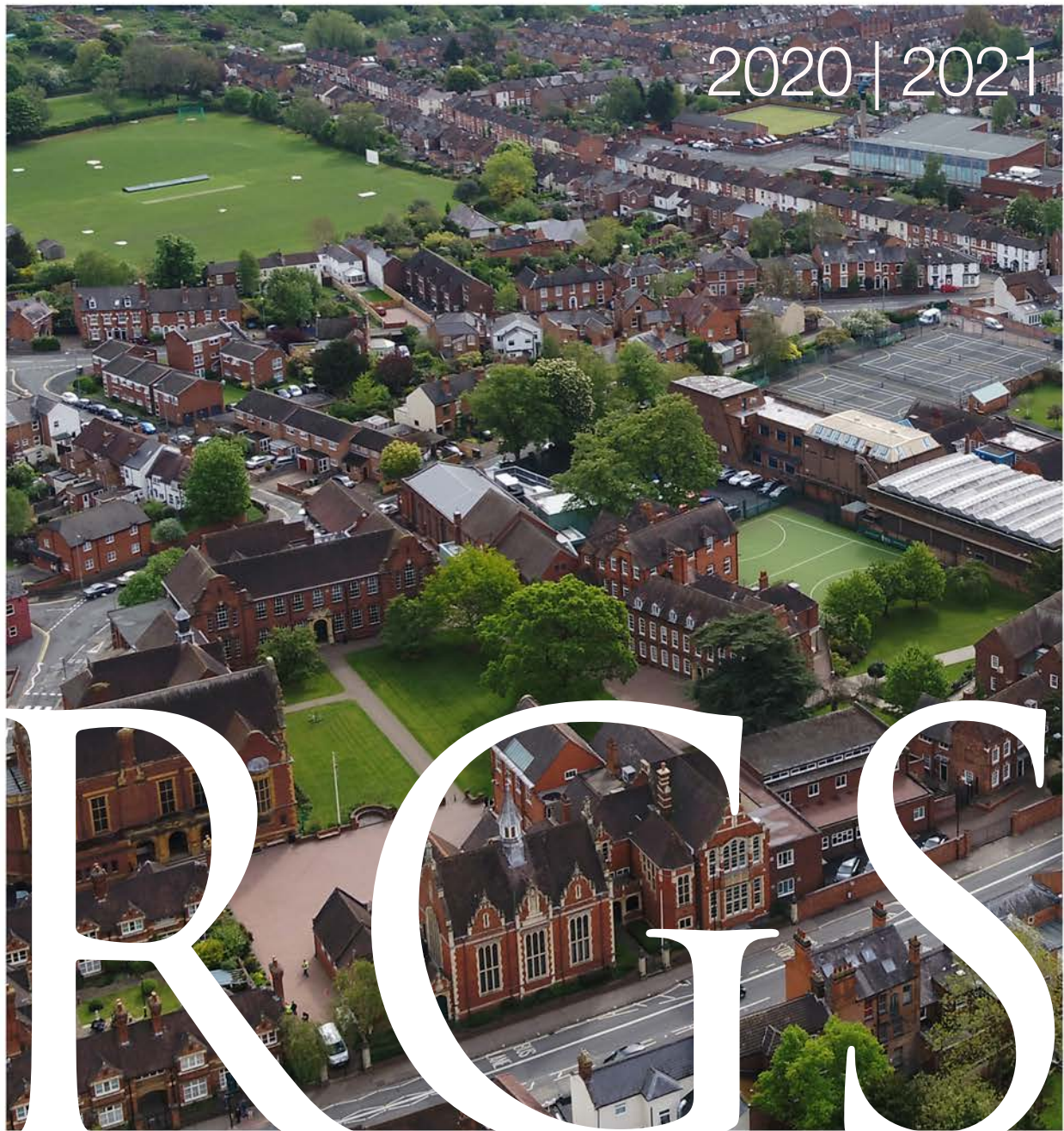


# WORCESTERIAN

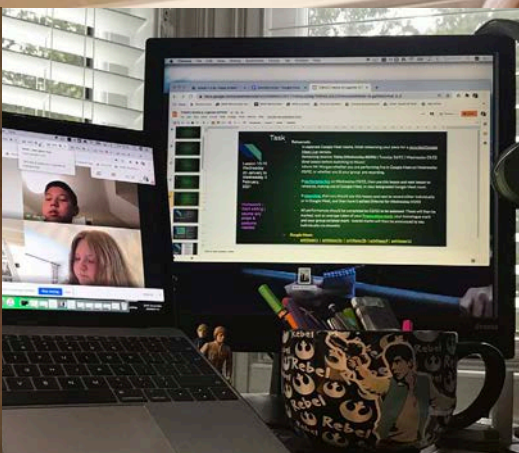
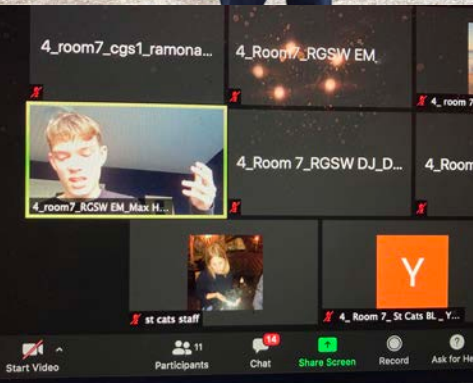
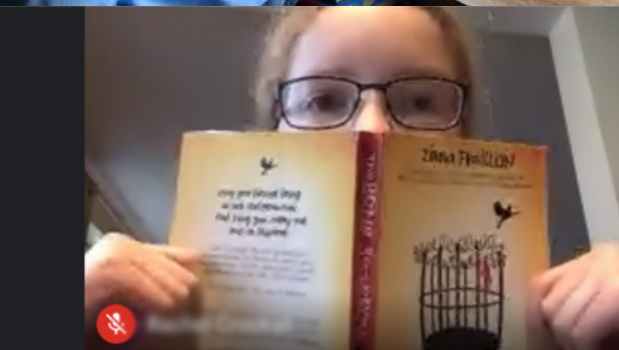


'In the current circumstances, the RGS Schools are  
*redefining outstanding education.*'



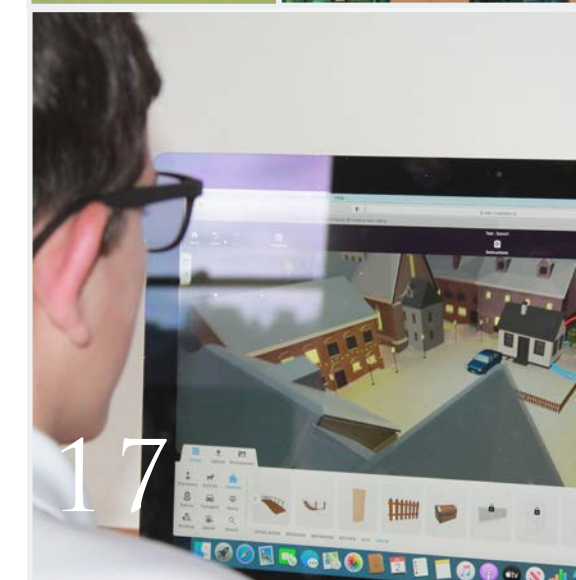
CHERISHING THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE





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# WORCESTERIAN INTRODUCTION (2020-21)



The Worcesterian 2020-21 chronicles an extraordinary year in RGS Worcester's history when the Covid-19 pandemic continued to affect schools, meaning safety measures continued to be in place. An eight week period of 'lockdown' at the start of the Lent term 2021 required a move to remote learning using our Digital Learning Programme, and the cancellation of Public Exams required Academic Departments to assemble Teacher Assessed Grades for the Exam Boards.

The RGS community pulled together during this time as we worked through each new challenge, determined to provide complete continuity of education for the pupils. As a consequence, we did all that we could to give the pupils their full academic programme, pastoral care and individual support, and co-curricular opportunities. We had to adapt and come up with new and innovative ways to deliver the RGS experience.

It was humbling to see the response from the pupils whose resilience and commitment to RGS knew no bounds. They met each challenge with a smile and the determination to make the best of it all. As a consequence, we were able to produce superb Public Exam results, and we continued with our co-curricular programme with summer sports fixtures, House competitions and we even performed a socially-distanced opera and staged a wonderful Year Eleven prom. At the same time, we raised funds for local charities and supported them at a time when the community needed our help.

I hope the Worcesterian gives a sense of the challenge and the RGS response. It

has been a truly remarkable period since the Covid-19 pandemic arrived in the UK. The RGS community has responded with customary togetherness and determination and my heartfelt thanks go to our pupils, their teachers and support staff, parents, alumni and friends who have all come together to ensure that the RGS Worcester Family of Schools could continue to provide the very best in independent education.

We can now look forward to a future of tremendous opportunities for the pupils as the new Hockey Centre opens and plans for further developments at the School move forward. With Sports tours, Music

concerts and Drama productions and other exciting co-curricular opportunities, the pupils will enjoy what lies ahead.

Thank you to all of the pupils and staff who have contributed to the Worcesterian 2020-21 and to the editorial team and particularly former RGS pupil and editor Stewart Smith and our Designer Su Savage. After an extraordinary year, the Worcesterian will provide a record of all that we experienced and the remarkable achievements of our RGS community.

*John Pitt*  
Headmaster







# DIGITAL LEARNING PROGRAMME

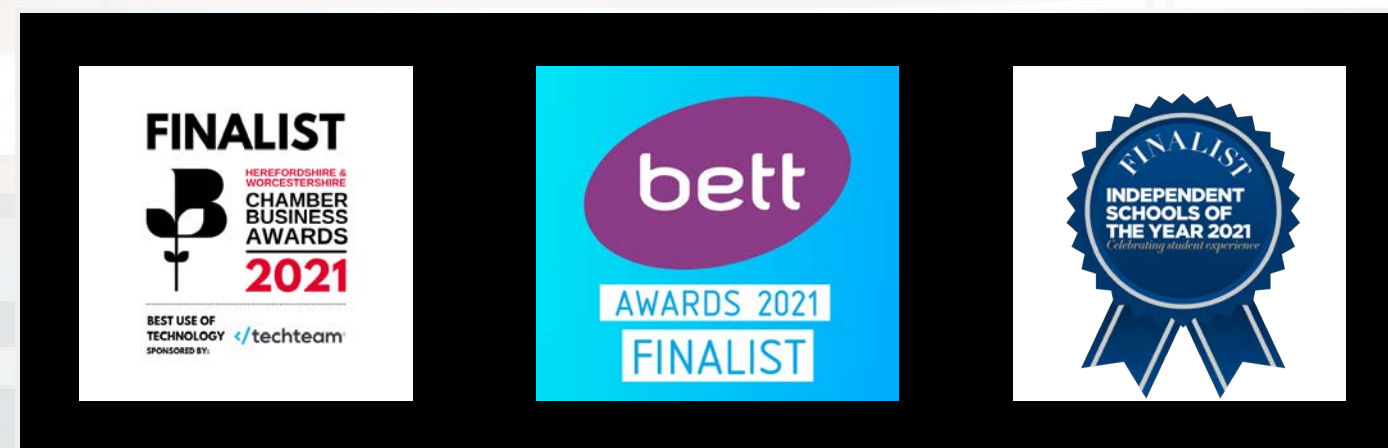
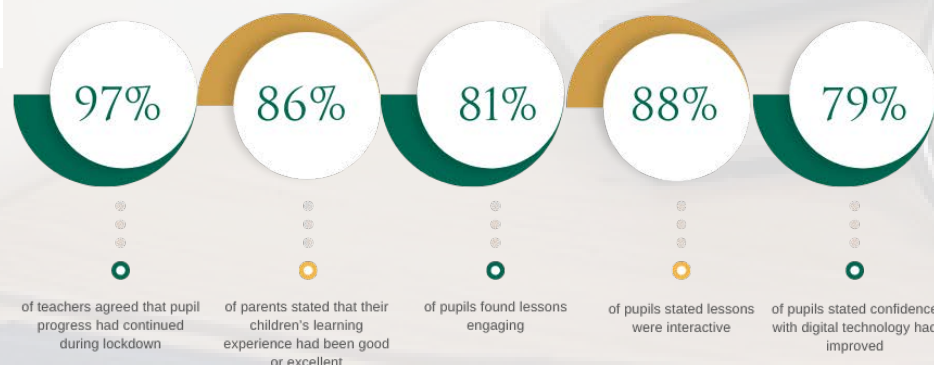


The Covid-19 pandemic led to a global crisis of unprecedented reach and proportion. Almost every aspect of society has been affected in some way, shape or form whilst the world witnessed a seismic shift in digital adoption. Consumers moved dramatically toward online channels, with millions of employees forced to work online from home, whilst business expenditure on cloud migration and data security went through the roof. Indeed, many educational institutions across the world hastily developed plans to adopt technology and move teaching and learning online with inconsistent and mixed results.

By utilising and rethinking our Digital Learning Programme (DLP), the four RGS Worcester Schools continued our full academic timetable, albeit remotely, and ensured the continuity of education for every one of our pupils.

After the initial UK lockdown in spring 2020, RGS Worcester (one of only 535 Apple Distinguished Schools globally) immediately collated triangulated data. The information we received from pupils, parents and staff gauged the impact of our provision, assessed the benefits and analysed how we could do things better knowing that another lockdown during the 2020/21 academic year was an increasingly likely scenario.

The initial results of the RGS Worcester in-house research were amazing; 97% of teachers agreed that pupil progress had continued during lockdown. Parents were also very impressed with the RGSW Covid Response Strategy; 86% stating that their children's learning experience had been good or excellent. However, it was data from pupils that offered the most reward; 81% found lessons engaging, 88% stated lessons were interactive whilst 79% stated confidence with digital technology had improved.



The research also confirmed the importance of pre existing digital deployment for the success of transition to remote schooling; the RGSW Digital Learning Programme meant that learning was kept alive. This data was eventually presented to the Educational Select Committee in Westminster via the Education Foundation's 'EdTech Vision 2025' paper. We were the only UK Independent School mentioned in the publication!

Further recognition was received when, alongside Eton College, RGSW was among only eight schools globally shortlisted for a prestigious BETT Award in the 'Covid-19 Response' category. In addition, the RGS Worcester Family of Schools were 'Highly Commended' by the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce for the 'Best Use of Technology' award, and were also selected as finalists for Independent School of the Year Awards too. On the back of these successes, the RGS Worcester Family of Schools have been asked by Edtech UK to form and lead the inaugural 'West Midlands EdTech Hub' which will initially include a number of digitally proactive educational institutions that are keen and willing to work together to focus on the next steps for Edtech across schools, universities and colleges in the region, and try to ensure we begin to bridge the digital divide.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the RGS Worcester Family of Schools assisted a number of other educational institutions with their remote education. We met with the Windsor Academy Trust, the Stephen Perse Foundation and the Bridge School in Malvern, offering support, advice and resources. In addition, RGSW donated over 20 iPads to Franche Community Primary School in Kidderminster, supporting pupils with remote learning and also provided relevant training. A further 25 iPads were donated to a local care home, aiding people with dementia and their families to communicate during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In school itself, our pupil Digital Leaders continued to support and raise the profile of the DLP with the wider school community despite the significant challenges posed by remote education

and fixed school bubbles. They completed adapted Apple Teacher qualifications and learnt about meaningful uses for Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence - all new technologies that the four RGS Worcester Schools are embracing.

There are very few educational establishments globally that managed to rise to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020/21 as proactively and successfully as the RGS Worcester Family of Schools. The Covid-19 Response Strategy ensured that over 1450+ pupils continued to progress, despite the challenges of lockdown. The second lockdown provided even more compelling data confirming this; over 90% of teachers, pupils and parents agreed that learning loss had been mitigated by an innovative and strategic Digital Learning Programme remap. Exciting lessons and engaging clubs continued, whilst the unprecedented circumstances also resulted in a digital upskilling of both teachers and pupils that supercharged their confidence to further embrace and utilise digital technology.

The Digital Learning Programme has helped RGSW to gain recognition locally, nationally and internationally and has ensured the continuation of learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. RGSW cannot claim to have foreseen a global pandemic but never has it been more obvious that the digital work-flows, skills and understanding that are a fundamental part of our school culture are simply a prerequisite for both today and tomorrow's world.





# ENGLISH FACULTY

Reflecting upon the last twelve months, the words of Shakespeare's 'Henry VI' seem to express the sense of determination that has characterised so many people's reactions to the challenges we have all faced: 'Let me embrace thee, sour adversity, for wisdom says it is the wisest course'.

As a Head of Department, I am proud to have witnessed how my colleagues, and the pupils we teach, have confronted the challenges of living and working through these recent times. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their outstanding professionalism and dedication.

March saw the beginning of lockdown and the very next day nearly one hundred and fifty English lessons a week began online. Within a week it all seemed quite normal: 'Zooming', 'Google Meet', 'Can you hear me?', 'Sir, your mic's not on!' - to continue teaching and learning so seamlessly was a remarkable achievement.

There was the enormously popular Lit Soc online with many pupils from Years Eleven to Upper Sixth attending. When we returned to school, this was held three times a week to accommodate different Year groups. We saw the phenomenal entrance of Radio Lockdown for Years Seven to Nine starring Mrs Bond and Mrs Vincent. This proved to be a very popular mixture of features on literature and the arts and it soon gained a huge number of regular listeners.

## Radio Lockdown with Bond & Vincent



TODAYS TOPIC IS



### Teachers' favourite books

Miss Green	The Roman Mysteries by Caroline Lawrence
Mrs Stephen	'The Magic Faraway Tree - End Blyton'
Mrs Gold	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
RGS Nurses	The Famous Five & Secret Seven
Mr Hallett	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, the other was a Pevensie History book about the Kings and Queens of England
Mrs Harkness	Boy by Roald Dahl
Mr Webster	Jurassic Park
Mr Scullion	Advanced Mathematics 1
Mrs Faddy-Widmann	Astrid Lindgren's Ronja, the Robber's Daughter
Mrs Daniell	Nancy Drew, Secret Seven, Dr Doolittle, Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn, Anne of Green Gables
Mrs Davies	Norma books, Watership Down and The Chrysalids by John Wyndham
Mrs Freeman	James and the Giant Peach - Roald Dahl
Mr Deeks	Wizard of Earthsea books when I was in y7 or 8. Alan Garner (Windstone of Brinsgamen)
Mr Hutchinson	All things Roald Dahl when I was younger. I then developed an unhealthy fascination with Jeffrey Archer
Mr Brettij	Holes! Hughes's world Tuesday's with Morrie
Miss Marsh	"The Wizard of Earthsea" by Ursula Le Guin
Mr Martin	Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz

### Join our LitSoc book club! #RGS LitSoc Book6

1. The New Wilderness by Diane Cook (18<sup>th</sup> January)

2. American Marriage by Tayari Jones (1<sup>st</sup> March)

3. The Autograph Man by Zadie Smith (12<sup>th</sup> April)

4. A Gate at the Stairs by Lorrie Moore (24<sup>th</sup> May)

5. The Sellout by Paul Beatty (5<sup>th</sup> July)

6. The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller (16<sup>th</sup> August)

7. Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver (27<sup>th</sup> September)

8. The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead (8<sup>th</sup> November)

9. A Brief History of Seven Killings by Marlon James (20<sup>th</sup> December)

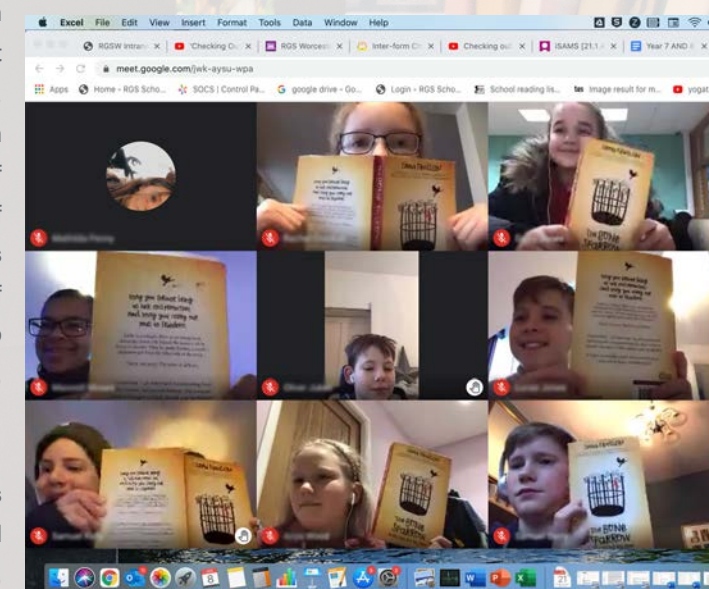


As the year went on, we held a social distanced Halloween Gothic Literature party and, at Christmas, we enjoyed virtual Poetry and Pies. Elsewhere, our book clubs (hosted by Mrs Earle, Mrs Houchin and Mrs North) continued each week. There were sessions on dystopian fiction and 'To Kill a Mockingbird' together with the usual host of quizzes, competitions and discussions.

The Lower School Writing Competition (organised by Mrs North) was run over February half term. Pupils were challenged to write a creative piece of no more than 500 words, on a topic or theme of their choice. Entries ranged from dystopian fantasies and gripping thrillers to laugh-out-loud comedies.

One other feature of this year has been the ways in which the study of English has evolved to reflect some of the urgent issues arising as a result of events throughout the world. Classes have responded enthusiastically to the introduction of new books that have aimed to represent a wider range of human identities. The Sixth Form have studied the poetry of Maya Angelou, while in Years Seven to Year Eleven new texts such as 'Ghost Boys', 'Welcome to Nowhere', 'The Colour of Humanity', 'Diversity Shorts' and 'Bone Sparrow' have led to thoughtful and mature discussions and writing about race, diversity and identity.

