

# Autumn 2023



RGS WORCESTER

RGS DODDERHILL

RGS THE GRANGE

RGS SPRINGFIELD

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



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

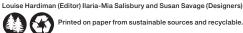


**RGS The Grange** Grange Lane, Claines WR3 7RR Independent Education for children aged 2 - 11



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

With thanks to the editorial team:





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



There is so much happening at The RGS Worcester Family of Schools and we hope that this edition of Excel magazine shares the excitement and enjoyment of the pupils as they experience the choice and opportunity of an RGS education.

We began the new academic year 2023-24 with amongst our best ever A Level, BTEC and

GCSE results after our pupils excelled in their subjects. We congratulate all of the pupils for their achievements and wish them every future success. We also saw National academic achievements right across our Schools last academic year in so many subjects: Maths, English, the Sciences, Humanities and Creative subjects, in national competitions, Challenges and Olympiads.

This National success was matched in the Co-curricular life of the School where there is so much opportunity. Our Sport had its most successful year with particular achievements in our major Cup fixtures which attract over 6,000 spectators and provide a showcase for our pupils' sporting enjoyment and abilities. Several pupils have achieved National representation in the major sports, alongside others reaching Regional and County levels. We once again performed at the very top level in Debating, taking on the leading schools nationally and feared by them! Our Music demonstrated breadth and quality with major showpiece concerts alongside friendly teatime performances and blending genres of classical and modern. The Drama productions reached new heights with amazing performances across our School and all of our LAMDA Speech and Drama pupils achieved Distinction in their examinations. This year there will be even more opportunities in the Creative Arts at RGS.

Pupils are challenged on Duke of Edinburgh and Combined Cadet Force expeditions and they form lasting friendships on residential trips both abroad and in the UK. The Cricket team toured India last season and the Netball players head off to Gibraltar this term. With House activities and over 250 Clubs and Activities taking place each week, the pupils really do have extraordinary opportunities to enjoy and encourage their selfconfidence and personal development.

The Pastoral support at our Schools that is so crucial to ensuring our pupils are happy and successful has been recognised in National awards and continues to be enhanced. We really do get to know the pupils extremely well and celebrate their strengths and achievements.



We have continued to prepare our pupils for the future through expert Careers advice and guidance, including the huge Career EXPO that we hold each year. We have seen our engagement with technology through the Digital Learning Programme continue to develop with the introduction of AI into education.

Thank you to the pupils for seizing every opportunity and making the most of an RGS education. Please do come and see us in action on an Open Morning or on a normal school day and our pupils can show you their Schools and all that they enjoy here.

John Pitt

Headmaster, RGS Worcester

Executive Head, The RGS Worcester Family of Schools

## EXCEPTIONAL GCSE RESULTS

RGS Worcester pupils celebrated after achieving excellent GCSE results in their examinations. With dedication, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence, the students of RGS Worcester have achieved superb success in their GCSE results this year.

John Pitt, Headmaster, commented: "It was lovely to see the pupils so pleased with their GCSE results. We had our largest GCSE Year group ever and we are particularly pleased by the number achieving the top Grade 9 across the different subjects which was significantly above the pre-pandemic level. This was in spite of the press telling us the results would be back to 2019 levels. The pupils can now look forward to the Sixth Form and all the opportunities available at RGS. Very well done to all of the pupils for their hard work."



John Pitt and his wife, Anna, were celebrating their two eldest children completing their A Levels and GCSEs this year. Their eldest son Jack is going on to study Engineering at Imperial College in London after achieving 3A\* and 1A grades in his A Levels while their daughter Katy will be studying A Levels in Art, Maths, Physics and Spanish in the Sixth Form at RGS after achieving 10 GCSEs all graded 9-7. "We are so proud and relieved at the same time", said John, "We now know what other parents go through with examinations and then the results and the pressures upon everyone."



Sofia Stolt, Goalkeeper for Worcester City Women's Football team achieved a very strong set of GCSE results including six graded 8/9.

Sam Taylor achieved a straight set of Grade 9s in his chosen ten GCSE subjects, Sam who has been at RGS since RGS Springfield was delighted with his results.



Twins Ana and Lottie Nicholls, both exceptional Hockey players, achieved 20 GCSEs between them with sixteen graded 9-7.



Jaimie Lee who achieved GCSEs all graded at 9 and Sydney Blanchenot who achieved all 9/8 Grades.

## SIXTH FORM STUDENTS CELEBRATE EXCELLENT RESULTS

RGS Worcester is proud to announce amongst our best ever examination results, securing our position as the leading educational institution in the area for high-attainment grades. The School's commitment to Academic excellence and the unwavering dedication of its students and staff have once again yielded outstanding achievements.

In this year's A Level examinations, RGS Worcester students have achieved an outstanding success rate in attaining the highest grades in the area. The School has achieved the top spot in Worcester for A\*, A\*-A, and A\*-B grades, demonstrating outstanding academic accomplishment and bucking the National and Regional trends where results are dropping.

"We are immensely proud of each and every one of our Upper Sixth students who have shown remarkable dedication and determination throughout their academic journey. Their accomplishments in the face of challenges reflect not only their academic strength, but also their personal growth and development." Mark Evetts, Head of Sixth Form.



