

# WORCESTERIAN

2016 | 2017



"Our dominant feeling, though, was that RGSW does what it does with a vision and a panache that not many can match."

- The Good Schools Guide 2017



CHERISHING THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE








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## EDITORS

Jenny Thomas  
Sharon Dyer

The editorial team wish to extend their thanks to all those who helped make this magazine possible.



# WORCESTERIAN INTRODUCTION



Headmasters always write in introductions to year books that it has been a successful year, but 2016-17 really has been an exceptional year at RGS Worcester and one that the whole school community should reflect upon with a sense of great pride. We were perhaps inspired this year by the words of Sir Ranulph Fiennes who visited RGS in September and gave an extraordinary talk about his adventures, thanking me for the visit to such a "great school".

Academically, the excellent A Level results which put the School ahead of its competitors, spurred on the pupils in their studies. The Engineers demonstrated once again their expertise by progressing through the Regional and then National competition in the Land Rover 4x4 Schools' Challenge to qualify for the World Championships held in Abu Dhabi. Pupils have excelled in a wide range of academic competitions and raised the bar for the future.

In the Arts, there were truly memorable musical and drama performances. Singing by the Chamber Choir and the massed choir of the three schools in the March concert was superb, as has been the pop and jazz music performed on many occasions including 'Cabaret' and on the Creative Arts Faculty Evening. Drama has ranged from the challenge of singing and dancing in 'Fame' to serious theatre in 'A Liverpool Story', and the very memorable Summer production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' performed in the open air at Witley Court.

To have over 6,000 people attend three school sports fixtures is quite remarkable and unusual for any school. The Modus Cup Rugby match, the Challenge Cup Football match and, of course, Netball's 'Superball' were tremendous occasions and great opportunities for alumni, pupils, parents and staff to join together and celebrate the sport played by our pupils. Successes in other sports have been equally celebrated at school with our Hockey teams building success by achieving memorable victories, individual and team successes in Fencing, Cross-Country performances at national level, our Under 16 Rounders' team retaining the title of 'National Champions' and the cricketers performing well; the 1st XI at one stage were ranked 1st in the UK and crowned their season with victory at the RGS Schools' tournament, held at RGS Guildford this year. We even hosted a 1st team Worcestershire County Cricket Club match at our beautiful Flagge Meadow ground.

We continue to develop alumni relations which are so important to the School, launching our Foundation and holding a number of reunions and events. There are opportunities to support Bursaries, as well as our new Performing Arts Centre build which is an exciting development project for the School.

The 'Good Schools' Guide' visited us in May and the review is well worth a read. The reviewer was extremely impressed and especially by our pupils. The final comment of the review is "Our dominant feeling, though, was that RGSW does what it does with a vision and a panache that not many can match."

The individual, group and team achievements of 2016-17 have been remarkable and are mentioned in the pages that follow. This all comes from dedicated teachers, a motivated support staff and a school community prepared to go the extra mile to provide opportunities for our pupils. It also requires a supportive, friendly and engaging atmosphere and ethos in the School so that pupils feel comfortable exploring, asking questions, and testing themselves.

Thank you to the contributors to this Worcesterian and to the Marketing team, and especially Mrs Jenny Thomas and Mrs Sharon Dyer (editors), for their hard work in assembling this edition. I congratulate all of our pupils for their achievements in 2016-17 and their sense of fun, purpose and determination. I also thank staff, parents and alumni for your support and hard work which make RGS the "great school" that it is.



# SIR RANULPH FIENNES



## SIR RANULPH FIENNES TAKES RGS WORCESTER AROUND THE GLOBE

The world-renowned explorer and adventurer Sir Ranulph Fiennes delighted students and staff alike with a captivating talk on his extraordinary adventures around the world, when he visited RGS Worcester.

RGS students were given the opportunity to ask Sir Ranulph questions at the end of the talk. He was asked questions such as "What is the next Frontier?", "How did you obtain intelligence on other expeditions heading for the same goal as you when you were on a Polar ice cap?", "What part did your education play in preparing you for your adventures?". Sir Ranulph also signed and personalised copies of his books 'Cold', 'Heat' and 'Beyond the Limits' which offer a vivid account of his incredible expeditions.

RGS Head Boy, Ben Thomson, who visited the Himalayas with the School said: "The Guinness Book of Records describes Sir Ranulph as "the world's greatest living explorer" however the humorous and self-effacing way that he describes his amazing achievements made us feel that realising our ambitions is achievable for everyone."

Mr John Pitt, Headmaster commented: "Sir Ranulph gave a truly memorable talk which I am sure has opened the minds of our pupils. He is a very rare talent: a speaker who can captivate an audience by his delivery as well as by his extraordinary experiences. His achievements are staggering and his resilience, determination and courage are a true inspiration to us all."



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ranulph Fiennes".



# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS & SENIOR SCHOOL PRIZES

## YEAR PRIZES

### YEAR NINE PRIZES FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Zain Baig	Rhiannon Davies	Will Osborne	Rubi Bown	Maxim Eddy
Daisy Price	Darcey Chambers	Thomas Ehlers	Tess Rabjohn	Thomas Churchill
Max Houchin	Josie Taylor	Eleni Coutsiouri	Liam Leonard	Sam Thomson

### YEAR NINE PRIZES FOR ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Esa Aziz	James Larkin	Emily Seymour-Perry	Tom Davies	Elliot Lewing
Ben Sutton	Ella Gibbs	Grace Marchant	Seb Thompson	Timothy Haggitt
Isabella Nott	Ella Waites	Lyra Hancock	Lizzie Rhoden	George Wareing

### YEAR TEN PRIZES FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Isaac Baker	Elizabeth Fearon	Alex Peake	Jack Beasley	Lily Jenkins
Issy Roberts	Sam Chamberlain	Emma Little	Tristan Robinson	Aodren Clemit
Jemma Moseley	Mia Shaw	Lydia Faizey	Alex Owen	Megan Wang

### YEAR TEN PRIZES FOR ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Tazmin Barnes	Abigail Lawson	Brandon Sarfo	Rees Bonham	Myren Madden
Adam Smith	Emily Caldwell	Charlotte Ottway	Sophie Thompson	Isabelle Davies
Ellie Reed	Alex Tidball	George Garrity	James Reynolds	Oliver Witcomb
Ella Gray				

### YEAR ELEVEN PRIZES FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

George Beardmore	Robert Hallam	Beth Rabjohn	James Bell	Felix Haynes
Harriet Rimell	Thomas Berry	Sam Healey	Amy Rogers	Sam Churchill
Paddy Lawton	Charlie Rushforth	Gemma Collins	Seth Lewis	Samuel Shaw
Joe Corlett	Helena Morgan	Imogen Sinclair	Charlie Cox	Lizzie Morrell
Fraser Sparks	John Dennis	Amy Murphy	Imogen Still	Charles Devereux
Joe Neale	Joshua Warner	Isabelle Eberlin	Blake Parker	Amber Warner-Warr
Alexander Edwards	Suvikrant Pathania	Antonia Wittkop	Katie Hackett	James Phillips

### LOWER SIXTH PRIZES FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Daniel Banks	Frankie Crawley	Annabella Lehner	Jordan Barnes	Indira Creedmiles-Naraine
George Mann	Alec Berry	Louis Dear	Evie Boyle	Heloise Messervy-Whiting
Ben Elgar	Olivia Mockford	Ellie Carey	Ethan Harper	Anand Patel
Ellie Carter	Ben Hawkes	Edward Platts	Sum Chan	Kate Horsburgh
Ruby Potts	Holly Chance	Wilfred Jenkins	Nicola Ralph	Nadiath Choudhury
Edward Lawson	James Thomas			

## SCHOOL PRIZES

Named prizes and cups celebrate the contribution made to the School by the named person. The person and the dates of attachment to the School are given when known.

## COMBINED CADET FORCE AWARDS

### THE HARVEY CUP FOR THE SENIOR ARMY CADET

In memory of Lt Henry Burnett Harvey, former pupil, RGS (1908-1911) killed 1918  
Georgia Peters



**THE WITCOMBE RAF TROPHY**

Timothy John Witcombe, former pupil, RGS (1979-1986) and Philip Russell Witcombe, former pupil, RGS (1981-1988)  
Toby Middleton

**THE SEAMANSHIP CUP**

Captain H M Spreckley, Chairman of Governors, RGS (1950-54)  
Nicholas Thurgood

**ACTIVITIES AWARDS****THE KIRSTY CUBBERLEY ROSEBOWL FOR BEST FEMALE ACTOR**

Former pupil, The Alice Ottley School (1981-1987)  
Lucy Darby and Grace Pritchard

**THE DEBATING CUP**

Hannah Keene and Thomas Peake

**THE STEFAN PORTER PRIZE FOR VOCAL SOLOIST**

Former pupil, RGS (1996-2006)  
Carys Selvey

**THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR INSTRUMENTAL EXCELLENCE**

Harry Gemmill

**THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR JAZZ**

Rhys Leonard

**THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR OVERALL CONTRIBUTION TO MUSIC**

Eloise Morgan

**THE CATHERINE COWTON PRIZE FOR ORCHESTRA**

Jacob Todd

**GAMES AWARDS**

The individual sport prizes were awarded at the Sports Presentation Evening last term. The awards listed here are the major sports awards given.

**THE ALICE OTTLEIANS' AND OLD ELIZABETHANS' PRIZE FOR SPORTING EXCELLENCE**

Imogen Sinclair and Loic Keasey

**THE REYNOLDS CUP FOR TEAM PLAYER OF THE YEAR (MALE)**

Former pupil, Derek Reynolds, RGS (1938 - 1945)  
Robert Aikman

**THE REYNOLDS CUP FOR TEAM PLAYER OF THE YEAR (FEMALE)**

Former pupil, Derek Reynolds, RGS (1938 - 1945)  
Francesca Morgan

**THE BELDING CUP FOR ALL ROUND SPORTSWOMAN**

Former pupil, Philippa Belding, The Alice Ottley School (1974 - 1978)  
Imogen Sinclair



## PRIZES FOR CONTRIBUTION

THE ALICE OTTLEIANS' AND OLD ELIZABETHANS' ARTS PRIZE

Kate Webber

THE ALICE OTTLEIANS' AND OLD ELIZABETHANS' PRIZE FOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY

Honor Jeavons

THE ALICE OTTLEIANS' AND OLD ELIZABETHANS' PRIZE FOR CREATIVE WRITING

Kate Webber

THE ERIC ORTON PRIZE FOR ACHIEVEMENT

Former Head of Modern Languages, RGS (1947-1979)

Jacob Dodd

THE RGSPA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOOL LIFE

Molly Jones

THE SCHOOLTOGS AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOOL LIFE

Harry Gemmill

THE MAYOR'S PRIZE FOR ALL-ROUND CONTRIBUTION

Lydia Edwards

THE SCHOOL AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOOL LIFE

Kevin John

THE RGSPA PRIZE FOR GENERAL MERIT OR ACHIEVEMENT

Richard Burman

THE GORDON WALKER CUP FOR CHARITABLE WORKS

Former Governor, RGS (1985-2012)

Ella McCoshan

THE W D WILLIAMS PRIZE FOR ALL-ROUND CONTRIBUTION

Rhys Leonard

THE CHAIRMAN'S PRIZE

Oliver Thwaites

## UPPER SIXTH NAMED SUBJECT AWARDS

THE VICTORIA WRIGHT PRIZE FOR SCIENCE

Former pupil, The Alice Ottley School (1994-2006) and RGS (2006-2008)

Ben Thomson

THE HILLARD PRIZE FOR PHYSICS

Frederick Arthur Hillard, Headmaster, RGS (1899-1928)

William Lee-Anglin

THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR BIOLOGY

Rhys Leonard

THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR CHEMISTRY

Harry Gemmill

**THE PULLINGER PRIZE FOR MATHEMATICS**

Henry Robert Pullinger, Headmaster, RGS (1928-1950)

Jayden Watson

**THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR MATHEMATICS**

Yeping Ge

**THE EMILY JORDAN PRIZE FOR ECONOMICS**

In memory of Emily Jordan, Former Pupil The Alice Ottley School (1997-2004)

Ella McCoshan

**THE CARTER-DOWNS MEDICAL PRIZE**

Incorporating the names of Dr G E Downs, RGS (1900-1905) and Head of Science and Second Master R J Carter, RGS (1906-1942)

Lizzy Adcock

**THE CLAINES PRIZE FOR APPLIED PHYSICS**

In memory of Gordon Packman, former pupil, RGS (1939-1946)

Nicholas Thurgood

**THE BENJAMIN LEADER PRIZE FOR ART**

Former pupil, RGS (1841-1845)

Jacob Dodd

**THE LEA & PERRINS INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR BUSINESS**

Lauren Rogers

**THE WILDE PRIZE FOR DESIGN TECHNOLOGY**

Michael George Wilde, Chief Designer of Concorde (1935-42)

Matthew Price

**THE BREWER PRIZE FOR CREATIVITY**

Former Deputy Head, Quentin Brewer, The Alice Ottley School

Carys Selvey

**THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR TEXTILES**

Georgia Peters

**THE STALLARD PRIZE FOR ENGLISH LITERATURE**

Col William Stallard, Six Master &amp; Chairman of Governors (1893-1916)

Lydia Edwards

**THE MARGARET MOORE PRIZE FOR CLASSICS**

Former Head of Latin, The Alice Ottley School

John-Jo Parkinson Allsopp

**THE MARGARET SPURLING PRIZE FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Former Headmistress, The Alice Ottley School, (1912-1934)

Lucy Darby

**THE MISS CORMACK PRIZE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES**

Former Head of Modern Foreign Languages, The Alice Ottley School

Alice Little



## UPPER SIXTH NAMED SUBJECT AWARDS

### THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grace Hewitt

### THE MALCOLM YOUNG PRIZE FOR GEOGRAPHY

In memory of John Malcolm James Young, former pupil, RGS (1949–1954)

Lauren Rogers

### THE JANET PEARSON AWARD FOR HISTORY

Former Senior Mistress and Head of History, The Alice Ottley School (1988–2006)

Hannah Keene

### THE J AND M BURTON HISTORY PRIZE

James Burton, former pupil, RGS (2001–2007) and Mark Burton, former pupil, RGS (2007–2012)

Joey Dottore

### THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR POLITICS

Thomas Peake

### THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR MUSIC

Eloise Morgan

### THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN EPQ

Hannah Uphoff

## UPPER SIXTH PRIZES FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

### THE ALICE OTTLEIANS' AND OLD ELIZABETHIANS' SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE

Jayden Watson and William Lee-Anglin

### THE THOMAS BLASSON PRIZE

Legacy gift to the School from a former pupil, RGS (1922–1928)

Ben Thomson and Alice Little

### THE CHARLES MYTTON SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE

Legacy gift to the School from a former pupil, RGS (1922–1928)

Ella McCoshan and Jacob Dodd

### THE STANLEY WILLIS PRIZE FOR THE PAST SCHOOL CAPTAIN

Former pupil, RGS (1914–1916), Six Master, Chairman of Governors, RGS (1954–1967)

Ben Thomson

### THE ALICE OTTLEY MILLENNIUM PRIZE FOR THE HEAD GIRL

Ella McCoshan

## DESTINATIONS FOR LEAVERS

Surname	Name	Subject	University
Adcock	Elizabeth Grace	Medicine	Cardiff University
Aikman	Robert	Ancient History and History	Nottingham University
Allen	James	Law	Exeter University
Allison	William	Medicine	Bristol University
Bates	Alfie	Criminology and Criminal Justice	Swansea University
Beardmore	Thomas James	Politics and International Relations	Bath University
Beet	Samuel James	Spanish	Coventry University
Bowyer	Emma	JLR Apprenticeship	
Burman	Richard Alexander	Aeronautical Engineering	Loughborough University
Cao	Xiaotian	Architecture	Architectural Association
Carson	Holly	Textile Design	Nottingham Trent University
Cook	Alfie	Employed in an office	
Corlett	Isabel Jane	Geography	Nottingham University
Coutsouri	Ploumy Elizabeth	Modern Languages	Nottingham University
Cox	Grace Frances Mons	Psychology	Leeds University
Critchley	Anya	Paramedic Science	University of the West of England, Bristol
Crump	Joshua Oliver	Business Management	Cardiff University
Darby	Lucy	Business Management	Cardiff University
Davies	Mark Philip	Mechanical Engineering	Swansea University
Dawson	Rebecca	Politics	Sheffield Hallam
Devereux	Eloise Victoria Lily	Chemistry with Business Management	Birmingham University
Dodd	Andrew	BBC Apprenticeship	
Dodd	Jacob	Applying to Oxford this year	A*A*A
Dottore	Joey	Politics and International Relations	York University
Edwards	Eleanor	Accounting	Swansea University
Edwards	Lydia Elizabeth Victoria	Geography	Exeter University
Elsworth	Abigail Charlotte	Business Management	Swansea University
Essery	Joseph Anthony	Business Management	Swansea University
Gandhi	Polly	Business	Nottingham Trent University
Ge	Yeping	Natural Sciences	University College London
Gemmill	Harry	Chemistry with Research Abroad	Imperial College London
Glazzard	James	JLR Apprenticeship	
Goldney	Hannah Lucy	Veterinary Physiotherapy	Harper Adams' University
Gordon	Cliona Mary Elizabeth	International Politics & Intelligence Studies	Aberystwyth University
Hall	Eleanor	Law	Swansea University
Hallam	Charlotte	Art and Culture	Maastricht University
Hammond	Amelia	International Business Management (Spain)	Lancaster University
Hammond	Matthew	Business Management (Marketing)	Cardiff University
Haque	Adil Ahmed Sporsho	Economics and Finance	Swansea University
Hewitt	Grace	Human Biology and Psychology	Worcester University



## DESTINATIONS FOR LEAVERS CONTINUED

Surname	Name	Subject	University
Hough	Lydia	Art Foundation	
Hughes	Samuel	Sports and Exercise Science	Swansea University
Jeavons	Honor	History of Art	Leeds University
John	Kevin	Medicine	Manchester University
Jones	Molly	Human Geography and Environment	York University
Keene	Hannah	History	Exeter University
Kimberley	James	Politics	Cardiff University
Lee-Anglin	William	Computer Science and Mathematics	Bath University
Leonard	Rhys Morgan	Dentistry	Sheffield University
Little	Alice May	Experimental Psychology	Jesus College, Oxford
Lu	Yiyun	Computer Science	University College London
Lydon	Myles William	Architecture	Nottingham Trent University
Marshall	Isabelle Rose	Fine Art/History of Art	Oxford Brookes University
McCoshan	Ella Rose	Economics	Trinity Hall, Cambridge
Middleton	Anna Elizabeth	Geography	Leeds University
Miers	Harry	Materials Science and Technology	Birmingham University
Morgan	Eloise Mary	Deloitte Higher Degree Apprenticeship	
Morgan	Francesca Jennifer Ellis	Fashion Design	Nottingham Trent University
Motteram	Izzy	Art Foundation	Loughborough University
Neale	William	Furniture: Design and Make (FdA)	Oxford Brookes University
Nichols	Benjamin	Taking a Gap Year	
Nock	Ashley David	Biological Sciences	Exeter University
Nolan	Megan Ann	Fashion Marketing Management	Cardiff Metropolitan University
Nott	Joshua	Nutrition	Nottingham University
Nott	Natt	Gap Year (Ski Season)	CCC
Paley-Battersea	Oliver	Sport Coaching	Cardiff Metropolitan University
Parkinson-Allsopp	John-Joseph	Classical Civilisation	Leeds University
Peake	Thomas Luke	Politics	Warwick University
Pearson	Jack Harry	Human Geography	Swansea University
Peters	Georgia	Art Foundation	Hereford College of Arts
Poel	Leila	Anthropology	Bristol
Poole	Augusta Zoe	Modern Languages	Exeter University
Powell	Olivia	Crowle Clarke Accountancy Apprenticeship	
Price	Callan	Theatre and Creative Writing	Lancaster University
Price	Matthew	Automotive Engineering	Loughborough University
Pritchard	Grace Lauren Lynda	Taking a Gap Year	
Qian	Haocheng	Natural Sciences	University College London
Reid	Gerard	International Politics and Policy	Liverpool University
Roberts	Olivia Rose	Economics and Business	Swansea University
Rogers	Lauren Ruth	Geography	Nottingham University

