

# Summer 2023



RGS WORCESTER

Page 4

RGS DODDERHILL

RGS THE GRANGE

RGS SPRINGFIELD

#### CONTENTS

**RGS Worcester Family RGS Worcester RGS Dodderhill RGS The Grange RGS Sprinafield** The Foundation

Page 3 Page 8

Page 26

Page 32 Page 38 Page 44



#### **EXECUTIVE HEAD'S INTRODUCTION**



We have had an exceptional time at The RGS Family of Schools in the last few months with national and local success in so many areas of School life. In the classroom, the pupils have been making the most of the extraordinary breadth of curriculum and subject choices available to them. They have won Academic awards in national competitions, Challenges and Olympiads. Outside the classroom, we have seen a golden period of success with our pupils throwing themselves into their Co-curricular programme with such enthusiasm and determination, and seeing incredible achievements.

On the Sports pitches, courts and on the river, our pupils have excelled with several pupils representing their country in a number of different Sports. We have over 20 Sports with pupils participating at all different levels and enjoying taking part. In our highly prestigious senior matches against our local rival played at Sixways Stadium and the University of Worcester Arena in Rugby, Football and Netball, RGS teams have triumphed and now hold all of the trophies.

In the Performing Arts, there have been exceptional performances from the extraordinary combined four RGS Schools' concert in Worcester Cathedral with over 250 pupils performing together, to a pupil-led concert for a charity supporting children in Ukraine, and pupils at RGS The Grange performing alongside the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. The musicals 'Matilda' and 'Zorro the Musical' at the two Senior Schools have been performed to sell-out audiences, while 'Hamlet' and 'Addams Family' have demonstrated the breadth of Drama at RGS for all ages. Debating has once again been worldclass, reaching international finals.

This Excel magazine captures many of these achievements and I hope also demonstrates the fun and excitement of learning at RGS. Outdoors classrooms, expeditions and trips all encourage children to explore and ask questions, learning new skills, resilience and determination along the way. The teachers have real expertise in their subjects and age groups inspiring our pupils to aim high, while supporting them in all that they do.

Our Schools also play a very significant part in our community, raising funds for charities and working alongside other schools and institutions in our Outreach & Partnerships work. We have links with a school in Ghana which we assist with their technology and link up our pupils. In doing so, we are encouraging a world-view and developing awareness of others and our part in supporting those around us.

I hope you enjoy browsing through the magazine and my thanks to the Marketing team, especially Louise Hardiman, Ilaria-Mia Salisbury and Su Savage for their work to assemble Excel. We have record numbers of pupils joining The RGS Worcester Family of Schools and we now educate over 1,650 children in our four Schools. Please do come and see us in action so that our pupils can show you their Schools and all that they are achieving and enjoy.

With best wishes,

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



**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

With thanks to the editorial team:

Louise Hardiman (Editor) Ilaria-Mia Salisbury and Susan Savage (Designers)



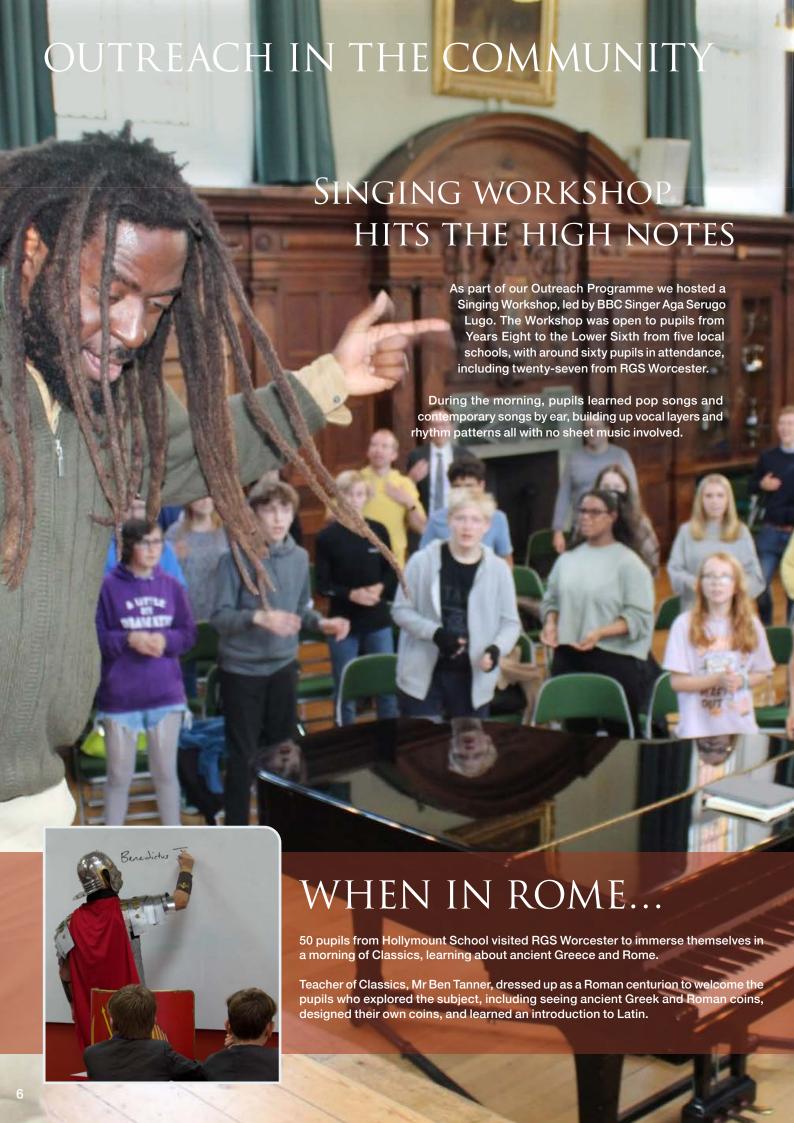
Printed on paper from sustainable sources and recyclable.