Ben Sears achieved a Choral Scholarship in addition to his place to read Law at Cambridge University. Ben is an expert actor, singer and dancer who has starred in many RGS Worcester productions and concerts. He achieved A\*A\*A\*A grades in four A Levels: Economics, Maths, Politics and Religious Studies.

School Captain Ollie Blunt achieved A\*A\*A\* and the top A grade in AS Level Further Maths. Ollie is going on to study Biochemistry at Bath University where he is looking forward to continuing to play rugby alongside his degree studies.

Loïc Keasey is pursuing his professional Rugby career with Ealing Trailfinders, building upon his caps for the Under 18 England Rugby team. Loïc completed the BTEC National Diploma for Sport and CTEC Business both with Distinctions.

Siân Gaynor-Smith sat her A Levels in the most challenging of circumstances as her father, local Malvern lawyer Edward Gaynor-Smith, was suffering from a terminal illness. Siân showed incredible strength to complete all of her exams and achieved A\*AA in Business, Geography and Psychology A Levels. She is going to Cardiff University to study Criminology and we all wish her and her family well.



# INSPIRING SERVICE

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

The Revd Dr Stephen Edwards from Worcester Cathedral led the Service which included readings by pupils representing the four Schools. An inspirational address was given by Guest of Honour, Mr David Richmond CBE, a former pupil at RGS from 1980-1985 who was awarded a CBE in 2012 for services to wounded, injured and sick servicemen and their families. Choirs from the two Senior Schools joined voices to sing 'Stand by Me' as part of the Service, and three other choral pieces were performed by the RGS Worcester Senior Choir and Chamber Choir, including a rousing rendition of The Beatles' 'Hey Jude'.





## CORONATION Celebration

Across The RGS Worcester Family of Schools, activities were organised to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. At RGS Worcester, pupils attended a Headmaster's assembly which explored the history of past Coronations and highlighted public events such as the Coronation Concert and The Big Coronation Lunch.

At RGS Dodderhill, pupils engaged in creating their own Coronation stamps, participated in a whole-school Coronation Church Service, and crafted crowns for a School-wide street party themed afternoon tea. The pupils dressed in red, white, and blue, and the School courtyard was adorned with bunting to mark the occasion.

RGS Springfield received over 300 entries for a Coronation themed art competition, the subsequent art exhibition showcasing the entries created a wonderful Royal celebration for the pupils. A Coronation themed bake off contest was held, allowing pupils to showcase their culinary creations. The School grounds were also opened for a Coronation afternoon picnic for Britannia Square residents during the Bank Holiday weekend

At RGS The Grange, Year
One pupils enjoyed a
Coronation themed
dance workshop and
created pottery crowns
and crown mosaics.
The School concluded
the celebrations with
a whole School street
party themed picnic
and a Coronation
assembly.





#### THEIR FINEST HOUR

RGS Worcester hosted 'Their Finest Hour' as part of a national project to collect and preserve memories and artefacts from the Second World War. With events taking place across the UK throughout 2023, our own Perrins Hall provided the ideal venue for Worcester.

Throughout the day a constant stream of visitors, shared stories whilst others brought in their family treasures, artefacts brought back from other countries, letters sent, and memoirs written. Over 400 photographs of artefacts and many, many stories were collected. With the help of Dr Elspeth King from the University of Worcester, the Lower Sixth Historians interviewed the Worcester residents who came to share their memories. History was brought to life as the students recorded the recollections.

Years Seven and Eight Digital Leaders organised the digital collection coping admirably and efficiently with everything presented to them, from books to diaries, medals and even a flying jacket.

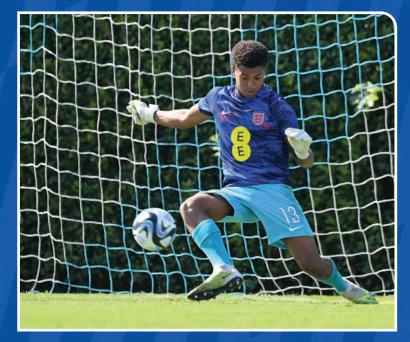


#### SPRING FESTIVAL SUCCESS

The Gardening Club created a magical 'Secret Garden' at RHS Malvern Spring Festival. Pupils designed, built, and presented the garden, inspired by 'The Secret Garden' book. With metal sculptures, clay artwork, and carefully chosen home grown plants, the garden enchanted visitors, the design even featured a secret key to open the gate. The hardworking and creative pupils were outstanding ambassadors for the School.



## ENGLAND CALL UPS



## MAXWELL MOSES

Current Year Ten pupil, Maxwell Moses was selected to play Football for England in the Under 16 age group over the summer. Maxwell represented England as Goalkeeper for two matches against Italy in Florence. During the two matches Maxwell only conceded one goal, managing to keep a clean sheet in the second match.

## ALICE ATKINSON

RGS Upper Sixth student, Alice Atkinson, represented England Under 21 playing Hockey in Germany in the Four Nations Cup. Hockey star Alice Atkinson achieved top grades A\*A\*A\* in Chemistry, Geography and Maths A Levels and a top A grade in AS Level Further Maths. Alice is going to read Chemistry at Birmingham University where she will also continue her Hockey career.