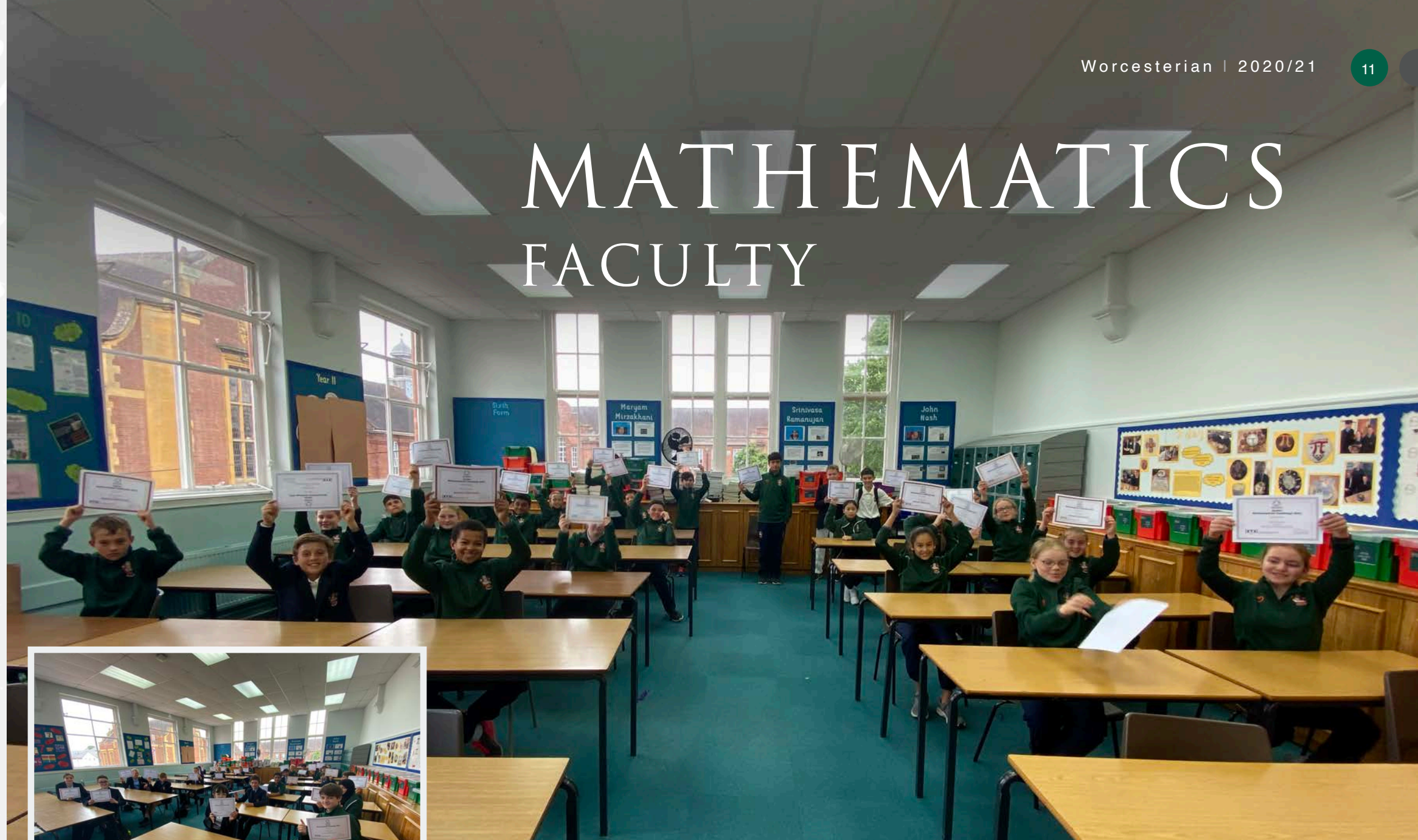
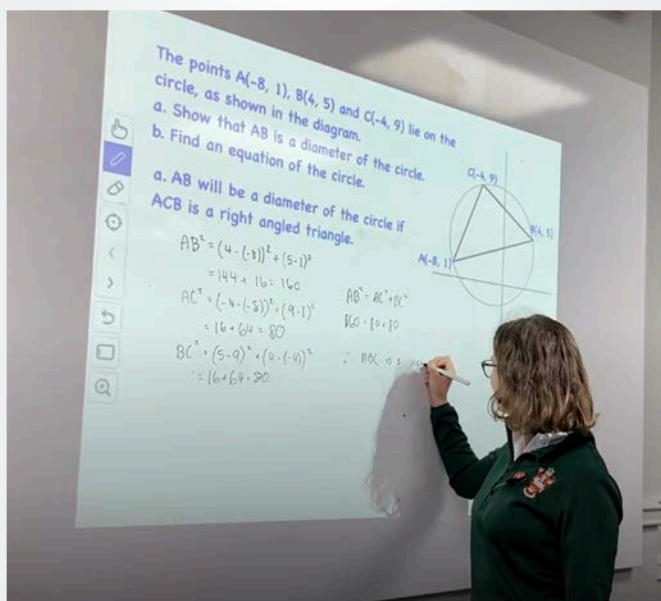
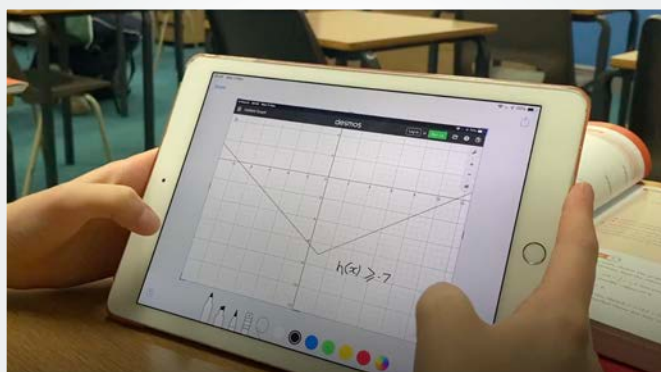
So, in a year perhaps like no other, the study of English has risen to the challenges of the world around us and has used the written and spoken word as a way of finding knowledge, comfort and understanding; it has also enabled teachers and pupils try to come to terms with their own experiences at a difficult time and respond to events and issues from across the globe.





Despite the obvious success of remote learning, pupils and teachers looked forward to the chance to come back to School in September to learn together in the classroom. They coped brilliantly with the demands of hybrid learning, another lockdown, and in the case of Year Eleven and Upper Sixth students, with the new assessment criteria for their GCSEs and A Levels - congratulations to them all.

The social distancing rules inhibited the normal group tasks that are a staple of the Mathematics classroom, but with technology at hand, pupils were able to still share their learning, such as using DESMOS for demonstrating how to transform graphs and using iMovie to give a comprehensive explanation of how to construct an angle bisector.



Fortunately, we were able to hold the individual Mathematics Challenges remotely this year, and the pupils produced some stellar performances. In the Senior Mathematics Challenge (Year Eleven to Upper Sixth), over 90% of the Upper Sixth who took the challenge achieved an award and there were 35 awards overall. We also had four students qualifying for the follow on rounds; Liam Leonard, Will Osborne and Raiwin Lewis qualified for the Kangaroo Competition and Adrian Fok qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad. In the Intermediate Challenge (Years Nine to Eleven), fifty awards were achieved with Ben Fisher, Michael Liu, Haydn Parkes, Rayyan Styles and Raiwin Lewis qualifying for the follow on Kangaroo round. The Year Seven and Eight pupils were not to be outdone in the Junior Challenge, with 53 pupils achieving

# MATHEMATICS FACULTY

an award with an incredible thirteen qualifying for the follow on Kangaroo Competition. Those pupils were Jonathan Abbotts, Rachel Crookall, Laurence Curtis, Sihan Fu, Cerys Hickman, Hugo Morgan-Iqbal, Jai Sanahi, Anya Wood, Noah Gent, Jacob Hartley, Thomas Newman, Aryan Peddareddy and Noah Whitbread.

We look forward to the resumption of some of our normal external activities next year, such as the Team Competitions and Maths in Action days at universities as well as getting back to eating some fantastic Pi Day treats!





# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES FACULTY

## A LIFE OF LANGUAGES

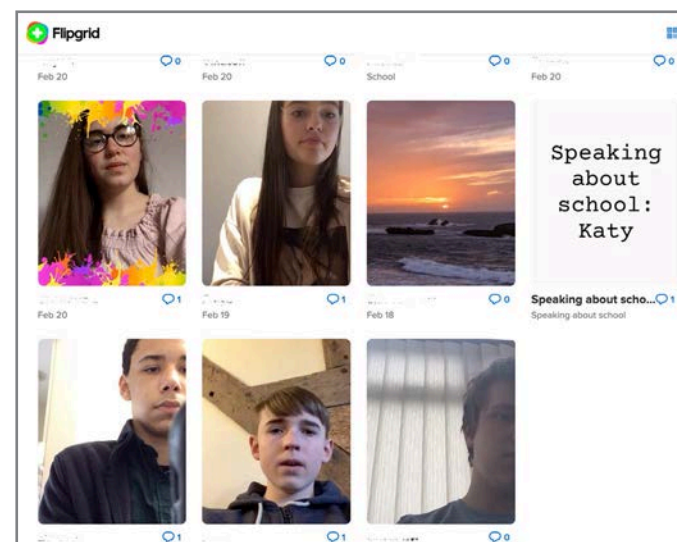
At RGS, we want all of our pupils to let languages become part of their life. The classroom might be where languages are first encountered and where pupils make progress and develop core skills, but we all know that languages belong outside school: getting into a volleyball game on Barcelona's beach, sharing off-piste skiing tips in the French Alps, ordering (when they're old enough!) a Maß of beer at the Oktoberfest in Munich. This 'real world' value of languages was brought home to me again by former RGS pupil John Barley who got in contact recently to celebrate a 60 year long friendship with his French exchange partner, whom he met in Rouen all those years ago. Since those days, John has used his French in all aspects of his career and personal life, visiting his friend whenever he was on business in France. John's French was essential to his career in several different businesses and it is perhaps worth noting, he never had any intention of being a teacher or translator!



[www.rgsw.org.uk](http://www.rgsw.org.uk) - worcester - news-and-events - rgs-times

## LANGUAGES IN THE REAL WORLD

One of our biggest challenges in the Modern Foreign Languages Department this year has been to root languages in the real world. Usually, we would have accompanied pupils to Nantes (France), Zaragoza (Spain) and on a new exchange we are setting up with Burgstädt (Germany). Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic removed all those opportunities, but with necessity being the mother of invention, we investigated if we could pursue these links virtually. From that, we were able to set up virtual video exchanges with our two partner schools using the platform Flipgrid. Pupils record a video of themselves talking about a subject they've studied in class (e.g. where I live) in both the foreign language and English. Their counterparts in the Spanish and German schools (French should come online next year) do the same and pupils are then able to respond to each other's video posts and begin a dialogue which may, who knows, last at least 60 years. We have been excited by this development and will build it into our exchange programme as soon as we can run it again.



Buoyed by our virtual exchanges on Flipgrid, a number of classes this year used green screen technology in the Performing Arts Centre to place their pupils in foreign cities. To a backdrop of a chosen city, pupils from Year Nine practised their speaking

by presenting an imagined visit to that city and talking about where they lived. We always try to keep language lessons lively and active, and projects of this nature as well as a variety of interactive grammar and speaking games were employed by the Department to reintegrate pupils in the second half of Lent term, thereby helping their mental wellbeing in the process.

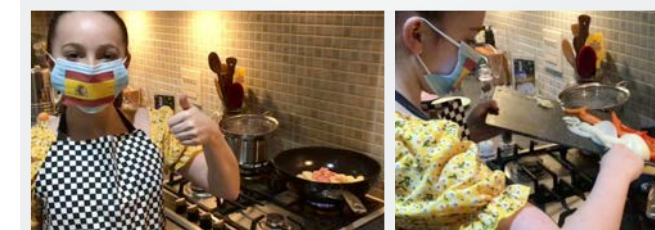
## LANGUAGES AT HOME

We are grateful to all parents for the time they give their children in mastering vocabulary lists and how to conjugate those awful irregular verbs. We also realised that languages could invade the home in other ways. At the end of the first lockdown in June, the Languages Department ran Masterchef competitions for Years Seven to Nine. Pupils worked through the phrases necessary to present a recipe and cooking instructions in their chosen foreign language. They then videoed themselves preparing the meal, editing in a voiceover and soundtrack. As keen culinary judges, we were amazed by both the cooking and the creative skills of all the pupils and hope they will continue to introduce the more exotic elements of foreign cuisine into their homes.

## BACK TO SCHOOL

I will finish this report on languages by returning to the beginning of this academic year. Restrictions prohibited use of the Language Lab, group learning and activities, pupils dashing around the classroom playing our translation games, but they were never going to strike down the mighty House pétanque competition. Inaugurated into the House competition structure in 2019, pétanque has quickly risen, I would like to think, to dominate Michaelmas term, drawing out the deepest of rivalries between the Houses. It formed part of our European Week of Languages, five days of various fun activities and culinary experiences (again!) to highlight to us all how much we belong to European culture, whatever our political persuasion. The inspiration of cultures different to our own was also brought home by our virtual visiting lecturer, Professor Fiona Cox (Exeter University), who gave us a fascinating talk on the many interpretations of Victor Hugo's 'Les Misérables'. Fiona understandably opened with the famous musical but then explored less obvious adaptations, including recent cinematic versions which have focussed on the issues of social and racial inequality highlighted by the Black Lives Matter campaign.

Language learning has that peculiar quality of opening us up to the unknown, whilst simultaneously casting a different light on the usual and the certain. Despite the limitations brought by lockdown, our hope is that all pupils at RGS have continued to benefit from the broader horizons and deeper understanding that foreign languages bring.





# SCIENCE FACULTY

It is virtually impossible to discuss anything Science related without mentioning the tragedies that the Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted globally. The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted, and continues to highlight, the need for greater connectivity of ideas between multi-disciplinary teams in order to create workable solutions. The author Mathew Syed, in his latest book *Rebel Ideas*, highlighted the importance of this: for a team to be successful, it is not about talent, knowledge or skill but about cognitive diversity. Differences in race, gender, age, class and religion, amongst others, increase group wisdom. Any teacher holding a classroom debate will wholeheartedly align with this statement, and we could all do with a bit more wisdom in these challenging times.

## BIOLOGY

In a competition designed for Upper Sixth students, our Lower Sixth pupils performed at a very high standard as much of the material examined had not yet been covered. Eight pupils received the Commended Award and six pupils received the Highly Commended Award. In addition, Freddie Davies achieved a Silver Award, the best RGS performance in recent times, well done. We wish Freddie all the best for his Cambridge application next year.



Outside the classroom, the Biology Department has afforded its students opportunities which has sparked interest and curiosity in the natural world. Head of Biology, Mr Henderson, dissected a rat for the Billingham Society, explaining along the way key features of the anatomy as the dissection progressed. The lecture was filmed, edited and produced by Mrs Bishop and subsequently shared with pupils so all had the opportunity to learn about rat anatomy during lockdown.

Ms Briggs organised an Environmental Awareness Outreach Activity with Grimley and Holt Primary School where Year Ten students designed and produced Environmental Projects detailing the impacts humans are having on the environment, and what actions we can take to limit these. The projects were then shared electronically with Grimley and Holt Primary School, and used to educate the Year Six pupils on the issues of Global Warming. The Grimley and Holt pupils then judged the projects and awarded a prize to the most popular.



*Miss Briggs said: "We had such a super morning. The pupils were motivated, keen to learn and interact with all aspects of the lesson. We used Nearpod with their school iPads and set up a practical experiment to show the effects of land ice versus sea ice, melting on sea levels. Thank you to the staff and pupils of Grimley and Holt Primary for hosting us this week."*

# PHYSICS

This year has produced some outstanding achievements from pupils, most notably the fantastic successes across Senior, Intermediate and Junior Olympiad competitions.

In the Senior Olympiad, a competition designed for Upper Sixth students, a strong set of results was achieved by our Lower Sixth students, with Bronze Medals awarded to Angus Day, Will Fallows and Josh Oldhall, Silver Medals for Aaron Lad, Jensen Lee, Will Paterson, Nicolas Kaye and Ben Gaubert with Katy Marsh and Adrian Fok both gaining prestigious Gold Medals. These excellent performances bode well for next year.

This success was mirrored in the Intermediate Olympiad by our Year Eleven pupils: Oliver Blunt, Tobey Butler, James Robinson and Dave Varughese achieving Silver Medals. The Junior Olympiad produced a huge haul of medals for our pupils; 102 in total. Year Ten and Year Nine pupils achieved 71 Bronze, 22 Silver and most pleasingly nine Gold Medals: Jacob Bunyan, Matthew Dale, Noah Davison, Summer Hipkins, Luke Jones, Oskar Matysiak and Dylan Cowling from Year Ten and Abigail Crabbe and Elizabeth Crookall from Year Nine. My thanks go to all the pupils who took part and my congratulations to those who were rewarded with medals.



Outside curriculum lessons, our Lower Sixth Physics pupils took part in a Masterclass on Particle Physics. The event, hosted by the University of Birmingham's Department of Physics and Astronomy together with Universities from Brazil, Italy, the USA and most importantly CERN, was an excellent opportunity for our pupils to interact and question scientists who are working at the cutting edge of Particle Physics. During the day, pupils were able to explore virtually the Large Hadron Collider and ask questions about its operation.



Pupils were also tasked with making measurements and experienced life as a researcher in particle physics for the day. They had access to real, unused data collected from the Large Hadron Collider which they were able to process to aid scientists looking at the Charm quark and its decay. The processed data is now included as part of the project. The day finished with a Particle Physics quiz in which Nicolas Kaye came second out of 150 Physics students taking part from around the world; a stand-out performance. Well done to all, especially Nicolas.



# CHEMISTRY

Despite the restrictions the Covid-19 pandemic presented to the teaching profession and beyond, the Chemistry Department has continued to try to inspire and prepare students in their quest for further knowledge and understanding of our world around us. We have welcomed three new Chemistry teachers this year, Mr Downes, Dr Stephen and Mr Joyner. These new members of staff bring a wonderful mix of experience, enthusiasm and dedication to our Department.

One of the biggest successes this year has been Liam Leonard gaining a place at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, to read Chemistry.

## AN INTERVIEW WITH UPPER SIXTH CHEMISTRY STUDENT LIAM LEONARD

01

Why did you want to apply to Oxford?

"Oxford's strong focus on research along with the opportunity to be taught by some of the world's leading Chemists really inspired me to apply to read Chemistry at Oxford."

02

What has been your experience of Chemistry at RGS?

"Studying Chemistry at RGS has been very rewarding, especially the practical aspect of the course which has equipped me with many useful skills in preparation for university-level Chemistry."

03

Why do you want to study chemistry at university?

"From drug development to sustainable energy, Chemistry's central role in everyday life inspired me to pursue the subject to a higher level. Also, I like how a large proportion of the course is spent in the laboratory as I thoroughly enjoy the practical side of Chemistry."

04

How did you prepare for the interview process?

"Reading around the subject and participating in Massive Open Online Courses provided me with a greater understanding of how the Chemistry we learn applies to our everyday lives whilst Mock interviews at school strengthened my problem-solving skills in preparation for the interview."

05

What was the interview process like?

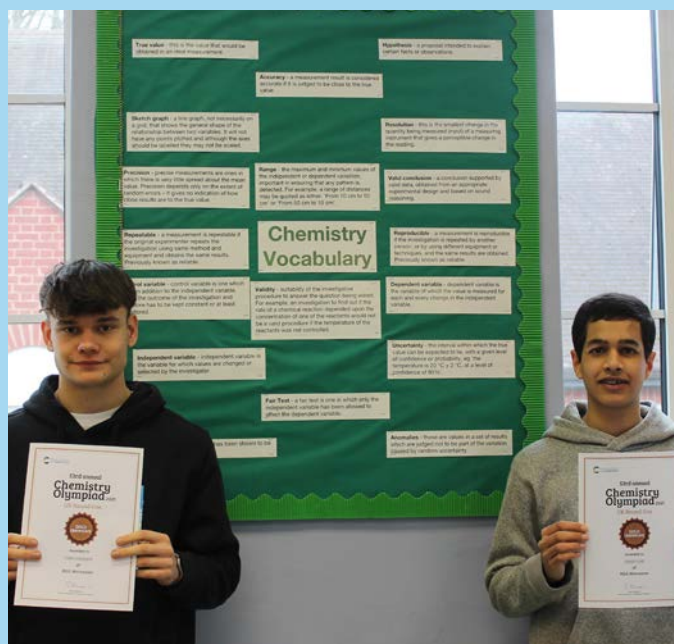
"Despite being online, the interview process was a great experience which broadened my understanding of Chemistry and provided me with a goal to work towards. I thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to talk about the subject with experts in the field."

06

What are your future academic or career plans?

"After university, I would love to take part in research as there is such a diverse range of research laboratories at Oxford. Research topics such as sustainable Chemistry and drug development interest me as they are becoming increasingly important in our lives."

Liam was also one of 20 A Level students who took part in the highly challenging International Chemistry Olympiad. This online event involved students from all over the globe tackling topic based problems, the majority of which were more on a par with first year Undergraduate level studies. Questions ranged from the Chemistry of Venus to the 'social distancing' of three dimensional molecules. Credit must go to all the students, many of whom were Lower Sixth. The pupils enjoyed a fabulous set of results with Rojat Seven, William Patterson, Joshua Leung, James Larkin and Fliss Johns achieving Bronze Awards, Sam Thompson, Katy Marsh and Adrian Fok achieving Silver Awards. Particular mention must go to Aaron Lad (Lower Sixth) and Liam Leonard (Upper Sixth) who, by achieving Gold Awards, were placed in the top 9% of 9000 students who participated worldwide this year.



