

RGS WORCESTER EXCEL

Autumn 2017

Academic Excellence at A Level and GCSE

***New Performing
Arts Centre
Development***



**RGS
WORCESTER**

#worcesterisgreen



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and Head Girl Ella McCoshan
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HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to introduce the latest edition of Excel magazine which presents some of the many highlights of what goes on at our three schools that make up the RGS Worcester family of schools.

We were very pleased to achieve excellent results at A Level and GCSE again this summer and celebrate the success of our pupils as they move on to join the leading universities, as well as impressive international companies, at the start of their careers after RGS.

Our exciting new building project is underway and the new Performing Arts Centre will provide our pupils with a superb facility that will support the Arts into the future.

RGS The Grange celebrated its 20th birthday this year and its mantra that 'great oaks from little acorns grow' was evident in the many events to mark this occasion. These celebrations are included in this edition.

The opportunities in co-curricular at RGS are quite simply breath-taking and continue to grow. Sport is presented here in articles about triple 'Superball' success and sports tours in 2017 to Portugal for Rowing, Sri Lanka for Cricket and South Africa for Netball and Hockey. We also enjoyed welcoming GB Olympic Gold Medallist Crista Cullen to the School. The Rounders team retained the title of National Champions last term. Debating also achieved national success and Drama and Music continue to push the boundaries with an open-air performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at Witley Court.

Pupils at RGS Springfield enjoyed their inaugural residential trip to France, while the choir won the Cheltenham Festival. Year Six composed a song to win a national competition which was then performed together by the pupils and the Birmingham Conservatoire.

Our three schools achieved recognition for our innovative Digital Learning Programme by being awarded 'Apple Distinguished School' status recently, an award which provides a group of schools that share best practice in teaching and learning and engagement with technology both in and outside the classroom. RGS remains the only school nationally to achieve this status across such a broad age-range.

The Careers department achieved deserved recognition when it won the Regional round and was then nominated for a national Chamber of Commerce Award for links between Business and Education. The RGS Worcester Careers EXPO is now the largest Careers fair in Worcestershire and attracts delegates from a very wide range of universities and occupations.

Finally, we enjoyed the launch of our new film at the beginning of this term and images from the film are included here in Excel. We celebrate happy and successful pupils enjoying all that goes on in their school in the film. Please do visit our website (www.rgsw.org.uk) to see the film and do come and visit us to see and hear about what makes an RGS education very special.



John Pitt, Headmaster

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

External Examination Results



RGS Worcester has once again achieved excellent results at both GCSE and A Level, making it one of the most academically successful Schools in the region. Alongside the many diverse co-curricular activities that pupils participate in, often at a very high level requiring great dedication and commitment, these results are particularly impressive.

At A Level, over 75% of all grades were A* to B and 95% were grades A* to C. These are the best results for several years. On the strength of their examination results students have gone on to leading Universities across the country, including Head Boy Ben Thomson and Head Girl Ella McCoshan (front cover picture) who both achieved three A*s at A Level, to study at Oxford University and Cambridge University respectively.

Interestingly, other high achievers at the School have chosen to pursue a more direct route into their careers and five students have taken up high level apprenticeships at world famous companies Deloitte, the BBC and Jaguar Land Rover.

John Pitt, Headmaster, said, "I am extremely proud of our 2017 leavers, who have now moved on to so many different and diverse careers – to Oxbridge and other leading Universities, as well as in to theatre, music, design and the world of business. They are a wonderful example of the way that young people at RGS really do achieve remarkable things."

At GCSE there were some of the strongest results in recent years with over 65% of all grades at A* or A and 97% of grades at A* – C. The pupils also completed the new GCSEs in English Literature and Language, graded 9 - 1. Despite the challenges of the new GCSE reforms, pupils performed extremely well.

There were many exceptional individual performances from pupils who have

demonstrated hard work both in and outside the classroom. Imogen Sinclair achieved the equivalent of 11 A*s, whilst displaying a huge commitment to sport both at school and on the national scene and Felix Haynes has achieved a national award of a Rank Foundation Sixth Form Scholarship, with all A* grades (including the new top 9 grades). Overall, over 40 pupils achieved 8 or more A*/A grades.

“ YOUNG PEOPLE
AT RGS REALLY
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REMARKABLE
THINGS ”



SUPERBALL SUPERSTARS

Triple success for RGS Netball



March this year saw the third successive win for the RGS 1st VII in the annual RGS vs King's School Netball fixture, known as 'Superball'. The event has now established itself as the adrenaline fuelled climax of the netball season and this year 1,400 passionate fans turned out at the iconic Worcester University Arena to support their school teams. Such a well-attended and high profile school sporting event is rarely replicated across the country, and provides a unique and memorable experience for both players and supporters.

