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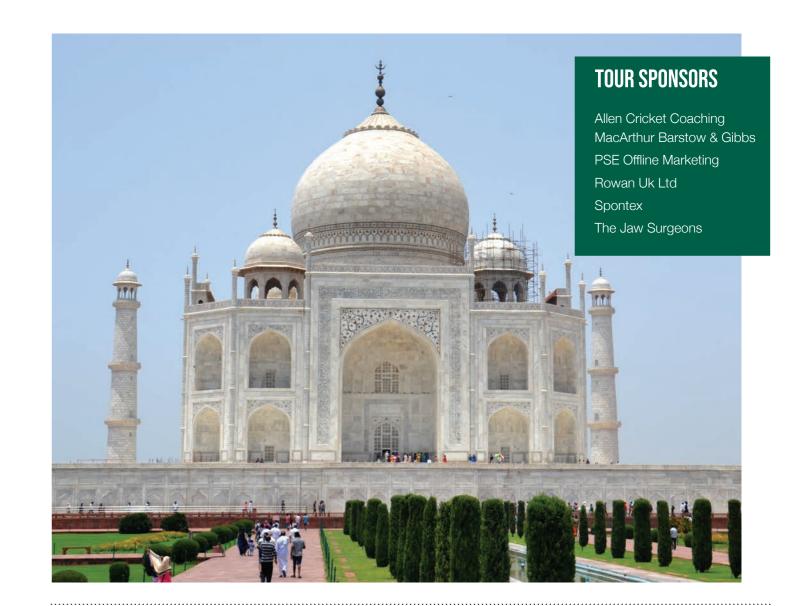
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INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEADMASTER

It is fabulous for the Senior Cricket players at RGS Worcester to have this opportunity to go on a Sports Tour to India. They will have an incredible experience.

In terms of their Cricket development, they will learn fast by playing on different pitches against teams who will show them new skills with bat and ball. They will be challenged to play at their best in a country where Cricket is more than just the national Sport. They will have the chance to train in a different climate, develop as individuals and as a team and prepare for the upcoming Cricket season in the British summer.

Sports tours are so much more than just playing Sport, and visiting India will be an eye-opening and, perhaps at times, overpowering experience. I am sure the pupils and staff will be very well looked after and they will see different cultures in a country of such vibrancy and history. It really will be a very memorable trip and one which will provide experiences to remember for a lifetime. It will also build friendships and I am sure that the pupils will each learn about one another and, perhaps more than anything else, they will learn more about themselves.

I would like to thank Mr Fowles, Director of Sport, and Mr Newport, Head of Cricket, for overseeing the Tour and all the staff involved for providing what is a unique opportunity for the pupils. Thank you also to Silver Blue Tours for organising the Tour itinerary. Following the Rugby Tour to Canada and the Hockey and Netball Tour to Barbados, as well as the Rowing Training Camp in Portugal, we are delighted that the Cricket players will be able to enjoy their own Tour abroad as part of the RGS Worcester Sports Tour programme.

Our thanks also go to the parents who have supported the Tour to ensure that we could provide the pupils with this experience. Thank you to the companies who have provided sponsorship for the Tour; your support is greatly appreciated. We hope the pupils and the staff enjoy every moment and come back to tell us of their experiences. Perhaps the greatest batter of all time, and certainly one of the most famous Indian cricketers, Sachin Tendulkar, famously said, "Enjoy the game and chase your dreams. Dreams do come true." I hope that the pupils can chase their dreams and enjoy every moment.

John Pitt Headmaster

COACH PROFILES



Phil Newport

From 1982 to 1999 I played professional Cricket with Worcestershire CCC having previously represented England at Under 15 and Under 19 level as well as Buckinghamshire in the Minor Counties while at school.

I played 290 first class matches taking 880 wickets and scored 24 half-centuries; best bowling being 8-52 against Middlesex at Lords and highest score 98 against New Zealand. I also took 325 List A one-day wickets and whilst playing with Worcestershire won seven trophies including two County Championships. I also played first class overseas in South Africa for Northern Transvaal and Boland and played three Test matches for England against Australia and Sri Lanka. Before Cricket became more attractive I also had three years as an associated schoolboy with Southampton FC.