#### ALEX HOUCHIN

RGS Upper Sixth student, Alex Houchin, achieved remarkable success in national and international Athletics championships. At the Nationals, he reached the Under 20 400m final, securing 4th place with a personal best time. Representing Great Britain in Mannheim, Germany, Alex won the 400m event and led the 4x400m relay team to victory, setting a new record. His achievements earned him a spot in the English Schools event, representing RGS and Hereford and Worcestershire Schools. Alex also represented Great Britain in the 4x400m relay team competing at the Under 20 European Championships in Jerusalem winning Gold in the final.

As well as competing for his country Alex achieved A\*AB A Levels in Business, Politics and PE.



#### EDTECH JOURNEY: EMBRACING CUTTING-EDGE AI

As part of the Digital Learning Programme, RGS Worcester has explored the possibilities of cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies, including ChatGPT. The School hosted CPD sessions for staff, educating them on the potential and limitations of AI, while also introducing pupils to this exciting field. RGS Worcester made significant contributions to AI discussions, with Director of Innovation John Jones presenting on 'Harnessing the Power of ChatGPT' at the IAPS Conference and delivering a keynote address on 'AI in Education - Navigating the Future' at the LGFL Conference alongside Matt Warne, Head of Computing at RGS The Grange.

The inaugural RGSW EdTech Teach Meet held in Perrins Hall attracted over 50 teachers from across the UK and served as a fantastic platform for sharing, learning, and networking with colleagues from a variety of different backgrounds. During the evening a series of presentations enabled visitors to learn more about how digital technology is making a meaningful difference in schools.



EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTION TO INTEGRATING

Mr Matt Warne, Head of Computing and Digital Learning at RGS The Grange was shortlisted for the 'Most Impactful Senior Member of Staff' award at the Global EdTech Awards. As a vital member of the RGS The Grange community and its Senior Leadership Team, Matt's passion for empowering both pupils and educators through meaningful, purposeful use of technology has led the school, along with the other RGS Worcester Schools, to achieve exemplary status as an Apple Distinguished School.





Independent Education for children aged 2 - 18 years

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

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CHERISHING THE PAST, Looking to the Future

# OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE DEBATING SUCCESS

The Debating Society enjoyed another immensely successful year with remarkable achievements in prestigious Debating competitions such as Oxford and Cambridge Schools. Pupils of all ages showcased their formidable skills and determination, representing the School with excellence on both National and International platforms.

RGS once again progressed to the prestigious Oxford Schools Finals Day. A total of 116 teams from across the UK and beyond gathered at the Oxford Union for this highly esteemed competition. Katherine McCabe and Annabelle Howarth, Year Eleven, demonstrated their talent by securing an impressive 2nd place finish in Round 4. Oscar Haynes and Callum Lockett also achieved extraordinary success in progressing to this stage of the competition. The RGS debaters fearlessly tackled diverse topics, ranging from Artificial Intelligence restrictions to the pros and cons of career politicians.

Continuing this success, two teams progressed to Cambridge Finals Day, with Oscar Haynes, Callum Lockett, Tobey Butler, and Rayyan Styles all progressing after a hotly contested Regional qualifier. Will Hulbert competed in Callum's stead on Finals Day. The teams faced challenging motions including the benefits of corporate sponsorship of academic studies. Oscar and Will remained undefeated, whilst Rayyan and Tobey achieved impressive results, finishing 1st and 2nd in two of their debates.

The final competition highlight of the year was ICYD Finals Day, also held at the Cambridge Union. Sasha Penlington and Hannah Agoston in Year Ten achieved our best ever result finishing 8th in the world!



#### RGS SPORTS STARS Shine Bright at Awards Evening

At the end of the academic year, pupils and parents gathered in the Sports Hall for the annual Sports Presentation Evening. The event celebrated Sport at RGS and recognised collective and individual contributions to a successful year in Sport.

During the Awards Ceremony members of the Sports Department celebrated pupils' sporting achievements. Awards ranged from 'All Round Sporting Contribution' to specific awards for each Sport. After the awards were presented, Upper Sixth students and their parents were invited to celebrate their sporting endeavours with refreshments in Perrins Hall.

Major Sports awards were presented to the following:

The Green Way Cup Ben Whitton

The Wootten Cup Elyssia Letor

The Janet Greene Cup Ellie Nicholls

The Reynolds Cup Benjamin Allen

The AOOE's Prize for Sporting Excellence Alice Atkinson

The AOOE's Prize for Sporting Excellence Loïc Keasey and Alex Houchin









#### RGS ROWERS Shine at National Schools' Regatta

**RGS** Worcester rowers achieved impressive performances at the National Schools' Regatta. The 1st J15 Open Coxed Quadruple and 1st J15 Girls Coxed Quadruple Scull showcased their skills in time trials, while the 2nd J15 Open Quadruple Scull secured a convincing win. Championship crews competed in time trials, repechages, and finals, with notable achievements by various RGS Worcester crews. The Girls J16 2x achieved a remarkable 5th place in the A final. The rowers continued their success at Worcester Regatta, with 4 event wins and strong performances across various categories.





