

# WORCESTERIAN



"In the current circumstances, the RGS Schools are redefining outstanding education"

- RGS Worcester Parent



CHERISHING THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE





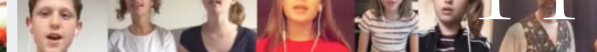
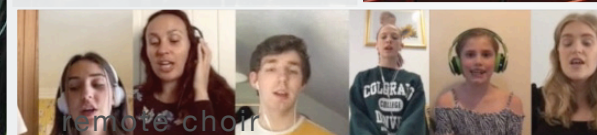
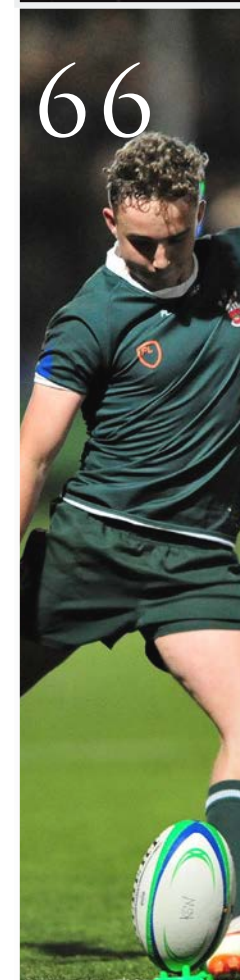
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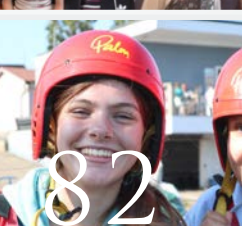
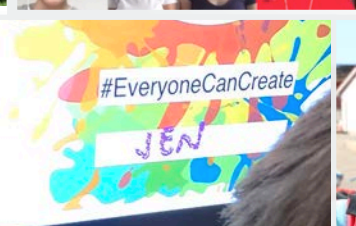
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# WORCESTERIAN INTRODUCTION (2019-20)



**The Academic year 2019-20 will be one for the history books, as the whole world took on the challenge of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This saw all schools impose restrictions and then close for a period before the Easter holiday and remain closed for most of the Trinity term.**

This unprecedented action taken by the Government created many challenges for all schools. The RGSW community rose to the challenge magnificently and demonstrated the strength of our community.

The education of the pupils moved to digital remote learning, thanks to the development of the Digital Learning Programme (DLP) since 2014. The transition was smooth and the pupils, teachers and parents responded superbly. At the same time the RGSW Schools provided supervision for Key Workers' children to enable their parents to continue their crucial work on the frontline as medics and other key workers. RGSW also went about responding to the national demand for Personal Protective Equipment by designing and producing thousands of face visors, and making scrubs and scrubs bags to support the NHS. We received heartfelt thanks from the local NHS branches for this vital equipment.



The alumni community responded to our call for support by providing funds for a Hardship Fund for parents who suddenly found themselves affected financially by the crisis and so their children's school fees became an issue. The alumni and parents came forward and gave RGSW the support needed at such a time and we are truly thankful.

As spring turned to summer, the RGSW staff came up with ever more innovative ways of engaging the pupils both in lessons and outside the classroom, with a co-curricular programme which must have been the match of any school.

From online coaching, charity fundraising challenges and quizzes, to virtual concerts, play rehearsals and continuation of House activities, pupils were constantly encouraged to keep engaged and challenged. Pastoral care was also available to everyone with advice and support, counselling, and relaxation sessions running, and Learning Development also continued remotely. Even Music lessons were reinstated and soon houses across Worcestershire had music ringing out.

What became very apparent was that the RGSW community pulled together at a time of adversity to support one another with a determination and commitment that was a great privilege to see. It will take time for us all to come to terms fully with the experience of the pandemic, but the team work and commitment to support one another will last far beyond this national crisis. My congratulations and deepest thanks to everyone – pupils, parents, staff and alumni – for all your support.

The Worcesterian 2019-20 is different to previous editions because it chronicles this unprecedented time and shares some of the experiences. I hope that it is of interest to everyone, not only for the content and memories, but also for the togetherness that it demonstrates – for me, the overarching theme of our RGSW community over the last year.

*John Pitt*  
*Headmaster*



# REMOTE LEARNING



2020 was the year that COVID-19 set us all unprecedented challenges. Families, businesses and organisations had to reinvent what were once everyday routines. RGS Worcester was no exception and, within a matter of days, we moved to a full timetable of remote teaching and learning.

As an Apple Distinguished School, the only one in the area, and a truly digitally focussed school with teachers and pupils already adept at using the technology, we were able to make this transition swiftly and effectively. Our planning and set up meant that, from the very first day of school closures, we provided our pupils with virtual teaching that followed their usual lesson timetable, with a structure that reflected a typical school day. Strict guidelines and clear guidance gave our pupils a successful process to follow creating a learning atmosphere that was very positive and engaging.

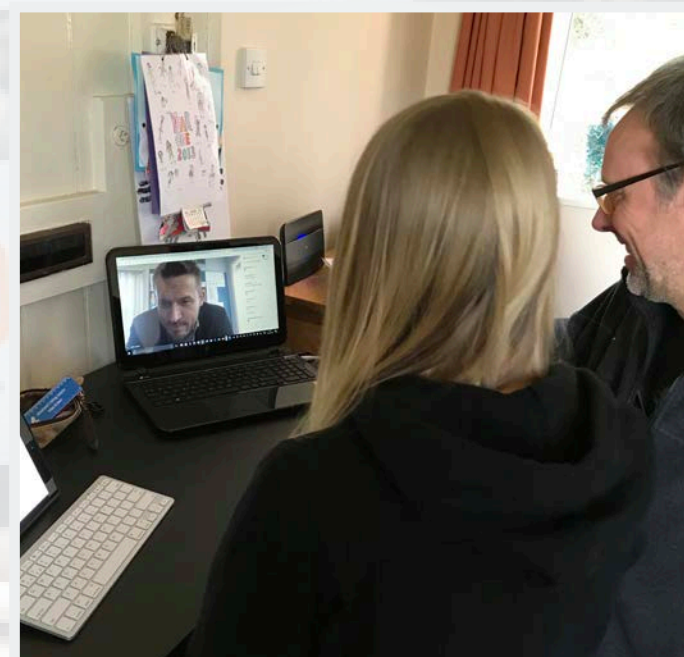
With Public Examinations cancelled we had to find solutions to teaching our Upper Sixth and Year Eleven students new courses remotely. Our approach was a blended learning programme for the Upper Sixth called 'Upskill', with remote learning courses in independent learning, life skills and personal finance. The programme covered wide-ranging topics such as nuclear engineering to liberal arts in preparation for University courses.

"I have really enjoyed the progression from GCSE to A Level 'bridging' as the material requires much more self-motivated, independent work from the student, which the teacher then develops with you in the lesson. It's been really rewarding to move on from the GCSE syllabuses, as I feel that it has given me some closure that I otherwise wouldn't have received after the cancellation of exams."

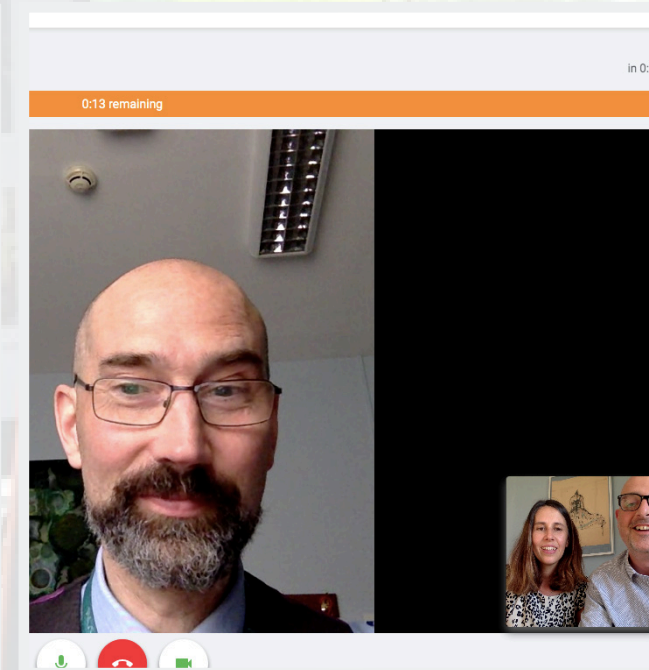
Isabella Hulbert, Year Eleven.

"In a rare positive in these difficult times, we have noticed that our son has really enjoyed this new style of teaching - in fact all three of us feel that the provision he is currently receiving is preparing him very well for university life and the university style of teaching and independent learning. We would like to feedback in the strongest possible terms that the current remote teaching provision that our son is receiving is superb and totally appropriate for an Upper Sixth Form student."

Upper Sixth parent.



Online Parents Evenings and Assemblies



Our remote learning 'bridging' courses gave our Year Eleven students an introduction to A Level and BTEC courses in preparation for the Lower Sixth Form. Researching relevant topics within their chosen subject and creating presentations allowed the students to feel reassured about their Sixth Form subject choices and interact with their new teachers.

We engaged with next year's Year Seven pupils with virtual assemblies and tutorial sessions, allowing them to 'meet' other tutees, Tutors, Head of Year, Head of Lower School and our Director of Innovation. We provided them with an insight into our Digital Learning Programme, the year ahead and the School ethos to ensure they are ready to start at RGS Worcester in September.



We greatly appreciated the feedback and continued support we received from parents. It made the challenges faced and the many new experiences all the more valuable and successful.



"Please could you pass on our thanks to RGSW staff for their incredible efficiency in response to the current situation. For our daughter to make a throw away comment that 'nothing much has changed' is tribute - not just to the Digital Learning Platform, but to the talented and dedicated staff who support it and the teachers who are producing engaging lessons that vary in format and delivery. Staff commitment is admirable and we thank you for continuing to provide such excellent education under these stressful and demanding circumstances."

"I thought I would make contact to say how impressed I have been with the digital learning provided by the RGS schools. Having spoken to colleagues who have children in other schools without the advanced online learning, they are struggling to keep their children motivated and provide them with the support required whilst also working from home."



"I just wanted to drop you an email to say I am really impressed with the standard at which you have continued to teach in the current situation. The response time and support from all the teachers has been incredible and I feel very lucky to have the RGS provision when comparing to other schools."



"We are extremely grateful and full of admiration for all the staff at what must be a very difficult and worrying time for you all. The School has really come into its own in these last few weeks and all concerned should be very proud of themselves as the transition to remote schooling has been seamless. I am worried about many things at the moment but one thing I am not worried about is my children's schooling."

"I must say that I think our daughter's experience has been pretty much seamless and it's a real testament to the School's preparation and the teachers' flexibility in trying times to work this way (after all, I assume many of the teachers have their own children at home! That cannot be easy). It's extremely impressive, especially when I compare it to other schools, even independent ones."



"I am so proud to be a part of the RGS Worcester Family of Schools, and my two daughters receive an outstanding education at RGS Worcester and RGS Dodderhill both on and offline. While my girls have diligently kept to their school work this week, observing all their lessons and study times, I have observed my neighbours and their children not receiving any education whatsoever. Indeed, your Digital Leaders are inspirational setting us all up with such an incredible facility, and ensuring our children receive the best of education no matter what the circumstance."



"I would like to personally thank you all for the last couple of weeks. The quality, organisation and sheer hard work of you all at RGS, arranging virtual schooling has shone through as a success with many parents. We are all extremely impressed. I am so very happy to have our daughter at RGS, and looking forward to her sister joining in September."



In recognition of how successfully we adjusted our teaching model to overcome the national shutdown of schools, tech giants Apple asked us to present at the Apple Distinguished Schools Virtual Conference in May 2020 to showcase our best practices and solutions to educational leaders across the globe.

We presented our outstanding Academic programme, the incredible Co-curricular activities and Pastoral care which continued daily. We showcased the excellent teaching delivering exciting lessons which all our pupils were able to enjoy. Delegates at the Apple Distinguished Schools Virtual Conference could not help but be impressed by the incredible efforts made by the RGS Worcester community to tackle the complications presented by COVID-19 in such an enterprising, confident and ground-breaking way.

Throughout 'lockdown', RGS Worcester taught 10,390 remote lessons, with the RGS Worcester Family of Schools teaching 18,503 remote lessons in total. We set, the pupils sat, and teachers marked 5,488 exams, and 1,500 Centre Assessed Grades were submitted to the Examination Boards for GCSE, A Level and BTEC.

Remotely taught lessons at  
RGS Worcester

10,390

Exams set, completed  
and marked

5,488

18,503

Lessons taught by the RGS  
Worcester Family of Schools

1,500

Centre Assessed  
Grades submitted for  
GCSE, A Level and  
BTEC

## CO-CURRICULAR

During schools' closure, we kept Co-curricular learning alive by continuing our usual activities as well as adding some inspiring extras. Not only did we run Textiles Club, Book Club, Literary Society but added Dance challenges and Cooking Clubs to the menu.

Our debaters took part in the virtual ICYD Finals organised by the Oxford Union. Sixty teams from around the world took part in the Semi-Finals. Only eight teams made it to the Finals, most of whom were international pupils, indicating the calibre of the competition. Tobey Butler and Rayyan Styles, both Year Ten, and Callum Lockett and Oscar Haynes, both Year Nine, joined schools from many countries in the Oxford Union's Virtual Debating chamber. They reached the Finals and received very positive feedback from the judges.

## MUSIC, DRAMA AND FASHION

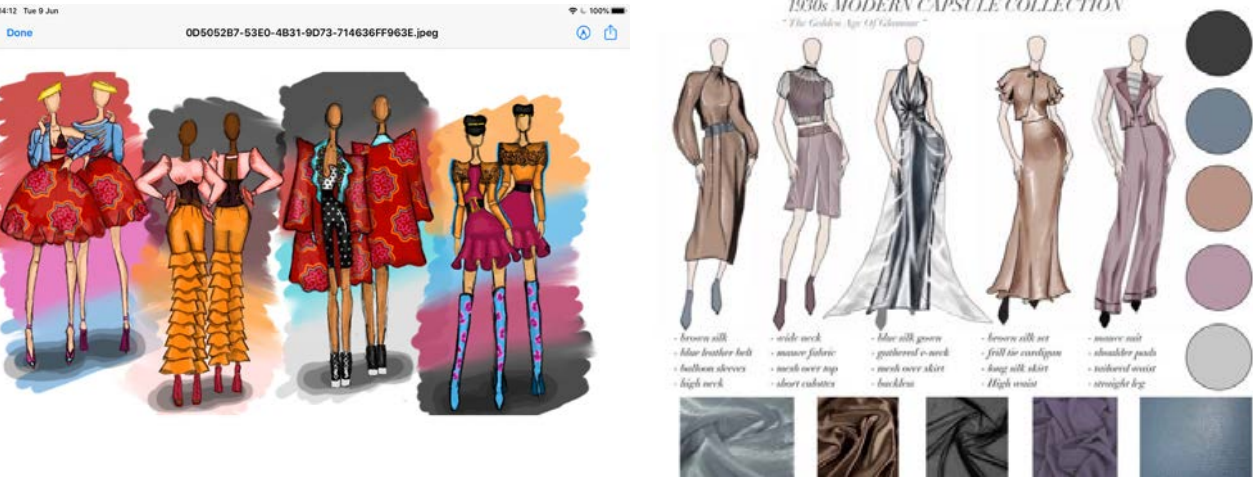
We were able to continue with Co-curricular Music and Drama during remote learning. Our 'Out of Africa' Choral Concert, originally to be performed in Worcester Cathedral, brought together pupils from all of our schools. A flawless piece from the concert was performed by 65 singers and members of our Big Band in pitch-perfect harmony. It was a real testament to the strength of our Music community. Several virtual performances and concerts kept Music alive remotely.

Our 'Macbeth' performers created an excellent simulation of the well-known play, showing the real acting talents we have within RGS Worcester. Drama pupils took part in virtual monologues, duologues, performances of 'Antigone', 'Metamorphosis', 'Faustus Sins', dance dramas, scripted performances, Greek Choral performances, 'Bugsy Malone' rehearsals and 'Billy Elliot' auditions during 'lockdown'.





The Young Fashion Designer UK competition, completed remotely, demonstrated the incredibly high level of talent within RGS Worcester with our pupils leading in several age groups and performing extremely well in this national competition.



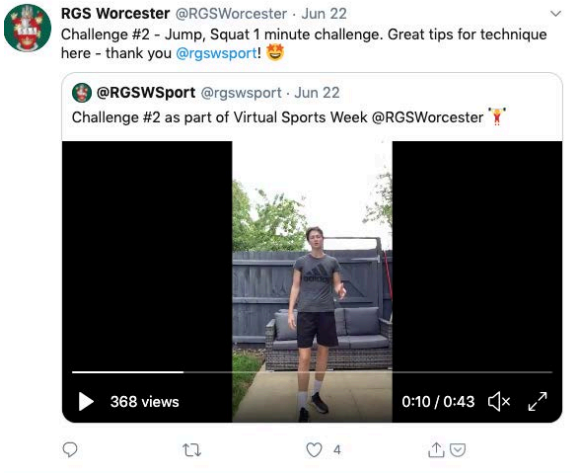
SPORT BY REMOTE CONTROL

Sport was an essential part of our virtual learning. Rowing was continued through entering our pupils and families into virtual Rowing challenges including the British Rowing Virtual Championships and Chester Virtual Regatta. Our Half Term Rowing Challenge for pupils included running, walking, cycling and rowing with a special Family Challenge featured. We loved seeing the sportsmanship, energy and the friendly rivalries as whole families took on the challenge.

Sports Day went virtual, organised by the Youth Sport Trust and Sky Sports, and our pupils stepped up to the plate, perfecting their skills in Sprinting, Shot Put, Discus, Long Jump and the Javelin. Pupils took part in these daily challenges during Physical Education lessons, Games lessons and in their free time as part of our House competition.

We could not have our usual matches, so our teams kept motivated with exercises to keep up strength and agility with regular Google Meets to keep each other motivated, bolster morale and team spirit.

We kept our pupils busy with engaging sports activities to keep them active with a different type of sporting exploit each day. 'Motivation Mondays' had our pupils counting steps and 'Threshold Tuesdays' pushed boundaries with interval training. There was 'Workout Wednesday' that focussed on core and mobility, 'Thinking Thursday' that used brains in the sports arena. Finally, to finish off the week, there was 'Fun Friday' which contained fun types of movement. Our professionally focussed athletes could access CoachNow giving them access to more technical sport-specific training advice.







## COMMUNITY

If there is one positive that COVID-19 brought to light, it is the need for community and a supportive ethos. At RGS Worcester, we wanted to do all we could to give back to our community in a tangible way.

Having the opportunity to support Key Workers, during a period when they had so many demands on their time, by caring for their children was an honour for the RGS Family of Schools. We opened RGS The Grange and welcomed Key Workers' children of all ages into an environment of support and care. Along with the return of over 90% of pupils in Reception and Years One and Six to RGS The Grange we welcomed up to 50 Key Workers' children on-site daily from Pre-School up to Year Eight.

With PPE being vital to the NHS and a supply shortage, RGS Worcester answered the national call to assist the NHS. Our Design and Technology Department submitted a design created collaboratively with RGS parents within the NHS and a high-level surgeon in Leicester, creating a prototype which received the go-ahead for production. We provided 2,500 Face Visors, 120 Specialist Scrubs and 50 Scrubs Bags and 338 Goggles. Even though the NHS staff have been extremely busy, we were incredibly touched by the messages of gratitude we received.



"To the RGS Community can I pass on my sincerest thanks from all my colleagues at Worcestershire Royal for your kind donation of face shields to help us in the fight against COVID-19. It doesn't come as a surprise to me that you answered the call and for that, like the value you imparted on me as a student; I am eternally grateful." wrote Alistair McMinn, RGS Alumni

Having supplied 2,500 Face Visors, 120 Specialist Scrubs for the NHS, RGS Worcester was able to offer the charity Onside Advocacy PPE to assist them in their essential work locally. Onside Advocacy is a Worcestershire and Herefordshire based charity which supports vulnerable people disadvantaged by disability, mental ill-health and learning difficulties. The face visors provided were used by their advocates and volunteers when visiting vulnerable clients.

*Kate Harvey, CEO of Onside Advocacy, said:*

"Really heartfelt thank you to RGS for their fantastic donation of PPE visors to Onside. We work with some of the most vulnerable and isolated people in the county who have been particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 crisis. This equipment will be a huge boost in our efforts to get out and make more direct contact with people who need our help and who are desperate to have face to face support."