The players competed in an incredible first quarter where both teams displayed skill, dynamism and commitment, with RGS Worcester taking the edge by just one goal in the end. In the second quarter the RGS team upped their tempo, improved their precision and pulled away to win the quarter by three goals. At the start of the quarter time changes were made to the shooting circle, Hannah Middleton came on as Goal Attack and shot an impressive 100%. There were great individual contributions from all team members who demonstrated their ability and control throughout.

At half time the score was 23-27 to RGS, which should have made for a comfortable victory for RGS, but the girls in blue showed strength and the match tilted once more, with King's winning the quarter 11-10 making the score 34-37 and everything to play for.

In the final quarter RGS demonstrated fast-flowing netball, uncompromising defending and pin-sharp shooting. The passion and relentlessness of the team was impressive and the pace of attack was too much for King's to contain; the ball transferred through the court with accuracy and RGS shooting stats were impeccable. At the final whistle RGS Worcester won by eleven points: 51-40. This was the first time a team had scored over 50 in 'Superball'.

Supporters witnessed a fantastic event, celebrating the success and high standard of girls' sport. When RGS Worcester Captain Honor Jeavons lifted the University of Worcester trophy the applause was tremendous and many young pupils were inspired.

**FINAL SCORE:
RGS 51 - KING'S 40**



*Congratulations to the whole RGS Worcester squad:
Honor Jeavons (Captain),
Holly Carson (Vice Captain),
Francesca Morgan (Vice Captain), Amy Beasley,
Emma Brinkley, Holly Chance,
Grace Hewitt, Beth Hill,
Molly Jones, Hannah Middleton, Evie Beardsley,
Alexandria Smith*



#WORCESTERISGREEN

This term we were proud to launch our new school film, which we believe conveys what is so unique and special about RGS, by showing the pride that pupils take in their achievements and the passion they share for their School.

Over the launch weekend there were over 50,000 online views and we were inundated with wonderful feedback from our pupil and parent communities. We hope that the film will show prospective parents and pupils that at RGS our pupils are at the heart of the school community and in many, many different ways they all have reason to be immensely proud of what they achieve here.

Please do take two minutes to enjoy the #worcesterisgreen experience via our website, social media channels or media players (You Tube and Vimeo).



RGS WORCESTER RETAINS THE NATIONAL ROUNDERS CHAMPIONSHIPS TITLE

The Under 16 Rounders team concluded another exceptional season by retaining the England Rounders National Championships title at the University of Leicester on the last day of the Trinity term.

The championship final day did not start well for the team, who were a combination of Year Ten and Year Eleven pupils. They lost 6.5 - 5.5 to Gordon School, but came back fighting against St John's School conceding only half a rounder. They continued to dominate through to the semi-finals against Sir William Perkins's School and ended with a victory over King Edward's, Birmingham in the final.

The girls were awarded medals and a golden bat in a ceremony at the end of the day.

Miss Leanne Bennett, PE Teacher and Rounders Coach at RGS Worcester, commented on the day "It has been an excellent season for the Under 16 Rounders team and I would like to congratulate all of the girls on their success, which is a culmination of a huge amount of dedication and hard work."



Congratulations to the RGS Worcester squad: Caitlin Bolton, Lottie Atkinson, Mia Shaw, Grace Francis, Sophie Thompson, Jemma Moseley, Evie Dickinson, Izzy Nott, Imogen Sinclair, Lauren Beardsley, Alex Smith, Florence Briggs

NEW PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE AT RGS



Over the summer holiday, work commenced on a £2.8 million building project to create a new Performing Arts Centre. The project, which is intended to be completed in the next 12 months, will offer a state of the art facility for drama productions and a thoroughly modern audience experience.

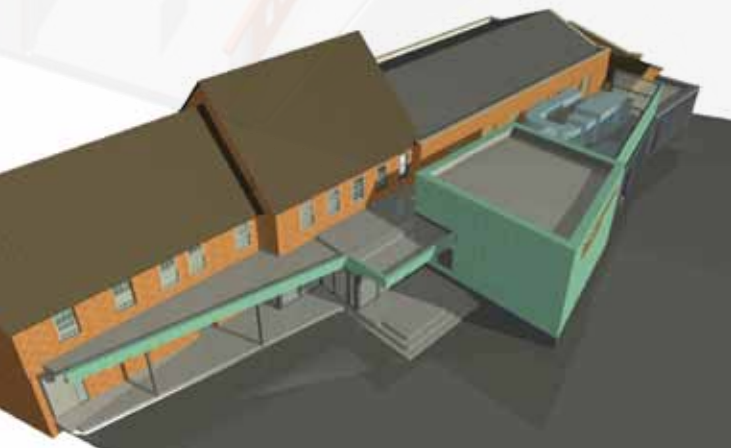
The stage and theatre will have lighting, visual and sound facilities on a par with modern commercial theatres. A drama studio will be created to the side of the existing theatre which will serve as a rehearsal and performance space as well as having film production provision.