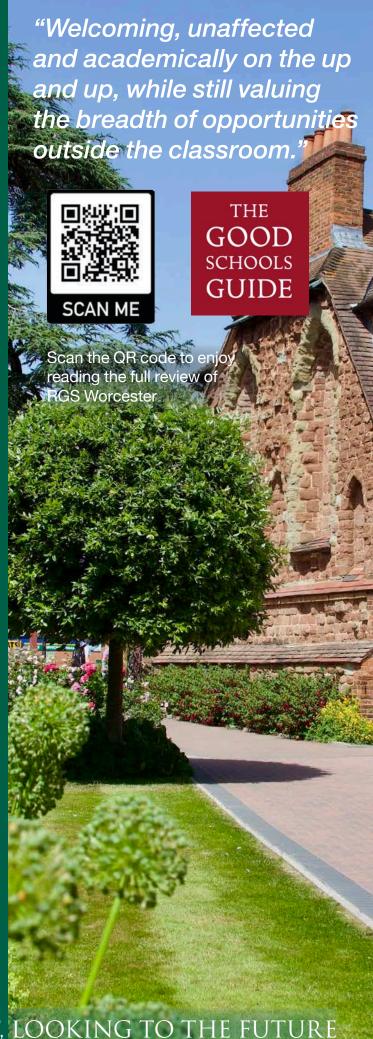








**Headline from the Mail Online** 







RGS Worcester's Debating and Public Speaking team had a busy and successful term, with students participating in several competitions. Katherine McCabe, Samuel Taylor, and Helena Stockford Parsons participated in the ESU Mace Regional Final. Henry Lee and Ridhima Canchi progressed to the Regional Final of the ESU Performing Shakespeare competition, and Katherine McCabe and Annabelle Howarth represented RGS Worcester at Oxford Finals Day, where they debated against teams from all over the world, finishing second in Round 4.

Tobey Butler, Rayyan Styles, Oscar Haynes, and William Hulbert participated in the Finals Day of the Cambridge Union Schools Debating Competition, impressing across four rounds of debating, beating international teams from Shanghai and Zimbabwe. Oscar Haynes and Will Hulbert remained undefeated throughout the competition, and Tobey and Rayyan finished first and second in two of their Debates. RGS Worcester is proud of its Debaters and public speakers and congratulates them on their successful performances.

Head of Debating, Mr Bennet Ager





#### NETBALI



#### The 1st VII Netball Team Crowned County Champions

The RGS 1st team Netball players were crowned County Champions of the National Schools Competition, beating Bromsgrove School along the way.

The team progressed to the Regional Finals in January, one of the biggest and most hotly contested Netball competitions in England. This is a fantastic achievement for the team, and the entire RGS community is incredibly proud of their hard work and performance.





#### **England Hockey National Cup Semi-Final Winners**

Last September, the 1st XI Girls Hockey team made a positive start to the England Hockey National Cup Competition beating both Bromsgrove School and Cheltenham College with some outstanding Hockey on display. These results secured a third-round spot in the England Hockey National Cup Competition for RGS Worcester for the first time.

RGS Worcester were crowned winners of the West Division, earning a place in the National Cup Semi-Final against winners of the South Division, Sevenoaks School.



#### Netball Talent Shines with 'Severn Stars' Selection

Congratulations to both Izzy Thompson and Ella Goddard who have been selected to play for the Netball Superleague 'Severn Stars' based at the University of Worcester for the 2022-23 season.





#### Twenty-Five Pupils Selected to Represent at County Level

We are delighted to announce that over 25 RGS Worcester pupils have been selected to play Hockey in County, Regional and National Hockey Squads this season (image above and below).



## CRICKET TOUR TO INDIA



The RGS Senior Cricket teams embarked on a pre-season tour of India in February. The tour began in Delhi with a training session and watching a test match between India and Australia. Both teams played a T20 match and a 40-over fixture.

The squad then travelled to Agra, where they visited the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort before heading south to Ranthambore National Park for a jeep safari. The tour ended in Jaipur, where both teams played two competitive fixtures, visited Amber Fort, and enjoyed an elephant ride.

The tour was a fantastic experience for the cricketers and provided lifelong memories. The 1st XI won two out of four challenging fixtures, while the 2nd XI played four competitive fixtures. The tour enabled RGS Cricketers to develop their skills and teamwork for the season ahead.