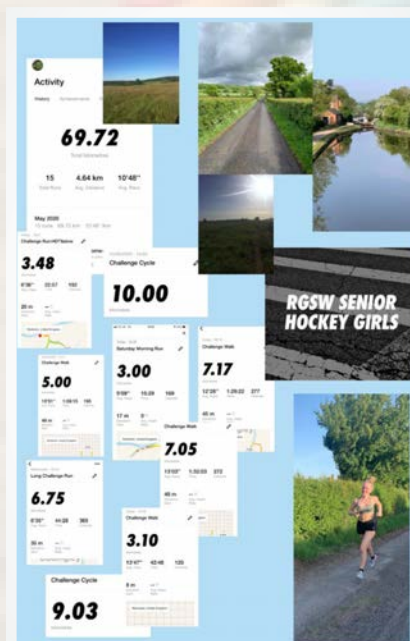
RGS Worcester donated 20 iPads to Droitwich Spa Meeting Centre who support people with dementia and their families and helps them adjust to their changing situation as a result of this illness. For the last five years, the Centre has been a place for relaxation, fun and socialisation where activities have addressed emotional, cognitive and social requirements. The iPads provided emotional and behavioural benefits through music and personal photographs and films.



*Mr Pitt commented:* "Dementia is such a difficult illness for the individual and for their families and we seized upon this initiative since it allows RGS to help. These iPads are no longer suitable for the classroom but can make a very real difference to a dementia patient in the community. It is particularly important at this time that we look to support others, and we hope that this will help."

## FUNDRAISING

During 'lockdown' over £5,000 was raised for charitable causes by pupils and staff at the RGS Worcester Family of schools. Our Hockey team created a challenge to raise funds for the Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. What could be more fitting than covering the distance from RGS Worcester to Lee Valley Olympic Hockey Stadium? In the end, they achieved an even greater distance of over 900km over 14 days and raised £1,255 in total. They were very pleased to get a mention on England Hockey's website for their efforts. (<http://www.englandhockey.co.uk>)



Dr Andrew, Assistant Head (Pastoral), completed a 26k cross-trainer challenge raising £1,896 for CLIC Sargent, a charity that supports young cancer patients. Mrs Sullivan, Head of Rowing, completed a 26k row raising £1,192 in support of The Myriad Centre which offers tailored, person-centred support programmes for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. Madame Cantin, French Teacher at RGS The Grange, set herself the challenge of running 100 miles in May, updating her pupils in French, raising £700 for NHS charities. Our Sixth Form students raised a further £227 for Worcester Snoezelen, a multi-sensory experience centre for people with disabilities, through lots of fundraising activities during 'lockdown'. This will be added to the £352.28 raised during the Academic year.



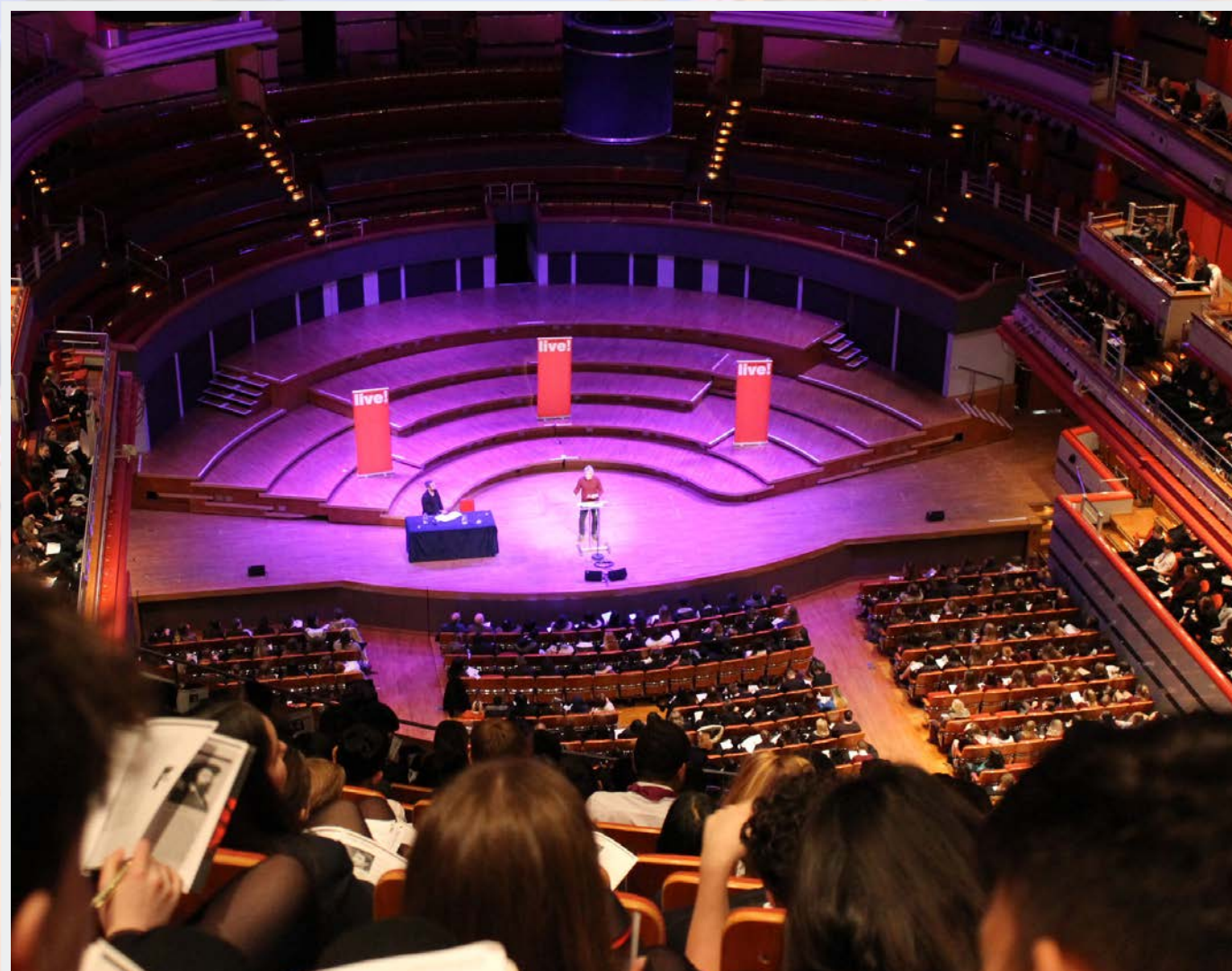
Lottie Jones, Upper Sixth, volunteered at Worcester Royal Hospital, helping within the Amber Zone, a division for routine medical work that could not be postponed during COVID-19 such as blood tests and immunisations. The unit received approximately 100 patients a day from newborn babies to the elderly. Lottie's job was to check patients' temperatures at the door to protect the unit from coronavirus.



# ENGLISH FACULTY

There has been very palpable feeling that English has continued to grow in popularity as a subject this year and it is pleasing, once again, to see two full sets at A Level.

This followed a very encouraging set of GCSE and A Level results (2018/19), as well as the achievement of Amber Warner-Warr gaining a place to read English at Oxford University. Although several of our customary events had to be postponed later in the year, the first two terms were packed with English activities. Year Eleven attended 'Poetry Live' in March where they heard several of the poets in their GCSE Anthology read to a packed Symphony Hall audience. The legendary John Agard certainly lived up to his reputation as one of the great performance poets of today. Year Eleven also had the opportunity to see 'An Inspector Calls' performed at Malvern Theatre and the RSC Live Broadcast of 'Macbeth' capped a busy year for our GCSE students. For the Lower School, there was a talk on 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight' as part of the Billingham Society and the Lower School Book Clubs have continued to flourish under the guidance of Mrs Earle and Mrs Houchin. These groups continued to meet and share their love of reading through 'lockdown'. The highlight of the year was the theatre trip to see 'Holes' in Malvern. Organised by Mrs Houchin, this was a great chance to see one of the Book Club's favourites brought to life on stage.



It has also been wonderful to welcome our two new Librarians this year, Miss Ferguson and Mrs Alldridge, who have quickly rejuvenated the Library. It is fantastic to see the Library routinely full of pupils at lunchtime and after school.

National Poetry Day and World Book Day were celebrated enthusiastically, with several events and competitions taking place both in and out of School. It has also been great to see so many pupils enter creative writing competitions this year. More entries than ever were submitted for this year's Radio 2 '500 words' competition and lots of Year Eight pupils had great fun writing entries for the Mini Saga competition. Well done to Robbie MacDonald and James Rhodes who got through to the final stages!

Going from strength to strength, the Literary Society has been more popular than ever. Supplied with a steady stream of tea and mountains of cakes by Mrs Bond and Mrs Vincent, the group has read a diverse and fascinating range of books this year and there have been trips to see 'The Turn of the Screw' at Cheltenham Everyman, 'The Tempest' at Huntington Hall, together with live screenings of 'One Man Two Guvnors' and 'Jerusalem' at the Victorian and Albert Museum. The highlight was our second London Gothic Tour just before Christmas. This three-day residential trip was jam-packed with visits, talks and readings, culminating with a performance of 'Richard III' at the amazing Blackfriars Theatre.

It is wonderful to see so much going on in the English Department and Faculty.





FOR REGULAR READERS OF THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT REPORT YOU WILL BE EXPECTING AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF OUR PUPILS IN THE VARIOUS MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS. EVEN DURING THIS YEAR OF THE UNEXPECTED, WE STILL MANAGED TO COMPETE IN THESE NATIONAL COMPETITIONS.



# MATHEMATICS FACULTY

In the Senior Mathematics Challenge we were delighted to see Ed Smith, Megan Wang and Eve O'Leary-Mullock achieving Gold awards in their final year with us, and this was a fitting conclusion for these students who had consistently set the standard over the years. They were joined by some very strong performances from Year Eleven who have set a marker for the future and we are really looking forward to what these students can achieve in the years to come. After these results, it was no surprise to see Year Eleven performing very well indeed in their own competition (the Intermediate Challenge) and they came away with four fabulous scores of over 100 (very comfortable Gold awards). Again, there was great promise for the future with Year Ten coming away with a couple of Gold awards as well.

The great disappointment this year was the loss of the Junior Team Competition because of the COVID-19 situation. This was the event in which we won the regional round last year and went on to feature in the National finals in London, and with half of the team still eligible, we would have been optimistic of a strong performance. We were again very fortunate this year to be able to take two trips to the successful series of lectures run at the University of Warwick, although the flooding did provide some extra challenges for the journeys there and back! It was particularly interesting to hear from the mathematicians supporting the engineering teams behind the Bloodhound team working towards an attempt to achieve 1000mph for the Land Speed record. We were introduced to the fascinating use of

statistics and there was much discussion of the fine art of 'spin' and the judicious use of information to convince, and certainly this will have provided insight for the daily presentations of statistics that has become a feature in the months that followed. There was also an interesting look at the way that numbers developed over the centuries and this showed how the increasing complexity of the Mathematics was matched by the development of new ways of presenting numbers. In complete contrast we had a fine demonstration of juggling and this was analysed mathematically to explain the processes that we were watching.

As noted at the start of this article, the 'lockdown' drew an early conclusion to our activities for this academic year. However, we do look forward to returning to some form of normality in the weeks and months to come and with this, the opportunities and experiences our mathematicians will once again be able to experience.



# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES FACULTY

Evolution and radical change define the organic nature of any language and it is this adaptive, transformative way of thinking we hope RGS pupils develop as they learn their languages.

## RADICAL CHANGE

Radical change lies at the heart of language learning. In grammar, radical change means 'changing the root of a word', a common occurrence in the formation of irregular verbs in all three languages taught at RGS (and English, as I am sure you all know). But radical change can also describe the process of discovery experienced by students of a new language or culture. Change initially feels alien, disconcerting, unnecessary (why does German mess around so much with word order?) yet over time its possibilities become more obvious and the joys of the unknown start to outweigh the confusion. This constant process has continued unabated this year in Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) at RGS. For the pupils, the Department's trips, events and competitions have been the catalyst for discovery in language learning.

## CHALLENGING THE USUAL

The Michaelmas term started in MFL with the European Week of Languages, a chance to change our usual expectations and experiences. As ever, continental cuisine took over the Refectory, serving up French, German and Spanish delicacies in place of our usual fayre. Miss Gidon (Assistant Head of French) introduced the new event of House pétanque and you would be lucky to find a more competitive crowd on a Tuesday lunchtime in September. Dr James challenged the dominance of German

as our main Teutonic language in MFL with an introduction to a Dutch session and at the end of the week, we welcomed a number of local secondary schools to our inaugural Oxford University Languages Day.

At this day, a team of Oxford academics, led by Dr Natasha Ryan, delivered fascinating, interactive sessions to pupils aged between 14 and 18 years. The main aims of this event were to encourage cross-disciplinary thinking about languages and open up horizons in language learning beyond school. To this end, we considered amongst other things: the lasting effects of the near 700 year occupation of Spain by Arabic caliphates; the linguistic and cultural intricacies of text translation from German (through Kafka) and of TV show translations into French (through the French version of 'Bake Off'); the impact of photography on literature, art and music in France. Pupils from all schools attending left challenged and enlightened about the diversity of thinking language learning promotes.

This more intellectual consideration of language learning featured at further events throughout the year. Miss Gidon (Assistant Head of French) delivered a Billingham Society Lecture in which the group discussed the hidden meaning of words, whether or not languages

shaped our thoughts and the cognitive benefits of learning languages. Students of Year Eleven French and Spanish were also able to read and discuss literary texts in target language. The value of comparative study in changing perspectives was highlighted by Professor Fiona Cox, Associate Professor of French and Comparative Literature, who visited with our Year Eleven students considering languages at A Level and beyond.



Finally, our Upper Sixth Spanish students watched a production in Spanish of their set text, 'La Casa de Bernarda Alba' by Federico García Lorca at the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham. Being able to consider the text in performance radically altered our perception of characters and plot development, reinforcing the value of multiple perspectives on a single work.

## EMBRACING THE UNKNOWN

It was with great regret that we were obliged to cancel all Language Exchange trips this year, except for the outward leg of the French Exchange, which successfully went ahead with our partner school, l'Externat des Enfants Nantais, in November. Miss Gidon and Dr Beer (Head of German) accompanied the students and both teachers were impressed by the wonder participants displayed at all things French (though the patisseries were of particular interest). Beyond the invaluable cultural experiences of cathedrals, châteaux and Nantes' history, the RGS participants embraced the day to day life they spent with their host families. Later that term our ever-popular trip to the Christmas market in Cologne was led by Dr Beer. Amidst the souvenirs, German fayre and chocolate tasting, it was again the unexpected which had a lasting effect on pupils, who wrote of the Cologne Cathedral interior, "It was one of the most beautiful architectural feats we have ever seen." Whilst uncertainty remains as to the how and when of restarting our Exchange programmes with France, Spain and Germany, we are determined and committed to finding a way back to these invaluable opportunities.

It is such determination and commitment to making things work that has thus far driven MFL through the 'lockdown' period. As teachers throughout the year, we have looked to learn from what is new and unknown. Dr James (teacher of German) visited our future exchange school in Burgstädt, near Leipzig, and returned inspired by the city where Bach composed and the fall of the DDR began. Herr Ulf Engel visited us for two weeks as part of a teacher exchange, sharing with us his pedagogical ideas and love of the cello. As we were forced into 'lockdown', it became the pupils' commitment to adapt their normal, to accept some radical changes in the delivery of their education that inspired us to find the best way of teaching languages remotely. Interaction defines a language – very few survive without it, and all continually evolve as a result of it. So 'Flipgrid', 'Nearpod', 'ThingLink', 'Padlet', 'Kahoot', alongside the stalwarts of 'Showbie' and 'Google Drive', have perhaps become more regular words in our lexicon than textbooks and exercise books as we try to maintain that essential interaction. Though we all prefer face-to-face communication with our pupils, adaptation breeds creativity and I am glad for all we have gained from our 'lockdown' experience.





# SCIENCE FACULTY

In previous editions of this annual record, we have discussed the challenge of combatting accelerated global change, the efforts the School is doing to reduce its carbon footprint and what we may collectively do to help in this challenge. Last year, I wrote about the huge collaborative scientific effort that went into placing humankind into space and onto the moon. This year, a new challenge emerged, one that involved the collaboration on all aspects of the world community.

Viruses have been around for millions of years, with some theories suggesting that they pre-date cellular life on Earth. They are the most abundant biological entities on the planet. Over such long periods, the human body has developed immunity to the vast majority of these viruses. The problem is that viruses can mutate quickly. The added complication is that viruses can 'jump' species. Our immune systems have no initial mechanism to deal with these viruses and, once the virus has been transmitted to a host, the virus can mutate and evolve under the selective constraints of the human body for the first time, adapting and improving itself for replication in this new host.

The rise and fall of this particular strain of coronavirus will be discussed for many years: how governments prepared for the challenge, how scientists responded to it, but most importantly, how communities came together to support one another through it.

*Dr Howard Smith*  
*Head of Science*

# BIOLOGY

This year saw success, as well as a lot of promise, with the results in the Biology Olympiad. Many of our current Lower Sixth students achieved strong scores considering they only had one year of A Level teaching under their belt. Eleni Coutsouri, Sam Thomson, Allison Fok, Evie Holt and Harry Nelson achieved a Highly Commended Certificate, with Ellie Jones, Dafydd MacDonald and Will Osborne achieving a Commended Certificate. Well done to all of our Royal Society of Biology competitors.

In other areas, the Biology Department has given its students opportunities to learn outside the curriculum and spark an interest and curiosity in the natural world. Mrs King ran a series of lectures on rat anatomy for the Sixth Form Biologists, allowing students to dissect their own, individual specimens. This opportunity will have given the students experiences and skills that many of their future peers at University would not have had available to them.



For younger pupils in the Billingham Society, Mr Henderson presented two piglet dissections for students in Years Seven to Ten, due to the popularity of the pig's head dissection last year. As another species of large mammal, humans and pigs are very similar in anatomy and physiology; so much so that pigs are often used as analogues for humans in experiment research and forensics. For this reason, dissecting a piglet meant that the students were able to see what a pig (and therefore a human) digestive system looks like. Other organs that were studied include the heart, lungs,

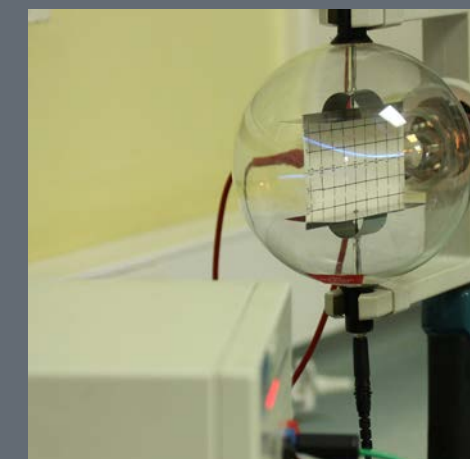
liver, pancreas and kidneys, as well as the musculoskeletal anatomy of the pig and how similar it is to that of a human.

Mr Sykes organised a trip to Bristol Zoo for Year Nine students, where opportunities to see sea lions, pygmy hippopotamuses and the gorillas with their alpha, silverback "Jock", as well as many other exotic creatures, were available. This hugely educational trip requires students to complete a pamphlet of questions, allowing them to teach themselves aspects of the Adaptation section of the GCSE specification.

# PHYSICS

Despite the unnerving feeling as the COVID -19 'lockdown' approached, thanks are extended to Year Eleven pupils for giving up their time at short notice to undertake the Physics Olympiad Intermediate Challenge. Congratulations to all who achieved Awards, including a prestigious Gold for Elizabeth McCabe; Silver for Katy Marsh and Adrian Fok; Bronze for Freddie Davies, Patrick Emeny, Will Fallows, Ben Gaubert, Nikolai Judge, Aaron Lad and Will Patterson; and a Commendation for Niall Byrne.

There were also entries in the Lower Sixth Physics Olympiad Senior Challenge and again our thanks to pupils for taking part with a range of awards being achieved. Congratulations to Will Osborne for gaining a Silver; Bronze for Tom Churchill, Alex Coleman, Tom Ehlers, Liam Leonard and Ben Sutton; and Commendations for Maxim Eddy, Daniel Hall, Malachy Larkin, Joshua Leung and Joseph Mourino.



