

RGS WORCESTER EXCEL

Spring 2018

Outstanding Performing Arts

4x4 Challenge
World Finals
in Abu Dhabi
p10



Modus Cup:
Sixways Rugby
Triumph
p3

#worcesterisgreen



RGS
WORCESTER



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RGS RECLAIMS THE MODUS CUP

Sixways Rugby Triumph



The featured photographs depict the electric atmosphere at the Worcester Warriors' ground, Sixways, for the annual rugby fixture between RGS Worcester and the King's School. This year, the RGS team won a hard-fought 13-10 victory to claim the Modus Cup.

The Worcester News described the performance of the RGS 1st XV as "a heroic display of guts and determination".

Gareth Roots, Director of Sport at RGS Worcester said, "The passion with which the RGS pupils played was truly inspirational. The RGS Charter for Sport, which asks for pupils to be 'resolute, gracious, selfless and willing', could not be more applicable to this group of players. They did themselves and the RGS community proud – Worcester really is green!"

With over 3,800 spectators at the match, it was impressive to see so many supporters for the team, cheering them on. This was a fantastic event and a true display of determination and commitment from the RGS players. The Modus Cup is now sitting proudly on display in the RGS trophy cabinet.



“THE PASSION WITH WHICH THE RGS PUPILS PLAYED WAS TRULY INSPIRATIONAL”

HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION

Excel magazine highlights achievements at the RGSW Schools over the last few months. From the "heroic display of guts and determination" in the Rugby Modus Cup match to the production of West Side Story, an "exceptional

All of this is achieved through dedicated pupils determined to achieve their best, supported by exceptionally able and committed staff across all three schools. Our schools are sharing this expertise with other schools in partnership with well over 1,000 school children benefiting from our Outreach community events in the last year.

Please do read on about 'Permission to be brilliant' and 'Sport for Champions' at RGS Springfield, and 'It all adds up' and how the Performing Arts are 'alive and kicking' at RGS The Grange.

Finally, please do visit our website (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



production which would not have been out of place on a West End stage" and the Chamber Choir performing at St Paul's Cathedral, the pupils at all three schools have been given wonderful opportunities and absolutely made the most of them.

There has been local, regional, national and even international success in several areas of school life. Girls' sport has had its strongest season ever with regional success in Netball and national success in Hockey. Debating is experiencing its best year with national success in a range of competitions. There is international achievement in Engineering, Art work on display to the public, and individual performances in Music and Sport which are quite simply breathtaking.



Photography © David Felton of DE Photography Worcester

WEST SIDE STORY

This year's Upper School Production 'West Side Story' was a fantastic success. The production was held in Perrins Hall and ran for six performances.

'West Side Story' is a classic of musical theatre and recognised as one of the most difficult musicals to perform. The RGS cast, crew and musicians were exceptional throughout all performances of the show. The scaling wall pieces and cleverly designed set not only enhanced the performance, but transported the audience back to 1950s Upper West Side New York.

The actors confidently tackled the challenging New York and Puerto Rican accents and the cast demonstrated considerable dancing abilities including street, flamenco and even choreographing the fight scene to dramatic music. The popular song 'America' was brought to life by the effortless vocals of Ella Cleary and Florence Briggs. The singing was faultless and left audience members humming the tune after the show.

Ben Hughes played the lead as Tony and his performance of 'Maria' was pitch perfect. Beth Rabjohn as Maria displayed a combination of naivety and strength, offering the audience flawless vocals and an emotional performance.

The 'Jets' were a dynamic group, ably led by Alexander Edwards as Riff. They demonstrated the right level of menace and naivety as they performed at times with aggression and at other times with great comedy. The 'Sharks' too, played the part of underdogs with real aplomb, standing up to the aggression of their opponents. Ed Kirby as Bernardo commanded the stage and acted with a sense of entitlement completely appropriate to his character. Both gangs were watched by the corrupt Lieutenant Shrank, played by the accomplished Martyn Forrester who added a subtle level of menace to the role.



“ THE STRENGTH AND DEPTH OF TALENT AMONGST THE RGS PUPILS WAS VERY EVIDENT FROM THIS EXCEPTIONAL PRODUCTION WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN OUT OF PLACE ON A WEST END STAGE ”

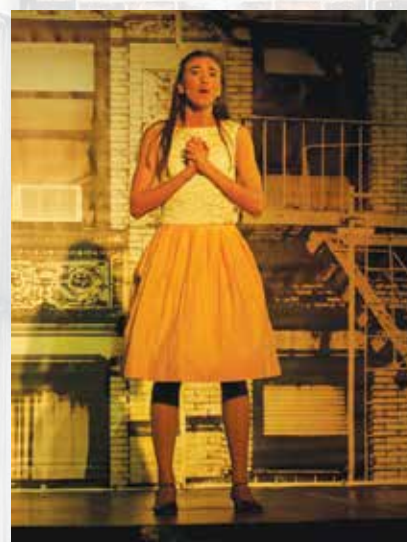


His side-kick Officer Krupke (Henry Brereton) was suitably tough and comical at the same time. Alex Owen as Doc provided the voice of reason, so sadly ignored by the gangs' leaders.