Former drama classrooms will be converted into a second drama studio, with full stage flooring. This will also be served by the lighting box from the main theatre.

A new build to the side of the theatre will provide additional changing room facilities and a green room for the actors. The green room will have a spacious area for make-up and pre-stage preparations, as well as storage for costumes, props, staging and set.

A large, open foyer area will provide space for people to meet and learn more about the forthcoming drama events. Once in the auditorium, a complete refurbishment will provide luxurious seating, with improved sight lines and audio from all areas of the auditorium. At the interval, a new entrance and covered walkway will lead guests through to the Sixth Form Centre Café for refreshments.

The new facility proves RGS Worcester's commitment to the development of the Arts and reflects the step up in Drama, Music and Film Productions at the School.



RGS WORCESTER: AN APPLE DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL



RGS Worcester has been recognised as an Apple Distinguished School for its introduction of the Digital Learning Programme (DLP) across all three RGS Schools. The DLP is helping to drive academic excellence, promote independent thinking and prepare today's learners for tomorrow's global workplace.

The Apple Distinguished School designation is reserved for school programmes that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence, and demonstrate a clear vision of exemplary learning environments. There are only around 40 schools nationally that have achieved this status, and RGS Worcester is the first in the Midlands to be given this award.

Robert Berry, Director of IT and Computing and architect of the Digital Learning Programme at RGS Worcester said: "We set out to change the status quo, to empower learners and to improve learning outcomes and we are proud to have achieved these goals."

John Pitt, Headmaster, commented: "We are delighted to achieve Apple Distinguished Schools status. It demonstrates our commitment to using digital technology to support and enhance learning both in and outside the classroom. We have the opportunity to share the very best practice with other leading schools to ensure our pupils receive the best possible educational experience at RGS Worcester."

The selection of RGS Worcester as an Apple Distinguished School highlights our success as an innovative and compelling learning environment that engages students and provides tangible evidence of academic accomplishment. Learners are more readily able to access resources in a variety of improved and engaging ways. They are better able to express ideas, interact and collaborate both with each other and their teachers. Using technology appropriately, teachers offer more detailed feedback in a reduced timeframe so that this feedback is more effective. Our vision for using technology is to better engage and motivate our pupils, leading to more successful learning outcomes.

At a time when other independent schools are all contemplating how they use mobile technology, RGS's Apple Distinguished School status proves that the School is well 'ahead of the curve'.

 **Regional Training Centre**

OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST VISITS RGS



RGS Worcester was honoured to welcome England Hockey star Crista Cullen during the Lent Term to inspire the next generation of Hockey players. Crista, a Rio 2016 Olympic Gold Medallist and London 2012 Olympic Bronze Medallist, delivered a presentation to the 1st XI Hockey team and athletes on the School's Elite Athlete Development Programme (ADP).

Crista's thought-provoking talk covered many aspects of performing at the top level in Hockey and offered the pupils a rare insight into the world of elite sport. Crista also explained how she coped with the demands of playing international Hockey whilst holding down a full time job.

ADP elite performer and athlete, Darian Moore (Year Nine)

said: "I found the information Crista gave about how to prepare really useful. This can only be done through trial and error and I'm looking forward to experimenting with my ideal preparation before big races."

Gareth Roots, Director of Sport said: "To have an Olympic Gold Medallist visit the School really was a privilege and I would like to thank Crista for coming in to talk to our pupils."

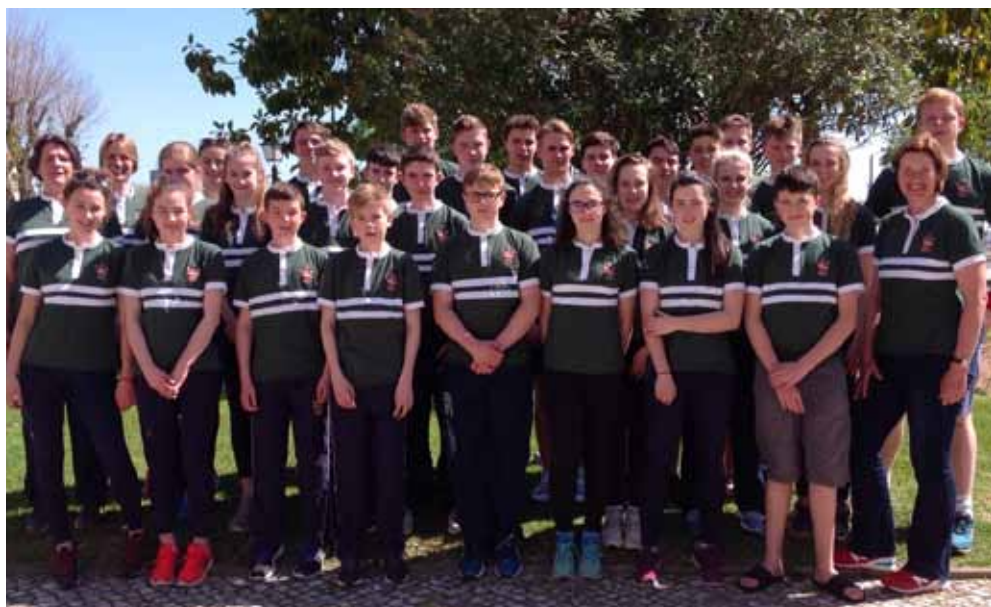
After leaving RGS Crista tweeted: "Great to pop into RGS Worcester and speak to their elite athletes. Topped off by a catch up with Sally Walton." Sally, who is a friend of Crista and an Olympic Bronze Medallist herself, is a Hockey Specialist Coach and Athlete Development Programme Facilitator at RGS Worcester.