## DESTINATIONS FOR LEAVERS CONTINUED

Surname	Name	Subject	University
Ruane	Jack William	Mechanical Engineering	Swansea University
Santhosh	Bhama	Biomedical Science	Exeter University
Selvey	Carys	Singing Career	
Sternkopf	Lewis Gabriel	Geography	Swansea University
Stevens-Mulroe	Charlotte May	Politics and History	Nottingham Trent University
Tainty	Anna Eve	Dentistry	Cardiff University
Thomas	Iwan Sean	Physics (4 Years)	Birmingham University
Thompson	William	JLR Apprenticeship	
Thomson	Benjamin David	Chemistry	Pembroke College, Oxford
Thurgood	Nicholas	Electronic and Computer Engineering	York University
Thwaites	Oliver	Biology	Swansea University
Trener	Bethan	Taking a Gap Year	
Turner	Callam Daniel	Architecture	Falmouth University
Uphoff	Hannah	Going into employment	
Watkins	George	Design Engineering	Aston University
Watson	Jayden Lee Chan	Economics and Econometrics	Bristol University
Webber	Katherine	Social Anthropology and Chinese	School of Oriental & African Studies, London
Wheeler	Alexander Charles	Geography	Swansea University
Whittle	Jamie	Games Design	Brunel University, London
Williams	Rhodri Huw Shuldham	Politics	Swansea University
Withington	Jacob	Physics with Professional & Research Placement	Bath University
Wreghitt	Jack	Taking a Gap Year	





# ENGLISH FACULTY

## HIGHER LEVEL CHANGES

Always a unique subject in both its approach and its subject matter, this year English defined its uniqueness by being the only subject to be preparing all its public examination candidates for new examinations. Both GCSE and A Level have new specifications, which involve a return to traditional examinations without the support of open book texts or a large proportion of coursework. Success in these examinations will require pupils to have highly developed literacy abilities which are formed through good reading habits. It is therefore not surprising that throughout this year English activities have shown strong focus on the development of pupils' reading skills at all levels.

## A BUZZ ABOUT BOOKS ON WORLD BOOK DAY

In the Lent Term pupils in Year Seven enjoyed a visit from the story teller and author, Cat Weatherill as part of the celebrations for World Book Day. They were excited to learn how Cat is inspired to write her stories, and many bought copies of her books, which were added to the Lower School Reading Passport. It was a chance to appreciate the individual behind the writing. Many other activities contributed to a lively World Book Day, including a book swap, competitions and a visit from Waterstones.

## 'FOOTSTEPS IN THE SNOW'

'Footsteps in the Snow' was the title of the House Creative Writing Competition, which took a different direction this year. Houses were asked to produce a short novel – consisting of five chapters - under this title: the idea was that pupils from different year groups each took responsibility for a single chapter. Houses were encouraged to present their work as a finished novel and these are now available in the Library. Judging was a challenge as the overall quality was very high indeed, but eventually Wylde emerged as the winner.

## EXTENDING THE SIXTH FORM

An A Level Day Conference took place at the Old Palace in Worcester in April with two invited guest speakers. In the morning Dr Selina Trowbridge from City University, Birmingham gave a lecture on 'The Poetry of Christina Rossetti and Victorian Culture' followed by Dr Tom MacFaul, from the University of Oxford who gave a talk on 'Shakespeare's 'Hamlet''. The afternoon consisted of seminars based on the ideas and insights generated in the morning.



### LOWER SCHOOL BOOK CLUB

Over fifty students now attend the Year Seven and Year Eight Book Clubs which meet every week in the Library: games, activities, kahoots, iMovie trailers for favourite novels, as well as lively debates have all featured this year. Year Eight members entered Radio 2's 500 Words Creative Writing Competition. Katy Marsh of 8C progressed to the second round (with over 130,000 entries nationwide!). Members from Year Seven entered a competition to design a new National Book Token as one of the activities surrounding World Book Day.

In the second half of the year pupils in Year Eight wanted to be a more formal book group and all decided to read a single book – Markus Zusak's 'The Book Thief'. During the Trinity Term the 2017 CILIP Carnegie Medal shortlist was bought in for reading and reviewing.

Enthusiasm for the Book Club is so strong that next year, as pupils from Year Eight move into the Middle School, they will form a new Year Nine Literary Group.



### THE LIBRARY

At the start of the Lent Term, Mr Stuart Plant arrived as the School's new Head Librarian and has brought new life to our Library. Below he writes about developments this year:

The Philip Sawyer Library has had a busy year. Library staff have been introducing pupils to a new online library portal which links them directly to all the library resources. The pupils have been shown how they can check stock, reserve, renew and review items. Older students can use the software to start their research using its powerful range of search tools.

As in previous years the Library has hosted reading groups from Year Seven to Year Nine who have been working through the Lower School Passport to Reading. Year Seven and Year Eight Book Clubs have also been meeting in the Library and have been excitedly working through a variety of fantastic activities culminating in being the first in the School to have the opportunity to read and review the 2017 CILIP Carnegie Medal shortlisted titles.

This year the Library organised a series of activities and events for World Book Day in March. These included a fantastic visit by the author and storyteller Cat Weatherill, who spoke to Year Seven students about her life as an author and how she finds her inspiration for her stories. The students loved listening to her and helping her with story ideas as well as having the opportunity to purchase signed copies of her books. We also hosted a Waterstones 'pop-up' bookshop in Eld Hall. Staff from the Worcester store brought a selection of titles for students to buy, as well as copies of the specially commissioned £1 titles that they could use their World Book Day tokens for. Throughout the week, the Library ran a 'Book in a Bottle' competition and also a Book Swap event.

The Library has also been extensively used by pupils throughout the day, including at break and lunch, as well as being the base for the Homework Club for Middle and Upper School students.



# MATHEMATICS FACULTY



Our pupils continue to impress all of us with their interest in Mathematics and the enjoyment that they get from their work in this subject. It is fascinating to see the development of their skills as they work their way up from the early days in Year Seven through to becoming the perceptive and knowledgeable Upper Sixth Formers who are dealing with genuinely challenging abstract theories that require insight and understanding of a very high level indeed. Along the way we offer them opportunities to experience the subject beyond the range offered by examination courses and this is often the opportunity for those with a natural flair for the subject to shine. This could be in the competitions for individuals, the team events, the lecture series that we attend or the conferences that we participate in.

## MATHS IN ACTION

We have been regular participants in the Maths in Action days at Warwick University and these fabulous events present entertaining and educational Mathematics and also allow our students to get a glimpse of life at a campus university. We took the Year Ten pupils to the GCSE day and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience of seeing the enormous range of topics that are covered by our subject. In the sequence of lectures we were introduced to the fascinating use (and misuse) of statistics and there was much discussion of the fine art of spin and the judicious use of misinformation to convince. Alongside this we looked at the theoretical aspects of the subject with an interesting look at the way that numbers developed over the centuries and this showed how the increasing complexity of the Mathematics was matched by the development of new ways of presenting numbers. In complete contrast we had a fine demonstration of juggling and this was analysed mathematically to explain the processes that we were watching.

## MATHEMATICS CHALLENGES

Back at school we had the first of the three Mathematics Challenges. These competitions are run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust and these problem solving papers provide a great opportunity for those with the natural flair to shine and to compete on a national and ultimately international stage. This year we have a total of 164 awards with 36 Golds and a very pleasing 28 qualifying for the follow on rounds. Amy Rogers (Year Eleven) should be congratulated on her fine performances and she was the top performer in both Intermediate and Senior Challenges. The highlight of the team competitions this year was the Year Ten team who came away victorious in the Regional Round of the Maths Feast and it was particularly pleasing that they also earned the award for the Best Teamwork on the day.

## SUPPORTING YOUNG MATHEMATICIANS

One of the annual highlights of the departmental year is the opportunity for our Sixth Formers to go to help out at the RGS The Grange and RGS Springfield Year Two Mathematics days and this always provides a great deal of fun and education for the young ones. For the Sixth Formers this is a reminder of where they have come from and will often get them to really question their own grasp of the fundamentals when required to explain these ideas to those who are finding Maths challenging. It is also a nostalgic occasion with The Grange and Springfield teachers reminiscing fondly of the early days of those who are now deep into their A Levels!

# MFL FACULTY

This has been another busy but enjoyable year within the MFL Faculty. There have been many successful co-curricular activities both inside and outside school. Below are some of the highlights from each of the respective departments.

## FRENCH

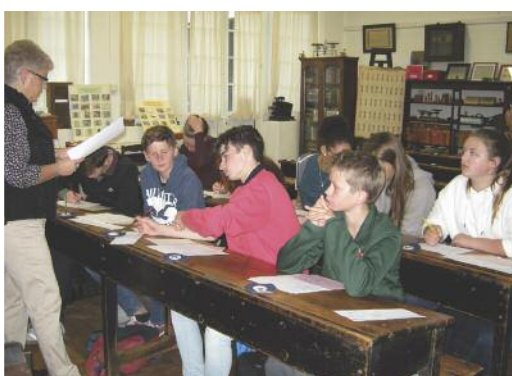
The highlight of the year was the annual French Exchange trip to Nantes. During both the visit to Nantes and the visit to Worcester by French pupils, there was a wide variety of cultural activities on offer. These included trips to cathedrals, castles, museums and towns of interest. Pupils of both nationalities had the chance to experience authentic life in a different country, taking part in family trips, meals and even holidays! The improvement in the pupils' linguistic ability in the classroom has been noticeable, as has their confidence in using spoken French. Next year will see the thirtieth anniversary of the exchange and we are already planning to make this an even more memorable trip and mark the occasion accordingly.

This year saw a renewed interest in the Lower School MFL Club. We decided to allow pupils to choose what they wanted to do in the lunchtime sessions and Katy Marsh, a regular member, describes some of the activities that took place over the course of the year:

"We started off the year by looking at French culture, including: food, music, literature, festivals, design and art. Focusing on art, we created a study on five French artists: Monet, Degas, Renoir, Matisse and Cézanne. We included information on their birth and death, the movement which their work was part of and some of their notable works. We then researched some calligrams and made one of our own. The subject we chose was flowers which was reflected in the words used and the final picture.

Finally, we moved-on to making a board game, the biggest and most challenging project so far. Having started by looking at some existing French board games, we decided on the layout. Working in Design Technology we created the physical part and separately made the cards, rules and score cards. The game takes inspiration from an existing game called Le Petit Bac. The game is made for two to six players, and each player has to spin the alphabet wheel and pick a card and come up with a word (in French) that complies with both the random letter on the wheel and the subject on the card. Each player gets a minute to come up with as many answers as possible. Over the course of the game each player gets five turns and at the end the player with the highest score wins."

Well done to everyone who took part in the Club this year.





# MFL FACULTY



## GERMAN

The highlights of the German Department's year have been the trips to the German Christmas Market in Birmingham and the 2017 German Exchange to Kleve. Tom Ehlers (Year Nine) describes his experience at the markets:

"The trip was split into two parts - we spent the first part visiting Cadbury World and the second going around the German market. At Cadbury World, we got to see all the machine processes that turned cocoa beans into chocolate, but the best bit was getting all the free chocolate! At the German market, we were allowed to wander around in groups to look at the stalls. It was great to see so many of the same stalls that I had seen in Cologne the previous year, as I could really imagine being back in Germany. The evening sped by quickly after that. Soon we were back on the coach and heading home, having had a great day and feeling ready for Christmas!"

At the end of the Easter Holidays, it was the turn of Year Ten to accompany the annual German Exchange to Worcester's twin town of Kleve. Ellie Jones and Isaac Baker recount their experiences:

"After a night settling in, we all met in Kleve, where we worked on a quiz with our partners, learning about the history of the city. We then walked to the town hall where the deputy mayor spoke to us about the partnership between our two schools and the cities of Kleve and Worcester. On Friday, we got a train to Cologne, where we climbed the steps to the top of the Cathedral. Needless to say, some of us were a little unprepared for the 533 steps that Frau Drew and Dr Beer had in store for us! We experienced the atmosphere of this busy German city, as we were given a tour of the streets by our Exchange partners whilst practising our German in the shops. On Monday, we went into two morning lessons. We found that their English lesson was very difficult compared to our German one, but we thought the Maths lesson was quite easy. On Tuesday, we visited Münster, a very beautiful and historic German town. We visited the Cathedral, heard the famous astronomical clock's bell, and saw the pretty Peace Hall and 'merchants' arches' on the market streets. We then returned to our German Exchange families' houses for a final special meal and evening before we departed."

The return leg in June was equally successful, with the students from our partner school visiting Birmingham and Bath, punting in Oxford and meeting the Mayor of Worcester. We look forward to celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the exchange in 2018.



## SPANISH

Hola a todos. ¡Un año más! ¡Cómo pasa el tiempo! El departamento ha estado muy ocupado con todas las cosas que hemos hecho. ¡Bueno ahora en inglés! We have been very busy this year in the Spanish Department.

Six pupils took part in the annual week of Lower Sixth Work Experience in Murcia, this year working in a primary and secondary school helping Spanish children to learn English. Before travelling, they prepared some lesson resources and Miss Gidon was ready to guide and support them with this preparation. The week also allowed them to explore the city and the surrounding areas, as well as forming new friendships (some already planning future visits!). We were able to try authentic Spanish food and delicious regional dishes. For the first time, we were not able to spend the final day on the beach or play mini golf as the region was affected very badly by flash flooding which, in turn, limited the supply of fruit and vegetables to the UK!

This is what the pupils had to say about their experiences:

Emma Rhoden – “The trip was an amazing opportunity, it was difficult at first, but I got used to it after a while. I liked working with the primary school children because it was challenging, yet rewarding. Overall, it was an invaluable experience and I would love to go back again.”

Padraig Wheeler – “Teaching was tough, as I had never experienced it before. It was difficult to ensure all pupils were paying attention, especially when teaching some of the older pupils. However, it was very fulfilling and I would love to have the opportunity again, especially as I have made great friends there. 11/10!”

Kate Horsburgh – “It was a jam-packed, fantastic, challenging experience. Working in the primary school was hard as with pupils as young as four years old – their English was limited which gave us the opportunity to try to help out in Spanish. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and want to thank Mrs Kettle and Miss Gidon for taking us. I would love to visit Murcia again in the future.”

Thomas Lloyd – “A very useful experience! However, not much Spanish spoken in school lessons as we had to teach English. It was a good idea to be surrounded by Spanish speaking people to hear their intonation and improve our pronunciation. 10/10.”

Hanna Sykes – “It was challenging to make the lessons interesting and suitable for the level of English in each class, but it was great to experience school life in Spain. I also enjoyed trying new traditional Spanish food and exploring Murcia and I especially enjoyed going to Cartagena.”

Cameron Hall – “It was difficult to take lessons with older children as we had to talk about topics that we found challenging! However, the overall experience was good and I enjoyed exploring the city and surrounding areas, as well as meeting new people from the school.”

On a sad note and after a long illness we said goodbye last year to Betty Eggby, a much-loved Spanish teacher. Un adios a Betty de todos tus compañeros y estudiantes ¡donde quieras que estés!

Bueno eso es todo del departamento hasta el año que viene. ¡Viva el español!





# SCIENCE FACULTY

I think that in an uncertain world it is ever more important to appreciate that Science is an international discipline that helps break down barriers through collaborative efforts. Whilst RGS does not have the ability to change the world on its own, we can enshrine the importance of teamwork, tolerance and scientific enquiry in all that we do so that our pupils have the opportunity to change the world for the better.

It has been another busy year in the Science Faculty. Some of the highlights include the Engineering Education Scheme team winning through to the National Finals next March, successes in the various Olympiad competitions that we entered, the first set of reformed A Levels were sat by Upper Sixth pupils and Year Seven attending the Cheltenham Science Festival. Science Week saw both local primary school Year Five pupils along with RGS Springfield and RGS The Grange pupils attending our annual two-day Eggstravaganza Event. Teams of four worked together to design and create a bridge using straws. There were some wonderful engineering masterpieces and great examples of teamwork throughout. 2017-18 promises to be another busy year with a Middle School trip to NASA amongst the highlights.

## CHELTENHAM SCIENCE FESTIVAL TRIP

On Tuesday 6 May, Year Seven travelled by coach to the Cheltenham Science Festival. A fantastic programme of events had been laid on for us and it all started with an intriguing wander around the science stands outside. The most fascinating stand outside was a big, inflatable, orange stand where you could see the Bloodhound SSC car, which is a unique, high-technology vehicle that has been designed to break the 1000mph barrier.

We then went on to the Andrea Sella activity called, 'When is a gas not a gas?' which was all about particles, states of matter, ice and nitrogen. This was especially interesting as we are learning about particles and states of matter in class this term.

Straight after this, we went on to the anthropology clinic where we learnt about evolution, adaption and how to identify bones. Bones and skeletons of all animals were on display. There were three stations showing a range of animal and human bones, displays of human and pet evolution. The fourth station was about identifying species by their teeth and what they ate. We learnt about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores: we could identify them by how sharp or how flat their teeth were. In this station we also looked at some more skeletons and bones and there was a really fascinating skull belonging to a snake. Until this point in time I didn't know that snakes could dislocate their jaws and that they could also use the left and right sides of their mouth separately to help them draw food further into their mouths without it escaping. I also discovered that their teeth point backwards to prevent prey from escaping once caught! This activity was by far my favourite because I learnt so many new facts.

To finish off the day we visited different stands inside the Cheltenham Town Hall. For me, one of the best stands displayed experiments with sweet and sour sweets. The scientists on the stand invented the 'Bean Boozled Challenge' (a mixture of revolting and nice jelly beans).

Kitty Smith, Year Seven

## CHEMISTRY

Ben Thomson, Head Boy, has been offered a place at Pembroke College, Oxford, to read Chemistry. The following is an excerpt of an interview with Ben about why he wanted to read Chemistry at Oxford.