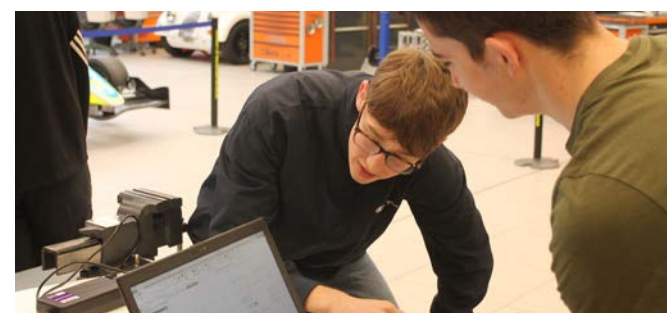
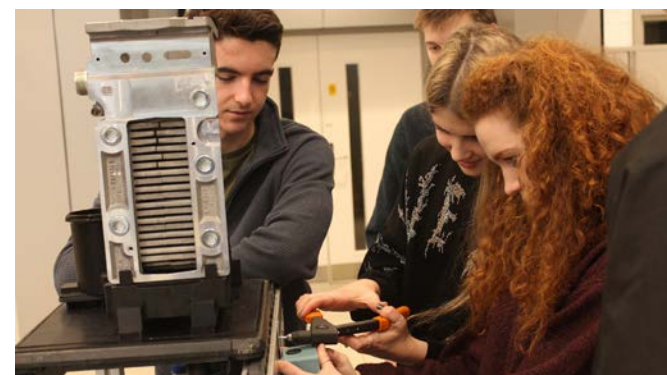


# CHEMISTRY

Our current A Level students have shown that the future of our results looks secure with seven students achieving a Bronze Award in the Chemistry Olympiad. From the Upper Sixth, Ejay Chen-Harris, Alex Peake, Alex Tidball, Lizzy Fearon, Amelia Bangay and Isabelle Davies achieved this level but special acknowledgement should go to James Larkin from the Lower Sixth who achieved the same distinction.

Upper Sixth Chemistry students have had an exciting practical year. In January, they travelled to Bristol University to participate in a full day Organic Workshop. Utilising a world-class University's teaching laboratory, they synthesised 'Benzocaine', which is used as a local anaesthetic in many 'over the counter' medicines. As well as practising valuable practical skills relevant to their A Level course, the students relished the chance to discover what practical sessions at degree level would be like before they make final decisions about University courses. Back in lessons, Upper Sixth students spent a series of lessons synthesising another 'over the counter drug', Aspirin. These real-life applications of Chemistry are a highlight of the year for many of the students and bring to life the theory students have been working diligently to understand.

We are very lucky to have had Miss Paske teaching in our Department during this academic year. Miss Paske joined us fresh from a year working abroad at an international school in Malaysia and quickly gained a reputation as a very knowledgeable and committed individual who goes the extra mile, and pushes her pupils to achieve their potential. Unfortunately, Miss Paske left us after just one year to pursue a postgraduate diploma in Deaf Education at the University of Manchester. The Chemistry Department faced more changes at the end of the 2019-20 academic year with the experienced Mr Whittle leaving us. We wish him all the best as he progresses to lead his Science department. We look forward to welcoming three new staff in September: Dr Stephen, Mr Downes and Mr Joyner.



## ENGINEERING IN EDUCATION SCHEME

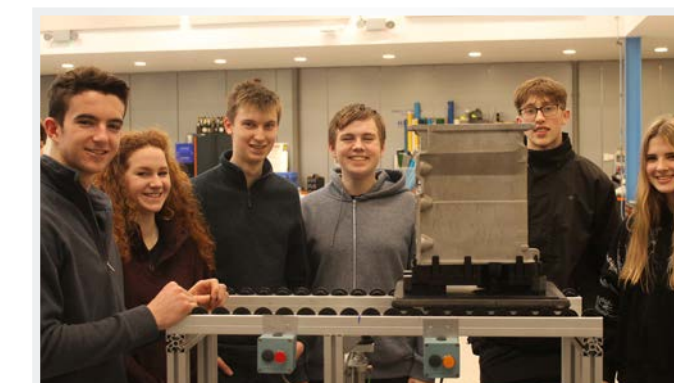
The Engineering Education Scheme year began in September with a large number of high-quality applicants. The final team of six quickly gelled and began working together in a very enthusiastic, focussed manner; an approach that they maintained for the duration of the project. In mid-October, they were introduced to their engineering mentor from Worcester Bosch, Sergui Phoursa, who presented them with three project briefs from which they had to choose one. After much deliberation, the team decided on a project that would insert an adaptor into a heat exchanger more accurately, consistently and faster. It had the potential to reduce costs and maintain the reliable reputation of Worcester Bosch, as it would reduce the risk of flooding from a poorly inserted adaptor.

The team attended weekly meetings to come up with ideas, consider benefits and drawbacks and tested 3D printed models before settling on a final design using a pneumatic system. In January, the team took their design plans to a two-day workshop at the very impressive, state-of-the-art engineering facility at the University of Wolverhampton's Innovation Campus. After building a mock-up of the assembly line, time was spent trialling, evaluating and improving the positioning of the pneumatic piston and switches, the adaptor and heat exchanger. While some of the team were hands-on, others learnt how to use CAD software to produce technical drawings of their prototype. Another afternoon was spent at the Worcester Bosch factory making modifications to ensure the stability of the heat exchanger during the process, as well as operator safety.



The final stage of the project was to produce a technical report on their design before what should have been a celebratory final assessment day. Just as the school moved to remote learning, the team completed their impressive report but the assessment day was disappointingly, yet understandably, cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tom Churchill, Alex Coleman, Maxim Eddy, Poppy Haughton, Malachy Larkin and Honesty Shaw-Young should be congratulated for being an excellent team and showing great independence, diligence, determination and resilience throughout the project. They all contributed in different ways, exploiting their strengths, and worked professionally alongside their excellent mentor Sergui, as well as the technical team in Wolverhampton. The EES feedback detailed the impressive work of the team who created an exceptional project and a professionally written report along with demonstrating a good understanding of Engineering and how to design and build a product. After submitting individual evaluations in place of their presentation, it has been confirmed that they have successfully fulfilled the components, skills and competencies of the Industrial Cadets Award and have graduated at Gold Level. Our thanks to Mrs Daniell for supporting the EES team.





# DIGITAL LEARNING PROGRAMME DIGITAL LEADERS

Our pupils who are Digital Leaders have continued to support and raise the profile of the Digital Learning Programme (DLP) within the wider school community. The aim of the group is to develop the digital skills of all pupils by working with the IT team and sharing their knowledge with others. Senior Digital Leaders, Aaron Lad, Jack Stirzaker and Isabel Sherrington-Lodge, held regular training sessions for the Year Eight pupils recruited earlier in the year. Together, they have completed an adapted Apple Teacher qualification and developed their understanding of a range of topics including digital safety. They represented the group at School Council meetings and supported events such as the Year Seven information evening and Open Mornings throughout the year. In January, a number of staff and pupils from across the RGS Family of Schools travelled to London to attend the international educational technology event, the BETT Show, with RGS Worcester pupils leading groups of peers from RGS Dodderhill, RGS Springfield and RGS The Grange.



## COMPUTING AND IT

This year we have implemented a plan for all pupils to have the opportunity to achieve a nationally recognised qualification to demonstrate their technical knowledge, understanding and skills by introducing the iDEA (Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award) programme. Pupils have explored and completed badges in lessons and out of school at the available levels.

In the Lower School, pupils have developed their knowledge of the technical workings of computers, including their iPads, through the data representation topic. This covered the binary number system and why it is used in all computer systems. Prior to this Year Seven discovered that computers are embedded into a range of everyday objects, with the increased availability of smart devices connected to the internet. Year Eight learned about key computer laws including GDPR which is vital to protect personal data. They have also planned an interactive revision multimedia product using algorithmic thinking before creating it to use and share ahead of their end of year examinations.

In Year Nine, pupils have developed their understanding of algorithms by studying the use of computer systems in everyday scenarios. They have also extended their prior learning of coding

using industry-standard, text-based programming including Python to create applications for real-life tasks. Year Ten GCSE Computer Science pupils have developed their understanding of computational thinking further, covering abstraction and decomposition as essential aspects of planning in software development. Year Eleven pupils have applied this theory by completing the 20 hours programming project, a requirement of the GCSE course, with a focus on data compression in the form of run-length encoding (RLE).

In A Level Computer Science, Lower Sixth pupils have started the process of designing their final programming projects which count towards their final grade, mentored by their Upper Sixth peers whose own programs this year for real-world implementation have been completed to a technically high standard once more. Again, all A Level pupils have chosen to follow a specific computing route at the end of the course through both degree courses and higher level apprenticeships available in the subject.

### EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

In 2019, all four RGS Worcester Schools were recognised as 'Apple Distinguished Schools' until 2022; testament to the digital prowess shown by our teachers and pupils. Furthermore, throughout the school year teachers have developed

their digital skills and over 75% have achieved Apple Teacher status. In school itself, Lower School Code Club continues to go from strength-to-strength with increasing numbers of pupils arriving at RGS Worcester with a passion for programming! Half-termly challenges and the use of Code Club/ Raspberry Pi resources have been well received and showcase opportunities have demonstrated the creativity and technical skills of our Year Seven and Eight pupils.

The Department has provided a range of activities and trips throughout the Academic year. In November, Mr Webster and Sixth Form pupils attended a 'Computer Science in Action' day at the University of Warwick. The day offered superb guidance on future careers, with inspiring talks on artificial intelligence and big data in society today. During 'Code Week' in December, pupils took part in class programming activities including a collaborative homework task to complete with their family at home which was well received. The week also saw the introduction of a new Cipher Challenge House competition for Year Eight. As part of the annual international Safer Internet Day event in February, the Department delivered the message through assemblies for all outlining our shared responsibility to be safe and positive online.





# HUMANITIES FACULTY CLASSICS

The Classics Department reflects upon an eventful Academic year and looks forward to taking what we have learned from this year to continue improving our teaching and learning. Teachers in the Department not only spent their time developing resources and activities for the exam specifications in Latin and Classics but also transitioned with aplomb to remote learning in March 2020.

The Department discovered that, despite the antiquity of the material covered in Classics, it did not need to be delivered in an antiquated way. Digital apps were put to great effect to deliver effective remote language learning: 'Quizlet' allowed for engaging, interactive vocabulary work remotely, while 'Explain Everything' was used to deliver live textual commentary for the A Level Latin students. In Classics, teachers made use of Google Meet to continue further into the specification, analysing and

discussing 'The Aeneid' and 'The Iliad' remotely without missing a beat during school closures in the UK.

As pioneers of the digital universe, we remain popular in the Twittersverse; @RGSClassics and the Department now reach over 1,600 followers. With large numbers of pupils at all levels throughout the School studying Latin and Classics, we remain very busy.

Mr Tanner created videos to support our Latin learners, teaching Latin from his shed!



## PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS 2018/19

We reflect on a truly outstanding set of results from the summer 2019 examination series, building on our success from previous years.

The Latin results at both GCSE and A Level were a particular highlight, with our pupils scoring top marks across the board. At GCSE, the cohort achieved 100% Grades 9-8, with 83% of the group achieving a Grade 9. Some particular standouts include Tom Davies, who scored 97/100 on the Language paper, Thomas Ehlers, who scored a maximum 100/100 on the Language paper, Darcey Chambers, who achieved maximum marks on the Roman Civilisation paper, and Tess Rabjohn, who scored 59/60 on the Literature paper.

There was a similar story at A Level, where our pupils achieved 100% A\*-A in Latin. In James Bell, the Department also had our first Hellenist pass through the School and complete an A Level in Classical Greek. In Classics, we congratulate Charlie Rushforth for her outstanding performance on the Love and Relationships A Level paper, and her subsequent achievement of the Department's prize for Classics.

We look forward to picking up where we left off in the new Academic year and putting on several trips that we were forced to delay because of the coronavirus outbreak in 2020. These include a planned trip for the Sixth Form to Hadrian's Wall, as well as a visit to Bath to visit the Roman Baths with the GCSE Classicists and Latinists. We intend to rearrange these trips at the next opportunity as well as our biennial trip to Rome and the Bay of Naples.



# POLITICS

In November 2019, RGS Worcester had the great privilege of hosting the 2019 General Election Hustings between local candidates for the Worcester constituency. Visiting the well-attended Performing Arts Centre were the Conservative candidate and current MP Robin Walker, Labour's Lynn Denham, the Liberal Democrat Stephen Kearney, Louis Stephen representing the Green Party and the Independent candidate Martin Potter. It was a great opportunity for those already engaged in politics to explore further the issues surrounding the Election, but the event was also well suited for an introduction to the British political system.

The evening started with candidates' opening statements, enthusing those in attendance and setting up what would be a lively debate. Chaired masterfully by Head Boy Alex Owen, the candidates were then asked a number of pre-prepared questions, which had been collated from a range of different views amongst Sixth Form students. The subjects of the youth's position in politics and the NHS, sparked many interesting policy debates, especially focusing on the ways to engage young people, above and below the minimum voting age in British politics. This topic was particularly pertinent considering the school setting of the Hustings.

In the second half of the debate, shorter questions were taken from the floor, with our students unafraid to ask hard-hitting questions, engaging with our local politicians and discussing the political issues of the day. A wide variety of themes were discussed by all the candidates, ranging from the environment to issues surrounding the legitimacy of UK democracy. Perhaps inevitably, the event concluded on the topic which had started such a lively and wide-reaching discussion: a question on Brexit, which was answered with passion by all five candidates.

We would like to thank Lynn Denham, Stephen Kearney, Louis Stephen, Martin Potter and Robin Walker for their attendance and willingness to engage with all questions posed to them by the students, and thank the School for organising and facilitating such a useful evening.

*Written by Nick Fearon and Isaac Baker  
(Upper Sixth students)*



2019 was an amazing year in UK politics, and the December election allowed the Politics Department to hold a Mock Election. This is an important event to try and encourage young people to vote and demystify the process for them, hopefully making RGS pupils more likely to vote as they reach 18 years old.

Representatives from RGS had been elected to stand for each party across all Year groups, mirroring those standing in our county. The main candidates were from the Sixth Form and they represented the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green Party. Four Hustings debates were then held in Cobham Hall and Perrins Hall on Thursday 28 November. The candidates did an outstanding job as they delivered speeches to all our pupils and canvassed for votes in the week of campaigning before voting day. The campaigns were all based on explaining why the party's policies were superior as we were keen to make our campaigns positive and not based on personal attacks. A week of good natured and thoughtful campaigning then culminated in 'Polling Day' being held in Perrins Hall on Thursday 12 December. Sixth Form students acted as the polling station teams and the final results saw a Conservative government win with an official opposition from the Liberal Democrats.

Our trip to Parliament and the Supreme Court and the trip to see Congressmen in the 'Congress to Campus' programme were both unfortunately cancelled so these events will be rescheduled for the next academic term when it is safe to once again visit these sites.





# GEOGRAPHY

In September, the Geography and Biology Departments joined forces to create a cross-curricular trip for Field Day. This was a great success and the pupils made an early start on learning some of the essential fieldwork skills needed for both subjects. We spent a lovely, sunny day in the woods comparing different types of woodland using a variety of techniques. These included classifying vegetation diversity, using identification cards, as well as using a lux meter to see how much sunlight was reaching the forest floor. All of this was done using random sampling and quadrats to find the area of study within the woodland. The highlight was the pond dipping activity where pupils got to see who lived in the pond including some very rare newts. Year Eight pupils certainly enjoyed their day at Bishops Wood Field Studies Centre and we look forward to returning next year.

The Geography Department was asked to host the annual Head of Department Monmouth Group Conference. Geography teachers from across the independent sector gathered together at RGS to listen to the key note speaker Derek McDougall, a principal lecturer from the University of Worcester, speak about virtual fieldwork in glaciated landscapes. The day was a huge success and helped provide continued professional development for all of those involved.

As the Geography Department moved to online teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic, staff and pupils found new ways of working and we kept all Year groups engaged with our online lessons and activities.



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

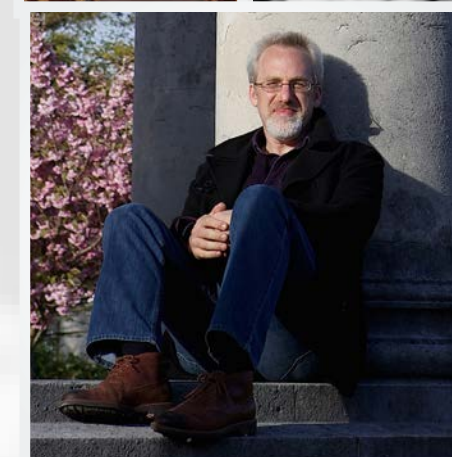
Last September brought many new staff to the RGS community and the Religious Studies Department welcomed Mr Breffit, as Head of Department and Mrs Soman to join the auspicious and dedicated team of teaching staff who have spent years developing such a strong department.

The Michaelmas term saw Year Seven embark on an ambitious and exciting exploration of the biggest of questions; everything from what it means to be happy, to whether or not God exists. Year Eight dived straight into the topical ethical issues investigating issues of human rights, religious and legal freedoms, peaceful protest and war and terrorism. Year Nine embarked on a syllabus of philosophy with epistemology and philosophy of religion testing the RGS pupils' views of the world.

In the New Year, the Department built further links with local faith communities with visits by the Sixth Form pupils to St George's Roman Catholic Church, where Edward Elgar was resident organist from 1885, and to the recently established evangelical Freedom Church. These visits gave the Sixth Form pupils the opportunity to have in-depth question and answer sessions with leaders of both churches on topics including feminism, religious experience and the impact on religion from migration and secularisation.

We welcomed author and educator Greg Barker to spend a day with Sixth Form Religious Studies pupils. This was an invaluable experience, packing in revision topics and exam technique and giving pupils the insight and experience of someone who has worked with the Examination Boards and written textbooks for many years.

Outstanding work was produced by all Year groups throughout the year, some particularly impressive work coming from the Lower School's Extended Projects. These saw all pupils in Years Seven, Eight and Nine each produce an independently researched extended essay or presentation as part of their revision of the year on everything from animal rights to arguments for the existence of God. Year Ten through to Sixth Form went from strength to strength in developing their written skills and evaluation; huge strides made for their GCSE and A Level preparation.







The highlight of the History Department's Academic year has undoubtedly been the trip to Berlin in December as George Wareing in the Lower Sixth eloquently sets out on the facing page.

My first time in Berlin, I was moved most by Gleis 17, the platform and now memorial to German Jews as they set out on the journey into what for them was the unknown but, of course, we now know was a journey to the concentration camps. In the year when we have celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE Day, it felt poignant to be in Germany, seeing the very different ways that they remember their recent history, both the world wars and the division of their capital during the Cold War. Berlin felt like a city in reflection, one trying to come to terms with the past. However, we did also celebrate the present, visiting Berlin's modern shopping malls and beautiful, atmospheric Christmas markets.



Berlin History Trip

Following in the footsteps of a number of recent RGS History and Politics students, George Garrity in the Upper Sixth built on his success of being one of the Vellacott History prize winners for Peterhouse College, Cambridge, by securing the offer of a place at that College to read History. Zain Baig in the Lower Sixth won the Worcestershire heat of the Historical Association Great Debate. Students across the UK had been set the topic: 'Should we judge historical figures by the morals of today?' and Zain chose to research the Crusades and produced a superb speech that explored whether the Crusades could be justified against modern views on regime change and around atrocities of war. We are very much hoping that he will have the opportunity to compete in the final at Windsor Castle if it can be re-arranged.

One site which was incredibly fascinating was the Jewish Memorial in the centre of Berlin. This commemorated all the Jews who lost their lives during World War II. The memorial is a maze of stone blocks of alternating height and sloping ground. It is designed to make people feel lost and confused when walking through it, mimicking the emotions the Jewish community would have felt in Nazi Germany as they were persecuted. The memorial challenges future generations to remember the faults of the past so that history does not repeat itself, a powerful message that stuck with the group through the remainder of the trip.

On our last day in Berlin, we visited the Stasi prison. This was where the secret police of the then German Democratic Republic in the Cold War held their prisoners. Our guide was an actual ex-inmate and he shed light on life in the prison as well as telling us his personal story. He had ended up in the prison by daring to speak out against the USSR's actions in Czechoslovakia in 1968. We were shown the old part of the prison known as the 'submarine' by the prisoners and given an insight into how the Stasi took people to the prison in the back of vans made to blend in with everyday life, such as fish deliveries.