The musical accompaniment led by Mr Hamilton, with several current and former pupils performing, was stunning allowing the actors to perform to their very best as they delivered the well-known songs, emotionally charged.

The acting and musical ability of the pupils was outstanding; their professionalism and clear commitment ensured a run of performances which will be long remembered. The strength and depth of talent amongst the RGS pupils was very evident from this exceptional production which would not have been out of place on a West End stage.

“ THE ACTING AND MUSICAL ABILITY OF THE PUPILS WAS OUTSTANDING ”



WEST SIDE STORY

TALKING THE TALK

National Debating Success

The past academic year has seen remarkable success for the RGS Debaters. RGS Debating Society teams have competed in numerous National competitions, delivering their best Debating season ever.

The University of Cardiff schools competition proved a fantastic start to the season with RGS teams finishing in second, third and fourth place. The following awards were given:

- Top speaker - Nadiath Choudhury (Upper Sixth)
- Second place - Gemma Collins (Lower Sixth)
- Third place and top novice speaker - Alexander Edwards (Lower Sixth)
- Winners of the novice final - Alec Berry (Head Boy, Upper Sixth) and Harry Smith (Upper Sixth)

Lower Sixth students, Amber Warner-Warr and Felix Haynes, have had a particularly outstanding run as a debating pair this year:

- Qualified for and took on the role of The Czech Republic in the EU Mock Council at the Law Society in London
- Second place at the University of Birmingham Schools competition. Amber as top speaker of the day
- First place at the University of Cambridge Schools Finals Day
- Crowned West Champions at the English Speaking Union Mace competition

Other Significant National successes for RGS debaters were: Finalists in Novice Final at the University of Nottingham Schools competition:

- Senior Society debaters - Jordan Barnes, Dan Banks, Isaac Baker and Nick Fearon

Qualifiers for the prestigious The University of Oxford Schools competition:

- The Upper Sixth pairs of Head Girl, Ellie Carey, and Ruby Potts and of Holly Chance and Heloise Messervy-Whiting
- Ellie and Ruby came 22nd out of 108 teams on Finals Day, which is a remarkable achievement considering that they were up against schools such as Eton and Westminster as well as the champions from Canada, Slovenia and Greece.

Winners of the Worcestershire Cup:

- James Reynolds, Isaac Baker, Khadija Bashar (Year Eleven)
- Best Speaker - James Reynolds
- Best Questioner - Isaac Baker

Qualifiers for Finals Day of the International Competition for Young Debaters:

- Year Nine and Ten Pairs: Zain Baig, Max Houchin, Ella Gibbs, Tess Rabjohn, Elizabeth McCabe and James Preece



THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT FOR THE DEBATING SOCIETY WITH SUCH PROMISING DEBATERS ALREADY COMPETING SO SUCCESSFULLY AT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS



THE LORD OF THE FLIES



The DIY Theatre Company's latest production saw the actors tackle a stage version of William Golding's classic tale 'The Lord of Flies'. This powerful play sees a group of young castaways, freed from the restraints of civilisation and parental control, descend into savagery. This compelling and disturbing story was vividly brought to life by two casts who performed on alternate nights, demonstrating the depth of acting talent at RGS Worcester.

The transformation of Perrins Hall into a desert island strewn with debris from a plane created an eerie contrast between beauty and ruin. The different levels afforded by the scaffolding on stage allowed the key themes of hierarchy and power in the novel to be at the forefront of the production, and acted as a visual reminder of the emerging division amongst the characters.

During the opening scene, war footage played against the superbly haunting music composed by current pupil Jenna Martin.

The programme note addressed the fact that this play is about the 'dark and extreme side of human nature' and that the two different casts each brought a different interpretation to the performance and this was certainly the case. Outstanding but different performances were delivered by both casts.

One of the most impressive features of this production was that a great number of scenes were charged with a frenzied energy and what was particularly remarkable was that the actors remained on stage for the entirety of the play. The focus on the physicality of the performances must be commended and moments where the characters' barbaric actions were conveyed were incredibly powerful. As the audience left Perrins Hall words and phrases such as 'powerful', 'intense' and 'thought-provoking' could be heard from them.

All involved in this production should be congratulated for their ability to work together to produce and perform such an exhilarating show that left audiences reeling and where the potential of the students at RGS has once again exceeded expectations.

Cast One:

Ralph - Cathy Lunn
Piggy - Martyn Forrester
Jack - Henry Brereton
Roger - Charlotte Thwaites
Sam & Eric - Bella Hulbert & Eva Barry
Simon - Beatrice Price

Cast Two:

Ralph - Alexander Edwards
Piggy - Darcey Chambers
Jack - Freddie Edmonds
Roger - Abi Gill
Sam & Eric - Catherine Broadbent & Molly Eldridge
Simon - Mia Shaw



“THE FOCUS ON THE PHYSICALITY OF THE PERFORMANCES MUST BE COMMENDED AND MOMENTS WHERE THE CHARACTERS' BARBARIC ACTIONS WERE CONVEYED WERE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL”

THE UNDER 16 HOCKEY TEAM COMPETES AT THE NATIONAL FINALS

The Under 16 Indoor Hockey team have had an outstanding season culminating in becoming semi-finalists in the Super 6s Under 16 Championships.

