

# RGS WORCESTER EXCEL

RGS Worcester Newsletter • Autumn 2015



The RGS Worcester family of schools

## “Excellent in all areas”

-ISI 2015

### INSIDE

p16: RGS The Grange  
Singing with the  
RSC in their Summer  
Programme

PLUS: p21  
Augmenting  
Reality at RGS  
Springfield



RGS  
WORCESTER





- p2** **Welcome** from John Pitt,  
Head of RGS Worcester
- p3** **RGS Winners**  
The Chamber of Commerce  
Awards
- p4** **Excellent All Areas**  
- verdict of ISI
- p7** **Dance with benefits**
- p9** **'Animal Farm'**  
Two legs very good
- p10** **The RGS Cricket  
Festival**
- p12** **Flying High  
with the RAF**
- p13** **Rugby in another  
hemisphere**
- p14** **ISI at RGS  
The Grange**
- p16** **RGS meets the RSC**
- p17** **Grangefest**
- p18** **ISI at RGS Springfield**
- p20** **Augmenting Reality**  
with Elizabeth I

Cover photo: Pupils from all schools  
celebrating our 'Excellent' ISI report.

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## HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION

### Welcome to the latest edition of our magazine, Excel.

Pupils, staff and parents should be very proud of the accolades RGS Worcester received during the ISI Inspection, which demonstrates the commitment to excellence in all areas across all three of our Schools. This magazine covers the salient points from our Inspection, which saw nineteen Inspectors visit our three schools during one school week last March.

An Inspection can only be a 'snapshot', however, and can never cover entirely the breadth of opportunities available to our pupils. The articles in this edition of Excel highlight some of the diverse events and experiences at RGS The Grange, RGS Springfield and RGS Worcester Senior School. The pupils certainly aim high in all that they do and approach their studies and their co-curricular activities with great enthusiasm and energy.

Innovation sits comfortably alongside tradition at RGS and it is exciting to see our pupils learning in new and different ways through our Digital Learning Programme. It was pleasing that this was recognised when RGS Worcester received a prestigious Award from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce.

Whether you are current parents, alumni or interested in finding out more about what RGS Worcester offers, please do come and see all that is happening at our schools by visiting during our Open Mornings which occur throughout the year. Details are available from the School website ([www.rgs.org.uk](http://www.rgs.org.uk)). We would be delighted to welcome you.



John Pitt, Headmaster

## THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS



The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce awarded RGS Worcester their prestigious business prize for the 'Best Use of Technology to Improve Your Business'. A delighted Mr Pitt collected the Award on behalf of all three RGS Schools, at a black tie event held at West Midlands Safari Park. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and President of the Board of Trade, Sajid Javid (MP for Bromsgrove), was the keynote speaker.

The prize was awarded for the School's Digital Learning Programme (DLP) that is enhancing the teaching and learning at the School, creating highly motivated and engaged learners and preparing pupils for our 21st Century world. The programme has seen iPads become an important part of learning, helping to drive academic excellence by expanding the learning environment, enabling immediate feedback and stimulating independent thinking.

John Pitt, Headmaster of RGS Worcester, said, "We have a fantastic staff who have made this happen and we should particularly mention our IT and Computing team, led by Mr Robert Berry, who have ensured that our technology works seamlessly across



our Schools so that pupils can receive the full benefits of our Digital Learning Programme. We would like to dedicate the Award to RGS pupils who are using iPad technology and enjoying the benefits of this new and exciting approach to education, and to the Governors and parents who are supporting this initiative at the School."

RGS Worcester is an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and is delighted that the Chamber had the vision to consider a school for this Award, recognising the project as innovative and exciting. Mike Ashton, Chief Executive of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce remarked that the quality of entries was outstanding and congratulated RGS Worcester as the stand out winner.





# ‘EXCELLENT’ IN ALL AREAS

## ISI Report results for RGS Worcester



**A large team of Independent School Inspectors descended on all three RGS schools in March; the team itself was overseen by two Ofsted Inspectors, taking the total number of Inspectors to 17.**

The long awaited Inspection team poured over every area of school life, and reported on the success of our three Schools, the quality of academic and other achievements, the quality of pupils' personal development, the effectiveness of governance, leadership and management and the effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage at both RGS Springfield and RGS The Grange.



