

= Royal Grammar School , Guildford =

The Royal Grammar School , Guildford (originally " The Free School ") , commonly known as the RGS , is a selective English independent day school for boys in Guildford , Surrey . The school dates its founding to the death of Robert Becket in 1509 who left provision in his will to ' make a free scole at the Towne of Guldord ' ; in 1512 a governing body was set up to form the school . The school moved to the present site in the upper High Street after the granting of a royal charter from King Edward VI in 1552 . The school 's Old Building , constructed between 1557 and 1586 , is the home of a rare example of a chained library . It was established on the death of John Parkhurst , Bishop of Norwich , in 1575 . Although defined as a " free " school , the first statutes of governance , approved in 1608 , saw the introduction of school fees , at the rate of 4 shillings per annum , along with the school 's first admissions test . During the late 19th century the school ran into financial difficulty , which nearly resulted in the closure of the school . A number of rescue options were explored , including amalgamation with Archbishop Abbott 's School . Funds were eventually raised , however , which allowed the school to remain open , although boarding was no longer offered .

Fee paying continued until the school adopted voluntary controlled status under the Education Act 1944 ; thereafter tuition was free and the common entrance examination at 11 was introduced . Soon after , in 1958 , the school expanded with the construction of the New Building in the grounds of Allen House , a building used for a number of years as a boarding house and later as classrooms . Allen House was later demolished in 1964 just after the completion of the New Building . During December 1962 the historic Old Building caught fire , damaging a large part of it , including the two oldest rooms in the school . The damage was so great the reconstruction took over two years . The school became independent and fee paying in 1977 , when the parents and staff raised sufficient funds to purchase the school following concerns about the abolition of grammar school status with the introduction of comprehensive education .

The school initially educated 30 of the " poorest men 's sons " , though has since grown to have approximately 900 students , about 300 of whom are in the sixth form . The majority of pupils , approximately two thirds , enter at age 11 in the first form , a few (3 @-@ 5 pupils) enter in the second form at the age of 12 , with the remainder entering at 13 in the third form . Admissions are based on an entrance examination set by the school , and an interview . The school performs well academically , and as such is placed high on published league tables . A number of students achieve places at either Oxford or Cambridge universities . The school partakes in a number of sporting activities , and has enjoyed some success , including finishing within the top two in the Daily Mail Cup twice . The school maintains a grammar school ethos , and as such runs a number of outreach programmes for students from local maintained schools , for which it won the Independent School Award 2010 for Outstanding Community / Public Benefit Initiative . The Headmaster is a member of the Headmasters ' and Headmistresses ' Conference .

= = History = =

The founding of the school dates to 1509 and the death of Robert Becket , a wealthy grocer , a member of the Worshipful Company of Grocers and a Freeman of the City of London . In his will he requested that the parishioners of St Olave 's Church , Southwark , should obtain a licence to endow a chantry priest to say masses for his soul . If they failed to do this within two years of his death , his executors had discretion either to use the property to ' make a free scole at the Towne of Guldord ' or to put the income to some other good charitable use . The licence was not obtained within the required time , and so in 1512 , Becket 's executors formally conveyed the lands in the bequest to a body of trustees consisting of the Mayor of Guildford and four ' sad and discrete men ' who had formerly been mayors . With the rents , they were to provide a free grammar school in Guildford with a ' sufficient schoolmaster ' , to teach thirty " of the poorest @-@ men 's sons " to read and write English and cast accounts perfectly , so that they would be fit to become apprentices . The school was built in 1520 in Castle Ditch (now Castle Street) with financial assistance from Guildford municipal corporation .

Over the coming years the school ran into financial difficulty and so " The Mayor and Approved Men " of Guildford petitioned Edward VI to grant them further endowments for maintenance . One of the King 's closest advisers , William Parr , had a particular affection for the town , having himself spent a large amount of time at the King 's manor house in Guildford , and it was he who advised the King to re @-@ appropriate some of the funds arising from the Abolition of the Chantries Acts to the school . Thus in January 1552 Edward VI ordered that there was to be " one Grammar School in Guildford called the Free Grammar School of King Edward VI for the education , institution and instruction of boys and youths in Grammar at all future times forever to endure " , along with a grant of 20 pounds per year ; the school acquired therewith the right to style itself a Royal Grammar School . The high street site was purchased in 1555 with the construction of the Grade I listed Tudor Old Building starting in 1557 . Construction was completed in 1586 .