# COMPUTING AND IT

In an academic year where we have relied on the success of our Digital Learning Programme, the Computing and IT Department has been at the forefront of delivering the School's hybrid model of teaching and learning. In these unprecedented times it is impossible to overlook the importance of the subject to keep the world connected and functioning. To this end, pupils have had the opportunity to gain a nationally-recognised qualification at RGSW with the Lower School working on the iDEA (Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award) programme. This has involved exploring and completing badges relating to the use of technology to understand the role we all play as responsible digital citizens, as well as how computers play a key role in modern business.

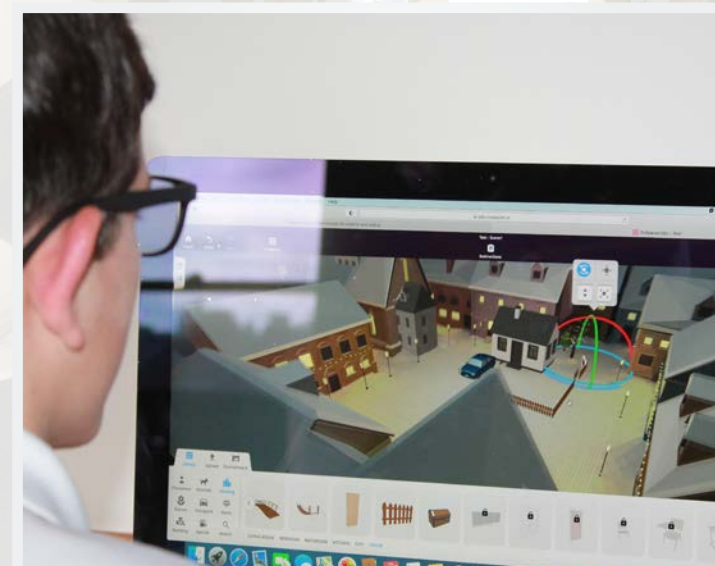
Year Seven pupils discovered that computers are embedded into a range of everyday objects, with the increased availability of smart devices connected to the Internet. They have also had a lot of fun programming hardware using the BBC micro:bit device. In Year Eight, pupils learned about key computer laws and how to code a range of applications for real-life tasks, moving from block-based to industry-standard text-based languages.

In Year Nine, pupils have created algorithms and applied computational thinking to code programs, as well as developing their technical understanding of computer networks and cyber security. Year Ten GCSE Computer Scientists have studied data representation, covering the binary number system and how image and sound compression allows for digital storage. Year Eleven pupils have applied theory to the extended programming project, a requirement of the course, as well as studying the ethical and environmental impacts of computers in society.

At A Level, Lower Sixth students have learned about implementing program design and have also completed supplementary CISCO Networking courses, leading to an industry recognised cybersecurity qualification. Despite disruptions to their A Level Computer Science studies, Upper Sixth students have completed real-world system investigations, all achieving in the top mark band for their impressive NEA projects. They have also performed admirably in the annual British Informatics Olympiad coding competition.

The Department continues to offer Lower School Code Club which this year has been held virtually, with pupils taking part in half-termly challenges leading to a showcase event. Working with a variety of resources, including augmented reality, club members have once more demonstrated the creativity and technical skills of our Year Seven and Eight pupils.

We have also provided a range of activities throughout the academic year, including the Government's Cyber Discovery and CyberFirst Girls competitions to promote careers in cybersecurity and the UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. During Code Week in December, pupils took part in class programming activities, culminating in the Cipher Challenge House competition for Year Seven and Eight. RGSW was once more recognised as an official supporter of the annual international Safer Internet Day event in February, with the Department delivering the message of our shared responsibility to be safe and positive online during lessons.





# HUMANITIES

## FACULTY

## CLASSICS

**In a year of continued social restrictions and school closures, the Classics Department has reflected upon the opportunities created by teaching during the Covid-19 pandemic to refine and develop our physical, online, and blended teaching practices in exciting ways.**

Remote learning saw our Latinists make extensive use of online materials such as 'Explain Everything' to create living commentaries on the prescribed texts. Indeed, we found that being a Department in an Apple Distinguished School paid real dividends during the second national lockdown, where commentary on texts could proceed without missing a beat and students at home and in the classroom were able to receive the same experience simultaneously. Similarly, our Classicists made

widespread use of apps like 'Quizlet' to continue collaborative group work even while some students were not present in the classroom. For all the exciting pedagogical developments of the lockdown, we are very much looking forward to returning to our usual full co-curricular offering and are planning trips to Greece, Bath, and the British Museum once restrictions have ended.



Sixth Form Classicists



At the end of this year we bade farewell to Miss Binner, who has made an indelible mark on the Classics Department and the wider life of the School over the last seven years, and whom staff and students will miss greatly. Miss Binner revolutionised the teaching of Latin in the Lower School, inspired hundreds of students, produced some of the strongest academic results the Department has seen, and made significant impacts in the co-curricular life of the School as House captain. Miss Green also came to teach Classics and Latin in the course of the year and she inspired many students in her time here. We wish them both all the very best of luck for the future.

As pioneers of the digital universe, we remain popular in the Twitterverse; @RGSClassics and the Department now reaches over 1,600 followers. With large numbers of students at all levels throughout the School, we remain very busy, and as we move past the Covid-19 pandemic into a period of hopefully reduced restrictions, continue to look towards an exciting future while keeping alive our classical heritage.



Sixth Form Classicists



# HISTORY & POLITICS

It has been an extraordinary year around the world. For us in school, teaching moved online once again for the majority of the Lent term and study across the academic year has been impacted by restrictions. While the Department moved seamlessly to remote learning last term, within our subject, we have been reflecting on the wider ramifications of the Covid-19 pandemic. In History, particularly in Year Seven (the Black Death) and Year Ten (Medicine through Time), different reactions to pandemics could be traced, and changing attitudes and ideas to the causes, prevention and treatment of disease charted and compared. GCSE investigations into Jenner's discovery of vaccination for smallpox, into Pasteur's and Koch's development of this as well as the developing role of government in public health, took on a new significance in 2020-21. Moreover, as Year Eight learnt about slavery within the British Empire, its ending and aftermath, and Year Eleven explored the civil rights movement in the USA, issues around Black Lives Matter were also discussed.

In Politics at A Level, the same has also been true but with the academic microscope trained more firmly on the now. The traumatic end to Trump's Presidency with the events of 6 January on Capitol Hill formed the backdrop to Upper Sixth studies, with, once again, the Black Lives Matter movement part of our work on democracy in action. Human rights, both in the UK and US, have also been reviewed – how protected are we? What is the role of the Human Rights Act for UK citizens?

We have closely followed the arguments in Parliament over the lifting of Covid restrictions and questioned the actions of politicians from Cameron on Greensill to Johnson, Hancock and Cummings over their handling of the Covid-19 pandemic and their decisions around their own personal lives. Politics students have also been able to take part in two virtual discussion groups, meeting with ex-Democrat and Republican Senators in the spring through the 'Congress to Campus' initiative and asking questions of Baroness Young of Old Scone as part of Parliament's 'Learn with the Lords' programme.

This year, it seems to us, the importance of understanding our history to help us understand our present has never seemed more pertinent. Moreover, the study of Politics encourages us to examine both sides to current, often hugely acrimonious debates and so perhaps reach for a reasoned and reasonable compromise that offers us a roadmap into the future.

'BUT I KNOW,  
SOMEHOW, THAT  
ONLY WHEN IT IS  
DARK ENOUGH  
CAN YOU SEE THE  
STARS'

MARTIN LUTHER KING JUNIOR



# GEOGRAPHY

Effective adaptation during the constraints and restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic has been the order of the day for the Geography Department. Switching seamlessly from classroom teaching to online learning using the Digital Learning Programme allowed not only the public examination classes of Year Eleven and the Upper Sixth Form to cover the required key content, but, also the Geography groups in other year groups to study all the rich variety of their varied curricula, thus giving them the grounding required to build on later in their geographical studies.

Our usual fieldwork visits were almost completely curtailed, although we were able to replace the South Devon field course for the A Level group with a 2-day trip to Bishop's Wood near Ombersley, our local Field Studies Centre. Here students were able to carry out investigations into elements of their Water and Carbon Cycle component and look closely at local drainage basin processes as well as carbon storage in a variety of woodlands and land uses. As this site is adjacent to Ombersley Golf Course, it also provided an opportunity for certain members of the Department to restock their golf ball stores by collecting errant out-of-bound tee shots!



The Year Seven Geographers were able to complete a fieldwork project at home by collecting data from their back gardens. This allowed them to investigate the weather over the Easter period, although unusually for this time of year there was no rain. The Geography teachers were very impressed with the finished projects.

During the summer, the Department was also able to bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level study by providing courses to prepare Year Eleven and Upper Sixth students for their future studies. For example, one group studied the formation and management of tornadoes as a natural hazard and another reviewed the challenges experienced by growing global cities as part of the Contemporary Urban Environments component.



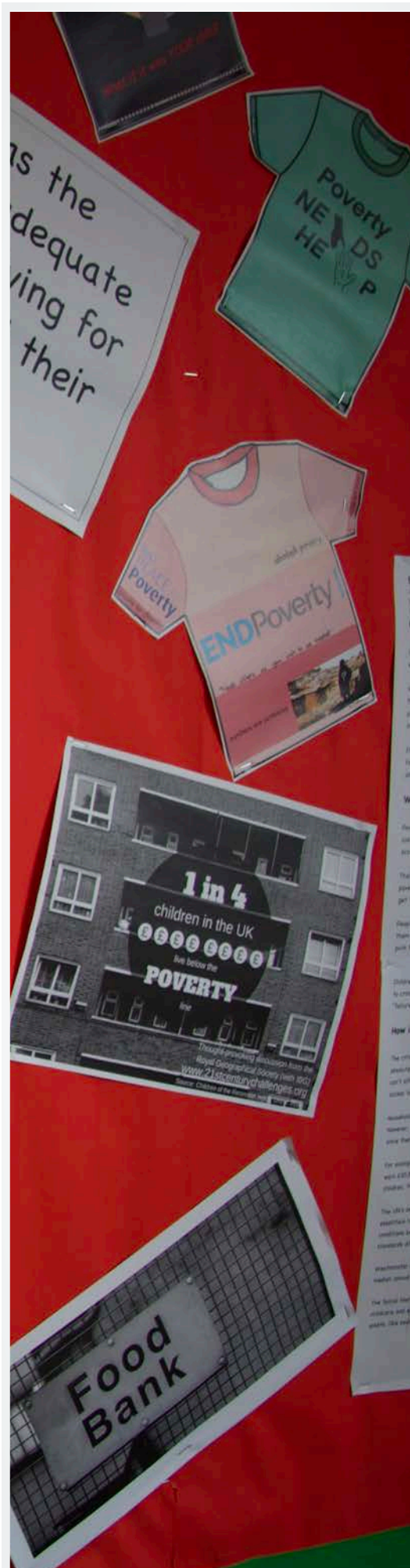
# PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

2020-21 was a bittersweet year in the Philosophy and Religion Department. As well as the uncertainty and challenges of the ever-evolving Covid-19 pandemic, we also welcomed a new member to our team and prepared to say goodbye to one of the longest serving members of staff at the School.

The start of the academic year offered promise and it was delightful to see the pupils back in school, enjoying being with their friends and learning in the classroom once again. Teaching does involve a human connection and, despite the restrictions, it was a pleasure to hear the buzz and enthusiasm in the corridors and classrooms once again. Sadly, various trips and other experiences, including a trip to Poland to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau, had to be cancelled, but there was such joy to be back in school.

After such fervour, the January news of another lockdown came like the opening of Schrödinger's cat's box. We had done it before, but this seemed like a bigger mental blow. Miss Marsh, the longest serving member of the Department was retiring this year and she feared she might not teach another 'live' class. Despite this psychological setback, the team rallied round and worked extremely hard to inspire both the pupils and each other. Mr Martin, new to the School this year, brought a wealth of ideas and perspectives both during lockdown and beyond. This injection of youth and zest, along with the tenacity and determination of the teachers and pupils, got the Department through the challenging months and this year has really galvanised the team with the belief that we can cope with just about anything!

The pragmatics of the year meant that we were delivering additional assessments to Year Eleven and the Upper Sixth with pupils rising to the challenge every time; calmly and diligently approaching each part of the year as it came. Young people always amaze me in the way in which they can adapt and this enthused the Department to do the same. Whether it was online lessons, novel ways of enabling group work when pupils could not move from their desks, or the launch of the RGS Amnesty International Club, we managed to excel in our ability to cope and we managed reflect on how we can take forward the things we have learned to better ourselves and the experience of our pupils for what we hope is a more normal year ahead.



# BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

The academic year began with the students in the Department achieving another outstanding set of Economics and Business results in the summer through the Centre Assessed Grades. Despite all the uncertainty, it was very pleasing to see the students awarded the Grades that they deserved from the various examination boards. Both subjects continued to achieve significantly above the national average.

After months online and away from the physical classroom, the Michaelmas term saw us back in the top floor of Gordon House with the first cohort of students working towards our new course, the Cambridge Technical Level 3 in Business. This is an exciting new addition to the portfolio of courses available to the students in the Sixth Form, and complements the existing A Level in both Economics and Business. Students are able to study with a more vocational approach to their academic work and still have opportunities available to go to study at university, although as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been a somewhat different first year to the one we envisioned.

In November, after Half term, our Economists were due to travel to Warwick University for the Economics in Action conference. However, as with many events, restrictions meant this was a virtual course this year. There was a range of lectures all linked to the A Level Economics course. Speakers included representatives from HSBC, The Financial Times, The Bank of England and The Adam Smith Institute. The students heard about a range of topics such as the economics of Uber and monetary policy in practice.

Although the national IFS Student Investor Challenge was suspended this year, the Department launched a new co-curricular activity, Investment Club, at the beginning of Lent term. Due to lockdown, this was initially online. Students were able to learn some basic technical analysis of stock market charts and apply them to a variety of different companies. The aim was to equip them well for the return of the IFS Student Investor Challenge (which we hope will return in the new Michaelmas term) and also help them to understand the theory learnt in the classroom in the real world of Business.

The Department has grown significantly in terms of popularity and therefore student numbers in recent years. As a result, we are very much looking forward to welcoming Mrs Burt to the team in September to teach both A Level and CTEC Business.

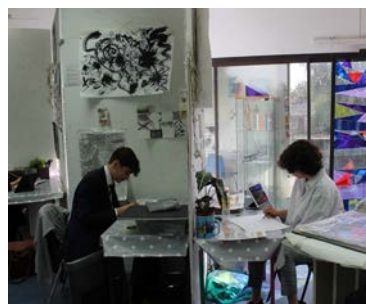




# CREATIVE ARTS FACULTY



## ART



**Creativity has played an important role in many lives over the past year. At RGS our Department has continued to be inspiring and offer many opportunities for self-expression, but, for many weeks our studios have been replaced by kitchen tables, bedroom floors, garages and gardens. Art has in many cases become a family focus and, in the first lockdown, even neighbours were able to witness an A Level pupil's painting develop on an easel by an adjoining window!**

We had an optimistic start to the Michaelmas term when our aspiring artists in the Lower Sixth visited the City and were the first group to be invited to Worcester Cathedral after restrictions had been eased. Photographs and sketches formed the basis of printmaking and large scale drawings, which were intended as the foundation for a public exhibition in February. Due to restrictions, we now hope to showcase these next year.

With the onset of the second phase of remote learning, all pupils in Years Seven to Nine were presented with a 'Creative Pack'. This included equipment for Art and Design and Technology and meant that every pupil benefited from having a full set of professional materials to work with at home. These were put to excellent use while we were learning and teaching online and video demonstrations, tutorials, classes and Art Clubs helped our pupils learn how to experiment with different media and processes.

Ben and Casson Holland extended their training by being accepted from hundreds of candidates for The Royal Academy of Arts AttRAct programme and we have had several students enter for the RA Young Artists' Summer Show.

Returning to the studios was a cause of celebration and Trinity term was busy and creative.

Pupils in Years Seven and Eight designed 'green' elephants as part of Worcester's Big Parade. A collaborative pattern was used to decorate our baby elephant, which formed part of an art trail through the City's streets and open spaces, bringing together the community for one unforgettable event and all in aid of St Richard's Hospice. The Art Department also took part in commemorating Stephen Lawrence Day by painting a Van Gogh style tree as part of a whole school tribute to Black Lives Matter. Florence Hobson's double portrait of her sister and herself formed part of Worcester's NHS Art Trail. Her sensitively executed oil painting reflected the dependence on each other during the Covid-19 pandemic and was put on display outside Eld Hall for all passers-by on The Tything to see.

It has been a challenging year, but as a Department we have never ceased to be impressed by the resourcefulness and resilience of our young artists.





# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

When embarking on a teaching profession, few would ever imagine teaching from home for long periods of time, let alone teaching a practical subject like Design and Technology, with only a few materials or equipment to hand. Yet that is exactly what has happened this year, with two national lockdowns imposed.

Designer and educator Natasha Jen once said: "Design is not a single object or dimension. Design is messy and complex." Here in Design and Technology we like to think we have fulfilled this sentiment – especially the messy and complex part!

This academic year has been like no other with pupils in Years Seven to Nine all managing to make something at home. New Remote Learning schemes were compiled with some fantastic outcomes. One such project was a personal research task, culminating in designing a solution and potentially making it. Some creations truly inspired; a chicken coup, hockey goal and bike jump all being made successfully. A number of schemes focused on graphics and again, very novel packaging solutions were designed, all with what pupils could access at home. One such photo of Easter egg packaging is displayed below.



Full credit must be given to our pupils who have adjusted admirably to the constantly changing landscape. Examination groups achieved very well and all have demonstrated how versatile they can be.



The Arkwright Scholarship process changed significantly and it is pleasing to note that Adrian Fok successfully negotiated these changes and was awarded one of these prestigious national awards.



Unfortunately, all Greenpower events were cancelled in 2020 alongside the RHS Malvern show garden design, Creative Arts Evening and Landrover 4x4 challenges. Nevertheless, in the Trinity term 2021 we were able to race at both the Goodwood and Croft racing circuits and the Greenpower team managed to secure third places at both events.



# TEXTILES

Students have enjoyed a range of activities in Textiles this year. 'Inspiring Insects' have been a source of inspiration in our Year Seven cushion project, including the pupils' own photographs combined with abstract textile art, to create bright and colourful creations.



Continuing with the nature theme, our Year Eight pupils looked at sustainability and how, as young designers, they can think about the impact they have on the Environment. They have used unusual techniques such as tie-dye with natural pigments from onion skins, as well as lots of digital skills to merge their drawings, photographs and fabric techniques, to create unique fabric prints for their t-shirt designs.

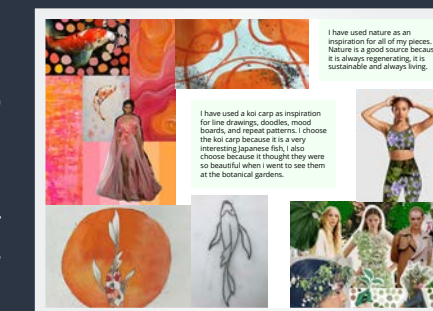
Years Nine and Ten have enjoyed exploring the theme 'Athleisure' using contemporary designers and cutting edge skills to decorate their sportswear designs. They have risen to the challenge of producing their final design and we are looking forward to seeing these on our virtual catwalk in the future!

Whilst our GCSE and A Level students have been busy working on their own unique projects, Lower Sixth students have explored the many ways in which denim fabric can be upcycled. They have built their own websites and extended their skills using their iPads to develop cutting edge fabric and fashion designs.

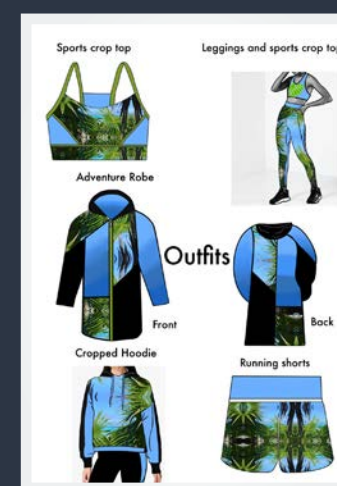
To conclude a busy year, many of our students from Year Nine to Upper Sixth have taken part in a Fashion Show Film, which has given them the opportunity to showcase the excellent work produced this year.

Our Scholars and pupils from Years Eight and Nine have also taken part in the Young Fashion Designer UK Competition and we are delighted that Abigail Haldane and Frankie Reed were awarded Highly Commended certificates in their categories. In the Year Seven to Eight category Aeryn Egginton received Third Prize and Isabelle Fawcett received Second Prize, both students did very well indeed. In the Year Nine to Eleven, category Teyah Farmer did remarkably well and was placed First overall. The judges commented "Teyah produced a beautiful presentation and highly creative designs. Her entry was well thought through with regards to development. The final designs are inspiring and creative showing originality that could be translated into a marketable product. Very well done!"

We are incredibly proud of all that our pupils have achieved.



Abigail Haldane



Isabelle Fawcett



Frankie Reed



Aeryn Egginton



Teyah Farmer



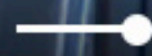
# MUSIC

Imagination, and re-imagination, in a whole host of music styles has been the flavour of academic Music this year. Year Seven have used GarageBand on their iPads to perform their own pop song mash-ups, recording chords and melodic lines in time with each other, as well as exploring Medieval Music and recording drones and melodies alongside stylistic percussion patterns.

