



RGS
WORCESTER
FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

EXCEL

Autumn 2022



ISI INSPECTION
'EXCELLENT IN
ALL AREAS'

RGS WORCESTER

RGS DODDERHILL

RGS THE GRANGE

RGS SPRINGFIELD

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RGS Worcester
Upper Tything, Worcester WR1 1HP
Independent Education for children aged 11 - 18



RGS Dodderhill
Dodderhill Road, Droitwich Spa WR9 0BE
Independent Education for children aged 2 - 11
Girls only education for 11-16 years



RGS The Grange
Grange Lane, Claines WR3 7RR
Independent Education for children aged 2 - 11



RGS Springfield
Britannia Square, Worcester WR1 3DL
Independent Education for children aged 2 - 11

THE RGS WORCESTER FAMILY OF SCHOOLS
LEADING INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Find out more about the outstanding education, fantastic opportunities and lifelong memories our Schools provide www.rgsw.org.uk



EXECUTIVE HEAD'S
INTRODUCTION

We have really enjoyed the return of events after the pandemic with the full programme of sports fixtures, concerts, plays, trips and expeditions which make our Schools so fun and vibrant. RGS provides a genuine 'all round' education at all age groups and the pupils have really amazed us with their resilience and determination to enjoy and make the most of everything on offer.

Our recent ISI Inspection Report demonstrated just how impressive our pupils are and the Inspectors gave the RGS Schools the highest grades in all areas.

The Academic results coming out of the pandemic were particularly strong and demonstrate the excellent teaching and the academic 'stretch' and support the pupils receive. The results also show how our Digital Learning Programme supported them during the pandemic and afterwards so that there was no disruption to their learning. We continue to use technology carefully and meaningfully, 'when it makes a difference' is our mantra, and we can see the benefits as our pupils complete their time at RGS ready for the modern world in front of them.

With hundreds of activities, clubs and societies and national achievement in Sport, Music, Drama, Debating and in countless other areas, there will always be something for your child to enjoy. We get to know the pupils extremely well as individuals, so they can enjoy participating, find those things they love, and really fulfil their potential – and we are always looking for new opportunities to ensure that an RGS education is challenging and enjoyable.

We have really appreciated the support provided for Ukrainian students arriving at RGS, and the commitment and togetherness of the whole RGS community as we move beyond the pandemic. RGS really is an inclusive 'family' where children can grow up being themselves within a supportive community with exceptional Pastoral Care at its heart.

There have been so many wonderful achievements this last academic year and into the new year, on top of the exceptional ISI Inspection Report. This really does demonstrate why RGS Worcester remains a leading choice for families in the region and we have record numbers of pupils applying to the RGS Schools. Please do come and see our Schools in action either on an Open Morning or on a normal school day. You are guaranteed a warm welcome.

With best wishes,

John Pitt
Headmaster, RGS Worcester
Executive Head, The RGS Worcester Family of Schools

EXCELLENT IN ALL AREAS



'EXCEPTIONAL' ISI INSPECTION REPORT

We are delighted to share the findings of the ISI Inspection Report, in which inspectors gave the highest grading of 'Excellent' in all areas.

The Key Findings were particularly pleasing as the Inspectors recognised, pupils' high levels of achievement and personal development; "self-awareness, self-assurance" and also the "self-effacing" nature of our pupils.

We talk about RGS pupils having a 'quiet confidence but not arrogance' and we think parents and staff should be especially proud that the Inspectors identified these character traits in RGS pupils.

Our Digital Learning Programme (DLP) also shone throughout the Report, bringing to the forefront how investment into the programme improved the teaching and learning experience for pupils.

The Report stated that from Early Years upwards, pupils showed an "exceptional confidence in use of software" as well as Mathematics being "one of many areas in which pupils' progress is accelerated" by technology and the use of "voice notes" providing direct personal feedback to aid pupils' development.

"This Inspection Report proves the high-quality education provided at RGS Worcester. It gives us the confidence to build upon this success and ensure that we provide the very best opportunities for our pupils to make their experience at RGS enjoyable, stimulating, challenging and successful."

The pupils deserve every praise for their continued progress and success, highlighted continuously throughout this exceptional Report and demonstrating what a fantastic family of schools we have."

John Pitt
Executive Head, The RGS Worcester Family of Schools

CHARITY FUNDRAISING

With fundraising able to return to some kind of 'normal' following Covid-19 lockdowns, we have had a successful year raising over £15,000 at RGS Worcester and over £6,000 more at the other three schools.

The Sixth Form chose 'New Hope' as their chosen charity this year and the Lower School supported Maggs Day Centre with their Harvest Festival donations. RGS supported the Worcester Foodbank with two van loads of toiletries and food donations and supermarket vouchers to the value of £290 and that appeal is on-going.

Two Non-Uniform Days were held, the first for BBC Children in Need which raised £2,110 and the second for Comic Relief, for which a total of £2,500 was split between Comic Relief and the Ukraine Appeal. In addition we raised £10,000 for the Ukraine Appeal in total.

Mrs Witcomb and some RGS pupils took part in a 24-hour tennis marathon for 'Bright Ideas for Tennis' and raised £2,431.25. At £695.62, the money collected for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal was the largest amount raised for several years. We have also supported Acorns Children's Hospice, Worcester Snoezelen, Macmillan Cancer Support, Wooden Spoon and Help for Heroes.



RGS Worcester Family of Schools
Total £21,241

RGS COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Pupils, staff and parents at The RGS Worcester Family of Schools have been looking at ways to support the people of Ukraine during this extremely difficult time.

The RGS community has so far raised over £10,000 in the Ukraine Appeal. In order to maximise the impact of this support on the ground, staff at the school linked up with a charity that provides shelter, medical help and education to disabled children and displaced families fleeing Ukraine.

RGS Support Staff volunteered to make the 1,750 mile journey out to the Ukraine border so that the right items could be purchased and the funds raised could be put to good use directly where it was needed.

Local car company PJ Nicholls Ltd supported the expedition by generously providing the fully insured SsangYong Musso Saracen Pick-Up vehicle for the trip. The School would like to thank Mr Nicholls for his superb support which made the trip possible.

The three staff, Steve Bradley, Keith Breese and Paul Green, were overwhelmed by the experience of being able to help people in their time of great need.

PUPILS FROM UKRAINE JOIN RGS FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

The RGS Worcester Family of Schools also welcomed new pupils who have left their homes in Ukraine to seek refuge in the UK.

Pupils have joined The RGS Family of Schools across different Year groups and are staying with host families locally. RGS is offering educational provision for the pupils as well as support with uniform and equipment, with the help of the Parents' Association.

To support pupils in their transition into school and also life in the UK, we have been grateful for assistance from the RGS community with language and translation skills. We are also privileged to welcome Ukrainian University student Polina to RGS, to assist and support pupils in their studies and integration into school life.

Polina was in her First Year at university in Ukraine, before leaving her home to join a host family in Worcestershire. Polina is working with all the new pupils across the RGS Worcester Family of Schools, assisting with language translation, but also helping to interpret some of the different learning approaches found here in the UK which differ to those in Ukraine. One such difference is the use of calculators in Mathematics which is forbidden in a Ukrainian classroom!

Polina said: "The RGS team have all been so kind and welcoming. The teachers are amazing and very supportive towards me and the pupils and the lessons are so interesting – I am really grateful that I can go to school again!"

The four RGS Schools continue to raise funds for the Ukraine Appeal and look for ways to help further.



"It has been very moving to see how the RGS community has rallied round to support the people of Ukraine at this time. We are doing all we can to support by raising funds, having a direct impact on the ground, assisting those with relatives caught up in the conflict, and providing education to those displaced. It is an important message to send that our community will help those in need and it was extremely heart-warming to hear from Steve, Keith and Paul and see the difference we can make."

John Pitt
Executive Head of the RGS Worcester Family of Schools

OUTREACH

This year over 35 events were hosted for pupils from local schools at RGS, in addition we visited a number of schools to help support their curriculum and learning. We have welcomed 32 different schools and higher education establishments with over 1,400 pupils benefitting from our outreach programme.

Our exciting series of events included: Hockey Skills Workshops at our state-of-the-art Worcester International Hockey Centre; 'Let's Sing' with local Primary Schools; the return of our ever-popular Eggstravaganza STEM event; as well as a series of events for Worcester University to support their DLP for first year teacher training students.



TEXTILES, DESIGN TECHNOLOGY AND ART OUTREACH EVENT

We recently welcomed over 60 pupils to RGS Worcester to join in a fun and creative Art, Textiles and Design Technology Outreach event.

Led by RGS Teaching staff, ably assisted by School Prefects, Years Four and Five pupils from Hollymount Primary School and Northwick Manor Primary School enjoyed a very practical morning in the Art, Textiles and Design Technology facilities, demonstrating their creativity and learning new skills.

"A huge thank you to the staff at RGS for making us feel so very welcome. The work produced was just wonderful! They were so full of enthusiasm and excitement."