The death of John Parkhurst , the Bishop of Norwich , in 1575 resulted in the founding of the school 's chained library . In his will he gave " the most parte of all my Latten bookes whereof shall be made a catalogue as shortelie as I may God sendinge me lief " , although obtaining these books was not without its difficulties . Initially the executors of his will used " all the cullerable shifts and practices " to prevent the books from moving to the school . These continued to such an extent that the mayor was forced to complain to the Lord High Treasurer , William Cecil , who summoned the executors to London . Upon a hearing with the executors , the Lord Treasurer referred them to Sir Walter Mildmay who was Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time . He demanded that the executors give everything left in the Will to the school . Following the ruling , however , the books passed to Edmund Freke , the new Bishop of Norwich , who kept them for himself at his residence . This continued until the school obtained letters from Her Majesty 's Privy Council requiring the books be delivered . The books then finally arrived at the school several years late , although the Bishop kept a number of the best for himself . Since this date the library has been added to , most notably between 1600 and 1800 . The library is housed within the Gallery (now the Headmaster 's Study) in the Old Building , with the present bookcases dating from 1897 . The oldest book within the library was printed in Venice around 1480 , with the oldest English book printed in about 1500 bearing the imprint of Wynkyn de Worde . Today the library is one of the few remaining examples of a chained library located within a school .

After the granting of the charter , it took 50 years before the first set of statutes to govern the school were completed . The Bishop of Winchester approved the statutes on 16 September 1608 , and they constituted a major change in the way the school was run . Until this point the boys were instructed in English and accounting , but following the statutes lessons were in the subjects of Latin and Greek ; with students required to speak in Latin unless licensed by the master to do otherwise . Admissions following the charter also changed , with " none to be admitted scholar into the said school before he be brought to the schoolmaster of that school , and upon his examination shall be found to have learned the rudiments of grammar , called the Accidence . " All scholars from the town of Guildford were required to pay the master 5 shillings on admission to the school , and for those from outside the town the charge was 10s . The number of pupils at the school was capped at 100 , although this number was rarely reached . The statutes also saw the introduction of school fees . Although defined as a " free " school , fees were still charged at the rate of 4s. per annum , paid as 9d. per quarter for the provision of " rods and brooms " , with an additional shilling due on the feast of St. Michael , which was used to pay for " clean , wax candles " .

On the death of Joseph Nettles (an old boy of the school) in 1691 the school 's first university scholarship was founded . Nettles left eleven acres of land in his will to his daughter Elizabeth Brindley , then following her death to Sir Richard Onslow and his heirs , with the rents from the land to be paid to the school for the maintenance of a scholar at Oxford or Cambridge . The scholar was to be a son of a freeman of the town of Guildford who " should have read some Greek author " and " be well instructed and knowing in the Latin tongue " . His fitness in these fields was tested by the master of the school , and the rectors of the parishes of Stoke next Guildford and St. Nicholas in Guildford . If admitted to any college within the universities , he would then receive the rents from the lands for six years . At the end of six years , upon the scholar 's death , or his removal from the university (whichever the sooner) , another scholar was selected . If no scholar was deemed

suitable and a vacancy arose , then the next scholar selected would receive the standard yearly rate , along with any rents acquired during the vacancy . The rents arising from the lands were roughly £ 23 per year . The scholarship ceased to be awarded at some point after 1951 .

In 1866 the then headmaster Revd Henry G Merriman (headmaster 1859 ? 75) purchased Allen House , a large house set in extensive grounds which stood opposite the school . The house took its name from Anthony Allen , Master of Chancery and Mayor of Guildford in 1740 . This was initially used as a boarding house for the school between 1866 ? 74 before later being purchased by Surrey County Council in 1921 and was used by the school until its demolition in 1964 . The grounds surrounding the house were purchased in 1914 by HA Powell and donated to the school as playing fields .