## TRAINING IN STYLE



#### SCULLINGSUCCESS

There were England callups for two Year Eleven pupils: Olivia Hodgson and Lucy Whiteley, who were selected to attend the Great British Rowing Team J16 Crew Sculling Camp. Whilst Menna Sutton (upper Sixth) was selected to attend a wales under 18 Rowing Camp.

During October Halfterm over thirty pupils embarked on a Rowing pre-season training session in Figueira da Foz, Portugal to kickstart the season's Rowing.

With the RGS quad and double Rowing boats transported to Portugal, the pupils were keen to get on the Montemor-o-Velho Rowing lake, the site of the 2010 European Rowing Championships.

During the five days of training sessions, the pupils had the opportunity to hone their Rowing skills and improve their technique. The pre-season training provided a great opportunity for the pupils to practise and embed their skills before the start of the winter Rowing season.



## SKIING IN SESTRIERE





## TACKLING HER WAY INTO ENGLAND RUGBY

Lower Sixth student, Haineala Lutui, has been selected to join the England Under 18 Women's Rugby Squad for upcoming internationals, including matches against Wales and the Women's Under 18 Six Nations. Haineala has been training with England since August 2022 and was named in the final squad following a training camp.

Head of Rugby, Mr Robert Lewis, praised Haineala's achievement and highlighted the growth of Women's Rugby, with schools including RGS Worcester now offering the sport. Congratulations to Haineala on her England call-up, and we wish her every success in her blossoming Rugby career.



#### DUO SELECTED FOR ENGLAND FOOTBALL SQUAD

Two talented Footballers have been training with the England Under 15 squad at St George's Park. Maxwell Moses and Theo Houston both attended the England Men's Under 15 Football training camps at St George's Park, the home of all 23 England National Football teams.

Director of Sport Mr Keith Fowles said, "We are delighted to have two of our outstanding young footballers chosen for England training camps. Both are supremely talented and dedicated young athletes who are starting their professional pathways in Football. They demonstrate that all pupils at RGS can achieve success in Sport with superb coaching and a dedicated approach. RGS Worcester wish them both every success on their Football journey".



Upper Sixth student Alice Atkinson has achieved the astonishing feat of being selected for the Under 23 England Hockey squad at the age of eighteen.

Alice represents RGS Worcester in the Hockey 1st team and Netball 1st team; she is also a member of the RGS Athlete Development Programme (ADP) and is currently on the 'Elite' Pathway.

Alice, who plans to pursue a professional Hockey career, said: "I was so excited to find out the news that I have been selected. I am a little nervous of course, but I can't wait to continue my training and be part of the England squad".







#### SWIMMING TO SUCCESS AT ESSA NATIONAL FINAL

The RGS Junior Swimming Relay Teams competed in the ESSA National Swimming Finals at the London Aquatic Centre which played host to the 2012 Olympic Swimming events.

The Girls' and Boys' teams qualified for the National Finals in both the Freestyle and Medley Relay events. The Girls' Team built on this success and qualified through the heats to the Medley Final, finishing ninth in the country, a truly outstanding achievement.



## 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 School's Perrins Hall, the Performing Arts Centre and Worcester Cathedral.

#### PIANO PERFECTION

RGS was delighted to welcome the talented, professional pianist, Roman Kosyakov to Perrins Hall, making best use of the School's Grand Piano to share his musical expertise with pupils and inspire all with an evening Piano Concert, playing alongside aspiring young pianists from RGS Worcester.







## AUTUMN CONCERT HITS ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

The Autumn concert was a celebration of music and included performances from the School Orchestra, Wind Band, Intermediate Strings, Junior Choir, Chamber Choir, and Senior Choir. A total of 180 pupils participated in the concert, with pupils from Year Seven to Sixth Form performing.

The concert featured a range of musical styles, from classical pieces like Mozart's 'Ave Verum Corpus' to pop songs such as Taylor Swift's 'Shake It Off'. The concert concluded with a moving rendition of Coldplay's 'Fix You'. The pupils and staff who performed were congratulated for their high-quality music-making.



#### A CALL TO PEACE

The RGS Worcester Family of Schools' annual Choral concert filled the historic Worcester Cathedral with music in the pursuit of peace. The concert, titled 'A Call To Peace', was performed by over 250 musicians from all four of The RGS Schools.

The concert proved to be a memorable evening with music of the highest quality, offering a unique moment of collaboration, celebration, and reflection for the whole RGS Worcester Family of Schools. Songs from the choirs of RGS Springfield, RGS The Grange, and RGS Dodderhill, all calling for or promoting peace in various musical styles and languages were performed. The RGS Worcester Senior Choir, with over 100 members performed the jazz-gospel classic 'I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free'.

The concert demonstrated the highest level of musicianship and commitment from the RGS pupils, making it an unforgettable experience for everyone present.



## 'ZORRO' THE MUSICAL 'WOWS' AUDIENCES

Pupils took to the stage to deliver six performances of 'Zorro the Musical' the exciting singing, dancing, acting, and sword-fighting extravaganza, performed in the School's stunning Performing Arts Centre to sell-out audiences.

The pupils approached the production with infectious energy, joy and skill, immersing the audience in the vivid tale of tyranny and resistance. The band, made up of a talented group of pupils and staff, did a fantastic job of capturing the excitement of 1800s California from the second the audience took their seats.