*Article written by George Wareing, Lower Sixth*



*Zain Baig, finalist at the Historical Association Great Debate*



*George Garrity secured an offer of a place to read History at Peterhouse College, Cambridge*



# BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS



The Business and Economics Department began the 2019-20 Academic year in confident and expectant fashion, having celebrated exceptional A Level results in August. Economics maintained its strong academic track record at RGS Worcester with results of 81% A\* - B grades. Our Business students, however, excelled and surpassed all of our highest expectations. The overall success of 86% A\* - B was a record for the Department in recent years. Even more pleasing was the breakthrough at the top end seeing three students achieve A\* grades. Many congratulations go to all the students for their hard work.

The Business and Economics Department has continued to develop its Academic programme through the year, focusing on enhancing its digital provisions, allowing students to maintain progress and learning irrespective of physical presence in the classroom. This has also allowed students to recap and revisit areas of the two A Level courses independently and supported the clinics which have been running since September. Consequently, as the outbreak of COVID-19 ensued, the Department was more than prepared and confident about our online provision for the 'lockdown' period.

The other main focus for the Department has been to prepare for, and expand, the range of courses available for our students in the Sixth Form. As of September 2020, we will be introducing the Cambridge Technical Level 3 (CTEC) in Business. This vocational approach will allow students to choose a different route in their studies whilst still collecting valuable UCAS points. It will complement other subjects such as a BTEC in Physical Education or more creative A Levels such as Art, Textiles or Design Technology. This will be an important change for the Department and marks a new and exciting chapter for the students.







# CREATIVE ARTS FACULTY ART

After the successes of the summer examinations, with pass rates well-exceeding the National averages at both GCSE and A Level, the Art Department began the Academic year with the goals of continuing to have high expectations as well as introducing new opportunities into the curriculum. We also welcomed Mr Andrew Featon to the Art Department.

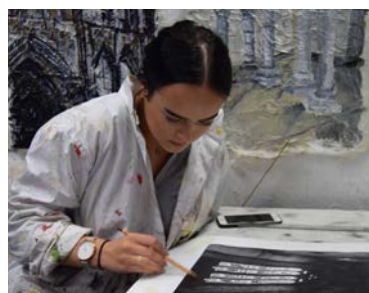
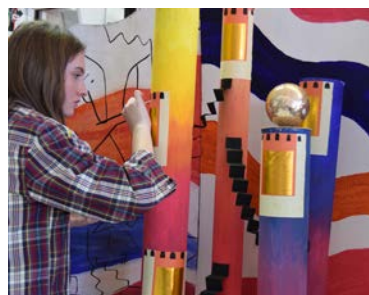
The Art Department hosted the newly revived House Art Competition. On the theme of 'Our Art House', the brief involved a link with an artist's work as well as construction in waste and recycled materials. The outcomes were exciting and imaginative and teamwork was exceptional. It was inspiring to see 'non-artists' returning to the studios and working with such enthusiasm. Elgar House beat their rivals with a lively, colourful and well-constructed design influenced by the Austrian born artist Hundertwasser.

A site visit in September to the city and Worcester Cathedral provided Lower Sixth students with the basis for their initial Coursework project. Photography and sketchbook studies were extended in the studio to large scale work. This culminated in the Lent term with the 'Worcester Visions' exhibition in The Dean's Chapel in Worcester Cathedral which showcased the diversity of approach and media, from printmaking to textiles and paintings in oils. It truly was a privilege for our Lower Sixth Form to have the opportunity of exhibiting their work to the public in the very place that inspired them and the comments from visitors showed an appreciation of the skill and individuality of our aspiring artists.

In preparation for their GCSE examination portfolios, Year Eleven artists visited the galleries and museums in Birmingham, offering them a wealth of inspiration from the traditional to the, sometimes challenging, contemporary. The pupils also followed a photographic trail through the city, recording their observations of the markets, architecture and daily life of the city.

This year we have been exploring ceramics and ran a photography competition as well as continuing our Lower School Art Club in which pupils worked in a variety of media and processes outside lessons with impressive results.

The culmination of the Art Department's year would normally be the Summer Exhibition as part of our Creative Arts Festival. This year, it was not to be, but we look forward to celebrating and sharing the hard work and creativity of our talented pupils at the earliest opportunity.



*An important role for the Art Department has always been to give our local primary schools the opportunity to experience working in studios with art experts. In the Michaelmas term we welcomed Year Five and Six pupils from The Rivers Academy Trust and our schools to an 'ExCELLent' Workshop to coincide with the National Big Draw Campaign. Deriving their inspiration from the forms of cells and bacteria, over sixty children produced large scale views through a microscope with mixed media and vibrant colour. Their results were proudly taken back to their schools at the end of the day.*



# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

The Design and Technology team were looking forward to a year of consolidation after so many changes to Examination Board specifications in recent times. Having gained some fantastic results at GCSE and A Level in the summer of 2019, the new Academic year was to be one of 'tweaks and adjustments'. That said, as a Department, we are in the fortunate position of having a wealth of skills amongst the staff and so it was not long before new projects pushing the boundaries were soon in the offing. It is wonderful to challenge the pupils' mind in this way.

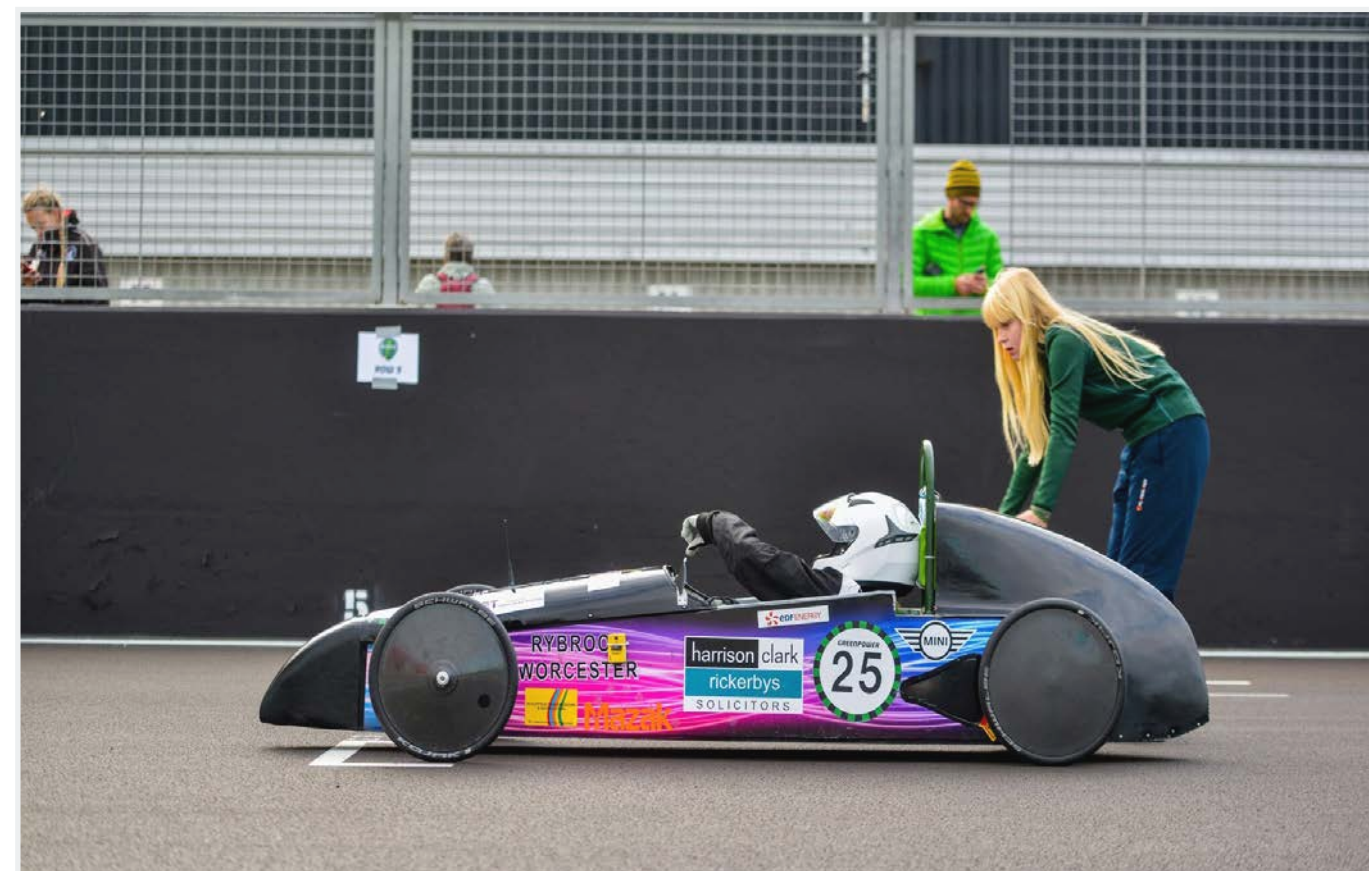
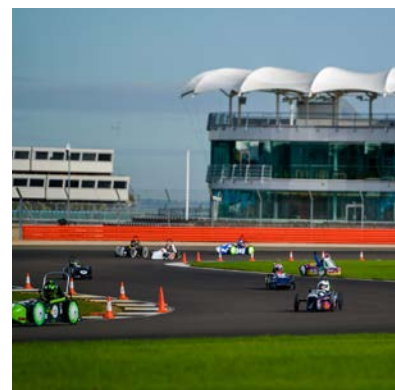
## GREENPOWER RACING

The Greenpower Team enjoyed their experience at Silverstone for the International Finals in October. The Team had some really good results building up to the Flagship Race with some close-to-podium finishes. The car 'Superformance' has been far more reliable this year, making the racing a little less stressful for all involved! This is only down to the hard work and enthusiasm of the Team and staff back in the School workshops where the car has been constantly tested and improved. The Finals almost came to a very abrupt end when another car pulled directly in front of 'Superformance'. If not for some quick reactions, from our driver at the time, the car would have almost certainly been wrecked. Instead, the front wheels were buckled! All had been going so well and these are the things that allow the teamwork to come to the fore. The car was back on the grid for the second race and finished a remarkable 18th out of 90 qualified cars.

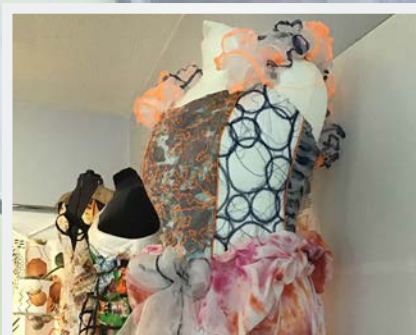
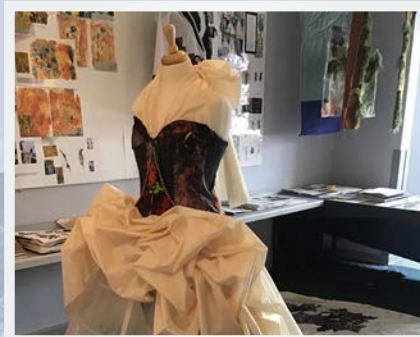
## THE LAND ROVER CHALLENGE

A new Land Rover 4x4 Team made up of six Year Ten pupils aka 'Team Zenith' has been busy this year. They have taken up the mantle to better the remote-controlled car built entirely from scratch that made it to the World Finals previously in Abu Dhabi. They have so far re-designed and made the driveshafts of the car before taking it to the Regional competition. The results were outstanding with near-perfect track performance and trailer tow, gaining the 'Best Track Performance' trophy in their Professional Class. Their success did not end there as they went on to win the coveted 'Best Engineered Vehicle' trophy also. They gained entry into the National Finals as a result of this top performance.

With coursework, projects, Greenpower, Land Rover 4x4 and the RHS Malvern Show garden design well underway, proceedings came to an abrupt end with the onset of the outbreak of COVID-19. However, it is hoped that all who have gone through the Department have gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for design and how things work. With such a pandemic comes the need for first-class engineers and designers and it is hoped that numerous RGS students will choose to follow this path in due course.





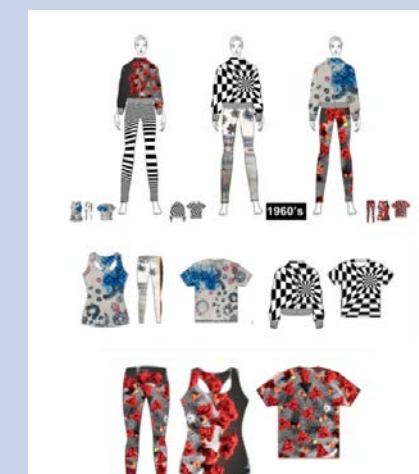


# TEXTILES

Pupils have enjoyed the challenges outlined in each of our new projects this Academic year. Year Seven pupils have explored both traditional techniques such as block-printing, together with digital effects to print fabrics from their iPads for the PopArt cushion. Year Eight pupils have enjoyed combining Scandinavian design techniques with technical fabrics, kindly provided by Concept Furniture International Furniture Hire, to make their backpacks. Year Nine pupils have explored fashion design with the classic 'bomber jacket' as well as interior design, creating digital wallpaper designs and fabrics for beanbags and lampshades.



Our Senior students have had the opportunity to explore fabric and product design in a workshop held at School with visiting designer Sarah Rich-Harrison. Sarah shared her passion for sustainable design; explaining how she set up her business designing and producing ethical fashion and interior pieces. She talked to the students about University and career choices as well as the typical day-to-day activities undertaken as a designer. Some of our students have completed work experience placements at companies such as Sophie Wynne-Owen Bridal, Kerry Kernan Millinery and the Inkberrow Design Centre.



**Darcy Nock**

Young Fashion Designer UK is a highlight in the Textiles calendar and is usually hosted at RGS Worcester each year. This year we are celebrating ten years of Young Fashion Designer UK and launched our first online national competition that students in Years Nine, Eleven and the Lower Sixth Form entered.

We are delighted that RGS Worcester pupils represented the School so well amongst the 180 entries that we received for the Midlands and North region.

Darcy Nock, Year Nine, achieved Second Place in the age 11-14 years category and Teyah Farmer, Arianne Eddy and Kitty Jenkinson, Year Nine girls, all received a 'Highly Commended' certificate; Teyah also made it to the final ten in that category.

Anna Berry, Year Eleven, achieved Second Place in the age 15-16 category, for her stunning design work based on 1930s fashion. Erin Howard, who joined RGS for the summer term from The Chantry School as part of the Year Eleven A Level 'bridging' course, achieved First Place overall. Erin produced such vibrant and creative research and capsule collection that really stood out amongst the entries.

Finally, Honesty Shaw-Young, Lower Sixth, also made the final ten in the age 17-18 category and has received a 'Highly Commended' certificate for her 1940's military-inspired collection. It has been really inspiring to see the variety of entries coming in from so many different schools and we are thrilled that our entries have done so well overall.

Very well done to all who entered, the judges had a very difficult job indeed.

**Mrs J Bishop, Head of Textiles**



**Anna Berry**



**Erin Howard**





# MUSIC

The Department's main teaching room and new classroom next to the Performing Arts Centre continued to resonate with the sound of music during academic Music lessons. Years Seven and Eight pupils have continued to work hard in Class Band lessons, learning to work together as musical ensembles (comprising drum kit, bass guitar, orchestral instruments and many recorders per class) as they have learned new pieces together. Year Nine pupils have completed topics on the 12-Bar Blues and Minimalist music, performing together and composing new music in these styles. To prepare for their GCSE performances, Year Ten pupils have enjoyed 'Breakfast Concerts' where they have each performed solos (as well as enjoyed brioche and pastries), whilst Year Eleven pupils have worked hard on their GCSE compositions, with pieces in jazz and video-game styles being creatively written.

At A Level, the Lower Sixth have got to grips with Music for Theatre and pieces from the Western Classical Tradition as well as all performing in a lunchtime recital in Worcester Cathedral. The Upper Sixth class of one, the extremely talented Megan Wang, has effectively composed two pieces inspired by the likes of Bartok and Prokofiev. Megan also worked towards, and successfully achieved, her Diploma of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music on the piano; an exceptional achievement.

During the 'lockdown' period of remote learning, music classes undertook a variety of projects, including having pupils prepare their own lessons on a given topic and completing virtual recording projects. They also made multi-tracked video recordings of their Stomp pieces using pots, pans, brooms and other kitchen equipment.





## CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC

The School's programme of informal concerts has continued this year, with Years Nine, Ten, Eleven and Sixth Form each giving a well-received soloists concert in Perrins Hall. Following a very successful Evensong sung by the Chamber Choir in Worcester Cathedral in October, the major concert calendar got underway with the Autumn Concert in Perrins Hall. All the School's major choral and instrumental ensembles performed a colourful programme, including pieces by Clara Schumann, Stravinsky, Duke Ellington and Paul Simon. The Chamber Choir once again provided delicate musical reflection at St Richard's Hospice's annual 'Light of Love' service in Worcester Cathedral, with Tazmin Barnes singing an extremely powerful and moving solo.

At the various School Open Mornings, the Senior Choir sang 'Happy' and 'Mr Blue Sky' and Sixth Form musicians performed solos. The January Open Morning also featured several open rehearsals which showcased the breadth and depth of our ensemble work.

After the success of the singing and seventeen-piece orchestra in November's 'Les Misérables', Christmas was marked with two contrasting events. 'Christmas with the Big Band' showcased the toe-tapping lighter side of festive music and the traditional service of Lessons and Carols in Worcester Cathedral provided a glorious summation of the term's choral work. This year's service was supplemented by a harpist and included performances by Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Chamber Choir and several female soloists.

In the Lent term, senior soloists gave an excellent lunchtime recital in Worcester Cathedral and the Wind Band won their class in the Worcester Competitive Arts Festival in March. The Chamber Choir also led Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, singing Stanford in C and Bairstow's haunting 'I Sat Down Under His Shadow'.

The annual choral concert at the Cathedral was a casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the RGS orchestra with friends from RGS Dodderhill succeeded in making a closed concert recording of Shostakovich's Second Piano Concerto with Megan Wang as soloist. The dazzling, twenty-minute showpiece challenged both orchestra and soloist, with everyone rising to the immense challenge of mastering this substantial piece.

Whilst the cancellations of several major events, such as the Cabaret evening and a new String Celebration concert, have been disappointing, the Department has still enjoyed a successful year and we thank staff and students alike for their talent and hard work. The dedication of our musicians allowed us to hold concerts and still film collective performances online which has been a new, exciting and challenging experience.

# MUSIC







Alongside Co-Curricular Sport, the Physical Education (PE) Department had a busy Academic year. In addition to delivering A Level PE, BTEC Sport and Core PE, the Department organised a number of further opportunities for pupils. Highlights included in the Michaelmas term participating in the #MyMiles Challenge for SportsAid. Pupils were encouraged to complete a minimum of one mile in SportsAid Week. If the activity was difficult to measure then 20 minutes of exercise was equivalent to one mile! Throughout the week, physical activities took place at lunch with all pupils encouraged to donate to take part. All the money raised went directly to SportsAid which is a national charity that provides talented young athletes with financial support, recognition and personal development opportunities in the early stages of their sporting journey.



In the Lent term RGS Worcester also supported the Hereford and Worcester Sports Partnership 'Worcs Girls Can', a localised version of the national 'This Girl Can' campaign designed to get women and girls moving, regardless of shape, size or ability. Having attended the 'This Girl Can' Conference in January the Department felt inspired and they delivered experiences built around an understanding of what motivates and what prevents different audiences from being active. The weeks' highlights included the Freedom Leisure Aqua class, a Rowing training session and a virtual bike class at Perdiswell Leisure Centre.

At the start of March, even under the circumstances of COVID-19, everyone threw themselves into Sport Relief. We enjoyed activities such as a Staff raffle, Mufti Day and the 'Bleep Test' and we managed to raise £1,894.89 for Sport Relief to help people who need it the most in the UK and around the world. Thank you to everyone who helped us to raise this money.



# DRAMA

Curriculum Drama at A Level concluded in December with a stunning performance of 'The Roses of Eyam' in the style of Jerzy Grotowski. This style represents 'poor theatre' and the stripping back of all 'fancy' technical and costuming and set and laying bare the actor. The four Upper Sixth students staged their piece in the attic of Whiteladies on a cold December morning. Their interpretation truly encapsulated the horrors of this tale based on the true story of the bravery of the residents of Eyam and their selflessness in cutting themselves and their village off from society to contain the plague. All four performed with emotion and showed their skill in physical theatre multi-rolling between characters as well as physicalising the plague itself with grotesque, contorted movements matched with piercing guttural sound.

