

## Standing Tall

RGS giraffe project for the  
'Worcester Stands Tall' trail  
p4

Celebrating  
Academic  
Success  
p3

National  
Success  
in Sport p6  
and p20

Imran Khan  
former RGS  
student  
p13

#worcesterisgreen



RGS  
WORCESTER



## RGS

- p3 Celebrating Academic Success
- p4 Giraffes are all around us
- p5 Dig for Victory, Dig for Lunch
- p6 Hockey U13 National Finals
- p7 RGS Worcester presents to HMC Conference
- p8 Careers Expo
- p9 Inspired Ideas on Show
- p10 Gordon's Alive?
- p11 Keep on Running

- p11 Fencing for Gold
- p12 Rugby Tour - South Africa

## RGS Alumni

- p13 Did you Know – Imran Khan attended RGS Worcester
- p14 Seventy Five over(s) and out - Cricket Special
- p15 Four men in a boat – Talisker Challenge
- p16 Annual Commemoration Service
- p17 Foundation Welcomes New Trustees

## RGS Springfield

- p18 Osmington Bay
- p18 RGS Royal Wedding
- p19 Spies Like Us

## RGS The Grange

- p20 National Prep School Champions
- p21 Chris Pennell hits 200
- p22 RGS At A Glance
- p23 RGS Overview

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## HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION

**This edition of Excel magazine displays a range of achievements and experiences that are so impressive.**

The combination of academic success as well as events in Drama, Music, Sport and any number of other co-curricular

Our former pupils have some excellent stories to tell and we include in this edition some of the most recent alumni successes. RGS can now count amongst its former pupils a national leader in Imran Khan and his story is told here.

Thank you to the Marketing team for assembling this excellent edition and to everyone who has contributed.

Finally, please do visit our website ([www.rgsw.org.uk](http://www.rgsw.org.uk)) where you can see our school film which demonstrates the exceptional all-round education that our schools offer and, above all, how much our pupils enjoy RGS school life. Please do come and visit and see us in action.

*John Pitt, Headmaster, RGS Worcester*

pursuits is proof that an RGS education really does encourage our pupils to aim high. Contained within these pages are some of the opportunities that the pupils have enjoyed in recent months at the School and all that they have experienced and achieved.

Read on about how RGS Worcester is advising other independent schools about the appropriate use of digital technology in learning, about award-winning Careers support and about projects in the community in which RGS plays a full role. Together with group, team and individual achievements, often at national level, we can celebrate an RGS education for all of our pupils aged 2 – 18 years and beyond.



# CELEBRATING ACADEMIC SUCCESS



## A Level

**In a year of so much educational change and in which A Levels are becoming increasingly challenging nationally, the Upper Sixth students maintained the School's excellent results of recent years. Most impressively, at a time when it is supposed to be more difficult to achieve the highest A\* grades, the results at the top level were up with more A\* grades than previously.**

On the strength of their examination results the students have gone on to leading Universities across the country, including Oxford and Cambridge where students are reading Biological Science, History, Law, Medicine, and Spanish with Portuguese. Equally, students have achieved places on a wide range of courses and subjects from reading Engineering to the Arts, including History at Florida State University, USA, to High-Level Apprenticeships at Aston Martin, BMW, Rolls Royce and High Speed Rail.

John Pitt, Headmaster, commented "We are delighted that our Upper Sixth students have coped so well with the challenges of a new A Level system. They deserve every praise along with their teachers who have responded so well to the reforms and supported the students. These results have given all of our students a great head start."

## GCSE

In a year of unprecedented changes at GCSE for Year Eleven, we were extremely pleased our pupils performed very well at GCSE. With different subjects and Exam Boards operating under different grading systems (for example, Classics, Design Technology and Textiles at RGS are still

graded A\*-G), it is difficult to summarise but well over half of all grades were in the top 9-7 or A\*/A grade category and 96% of all grades were 9-4.

31 pupils achieved 9-7 or A\*/A grades in 8 or more subjects and should be congratulated including Aodren Clemit (pictured above) who achieved 11 grades at 9/8 or A\* and Alex Owen, Lydia Faizey and Alex Peake who achieved 10 GCSEs graded 9/8.

At a school where the STEM subjects are always strong it was particularly pleasing to see such success also in Art and Textiles with 92.3% of all Art pupils achieving 9-7 grades and over 94% of all grades at A\*-B in Textiles.

John Pitt, Headmaster, commented, "Very well done to the Year Eleven RGS pupils and their teachers for working so hard and responding so positively to what are different and challenging examinations. The pupils have set themselves up extremely well for the new A Levels and I am sure they will go on to further success in the Sixth Form here. This year group has achieved so much in the classroom and outside the classroom – they were National Semi-Finalists in Hockey and Rounders while also taking part in so many other areas of school life. It is very pleasing to see that they have done so well academically and taken full advantage of the academic and all-round education that RGS Worcester provides."

