

# EXCEL

AUTUMN 2019

## Exams Success

RGS Worcester students celebrate best A\* results for five years



# RGSW

New Hockey Centre Approved

Dodderhill begins its RGS Journey



#worcesterisgreen



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## Headmaster's Introduction

We begin the new academic year with amongst our best ever A Level and GCSE results after pupils excelled in their subjects. Congratulations to all of the pupils and we wish the Upper Sixth all the very best as they head off to study at leading universities and pursue future careers in a very wide range of fields.

RGS Dodderhill joined the RGS family of schools last term and we welcome the pupils, parents and staff. We all enjoyed a Commemoration Service together, with pupils from all four RGS schools performing. The RGSW Schools now educate nearly 1400 pupils across Worcestershire, offering choice in education for boys and girls. With record numbers joining RGS Worcester this September, we can celebrate all that has been achieved and look forward to marking their experiences in future editions of Excel.

We received the exciting news that Worcester City Council has approved our partnership with Worcester Hockey Club to build an international standard Hockey facility locally. We have also received funding and support from the Lawn Tennis Association to build an Indoor Tennis and Netball Centre at RGS Worcester. These state-of-the-art facilities will provide extraordinary opportunities for our pupils and the local community.



RGS Springfield and RGS The Grange celebrate the range of experiences the pupils of all ages have at their schools in this edition of Excel. From awards for Drama and numerous residential trips both in the UK and abroad to Science and 'Spheros' – the opportunities available are endless!

Thank you to the Marketing team for assembling this excellent edition and to everyone who has contributed.

Finally, please do visit our website ([www.rgsw.org.uk](http://www.rgsw.org.uk)) where you can find out more about all four of our schools and see our school film which demonstrates the exceptional all-round education that our schools offer and, above all, how much our pupils enjoy RGS school life. Please do come and visit and see us in action.

John Pitt - Headmaster, RGS Worcester



## An Exciting Vision For Hockey in Worcester

RGS Worcester is delighted to be in partnership with Worcester Hockey Club and Worcester City Council, and has received confirmation from the Council that a proposed Hockey development will go ahead. The development will involve two international standard Hockey pitches on land between RGS Worcester and RGS The Grange and we believe these will be amongst the very best in the country.

In addition to community use, RGS Worcester, RGS Dodderhill, RGS The Grange and RGS Springfield pupils will all be able to use the facility and it is hoped that tournaments will be held there at local, regional, national and even international levels.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for the School, working with Worcester Hockey Club and the City Council and has been several years in the planning. Councillor Jabba Riaz has commented that this new development will be...

“The jewel in the crown of the city.”

Final designs are being produced ahead of planning permission approval and we look forward to delivering a Centre of Excellence for Hockey in Worcester and the Midlands.



# Exams Success

## Bucking the Trend

### RGS Worcester students celebrate best A\* results for five years

RGS Worcester students achieved superb A-Level examination results this year and the best A\* results at the School for five years. This was achieved despite all of the subjects now moving to the new A-Level examinations which are designed to be more challenging and no longer allow for re-sits of modules.

The BBC announced: "The proportion of students achieving the top grades at A-Level has fallen to its lowest level for more than a decade, this year's results show." This was not the case at RGS Worcester.

With almost 40% of all grades at the top end (A\*/A), over 70% of all grades at A\*/A or B and 88.5% achieving A\*-C, the students are delighted with their results. 18 pupils achieved 3A\*/A grades or more.

100% A\*-B grades was also achieved in the additional EPQ qualification (Extended Project Qualification) which RGS students complete alongside their A-Levels and which supports their University applications.



### RGS Worcester's GCSE results were celebrated as the School achieved amongst its best ever results

With nearly 40% of grades at the top level (grades 9 or 8) and 60% of grades at 9-7, and with 98% of all grades at 9-4 (A\*-C), the pupils were delighted with their performance.

After news stories identified the importance of the Arts subjects alongside Science, Technology and Maths (STEM), it was particularly pleasing to see over 90% of grades in Art and Textiles at grades 9-7.