## RGS FENCING CLUB: A YEAR OF VICTORIES AND ACHIEV<u>ements</u>

The RGS Fencing club had an eventful year, with over 30 fencers excelling in both local and National competitions. Matt Fallows and Zara Martin Green secured victories at the Warwick Age Group Épée.

Lucas Hancock and Zara Martin Green showcased their skills at the Elite Épée Grand Finals (the event is open to the top eight fencers after a year of ranking competitions) with Lucas earning a commendable 3rd place.

Five of our fencers qualified for the British Youth Championships National age group finals.

Zara Martin Green deserves a special mention for qualifying as a British Fencing referee and also competing in her first Cadet International as part of the GB Development Squad in Copenhagen.



#### CRICKET AT RGS

The 1st XI Boys' Cricket team competed in five days of matches at the RGS Cricket Festival, hosted at RGS Colchester. The team achieved a phenomenal four wins out of five fixtures to lift the festival trophy.

Other highlights of the season included the 1st XI dominating King's School. An RGS record opening partnership of 239 with Centuries from Zak Crowther-Green and Freddie Ammonds set the team up to score 387 runs from just 50 overs. RGS then had King's on the ropes at 109 for 5 wickets after 18 overs.

The 1st XI also progressed to the National T20 Round 3 to face Rugby School.

Not to be outdone, the Under 13 Boys team reached the last eight schools in the country in their National Cup Competition. They played Bedford School in the Midlands final of the National Bunbury Cup.

We have fielded an incredible 17 Boys' and Girls' Cricket teams, including our first 1st XI Girls' Cricket fixtures.





## THE COMBINED CADET FORCE

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) offers valuable leadership training and personal development opportunities through its three sections. Cadets develop their communication, decision-making, and problem-solving skills by participating in challenging exercises and leading teams.

The Army Section recently earned the title of Best Contingent during their training at Nesscliff
Training Area, where they practiced field exercises and rifle shooting. The RAF Section
enjoyed thrilling flying days at RAF Cosford, while the Naval Section
received training at HMS Raleigh and engaged in aquatic and
adventurous activities during their trip to the Isle of Man.



## CHALLENGING ADVENTURES

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) programme at RGS sees pupils embark on challenging expeditions at Bronze, Silver and Gold level to develop skills and resilience. The programme emphasises independence, as pupils take on responsibilities and pursue their interests in service, skills, and physical activities.

The DofE expeditions test pupils' character and organisation, pushing them to overcome adverse conditions and develop resilience. Whether facing wet and windy weather in Snowdonia and the Black Mountains or camping near Worcester, pupils learn to adapt and persevere. The Awards culminate in successful expeditions along the River Severn, the White Peak area of Derbyshire, and Malvern, where pupils showcase their newfound skills and determination. The DofE programme at RGS has seen remarkable participation, with a record number of pupils progressing from Bronze to Silver level, highlighting the programme's vitality and impact on pupils' lives.



## ROAMING IN Rome

Lower Sixth Philosophy and Religious Studies A Level students embarked on an exciting adventure to Rome, immersing themselves in the rich history and the spiritual significance of the iconic location. From exploring Ostia and the awe-inspiring Colosseum to delving into the roots of the Christian faith at the Vatican and the ancient catacombs of St Priscilla, their trip marked a truly remarkable conclusion to the year. Passport in hand, they embraced the majesty, intrigue, and cultural wonders of Rome, creating unforgettable memories along the way.





## 'THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS'

An outstanding year for RGS Drama ended in fitting style with the Summer production of 'The Wind in the Willows', showcasing exceptional talent and lively energy from Lower School and Middle School pupils.

Sell-out audiences were immersed in the classic tale, filled with humour, wit, and family-friendly fun. The ensemble acting brought a dynamic and lively energy to the production, culminating in a brilliantly choreographed final battle. With the fate of Toad Hall determined by rock, paper, scissors and accompanied by the vibrant sounds of The Arctic Monkeys, the play left the audience delighted, forging cherished memories of a remarkable night.











Art exhibitions in Eld Hall and Design and Technology displays in Perrins Hall highlighted the exceptional work of Year Eleven and Upper Sixth pupils, demonstrating their creativity across various mediums.

The involvement of Prep Schools brought additional excitement, as RGS Springfield and RGS The Grange pupils exhibited their artwork. Music performances by Intermediate Strings and vocal and piano pieces by RGS Springfield pupils entertained the audience.







## FOSTERING CREATIVITY AND ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

RGS alumnae Bethany Walker and Sophie Wynne-Owen led Art and Textiles Workshops for Year Ten pupils, fostering creativity and alumni connections.



Bethany, a Glass Designer who has completed a Master's in Glass Design, guided the pupils in exploring glass as a medium for their landscape coursework.

Sophie, who studied Textiles and Art A Levels at the School has since become a bridal designer and owns a bridal boutique. Sophie shared her expertise with pupils, teaching them the art of draping fabric and creating patterns based on architectural inspiration.

The workshops enabled the pupils to enhance their artistic skills, gain insights into glass art and pattern making, and contribute to their GCSE NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) projects.





# ELECTRIC PERFORMANCE AT INTERNATIONAL FINAL





# YOUNG FASHION DESIGNER

RGS Worcester welcomed finalists from the Young Fashion Designer UK Competition. With over 150 entries from schools across the Midlands, twelve talented finalists showcased their sustainable fashion and textiles work. Year Eleven pupil, Frankie Reed, proudly represented RGS Worcester as a finalist in the GCSE category.