Tazmin Barnes (pictured above), Year Eleven, was interviewed on the GCSE results day by BBC Hereford & Worcester Radio. Tazmin achieved all 9-7 grades at GCSE and was delighted with her results. BBC Hereford & Worcestershire interviewed her previously about her music career and she has performed in numerous festivals and events over the Summer.



# GIRAFFES ARE ALL AROUND US

## Towering achievement



We were delighted when internationally published Worcester artist, Petr Horacek, took on the design and painting of the RGS giraffe for the 'Worcester Stands Tall' trail, in support of St. Richard's Hospice.

To provide a starting point for his giraffe design, Petr and his wife Claire came to the school for two days to work with some of our young artists. Workshops were held for the pupils, where they created a wonderful range of giraffe designs using Petr's favoured collographic printmaking techniques.

With the pupils eager to see how their designs would be joined together to make a whole, Petr then became 'artist-in-residence' at RGS. Petr said, "I really enjoyed working on the final giraffe and was pleased to overcome the technical challenges working on a significant scale and with such an unusual shape. What really made the giraffe work was utilising the pupils' designs which reminded me of how much fun we had doing the workshops. I realised that this was a really great opportunity for everyone to be involved and that everyone could be included. Being an artist is about having fun and working with enthusiasm and it's essential never to be scared and to try new things."

There were a number of fundraising projects led by RGS teacher Mrs Joanna Marsh to raise funds for St Richard's Hospice and the giraffe project. Remaining funds for the project were kindly donated by the Alumni Association, the AOOEs, so that RGS could be a sponsor for 'The Worcester Stands Tall' project.

RGS has embraced the whole project and Petr's giraffe is testimony to the hard work by all. The collective term for a group of giraffes is 'tower' and it can be truly said that Petr's giraffe is a towering achievement.



The 2.5m tall RGS 'Dreaming Giraffe' was sited at the Hopmarket during the Festival and was one of 30 positioned around Worcester City



# THE SUNDAY LUNCH, MALVERN SPRING FESTIVAL

## ‘Dig for Victory, Dig for Lunch’

**The Gardening Club saw their hard work celebrated as they were commended by the RHS for their Garden design at Malvern Spring Festival, receiving First Prize for the ‘Campaign to Protect Rural England’.**

Both the Club and volunteers worked tirelessly over the Bank Holiday, preparing their design for the RHS Malvern Spring Garden Show. In sweltering conditions, they constructed the garden from scratch,

wheelbarrowing 30 barrows of soil to fill in their space. Once the soil was in place, the structures began to take shape and the planting could then begin. The most time-consuming part was the watering, as the weather, whilst beautiful, quickly sucked up any moisture.

The finishing touches were made in preparation for the RHS judges to scrutinise the garden in relation to the brief that was submitted earlier in the year.

Over the four days of the Festival, the garden was admired and commented on by hundreds of visitors, including many Alumni. Those manning the garden learnt a huge amount from visitors who spoke so eloquently about their memories of the Anderson shelters and gardens during World War II evoked by the RGS Worcester garden’s design.





# HOCKEY UNDER 13 NATIONAL FINALS



## Results

RGS v The Perse School, Cambridge 1-1

RGS v Wakefield Girls School 0-1

RGS v Surbiton High School 1-2

RGS v Millfield School 3-2

RGS v Stockport School 1-0

The Under 13 Hockey team displayed a fantastic performance at the Regional Finals, heading into the quarter-finals as group winners. They went on to win their quarter-final 2-1, the semi-final 4-1 and in a very competitive final, the team won 2-0 and secured their place at the England Hockey National Finals. The team travelled to the Nottingham Hockey Centre for the National tournament and played some good Hockey.

Fantastic skills were displayed throughout and the RGS team concluded the tournament to take 7th place in the country. Every member of the team epitomises the RGS sport values of Resilience, Grace, Selflessness and Willingness. Their hard work and achievements, along with the Under 16 successes earlier in the year has stepped RGS Hockey up onto the National stage, which can hopefully inspire our future teams.

## PLAYING FOR ENGLAND

RGS was delighted to learn that Izzy Nott has been selected for the Under 16 England Hockey squad and Sophie Thompson for the Under 18 England Hockey squad.

Congratulations to Lottie Atkinson, Year Ten, who had a great day on Friday 29 June as she took her place in the Under 16 England team against Germany at Bisham Abbey.

Although she was understandably nervous at the start, she played strongly, getting a good amount of play in every quarter. The German team exerted pressure on England throughout the match, who ultimately succeeded in holding a very strong German side to a close 0:1 final score, with the German squad winning all three matches over the course of the weekend. Well done to Lottie on being an integral part of such a strong England squad.