The Inspectors spoke to teachers, pupils, parents, the PTA, support staff and Governors during their four day visit in order to obtain a 360 degree view of school life before producing their report. All three schools were judged to be 'Excellent in all Areas'. The Inspectorate reports on Early Years settings (children up to five years old) separately from the rest of the School and is required to use the same terminology as Ofsted. The RGS Worcester Early Years settings at both Prep Schools was graded 'Outstanding' and the rest of the School 'Excellent' so the highest gradings were achieved.

The Inspectors commented that,

**“ ... RGS WORCESTER FORMS A VERY SUCCESSFUL GROUP OF SCHOOLS CHARACTERISED BY EXCELLENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF ITS PROVISION. ”**



Mr John Pitt, Headmaster of the Senior School, said, “We are delighted with the result of our Inspection which accurately reflects the high quality of the teaching and academic achievement, the breadth and depth of opportunity at RGS and our impressive pupils. I am pleased that our staff have been rewarded with this outcome; it is richly deserved.”

The Inspection Report adds, “Pupils achieve well because of the high quality of teaching they receive, the breadth of opportunities they are offered both in the formal curriculum and beyond the classroom, and the care and concern shown by staff.”

Teaching is described as ‘excellent’; ‘The quality of teaching fulfils the aims of the School to encourage the growth of intellectual curiosity, creativity and habits of learning, and is highly successful in promoting pupils’ progress.’ The Report continues, ‘Teachers have high expectations of their pupils and have strong subject knowledge, which they use to guide pupils.’

Summarising RGS Worcester’s innovative Digital Learning Programme, the report states ‘pupils show a high degree of sophistication when using information and communication technology (ICT) which is enhanced by the extensive range of opportunities presented by the School’s Digital Learning Programme.’

**“ PUPILS ACHIEVE WELL BECAUSE OF THE HIGH QUALITY OF TEACHING THEY RECEIVE ”**

At RGS Worcester’s Senior School the range of co-curricular activities is described as ‘extensive’ and ‘by the time they leave school pupils are articulate and confident; they have a purposeful sense of what they want to do next and are ready to meet the challenges of adult life.’

Mrs Rosemary Ham, Chair of Governors said, “The Inspection Report has endorsed the very high standard of educational provision at RGS and gives us the confidence to continue to enhance our facilities and develop the opportunities for our pupils to make their experience at RGS enjoyable, stimulating, challenging and successful.”





# UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

## The UCAS process at RGS

Applying to University can be a very daunting process. At RGS Worcester, the Higher Education team plays a key role in helping with the important and even life-changing decisions about universities and future careers.

Nick Humphries, Upper Sixth, is eager to study Law at Cambridge. Nick hopes one day to become a Barrister and says his passion to study Law has been greatly influenced by his involvement in RGS Debating.

Nick attends Oxbridge talks every Tuesday lunchtime to discuss how to write his application, improve his interview technique, and learning what Cambridge Admissions Tutors want to see in an application.

Nick recognises, "The School is very good at encouraging pupils to enter essay competitions in order to strengthen their Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) applications. It is efforts like this that make a candidate stand out because

you have gone beyond the curriculum to show a real passion for your subject." Nick has already written two essays that should stand him in good stead when going forward with his application.

Tim Hallett, Head of Higher Education, said, "The UCAS day at the end of the Lower Sixth year is a great chance to engage pupils in thinking about what they want to study and where to do it. However, this is just the beginning of the UCAS journey. Every pupil will have different concerns and questions about their application. Our role within the Higher Education team is to be available to give advice and help solve any problems right up to the point when pupils take up their University offer."

As part of the Careers service that begins to engage with pupils from Year Nine, the School provides support for pupils helping them to make informed and successful choices.

UCAS



“... AVAILABLE TO GIVE ADVICE AND HELP SOLVE ANY PROBLEMS RIGHT UP TO THE POINT WHEN PUPILS TAKE UP THEIR UNIVERSITY OFFER ”



# Dance

The rise of television shows such as *Strictly Come Dancing* and *Got to Dance* has seen dance capture the imagination of the British public over the last few years. At RGS Worcester, we are seeing this reflected in the increasing popularity of dance for all ages and genders.

There are numerous health benefits to dancing that make getting involved even more worthwhile: dancing keeps both the body and the brain active; it offers a way to increase strength and flexibility; it can help improve posture and balance and participating in dance can help increase self esteem. There can be no doubt that active engagement in the co-curricular side of school life has a positive effect on pupils' academic work.

Dance is a part of the P.E. curriculum for Years Seven and Eight at RGS. On top of this, we have witnessed a very impressive House Dance competition and the 'Dancefest Workshops' that took place for Year Seven in Activities Week at the end of the Trinity Term.

