers of the Section have attended the numerous joint camps in Snowdonia, the Black Mountains and on Dartmoor. In addition, RAF camps have been held at Honington, Linton on Ouse and Wittering. Flight Sergeant Luke Martin started the year as the senior cadet and Cadet Warrant Officer Adam Piper took over for the second half. Both are thanked for their efforts, as are Flight Lieutenants Vivien Seymour and Anthony Sollars who have both helped out with trips whenever possible.

Capt Keith Ellen OC RAF Section



# OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

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## Annual Dinner

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The Annual Dinner on 16 April 2005 was attended by 88 Old Boys and former teachers. The Headmaster, Mr Tim Dingle, gave an account of the school's activities. The Guest of Honour was Mr Andrew MacTavish, Old Boy, teacher and Governor of the RGS. His speech brought back many memories for Old Boys of his era. Prior to the Dinner the AGM took place, and Old Boys were given tours of the school, highlighting the new developments. Judging from the comments of those who were there, the evening was a very enjoyable one.

If you work or live in the London area, and would like to meet up with fellow OWs, please contact Martin Davidson (1990–96) [rgslondon@hotmail.com](mailto:rgslondon@hotmail.com).

If you would like to join the OW Club please contact Ian Clark, 5 Foxhill Close, High Wycombe HP13 5BL, or [ianrclarkuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ianrclarkuk@yahoo.co.uk). If you would like to find out more about the OWs, our website is [www.rgshw.com/old\\_boys](http://www.rgshw.com/old_boys).

## Old Boys' Notes

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**CANNON. G** (1988–94) Glyn is a successful playwright. He recently wrote a modern version of Sophocles' *Antigone* called *Gone* which was performed at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2004. This won the *Guardian's* Best Play Fringe Award, the *Scotsman's* Fringe First Award, and glowing tributes in the national press. The play transferred to the New Ambassador's Theatre, London, in September - October 2004.

**CARR. J** (1989–91) Jimmy, now a successful comedian, appeared in an interview in the August 2004 edition of *LE*.

**CHURCH. B** (1977–83) Brian has been for several years a columnist for the *Athens News* and was much involved in the coverage of the 2004 Olympic Games.

**DONALD. L** (1990–96) Luke was the top scoring rookie in the European team which retained the Ryder Cup in September 2004. He won second place in the Players' Championship in Florida in March 2005, and third place in the US Masters in Georgia in April. He is now rated the top golfer in Britain and 16th in the world rankings.

**HARTLEY. W** (1995–2001) William graduated from Birmingham University in June 2004 with a First in History. His degree dissertation was on Byzantine iconoclasm.

**MUSGROVE. DJ** (1986–92) David has been appointed editor of the *BBC History* magazine.

**PALMER. T** (1993–99) Timothy won a £5,000 award from Bristol University for developing a predictive text keyboard which increases the speed at which you can type on a computer. He is currently working for Instron Engineering, Cressex.

**POWER. L** (1989–95) Lawrence was appointed principal violinist with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in December 2004.

**REES. T** (2001–03) Tom's rugby career continues to flourish. He is Wasps' openside flanker and has captained the

England U21. He hopes to achieve full honours by playing for England, as have previous OWs like **Matthew DAWSON**, **Nicholas DUNCOMBE**, and **Nicholas BEAL**.

**WILSON. B** (1992–98) Benjamin has been working as a researcher for *Monarchy*, David Starkey's Channel 4 series. Meanwhile his first book, on the radical early nineteenth century publisher William Hone, entitled *The Laughter of Triumph*, has been published by Faber.



*John Garratt  
Year 9  
Monoprint*

# Obituaries

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## Staff

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**DAVIES. MM** (1937–79) Mervyn died on 6 March 2005 aged 91. Having graduated in 1936 from the University College of Swansea, he joined the staff to teach German. Returning from war service in Military Intelligence, spent mostly in the Middle East, Mervyn played a very full part in school life. He was an officer in the CCF Army Section, and ran lawn tennis for many years. He was also first Housemaster of Uplyme from 1948 until the early 1960s. Mervyn became Head of German in 1960, and set up the long-running Osnabrück exchange; subsequently he served as Head of Careers until retirement.