Northwick Manor Primary School

TECHNOLOGY ACROSS THE RGS FAMILY OF SCHOOLS



RGS Computing and Technology departments continue to develop the Digital Learning Programme, sharing good practice with fellow educators and championing our schools' innovative and much-admired use of technology within education.

SHOWBIE ROADSHOW

We were honoured to host the 'Showbie Roadshow' at RGS Worcester, welcoming representatives from Showbie as well as teaching staff from across the region to share knowledge, good practice and lead on using technology effectively in education.

RGS Worcester pupils stole the show with some stunning presentations about their use of Showbie. Their expertise, confidence and presenting skills were superb and gave real insight into why Showbie is such an integral part of our Digital Learning Programme.

BETT SHOW 2022

Bett Show is the biggest EdTech conference and the RGS Family of Schools was extremely well represented over the two-day event, our ten super Digital Leaders made quite the impact!

Pupils were in a range of groups and had some time to explore the stands and talk to organisations about the latest tech trends and products. There were some great products on show and highlights included virtual reality, robotics and interactive tech for PE lessons!

RGS The Grange Digital Leaders were so confident in talking to adults, teachers, head teachers and even CEOs of major companies. Pupils led an eight-minute presentation on the Albion stand talking about coding, robotics and their love of the subject, before heading over to the Sphero stand to offer demonstrations to members of the public.

John Jones – Director of Innovation

Apple Authorised Education Specialist
education solutions





“Welcoming, unaffected and academically on the up and up, while still valuing the breadth of opportunities outside the classroom.”

Scan the QR code to enjoy reading the full review of RGS Worcester

SPEARS

Wealth Management The Good Life Awards & Events Podcast

What are Britain's oldest schools?

107 SEPTEMBER 2022 by SARAH



England is home to some of the best academic institutions in the world – many of which predate the Norman conquests, withstood the dark ages, and saw leaders of the country pass through their halls. But which are Britain's oldest schools?

5. Grammar School, Worcester – 685AD

The Royal Grammar School, Worcester, is believed to be one of Britain's oldest schools owing to claims that the Bishop of Worcester erected the school in 685 to educate the relatives of monks intending to enter the town's monastery.

Conclusive evidence however, does not appear until 1291, when an argument over who owned the wax from the candles used at the feast of St Swithun was settled by Bishop Godfrey who determined it belonged to the scholars of Worcester School.



The Old Hall at Worcester Grammar, c. 1900. Image: Eric Hunt

The school has received two royal charters over the years, one from Queen Victoria and one from Queen Elizabeth I, making it one of the seven Royal Grammar Schools in England.

“It is a great privilege to be the head of a school with such an extraordinary history dating back nearly 2,000 years and at the same time one is always looking forward and seeking ways to provide even more opportunities for the pupils,” Headmaster John Pitt told Spear's.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE DEBATING SUCCESS!



Once again, RGS Worcester has experienced huge success in Debating, with two teams qualifying for the prestigious Finals Days at both the Cambridge and Oxford Schools competitions.

Four teams from RGS Worcester took part in the online Midlands regional round of the Oxford Schools competition, with over 60 teams competing across two debates to win a place at Finals Day. This was hugely competitive and hard-fought as debaters only had two debates to demonstrate their skills. RGS Worcester were the only school in the region to qualify two teams, both reaching Finals Day.

Four RGS Worcester pairs were again in action online in the Manchester regional round of the Cambridge Schools competition. This was a long day with four different debates for each pair. Points scored for first, second, third and fourth in each debate were used to create a 'league table' with the best six teams from 44 going forward.

In the final debate on 'whether we should allow dictators an amnesty if they gave up power peacefully', Matt Powell and Harvey Boyle won their table, qualifying for Finals Day in second place overall. Coming second on their table, James Preece and Elizabeth McCabe also qualified in fifth place, meaning that they have reached both Finals Days.

“It is a huge achievement for RGS to be so well-represented at both events”

Miss Jane Waller – Head of Debating

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Royal Grammar School Worcester - Family of Schools offers our deepest condolences to The King and the Royal Family following the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

In this article we reflect upon our Royal links and dedicate these pages to The Queen's extraordinary duty and service to the United Kingdom and The Commonwealth.

Thank you, Your Majesty, for the example you set to us all.



'Royal' Grammar School Time Line

- 1561**
School received its first Royal Charter from Queen Elizabeth I
- 1575**
Queen Elizabeth I visited Whiteladies
- 1843**
Second Royal Charter received from Queen Victoria
- 1869**
Grant of Royal title by Queen Victoria
- 1922**
Perrins Science Building opened by HRH The Duke of York
- 1961**
Visit to the School by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, to name Eld Hall and to open Hillard Hall and extensions to the Science Building
- 1991**
Princess Anne visits RGS to celebrate the Schools Seventh Centenary
- 2011**
The visit of The Princess Royal to RGS Worcester commemorated the 450th Anniversary of the granting of the first Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth I
- 2012**
The Queen's final visit to Worcester was in 2012 as part of her Diamond Jubilee tour, where Her Majesty landed via helicopter at the RGS St Oswald's sports field.

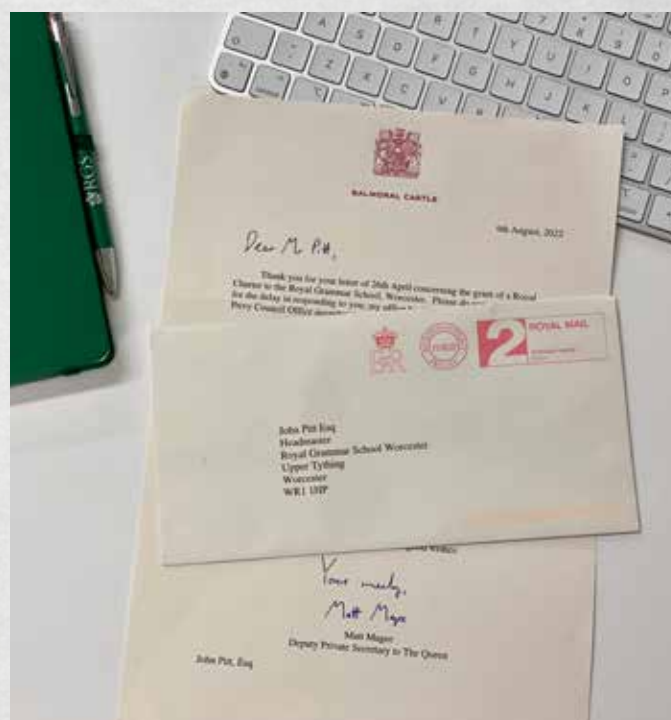


'ROYAL' MAIL

Earlier in the year, Mr Pitt, Executive Head of the RGS Worcester Family of Schools, wrote to Queen Elizabeth II to congratulate Her Majesty on her Platinum Jubilee. Whilst offering congratulations on behalf of the four schools, Mr Pitt also took the opportunity to highlight the two Royal Charters we already hold and enquire about the chances of a third Royal Charter to commemorate the occasion.

We were delighted to receive a reply in August from Balmoral Castle and the Privy Council Office. They took the time to explain the Royal Charter process had changed considerably in the modern day and could no longer offer this option to schools - even more reason to cherish such a wonderful achievement to hold two historic Royal Charters.

The Deputy Private Secretary to the Queen signed off with Her Majesty's "warm good wishes", a delightful way to start the new academic year!



THE SCHOOL'S ROYAL CHARTER

In 1561 the School received its first Royal Charter from Queen Elizabeth I. Some 15 years later, in 1575, Her Majesty visited the School.

The Schools second Royal Charter was received in 1843 from Queen Victoria, who granted the School its Royal title in 1869.



VISIT FROM KING GEORGE VI AND QUEEN ELIZABETH 1922

The Science Block, built in 1922, was opened by the HRH The Duke and Duchess of York, who later became King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.



THE ROYAL VISIT 1961 BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN MOTHER

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother made her second visit to the School in 1961, when she named Eld Hall and formally opened the newly built Hillard Hall and extensions to the Science Building, as well as commemorating the anniversary of the Schools first Royal Charter of 1561.



Her Majesty watching a Science experiment demonstration in the School's new Science Building extension



Well-wishers gather on Upper Tything in 1961 to welcome Her Majesty the Queen Mother to RGS Worcester

WE WELCOME THE PRINCESS ROYAL, 2011

In 2011, the School welcomed The Princess Royal to RGS Worcester to commemorate the 450th Anniversary of the granting of the first Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth I.



Princess Anne during her visit to RGS Worcester

'HER MAJESTY'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND'

This May, pupils from the RGS Worcester Gardening Club, had the pleasure of meeting The Princess Royal at the Royal Horticultural Society's Malvern Spring Festival 2022. HRH Princess Anne spent time talking to the group about their Royal Jubilee inspired Show Garden, aptly named 'Her Majesty's Adventures in Wonderland'.



EXCEPTIONAL GCSE RESULTS

Exceptional GCSE results were celebrated this summer at RGS Worcester to the delight of staff, parents and of course, our pupils. Amongst those celebrating were twins Emma and James Woolhouse who achieved 20 GCSEs between them, all at the top grades 9 or 8.