The event featured a practical workshop, inspiring talks from past winners, and opportunities to talk with industry professionals. The Textiles department at RGS Worcester played a crucial role in organising and hosting the event, further showcasing the School's commitment to excellence in fashion and Textiles education.

# STUDENTS SECURE TOP APPRENTICESHIPS



Upper Sixth students Lydia Jackson and Oliver Giles have secured highly competitive Degree Apprenticeships for the upcoming academic year. Degree Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to work while pursuing a full Undergraduate or Master's degree, typically lasting from three to six years. Lydia has been accepted into the prestigious RSM Accountancy firm's Degree Apprenticeship programme, while Oliver received an offer from Greenwood Projects for a Quantity Surveyor Apprenticeship. Both students went through rigorous application processes, showcasing their dedication and perseverance. Their success, highlights the benefits of Degree Apprenticeships as a funded and practical alternative to traditional university courses.



# TALES FROM THE OPERATING THEATRE



Alistair's insights sparked thought-provoking questions from the pupils, who were inspired by his experiences. The seminar was one of a series of Careers seminars held as part of the RGS Careers provision available for all pupils.

Alumnus Alistair McMinn shared his inspiring career journey as an Operating Department Practitioner (ODP) during a Careers seminar at RGS Worcester. He discussed the various roles available to ODPs and highlighted the skills required for success in the field, many of which he believed could be developed during pupils' time at RGS.



## STEM 'HANDS ON SCIENCE'



RGS pupils attended a STEM day at QinetiQ, gaining hands-on experience and learning about Degree Apprenticeships. Activities included problem-solving, coding, and bridge building. The highlight was the Lego Mindstorms competition, encouraging teamwork and overcoming challenges. Pupils were impressed by QinetiQ's research in defence and security, including radar systems and advanced simulations as well as the career opportunities with a range of Degree Apprenticeships on offer.

## ON THE BEAT

Our dedicated School Careers Department actively promotes work experience opportunities that shape young minds and nurture career aspirations. During the Half term break, our talented Year Ten pupils, Lucia Weaver, Libby Cox, Joe Kington, and Fin Breese, delved into the world of law enforcement through an exclusive work experience opportunity with West Mercia Police. From riding along in police cars to observing daily operations, they gained invaluable insights into both uniformed and non-uniformed roles.







Independent Education for children aged 2 - 11
Girls only education for 11 - 16 years

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

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SMALL BUT MIGHTY



and Head Girl Natasha Rickard, who achieved an exceptional 10 GCSEs graded 8/9, with 9 at the top

Grade 9.



Form at RGS Worcester this September".



## WELCOME FROM THE NEW HEADMASTER: EMBRACING EXCELLENCE

To excel means to "be exceptionally good at or proficient in an activity or subject"- what is important is the "exceptional" part. At RGS Dodderhill every pupil is able to excel because we value every talent and aspiration. Whether our pupils enjoy Maths or Textiles; Cricket or Sailing; reading or Geography; chess or chequers, we help all of our boys and girls to find something they love and in which they feel able to excel.

Our families choose RGS Dodderhill because we have a close community in which every child is known by all members of staff, and feels at home when they come to School. However, having a close community centred on kindness does not compromise the huge range of activities and trips on offer. Whilst academic excellence is a key part of our School's success, Co-curricular activities provide the opportunities to develop the soft-skills our pupils will need for their working life. Alongside this, the breadth of the pupils' achievements give them space to become themselves.

Whether it is on the sports fields, showing off progress in music and performing arts, dazzling with academic skills or bringing learning alive with trips and visits, our pupils are lucky to experience so much. We would also like to highlight the focus we place on pastoral care and wellbeing through the different activities. The wellbeing of every member of our community is paramount to everything we do and we hope you enjoy reading about it.

Tom Banyard Headmaster, RGS <u>Dodderhill</u>



## DAY IN THE LIFE

A Reception pupils' day at RGS Dodderhill is filled with excitement and activity. From beginning the day with phonics in the outdoor classroom to engaging in boogie maths to bring Maths to life, every pupil experiences a range of stimulating activities. They also have one-on-one reading sessions with their teacher, enjoy planting in the outdoor kitchen, participate in French lessons with a specialist French teacher and explore the world of music.







At the start of 'Open A Book Week' Prep pupils from Reception to Year Six enjoyed a visit from author and illustrator Petr Horacek. The children all worked together to create a magical mural. They drew and designed their own characters from skateboarding frogs to unicorns and mulitcoloured snakes a great way to inspire imaginations with creative drawing and writing.

## SENIOR CHOIR SHINES

The Senior Choir shone in Redditch 'Gotta Sing's' music showcase at The Palace Theatre. The captivating four song singing, made it an unforgettable experience.



## CRICKET FEVER RETURNS

Cricket made a popular comeback during the Trinity term, engaging pupils of all ages. Years One and Two enjoyed their inaugural Cricket Festival, developing their batting, bowling, and fielding skills at Ombersley Cricket Club. Meanwhile, older pupils competed in various matches against other schools, spanning different age groups from Under 10 to Under 15.