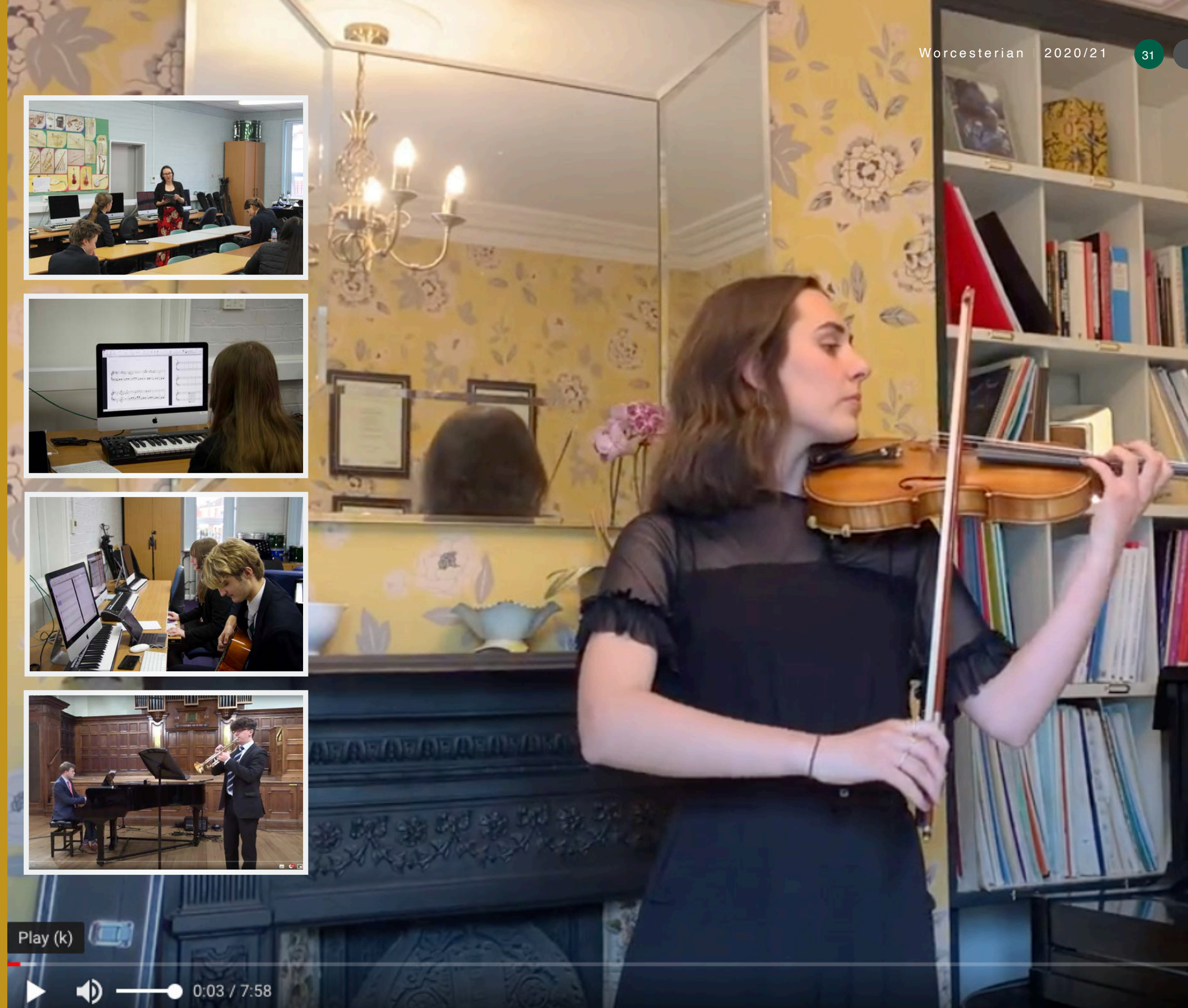
Our GCSE and A Level students have regularly performed in lessons where possible, enjoying workshop style lessons as soloists and ensemble members. In both Year Eleven and the Upper Sixth, students have given high quality performances to form part of their GCSE and A Level evidence. They have performed classics by Mozart, Handel and Chopin as well as contemporary songs and works for drum kit. The same students have each completed composition coursework, with pieces including: 'Galloping Hooves', a musical evocation of the power and beauty of horses, composed for solo piano; 'The Spiral Into Madness', a solo piano work suggesting a gradual mental descent; and 'Flight of the Pigeons', a film style composition telling the story of a young pigeon learning to fly over London.



Play (k)



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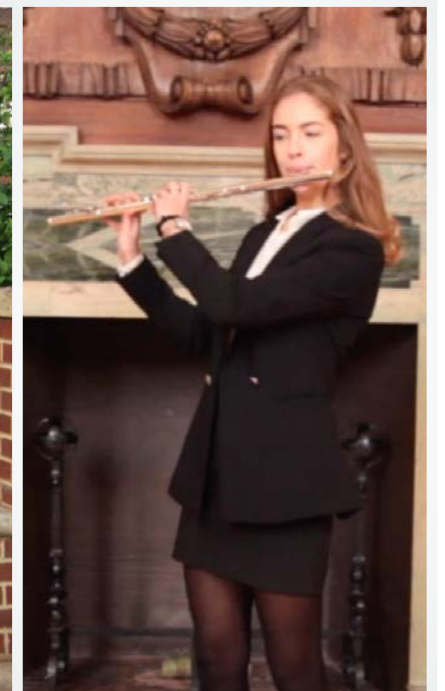
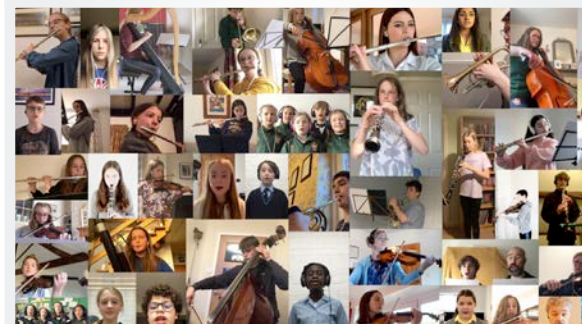
## CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC

The musical heart of RGS has continued to beat this academic year, with our regular assortment of ensembles and choirs being wholly reimagined in September to comply with the Covid-19 pandemic. At least one choir and ensemble was formed for each Year group, with the Sixth Form students forming a Jazz Combo, a Senior Strings ensemble, a Girls Choir, a Girls Quartet and a Barbershop Choir. Most of these groups have given recorded performances throughout the year, with films released online as part of the November 'Christmas Crackers' and June Concert Series. A highlight of Michaelmas term was the Carol Service, recorded in Perrins Hall in November and broadcast to the whole school on the last day of term. In the service, films of separate Year group choirs were seamlessly stitched together in four carols to beautifully mark the festive season.

The Lent term saw each Year group in the Lower and Middle School give an online concert on Google Meet; over eighty pupils performed solos during these five evenings, with praise streaming in for each pupil on the Google Meet chat function from an appreciative audience. Also relaunched this year has been 'The Perrins Sessions', now a series of regular soloist and small ensembles films, normally recorded in Perrins Hall and released each Friday on RGS social media channels. Performers from all Year groups have created high quality films, either recording live in school, recording at home during remote learning or presenting their own original compositions.

Our musicians have also embraced external musical opportunities this year, with many students entering and winning classes in the 2021 Worcester Competitive Arts Festival and a film made by members of our Chamber Choir featuring in St Richard's Hospice annual, and this year online, 'Lights of Love' service. Sasha Penlington (Year Eight) and Isabella Hulbert (Lower Sixth) were both finalists in the 2020 Bromsgrove Young Musicians Platform, with Isabella sharing first prize in the Senior Category. Many students have passed music examinations this year, in person and online.

The end of the academic year saw two projects come to successful fruition. First, two concert performances were given of Henry Purcell's 'Dido and Aeneas' by Sixth Form musicians. This beautiful and challenging Baroque opera featured talented vocal soloists, a superb chorus and a small string orchestra, being performed live in Perrins Hall to revitalise live music making at RGS once again. The last day of the Trinity term saw the release of this year's multi-screen musical performance: a celebratory rendition of Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' performed by singers and instrumentalists from all four RGS schools. Featuring over 200 performers, this film provided a fitting conclusion to the musical year at RGS.







# PHYSICAL EDUCATION



The year began with the Physical Education (PE) Department achieving another excellent set of results at A Level and BTEC in the summer of 2020. Both subjects continued to record results well above the national average.

We have also seen the introduction of GCSE PE this year, which has provided an excellent stepping stone for future academic study in Physical Education.

During the year, the Department worked hard to overcome the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic to provide a range of safe and engaging activities to keep pupils active. Lockdown highlights included live core PE lessons and co-curricular provision through the 'Daily Challenge'.

Academic PE lessons continued for GCSE, A Level and BTEC and a range of online delivery ideas were explored. The Upper Sixth BTEC class became trained Barre instructors as part of their Unit 4 Sports Leadership. The BTEC course continued to be assessed and externally verified. Staff were trained in the Everlearner 'Exam Simulator' software, which has assisted with online marking, assessment and pupil/teacher feedback for GCSE PE.

Other exciting events to inspire pupils have included the Athlete Development Programme lectures; Rugby Sports Psychologist, Lyle Kirkham of 'Spark Performance' who delivered an online seminar about the importance of culture and creating a team identity.

Seyvern Stars 'sensation', Lucy Herdman delivered a zoom session, when participants heard her inspirational story and took part in virtual coaching drills and skills. The final event of lockdown was a 'live' Q&A with Olympic Hockey legends, Kate and Helen Richardson-Walsh. To conclude the half term pupils participated in a virtual RGS House Winter Olympic Games!



House Winter Olympic Games  
February 2021





# DRAMA



This year has certainly demonstrated the resilience and creativity of our Drama students. Lessons started on stage and then had to move very swiftly online and change to allow this to happen practically at home, since working on a group performance became impossible. It has been fantastic to see families getting involved with creating tableaux, being characters in pieces, and we have thoroughly enjoyed the talent that has been shown by parents, grandparents and siblings.

Year Seven studied 'The Jabberwocky' and those groups who were in school used the stage and the style of physical theatre to immerse us in the world of these creatures. Those who were at home ventured outside and filmed their own interpretations of the Jabberwocky, filming in some fantastic locations. It was a similar story for Year Eight and again their ability to collaborate within their groups and film pieces that appeared to be together from their separate homes was amazing.

Social distancing posed a challenge to Year Nine, especially in training for Stage Combat, however again it was worked around and all executed moves meticulously. Year Ten had a long journey to their final Devised performances, which were successfully performed in

March using stimuli both on Alcohol and Fairy and Folk tales. For performers so early in their GCSE journey, they exhibited excellent skills and superb styles of performance. Year Eleven completed their Component 3 examination pieces in December, performing a range of texts as monologues, duologues and group pieces. Then, after completing two written papers, they spent the final part of the year devising for Component 2 using stimuli of Hurricane Katrina and the breaking down of The Berlin Wall.

The Lower Sixth have been very busy throughout the year and have had to move back and forth through different Components depending on whether we were in school or online. This has meant that they have completed most of their course in one year. Their Component 2 performance of 'You will Love me', using the style of Jerzy Grotowski, was stunning.

Our Upper Sixth Drama and Theatre class of six are those that we have taken through from Year Seven and have been an integral part of both academic and co-curricular Drama over the last seven years. Their exceptional abilities were truly shown in their Grotowski inspired performance of 'Museum in Baghdad'. As well as their high standard of physical and vocal skills, they all learnt Arabic which finished the piece superbly in a breathtaking scene.

## FILM MAKERS' CLUB

With the disruption brought to us through the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been near impossible for the Film Makers' Club to function in its usual capacity, with students from across Years Seven to the Upper Sixth unable to meet in the Performing Arts Centre and discuss and create their ideas. Instead, the Film Makers' Club had to move into a virtual format with categories being established on Showbie, making full use of the DLP, and encouraging a little more independence.

Throughout the Trinity term of 2020 and since, students were offered opportunities to make films in the Film Makers' Club, the Film Enrichment programme for Sixth Form, and for the House Film Making competition.

A wide range of entries were submitted to be screened as part of the Creative Arts week. For the Film Makers' Club, categories included: Animation; Environmental Campaigns; Music Videos; Spoofs and Bloopers; and Original Movies.

House Film Making, which was introduced in the Trinity term of 2020, has seen two contests. The first on the theme of 'Heroes' and the second on 'Movie Magic'. Finally, for the Sixth Form Film Making Enrichment programme, we have seen a number of original creations in a mixture of styles, utilising an array of cinematic techniques and devices.

The hope is that the more traditional Film Makers' Festival format will be able to return in 2022, along with the red carpet and accompanying glitz and glamour. A huge thank you to all who have participated.





# CO-CURRICULAR DRAMA

Like all theatres around the country, the School's Co-curricular Drama took a big hit because of the Covid-19 pandemic. As we went into lockdown the DIY company were just about to stage Macbeth, auditions for the planned Summer production of 'Bugsy Malone' had taken place and the cast had had their first read through, and the Senior Production of 'Billy Elliot' had just been released. 'Macbeth' had to be cancelled but we refused to be beaten, and so both students and staff switched to online interactions. 'Bugsy Malone' rehearsals happened online every week and 'Billy Elliot' auditions took place with students pushing themselves to the best of their abilities, showing off their skills in dance, accent and singing via a camera link.

On the return to school in September, it became evident that the theatre could not open and therefore we would not be able to perform either of the musicals. While 'Billy Elliot' could be postponed for a year, the talented 'Bugsy Malone' team decided that they would create a bubbled film version. This allowed all the cast to have the opportunity to perform the roles they had worked so hard to create over the Summer. A streamed version was played over three nights and was a credit to everyone involved.

As a musical could not be put on stage, the Department had three nights of Musical club and worked to bubbled performances by Years Ten, Eleven and Sixth Form, with each performing different songs from the musical 'Wicked'. Film Club continued online with Mr Morgan setting tasks via Google Meet from his office to his budding Film Makers and directors. In place of the Summer production, Year Eight and Nine production clubs were run separately with students working on devised pieces based on the 80s, 90s or 2000s.

A second round of 'Billy Elliot' auditions were held to replace the Upper Sixth cast who were leaving and Year Seven, Eight and Nine productions took place in June. We now look forward to an academic year when we hope we can return to some kind of normality in the performance world. Nevertheless, we have to commend all creatives for everything they have done over the last year to keep the Arts alive.





# SPORT

## RUGBY

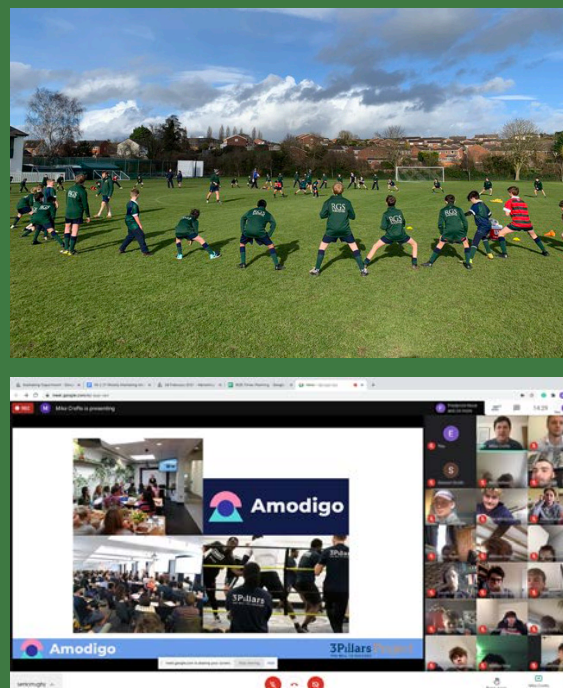
**In a lockdown stricken academic year, an early decision was made to switch Rugby and Football so that Rugby was played in the Lent term. Given the current guidelines at the time around contact sports, it was felt that this would give RGSW the best opportunity to offer a near full sporting provision. Unfortunately, however, the hoped for relaxation never fully materialised.**

Nevertheless, the Rugby provision adapted to remote learning during the Lent term with the pupils demonstrating great 'Willingness' and a 'Resolute' attitude during this tough period. Creating habits of the core fundamentals began to develop with the focus being on Catch & Pass, Ball Presentation and Low Tackle techniques. The response from the students was exceptional and they really grasped the idea of online rugby sessions and being creative in doing so, highlighted by the passing targets created and the 'Tackle the Teacher' aspect of the sessions, which they thoroughly enjoyed!

Remote learning also gave the Department the opportunity to deliver a variety of external webinars for the Senior section of the School. These included Psychology and Leadership discussions, run by Spark Performance and Amodigo respectively, which were extremely engaging and beneficial for students and staff. There was also a great opportunity for the Year Seven pupils to hold a question-and-answer session with 1st XV Captain, Flynn Vries, who discussed his personal experience and playing career throughout his school life. Flynn proved a great asset as Captain in difficult circumstances with his attitude, work rate and enthusiasm, leading from the front and encompassing the 'Charter for Sport' that RGSW has established.

As we exited the third lockdown, Rugby was ultimately introduced for the final four weeks of the Lent term, to everyone's delight. Using the core fundamentals and techniques introduced during online sessions, training focussed on developing these further by transitioning these techniques into skills by applying pressurised environments through small sided games. This long awaited period culminated in House Rugby where, more than ever, the competition provided a huge benefit to all by offering the opportunity, finally, to experience some competitive sporting interaction with their peers; it was a joy to witness!

After being away from the game for a substantial period of time it was great to see pupils enjoying themselves, playing sport on the Flagge Meadow and St. Oswald's fields once again. The online coaching and the eventual four week playing period provided the opportunity to embed the 'RGS Identity', which will prove vital for the players and coaches leading into an exciting and much anticipated 2021/22 Rugby season.



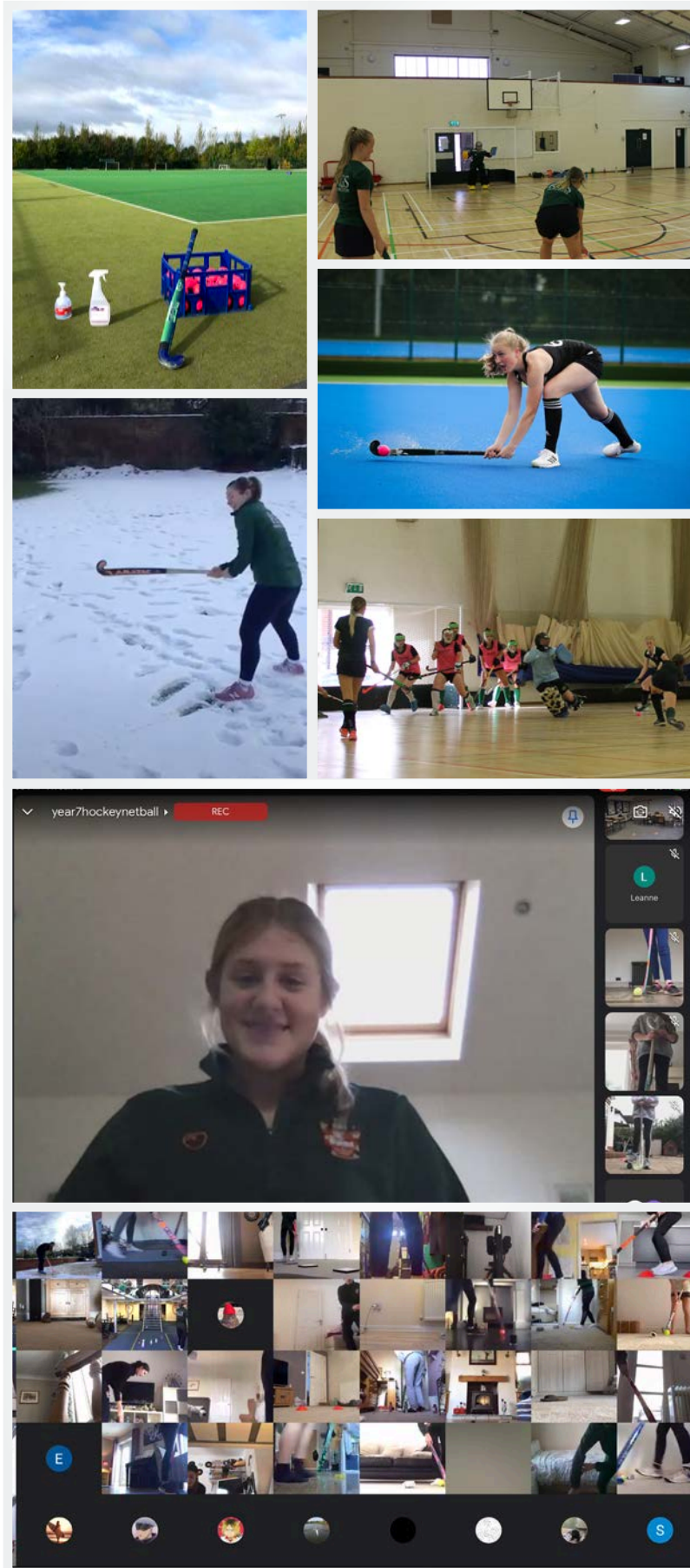
# FOOTBALL

In late September a delayed return to Winter sports began with renewed excitement and enthusiasm. Due to concerns relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, Football took the place of Rugby and proved a very popular change from Summer sports. Fixtures against other schools were always going to be unlikely given the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, and so the staff were challenged to provide engaging sessions that gave a mixture of technical sessions and competitive inter-year group matches. Games sessions merged with training nights and all the boys worked very hard. The main focus of Lower School sessions was on the key fundamentals and core elements of our Programme of Study namely: creating space, receiving, passing, dribbling, turning and 1v1 defending. For those boys in older Year groups whose technical ability is more advanced, the focus was on positional play, ball retention, transition through thirds, counter attack and pressing as a unit.