Worcester Cathedral chorister Martha Burdon achieved 10 GCSEs with 9 at the top grade 9 and 1 grade 8, along with netball star and GB athlete, Izzy Thompson, who achieved 9 GCSEs with 6 at grade 9.



Under 18 Archery national champion, Emelia Hughes returned from competing to collect her 9 GCSEs, all graded 9-5.



"The pupils have done exceptionally well, especially given all that they have been through with the pandemic over the last 3 years. They have managed to maintain momentum in their GCSE studies and performed very well indeed. We saw the highest number of pupils ever achieve 9-7 Grades in at least 8 subjects which sets them up very well for their studies in the Sixth Form and their future careers. We are so pleased that they were able to sit the public examinations and achieve results that are quite simply stunning."

Congratulations to them all, and to their teachers for their hard work and commitment over the full GCSE course. We have to appreciate just how challenging it has been for everyone, and we are immensely proud of everyone."
John Pitt - Headmaster.

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS CELEBRATE EXCELLENT RESULTS

RGS Worcester had a wonderful morning in August, celebrating excellent results following the return to Public Exams being sat by the students for the first time since 2019. Almost every student achieved their chosen University place, so students looked forward to their next steps, whilst taking with them many fond memories of their time at school.

There were superb achievements at A Level with well over half of all grades at A*/A in such a wide range of subjects. In the BTECs on offer, 85% of all Grades were the top Distinction*/ Distinction and 100% A*-B Grades were achieved in the EPQ.

Amongst those celebrating was Katy Marsh who achieved a remarkable 5A* Grades at A Level, while also being a Senior Prefect, Senior Cadet in the CCF, a successful debator and a 1st XI Hockey player. Katy is going on to study Engineering at Cambridge University.

Elizabeth McCabe achieved 4A* Grades and her place to study PPE at Oxford University and School Captain, James Preece achieved 3A* Grades and will be studying HSPS at Cambridge University – two of the most competitive University courses in the world. Both students are superb Debaters who performed exceptionally well in national Debating competitions.

Boys' Rugby Captain, Ben Gaubert, achieved 3A* and 1A Grades and is going to study Mathematics at Bath University, fresh from the RGS rugby tour to Canada this summer. Netball Captain Georgia Hill achieved Distinction* Distinction in BTEC (National Diploma for Sport) and enjoyed leading the Girls' Sports Tour to Barbados in July.

In the Creative Arts (Art, Design Technology, Drama, Music and Textiles), remarkably over 90% of all Grades were at A*-B. Isabella Hulbert (Pictured) achieved 3A* and 1A Grades and has accepted her place to study on the prestigious and highly-competitive Royal Academy of Music's Gap Year Programme, to continue her studies in Music as a first study singer with enhanced second study violin. Isabella was selected for the National Youth Orchestra and has been performing in three events during August as part of the BBC Proms, culminating in a concert in the Royal Albert Hall. Isabella has also been working on education projects, visiting local state schools as an ambassador for the National Youth Orchestra.

Professional footballer, Seb Thompson, who pursued his professional career, leaving RGS at the end of Year Eleven, completed an A Level in Economics remotely while also playing for Derby County and has now joined Burnley FC.

Congratulations to these and all the other students at RGS who have done so well. They have bright futures ahead.

"It's been an incredibly difficult period, and students have had to show high levels of resilience, working very hard for these results. They have not had those Public Examinations at GCSE, so it's a real credit to their endeavour and consistency of effort over the last couple of years."

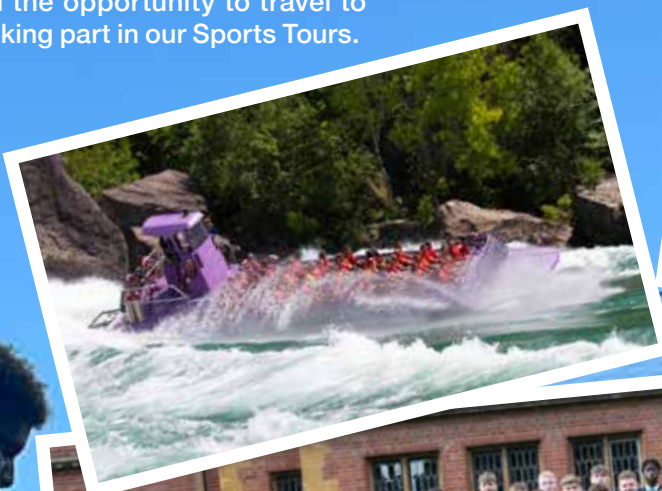
We are really pleased with our students, how they have approached their academic studies, particularly as they manage this alongside a really wide and varied co-curricular offering, getting involved in lots of exciting activities. As a result of that, their success is all the more admirable and we are really proud of them."

Mark Evetts - Head of Sixth Form



SPORTS TOURS

Nearly 100 students had the opportunity to travel to Canada and Barbados, taking part in our Sports Tours.



Rugby Tour

CANADA
July 2022



We are committed to the idea that the more the more potential they have to become.

"The boys have had a fantastic tour, on and off the field. Canoeing and Dragon Boat racing down the River Brand, attending a Blue Jays Baseball game, visiting CN Tower and touring Toronto and Guelph Universities' impressive sporting facilities, including being able to play Basketball and American Football at tremendous arenas.

On the field there have been competitive, physical and confrontational fixtures which have really challenged the players' resolve. Both the RGS Development and 1st XV squads have won all six fixtures, which included opposition such as Oshawa RFC, Ontario Under 19 and Under 17 Blue, Ontario Under 17 and Under 16 White, and Eastern Ontario Under 17.

It has been a true team effort and it has been my pleasure to tour Canada with such a respectful, hardworking and enjoyable group."

Mr Robert Lewis – Head of Rugby



Girls Sports Tour



BARBADOS
July 2022



We are committed to the idea that the more someone is willing to try, the more potential they have to become.

"The girls had an amazing time in Barbados and we were so proud of their behaviour as they really were a pleasure to take on tour.

After a Jeep safari around the island, day two was an early start to get a Hockey and Netball training session in before the first set of Hockey matches. The newly formed 3rd XI opened against a Barbados all-star team and, after getting to know each other, secured a 3-0 win. The winning streak continued with the 2nd XI winning 2-1 and the 1st XI securing a 6-1 win.

Day three started the first set of Netball fixtures, with the A & B teams playing at Clapham and the C & D's having an adventure to find their court and getting a glimpse of the Bajun time frame. All four games exposed the girls to a different style of Netball, where they held their own and won their matches.

After a trip to the Boatyard at Carlisle Bay, some of the girls got to see the first turtles of the tour when out snorkelling, without doubt a memory that will not be forgotten. It was lovely to see the new friendships established across all year groups and we hope the girls have created lifelong memories."

Miss Leanne Bennett – Head of Hockey





MR BIDDLE RANKS IN TOP 150 BRITISH MEN OF ALL TIME IN 400M

Congratulations to RGS Head of Athletics and Strength and Conditioning, Mr Biddle who ran 46.56 seconds for the 400m. As well as being his Personal Best, it is also a time that puts him into the top 150 British Men of all time over the 400m! More importantly, it moves him from 3rd to 1st in the RGS All Time rankings, beating the then European Record set by former Headmaster, Godfrey Brown, when winning the Olympic Silver Medal in the 1936 Olympic Games.



Godfrey Brown - Headmaster
1950 - 1978

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE RGS FLEET

A very special Boat Naming Ceremony took place in June, involving the naming of two new boats for RGS Worcester's Pullinger Boat Club. One of the boats was named after alumnus David Rodway (1946-55) and the other after former member of staff Rob Gibson.

Until his death at the end of 2021, David was an amazingly active and supportive member of the RGS Worcester alumni community and a huge advocate of transformational bursaries. He quietly sponsored a number of pupils through the School who otherwise would not have been able to attend RGS.

Rob Gibson taught Maths at RGS for 27 years as well as being heavily involved in Rowing at the School. It was lovely on this occasion to welcome back many alumni and former parents who had known Rob and wanted to give their thanks for the part he played in their RGS days as Head of Maths and Rowing experiences.



MBE FOR ALUMNI TOM

RGS alumni, Tom Dyson (1996-03) has been awarded an MBE in The Queen's birthday honours, for his services to Paralympic Rowing.

A keen rower whilst at RGS, Tom went to the University of Cambridge where he continued the sport alongside studying for his MA in Natural Sciences. Tom is now Head of Olympic and Paralympic Performance Delivery for British Rowing, following 14 years coaching with the Paralympic Programme. Under his guidance, there have been huge successes for Paralympics GB, with the team topping the medal table consecutively at the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, with an impressive five gold medals.



Tom remembers his Rowing days at RGS well, adding: "My final year Rowing at RGS was a very enjoyable period, training with friends who remain close to this day and learning from former teacher and coach Rob Gibson in particular. Having Rob as a coaching role model no doubt set me on the path to my current career and I greatly value his friendship, council and the yearly reunion of his RGS rowers at Henley Royal Regatta".