With so many success stories and such strong GCSE results, the pupils can now go on to achieve great things in the Sixth Form at RGS Worcester.



Congratulations to all our hard working students





## European Exchanges

### French Exchange

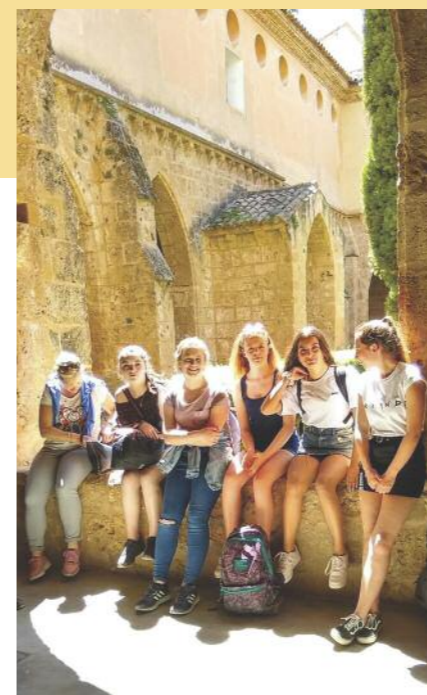
During the Easter break, Year Nine pupils visited Nantes in France for the 31st Exchange with our partner school, l'Externat des Enfants Nantais. The pupils stayed for a week with their host families and took part in daily excursions and activities. Together, they discovered the city of Nantes and its history as a trading post. A fantastic time was had and the pupils have stayed in touch with their exchange partners ever since.



### Spanish Exchange to Zaragoza

RGS Worcester enjoyed our 10th Exchange with IES Goya in Zaragoza. The experience proved to be an exciting and enriching one with 21 of our Year Ten students joining the adventure.

The trip involved a wide range of activities including visits to the Roman Theatre and several palaces, all illustrating the Arabic influence and Aragon's style in Zaragoza. The visit to Madrid allowed the pupils to have a flavour of this busy city and the tour of the Bernabeu Stadium was popular with everyone! It was a pleasure to see how well the pupils communicated with their exchange partners during their visit and the whole trip was a truly wonderful experience.



### Classics Trip to Italy

In July, a group of 47 pupils and five staff began their tour of Classical Italy in Rome, with a visit to Ostia Antica, Rome's ancient harbour. Now a very well-preserved slice of an ancient town, Ostia is an open-plan archaeological site, in which the students were able to explore the ruins of ancient houses, shops, theatres, and baths.

Moving on to the centre of Rome, they took in as much of the ancient city as could be seen in one day and the Colosseum tour was a particular highlight.



Leaving Rome, they moved south to the Bay of Naples, visiting the underground catacombs of St Callixtus en route, before continuing on to Mount Vesuvius. The group ascended to the summit, peering into the crater and enjoying the magnificent views over Naples, Sorrento, Pompeii, and Herculaneum.

A whole day was spent in Pompeii, and the group was able to step back in time to walk through the streets and ruins of an ancient city frozen in one moment of history by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79.

Other highlights of the trip included a boat ride off the Amalfi coast and a trip to the Greek colony of Paestum. All returned full of stories from the trip, and can look back on a week filled with fun, excitement, and classical experiences.



## Highly Commended at Malvern Spring Festival

The RGS Worcester Gardening Club competed in the Festival this year for the third time. RGS staff and parent Ms Louise Mawditt of Angel Gardens and the team of young garden enthusiasts worked hard to complete their entry entitled 'Newton's Garden'.

Celebrating the moment in time when Sir Isaac Newton discovered gravity, the Gardening Club created an impressive willow tree from which was suspended an apple that dropped onto a painting of Sir Isaac Newton's head.

The RGS garden achieved the highest award of Highly Commended by the judges and received maximum points. Viewed by hundreds of people during the Festival, it was a superb entry.