Congratulations should also go to Frances Broadbent who was offered unconditional places at three Universities to study Drama/Acting.

The GCSE cohort performed their Component Three extracts in the same week and tackled a range of different styles in their choice of plays from '4:48 Psychosis', 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas', Godber's 'Shakers' and Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' and 'King Lear'. This year saw Lillian Heyburn become our first student who opted for lighting design rather than performance, showing the range of the subject and opportunities of study for the pupils.

The Sixth Form used their extended revision window to put both their written exam set texts onto the stage at the same time that the Year Eleven devised their final Component 2 pieces.

Year Ten also put their set texts onto the stage as part of their revision and exploration and were superb.

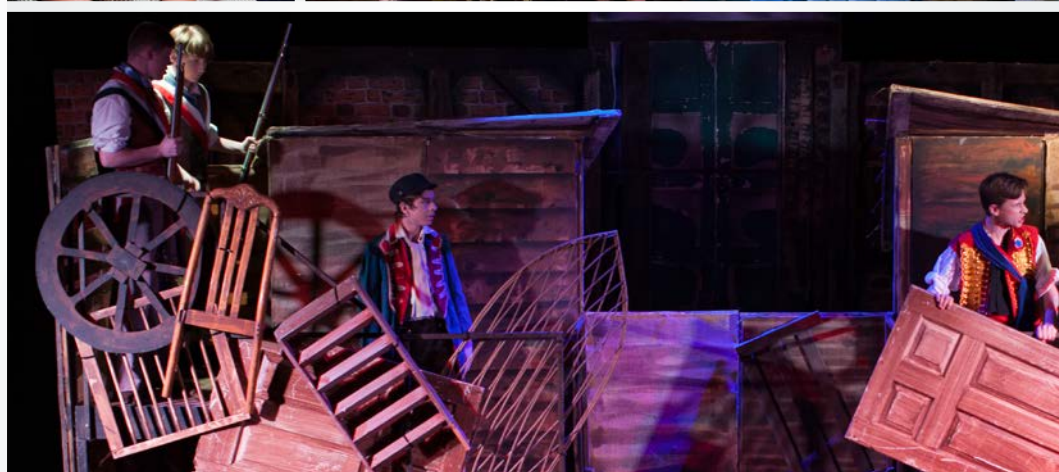
Our Year Seven and Eight cycles of pupils have continued to use and develop different skills. Year Seven pupils were examined on their physical performances of 'The Jabberwocky' and their devised ensemble pieces on the Myths and Legends theme. Year Eight based their Dance Drama war-themed devised performances on the theme of Isolation.

Particular credit is due to those pupils who had to be taught most of the units at home and showed their creativity and commitment to their study of Drama to write and perform some excellent monologue pieces as well as getting family... and even pets involved in group performances.

Our final Year group was the largest Year Nine cohort to date who refused to be defeated by the 'lockdown'. They wrote monologues to accompany their group devised so that they had something to perform from home and were assessed on a whole GCSE unit – it just shows the resilience of the students we have at RGS Worcester.







## CO-CURRICULAR DRAMA

The overriding focus for the Michaelmas term was the Senior School production of 'Les Misérables', which proved to be incredibly challenging for performers and directors alike. We were lucky enough to have a full day workshop with Jonny Barr, West End veteran performer and singing coach, who performed in the stage production and in the film alongside Hugh Jackman. He was a true inspiration and it was an experience that everyone involved will not forget.

Hours and hours of rehearsals later and with a full set and costume hire, the cast of 42 took to the stage for an outstanding and memorable week of superb performances, supported by a brilliant stage crew and Orchestra. On the stage all was spectacular, but backstage pure grit was needed when the cast and crew were hit by a virus. All were true professionals and battled on – it will surely go down as one of the best school productions of all time... and the one with the most stories. It was truly fitting for the Gala Opening of the Performing Arts Centre on 28 November.

The year had the usual theatre trips to productions ranging from the musicals 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert' at Cheltenham Everyman and 'The Boy in a Dress' at the RSC to moving pieces of work such as 'Museum in Baghdad' and 'The Whip', also at the RSC. All were fantastic and we are so pleased we were able to attend everything we had booked before the 'lockdown' ensued.

Clubs have continued with the Film Club as busy as ever and a new Year Seven Drama Club proving very popular. The DIY Company began rehearsing for this year's production of 'Macbeth', but the performances were unable to take place as planned.

'Bugsy Malone' auditions took place in February and, after lots of deliberations, a superb cast and Year Ten and Lower Sixth assistant directors were selected. Rehearsals have continued online so the cast will be ready for when we can return to the stage.



Bugsy Malone





'LES MISÉRABLES' SENIOR SCHOOL PRODUCTION GALA NIGHT  
AND OFFICAL OPENING OF THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE





Our fixtures programme proved challenging and competitive with well over two hundred boys representing the School and large numbers regularly attending training nights. This has continued to improve the intensity and style of play, as well as reinforce our values both on and off the pitch. All teams demonstrated attacking flair and organised, resilient defending in many matches but struggled for consistency.

At the top end, there were two smaller cohorts with a core number of boys making up the spine of the teams. With a large group of inexperienced Year Eleven boys who needed to be developed, it was particularly pleasing to see the character, attitude and determination that the young Senior teams showed. The squad did remarkably well to adapt during matches, executing tactics and strategies to great effect on many occasions with notable performances against Monmouth School, Princethorpe School and Bristol Grammar School and only losing twice in eight matches. The second and third teams competed admirably against more physical teams, with the 2nds defending resolutely while the 3rds demonstrated great potency in attack.

The competition at Under 15 and Under 14 age group levels was fierce and our fixtures programme tested the boys both physically, mentally and technically. The Under 15A team struggled for consistency, unity and a clinical edge in the last third, although their results at times did not reflect their endeavour and creativity. The Under 14A recovered from a one-sided encounter against Monmouth School to become stronger mentally, more organised and they began to attack with greater fluency as the term progressed with notable wins against Malvern College and King's School Worcester. At Under 13 level we had a talented group with strength in depth. They are maturing however they must demonstrate greater unity, cohesion and consistency to be more effective and showcase their talents. Their performances against Hereford Cathedral School, King's School Worcester and Princethorpe School were excellent. Finally, at Under 12 level the boys' continued passion and enthusiasm for sport are inspiring. With excellent numbers attending training, there was a real appetite to play, improve and represent RGS and the pupils showed their potential with only one loss recorded in all their matches. The A team led the way and enjoyed evenly contested matches against Princethorpe School, Wolverhampton Grammar School, Bishop Perowne C of E College and Abberley Hall School.

My thanks to all the boys and staff for their enthusiasm and commitment and I hope like myself they are already looking forward to the new season and all the drama and excitement it will bring.

# FOOTBALL

# SPORT



## The Challenge Cup

It transpired that this year's Challenge Cup match turned out to be the final match of the season and was admirably supported by both schools. After an even start for both teams, the more assured King's School midfield started to dominate and were rewarded with an early goal which rattled RGS who struggled to keep possession. The killer blow was delivered via a penalty just before half time as a result of poor defending. Following a change in formation for the second half, the squad responded superbly and dominated for long periods but could not score the elusive goal that would have set up a tense finish. Both teams should be very proud of how they represented their schools.



# HOCKEY



Over recent years Hockey at RGS has continued to go from strength to strength. This is reflected in the quality of performances and results and exhibited in the significant increase in levels of participation across all age groups. RGS Hockey is now consistently competing against distinguished opposition at a regional and national level. This progress demonstrates the implementation of our process-driven philosophy, aiming to facilitate players to become creative and decisive under pressure. Winning at junior level is not imperative and the fixtures programme provides a great blend of success and challenge to ensure learning and progress are made.

In Year Seven, every girl had the opportunity to play in teams from A-F and this continues into Year Eight. The Under 13 team retained the County Championship and had an excellent run in the Independent Schools Hockey Cup (ISHC) eventually being knocked out by St Benedict's Ealing in a thrilling 5-6 loss.

The Under 14 age group stepped up to the eleven-a-side format and made progress in every match. Year Ten pupils had the opportunity to be extended by playing up into the Under 16 age group and had some excellent performances as an Under 15 team.

For the Seniors, a weekend tour to Wellington College provided an excellent team-building opportunity. In the ISHC Cup and England Hockey competitions, the Under 18 outdoor Hockey season began with dominant wins but the cup run ended against Bromsgrove School. The Under 16B team played in the Tier 3 competition, a combination of Year Ten and Eleven girls, who look to provide great depth to our future Senior teams. The Under 16A team had positive results against Bloxham School and Cheltenham Ladies College but were knocked out of the cups by an outstanding Clifton College side and in a narrow defeat to Marlborough College.

This end to the competitive outdoor run provided the opportunity to prioritise indoor Hockey. Both Under 16 and Under 18 teams qualified from the county tournament to contest the regional round. The Under 18 team then went undefeated in the group stages by beating Oakham School, Trent College, Wellingborough School and Malvern College to gain a place at the National Finals. The Under 16 team beat RGS Newcastle and King's High Warwick in the group stages and in a nail-biting game against Trent College, they won 2-1 on penalty strokes. To have two age groups qualify for the England Hockey National Indoor Finals is one of the biggest achievements for RGS Hockey to date and we are immensely proud of the teams.

Across all age groups, we have a significant number of players involved in the England Hockey Junior Academies and playing club Hockey. Lara Shaw, Alice Atkinson and Ellie Nicholls were selected as part of the England Hockey Performance Centres and are training hard for a place at the Futures Cup that provides the opportunity for National Age Groups selection.

It is a pleasure to see the vision and values created and demonstrated by our Senior players over recent seasons filtering down through all the teams, particularly through our linear leadership programme and even into our Prep Schools. I would like to thank the departing Upper Sixth players, in particular, Captain Sophie Thompson and Vice-Captain Grace Francis for all that they have done to make RGS Hockey the success it is today.

Our coaches have continued to deliver Hockey outreach sessions for local primary schools allowing more children to have the opportunity to use our wonderful facilities and experience the game. There are also close links between the Senior School Hockey coaches and all the RGS Family of Schools to ensure RGS Hockey principles are instilled from an early age.

In addition to girls' Hockey, the boys' programme has also made excellent progress this season. Increased numbers of boys in Year Seven and Eight attended weekly training and the Under 13 boys' team playing at the regional finals. With future pitch development, RGS Hockey has an exciting future ahead for both girls and boys.

## HOCKEY NATIONAL FINALS

Our Under 16 and Under 18 Hockey teams achieved a place in the England National Hockey Finals, setting them against the top ten schools in the country. It was a remarkable accomplishment to have two of our teams qualify and something which only two other schools achieved. The dedication and commitment that led to this success were outstanding, training late into the evening and coming in to train over the holidays.

Unfortunately, the Under 18 team were plagued by injuries for their tournament; this included Captain Sophie Thompson, Jemma Moseley, and Sian Hooper. Fortunately, Grace Francis stepped in to lead the team, and Izzy Pepperall played brilliantly as a late recruit to the squad.

In a tough opening game against the reputable Wellington College, Lottie Atkinson created chances, but the opposition found the net twice to win the game. The second game against Millfield School saw Alice Atkinson and Maddy Shaw defend strongly against immense pressure, but two goals were conceded in the first half. A determination to execute the game plan and a real resilience were rewarded with a late goal for RGS from Grace Francis which left the final score at 5 -1.

Our match against St Lawrence College was a must-win Semi-Final and, even after a hat-trick from Lottie, the girls were disappointed to lose 4-6. In the final match with Royal Grammar School Newcastle, we faced some challenges including having a valid goal disallowed, the removal of our Goal Keeper and a penalty corner being given at the final whistle and finished with a 1-2 loss.

The Under 16 team had to demonstrate self-organisation from the outset in their National Finals, and they were nervous but excited. Within three minutes of their first match against Framlingham College, Sadie Hingley scored for RGS proving this new team's potential. Although the game concluded with a 5-2 loss, it was a very positive start in terms of performance.

The second game was against a very skilful St Teresa's School team. RGS played the game with an abundance of energy, but the final result was a 7-0 loss. However, we were not defeated and set goals for the next day.

In the match against Dean Close, a penalty decision against RGS meant Dean Close won 2-1. Despite this setback, with increased confidence, and an endless willingness to push forward and continue the positive performance, the team was determined to do their very best in the final match against Royal Grammar School Newcastle and produced a 3-0 lead. Royal Grammar School Newcastle scored with minutes to play, but our Under 16 girls were rewarded with a win to conclude the tournament. This meant they finished seventh in the country and we predict an exciting future in Indoor Hockey for this team.



# NETBALL



Other season highlights included a shooting clinic with Netball coach Lucy Herdman who is in the Severn Stars Netball squad, Netball outreach sessions including the Year Six RGS annual Netball Tournament, numerous inreach coaching opportunities with RGS Dodderhill, RGS The Grange and RGS Springfield and the RGS Staff Netball team winning the Worcestershire Workplace Netball Tournament.

2019-20 was another fantastic season for RGS Worcester Netball, characterised by success in every age group.

RGS fielded six teams at Under 12 level, providing an invaluable opportunity for every Year Seven girl to play Netball competitively. Highlights included the Under 12B team finishing winners and Under 12A team runners up in their respective Worcester City Tournaments. The Under 13s and Under 14s also had a good season coming runners up in the Under 13 Worcester City Cup.

At Under 15 level, impressive performances saw a number of notable victories recorded. The Under 15As achieved a 72% win rate with successes including against King's School Worcester, Bromsgrove School and Malvern College.

Not to be outshone by their Junior counterparts, the Seniors had another very good season finishing as Worcester City Champions at Under 16. The number of girls enjoying their Netball continues to rise and the School regularly fielded four competitive teams at Senior level.

Concluding a brilliant year, on Saturday 21 March we hoped to see the 'Girls in Green' captained by Hannah Middleton, lift the University of Worcester trophy for the sixth year. However, in light of an anticipated update on guidance from the Government regarding concerns of COVID-19 both schools took the unprecedented decision to cancel 'Superball'.

I would like to congratulate and thank all team members for the hard work and commitment that has produced such a fantastic season. I would also like to thank the parents and supporters, as well as the coaches who have given so much time and energy to RGS Netball this season.

To conclude, it has been another outstanding year for RGS Netball and in September we look forward to welcoming Miss Gibbons who will take over as Head of Netball. RGS Worcester owes a huge debt of gratitude to Mrs Atkins for her contribution during her tenure as Head of Netball Coaching. The number of girls enjoying Netball and their increasing success to achieve National level are in no small part a product of foundations built by Mrs Atkins, that have encouraged so many pupils to play sport. It has been a pleasure to lead such an enthusiastic and passionate RGS Netball community and I look forward to seeing the sport continue to grow in the future.





# ROWING

In September 2019 RGS Worcester and King's School Worcester Boat Clubs jointly hosted a GB Potentials Day attended by 28 rowers from the West Midlands including seven from RGS. The day included a 2.5k time trial, a presentation from GB Junior Rowing Coach, Dan Cooper, and a technical master class.



With fixture after fixture cancelled during the Michaelmas term due to river conditions, the rowers finally enjoyed their first racing of the term at Wycliffe Small Boats Head in December. RGS crews earned two Gold, three Silver and one Bronze medals. Gold medallists were the girls' double of Megan Wright and Phoebe Ellis-Tait, and the boys' double of Ben Jarvis and Daniel Hall.

In January, 61 pupils raced at the Worcester City Indoor Rowing Championships, including 20 Year Seven and Eight members of the Lower School Rowing Club. Racing against rowers from several local schools and clubs, the RGS Worcester teams and individuals won two Gold, six Silver, and five Bronze medals.

House Rowing moved to the Performing Arts Centre this year. Over 100 students and staff took to the stage with live action racing projected on the big screen. The format was team relays over 800 metres with teams of eight taking turns to pull 100 metres each. New this year was the staff race, which was hotly contested!

At the Head of the Severn, in February, the J15 girls' coxed quad of Maddie Brown, Lucy Smith, Menna Sutton and Rhiannon Griffiths (coxed by Alexa Pinches) won Gold over the 4.5k course, beating rivals from King's School Worcester and Worcester Rowing Club.



Also racing the 4.5k course were the J15s boys' octuple and the novice girls' eight. This is the first girls' eight RGS has fielded for several years. The crew included beginners who took up rowing in the Sixth Form as part of a new initiative to encourage the development of Rowing at the School.



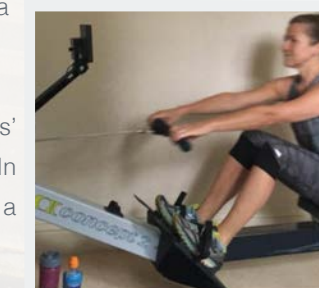
During the second half of February and through to early March the boathouse endured the worst floods for many years, and the Rowing staff supervised the evacuation of equipment from the site. Despite the lack of any water time from February onward, the Rowers competed at Gloucester Spring Head in early March. The J15 boys came away with a medal in the Band Two coxed quad event. The crew of Matt Smith, Charlie White, Ben Koutrouki, Tobey Butler, and coxswain Tom Cartwright, beat two crews over the 1,750m course to take the win.

The girls' coxed quad of Emma Little, Phoebe Ellis-Tait, Olivia Middleton and Lottie Bond, coxed by Flo Hobson, came third in a field of university crews racing the short course.

RGS raced two eights, the girls' novice eight and the Senior boys' eight which had been targeting Schools' Head of the River. In addition, we raced our mixed quad crew (also targeting SHORR), a second J15 boys' quad and a J15 girls' quad.

Sadly, the rowers' main fixtures of the winter – the Schools' Head of the River, and the National Junior Sculling Head – were cancelled as the nation faced the coronavirus pandemic. Rowers trained at home following programmes set by the Head of Rowing and enjoyed a number of competitions (even involving parents) completed online using ergos.

The fixture also provided a long course of 6km which was raced by the Senior boys' eight and a girls' coxless quad. The boys' eight recorded second place behind Winchester College but ahead of King's School Worcester by 10 seconds. The girls' quad raced in the Women's event against crews from Exeter and Worcester Universities as there was no opposition in their age category, and were pleased to have the opportunity to race.





# RUGBY

**There has been real progress across the board with RGS Rugby. Having worked tirelessly with the coaches to implement 'The RGS Way', the upskilling of the pupils was clear to see this year. Credit and thanks must go to all the coaches for working as hard as they do; our teams could not achieve what they do without them!**



Welcoming the new Year Seven group is always an exciting time; never quite sure what to expect, we have been delighted with the progress that they have made over the season. They were small in stature, but as brave as any Year group we have and they have produced some monumental performances. Linking up with RGS The Grange and spending Friday mornings working with the Year Six pupils has clearly helped to instil our key techniques to provide some familiar faces coming into RGS Worcester.

Our Year Eight pupils continued to impress with their unrelenting physicality and free-flowing Rugby. Full of energy and commitment, they only had two blemishes on a tough fixture list. The future of RGS Rugby is in safe hands with our two youngest Year groups.

If there was a Sports Charter Award for an entire year group then the Year Nine pupils would undoubtedly get it. Their commitment to training and constant drive to improve demonstrates everything good about RGS Sport. Whilst results didn't go their way, we have seen enough quality in the side to know that their fortunes will change as a result of their sheer hard work as they move up the School.



A Regional Final was the reward for a very good Year Ten season. Although the final result didn't go their way against Pate's Grammar School, it was a fantastic performance and testament to the improvements made over the last two years. The Year Ten players are well prepared for Senior Rugby next year and I expect them to thrive under the challenge.

Senior Rugby was a real challenge with limited numbers and a very long injury list this year. Having said that, the Year Eleven pupils really stepped up and not only competed valiantly as an Under 16 side, but also made up the majority of the 2nd XV when they had fixtures. This was a steep learning curve for the players but one that will pay off next year.

The 1st XV squeezed every ounce of potential out of themselves and ended up having a very decent season. Last gasp tries, goal-line defensive efforts, the first win against Colston's and back to back wins against Solihull School are all days that will live long in the memory. This was an uncompromising team led by an uncompromising Captain: Ollie Witcomb was nothing short of brilliant in the way he galvanised his side and set the standard.

Thank you again to all the coaches and parents for your continued support of the boys and RGS Rugby. You have made my time at RGS Worcester both enjoyable and thoroughly rewarding. I look forward to watching Rugby thrive at RGS in the seasons ahead.





## CROSS COUNTRY

The cross-country season started brightly with the ESAA County Cup competition at Bromsgrove School where the boys' team of Harvey Shaw, Jimmy Barry, Tristan Dawes and Noah Dunnett came second. This qualified them for the West Midlands regional final at Moreton Morell College in Warwickshire, where the wet and muddy conditions made for a very challenging course, but the team ran well and finished eighth overall.