#### **OLYMPIAD SUCCESS**

Our talented pupils have been participating in various academic competitions and Olympiads.

Our science enthusiasts showed off their skills in Chemistry, Biology, and Physics Olympiads. A total of 22 medals were achieved in the Chemistry Olympiad, with special congratulations to Rayyan Styles for receiving a Gold Award.

In Biology, Samuel Hewitt, Ben Weller, and Rayyan Styles achieved Gold Awards, putting them in the top 5% of all Sixth Form students in the Olympiad across the UK. 12 other students also achieved Awards in Biology.

In Physics, the Upper Sixth students achieved 18 medals, with Dylan Cowling receiving a Gold medal. Not to be outdone, Year Eleven students also participated, achieving a whopping 53 medals, including 4 Golds by Conner Bowers, Samuel Taylor, Toby Alexander, and Jack Hill.

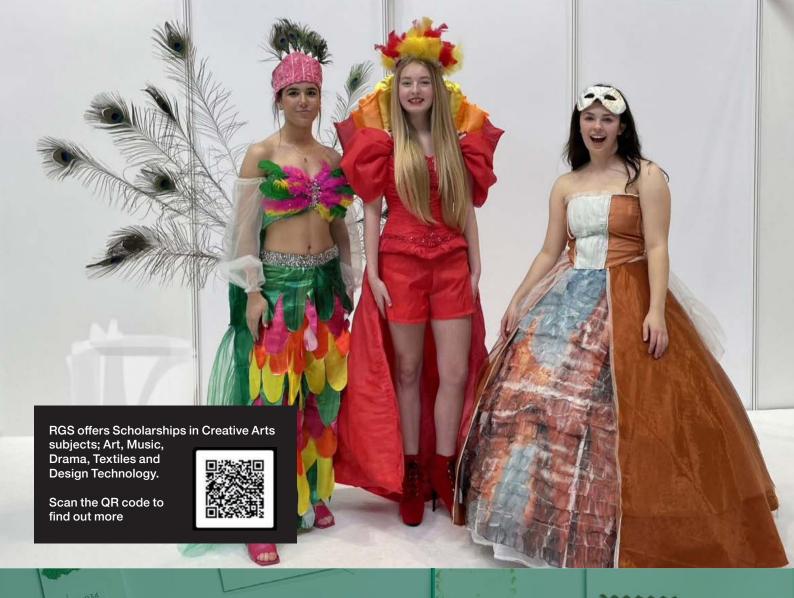
Moving on to Mathematics, 100 pupils from Years Nine to Eleven sat the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge, and we are delighted to announce that 13 students were awarded Gold Certificates, 29 achieved Silver, and 30 gained Bronze. Great job, mathletes!

Last but not least, congratulations to Arianne Eddy (Upper Sixth) for winning the St. John's College Classics & Ancient History Essay Competition out of 160 submissions. We couldn't be prouder of our talented pupils for their hard work, dedication, and impressive achievements.









#### FASHION FINALISTS

RGS pupils achieved a clean sweep of 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions in the National Final of the 'Fashion Icon' Competition. Of the ten finalists, five were RGS Worcester Textile Scholars.

This year's theme 'Thrift-Flip' saw competitors tasked with designing a carnival inspired piece from a pre-loved wedding dress. The five RGS finalists attended the 'Fashion and Embroidery Show' held at the NEC and enjoyed seeing their creations modelled on the catwalk in front of a live audience.

After a nail-biting wait and much deliberation by the three industryexpert judges, the final results were announced with Isabella Price being placed 3rd, Isabelle Lowe awarded 2nd place and Teyah Farmer 1st place in the competition (image above).



### FASHIONING SUCCESS

We welcomed sixteen finalists for the Young Fashion Designer UK Competition. Students from across the country joined us for the morning where they exhibited their work and had the opportunity to talk with industry professionals who judge the competition.

This year's competition saw a special visit from Alumna Erin Howard, who is now studying Fashion Design at the London College of Fashion.

The quality of work on display was exceptional and incredibly inspiring for all attendees. Lower Sixth student Teyah Farmer was invited to exhibit her GCSE piece and was awarded the Category Prize for Fashion Styling. Also awarded was Joyce Li, who won First Prize in the Year Seven and Year Eight Category.



## ELECTRIC PERFORMANCE AT GREENPOWER GOODWOOD INTERNATIONAL FINAL



25

Edward Richardson for two excellent finishes at the recent Greenpower Goodwood International Final".

Head of Design Technology, Mr Gwilym Batchelder



#### WELCOME



RGS Dodderhill pupils have enthusiastically embraced all the opportunities available to them, both in the classroom and through Co-curricular activities. Their creativity, musicality, ideas, and boundless enthusiasm never fail to amaze me.

Our many concerts have been outstanding, with pupils rising to the occasion wonderfully and showcasing the many talents we have here at RGS Dodderhill. This year we have held musical recitals for both Senior and Prep children as well as a Senior Concert – our first Performing Arts event combining Music, Drama and Dance.