I am looking forward to seeing how our boys match up and fare against our Indian opponents in challenging conditions, visiting the majestic Taj Mahal and with my Geography teacher hat on witnessing first-hand the urban environment of the second largest megacity in the world, New Delhi.

People may not know that on a preseason tour to Zimbabwe with Worcesterhire CCC I and three other players were arrested by the Zimbabwean army for undertaking an illegal safari in the Matapos National Park organised by a friend of Graeme Hick. Having a Kalashnikov rifle pushed into you face for a three hour drive back to the Army barracks before a night in the cells was somewhat traumatic. Fortunately, the British embassy officials came to the rescue and we were let out the following day!



Keith Fowles

My playing and coaching professional experience has been gained in Rugby Union but, as a keen enthusiast I played Club Cricket for my village side Calverhall CC in Shropshire, I have coached Cricket teams throughout my coaching and teaching career and can be seen being over competitive in any School staff match that takes place.

I am most looking forward to seeing our students develop and grow as young people through competitive Cricket, cultural experience/differences and the camaraderie and connections they will make in India.

People may not know that the last game of Cricket I played was a T20 in the summer of 2022 in a fun staff match, I was very vocal and overly confident. I had sneaked a quick warm-up on the bowling machine that morning and was happy with a quick-fire 30 with the bat but, when it was our turn to field I tweaked my knee trying to keep wicket and had to limp off early!



James Allen

I am a former pupil and Captain of the 1st XI at RGS Worcester. I left RGS in 2017 and have since pursued a legal career. I am a trainee solicitor having studied Law at the University of Exeter and a Masters in Law, Business and Management at the University of Law.

Since leaving RGS I have gained significant coaching experience, working with numerous counties and top-tier clubs. I qualified as an England Cricket Board Advanced Level 3 Coach in 2021. I re-joined RGS as a member of the coaching staff last year, and I am looking forward to working with the 1st XI this year.



Ben Tanner

I have been playing Cricket regularly for over 30 years. I was selected to represent Cambridge University 2nd XI, and captained King's College London 1st XI during my Master's degree. I am on the committee at Peopleton CC, currently serving the role of Fixtures Secretary, having previously been Secretary and Midweek Captain for a number of years.

I am looking forward to seeing a totally different part of the world, experiencing the difference in (Cricket) culture, and how youth cricket differs in Cricket-mad India from the more sedate English game. How our boys respond to this, and how they incorporate what they learn into their game, will define our Summer.

People may not know that I previously worked for the MCC in the Media Centre at Lord's, and was there as the Spot Fixing scandal unfolded during the 2010 Test match. I have also written about Cricket for various publications, including 'All Out Cricket' magazine, 'Wisden', and 'ESPNCricinfo'.

ALUMNI TOUR MEMORIES

Alumni Foreword

I would like to wish all the players the best of luck for their upcoming tour to India. Overseas tours are a fantastic experience and an opportunity to make lifelong memories with your teammates, many of whom you will have been through the school age group teams with.

I was fortunate to Captain the 1st XI on the 2017 tour to Sri Lanka. First and foremost, the tour was a great experience and the many excursions included visiting an elephant orphanage and cultural landmarks, a jungle river rafting experience, snorkelling, a boat safari, and also coaching children in a tsunami affected community. We regularly reminisce about the many highlights of the tour, even six years later, and are used to hearing stories of previous tours from other alumni members of the RGS Cricket family.

Pre-season overseas tours are great preparation for the school season ahead. In 2017, we played five matches (two at international venues) and these challenging fixtures prepared us for what was to be a very successful season. We won three out of five of our tour fixtures and had a number of training sessions in the difficult conditions. On return to the UK, we won the Royal Grammar Schools' Cricket Festival in Guildford, reached the Chesterton Cup finals at New Road, and were ranked 2nd in the World Schools Performance League.