The waterlogged ground was the theme of the winter and, although the district championships were cancelled, seven pupils took part in the county championships at the University of Worcester's Top Barn campus and performed strongly, with Jacob Bunyan securing a top ten finish in the Junior boys' race.



The Abberley Hall races and relays managed to continue and the RGS teams showed great determination and endurance over the steep hills and tricky terrain. Both the girls' and boys' teams performed well in these events with particular success for Harvey Shaw who won the boys' race by a significant margin, helping his team secure second place in the team competition.

Our weekly Running Club has fared better with the roads and paths near the School being more resilient to the effects of the weather. The Club has proved very popular this year with a wide range of pupils, including a large contingent of Year Seven, despite the early hour of the training runs! In the Lent term, we were fortunate to have the assistance of a very talented runner, Miss Bryony Gunn, working at RGS as part of her teacher training, to pass on tips and encouragement to our pupils as she joined us for our training sessions.

## GOLF



The introduction of a Junior Golf Club in the summer of 2019 at Worcester Golf and Country Club brought about much interest in the game in the younger age groups and, as a result, RGS entered the ISGA Junior Schools Cup at Sunningdale Heath in early September. Josh Griffiths and Sydney Blanchenot finished a creditable 11th position on what was a very tricky course, situated right next door to the prestigious Sunningdale Golf Club.

The Seniors played Bromsgrove in the first round of the ISGA Matchplay tournament but unfortunately missed out 2-1. However, this loss meant that RGS went into the Plate Competition and the team of Brandon Sarfo, Will Dancox and Max Griffiths managed to beat Malvern College at The Worcestershire Golf Club, putting them into the final against Monmouth School for a place at the National Finals. Unfortunately, we were unable to play the fixture due to COVID-19 'lockdown' but congratulations to all of those who competed this year and too Brandon Sarfo for being Golf Captain.

## FENCING

Fencing enjoyed a very successful start to the year. Will Osborne, Lower Sixth, continued to fence on the national circuit at both Under 20 and Senior level, with good results in several competitions in the Michaelmas term. He and Will Fallows, Year Eleven, were both invited to fence for the West Midlands Winton Cup team, which is a notable achievement.

More locally, Joseph Kington took the Gold medal in the Under 11 boys' Epee at the Cocks Moors Wood competition in November, which is one of the largest regional competitions. Shortly afterwards, in the Warwick Age Group Epee, Zara Martin-Green, Year Eight, won a Gold medal at Under 12 level beating all the Under 12 boys along the way, Lucas Hancock, Year Ten, took the Silver medal at Under 14 boys level, while in the Under 19 boys' event, Will Fallows took the Silver medal, narrowly beaten into second place by Will Osborne who won the Gold medal (and a very nice silver plate).

The term ended with the enjoyable and well attended RGS Fencing Gala: 73 fencers from 18 schools and clubs, in 34 teams; 53 matches across 13 pistes during 6½ hours of Fencing and training. Special thanks must go to Nick Chapman who, as always, organised the event and to the twelve professional coaches from around the West Midlands region who answered Nick Chapman's request for support on the day.

The Lent term opened with the West Midlands qualifiers for the British Youth Epée Championships. Joseph Kington won another Gold medal at Under 12 boys level, Amelia Titterton (RGS Dodderhill) won a Gold medal beating Zara Martin-Green who won the Silver medal in the Under 14 girls' competition. Will Fallows took a Bronze medal at Under 16 boys, while Tom Ehlers won the Silver medal in the Under 18 boys' competition. Lucas Hancock (Under 16) and an injured Will Osborne (Under 18) also qualified for the National Finals. In February, a recovered Will Osborne took the Bronze medal in the West Midlands Senior Epée Championships while the School went to the King's School Worcester for our regular Lent term friendly fixture, with the RGS Fencers winning the team matches in all three weapons.

Sadly, the year then came to a halt due to the 'lockdown', but RGS will be ready to fence again next year, guided as always by our excellent coaches, Nick Chapman and James Harris.





# CAREERS

RGS continues to be at the forefront of Careers Education, Advice and Guidance and Gatsby benchmarks are fully embedded in our Curriculum. We continue to work towards Stage 2 in Quality in Careers Mark, however, it has been delayed due to the current crisis.



WORKING TOWARDS  
"THE QUALITY IN  
CAREERS STANDARD"



Pupils from Year Seven through to the Upper Sixth have the opportunity to research, record and develop their skills via a new on-line programme. Pupils create individual shortlists, research new career pathways and develop soft skills and qualities whilst setting individual targets. It has been an important development as pupils can be monitored, and receive tailored advice and guidance.

Year Eleven pupils had 1:1 Personal Careers Guidance interviews, provided by the AOOEs, for which we are incredibly grateful. It enables pupils to make an informed decision about key career pathway choices at all stages of their education.

Lower Sixth students had Academic Enrichment sessions intertwined with their Curriculum. The Careers Department was part of the programme, and all pupils followed an Employability Skills programme in the Lent term. With support from outside agencies, pupils gained an insight into real-world skills. Pupils had the opportunity to attend CV and interview workshops, and the course culminated in a very successful Mock Interview day staffed by fifteen members of industry who put the pupils through a rigorous mock interview. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the annual Careers and Higher Education EXPO which in previous years has rounded off the Employability module. However, pupils have accessed webinars, virtual open days and many other wonderful initiatives that have come out of these unprecedented times.

Monthly Careers seminars are firmly embedded in our School Calendar, with many pupils attending each session. Seminars have included Qinetiq, Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, Army careers, Engineering, and Accountancy amongst others, including more informal talks from gap year providers and Universities.

We continued with our Year Nine initiative repeating Reverse Interview Day, which was a huge success. Ten business people volunteered to be quizzed and interrogated as part of this beneficial event which showcases different professional sectors.



We were honoured to have Mr Justice Pepperall present an extraordinary seminar on Careers in Law and the differences between how Barristers and Solicitors work. It was truly inspirational and incredibly enlightening. Year Seven to Sixth Form pupils attended the lecture, and no doubt, numerous pupils will be researching this exciting career pathway.

RGS pupils completed Work Experience in numerous differing companies ranging from medical placements and veterinary practices, through to accountancy. Yamazaki Mazak continues to offer six of our Year Eleven pupils a week's Work Experience for which we are very grateful. On their final day, there was a fantastic presentation about the experience and which projects they completed. It was an excellent experience and thanks must go to Mazak for their continued support of RGS Worcester; it is such a valuable insight into the world of manufacturing and engineering. Work Experience continues to be incredibly valuable in developing the skills necessary to enter the workplace confidently, even in the remote learning companies are offering virtual Work Experience opportunities and events.

Our annual trips were cut short; however, we still managed to get pupils out in the

Michaelmas term on trips to: Malvern Innovators, Next Generation for Year Eight Maths in STEM Insight day for Year Nine Aston Martin STEM lecture for Design and Technology students.



Every year we have a wealth of opportunities and events that our pupils can access and despite all that 2020 has decided to throw at us, we continue in the quest to provide timely, relevant and informed Careers advice and guidance to our pupils. We look forward to an exciting and fruitful 2021.

## THE EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

The 2019-20 Academic year started on the back of another successful set of results for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) with our students continuing to produce an impressive range of projects while maintaining an exceptionally high standard of work.

For the second year in a row, pupils achieved 100% A\* - B Grades with a superb 71% of grades awarded being either A\* or A. Accredited projects included a diverse range of investigations from athletes' diets, architecture, nuclear thermal propulsion systems and opera. A couple of projects looked at ancient Athenian women, the pressure they faced, and the extent that female deities of Ancient Greece align with 21st Century ideas of power.

As part of the course, all students had access to a range of taught skills preparing them for broader academic study in the Sixth Form, and their studies beyond RGS Worcester at undergraduate level. Our annual trip to The Hive explained how University libraries work and their online features.

It was an excellent feature of the EPQ journey and will help make the transition to University life all the more natural.



# SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT

The Enrichment programme this year was overseen by Mrs Nicholls and the Sixth Form Team. We decided to launch a new initiative that meant all pupils had the opportunity to gain their RGS Baccalaureate by the time they finished their two years in Sixth Form. This new certification meant that pupils could work towards different sections of their Baccalaureate and have them signed off when completed. The five different sections reflect the importance of independent study alongside a widening of pupils' life skills. Co-curricular activities such as sport outside school, volunteering, work experience and community work as well as registering for on-line MOOCs and individual research projects, such as the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ); all these were elements that could be signed off to count towards the certification.

The programme ran with a weekly session over two terms. The Lower Sixth students started the year with half a term of essential Study skills that set them up for the independent nature of Sixth Form study as well as the all-important EPQ, which a great many RGS pupils chose to do. Upper Sixth students were firmly rooted in the UCAS and Higher and Degree Apprenticeship application process and enjoyed the opportunity to get involved in one of the short course rotations that took place within the second half of term.

After Half term, all pupils had the opportunity to develop their Life skills and took part in short courses such as cooking for University, First Aid, Personal Finance and film making. The EPQ and Community Sports Leadership Award were also popular qualifications that several pupils chose to follow.

In the Lent term, the Lower Sixth took part in the Employability module which saw them attending lectures on CV writing, Interview technique and Job Application advice. This culminated in a full Mock Interview with a member of industry which gave invaluable feedback in preparation for University and job interviews. Unfortunately, due to the unprecedented impact that COVID-19 had on the country as a whole, the Careers and Higher Education EXPO was cancelled.

However, companies and institutions have made a huge impact virtually and have offered webinars and virtual open days for our pupils to access remotely. Although the Enrichment programme was halted prematurely, our Sixth Form students followed online courses that were related to their future career pathways and they quickly adapted to a new remote way of learning and they kept themselves busy developing life skills from cooking at home, webinars with former pupils and attendance at virtual open days.

The Enrichment programme went from strength to strength last year and it continued to develop the essential 'soft skills' that employers and Universities are searching for in prospective candidates.



# THE BILLINGHAM SOCIETY

The Billingham Society saw a doubling in the number of pupils actively involved since last year, with over 120 signed up in Year Seven through to Year Eleven, attending various talks and demonstrations throughout the Academic year.

Starting off the year was Mr Morgan's 'Was 1985 the Greatest Year for Hollywood?', introducing some classics such as 'Back to the Future', 'The Goonies' and 'The Breakfast Club', truly bringing some '80's nostalgia into 21st Century RGS. Other highlights included Mr Phillips' festive foray into Arthurian Christmas with the telling of 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight', focusing on the morality of the tale and the unexpected nature of the story. Back by popular demand was the dissection, this time of an entire piglet; the keen anatomists were able to view organs and systems within the animal and liken with diagrams studied in class. Miss Spencer brought the world of Musical Theatre to life, comparing song styles, as well as getting the pupils to partake in basic musical theatre dance routines and songs. In the last twilight session, we were able to enjoy before 'lockdown', there was an interview with Ben Cox, professional cricketer with the Worcester County Cricket Team; pupils submitted their questions in advance, and were able to ask Ben about his career and life that had led to where he is now. They were fascinated to hear how he had originally aspired to a life of Rugby, and that Jonny Wilkinson was the most inspirational sportsman he had encountered, imparting his dedication and determination to be the best he could be.

Once the 'lockdown' started a remote Billingham group was set up with extending curricular videos being shared, including; 'How Wolves Change Rivers', 'Religion and Babies' and 'How Containers Changed the World'. The Academic year was once again rounded off with a return of the 'Harry Potter and the Billingham Quiz', remotely via 'Kahoot', which was greatly enjoyed



by all who attended. Despite all the challenges, this was another successful year for the Billingham Society and I thank all those who have participated so willingly.



# DEBATING

It has been another superb year for the RGS Debating Society, sponsored by SME Solicitors. Following on from last year's successes, the new generation of competition debaters are now lucky enough to be trained by our new Debating Coach – half of last year's all-conquering team and now studying English at Oxford, Amber Warner-Warr.



The depth of talent in the School at Debating and the hard work put in by all involved are evident from the fact that we have had winning debaters from all competition Year groups. The Upper Sixth led the way with the Society President, Alex Owen, and his partner, George Garrity reaching the Finals Day of the Oxford University competition and they were joined by two other RGS pairs, Isaac Baker and Nick Fearon and Elizabeth McCabe and James Preece. This feat was made more remarkable as this was the first time RGS had succeeded in getting three pairs to the Finals Day.

Nick and Isaac also had huge success in the one-day University competitions, reaching the four-team finals at both Bristol Schools, where they were top going into the final, and Nottingham Schools. In both competitions, they were joined by another RGS team; the Lower Sixth pair of Tess Rabjohn and Zain Baig at Bristol, and the Year Eleven pair of James Preece and Elizabeth McCabe at Nottingham. James and Elizabeth, despite competing at Sixth Form level, have already experienced huge success, not only reaching the final at Nottingham in First place but also being crowned Champions at the Bath Schools. Moreover, they, along with Kathryn Shaw, were the winning team for the regional round of the English Speaking Union Public Speaking competition, retaining the Worcestershire Cup for RGS.



Our newer competition debaters also flourished. Katy Marsh and Kasia Czyrko in Year Eleven reached two novice finals (for debaters in their first year of senior competition) at both Warwick Schools and Nottingham Schools, with Ella Marsay-Jones and Alice Ryan joining them at Nottingham. RGS Worcester filled half the finals places at Nottingham as well as seven of the top ten speaker places (out of 80).

Zain Baig won the Worcestershire heat of the Historical Association's Great Debate to reach the finals at Windsor Castle, and, with Alice and Tess, he also made it to the regional finals of the English Speaking Union Mace competition. The Year Ten pair of Tobey Butler and Rayyan Styles won the regional final of the International Competition for Young Debaters at the Oxford Union, and Callum Lockett and Oscar Haynes, both in Year Nine, also qualified for the finals day. This year the May finals took place online against schools from across the globe and proved to be a unique and incredible experience.

Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic meant there was no Oxford Finals Day and, for the moment, no final for the Great Debate or ESU Public Speaking. Nevertheless, it has been another fantastic year and the future of Debating at RGS Worcester looks very bright.





# HOUSE REPORT

A special thanks should go to last year's House Captains of Grace Francis and George Caldwell for Elgar; Evie Beardsley and Alex Tidball for Whiteladies; Lottie Jones and Oliver Witcomb for Ottley; and Hannah Middleton and Nicholas Fearon for Wylde. We wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

With new House Captains in place and Year Seven pupils joining in the second half of the Michaelmas term instead of after Christmas, there was more change for this year's House Competition. The new competition of House Art started off the year with a triumphant Elgar rightfully taking the spoils, with a memorable Whiteladies attempt for the 'Our House' creative task. The newly introduced Pétanque proved a popular event, and a shuffling of the House calendar saw Tug of War and Senior House Dance brought into the Michaelmas term, with both proving to be ever-growing spectator events. Results were relatively even throughout the Michaelmas term, although Whiteladies proved too strong, taking the term's trophy with only 5 points separating second from fourth.

In the Lent term, new events such as the Year Eight Cipher Challenge, Model-Making and Music were all introduced and well received, with Wylde winning two out of the three. The newly revamped Rowing took centre stage in the Performing Arts Centre along with Junior Dance, both proving huge spectator events as a number of staff struggled to keep themselves seated on

their ergometers. The interrupted Lent term saw Ottley take the Lent trophy, with Wylde slipping into fourth place in the final two events.

With the competition halted shortly before Easter, the overall standings were Elgar in fourth on 73 points, Wylde in third on 75, Ottley in second on 84 and Whiteladies holding firm on 93.

The first House 'lockdown' event was the 'Keepie Uppie' challenge with ten successful entries, including several team-efforts from siblings, Whiteladies took the 4 points. We then had the newly established House Photography competition in which Whiteladies were the eventual winners, with Kathryn Shaw's imaginative and beautifully captured trio of photographs representing 'Home' taking first place.

Kathryn then managed to repeat her success in the Lego Builders House

event and secured another win for Whiteladies. In House Film-Making, it was a closely fought battle between two impressive and heartfelt films from Mia Fletcher, Lower Sixth, of Whiteladies and Bella Gray, Year Eight, of Elgar, with Whiteladies just getting ahead for the 4 points. House Mathematics saw an excellent take-up, Whiteladies again took first place, followed by Elgar, then Ottley and Wylde. This meant that Whiteladies had won every event of the Trinity term so far, but the resolve of all Houses would be tested in Virtual Sports Week.

With a complete re-shaping of Sports Day into Virtual Sports Week, the Sports Department did a sterling job of launching many new events with pupils submitting evidence online. Mr Brindley had the task of collating all scores before they were converted into House Points. After the nine events were completed, the scores were in with Ottley in fourth



place with 51 points, Whiteladies in third with 55 points, Elgar in second with 58 points and Wylde winning Virtual Sports Week with an impressive 68 points. With bonus points given for participation, we saw an additional 4 bonus points awarded to Wylde for having 101 entries, with Elgar gaining 3 points for having 79 entries, narrowly beating Ottley in third with 78 entries, and Whiteladies in fourth with 74 entries.

Therefore, the winner of the Trinity Trophy with 79 points was Wylde, with Whiteladies in second with 76 points, Elgar in third with 73 points and Ottley in fourth with 63 points. This meant that Whiteladies retained their overall crown with 169 points, Wylde came second (154) and Ottley secured third (147) just ahead of Elgar (146).

With Dr Davison returning and Mr Scanlon and Mr Webster becoming new House Leaders, next year's House competition promises more entertainment and the spirited rivalries look set to continue.

## ELGAR HOUSE REPORT

This was to be an exciting year for Elgar. Firstly, we welcomed two new House Captains; Grace Francis and George Caldwell. George being a 1st XV Prop and Hooker and Grace representing the 1st teams for Hockey and Netball. These House Captains had a vast experience of playing in teams, motivating others, passing on their valued sporting knowledge as well as being highly competitive. This meant that all pupils were engaged and ready for the House events from the start.

Our first meeting of the year was, as

always, a strategy meeting to discuss our strengths and how we could improve on any weaknesses. Once again, we would look to continue our dominance over Ottley and try again to exploit any gaps in Wylde House's armour.

The Michaelmas and Lent terms nearly went to plan. Excellent wins in Senior General Knowledge, House Art, Year Eight Hockey and Year Ten Rugby were secured. This was then backed up in the Lent term when a strong contingent of new Year Seven pupils and showed their pedigree by dominating the Tug of War and helped the House win the Rowing Competition with contributions from all Year groups and staff. During Lent term the Intermediates won the Debating for the second year in a row and Charlotte Smith led the Shooting team to a pleasing victory.



# HOUSE REPORT

As a result of all this success, Elgar started the Trinity term in contention for a podium spot and, with traditionally our strongest events to come, nothing could be taken for granted by any of the Houses. Unfortunately, we all know what happened next due to the pandemic. Ottley and Wylde will have been relieved and will be saying, "It was all set up for a nail-bitingly close finish" but, deep down, they will know they had not secured enough points to prevent us from overtaking them once again.

MR J FRIEND, HEAD OF ELGAR HOUSE

## OTTLEY HOUSE REPORT

With the start of the new school year Ottley made a blistering start with victories in both Badminton competitions with stand out performances from Luke Jones and Oskar Matysiak for the Juniors, and Rees Bonham, Oliver Witcomb, Sam Chamberlain and Eleanor Fawcett for the Seniors. This was followed by a number of Second and Third placings throughout the term, with the only losses coming in the Senior General Knowledge, Year Eight Rugby and Year Ten Rugby.

Michaelmas term saw Ottley victorious in House Poetry and the esteemed Senior House Dance. The other Houses were all keen to knock Ottley off our dancing perch, but yet again the dancers were resolute and the combination of skill, determination, visionary choreography and gold spandex ensured that Ottley remained Senior Dance Champions. Although Whiteladies had built a considerable lead, Ottley ran in as

joint runners up for the Michaelmas trophy, with spoils being shared with Wylde.

Ottley's triumphs continued into the Lent term, with victories in Junior General Knowledge, Senior Football and Senior Debating. With the only Fourth places coming in Year Seven Hockey and Junior Football, Ottley was again proving strong with a series of Second and Third placings, including Second in the inaugural House Model-Making. Junior Dance was another stand out performance, where two Ottley teams put themselves forward to retain the Dance trophy. Led by Miss Freeman, Darcy Nock, Caitlin Lane and Josefina Round, both our dances were impressive, and, partly down to Ben Mockford's acrobatics, Ottley managed to get the Dance-double.