### Why did you choose to study Chemistry?

Chemistry was one of the subjects that I felt I really genuinely enjoyed. I like the fact that as you learn more, you are constantly finding out that there is a more sophisticated model to explain observations. It's challenging and has real significance in the world. It influences many aspects of life, from medicines to biofuels and sustainability. I like that we can use Chemistry to explain aspects of how the world works, from why ice floats on water to why fluorine will kill you very quickly but by adding an electron to fluorine



we get fluoride which we add to tap water and toothpaste to strengthen teeth. I decided to read Chemistry at university to find out more about the subject and to push my understanding further.

**Why Oxford and Pembroke College?**

Oxford is obviously one of the best universities in the world and I felt that I wanted to challenge myself. Why Pembroke? I liked the tutors when I went to an Open Day and thought they had similar interests within Chemistry as me. Pembroke is also one of the best colleges for rowing and I am a keen rower. The college also had a nice feel, with good accommodation and facilities.

**Favourite Sport?**

I love rowing, which had a big influence on my university choices. Pembroke qualified for Henley this year and I want to continue my rowing at university and hopefully represent Pembroke at Henley.

**Best memory at RGS?**

There have been many, but trekking in the Indian Himalayas and the Portugal rowing camp are particular highlights.

**Who is your role model or inspirational hero?**

The Brownlee brothers. They train hard together and look after each other, even when competing at the highest level.

Thank you Ben. The best of luck to you for next year.

## BIOLOGY

The Biology Department welcomed Kirsty Ashford, Teacher of Biology and Year Nine form tutor, to its staff this year. Kirsty previously taught at Heckmondwike Grammar School and is a very keen birdwatcher and traveller. She has brought a great deal of enthusiasm and energy to the department, and has been delivering relaxation techniques, and mindfulness sessions to students and staff alike as her co-curricular specialism.

The Biology Department also celebrated the success of its Year Ten students in the national Biology Challenge competition this year. Of the 45 students who participated, 4 commendations, 11 highly commended certificates, 14 Bronze Medals, 5 Silver Medals and 3 Gold Medals were awarded. A great effort on their part!

Not to be outdone, some of our Lower and Upper Sixth students took part in the national Biology Olympiad in March. Oliver Thwaites won a Silver Medal and Rhys Leonard and Ben Elgar won Gold Medals. Ben's achievement is all the more impressive as the competition is aimed at Upper Sixth students, and Ben had only started his A Level studies two terms before undertaking the test.

We have also been involved in the Billingham Society this year, aiming to develop a love of anatomy in our gifted and talented students. Mrs Smee delivered a rat dissection class to our budding zoologists (not for the faint hearted!), allowing Year Eight and Year Nine pupils a chance to hone their scalpel skills whilst developing an understanding of organism complexity. Anatomy Club will run again next year for Middle School to develop these skills and interests further.

And finally, Mrs Harkness has continued running the Medical Science tutor sessions with great success. Students have been mentored in how to approach work experience, writing personal statements for their UCAS applications and have received mock interviews to ensure they are ready for the rigours of the interview process at university. All students who have applied to study Medical Sciences now have confirmed offers and we wish them the very best in their examinations as they strive to take on such a difficult yet rewarding vocation.



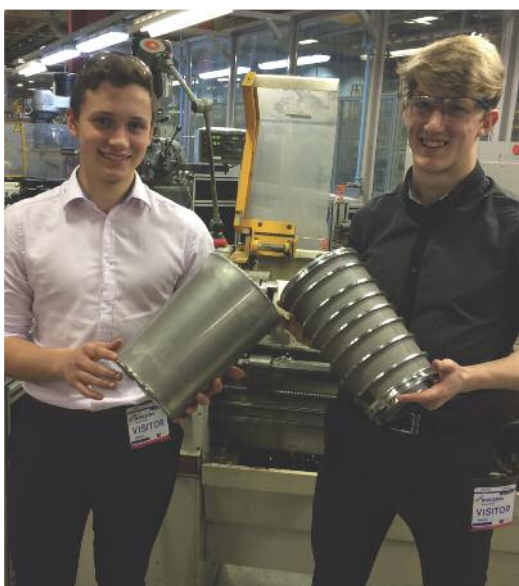
## PHYSICS

This year saw success for RGS Worcester in the British Physics Olympiad, a competition in which 1680 students participated across the UK. Yeping Ge and Luke Qian received Bronze Awards, whilst Jacob Withington, William Lee-Anglin and Ben Nichols achieved Commendations. In the AS Challenge, Ben Hawkes, Josh Grainger and James Thomas earned Bronze Awards. Harry Chaplin achieved Bronze I in the GCSE Challenge, whilst Bronze II awards were awarded to Felix Haynes, Joshua Warner, Suvikrant Pathania, Gemma Collins and Joe Corlett.

The Engineering Education Scheme provides students with an in-depth experience in science, engineering and technology that will enable them to make an informed decision about their future studies and career.

This year a team of six Lower Sixth students, worked on a real world engineering project in partnership with Worcester Bosch. Ellie Carey, Ethan Harper, James Harris, Matthew Hill, Ed Lawson and Ed Platts were brought together to develop and test a method to help engineers and technicians rework damaged heat exchanger casings before they are fitted into the boilers that Worcester Bosch manufacture. After an arduous six months, their completed design was a roaring success and has already been used in the factory.

The team submitted a formal project report in April and then presented their report to a panel of senior professional engineers. Of the 70 teams taking part in the Midlands region, the RGS team were one of two teams selected to go through to the national finals. This will be held at The Big Bang Fair at the NEC in March 2018. Needless to say, the engineers, students (and parents who also turned up) were delighted.



## COMPUTING AND IT

We have made excellent progress this year with all pupils, in their development of programming skills and knowledge. In each year group, pupils have surpassed the achievements of the previous year group and are demonstrating superb competencies. The department has expanded our provision of co-curricular activities, in order to provide those with further interests with a range of programming skills.

We have joined the Open University and become a Cisco Network Academy. This means that for pupils in Year Eight and above, we have extended our diverse provision of co-curricular activities for those with interests in CyberSecurity. We now have the resources to now provide pupils with a training course in the Fundamentals of CyberSecurity and those who complete the course are awarded with a certificate.

Our Lower School pupils have continued to excel in their programming abilities and have enjoyed a large proportion of the academic year, learning how to code. In Year Seven, pupils enjoyed being able to practice their Scratch skills, learned how to program spreadsheet formulas and are now aware about how to structure web pages. In Year Eight, their first introduction to Python programming was well-received, with pupils developing interesting drawings using a Turtle library and pure code.

Pupils in Year Eight were introduced to Binary Arithmetic for the first time. If that was not enough already, being faced with then needing to demonstrate their learning using Explain Everything certainly enabled a difficult topic to be navigated with a little more creativity and enhanced explanations by each pupil.

Year Nine attended a trip to Bletchley Park in January and enjoyed participating in an improved programme, whereby they interacted with technology new and old, even inventing their own chatbot!

It is all change again in the world of Computing and Computer Science, as our pupils in Year Ten have experienced the new AQA Computer Science syllabus. The course holds greater focus on coding and introduces a number of new concepts, notably the Computer Security aspects. We wish our pupils well in their NEA in September 2017 and further examination success.

The introduction of a new A Level in Computer Science has offered a range of opportunities for our pupils to explore their future careers. The many facets and avenues of Computer Science opens a range of career options and our pupils are progressing well through their studies. The introduction of a project in the Upper Sixth has not only enabled our pupils to study concepts in greater detail, but now enables them to embark on exploring their own interests. Gaming seems to be the most popular, and it is interesting to observe all the concepts which have been learned over years, producing results which not only look professional, but contain all the hallmarks of technically and practically literate Computer Scientists.

### APPLE DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL RECOGNITION

Whilst RGS may lay claim to being the sixth oldest school in the world, we are ever conscious of the need to prepare our learners for the world that tomorrow will present. We made public our intention to proceed with a Digital Learning Programme some four years ago; the use of technology in the learning space to enhance teaching and learning is now the norm, in all subjects, in all of our schools.

We were therefore thrilled this year when invited by Apple to apply to join their Apple Distinguished Schools Programme. All three of our Schools worked together to put together an application for consideration and were delighted to be informed that RGS Worcester was acknowledged as being an Apple Distinguished School 2017 - 2019. In total there are now 32 recognised establishments across the Primary, Secondary and Higher Education sector in the United Kingdom and Ireland, so a reasonably select bunch.

Joining this club offers recognition of the very hard work done by both staff and pupils since the introduction of the DLP at RGS Worcester. It suggests we have been successful and most importantly of all drives us on to ensure we further develop our DLP so as to maximise the benefit to all our learners, already at an RGS School and into the future.

I invite readers to download the iBook from the Apple iTunes U store and learn more about our story. There are over 70 videos or interactive elements to our iBook, so unlike this publication, you can also hear audio files and watch video first hand of pupils and staff explaining their involvement in the programme.





# HUMANITIES FACULTY

In the mythology of ancient Egypt, the God Khepri was responsible for creation, development and rebirth. Khepri's avatar is the scarab beetle: every year he tirelessly rolls dung across the world, which can seem frightfully mundane and prosaic ...only for new scarab beetles to be born, fully formed, out of these same dung balls so carefully rolled, the next year. Whenever we, as teachers, begin to feel worn down at the end of an academic year, we can look back at what we have achieved and look forward to the next generation of fresh-faced students: 'Respice, et Prospice', if you will.

There has been no shortage of people beetling away in the Humanities Faculty over the last year to ensure future successes, although our day to day existence has been somewhat less drudgerous than Khepri's. Aside from the thaumaturgy in the classroom, there have been innumerable co-curricular successes to cherish: Business and Politics are off to the USA, where the new world order of late makes for interesting case-studies in both disciplines; Classics are invading Italy for the biennial bonanza with a horde of excitable 12-14 year olds; History have been out looking at castles, as well as contributing heavily to the RGS Debaters gradually taking over the world; Geography have clocked up the miles in the minibus, taking on the weather of Wales, and whilst RS have stayed physically closer to home and their charitable roots, they have mentally journeyed further than the rest of us put together, pondering the big questions ("If there's a fly on your windscreen, did the car hit the fly or did the fly hit the car?"). We all united to make a great success of our annual Humanities Day, offering an immersive experience in our wonderful world to local primary schools.

My thanks, as ever, to colleagues across the six departments for their tireless 'beetling', and to the students for making what could be mundane and prosaic, instead exciting and rewarding.



## CLASSICS

Another busy year has passed in the Classics Department, with further academic success alongside co-curricular entertainment. Dr Thom Russell has been a most welcome addition to our ranks, bringing particular expertise to our Sixth Form teaching. Having said that, with Laura Curtis having banked our first A\* for A Level Latin in August, we clearly were not doing too badly on our own! Strong GCSE results were another welcome source of pride, and Mrs James left on a high having finally cracked the Persian Wars module.

Back in the Michaelmas Term, a posse of Classicists and Latinists (and James, our lone Hellenist) from Years Eleven to the Upper Sixth, plus a rogue thespian(!), enjoyed a day trip to Cambridge for the University Greek Plays and a whistle-stop tour of the city and a college. Sophocles' *Antigone* is one of the A2 Class Civ set-texts, but it was Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* which captivated students' attention, with its contemporary political and gender agenda. The fact that both plays were performed in Ancient Greek did not seem to hamper the enthusiasm.

In the Lent Term, Sixth Formers returned to the EMACT Classics Conference in Loughborough, with its focus on specific A Level modules and texts proving useful and thought-provoking. Dr Rosie Wyles, on Greek tragedy, was particularly impressive and engaging.

Further down the School, Years Eight and Nine are embarking upon the trip of a lifetime in July, to Rome and the Bay of Naples, to see the classical sights/sites, frolic amongst the ruins and bask in the culture as well as the Mediterranean weather.

At the youngest end of the spectrum, Year Six pupils have enjoyed Classics and Latin sessions as part of their Taster Days, Year Five pupils from local primary schools enjoyed taking part in a living timeline and eating a Greek Banquet as part of Humanities Day focused entirely around the Greeks, and Springfield Year Four had a special visit from a time-travelling Roman Soldier in full uniform.



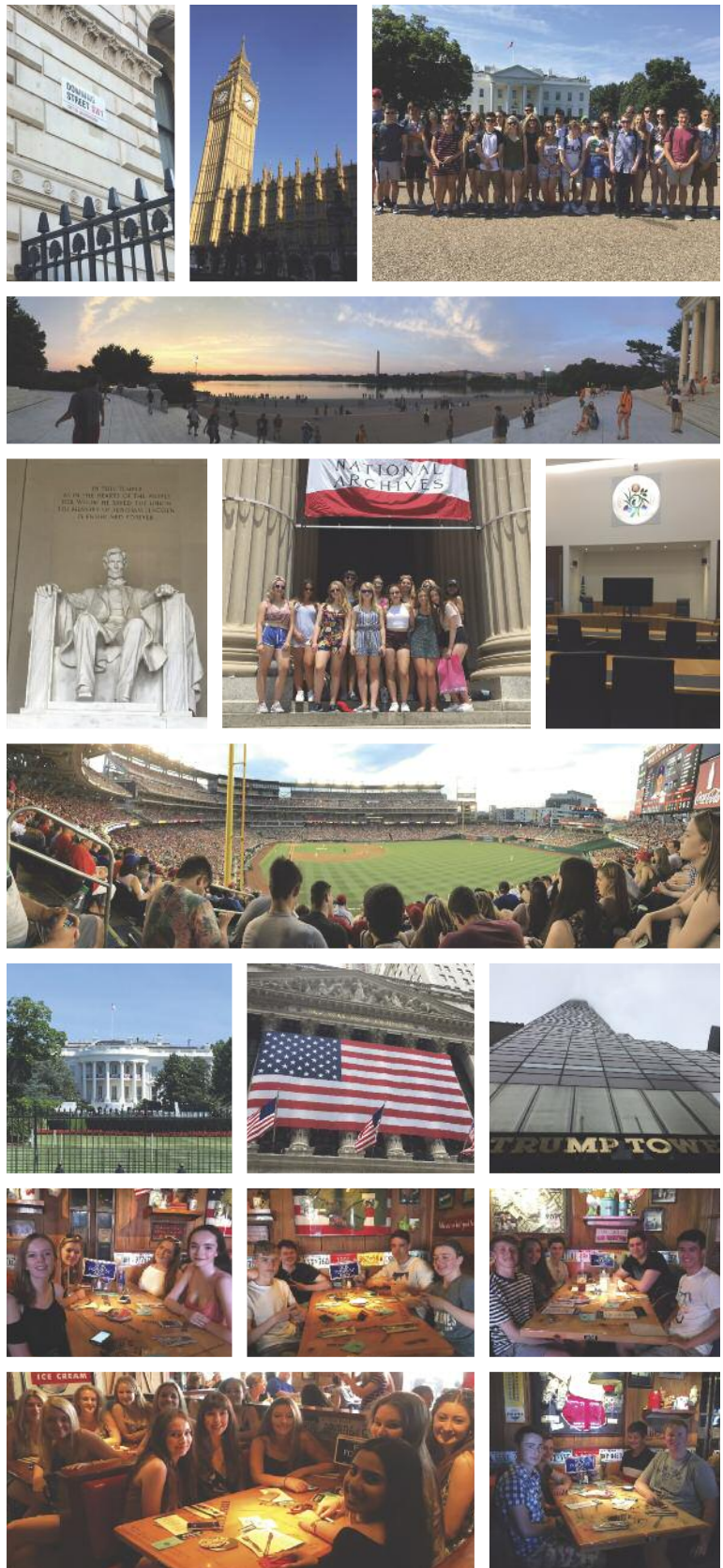
## POLITICS

It has been an amazing year in Politics with the fallout from the Brexit vote, the election of Donald Trump as US President in November and then the snap UK General Election in June. Politics is certainly never dull or predictable!

In the Lent Term, Lower Sixth Politics students headed to London for our annual trip to the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court. We were incredibly fortunate as it was the day that the Supreme Court ruled on Brexit. We were first treated to a 'how Parliament makes laws' workshop, and then we were joined by Worcester's MP Robin Walker who had recently been promoted to Junior Minister for Brexit. We were extremely lucky that Mr Walker was able to spare us some time as he was in action on the frontbenches ten minutes after our meeting for Minister's Question Time!

After a tour of the House of Lords, we were able to watch part of the Brexit debate from the public gallery of the House of Commons. David Davis explained to the House that a Brexit Bill will be introduced to the House as soon as possible following the Supreme Court decision. It was exciting to see so many famous political faces at such close quarters and a few of our students also tweeted some MPs to ask a question. Max Windsor-Peplow tweeted Caroline Lucas the co-leader of the Greens during the debate; his question was shortly asked by the MP in the House of Commons chamber. This was representative government in action! After lunch, we went to the Supreme Court for a tour about its role and relationship to Parliament.

The department also teamed up with Economics and Business Studies to visit New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC in July. Our itinerary in Washington DC included a visit to: the National Archives, National Museum of American History (Smithsonian), Washington Memorials, a baseball game and Arlington Cemetery. In New York, our tour was similarly packed with a visit to the 9/11 Memorial Museum, a tour of the financial district and the Top of the Rock observation deck. This trip was the perfect way to end a truly remarkable political year.





## GEOGRAPHY

Another exciting year in Geography has provided plenty of fieldwork opportunities, and real hands on experience for pupils. In the Michaelmas Term, Year Eight pupils went on a tour of Worcestershire, starting in Warndon Villages and the Warndon Business Park, through Pinvin and Evesham and culminating at Broadway, the picturesque Cotswold village. The pupils compared how Worcestershire changed from the moment they left School to the grand finale atop Broadway Tower looking out over the Vale of Evesham. Highlights included the field sketch and shopping survey around Evesham, as well as the tourism video the pupils created after the trip. Year Seven pupils enjoyed taking part in a microclimate survey of their respective homes, and Year Nine pupils explored some of the more advanced topics of Natural Hazards and Economic Development.

With new schemes of work for GCSE and A Level, it was action stations for pupils in these year groups. Year Ten pupils relished the Physical Geography aspects of the new course and Year Eleven pupils completed a demanding Controlled Assessment task about 'out of town' retail parks affecting existing town centres. The prospects for new learning opportunities were exciting and our Lower Sixth students enjoyed a trip to North Wales where they completed field work involving beach profiling on Anglesey, microclimate study in Llandudno, field sketching from the Great Orme and psammosere transecting at Newborough Warren.

Our final trip of the year involved taking Upper Sixth students to the Long Mynd in Carding Mill Valley, Shropshire, where they were involved in a river survey looking at velocity and bedload size. One of the moments of the day was when the pupils were told that they could not take the ranging poles above Light Spout waterfall, because of health and safety concerns. Fortunately, one of our more enthusiastic pupils had brought along two Worcester Warriors flags in his bag which proved valuable alternatives, as well as showing county allegiance.



## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

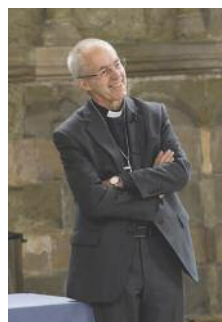
It is fair to say, it has been quite the year for controversy. The heated debate of Brexit, a new Prime Minister, a controversial new American President, tragic terrorist attacks and devastating fires have all encouraged debate amongst the pupils. The RS classroom has been the safe place to explore, reflect, debate and question all these major events.