We have seen individual successes in dance recently including: Kieran Young, Upper Sixth, reached the World Irish Dancing Championships in Montreal, Canada; Elliot Lewing dances for the Royal Ballet and Millie Jones, Elliot Lewing, Katie Haffner, Lydia Faizey and Tabby Bradley were all part of the England team to win the Dance World Cup in Romania this year. Tabby Bradley said, "It was amazing to be part of the England team. To come home with two medals made all the hours of practising worthwhile".

Miss Freeman, Head of Dance, said, "It is great to see so many people getting involved in dance within the School. Pupils' individual success can only help to improve the quality of dance. There can be a bit of a negative stigma attached to dance, particularly for boys. However, as well as the health benefits, I think it is a brilliant opportunity to take something up that you might enjoy for your whole life."

“ IT WAS AMAZING TO BE PART OF THE ENGLAND TEAM. TO COME HOME WITH TWO MEDALS MADE ALL THE HOURS OF PRACTISING WORTHWHILE ”





# BIRNAM WOODS TO IPADS...

## Macbeth transformed



**Macbeth might well have considered that a group of twelve year olds learning his story through a hand-held battery operated machine, was about as likely as Birnam Woods uprooting and moving to Dunsinane.** To witness a group of engaged Year Seven pupils excited to be learning about Shakespeare with an iPad is to see the success of the Digital Learning Programme in action. Macbeth, the witches and Macduff all come to life in the pupils' hands as they explore the story and its interpretation through Google which can deliver boundless opportunity to research and discover at the learner's own pace.

Using an App called Doodlebug, pupils can create a 'mood board' on which they can illustrate their observations about a short clip of a film of *Macbeth* before making their own decisions about how they might direct a production of the play. Popplet, an App which allows pupils to brainstorm ideas, allows children to think through what period of history they might want to set their version of *Macbeth*. After this they use Skitch, an App that allows them to annotate an image taken from the film. The use of these Apps encourages imaginative thinking as well as creative

results. The whole lesson plan is preloaded on Google Drive on each iPad, so that pupils can access it at any point to check what is expected of them; this also allows pupils to work at their own pace.

Mrs Davis, English teacher, said, "iPads have enabled creativity by engaging and inspiring the pupils. Children leave Year Seven enjoying English, even Shakespeare! Digital learning is their preferred method of working and they love it." Lyra Hancock remarked, "I am a visual learner and I like to see things written down, so iPads are better for me to make links in my brain." Max Houchin said, "iPads mean that we can fit more into a lesson, so we can learn more and our work looks a lot better."

Mrs Davis is adamant that children still read and write and work is still presented in formal books. She can mark homework uploaded into Google Drive before the next lesson however, thereby speeding up the feedback and learning process.

iPads have brought *Macbeth* to life for Year Seven, who will hopefully carry this enthusiasm for Shakespeare right through their school career.

# TWO LEGS VERY GOOD IN 'ANIMAL FARM'

RGS Worcester put on three productions over the course of the last academic year from the Upper School Theatre Company and the Lower School. This summer saw the turn of the Lower School. Pupils in Years Seven to Nine brought to life Orwell's *'Animal Farm'*, revitalised through Peter Hall's famous adaptation, showing that Orwell's allegorical tale of animal rebellion has maintained its significance over the years.

The actors remained on the stage acting throughout the performance constantly voicing uniform approval for the decisions of the increasingly corrupt leaders as Orwell satirically exposes the idealism of total equality. Narrators ensured that, whilst chaos reined in the farmyard, order still remained for the play's narrative.

The young cast performed remarkably well. Martyn Forrester was a particularly sustained and convincing Squealer, at times skirting with megalomania. Beatrice Price had quiet but secure authority as Napoleon and created no doubt whatsoever about who ruled the farmyard. Issy Eberlin was Snowball and provided convincing, if short-lived rivalry to Napoleon.

The backstage crew worked tirelessly to ensure all the technical effects ran smoothly. One particularly compelling feature involved the clever portrayal of the story of the farmer, Mr Jones, using a series of shadow puppets projected on three screens discreetly positioned within the farmyard set.

The final dramatic image of the production had the entire cast observing moments from film clips projected on the screens of recent incidents of major discontent - Charlie Hebdo, the Berlin Wall, Tiananmen Square - as a poignant illustration of the timeless significance of the play.