## RGS CCF "Thriving" in Biennial Inspection

Every two years the CCF Contingent is formally inspected and in May, Air Commodore McCaffery CBE, who is in charge of all air cadets in the country, visited RGS to conduct the inspection. During her visit, she saw RGS cadets demonstrating leadership and resilience in numerous activities. The Air Commodore specifically mentioned these skills as being so important in the modern world. In her closing remarks, she described the RGS CCF Contingent as "thriving with happy and successful cadets."



## Sport England Rounders

This year RGS hosted the Under 14 England Rounders Festival. It was a fantastic day in which players demonstrated an incredibly high standard of Rounders. The Festival was an excellent opportunity for the pupils to play against top level teams including an England side.

Alice Atkinson, Year Nine, and Lani Zulkiplee, Year Eight, were named by England Rounders as our most valuable players which was very well deserved.



## Rowing to Success in three Regattas



### Shrewsbury Rowing Regatta

This year RGS Rowers enjoyed their first open river event at Shrewsbury Rowing Regatta, achieving no less than three wins.

### Worcester Regatta

A further triple-win triumph for RGS Rowers took place at the Worcester Regatta.

### Dorney Lake National Sculling Regatta

Two RGS Worcester rowers are celebrating after winning Silver medals in the National Junior Sculling Regatta held at Dorney Lake.



# RGS Worcester Hosts Annual Cricket Festival



RGS Worcester had the pleasure of hosting the annual Royal Grammar Schools' Cricket Festival in the final week of the academic year. Once again, the six competing schools of RGS Guildford, Newcastle, Lancaster, High Wycombe, Colchester and Worcester played out a five-day tournament with each side playing each other in a 50 over format. The playing surfaces at RGS (Flagge Meadow and St. Oswald's) and at Ombersley CC produced competitive matches with three sides: Lancaster, Newcastle and Worcester going into the final day each with a chance of being victors.

The week was blessed with glorious weather throughout which also allowed the Headmasters' Lunch and the Alumni invitational tea on the Tuesday to be similarly enjoyable events. From an RGS Worcester perspective losses against Newcastle and Lancaster bookended three excellent victories in the middle of the week against the other schools with the win against Guildford posting 260 runs a highlight with fifties for Jude Rees and James Mann. The best performer through the week for RGS Worcester was Angus Rees who proved very consistent opening the batting posting scores of 53, 76, 43, 29 and 83. We look forward to renewing the battle for the Festival trophy next season when the 2020 hosts will be RGS Newcastle.



## England Hockey 'Player of the Match'

Izzy Nott, Year Eleven, started her hockey career at RGS The Grange and since then has gone from strength to strength. Izzy was a key player in the Under 16 indoor squad, successfully representing RGS Worcester in the National Schools' finals. As part of the England Hockey pathway, Izzy has progressed from the Development Programme to the Junior Regional Performance Centre this year, regularly attending National camps for England Under 16. At Easter she achieved caps for her country playing against Ireland, Holland and Germany, and was selected as 'Player of the Match'.



## National Swimming Champion

This year Olivia Fletcher, Year Eleven, competed in the Welsh Championships, a 'closed' event which is only open to Welsh swimmers competing for the title of Welsh Champion.

We are delighted to report that Olivia won the 1500m front crawl and also the 400m individual medley. In addition to this success, she achieved a Silver and Bronze in other events. This is the first time that Olivia has competed in Open events. As a 16-year-old, she is swimming in the 17 and over category. To achieve the title of 'Welsh National Champion' in two events is a superb achievement.



## County Champion in Athletics

Congratulations to Isabelle Thompson, Year Eight, for her excellent performance at the Hereford and Worcestershire County Athletics Championships. Isabelle achieved a Silver medal in the 100m. In the 200m race, Isabelle achieved a Personal Best and was awarded the County Champion title. Isabelle has had a very busy Athletics season, with a number of competitions all over the country.



## Playing for England in Cricket

RGS cricket Captain, Ben Sutton, Year Eleven, was selected for the England Physical Disabilities team to play in the World Series T20 Competition.

The England team performed particularly well and reached the final, played at New Road, Worcester, where they narrowly lost to India.