This exploration of issues went beyond the classroom in November when 15 Year Eleven students were lucky enough to be invited to attend an intimate Q&A session with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. In the ancient cloisters of Worcester Cathedral, pupils were able to text in questions during the session, showing the Church is moving with our dynamic times! We were lucky to have three of our presubmitted questions answered by the Archbishop and we were rewarded with thoughtful answers. Everyone was struck by how down-to-earth and liberal Archbishop Justin was.

From heading out, to welcoming in: the RS team also welcomed Year Five students to our Humanities Day. With many activities, centred around the theme of Greece, Year Fives explored the world of Ancient Greek philosophy, questioning what exactly they would do with the 'Ring of Gyges', a ring that could turn them invisible. Some enlightening thoughts came to mind and Plato would have been proud of their philosophy!

In the curriculum pupils covered the History of God (Year Seven), Ethical Issues (Year Eight) and Philosophy (Year Nine) and new curriculums at both GCSE and A Level have been introduced. These have covered in depth and breadth a whole array of philosophical, ethical and topical issues and developed a deep understanding of religious and non-religious responses to the issues of the modern day.

At the Cathedral, one RGS pupil asked the Archbishop "Do you support refugees coming into Britain?", his answer reflected upon the need for understanding and empathy for others and the importance of education in promoting this. After a tumultuous year for the world outside the walls of RGS, the Religious Studies department has been working to achieve exactly these ends.



## HISTORY

The year opened well with some superb examination results from the A Level and GCSE historians. With Laurence James heading to Oxford to read History, the new A Level intake had a lot to live up to! They have worked extremely hard to prepare for the first year of the new style A Level, mastering time periods as diverse as the Crusades, the Tudors and American history from 1760-1801. For Miss Waller, the highlight of the year was hearing the historian and TV presenter David Starkey on Henry VIII at Huntingdon Hall: she was even able to get a 'selfie' with the great man!

Tom Peake (Upper Sixth) represented RGS Worcester historians (and debaters!) at the biennial Historical Association public speaking competition, writing and presenting a moving speech on his own reflections on the First World War.

Lower and Middle School historians have also been busy. All of Year Seven walked down to the Infirmary last term to take part in a 'Purge the Plague' workshop. They were challenged with creating a cure for cholera in the 1800s. Groups were judged on the suitability of their chosen herbs for dealing with the disease, cost, profit and even the design of their medicine bottle. 'Representatives' from Boots (the teachers!) chose the best in a Dragons' Den scenario.

At GCSE, the Year Ten pupils are just completing the first year of the new specification. Having explored the reigns of Richard I and King John, they are now reaching the end of their breadth course on 'Medicine in Britain, 1250-present' with a particular case study of the treatment of wounds and diseases in World War I. This seems particularly poignant in the year that we commemorate the centenary of the terrible third battle of Ypres at Passchendaele. A visit to the George Marshall Medical Museum proved extremely helpful with students gaining a deeper understanding into Victorian surgery and the problems facing medics through time as they attempt to treat soldiers on the battlefield. However, it was probably the death masks of Victorian criminals that proved the greatest draw, giving us a real insight into the ideas that underpinned beliefs in phrenology at that time. We are looking forward to focusing on the Twentieth Century next year, exploring inter-war Germany and the Cold War.





## BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Teaching in a country so fervently gripped by its decision to depart from the European Union has enabled students to recognise the significance of studying either Business or Economics and how, no matter what path we tread through life, it is impossible to ignore both these disciplines. As the UK looks beyond its shores for trade deals, so the department travels to the most powerful country in the world with which the UK holds a 'special' relationship. Business and Economics students partnered with those studying Politics to visit Washington D.C. and New York. A packed itinerary included visits to the political highlights, alongside behind-the-scenes tours of Madison Square Garden and Macy's, as well as an opportunity to visit the Financial District and Wall Street.

Closer to home the department underwent the first phase of its refurbishment and is now a brighter, more modern space that befits the subjects taught in the space. To complement this working environment there has been continued improvement to our digital resources with students now having access to fully resourced iTunes U Courses that encourage independent learning, an increasingly important skill for students with the new linear A Levels.

Beyond the curriculum we had an excellent entry from Nadiath Choudhury (Lower Sixth) in the Corpus Christi (Cambridge) Economics Essay Competition. She wrote an insightful response to a question about whether governments, other than alleviating poverty, should be concerned about economic inequality. There was also the annual IFS Student Investor Challenge for students from Year Ten and above: the 'Wolves of Worcester' team outperformed the rest of the student body, growing their £100k portfolio by almost 10% in just three months. On a different note entirely, Mr Evetts gave a talk to the Billingham Society, entitled 'Lovenomics: can the head rule the heart?'. Finally, the department was incredibly proud to have been at the forefront of the new Enterprise and Employability Programme: the opportunity for Lower Sixth students to foster their entrepreneurial spirit is unique to RGS and we hope that one day they return having established the next big British brand.



# CREATIVE ARTS FACULTY

## TEXTILES

The new A Level course has been an exciting development within the department this year. The course continues to give our students a breadth of inspiration, knowledge and skills to allow them to become accomplished designers with a wealth of practical experience essential for individual portfolios. The Lower Sixth students enjoyed a trip to Birmingham to gather research for the 'Architectural Fashion' theme. The new library, Brindley Place and Grand Central provided an inspirational backdrop on which to develop their pattern, print and garment design.

The A Level groups enjoyed the annual department trip to London. The Fashion & Textiles museum, the V&A and Tate Modern, as well as visits to the edgy Brick Lane, Berwick St and Chinatown areas, which proved to be insightful for individual projects for the Controlled Assessment.

Francesca Morgan completed work experience at Inkberrow Design Centre as part of her First Prize at Young Fashion Designer UK for the Midlands and North Region. She has created two stunning evening gowns to build her portfolio of work and to exhibit at the RGS Fashion Show.

This year's Young Fashion Designer UK competition was a successful event hosted at RGS Worcester, showcasing GCSE, AS and A Level work from students in the Midlands and the North. It was a fantastic opportunity to see work of such a high standard, and the judges who kindly gave so much of their time, had a very difficult task of choosing the winners from the six finalists in each category. Elle Mortimer, GCSE and Hanna Sykes AS, were both highly commended for their beautiful work.

Our annual Fashion Show took place in the Godfrey Brown Theatre as part of the Creative Faculty Evening in June. A wide variety of garments were on show, from A Level final projects to Year Ten Mexican inspired printed T-shirts. The show was a great success, and our students enjoyed modelling on the catwalk.





## DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Once again, the year has been an action packed one for the Design and Technology Department. Hardly a lunchtime or after-school session goes by when there aren't pupils working in the department on coursework, projects of their own, Greenpower or the Landrover 4x4 Challenge.

The opportunities are far-reaching with this year seeing a new influx of enthusiasm for Greenpower from a number of Year Seven students. A pupil-led team structure was put in place which saw the students contacting local companies for possible sponsorship. Rybrook Worcester, Kendrick Homes, Signature and Mazak responded favourably allowing the team not only to develop 'Superformance' but also reinvigorate 'Mosquito', allowing two cars to be raced by RGS students. Much fun has been had at various track days across the country.

The Landrover 4x4 team consisting of six Year Eleven pupils: Amy Murphy, Fraser Sparks, George Beardmore, Josh Warner, Suvi Pathania and Harry Chaplin, made it through to qualify for the National Final. A huge amount of effort goes into the development and building of a remote-controlled car, designed from scratch, on top of managing their GCSE workload. The team's work, ably led by Mr Howard, saw them qualify for the World Finals to be held in Abu Dhabi in December 2017. We wish them well in this competition.

Partially as a result of the Greenpower and Landrover 4x4 teams, links with industry and the department remain strong. A group of Sixth Formers had an informative tour of Mazak and new links have been made with Worcester Bosch. These provide fantastic opportunities for students to see first-hand the world of design, engineering and manufacturing.

Myles Lydon (Upper Sixth) should also be commended having reached the last six of the national TDI Challenge. He was highly commended by the judges for his bike helmet which he had built Bluetooth indicators into, activated by controls on the handlebar. Four Lower Sixth students were awarded prestigious Arkwright Scholarships this year. Alec Berry, Faiz Ibrar, Harry Smith and Toby Middleton did extremely well to gain these Awards. As a result, they have enjoyed help from their industry sponsors; invaluable as they approach their final year at RGS.

Graduating students from the department enjoyed great success this year with their A Level results. Many Design and Technology A Level students are going on to Engineering-type careers at prestigious universities but also Apprenticeships with the BBC and Jaguar Land Rover.

Phase One of refurbishment plans were undertaken over the summer holidays. This has seen a new and vibrant workshop created. This will undoubtedly be much used and hopefully inspire the next generation of young designers and engineers.





## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Complementing our extensive co-curricular programme, the Physical Education department has had another successful year. The Department has aimed to develop a lifelong love of sport as well as extend pupils' knowledge and understanding through a range of activities from Dance and Gymnastics to Boxercise and Pilates. Within this, pupils have been encouraged to fulfill their own individual potential.

At A Level, students have studied anatomy and physiology, sports psychology and socio-cultural as well as practical performance in sport. This year students also gained the opportunity to take a trip to Rugby School in the Michaelmas Term to support their social and cultural knowledge in the historical section of the course.

Other enrichment courses run by the Department include the Community Sports Leadership Award, which teaches students to run and lead coaching and sporting sessions safely. Pupils have achieved over 10 hours of volunteering in the community.

The culmination of the year for the PE department was Sports Day. Pupils from every House were involved in 13 Athletics events, earning points for their House in an event that would determine the House Champions for 2016-17. The inclusive nature of Sports Day meant that, whether you came first or last, everyone contributed to the points total of their House and so every place was hotly contested. This event also saw three school records broken on St Oswald's field.

The Department ended the year at a successful Creative Arts Evening, which showcased the talent of Gymnastics and Dance at RGS Worcester.





## ART

A Levels, in a strict sense, are our 'raison d'être' and lie at the core of what we do. In the year of nationwide change in the A Level specification, the Upper Sixth had a considerable challenge on their hands and they might not have known it, but we were eager to see how the class of 2017 succeeded. Not only did they cope well but as a cohort they presented an end of year show that might possibly prove to be a high water mark for some time to come, most certainly provides a considerable challenge to the class of 2018. Of course the graduating class of 2017 were left with a challenge themselves since the class of 2016 produced excellent results, 83% A\*/A with 8 A\* grades. Amy Vickery, Edward Jones and Evelyn Eberlin achieved full marks at both AS and A2, placing them in the top echelon nationally of A Level candidates. No wonder that these three have successfully progressed to Higher Education; Amy Vickery has a scholarship to study Fine Art at Lancaster University, Edward Jones to study Haute Couture and Eve Eberlin to read History of Art at the Courtauld Institute.

There were strong GCSE results in 2016 too, with 68% A\*/A that throws a gauntlet down to subsequent years. The Summer Exhibition in 2017 had some dazzling paintings on view; Jacob Dodd's abstractions inspired by music and Kate Webber's intelligently sensitive portraits were pure quality. Honor Jeavons' work provided food for thought and there was a memorable intensity in the large eye-catching portraits by Isabel Corlett, Anya Critchley, Holly Carson and Lydia Hough. In all these young artists, the new two year A Level provided an opportunity to develop a sustained body of practical work backed up with a contextual understanding approaching Degree standard in some cases. The Bevere Art Awards were presented by Mrs Kim Taylor to Jacob Dodd at A level and Isabelle Eberlin for her GCSE work.

It has been a busy year too with opportunities at all levels for artists to be involved in workshops or trips. In January our youngest artists who were closely involved in the design of site specific art work on the theme of waves and reflections for Worcester's new swimming pool and leisure facility at Perdiswell, were delighted to be given a tour of the facility before it opened to the public. This was a very exciting project and a wonderful opportunity for our RGS pupils working with the artist, Eric Klein Velderman and his public art company, Cantoo, in partnership with Worcester Council.

The Art Department hosted outreach workshops for Worcester primary schools in January on the theme of 'A walk in the hills' to make large scale paintings about the Malvern Hills inspired both by David Hockney and Malvern's artist, the late great David Prentice. This was followed by a Scholarship workshop centered on the colour blue that attracted greater applicant numbers than ever before. In July we were delighted to host an 'en plein air' workshop for 44 Year Four and Year Five pupils from the Rivers Multi Academy who, working outside in the style of Claude Monet, experienced two seasons in one day, starting to paint in rain and ending in sunshine. The Impressionist panoramas produced certainly saw young hands wielding their brushes with confidence.

We had two trips to the Cathedral to provide a starting point for Year Ten and the Lower Sixth, whose work will be exhibited in the RGS exhibition 'Young Visions' at the Cathedral in 2018. The Sixth Form Field day trip to the Tate Modern to view the Georgia O'Keeffe retrospective was a memorably warm day that rather suited O'Keeffe's desert landscapes. As luck would have it, the Year Eleven and Lower Sixth trip to Birmingham in January coincided with a day of unprecedented nationwide smog, and the city looked as though it donned a grey overcoat! However, the artists found much delight in sights and smells of the Bull Ring food markets, as evident in their GCSE examination work.

Alongside the core staff, we have hugely appreciated Art Technician support this year from Fliss Osborne and Marianne Vincent which has enabled the above events to happen.









## MUSIC (CURRICULUM)

Music in Year Seven and Year Eight continued to use the 'Class Band' format, where every member of the class plays an instrument as part of a whole class ensemble. This remains a unique approach locally and is an excellent way of making music lessons really 'hands on' and differentiated from the regular curriculum experience.

Higher up in the School, the focus has been on Atonalism as a composition tool. In simple terms, the established 'hierarchy' of notes (Tonic, Dominant etc) is disrupted by a strict rule of announcing each note (there are only 12 in each octave) in turn. This avoids any cadences and sense of tonal centre. The effect is rather like comparing an abstract painting by Kandinsky to an earlier Constable painting. The method is known as Serialism (12 notes in a strict 'series') and was first conceived by Schoenberg and his two pupils, Berg and Webern in 1920s Vienna (known as the 'Second Viennese School'). The Lower Sixth students, working on a new A Level specification, have produced work in this style along with some GCSE pupils. Some of these pieces were premiered in a new 'Composers Lunchtime' concert, where Jenna Martin (Year Eleven) wrote and performed a particularly austere and beautiful piece.

## DRAMA (CURRICULUM)

Curriculum Drama has been lively and busy this year again with all Year groups studying the subject. Year Seven have demonstrated their physical theatre through study and performance of the 'Jabberwocky' and then completed the cycle with a devised theatre piece on the theme of 'Myths and Legends.' Year Eight also began their study this year with physical theatre and dance drama performances on 'War' followed too by a devised piece working as an ensemble on the theme of 'Isolation'. Our Year Nine pupils were challenged with a number of topics ranging from duologue work to dance drama, to a final scripted piece where they were marked at GCSE Level and performed in the first Year Nine Exam Performance Evening. This was much enjoyed by the audience of parents, fellow pupils and teachers.

Our Year Ten and Year Eleven GCSE groups faced different challenges this year with the current Year Eleven seeing out the current specification and Year Ten being introduced to the reformed specification. Year Eleven delighted audiences with both exam pieces this year and ended on a fantastic note with their scripted work.

Year Ten have had a busy time studying their set text, preparing for their devised mock exams and watching a number of live theatre performances in preparation for their written paper. Sixth Form students have had the same experience as GCSE with Upper Sixth seeing out the old A Level specification and the Lower Sixth seeing in the new. The busy year has seen Lower Sixth visit the theatre on a number of occasions the most memorable being the camping trip down to The Minack in Cornwall to watch 'Tristan and Yseult' for their study of both the play and the theatre company performing it. The Lower Sixth also performed their mock devised piece successfully at Croome Park in June for the launch of the Summer Reading Challenge.





# SPORT

## RUGBY

This season was an exciting one for RGS, with a big year group in Year Seven and for the first time in eight years we were able to field A-D teams. The Under 12s were a motivated and enthusiastic squad all season and, despite coming up against some strong opposition, they performed well. The performance of the season was against KES Birmingham where the A, B and C teams won and the D team held out for a tense 5-5 draw. The Under 13 Boys continued their success from last season and can claim a ratio of 11 wins to only 2 losses; with a huge 211 positive points difference.

Mr Roots joined the School this year as Director of Sport and worked well with the Under 14s who had a tough season last year. This year, they really came together as a team and produced some gutsy performances. A highlight was the 39-38 win over Pate's Grammar School where the boys worked for each other to the final whistle. This year's Under 15 team flourished in the second half of the season winning five from six matches following half term. A number of the boys were also selected for the Under 16 team in the North Midlands Cup. In the senior teams, there was success for the Under 16s getting through to the Final of the North Midlands Cup. The 2nd XV, or Development XV as they are now known, have worked hard despite a tough start to the season. The narrow 8-12 loss to King's, although disappointing, was a real turning point for their season. They went on to post great wins over Hereford Cathedral School, Pate's Grammar School and St. Peter's in the second half of term. Captain Wilf Jenkins did a sterling job of motivating the team throughout the season in conjunction with Mr Friend's coaching.

The 1st XV gained the benefit of ex-professional and international Rugby player, Shaun Perry, who joined us on a full time basis. Training was intense and a conscious decision was made to develop our younger players by bringing more Under 16 and Development XV players into the 1st XV. These players strengthened the team and provided development opportunities for the individuals. Results were varied, the losses, frustratingly narrow, but the potential was evident.

Whilst the result did not go our way, the Modus Cup was a bruiser of a game. The players produced an incredibly determined and committed performance and whilst the score line finished 15-5 in King's' favour, this could have been the opposite but for some twists of fate. Perhaps spurred on by the Modus match, the second half of the season was much more successful. Good wins were secured over Pate's Grammar School and St. Peter's; both games were lost last season. Ultimately, the 1st XV, led by Nat Nott, showed the character and composure we had been looking for all season to close out the games. The future of Rugby at RGS is looking bright!





## HOCKEY

The Year Seven girls competed in Hockey matches at A-F level this season, with all of the Year Group representing the School. The A and B teams were undefeated in full competitive matches and both were convincing winners in their respective County finals. The A team scored an incredible 20 goals and only conceded once in qualifying for the Regional finals in which they went on to win all of their matches, with some convincing score lines, resulting in RGS retaining the Under 12 Regional Finals trophy for another year.

The Under 13A have had a dominant season, winning seven matches, five of these without conceding any goals and scoring a total of 38 goals. A strong performance at the County tournament saw the girls narrowly lose to Bromsgrove School in the third round of sudden death penalties. The final action of the year saw the girls move to eleven a-side Hockey for the first time, beating King's School 2-0 and outplaying Bromsgrove in a 2-2 thriller of a game. This Year group show strength and depth, with the B team winning nine out of ten matches and finishing second in their County tournament. There were also a number of fixtures for the C and D team, with wins over Cheltenham College and King's School.