During the mid to late 19th century the school fell into disrepair and decay . Guildford Municipal Charities established a committee to report into the general condition of the school and the buildings . The committee reported in 1881 that the school had no funds available for repairs and that there were only nine boys " instead of the former ordinary number of 100 " . Various suggestions were made by the Charity Commission to raise funds for the school , including a reorganisation with Archbishop Abbot 's School . The Committee for Maintaining Higher Education in Guildford was established in March 1887 to oppose the Charity Commission 's draft scheme to amalgamate the RGS , Nettle 's Charity and Archbishop Abbot 's School . The committee raised £ 2 @, @ 238 15s . 4d . (approximately £ 108 @, @ 000 in 2010) towards the restoration of the RGS , ensuring its survival . A new Charity Commission scheme came into effect in November 1888 which resulted in the Old Building being restored , and the school 's continuation as a day only school . Several years later under the Education Act 1944 the school adopted voluntary controlled status ; tuition was therefore free and entrance was to be by common examination at the age of eleven .

The construction of the New Building started in 1958 in the grounds of Allen House and initially consisted of a gymnasium , assembly hall , dining hall and kitchens , caretaker 's flat , staff common rooms , junior library , cloakrooms and changing rooms , eight classrooms , science lecture theatre , five science laboratories , geography and art rooms , and various offices , stores and smaller rooms arranged in a J shape . The construction of the initial building was finished in 1963 .

On the morning of Sunday 2 December 1962 , a fire broke out in the Old Building . It caused widespread damage to a large part of the structure , including the two oldest rooms in the school , School Room and Big School . The main concern was to prevent the books contained within the chained library from being damaged , either by fire or water from the fire brigade 's hoses . The damage to the building was so great that rebuilding took over 2 years , with the unusually cold winter of 1962 ? 1963 delaying the restoration . Lessons , however , continued throughout on the Allen House side of the high street .

The school became independent in 1977 when the parents and staff of the school , led by the Chairman of the Governors , John Fergrieve Brown , raised sufficient funds to purchase the school . The RGS then withdrew from the government maintained system , becoming independent and fee paying . This was followed in 1978 by the purchase of Lanesborough Preparatory School which became the junior school , preparing boys for entry to the RGS at either 11 or 13 .

More recently in 2003 construction finished on a new Sports Centre with Fitness Suite and All Weather Training Area with Shooting Range . Followed in 2006 with refurbishments to the Old Building site ; the old gymnasium was converted into a Sixth Form Centre and the Victorian science laboratories (some of the earliest in the country) converted into the Art School .

In 2009 / 2010 the school celebrated the quincentennial anniversary of the founding of the school by Robert Beccingham ; numerous events were organised , including a new musical work based loosely on the school hymn " To be a Pilgrim " . This year also saw a visit from Princess Anne , The Princess Royal .

RGS Guildford is due to open a campus in Doha , Qatar as part of Qatar 's Outstanding Schools Program . RGS Guildford in Qatar will open initially to boys and girls ages three to seven years old (pre @-@ school to year 2) in September , with the rest of the primary school slated to open in 2017 . According to Bob Ukaih the school aims to open two separate single @-@ sex secondary schools - one for girls and one for boys - in Doha by September 2018 .

= = Academic = =

The school has a First Form (Year 7) intake of four classes ; followed by another intake in the Third Form (Year 9) of two classes , resulting in an average year size of 150 , and a sixth form of about 300 . The pupil teacher ratio is approximately 10 : 1 and is low by general school standards . Class sizes range from twenty to twenty @-@ five in the First Form through to GCSE , but are less than 16 by the final two years .

Pupils are required to take at least ten GCSE subjects during Fourth and Fifth forms , which must include Biology , Chemistry , Physics , Mathematics , English Literature , English Language , a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanity (History , Religious Studies or Geography) . In recent years the school has been offering the IGCSE in Maths , Biology , Chemistry , Physics , Modern Languages , History and Technology . Boys in the Sixth Form usually take four AS Levels and continue with three to A2 level .

It features highly in published A @-@ level and GCSE league tables for England and Wales . Pupils at the school are very successful at gaining places at both Oxford and Cambridge universities ; the school often features within the top 20 in the country with regards to number of places awarded . The school also sends pupils to other universities , including Durham , Imperial and UCL .

= = School life = =

= = = Terms = = =

As in most schools in the UK there are three terms in the academic year :

The Michaelmas Term from early September to mid @-@ December . This is the normal term for new boys to be admitted into the school

The Lent Term from early January to a time a week or two before Easter falls that year

The Trinity Term from mid @-@ late April to early July , during which time boys sit most public exams

= = = House system = = =

There are six houses at the RGS , named after various benefactors of the school :

Each pupil is assigned to one of the six houses upon joining the school , and a pupil 's house can be indicated to others by optional colour @-@ related clothing . If someone joins as the second in their direct family to do so , they are put in the same house as their relative . There are inter @-@ house competitions throughout the year (including rugby , hockey , reading , and chess) and then at the end of the year the points awarded in each event throughout the year are added up , and the house with most points is awarded the Cock House Cup , which is the traditional name given in British public schools for the in @-@ school competition cup .