The team began their journey by winning the County Tournament. They went on to contest the Regional Finals, finishing as regional runners up and secured a place at the National Finals.

RGS faced the leading Hockey schools in the country at the National Finals. They played Blundell's School in the opening pool game. Sophie Thompson and Lottie Atkinson both scored a hat-trick, along with Lucy Hawkes who converted another two goals to provide an excellent 8-2 win to start the competition. The day progressed with a 5-4 win over St Lawrence College and a nail-biting 3-3 draw against St George's School. This meant that the RGSW team led the pool, moving comfortably into the semi-final with a game in hand.

The semi-final against Wellington College was a tense encounter and remained 0-0 at half time. The opposition went a goal up early into the second half and, even with numerous shots on goal and moving to six outfield players, the RGS team was unable to score. Wellington College went on to win the tournament 1-0 in the final.

The RGS Worcester team finished with their heads held high as one of the top four schools in the country. The team scored more goals than any other team at the finals and Sophie Thompson, the RGSW Captain, was the leading goal scorer in the tournament.

The team is coached by Head of Hockey Leanne Bennett, and former GB Olympic medallist Sally Walton. Leanne said, "I am very proud of the hard work the girls have put in leading up to this tournament and the professional approach they had throughout the National Finals. They are a very talented group and are a pleasure to coach."



RGS HOCKEY COACH IN WINNING TEAM AT SUPER 6S NATIONAL INDOOR HOCKEY FINALS



Sally Walton, former GB Olympic medallist and her team Bowdon Hightown won their 12th indoor title defeating Leicester in the National Super 6s Indoor Hockey Final which was held on Saturday 28 January at the Copper Box Arena in the Olympic Park in London.

Sally, who coaches Hockey at RGS Worcester, was cheered on by RGSW players of all ages who went along to support her and see the best indoor Hockey in the country. Sally put Bowdon into an early lead before Charlene Mason hit the winner after Rachael Mack had drawn Leicester level. It was a tight game between two impressive sides, but it was Bowdon who went on to win 2-1.

Year Eleven pupil Sophie Thompson, is Captain of the School's Under 16 side who were recent semi-finalists in the Super 6s Under 16 School Championships, was there to experience this momentous occasion. Sophie said, "It was a great trip where all of us were able to watch Hockey at the highest level and get involved by supporting Miss Walton. She played really well and we all enjoyed the chance to celebrate her team's success."



Photography © David Felton of DE Photography, Worcester



THE 2018 CHALLENGE CUP

Honours were shared in the 2018 Football Challenge Cup Match between RGS Worcester and the King's School Worcester. The annual encounter, held at Worcester Warriors' Sixways Stadium was an exciting and tense match which was attended by over 1,000 supporters.

The Challenge Cup match has involved high drama in recent seasons, and the sides have claimed three wins each over the last six years.

This was a closely fought match which resulted in a 2-2 draw.

Congratulations to all of the players for delivering a really exciting match played in excellent spirit, at such a prestigious venue.

RGS Worcester:
L. Dear, J. Thomson,
J. Betteridge, H. Broster,
M. Hawsworth, J. Dipple,
J. Hewitt, H. Munro,
P. Wheeler, A. Peake,
C. Hall, G. Cook,
B. Selby, W. Reading,
S. Healey, S. Lewis,
W. Saunders

NATIONAL JUDO CHAMPION

Year Eight pupil, Loïc Keasey has become a National Judo Champion and winner of the HMC Schools Judo Tournament.

Loïc won Gold representing RGS Worcester at the 2017 Wales British Schools' Regional Judo Championships, held at the Welsh National Sports Institute in Cardiff. This win qualified Loïc for the British National Schools Championship.

Loïc then competed for the first time in December 2017 as a Pre-Cadet at the British National Open Championship which was held at the prestigious English Institute for Sport in Sheffield. Despite being the youngest and smallest fighter by far, he surpassed all expectations and won Gold, winning

all his fights by the maximum score – Ippon.

Following on from this success, Loïc was invited to a regional development trial at the National Judo Centre in January 2018 for the England Development Squad. As a result of this, he was selected for the England Judo Development Squad, where he will have the opportunity to be taught by elite national coaches at monthly training sessions across England in order to enhance his abilities and performance as a Judoka.

Loïc then competed on behalf of RGS Worcester at the National HMC Independent Schools Boys Judo Tournament which was held in High Wycombe. He fought in the weight



category above his and again won all of his fights.

Loïc has now been crowned a National Judo Champion.

4X4 CHALLENGE

World Finals in Abu Dhabi

RGS Team Pinnacle Take Seventh place in the World Final of the Land Rover 4x4 School Challenge.