The Under 14 team won eight games, including those at the County tournament, beating Malvern College, Bromsgrove and King's School amongst others, before qualifying for the Regional round. Here, two wins against Shewsbury High School and King Edward's Birmingham were not enough to secure them a place in the next round after losses to Oundle and Bablake. Lottie Atkinson lead the way as top goal scorer for this team, with Evie Dickinson keeping them out at the other end with an outstanding season in goal. The season finished on a high with a 5-0 win over Bromsgrove School.

The Under 15 team played ten competitive fixtures winning eight of these. Scoring over 40 goals, there were some remarkable score lines against Solihull School (6-0), Pate's Grammar School (10-1), Cheltenham Ladies College (7-1) and Bromsgrove School (6-1). Sophie Thompson and Lucy Hawkes secured a large number of these goals.

The 2nd XI have had a season of endeavour and commitment, always willing to work hard until the final whistle of every game, even in the pouring rain against Solihull School. The ethos of this team was based on positivity and enjoyment, with Captain Izzy Corlett setting the perfect tone for the rest of the girls to follow. On their day, they were a match for any opposition, playing some wonderful flowing Hockey that created plenty of scoring opportunities. This was evident when beating Hereford Cathedral School and Hereford Sixth Form College. A highlight of the season has to be the motivational tunes in the minibus on the many Away fixtures!

The 1st XI have shown great enthusiasm along with a willingness to learn and adapt in order to fit in with a new coaching philosophy this year. The girls started the season strongly and remained undefeated until mid-November, three wins coming with five goals scored in each game. Lizzy Adcock stepped into a new role as goal keeper and was a consistent performer. With strong forward running and goal scoring from Abigail Marsh and Imogen Sinclair, supported by Rose Bevan-Smith and Lydia Edwards showing true grit in midfield, the progress and development made by this team was remarkable.



The Under 16 Indoor Hockey team beat King's School, Bromsgrove School and Malvern St James in the County tournament to progress to the Regional tournament, where they then beat Oakham School 5-1, drew with King's High Warwick 1-1 but unfortunately did not progress further after losing to Wellingborough and Trent College.

In addition to competitive fixtures, pupils had the opportunity to extend their playing knowledge and skills by attending the MT13 Annual Hockey Coaching Conference at Whitgift School. This provided the chance to be coached by National and International players, including Alex Danson. We were also fortunate enough to welcome Crista Cullen to RGS, who provided an excellent insight into her pathway to excellence and how to achieve just that. Spectating sport can be just as beneficial as playing, and so as well as watching International fixtures at Lee Valley Stadium, we also took a trip to the Super Sixes Indoor Hockey Final. With Miss Walton playing for her club Bowden, we were again fortunate to meet some Olympic stars.

#### ENGLAND HOCKEY SINGLE SYSTEM SUCCESS 2016/17:

##### UNDER 17 JUNIOR REGIONAL PERFORMANCE CENTRE (JRPC)

Nicola Ralph, Sophie Thompson

##### UNDER 15 JUNIOR REGIONAL PERFORMANCE CENTRE

Lucy Hawkes, Evie Dickinson

Isabelle Nott, Lottie Atkinson

##### UNDER 15 BOYS JUNIOR REGIONAL PERFORMANCE CENTRE

Sam Billingham

##### UNDER 15 JUNIOR ACADEMY CENTRE

Emily Seymour-Perry

##### UNDER 14 JUNIOR ACADEMY CENTRE

Olivia Middleton (GK), Heini Hughes

##### UNDER 13 JUNIOR ACADEMY CENTRE

Niamh Murphy (GK)

Amelia Lane, Maddie Shaw

Ellie Nicholls, Lara Shaw

Abigail Timmington, Lily Hutton

Isabel Pepperall, Poppy Hobson

##### UNDER 13 JUNIOR ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

Katy Marsh, Katie Ralph

Phoebe Seymour-Perry





## FOOTBALL

RGS Worcester Football has fielded 15 teams, playing some 90 fixtures against 23 different schools this term including schools as far afield as Clifton College and Marlborough College. The weather has been kind with only one Saturday lost to frost and the pitches have been in excellent condition. There has been a real atmosphere of enthusiasm, enjoyment and commitment to play an attractive brand of football and to perform at a high level on match days.

Our Under 12A team were undefeated this season, with their record closely followed by the Under 15A and Under 13A teams. The 1st XI and 2nd XI teams have both performed strongly and consistently demonstrating strength in depth, an attractive style of play and both teams have started to score goals freely. The 2nd XI remained unbeaten at home. Our 3rd XI had a mixed season against strong opponents. The most memorable matches of the season were the King's School fixtures where RGS came out on top with 3-1 and 4-2 victories respectively. The genuine interest and progress shown in Senior Football this term was reflected in matches where we were able to comfortably field 4th XI and U16B teams against Bowbrook House in a tough encounter, although RGS finished clear victors. They then proceeded to score nine goals over two matches against Bromsgrove School.

The Under 15A team enjoyed a successful season winning four of five matches and scoring 25 goals. The side played exciting, attacking football whilst incorporating a 'no-nonsense' defensive approach with excellent victories secured against some big schools. The Under 15B team played out a highly entertaining 8-8 draw v Bromsgrove School! The Under 14A team started the season well, beating King's School 3-1 at St Oswald's. The signs were good with the boys playing some excellent football in parts with other notable victories over Hereford Cathedral School and Sir Thomas Rich's School. The Under 14B team faced some tough opposition and, with a limited number of boys, they performed valiantly. The Under 13A team continued their fine form including superb victories against Princethorpe and Foremarke Hall in the ISFA Under 13 Cup competition. The Under 13B team has enjoyed a successful and rewarding season demonstrating commitment and enthusiasm; a highlight being the 5-1 victory over King's School. An unbeaten season for the Under 12A Team has put down a strong marker for future years. The team exhibited strength in all areas and the eight different scorers bore testament to the team ethic. The Under 12B team had a very enjoyable year and the boys have working tremendously hard. The defence has been incredibly consistent enabling the team to make fast and incisive counter attacks. Every Thursday evening Year Seven training was regularly attended by some 30-40 boys. As a result, we were able to field a strong contingent of 'Under 12C' players in a number of fixtures.

A major highlight of the season was the annual Football Challenge Cup being played out in front of nearly 1000 spectators on a wet and windy evening at Sixways Stadium. Our 1st XI squad gave an excellent account of themselves but unfortunately lost out in a five goal thriller. More recently, nearly 80 old boys attended the annual Alumni Football Tournament. Reminiscing with past pupils and their families about glory days gone by was the perfect mirror to all the future success we are looking forward to next season.





## NETBALL

RGS Worcester Netball has witnessed another exceptional season in 2016-17, which has seen success once again at every age group.

At Under 12 level, RGS fielded A-G teams, which provided an opportunity for every Year Seven girl to play Netball competitively. Highlights of the season included reaching Round Four of the National School Sports Cup as well as the Under 12A and B teams dominating the District Tournaments as Worcester City Champions.

Continuing the story of success, the Under 13s reached the fourth round of the National School Sports Cup and finished Runners Up in the Worcester District Tournament before becoming Worcestershire County Champions. The Under 14s were crowned Worcester City Champions and finished Third in the County Tournament. The Under 15s also had a successful season. Highlights included, finishing Runners Up in the Under 16 Worcester District Tournament, Third in the Worcestershire County Tournament and Second in the Severn Stars 'Sky Court Challenge'.

At senior level, the number of girls enjoying their Netball has continued to rise and the School regularly fielded four competitive teams. At Under 19 level, the team were Worcestershire County Runners Up and progressed to the Regional Finals for the third year in a row. To conclude their year, over 1400 spectators witnessed a superb display of dexterity and accuracy at the University of Worcester Indoor Arena at 'Superball'. Spurred on by the support of the School community, the RGS team was ahead from the outset, stretched their lead in the final quarter and eventually won the match 51-40. In doing so, they became the first 'Superball' team to pass 50 goals. Captain Honor Jeavons, proudly lifted the trophy as we won the fixture for the third consecutive year.

Other season highlights include the introduction of Severn Stars and Wasps Netball Superleague franchises. RGS pupils have been inspired to play Netball by taking part as court attendants at Severn Stars fixtures, witnessed elite Netball on school trips to Severn Stars against Celtic Dragons and Scottish Sirens, participated in the Severn Stars 'Sky Court Challenge', participated in the Wasps Netball Masterclass, enjoyed coaching from England and Severn Stars Captain Laura Malcolm as well as Bongi Msomi; a South African International and Wasps Netballer.

It has been another outstanding year for RGS Netball and this success is testament to the dedication and organisation of our coaches and the commitment and passion of the players. Well done to the players and coaches for their hard work this season and thank you to alumni and parents for their support and encouragement. It has been a pleasure to provide opportunities for pupils of all abilities to enjoy Netball. I look forward to the future and the even greater success it will no doubt bring.





## CRICKET

After the memorable trip to Sri Lanka the regular season started with a very happy team and the results showed, winning the first seven matches. There was a slight blip around half-term but the side pulled out all the stops against King's School to record a convincing win, Sam Hughes scoring his first Century for the 1st XI. This is the 1st XI's 17th win in 20 matches against King's since 2000. Cal Turner scored two Centuries early in the season and Alex Wheeler became the 4th Centurion of the season with a superb 119 not out against Sir Thomas Rich's. Ben Sutton, Alfie Cook and George Cook have taken 37, 35 and 34 wickets respectively and, with Rhodri Williams, Will Reading and Ben Hawkes have regularly put sides under pressure.

The RGS Festival started very promisingly with superb wins over Lancaster and High Wycombe before a jittery win over Colchester. Newcastle, once again, proved a difficult game for us but it was left to the final 'winner-takes-all match' against Guildford to decide who would take home the Festival Trophy. After a poor start, Alex Wheeler in the middle order and Alfie Cook and Ben Sutton at the tail gave us something to bowl at by getting us over 200. Then, after a confident start, Guildford could not cope with the pressure created by the spinners Ben Sutton and Alfie Cook. Wickets fell at regular intervals and a fine return by George Cook made sure of a famous win. The 2017 side now follow the 2004, 2005 and 2010 teams as Festival winners.

The 2nd XI only lost one match. The game against Monmouth proved to be the most entertaining when RGS made 239 from their allotted 30 overs with an outstanding 4th wicket partnership of 190 between Sam Hughes (103) and Josh Nott (88no). Monmouth fought back scoring 222 for 7 including a Century from their opener. Hughes went on to make a name for himself with the 1st XI whilst Nott made further significant 2nd XI contributions including two more half Centuries. Throughout the season all the top order batsman made runs at various times including Louis Dear 55no (King's) Will Reading 58no (KES Birmingham) Padraig Wheeler 49 (Bristol GS) and Joe Corlett 45 (Sir Thomas Rich's). Team captain Tom Beardmore led by example contributing to the team's success with both bat and ball and was ably supported by key bowler Ed Platts and Olly Sankey who consistently looked a dangerous opening pair.

The U15s have a lot of very promising cricketers, it seems they just need a bit of self-belief. They won four and lost five with the highlight being a good win over King's School. Well led by Tom Godwin, there have been a number of promising performances and in Archie Oxley, Angus Rees, Luke Allen, Niall Southwick, Rees Bonham and Harry Tait, there is a good crop entering senior cricket next year.

The U14A team made good progress after they started the season with three defeats. They then went on to win four out of five matches, including a comprehensive victory against King's. Captain, Jude Rees' performances with the bat led to his 1st XI debut at the end of the season and Ben Hallam impressed with ball in his hand.

The U13A team had a good season overall, winning six out of their eleven games. Dylan Griffiths captained the team well with some mature field placings and bowling changes. Jacob Morgan-Iqbal and Will Godwin were instrumental with the bat, with Jacob's 136 not out off 90 balls against King's School being a particular highlight. A number of bowlers chipped in with vital wickets through the course of the season and the fielding was generally of a high standard. The boys got to the County Cup Final v Bromsgrove School in what proved to be an amazing match. RGS needed 38 to win off the last three overs and 17 to win off the last over, with Joe Hallowell and Kieron Pointon rescuing the team from the jaws of defeat to snatch a tie off the last ball and share the trophy.

The U13Bs played some lovely cricket over the course of the season, but it took until the last game for them to put a batting and fielding performance together to take an impressive win. Will Pitt put in a particularly impressive performance taking a hat-trick of wickets bowling, as well as a catch behind the stumps and a long range run-out. Special mention must go to Ben Chamberlain who led his squad brilliantly all year.

The U12s have a lot of promise, with a number of County boys and County girls players to choose from, but they have suffered a number of close losses and they will surely improve in the future. Ben Allen and Ben Whitton look promising players and Haseeb Tariq took the remarkable figures of 7 for 20 against Sir Thomas Rich's – including a hat-trick.

It is also great to be able to report that we played our first Girls' cricket fixtures this year. The U13s and U12s played Abberley Hall and Bromsgrove as well as playing in the Abberley Hall Festival. The first hard-ball fixture took place on Saturday 1 July against Droitwich CC. In front of a very excited crowd, Droitwich batted very sensibly against some very accurate bowling from the RGS girls. Menna Sutton was very unlucky not to get a number of wickets and Rebecca Yarwood took a wicket with an excellent out-swing. Katy Marsh's second over was a wicket maiden and Grace Bedborough did an excellent job keeping wicket. Droitwich ended up with 274 for 2. In reply Rebecca and Katy played very sensibly and then Grace and Menna hit some lovely shots. The running between the wickets was our downfall meaning we lost more wickets than we would like. The Droitwich bowling was a little inaccurate and it meant RGS ended up with 272-6. Everyone enjoyed their day and we hope this will be the first of many fixtures for the girls.

### SENIOR CRICKET TOUR TO SRI LANKA

This year, the Senior Cricket squad had a 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience - a cricket tour to Sri Lanka, which was generously supported by the AOOEs and the 200 Club. The tour had an enviable itinerary including 13 days of travel, a five match cricket series, various cultural experiences and some inspirational sightseeing. The highlight of the trip was not just one win, but a series victory 3-2. The boys played exceptionally well despite the heat and intense humidity and should all be very proud of their fantastic success.

All five games were very evenly matched and the boys had to work really hard. Callum Turner and George Cook both scored a couple of half Centuries and Alex Wheeler spent a lot of time at the crease. All three were surprised at how draining and exhausting it was batting in those conditions. The bowlers toiled away in the heat too, but all stuck to their task and fully deserved their wins. In addition to playing some fantastic cricket, the squad travelled around, staying at four different hotels and embarked on various sight-seeing excursions including the Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawala, white water rafting down the Kelani River, the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy (one of the most sacred Buddhist temples in the world) and the Foundation of Goodness, which was set up by ex-Sri Lankan Test players, the MCC and Surrey CCC following the tsunami in 2004.

Mike Wilkenson, Head of Cricket said: "Having taken a number of trips in the past I have to say this was the best. The boys were exceptionally well-behaved and great ambassadors for the School. They will all remember their amazing tour to Sri Lanka for the rest of their lives. Many thanks go to our Captain, James Allen, Mr Newport and Mr Morton for helping make this such a successful trip."





## ATHLETICS

There has been plenty of athletics action squeezed into this season and some superb successes. The season started well with matches against King's School at St. Oswald's with RGS winning the Year Seven Girls, Year Eight Boys and the Year Nine Girls and Boys events.

In the ESAA (English Schools Track and Field Cup) the girls' teams performed well with the Junior Girls winning Round One and the Intermediate Girls coming second. Both teams progressed to the Regional Finals, which were held at Solihull for the Intermediate Girls and Tipton for the Junior Girls. They performed brilliantly in the field events and, going into the second half of the day, they were in first place. Despite some more strong performances on the track, it was not enough to maintain their lead and the girls eventually came a respectable third. It was a superb all-around team effort.

The Junior Girls' Regional Final at Tipton consisted of a very strong field with schools from London coming into our region for the first time. With some very successful performances, the team ended the day in third position, one point behind second place and one point ahead of Bromsgrove School in fourth. Top points scorers for the Junior Girls were Maddie McLeod with a total of 43 points in the 100m and High Jump, Abi Timmington with a total of 39 points for the High Jump and 800m and Jodie Ruane with a total of 39 points in the Discus and 1500m.

On Saturday 10 June it was the County Athletics Championships for which nearly 40 RGS athletes had qualified. The event was an all day competition with many races having heats before a final later in the day. Medals were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd with the top athletes selected for the Mason Trophy and potentially the English School team. The RGS pupils who made it to the Mason Trophy can be incredibly proud of their performances especially George Beardmore who ran a school record of 9 minutes 16.31 seconds in the 3000m beating the previous record that had stood since 1989 by 7 seconds.

### MASON TROPHY RESULTS

Emma Brinkley - Shot Put 8.41m finishing 14/17

Lottie Atkinson - Long Jump 4.61m finishing 14/19

Jodie Ruane - 1500m 5 minutes 4.54 seconds finishing 11/19

George Beardmore - 3000m 9 minutes 16.31 seconds finishing 9/18

### NEW RGS SCHOOL RECORD:

George beat the School record set in 1989 by 7 seconds!

### SCHOOL RECORDS:

- Year Eight Girls' High Jump record when Abi Timmington cleared 1.51 metres beating the 1992 school record set by K MacArthur by just 1cm.
- Year Ten Girls' Discus record when Evie Beardsley threw 26.24 metres beating the previous record of 25.44 metres set by Laura Curtis in 2013.
- Senior Girls' Athletics Captain Grace Murray was on top form throughout the season in the High Jump and set a new School record clearing a very impressive 1.62 metres.





## CROSS COUNTRY

This year the RGS Cross-Country team competed in the ESAA Cup competition for both boys and girls, the Abberley Hall Competition and the relays, as well as the City and County Championships.

The year started well with the Under 13 Girls' team winning both the individual and team titles at Abberley Hall. Jodie Ruane won the race, Alice Atkinson came second and Abi Timmington came third, completing an RGS clean sweep! A total of ten girls ran, emphasising the strength in depth in the Lower School. The Boys' team finished third in the overall team standings, with Alex Cook the highest placed individual in 3rd place. Alex is a Year Seven competing in a Year Eight competition so this is very encouraging for the future.

The girls took their form into the ESAA Cup competition, finishing 2nd in the Area Cup at Bromsgrove School, which was good enough to qualify for the Regionals. In this particular event, the placings of all four runners are taken into account, with the lowest team total score progressing. The team then ran at Walton Hall in Warrington where Lucy Ball finished 20th, Abi Timmington 7th, Alice Atkinson 6th and Jodie Ruane winning the event. This was another great run for the girls, which meant that they qualified for the National Finals Competition for the first time in RGS history. The girls ended up finishing 17th overall, with Jodie finishing an amazing 10th in the country!

George Beardmore (Year Eleven) also had an impressive Cross-Country season. He finished 3rd in the County Championships and went on to finish 106th in the Under 17 UK Inter-County Championships and 115th out of 350 runners in the English Schools' Championships - a fantastic achievement for a very dedicated individual athlete. Well done to all of those who ran for RGS this season.