In order to compensate for the lack of matches we introduced our own version of the 'Copa America', which allowed teams to grade and reward all players for team play, work ethic, sportsmanship and goals scored. This proved very enjoyable and exciting, and certainly resulted in greater levels of inclusion amongst all the participating teams. Two final highlights were House matches, which were keenly contested as always, and our only fixtures of the term. Under strict Covid-19 protocols, Bromsgrove School hosted our Under 17 team and this proved to be a very evenly matched contest which resulted in a 2-2 draw. It was a fitting end to an action packed couple of months.



# HOCKEY



We welcomed pupils back to Hockey in October for Games lessons and had some quality time to focus on various areas of the game and really develop players' core skills. After school training provided the unique opportunity for all Year groups to participate in Indoor Hockey, an area we pride ourselves in at RGS after National success in recent years. Our Under 18, Under 16 and Under 15 teams were extremely fortunate to play competitive matches against Cheltenham Ladies College and Hereford Cathedral School under England Hockey Covid-19 guidelines.

All Year groups tested their skills in various Hockey activities to participate in a virtual fixture, with RGS victorious across the age groups. When we moved back into lockdown, weekly Hockey Games lessons continued via 'live' Google Meet sessions. The level of engagement was fantastic, with pupils borrowing sticks and being creative, developing skills with objects such as brooms and socks! The Hockey 'Cha, Cha Slide' was a favourite and pupils had the opportunity to develop Hockey specific strength and conditioning movements, as well as key technical skills. Our 1st XI Captain, Lottie Atkinson, brilliantly led live activities for our Lower School pupils.

In addition to games lessons, extension tasks were shared for co-curricular activities in which pupils produced outstanding videos or obstacle courses, snowball challenges and completed tactical development tasks using video analysis data. We concluded lockdown with a live question and answer session for all pupils with GB Olympians Kate and Helen Richardson-Walsh. This provided a very special opportunity to chat about all things Hockey and it was great to see our pupils asking outstanding questions.

On return to school, we were back to Hockey sessions in Games lessons, concluding the term with House Hockey for the Seniors, played within Year group bubbles. Using Netball style conditions, the pupils played with enthusiasm

and enjoyment whilst demonstrating excellent problem-solving and teamwork skills. Boys and girls also got back to after school Hockey Clubs and, although the lack of competitive Hockey may have been unusual, it provided time and a need for creative, varied development options. These will set the players in good stead for next season when we look forward to playing at the new Worcester International Hockey Centre.

We are delighted to announce that three RGS Pupils have been selected to represent National teams in Hockey. Lower Sixth student Amelia Lane has been selected for the Wales Under 18 squad, Alice Atkinson in Year Eleven for the England Under 18 squad and Year Ten pupil Caitlin Lane for the Wales Under 16 squad. To have not just one, but, three international Hockey players here at RGS is a superb achievement!

In addition to these international selections, Ellie Nicholls is part of the Under 17 Performance Centre aiming for selection for the Futures Cup in the summer, which is another route into National Age Group Selection. We also have Theodora Hall and Teyah Farmer, who have been invited to join the Under 16 Regional Performance Centre. It is also pleasing to report that RGS alumnae and former Hockey captain, Abigail Marsh, has played in the English National Premier League for Swansea Hockey Club.

All these success stories demonstrate how RGS Hockey is achieving the aim of providing opportunities for all, as well as challenging our elite players and providing enthusiasm for continued participation after RGS.





# CRICKET

The last academic year certainly proved a challenge for Cricket with the cancellation of the entire Trinity term fixture programme due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the curtailment of all Lent term pre-season training.

However, this did provide opportunities for creative adaptation in terms of skills challenges that were delivered via online learning during lockdown, and also for school fixtures which, for the first time, were arranged during the first half of the Michaelmas term. Our Games lessons provision (for both boys and girls) in September and early October also became based around Cricket skill development. Fortunately, the 1st XI were able to play two fixtures in September against an Old Boys' XI and, along with the Year Eights, Nines and Tens, against our local rivals, King's School. There was also an opportunity for an Under 16 side to play against Hereford Cathedral School's full 1st XI.

With regard to these fixtures our Year Eleven team put up an encouraging showing against Hereford Cathedral School's 1st XI, notably with Ben Whitton, Ben Allen, Haseeb Tariq and Billy Taylor showing a pleasing range of all-round ability, although, ultimately, they fell short of their 180 run target. The block of fixtures against King's School saw wins for the 1st XI, Year Ten and Year Nine teams and again there were a number of strong individual and team performances. The 1st team batted consistently to post 200 for 5 from 40 overs, Jude Rees top-scoring with 35, and then bowled with determination to dismiss the Kings' team for 182, Oscar Silvey picking up four wickets and Ben Sutton three. Stand out efforts in the younger age groups on the day were Zak Crowther-Green's 82 not out for the Year Ten team and an opening partnership

of 88 with Tom McMillan, while in the Year Nine team there was a 50 for Harvey Shaw and three wickets for Arjun Jawanda's off-spin in a dominant victory. The Year Eight team also played, but were second best to a strong King's School side.

The Old Boys' fixture was played against a side that was very close in structure to the 1st XI team that won the RGS Festival under James Allen's captaincy in 2017. The Old Boys' were restricted to 123 for 5 in 20 overs mainly due to the excellent spin bowling triumvirate of Ben Sutton (Captain for the third year), Ben Hallam and Dylan Griffiths. This highly achievable target did however seem a very long way off after Rhodri Williams' first over in which both of the most experienced school players of Sutton and Jude Rees were clean bowled. However, pleasing contributions from Will Godwin, Ben Hallam and top-scorer Dylan Griffiths, who on debut followed up his two wickets with 30 not out, took the School to a semi-respectable total of 103-8, thus falling 20 runs short.

In the New Year and despite the Covid-19 pandemic still being in place (which also led to the loss of a number of fixtures) the 2021 summer saw a return to some semblance of normality and the opportunity for the boys to re-establish the experience of inter-school Cricket. Within these matches significant highlights were the 1st XI's nine-wicket victory over King's School thanks to outstanding bowling from Ben Whitton, with 5 for 23, and an unbeaten 100 not

out from rookie opener Sam Ford, along with 72 from Ben Hallam. Similarly, two further centuries for the 1st XI from Sebastian Scott against the MCC and Gentlemen of Worcestershire were high quality innings.

The season concluded with the 1st XI participating in the annual RGS Schools' Festival. It was the usual round-robin format, with all of the six participating schools playing each other during the five day Festival. Unfortunately rain intervened on Monday and Tuesday, washing out both days.

Our first game was therefore on Wednesday and resulted in a 4 wicket victory over RGS Colchester. With most of our Lower Sixth squad members missing the trip due to self-isolation, debuts were offered to three of our talented Middle School cricketers: Year Nine pupil Tom Odell and the Year Ten pairing of Callum Butler and Tom McMillan. RGS Colchester posted 189 all out with wickets for Will Godwin (3), Ben Sutton (2) and Ben Whitton (2) in a positive fielding display. This total was comfortably chased down thanks primarily to an excellent partnership of 147 between Jude Rees, who made 41, and Ben Sutton, who scored a blistering 75.



The following day, there was an enthralling and exciting match against RGS High Wycombe which ultimately resulted in a 1 wicket victory. Our opponents mustered 196 all out and, with our reply standing at 77 for 7, all looked lost. A superb 78 run partnership, however, between Jude Rees and Olly Meredith pushed us close, although the team still needed 50 from the final 6 overs. Enter Ben Allen who blitzed a rapid 25 to send us over the line and left Jude unbeaten on 61.

This all meant that the Festival could have been won with another victory on the final day. Unfortunately, it was not meant to be and, against RGS Guildford's excellent new ball pair, one of whom claimed 5 wickets for 15 runs in a brilliant spell of aggressive bowling, the team collapsed to 87 all out. In spite of the perilous situation, a noble defence of this score ensued and RGS Guildford found themselves teetering on 37 for 4.

Nevertheless, in the end, our opponents reached the target for the loss of only two more wickets and deservedly won the Festival. Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable week and the schools will all reconvene next year when the host school will be RGS High Wycombe.

## GIRLS CRICKET

This year has been an exciting year for the development of Girls Cricket at RGS Worcester. The programme has exceeded expectations as we already have girls training regularly with hard ball, and have hosted our first all girls hard ball fixture at Flagge Meadow.

It was a fantastic opportunity for Fynn Butler and her Under 13As team to showcase their skills against Orwell Park, a touring school from Suffolk. We have also been able to play 15 fixtures this term, from Year Seven to Year Ten, winning 8 of them. This is a great foundation for the girls to build on, as they receive regular coaching during Games and in after school sessions. They can then implement these skills into matchplay.

As part of developing the programme further, the School has been able to combine with Worcestershire County Cricket Club to provide the girls in Year Eight with the opportunity to be coached by a Level 4 Senior Cricket Coach. Over time we hope to grow this programme.

There is so much scope for Girls Cricket to grow and develop over the next few years, and this makes it an incredibly exciting time for the girls as they will have the chance to help shape our vision and be the ones to lead the way!





# NETBALL

The 2021 season has certainly presented us with a multitude of tribulations and has been one like we have never experienced before (to say the least!). Nevertheless, despite the lack of competitive fixtures, there is still plenty to celebrate as we were able to run a variety of activities for our netballers to experience and enjoy throughout the year.



During the National lockdown we took our Games provision online and were blown away by the resilience of our pupils who turned up week by week with complete enthusiasm in such testing times. To complement our online Games programme, we were fortunate enough to have made connections with 'Netu' – a business run by superleague superstars, the Harris sisters. We are the first school to make a partnership with Netu, who provided our Netball and ADP athletes with 8 weeks of Netball specific programming to go alongside our school led Games sessions. In addition to Netu, we were also privileged enough to have online sessions with our very own superleague sensation, Lucy Herdman, who led our pupils through a number of skill sessions which kept them, quite literally, on their toes!

Upon our return to school, and as a continuation of our online experience, we were also lucky enough to have an in-house masterclass with Lucy Harris, who delivered a fantastic session on attacking principles. This gave our students an opportunity to learn from and talk to a current professional in the sport, and hopefully gave ample inspiration to our young aspiring players.

An exciting feature of this year has been the running of our inaugural Severn Stars Nova Academy. The School has been host to 20 young athletes who have participated in weekly skill and match play sessions, as well as having an athlete specific Strength and Conditioning programme delivered by Mr Brindley. The players showed huge progress across the season and we are incredibly proud of RGS students Teyah Farmer and Isobel Thompson, who progressed to Under 15 trials and the Under 15 Academy, respectively. Applications will be opening soon for next season and we look forward to hearing from interested netballers in due course.

May we take this opportunity to thank our girls and staff for all of their enthusiasm and hard work in what has been an incredibly unorthodox season. We very much look forward to seeing what the new academic year will bring and am excited for all we can achieve together.



# ATHLETICS

This year Athletics has taken a central role in the return to sport at RGS. Due to the safe nature of Athletics, it has been accessible for all, right from the start of the academic year in September 2020. Our athletes have been training hard during lockdowns with home workouts and plenty of Strava runs to keep them ready for the Athletics season.

The main season began in April with all Year groups being given the opportunity to try a range of events as part of our preseason training schedule. It was brilliant to see new and old faces enjoying Athletics at St Oswald's, with many of our pupils wanting to compete this year.



With the first set of fixtures against King's School approaching, our teams were hard at work during Games lessons and in after school training sessions. The Year Nine group were able to travel to King's School and performed amazingly with strong performances from Sofia Stolt (Shot Putt) and Adam Poyser (100m) amongst many others. Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions, all the other Year group competitions had to be cancelled.



The main external event this season was the County Championships, held this year at Nuneaton Athletics club, where some of our top athletes had been given the opportunity to compete. Special mention should be made of Alex Houchin (100m and 200m), Izzy Thompson (100m) and Sarah Dudley (1500m), who all performed brilliantly on the day.

The Athletics season culminated in Sports Week, with each Year group competing during their Games lesson. Athletes had the opportunity to compete in a range of events for their House in order to earn points. Unfortunately the Year Nine event was rained off but we still managed to see some amazing performances and results across all other Year groups. The atmosphere on each day was brilliant, encapsulating everything the RGSW Charter for Sport stands for.

We would like to thank all those who have competed this year and the staff who have worked so hard to make the Athletics season happen. I would like to especially thank Wyn Griffiths who is stepping away from his role at RGS. Wyn has devoted an immense amount of time and effort to support the Athletics programme over recent years, and his experience and enthusiasm has made Athletics at RGS an enjoyable experience for all involved.

We very much look forward to seeing what the next season has to offer and we are excited for all that can be achieved.



# ROWING

RGS Worcester Boat Club rowers have continued to progress and develop through this difficult year. In September the rowers returned to the boathouse and the Boat Club welcomed their new Captains, Phoebe Ellis-Tait and Daniel Hall, and Vice Captains, Lottie Bond and Freddie Davies.



With competition suspended, the coaching team devised a number of activities to maintain engagement with the sport. The first activity on the programme was a whole school 1000m row on the indoor rowing machines. This was extremely well attended and saw pupils and staff enter times.

The Lower School Indoor Rowing Club set the target to row to Lapland before Christmas. The Year Seven and Eight pupils rowed in the ergo room on Monday lunchtimes and managed to cover over 40,000 metres. This was a very impressive performance. Between September and December the whole school rowed over 520,376m on the indoor rowing machines.

The Christmas Mince Pie races were a perfect opportunity for the pupils to have friendly competition against other clubs on the River Sever. This would be the last rowing session to take place on the river until March. The crews included two Eights, a Quad, a Double and two Single Sculls.



After eight years as Head of Rowing at RGS Worcester, Mrs Sullivan retired at the end of 2020 leaving a fantastic legacy at the boathouse. Mrs Sullivan inspired the rowers on and off the water ensuring that they were at the heart of the Boat Club.

Rowing became virtual at the beginning of 2021 once more, following the announcement of government restrictions. The rowers took the time to ensure they would be robust enough to return to the water using the excellent remote learning facilities to train side by side. The sessions focussed on body weight circuits and core strength exercises.

Following a brief period of flooding, the water levels dropped just in time for the return to Rowing in the Spring. By now, Mr Messent had started as Head of Rowing and the boats were prepared to take to the water once more. Rowing sessions focused on rebuilding the rowers' training and stamina in readiness for competition, which was finally able to happen in June at the Worcester Junior Regatta against crews from King's School and the Boat Clubs of Worcester, Stourport and Pengwern. Several boats raced up the 400m course from Diglis to the boathouse, first in time trials and then in side by side

sprints. Overall, this event provided an excellent opportunity to return to racing for the rowers and the whole coaching team was proud to see the rowers demonstrate how they had developed over the course of this year.

To row together in a crew boat not only takes power and strength but also the ability to work as a team and support those around you. These are skills that the rowers are developing every day. Whilst some of this support has happened virtually, it is a truly magnificent sight to see the green kit of RGS Worcester rowers back on the river.





# NICHE SPORT

## TRIATHLON CLUB

In the Trinity term, RGS Worcester started a Triathlon Club which, due to the high levels of interest, had to be split into two sessions in order to cater for all those wanting to take part. The club is run by our Director of Sport, Mr Roots, who is a qualified British Triathlon coach and keen participant, alongside Miss Gidon in the MFL Department, who is also a very capable triathlete.

The sessions have focused primarily around enjoyment, as well as the technical and tactical aspects of Triathlon in order to increase understanding in what is quite a complex sport. The transition from one discipline to another, e.g from bike to run, is often an overlooked aspect of Triathlon and the pupils got the opportunity to practise their mounts and dismounts, as well as experience the 'jelly legs' one feels when going straight into a run after a cycle!

The School's aim is to increase participation in the sport and hopefully some pupils will enjoy it so much that they want to compete themselves at some point in the future.



## RUNNING

This year has seen a large number of pupils take part in Running Club activities, despite the adjustments we have had to make to our usual routines. In Michaelmas term there was an influx of enthusiastic Year Seven runners for our early morning laps around Flagge Meadow and these alternated weeks with a dedicated group of Year Eight pupils. In Lent term the lockdown meant that we were unable to meet in person, but there were

no excuses to put the trainers away as pupils were set weekly running challenges to complete. These included running up hills, across bridges and along off-road trails as we all tried to maintain our fitness levels. We now look forward to getting back to Cross-country competitions against other schools next academic year!

## GOLF



Unfortunately, the RGS Worcester Golf Team have been unable to play any competitive fixtures this academic year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, this has not stopped us moving forwards in the sport, with Junior Golf Club taking place at Worcester Golf & Country Club in the Trinity term.

The pupils enjoyed honing their skills and techniques with one hour tuition sessions, led by the Club's Head Professional, Ian Henry, and his assistant, Alex Band. These sessions have been both fun and engaging and there has been a noticeable improvement in the players' skill levels.

The pupils are very much looking forward to taking part in Club competitions over the summer break and we look forward to competing again in the Independent Schools' Golf Association (ISGA) events next academic year.

## FENCING

To say Fencing has been challenging this year would be something of an understatement. Indeed, at the beginning of September, we were unclear as to whether we would be able to fence at all. However, following guidance from British Fencing and some careful measures put in place to keep everyone safe, we were able to keep going through most of the Michaelmas term.

Normally I would be able to speak about new fencers welcomed to the Club and competitions fought, with medals won and qualifications for the next level. Sadly, we were unable to offer Fencing to new pupils and all competitions were put on hold, including the ever popular RGS Gala in December. The match against King's School and the regional rounds of the British Youth Championships (both usually scenes of significant success) were swept away in the lockdown that engulfed us in January.

We picked up in March once lockdown was over and continued Fencing through the Trinity term. Despite the lack of external competition, fencers continued to hone their skills and put themselves in a strong position for when things returned to normal. We were finally able to run Taster sessions for new pupils in both Year Eight and Year Seven, with around fifty pupils keen to try out the sport. Team fixtures also started with a burst of activity at the end of the Trinity term. In a Pairs competition at Warwick school, the Year Eight pair of Joseph Kington and Jacob Hartley fenced against teams from Warwick, Bromsgrove School and King Edward's School, and showed impressive skill, beating all four teams by a comfortable margin.

The Year Nine team of Zara Martin-Green, Matthew Fallows and Edith Wise went to King Edward's School for a Year Nine contest and took a well-deserved second place, having lost narrowly 43-37 to a strong Bromsgrove School but beating both the A and B fencers from King Edward's School.

The Sixth Form team of Will Osborne, Tom Ehlers and William Fallows, dominated their opponents from Warwick School and King Edward's School (both A and B teams), and this meant that RGS won the competition, bringing home a new Midlands Team shield as a reward.

Fencing matches, however fiercely fought on the piste, are friendly off it, and these three competitions proved no exception, with RGS fencers demonstrating the best qualities of our pupils. After 16 months of no competitions, it was excellent to see Fencing back on the calendar and to finish the school year with RGS fencers winning nine out of ten competitions.





# CAREERS

I think we would all agree that this year has been an extraordinary year and one that we would rather not repeat. The challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic have certainly been felt in the Careers Department as so many of our Careers events and Business engagement opportunities have relied on pupils being able to meet members of industry and mock interviewers face-to-face and have meaningful conversations about the world of work.



WORKING TOWARDS  
"THE QUALITY IN  
CAREERS STANDARD"



As such, the face-to-face events that have previously been reported in the Worcesterian have not been allowed to go ahead. However, we have managed to continue to have a virtual offering of certain opportunities for all pupils throughout this year. It has been an unprecedented time in the pupils' careers pathways and with the ease of technology and our Digital Learning Programme, RGS pupils have taken to the virtual environment with ease. I think it is fair to say, however, that everyone involved is looking forward to having face-to-face meetings once again.

We are pleased to report that we continue to work towards our Stage 2 in the Quality in Careers Mark, and hope to make great strides this year in achieving full status.

As in previous years, all pupils from Year Seven through to Upper Sixth, and Year Eleven at RGS Dodderhill, now have the opportunity to research, record and develop their skills via a new online programme Kudos. The programme allows each pupil to create individual shortlists, research new career pathways and develop soft skills and qualities whilst at the same time being able to set individual targets. It allows each pupil to record their achievements and develop an excellent portfolio of evidence for future personal statements and applications.

Despite the restrictions, all pupils in Year Eleven had 1:1 personal careers guidance interviews which were provided for by the AOOEs, for which we are incredibly grateful.



Each pupil attended a remote interview in the Careers Department and was given expert and impartial advice from our Careers Consultant from Lotus Careers. This has enabled pupils to make an informed decision about their key career pathway choices at all stages of their education. I am very pleased that we have still been able to offer such a valuable service to every pupil in Year Eleven.

As in previous years, the Lower Sixth has had academic enrichment sessions intertwined with their curriculum. The Careers Department was part of the programme and Lower Sixth pupils have followed an Employability skills programme in the Lent term. With support from outside agencies via virtual sessions, the pupils gained an insight into real world skills and have had workshops on interview skills, applying to jobs, networking and building up contacts, and CV writing. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the annual Careers and Higher Education EXPO once again, which in previous years has rounded off the Employability module.



Despite the challenges pupils have faced accessing in person Work Experience, which remains crucial to successful University and job applications, numerous pupils have attended virtual Work Experience events and courses such as the Medic Mentor Live Work experience with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. This gave real world insight into a profession ahead of making such important decisions about future A Levels. I have been very impressed with the resilience and perseverance shown by our pupils in gaining places at these virtual events. They really are making great strides in standing out from the crowd in such a competitive world.

Our annual trips offering has been greatly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, but we had a fantastic trip with our Sixth Form Engineers to see the new installation of the Sabrina Bridge and had the opportunity to learn so much more about Civil and Structural Engineering. We witnessed the world's largest crane lower into place enormous pieces of the bridge and we were awestruck by the manoeuvres.