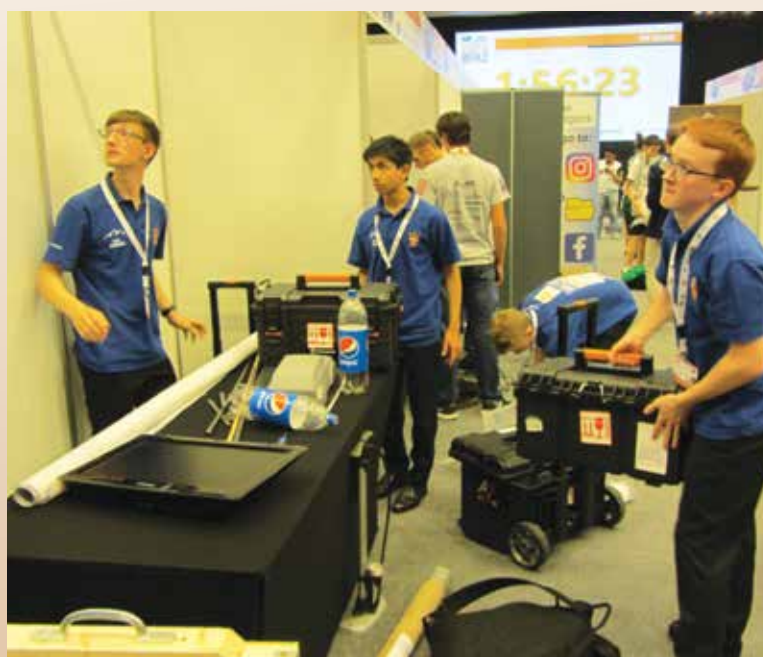
Team Pinnacle are a team of six Year Eleven RGS pupils who all share a passion for engineering and take pride in representing their School. In March 2017, they qualified for the Land Rover 4x4 In Schools Challenge World Finals, which were held at the Yas Marina Formula 1 Race Track in Abu Dhabi in December. The Challenge encourages young engineers from around the world to compete by using creativity and knowledge to design and build a remote control 4x4 car. Team Pinnacle were one of the 24 teams who reached the World Finals and the team achieved 7th place internationally.



The Finals, which were streamed live on the internet were incredibly tense. The RGS team held their nerve and their car demonstrated its superior engineering in the many challenges set.

The challenges included driving the car over a series of obstacle courses, one designed as an urban environment and another as a desert, reversing a car towing a boat into water. They also had to drive their car over a track that passed through a full size Land Rover. The team delivered their presentation and discussed their pit display with the judges.

Mr John Pitt, Headmaster, said, "Team Pinnacle has performed at an extremely high level and it is wonderful to see engineering at RGS being promoted on the World stage."



Team Pinnacle: George Beardmore, Harry Chaplin, Suvikrant Pathania, Josh Warner, Fraser Sparks, Amy Murphy

'YOUNG VISIONS'

PUBLIC ART EXHIBITION

Artwork on display at Worcester Cathedral



by Nadiath Choudhury

Lower Sixth pupils at RGS exhibited artwork inspired by Worcester Cathedral in the Dean's Chapel for public viewing.

The Cathedral is Worcester's most magnificent architectural achievement. Built to the glory of God, from the Norman crypt to its soaring tower and the newly installed restored bell, the Cathedral was created by the ingenuity, skill and hard work of generations of dedicated people. What better starting point than here could there possibly be, for young artists at RGS Worcester starting their two year A Level Art course?

The work on display was a selection of what the Lower Sixth artists created since their site visit in early September.



by Isabelle Eberlin Cubist Architect

Robert Aitchison said, "This exhibition was an incredible experience for me as it was the first time any of my art has been put on public display. I found this event to be truly inspiring, as I got to see my work in the very place where I drew inspiration from, allowing me to see my compositions in a different light to the studio."

Izzy Tranter commented, "I have enjoyed displaying my artwork at Worcester Cathedral, as it made me consider and analyse the art I would like to put out there for other artists to see. As an artist I have not always found painting to be an easy form of expressing myself. However, through taking part in the exhibition, displaying a painting, I now feel more confident in painting."

Harvey Munro said, "Showcasing my work for public viewing in the Cathedral allowed me to work on something really special. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the exhibition, and the praise received made it all worthwhile. I am immensely proud of the work of both myself and my peers, and it serves as a great advert for the School."

We are very grateful to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral for providing this opportunity; Sara Hayward, the Cathedral's Artist-in-residence, who introduced us to building; Richard Forrester and the RGSW Parents Association for providing funding for the frames enabling the work to be presented so beautifully and the Bevere Art Gallery for framing the work.



by Ella Nash



by Ella Cleary



by Robert Aitchison

CHORAL CONCERT

Haydn's Nelson Mass at Worcester Cathedral

RGS musicians returned to the beautiful setting of Worcester Cathedral for its annual Choral Concert.