Lottie Atkinson



# RGS WORCESTER PRESENTS TO HMC CONFERENCE

The HMC Spring Conference involves the Heads of the 250 leading independent schools in the country. The Conference was held at the British Library in London on Wednesday and RGS Worcester was asked to present.

The Conference was titled 'Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality in Education' and focused upon the impact of technology in the future. Leading speakers in this area presented including Sir Anthony Seldon, now Vice-Chancellor of Buckingham University, and author of 'The Fourth Education Revolution', Ann Mroz, Editor of the Times Educational Supplement, and Professor Rose Luckin, Professor of Learning with Digital Technologies at University College London.

RGS Worcester was asked to present as one of only 4 HMC schools that have been recognised for our use of technology as Apple Distinguished Schools. Together with Bolton (Boys School Division) and Caterham Schools, Robert Berry, Director of Computing and IT at RGS Worcester, spoke about our Digital Learning Programme and its transformational impact. He briefed the HMC Heads about how digital technology is enhancing learning and teaching today in our school and how it has made teachers re-focus upon the process pupils engage with when learning. RGS has long been an advocate of sharing best practice with other leading, like minded ambitious and innovative schools in the use of technology to enhance learning.

I attended the Conference and it was immediately apparent to me that RGS Worcester has made an inspired decision in pursuing integrated technology in the classroom using iPads in our DLP. This decision made four years' ago, has now put the School nearer the cutting edge of



education and other leading schools will be trying to catch up over the next few years. While teaching in its traditional sense will not change in the future (and we were assured teachers will not be replaced by robots!), how children learn and are examined will change significantly, and schools need to be able to adapt.

“  
**RGS LEADS  
THE WAY IN  
TECHNICAL  
INNOVATION  
WITH PRIDE**  
”

The conclusion reached by all of the experts at the Conference was that pupils need to be educated for a very different future world. Shamus Rae,

Lead Partner for Innovation at KPMG, commented “We need people who are creative, who are inquisitive and who understand technology”. At RGS Worcester it is pleasing that we are already focusing upon these key skills and giving our pupils an advantage in their learning and a headstart for their future careers.

My thanks to Mr Berry for presenting at the Conference and demonstrating to other schools what can be achieved when technology is used properly to enhance learning both inside the classroom and beyond.

**John Pitt, Headmaster**

Leading  
Independent  
Schools







# CAREERS EXPO



RGS held its annual Careers and Higher Education EXPO with well over 100 delegates from many different sectors and professions attending. Hundreds of visitors

browsed the numerous stalls and gained insight into a variety of different careers, ranging from the creative arts to healthcare and higher education. Pupils of all ages gathered valuable knowledge from the experts in their field, inspiring and providing more understanding of that particular industry.

Our lead exhibitor, the Army, were able to bring along a Gazelle Helicopter for visitors to admire. This contributed to the excitement around the event and encouraged pupils to ask more questions about the fantastic opportunities available. There were also exhibitors who were there providing information regarding different Gap Year initiatives and volunteering opportunities. The diversity throughout the array of exhibitors who attended meant that there was something to ignite everyone's curiosity.

This event provided the means to showcase the vast array of opportunities that are available upon leaving education; whether that is apprenticeships or starting a career in a particular industry. We hope that with events like this, the pupils are inspired to consider their futures.





# INSPIRED IDEAS ON SHOW

Despite being a day of record June temperatures in some parts of the UK, the RGS Creative Arts Faculty evening was a delightfully relaxed occasion. It was wonderful to see such diverse creative talents from all years on show.

Pullinger provided the perfect backdrop for the students to exhibit their innovative fashion designs amongst the rose gardens and along the tea-light runway. There was a cross-section of work that reflected the engaging diversity of the Textiles Department. The students had created a wide selection of highly imaginative and skilled work of which they should all be very proud.

The evening saw the Physical Education Department display a fine range of dance and gymnastics programmes that pupils had created throughout the year. There was something for everyone to enjoy with a variety of different dance styles performed and the audience were very impressed by the pupils' confidence, beautiful costumes and self-expression.

The Music Department mustered the Big Band and Senior Jazz Ensemble for 'Jazz on The Lawn'. The band started with their usual mix of mainstream jazz (Cold Duck Time), jazz funk (Play That Funky Music) and contemporary numbers (Rock with Me). Our guest vocal soloist, Georgia Padbury, Lower Sixth, added the icing on the cake with terrific versions of 'Valerie' and the Aretha Franklin Motown song 'Respect'.

Mr Richard Smith, Yamazaki Mazak European Director gave a fabulous and informative insight into the current engineering and manufacturing climate, before presenting prizes to Design and Technology award winners.