Mr Morgan, Drama Teacher, who produced the play, said, "This was not an easy production and it was testament to the pupils' hard work and dedication that they were able to deliver the performance so impressively. This was my first time directing a play at RGS and I cannot wait for the next opportunity."

We look forward to the whole School production of *'Guys and Dolls'* this December.





# RGS CRICKET FESTIVAL 2015 AT HIGH WYCOMBE

**Flagge Meadow has looked an absolute picture this year. The sun has shined, runs have flowed, wickets have fallen and new names have been added to the honours boards. We even welcomed the Papua New Guinea national side for a friendly fixture against Worcestershire 2nd XI.**

Cricket has always been a key part of boys' education. It is in the very sport's vocabulary: we do not say "it's not rugby" or "it's not football" we say, "it's not cricket" to signify behaviour that contravenes normal standards of propriety. Cricket can provide an education that extends far beyond the pitch's boundary. The RGS Cricket Festival, provides a fitting climax to a pupil's time as a cricketer at RGS.

The RGS Cricket Festival involves the Royal Grammar Schools from around the country as they compete in a week long cricket tournament at the end of the Trinity Term. The Festival began in 1988 when only three teams, RGS Guildford, RGS Worcester and RGS High Wycombe were involved. A year later RGS Colchester joined and, since then, RGS Newcastle and RGS Lancaster have also joined the fold.

The Festival has seen many talented faces participate such as Neil Pinner of RGS Worcester, Nicky Peng from RGS Newcastle and, most recently, Saif Zaib of RGS High Wycombe. All of these players have gone on to pursue careers as professional cricketers.

The Festival's impact extends beyond just the cricket pitch. It is a great bonding experience and generates friendships and memories that last a lifetime. Andrew Curtis, who played his last Festival in 2011 as a member of the Upper Sixth, said, "It was probably my greatest week at school. Playing cricket in the sun with your friends; it doesn't get much better than that! I still look forward to opportunities to reminisce with former teammates about the fun I had at RGS Cricket Festivals."

Mike Wilkinson, Master in Charge of Cricket, talks us through this year's festival which saw RGS Worcester win four out of their five matches, coming second overall:

"Hot weather, good pitches, an enthusiastic and friendly team, some intense matches and great camaraderie between all the RGS boys made this one of my favourite RGS Festivals. When I reflect on the week as a whole, winning four out of five matches is a tremendous achievement.

The first three days saw three great bowling and fielding performances and three very closely fought victories for RGS Worcester against RGS Lancaster (by 4 runs), RGS Newcastle (by 1 wicket) and RGS High Wycombe (by 34 runs). After the nervous tension of the first three days, a more comfortable victory followed on day four against RGS Colchester.

This set up a final 'winner-takes-all' fixture with old rivals RGS Guildford. The boys did a fantastic job to keep Guildford down to 247 runs on a fast scoring ground. An opening partnership of 52 should have laid the foundation for a concerted attempt at achieving the winning score. However, nobody could build a significant innings and the team unfortunately fell short.

With only four boys from the Upper Sixth leaving, we take forward a strong core of players into next year. The future looks bright for RGS Worcester cricket."

“ ... IT WAS PROBABLY  
MY GREATEST WEEK  
AT SCHOOL. ”





# FLYING HIGH IN THE RAF

The new Royal Air Force Section recruits have been on their first flying trip. Adam Goldney, Upper Sixth, and Dan Payne, Year Ten, discuss the opportunities available through the RAF at RGS Worcester.

Adam Goldney began life in the RAF in Year Nine. At first, it was the lure of going flying that persuaded him to join up. Indeed, within a week of joining, he was already 10,000 feet up in a Tutor T Mark 1 plane on his first flying trip. Since then, he has taken to the skies in a range of planes including a Lockheed C130: a four engine turboprop military transport aircraft.

There is more to the RAF than the occasional trip to 10,000 feet. Adam is now a Corporal and hopes to be promoted to Sergeant, as he assists in organising the younger cadets. Adam said, "I have really enjoyed the leadership opportunities and responsibility I have been given. I hope that it will stand me in good stead should I hold positions of authority in the future."

At the other end of the spectrum, Dan Payne's RAF journey has only just begun. Dan said, "I decided to join the RAF Section at school because I have always been fascinated by planes. I am also interested in having a future career in the RAF so I was really happy to get an early start."



"I have already been flying with my friends at RAF Cosford. Everything on the day was amazing, from the views from so high, to actually taking control and doing aerobatics with the plane. It was also very interesting to talk to a real pilot!"