I look forward to working with the 1st XI this season and joining you in India. To kick start your journey as a squad, enjoy the tour, bond as a team and use the opportunity to prepare your game as best you can, as this will put you at an advantage to most opposition you will face on return to the UK. Good luck and enjoy the experience.

James Allen

RGS 1st XI Cricket Captain 2017

Malta Tour 2014

Looking back on the 2014 Malta tour brings about fond memories. For me personally, I was new to the team and found this to be a perfect way of settling in and getting to know those with whom I would be playing over the season. Whilst Malta isn't quite the cricket haven that India is, we managed to play some good competitive cricket against a local club and Harrow School. Off the field we were able to spend time exploring what the island has to offer, including a day spent in the city of Valletta. Having a preseason tour definitely stood us in good stead for the season ahead and allowed for a more cohesive team unit.

I wish the boys a fantastic trip, I am very much looking forward to hearing all about it and seeing the pictures. Be sure to embrace the culture, food and the passion for the game. Memories like this are what will stay with you forever once you leave school, so ensure you make the most of it.

Amar Jawanda 1st XI Captain 2016



Sri Lanka Tour 2011

I was fortunate enough to be a part of the 2011 tour to Sri Lanka when I was in Year Ten, and it is one of my fondest memories of my time at RGS. This was the first time I had set foot on the subcontinent, and I remember on the day that we arrived watching Sri Lanka play against India in the Cricket World Cup final at our hotel with lots of local fans, which gave an immediate insight into how cricket mad the country was. The opportunity to play in such different conditions, which felt a long way away from what we were used to at Flagge Meadow, was a great challenge and learning experience. To this day it is still the only time I can say that I've played at an international Cricket ground! Away from the Cricket pitch, the tour also presents an opportunity to experience new cultures and create lifelong memories and experiences with your fellow tourists. I still remember vividly our visit to the elephant orphanage, beautiful Buddhist temples, a tea plantation and delivering a coaching session to young school children.

So my only message for those heading off to India is to have a fantastic time, appreciate what an absolute privilege it is to have the opportunity to go on such a trip, and embrace everything about tour both on and off the Cricket pitch, and I look forward to reading all about your experiences!