There was an impressive exhibition of GCSE and A Level Art in the Art Department. The work looks more impressive year upon year, thanks in part to the generosity of the AOOE and the RGSPA in providing money for the framing of the pupils' work. The evening concluded with the presentation of the Bevere Art Award, sponsored by the Bevere Gallery. The awards were judged by Petr Horacek and Kim Taylor.





# GORDON'S ALIVE?

Lower School presented in a Flash



Walking towards Perrins Hall through the school gates we were instantly transported back to the 1980s. A sea of cropped denim, neon clothing and crimped hair awaited the audience. This year's Lower School Production of 'Flash Gordon' was a superb triumph for the pupils involved, not least for Mr Morgan whose outstanding reimagining of the iconic story was brought to life and rewritten for the stage in a thrilling and humorous way.

The traverse stage gave ample opportunity for the pupils to perform across the hall at all times and for many students this was a very active and energetic performance, making great use of the space provided. Perrins Hall had once again been transformed and upon entry the audience were treated to a montage of classic '80s television adverts projected onto the organ, providing a retro flashback to days gone by. This screen was then brilliantly utilised throughout the play as a means of contact between Ming the Merciless and the other characters, adding a dynamic, technical element.

This was a large cast and the pupils should be proud of the way this masterpiece was brought together seamlessly. The costumes and props enhanced each scene, as did sensitive lighting and sound, led by the pupils. With the eclectic '80s playlist running throughout, audiences truly were transported back in time as well as to Planet Mongo.



# SPORTS

## Keep on Running

Former RGS Worcester student, **Jenny Nesbitt** (2003-2014) made her Commonwealth Games debut for Team Wales on the Gold Coast, Australia. Having undergone two knee surgeries in the 18 months prior to this, Jenny only came back stronger in her return to form. She raced in the Women's 10,000m final at the Carrara Stadium where she ran a Personal Best time of 32:58.14. Having previously represented Great Britain at the World Student Games and European Under 23 Championships, we can't wait to see what the future has to hold for Jenny.



**George Beardmore**, Lower Sixth, has gone from strength to strength as he takes on new challenges in his running. Competing in the British Athletics Championships, he ran three miles in 15:06 and was the third athlete to finish from the West Midlands team. This fantastic

achievement set the precedent for his following races; having been invited to participate in the Under 17 London Mini Marathon, George came a very impressive 28th out of 214 participants. He then decided to compete in the Manchester 10K Run, along with the likes of Sir Mo Farah. This was an incredible accomplishment for George, as not only did he finish within five minutes of Mo with a time of 33:15, but he also finished 3rd out of 500 other competitors in the Under 20 age group. George hasn't stopped there and has branched out to try the Steeplechase, where he is currently placed 5th in the UK Under 20 rankings.

Congratulations to **Lauren Wilkins**, who completed the London Marathon in extremely warm conditions and **Helena Morgan** who ran a fantastic race in the Worcester 10K run.

## Fencing for Gold

After years of hard work and determination, Abigail Watkins, Year Eleven, has achieved one of her dreams and has been selected to represent her country at the 2018 Commonwealth Championships.

This follows her success at the British Youth Championships National Age Group Finals at the England Institute of Sport in Sheffield in May. There she worked hard and fenced with discipline to get to the final where her technical execution and determination saw her become the British Under 18 Women's Epee Champion. Abi has also been selected to fence for Wales at Cadet level (Under 17) Junior level (Under 20) and Senior level (Adult).



The Cadet and Junior events were held at Northumbria University in Newcastle Upon Tyne in July. In the Under 17 Individual competitions she was seeded 2nd after the pools and went out in the semi-final to the eventual winner 15-8 to finish 3rd. Two days later it was the Team event and the day started well with victory over the South Africans, but this was followed by defeat to the Scottish (who went on to win), then defeat to India to finish an agonising 4th.

Two days later it was time to take it up a notch and fence in the Juniors. Eliminations saw her reach 10th place. Former RGS pupil, Danielle Lawson, at the top of this age group and Fencing for England, finished 5th.

It was then time for the Junior Team competition. Her team beat India, lost to England (the team which included Danielle and went on to win) and lost to Scotland to finish once again in an agonising 4th place.

The Senior Commonwealth Championships in Canberra, Australia is in November, and we wish Abi every success.



# RGS RUGBY TOUR

## South Africa 2018



This trip was all about new experiences and new beginnings. For the majority of boys, it was the trip of a life time as far as Rugby was concerned. Travelling to the Southern Hemisphere to take on the most famous South African schools was an experience that our boys will never forget. Rock hard pitches, massive Afrikaans teenagers, a physical brand of brutal South African rugby were all things that the RGS Worcester boys had to adapt to quickly!