Every year we have a wealth of opportunities and events that our pupils can access and I look forward to next year where we can have the full Careers programme up and running with new zest and vigour.

# EPQ

## The Extended Project Qualification

It has been a successful year for the Extended Project Qualification, with very interesting and high calibre projects being submitted.

The Extended Project Qualification gives students the opportunity to research any topic of their choice and to produce an artefact or 5000 word essay, and is worth half an A Level.

The range of interesting and novel research areas that students have uncovered has been impressive.

Amongst the sixteen Upper Sixth projects submitted this year, titles have ranged from exploring the feasibility and practicality of dilating time for a rocket using special relativity; to considering how Michelangelo portrays human forms in the Sistine Chapel Ceiling; how the interior and exterior of a retirement home can be appropriately designed for people with dementia and whether or not there is clear justification for the introduction of the breed specific legislation, as part of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

This year, a Lower Sixth EPQ presentation fayre was held in Eld Hall, allowing students the opportunity to share the highlights of their research journey. This celebratory event saw students putting up inspiring displays to document the excellent projects they have worked so hard on over the last year.

Well done to all of those Sixth Formers who have achieved this worthwhile and rewarding qualification!



# SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT

Enrichment in the Sixth Form continues to be an integral part of a student's experience at the School and plays a vital role in ensuring they are prepared for their next chapter once they leave.

Students are encouraged to create and embrace opportunities for themselves that enable them to achieve personal development that sets them apart in a highly competitive world. They undertake a wide variety of co-curricular endeavours as part of the programme, from tackling the challenge of an Extended Project Qualification to gaining a Community Sports Leaders Award. Recently introduced was the London Institute of Banking and Finance 'Lessons in Financial Education' course, which gives students an online financial education on a 'learning by doing' basis looking at personal finances, money management and financial careers through accessible online learning.

Unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic meant the students had to postpone their final exam, but, this also meant that Enrichment had to move online and the Sixth Form Team found themselves leading sessions on a variety of topics. Some of the most memorable had to be the live cooking lessons where students prepared meals for their households, as well as teaching them how to do laundry!

Students at RGS Worcester leave as outstanding young adults and as the Enrichment Programme continues to go from strength to strength supporting students as they broaden their horizons and develop their skills and qualities, we hope that our students are as prepared as they can be for the challenges which lie ahead; and we wish them good luck!



## THE BILLINGHAM SOCIETY

The Billingham Society was set up to provide extended academic stimulus, encouraging pupils to consider their own studies and topics beyond the school curriculum. We have enjoyed talks and interactions from members of staff within the RGS community and from external speakers digitally coming into the school.

The Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns could not prevent the Billingham Society from reaching new heights, with over 180 students signed up to both Billingham and Advanced Billingham Society. Due to restrictions and Year group bubbles, we had to move online in order to provide enriching talks and demonstrations for all. We also had the soft launch of Advanced Billingham Society with talks aimed specifically at our older students in Year Eleven through to the Upper Sixth Form, which were more in depth in terms of difficulty and content and proved to be a successful endeavour.

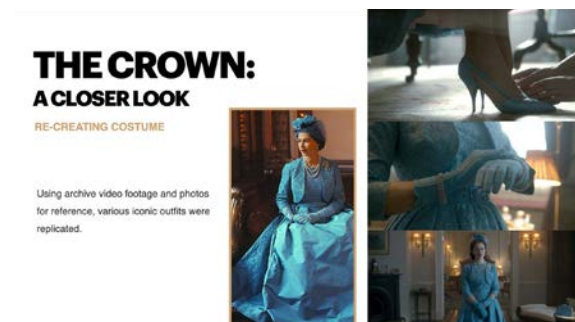
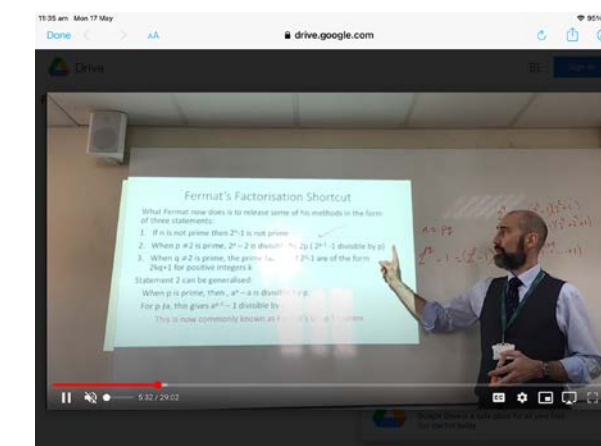
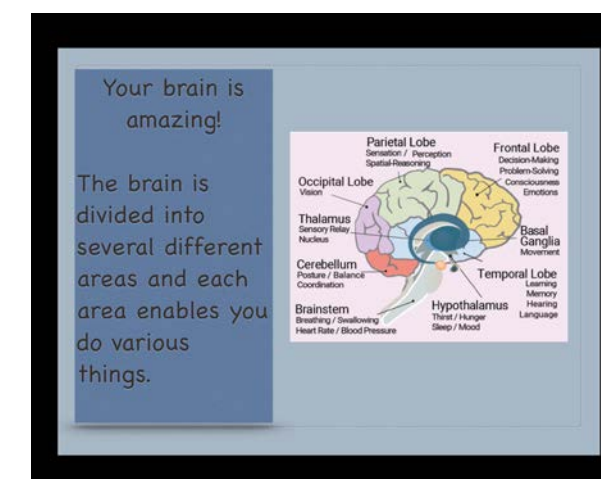
The programme started with 'How to Keep a Secret- The Mathematics Behind Cryptography' from Mr Alexander, exploring how mathematical codes have developed through time, including an in depth review of the enigma machine, and how we now encrypt financial services using prime numbers. Miss Marsh provided her last Billingham session about the solemn topic of strokes and stroke survivors in 'A Stroke of Insight', using her own experiences as inspiration for her very moving talk. Other highlights this year have included Mr Henderson's annual dissection, this time of a rat, ably assisted by Mrs Bishop, who acted as the reasonably stoic camera operative. Mr Henderson was able to reveal the internal mechanisms of the rat and identify the key organs and demonstrate amazing aspects such as the length of the small intestines, in comparison to the rat's size.

One of our external speakers was Miss Sophie Spurgin, a Textiles and Breakdown Artist for film and theatre. She was able to provide the students with information about what a breakdown artist does in the movie industry and some of the techniques she has used over her career. Sophie was also able to provide examples of some of her work which has appeared in Netflix's 'The Crown' and the DC Universe's 'Wonder Woman'. Alongside these have been the 'Bills', our cut-down versions of larger twilight sessions, covering topics including 'How to Get Away with Lying' and the 'Accents and Dialects of England', where students learned about what body

language tells and why different parts of the UK have different accents.

The launch of the Advanced Billingham Society began by looking at the November 2020 US Elections and whether President Trump would be able to secure a second term. We also enjoyed the live presentation about Black Holes and Dr Ehlers's exploration of Fermat and Frenicle.

Following another successful year for the Billingham Society, we look forward to next year's programme and expanding the Advanced Billingham society too.





# DEBATING

What a year it has been! In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, the RGS Debating Society has enjoyed almost a full season: the difference being that all competitions have taken place online. In spite of this, under the leadership of the Society's President, Zain Baig, and with superb direction from our wonderful Debating coach, Amber Warner-Warr, RGS debaters have more than risen to the occasion, resulting in our most successful year to date.



[Home](#) / [Secondary](#) / [Competitions](#) / [The Great Debate](#) / [The Great Debate 2020](#) / [The Great Debate 2020: speech](#)

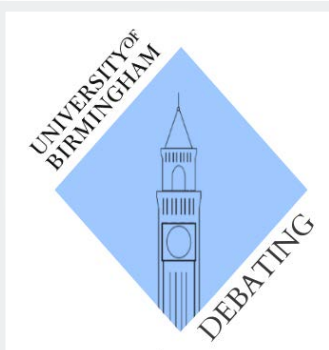
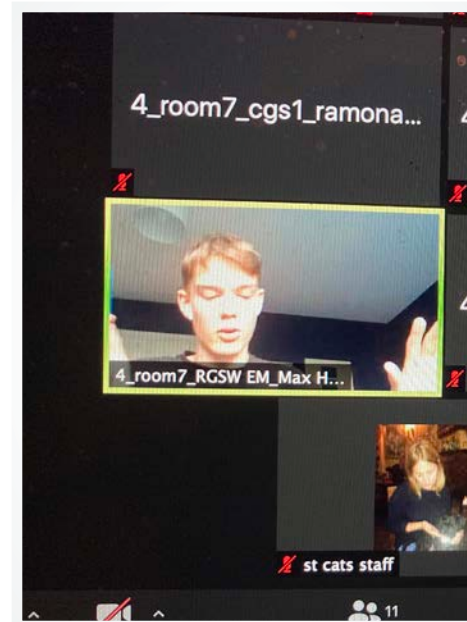
## Zain Baig - Worcester Finalist

Zain Baig (RGS Worcester) won the Worcester heat.



The first competitions of the year are always the one day events. In every competition – at Birmingham, Warwick, Nottingham and Manchester – at least one RGS team featured in the Open Final, with James Parkinson and Kathryn Shaw winning at Nottingham, a unanimous decision by the judges after 'some stunning debating' (head judge). Furthermore, the pairs of Elizabeth McCabe and James Preece, and Katy Marsh and Kasia Czyrko each reached two Open Finals, as well as qualifying for both the Oxford and Cambridge Finals Days – a huge achievement for Lower Sixth teams. The Lower Sixth debaters also led the way in the English Speaking Union Mace, reaching the regional finals.

At Oxford Finals Day, over 130 of the best schools' Debating teams from the UK and across the world took part in a league table across four debates. Even in the face of such hugely stiff competition, Elizabeth McCabe and James Preece qualified for the quarter-finals in 14th place. The 16 top ranking pairs competed once again, including five international teams from Hong Kong, Slovenia, Ireland, India and Canada, as well as teams from St Paul's Girls School, Eton, Westminster, Wellington, Dulwich, Sevenoaks and Debate Mate. Sadly, we were knocked out by Eton and Dulwich in a very closely fought quarter-final, but qualifying to this stage was a magnificent achievement.



Our younger debaters from Year Ten competed in the regional round of the International Competition for Young Debaters. Although RGS did not break to the Finals Day, all four pairs debated well and very much enjoyed the event. However, Oscar Savory, Georgia Lee and Charlie Raven did reach the regional final of the English Speaking Union's Public Speaking competition.

The Upper Sixth debaters continued to build on their successes. They will be the first to admit that they missed the cut and thrust of face-to-face debates, and their prowess in this had led them to Open Finals since Year Eleven. However, in spite of some trepidation around Debating via Zoom, Max Houchin and Ella Marsay-Jones still won the Bronze Final at Birmingham Schools and qualified for Oxford Finals Day; Ella Gibbs and Emily Stanley won the Silver Final at Manchester; and Harry Lord and Alice Ryan came very close to the quarter-finals at Durham. They have been a hugely influential Year group, many of them debating since Year Seven. It was lovely, therefore, to have the opportunity to celebrate with them at the Debating Society barbecue in June, and to welcome back members of last year's Upper Sixth. Their example and success has been an inspiration to the Society and we look forward to next year with excitement, ready, waiting and prepared for both online and in-person Debating.







# HOUSE REPORT

With Ottley having taken the Lent 2019 term trophy, the overall House Competition was wide open with Whiteladies in first and Ottley in second, followed by Wylde, then Elgar.

When the first lockdown hit, we had to show our resilience and adaptability. The whole of the Trinity term's events took place during lockdown, with some traditional events re-imagined, and new events introduced. Lego Builders, Mathematics and Sports Day were re-vamped to go online, with new events being introduced such as Film Making, Photography and Keepie Uppies. Whiteladies were the House to benefit the most from the new events, winning all three, as well as Mathematics and Lego Builders. Wylde, however, then came into their own, winning the new Sports Week, which had been organised by the Games and PE staff under the direction of Mr Brindley. Elgar came second, closely followed by Whiteladies and then Ottley, in what proved to be Mr Morgan's final event as House Leader of Ottley. After their epic Sports Week success, Wylde also took the Trinity term Trophy.

This meant that Whiteladies secured first place in the overall House Competition with 169 points for the academic year 2019/20, with Wylde in second on 154 and Ottley hanging on in third on 147, just one point ahead of Elgar on 146. This was a fitting end to Miss Binner's time as House Leader of Whiteladies', stepping down with another victory secured.

Along with new House Captains, the start of the new academic year also saw Mr Scanlon take the helm for Whiteladies and Mr Webster for Ottley, and a friendly rivalry blossomed throughout the year. After a closely fought battle between Whiteladies and Ottley throughout the term, Whiteladies took the Michaelmas term trophy, with Ottley one and half points behind, followed by Wylde, then Elgar.

The Lent term saw Whiteladies dominate, winning an impressive 47% of the events and the Lent term Trophy, with only 3.5 points separating second and fourth. The other three Houses, however, all had their fair share of victories with some of the highlights being Elgar's victory of the inaugural Year Seven Marathon Challenge, Wylde's domination of House Music and Ottley's comprehensive victory in Hockey.

The arrival of the Trinity term coincided with a concerted offensive from Elgar, who went on to dominate several of the

events including Spelling Bee, Film Making, Dance, Lego Builders and the Athletics Sports Week. Other notable mentions included Whiteladies winning the overall Cricket competition and Ottley securing the Tennis trophy on the penultimate day of term. This final result proved crucial as Ottley had been impressively consistent throughout the term and, in the final reckoning, it was Ottley and Elgar who shared the Trinity term trophy with 43 points, with Whiteladies just 1.5 points behind and then Wylde on 33 points.

In the annual House competition overall, the lead that Whiteladies had already established proved too great and they ended up retaining the House Championship, scoring an impressive 133 points. Ottley came second on 124.5, Elgar on 116 and Wylde took fourth place with 109.5 points.



## ELGAR HOUSE REPORT

There was an air of excitement as Elgar began the new 2020/21 school year. Firstly, we welcomed two new House Captains; Lyra Hancock and Honesty Shaw-Young. Both girls, for many years, had shown a commitment to School and House sport and have excellent organisational and motivational skills. This meant that all pupils were engaged and ready for the House events. 100% participation for every competition was assured and underlined the excellent Elgar House spirit.

The first meeting of the year was a strategy meeting to discuss our strengths from the previous year and how we could improve on any weaknesses. We would prioritise specific events and seek to continue our dominance over Ottley and exploit any chinks in Wylde House's armour. Elgar has considerable talent in all Year groups and this year we wanted to secure second place as early as possible, equalling our pre-lockdown position and, from there, mount a challenge for first place.

The Michaelmas term nearly went to plan with an excellent win in House Poetry thanks to strong entries from James Preece, George Oates and Elizabeth Crookall. This was backed up with excellent second places in Dance, Football, Hockey and General Knowledge. Unfortunately, the first events were Rowing and Tug of War; two events where Elgar are unrivalled and would have guaranteed maximum House points. These points were sorely missed.

The Lent term started very well indeed with Elgar winning Debating, on aggregate across the three age groups, along with the Junior Marathon Challenge. The Senior House Netball team won their event, with excellent displays from Sally Thorogood and Lizzie Rhoden, and the new Winter Sports Week lockdown competition was also a real success. As a result, Elgar started the Trinity term in contention for a podium spot and, with traditionally our strongest events to come

in the Trinity term, we were confident of finishing well in the House table.

The Trinity term started with the inaugural Spelling Bee which Elgar won and then went on to make it back-to-back victories with Year Seven pupil Zac Johnson winning the Film Making competition. Although Ottley managed to win Junior House Dance, Elgar won another trophy by taking the overall Dance trophy, having come second in both the Seniors and the Juniors. Another strong showing in Lego Builders saw yet another Elgar victory thanks to Rachel Crookall's impressive DeLorean build. Neither Cricket nor Mathematics proved to be fertile hunting grounds, but Elgar bounced back during Sports Week. By winning Year Seven Boys, Year Eight Boys and both Year Ten Girls and Boys, Elgar was able to take the overall House Athletics Trophy and finish the year in winning form.

HOUSE LEADER, MR FRIEND  
HOUSE CAPTAINS, LYRA HANCOCK &  
HONESTY SHAW-YOUNG



## OTTLEY HOUSE REPORT

Picking up the mantle of Ottley House Leader, it was with vigour that the new 'Going for Gold!' dictum was launched! From the off, our dedicated House Captains, Heini Hughes and Dafydd Macdonald, epitomised what it means to be an otter, demonstrating the key characteristics of commitment, enthusiasm and tenacity! And so it proved as they contributed to Ottley winning the inaugural event of the year, securing first place overall in Senior Badminton. This was swiftly followed up with victories in Petanque and Senior Chess. This incredible start to the year continued with Ottley romping to first place in Pumpkin Carving; this was secured through the participation and creativity shown by the wonderful Ottley members of staff, who have shown that they are always willing to step up and do their bit when required.

November saw new Year Seven otters join the House competition and they were keen to get involved in all of the activities on offer as 2020 came to a close. We also appointed new House Year group Captains to support recruitment for events; a big thank you to Hope Bradley and Lulu Weaver in Year Eight, and Nihal Lloyd and Jack Henry in Year Nine. Notable Ottley performances continued with a clean sweep of victories in Hockey and second place overall in Junior Football. Year Seven and Eight pupils emerged victorious in a hard-fought and closely contested House Cipher Challenge – this result in the new C&IT event was particularly pleasing for Mr Webster in his subject area, and helped secure a stronghold on second place in the end of term standings.

## WHITELADIES HOUSE REPORT

After a stunning win in 2020, buoyed on by strong results in the inaugural lockdown events, the pressure was on to follow in the high heeled footsteps of Miss Binner in the 2020/21 Competition. New Captains Ella Gibbs and Joshua Leung helped ensure that Whiteladies had full participation in all of the events and the first, Senior Badminton, set the stage for what was to come in the Michaelmas term - a nip and tuck battle for top spot with Ottley. Highlights of the term included Sam Thompson's De Geaesque goalkeeping to help win Senior Football, a clean sweep in Year Nine Badminton led by the smashing skills of Ella Goddard, and a nail-biting win in Senior General Knowledge. These results, and others, meant that Whiteladies just pipped Ottley to the Michaelmas term Trophy.

With the lockdown at the start of the Lent term, House events went virtual and Ottley slowly adapted to the enforced adaptations. The House picked up third position overall in each of the events held at this time, namely House Drama, House Music and the Scrap Heap Challenge. But as the snow fell on Worcestershire at the start of 2021, Ottley came out on top in the House Winter Olympic Games that took place in remote PE lessons. Off-Screen Day in March provided the whole school community with a range of challenges away from their iPads that once more demonstrated the determination and creativity of the entire Ottley team; special mentions for notable entries from Emily Anderson, Sanaiya Saroop, Freya Glasson and the staff/pupil team of Harry and Mrs Harkness! The term ended with Sixth Form speakers edging out Elgar to win Senior Debating, as well as a sweet victory in Senior House Rugby. Second place finishes in Inters Rugby and Junior House Netball also meant that the future looks bright for team sports going forward.

Ottley maintained our run of strong and steady performances throughout the Trinity term, consistently securing high finishes in most of the events that took place. We were also victorious in Junior House Dance, Year Seven Girls Athletics and in the final competition of the year, House Tennis, which was held at Cripplegate Courts for the first time.

HOUSE LEADER, MR WEBSTER  
HOUSE CAPTAINS, HEINI HUGHES & DAFYDD MACDONALD

Whiteladies made a slow start to the reimagined Lent lockdown events, falling into second place overall after the Winter Sports Week. A resurgent effort, however, meant that Whiteladies finished in the top two in all of the remaining lockdown events and so regained the overall lead. Special mentions must go to all those who helped with the House Music entries - the impressive rendition of 'Things can only get better' for Juniors and the brilliantly re-worded lockdown version of the 'Friends' theme tune in the Senior competition. The return to School brought strong results in Debating, Hockey, Rugby and a near clean sweep in Netball. These performances ensured that Whiteladies also collected the Lent term Trophy and left us in a great position overall as we headed into the Trinity term.

Initially, the House seemed to take a while to get into a rhythm, but then with a win in the Inters Cricket, which also led to the overall Cricket trophy, normal service was resumed. Further victories soon followed in Athletics for both the Year Eight Girls and Senior Girls during Sports Week.

Now, for a few words from our House Captains: "Although definitely a different year full of challenges, we have still thoroughly enjoyed leading Whiteladies in a very successful year. House commitment was so important during the third lockdown, however we were so lucky to have dedicated House members who were eager to throw themselves into a wide range of events. Some of the highlights during our time

as Captains included Senior House Dance which included some interesting 'dancing' by the Upper Sixth members of our House. Another favourite event was the Lockdown House Music, which showcased some very musically talented House members from all Year groups. Although it was difficult to have the normal contact with pupils lower down the school, it was great to see the eager and keen Year Sevens in the House assemblies which we led, and this has left us positive that the future of Whiteladies will definitely be an exciting one."

HOUSE LEADERS, MR SCANLON  
HOUSE CAPTAINS, ELLA GIBBS & JOSHUA LEUN

## WYLDE HOUSE REPORT

This year has thrown up many challenges in school life, but Wylde has consistently demonstrated dedication and perseverance. Though interaction with other Year groups has not been possible, Charlotte Thwaites and Cameron Taylor have ably led the House, taking part in many events but also providing motivation and (remote) support for younger pupils in Wylde.