The school 's official livery colour is green , picked as a house @-@ neutral colour .

= = = School uniform = = =

The school 's uniform up to the end of Fifth Form is a white shirt , dark or light grey trousers and a single @-@ breasted navy blue school blazer . A grey or dark blue , v @-@ neck pullover without sleeves may also be worn . For the lower and upper sixth , navy blue or grey suits are instead worn , and upper sixth formers are permitted to wear pastel shaded shirts . A woollen scarf in the school colours : green , red and white ; the sixth form scarf has longitudinal stripes . All years are required to wear one of the approved school ties . Various ties are awarded for sporting , artistic or social achievements , along with half and full colours awarded for services to the school and house colours awarded for services to the house ; Senior Prefect ties are awarded to those with the position .

Recently there have also been commemorative ties celebrating 450 years since the granting of the Royal Charter , and 500 years since the founding of the school .

= = = Sport = = =

Sport is compulsory for all years during games periods and if selected for a team can require compulsory attendance on Saturdays . A once pupil at the school , John Derrick , is connected with the earliest mention of cricket in England when , in a 1598 court case about an ownership dispute over a plot of common land in Guildford , he gave witness that when he was a scholar at the " Free School at Guildford " , " hee and diverse of his fellows did runne and play [on the common land] at creckett and other plaies . "

In the Michaelmas term rugby union is the main sport , hockey is also played .

In the Lent term hockey is the main sport , rugby sevens is also played

In the Trinity term cricket is the main sport , athletics is an option .

The sports of badminton , cross country running , fencing , football , golf , judo , rowing , sailing , swimming and tennis are available , the list varies by year and term . Sixth form also have a " Spectrum " games option where boys are permitted to use any of the facilities at Guildford Spectrum during the games period .

The sport of target rifle shooting is an option among those in the 3rd year and above , but only available to members of the CCF . In the first and second years , before the CCF is an option , there is an air rifle club , which teaches basics before moving onto " rifles . The shooting team have had a lot of success , not only winning both major smallbore competitions , the Staniforth and the Country Life , but also finishing an impressive second at fullbore in the Ashburton at the Annual Schools Meeting held at Bisley .

The school has enjoyed some success in rugby where it has had first and second places at various levels of the Daily Mail Cup .

On 6 February 2016 , Jack Clifford became the first Old Guildfordian to become a full England rugby international when he made his full debut as a replacement for Chris Robshaw during the Calcutta Cup match on 6 February 2016 after 69 minutes .

Since 2003 the six Royal Grammar Schools (Colchester , High Wycombe , Guildford , Lancaster , Newcastle , Worcester) have held the " RGS Cricket Festival " , hosted by a different school each year . It is based on a round robin format and held over a period of five days towards the end of the Trinity term .

The school has no playing fields on the town centre site . A 20 acres (8 @. @ 1 ha) ground called Bradstone Brook , located a few miles away in the village of Chilworth , is the location of the rugby and cricket pitches . There is a single AstroTurf located at the main school for hockey and football . The majority of hockey takes place at Guildford Hockey Club , located at Broadwater School in Farncombe or Surrey Sports Park . Athletics and swimming both take place at Guildford Spectrum .

= = = Extra @-@ curricular activities = = =

Music

Music is part of the core curriculum for first to third forms . Pupils take lessons with peripatetic music staff within different disciplines . There is a symphony orchestra composed of students , along with several other smaller classical ensembles . In addition to classical music , there are also a number of jazz and rock bands within the school as well , and to recognise this in addition to the four main music prizes awarded each year , there is an additional contemporary music prize .

Drama

Drama is offered as an academic subject from the first form , but as well as this numerous plays are staged throughout the year for all year groups in association with local girls schools . The department has a state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art auditorium which was converted from the old gymnasium as well as a studio called the Hansford Room sited in the North Building .