CELEBRATING SPORT AT RGS

SPORT PRESENTATION EVENING

The event is a wonderful way to celebrate all of our RGS teams and Sports people and, as per tradition, pupils and their families brought along picnics and were inspired by Guest of Honour, British long-distance runner and RGS alumna, Jenny Nesbitt (2003-2014).

Jenny represented Wales at The Commonwealth Games 2022 and her recent running successes include achieving 2nd place in the British Athletics Cross Challenges.

During the Awards Ceremony members of the Sports Department celebrated pupils' Sporting achievements and contribution to Sport at RGS Worcester this year. Awards ranged from 'All Round Sporting Contribution' to specific awards for all Sports.



NEW RUGBY COACH EX NZ RUGBY PLAYER

Laying the foundations over the past season at Senior level, Aleki Lutui, will be joining the Sports Department full-time as Rugby Development Coach, and will be lending his expertise and guidance across all year groups at the School.

Aleki Lutui, originally from Tofoa Tonga, has had an extensive and impressive playing career; representing Waikato Chiefs in the Super 14, being the highest capped front-row forward for Worcester Warriors and playing for both Gloucester and Edinburgh Rugby. During his career he was named in the Tonga squad for the 2007, 2011 and 2015 Rugby World Cups, often leading the Tongan Haka, the Kailao.

Aleki said: "I'm delighted to be joining the RGS Rugby coaching staff next year as Rugby Development Coach. The opportunity to help develop young Rugby players at RGS is something I'm really looking forward to and I am excited to get to work with the quality players and staff that RGS have in their Rugby environment. The ambition of the School is there for all to see. I can't wait to get going this summer with pre-season training, as we build towards the start of the 2022 - 23 campaign."

"We would like to thank all of the pupils of all ages for their hard work and commitment this season at whatever level they have played their Sport."

Mrs Cia Swingler
Academic Admissions
Manager, Head of
Rounds



A FANTASTIC YEAR OF FENCING

Lower Sixth student, Lucas Hancock travelled to the England Institute of Sport in Sheffield to take part in the British Senior Championships. Lucas fenced in the Men's Épée where he won three and lost three in his pool. This was enough to get him through the 30% cut, to get to the Direct Elimination, where he went out 15-7.

Also attending this event were alumnae Danielle Lawson and Abi Watkins, who formed part of the 'Malvern Women's Épée team', that went on to win the 'Women's Team Épée' event at the same 2022 British Championships.



HOCKEY STARS

During the 2021/22 season, three RGS pupils were selected to represent National teams in Hockey, Alice Atkinson was selected for the England Under 18 squad, Amelia Lane was selected for the Wales Under 18 squad and Caitlin Lane was selected for the Wales Under 16 squad. We congratulate all three girls for achieving international honours which reflects the dedication and commitment they have shown throughout their time at RGS.



ALUMNI WILL CELEBRATES SILVER MEDAL

Former RGS pupil, Will Osborne (2014 - 2021) has had considerable success in Fencing recently. Will has gone on to study Mathematics at the University of Oxford, joined the Fencing Blues A team and is Captain of the University of Oxford B team.



Will took part in the 2022 Varsity Fencing Competition in his role as Captain of the B team (in all 3 weapons). Will's team won against Cambridge 45-43, helping the University of Oxford become the overall winners of the tournament. Thrilled, Will now has his name engraved on the trophy!

The following weekend, Will enjoyed further success by winning the Silver Medal at the West Midlands Senior Fencing Championships and also qualifying to represent the West Midlands at the GB Cup in May.

Will is now working towards being awarded a Blue or Half Blue in Fencing (the highest honour granted to individual sportspeople at the University of Oxford and a highly sought-after achievement for Oxford student athletes).

ENGLAND RUGBY UNDER 18S DEBUT

It was a fantastic achievement over the summer when Loïc Keasey was picked to represent England in the Under 18 Rugby squad to tour South Africa.

Loïc plays for both RGS Worcester and Worcester RFC and has already seen success with Warriors Under 18s in the Premiership Rugby Academy League. He secured his place in England's 26-man squad after an Under 17s Development Camp in Newcastle, which included a training match against Scotland.

The tour involved three international matches, presenting Loïc with his first England Under 18 Cap, coming off the bench in the 42nd minute against South Africa. He brought a lot of energy to the game and scored 2 superb tries from driving mauls.

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC

Pupils have celebrated the joy of Music and live performance, sharing their talents with appreciative audiences at frequent concerts held in the schools Perrins Hall and Performing Arts Centre.

YEAR SEVEN MUSICIANS DELIGHT AT TEATIME CONCERT

Fifteen young performers gave the audience a delightful and varied 45-minutes of high-quality music, at the Teatime Concert. A fantastic opportunity to showcase outstanding pupil talents, the concert opened with a performance of 'I Dreamed a Dream' from 'Les Misérables'.



The whole concert was a testament to the hard work of Year Seven this year in Music, showing their great sense of camaraderie as they cheered each other on after each performance. We look forward to many more performances from these young musicians in years to come.

Mr Jonathan Soman - Director of Music



ISABELLA CONTINUES MUSIC STUDIES AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Congratulations to Upper Sixth student and RGS Music Scholar, Isabella Hulbert, who has accepted her place to study on the prestigious and highly-competitive Royal Academy of Music's Gap Year Programme, to continue her studies in Music as a first study singer with enhanced second study violin. This exciting news follows Isabella's selection earlier this year for the National Youth Orchestra as a violinist.

Isabella said: "I'm so excited to be studying what I love next year, and I am currently working hard at 'Guildhall School of Music and Drama' Junior Department in London, where I have been offered the position of Leader in Symphony Orchestra for the term. I am incredibly grateful for all the support RGS has given me as a musician over the last 11 years, and I am so proud of everything we have achieved together during my time here."

RGS SAXOPHONISTS VISIT THE ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE

RGS Saxophonists from Year Seven to Upper Sixth, attended a 'Sax Day' at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Run by Conservatoire teachers, RGS pupils joined over 70 adults and other student musicians from across the West Midlands to learn and share in the joy of music.

"We arrived at Birmingham Conservatoire to a warm welcome from staff and students and were given a timetable of numerous activities throughout the day. Our group collectively decided to go to the 'Mass Sax Ensemble', which was amazing! It consisted of a wide age range of saxophonists playing two pieces and performing with the Conservatoire students, who were all extremely talented and helpful. We attended a Classical Sax Class, playing alongside several students from the Conservatoire who were all so lovely and made me feel very welcome.

The day ended with our Mass Ensemble Concert which was phenomenal! I have never heard so many enthusiastic sax players at once in the mass band, and the students' performance was yet again inspiring! All in all, it was an amazing opportunity for everyone and I will remember the day as exciting and brilliant."

Year Nine pupil – Martha Colclough

NOTES OF DISTINCTION FOR SASHA



Congratulations to Year Nine pupil Sasha Penlington, who has achieved another impressive musical milestone, passing her recent ATCL Piano Examination with Distinction.

The Associateship of Trinity College London (or 'ATCL') Performance Diploma is equivalent to the first-year recital of an undergraduate music degree, and so is a very significant accomplishment for such a young musician.

Sasha is an RGS Music and Drama Scholar and will be familiar as a performer to many who attend the numerous concerts in school. We were also pleased to congratulate Sasha earlier this year, on her debut in a major Television series, the Netflix mystery drama 'Stay Close'.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE RETURNS TO WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

The RGS Worcester Family of Schools joined together in the sanctuary of Worcester Cathedral for the annual Commemoration Service. The Service remembers the Founders and Benefactors of our four Schools, as well as providing an occasion to reflect and celebrate the RGS Family.

The Revd Canon John Paul Hoskins from the Cathedral led the service which included a reading and prayers read by pupils representing all four Schools. There was an Address given by the Guest of Honour, Mr Tim Curtis, who played professional Cricket for England and Worcestershire, is a former RGS teacher and pupil, and is now Chair of the RGS and AOS Foundation.

Choirs from the two Senior Schools joined voices with the prep pupils to sing an emotive Like a Singing Bird as part of the service, alongside three further uplifting pieces, sung by the RGS Worcester Senior Choir and Chamber Choir. In addition, there was an innovative, recorded sound compilation, which featured pupils' voices from across the Schools, sharing their highlights of the school year, accompanied by recorded music from this year's RGS Worcester Big Band Cabaret performance.

"The Commemoration Service honours the memory of all those who were important in the founding and development of the RGS Schools. Commemoration is therefore an important annual occasion, where members of the current school community have an opportunity to show our appreciation and respect to those people who helped create it for us."

Mr Matt Parker
Assistant Head (Co-curricular, Planning and Events)



Guest of Honour, Mr Tim Curtis with Mr John Pitt, Executive Head of the RGS Family of Schools.

RGS TALENT ON SHOW AT THE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

The RGS Creative Arts Festival launched with a special evening event, welcoming parents and pupils to join us in celebrating the creative talent at RGS Worcester.