A highlight for the whole school was the performance of Matilda the Musical, a singing, dancing musical extravaganza showcasing the School's talented young performers.

RGS Dodderhill Sports teams have also enjoyed success in both Netball and Hockey. All Year Groups have had the opportunity to try something new in PE and Sport clubs.

New clubs have been introduced for Golf, Dance, Horse Riding, Mini United Nations and Photography. The breadth of clubs on offer ensures that there is something for every pupil providing fun and enjoyment both at school and life beyond.

Amelia Cartwight - Acting Head of RGS Dodderhill

"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** Scan the QR code reading the full revi RGS Dodderhill SMALL BUT MIGHTY





During a residential visit to northern France, pupils had the opportunity to hone their language skills, savour local delicacies, and reside in a château! The pupils demonstrated admirable resilience by fully immersing themselves in a new culture, actively listening and speaking in French.



#### MINI UNITED NATIONS

The Mini United Nations (MUN) club provides pupils with a platform to learn about international cooperation, different countries, their policies, debating, the workings of the UN, diplomacy, research and presentation skills.

Pupils participate in both national and international meetings. The pupils have recently completed a presentation that included research on the UN.



#### THEATRE SUCCESS

Huge congratulations to Willow in Year Eight, who was accepted into The Sylvia Young Theatre School in London which she now studies at for two days a week. We are absolutely thrilled for her and also delighted that she will continue her academic studies at RGS Dodderhill.



#### DODDERHILL DANCE

This academic year saw the introduction of the Dodderhill Dance Company. The Dance Company is made up of talented and dedicated dancers from Years Five to Eleven, offering company members the opportunity to further develop their dance technique across a variety of dance styles from Contemporary to Street Dance.





preparing beds and making clay hedgehogs.

The Outdoor Learning area provides the perfect environment to promote childhood: fresh air; exploring; controlled risk-taking (tree climbing encouraged); outdoor learning in the magical Forest School and letting off steam in the adventure playground.

Nina Hobson, Head of Key Stage One and Two commented "I am passionate about developing the Outdoor Learning provision for our pupils at RGS Dodderhill. My recent Forest School Leader training highlighted the incredibly positive impact the natural environment can have on a child's self-esteem, self-confidence, ability to work cooperatively and attitude to learning. The children love the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the expansion of our outdoor provision".

## HORSE RIDING CLUB We have launched a new Horse Riding club. The club offers the perfect opportunity to improve equestrian

skills and forge friendships with fellow enthusiasts who

The beginners have worked to develop their core riding

skills and confidence. The experienced riders are now

confidently riding around the ménage on their ponies.





#### ROCKET LAUNCH

Year Five pupils were inspired by rocket launches after watching one launch from their classroom floor. The pupils took a selfie in space and invited an astronaut about their space suit.

They were focusing on creating non-chronological reports and, in order to provide material for fantastic augmented reality app allowing the pupils to immerse themselves fully in their learning to explore different aspects of space and then take this research to use in their reports. It was a blended learning in action, with the combination of Augmented Reality, iPads with scaffolded writing frames and paper and pencil as well as lots of fun!

share a love of riding.



#### LITTLE CHEFS

Food Technology is taught from Reception to GCSE at RGS Dodderhill. Pupils in Prep enjoyed learning practical skills and gaining their certificate for competency in 'Safe Knife Skills'. To achieve the certification, pupils demonstrated their ability to peel, chop and grate safely, some essential life skills mastered at a young age!

Our catering suite is a wonderful place for our pupils to explore their passion for food and cooking. We believe that learning to cook is an important life skill, and we love to see what our pupils create.

### STEAM WEEK

Prep pupils put their engineering skills to the test during RGS Dodderhill's STEAM week (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths). Working together as a team, they explored a range of activities including Science experiments to create a rainbow and how to pick up an ice cube with only string! Engineering principles were explored through a catapult challenge and music through a drumming workshop.

The action-packed week culminated with a Sphero challenge where pupils learnt to programme a Sphero Robot to move.

#### TEAM BUILDING

To kick start the new year and to welcome new friends the Year Five class visited Boundless Outdoors in Malvern for an exciting day of team building activities.

It was wonderful to see the children working positively with new friends, supporting each other to navigate the low ropes challenges, guide team mates around an obstacle course and take on the challenge of tunnelling. Whoops of delight could be heard echoing through the trees as they completed challenges big and small both individually and as part of a team.