And adapt they did. As an incoming Head of Rugby, I was really pleased with the toughness and effort shown by all our tourists. The highlight was when the Senior team fought back to regain the lead three times and win the final tour match to send Ben Taylor off in style. The South Africans consistently described the RGS players as the toughest touring side they had faced in years.

The trips to Robben Island, The Nelson Mandela Experience and the learning around Apartheid, served to reinforce that this tour was about much more than just rugby, but it did show the boys how sport can heal a Nation.

We found time away from the rugby to enjoy Shark Diving, Zip Wiring, Game Drives, Speed Boating, Table Mountain Visits and plenty of South African BBQs! The hospitality afforded to us was outstanding, but we got the sense that the South African parents went the extra mile for our boys because of their impeccable manners and never say die attitude to Rugby.

The challenge for the players now is to recreate the same levels of emotion and energy that they displayed in South Africa, on our home circuit. We lived with the best that South African schools had to throw at us and we need to use that experience to help turn Worcester green!





# DID YOU KNOW – IMRAN KHAN ATTENDED RGS WORCESTER?

During the summer holiday, RGS Worcester, watched the international news with interest as former RGS pupil Imran Khan (1971-72) was declared victorious in the elections in Pakistan and became the country's new Prime Minister.

Born in 1952, the only son of a civil engineer, Imran was sent to England and educated at The Royal Grammar School Worcester before attending Keble College, Oxford. Imran was a boarder at RGS Worcester in Whiteladies boarding house and he played cricket for the School as well as for Worcestershire County Cricket Club. Imran even completely re-worked his bowling action in the RGS Worcester gym, turning his bowling into the potent force that would make him the ultimate all-rounder. Imran Khan went on to become Captain of Pakistan and won the World Cup. His achievements as a cricketer saw him honoured by being entered into the ICC Hall of Fame.



Imran was known to be a relatively quiet school pupil who was academically able and who worked hard, achieving the A Level grades he needed to achieve a place at Oxford in just one year. He even played rugby for the School, despite not knowing the rules according to his teammates, but his strength and pace made him a useful player on the wing. His cricket career is recorded on the School's Honours board at Flagge Meadow, now Worcestershire CCC's second ground.

Following the election result, RGS Worcester has been mentioned in many national newspapers and we hosted BBC Midlands Today along with news reporter Bob Hockenhull for a feature, which was shown on the early evening news. Elliott Webb from BBC Hereford and Worcester (a former pupil from 1982-1989) interviewed the Headmaster, live on The Breakfast Show. The Headmaster said "It is an extraordinary achievement to have two successful careers, first as an international cricketer and then as Prime Minister of a country with a population of nearly 200 million people."

Imran is pictured above with RGS cricketing teammates, and we spy antiques expert Philip Serrell (who also attended RGS Worcester from 1970-73) on the back row. The picture below was taken on the day Imran was announced as the incoming Prime Minister for Pakistan.





# SEVENTY FIVE OVER(S) AND OUT

## Alumni Cricket Special



The Alumni Cricket match v 1st XI at Flagge Meadow takes place every year but the match on Sunday 25 June was a rather special RGS occasion. It was the final one organised by Mike Wilkinson before he hung up his pads, gloves, boots, chalk, mortar board and gown in July.

Mike is embarking on retirement in the company of fellow Mathematicians, Jon Shorrocks and Mark Ralfe. They have notched up 109 years of exceptionally dedicated service to the School and collectively they have guided thousands of RGS boys and girls. Mike and Jon had asked if their farewell celebrations could coincide with the annual Cricket match as the venue and relaxed nature of the event provided the ingredients for the perfect goodbye.

The sun shone on a beautifully manicured pitch, courtesy of Sean Lloyd and the Grounds team, while the current RGS cricketers hoped to prove to alumni that youth could triumph over experience. Throughout the day, a constant stream of RGS staff, alumni, current pupils and parents all came to wish both Mike and Jon a happy retirement. Former colleagues also returned and it was great to welcome back Tim and Pippa Curtis, Barrie Rees, Bob Savage, Mike Vetch, John Prickett, Stephen Osmond,

Gareth Cox, Frank Watson, Tim Mason, Howard Groves, Neil Humphries, Dave Cotterill, together with Sarah Coggins, Angela Park and Maureen Spiller. All enjoyed recounting stories of Maths, Cricket, Rugby, Netball, the CCF, House competitions and not forgetting the BISMARCK modelling studio.

At the break for lunch, the Headmaster led the speeches, praising both Mike and Jon for their unstinting service to the School and its pupils (and managed to include a rhombus joke, worthy of any Christmas cracker). Guests raised their glasses to acknowledge their gratitude to these unique characters and were rewarded when Mike and Jon responded with speeches, each one thoughtful, witty and emotional.