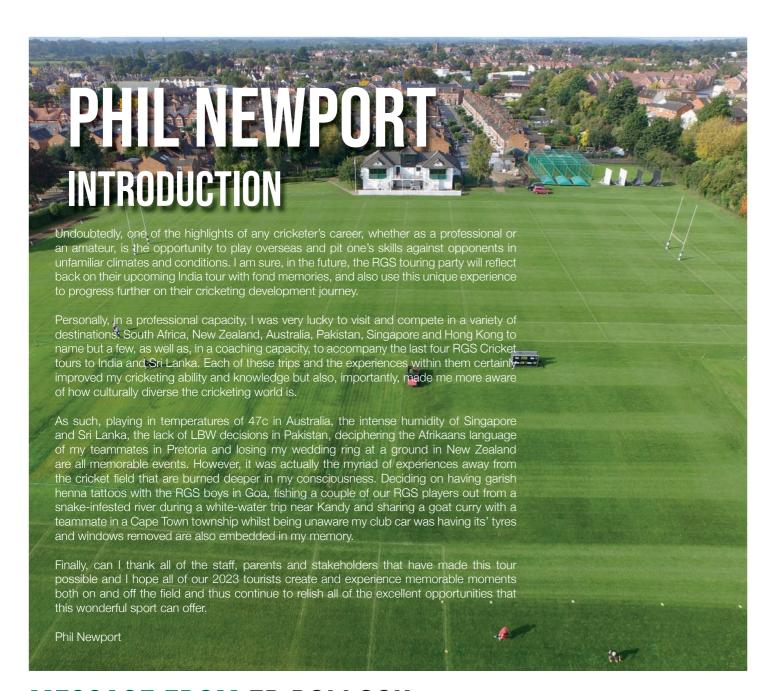
Dan Goodyear 1st XI Captain 2013, 2014

Zimbabwe Tour 1988

I visited Zimbabwe as a 16 year old to play cricket on the April 1988 tour. The tour was linked to the arrival of Graeme Hick at Worcestershire and his father helped set it up. We went for three weeks and it was the first time I had been on an aeroplane. I sat next to Paul Fearnley who slept for the whole flight and I don't think I slept a wink. It was a fantastic trip during which we played seven fixtures over three weeks all over the country, with families and schools hosting us. We found time to visit Victoria Falls and go on safari. The schools cricket was tough, we lost the first six games and arrived a little lacking in confidence to play Zimbabwe Under 19s in Harare. However, we bowled them out for under 40 and won by 10 wickets! A Zimbabwean side returned not long after to tour the UK and we enjoyed hosting them at RGS Worcester. I will never forget the experience and it instilled in me a great interest in southern Africa and the importance of travel.

Matt Taylor 1st XI Captain 1990





MESSAGE FROM ED POLLOCK RGS ALUMNUS AND CURRENT WORCESTERSHIRE CCC PROFESSIONAL

I went on tour with RGS to Sri Lanka in 2011 and it's an honour for The love for Cricket in India is unparalleled and there is no doubt you me now to be asked to contribute to the brochure for this year's School tour to India. I have many fond memories from my time at the School; from scoring my first hundred for the Under 12s against King's School on the junior pitches at Flagge Meadow to playing in RGS festivals at Newcastle and Colchester. I will be forever thankful to Newps and Mike Wilkinson for their help during my time at RGS for I have no doubt I wouldn't be where I am today without their coaching and encouragement.

Casting my mind back to 2011 when I toured Sri Lanka with the School, brings back fond memories. On the pitch, we were lucky enough to play in an International Stadium. The conditions were challenging, as it was extremely humid with pitches that were tough to bat on due to the low bounce and excess spin. Off the pitch we had memorable experiences riding on the back of elephants and visiting tea plantations. My overriding memory is having a brilliant time, playing some competitive Cricket and forming lifelong bonds All the best, with friends.

A few years after the School visited Sri Lanka, I toured India and know the RGS team of 2023 will have a great trip ahead of them.

will come up against some very talented cricketers. The challenge of playing the turning ball and batting in the heat are ones to relish, for you will come back a much more complete player. As much as the focus will be on the Cricket, be sure to enjoy your time off the pitch and immerse yourself in the culture!

When I played in a charity cricket match with Newps this summer, we realised that the skills I had developed at School, I still use in my game ten years later on as a professional. At school I was told to just play my game and this remains one of the most important lessons I have learnt throughout my career. The experiences I had at RGS and on tour really did pave the way for me to now call Cricket my job.

I would like to finish by wishing the RGS team the best of success in India and for the upcoming season!

Ed Pollock



TOUR ITINERARY



Day 1: Friday 17 February LONDON / DELHI

Meet at Heathrow Airport for your overnight flight to Delhi at 9.05pm

Day 2: Saturday 18 February **DELHI**

- Arrive in Delhi at 11.00am
- Meet and greet and transfer to your hotel to check in and freshen up
- Lunch
- Afternoon training session
- Dinner
- Overnight at Lemon Tree Premier, Aerocity

Day 3: Sunday 19 February DELHI

- Breakfast
- Match one (40 overs)
- Lunch, umpires, water and transport included
- Afternoon F1 circuit tour then time at leisure
- Dinner

Day 4 Monday 20 February **DELHI**

- Breakfast
- Match two (T20)
- Lunch, umpires, water and transport included
- Afternoon city tour of New Delhi including the cricket stadium and bat
- Dinner



Day 5 - Tuesday 21 February AGRA/RANTHAMBORE

- Packed breakfast
- Early transfer to the train station for the fast train to Agra
- Guided tour of the Taj Mahal & Agra
- BBQ lunch
- Afternoon transfer to Ranthambore
- Dinner
- Overnight in Ranthambore