#### WELCOME



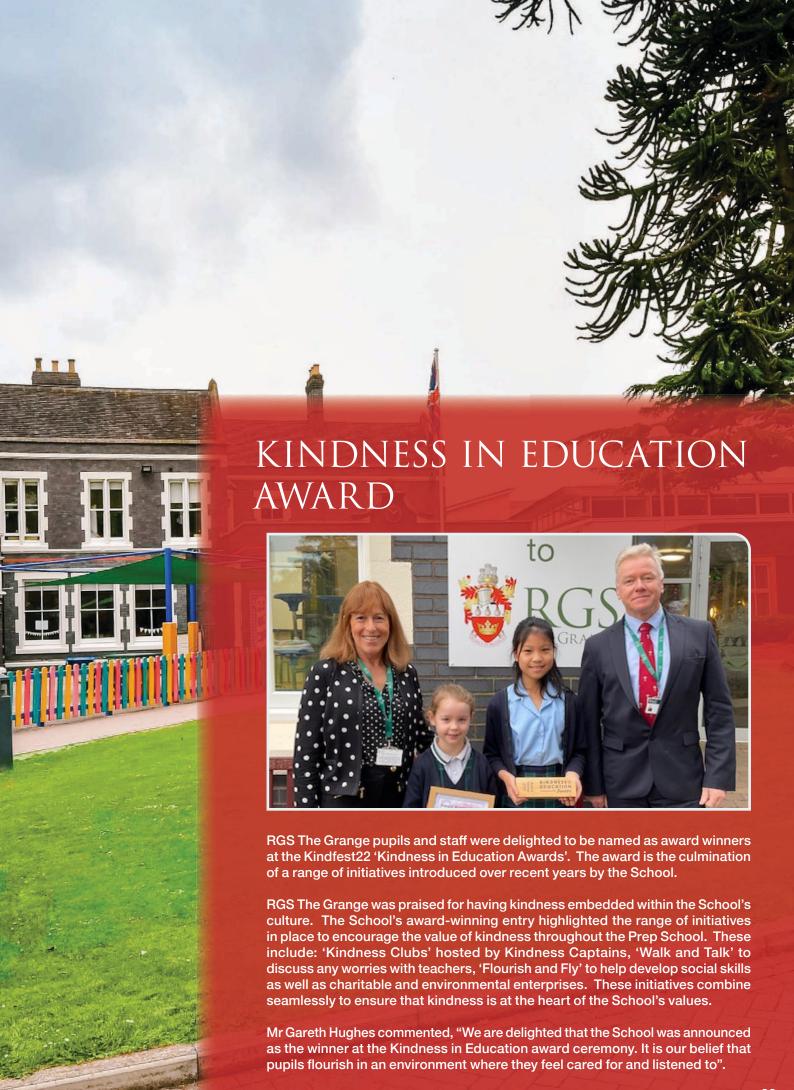
RGS The Grange has had an incredibly eventful year so far. Each week has been filled with thrilling events and opportunities, ranging from educational trips to sports competitions. In the field of Performing Arts, our Chamber Choir dazzled audiences at both the Royal Albert Hall and Birmingham's Symphony Hall. During Performing Arts week, we celebrated all aspects of the Performing Arts through Drama, Dance, and Drumming workshops.

Our Sports programme has been equally impressive, with pupils participating in Netball, Rugby, Football, and Hockey fixtures, and winning first place in the Worcester Primary Schools Swimming Championship.

Our Scholarship success has summed up a super year to date with twenty-one Year Six pupils securing awards to RGS Worcester for September 2023. We prioritise the well-being of our pupils and our 'Kindness in Education' Award reflects this. Our goal is to create an environment where our pupils gain a feeling of belonging to a kind, enthusiastic and aspiring community which will support them in being excited about all the learning opportunities that lie ahead.

**Gareth Hughes - Headmaster of RGS The Grange** 





## ROYAL ALBERT HALL

RGS The Grange pupils were honoured to attend the Royal Albert Hall to collaborate with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to raise funds for Barnardo's.

RGS The Grange Chamber and Senior Choir performed in The Barnardo's Young Supporters' Concert in what was a once in a lifetime musical experience of collaborating with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. When the children took to the stage there was a wonderful atmosphere and energy in the concert hall with everyone singing their hearts out during the amazing evening.



Performing Arts Week at RGS The Grange saw a hive of activity for all the children. The week included Drama, Dance and Drumming workshops as well as a performance of Roald Dahl's 'The Twits' as part of Year Five's 'Play in a Day'.

Year Six started Performing Arts Week by taking part in a Shakespeare Drama Workshop. Local actor and former RGS The Grange pupil, Charlie Day, taught the children about freeze frames and they explored how they could retell the story of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' without speech.

The week provided a wonderful feast of all things Performing Arts and an opportunity for the pupils to discover their own voice and build confidence. Performing Arts is offered to all pupils as part of the Cocurricular offering at RGS The Grange.





## CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESS

Running club has proved to be a popular Cocurricular club with many pupils choosing to take part and becoming confident runners. 24 pupils from Years Five and Six took part in the Worcester Schools Cross-Country Finals held at RGS The Grange. The pupils were extremely competitive in each of the four races, and were named as the highest placed school in Worcester City.

The Cross-Country endeavours continued at the annual Abberley Cross Country meet. Around the 1.7km course the Year Six pupils did the school proud with the boys managing to take first place overall and beating the 25 year old course record by an astonishing eleven seconds. In the National Prep Schools Cross-Country the boys team finished 11th in the country.



#### RUGBY AND Hockey festival



RGS The Grange hosted an exciting Rugby and Hockey festival, which was enjoyed by the Under 8 boys and girls. The event attracted over thirty teams from ten different schools, and every match was played with great enthusiasm and competitiveness. The festival provided a fantastic opportunity for the young players to develop their skills and experience the thrill of competitive Sport.





School's learnt about each other's school routines and then performed a song and dance for each other.

The RGS Family of Schools are donating all older iPads to the Ghanaian school and supporting them with their use of technology.