To be selected for an England men's team at Ben's age is a very significant achievement. Ben said: "It is exciting to be in the England team and to have the opportunity to represent my country."



## West Bromwich Football League Winner, England Rounders Player, County Tennis Player and 5 A-Levels!

Imogen Sinclair, added another medal to her burgeoning collection when she picked up her League winners' medal for West Bromwich Albion Women's Football Club.

Imogen is a multi-talented sports woman and has played Rounders for England; she now plays club Rounders for local team Smart Ladies, who are regular league winners and Imogen is currently listed in the league's top scorers list.

Imogen also eased through the Cheltenham Women's Doubles Tennis tournament, winning the title with former RGS pupil, Kate Horsburgh (2003-18). Imogen plays County Tennis for Hereford and Worcestershire, and took part in the RGS team that were just one round off making it to the National Finals. Imogen has also been our Senior Hockey 1st XI Vice Captain, leading by example with exemplary commitment and attitude to training and matches. Imogen achieved all this while studying for 5 A-Levels and achieving excellent grades.

We wish Imogen the best of luck in her career and future sporting endeavours as she begins her next chapter at Cardiff University.





## Four Gold Medals in Swimming Championships

Aimee Monks, Year Eight, competed in six events at the England Schools Open Individual Championships. In addition to winning four Gold medals in the 50m butterfly, 100m freestyle, 50m freestyle and 100m individual medley, Aimee also won 2 Silver medals in the 100m butterfly and 50m backstroke.

## Derby County FC Signing

Sebastian Thompson, Year Eleven, officially signed for Derby County Football Club and started 'work' at the beginning of July. He joined a strong Under 18 squad who are the current English Under 18 Champions. He has already played games against Norwich, Wigan, Brighton, Burnley and Sheffield United. The news has been made even more exciting following the announcement that Wayne Rooney, former Captain of England, is joining the club from January 2020.

Seb suffered a fracture to his femur last year and he focussed on completing his GCSEs and his rehabilitation. He returned to playing in January for the School where he was able to be involved in the Challenge Cup. The game was Seb's first full game after the injury, which made the match symbolic for him as it also allowed him to fulfil his dream of playing in this prestigious match representing RGS.



## Greenpower



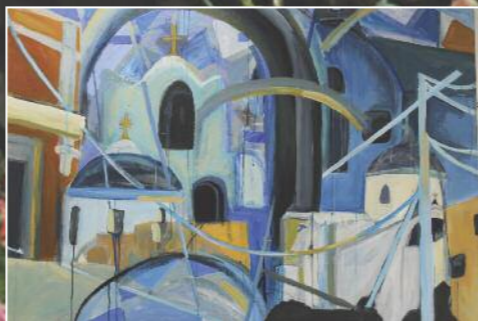
## Superformance look to the International Finals

The Greenpower team are looking forward to competing again after the summer break. Team Superformance has already competed in races at Goodwood and Anglesey this season with strong performances in both. The challenge so far has been consistency and having two strong races at each event. The team have had one fantastic performance followed by a tougher one where they have been run off the road by another team and faced mechanical issues; this is so often the case in electric car racing!

The next race is at the site of the original Top Gear track at Dunsfold. Team Superformance is hoping for two consistent, mishap-free races there! The team is vying for qualification for the International Finals in October, held this year at Silverstone, home of the British Formula 1 Grand Prix.







## Creativity on show at annual Festival

The RGS Creative Arts Festival was even more special this year with the new Performing Arts Centre as the hub of the event, and a rolling programme of drama, dance and film.

This year was Drama's first involvement in the Creative Arts Event and all seats were taken in our theatre to enjoy performances by the students, who took their audience on a journey through the myth using music, dance and puppetry.

Dance displays demonstrated an array of different styles which had been put together over the course of the year through the weekly Dance Club activity.

Our beautiful grounds provided the perfect backdrop for the Fashion Show. Students from Year Nine to Upper Sixth exhibited a wide range of exciting pieces that they have produced in the Textiles Department this year.