"Joining the RAF was definitely a fantastic decision due to the opportunities and fun I have had so far and I can't wait to carry on being part of the Section for years to come."

Be it the start of a potential career path or the opportunity to take part in some incredible activities and develop leadership skills, the RAF Section continues to excite and challenge pupils of all ages at RGS Worcester.

“ JOINING THE RAF WAS DEFINITELY A FANTASTIC DECISION DUE TO THE OPPORTUNITIES AND FUN I HAVE HAD SO FAR ”



# RUGBY TOUR

## South Africa 2015

This summer, 45 boys spent 19 days in South Africa on the RGS Rugby Tour, seeing some amazing sights, playing exciting Rugby and staying in South African family homes.

Our first stop was The Rugby Performance Centre, where we were privileged to train amidst beautiful views and magnificent mountain ranges. Paarl Boyshaai, the number one ranked rugby school in South Africa, were our first opponents. It quickly became apparent how well drilled, organised and most of all how physical the team was. Both the senior and development team battled but lost both matches.

The next two games followed a similar trend of passion and true grit. First against Scottsdale School, whose athleticism and sheer speed were impressive, but both our teams overcame these to win. A few days later up in Stellenbosch we faced the mighty Paul Roos, the 'Manchester United' of South African schools' rugby. Sadly both teams were outclassed with the perfect balance of physical, running and organised rugby from the Afrikaans side.

The remainder of our time near the Cape was spent visiting some fascinating and truly humbling places. Dozens of children and toddlers swarmed around us as we arrived at an orphanage, excited to see us and eager to find the toys we had brought for them.

Robben Island was our next visit, and our favourite and most exhilarating trip was the Great White Shark cage diving. Despite the cold waters, the opportunity to come within touching distance of these magnificent sharks gave us all a huge buzz.

The next part of our trip saw us fly up to Johannesburg to Maragon High School, which three years ago taught the previous RGS tourists the famous war cry which we perform before each 1st XV match. Both our teams secured victory with strong performances. A few days later came our final game against Odies School. Similar to Scottsdale, their players were fast and athletic, and were not opposed to bending the rules of the game slightly to show us who was boss. Both our teams again came away with wins.

Finally it was time for the much anticipated game drives in Mabula game lodge to round off the tour. Mabula was certainly the most beautiful place in which we stayed. With no more matches to focus on, we spent our days relaxing in the sun by the pool or playing tennis whilst spending our evenings in the jeeps experiencing the best wildlife Africa has to offer; the perfect way to end an unforgettable few weeks.

I shall remember the tour for the way that all 45 boys from youngest to oldest became a tight knit group through unforgettable experiences both on and off the pitch, and watching both teams growing in confidence and skill, whilst playing some of the best rugby I have seen in an RGS jersey.

**Gus Thomas - Upper Sixth, 1st XV Captain**





# THE GRANGE ISI INSPECTION

## STRONGEST ENDORSEMENT FROM ISI



**In the Lent Term of 2015, Independent School Inspectors (ISI) spent four days at RGS The Grange. Having previously received significant quantities of information about the life of the School in preparation for their visit and the questionnaire responses from parents and pupils, the Inspectors were ready to find out more about RGS The Grange.**

No area of activity at RGS The Grange was judged as less than 'Excellent', and the Early Years Department was endorsed with the highest Ofsted grading of 'Outstanding' (both are the highest grades). The Inspection Report's opening comments stated that the School was "Successful in its aims of offering an all-round education for children, developing character, intellect, physical well-being and aesthetic sense in a scholarly community."

When judging the 'quality of academic and other achievements', the Report quoted that high quality teaching allowed pupils to learn with enthusiasm and enjoyment and that the opportunities available to children through curricular and co-curricular provision were excellent. It is teachers who are the enablers who

facilitate active and enthusiastic learners, and we have these in abundance at RGS The Grange.

Mr Hughes said, "It was with genuine pride I read the section titled 'personal development'. The Inspectors felt that pupils at RGS The Grange were articulate, polite and happy. It was also reported they were caring, considerate and confident in themselves and had a strong sense of pride in their school. The Report states, They have strong sense of personal identity and are open and comfortable in their surroundings. We were delighted that the Inspectors recognised these qualities in our pupils."

They were complimentary of the vision and ethos of the School and how this permeates throughout the organisation. Planning for the future was seen as a strength and is mapped out in a range of detailed development plans. The Inspectors wrote positively about how the style of management is attractive to parents and pupils and that positive communication channels promote excellent relationships with the parent body. The quality of Governance, Leadership and Management were all judged as 'Excellent'.