Day 6 - Wednesday 22 February RANTHAMBORE/JAIPUR

- Packed breakfast
- Early morning Tiger safari in the beautiful Ranthambore Forest National Park where you will try to see not only the Royal Bengal Tiger but also sloth bear, leopard, caracal, jackal, fox, hyena and mongoose.
- Transfer to Jaipur this afternoon
- Overnight at Ramada Hotel, Jaipur

Day 7 - Thursday 23 February **JAIPUR**

- Breakfast
- Match three (40 overs)
- Lunch, umpires, water and transport included
- Afternoon at leisure
- Early evening bazaar tour
- Dinner



Day 8 - Friday 24 February JAIPUR

- Breakfast
- Match four (40 overs)
- Lunch, umpires, water and transport included
- Afternoon city tour of Jaipur including the Amber Fort by jeep
- Dinner
- Cultural folk dance show
- Overnight at Ramada Hotel, Jaipur

Day 9 - Saturday 25 February DELHI

- Breakfast
- Transfer back to Delhi
- Dinner
- Overnight at the Lemon Tree Premier Aerocity

Day 10 - Sunday 26 February DELHI/LONDON

- Breakfast
- Transfer to Delhi airport for your flight home at 2.40pm
- Land in London Heathrow same day at









Front Row (left to right)

- Harry Edwards Oliver Tibbetts Freddie Ammonds Zak Crowther-Green
- Benjamin Allen Ben Tanner Phil Newport Keith Fowles Ben Whitton
 - Will Dancox Jacob Townes Tom McMillan Callum Butler •

Back Row (left to right)

- Haydn Parkes Mathew Dale Daniel Newton Linus Hercules Arjun Jawanda
- Sebastian Chohan Öliver Shelton Daniel Halkon Tom Odell Tristan Dawes
 - Nihal Loyal Öscar Richardson Harvey Shaw Fionn Baker ●



Benjamin Allen RGS 1st XI Captain 2023

I am excited by the opportunity to captain the RGS 1st XI in the 2023 Cricket season, and a pre-season tour to India could not be a better way to start. The whole squad cannot wait to embark on this tour. We have an action-packed itinerary, including four fixtures and many cultural excursions which I am sure will create lifelong memories.

It has been six years since the last RGS Worcester overseas Cricket tour and the success of the 1st XI in that season is well known. This is something we hope to replicate. The tour is a chance for the 1st XI and 2nd XI squads to bond as teams, work together and prepare for the summer season ahead. Fixtures on difficult, turning wickets and against strong opposition will not only be a fantastic experience, but a great cricketing challenge. The fixtures will test all areas of our game; technically, physically (with the hot conditions), tactically and mentally. I also hope the excursions will provide lifelong memories for all members of the touring party.

I am aware of what it means to be a member of the special and unique RGS Cricket family, having grown up with family and friends who have been through

and remain closely involved with RGS Cricket. My eldest brother James played 1st XI Cricket for three years and was Captain in 2017. My other brother Luke also played 1st XI Cricket for three years and has three entries on the bowling honours board. Both of them went on the Sri Lanka tour in 2017 and hearing the many stories they brought back from this trip has excited me further about our tour to India.

I understand what RGS Cricket is about. We are very fortunate to have opportunities such as this tour and the annual Royal Grammar Schools Cricket Festival. As Captain, I am responsible for helping maintain the 'greatness' of RGS Cricket. I look forward to working with the senior squad and our coaches on this tour to help all players learn, improve, experience, enjoy, and ultimately prepare for what I hope will be a successful 2023 season.

Thank you to all the staff and to Silverblue Tours for all the hard work that has already gone into the preparation of the RGS Cricket India Tour 2023.

PLAYER PROFILES

Benjamin Allen (Captain)

Aae: 18

Playing Role: Batting, All-rounder

Squad Number: 9

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Experiencing two Royal Grammar School Cricket Festivals at Newcastle and High Wycombe. In particular, scoring the winning runs against RGS High Wycombe to keep us in contention for winning the Festival in 2021 and scoring half centuries against various prestigious teams, the Marylebone Cricket Club, Dean Close and RGS Guilford.