The evening began with a short concert featuring the RGS Guitar, Saxophone, Clarinet and Flute ensembles, performing a section of popular music ranging from the well-known folk song 'Londonderry Air', to film music and a selection of songs by The Beatles.

Audiences applauded as the Headmaster's Lawn became a catwalk for models to show work produced by RGS Textiles pupils. Pupils in Year Nine modelled their creations as part of the 'Kaleidoscope' project, whilst pupils in Years Ten and Eleven shared work inspired by architecture and which formed part of GCSE coursework. Sixth Form students showed their detailed, A Level Textiles coursework and Fashion Ikon competition winners displayed their finished garments made from upcycled suits.

The next stop was the School's Performing Arts Centre where Lower Sixth students performed some powerful Drama Monologues. Forming part of their A Level studies, students staged compelling extracts from Shakespeares's 'Macbeth', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Othello' and 'The Tempest' to rapturous applause from the audience.

The Art department presented work from pupils in Year Eleven, Lower and Upper Sixth, and exemplified the variety of media that RGS pupils can explore during Art GCSE and A Level courses and lessons at RGS Worcester.

In Design and Technology, the work exhibited celebrated the variety of projects and practical work undertaken in the Design Centre over the past year; from bird stations to furniture. Also on display were digital portfolios to show the inspiration, design journey, research behind finished designs.

YOUNG DESIGNERS FLOURISH AT YFDUK 2022

The pupils have produced a series of research and digital designs for the Young Fashion Designer UK 2022 competition. With the theme focussing on 'Sustainability in Fashion and Textiles', pupils investigated the ways in which designers are making a positive impact through their fashion collections and how the clothing that we wear could be produced in a way that is less harmful to the environment. Alongside their research, pupils designed four outfits that incorporate fabric prints with positive ethical or environmental messages.

"The judges commented on the excellent digital design skills that the pupils incorporated into each entry. We are very proud of the inventive designs created by pupils and their achievements. Many congratulations to all the pupils who entered this national competition."

Mrs Jo Bishop - Head of Textiles

RGS offers Scholarships in Creative Arts subjects; Art, Music, Drama, Textiles and Design Technology.

Scan the QR code to find out more



ON THE PODIUM AT MALLORY PARK



The second race of the season took place at Mallory Park race track in Leicestershire. This was a new track added this year to the Greenpower calendar and so all were excited to see how team 'Superformance' would fare on it.

Mr Holt and the team had been further tweaking the car since racing at Goodwood only a few weeks before. A new heat sink had been made and fitted onto the motor to try and keep it cooler, alongside soldering repairs and upgrades. Deflectors had been designed and 3D printed for the wing mirrors to try and make them more aerodynamic also.

As the start flag came down, we got off to an excellent start leading the way for all to follow, a great sight indeed! Our nearest rivals of the last few seasons were all racing hard but we were managing to hold our own. So close, the team knew it might come down to speed of changeovers in the pit stops (each team has to change drivers twice each race).

The last laps were agonising with the team all up on their feet! The chequered flag was waved and we finished 1st!

For the second race we decided to go up a gear. Only one tooth, which could make the difference between winning overall – or losing. In the dying minutes of the race this time, our rivals crept ahead of us having made their own changes too.

The prize-giving ensued and we claimed 3rd place overall. This is a fantastic achievement in a car that was being raced when the current drivers were one year of age!

The future looks promising indeed!
Mr Gwilym Batchelder – Head of Design and Technology

A GREEK PARTY IN THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Euripides' Greek Tragedy, 'The Bacchae', took to the stage at RGS Worcester. This adaptation of the text by Kneehigh Theatre Company, had a modern reworking of this tragic tale, where King Pentheus of Thebes had outlawed all forms of revelry, only to go head-to-head with Demi-God, Dionysus. Dionysus gathers a number of followers referred to as 'The Bacchae' who want to party, but Dionysus also has other motives...

The Summer Production starred pupils from Years Eight and Nine as cast and crew, and was directed by Mr Morgan, ably assisted by Lower Sixth Drama students.

"It was only fitting that for my final show here at RGS, I direct a play which is not only a little different to what I usually direct, but also one by my favourite Kneehigh Theatre Company. Everything they do has a sense of playful anarchy which brings joy to the audience, which is showcased brilliantly in this RGS production of 'The Bacchae'."

Mr Dan Morgan - Director, RGS Worcester Drama Teacher, 2014-2022



Assistant Directors commented:

"We have had the pleasure of working alongside Mr Morgan to direct this year's summer production of 'The Bacchae', gaining new skills and working with younger RGS pupils."

Lower Sixth Students

NEW YORK AND BOSTON

During the summer our very excited group of Drama students and enthusiasts jetted off to Boston for a week of arts and culture. After a relatively short flight we descended over the beautiful islands of the Northeast Coast and landed at Boston airport where we hastily filed through customs and met with our guide for the week, Broadway choreographer and dancer Scott Hamilton. Shortly after arriving at our hotel, we went out to stretch our legs and explore the beautiful beach and bay before returning back to the hotel for dinner and then a well-deserved sleep.

On our first day in Boston, we visited Salem, Massachusetts where we learnt of the terrible events that unfolded some 330 years ago. Later that afternoon we made a visit to the memorial park and graveyard, where those who had studied The Crucible recognised names on headstones.

Day two dawned and we packed up and boarded our coach for the four hour drive to New York City. The drive into 'NYC' was iconic, the famous skyline appeared as we passed through Queens as our driver expertly navigated the busy city streets. Once in our rooms many of us were treated to a view of the Statue of Liberty rising above our hotel. The city centre location was perfect.

The days that followed involved three workshops with professionals in Acting, Singing and Dance as well as two Broadway productions of 'Potus' and 'Dear Evan Hansen'. In the evening we dined at the famous Ellen's Stardust Café where the waiting staff are Broadway performers and sing whilst they are serving. During our time in New York, we also visited the incredible Rockefeller Centre and Madison Square Gardens, Ground Zero, Times Square and Coney Island. It was a fabulous trip away and a lovely way to end Mr Morgan's time at RGS.

Mrs Jilly Witcomb - Director of Drama



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: THE RGS CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION EXPO

RGS Worcester welcomed over 70 exhibitors and more than 650 visitors to our annual Careers & Higher Education EXPO event.

The EXPO aims to inform and excite pupils about opportunities after they complete their education in the Sixth Form and move on to University or Degree Apprenticeships and the world of work in their chosen careers.

Pupils from all Year groups at RGS were invited and encouraged to attend the event, along with families, to gather ideas, initiate conversations, be inspired and think ahead to the many career pathways that await.

This year we welcomed representatives from a wide range of organisations, businesses and professions including: NHS, the Armed Forces, Solicitors, Architects, Technology, Engineering, Creative Arts and Financial services.

As a major event of its kind in the area, the reputation of the RGS EXPO attracted considerable interest both locally and further afield, with exhibitors travelling from as far North as Stirling in Scotland.

Many of the UK's leading Universities were also in attendance, advising on Higher Education options as well as providing guidance on studying abroad, Degree Apprenticeships and work experience too.

"This year's event certainly delivered; the atmosphere in the School's Main Hall and Cobham Hall buzzed with the many enlivened conversations, as pupils chatted with the informative delegates and their world was opened to the many possibilities of future careers."

Mrs Audrey Williams - Head of Careers



FAREWELL CLASS OF 2022

Upper Sixth students celebrated their time at RGS with two special events.

The Upper Sixth Graduation Ceremony was held in Perrins Hall. The evening was an opportunity to celebrate both the successes of the past and look forward to a bright future. After a welcome from Head of Sixth Form, Mr Mark Evetts, the students were presented with Certificates and Prizes, awarded for their contributions and achievements whilst at the School.

Students then welcomed Guest of Honour, Megan Harrison (née Fairlie), who attended The Alice Ottley School and RGS Worcester in 2000 – 2009, and who talked about her career working for well-known names in business technology, such as Cisco Systems, Salesforce and Google Cloud. Megan's expert advice for navigating the next stage in our Leavers' lives was very well received by the students and their parents. The Headmaster then completed the event with a speech summarising their many achievements and wishing them all the very best for the future.

The Upper Sixth Leavers' Ball was a further special occasion for the Class of 2022 and a perfect way to celebrate the life-long friendships forged at RGS Worcester, before students embark on the next chapter of their lives; University, Gap Years, Higher-Level Apprenticeships or the world of work. Students enjoyed a three-course dinner, followed by an evening of dancing in the splendid surroundings of Stanbrook Abbey.



GLORIOUS GREECE



We marked the end of the academic year 2021–22 in the Classics Department with a trip to Greece for Years Eight, Nine and Ten. 48 excited pupils and 5 equally excited teachers departed for Athens, and spent that evening watching the sunset at Cape Sounion, where we visited the Temple of Poseidon. Pupils got the chance to explore Athens, learning about the cradle of democracy, and taking selfies by the Parthenon.