## FENCING

With Abi Watkins and Will Osborne fencing in two or three competitions a month and with our other fencers involved in a variety of matches, particularly in the Lent Term, fencing at RGS remains as strong as ever. Former RGS student Danielle Lawson has been running a coaching session each week for our Year Nine fencers. I would like to thank both Danny and Mr Nick Chapman, without whose tireless enthusiasm, fencing would not be what it is at RGS.

While there are too many competitions and results to list, the highlights at school level included our performance at the Public Schools' Competition in April, where our team of five fencers acquitted themselves well. Abi Watkins won third place in both the Girls Foil and Epee events and Will Osborne took sixth place in the Boys Epee event. Four of our fencers qualified for the finals of the British Youth Championships, in May. All of them fenced well and Abi took 6th place in the Girls U16 Epee.



We also had seven fencers compete at King Edward's Birmingham in both Foil and Epee in February, and five fencers went to Warwick for the Age Group Epee. We had our annual Fencing Gala in December with fifty fencers in action in Tom Savage Hall over the day and in January, we travelled to King's School for the first of our two local fixtures. While these are always contested in the best of spirits, we were pleased to win two of the three team matches.

The final word goes to Abi: not content with fencing nationally and internationally at Under 17 and Under 20 level, she took part in the Cole Cup, a Senior Women's International event, finishing 18th in a field that included a Canadian Olympic fencer as well as several European senior women (and Danielle Lawson, who actually won the Cup). This has gained her a Senior Women's World Ranking of 380th; very impressive for a 15-year old.

## GOLF

The RGS Golf team had a promising season. They played 'friendlies' against Malvern College and Dean Close, halving the match vs Malvern and beating Dean Close. Against Malvern, Brandon Sarfo won his match in impressive style, winning 6&5, Captain Jack Wreghitt unfortunately lost his match but Will Dancox (Year Seven) managed to come from 4 down to halve his match on the 18th to tie the game overall. Against Dean Close, Sean Auden (Year Nine) made his debut for the Golf team and did not disappoint, he won his match, as did Emily Furniss to take the match 2-1.

In the ISGA Knockout Competition, RGS beat Cheltenham College in the opening round, with Alfie Cook, George Cook and Brandon all winning their matches to win 3-0. In the Area Cup semi-final, RGS faced Rougemont School. Despite Brandon winning his match, RGS unfortunately lost the other two in a tightly contested fixture.

In March, Brandon Sarfo and Emily Furniss travelled to Fleetwood Golf Club in Blackpool to compete in the British Northern Links Trophy. It was their first experience of links golf and the weather was as expected - gale like winds and the rain driving down! Brandon managed to shoot an 83 (par 72) which was a great effort for the conditions.

There is some real golfing talent coming through and for that reason, RGS has entered an A and B team in the ISGA competition next year. Well done to all those who competed for the School this year and we look forward to further success.

# CO-CURRICULAR

## DRAMA (CO-CURRICULAR)

It has been another busy, entertaining and productive year for the Drama Department. The year began with rehearsals leading up to the Senior Musical, 'Fame', as we were transported back in time to the 1980s, and the world of leg-warmers, onesies and twitchy feet. Our cast performed with confidence, thrilling our audience throughout the run and proving that we do indeed want to live forever, and to learn how to fly, high!

The new year, saw the Drama Scholars and the DIY Drama Company begin rehearsals for 'A Liverpool Story', which was performed before Easter. This tale of separated twins, jealousy and suspicion kept the audience enthralled throughout the duel-cast run. The emotion and maturity of the performances were admirable.

In the last two weeks of the Trinity Term, we had our Summer Production which was performed at the English Heritage site, Witley Court. The pupils from Year Seven through to Year Nine who performed in this 1930s-set 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', contended with a heatwave, and a low-level RAF flyby in performance week, and in the first rehearsal at Witley Court, they experienced storm-force gales. Our audience enjoyed their picnics, and the ornate surroundings of Witley Court, as the fairies played their tricks, and the Mechanicals offered the comical angle to this much-loved play. Particular mention must also go to Mr Clemit, for reviewing all three productions in this, his last year at RGS.

In addition to these three main productions, we have also continued with the Film Makers' Club, and the Third Annual Film Makers' Festival. There have been a number of Outreach events with partners such as St. Richard's Hospice, Bishop Perowne College, RGS The Grange, RGS Springfield and Croome Court as well as a plethora of theatre trips. This year, our Drama students have been to see 'Blood Brothers' in Malvern, 'The Rocky Horror Show' in Birmingham, 'Things I Know To Be True' in Liverpool, 'Adolphus Tips' and Matthew Bourne's 'Early Adventures', in Warwick. We have also seen 'The Woman in Black', 'The Play That Goes Wrong' and 'Pygmalion' in Cheltenham and 'The Tempest' at the RSC. Most recently we have been camping with the Lower Sixth at the Minack in Cornwall, where they rehearsed on the beach and then saw the internationally acclaimed Kneehigh Theatre perform 'Tristan & Yseult' as the moon rose over a calm Atlantic Ocean.






## MUSIC (CO-CURRICULAR)

Chamber Choir sang Evensong at Christ Church Oxford and also led the 'Lights Of Love' service at Worcester Cathedral in aid of St Richard's Hospice. Both of these engagements have become firm fixtures for the Choir, with invitations to return issued almost immediately. Other school ensembles and choirs performed at the Autumn Concert, which also featured our new intermediate wind and string ensembles to complement the senior ensemble.

Our Big Band and Senior Jazz ensembles had their own concert shortly afterwards, reflecting the strong tradition of jazz ensemble playing at RGS. The Music department also provided the band for this year's show, 'FAME'. Unlike many other years, this time the band were in full sight throughout as they ripped through so many famous tunes from this show. With the exception of Messrs Hamilton and Adlington, the band was, as ever, made up entirely of RGS pupils.







With the show over it was time for the School Carol Service. Starting with the candle lit Introit and procession, the service carried on with some superb singing from Chamber Choir, Senior Choir and Junior Choir. The department has a real reputation for our carol service now and this year was no exception, ending as it did with Whitacre's beautiful 'Lux Aurumque'.

The first major concert of the Spring Term is now the Senior Piano Concert, which this year featured Raymon Yiu as the guest soloist. This concert has become a real highlight of the year, with a parade of senior pianists of at least Grade 6 standard (and more often well past that level) performing beautiful repertoires in Perrins Hall. Particular mention should be made of Liam Leonard who won his section of the Bromsgrove Piano Competition just days before performing at our Piano Concert. Do watch the video on RGS You Tube.

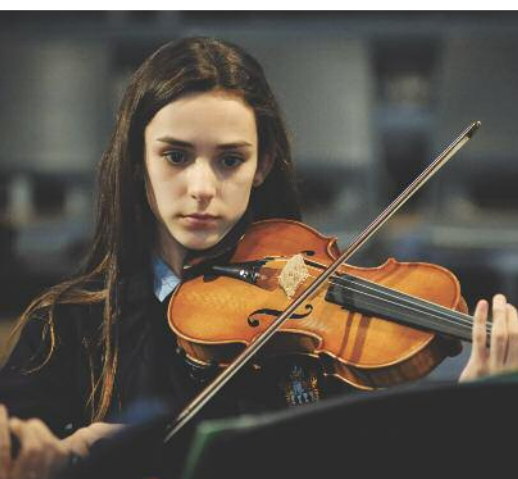
Cabaret, as ever, featured the Big Band and Senior Jazz ensembles providing the backdrop to a number of outstanding vocal soloists. This concert included a parade of absolutely outstanding soloists. There are just too many individual names to list here but it is always special to hear original works, and we had these from singer songwriters Carys Selvey and Tazmin Barnes and also an arrangement of a Jackson 5 medley by James Thomas for a boys' vocal ensemble put together for the evening and named 'No Direction'. The evening also saw the last Cabaret outing for the Big Band rhythm section of Rhys Leonard (bass), Harry Gemmill (drums), Ellie Morgan (piano) and Carys Selvey (guitar). The search is now on for an entirely new rhythm section for September.



## MUSIC (CO-CURRICULAR) CONTINUED

And to the Annual Choral Concert in Worcester Cathedral, which, this year featured Chilcott's 'Requiem'. Many hours of preparation in all three RGS schools had to be brought together on the day and fitted over the orchestral parts. Pupils playing strings in the orchestra had one rehearsal only; the one on the day! Pupils had the chance to work with two professional vocal soloists, as well as those in the orchestra which always does so much to raise the standard of everyone's performance as a whole. The concert had a particular highlight in Vivaldi's Double Concerto in G minor for flute and violin. Our two Upper Sixth soloists, Jacob Dodd (violin) and Ellie Morgan (flute) played beautifully over a really super chamber string orchestra put together especially for this event. Highlights are on the RGS YouTube channel.

The Trinity Term saw the focus fall more onto Lower School with tea time concerts for Year Seven and Year Eight. This resulted in memorable solo performances from Isabella Hulbert and Amelia Lane (Year Eight) in particular. Isabella Hulbert received the Music Prize and Amelia Lane went on to reprise her solo at the Lower School Awards Evening. Chamber Choir made a visit to Hereford Cathedral to sing Evensong early in the term before the whole school came together on 17 June for the annual Commemoration Service in Worcester Cathedral. This year's musical offerings included Whitacre's haunting piece, 'A Boy and a Girl' alongside an arrangement of Elbow's 'One Day Like This', sung by Chamber Choir and the Senior Strings. The standard of violin playing saw a distinct improvement over the year, with our senior violin quartet engaged to play at a local business reception on The Tything and again for an Alice Ottley Society event. We also had 'Jazz on the Lawn' from our jazz ensembles as part of the annual Creative Arts Faculty Evening, and those same senior jazz musicians rounded off their time at the RGS by playing on the lawn at RGS The Grange for the bi-annual RGS ball.



# CAREERS

After huge success last year, winning the Chamber of Commerce Award for Business and Education Partnership, the Careers department prepared for an eventful year. In line with our expectations, it has proven to be an extremely exciting time with many new ventures for us.

The whole of the Lower Sixth had academic enrichment sessions intertwined with their curriculum. The Careers department was part of the programme and as such the 'Enterprise and Employability Course' was born. With support from the economics and Business Studies department we came up with a unique idea to grow and promote the idea of Entrepreneurship and make sure that all pupils from the Lower Sixth had the opportunity to develop their Employability skills. The Michaelmas Term saw The University of Worcester Business School launching the Enterprise module. Pupils were treated to a lecture by entrepreneurs and then we visited the Worcester Business Festival. In essence, the pupils came up with a business plan and pitched for money as a start-up fund. They then traded and returned the original stake. You can imagine the Careers department's trepidation handing out money from the budget! I am glad to report that all the businesses were successful and the budget remained intact. In the Lent Term, we teamed up with the Careers and Enterprise Company, a government initiative that facilitates business and education engagement. The pupils were provided with an excellent Q&A session with members from Industry such as former RGS pupil and now CEO of Worcester Bosch, Carl Arntzen, and also the Young Apprentice of the Year. Each pupil visited an industry, attended interview and CV workshops and the course culminated in a very successful Mock Interview day which was staffed by seventeen members of industry who put each of the pupils through a rigorous interview.

Engineering has been an overriding strength this year with the first-ever all-girl group to attend the Industrial Cadets scheme with Yamazaki Mazak. The six girls who attended the Work Experience week in October were impressive to say the least. They had a fabulous time experiencing all the different departments within Mazak and getting a real feel for the Engineering profession. Not only did they have a fabulous time, RGS supported Mazak's award nomination at the Inaugural Industrial Cadets Ceremony in March. Amazingly, RGS had two groups of pupils attending – one was the group of girls, and in addition we also had the group of boys who had become National Winners of the 4x4 Challenge run by Jaguar Land Rover.

In February, The Engineering Development Trust came to RGS to hold a Renewable Energy Workshop with Year Seven, which fired their imaginations.

Trips this year have included the Malvern Innovators, Next Generation (Year Eight), Qinetiq Insight day, (Year Nine) and Worcestershire Skills Show (Year Ten).

Another resounding success was the Careers EXPO held in March. Once again, we had over one hundred delegates representing careers ranging from Healthcare and Engineering, to the Creative Arts, Finance, Law and Entrepreneur sectors guiding and inspiring the next generation. We welcomed back many former pupils and delegates from last year and it was wonderful to see them inspire another wave of keen pupils. However, this year also saw new faces to the EXPO with pupils queueing up to have 'selfies' with the Aston Martin and the innovative F-PACE from Jaguar Land Rover cars parked at the entrance to the EXPO. With interactive stands from Medical Mavericks and CH2M, to the diamond grading from Anja Potze there was something for everyone. The importance of Higher Education and Degree Apprenticeships was showcased within Cobham Hall, and pupils were able to have a Drop-in Careers Advice session with the Morrisby organisation and be inspired by the GlobalBridge platform that our pupils have access to in the Sixth Form.

March also saw the Study Abroad Midlands Tour return to RGS with over twenty universities ranging from America to the Netherlands. Pupils' eyes were opened up to the wealth of opportunity that is waiting for them beyond RGS.

Monthly careers seminars are a firm fixture in the RGS calendar now and we have had SquareEye TV, Army Careers, The Famous Company all attending this year, amongst others. We continue to run a working lunch atmosphere and these events are always popular with pupils from Year Seven through to Upper Sixth.

The month of June saw the whole of Year Ten sit a Careers Profiling assessment, which has been kindly donated by the AOOEs. This will enable the pupils to make an informed decision about their A Level choices and help them see a clearer pathway for their future.

This is just a snapshot of what the emerging Careers department has been up to during 2016-17. Every year confirms what we have always believed, that the future is bright for our RGS pupils and that there is a wealth of opportunities waiting for them.





# DEBATING

It has been another fantastic year for RGS debaters. We started with some great results at Birmingham in November where Tom Peake and Hannah Keene began the season as they were to continue it: near the top of the table, coming eighth out of over 50 teams.

In the Michaelmas Term, Tom and Lydia Edwards made it through two difficult rounds of the English Speaking Mace competition to progress to the Regional Final at RGS itself. Here, they had to propose the fiendishly difficult motion: 'This house would replace the current welfare system with a negative income tax'. Unfortunately, in spite of some great debating, they were not able to beat Wycliffe College to a place in the National Finals in London.

This was just the beginning, however. Throughout January, the Upper Sixth competition debaters were all in action at the regional rounds of the Oxford and Cambridge Union competitions. Tom and Hannah triumphed again, reaching Oxford Finals Day, one of only eight teams from 54 from across the whole Midlands area. At Finals Day in March, with 100 teams present including teams from Eton, Winchester, Canada, Holland and Hungary, Tom and Hannah came 14th equal, a fabulous result.

Meanwhile, the younger debaters were now setting out on the national stage. In Year Eleven, Alexander Edwards, Tom Berry and Josh Warner made it as far as the Regional Final in the English Speaking Union Public Speaking competition. Furthermore, the Year Nine pair of Zain Baig and Max Houchin qualified for the National Finals of the International Competition for Young Debaters at Cambridge University, one of only 32 teams from the UK.

At Nottingham Schools, the Lower Sixth took centre stage when Holly Chance and Heloise Messervy-Whiting qualified for the Novice Final. Although they could not quite make the win on this occasion, they went one better at Cardiff Schools, winning that Novice Final. Felix Haynes and Amber Warner-Warr, competing as Year Eleven pupils amongst Sixth Form students, were joined by the RGS pair of Ruby Potts and Ellie Carey in the Open Final. Given only 15 minutes to prepare, the motion was a real challenge: 'This house believes that all US states should implement policies that forcibly re-distribute some randomly selected school children in order to combat racial segregation.' The debate that followed was excellent – and, as the results came out, it was clear that Amber and Felix had won, giving us a tremendous victory in the Cardiff University Schools competition.

Three hard-fought competitions for House debating resulted in victories for Wylde and Whiteladies and the Debating season ended with the annual, black tie Debating Dinner in May, when former RGS Deputy Head, Mr Philip Lee, was the Guest of Honour and spoke eloquently to the pupils. We thank all of the debaters and particularly our Chairman, Tom Peake, and all the Upper Sixth for their superb contributions this year and look forward with confidence to the new season.



# ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

## LOOKING OVER THE PARAPET: BILLINGHAM SOCIETY

The Billingham Society has had another exciting year with some fascinating events, attended by pupils from Year Seven to Year Ten. The Michaelmas Term opened with a welcome to the new Year Seven members and the Billingham Society Tea. Here, over 50 students enjoyed a range of problem-solving and quiz activities against which to test their academic mettle.

Next up, Year Seven and Year Eight used microscopes and iPads to search for microbeasts, under the aegis of Mr Sykes, while the autumn and winter months were enlivened by topics such as 'Introducing Mr Dickens', 'Rage against Ugliness: William Morris' and an exploration into development in 'smart' clothing and techno-textiles. Debate was kept alive as students attended sessions that explored the divide between science and religion or considered issues of gender in film. Billingham Society members were also given a taste of possible new A Level subjects through Mr Evetts's Valentines Day meeting on 'Lovenomics: can the head rule the heart?' and Mrs Kent's 'After Thatcher: Major Party Leaders'.

With events on average every couple of weeks, there really was something for everyone. However, for those who attended, Mrs Smee's rat dissection was a real highlight – although Miss Waller was rather less keen! The year ended as we had begun with a large get-together and students enjoying 'Harry Potter and the Superb Quiz'. It has been a fun, educational and varied year for the Society with around 100 students attending events: we look forward to seeing what 2017 will bring!

## DEVELOPING A HINTERLAND: SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT

Students in the Sixth Form this year have benefited from three lessons of Enrichment, two on a Wednesday and with the addition of a new fortnightly session on Friday afternoons.

The Wednesday Enrichment courses are mostly five weeks in length, led by specialist teachers and interspersed with a number of outside speakers such as Amnesty International. In 2016-17, students have had the opportunity to undertake courses in subjects as diverse as Italian Conversation, Understanding the Middle East, Personal Finance, Ancient Greece, and 'The Art of Zen Drawing and Reggae'. Over sixty members of the Lower Sixth took up the challenge of the Extended Project Qualification while a small number completed the Community Sports Leadership Award.

Friday afternoons saw the Lower Sixth embark on our bespoke 'Enterprise and Employability Course', run in conjunction with the University of Worcester. Students were given the opportunity to create their own business plan to pitch in a 'Dragons' Den' style situation. In the Lent Term, they focused on CVs, job applications and interview technique culminating in all students given the chance for a mock interview with local businesses.

The Upper Sixth, meanwhile, were working with the local community: at the Old North Stables community garden, or creating an event for primary school students, fundraising or writing an assembly for Year Nine. Most spectacularly, one group put together 'Watt Fest', part of the Earth Hour celebrations for Worcester Roots, an eco-friendly youth charity, organising food, musicians, stalls and decorations at the Angel Place in Worcester: a superb event attended by the Mayor of Worcester.





# HOUSE REPORTS

In the previous year, Whiteladies had shocked the School by their huge winning margin in the House Championship. The other Houses were determined to stop this happening again.

The year began, as it would continue, with a fierce but friendly rivalry. Every House was fighting for every point. After the first seven competitions Wylde and Ottley were joint first, well ahead of Elgar and Whiteladies. Immediately before the final event of the Michaelmas Term, Wylde, Ottley and Whiteladies were so equally matched that anyone could have been in the lead by Christmas. Wylde's success in the Rugby tournaments just edged them ahead.