Year Six pupils demonstrated community outreach by hosting a Cricket Skills Workshop for a local primary school, sharing their cricket expertise and skills with younger pupils.





Pupils have enjoyed participating in Golf Club this year at Gaudet Luce Golf Club, practising on the driving range and working collaboratively on the course to hone their chipping and putting skills. To mark the end of the year, pupils new golf skills were put to the test when they competed in a Texas Scramble event which encouraged team work and collaboration.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH ACHIEVEMENTS

Pupils participated in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions, both at the Bronze and Silver levels. These expeditions serve as an opportunity for pupils to develop their navigation skills, teamwork, resilience, and leadership abilities. The groups embarked on hikes through the Wyre Forest before camping overnight at Stourport-On-Severn. On the second day, they navigated towards Ombersley to their second campsite. On the final day, the Silver group hiked to RGS Dodderhill to complete their expedition.







# THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON



Independent Education for children aged 2 - 11 years

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

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Our Year Two pupils embarked on an exciting journey with the History Man, bringing history to life! Immersed in their Fire of London topic, the enthusiastic young historians learnt about the past and showcased their creativity by crafting miniature houses. The event reached its climax with a thrilling demonstration as the young historians set fire to their handmade houses, symbolising the historical event that shaped London's history. Through these hands-on experiences, a passion for learning and creativity is fostered alongside a deeper understanding of the world around us.

GREAT OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS



## FLOURISH And Fly

The 'Flourish and Fly' initiative at RGS The Grange aids children's emotional and social development. Designed to enhance confidence, self-esteem, and communication skills, these group sessions have proven successful in supporting children. Through structured activities and interactions, pupils develop their abilities in communication, social and emotional awareness, negotiating skills, and positive self-esteem. By equipping pupils with valuable strategies and emotional literacy, the 'Flourish and Fly' initiative empowers them to thrive in all aspects of life.



The focus on pastoral support has seen RGS The Grange one of five schools shortlisted for the 'Pastoral School of The Year Award'.









## THE JOY OF MUSIC

Our dedicated team of peripatetic music teachers offer a wide selection of musical instruments, including voice and guitar, with lessons available from Year One upwards. In addition to individual lessons, pupils have the chance to experience the joy of making music together, whether through informal concerts or specialised performances. These opportunities foster a love for music and provide a platform for collaborative musical exploration.



## LAMDA SUCCESS

Pupils excelled in their recent exams, achieving thirty distinctions and three merits, our best results to date. Through LAMDA, pupils learn effective articulation, expressive voice use, and emotional clarity, boosting public speaking and confidence. It enhances performance skills, fosters creativity and opens doors to future opportunities in the arts.





# A VIBRANT SHOWCASE OF ARTISTIC TALENT

RGS The Grange hosted an art exhibition featuring artwork produced by pupils from Reception to Year Six. The art installations were displayed throughout the School creating an exciting art trail that pupils enthusiastically guided their parents and visitors through.

A highlight of the exhibition was the artwork inspired by Henri Rousseau's jungle themed painting 'Surprised' The Old Hall showcased this impressive piece with life size installations.



#### BALLET CLUB

Building skills, confidence, and teamwork, Ballet club cultivates a passion for dance in even the youngest of our pupils. Through learning ballet routines, pupils develop discipline and focus as well as exploring their creativity. A wide range of Cocurricular clubs are available to all from



the youngest pupils in nursery to the oldest there is something for everyone.

## **CHECKMATE**

RGS Worcester hosted an interactive Chess Masterclass, inviting Year Five pupils from RGS The Grange. This engaging event aimed to ignite an interest in the game and deepen understanding of Chess. Led by Mr. Tim Hallett, an RGS teacher and experienced Chess instructor, the pupils were guided through the intricacies of the game. This Masterclass is just one of the many transition events designed to foster connections, create excitement, and prepare Prep pupils for their future journey at RGS Worcester.







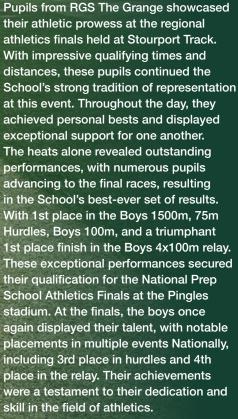
The remarkable journey of the Under 11 boys cricket team led them to glorious victories in both the County Cup and Regional Finals, paving their way to the highly anticipated National Finals.

With a resounding win against Bromsgrove School in the County Cup, they advanced to face The Blue Coat School in the fiercely contested Regional Finals, emerging victorious once

again. The prestigious National Finals, held at Oakham School, witnessed a display of outstanding sportsmanship by these young cricketers as they proudly claimed the runnersup title, leaving an indelible mark in this National competition.

Celebrating the growth and popularity of Girls' Cricket, the Under 11 Team took centre stage as they hosted the inaugural Worcestershire Schools Under 11 Girls Hardball Tournament at RGS Flagge Meadow.

WORCESTER WORCESTER



FROM

REGIONAL

NATIONAL

CONTENDERS

STARS TO







Independent Education for children aged 2 - 11 years

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

THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE



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

PUPILS RACE AHEAD IN ECO-CAR CHALLENGE!