ROWING CAMP IN PORTUGAL

The RGS Rowing team enjoyed a busy and successful Training Camp in warmer climes during Easter 2017. The team travelled to Figueira da Foz on the west coast of Portugal, a training and recreational rowing camp which uses the river Mondego and boasts a 2 kilometre championship standard rowing lake. It was the first time the team had travelled overseas for training and 27 rowers from J14 through to J18 (boys and girls) took part in the trip in preparation for the regatta season and the National Schools Championships.

Over seven days, the team enjoyed sessions on the lake, heading out early every morning for three hours of rowing and gym work, followed by lunches designed for hungry rowers and those with a love for Portuguese food. Then, following a study period for the older rowers, it was a return to training for two hours, followed by more local delights.

The lake at Montemor-o-Velho was perfect for the team's needs and the rowers shared the space with an abundance of wildlife including warblers, waders and waterfowl. The training facilities were first class and each rower came away from the trip with improved rowing skills and a love of the Portuguese lifestyle.





A Midsummer Night's Dream at Witley Court

This year's Lower School production, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', was set on the front steps of English Heritage site, Witley Court, backed by the ruined façade of the great mansion. The production opened on Midsummer Eve and ran for three nights.

Freed of many of the trappings of a conventional stage, the young cast not only populated the huge space but also created a performance that more than matched Shakespeare's original inspiration.

Freddie Edmonds and Ethan Farmer were strongly contrasted as Demetrius and Lysander respectively, and ably complemented by Abi Timmington and Heini Hughes as Hermia and Helena. Zain Baig was a commanding Oberon who was equally well matched by Isabella Hulbert as Titania. The Mechanicals, the workmen of Athens, created some memorably comic moments, which were carefully timed; their performance in front of Theseus left the audience hoping for more of their comedy. Kathryn Shaw played Bottom and was appropriately domineering in the role, and, without exception, each of the mechanicals had their own special traits that attracted both laughter and appreciation. The Athenians, along with the rest of the Fairy Kingdom and Titania's loyal fairies, were equally convincing and integral to the whole.

Throughout the performance there were some striking dramatic images such as the pucks, clothed in green, mischievously watching the betrothal of Theseus and Hippolyta, each in a different pose next to a pillar. Similarly, the fairies in their delicate red dresses gliding across the steps and the mechanicals hastily preparing to perform their play were memorable moments.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils from Year Seven through to Year Nine to be involved in many diverse acting and production roles. Spectators enjoyed the performance in beautiful surroundings, picnicking with friends and family and celebrating the strength and depth of acting from our younger year groups.



“ FREED OF MANY OF
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TALKING YOUR WAY TO THE TOP

National Success in Debating

The standard of debating at RGS is extremely high and over the past academic year pupils have competed against some of the best school debaters in the country and indeed the world, achieving remarkable successes. The benefits of taking part are now more recognised than ever before - debating helps pupils to see the power of rational, reasoned arguments and compelling evidence. In this way it instills a great sense of poise and confidence that will stay with young debaters for life.

In the Cardiff Schools competition the RGS Year Eleven pair, Felix Haynes and Amber Warner-Warr, won the Open Final, despite competing against Sixth Form students, while Lower Sixth students Heloise Messervy-Whiting and Holly Chance won the Novice Open class.

RGS Upper Sixth debaters took part in competitions from Oxford to Cambridge, Birmingham to Nottingham. Tom Peake, Society President, and Hannah Keene qualified for the Oxford Finals Day. Up against teams from Eton, Winchester, Canada, Holland and Hungary, they were able to achieve a magnificent fourteenth equal overall.