A particular highlight was our visit to the Acropolis Museum, the top floor of which is set up in parallel to the Acropolis above it, so that visitors can walk around the frieze whilst looking at the real thing. After Athens, a flurry of destinations in the Peloponnese and elsewhere followed: pupils enjoyed a foot race in the running track used during the ancient Olympics (with olive oil amphorae prizes), they re-enacted

scenes from Greek tragedy at the theatre in Epidaurus, and they hiked to the top of the Acrocorinth, a huge hill overlooking the gulf of Corinth, to take in spectacular views. The trip was a fantastic way to end the year, and we were very excited to have managed to get abroad again!

Dr Thom Russell – Head of Classics



Head of Sixth Form, Mark Evetts, said:

"I shall remember the Class of 2022 for their willingness to contribute in every aspect of the life of the School, for their unstinting support for each other but, above all else, for their ambition to achieve their best in all that they undertook. Each and every one of them has risen to the challenge on so many occasions and in such a wide variety of areas that I cannot help but look at the Leavers' photograph and smile with great pride."

WELCOME



It has been another busy year at RGS Dodderhill and our pupils continue to work hard, challenge themselves and embrace new opportunities.

A highlight of the year has been the reintroduction of residential trips after the pandemic. Key Stage Three pupils were the first to depart to Devon for a three day outdoor activity adventure, shortly followed by Year Five and Six pupils who travelled to Mill on the Brue in Somerset. It is experiences like these that the pupils will remember forever.

Our Public Examination results were very impressive. We were delighted that this cohort of pupils did so well after such a disrupted couple of years. All have secured their Sixth Form places and we wish them every success as they take the next step in their educational journey. This year we introduce three new GCSE options, Food & Nutrition, Business Studies and Drama. For a small school we offer an extensive range of subjects.

Our wonderful team of teachers work so closely with our brilliant pupils. This is a happy school with a real community feel and a very special atmosphere. Why don't you come and see for yourself?

Sarah Atkinson - Headmistress RGS Dodderhill

SMALL BUT MIGHTY

"Given the 'small is beautiful' ethos that parents had raved about, we were surprised by the scale – seven acres with well-maintained facilities all packed into a neat campus with the jewel in the crown the main Georgian house."

THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE



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LITTLE PRINCESS TRUST

So thoughtful and caring, Izzy started growing her hair over two years ago and she has finally been able to donate 12 inches of hair to help another child restore their confidence and identity. Alongside this, Izzy has managed to raise £500 for the Little Princess Trust, because she wanted all the children who had been poorly to be happy. The School and pupils are so immensely proud of her kind act.





YEAR ELEVEN PUPILS CELEBRATE GREAT GCSE RESULTS

Pupils came into school over the summer holidays, full of excitement to pick up their GCSE results and their nervous energy soon turned to celebrations as all our pupils secured their Sixth Form place of choice.

Headmistress, Sarah Atkinson, commented, "We are delighted to celebrate these excellent results with our pupils. It has been a pleasure to witness their determination, and resilience throughout these most challenging 'Covid' years. They have developed independent learning skills that will stand them in good stead as they embark on their Sixth Form studies. I would also like to thank their teachers who have invested so much into each pupil's journey, The rapport that exists between pupils and teachers at RGS Dodderhill is really very special and it was lovely to see everyone celebrating together today."

Particular highlights include Annetta Makar who achieved ten GCSEs all at Grade 9. Annetta will move to RGS Worcester Sixth Form to pursue her A Level studies in Maths and Sciences. In addition to her all-round academic ability, Annetta is a fantastic musician and she will continue to contribute fully to this department at RGS Worcester.

Poppy Wood takes up a Music Scholarship at RGS Worcester after securing ten GCSEs with two Grade 9s in Music and Geography. Overall, Music is a real strength at RGS Dodderhill and it was once again one of our most successful departments with 75% of pupils achieving Grade 9.

Head Girl, Amelia Titterton achieved ten strong GCSEs, including a Grade 9 in PE. She will join Hartpury College to start her A Level studies in September whilst pursuing her love of Triathlon.

Deputy Head Girls Florence Stewart and Phoebe Askew must also be celebrated. Florence achieved ten GCSEs, all within the 7 to 9 grade boundary. Phoebe Askew achieved ten GCSEs, including Grade 9s in Biology, Physics, Geography and History. Phoebe takes up her place at RGS Worcester Sixth Form next year. These girls have been real role models to the younger pupils and they have bright futures ahead of them.



Another strength at RGS Dodderhill is Art. Four of our talented artists secured Grade 9s in Fine Art last year, whilst still in Year Ten. All went on to study Graphic Communication GCSE this year. Natasha Schoch, and Isabel Duggan both achieved Grade 9 in this subject.



Whilst singling out a few highlights above, we want to congratulate every pupil who has received their GCSE results. We wish them every success for the future!



'THE WIZARD OF OZ'

Under the careful guidance of Mr Walmsley and with the incredible music expertise of Mrs Vinson, a cast of pupils from Year Four to Year Eleven presented an outstanding production of 'The Wizard of Oz'. Through clever lighting and striking scenery, the audience were transported to the imaginary land of Oz where they met a scatter-brained scarecrow, a heartless tin man and a cowardly lion.

The costumes were deliberately edgy, the music inspired and the joy on pupils faces as they took to the stage was clearly evident. The hall was packed with parents, friends and family and it was a wonderful way to celebrate what RGS Dodderhill does best. We may be small, but we are certainly mighty!



CODING WORKSHOP OUTREACH

The Computing & IT Department at RGS Dodderhill hosted a Coding Workshop as an Outreach event and our Year Five girls really enjoyed working with Year Three pupils from St Peter's CofE Primary School. The session involved all pupils learning to code a sequence of instructions, with the girls offering their expertise while debugging in teams.

We were very proud of the event and were honoured to be able to introduce Sphero Indy and Sphero Bolt coding tasks. The pupils even completed their 'driving test', where everyone honed their coding skills and, importantly, had some brilliant fun too!



FRENCH PHONICS FESTIVAL

In May this year, Prep School pupils immersed themselves in the French language, culture and even cuisine at the French Phonics Festival. RGS Dodderhill collaborated with pupils and staff from RGS Springfield and RGS The Grange in an event which included singing, dance, art and a phonics treasure hunt, followed by a traditional French breakfast, described as magnifique!



STARS TRIALS!

Congratulations to Georgia in Year Ten for being talent spotted at the County Netball Tournament, who is now going forward for Severn Stars Under 15 School Games Trials. The Severn Stars Netball Franchise has a clear vision to develop talented netball players, like Georgia, with an emphasis on nurturing and creating a professional inclusive environment. It's important to us as a School, that we support these wonderful community opportunities for our pupils.



SAILING SKILLS

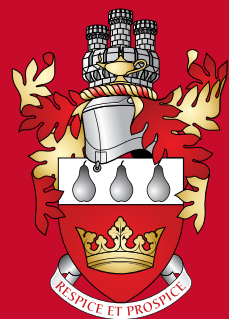
Despite a complete lack of wind, the new Key Stage Three Sailing Group took to the water with enthusiasm at Aztec Upton Warren and learnt how to rig the Bahias. This wonderful opportunity is available to our pupils over the summer, helping them to develop skills outside the classroom.



EQUESTRIAN SUCCESS

This was a fabulous season for Aria-Rai, Year Ten, and her horse. Both have been working hard in training and enjoyed a successful season eventing and ultimately qualifying for The Cotswold Cup in September. Aria's dedication and exemplary attitude is what we celebrate at RGS Dodderhill and is clearly paying off.





RGS

THE GRANGE

WELCOME



In my opinion, a prep school education should be based around positive pupil outcomes through rigorous personalised learning, a range of exciting co-curricular opportunities, all built within a framework where compassion and kindness are at the heart of what we do. I believe that, in doing so, children's time at RGS The Grange will be full of memories...and happy ones at that.

When I address the parents and children at our annual end of year 'Speech Day', the challenge is always in trying to condense my words sufficiently without diluting the rich and varied opportunities our children have experienced across the academic year. We work closely with the parents to achieve this experience and the relationship between home and school is nurtured, which in turn allows us to focus on the emotional as well as on the physical health of our children.

This edition of EXCEL can only provide a snapshot of what has taken place in recent months but it provides a flavour of what we affectionally call 'The Grange Way'. Visiting the school is the best way to understand what sets RGS The Grange apart. We promise all our visitors a warm welcome!

Gareth Hughes - Headmaster RGS The Grange

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The Grange



"Pupils don't take the 50-acre site for granted - how could they with a '16-acre field' to tear about on and an extensive Forest School complete with wild garden, mud kitchen and outdoor classroom?"

IAPS NATIONAL SUBJECT ADVISER FOR COMPUTING

The Head of Computing and Digital Learning has been appointed as the IAPS National Subject Adviser for Computing, Curriculum Design and Digital Innovation. Matt Warne, who has been teaching at RGS The Grange for seven years, will take on this new advisory role from September 2022.

The Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) is an association with over 660 leading prep schools from around the world. Member schools must reach a very high standard, meeting rigorous criteria on teaching a broad curriculum, maintaining excellent standards of pastoral care and keeping staff members' professional development training up to date. Members of the association are committed to delivering an excellent, well-rounded education to the pupils in their care.