RGS Springfield's Year Six pupils embarked on an exciting project, constructing and racing their very own eco-conscious electric car. With roles ranging from designers to engineers and project managers, the budding enthusiasts collaborated on designing, fabricating, and assembling their electric car.

Inspired by a visit to Silverstone and fuelled by their passion, the pupils put their car to the test at Renishaw New Mills against other Regional teams in an exhilarating race day.

At the race venue, the team conducted final safety checks before unleashing their car on the track. Demonstrating skill and determination, they secured an impressive position in the semi-finals.

GREE

RGS Springfield's dedication to STEM education and green initiatives highlights our commitment to shaping future designers and engineers.

THE SECRET IN THE SQUARE



# SPECIAL DELIVERY



Pupils from RGS Springfield were amazed to receive a handwritten letter from Sir David Attenborough. The Dragonflies class wrote to the renowned natural historian and broadcaster about endangered animals. The letter inspired the children, aged four and five, to learn more about the animals they had written about.



Mrs Laura Brown, Headmistress of RGS Springfield said, "When the handwritten envelope arrived we never expected it to be from Sir David! The children were delighted to read his response and are even more inspired to continue learning about the natural world. Sir David has long been a hero of mine and I was so happy to be able to read his letter to the whole school. Without doubt he has continued to inspire the next generation".



# ROYAL ART SKILLS

RGS Springfield recently ran an exciting junior art competition on the theme of 'The King' to celebrate the Coronation of Charles III. The competition was open to children aged between two to eleven years, with participants encouraged to showcase their creativity.

Entries came from far and wide with pupils from Birmingham to Hereford, Gloucestershire and Shropshire submitting their work. With over 300 entries ranging from paintings, collages, photographs, digital pieces, and embroidery all on display as an art exhibition.





# PUPILS TAKE TO THE TRACK

Sports Day is a highlight of the School year at RGS Springfield, with pupils from Nursery to Year Six taking part in a variety of events. Older pupils support the younger pupils during their races, holding their hands and cheering them on. Sports Day is also a great opportunity for the School's families to join in, spectate and enjoy a picnic, supporting pupils as they compete in a variety of events, including races, relays, and obstacle courses.





# ALL STARS

Pupils from RGS Springfield thrilled the audience at the NBL Worcester Wolves versus Myerscough Basketball Academy game. During the quarter-time break, the School's cheerleading squad, made up of fifteen pupils from Years Four to Six, wowed the packed crowd with their Pom Cheer performance, displaying confidence and style.

The Springfield 'All Stars' Pom Cheer squad had prepared for this occasion since September, and the club is one of many popular weekly clubs available at RGS Springfield.

After their performance, one of the Pom Cheer squad members expressed her excitement, stating, "That was incredible! I was very nervous about performing in front of so many people, but once we started the routine and heard the crowd cheering us on, I absolutely loved it. Pom Cheer is one of my favourite clubs at RGS Springfield!"







# PUPILS SHINE IN DRAMA WORKSHOP

Year Six pupils enjoyed a Drama Workshop in the Performing Arts Centre at RGS Worcester. The highlight of the Workshop for many pupils was dancing on stage to the song 'He's a Bit of a Fixer-Upper' as a whole group. The Workshop was led by the School's specialist teachers in Dance, Music, and Drama. The Workshop was a great opportunity for the pupils to explore their own creativity and to learn new skills. It also helped them to develop their confidence and teamwork skills.



# OUTREACH



## LET'S SING!

As part of our Outreach and Partnerships Programme we hosted a Singing Workshop for six local primary schools, welcoming 135 Years Four and Five pupils to the 'Let's Sing' event. Led by the RGS Music Department, the children enjoyed vocal exercises, learnt songs, and recorded a rousing performance of 'Count on Me'. The event forms part of RGS's commitment to community engagement and partnerships.



# EGGSTRAVAGANZA

RGS Worcester hosted its annual Science (Eggstravaganza' held as part of British Science Week, engaging pupils from local schools in an exciting STEM challenge.

68 pupils from Broadwas C of E Primary School,
Broadheath Primary School, Alvechurch C of E Middle
School, St Clements C of E Primary School, Grimley &
Holt C of E Primary School, Hollymount Primary School,
Honeywell Primary School, Claines C of E Primary School,
Pitmaston Primary School, RGS The Grange and RGS
Springfield took part.

Led by Dr Howard Smith, Head of Science, teams constructed weight bearing bridges using only limited materials, impressing judges and earning accolades. The event celebrated science education and sparked enthusiasm in young minds, fostering the next generation of scientists and engineers.



# PRIMARY SCHOOL NETBALL TOURNAMENT

The annual RGS primary school netball tournament, showcased Years Five and Six pupils' talents. The event was led with expert guidance from RGS Worcester's current pupils and sports teachers. The tournament kicked off with an inspiring masterclass led by the Head of Netball, setting the stage for an action-packed competition which saw 100 pupils from ten schools taking part.