Mervyn had an exceptionally long connection with the school's Old Boys. From 1962 until retirement he was secretary of the Old Wycombiensians' Club. Thereafter he served as Assistant Secretary until failing eyesight made him relinquish the post in 1998; but he remained a Vice-President of the Club until the day he died.

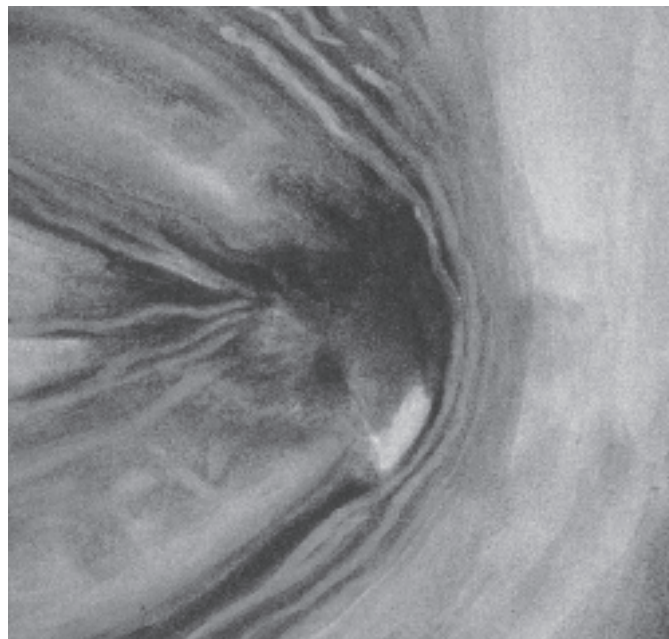
**EATON. MJ** (1958–88) Michael died in September 2004 aged 73. He was a pupil at the RGS between 1942 and 1949, and went on to take qualifications at Wycombe Art School and Bournemouth School of Art. He began his teaching career at Dartford Grammar School in 1956 before coming to the RGS as Head of Art and Design. Under his guidance over the next thirty years the Art department tripled in size, and expanded its repertoire from pencil drawing to painting, pottery and sculpture.

Michael was an enthusiastic sportsman, running at various stages the 1st and 2nd XI cricket teams as well as starting up hockey at the RGS. Following his retirement he pursued a successful career as an artist until the onset of Alzheimer's.

**SCOTT. H** (1946–82) Bert won an Exhibition to read Mathematics at St John's College, Cambridge, from where he graduated Senior Optimes in 1938. He served throughout the war in the Royal Artillery and on demobilization he came to the RGS, subsequently becoming Head of Mathematics. He became Housemaster of Fraser House in 1957 and took over King's House the following year; from 1964 he was Housemaster of Tucker House. For a number of years Bert was also in charge of the arrangements for the GCE examinations.



*Year 8  
Life size Japanese style figures  
'Work in progress'*



*David Maunder  
Year 10  
Painting study of water*

He retired in 1982 on a very high note indeed: that year the RGS won no fewer than five Oxbridge Scholarships and Exhibitions in Mathematics. Bert died on 3 January 2005, exactly one week short of his 88th birthday.

## Governors

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**KNOX. GW** George died of a stroke on 20 March 2005 aged 80. Originally from Edinburgh, he served in the RAF in the war before moving south to become an area planning officer with Bucks County Council. His experience in planning led to him becoming a senior partner at Cruickshank Rhys and Jude, a Wycombe-based letting and professional surveyors' company.

He had a long and close connection with the school, beginning when his son **Alistair KNOX** was a pupil here between 1958 and 1965. George served as an RGS Governor for a quarter of a century until 1999, initially as a county nominee and then, in the era of grant-maintained status, as a Foundation Governor. He also served as a Foundation Trustee until 2002.

George was a former Conservative County Councillor, and as Chairman of the Education Committee 1977 to 1979 he did much to protect the school's threatened status. He was also a deputy Mayor of Wycombe. An active Rotarian, he regularly judged the 'Youth Speaks' competition.

## Old Boys

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**HOY. JL** (1970–77) John died on 26 December 2004, along with his three children, when the Indian Ocean tidal wave hit the Thai resort of Khao Lak where he was on holiday. John was deputy head boy at the RGS, and worked as an economist for the Department for International Development. He is survived by his widow Nimnuan.

**WYNTER. M** (1987–92) Mark died of a brain tumour on 31 January 2005.