Building on a strong end to the last academic year, Wylde immediately rose to the challenge in the Michaelmas term 2020, and we saw particularly high levels of involvement. It was pleasing that the challenge of keeping Year group bubbles separate and having some remote events, such as Pumpkin Carving, actually ended up having the positive impact of increasing participation and giving everyone the opportunity to get involved. Our first victory of the year came in Senior Chess, and we also had strong performances across a range of other events, with Seniors winning their round in House Poetry and Year Tens taking first place in their round of House Petanque, once again demonstrating the diversity of talent within Wylde. Particularly impressive was the performance in Junior Football, as we won the overall event and the Year Seven pupils performed very strongly in their first ever House event, showing great promise for the years ahead.

The highlight of the year has undoubtedly been the fantastic victory in Senior Dance in the Lent term. Extensive rehearsals led to a polished and original performance, as our Upper Sixth team choreographed a dance inspired by the Suffragette movement. The creative talents of the House were on show again in the House Music lockdown events, as we were able to secure first in the Juniors and joint first in the Seniors with our performances of Queen's 'The Show Must Go On' and TLC's 'No Scrubs' in this lockdown themed event.

In the Trinity term Wylde produced some competitive performances across a number of the events, but it was not until House Mathematics that a first place was achieved. This was quickly followed by wins in both Junior Cricket and in Athletics, in which the Senior Boys won their Sports Day.

This year has been different and often difficult, but well done to everyone for continuing to play their part in making Wylde the House that it is. Bring on next year!

HOUSE LEADER, DR DAVISON  
HOUSE CAPTAINS, CAMERON TAYLOR & CHARLOTTE THWAITES





# COMBINED CADET FORCE

"Not bad for a sailor" was one of the quotes written about the Duke of Edinburgh in the memorial book detailing his life sent to CCF contingents. For some, he was a divisive figure, often prone to a gaff. For others, a leader, who devised the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme to further develop leadership skills in children who had not joined one of the main British youth movements, such as the Scout Association or Cadet Force.

One of the sections of the DofE award is service, and it is undeniable that Prince Phillip lent his life to selfless service, initially as a decorated sailor in the Royal Navy, and then as consort to the Queen, attending over 22,000 solo engagements. Service, the action of helping others, is also a cornerstone of the CCF. Cadets, through their actions and training, gain a greater awareness of service and I am never more proud of our cadets than when senior NCOs instruct the junior cadets, sharing their knowledge and passion in the CCF Section they represent and parade with.

These have been, and continue to be, challenging times for all, but the energy and enthusiasm of the returning cadets after the second lockdown dispelled the often perpetrated myth that children today have little or no resilience. For me, they demonstrated GRIT: guts, resilience, initiative and tenacity. My hope is that in 2022, we will be able to offer greater opportunities for our cadets to demonstrate GRIT in the wider CCF world.

## ARMY

With a normal, hands on and get dirty approach to training being curtailed during the second lockdown, our cadets fell back to plan B and learnt First Aid through an online British Red Cross tuition programme. It was very pleasing to see many cadets take up this opportunity. Even more pleasing was seeing every cadet parade in March when normal service resumed, albeit with social distancing and face masks. With both the new Year Nine recruits and Year Ten recruits needing to up-skill on the L98 cadet rifle, a rota of training was implemented. It is to the great credit of our Year Eleven to Upper Sixth cadets, who were the principal trainers in the programme, that our younger cadets have made such excellent progress since their return to training.

The Trinity term brought the hope of Summer Camp, but with Nesscliffe being tasked as a quarantine base of operational soldiers late in the day, a proper farewell to CSgts Smith and Halkon was unable to materialise. Both have been stalwarts of the Army Section and shown excellent commitment and leadership despite the restrictions of the last year.



# THE ROYAL AIR FORCE SECTION

The RAF section has continued to thrive, with sessions being held both in person and virtually during the year. With many of the key events, activities and trips unable to run due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the cadets have focussed on flight training. This will ensure they are fully prepared and flight-ready for when the world is opened back up and flying opportunities become available once more.

Our Senior Leaders – Sgt Katy Marsh and Sgt Kathryn Shaw – have once again shown the qualities required to lead by example. They were joined by Sgt Gurjivan Sohal this year, who brought a wealth of experience to the section and assisted our Senior Cadets in preparing practical sessions to enable them to lead and deliver presentations.

Year Ten cadets, expertly led by Sgt Marsh, have also had an impressive year, adapting to virtual sessions and taking the RAF training programme in their stride. Once they master drill, there will be no stopping them! In Year Eleven, Sgt Shaw has worked wonders with the cadets to complete their theory training, and she has also developed their presentation skills, which will be essential for next year when it will be their turn to lead and teach.

After a successful virtual recruitment event, the section had a healthy influx of new cadets in January and this bodes well for the future. The cadets cannot wait for the time when they will once again take to the skies.

# THE ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

When a naval vessel is retired from active service, it often spends years in a status known as "mothballed". Mothballing allows many critical components of the vessel to remain stored and preserved in case there is a later need for the vessel. When the rallying cry for assistance was made, Cmdr. Shorrocks once more stepped into the breach and resumed the lead of RN Section with my ever-grateful thanks. With his many years of experience and wisdom, the RN section was quickly back up and running with cadets engaging in practical leadership tasks (PLTs), Naval History and Traditions lecturettes, as well as cooking in the wild. The sound of cadets' gleeful frustration as they attempted to complete PLTs could once again be heard across the Lower School playground. The senior cadets, CPOs Wareing and Eddy with PO Foster made for an excellent Senior team and ensured all naval cadets made significant progress in their training, most recently in map

and compass, leadership and communication through flags. Our grateful thanks for their service over the years: they will be missed but the Lower Sixth cadets are ready to fill the soon-to-be vacancies. When remote training was required, cadets delivered, and were trained in, Morse code and knots with cadets submitting videos of their efforts to lash and construct rafts and tripods made out of pencils and twine.

Looking to the future, we aim to get on the water in next term's Field Day as well as visit Plymouth, Dartmouth and Portsmouth at least once. The infamous RN Night exercises should also be back on the agenda. My thanks to the Senior hands for running the lectures and training sessions as well as S/Lt's Still and Weaver without whom the supervision of Covid-secure lessons would have been impossible.





## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

**It has been a very curious and challenging year, not just with the Covid-19 pandemic and all the subsequent mass testing, vaccinations and the challenges that multiple lockdowns have brought to school life, but also the very sad death of The Duke of Edinburgh. His passing certainly gave the School time to reflect and recognise how his dedication to promoting and supporting young people in a wealth of activities over the last 65 years has enriched thousands of leaders and endless participants at all three levels of the award.**

The passion, interest and desire to challenge oneself in outdoor and adventurous activities continue to thrive at RGS through the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme

with nearly 60 pupils enrolled at Gold, 30 at Silver and 130 at Bronze levels. The award combines service for others, physical activity, life skills and the excitement of adventurous expeditions.

At the start of the academic year we were quietly optimistic about the prospects of embarking on our regular schedule of expeditions in the first Field Weekend should restrictions allow. Great credit is due to all the staff that helped facilitate and lead what turned out to be a very productive and exciting weekend.

It was fantastic to get out on the River Severn for a weekend with 27 excited and enthusiastic Lower Sixth students for

their Gold Award training. In contrast to most local schools, RGS Worcester provides a different method of travel at Gold level and we paddle to our chosen destination either in sea kayaks or open boat canoes. The weekend provided our new intake with a taster in both craft, and an opportunity to see which they preferred for their Practice Expedition in March. The weather was absolutely glorious and the river had enough flow to provide sufficient challenge. The excellent training provided by Arete Outdoor Centre meant that each and every pupil completed their training days with confidence and greatly improved their skills base.

For their first DofE Training expedition, the Silver group of Year Eleven pupils spent two days walking between Worcester and Droitwich, with each student covering about 13km each day. Along their routes, they discovered parts of the Monarch's Way, the longest inland trail in England and which was taken by King Charles II during his escape after defeat by Cromwell at the Battle of Worcester in 1651. They enjoyed the sights of the meandering River Salwarpe and the Droitwich Canal to the south, as well as views of the Malvern Hills from the trigpoint at 70 metres to the west of Hadley. Despite a less adventurous location than usual and being unable to camp overnight, the students made the most of the two days to consolidate their navigation skills. The superb weather made this easier and all students adopted a serious yet enthusiastic attitude throughout the expedition.

60 Year Ten pupils ventured out into the Worcestershire countryside with great enthusiasm and got their Bronze Practice completed. In order to ease congestion in the local area the groups took part in morning or afternoon sessions. All pupils demonstrated a good awareness of safety and care both for themselves, other walkers, cyclists and the local farming community, as well as highlighting promising navigational skills. The weather was perfect and it was a great introduction for our new Bronze cohort.

Due to further government restrictions we missed the opportunity to venture out in March so this summer's adapted expeditions have been very welcome.

The Silver Assessed group of 24 Year Eleven pupils were very excited finally to have the opportunity to complete their three day assessment, albeit without any overnight camping. They were the first DofE group to set out in the Trinity term and criss-crossed the Malverns and the surrounding area in a mixture of weather conditions. The standard of navigation and quality of teamwork demonstrated was excellent. Hopefully many will consider the chance to continue their DofE journey onto the Gold Award.

The rugged terrain of North Wales and southern Anglesey was to be the setting for a combined Practice and Assessed Gold Kayak expedition, which would have involved Sixth Form participants spending six days out on the water. Sadly, due to various disruptions and a need for several individuals to self-isolate, the expedition was unable to take place. The Lower Sixth cohort of 28 should complete during next year and hopefully some of the Upper Sixth cohort may consider restarting while at University over the next few years.

The Year Ten group of nearly 60 pupils had the opportunity to complete their Bronze assessed expedition. Ten groups were let loose in and around Worcester, Lower Broadheath, Tibberton and Crowle. The expedition proved a very valuable learning experience and stands many of the group in very good stead to embark on their Silver award next academic year.

As has been mentioned, sectional activities have been severely hampered both inside and outside school. However, wherever possible, the pupils have continued to provide evidence of some fantastic volunteering, skills and physical activity sessions. These have been undertaken remotely, individually or in small groups and included: supporting other family members, neighbours, the local environment and online charity or community projects; developing personal hobbies like cooking and reading; learning a new language or sign language, painting, drawing, photography; and all manner of physical activity sessions which have required individuals to be quite creative in lockdown.



# CHARITY



**acorns**  
Your local children's hospice



Despite the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and lockdowns, fundraising has continued at RGS Worcester and we are delighted that in excess of £14,000 has been raised this academic year.



Over £2,000 was raised for BBC Children in Need in November 2020 and a further £2,131 for Comic Relief (Red Nose Day) in March 2021. The School community took part in 'Wear Something Pink' in support of Breast Cancer Now, raising just under £1,000, and Acorns Children's Hospice benefitted from our fundraising with a donation of £675. Some male staff grew moustaches for 'Movember' and a further £945 was raised.

The Sixth Form chose The Myriad Centre as its chosen charity for the academic year. The centre supports young adults with profound disabilities, and £733 has been raised, with further proceeds from additional charity events still to be added. Mrs Witcomb and her 'Jilly's Joggers' also raised an amazing £1,500 for The Myriad Centre, when they decided to 'Run Off 2020' earlier in the year.

Max Collins, a Lower Sixth student, set himself the target of running 300 miles in 30 days for Young Minds Trust and raised over £4,000. This was an incredible achievement which caught the attention of local media and a BBC news camera crew interviewed Max when he finished in the Quad at the end of his challenge.

The School has also supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, NHS Charities Together, Worcester Snoezelen, Wooden Spoon and Help for Heroes.



**YOUNG MINDS**  
fighting for young people's mental health

**BREAST  
CANCER  
NOW** The research  
& care charity





# THE FOUNDATION

The Covid-19 pandemic prevented alumni engagement events from being held, but these will return in the forthcoming academic year. The focus throughout the year remained on securing funds for additional bursary places as well as raising funds to support a major capital project.

Alumni continued to fund additional bursary places at RGS to widen access from the local community. As a result of the generous support received during 2020-21 from a number of regular donors and individual sponsors, 10 pupils had their education supported through donated funds. These bursary places are in addition to the bursaries funded by the School.



The construction of the Worcester International Hockey Centre at Perdiswell required funds to be raised towards the £2.9m project cost. In the spirit of this joint venture, the Foundation, on behalf of RGS, worked together with Worcester Hockey Club to deliver a range of initiatives for securing funds. A small fundraising team was established to coordinate these efforts.

Central to the successful collegiate approach was the desire to give members of the School community and the Hockey Club an opportunity to show their support for this exciting development. This was facilitated through the 'buy-a-brick' offering. Prices ranged from £25 to £348 which reflected different sizes of bricks or stones and meant it was widely accessible to those who wished to participate. Parents, staff and alumni will all be represented on engraved bricks and stones while a number of local businesses have taken the opportunity to show their support by advertising their services.

In total, 315 bricks and stones were purchased through the Foundation and the Club, raising more than £40,000 towards the cost of construction. All of the engraved bricks and stones will be visible at the new Centre creating a permanent display of support that will be seen by generations of RGS pupils and others visiting the Centre.

Applications for grants exceeding £650,000 in value were made to a wide range of awarding bodies both locally and nationally. Several grants were received in addition to a major contribution from the Kildare Trust, a Worcester-based charity. The Kildare Trustees were especially keen to support the development because of its strong community access focus and the opportunities it will offer to local residents who wish to play Hockey.





# A WARM WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

RGS welcomed new members of Teaching and Coaching staff for this Academic year.

## MISS THEA BROOKES



Miss Thea Brookes graduated from the University of Worcester with a First Class degree in Physical Education and Sport Studies. During six years of employment at Malvern College, her roles included Head of Girls Cricket, Teacher of Physical Education and Maths, Deputy Housemistress and Academic Tutor. Alongside her teaching career, she developed her cricketing career at Warwickshire, Central Sparks and the England Women's Senior Academy. Miss Brookes has represented Yorkshire Diamonds, Loughborough Lightning and Southern Vipers in the KIA Super League. She has also been selected in the Birmingham Phoenix Hundred squad. She joins us as a Teacher of Physical Education, and her aim and ambition is to grow girls' Cricket at RGS Worcester and work alongside the Sports Department in developing a strong, efficient programme that supports the development of the next generation of female cricketers.

## MR JON DOWNES



Mr Jon Downes has joined us from Oldbury Wells School in Bridgenorth as a teacher of Chemistry. He has a long and varied teaching career, working at nine different secondary schools, many of them as Head of Chemistry. Jon has previously taken part in a teacher exchange year in British Columbia, Canada, where the temperature regularly reached minus 30 C, but where school was never cancelled! Jon brings to us a wealth of teaching experience and exam board knowledge as he has also worked for AQA for many years, producing teacher resources, delivering CPD and marking examination papers. Jon's interests outside of work include walking, especially coastal paths, and his favourite holiday destination is Iceland with its abundance of spectacular coastal scenery, glaciers and volcanoes.

## MISS ELLIE GIBBONS



Miss Ellie Gibbons joined RGS as Head of Netball in September, a post that she is very well suited for as her education and career have focused on Netball. Ellie went to the University of Exeter, where she spent three years in the High Performance Netball Scholarship Programme. She then became part of the Team Bath Super League Squad where she shone in the position of goal attack. Miss Gibbons spent the summer in 2019 in Sydney playing in the NSW premier league for Manly Warringah Sapphires in order to expand her knowledge of Netball and take inspiration from players on a different continent and is a member of the Severn Stars Super League Team here in Worcester. We wish her well for her career at RGS.

## MR JOSH JOYNER

Mr Josh Joyner has joined us fresh from his teacher training at the University of Birmingham as a teacher of Chemistry. Before this, he studied Sports Science and Chemistry at Loughborough University where he also played Volleyball for the First team in his final year. Loughborough has a reputation for being one of the top Universities for Sports in the UK and Josh found himself right at home there being a keen tennis, football and badminton player. Perhaps this is also why he lists sleep as one of his favourite past times too! Sport was never going to be a career choice for Josh though, and luckily for us he pursued his interest in the Sciences. Josh has embraced the RGS Digital Learning Programme and incorporates new and exciting technology into his teaching whenever possible.



## MR ROBERT LEWIS

Mr Robert Lewis joins us as Head of Rugby, having been a Welsh Rugby Union player with far ranging experience. He has represented Wales in their Under 18, 19 and 20 teams and was selected for the Wales Sevens squad in 2007, where he completed four tournaments in Adelaide, Wellington, Hong Kong and San Diego, while also representing Wales in their Under 19 team at the Junior World Cup in Dubai. Mr Lewis developed his talent in the Newport Gwent Dragons Academy making over fourteen appearances gaining Celtic League, LV Cup and four Heineken Cup experiences. In May 2009 he joined the London Welsh and made 136 league appearances, winning the English Championship twice during his time with them. In 2015/16 Mr Lewis added to his medal tally with a British and Irish Cup Final victory against Yorkshire Carnegie. Robert has also represented the famous Barbarians side.



## MR GEORGE MARTIN

Mr George Martin joined RGS for his first teaching post after completing his teaching qualification at the University of Warwick. Having studied Philosophy at The University of Sheffield, George went on to complete his MA in Continental Philosophy at the University of Warwick where he developed a keen interest in Nietzsche, the French existentialist movement, and aesthetics. Prior to training to teach, George worked in an alternative educational provision in inner city Coventry working with at risk pupils experiencing social, behavioural and learning difficulties. As well as pondering the nature of his own existence, George is passionate about sport and is looking forward to contributing to the School's rugby programme next year.



## MR TIM MESSENT

Mr Tim Messent joined RGS Worcester as Head of Rowing following nine and half years working at British Rowing. Tim's work has taken him all over the country, developing rowing coaches through their coaching qualifications. Whilst at British Rowing, Tim managed the day-to-day delivery of the organisations coaching scholarship programme funded by Sport England and the Henley Royal Regatta Charitable Trust. Prior to this Tim worked with a number of school, university and local rowing clubs including Hinksey Sculling School, New College Oxford and Evesham Rowing Club. Tim is a qualified Strength and Conditioning Coach and trained UK Anti-Doping Educator. Tim trained at Birmingham School of Acting, one of the leading UK Drama Schools, before his career in the sport of rowing.





## MRS JOANNA MONRO



In June, the Governors of RGS Worcester were delighted to announce the appointment of Joanna Monro as Director of Finance and Operations. Joanna joins the RGS Worcester Schools with a wealth of financial and commercial experience from her positions as Director of Finance and Operations at Andrew Grant LLP, Finance Director at Baldwins Accountants, Director of Finance Operations at Midland Heart, and Finance Design Lead & Business Change Manager at Sanctuary Group. Joanna has always been keen on sport and has played and coached Hockey, Lacrosse, Netball and Rounders to a high level. She enjoys taking on charity fundraising challenges, horse riding, travel and family time. Joanna lives locally and has two children, her eldest at RGS Springfield.

## MRS HANNAH NORTH



In September, we welcomed Mrs Hannah North to the English Department. Hannah joins us from Warwick School and previously taught at Emmanuel School in London, where she was Literacy Coordinator and a Head of Year. Hannah studied English and Classics at Worcester College, Oxford, where she obtained a First Class Honours Degree. Originally from Worcester, Hannah has some very close RGS connections. Her father, Frank Watson was an English teacher here and held the post of Master in Charge of Cricket for many years. Indeed, the connections go even further than that. Hannah's mother was also Head of Catering at RGS and this is how Hannah's parents actually met. Amazingly, Hannah joined the School in the exact week when, forty years before, her father began his RGS career. We warmly welcome Hannah to RGS.

## MISS LAURA SEMMONS



Miss Laura Semmons joined the Geography Department at RGS Worcester in September. She gained her Geography degree from Swansea University and later went on to complete her Secondary Geography PGCE course at the University of Southampton. Before moving to Worcester, Miss Semmons taught Geography and Religious Education at a school in the New Forest, Hampshire for two years. Having trained as a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Leader at her previous school, she has enjoyed working with Year Ten students at RGS who have been completing their Bronze awards. Miss Semmons has been a great asset to the Geography Department, especially during such a challenging time, and has settled in well to life at RGS Worcester.

## MRS MARY STEPHEN



In September, we were joined by Mrs Mary Stephen, who has come to set up our new Psychology A Level Department and to lead the Extended Project Qualification. Prior to coming to RGS Worcester, Mary's roles included Head of Psychology, EPQ Coordinator and Deputy IB Coordinator at Malvern College. Mary studied Psychology at the University of Birmingham and has a keen interest in applying psychological theory to classroom practice. Mary is very excited about setting up the Psychology department at RGS Worcester and plans to extend opportunities to learn about positive mental health and psychological theory to the wider student body.

## DR WILL STEPHEN



Dr Will Stephen joined us from Malvern College as a Chemistry teacher and rowing coach. Will has a strong academic background, completing his PhD in Organic Asymmetric Synthesis at Bristol University. He spent his 3rd year in Vienna researching synthesis of anti-cancer compounds and improving his German language skills. Will is a keen sportsman and enjoys road cycling and fishing. His greatest sporting achievement came as an undergraduate at Warwick University where he rowed top boat in the 2002 Britannia Challenge cup, losing out to eventual winners Harvard. Will enjoys active holidays and if not following the Tour de France, his ideal vacation would be cycling up and down the steep switchback roads of the French Alps or Italian Dolomites. Although he has spent almost all his life in Britain, Will was born in Kuala Lumpur and still regularly returns with his own young family to Malaysia to visit relatives and enjoy the food.

WE WELCOME ALL NEW MEMBERS OF THE RGS TEAM AND WISH THEM EVERY SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN THEIR NEW CAREERS AT THE SCHOOL

## A FOND FAREWELL

RGS would like to thank the following staff for their contribution to the School and wish them well for the future.

## MR IAN ROBERTS OBE

After 11 years of service for the RGS Worcester Family of Schools, Director of Finance & Operations, Mr Ian Roberts OBE retired at the end of the academic year.