# CHARITY, FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY



### CHARITY FUNDRAISING

In the past Academic year, an impressive £17,492.66 was raised through successful fundraising activities. Notably, Year Ten pupil Sasha Penlington orchestrated a concert that raised over £2,000 for a Ukrainian children's charity, the event was accompanied by RGS musicians and authentic Ukrainian refreshments. The School's charitable efforts extended to Christmas, with donations of food, supermarket vouchers, and Christmas boxes for various causes. Librarian, Miss Tustin's Readathon raised over £800 for Read for Good, while teachers Mrs Swingler and Mr Jones collected nearly £5,200 by running the London Marathon.

The School's compassionate spirit shone through non-uniform days for BBC Children in Need and Comic Relief, generating over £4,500. Contributions were also made to organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support, The Myriad Centre, St Richard's Hospice, and Acorns Children's Hospice. The School set a new record by raising over £1,000 for the Poppy Appeal. The Lower School Harvest Festival collected donations for Maggs Day Centre, underscoring the School's ongoing commitment to making a positive impact on the community.

# BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

RGS Dodderhill has been actively supporting Birmingham Children's Hospital since 2007, raising a remarkable £4,500. This year, Davidson House took the initiative to fundraise for the charity, collecting an impressive £682 through cake sales and non-uniform days. The ongoing support from the pupils has been greatly appreciated by Birmingham Children's Hospital.





# SCHOOL SHOWS HEART FOR CHARITY

In a special assembly, pupils from RGS Springfield presented a cheque to the Grace Kelly Charitable Cancer Trust as part of the School's commitment to fostering a culture of social responsibility amongst its pupils and parents. The RGS Springfield Parents Association held a charity ball which raised £3,000 for the local charity which supports children with

# CELEBRATING RGS ALUMNI



# ANDREA WINS Research award

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicines Vaccine Group and partners won the Covid-19 Research and Innovation category at the North West Coast Research and Innovations Awards 2022. The Vaccine Research group was ably led by Dr Andrea Collins (AOS 1990-97).

Andrea says: "I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication across the whole team, and I am delighted that all of the hard work has been recognised with this award. We continue to build on these strong partnerships and seek new opportunities to work with others whenever possible, benefitting all research and innovation throughout the region and beyond." The team were also finalists in the Research Collaboration of the Year Award for their work in respiratory infection.

# GB CALL UP FOR MYREN

Congratulations to alumnus Myren Madden (2013-20) who has won British Weightlifting Young Weightlifter of the Year 2022 and has in addition been selected to represent Great Britain in the Under 23 Europeans Weightlifting Competition in 2023. At RGS, Myren studied A Levels in English Literature, Philosophy Religion & Ethics and PE and played rugby for the 1st XV. On leaving RGS, Myren took up a place at the University of Nottingham studying Philosophy, which he intends to follow with a Masters Law conversion.

Myren says: "I really enjoyed my time at RGS. I was very lucky to have RGS supporting my sporting career. From Year Eleven to Upper Sixth I was weightlifting and playing rugby at a high level.



The team at RGS and having a Sports Scholarship assistance helped immensely. The environment at RGS showed me that hard work pays off both academically and in sports. The culture at RGS taught me good sportsmanship, how to win and lose and how to deal with disappointments, picking yourself up and moving forward. The tremendous support I had gave me the confidence to ask for help as I needed it. I couldn't have come this far alone".

# EMPOWERING ALUMNI NETWORKS



We know how valuable professional networks are to our alumni throughout their careers. It was an absolute pleasure therefore to meet with our alumni working in Law and Finance in London earlier this year, at the first of a series of sector specific networking events. From Legal Counsel to Commercial, Fine Art to Software Engineering and Financial Crime to the Royal Courts of Justice, we had a wonderfully diverse mix of alumni join us all representing these two sectors. It was great to hear so many shared professional experiences, to see numerous connections being made, as well as to hear a plethora of school-day stories and memories.

As well as sharing advice, experiences and opening up new connections with other attendees, many of the alumni at the event also offered to speak to and advise current RGS pupils and some of our newest leavers in the future.

# HENLEY WIN FOR ALUMNUS

At Henley Regatta, we were delighted to host a gazebo where RGS alumni enjoying the regatta could meet other alumni who had RGS and a love of rowing in common. We were delighted to connect RGS rowers spanning from 1956-2022 who shared memories and stories. Among the many alumni representing their Universities and Clubs at the regatta was alumnus Ben Thomson (2010-17), who, along with his Thames Rowing Club 'A' Men's Eight crew, won the Thames Challenge Cup.

At RGS, Ben studied A Levels in Chemistry, Biology and Maths, going onto the University of Oxford where he secured a Masters in Chemistry. Whilst at RGS, Ben enjoyed taking part in the Rowing and Debating teams and was School Captain. He remembers his time at RGS well, saying:



"I loved my time at RGS, I had so many opportunities to learn and try new things while I was there. In particular, I learned to row whilst I was at RGS and I fondly look back on all the time spent training on the River Severn with my friends."



# FIVE YEAR REUNION

In May we welcomed back the Class of 2018 to Perrins Hall, bringing together classmates, friends, and teachers for their Five Year Reunion. The alumni revelled in the familiarity of their surroundings and eagerly caught up on each other's lives, sharing stories of accomplishments, travels, and career progressions. The alumni were particularly pleased to hear Headmaster John Pitt's update on School today and to know that RGS Worcester is thriving.





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