"Being appointed as the IAPS National Computing advisor for Computing has capped off another fantastic year at RGS. I applied for the role with my primary goal of supporting the Computing community across the UK to ensure that a high-quality Computing curriculum is a statutory offering having seen the difference it makes to the pupils at RGS The Grange".

Matt Warne

GREAT OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS

GRANDPARENTS' MORNING

We were delighted to be able to invite over two hundred and thirty grandparents to school, for a morning with their grandchildren. Mr Hughes set the scene, before the grandparents experienced time in the classrooms, a tour of the school and even the odd PE lesson!

We were very proud to be able to share our wonderful environment here at RGS The Grange with such precious members of our families. Grandparents play such a vital role in caring for our children and supporting families, so it is important that they too can be involved in the school community.



WIND BAND CONCERT WITH RGS WORCESTER

A musical treat for pupils, staff and families, this was a fabulous collaboration between RGS Worcester and RGS The Grange, which saw an uplifting afternoon including performances by Junior and Senior Choirs, Wind Band and String Quartet. The production offers pupils and parents a real opportunity to see what can be achieved by learning an instrument and the breadth of musical groups to choose from.



PEBBLES OF KINDNESS

Kindness Captains and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors came together to design and paint pebbles with kind messages and happy images. Once dry, the pebbles were placed around the school so that the message of kindness and happiness can be enjoyed by the children on their travels. It's a lovely idea led by our pupils, to lift everyone's spirits when spotted.

CHELTENHAM SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Children from Years Three to Six were invited to attend the Cheltenham Science Festival, based on their fantastic work hosting The Grange Science Fair, that took place earlier this year.

The day began with code breaking activities, VR headsets and a flight simulator. From there it was on to cyber-crime investigations, where pupils were tasked with hunting down computer hackers.

The main event of the day was the 'Kitchen Chemistry' show. This was a fantastic show that left all in the audience, children and adults alike, dumbfounded with some incredible experiments that were done with simple kitchen products.

Moving on to the Discovery Zone, the children were taught how to use an incredible augmented reality application to look at how rivers form and how farmers choose their land for livestock.



FOREST SCHOOL FUN WITH PARENTS

Reception children welcomed their parents to join them for Forest School and they thoroughly enjoyed exploring Jubilee Wood together. Eagerly sharing ideas and being creative as they built dens, hunted for dinosaurs, developed an exotic menu in the mud kitchen, made natural pieces of art and helped each other to go higher on the tyre swing.



REPLIES AND JOB OFFERS FOR YEAR SIX

In the last edition of Excel, we shared our experience of applying to dream jobs and we are delighted to report, some Year Six children have been in grateful receipt of replies! A job offer at Legoland, compliments from Audi and thanks from The Royal School of Ballet on the quality of letter they received. We look forward to receiving more replies... maybe even a response to being the next Prime Minister?!



'OLIVIA'

The Year Six production of 'Olivia' was an absolute delight, a musical that managed to bring out all the enviable talents within the year group, whether it was on stage or in the wings. They truly brought the play to life.

Not only did it touch on every emotion possible, but it demonstrated the breadth of talent we nurture in our school. We can only do so through dedication, a high level of knowledge and teamwork in abundance. We are so proud of every member of staff who helped, and to every child who performed.

"What an amazing show!"

"Huge plaudits to everyone involved in 'Olivia'. It is simply magnificent!"

"There were so many superb performances and wonderful acting, singing and dancing. It really was great fun and superbly delivered with confidence and teamwork."



YEAR SIX EDALE RESIDENTIAL



Year Six visited YHA Edale in the Peak District for four days of fun and engaging activities, whilst developing a variety of skills.

It was a great way of learning how to co-operate and push ourselves out of our comfort zone.

Our first activity was problem solving, by the end of this activity we had already started working well as a team. Although we started in a slightly argumentative state, we worked around it and started co-operating. Dormitory time was an activity in itself, we could learn to be very independent and how to make decisions as a collective.

The next day, we were welcomed into the very tiring task of orienteering. Working together in this was surprisingly fun, although we may have burnt more calories than we had in us, our group especially, enjoyed it. After lunch we carried on to our second activity, canoeing. There was a lot of discussion and team-work involved in this activity.

The last of the day was my favourite, and despite the fact I had never abseiled before I pushed myself and had great memories from this task.

Eva Jones

CRICKET

UNDER 11 GIRLS AND BOYS IAPS CRICKET FESTIVALS

Under 11 boys and girls cricket teams took part in the IAPS cricket festivals at Repton Prep and Millfield respectively. In both cases the children were outstanding ambassadors for RGS The Grange both in their standard of play and their general behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the days.

Congratulations to all those who took part for their individual efforts and to a growing group of children for their efforts in their Worcestershire and Warwickshire County Cricket matches.

SIX-A-SIDE CRICKET TOURNAMENT

The Under 11 and Under 10s represented RGS The Grange, in a Six-a-side Cricket Tournament at RGS Worcester. It was a wonderful opportunity for all those involved, playing in a slightly different variety of cricket where batsmen can take a few more risks, with only six fielders on the pitch. Both teams played really well in all their games with the slightly awkward Under 10 v Under 11 game going down to the last ball. In fact there were several games for both teams going down to the wire, making for an exciting day of cricket for players, staff and parents. Activities hosted at RGS Worcester, such as this, help the pupils to feel confident with their progression from RGS The Grange to the Senior School.



YEAR FIVE SAILING SUCCESS

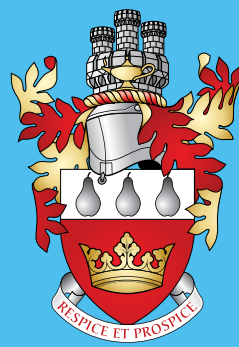
Congratulations to our Sailing Club who completed their sailing course at Upton Warren after eight weeks of sailing. Having learnt the difference between a gybe and a tack, they put this into action on the water and can be proud of their achievement, having all received the RYA Level 1.



THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Often referred to as the Friendly Games and hosted in the West Midlands, this was the perfect opportunity for Year Four to share with the whole school and parents, a history of the Commonwealth and the Games. We were delighted to be joined by special guest, Rebecca Redfern, British visually impaired para-swimmer from Droitwich. Rebecca held British, European and World records in SB13 100m breaststroke and brought in her 2020 Olympic Silver medal, which was a very inspirational moment for the pupils.





RGS SPRINGFIELD

WELCOME

At RGS Springfield we are passionate about offering the widest possible experience to our pupils. We are always delighted to hear of their success and the people they become as they graduate through RGS, knowing the foundations for success lie at the younger ages.



Every child needs good exam results to help open doors and give them academic foundations, but in addition, the four Cs are a blueprint to which we all aspire to for our pupils.

Confidence: Each child needs to be encouraged to have a go and not be afraid to make mistakes; a powerful tool in the learning process. Every child needs to feel valued and have individual attention to support and help overcome challenges. Confident children have a sparkle, and are ready and able to reach their potential.

Curiosity: Children should have a chance to develop curiosity in their academic curriculum and free time. "I wonder why" is central to problem solving and independent learning and both are characteristics of successful learners and innovators. A curriculum which embeds a sense of wonder will inspire learning through curiosity.

Consideration: "What happens if?" leads to the understanding of consequences. Consideration of other people's viewpoints leads to development of empathy and good team work, essential for well-rounded children. Consideration is also central to good manners.

Challenge: This helps children learn what their capabilities are, so they can exceed their own expectations. Challenge is about trips, co-curricular activities, developing thinking skills and exploring new ideas. It is extraordinary how often "I can't do it" becomes "I've done it."

If the three Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic) are the foundations, the four Cs are the bricks and mortar. They can make the blueprint a reality and so much a part of what we do here at RGS Springfield.

Laura Brown - Headmistress RGS Springfield

THE SECRET IN THE SQUARE



Most preps claim to be homely but it's the first time we've heard a pupil say: "I would live here if I didn't have my own house."

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GUIDE



MUDDY STILETTOS AWARDS 2022

This year RGS Springfield was nominated for **Most Innovative Technology-Led Teaching** in the Muddy Stiletto Awards 2022. Judges for the School focused awards rank amongst the most highly-respected, senior educators in the UK and were chosen based on their passions and professional experience across award categories. It was a fantastic achievement to be short-listed and receive **Highly Commended**, it demonstrates one of the true strengths of RGS Springfield.



PREMIERE PERFORMANCES



GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

Early Years children dazzled their teachers and parents with a wonderful production of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The Dragonflies performed their lines really confidently and all of the children sang their hearts out. There were a few comedy moments which made the show. It was joyous to see the children having such a great time. A special thank you to some of the supporting Year Six pupils, who sang along so enthusiastically.



THERE'S A SUNFLOWER IN MY SUPPER!