Finally, the effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage was graded 'Outstanding'. The Inspectors felt that pupils were nurtured and developed in a stimulating and caring environment. They also commented that all adults had high expectations and they engage and motivate children through a wide range of exciting and challenging opportunities, both in and outside of the classroom.

Mr Hughes comments, "RGS The Grange will certainly not become complacent with this exceptional Report and we will continue to review our provision to ensure we provide excellence in all areas of school life. Some concluding remarks in the report focus appropriately on the pupils and really capture very well what we have achieved as a school in recent years. Well done, 'Team Grange'!"



“ THE SCHOOL WAS ...  
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# A SUMMER OF SINGING FOR THE RSC

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) needed strong treble singers to audition to join a choir to sing with adult professional singers in their production of *"The Merchant of Venice"* over the summer season in Stratford. The RSC had heard about the RGS The Grange's Chamber Choir following their performance of Worcester Cathedral Mozart's *'Coronation Mass'*.

RGS singers were selected for an initial audition and Bruce O'Neil, The RSC's Head of Music, came into School. After hearing a number of solo performances, he selected ten children. Bruce then scheduled a second audition from which he chose five performers: Isabella Hulbert, Shri Raajkumar, Jack Stirzaker, Benjamin Allen and Nicholas Kaleniuk. Jack said, "I was a little bit nervous as I had never sung in front of anybody like this before and I have never ever had a singing lesson in my life."

The first rehearsal took place in Stratford Upon Avon and was followed by a costume fitting. There was then a recording session of the music from the production, which has been released on iTunes.

The next few months were very intense and enjoyable for the pupils who had to rehearse and perform regularly. The children found the performances tiring but very rewarding and an amazing opportunity. In all, they were involved in a total of 22 performances throughout May to September. Mrs Corrie, Head of Music, said, "This has been an exciting opportunity for the children involved. It is a teacher's dream to see the children you teach being selected for such an amazing experience. I am very proud of them."



## GRANGEFEST 2015

### Glamping, music and fun!

The first weekend of June 2015 saw the inaugural 'glamping' event at RGS The Grange. Our vision was to provide a music festival atmosphere, without the need to travel too far, or be knee-deep in mud! We wanted to provide many children with their first experience of camping in a familiar, safe environment with all their friends.

Despite challenges including stage issues and strong winds, we were excited when the gates opened at 2.00pm. Tents of all shapes and sizes and several camper vans made up the festival village. Our friends from Hill Top Farm provided the tastiest pig roast, the bar was stocked with Pimms and the children could buy festival headbands, hats and flashing toys.

Some great young artists, courtesy of the School of Rock, provided music, and later in the evening we were treated a most fantastic acoustic set by Ellie Coast and Dave Pilla, who travelled all the

way from Leeds to entertain us. As the day drew to a close, families retired to their encampments and enjoyed campfires, a relaxing drink and the prospect of a night spent under canvas.

Sunday morning broke to the sound of birdsong and the chatter of early-rising children waking most of the camp, sooner than most would have liked! Tea, coffee and hot chocolate with marshmallows were served and the smell of bacon, sausages and eggs tempted the remaining campers from their tents. It really was the most wonderful, relaxed atmosphere and the children made the most of their remaining time at GrangeFest, riding their bikes, playing football and dressing up in crazy wigs and 'funlasses'.

Thank you to all those who attended and to our volunteers. We are already looking forward to GrangeFest 2016!

“ ... WE WANTED TO PROVIDE MANY CHILDREN WITH THEIR FIRST EXPERIENCE OF CAMPING IN A FAMILIAR, SAFE ENVIRONMENT WITH ALL THEIR FRIENDS. ”





# RGS SPRINGFIELD ISI INSPECTION

“ WE WERE DELIGHTED TO HEAR THE WORD ‘EXCELLENT’ USED SO MANY TIMES TO DESCRIBE OUR WONDERFUL SCHOOL. ”



**The word ‘Inspection’ can often strike fear into the hearts of teachers but not so at RGS Springfield where our Inspection was an opportunity to show off our school!**

The Inspectors arrived with a comprehensive checklist and left no stone unturned. They interviewed parents, staff, and children, and observed every minute detail of a school day. Throughout we had to show evidence to demonstrate the things they could not see in their four day ‘snapshot’ visit.