As the day drew to a close, the 1st XI proved their worth with the final score Old Boys' XI 282-7 (Dan Goodyear 113), 1st XI 283-7 and so won the game. Top scores for the 1st XI were George Cook 76 and Ben Sutton 61 not out.

Cricketers, the Grounds team, Catering crew, Mr Gibson, Mr Newport, the Headmaster and the many guests all contributed to a wonderful afternoon honouring two RGS legends.



# FOUR MEN IN A BOAT

## Rowing - Talisker Challenge



ED WILSON



EWAN BELL



JAMES PROTHEROUGH



JON MEROTRA



News has reached the School from Hong Kong that four former RGS pupils from the Class of 2005 are planning an awesome adventure in 2019. Ewan Bell, Jon Merotra, James Protherough and Ed Wilson have decided to row unsupported across the Atlantic Ocean as part of the Talisker Challenge.

The four friends have taken varied career paths after leaving RGS: Ewan works in digital advertising; Jon is employed by global drinks producer, Diageo; James was a rugby coach before focusing on his role as a Structural Engineer; Ed moved to Australia to take up a post with an advertising technology company. Despite the physical distance between them and their differing professional lives, the boys have remained firm friends since their school days. The bond is evidently strong enough for them to contemplate this mammoth task.

Ewan is the skipper and he recounted that at RGS, "you are generally encouraged to always push yourself, whether it is by your peers or the School and that taking on this challenge was in keeping with that mentality". The race is billed as the 'World's Toughest Row' and will see the crew journey 3,000 miles from La Gomera to Antigua. The aim is to keep the boat moving by rowing in alternate pairs for two hours on, two hours off, 24 hours a day for roughly 40 days. 40°C heat, 50 foot waves, hurricane strength winds and, of course, the threat of sharks will add to the challenge. They hope to raise £200,000 for four charities, namely: CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), Dementia UK, MS UK, and The Ocean Cleanup. In addition, to make it to the start line, they need to raise £100,000 through corporate sponsorship in order to pay for the boat, equipment and training courses.



# ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE

## Chaplain of the Fleet for RGS Worcester's Commemoration



The Venerable Ian Wheatley, Chaplain of the Fleet and Archdeacon for the Royal Navy and former RGS pupil (1975-1980), joined the School on 21 June for the annual Commemoration Service held in Worcester Cathedral.

His address included an explanation of the naval origins of many of our everyday terms. It was explained that so much of our history as a nation is linked to that of the Royal Navy, and one of the earliest references to the navy can be traced back to the 680's, the same time that RGS Worcester began, making RGS Worcester the sixth oldest school in the world.

Community formed the core message of his address, and this was fully embraced as the Chamber Choir performed, backed by the Senior Strings, as well as readings by the younger pupils from the Prep Schools RGS The Grange and RGS Springfield. A solo performance of 'A Million Dreams' from the hit film 'The Greatest Showman', was the perfect example of where faith in your community can lead.

The assembled staff and pupils were informed by The Venerable Ian Wheatley that 'nailing your colours to the mast' is also a term we have inherited from the Royal Navy; a statement that your ship was still ready, willing, able and active. After 1300 years of history, this year's Commemoration Service made a very similar statement about RGS Worcester and if they were nailing colours, they would certainly be green!

“ AT RGS WORCESTER WE AIM  
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN  
OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY ”





# THE FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES

The RGSW and AOS Foundation has been bolstered by the appointment of four new trustees in May 2018. Each trustee brings their skills and experience that will prove extremely beneficial to furthering the work of the Foundation. All are former pupils of the School, one is a former member of staff and three of them have been or are parents of RGS pupils.



*Gary, Jonny and Emma outside the former AOS building with Foundation Chairman Andrew Greenway*

## Emma Bentley-Hughes

An AOS alumna, Emma attended the School 1981-86 and her daughters are currently at the Senior School and RGS The Grange respectively. Emma's volunteering on behalf of pupils and the School can be traced back to her willingness to serve as Chair of the Springfield Parents Association. She owns and runs an independent financial advisory service with her husband.

## Gary Rouse

A former pupil of RGS (1981-88), Gary renewed his link with the School when his daughters joined RGS The Grange. Sophie was appointed Head Girl in 2016 and is now enjoying life at the Senior School. Gary is a director at BDO, a global accounting and business services provider, heading up the Worcestershire Team. He has created the annual

Worcestershire Growth Report which is vital reading for those tracking the economic development and business opportunities within our region.

## Jonny Arr

A Worcester sporting legend, Jonny has played professional rugby for the Worcester Warriors since leaving RGS. During his time at the School (1999-07) he excelled both academically and across all sports, in his own words "making the most of every opportunity that an RGS education offered". He achieved that rare distinction of being capped 200 times for a single club and did so in his testimonial year during which he raised funds for several charities. Jonny's sisters attended The Alice Ottley School and his mother taught at RGS Springfield for a number of years so Jonny has a deep appreciation of the School's recent history.