Children from Key Stage One had a fabulous time during their summer production of 'There's a Sunflower in my Supper'. The children told the story of how Daisy the Cow dreamed of a field full of plants and flowers and not just grass that she and her fellow cows could enjoy. As she embarked on her journey to buy grass seeds from the trade sellers, Daisy discovered a mysterious seed and with a little help from the Wise Owl her seed grew into a beautiful sunflower for all to enjoy.



TELL ME WHY I 'DO' LIKE MONDAYS!

Monday afternoons see a group of Year Four, Five and Six children heading off to the University Lakeside Campus at Holt Heath for stand-up paddle boarding.

Sizing up wet suits, paddles and boards, the group take to the lakes with instructors, mastering steering, balancing and falling in with style!

This is a wonderful activity, gaining skills, strength and managing to play games around the smaller lake, avoiding the swans.



RUGBY SUCCESS

A number of our pupils represented Worcester Rugby Football Club at Under 7 and Under 10 level during a two-night tour to South Yorkshire, staying at Dearne Valley and playing at Dinnington RFC annual festival.

Both age groups faced very tough opposition. In the Under 10s, seven games were played and seven games were won, with the Under 7s also undefeated! There were so many comments complimenting our players in the manner in which they presented themselves and Worcester RFC.

"Dougie, Rhys, Rory, Seb, Max and Will all played superbly. One of my highlights was Rhys putting in a try saving tackle to one of our opposition's biggest players. The children also enjoyed some non-rugby, team building activities which included buggy building, orienteering, crate stacking, zip lining and shelter building."

Mr Knott - Chair of Mini & Junior Rugby at Worcester Rugby Football Club





GREENPOWER RACE EVENT NEWS

The Greenpower race event report written by Archie and Nawfel in Year Six;

Year Six children went to the Greenpower race event in New Mills where we faced some tough challenges. This was the first time we had been given the chance to race our kit car. When we arrived at New Mills we assembled the car and then walked the race courses with Mr Griffin to get an idea of the races and what would be the best way to take them on.

Before we were ready to race we had a parade and looked at all the car designs and different structures. After doing this we did a few drag races and some slalom races. Unfortunately in one of the slalom races our drive belt was faulty and sadly ripped, but whilst we had lunch, Mrs Brown and Mr Griffin found time to replace the belt and get our car up and running again.

Finally we had a sprint race and our driver was Archie. He did very well with the first 2 laps but on the final lap he got rammed into the cones by another car called The Lego Monster. This car was disqualified for reckless behaviour, as the awards were announced for first, second and third place.

SPORTING FUN

Keen RGS Springfield tennis players were invited by the Lawn Tennis Association to take part in a Team Challenge at Edgbaston Priory Club as part of the Rosethay Birmingham Classic Tournament. The children participated in lots of fun tennis activities. They were then able to watch the Women's Tennis Association ladies play on the Centre Court on the Tournaments special 40th year. Inspirational days like this are so important to our pupils, not just in terms of sporting development, but character building too.



RIDING CLUB

RGS Springfield Riding Club is open to pupils from our Reception class to Year Six and runs each Friday at Hayswood Equestrian Centre. This club is always popular, with a minibus full of excited children who ride each Friday afternoon accompanied by Mrs Brown and Mrs Williams.

"The hardest part of the afternoon is getting the children and all of their riding kit out of school and onto the minibus. It is like a military operation, especially as our youngest members of the club are only just five! The sessions consist of thirty minutes riding and thirty minutes of learning about ponies and how to look after them. We hope that as the children build their stamina and skills they will be able to ride for the whole hour! We all go home, happy and smelling somewhat of horse."

Mrs Brown - Headmistress, RGS Springfield

CELEBRATING RGS ALUMNI

COMMONWEALTH GAMES CALLING FOR JENNY

A huge well done to Jenny Nesbitt (2003-14) who was selected to represent Wales at the Commonwealth Games 2022. The Games took place on home turf in Birmingham and we were delighted to see Jenny take to the track. This was not Jenny's first Commonwealth Games experience either, as she competed at the event four years prior in Australia.

Recent running successes for Jenny include second place in the British Athletics Cross Challenges in both Cardiff and Milton Keynes and tenth place in Dublin. In the 3000m indoors competition in Cardiff, Jenny knocked 20 seconds off her personal best, moving her to ninth place on the British all time list. In January this year there quickly followed more success in Sheffield, where Jenny moved to number four on the UK all-time ranking for the 5000m.

On making the Commonwealth Games, Jenny told us, "I am over the moon to have been selected for my second Commonwealth Games. Ever since 2018 it has been a goal of mine to make the Welsh team for this year. It is an opportunity of a lifetime to experience a home games at a major championship!"

"I owe a lot to RGS. I was not the easiest pupil to deal with, having many health issues growing up, but I never once felt like I wasn't adequate enough to go after my goals. Cia (Duckworth) Swingle and Angie (Freeman) Newport played massive roles in helping me achieve both academically and in sport. The opportunities provided by RGS exposed me to the possibility of taking track and field to the professional level and I'm delighted that eight years later I am still dreaming and achieving things I once thought were not possible!"

Congratulations to Jenny!



photo Johnny Zang



Jenny inspiring our athletes in 2018



THE WAREING FAMILY

The Wareing family recently marked an incredible uninterrupted 35 years of their children attending the RGS Worcester Family of Schools. It is a tremendous achievement that began with Emma joining RGS Springfield in 1986 and ended with George departing RGS Worcester in 2021. Sandwiched between, were Mark, James, Ruth, and Tessa.

Parents, Mike and Isabella Wareing, explained how right the RGS Family of Schools was for six very different individuals and their belief is that the children "left prepared for life beyond School". That, above all else, is what made the School the right choice for the family time and time again. From Law to being a Trauma and Respiratory Physiotherapist, the siblings are enjoying a variety of professions and fulfilling lives and remain engaged with RGS through the alumni community.

In tribute to their 35 years, Mike and Isabella have presented the School with a lasting gift at RGS; The Wareing Cup. Each year, a Sixth Former who has shown triumph over adversity will be the recipient of this prize.

SCHOOLS FOR A FAMILY

Three brothers who studied at RGS Worcester celebrated their graduations together at Cardiff University.



Lewis Hammond, 24, got a 1st in Business Economics, with a year in industry, finishing his course in 2020. His brother Matthew, 23, started a year later and gained a 2:1 in Business Management, meaning they both completed their degrees in the same year. Youngest brother Tom, 21, has now gained a 2:1 degree in Business Management, finishing this year.

The in-person graduation ceremonies were held at the Principality Stadium, Cardiff – for those who graduated in the past three years, meaning that the boys did get to graduate together in a rare occurrence, all with degrees from Cardiff Business School.

Mother Sue said:

"It's quite something, graduating at the same time, having been to the same business school. It's weird to think that thanks to Covid, we get this unique experience."

"They do have competitive natures and have egged each other on during their studies. They've been the same all through school. We are super proud of them."

"Lewis is now working at accountancy firm KPMG in London, with Matthew working in management for Amazon. Now that he's finished, Tom plans to go travelling."

ALUMNAE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT



In September, we hosted the annual RGS Worcester alumnae hockey match, played at the Worcester International Hockey Centre. Ten alumnae played against current students, forming part of pre-season training for the Senior Team. The alumnae were thrilled to be playing together again, especially with the final score of 6-0 to the alumnae. This was a real opportunity to inspire our seniors, showing what can be achieved with the foundations of RGS Hockey education.

The players were: Kathryn Shaw, Grace Francis, Isabella Nott, Sophie Thompson, Lottie Atkinson, Catherine Czyrko, Lucy Newton, Lucy Ball and Sadie Hingley. Included in those were four current and former England players on the pitch including Alice Atkinson in the Upper Sixth. Representing the alumnae, her sister, Lottie, Sophie Thompson and Izzy Nott, all who played for England teams at different stages.

"This fixture is a real highlight of the season to demonstrate the real 'why' behind what we do. The departing Upper Sixth students were my first Reception class at RGS Springfield and having also coached many of them through prep at RGS The Grange, it has been a real privilege to watch their journey in becoming talented players, as well as kind and inspiring young adults. I hope our alumnae cherish their RGS Hockey experience and it has fulfilled them with the skills and tools for their future endeavours both on and off the pitch."

RGS Head Leanne Bennett – Head of Hockey



RGS

NURSERIES



Laughter, friendship, exploration, discovery and wellies!
This, and more, is what your child will experience at
RGS Nurseries.

Our three RGS Nurseries are located within our independent schools, which allows our nursery children to enjoy the benefits of utilising the fantastic on-site facilities and resources. Our schools are set in open, green and secure spaces allowing for the children to play safely outside in the most beautiful surroundings.



SCAN ME

Our three Nurseries are available to children from the age of two years and continue until school age.

RGS Springfield Nursery
Britannia Square,
Worcester, Worcestershire
WR1 3DL
01905 24999

RGS The Grange Nursery
Grange Lane, Claines,
Worcester, Worcestershire
WR3 7RR
01905 451205

RGS Dodderhill Nursery
Dodderhill Road,
Droitwich Spa,
Worcestershire WR9 0BE
01905 778290