The concert started with a rousing performance of the theme from Rocky, 'Gonna Fly Now', followed by Senior Strings presenting an intense performance of Libertango; a very popular modern take on the tango.

There were excellent performances from RGS Prep School Choirs. Springfield Choir opened with a Native-American inspired piece; 'Ribbons in the Sky'. They followed this with 'Love's Tempest', with the pupils' gentle voices in contrast to the rippling piano accompaniment. RGS the Grange's Choir then came to the stage to perform 'Antiphonal Gloria', with the joyful Latin phrases echoing back and forth between the parts. They finished with 'Can You Hear Me', a beautiful song describing the wonder of a world seen through the eyes of a deaf child. In the chorus, they signed the words they sang, giving a moving repeat of their performance that won the Worcester Competitive Arts Festival.

The RGS Junior Choir then joined the stage and opened with Chilcott's Vertue. Their sweeping vocal line and subtle harmonies combined to create a delicate performance. In contrast, they then gave an energetic performance of 'This Is Me', from the film, The Greatest Showman. The Chamber Choir closed the first half of the concert by performing a traditional Bulgarian song: Caval Sviri, ('A flute is playing'). Following this, Hardenburger's 'The Music of Stillness' resonated through the surroundings, brilliantly accompanied on the piano by one of our Music Scholars.

The concert culminated in a performance of Haydn's Missa In Angustiis, 'Nelson Mass', conducted by RGS Worcester Director of Music, Mike Hamilton. The visiting soloists were: Nikki Martin (Soprano & former RGS student); Erika Madi Jones (Mezzo); Matthew Keighly (Tenor); Andrew Randall (Bass), with outstanding performances from all. The Orchestra and Choir were a combination of pupils, staff and guests. The sound filled the Cathedral, with the performances capturing the range of emotions and the musicians received rapturous applause from over 800 audience members.



SENIOR PIANO CONCERT

The fourth in the series of Senior Piano Concerts was held in Perrins Hall. A recital platform was provided for some of the talented pianists at the School. This year we were delighted to welcome the young Bulgarian Pianist, Marina Staneva as our guest soloist. Young pianists received a Masterclass with the professional musician.

The first half of the concert featured our Senior Pianists. All players have achieved at least Grade 6 standard and above. They all performed Senior Repertoire including works by Rachmaninov, Chopin Debussy and Brahms.

The second half of the concert featured a beautiful programme from Miss Staneva; ranging from some lovely, lyrical Debussy to some fiery Rachmaninov and excerpts from Prokofiev's 'Romeo and Juliet' suite, including the famous 'Dance of the Knights' theme.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Worcester kindly attended the concert together with Governors, alumni, parents, grandparents, friends and pupils. It was a wonderful evening and a chance to put our leading pianists centre stage.

CHAMBER CHOIR EVENSONG TRIP TO ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The RGS Chamber Choir had a wonderful experience when they recently performed Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral, London.

The Choir regularly performs Evensong at Worcester, Hereford and Oxford Cathedrals, but this was a first-time experience for them to perform in St Paul's.

After a final rehearsal in the Choir Stalls, it was time for Evensong. The performance sounded superb in the fantastic surroundings. Current RGS pupil Jenna Martin conducted and they sang Blair in B minor and a wonderful anthem by Bairstow, 'And I Saw A New Heaven.' The Choir has been invited back to perform again next year.



NETBALL REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Under 14 and Under 19 Success



The Under 14 and Under 19 Netball teams played in the West Midlands Regional Tournament and had their most successful day yet in Netball at RGS Worcester.

The Under 19 team won their pool convincingly, winning all of their matches. This included a win against Higham Lane 7-3, Newcastle-Under-Lyme 24-1, Hereford Cathedral School 13-4, Bishop Vesey's Grammar School 9-4, Streetly Academy 14-7 and Newport Girls High School 11-3. In the semi-finals they lost against a very strong Wrekin College side and so were one win away from qualifying for the National Finals.

The Under 14 team missed out on qualifying for the semi-finals by one goal, winning all but two of their pool matches. This was the first time our Under 14 team has qualified for the West Midlands Regional Tournament and they demonstrated outstanding performances winning against Hereford Cathedral School 13-2, Queen Mary's High 15-6, St Joseph's College 11-8 and Arthur Terry School 11-4.

Under 19 squad:

- Amy Beasley
- Holly Chance
- Emma Brinkley
- Beth Hill
- Evie Beardsley
- Hannah Middleton
- Jemma Moseley
- Alexandria Smith
- Ella Clarke
- Lauren Wilkins
- Georgia Padbury
- Georgia Appleton

Under 14 squad:

- Grace Bedborough
- Georgia Hill
- Madeleine McLeod
- Lucy Newton
- Abi Timmington
- Kim-Ly Weaver
- Lillian Heyburn
- Amelia Lane
- Grace Rhoden
- Elyssia Letori
- Alice Atkinson

GUY ANDERSON - GB MODERN PENTATHLETE



Lower Sixth student, Guy Anderson has been selected in the Great Britain Under 19 Modern Pentathlon Team.