## Tim Curtis

Entering RGS as a fresh-faced pupil a year ahead of his peers was the early indicator of this dedicated scholar, sportsman, coach, and teacher. Tim (1970-78) was appointed School Captain before heading to Durham University. He returned to RGS as a part-time teacher while forging his professional career with Worcestershire County Cricket Club where he was appointed captain and was selected to play for England. Upon retiring, Tim joined RGS fulltime as an English teacher and upon his retirement in 2016 he was Director of Sport. His three children attended the School and his wife, Pippa, coached Netball for a number of years at RGS. Retirement has apparently helped push his golf handicap to low single figures.



# OSMINGTON BAY

## Residential Trip

This year the Year Five and Six residential trip was to PGL Osmington Bay near Weymouth and once again it was an opportunity for the children to face up to a number of challenges.

For some of the children the first challenge was to spend four nights away from home, this being the longest residential trip at RGS Springfield. PGL are experts in helping children develop resilience and independence in a safe environment and ensure that the children have an action-packed week from the minute they arrive. The days were busy and included a mixture of physically challenging activities such as zip wire, abseiling and tunnelling, along with a chance to find out more about different environments with rock pooling and fossil hunting. It is always interesting to discover that it is not just the high ropes activities that can be a challenge. This was evident this year when we went sailing for the first time. As well as being tremendous fun, it was also the biggest challenge for some of the children.

"I was absolutely petrified of the sea," said Fearne, "but it was better than I thought it would be and I feel really proud of myself for trying it."

The children are never forced into any activity that they find challenging but due to the supportive natures of their classmates and instructors, usually surprise themselves by not only trying the activity but enjoying it too! The week flew by and ended far too soon but the children all agreed that they had had a fantastic time and could all feel proud of themselves.



## THE RGS ROYAL

Reception and Year One at RGS Springfield marked the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in style in May, when they held their very own Royal Wedding.

The children dressed up as the main characters, including Prince Harry, Meghan, a Best Man, Bridesmaids, Prince Philip and not forgetting, Her Royal Highness The Queen!





# SPIES LIKE US

**Ever wanted to become a spy? Our Year Three and Four pupils did! In early May they headed to the Alex Ryder Spy Academy in the beautiful setting of the Wye Valley to become spy cadets.**

For many of the children this was one of the first times away from home and family for two nights so, understandably, many were a little nervous but all were very excited. Once there, the children rose to the first challenge of unpacking bags and keeping their dorms organised.

The children eagerly began their first spy academy activity. Working in groups, children mapped the cadet's location, cracked codes and created their own spy gadget.

During the second day, the spy cadets practised archery to use on missions with a grappling hook, honed their sense other than sight on the nightline course (a good spy must use all of his and her senses), carried out reconnaissance on a five mile walk and then created a landing vehicle for Mr. Egg the "spy egg"! The cadets even managed to squeeze a game of rounders in during the day.

The very last day came and we discovered that one of the cadets was a double agent! The children were shocked and quickly set about using the various skills developed over the past two days to crack codes, use maps, decipher clues and use different spy equipment to work out who the double agent was. They worked extremely well and discovered it was none other than agent Custard Cream (Mrs Webster)! The children passed the spy training with flying colours and earned their own copy of Anthony Horowitz's Alex Ryder book 'Stormbreaker'.

The children rose to all the challenges set and gave their best from keeping rooms tidy, helping others in their groups, trying new foods to doing their best in all the of activities during their stay.

**Noah** "I enjoyed doing the egg drop because we were so surprised that ours survived"

**Izzy** "I enjoyed the marble run. It was quite hard but was fun because it was giant and the tubes were huge! It got really hard when we were on the hill!"

**Gio Gio** "The most exciting but challenging part of the trip was the nightline because you had to trust other people and there was a lot of pressure on the leader. Our group leader did very well."

**Harry** "The most difficult part was trying to figure out who the double agent was because at one point we lost our bucket and our piece of paper with our notes on but it was still fun to do."

**Holly** "I really enjoyed the trip. The activity that I found hard was the nightline. It was really fun but walking over fallen down trees was a big challenge!"