In January, 45 new Year Seven entrants put on a great show in the Tug-of-War. In what was effectively a final between Wylde and Whiteladies, the latter won after 59 seconds of the allocated 60 seconds. All the signs suggested that this year group would be a great asset to the House system.

A new format for House Rowing in Cobham Hall meant that much bigger crowds were able to attend and cheer on the competitors. Teams quickly discovered the optimum tactic for the relay changeovers. Having finished a leg, the exhausted rower was dragged off the ergo and thrown into the nearest available space before the next rower jumped in. Wylde won both the Junior and Intermediate rowing before Eld put on a great display of power to win the Senior Rowing.

The House Debating competitions were enthusiastically supported. While good preparation won Whiteladies both the Junior and Intermediate competitions, the incredible talents of the Wylde debaters proved unbeatable in the Senior competition.

The last week of the Lent Term featured all the Football and Netball competitions. All Houses were highly motivated to win making competitions impossible to predict. Each of the four Houses managed to win at least one of the five Football competitions as well as at least one of the five Netball competitions.

The five House Cricket competitions provided good weather, excellent umpiring by senior pupils and plenty of excitement. Wins were shared between Ottley, Whiteladies and Elgar.

Each of the Rounders competitions was played with a cheerful and competitive spirit. Each of the four houses won one of the Year group competitions.

The final House events of the year occurred on Sports Day. After totalling the scores for the first 59 House competitions of the 60 scheduled for the year, only the Senior Girls Athletics was still to be added. There was only half a point difference between Wylde and Whiteladies. Whoever finished higher in this final competition would become champions.

The final championship table was as follows:

1st	168	Wylde
2nd	164	Whiteladies
3rd	139	Elgar
4th	136	Ottley



## ELGAR HOUSE

Over the last couple of years, Whiteladies and Wylde have proved to be very dominant in the House system, their fierce rivalry becoming legendary. However, the fiercest rivalry in the House competition is not at the top of the table but at the bottom, where Ottley and Elgar battle it out, not only for the coveted third spot on the podium, but also in an attempt to avoid the disappointment of the wooden spoon. With this in mind, stirring speeches were given by both Elgar House Captains and the House Leader (myself) in the initial assemblies of term.

It would appear these speeches initially did their job as the Senior Boys, in the first competition of the year, came second in Badminton; a competition where we had come last the previous year, and one which we had specifically targeted this year for improvement. The result was very pleasing and was backed up strongly by our Year Eight boys who came second in their Rugby tournament along with our Junior Badminton players who also finished in second place. Sadly, despite these excellent performances, consistency proved elusive. Chess and Drama, in particular, did not go well and, as a result, by the end of October, Ottley had gained a one point lead on us while Wylde and Whiteladies had already begun to stamp their authority on the competition.

November started brightly and saw our first win of the year; our Year Nine girls putting in an excellent shift in the Hockey competition, where they dominated from the start. The Year Eight girls who are highly competitive and a real force to contend with, whatever sport they are playing, also did well in Hockey and finished second. November saw the result of the Christmas card competition announced but this was somewhat contentious: Rhiannon Davies produced probably the best Christmas card that has been seen since the competition began at RGS but failed to come first! How could this be? Well it was down to a technicality. As the card was 3D in nature, it could not be reproduced but earned a second place. With no other victories for the term, Elgar ended the term in a disappointing last place but more worryingly, a seven point gap had opened up between Elgar and Ottley, the House in third place.

The Lent Term saw the spectacular House Dance competition and thanks must go to Mrs Kent who helped with the choreography. With the standard rising every year this is becoming one of the most difficult competitions to win and, despite the inclusion of lifts, falls, flips and high risk aerobics performed by the pupils including Polly Ghandi, Ed Griffiths and Alex Wheeler, Elgar had to settle for a joint third place with Wylde. Other notable performances of the Lent Term included Year Seven Football, and the Senior Netball in which our teams both won their tournaments. Unfortunately, however, there were too many third and fourth places to make any inroads into the Ottley lead and, by the end of the term, we were now a very concerning thirteen points adrift from the other Houses.

The summer sports have always been a strength for Elgar and they needed to be given the points deficit that had opened up! Fortunately, we lived up to our reputation. Solid wins again by the Senior and Year Seven girls in Rounders, as well as the Shooting team, the Year Seven boys in Cricket and the Year Eight Tennis team meant we started well, and for the first time we began to close the gap on Ottley. Always favourites to win the Golf competition, having won it every year so far, this year it looked less likely as both Emily Furniss and Tom Beardmore had to withdraw at the last minute. Fortunately, Ed Griffiths stepped up to the plate at the 11th hour and partnered the highly talented Brandon Sarfo. With Ed having the round of his life, combined with Brandon's consistency, the four points were taken with ease. These wins, and some good second places in other tournaments, meant the gap closed significantly and, for the first time, Ottley looked conquerable. Sports Day was going to be the clincher. While still behind, Elgar had closed the gap significantly. Still some six points off the lead we knew we had some serious athletes to unleash. With a maximum 40 points on offer on the day and a minimum of 10 points, the House mathematicians went to work. A simple question, "Would it be possible, having been behind and in last place for the entire year, to still finish in third place?" Well quite simply the answer was yes!

Exemplifying team work and the Elgar House spirit were the performances of the Year Nine Boys, the Senior Boys, Year Seven Boys, Year Eight Girls and Year Nine Girls in their relay events alongside the impressive stamina of Upper Sixth pupil Lewis Sternkopf, who returned to compete for the final time and won the 800m and 1500m with little recovery time between each event. It really was a great House effort and every event was filled even if the competitors knew they would only take 8th place. It was the accumulation of these points that proved vital in securing our win over Ottley and demonstrated the Elgar determination never to give up. As a result of this incredible effort, Elgar walked away with twelve more House points than Ottley and, again, were delighted to avoid the wooden spoon and finish on the podium in 2017!





## WHITELADIES HOUSE REPORT

The very first House event of the year was Badminton, and this event saw Whiteladies turn out in full force, with a large number of participants and enthusiastic support from the side-lines. This set the tone for an exciting and dramatic year, full of great performances. There was success in Michaelmas Term for Whiteladies in the Drama competition, with an imaginative interpretation of the script and a well-organised cast. Momentum for the team in red gathered as the term progressed, culminating with hugely successful Hockey matches across the year groups. The Year Ten Hockey team, led by Sophie Thompson, were particularly impressive in their victory.

In the Lent Term, Year Seven pupils joined their Houses and the Whiteladies cohort immediately made an impact with an impressive win in a very noisy and exciting tug-of-war contest. The girls then backed this up with a strong win in Netball. Debating was a real strength for Whiteladies, taking overall victory in two age groups and with 'Best Speaker' wins for Alex Owen, Jenny Freeman, Zain Baig, Ben Reynolds and Amber Warner-Warr. Another highlight of the term was the Dance competition, where Whiteladies did themselves proud in both the Senior and Junior events. Tabby Bradley choreographed a wonderfully energetic and exciting routine for the Seniors, while the Juniors, led by India Southwick, showed incredible dedication and attention to detail; making full use of props, the Whiteladies mascot and even designing their own t-shirts! Events such as these led to Whiteladies winning the Lent Term cup and drawing within half a point of the lead.

With everything to play for, the Trinity Term was always going to be exciting. The Year Nine boys added to their impressive wins in Football and Rugby with a victory in Cricket. Boys and girls in Year Eight gained valuable points, winning at both Cricket and Rounders. A big team effort was made on Sports Day to reclaim the overall victory, but in the end Whiteladies had to settle for second by the closest of margins. Next year we will be full of determination to go one better!



## OTTLEY HOUSE REPORT

On the back of last year's fall at the final hurdle of Sports Day, we were keen to come back stronger and more determined. The year started well, jockeying with Wylde, sharing first and second. Early victories were picked up in Junior Badminton and Senior Chess. Then November came. I have always compared Ottley with Liverpool FC, and November to January saw this comparison continue. As Liverpool struggled to pick up points, so did we. We had to wait until Valentine's Day to pick up our next win, when the Seniors impressed us all with their awesome performance in the House Dance with their David Bowie medley; from tutus to line outs, it had it all!

From there, we had an impressive run of second places, gaining good ground. Our Year Ten pupils did us proud with wins in Football, Netball, Rounders and Cricket, as did our Seniors with Cricket.

Unfortunately, the Trinity Term was unkind to us. We only managed to pick up one other win, and that was in Year Seven Tennis. Elgar meanwhile were closing in fast, and, with two no-shows for Golf and Shooting, we lost valuable breathing space.

Then came Sports Day, which, as always, was a true spectacle. There were some outstanding contributions with wins from Alex Cook, Elyssia Letori, Alex Houchin and George Stephenson in Year Seven, as well as Jaden Fradd, Lucy Ball and Freddie Griffiths in Year Eight. In Year Nine we had a Hurdles 1-2, with Tim Haggitt and Max Houchin respectively, whilst Year Ten saw Abigail Watkins and Lizzie Round take Gold, as well as Rees Bonham, Sam Chamberlain and James Aikman leading from the front. James Aikman won the 200m and the Long Jump, as well as running the final straight for the Relay victory. For the Seniors, the girls, who struggled for numbers, should be commended with Ellie Carey winning the 800m and Holly Chance taking first in the 1500m and the Javelin. For me though, Sports Day is about so much more than winning. Seeing an Otter run alongside a friend in Elgar, Wylde or Whiteladies who is struggling, is what truly embodies this House System. Yes, we are often measured by our victories, but these are nothing without our humanity, and indeed our humility.

We take pride that we stand together in Ottley giving our all, keeping our heads held high. I am proud that, as we compete, we still appreciate the efforts and talents of those around us. Congratulations to the other Houses on a well fought race and maybe next year we can build on our strong start to the year, and take it into the next two terms.

A huge thank you must go out to our House Leadership team which was steered with confidence by Rob Aikman and Ploumy Coutsouri. Good luck for the future. We also welcome this year's Captains of Ruby Potts and Louis Dear who, I am confident, will take up the challenge and help to build Ottley for the future!





## WYLDE HOUSE REPORT

Led by Georgia Peters and James Kimberely the House of Wylde are back on track – we have been absolutely brilliant in many events such as the Junior Dance, Rowing and General Knowledge where we won both age categories. I must say though, the leadership displayed not only by the House Captains but also by a very strong Upper Sixth contingent, has been tremendous. At no time during a difficult year was there any question of doubt that we would eventually prevail over the other Houses.

In the Michaelmas Term, we started very strongly with wins in Badminton, Year Eight Rugby and Chess. Statistically speaking, we were confident of 'giving' the opposition an eight point lead at Christmas and then catching up from behind in the next two terms. However, this was not the case and by Christmas we had a narrow 2.5 point lead over Ottley as we finished with a win in the Senior Rugby.

The Lent Term was an attritional term. We started with a real bang as two out of the three Rowing trophies came our way. This was backed up with wins in Year Eight Netball and Football as well as Senior Debating, for which we have Tom Peake and his team to thank. As a consequence, meant that by the end of the Lent Term, our noses were just ahead.

The gap at the start of the Trinity Term was half a point and we knew it was going to be even tougher now, as history tells us that the House that is leading into the Trinity Term always prevails. We were going to have to come out of the blocks firing on all cylinders if we were to win the House Championship this year. We started with Cricket, not one of our strong events, but made it through to four finals, which was then followed up by a solid performance in the second Rounders and a better set of Tennis results. Winning the Year Nine and Year Ten Tennis with Sam Billingham and Jemma Moseley gave us the confidence we needed to go into Sports Day with a lead of two and a half points – that also came with the help of a win in the Junior Maths. It looked as though we were going to leave the big push to the end and trust that we would come up with the goods in the Athletics. And so it happened. We came good in winning the Year Eight Boys, Year Ten Girls and Senior Girls' Athletics.

Fortunately, it was enough and we have retaken the House trophy which was in the temporary hands of Whiteladies – it was a well deserved team effort by the whole House.

I finish by thanking everyone who has contributed to the determination and the will to succeed this year. The 'Spirit, Commitment and Loyalty' as well as the 'Strength and Honour' shown has been tremendous.



# COMBINED CADET FORCE

## ROYAL NAVY

This was a very encouraging year for the cadets of the Royal Navy Section. With the recruitment of Lt Cdr Leaver and under the leadership of C'ns Thurgood and Dottore we achieved all of our targets. We had more night exercises this year than in the recent past. We visited Portsmouth twice for Field Days, with a visit to Airsoft being a highlight for the cadets. We also returned to Liverpool for a very successful venture, exploring the RN history of the city, as well as supporting the Armed Forces weekend. The Section was also quick on the draw to get a visit to Avonmouth Docks to see around HMS Somerset.

The success of the year comes down to the enthusiasm of the cadets, without which there would be no point organising such events. The Cadre of Lower Sixth students also set the tone and character of the Section and did so superbly, managing the increased levels of responsibility extremely well.

A particular highlight of the year was the three days adventurous training during Activities Days, where the cadets practised all manner of skills to do with the outdoors water life. Whether it was coasteering, sea kayaking or surfing the activities were all done very professionally and with great smiles on their faces. The fishing trip was also a highlight for those who caught a fish but not so for those that did not! The Section also went to HMS Excellent on two occasions during the year and responded well to the challenges of sleeping on board HMS Bristol and then claiming successes on board HMS Havoc. The DRIU proved to be a very popular event for the cadets where they went through the RN Fire School paces, as well having a go on the Damage Repair Instructional Unit – tilting at 5°! Commander Shorrocks was very impressed with the cadets around the historic dockyard and especially their marching. This was noticed by Major Green, who came over specifically to comment. Major Green is the CCF RN No.2 – there is only one higher!

It was pleasing to see further commitment and loyalty to the section as the vast majority of the O.D's completed and passed the A.B. exam. The new Year Nine pupils also laid down a positive marker for attitude and enthusiasm with their participation during Activity Days. The great enthusiasm of the Year Nine pupils has furthered the rejuvenation of the Section.

## ARMY

In addition to weekly training there were four main aspects to the year for the Army Section: the September Field Weekend and March Field Training Exercises, Biennial Inspection and Summer Camp.

The September Field Weekend saw the Section travel to Nesscliffe to build upon the skills learnt from Summer Camp. Cadets experienced a rota of range work with the Light Support Weapon, Section attack rehearsals prior to an actual attack, and dismounted close combat training. Cadets also executed a successful night time ambush.

March saw the Section travel to the Isle of Man for adventurous training. Although travel to and from the site was lengthy, the activities available were impressive. Within hours of reaching the centre on Friday morning, cadets were either in canoes or coasteering, which was followed by abseiling down a 200ft sea cliff face! Thrown into the mix was an agility course, archery, air rifle shooting and team building. The weekend was full-on and thoroughly enjoyable.





The main event of the year was Summer Camp. The Section travelled to Penally in Pembrokeshire in the final week of the Trinity Term. There were many cadet training opportunities in addition to team building and leadership tasks: from watersports and raft building, to rock climbing and abseiling; from archery and clay pigeon shooting to a 24 hour exercise and finally to a Range Day, where the cadets excelled themselves and many achieved awards for their efforts. Below is a summary by Sergeants Ralph, Harris and Nelson about the exercise.

“On arrival at the deployment zone, the Section was split into two, so that the Year Nine (Basic) cadets could be trained in Camp-craft and Patrolling, whilst the Senior (Advanced) Cadets prepared for a night time ambush. Each group patrolled to their harbour area, set up their shelters, squared away kit and had a much-needed lunch before further operations commenced for the Seniors and training commenced for the Basics.

The Advanced Cadets left to survey and report on enemy movements for the remainder of the afternoon whilst the Basic Cadets received training necessary on how to perform reconnaissance on enemy patrols. Once all sections had reported back, it was time for dinner and to prepare for the night ambush. After preparation had concluded (recce, briefing and rehearsals), the Advanced Cadets left to take up their positions. Late into the night the ambush was sprung with a constant volley of blank rifle fire as the enemy, the unsuspecting Year Nine cadets, passed into the ambush site. The ambush was a huge success and all cadets had an exhilarating experience. Once back at camp, safe and secure, all experienced a well-earned rest, despite several snoring cadets, before the following day's exercises and challenges.

After an early rise, training was over for both groups: it was time for a Platoon Attack for the Advanced and Section Attacks for the basics. After a morning of firing blank ammunition and successfully assaulting enemy positions, all cadets were exhausted and thankful when they reached the coach that took them back to camp for some well-earned rest and recuperation.”

## RAF

It was an extremely busy year for the RAF section with Flying days, Field Days, Biennial Inspection and our first RAF camp. All cadets continued with their flying lessons at RAF Cosford in spite of the notorious English weather. This allowed young cadets to learn how to fly in the Grob Tutor. This aircraft has great visibility and is agile enough to allow it to perform full aerobatics, which all cadets enjoy! In the Trinity Term, Year Nine pupils joined the lessons too.

Both Field Days, in September and March permitted our cadets to receive an insight into life at a very busy base. In September, at RAF Brize Norton our cadets were able to get hands on in many of the activities organised for us. March saw us receive additional support from Sergeant Taylor from RAF Cosford, who put our cadets through their paces in our visit to the base and instructed them on a whole range of weaponry, which he brought from different museums as a real treat. We passed the Biennial Inspection with flying colours, the whole Section was present and ready to shine, well-dressed and well-turned out.

The ‘cherry on the cake’ came with the Summer Camp in Inskip. I was delighted how fantastically our cadets got involved and as a result they achieved a huge amount in just six days. They did their best at all times. Corporal Dixon won the Best Cadet on Camp as well as the Best Shot. Corporal Dixon, Lance Corporal Edwards and Cadet Simon (Year Nine) as part of Flight 1, won both the Drill and the Best Flight. Cadets also achieved the pass mark on cadet rifle at Weeton Barracks 25m Range and have been awarded the Trained Shot Badge.

After a wonderful year, we look forward to the autumn, when we will take on the Cadet Area Squadron Trophy Competition.



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is, as most readers will be aware, a well-established, well respected personal development programme offered in many schools, colleges, activity centres, Scout groups and youth centres, both in the UK and far beyond. We have offered the Award here at RGS almost since its inception in 1956, and it continues to be very popular.

The principle behind the Award is very simple. It aims to offer recognition to young people for their efforts in developing new skills, trying new sporting activities, engaging in an expedition and doing some volunteering for a 'not for profit' organisation.

When RGS pupils ask, "Why should I do it?", there are a whole host of reasons we can cite, including; to discover new skills, interests and talents; to meet new people and make new friends; to take part in an amazing experience and finally to gain an incredible sense of achievement (especially when you complete your expedition).

The expedition section is the one that gets all the headlines and during the academic year 2016-17 expeditions took place on land, sea and river, both within the UK and also abroad. The Bronze participants 'enjoyed' a beautiful weekend walking in the Light Peaks, their expedition centred around Hartinton, post training around both the Malvern Hills and in mid Wales. The Silver Expedition, again on foot, was also in the Peak District, in slightly more remote and demanding environments post training in mid Wales.