Childhood Cricket hero: Sam Curran, player of the tournament for the 2022 T20 World Cup. Like me, Sam Curran has two older brothers and grew up in a competitive cricketing family. He plays fearless cricket and pressure does not faze him. He is an all-rounder, who is only age 24, having already made his mark on all formats for England and in overseas franchise tournaments.

Most looking forward to in India: I am particularly looking forward to the excursions, including the tiger safari and the Taj Mahal. I am excited to lead the team in some competitive fixtures in challenging conditions, which will be great preparation for our 2023 season. I am also interested in witnessing how the opposition teams go about their Cricket; pre-match preparations, tactics, techniques (especially spin bowling), and general team interactions.



PLAYER PROFILES



Ben Whitton (Vice Captain)

Age: 18

Playing Role: All-rounder Squad Number: 5

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Making my first-team appearance at the age of 14 in Year Nine and taking my maiden first team wicket in the same game. Also scoring my maiden 1st century and helping my team win the first match of the 2022 season.

Childhood Cricket hero: Ben Stokes as he is an All-rounder like myself. Growing up I always based the way I approached Cricket on Ben Stokes and how much he practised. Two innings of his that stood out to me were his 258 in a test match in 2016 against South Africa, as well as his famous match winning innings scoring 135 not out in the Ashes 2019.

Most looking forward to in India: On the India Tour I am looking forward to experiencing different cultures and food, seeing how people live and carry out their everyday life. I am excited to see how our young team perform against some top opposition and how we cope with the different playing conditions, I am eager to see different wildlife on the various trips that we are going on and I am most excited to visit the Taj Mahal up close.

Freddie Ammonds

Age: 15

Playing Role: Batsman and Off Spin

Squad Number: 16

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Bowling Bromsgrove out for 52 in Year Seven and scoring 66 not out for the 1st XI against RGS Colchester.

Childhood Cricket hero: Joe Root.

Most looking forward to in India: Playing in the sub-continent and testing myself on difficult batting wickets.





Fionn Baker

Age: 15

Playing Role: Bowler Squad Number: 27

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Getting my RGS Worcester 1st XI cap.

Childhood Cricket hero: James Anderson.

Most looking forward to in India: Playing cricket in a different environment and learning how to adjust.

Callum Butler

Age: 16

Playing Role: Wicket-keeper

Squad Number: 15

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Scoring 50 at the RGS Cricket Festival last year and the RGS Festival in general.

Childhood Cricket hero: Jos Butler.

Most looking forward to in India: Different playing conditions, passion for Cricket in India and team camaraderie.



PLAYER PROFILES



Sebastian Chohan

Age: 16 Playing Role: Bowler Squad Number: 11

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Taking three wickets in a game against Malvern College in Year Ten.

Childhood Cricket hero: James Anderson.

Most looking forward to in India: Visiting the Taj Mahal.

Zak Crowther-Green

Age: 17

Playing Role: Batsman Squad Number: 3

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: 80 not out against King's School in Year Ten and winning the match.

Childhood Cricket hero: Alastair Cook.

Most looking forward to in India: The tiger safari.





Mathew Dale

Age: 16

Playing Role: Batsman Squad Number: 55

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: My first half century.

Childhood Cricket hero: Andrew Flintoff.

Most looking forward to in India: Playing Cricket in a different country.



Age: 18

Playing Role: Batsman and Off-spin

Squad Number: 12

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Playing King's School last year in the 2nd XI.

Childhood Cricket hero: Andrew Flintoff.

Most looking forward to in India: Playing in different conditions.



PLAYER PROFILES



Tristan Dawes

Age: 15

Playing Role: Bowler Squad Number: 18

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Making my first team debut.

Childhood Cricket hero: Trent Boult.

Most looking forward to in India: Playing in another country and challenging myself against tough opposition.

Harry Edwards

Age: 16

Playing Role: Batting and All-rounder

Squad Number: 82

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Winning the nationals in Year Six.

Childhood Cricket hero: Moeen Ali.

Most looking forward to in India: Seeing the Taj Mahal and other cultural sights.