Our team of Inspectors was extremely thorough and professional and made a real effort to understand our School, spending time at break with the children as well as all the lesson observations and book scrutiny. Headmistress, Mrs Brown, felt that by the end of day three, they had really ‘got under the School’s skin’, seen everything, met children and parents and had had many meetings with staff.

The final day arrived and all that was left was the feedback, which involved a large meeting with all the Inspectors to inform us of the judgements made.

Mrs Brown said, “We were delighted to hear the word ‘Excellent’ used so many times to describe our wonderful school and the manners and attitudes of the children praised extensively with the words “caring, considerate and confident in themselves.” It took quite some time for the positive feedback to sink in. I count it as a great privilege to be a part of the team that has achieved such an impressive result.”

Highlights quoted from the Inspection Report are:

- “The School has excellent links with parents who value the open character of communication to both parents and pupils
- The broad and balanced curriculum meets the needs of the children, enthusing them to extend their learning in line with the school aims to ensure that the children develop their full academic potential
- The quality of pupils’ achievements and learning is excellent. The range of suitable materials in lessons means that all pupils including the most able make excellent progress
- The contribution of teaching is excellent

## THE MANNERS AND ATTITUDES OF THE CHILDREN Praised Extensively and Overall Children Pronounced as “CARING, CONSIDERATE AND CONFIDENT IN THEMSELVES

- The EYFS is outstanding
- Excellent standards of behaviour
- Teachers are well qualified, experienced and challenge pupils to extend their knowledge and application
- Teachers are ambitious for their pupils and there is a mutual respect between them, this means pupils enjoy learning and behave in an exemplary manner
- Pupils make rapid progress. Lessons are meticulously planned and provide clear aims and objectives
- Teachers are dynamic and have extensive subject knowledge
- Pupils display high levels of numeracy and oracy
- Pupils use their knowledge in subjects confidently either orally or in their excellent written work or with the creative use of digital media. Written work is very well presented and pupils take real pride in their efforts
- Pupils’ creativity is particularly strong
- High quality performances celebrate pupils’ musical and dramatic talents
- The most talented pupils are able to attain very high standards in music examinations
- Pupils’ skills in Games and PE are well developed through a variety of sports. The contribution of curricular and extra curricular provision is excellent
- The outdoor learning area provides an outstanding resource
- Pupils are caring, considerate and confident in themselves and have a strong sense of pride in their schools. By the time they leave they are strong, self aware individuals with a clear sense of their place in the world, their value and the value of others”



# ROUNDERS AT SPRINGFIELD

**Rounders is one of those quintessentially summer sports, involving skill and high levels of team work and concentration, usually followed by a delicious tea on the lawn at RGS Springfield for our home matches!**

There was a multitude of rounders fixtures last Trinity Term for Springfield. Some of the highlights from this were: the ever-competitive House Rounders Competition that saw the Tigers triumph, a collaborative fixture where the boys and girls combined to take on, and defeat, St George's Primary School, and competitive fixtures against King's St Albans, Bowbrook School, RGS The Grange and The Elms School.

This year Springfield hosted a new fixture on our calendar, a rounders tournament for the Under Nines. It was wonderful to welcome the three visiting primary schools and, fortunately, the sun came out just in time! Everyone had an enjoyable day and we hope that we can have a repeat event next year.

Another highlight is the annual parents versus Year Six rounders competition, hotly contested to win the 'Derby Challenge' teapot or the wooden spoon for the runners-up. This year a team of Mums, and a separate team of Dads lined up to bat and field against our Year Sixes. The competition was fierce with some amazing catches and monumental hits as well as some underhand tactics by some of the Dads! The final score was eagerly awaited, the Year Six pupils had won by a single rounder! Good sportsmanship prevailed as a selection of water pistols arrived to 'mark the children's victory.' The match was followed by a delicious cream tea bringing to a close a wonderful afternoon of summer sport.

“SPORT AT SPRINGFIELD PROVIDES ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES”

# AUGMENTING REALITY

From the life of Elizabeth I

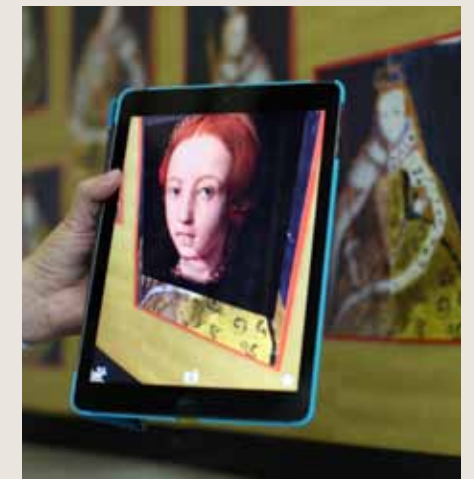
**The innovative Digital Learning Programme (DLP) is integrated into our existing curriculum in new and exciting ways. It is important that we do not lose focus of the learning objectives in the excitement of using the technology. Teachers think creatively about their lessons and combine both digital and classical learning within single lessons.**