At the age of 15, Guy was selected and represented Great Britain at the Youth International in the Under 19 category. During the summer of 2017, he also won the Pony Club National Tetrathlon Championship for the second consecutive year. Since then, Guy has gone from strength to strength.

Guy competed in the Regional Biathlon Championships where he finished in second place. Guy then took part in his first overseas International as part of the GB Under 19 Modern Pentathlon team. He was the highest placed GB athlete, finishing in fifth place overall. This was an excellent result at an international event.



OUTREACH EVENTS

Partnerships with local schools and the community



“ Thank you to all who participated in this wonderfully creative event and for working so hard all week with such enthusiasm and energy. ”
John Pitt, Headmaster



The Big Draw

Since September, RGS Worcester has welcomed 44 different local state schools and 1,024 pupils to participate in a wide range of local community outreach events.

RGS participated on the grandest of scales in the Big Draw - a nationwide event that promotes an awareness of the value of drawing beyond Art, which may be viewed as the artistic equal to National Poetry Day.

The theme was 'Living Lines', and the RGS response placed the School at the heart of the community, with each academic department and every individual contributing their perception of Worcester, literally, putting the School 'on the map'. The historical context for this idea was the medieval Mappa Mundi displayed in Hereford Cathedral, which is the world as seen from a Christian perspective, represented through places and pilgrim routes across the world to Jerusalem. Head of History, Jane Waller, prepared the pupils through School assemblies about the Mappa Mundi.

Each department had the opportunity to develop a large-scale response using drawing, mapping, diagrams, collage, model-making and text in a range of artistic media. The entire school community had the creative freedom to interpret the theme in any way they chose, the only proviso being locating RGS at the epicentre of the map.

The local community also took part in our Big Draw event which saw seventy young artists from six local Primary Schools join us mid-week to create their maps. Each school was shown to their table which had a six-foot circle of collaged maps, with their school logo in the centre, as the base for their artwork. They were tasked to stand around the table at points of a clock and draw their journey to school ending at the logo. Paint, pencils and crayons were all made available to our visiting pupils as they were supported by the RGS Art Department staff and their own teachers. After two hours, each school had produced imaginative, colourful and creative responses to the task. These were then delivered back to the schools the following week for display.

Whatever the interpretation, the Big Draw pulled together strands of the diverse RGS and local community, and encouraged everyone to present their ideas in new and exciting ways.

Science 'Eggstravaganza'

RGS hosted its annual Science 'Eggstravaganza' to celebrate British Science Week, 9-18 March, just before Easter.

Over 60 pupils from RGS Springfield and RGS The Grange participated on the first day and eleven local Primary Schools took on the second day's challenge.

The pupils were given a mission to design and build a bridge that would allow a boat with a height of 30cm to pass underneath, in a river 80cm wide. They were given 15 minutes to design and one hour to complete their build. The building materials on offer were paper, craft straws, paperclips, string and card.

The event was a great success and was enjoyed by all participants. Congratulations to Broadheath Primary School and the RGS Springfield girls' team for their winning designs.



PERMISSION TO BE BRILLIANT!



RGS Springfield organised an inspirational inset at the beginning of the Lent term entitled 'Permission to be Brilliant'.

Shonette-Bason Woods is an uplifting speaker and teacher. The Early Years and Key Stage One staff from both RGS The Grange and RGS Springfield were all extremely fortunate to attend a full-on day of innovation, high energy and positivity. Shonette has truly changed our professional lives, bringing joy into the classrooms with Dough Disco, Magic Maths, Squiggle and Flappers.

Squiggle is Shonette's early writing programme, which explains mark making in Early Years, but with what purpose?

Shonette showed us how to develop children in a fun, exciting and extremely active way that made us all giggle and want to implement immediately. The journey of Squiggle took us through mark making, letter formation and delved into the disappearing imagination of the modern child.

Shonette has had a profound impact on the delivery of the curriculum at RGS Springfield. She has a contagious enthusiasm and humour that left all staff feeling emotionally and physically empowered. The positivity she delivered resonated amongst all present and gave us the inspiration to keep finding new ways to develop effective teaching and learning for our pupils.

Mystery Solving



On 16 March, thirty-eight Year Five pupils from local Primary Schools arrived at the Lecture Theatre, to hear a talk on healthy eating by Professor von Leopold (George Mann). Sadly, as he demonstrated the need to keep hydrated by taking a swig from his water bottle, he keeled over!

Inspector McClue (James Thomas) ushered the Year Fives away from the 'crime scene' and enlisted their help in solving the murder. Working in groups, the Year Fives looked at fingerprints, translated a German love letter and solved a Maths code. They made chromatograms to identify the poison and listened to the music clue that spelt out the name of the antidote: cabbage. After refreshments, the culprit was revealed.

This was a superb event, organised and created by one of the Upper Sixth Enrichment groups. The Mystery Challenge was thoroughly enjoyed by the visiting primary school pupils, who needed all their problem-solving skills to solve the mystery.