Daniel Halkon Age: 16

Playing Role: Bowler Squad Number: 19

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: My favourite RGS Cricket memory would be getting a wicket on the first ball of our innings in the 2nd XI team's first game last year.

Childhood Cricket hero: James Anderson.

Most looking forward to in India: I'm most looking forward to the food in India.



George Hallam

Age: 16

Playing Role: Batsman and Off-spin

Squad Number: 4

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Scoring 85 in a T20 against King's School Under 15s.

Childhood cricket hero: Freddie Flintoff.

Most looking forward to in India Playing a T20 under the lights.



PLAYER PROFILES



Linus Hercules
Age: 17
Playing Role: Bowler
Squad Number: 25

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Getting two wickets in an over against Clifton in Year Ten.

Childhood Cricket hero: Jofra Archer.

Most looking forward to in India Playing in new conditions and experiencing a new culture.

Arjun Jawanda

Age: 15 Playing Role: Off-spin Squad Number: 7

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: My favourite memory of RGS Cricket is when I got my first five wicket haul playing for the 1st team vs RGS Colchester at the RGS Cricket Festival.

Childhood Cricket hero: Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja, watching them from a young age inspired me to excel in the sport.

Most looking forward to in India I am very much looking forward to visiting the Taj Mahal; it's somewhere I have always wanted to experience.





Nihal Loyal

Age: 15

Playing Role: All-rounder Squad Number: 26

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Getting my first wicket in Year Seven. This is my favourite moment because it was my first time playing Cricket for the School.

Childhood cricket hero: Chris Gayle is my favourite childhood Cricketer because he was one of the best and was amazing for his country.

Most looking forward to in India: Playing and touring because I can visit places I haven't been before.

Tom McMillan

Age: 17

Playing Role: Batsman Squad Number: 14

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: 100+ opening partnership in a win against King's Worcester in Year Ten.

Childhood Cricket hero: Joe Root.

Most looking forward to in India: Playing cricket under the lights in India.



PLAYER PROFILES



Daniel Newton

Age: 17

Playing Role: Wicket-keeper

Squad Number: 10

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: First school half century against Malvern College (77*)

Childhood Cricket hero: Jos Butler.

Most looking forward to in India: I am looking forward to the Delhi Capital stadium tour.

Tom Odell

Age: 16

Playing Role: All-rounder Squad Number: 22

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: RGS Cricket Festival 2022.

Childhood Cricket hero: Jonny Bairstow.

Most looking forward to in India: Playing Cricket in different conditions.





Haydn Parkes

Age: 16

Playing Role: Batsman Squad Number: 77

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Taking a one handed diving catch against Dean Close School

Childhood Cricket hero: Kieron Pollard.

Most looking forward to in India: The excursions.

Oscar Richardson

Age: 15

Playing Role: Leg Spin and All-rounder

Squad Number: 80

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: 37 runs against Bromsgrove for the Under 15s.

Childhood Cricket hero: Rheedyi Adam Amin.

Most looking forward to in India: I am looking forward to the new playing conditions.



PLAYER PROFILES



Harvey Shaw

Age: 15

Playing Role: Wicket-keeper

Squad Number: 21

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: RGS High Wycombe Cricket Festival.

Childhood cricket hero: Joe Root.

Most looking forward to in India: The many excursions and playing Cricket in a hot climate.

Oliver Shelton

Age: 16

Playing Role: All-rounder Squad Number: 86

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Taking a screamer of a catch in the slips.

Childhood Cricket hero: Mark Wood.

Most looking forward to in India: The Taj Mahal.





Oliver Tibbetts

Age: 17

Playing Role: Wicket-keeper and Batsman

Squad Number: 20

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: First career 50 against Warwick School.

Childhood Cricket hero: Ben Cox.

Most looking forward to in India: Playing Cricket in a new environment whilst having a good

Jacob Townes

Age: 17

Playing Role: Seam Bowler

Squad Number: 8

Favourite RGS Cricket memory: Hitting my first 50.

Childhood Cricket hero: James Anderson.

Most looking forward to in India: Playing in new climates, conditions and visiting India to experience their culture.



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