In Year Eleven, the team of Alex Edwards, Tom Berry, Josh Warner reached the Regional Final in the English Speaking Union Public Speaking competition, while Year Nine pair Zain Baig and Max Houchin made it down to the final 32 UK teams to reach the National Final of the International Competition for Young Debaters at Cambridge University.

Jane Waller, Head of Debating said "I am extremely proud of the remarkable achievements of our debaters throughout the year. I have seen a diverse group of pupils mature and blossom into confident, articulate young adults who will be able to embrace the future equipped with the skills to communicate effectively at the highest level, in whatever situation their education and future careers may take them."

LAUNCH OF THE RGSW AND AOS FOUNDATION



Members of the School community have marked the launch of The RGSW and AOS Foundation - a new charity that has been established with the sole purpose of raising funds to further the education of pupils at the School.

The aim of the Foundation is to secure voluntary donations to extend bursary provision, as well as assisting the School with future Capital projects that will enhance the education facilities available to pupils. The charity will build on the work already undertaken by the Development Office, which has become the Foundation Office.

Andrew Greenway, the new Chairman of the Foundation said: "The Foundation is a long-term strategic investment to help secure the future of the three Schools. In recent years, RGS Worcester's family of Schools has benefited from the generosity of more than 300 parents, staff members and alumni, who have donated over £700,000 through donations, gift aid, legacy gifts and income earned by the Bursary Funds, as well as considerably more pledged in legacy gifts. We are very grateful to everyone and look forward to seeing our Foundation flourish".



CRICKET TOUR

RGS Cricket Team Tour to Sri Lanka

The Senior Cricket squad had a 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience during the Easter holiday on a cricket tour to Sri Lanka, which was generously supported by the AOOEs and the 200 Club. The tour had an enviable itinerary including thirteen days of travel, a five match cricket series, various cultural experiences and some inspirational sightseeing. The highlight of the trip was a series victory 3-2. The boys played exceptionally well despite the heat and intense humidity and were all very proud of their fantastic success.

In all five matches the teams were very evenly matched and the RGS players had to perform at an extremely high standard. 1st XI batters Callam Turner and George Cook both scored a couple of half centuries and Alex Wheeler spent a lot of time at the crease- all three reporting back on how exhausting it was batting in the 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 Sri Lanka 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 Wilkinson, Head of Cricket said: "The trip was a fantastic success and a wonderful memory for both staff and pupils. 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 Moreton for making it such a successful trip."

The 1st XI went on to have a very successful season after the tour. At one stage they were the joint Number One ranked team in the UK and they ended their season by winning the RGS Schools trophy for the first time since 2010.



Award Winning Careers Service



Sofia Nicholls, Head of Careers, talks about the award winning careers service on offer to all pupils:

Achieving excellent academic examination results is the first step towards a successful future, but at RGS we judge our success on much more. We strive to ensure that every pupil has the chance to look beyond school, empowering them to formulate ideas about career options from the beginning of their journey with us and supporting them right through to Sixth Form with real life experiences to help make decisions about their future.

We believe that our career offering is unique in its depth, diversity and excellence and this sets us apart from our competitors, not just regionally, but on a national stage. This was recognised last year by an award from the Chamber of Commerce for our Education and Business partnership, and since then we have continued to expand and innovate, in order to provide an even more comprehensive programme of business and industry experiences, designed to inspire, establish and develop the aspirations of our pupils.

At RGS we pride ourselves on making sure that at every stage of a pupil's journey, they have the appropriate level of information, advice and guidance to make informed decisions. From Year Seven upwards every pupil has at least one interaction with business and industry every year - opening their minds to the world which awaits after RGS. In Year Nine, all pupils begin a 'Careers Profiling Service' which is built upon through to Year Eleven, where it culminates in a personalised interview, discussing A Level options and University or Degree Apprenticeship level.

Last year, an exciting new Enterprise and Employability venture was introduced at RGS in a bid to open young minds to the vast and varied possibilities that entrepreneurial endeavour can offer. In a unique partnership with the Business School at the University of Worcester, all Lower Sixth students have the opportunity to start up their very own business and learn about the process of developing business plans, mentored by individuals from the 'real-world' who have a wealth of experience in entrepreneurial activity. Students cover everything from identifying target markets, to completing market research, as well as dealing with all the financial aspects of running a business. This culminates in a pitch for seed capital in readiness for trading.

The venture goes on to help establish the softer skills that are essential for effective business practice, starting with searching and applying for jobs, producing a CV, and practising interview technique, through to problem solving, conflict resolution, communication, adaptability and collaboration.

The highlight of every year is the RGS Careers and Higher Education EXPO, a truly unique opportunity to meet professionals from a wide range of organisations to gain an insight into what life in the world of higher education and work is like. This year 120 representatives from a wide range of organisations exhibited at our largest fair yet. Many pupils from other schools from all across the region, travel to RGS to share in the experience, in what is now the largest careers fair in Worcestershire.



“ WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON MAKING SURE THAT AT EVERY STAGE OF A PUPIL'S JOURNEY, THEY HAVE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS. ”





RGS GIRLS' SPORTS TOUR

South Africa, 2017

In July, 26 RGS girls embarked on a Hockey and Netball Tour to South Africa. Once in Johannesburg, the itinerary commenced with the Hockey World Cup Tournament, watching three international women's games, including England v India. Next was a stop at The University of Pretoria High Performance Centre for Hockey and Netball training sessions led by Simone Vijoen and Franco Oliver. Before the first round of fixtures the tour party visited Lesedi Cultural Village and ate at the famous Carnivores restaurant.

With matches against Die Afrakanse Meise School Pretoria, Die Menlopark Hoerskool, St Dominic's, Hansies High School, Edgemeed High School and Hottentots Holland High school, the standard of both Hockey and Netball was extremely high. The Under 16 Hockey team performed particularly well, beating St Dominic's 7-0 and achieving further victories against Hansies High School and Edgemeed High School, and the Netball teams had greatest success against Hottentots Holland High School.

The tourists enjoyed spending time in the evenings with their African host families, learning all about the culture and daily life, some were lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit a rhino sanctuary. The group went on early morning and evening game drives in Pilanesberg and visited a thrilling water and theme park, before flying down to Cape Town to experience the famous Robbin Island and the District Six, as well as taking in the views from Cape Point and the penguins at Boulders Beach.

The highlight for many was meeting a cheetah and cubs at the outreach centre, as well as delivering sporting activities to African pupils in a deprived area. The pre-tour fundraising events meant that a £1000 charitable donation could be pledged to the Sporting Chance Foundation, which helps children develop a lifelong passion for exercise and sport.

A successful tour needs to have development in sports performance, an opportunity to experience culture and insight into the history of the country, all whilst forming friendships and having fun. This tour had it all and was truly a great success.





SPRINGFIELD FRENCH TRIP



May 2017 saw the inaugural Years Five and Six RGS Springfield trip depart to France. After a day of travelling, including a stop at the sea life centre in Boulogne, the party arrived at Le Château de Chantereine in Criel-sur-Mer. An important function of residential trips is to foster independence and the children got their first taste of this as they had to make up their bunks with blankets and sheets.

The educational aims for this trip were to gain insight into the cultural differences between France and England, to practise language skills, and to visit some of the key locations of the Battle of the Somme. The children had an opportunity to practise their French during mealtimes when they realised that if they required something then they needed to ask for it in French and it was lovely to see their confidence in doing so. They had a day visiting Rouen, learning much about its history and the story of Joan of Arc who died there. They also spent a super half an hour shopping!

The battlefield tour was a poignant and emotional day and the children showed maturity and respect when visiting the cemeteries and memorials. This was particularly evident at the Thiepval Memorial where several former RGS students are honoured and where the children laid some poppies in their memory.

As the week went on, the children enjoyed trips to a boulangerie where they ordered and enjoyed some wonderful pâtisserie, and also to a local cider farm. Here they learnt much about the process of producing apple juice, cider and cider vinegar.

By the end of the trip, the children had learnt much about French culture and language and they had also learnt much about themselves and each other. We look forward to returning to France in two years' time with our next group of Springfield pupils.



RESIDENTIAL TRIP

Malvern Outdoor Elements Centre

In May, Year Three and Four set off to Malvern Outdoor Elements Centre for an action packed two days. For many it was their first residential trip and for some the first time away from home overnight. Consequently, there was much excitement as to who was in each room.

Over the two days, there were plenty of personal challenges and opportunities to take risks and work as part of a team. A particular favourite activity was the zip wire, where children were sent zooming through the canopy of trees. It was amazing to see everyone attempt the challenging high bridge course with the beautiful backdrop of the Malvern Hills. The staff were in awe of the number of children who confidently climbed the 5-metre-tall pole. We also discovered some budding Robin Hoods as we practised our archery skills.

We enjoyed the fresh air and panoramic views from the top of the Malvern Hills on a beautiful Spring evening. Some sleep was had that night!

The children were all so supportive of one another and challenged themselves to try something new, take another step or go a little higher.





MUSIC AT SPRINGFIELD

“MUSIC GIVES SOUL TO THE
UNIVERSE, WINGS TO THE MIND,
FLIGHT TO THE IMAGINATION,
AND LIFE TO EVERYTHING.”

This Plato quotation is not to be taken lightly and at RGS Springfield the value of music education for all pupils is recognised.