Ottley House was aiming for the Lent trophy having led throughout. With a significant gap emerging at the top of the Lent table with Ottley at the helm, the term was then brought to an abrupt halt as the country went into 'lockdown'.

MR D MORGAN, HEAD OF OTTLEY HOUSE

## WHITELADIES HOUSE REPORT

Following an emphatic win in the House Championship last year, Whiteladies started Michaelmas term full of hope that we could repeat our valiant efforts and keep our place at the top of the table.

Our first major victories came in Junior Chess with stunning work at the board by Ayaan Ahmed and Nathan Lad in particular. The Seniors came to the forefront,

taking a win in Benchball thanks to the heroics of Zain Baig and a great team effort. House Captain Alex Tidball helped to gain an excellent second place in General Knowledge. House Dance was, as always, an extremely memorable and hilarious experience. Led by House Captain Evie Beardsley, the team produced a lively performance to a medley of '80s hits, with Henry Brereton providing the flair and Alex Owen producing some 'unique' choreography of his own! The term was rounded off in style with incredible results in major sports, with Whiteladies taking first or second place in every Year group in Hockey and Rugby. Whiteladies was able to celebrate with a comfortable lead at the top of the table and the Michaelmas term trophy.

Lent term was time for the Juniors to shine and they matched the second place of the Seniors in their Dance competition. Debating was a strong event for Whiteladies once again; in addition to team victories, Whiteladies pupils were awarded best speaker points for Marcus Banks, Sam Taylor and James Reynolds. In what turned out to be the final event in School, the inaugural Model-Making competition, James Reynolds led a loyal and talented team to a well-deserved victory. The loss of Netball fixtures at the end of the term was a set-back in the quest for the Lent term Trophy, but when 'lockdown' began Whiteladies was holding on to our position at the top of the Championship table.

MRS E BINNER, HEAD OF WHITELADIES HOUSE

## WYLDE HOUSE REPORT

It was a privilege to be asked to carry the mantle of Wylde House Leader for the Lent and Trinity terms whilst Dr Davison was on leave. From the beginning, the gap between Wylde house and the House table leaders, Whiteladies, instantly began to close due to a fantastic showing from the Year Eight Cipher Challenge Team.

Lent term brought many notable performances and successes for the House and it was a delight to bear witness to the diligence with which the entire House prepared for events, from twice-weekly dance rehearsals to the immense spectacle of the House Rowing competition; enthusiasm and commitment were second to none.

Whilst we endured some disappointments, in House Debating and the most unfortunate of substitutions as the last round of Junior General Knowledge began, the

team spirit of Wylde was clear to see but bodes well for a successful future with Year Seven Football and Hockey teams both winning their competitions. Dedication to the team cause was evident as pupils heroically saved the day by stepping in for absentees during the final round of the House 'Bismarck' Model-Making Challenge to save the House from last place.

Finally, I would like to mention the inaugural House Music Competition, as I can assuredly say that watching this piece come together was one of the highlights of my career. This group of musicians across all Year groups rehearsed during breaks and lunch to rearrange Adele's 'Set Fire to the Rain', complete with a string section, acapella, and the infamous tonic chord. They were more than worthy winners and their performance will live long in the memory.

MR G WHITTLE, ACTING HEAD OF WYLDE HOUSE





# COMBINED CADET FORCE

The Combined Cadet Force has been established in some form or another for over 150 years within schools. Initially, the cadet organisation was a recruitment pathway for the armed services in a time when there was a high need. By the 1950s, the organisation was moving away from this and although the ethos is still based around that of the Armed Forces, the modern-day focus is primarily on helping young people to develop and reach their full potential by providing challenging, active, adventurous and fun activities which develop leadership and teamwork. To quote from a movie, we try to instil an “improvise, adapt and overcome” mantra to our cadets, which is so needed in the current climate.

## ARMY

September Field Weekend allowed cadets not only to build upon the skills learnt from summer camp, but also for new Senior cadets to step up and lead their Sections for the first time. The Army training area at Nesscliff was ideal for our purposes: within two hours of travel from RGS with excellent facilities including a 25m range, a DCCT (Dismounted Close Combat Trainer), open fields and woodland for overnight stays. Having attended Warcop the previous two years for summer camp where an overnight camp was not part of the programme, both Year Ten and Eleven cadets were to experience their first two nights of sleeping, eating and practising military skills in woodland.

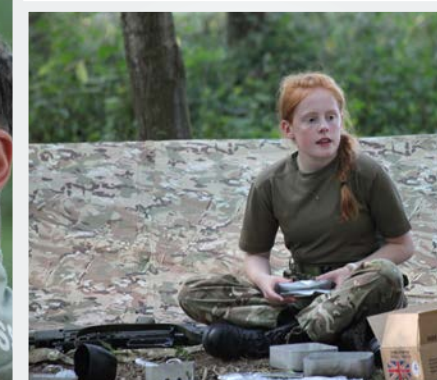
The cadets were welcomed off the coach by our Special Forces liaison for the weekend and were given instructions on how to reach their harbour area (where the cadets would be sleeping that night). On arrival and after securing the area, cadets set up their bashas for the evening and acquired their ration pack for the next 24 hours. Their first military overnight sleep was next on the agenda, and apart from an inquisitive badger, the night went smoothly. The following day, cadets undertook a rota of activities: they were re-introduced to Section Attacks where much smoke, co-ordinated activities between fire teams and helicopters were in play; they undertook training in the DCCT where cadets practised their Skill at Arms (SAA) with the L98 rifle; with the final part of the rota putting everything into practice on the 25m live firing range. The cadets then made their weary way back to the harbour area where they received their second 24 hour ration pack.



After a suitable wait-time, the Sections geared up for a night ambush. After a full brief of the situation, cadets stealthily made their way into a camouflaged and protected area to wait for the enemy, who willingly sacrificed themselves in time-honoured tradition. A quick tab back to camp and a hot chocolate later cooked on their stoves, the cadets went to bed for a badger-free night's sleep. Sunday morning saw the usual end-of-exercise administration of cleaning the weapons, sweeping the camp of litter and walking back into camp for a deserved sleep on the coach home.

My thanks go to all the cadets and to those who help the Army Section: from Mrs Cooper who is our guardian angel, to our esteemed SSI, Bosch, and to the army of volunteers who make the Army trips so successful; Commander Shorrocks, Mrs Copper and Miss Mathers-Hutchinson. The Section also welcomes Mr Featon into the ranks and we look forward to his participation in Army activities in the coming years.

MAJ H SMITH, CCF





# THE ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

Field Day in September saw our cadets visit Aztec Adventure at Upton Warren where they built upon their team building and leadership skills by taking part in sailing, canoeing and kayaking activities.

In October we celebrated 'Trafalgar Night' in Main Hall. Historically, this is an occasion when people within the Navy celebrate the success of the Battle of Trafalgar and remember Admiral Nelson's brave and inspiring leadership. The RGS Naval Section celebrated the evening with a delicious themed three course meal and there was a drinks-making session using dry ice under our theme 'spooky shipmates'. Promotions were also awarded to many of the Section, with our Senior Rates being formally recognised and the Year Eleven cadets were congratulated for passing their 1\* assessment. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

In the Lent term our Section gave a fantastic presentation to Year Nine and really showcased the exciting activities and trips on offer within the naval section. As a result, we were delighted to welcome 16 new recruits after Easter and, although activities were somewhat curtailed for obvious reasons, cadets were able to access information and activities on Showbie throughout the Trinity term. We are sure that our Senior Rates will do a great job of settling them in next term!

## SLT C STILL



# THE ROYAL AIR FORCE SECTION



Parade the teaching towards the Part 1 Award, which will allow them to participate in flying activities.

Year Ten and Eleven cadets have learnt how to prepare and deliver lessons to the recruits, using a variety of platforms ranging from PowerPoint to the highly competitive 'Kahoot' games. The development of presentational and leadership skills will hopefully be further utilised in the Michaelmas term.

As in previous years, the Michaelmas term had a busy agenda with RAF cadets continuing to gain new skills flying and gliding. They visited Top Adventures at Stottesdon as part of Field Weekend in September and all of our cadets were able to participate in a wide range of adventurous and leadership activities from team building to archery and wall climbing.

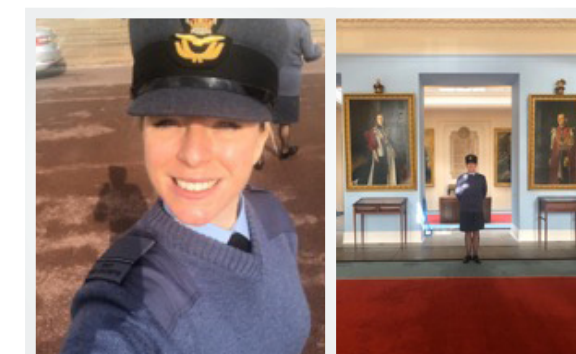
As the year progressed, all cadets continued with their exciting flying lessons at RAF Cosford, despite the best efforts of the notorious English weather. Our cadets learned to fly the Grob Tutor aircraft which has great visibility, a sense of acceleration and is agile enough to allow it to perform full aerobatics, which is something all the cadets enjoy. We were also fortunate to gain cadet gliding places at RAF Little Rissington. This is a highly sought after activity for RAF Sections but, unfortunately, the English weather intervened. The inclement weather continued into January which prevented further flying experiences this Academic year. Nevertheless, flying slots have been organised for September and later in the Michaelmas term in the hope that face-to-face CCF activities will re-commence.

As a Section, we are determined to be ready in September and have continued with our training online. We have welcomed our new Year Nine recruits and have already started via Remote

My thanks go to Kathryn Shaw and Katy Marsh for leading the RAF Section so well. Having attended the RAF Leadership course at Inskip Cadet Training Centre last year, they have put into practice their training and are leading by example.

Mr Webster has joined the Section this year and his input has been very valuable, especially on aircraft recognition. Ms Roberts-Gawen attended and successfully passed the Initial Officer course in RAF Cranwell and was gazetted Pilot Officer. My thanks must also go to Mrs Dixon who has continued to support our cadets at School, on Field Days and during flying days.

## MRS L KETTLE RAFVR(T)







## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Outdoor and adventurous enrichment continues to thrive at RGS through the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme with nearly 140 pupils enrolled. The Award combines service for others, physical activity, life skills and the excitement of adventurous expeditions.

The year started in earnest with Lower and Upper Sixth expeditions to the North Wales coast, a Silver Award trip to the Long Mynd near Church Stretton and our novice Bronze Award pupils staying closer to home in and around Martley and Lower Broadheath.

Nearly fifty pupils have been involved in the Gold Award this year, which is testament to the staff and pupils' enthusiasm

and commitment. In September, under the guidance of instructors at Arete Outdoor centre in Llanrug, the Upper Sixth students completed their practice expedition in preparation for the challenge of the River Tay in North West Scotland during the summer.

Lower Sixth pupils had the opportunity to try different watercraft, develop their skills and knowledge of safety and logistical measures, and learn to factor tidal impacts into their route planning. They ventured north again in March for their practice expedition, wild camping on the south-west corner of Anglesey in challenging weather conditions and braving the fast and substantial tidal swells of the Menai Straits.

The Silver and Bronze Awards cohorts continued to develop and expand their skill sets through their expeditions. Our Year Eleven groups were ready to complete their assessed expedition in Derbyshire and had supplemented their preparations with a day of external First Aid training out on the Malvern Hills whilst honing their micro-navigation skills. All our Bronze Award pupils completed their assessed expedition while being peppered by heavy rain, demonstrating excellent navigation and producing many delicious meals.

This year we have invested in and broadened our external First Aid training provision for all levels and this has developed a very important life skill for all pupils. Staff continue to develop their interests and expertise through a variety of courses covering First Aid, mountain and hill walking.

All pupils have utilised their e-DofE accounts with much more enthusiasm and greater organisation this year, providing some

excellent examples of their amazing personal developments and service for others. The Residential element of the Gold Award continues to pose many challenges, especially with the criteria becoming more rigorous. Pupils have recently undertaken placements with outdoor and adventurous centres, the Rotarian Youth Leadership Award scheme, the Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance, the National Citizen Service and Cyber Security courses.

As we approached the busiest time of year for expeditions, there were plans to explore Sweden, Northern Scotland, the Black Mountains, the Brecon Beacons, Derbyshire and the Wyre Forest via walking, open canoe and sea kayaking. Sadly, all were prevented by 'lockdown' restrictions. Time will tell what can be achieved in the months ahead but we hope all pupils will progress and complete their Awards. Many thanks to all members of staff and friends of the School without whose expertise, commitment and love of the outdoors, these many wonderful and enriching experiences would not be possible.







The COVID-19 pandemic has affected charity fundraising throughout the country and RGS Worcester is no exception. Nevertheless, over £10,000 had been raised in school before we switched to remote learning on 20 March. £2,400 was raised for Oscar Saxelby-Lee, a 5-year old Worcester schoolboy with leukaemia, and the Charity Committee has also supported BBC Children in Need, Macmillan Cancer Support, the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, The Myriad Centre and Sport Relief. Year groups have also fundraised for the NSPCC, Worcester Snoezelen and Acorns Children's Hospice.

The School has again supported Wooden Spoon, the children's charity of Rugby, and Help for Heroes.

On their own initiative, groups of Year Seven children organised their fundraising events for Birmingham Children's Hospital, Worldwide Fund for Nature, The RSPCA and Worcester Community Trust, which is to be commended.

Harvest Festival donations from the Lower School were delivered to Maggs Day Centre and Worcester Foodbank benefitted from 20 boxes of food and toiletries donated by staff.

Teachers also participated in the 2.6 Challenge (in place of the London Marathon) in support of a number of different charities.

The support of parents, pupils, teachers and support staff is crucial to our fundraising efforts and is very much appreciated. Thank you all very much indeed.



# OUTREACH

RGS Worcester continues to put a lot of importance on working with and supporting our community and one of the ways in which we do this is to invite local and regional State Schools into the RGSW Family of Schools. We hold events to support their curriculum and share our facilities and specialist teachers.

In the Academic year from September 2019 to July 2020, we have held 46 Outreach events, hosting over 51 different schools with over 1205 pupils visiting RGS Worcester. We have thoroughly enjoyed having everyone here and have received invaluable feedback and positivity in return.

Major events over the year have included British Science Week, Eggstravaganza, a Maths Challenge, a Geography and History Orienteering Workshop, three MFL Culture and Language Mornings, a Dance Festival, two Hockey Skills Workshops and a Promenading English Writing event.

This year digital learning has been at the heart of everything we do and, as an Apple Regional Training Centre, we ran courses and invited teachers from across the Midlands to learn about integrating Apple technologies into their teaching and learning. As part of our Digital Learning Programme, we offer schools such as the Oasis Academy Warndon sessions on the best use of iPads in education.



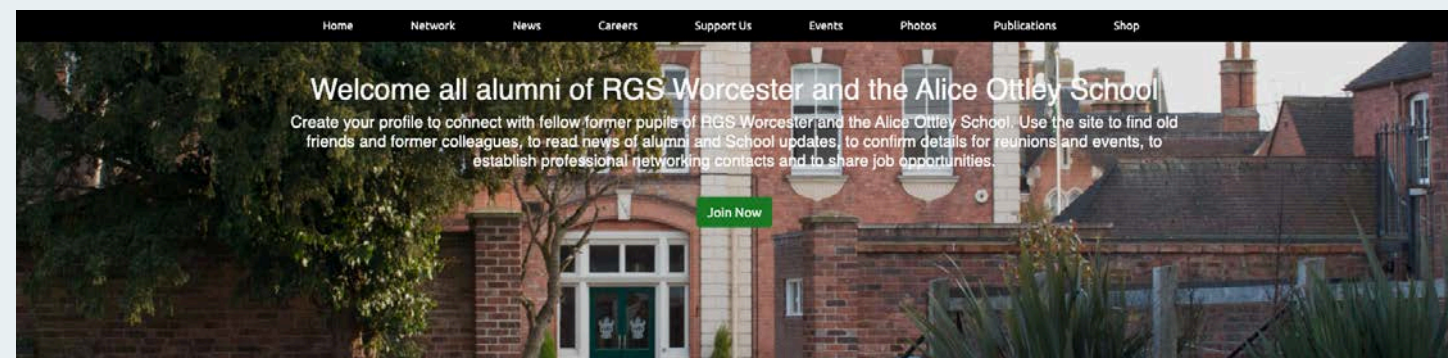


# THE FOUNDATION

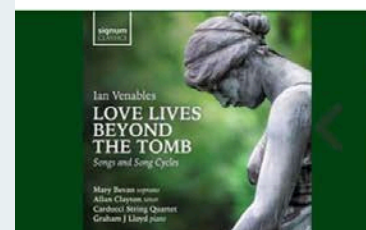
The new Academic year also marked another new development for the alumni community with the Foundation Office launching its online platform: [www.rgswandaos.foundation](http://www.rgswandaos.foundation)

The ambition is to harness the resources, skills and network of the School's diverse and vibrant alumni community. In doing so it is hoped that alumni can support current pupils as well as furthering the work of the School and the Foundation. The website provides a platform to share news of and with alumni, to inform of developments at the School, to promote forthcoming reunions, as well as enabling fundraising. Planned future developments include a jobs board for alumni, a business directory for alumni and RGS parents and an online archive.

The Foundation Office welcomed a number of alumni and parent donors to the Gala Night performance of 'Les Misérables'. These supporters have helped to fund the Performing Arts Centre development and have enabled pupils to attend RGS through their support of bursary places. They thoroughly enjoyed seeing the talent of RGS pupils across all aspects of the production.



## News



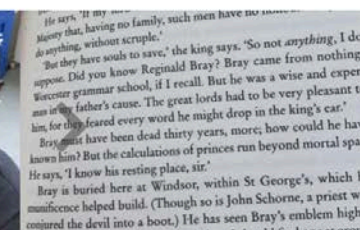
**'Remember This' – national composer and former RGS teacher releases latest works**  
We are delighted to see the works being published once again of Mr Ian Venables, nationally acclaimed composer and former Economics teacher at RGS Wor... More...



**Hardship Fund Appeal is launched**  
Tim Curtis, Foundation Chair, has launched an appeal for the Hardship Fund. Gifts will be used to keep pupils at RGS by assisting with fees for famili... More...



**Help for the NHS**  
RGSW help in the production of vital PPE supplies More...



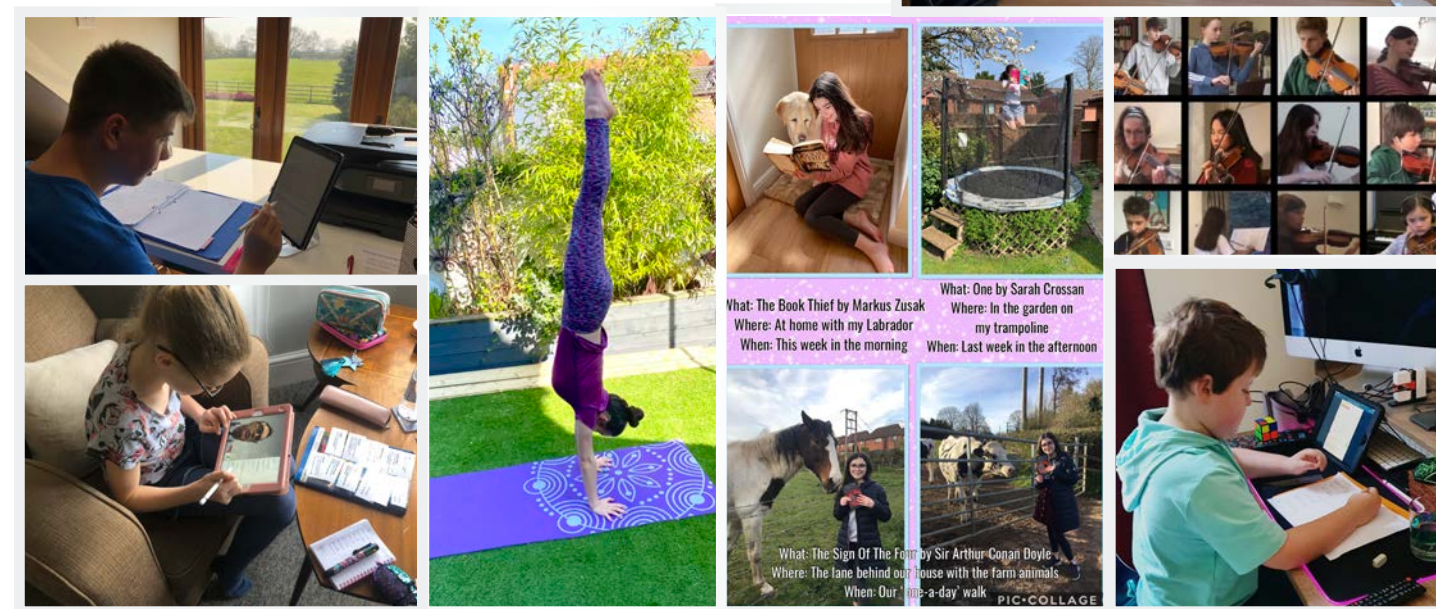
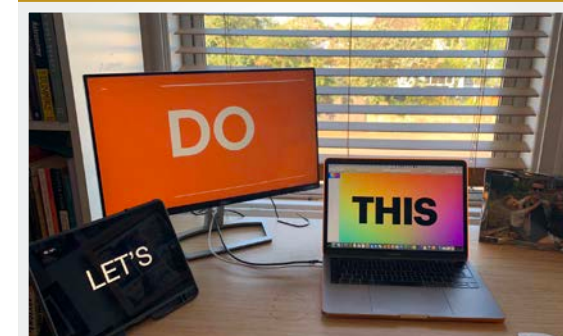
**The Mirror and the Light**  
RGSW features in new Mantel novel More...