SPORT FOR CHAMPIONS

RGS Springfield has been fortunate to have engaged with a very interesting charity this term, 'Sports For Champions'. The charity works with schools to arrange visits by successful athletes to tell children about their sport, their route into that sport and the hard work and commitment it takes to become good at anything. We chose to fundraise for this charity because they support young athletes and help them to find their way in sport, particularly when they are just starting out in their career and have not received official funding but have demonstrated good potential.

The charity's ethos is 'Each child is capable of greatness, of becoming a champion, and our team aims to bring out that champion with our motto of self-belief and determination – anything is possible if you believe in yourself.' Many will recognise this chimes with the belief at RGS Springfield that confidence can unlock potential but hard work and determination are also vital in achieving success.



We welcomed the athlete David Smith to RGS Springfield. David's sport is the High Jump and he competed in the Commonwealth Games in Australia as part of the Scottish team.

David is from Barrhead just outside Glasgow in Scotland. He went to athletics club outside school when he was 11 years old. Over time he began to fall in love with the High Jump. Each year he dramatically improved his Personal Best height and slowly began to climb the Scottish and British Rankings. In 2009, he placed fifth in the Scottish Senior Championships and eighth in the British Under 20 Championships. In 2010, he won the Scottish Under 20 Championships and placed second in the Scottish Senior and British Under 20 Championships. At the British Under 23 Championships he jumped a new PB of 2.22m winning the competition and made the team for the European Under 23 Championships in Ostrava.

“ EACH CHILD IS CAPABLE OF GREATNESS, OF BECOMING A CHAMPION ”

He competed at the Commonwealth Games in 2014 but was unfortunately injured in the qualification. In 2017, David was placed second in the British Championships and World Trials. He won the Scottish Senior Indoor and Outdoor Championships reaching the qualification standard for the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, Australia.

David spoke to the children about his training regime and showed video footage of his daily training. He trains for six hours every day and watches his food intake carefully. He talked to the children about how injury has affected his career and how that sometimes you have to dig deep to find the strength to keep going in the face of adversity.

David spent the morning working with the children doing some fitness circuits and Fundraisers were given certificates and signed photographs. The pupils were encouraged to keep aiming high in all that they do by this impressive GB athlete.





MATHS SUCCESS

It all adds up!

Year Six Pupils at RGS The Grange sat their annual Primary Mathematics Challenge (PMC) in November. PMC is a fun and exciting Mathematical Challenge that seeks to test the children's mathematical problem solving and reasoning skills. The many puns contained within the paper produce smiles amongst the pupils as they tackle the tricky questions – questions that prove challenging for pupils and staff alike!

Over 68,000 Years Five and Six pupils sat the paper nationwide this year. Only 3,255 scored 20 or more out of 25, qualifying them for the even more challenging Bonus Round in February. Four of these came from Year Six – Sydney Blanchenot, Ben Fellows, Avik China and Daniel Foster, who all scored above the required mark of 20.

The lead up to the Bonus Round saw many of our 'Friday Logic' lessons take the shape of PMC-style questions, where the whole class was required to think outside the box and display their mathematical reasoning. The four pupils were now ready for their 'final'. They feverishly set about solving the problems – there were smiles, signs of anguish and uncertainty during the tough 45 minute paper. However, when the clock ran its course they handed their sheets in knowing they had done their best. Off their papers went to the external markers and the beginning of a month's wait for the results started.

Finally, the results arrived and the fruits of our mathematicians labour could be revealed. We are extremely pleased to announce that: Avik and Daniel both scored 14, narrowly missing out on a Bronze Medal; Ben scored 16, receiving a Bronze Medal and Sydney scored 18, securing a Silver Medal. These are the best results in the PMC at RGS The Grange for some time and we are immensely proud of the children and how well they have done this year. It is testament not only to their hard work but the enjoyment they get from challenging themselves in Mathematics and achieving national success.

“ WE ARE IMMENSELY PROUD OF THE CHILDREN AND HOW WELL THEY HAVE DONE THIS YEAR ”

ARE YOU CORNWALL OR CASH?

House System at RGS The Grange

At the cornerstone of any Independent School lies the 'House System'. At RGS The Grange, things are no different. This system is extolled in many of the most famous books – such as 'Goodbye Mr Chips', 'Tom Brown's Schooldays' and Enid Blyton's 'Mallory Towers' series. Even modern-day classics, such as the Harry Potter series, comment in depth about the positive effects of a House system. If you were to enter Hogwarts this term, you would be met with the following House mottos or ideals: Gryffindor boasts courage, bravery, nerve and chivalry; Hufflepuff boasts hard work, patience, justice and loyalty; Ravenclaw boasts intelligence, creativity, learning and wit and even Slytherin has positive ideals with ambition, leadership and resourcefulness. The idea of seeing an RGS The Grange pupil flying on a broomstick, or waving their wand to produce their forgotten homework would indeed be a wonder to behold!