With an inclusive approach, children from the age of 4 to 11 are taught two music lessons a week by specialist teacher, Lizzie McCabe. Children can also learn orchestral instruments with the team of well qualified peripatetic tutors. Learning an instrument or training the voice gives children many additional skills as well as opportunities and parents recognise the value of this provision. Currently over 80% of children take additional music tuition and, of these children, 25% learn a second and sometimes third instrument. In addition, there is a variety of instrumental ensembles and music clubs that offer something for everybody. A plethora of performances throughout the academic year offers ample opportunities for children to perform together and individually in a variety of events combining the performing arts of music and drama.

Music education and the Performing Arts teach children at RGS Springfield many valuable skills. They say “practice makes perfect” and indeed perseverance, determination and focus are skills that are valuable in all aspects of education. Confidence and self presentation skills along with imagination and creativity are developed and of course, the ability to co-operate and collaborate. All of these skills prepare foundations for well-rounded children who are successful learners and achievers.

More recently, RGS Springfield has been able to celebrate the achievements of young musicians at both regional and national events.



In May, the Pre-Prep choir, consisting of the entire cohort, competed in the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. This festival, which has recognised the talents of local children for nearly 100 years, was a new event in the RGS Springfield calendar and there was much excitement and anticipation amongst children and parents. The event was a huge success with the choir winning the highest accolade and receiving a host of compliments in reward as well as a rather large trophy.

For the Prep department there was national success in June, after entering a song writing competition run by The Shakespeare Birth Trust. The concept was to use Shakespeare's text to inspire a song or piece of music and Lizzie McCabe chose the Year Six children to take on this challenge. Using the film music of Philip Glass and Minimalism techniques the children created a song entitled ‘Under the Greenwood Tree’ using text from Shakespeare’s ‘As You Like It’. The competition was in collaboration with the Birmingham Conservatoire and, as one of the four national winners, the song was arranged so that RGS Springfield could perform alongside the LEAP Ensemble at Warwick School. The concert was attended by Julian Lloyd Weber, as Principal of the Birmingham Conservatoire, as well as a host of V.I.P.s from the Shakespeare Birth Trust.

20 YEAR CELEBRATIONS

RGS The Grange 1996/7 - 2016/17



RGS The Grange officially opened its doors in September 1996. Twenty years seems insignificant in comparison to RGS Worcester's long history, however it was an important milestone, particularly for those whose lives have been enriched by being part of The Grange community.

The statement in the Worcesterian (school magazine) at the time read: 'The granting of planning permission for the conversion of The Grange to the new RGS Pre-Prep School in March heralded a period of intense activity. The builders moved in to undertake a massive three-month conversion programme while another company began work on the rather lengthy drive. Meanwhile the Headmistress and two teachers were appointed to take charge of the pupils, the first of whom were enrolled within days of the announcement'.

The School celebrated its twenty year history in a number of different ways during 2016/17. One of the first 1996 pupils, Lieutenant Luke Maciejewski (824 Naval Air Squadron) landed a Royal Navy Merlin Helicopter on the school grounds in May. This was such a spectacle for our children and an experience that will long be remembered. The children designed and produced 20th Anniversary artwork, which depicted the 'great oaks from little acorns' theme.

The Grange PTA commissioned a local artist to paint a character filled picture of the School as a 20th Anniversary present and, on Friday 16 June, RGS The Grange hosted an event to celebrate its history with the pupils and guests, which included a variety of presentations, entertainment and speeches. We were delighted that the inaugural Headmistress, Mrs Delaney (née Gleave) was able to join the gathering and talk about the early days. She was also our Guest of Honour at Speech Day on Friday 7 July.

Two people who were unable to be present and who were instrumental in driving through the plans were the then Chairman of Governors, Mr Philip Sawyer, and the then Bursar, Commander Mike Sime. Who would have known that their foresight and vision at the time has such a significant impact? Four previous Heads: Mrs Mary Windsor, Dr Duncan Jones, Mr Richard Hunt and Mr Tim Lowe, were all commended on their successive leadership in supporting the School's success. A Head Boy or Girl from almost every academic year since 2004/5 joined our celebrations – thank you to Tom Fairman, Francesca Short, Huw Selvey, Scott Howell, Amelia Belham, Joshua Nott, Wilfred Jenkins, Holly Chance, Grace Moseley, Thomas Ehlers, Isabella Nott, Abi Timmington, Nicholas Kaleniuk, and Ellie Rose Allen for taking the time to attend.

To mark the occasion, new Honours Boards were unveiled for the Head Boys and Girls as well as the Headmasters and Headmistresses. The former teachers who were able to attend had amassed more than a hundred years' service between them!

It was a wonderful celebration for all those connected to the School over the last twenty years. RGS The Grange is an impressive school, but what has always made The Grange 'special' is its ethos which is all about the pupils. The children may have moved on, the staff may have changed, the lessons might be different and the facilities enhanced, but the philosophy has remained the same.