The unprecedented economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis necessitated an unplanned approach to the alumni community to seek support for the Hardship Fund. This Fund is used to provide grants to families outside of the bursary process who unexpectedly require support with school fees. The response was inspiring.

Alumni whose years at the School span 1937 to 2010 rallied to assist, with donations coming from as far afield as the USA, UAE and Taiwan. The Fund was also bolstered by fee rebates donated by parents from all four RGS schools. This collective generosity has enabled a number of pupils to continue their education at RGS. Anyone wishing to discuss options of supporting the School can contact the Foundation Director, Scott MacDonald at: [foundation@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:foundation@rgsw.org.uk)



Andrew Greenway stepped down as inaugural Chair of the Foundation after three years but happily he remains a Trustee of the charity. He was succeeded by Tim Curtis who will be familiar to many in the RGS community both as a former pupil and as a long-serving member of staff until his retirement in 2016.





# A WARM WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

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

## MR DOMINIC BREFFIT



Mr Breffit joined RGS Worcester in September as the Head of Religious Studies. Having grown up in York, he gained his degree from the University of Manchester in Theology and Philosophy before working for several years as a data protection analyst. He then left the UK to travel, spending two years overseas before meeting his future wife and settling back in South Manchester. There, he completed his PGCE (Teaching) course and taught Philosophy and Religion at Stockport Grammar School for 5 years. Mr Breffit and his wife have 3 young children and in his spare time, as well as spending time with his family, he enjoys climbing and cycling.

## MRS JENNY DAVIES



We were delighted to welcome Mrs Davies to the Mathematics Department and she has made an effortless and smooth transition into the team. This is perhaps assisted by the 10 years of service she completed at RGS The Grange that preceded her move to us or her years as a parent to three children through RGS Worcester – the two girls having now graduated from University. Her background as a Mathematics and Computer Science graduate have assisted in her multiple roles at RGS The Grange and she has certainly added significantly to the DLP repertoire of the department. Proving that learning is for life she is still working towards a mastery of Portuguese and we look forward to the opportunity that arises to allow her to make use of this skill in school.

## MR ANDREW FEATON



Fine Art trained, Mr Featon joined the RGS Art Department with a wealth of experience. He arrived from King Edward VI College Stourbridge, where he held the position of Subject Leader for Art and Teacher of Graphics. Prior to this role, Mr Featon was Head of Art at King Edward VI Five Ways. As a team leader for Examination Board Moderation, a lecturer in Photography and as a practising artist, we welcome Andrew and the diversity and new opportunities he brings to our pupils. When not in school, Andrew enjoys travel and the outdoors.

## MR JONATHAN SOMAN

Mr Soman joined us this year as Director of Music from Sutton Valence School in Kent where he lived in a boarding house and was Assistant Director of Music for six years. A clarinet and saxophone player, Jonathan was born in Suffolk and read Music at Oxford University. He works with the Examination Board AQA on their A Level Music course and is glad to have moved to Worcester with his wife and two-year old son, Reuben. He looks forward to becoming a father for the second time in September 2020. Mr Soman enjoys homemade pizza, anything orange, the music of Stephen Sondheim and pudding!



## MRS SUSANNA SOMAN

Mrs Soman joined RGS Worcester as a part-time Teacher of Religious Studies. Born and bred in Northern Ireland, she gained her degree from Oxford University and then completed her teacher training through the School Direct programme. Before moving to Worcester she taught Religious Studies and English for five years at Highworth Grammar School in Ashford, Kent, where she was involved in preparing pupils for Oxbridge entry. She and her husband Jonathan have a two year old son and are members of their local church; in her spare time Susanna enjoys cooking, baking, reading and any good TV drama series. Mrs Soman completed her one year post at RGS in August.



## MR MATT PARKER

Mr Parker joined RGS Worcester as the Assistant Head (Co-Curricular and Outreach) in September. He was previously the Housemaster of a boys' boarding house at St Edward's, Oxford and had also run the School's successful International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Mr Parker began his teaching career at Eastbourne College where he ran both the School's Rugby and Tennis programmes.

An alumnus of Sedbergh School, where he was Head Boy and Senior Music Scholar, Mr Parker read Classics at Christ Church, Oxford and also played for the University, winning a Rugby Blue in the Varsity Match. He is married to Jacqui, a Consultant Anaesthetist, and they have three children who all started at RGS The Grange last September.



## MRS NATALIE DAVIS RETURNED TO RGS AT THE START OF THE TRINITY TERM.



MR THOMAS CRAWLEY  
GRADUATE SPORTS ASSISTANT



MISS EMILY JOHNSON  
GRADUATE SPORTS ASSISTANT

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



# A FOND FAREWELL

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

## MISS CLARE JAKEMAN



Miss Jakeman joined RGS four years ago and has been a dedicated member of the Geography Department throughout her time. She has delivered inspiring lessons across all Year groups and played an integral part in supporting pupils to continue with studying Geography at University. Miss Jakeman's enthusiasm for Geography has helped to inspire many pupils as well as made our fieldtrips even more enjoyable. On the recent trip to Iceland she was able to help deliver fantastic additional talks beyond what our guide delivered due to her excellent subject knowledge. She will certainly be missed by both staff and pupils.

Miss Jakeman also took charge of the CCF (RN) Section as well as playing a major role in RGS Music, playing the tuba in concerts and singing in the choir. We wish her all the very best as she continues her career in education.

## MR SIMON MCGARRY CROSS



Mr McGarry-Cross leaves RGS having been with the School as Head of Rugby for two seasons. In his relatively short tenure, RGS Rugby has made significant strides forwards and his infectious coaching mentality will be sorely missed. The 'RGS Way' that Mr McGarry-Cross brought into the School has seen a notable improvement across the Year groups in aspects such as 'hand-catch' and low tackles. As a defence coach, there has been an emphasis on the organisation around the breakdown, an area often overlooked at schoolboy Rugby level and this was very evident in the way the 1st XV played in their victory in the Modus Cup match in 2019. He has also enhanced our Rugby Sevens programme in the Lent term with a desire to play the fastest schoolboy Rugby! Unfortunately, the Sevens season this year was largely prevented by COVID-19 but he has left the programme in a good place for his successor. Simon moves on to become the Defence Coach at Newport Dragons in the Pro14 League and we wish him all the best in the professional game.

## MR GRAEME WHITTLE



After just two years Graeme Whittle is leaving us to take up an exciting challenge at Shenley Academy in Birmingham. In a short space of time Graeme had become one of the most popular Science teachers in the department. He built very supportive relationships with his classes and has been an excellent tutor to the new Year Seven pupils. I'm absolutely sure many of his pupils, similarly to his colleagues, will be sad to see him leave. Graeme's natural leadership ability was recognised by his appointment as acting head of Wylde House. With previous management experience it was only a matter of time before Graeme sorted out permanent new challenges and we wish him every success with his new position as Head of Science. We only hope the school can find a new 'whiff whaff' coach for lunchtime practice that has anywhere as much style!

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK MISS KATIE PASKE WHO TAUGHT CHEMISTRY FOR A YEAR, MRS JOANNE CLARKE WHO TAUGHT HISTORY FOR TWO TERMS AND MISS STEPHANIE GEORGE WHO TAUGHT ENGLISH FOR THE TRINITY TERM. MRS ALISON FOISTER IS ALSO LEAVING RGS ROWING AFTER SEVEN YEARS. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT TO RGS ROWING.

# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRIZES

## YEAR PRIZES

### YEAR SEVEN PRIZES

#### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Hannah Agoston	Isabelle Fawcett	Lexie Hubbard	Zara Pepperdine
Natalie Aston	Rosie French	Isabelle Jones	Leyla Rashid
Faizaan Baig	Noah Gent	Joseph Kington	Yasmina Rashid
Ben Brierley	Toby Giles	Maddie Lavoipierre	Daya Sanghera
Connie Bright	Amelia Godfrey	Caitlin Love	Yasmin Styles
Liam Chadwick	Harry Green	Faheem Mohamed	Ella Wain
Issy Churchill	Izzy Green	Harry Moore	Emily Walsh
Martha Colclough	Jacob Hartley	Keira Mountford	Abigail Walter
Sorrel Coxcoon	Megan Hepple	Sophia Nancarrow	Lulu Weaver
Jessie Dancox	Orla Hession-Wilson	Alex Napier	Noah Whitbread
Ella Dudley	Hollyanna Hopkins	Libby Parker	
Aeryn Egginton	Grace Horrocks	Sasha Penlington	

### YEAR EIGHT PRIZES

#### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Charlotte Abbotts	William Edgehill	Charlotte Lamb	Sianna Saroop
Toby Alexander	Daniel Foster	Jaimie Lee	Sofia Stolt
Marcus Banks	Freya Glasson	Michael Liu	Millie Street
Sydney Blanchenot	Bella Gray	Jessica Lowe	Samuel Taylor
Connor Bowers	Keira Higgins	Zara Martin-Green	Rowan Towers
Amelia Clarke	Annabelle Howarth	Joseph McRobert	Mya Walford
Abigail Crabbe	Sophie Jackson	Katy Pitt	Grace Williams
Elizabeth Crookall	Zac Jew	Lucas Reid	Edith Wise
Mollie Delahay	Amélie Johnson	Mitilda Santhosh	

### YEAR NINE PRIZES

#### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Adam Allan	Luke Jones
Catherine Broadbent	Nathan Lad
Jacob Bunyan	Oskar Matysiak
Martha Burdon	Tom McMillan
Noah Davison	Lauren Pearse
Arianne Eddy	Charlie Raven
Annie Hallowell	Emma Woolhouse
Summer Hipkins	

#### ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Emily Crabbe	Oscar Savory
Matthew Dale	Callum Sharp
Teyah Farmer	Helena Stockford Parsons
Lucy Garrard	Isabelle Thompson
Oscar Haynes	Oliver Tibbetts
Alfie Mossop	James Woolhouse
Katie Robinson	Kaylani Zulkiplee
Josefina Round	



# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRIZES

## YEAR TEN PRIZES

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Ellie Allen	James Robinson
Ollie Blunt	Kitty Smith
Eleanor Fawcett	Rayyan Styles
Daniel Hadley	Emily Walklett
Katie Kimberlee	Benjamin Weller
Maisy McRobert	Annie White
Ellie Nicholls	Lana Zulkiplee
Emma Pickersgill	

### ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Elizabeth Adams	Megan Nixon
Benjamin Atkins	Alexa Pinches
Alice Atkinson	Katie Ralph
Tobey Butler	Benjamin Sears
Benjamin Chadwick	Edward Sellors
Darcy Gray	Menna Sutton
Samuel Hewitt	Shivani Thukral
Kristian McCabe	Hebe Walsh
Imogen Monce	

## YEAR ELEVEN PRIZES

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Lucy Ball	Adrian Fok	Katy Marsh	Josh Oldnall	India Southwick
Niall Byrne	Ben Gaubert	Elizabeth McCabe	Isabel Pepperall	Bethan Standing
Elizabeth Carter	William Godwin	Maia McCrindle	Matthew Powell	Abi Timmington
Jack Cheney	Lillian Heyburn	Madeleine McLeod	James Preece	Kim-Ly Weaver
Kasia Czyrko	Isabella Hulbert	Olivia Middleton	Maia Roncal Montini	
Freddie Davies	Aaron Lad	Oliver Nixon	Kathryn Shaw	

## LOWER SIXTH PRIZES

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Lily Ashmore	Max Houchin
Zain Baig	Liam Leonard
Darcey Chambers	Ella Marsay-Jones
Alex Coleman	Will Osborne
Grace Coleman	Daisy Price
Eleni Coutsouri	Tess Rabjohn
Tom Davies	Alice Ryan
Isobel Dipple	Emily Stanley
Thomas Ehlers	George Wareing

### ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Grace Coleman	Holly Jenkins
Zuli Creedmiles-Naraine	Alice Liversidge
Philip Darbyshire	Katie Pickersgill
Maxim Eddy	Lizzie Rhoden
Allison Fok	Cameron Taylor
Frankie Healey	Sally Thorogood
Safa Ibrar	

# INDIVIDUAL AND SCHOOL PRIZES

Named prizes and cups celebrate the contribution made to the School by the named person. The person and the dates of attachment to the School are given when known.

## THE LOWER SCHOOL ART CUP

Amélie Johnson

## THE LOWER SCHOOL DRAMA CUP

Molly Postlethwaite

## THE LOWER SCHOOL MUSIC PRIZE

Sophie Jackson

## THE LOWER SCHOOL DESIGN TECHNOLOGY PRIZE FOR TEXTILES

Bella Gray

## THE LOWER SCHOOL KATHRYN NICHOLS CREATIVE WRITING PRIZE

Keira Higgins

## THE LOWER SCHOOL DESIGN TECHNOLOGY PRIZE

Grace Williams

## THE LOWER SCHOOL CHARITIES CUP

Samuel Taylor

## THE ANDREW WRIGHT MEMORIAL CUP FOR EXTENDED LEARNING INITIATIVE

Vikassh Vijithan

## THE YEAR SEVEN COMMENDATIONS PRIZE

Isabelle Jones

## THE YEAR EIGHT COMMENDATIONS PRIZE

Elizabeth Crookall

## THE W D WILLIAMS PRIZE FOR ALL ROUND CONTRIBUTION TO LOWER SCHOOL

Elizabeth Crookall



Upper Sixth Prizes will be awarded separately due to the COVID-19 situation.



# DESTINATIONS FOR LEAVERS

Surname	Name	Course	University/Employer/Gap Year
Aikan	James		Gap Year
Allen	Luke	Commercial Management	Loughborough University
Arrowsmith	Ryan	Computer Science	University of Birmingham
Atkinson	Jasmine	(Gap Year) Costume Production in 2021	Plymouth College of Art
Baker	Isaac	Politics and International Relations	University of Bath
Bangay	Amelia	Medicine (Lincoln Pathway)	University of Nottingham
Barnes	Tazmin	Liberal Arts	University of Exeter
Beardsley	Evie	Interior Architecture and Design	Birmingham City University
Beasley	Jack	Economics	University College London
Bentley-Hughes	Grace	Events Management	Liverpool John Moores University
Bolton	Caitlin		Gap Year
Bonham	Rees	Engineering	University of Exeter
Brereton	Henry	Business Management	Royal Holloway University of London
Brinkley	Emma	Primary and Early Years Education	Haybridge Teaching School Alliance and SCITT
Broadbent	Frances	Acting	University of Central Lancashire
Burrows	Hannah	Fashion Management	Nottingham Trent University
Caldwell	Emily	(Gap Year) Medicine in 2021	University of Nottingham
Caldwell	George	Business Management with Placement Year	University of Reading
Chamberlain	Samuel	Economics	The London School of Economics and Political Science
Chaplin	Harry	Accounting and Finance	University of Bristol
Chen-Harris	Ejay	Aerospace Engineering	The University of Manchester
Cleary	Ella	Fashion Marketing	The University of Manchester
Creedmiles-Naraine	Indira	Psychology	Birmingham City University
Davies	Isabelle	Chemical Engineering	University of Birmingham
Dyson	Jacob	(Gap Year) Philosophy	Swansea University
Edwards	Alex	History	Durham University
Faizey	Lydia	Geography	University of Birmingham
Faizey	Nathan	Economics	University of Birmingham
Fearon	Nicholas	English Literature	Durham University
Fearon	Elizabeth	Medicine (Lincoln Pathway)	University of Nottingham
Francis	Grace	Business Management	University of Birmingham
Garrity	George	History	University of Cambridge
Gill	Abigail	English Literature	The University of Manchester
Gould	Constance	International Business Management	Royal Agricultural University
Gray	Ella	Law	University of Birmingham
Greenwood	Eleanor	Geography	University of Leeds
Harris	Luke	Nuclear Engineering	University of Birmingham
Hawkes	Lucy		Gap Year
Hollingworth	Georgina	(Gap Year) Textiles & Design in 2021	University of Southampton

Surname	Name	Course	University/Employer/Gap Year
Hooper	Sian	Fashion Marketing	University of Leeds
Jarvis	Benjamin	(Gap Year) Ocean Science with Foundation in 2021	University of Plymouth
Jenkins	Lily	Psychology	University of Southampton
Jones	Lottie	(Gap Year) Philosophy and Psychology in 2021	Nottingham Trent University
Jones	Ellie	Biomedical Science	University of Plymouth
Kilday	Ashley	Management	Keele University
Kimberley	Natasha	(Gap Year) Management Studies in 2012	University of Leicester
Lawson	Abigail	Business Management with HR	University of Leeds
Ledger	Eleanor	(Gap Year) Fine Art 10 2021	Cardiff Metropolitan University
Little	Emma	Chemistry	University of Bath
Madden	Myren	Philosophy	University of Nottingham
Madzarevic	Oliver	Higher Degree Apprenticeship in Cyber Security	QinetiQ
Mann	James	Sport Management	Cardiff Metropolitan University
McElevey	Connor	Business Management	Cardiff University
Middleton	Hannah	Primary Education	University of Reading
Moseley	Jemma	Mathematics	University of Nottingham
Nash	Ella	Fine Art	UWE Bristol
Nelson	Harry		Gap Year
Newall	Izzy		Gap Year
Nock	Samuel	Marketing and Management	University of Exeter
O'Leary Mullock	Eve	Mathematics	University of Nottingham
Owen	Alex		Gap Year
Patterson	Alexandra	(Gap Year) Marketing in 2021	UWE Bristol
Peake	Alex	Medicine	University of Exeter
Punton	Oliver	Social and Political Science	University of York
Pye	Benjamin	Business Management wiht Placement Year	Cardiff University
Rabjohn	Beth	Art History	University of St Andrews
Reed	Ellie	English Literature	University of Birmingham
Rees	Angus	Construction Management	Nottingham Trent University
Reynolds	James	Law	University of Nottingham
Rigby	William	Real Estate	University of Reading
Rimell	Harriet	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	University of Southampton
Roberts	Isabel	Law	University of Exeter
Robinson	Tristan	Apprenticeship in Strategy and Transactions	Ernst & Young Global Limited
Sarfo	Brandon	Economics	The University of Warwick
Shaw	Samuel	Politics and Economics	University of Reading
Shaw	Amelia		Gap Year
Smith	Adam	Law	University of Birmingham
Smith	Alexandria	Law with Criminology	Nottingham Trent University



Surname	Name	Course	University/Employer/Gap Year
Smith	Edward		Gap Year
Southwick	Niall	(Gap Year) Chemistry in 2021	Cardiff University
Still	Imogen	International Media and Communication Studies	University of Nottingham
Tait	Harry	(Gap Year ) Business in 2021	University of Bath
Thompson	Sophie	Sport Science and Coaching	Nottingham Trent University
Tidball	Alex		Gap Year
Tomkinson	Amy	Journalism, Media and Communications	Swansea University
Townsend	Oscar	Economics	University of Bath
Vanhegan-Harris	Imogen	Politics & International Relations	The University of Warwick
Walker	Benjamin	Mechanical Engineering	University of Nottingham
Wang	Megan	Completeing additional year of study	
Wares	Joshua		Gap Year
Witcomb	Oliver	Officer Training	British Army
Wright	Megan	Mapping and Geospatial Data with Year in Industry	Newcastle University







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