In the Gold section Canoe groups undertook expeditions down the Spey, post training on the Tay last summer. The Sea Kayakers organised for themselves a trip around the Konati National Park in Croatia, post some training off Skye last summer and also around Anglesey this year.

All participants were successful in their ventures, and on their behalf, I thank the dedicated and talented staff who trained, advised and supervised them on their expeditions. Planning and packing everything required for two, three, four or, in the case of Sea Kayakers, six days of travel is no mean feat. The participants quickly realise how important it is to ensure they take what they need and no more. Having to carry everything is a huge incentive to pack light!

I congratulate all participants this year on their achievements, and I very much look forward to learning where our participants will ask me to take them next year.





# STAFF JOINERS



## LUKE JACKSON

Luke joined RGS from Swanshurst School, in Birmingham where he held the position as Second in the Languages Department. A graduate of St Andrew's (although not quite at the same time as certain Royal Alumni!) where he read Spanish, including a year spent in Madrid, Luke has a passion for languages and in addition to Spanish also teaches French to A Level. Quite the academic, Luke holds an MA in Educational Leadership from the University of Warwick and he is keen to use his research-based interests to further develop MFL teaching at RGS. Away from teaching and work, Luke has a keen interest in running, cycling and swimming and recently combined the three disciplines to undertake his first triathlon this year.



## SALLY WALTON

Sally Walton joined RGS from Solihull School at the beginning of the 2016-17 academic year, having previously been an international Hockey player. She amassed 165 caps for England and Great Britain during her career, culminating in a Bronze Medal at the London Olympics in 2012. Miss Walton has helped provide up to date hockey training methods within games sessions, alongside a knowledge for the game that has extended the learning of our pupils. Miss Walton has also contributed significantly to the Athlete Development Programme. This programme has helped provide our most talented athletes with greater specialist support, thus allowing them to reach their full potential. There is no doubt that having Miss Walton as part of the coaching set up at RGS has given the girls a role model that they can aspire to and we look forward to her continued contributions.



## GWYILIM BATCHELDER

Gwylim joined RGS from Ardingly where he had been Head of the DT Department and a Boarding Housemaster over the previous seven years. A graduate of Loughborough University where he achieved an MEng in Civil Engineering, Gwylim has a passion for both the old and new in DT. This year he has already revamped the Greenpower car to great effect. Gwylim has a long held interest for woodwork and in particular for creating simple furniture in the Shaker style. In addition, he has carved many ornate pieces of furniture including a Rocking Horse and has even been known to turn his hand to wood turning!

Away from his love of all things wooden, Gwylim is a consummate Triathlete having taken part in many Sprint, Olympic and half Iron-Man competitions. Of note he recently finished 51st out of over 4700 competitors in the Blenheim Triathlon and completed the Chantilly half Iron Man in 2015.



## LAURA WEBB

In September 2016 Laura Webb joined the English Department. Born in Malvern, Laura completed a degree in English Literature at the University of Sheffield. During the course of this she developed an interest in Restoration Literature, particularly the work of the poet, the Earl of Rochester, and Aphra Behn, one of the first women to earn her living by writing. Subsequently, Laura completed her teaching qualification at the University of Worcester. In the three years prior to joining RGS she taught at Pershore High School. Laura is a keen reader and theatre-goer, and wants to make a contribution to extra curricular activities that are related to her subject interests.



## CHARLOTTE DANIELL

In September 2016 Charlotte Daniell joined the Physics department from Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College, where she had taught for two years, having previously taught for 13 years at the High School for Girls in Gloucester, where she also taught Mrs John, our former Head of Physics. Having attended Alice Ottley School from 1988-93, it was a homecoming for Charlotte and she quickly acclimatised to life in the department. Along with the other fifteen new members of teaching staff she embraced the Digital Learning Programme and was soon designing Quizlets and Socratives to stretch and challenge her pupils. Her calm persona and patient encouraging approach is admirable and a welcome addition to the Common Room.

Charlotte has proved very popular with the students, teaching across the Key Stages, and from the outset she has fully immersed herself into life at RGS. Drawing on her civil engineering background, she led a team of six students to take part in the Engineering Education Scheme in partnership with Worcester Bosch. I am delighted to report that under Charlotte's keen eye they have managed to secure a place in the Competition Final to be held at the Big Bang Fair at the NEC Birmingham in March 2018.



### JULIE GIDON

Miss Julie Gidon joined the French Department and MFL Faculty in September, after the retirement of Mike Vetch in July 2016. Miss Gidon completed her PGCE at the University of Worcester during the previous year and worked at Christopher Whitehead School during one of her placements. Prior to this, Miss Gidon worked as a French Language Assistant at Oakholme School in Rutland for two years. In addition to her Language Assistant role, Miss Gidon also supported several native speakers of French with their GCSE qualification. During her time at Oakholme School, Miss Gidon became involved in DofE activities and led Gold expeditions to Scotland during her second year. Currently, Miss Gidon is training towards a Mountain Leader qualification.

Miss Gidon has had a very successful first year here at RGS. She has fully engaged with co-curricular life and has supported with Year Eight Games. She is an active member of the DLP community and regularly contributes innovative new ideas during departmental meetings. I have every confidence that Miss Gidon will go from strength to strength during her career here at RGS.



### LUCY VINCENT

Lucy Vincent, who has joined the English Department as a part-time teacher of the subject, was educated at St Mary's Convent, Worcester. As a pupil she regularly played Netball and Hockey against the Alice Ottley School, and was, she remembers, invariably on the winning team! After school she studied English Language and Literature at Westminster University in London, gaining a first class honours degree. She has a particular interest in Dystopian and Gothic Fiction and after a PGCE at King's College London, she taught at Wilson's School in Surrey. Since arriving at RGS she has enjoyed discovering that several of her colleagues were also her former teachers.

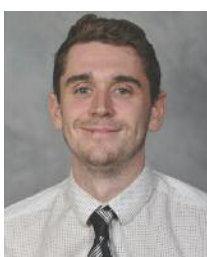


### LIZ KIMBERLEE

Liz Kimberlee joined RGS officially in September 2016, as specialist individual tutor, although she had been working in the Learning Development Department on a voluntary basis since January 2016, to gain greater experience of teaching pupils with dyslexia and literacy difficulties whilst undertaking further qualifications to advance her career in the SEN field.

Liz previously taught at Malvern Girls College, holding the position of 'Head of PSHE' and specialising in Physical Education. Her experience in the development, marketing and running of a Residential Language School, focusing on EAL (multi-national) and catering for pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4, has proved most beneficial in helping our Chinese students. Whilst working at Regency High School and Aspire Academy, supporting pupils across Key Stages 3-5 with moderate learning needs (dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, SEBD and ADHD) in GCSE/Functional Skills - English and Maths, she has acquired great knowledge, experience and the compassion required when helping children who struggle academically and socially.

Liz's enthusiasm and engaging approach has proved a great success with LD pupils and their attendance and progress has been notable.



### THOM RUSSELL

Belfast born and raised, Dr Thom Russell completed his undergraduate degree in Classics there at Queen's University. For his DPhil, he became one of the first men to pass through St Hilda's, Oxford, completing his thesis on the socio-political history of Byzantium and the Bosphorus. With his familiarity with the Oxford admissions process from both sides of the table and a wealth of experience of Sixth Form Classics teaching gained at King Edward VI, Stourbridge, Thom is an excellent acquisition for RGS. From September 2017, Thom is also taking on the role of Head of Enrichment as well as oversight of the School's Oxbridge Applications process; if he has any spare time, he looks forward to contributing to the School's Hockey coaching ...and spending time with his wife and their young daughter, Amelia.



### KIRSTY ASHFORD

The Biology Department welcomed Kirsty Ashford, Teacher of Biology and Year Nine form tutor, to its staff this year. Kirsty previously taught at Heckmondwike Grammar School and is a very keen birdwatcher and traveller. She has brought a great deal of enthusiasm and energy to the department, and has been delivering relaxation techniques, and mindfulness sessions to students and staff alike as her extracurricular specialism.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK ZOE ELDER, JASMIN FERGUSON AND REBECCA LEAVER WHO CAME TO TEACH DURING THE YEAR



# STAFF LEAVERS



## ANTHONY CLEMIT

Anthony came to RGS as Head of English at the start of 2011. He brought with him a wealth of invaluable experience and his meticulous attention to detail, high levels of organisational skill and unerring ability to make exactly the right decision in every circumstance, soon had the English Department working more efficiently than ever before. As Head of Department, Anthony worked tirelessly to ensure that every possible detail required for the efficient running of the department had been considered; this has made working for him a great pleasure and we have all benefitted from his care, attention and outstanding professionalism.

He was the most generous of colleagues, always willing to give his time to talk to members of the department and to offer advice. He shouldered a great deal in order that his colleagues could concentrate as much as possible upon teaching. Anthony steered the Department through a great many curriculum changes, all of which he handled with consummate skill and quite staggering levels of careful planning and preparation. Under Anthony's stewardship, the move to IGCSE soon saw very pleasing levels of improved examination performance and Literature grades in particular stood out. With the arrival of the reformed GCSEs and A Levels in 2015, Anthony once again embarked upon the colossal task of introducing three new syllabuses: it is a sign of his judgement, experience and assured leadership that so much change has been negotiated so successfully.

Anthony wore his considerable scholarship and erudition with great modesty. His knowledge of and love for English gave him incredible capacity to engage and enthuse pupils, whether they were aspiring Oxbridge candidates or those looking to build and develop their confidence in the subject. Always a passionate advocate for the civilizing benefits of reading and good books, one sensed, above all, that what Anthony taught mattered to him a great deal. Hearing him speak of the authors he loved most deeply (Dickens, the Brontës) was a great joy. Those many colleagues, privileged enough to observe his lessons would leave in awe of his knowledge and outstanding teaching; they were also always struck by the kind, considerate and thoughtful way in which he treated each and every one of his students. Indeed, he believed that teaching was a craft and, as such, it was something that needed continual refining and refreshing, understanding that an effective teacher must remain a passionate learner. Not only did this philosophy ensure he was always attuned to the subtleties of changing subject matter and the needs of his students, it also meant that colleagues would prosper under his example, and his sensitive guidance.

More recently, as Chairman of the Common Room, Anthony has been a skilful and diplomatic advocate of, and voice for, the views of the teaching staff. His wisdom, knowledge and experience will be greatly missed. We have lost, in one go, an outstanding Head of Department, a wonderful teacher, as well as a sage and wise counsellor – a much needed voice reminding us all of the role played by culture, reading and language within a successful and confident School. We wish him all the very best for his retirement.



## DEE WORMAN

Dee joined the RGS staff in January 2001 as the lone Learning Support teacher. Just prior to the merger with The Alice Ottley School, Dee was asked to set up a brand new Learning Development Department. Dee had just completed an Open University Action Research project, investigating how well RGS managed learning difficulties. Philip Lee, the Deputy Head at the time, and now a Governor, was instrumental in assisting her to establish a team of specialists who could work across the three schools, who would not only be able to develop the potential of pupils, but also advise colleagues on the most effective ways of helping pupils. Dee has been through three inspections during her time at RGS and each one has been successful and helped move the department forward. Prior to the introduction of the new Code of Practice, she undertook further training for the National Senco Award, finishing the course in 2010 to become the Schools' Senco.

Dee will be greatly missed by pupils and staff alike in all three schools, but we look forward to seeing her around the Learning Development department from time to time as she continues to carry out pupil assessments, as and when required. When she is not busy looking after her grandchildren Dee hopes to complete writing her novels; she currently has six unfinished ones to work on. In addition, she has recently bought a motorhome and is looking forward to relaxing in the countryside with her family.



### SARAH CULL

Sarah was appointed to the Physics Department six years ago following a chance encounter at an Easter Bonnet parade and a memorable interview lesson using penguins and cricket balls to show that Physics really can be fun. Six years on and nothing has changed. Sarah's lessons are still great fun, exciting, relevant and innovative. She has embraced change and was a leading light of the digital learning revolution. She has taken great care in her pastoral duties with all her charges well looked after and, in any time left, helps with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (she is out on the hills with the Silver Expedition team as I write this). She has looked after Lower School Tennis, taken part in Ardèche Water Sports trips, Cheltenham Science Festivals and to CERN. She also ran Lower School Science and the Science Club. Her academic results were very good too and offer a true reflection of her talent and commitment!



### DIANA DREW

Diana Drew joined the Alice Ottley School from St Mary's in 2006. Always ahead of the times, she was soon called on to help out in the German Department at RGS and could therefore be said to have successfully merged jobs at both schools before the official merger in September 2007! Diana has always set high expectations for herself and pupils alike and has worked tirelessly to achieve good results and to maintain strong interest in German at RGS, against prevailing national trends. She has also promoted languages unstintingly outside the classroom. Not only has she accompanied the German Exchange to Worcester's twin town of Kleve on numerous occasions, but she also successfully took over the running of the French Exchange to Nantes from Mr Vetch this year. Elsewhere, she has run a highly successful Quiz Club, helped to set up the School's Christian Union and has involved herself in fundraising for the local Food Bank. She has communicated her love of languages to her three daughters, one of whom was recently involved in producing surtitles for a much-praised stage adaptation of the contemporary German novel "Auerhaus" at a Berlin theatre. After 11 years of positive participation in our department, we now wish her every success with her future career.



### ELIZABETH AMOS

Liz joined RGS in 2014 from St. Mary's Worcester where she worked for seventeen years, the last seven years as Head of Faculty. Liz's style was a direct and effective one. As a technique this made her an ideal Sixth Form tutor, a role she embraced. On the co-curricular side she has helped with the Lower school Science Club, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and she has taken pupils on trips to the Science Museum in Bristol and the Cheltenham Science Festival. She was also key member of one of our Science outreach projects, 'Eggstravaganza'.

Liz shares ideas and has a willingness to try new things. Her work as the AQA Practical Advisor has been an invaluable asset to the department and we have valued her perceptiveness in the assessment procedures. We shall miss her and so will many other people throughout the wide community of RGS.



### PIPPA CURTIS

Pippa Curtis began her affiliation with RGS as far back as when she married RGS former pupil and Director of Sport Tim Curtis. Pippa joined as coach in September 2005 and for the first few years helped out in Netball, Tennis, Athletics, Rounders and even Hockey.

Gradually, Pippa became more concentrated on Netball and Athletics. She ran a junior team in recent years and was available to umpire and assist with the Senior Second team. Pippa was a positive motivational factor in our Superball victories over the past two years. As the Year Seven and Year Eight Girls' Athletics coach, Pippa had tremendous success, guiding the team to success in the ESAA cups, getting them through to the Regional stage frequently. Without her tactical organisation of putting girls in appropriate events, the team would never have been as successful. In all, Pippa was a great asset to the School and will be sorely missed and difficult to replace, not only as a coach but also as a friend. She adored the pupils and they too adored her back and the smile on their faces when they knew Mrs Curtis was taking the session was always a delight to behold. So long Pips – now we are down to one... "The good, the bad and the ugly."



# PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AND CHARITIES

## CHARITIES

Our fundraising this year got off to an extremely good start with a record £374 being raised by a whole school cake sale for Macmillan Cancer Support's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' event. As ever, our Year Eights were outstanding with their 'Flourishing Fivers' initiative for St Richard's Hospice, raising £3,955. Year Sevens raised £2,416 for the NSPCC and the whole School raised just over £2,000 for Children in Need, closely followed by £1,839 for Comic Relief.

Many members of the RGS Community contributed to the overall total of £15,657.69, including the Rowers on the Portugal trip raising £666 for the Teenage Cancer Trust and our Sixth Formers raising £403 for their chosen charity, Mind. RGS also gave the Royal British Legion £545 from the sale of poppies in school in November and Wooden Spoon, the children's charity of Rugby, benefitted by £624 from fundraising at our annual Modus Challenge Cup at Sixways.

As usual, our fundraising is not just about money and Maggs Day Centre received a large quantity of food donations from the Lower School Harvest Festival, Worcester Foodbank were given 200kg of food donations from a whole School appeal and the Worcestershire Breast Unit Appeal was boosted by the donation of 45 bras!

Many, many thanks are due to everyone who has supported charity fundraising this year in such a wonderful way. We couldn't do it without you!

The very busy Parents' Association team had another very successful year and we would like to thank them for their continued hard work and commitment.

They held the first 'Oktoberfest' social evening on 29 September, which was well attended and a great success with a band, dancing, beer and German food. We hope that this will become a regular event.

The team also held a Christmas Card competition and bars at School productions, as well as the Creative Arts event and Film night. The Second Hand Uniform Shop also continues to be well supported.

Thank you to all staff and parents for all contribution and donations. The Parents' Association have paid for or contributed towards the costs of a lovely gazebo for use outdoors and at sporting events, the South Africa Netball/Hockey Tour, the Rowing Camp in Portugal, School prizes and a donation to the Charity 'A Place 2 Be'.

The Parents' Association team would welcome any new parents who may like to be involved in activities.



# FOUNDATION

## THE RGSW AND AOS FOUNDATION LAUNCH

Members from across the School Community gathered in Perrins Hall in May 2017 to mark the launch of The RGSW and AOS Foundation. Foundation Trustees, School Governors and AOOE Committee members were joined by members of the three RGS Worcester Schools, comprising pupils, parents from the three PTA bodies, and staff.

The Foundation is a long-term strategic investment by the Board of Governors to help secure the future of the RGS Worcester Schools. It is a registered charity and its sole purpose is to raise funds to further the education of pupils at the RGSW Schools.

Chairman, Andrew Greenway, acknowledged the superb support received from more than 300 parents, staff members and alumni in recent years. Their generosity since 2012 has secured more than £700,000 through donations, Gift Aid, legacy gifts and income earned by the Bursary Funds. He was also able to report that considerably more has been pledged in legacy gifts, and that since 2013, eight pupils have or are benefiting from additional bursary places with another joining in September 2017.

While emphasising that gifts of all scale have contributed collectively to this support for the pupils and the School, the Foundation Chairman paid thanks to former RGS Second Master, A R Wheeler (1950-87), for his substantial legacy gift that initiated the Bursary Fund bearing his name, and to Fasha Mahjoor (1967-72) whose vision and support enabled the Board to establish the Development Office in September 2012.

The launch evening was completed with a toast to the Foundation's future success and by the signing of a symbolic charter to mark this important moment in the School's history. A copy of the charter will be displayed in each of the three RGS Worcester Schools.

The Foundation's priority is the 20/20 Bursary Campaign to secure voluntary donations to extend bursary provision for children who are academically able but whose family finances would otherwise prohibit attending the School. It will also be seeking support for Capital projects that will enhance the educational facilities across the three Schools. The first of these is the development of the Performing Arts Centre (PAC) which will incorporate the existing Godfrey Brown Theatre as well as adding additional teaching and performance spaces.

The Foundation Office continues the work undertaken by the Development Office. In June a launch brochure was circulated to more than 7,000 alumni, parents and staff. Included was the leaflet for the PAC development. Anyone requiring further information can contact the Foundation Office at the School or on: [foundation@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:foundation@rgsw.org.uk)





# RGS WORCESTER



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