Period 8

Period 8 is a specific set of extra @-@ curricular activities which includes a Combined Cadet Force , outdoor pursuits , Scouts , lifesaving and community service . There are five field days in the year , on which these activities especially take place . Before the third form , pupils have the opportunity to decide between the CCF , outdoor pursuits and the scouts . The Duke of Edinburgh 's Award scheme is ' Hors Combat ' for choice , being available to all students , regardless of their other options , so no longer officially constitutes part of period 8 .

Clubs and societies

There are several dozen clubs and societies at the school , many of these are where pupils get together to discuss a topic of particular interest sometimes with a guest speaker . Past speakers include the ex @-@ government drug adviser Professor David Nutt . There are a wide variety of different societies ranging from the normal such as badminton and Amnesty International to the more obscure like " Quirks and Remnants " and the " RumDoodle Society " .

Publications

The Register (originally Really Good Stuff) is a termly newsletter documenting significant achievements at the school .

= = Admission and fees = =

Initially tuition at the school was free , funded by various endowments and rents obtained from lands the most significant arising from the Abolition of the Chantries Acts , and the re @-@ appropriation of funds to the school . In 1944 under the Education Act education remained free , however the common entrance exam at eleven was introduced and the school became a selective grammar school . School fees were introduced in 1977 when the school withdrew from the maintained system and became independent . For the year 2013 / 2014 they are £ 14 @,@ 670 (approximately ? 17 @,@ 900 or US \$ 24 @,@ 500 as of March 2014) per year excluding lunches . All those wishing to be admitted now take the schools own internal 11 + entrance examination which tests English , mathematics and verbal reasoning and attend an interview with two members of staff . If a place is awarded , entry can be deferred for two years so that boys who are at prep school may enter at thirteen . Those entering at thirteen must take the 13 + Common Entrance or the scholarship examination to confirm their place .

Numerous scholarships are available at both 11 + and 13 + for music , academic achievement , and one for art at thirteen . Music and academic scholarships range in value between 5 % ? 20 % with one Kings Scholarship available for a 20 % reduction in fees . These scholarships are awarded based on performance in subject specific exams or performances , and an interview with the headmaster for academic or music scholarships , or the presentation of a portfolio of work for the art scholarship . Until the start of the 2009 / 2010 academic year , the value of scholarships was substantially higher with the King 's Scholarships worth 50 % of the fees and a range of lower scholarships between 10 ? 30 % .

= = Charitable status and public benefit = =

The school is a registered charity and currently has three charities registered with the Charities Commission : King Edward VI 's Grammar School (The Royal Grammar School) , Guildford , The Royal Grammar School Guildford (representing the governors) , and The Royal Grammar School Guildford Foundation After the withdrawal of the Assisted Places Scheme in 1997 the social diversity of the school decreased , as a result the school began to offer bursaries to students whose parents could not afford the fees , with the first bursary offered in 2007 .

The school also runs numerous outreach programmes for children from maintained schools in the local area , including a series of master @-@ classes in science , mathematics , technology , languages and drama for local primary school children . Also for primary school children is the Tudor Experience Project where students can explore the Tudor past of the school through a number of activities . At the higher end of the school , numerous careers and university seminars are run for sixth form students from the local area , in addition to Oxbridge preparation classes and practice

interviews for local sixth form students . The school also runs several more outreach programmes , and as a result of these initiatives was recently awarded the Independent School Award 2010 for Outstanding Community / Public Benefit Initiative .

= = Headmasters = =

The post of headmaster (schoolmaster or just master as it was originally known) was created following the grant of the Royal Charter in 1552 , with the first appointment made in 1554 . There have been 35 appointments since the creation of the position . Until the re @-@ organisation of the school in 1888 the post was almost exclusively filled by men from a religious background , with the first headmaster being Sir Lawson , a friar from the monastery in Guildford that was dissolved in 1538 . The most notable headmaster was Roger Goad (1569 ? 1575) , who was Provost of Kings College , Cambridge and three times Vice @-@ Chancellor of the University of Cambridge ; he was headmaster during the time when George Abbot (Archbishop of Canterbury 1611 ? 1633) was at the school .

= = Former pupils = =

Former pupils of the school are referred to as " Old Guildfordians " and are often referred to as " OGs " in official school correspondence . Since the school 's founding , notable alumni have included the 75th Archbishop of Canterbury , Olympic athletes , the longest serving speaker of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom , several members of the parliament of the United Kingdom , a founding member of the East India Company and the 11th Premier of New Zealand .

= = Old Guildfordians = =

" ? " indicates year of leaving is unknown .