#### SCHOLARSHIPS SUCCESS

It is the time of year when we officially find out how our Year Six pupils fared in the Scholarship process to RGS Worcester. We were delighted to report that 21 pupils secured 27 awards between them. They have been recognised for their Academic, Maths, Art, Music and Sporting endeavours with Scholarships and Exhibitions awarded.





## WELCOME



Welcome to our small but vibrant section in Excel! As the Headmistress of this wonderful School I am always thrilled to introduce this section which celebrates the creativity and achievements of our pupils and School life in general.

This section is a platform to showcase School life and all that is on offer here. It is also a testament to the supportive and inclusive environment we foster here, where every individual is encouraged to explore their interests and express themselves freely in the classroom, through clubs and in all the trips on offer. We try to pack a bigger punch than belies our size and pupils have much to be proud of as part of our Springfield family.

I hope you enjoy reading this section as much as our pupils have enjoyed the opportunities reflected. Thank you for your continued support of our School and it continues to be our mission to inspire lifelong learning, creativity, curiosity and a good dose of fun along the way.

Laura Brown - Headmistress of RGS Springfield



"Dubbed the 'Secret in the Square', this small co-ed with a big heart offers a caring and nurturing experience with grand senior school facilities on tap"

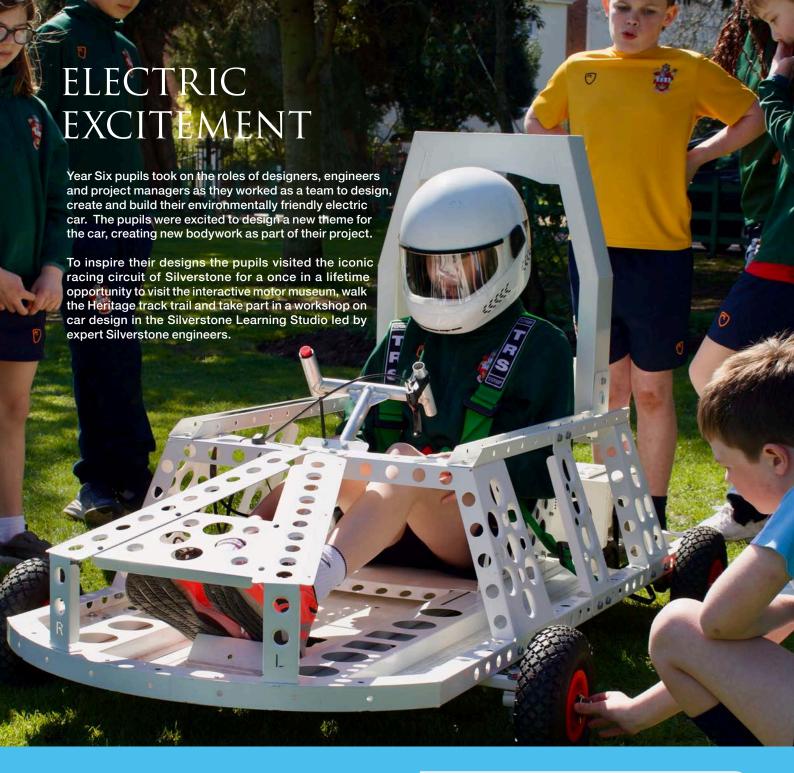
# SPRINGFIELD TAKES OVER WESTMINSTER!



Pupils from RGS Springfield won the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament as part of a competition run by Parent Zone.

Year Three pupils from RGS Springfield entered the national competition as part of the 'Find your balance art and written competition'. The challenge set was to illustrate "What would you like the internet of the future to be like". With hundreds of entries nationwide, RGS Springfield was delighted that three of their pupils were selected as regional competition winners!

The children's work was showcased at the Houses of Parliament. As part of their prize the pupils were invited to view their award-winning work displayed in the prestigious venue and enjoy a celebratory reception at the event. The pupils returned to School enthused by their adventure, eager to share their stories with their fellow pupils. They said "It was an exciting day; we enjoyed meeting lots of people including Robin Walker and Giovanni Fletcher. We felt proud to win the competition and go to the Houses of Parliament".



### BRITISH SIGN Language Club

In British Sign Language club the children have learnt their first words in British Sign Language (BSL). The children have been fascinated by the visual language and have enjoyed learning their first words and phrases. In addition to learning basic phrases, the children have also learnt about the process of choosing their own "sign names." In BSL, it is customary for individuals to have their own unique sign name that represents them.

The children have also focused on learning to sign one of the most important conversational openers - "How are you?" Learning sign language at such a young age is beneficial for communication and encouraging inclusivity.









# CHARITY FUNDRAISING

The RGS Worcester Family of Schools successfully raised £24,921.84 for a variety of charitable causes in 2022. These included MacMillan Cancer Support, Wooden Spoon (the children's charity of Rugby), BBC Children in Need, The Myriad Centre, Acorn's Children's Hospice, New Hope, the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, St Richard's Hospice, Збережи Дитину' Save a Child (a children's charity in Ukraine), Read for Good, Comic Relief (Red Nose Day), and Worcester Snoezelen.