**Nikolas** "One of the biggest challenges was sleeping at night time. I wanted to keep talking to my friends!"

## WEDDING

After a short walk, we were warmly welcomed in church by the vicar, who began the ceremony. Our very own Meghan walked down the aisle with her bouquet, whilst one of the children 'played' the organ. Readings were shared, vows said and rings exchanged before having a little dance in the aisle, throwing the confetti over the happy couple! Afterwards, the obligatory wedding photographs were taken by the local newspaper, who published the article across Worcestershire. Then it was time to walk back to school and start the official Wedding Reception. There was pizza and chips with jelly and ice-cream for afters as all guests happily tucked into the Wedding Breakfast! Our own Prince Harry and Meghan then proceeded to cut the cake together and share in the First Dance, before the big party began. There was lots of dancing, laughing and happy faces as we celebrated such a special, Royal occasion. An occasion that we will treasure and keep as a very special memory.





# NATIONAL PREP SCHOOL CHAMPIONS



RGS The Grange has had unprecedented success in sport this year. The Under 11 Girls teams qualified for both the Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) Netball and Hockey National Finals.

Similarly the Under 11 Boys also qualified for two National Finals with Cricket and Hockey being the successful teams. The Hockey team succeeded on the back of attending a weekly Hockey Club. The Under 11 Boys Cricket team went on to win all games in their final and were awarded the impressive title of National Under 11 Hardball Cricket Champions.

Six athletes from Year Six qualified and competed in the National Athletics Finals at Alexandra Stadium in Birmingham. Sofia Stolt gained a place on the winner's podium in two field events – second place in the Shot Putt and third in the Discus. In addition four of our Year Five and Year Six children qualified for the Worcestershire Cross Country Team and competed at the English Schools' National Finals in Leicester, achieving 6th place overall.

This year was the inaugural Girls Cricket season and to see the Under 11 Girls Cricket team win the County Cricket Tournament exceeded everyone's expectations.

Credit must be given to the high quality coaching the children have experienced, as well as the dedication and commitment all the children have shown to their sport throughout the academic year.





## CHRIS HITS 200



**Professional Rugby player and member of the RGS The Grange community, Chris Pennell, achieved his 200th appearance for the Worcester Warriors in April.** In the last home match of the Premiership season, Chris walked out on the pitch with his children to great applause from a packed Sixways Stadium. Chris joins an illustrious group of four players, who have achieved 200 Caps which includes RGS Worcester's former pupil, Jonny Arr. Both Chris and Jonny helped Worcester win the match against Harlequins convincingly 44-13 and in doing so, secured Worcester Warriors a place in the Premiership for next season. Chris has earned one cap for England, playing against New Zealand at Eden Park in 2014.

Chris is Worcester born and bred and is a product of the Warriors Academy, bursting onto the scene in 2007, playing his premiership debut against Bath. Chris also juggles life as a Type 1 diabetic alongside being a professional sportsman. He was diagnosed as a 19-year old and believes that his career has enhanced his healthiness as a diabetic. "To be a professional rugby player I need to eat healthily and look after myself, and to be a good diabetic I need to do exactly the same."



Chris, whose daughter attends RGS The Grange, spoke at the inaugural RGS Network Breakfast Meeting held in July. He talked about his passion for supporting young people in leading normal lives despite diabetes. He is a superb role model, demonstrating the ability to overcome adversity, and supreme loyalty in his highly successful rugby career at Worcester Warriors.





RGS  
WORCESTER

## RGS AT A GLANCE

**Making the choice about your child's education is an important decision and we welcome you to come and visit our schools.** This will give you the chance to meet our staff and you will gain a real sense of what makes an education at RGS Worcester special.

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

**Details of future Open Mornings along with up-to-date news stories are available on our website: [www.rgsw.org.uk](http://www.rgsw.org.uk)**

We look forward to welcoming you.

#worcesterisgreen





**RGS Worcester**  
**Fully co-educational**  
**11 - 18 years**

- Independent Day School
  - 780 pupils
- Sixth oldest school in the world, originally founded circa 685  
*(first written reference appears in 1291)*

Situated in Worcester City Centre  
Upper Tything, Worcester WR1 1HP

**01905 613391** [office@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:office@rgsw.org.uk)



**RGS The Grange**  
**Fully co-educational**  
**2 - 11 years**

- Prep School
- 370 pupils
- Founded in 1996
- Part of RGS Worcester

Situated on the edge of Worcester  
in 50 acres of grounds  
Grange Lane, Claines, Worcester WR3 7RR

**01905 451205** [grange@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:grange@rgsw.org.uk)



**RGS Springfield**  
**Fully co-educational**  
**2 - 11 years**

- Prep School
- 150 pupils
- Founded in 1953, originally as part of The Alice Ottley School
- Part of RGS Worcester

Situated in the City Centre  
Britannia Square, Worcester WR1 3DL

**01905 24999** [springfield@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:springfield@rgsw.org.uk)



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



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RGS  
THE GRANGE

T: 01905 451205



RGS  
SPRINGFIELD

T: 01905 24999



RGS  
WORCESTER

T: 01905 613391

[www.rgsw.org.uk](http://www.rgsw.org.uk)