The Year Five class has been studying the importance of portraiture in the Tudor period. They spent time looking at images and identifying symbolism which progressed to mixing paint colours to complete a half finished portrait of Elizabeth I. There were lots of questions about Elizabeth and the children spent some time using the iPads to find out more about her life.

At this point traditional lessons would have concluded with the children producing a piece of writing about Elizabeth I which would have been displayed on the wall alongside their portraits. With the introduction of the DLP, however, we were able to show evidence of the learning and display the work in a more creative way. Using an App called Morfo, the children were able to generate a 3D 'talking head' of Queen Elizabeth who recounted facts about her life. This video was then attached to their portrait using Augmented Reality. This allows the painting to be scanned with the Aurasma App which then comes to life showing the 'talking head' video.

Mrs Walker, IT and Computing teacher, said, "This project ensured that the original learning objectives were met: to discover more about Tudor portraits and the life of Elizabeth I. However, the presentation of the children's learning was totally redefined by the ability to use technology within the class. The children were engaged throughout and, by taking ownership of the project, have gained a depth of knowledge and understanding that might not have been present with more traditional methods of working."

I wonder what Queen Elizabeth I would think of children still learning about her and bringing her back to life, centuries after her death!



“... THE PRESENTATION OF THE CHILDREN'S LEARNING HAS BEEN TOTALLY REDEFINED BY THE ABILITY TO USE TECHNOLOGY WITHIN THE CLASS ”





# CO-CURRICULAR AT RGSW

... What will you do ?

Just a sample of the co-curricular opportunities on offer at RGSW:

- Hockey Training*

*Rugby Skills*

*Chamber Choir*

*Big Band*

*Wearable Art*

*Debating Society*

*Drama Production*

*Football Training*

*Christian Union*

*String Ensemble*

*Duke of Edinburgh Awards*

*Book Club*

*Chess*

*BISMARCK Modelling Club*

*Dance Club*

*Rowing*

*Netball Club*

*School Choir*

*Golf Lessons*

*Literary Society*

*Philosophy Club*

*String Orchestra*

*Careers Talks*

*CCF*

*Junior Choir*
- Running Club*

*Construction Club*

*Gymnastics*

*Drama Club*

*Cookery*

*ICT Club*

*Paper Club*

*Cricket Skills*

*Nature Club*

*Windband*

*Karate*

*Jewellery Making*

*Drawing Club*

*Jumping Clay*

*Futsal*

*Tennis*

*Art Club*

*Ballet & Modern Dance*

*Tag Rugby*

*Knit & Natter*

*Choir*

*Happy Bugs*

*Brownies*

*Fencing*

*Flute Group*

*Sailing Club*

*Show Jumping*



# RGS AT A GLANCE

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

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

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

Please do contact us to arrange a visit at a time convenient for you.

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



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

- HMC Independent day school
- 780 pupils
- Originally founded 685, (first written reference appears in 1265)
- 1561 - first Royal Charter
- 1845 - second Royal Charter granted by Queen Victoria
- 2007 - merged with The Alice Ottley School (founded 1883)
- John Pitt, Headmaster

Fees: all years £3,798 per term

Upper Tything, Worcester WR1 1HP  
01905 613391 [office@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:office@rgsw.org.uk)  
Admissions: Sue Johnston [sbj@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:sbj@rgsw.org.uk)

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

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

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

Fees from £2,238 full time Pre-School  
to £3,642 in Year Six, per term

Britannia Square, Worcester WR1 3DL  
01905 24999 [springfield@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:springfield@rgsw.org.uk)  
Admissions: [springfield@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:springfield@rgsw.org.uk)



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



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

- Prep School
- 370 pupils
- Gareth Hughes, Headmaster
- Part of RGS Worcester

Fees from £2,238 full time Pre-School  
to £3,642 in Year Six, per term.

Grange Lane, Claines, Worcester WR3 7RR  
01905 451205 [grange@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:grange@rgsw.org.uk)  
Admissions: Vanessa Kay [vjk@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:vjk@rgsw.org.uk)



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