In addition to monetary donations there were also food donations and supermarket vouchers donated to Worcester Foodbank and Maggs Day Centre. In addition, Tongo School in North Ghana received a gift of 20 iPads.

The diverse range of charities supported by RGS Worcester is impressive and reflects the School's commitment to making a positive impact on the wider community.



The RGS Worcester Family of Schools Fundraising Total 2022 £24,921.84





# CELEBRATING RGS ALUMNI

#### CHANGE A LIFE

The whole School community came together to support fundraising for Bursaries to ensure accessibility to an RGS education for children in the future. Pupils wore home clothes with green and it was wonderful to see activities taking place across all four RGS Schools, focusing upon the number 1291 (the date of the first written record of the School). With alumni, former staff, parents and current staff as well as pupils contributing, a superb £107,748 was raised in the first ever Giving Day.

£107,748



#### GIVING DAY DONOR WALL

These are some of the comments shared by donars on our Giving Day

"Having been the beneficiary of a Government Assisted Place during my four years at the School, it is great to be able to help others access such a wonderful education opportunity".

"Having myself been the recipient of a Bursary during my 'A' Level years – I am grateful for the opportunity that RGS Worcester has provided to promote that same spirit of giving".

"We love RGS and the vision to see increased accessibility. Thank you to all the pupils undertaking challenges and to the staff for making it all possible".

"Without a Bursary our family would not have had the privilege and honour of sending our son to this excellent school".

"For four generations my family have benefitted from the excellent education that RGS Worcester provdes. What a wonderful way to pay it forward."

"As a recipient of a Bursary I can attest to how valuable they can be. RGS changed my life and gave me access to places, people and opportunities that have shaped my life and career ever since".



#### A TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT

An RGS alumni generously donated their six-bedroom house on the Malvern Hills to the School to sell to raise funds for transformational bursaries. The donor is said to be passionate about social mobility and keen to offer opportunities to those who may not otherwise have access to an RGS education, which he credits for his own successful career in science and technology.

Foundation Director, Mr Scott MacDonald, expressed his gratitude saying "Thank you to this amazing individual, and everyone in our community who supports Bursaries here at RGS; your donations really can change a life".

#### <u>ALUMNUS RETURNS</u>

Alumnus Max Whittle returned to RGS to discuss 'Journalism in Sport' with current pupils. Max's Journalism career has seen him work in radio, including a stint as a producer on talkSPORT, before moving to the Guardian as a video producer. Max has also worked as a presenter and stadium announcer, working on exciting live events such as cricket's t20 Vitality Blast and the Commonwealth Games, and he is the face of Aston Villa Football Club's pre-match fan zone show.

Max stressed the need to 'make things happen for yourself' to get your career in Journalism started and the importance of having a strong presence on social media, particularly LinkedIn, to help get yourself noticed and find opportunities.



#### 2012 REUNION

It was a brilliant evening on Saturday 22 October when we welcomed back the class of 2012 for their ten year reunion. Spirits were high and memories were flowing as the alumni class of 2012 reunited in Perrins Hall for their ten year reunion. The evening provided the perfect opportunity for mingling and re-connecting whilst enjoying seeing their old School again.

The class of 2012 are working in a variety of professions; Finance, Property, Law, Veterinary Science, Medics, Flight Officers and a West End performer provides just a snapshot of the plethora of careers the group are enjoying. Many fond memories were shared of their time at RGS Worcester.



#### **ACTING ALUMNUS SUCCESS**

Alumnus Charlie Day has experienced an incredibly successful acting career since completing his A Levels at RGS Worcester in 2016. After leaving RGS, Charlie trained in Acting at Bath School of Music and Performing Arts and shortly after completed an MA in Performing Shakespeare.

Charlie performed in the Vesta Tilley Studio, which is part of Worcester Theatre, in 'MILKED' a black comedy written by Simon Longman. Charlie commented about the play: "Two mates find a dying cow in a field, and set about trying to...deal with it. A funny and moving black comedy about friendship, unemployment and a cow called Sandy". Remembering his RGS days and experiences with Drama here at School, Charlie says "Everyone in the Drama department was fantastic; they really set me up to go on and do what I wanted to do. It was such an important time for me".

Charlie is a talented thespian and has written, produced and performed in a number of shows, most recently taking his own play 'Rock Bottom' to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where it received rave five-star reviews. He is also one of the founders of 'Fresh Life Theatre', a company that reimagines classical texts and introduces new talents to the drama industry.



"Charlie is deserving of his success! I first met Charlie as he started Lower Sixth and his drive and determination to be on stage was second to none – nothing was going to stop him! This hard work has been rewarded and I am very proud of what he has already achieved and look forward to all that the future will bring for him".

Director of Drama, Mrs Jilly Witcomb



#### **RGS Springfield**

Britannia Square, Worcester, Worcestershire WR1 3DL springfield@rgsw.org.uk 01905 24999

#### **RGS Dodderhill**

Dodderhill Road, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire WR9 0BE dodderhill@rgsw.org.uk 01905 778290

#### **RGS The Grange**

Grange Lane, Claines, Worcester, Worcestershire WR3 7RR grange@rgsw.org.uk 01905 451205