Gareth Hughes, Headmaster



**‘ GREAT OAKS
FROM
LITTLE ACORNS ’**



RGS THE GRANGE

‘A school where happy children succeed’

“ WE ARE CREATURES OF HABIT, TEACH CHILDREN EMOTIONAL MANAGEMENT NOW AND SEE THEM BLOSSOM, GROWING UP TO BE HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SUCCESSFUL FOR LIFE! ”

(Marie Delnote)



RGS The Grange prides itself on being a school full of happy, confident and successful children who are inspired by a dedicated team of staff sharing a wonderful sense of community.

The key to all of this is the School's clear philosophy that 'happy children succeed'. As Headmaster, I am passionate that we create an environment in which young children can flourish and, as a parent and teacher, I am acutely aware that this is not always easy, but collectively we have crucial roles to play, and the longevity of a child's future wellbeing is based on it. We are fully aware that mental health problems are on the increase, and good mental health begins in infancy. Teaching a child coping mechanisms can have an enormous impact on their emotional wellbeing throughout the rest of their life.

At RGS The Grange, the way in which we aim to do this is to ensure that every member of staff gets to know the children as if they were their own. Building a trustworthy and honest relationship where children feel valued, respected and listened to, is at the core of what we do. That does not mean that we will respond to their every whim, but we provide them with the confidence about their learning and the tools that enable them to deal with challenging situations.

Having a growth mindset will enable our pupils to set goals, manage challenges and organise their school work. As a consequence, we have focused on key 'Intellectual Characteristics' that we feel embody what we want our children to develop to support their long term social and emotional wellbeing as well as their academic development. These are: Risk Taking; Persistence; Collaboration; Empathy; Initiative; Resilience; Creativity. There is more to be done, but early indications suggest the children are fully engaged and positive about the initiative.

In summary, Public Health England states that: 'Children with higher levels of social and emotional wellbeing, on average, have higher levels of academic achievement and are more engaged in school'.

This gives us every reason to maintain our focus on wellbeing in our Schools.

Gareth Hughes, Headmaster



“ A SCHOOL WHERE HAPPY CHILDREN SUCCEED ”





RGS WORCESTER

RGS AT A GLANCE

Making a choice about your child's education is such an important decision that we thoroughly recommend that you come and visit our schools. This will give you the chance to meet the Heads and other members of staff and the opportunity to gain a real sense of what makes an education at RGS Worcester so special.

Parents choose RGS Worcester because of our welcoming atmosphere, strong academic profile, breadth of co-curricular opportunities and the unique environment.

For up-to-the-minute news and stories about RGS, please sign up for our weekly e-newsletters, sent out each Friday. See the 'News' tab of our website for sign-up instructions.

Details of future Open Mornings are available on the website. Alternatively, please do contact us to arrange a visit at a time convenient for you.

#worcesterisgreen



**Fully co-educational, 11 - 18 years of age
non-denominational**

- HMC Independent day school
- 780 pupils
- Sixth oldest school in the world, originally founded 685,
(first written reference appears in 1291)
- John Pitt, Headmaster
- Situated in Worcester city centre

Fees: all years £4,154 per term

Upper Tything, Worcester WR1 1HP
01905 613391 office@rgsw.org.uk
Admissions: Cathy Bates cab@rgsw.org.uk

RGS SPRINGFIELD [WWW.RGSW.ORG.UK /RGS-SPRINGFIELD](http://WWW.RGSW.ORG.UK/RGS-SPRINGFIELD)

**Fully co-educational, 2 - 11 years of age
non-denominational**

- Prep School
- 150 pupils
- Founded in 1953, originally as part of The Alice Ottley School
- Laura Brown, Headmistress
- Part of RGS Worcester. Situated in the city centre.
The Senior School is a short walk away

**Fees from £2,590 full time Pre-School
to £3,984 in Year Six, per term**

Britannia Square, Worcester WR1 3DL
01905 24999 springfield@rgsw.org.uk
Admissions: Sharon Dyer shd@rgsw.org.uk



RGS THE GRANGE [WWW.RGSW.ORG.UK /RGS-THE-GRANGE](http://WWW.RGSW.ORG.UK/RGS-THE-GRANGE)



**Fully co-educational, 2 - 11 years of age
non-denominational**

- Prep School
- 370 pupils
- Founded in 1996
- Gareth Hughes, Headmaster
- Part of RGS Worcester. Situated on the edge of
Worcester in 50 acres of grounds

**Fees from £2,590 full time Pre-School
to £3,984 in Year Six, per term.**

Grange Lane, Claines, Worcester WR3 7RR
01905 451205 grange@rgsw.org.uk
Admissions: Sharon Dyer shd@rgsw.org.uk



T: 01905 451205



T: 01905 24999



T: 01905 613391

www.rgsw.org.uk