Commander Ian Roberts OBE arrived at RGS in 2010 to take up the post of Bursar. This was a far cry from his successful career in the Navy, in which he progressed from junior Radio Operator to leading a crew of 130 Naval personnel, submerged in nuclear submarines.

Mr Roberts has been instrumental in the development of our facilities, overseeing major developments such as the new Performing Arts Centre and retires with his recent project, the Worcester International Hockey Centre, reaching completion later in the year. He has made a very significant contribution to the strategic direction of the School and leaves with all our very best wishes.

John Pitt, Headmaster, praised Mr Roberts for everything he has done for RGS: "We thank Mr Roberts for his unwavering commitment to the RGS Family of Schools and wish him a happy and healthy retirement. He has achieved amazing things for RGS and he should be very proud of his accomplishments; he will be missed more than he will ever know."





## MISS EMILY BINNER



Miss Emily Binner left RGS Worcester after seven years. During this time, her contributions to school life have been many and varied. She taught Latin and Classical Civilisation to all Year groups, has been a charismatic leader of Whiteladies House, coached Netball and Athletics, and been a Form Tutor throughout the school. In the academic sphere, she delivered some of the finest academic results which the Classics Department has ever seen. Radiating calm, purposeful energy in the classroom, her students made outstanding progress. They were invariably inspired by her passion for her subject – especially by her fondness for Cicero! Miss Binner's colleagues also greatly appreciated her calm demeanour on many school trips. Whether navigating out of the Lake District on a trip to Hadrian's Wall, or caring for students with cuts and grazes on the slopes of Mt Vesuvius, Miss Binner could be relied upon to bring perspective, common sense, and good humour.

Outside the classroom, Miss Binner led Whiteladies House to two consecutive House Cup victories. A dedicated House leader, greatly liked by the students, Miss Binner made it a priority to attend as many House events as possible. As a Sixth Form Tutor, her tutees were very grateful for her careful attention to their UCAS applications.

We wish Miss Binner all the very best for her move to America. Her students will miss her positivity and earnest concern for each one of them; her colleagues will miss her sense of humour, her candour, her kindness, and her generosity.

## MRS JENNY DAVIES



The Mathematics Department bid a fond farewell to Mrs Jenny Davies who retired this Summer after 12 years of working in the RGS family of Schools. Initially specialising in delivering IT lessons for ten years at RGS The Grange, including being instrumental in implementing the Digital Learning Programme there, Jenny realised her true calling and has spent the last two years teaching Maths here at RGS Worcester. Her IT skills have been an invaluable contribution to the Maths Department, especially during periods of lockdown over the past year, and her caring and calm manner has been greatly appreciated by the pupils and staff alike. She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best in her future plans.

## MR MICHAEL HOWARD



Mr Michael Howard joined the RGSW Design and Technology Department from the Alice Ottley school when the two merged in 2007. He was fortunate enough to train at the world-renowned and unique teacher training institution of Brunel University (formally Shoreditch Training College), in what was then called 'handicraft'. Over the years, Michael has demonstrated, honed and used the immense skills and talents learnt, imparting his knowledge to thousands of students who have passed through his care.

He has overseen big curriculum changes and most recently established the very successful GCSE Engineering course. His keen attention to detail was used to good effect when helping the Landrover 4x4 Challenge team attend two World Finals and win National and International awards, the latter taking him to Abu Dhabi and the Yas Marina circuit.

Michael's wealth of knowledge, steady hands and friendship will be sorely missed when he retires after 21 years of teaching at RGSW. We wish him well and many a happy hour working on creations in his 'Tardis of a garage' workshop.

## MISS JO MARSH

The end of this academic year saw Teacher of Religious Studies, Miss Jo Marsh leave having completed 32 years of teaching at The Alice Ottley School and RGS Worcester.

During her career, Miss Marsh has delivered over 20,000 lessons since joining The Alice Ottley School (AOS) in 1989 which merged with RGS Worcester in 2007. She has taken change in her stride and her approach to learning is to engage with her pupils, to develop critical thinking across Religious Studies topics and to innovate with fun techniques that embed knowledge.

Miss Marsh has been a 'go-to' Year Seven form tutor who has that unquantifiable quality that children respond to instinctively. Pupil testimonials bear witness to her kindness, her ability to listen, to care, to offer advice and to always, no matter her other responsibilities, make time for the pupils.

Alongside teaching and pastoral care, Miss Marsh has also contributed to many areas of Enrichment for pupils including: being a Duke of Edinburgh leader, creating and running the Hockey Club at AOS, working backstage at nearly all Drama productions, singing in the School choir, running the Gardening Club as well as holding the title of 'the most sponged teacher at RGS' during school fundraising activities.

Miss Marsh was shortlisted for the TES (Times Educational Supplement) Lifetime Achievement Award 2021 for her incredible dedication to the School. She is one of those truly exceptional individuals that schools are occasionally fortunate enough to have on their staff. We thank her for her immense contribution across so many facets of RGS school life and wish her the very best for the future.

Headmaster, John Pitt said: "I would like to thank the incredible Joanna Marsh for all that she has given to this School. She has encouraged so many pupils to be the best they can be and she is an inspiration to us all."

## MRS JANE SULLIVAN

After seven years as Head of Rowing at RGS Worcester, we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Jane Sullivan. Jane has achieved a huge amount in her time at the School and her commitment to the cause has been unwavering, with countless hours spent behind the scenes preparing crews and boats for competition.

Jane's greatest achievements include building a fleet of boats that ensures she leaves the RGS Boathouse in fine condition. She has encouraged both mass participation of the sport and encouraged the elite to 'dream big' and compete at the highest level. We wish Jane well in her retirement and hope that she enjoys spending more time with her husband Bill and visiting her son in Dubai.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK GAP YEAR STUDENTS MR ALEX OWEN AND MISS LOTTIE JONES, GRADUATE SPORTS ASSISTANTS MR THOMAS CRAWLEY AND MISS EMILY JOHNSON FOR ALL OF THEIR HELP AND SUPPORT DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR AND WE WISH MISS JENNY GREEN WELL AS SHE GOES OFF TO COMPLETE HER MASTER'S DEGREE AFTER JOINING THE CLASSICS DEPARTMENT FOR A YEAR.





# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRIZES

## YEAR PRIZES

### YEAR SEVEN ACADEMIC PRIZES

Daisy Atkins	Amelia Godwin	Arun McGlynn	Sanaiya Saroop
Samuel Berry	Ella Griffiths	Hugo Morgan-Iqbal	Elizabeth Savory
Cooper Collins	Cerys Hickman	Callum Munday	Imogen Sharp
Rachel Crookall	Emily Jackson	Harriet Murphy	Lydia Stallard
Sophie Fisher	Zachary Johnson	Poppy Parker	Edward Taylor
Sihan Fu	Lucas Jones	Toby Prendergast	Anya Wood
Rebecca Gardner	Elizabeth Kaleniuk	Noah Raven	
Bella Glasson	Emma Law	Jai Sanehi	

### YEAR EIGHT ACADEMIC PRIZES

Hannah Agoston	Amelia Godfrey	Caitlin Love	Aleksandra Penlington
Liam Chadwick	Orla Hession-Wilson	Faheem Mohamed	Leyla Rashid
Martha Colclough	Hollyanna Hopkins	Harry Moore	Yasmina Rashid
Sorrel Coxcoon	Grace Horrocks	Alexandra Napier	Daya Sanghera
Jessica Dancox	Bethany Jennings	Thomas Newman	Yasmin Styles
Noah Dunnett	Isabelle Jones	Arran Niccol	Ella Wain
Aeryn Egginton	Maddison Lavoipierre	Aryan Peddareddy Zara	Abigail Walter
Isabelle Fawcett	Amelie Lockley	Pepperdine	Noah Whitbread

### YEAR NINE ACADEMIC PRIZES

Charlotte Abbotts	Daniel Foster	Jaimie Lee	Mitilda Santhosh
Toby Alexander	Bella Gray	Michael Liu	Samuel Taylor
Sydney Blanchenot	Matilda Haughton	Jessica Lowe	Grace Williams
Amelia Clarke	Keira Higgins	Joseph McRobert	Edith Wise
Abigail Crabbe	Annabelle Howarth	Katy Pitt	
Elizabeth Crookall	Sophie Jackson	Lucas Reid	

### YEAR TEN ACADEMIC PRIZES

Adam Allan	Noah Davison	Luke Jones	Katie Robinson
Violet Ashmore	Arianne Eddy	Nathan Lad	Oscar Savory
Catherine Broadbent	Lucy Garrard	Callum Lockett	Isabelle Thompson
Jacob Bunyan	Summer Hipkins	Oskar Matysiak	Max Williams
Martha Burdon	Annie Hallowell	Tom McMillan	Emma Woolhouse
Sebastian Chohan	Oscar Haynes	Charlie Raven	James Woolhouse
Emily Crabbe	Will Hulbert	Izzy Rivett	

### YEAR ELEVEN ACADEMIC PRIZES

Elizabeth Adams	Samuel Hewitt	Grace Read	Menna Sutton
Ellie Allen	Katie Kimberlee	James Robinson	Dave Varughese
Alice Atkinson	Maisy McRobert	Benjamin Sears	Dan Varughese
Ollie Blunt	Imogen Monce	Edward Sellors	Hebe Walsh
Tobey Butler	Ellie Nicholls	Kitty Smith	Benjamin Weller
Benjamin Chadwick	Megan Nixon	Ella Staiano	Lana Zulkiplee
Eleanor Fawcett	Emma Pickersgill	Harry Standing	
Holly Hansell	Jack Pitt	Rayyan Styles	

### LOWER SIXTH ACADEMIC PRIZES

Mia Andrews	Isabella Hulbert	Scott Mortimer	Kathryn Shaw
Nuh Asghar-Islam	Fliss Johns	George Oates	Bethan Standing
Kasia Czyrko	Nicolas Kaye	Emma O'Hara	Abi Timmington
Freddie Davies	Aaron Lad	Josh Oldnall	Rosie Tyerman
Adrian Fok	Katy Marsh	James Preece	Kim-Ly Weaver
Ben Gaubert	Elizabeth McCabe	Charlotte Robinson	
Erin Howard	Olivia Middleton	Becky Saunders	

### INDIVIDUAL AND SCHOOL PRIZES

**THE LOWER SCHOOL ART CUP**  
Kieran Lilley

**THE LOWER SCHOOL DRAMA CUP**  
Isabelle Fawcett

**THE LOWER SCHOOL MUSIC PRIZE**  
Aleksandra Penlington

**THE LOWER SCHOOL DESIGN TECHNOLOGY PRIZE FOR TEXTILES**  
Hollyanna Hopkins

**THE LOWER SCHOOL KATHRYN NICHOLS CREATIVE WRITING PRIZE**  
Hannah Agoston

**THE LOWER SCHOOL DESIGN TECHNOLOGY PRIZE**  
Zara Pepperdine

**THE DANIEL SULLIVAN PRIZE FOR ICT**  
Harry Moore

**THE ANDREW WRIGHT MEMORIAL CUP FOR EXTENDED LEARNING INITIATIVE**  
Grace Norris

**THE YEAR SEVEN COMMENDATIONS PRIZE**  
Cerys Hickman

**THE YEAR EIGHT COMMENDATIONS PRIZE**  
Orla Hession-Wilson

**THE W D WILLIAMS PRIZE FOR ALL ROUND CONTRIBUTION TO LOWER SCHOOL**  
Orla Hession-Wilson

**THE AOOES' PRIZE FOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY**  
Fliss Johns and Kim-Ly Weaver



# UPPER SIXTH NAMED AWARDS

THE ACADEMIC DRAMA PRIZE

Emily Stanley

THE ALICE OTTLEY MILLENNIUM PRIZE FOR THE HEAD GIRL

Darcey Chambers and Eleni Coutsouri

THE AOOES’ ARTS PRIZE

Brigid O’Connor

THE AOOES’ PRIZE FOR CREATIVE WRITING

Zain Baig

THE AOOES’ SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE

Grace Coleman and Dylan Lockley

THE BENJAMIN LEADER PRIZE FOR ART

Katie Pickersgill

THE BREWER PRIZE FOR CREATIVITY

Isobel Dipple

THE BTEC PE AWARD

Lottie Atkinson

THE CARTER-DOWNS MEDICAL PRIZE

Eleni Coutsouri

THE CATHERINE COWTON PRIZE FOR STRINGS

Allison Fok

THE CHAIRMAN’S PRIZE

Ella Waites

THE CHARLES MYTTON SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE

Liam Leonard and Tess Rabjohn

THE CLAINES PRIZE FOR APPLIED PHYSICS

Alex Coleman

THE CLASSICAL CIVILISATION PRIZE

Darcey Chambers

THE DEBATING CUP

Zain Baig and Tess Rabjohn

THE EDYNBURY CUP FOR BEST MALE ACTOR

Cameron Taylor

THE EMILY JORDAN PRIZE FOR ECONOMICS

George Wareing

THE ERIC ORTON PRIZE FOR ACHIEVEMENT

Emily Smith

THE GORDON WALKER CUP FOR CHARITABLE WORKS

Max Collins

THE HARVEY CUP FOR THE SENIOR ARMY CADET

Charli Smith

THE HILLARD PRIZE FOR PHYSICS

Will Osborne

THE J AND M BURTON HISTORY PRIZE

Zain Baig

THE JANET PEARSON PRIZE FOR HISTORY

Alice Ryan

THE KIRSTY CUBBERLEY ROSEBOWL FOR BEST FEMALE ACTOR

Charlotte Thwaites

THE LEA AND PERRINS INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR BUSINESS

Guy Duffy

THE MALCOLM YOUNG PRIZE FOR GEOGRAPHY

Timothy Haggitt

THE MARGARET MOORE PRIZE FOR LATIN

Darcey Chambers

THE MARGARET SPURLING PRIZE FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Dylan Lockley

THE MAYOR’S PRIZE FOR ALL-ROUND CONTRIBUTION

Olly Meredith

THE MISS CORMACK PRIZE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES

Lily Ashmore

THE PULLINGER PRIZE FOR MATHEMATICS

Will Osborne

THE RGSWPA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOOL LIFE

Charli Smith

THE RGSWPA PRIZE FOR GENERAL MERIT OR ACHIEVEMENT

Honesty Shaw-Young

THE SCHOOL AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOOL LIFE

Felix Fisk and Mia Fletcher

THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTION

Maxim Eddy

THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR BIOLOGY

Gurjivan Sohal

THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR CHEMISTRY

Maxim Eddy

THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR BRASS

Dafydd MacDonald

THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR JAZZ

Samuel Ford

THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR MUSIC

Alice Ryan

THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING OVERALL CONTRIBUTION TO MUSIC

Liam Leonard

THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN EPQ

Katie Pickersgill

THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Ben Hallam

THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR POLITICS

Max Houchin

THE SCHOOL PRIZE FOR TEXTILES

Holly Jenkins

THE SCHOOLTOGS AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOOL LIFE

Joseph Dawes and Harry Lord

THE SEAMANSHIP CUP

George Wareing

THE STALLARD PRIZE FOR ENGLISH LITERATURE

Darcey Chambers

THE STANLEY WILLIS PRIZE FOR THE PAST HEAD BOY

Zain Baig and Thomas Ehlers

THE STEFAN PORTER PRIZE FOR FEMALE VOCAL SOLOIST

Heini Hughes

THE STEFAN PORTER PRIZE FOR MALE VOCAL SOLOIST

Thomas Ehlers

THE THOMAS BLASSON PRIZE

Safa Ibrar and Will Osborne

THE VICTORIA WRIGHT PRIZE FOR SCIENCE

Liam Leonard

THE W D WILLIAMS PRIZE FOR ALL-ROUND CONTRIBUTION

Lottie Atkinson

THE WILDE PRIZE FOR DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Oliver Bailey

THE WITCOMBE RAF TROPHY

Gurjivan Sohal



# DESTINATIONS FOR LEAVERS

Surname	Name	Course	University/Employer/Gap Year
Aikman	James	Law	University of Birmingham
Appleton	Georgia	Veterinary Medicine and Science	University of Surrey
Ashmore	Lily	Chinese	The University of Edinburgh
Baig	Zain	History	University of Sheffield
Bailey	Oliver	Automotive Engineering	Loughborough University
Barnes	Luca	Chemistry	University of Birmingham
Bolton	Caitlin	History of Art	University of Leeds
Bown	Rubi-Mai	Cert HE Introduction To Musical Theatre	University of East London
Chambers	Darcey		GAP year
Chittenden-Milton	Nell	Business and Supply Chain Management	Aston University, Birmingham
Churchill	Thomas	Physics	Lancaster University
Coleman	Grace	History of Art	University of Bristol
Coleman	Alexander	Physics	Imperial College London
Coutsiouri	Eleni	Medicine	Cardiff University
Darbyshire	Philip	Economics/Mathematics (Equal)	University of York
Davies	Rhiannon	Biomedical Science	University of Sheffield
Dawes	Joseph	Economics and Politics	University of Sheffield
Dipple	Isobel	Design Engineering	Imperial College London
Duffy	Guy	Finance and Management	Loughborough University
Eddy	Maximilian	Automotive Engineering	Loughborough University
Edwards	Thomas	Politics and Economics	University of Nottingham
Ehlers	Thomas		GAP year
Ellis-Tait	Phoebe	Environmental Science	University of Nottingham
Fletcher	Olivia	Psychology	University of Worcester
Fletcher	Mia	Dance (Professional Placement Year)	Bath Spa University
Fok	Allison	Optometry	University of Manchester
Ford	Samuel	Integrated Agricultural Business Management	University of Nottingham
Fowles	Thomas	Marketing and Management	University of East Anglia UEA
Gibbs	Ella	Education with Psychology	University of Bath
Haggitt	Timothy	Economics	University of Nottingham
Hall	Daniel	Mechanical Engineering	Newcastle University
Hallam	Benedict	Business Management	Cardiff University
Hancock	Lyra	Psychology	University of Birmingham
Haughton	Poppy	Biochemistry	University of Birmingham
Hawkes	Lucy	Dental Surgery	University of Plymouth
Healey	Francesca	Psychology	University of Liverpool
Hobson	Florence	Adult Nursing	University of Manchester
Holt	Evelyn	Neuroscience	University of Exeter
Houchin	Max	Politics and International Relations	University of Bristol
Hughes	Heini		GAP year
Hussain	Amani	Biomedical Science	University of Birmingham
Ibrar	Safa		GAP year
Jacobs	Dominic	Cyber and Computer Security	University of Gloucestershire
Jenkins	Holly	Fashion Design	Nottingham Trent University
Kimberley	Natasha	Social Policy and Criminology	University of Birmingham
Larkin	Malachy	Civil Engineering	Newcastle University
Larkin	James	Aerospace Engineering	University of Sheffield
Lee	Benjamin	Architecture	Queen's University Belfast

Surname	Name	Course	University/Employer/Gap Year
Leonard	Liam	Chemistry	University of Oxford
Leung	Joshua	Natural Sciences (Study Abroad)	Lancaster University
Liversidge	Alice	Accounting and Finance	Manchester Metropolitan University
Lockley	Dylan	English Literature	University of Manchester
Lord	Harry	Politics with Economics	University of Bath
Macdonald	Dafydd	Pharmacy	Cardiff University
Marsay-Jones	Ella	History and Politics of the Americas	UCL (University College London)
Mason	Harry	Business Management (Accelerated)	Nottingham Trent University
Meeson	Matthew		GAP year
Meredith	Oliver	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	University of Nottingham
Moore	Abigail	Business Economics	University of Reading
Mourino	Joseph	Mechanical Engineering	University of Exeter
Munro	Alex		GAP year
Nayak	Vinay	Politics and International Relations	University of Exeter
Newall	Isabelle	Sport and Exercise Science	Cardiff Metropolitan University
O'Connor	Brigid	Fashion Design	Bath Spa University
Osborne	William	Mathematics	University of Oxford
Owen	Alexander	Combined Honours in Social Sciences	Durham University
Pickersgill	Katie	Fine Art (with Foundation Year)	Bath Spa University
Price	Daisy	Equine Science	Hartpury University
Rabjohn	Tess		GAP year
Rees	Jude	Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management	Nottingham Trent University
Rhoden	Elizabeth	Physical Geography	Cardiff University
Rogers	Amy	Mathematics	University of Warwick
Ryan	Alice	History	University of Sheffield
Shaw	Amelia	Accounting and Finance	University of Bath
Shaw-Young	Honesty	Mechanical Engineering	University of Southampton
Smith	Charlotte		GAP year
Sohal	Gurjivan	Medicine	Keele University
Stanley	Emily	Journalism	University of Leeds
Sutton	Ben	Mechanical Engineering	Loughborough University
Taylor	Cameron	Philosophy	University of Warwick
Thompson	Sophie	Sports and Exercise Science	University of Worcester
Thompson	Sophie Ann	Law	Liverpool John Moores University
Thomson	Samuel		GAP year
Thorogood	Sally	Physiotherapy	Cardiff University
Thwaites	Charlotte	English and Theatre Studies	University of Warwick
Tidball	Alexander	Law	University of York
Vinson	Elodie	Exercise, Nutrition and Health	Nottingham Trent University
Vries	Flynn	Construction Project Management	Sheffield Hallam University
Waites	Ella		GAP year
Walker	Benjamin	Marine Biology and Oceanography	University of Plymouth
Wang	Ziyi	Mechanical Engineering	Imperial College London
Wareing	George	History and Politics	The University of Edinburgh
Wares	Joshua	Accounting & Finance	Swansea University
Wastie	Benjamin	Neuroscience	Cardiff University
Webb	Annabel	Fashion Communication and Promotion	Nottingham Trent University







A dark green, textured brushstroke background, resembling a thick application of paint or ink, with visible brush marks and a slightly irregular, organic shape. It is positioned diagonally across the lower half of the image.

#worcesterisgreen