At RGS The Grange we have something more tangible and actually even more impressive. We endeavour to impart all of the above ideals to our pupils. The House System underpins these ideals by showing that every pupil matters, every pupil has chances to win points, compete, take part, support and be part of a community within the larger school setting. The four Houses are Cornwall, Cash, Goodrich and Perowne, all former Bishops of Worcester. In many schools, House competitions can sometimes be dominated by sport, but here at RGS The Grange, the range of House Competitions has increased with such vigour in the last few years, largely through the children's enthusiasm and suggestions. There are House team-building tasks; House Art; the House Anti-Bullying Poster Competition; House Dodgeball; House English; the House Pancake Race; House Science, House Poetry Declamation and House Golf, so there is hopefully something for everyone.



The House system at RGS The Grange allows pupils to be part of an extended family within the School. Older pupils help the younger ones choose their teams, organise House events and there is always a feeling of belonging and positive competition throughout the year. Whether your House is named after a famous wizard or a past bishop, there is something special about being part of a House System: loyalty to the House and the pride felt when your House wins a competition or the final House victor at the end of the year when all the points are accumulated is announced. Hogwarts may have given us wizards, spells, wands and potions. RGS The Grange can promise a magical experience of being part of the House System and we are confident that our own 'Sorting Hat' will pick the right competition for you!



PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts is ‘alive and kicking’ at RGS The Grange

Performing Arts opportunities continue to grow at RGS The Grange. The number of opportunities through our curricular and co-curricular programme has never been better and the aim is to develop these still further in the future. We have such talented staff across the organisation who collaborate effectively with the aim of providing all children with experiences in Music, Drama and Art. There is no doubt that some exposure to these disciplines has a positive effect on a child’s self-esteem which, in turn supports attainment in other areas of the curriculum. It is more important also that we teach children the intrinsic value of learning creative skills and the enjoyment that each discipline can bring.

To give you a flavour of what has taken place this Academic Year:

Performing Arts Week

The School hosted its inaugural ‘Performing Arts Week’ during the week beginning 15 January. All year groups were engaged in various Drama Workshops, including a ‘Play in a Day’ with Year Ten pupils from RGS Worcester Senior School. One parent commented:

“I want to thank everyone who was involved in making yesterday’s ‘Play in a Day’ happen. My son was buzzing after the show and is now asking me to arrange drama lessons! Both my children are discovering these opportunities because of what staff are doing at both RGS The Grange and at RGS Worcester. I am thrilled that both boys want to give it a go and it is because of the confidence that they have found through the School that has made this possible.”

At RGS The Grange, we recognise the importance ‘communication’ will play in a child’s life. The benefits of speech and drama are vast, enhancing verbal and non-verbal expression, developing self-confidence, promoting compassion and empathy as well as improve memory.



Some choose to take that extra step as we also provide LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) lessons on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. Many of these children are given opportunities to perform in competitions such as the Worcester Competitive Arts Festival.

Four Year Fives secure parts in ‘Macbeth’ at the RSC

Four Year Five girls (Harriet Murphy, Abigail Walter, Sasha Penlington and Elizabeth Kaleniuk) recently auditioned and secured roles in the Royal Shakespeare Company’s production of Macbeth. The production runs from March through to September this year and will be an experience the girls will not forget.

Music Extravaganza with RGS Worcester

A joint Spring Music Concert with RGS Worcester Senior School proved to be a real tour de force in March! Performers from Year Two to Year Six joined together in displaying the range of musical talent on offer with RGS Worcester Wind Band. The Concert progressed through a range of groups, including Recorders, Strings, Flute and Wind Band, all delivering beautiful performances of which to be proud. Chamber Choir and Vocal Ensembles from Year Three to Year Six made a wonderful contribution to the event and we were treated to an exquisite piano solo performance by Music Scholar, Sasha Penlington. For many pupils, the highlight of the concert was being able to perform alongside the RGS Worcester Wind Band in the final number, the aptly titled ‘I Feel Good’... it left everyone feeling exactly that!

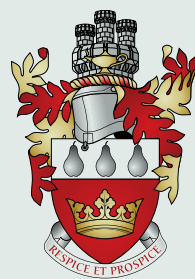


Literary Enrichment

The School celebrates the annual events of World Book Day and National Storytelling Week to extend and enrich children’s literary engagement and interests. The annual Poetry Declamation competition similarly engages every child’s interest with a recital of their chosen poem. One cannot forget our annual theatre trips; more recently these have included ‘101 Dalmatians’ at Birmingham Rep, ‘Twelfth Night’ at RSC Stratford and ‘The Jungle Book’ at Malvern Theatre.

All in all, RGS The Grange is increasingly giving children the opportunities to extend their skills across the ‘performing arts’ spectrum. Performing Arts at RGS The Grange is, in the words of a Simple Minds song, ‘Alive and Kicking’.





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

We look forward to welcoming you.

#worcesterisgreen



RGS
WORCESTER

RGS Worcester
Fully co-educational
11 - 18 years

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

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

01905 613391 office@rgsw.org.uk



RGS
THE GRANGE

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 7RP

01905 451205 grange@rgsw.org.uk



RGS
SPRINGFIELD

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



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