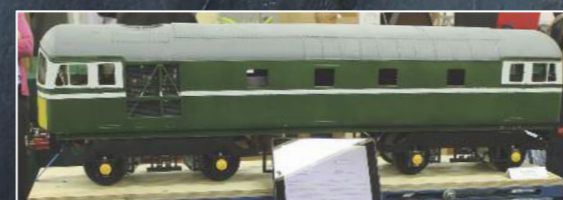
In Design and Technology, students with their families gathered to admire the eclectic variety of projects on display, from litter pickers to mountain bike camping trailers. The variety and quality was testament to the efforts of the students and staff and never ceases to amaze.

There was an impressive exhibition of GCSE and A-Level Art in the Art Department and Bevere Art Gallery Awards were presented by Kim Taylor from the Gallery.

The Physical Education Department displayed a range of gymnastics programmes that pupils had created throughout the year and to conclude the evening for Physical Education the audience was invited to 'have a go' at trampolining.

The Music Department's 'Jazz on The Lawn' featured the RGS Worcester Big Band with guest singers, with the final set being 'Play That Funky Music'.

The Festival certainly showed that there is no shortage of creativity across the range of the arts at RGS!





# Charlie Comes To RGS



This year's Lower School production was Roald Dahl's children's classic 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. The story of Charlie Bucket's marvellous adventure was wonderfully brought to life for the stage and the cast and crew all excelled.

For the five children who won the golden ticket and got to visit Willy Wonka's chocolate factory (and also won a lifetime's supply of chocolate) it seemed as if all their dreams had come true. Wonka's bizarre and surreal schemes were, of course, traps to tempt and test the children who visited his factory.

The staging throughout was bold and imaginative – it is no easy job to conjure up the weird splendour of Willy Wonka's factory. The costumes and design were superb and musical extracts from the 1971 film and images from the original Quentin Blake illustrations were put to clever use.

The performance was a perfect end to a fabulous year of performances and these young actors provided every indication that the future for RGS Drama is very bright indeed.



# Careers/Skills



## 700 Visitors attend our Careers EXPO

In April, we saw the Senior School site inundated with visitors from all over the county. They were here to visit the RGS Worcester annual Careers and Higher Education EXPO, which showcases all manner of professional sectors and Higher Education Institutions. With over 700 visitors from across Worcestershire schools and at least 150 delegates in attendance, the EXPO was a resounding success and the largest EXPO to date.

With Worcester BOSCH as our lead exhibitor, we had a focus on STEM and Engineering and many of the stands were more interactive than in previous years. Pupils were found playing with pendulums on the Cheltenham Science Group stand, trying their hand at suturing with a plastic surgeon, manhandling a TV camera, or perusing the art of bridal dress design on other stands. The variety and breadth of Careers on show was fantastic to see and our thanks must go to all our exhibitors, many of whom are part of the RGS Alumni community, for giving of their time so generously.

It was wonderful to see pupils and parents engaging with local, national and even global companies to find out about the range of opportunities that could be available to the pupils beyond RGS.



## A Focus On Ford

Local car dealership Hills Ford and Worcester-based marketing specialists Market Link Creative Marketing, approached RGS Worcester with a business learning opportunity for students aged 16+ interested in following Media, Marketing, Film, Photography or other relevant creative subjects.



Developing online content for the all-new Focus ST-Line car launch proved to be a challenging and enjoyable project for students taking part. The project offered the opportunity to be involved in a real life marketing campaign. As well as giving the RGS students an insight into modern marketing practice, it also served to be a task requiring teamwork and organisation.

The end product was a film presented online. A Ford Focus car, emblazoned with the RGS logo and 'Worcester is Green' hashtag appeared at the School as part of the campaign to the surprise (and delight!) of the Headmaster.

Such has been the success of the project that a follow up next year is being considered already.

## Team excels in Worcester Bosch Engineering Competition

The RGS Engineering Education Scheme team were highly commended for the project they have been working on with Worcester Bosch. They came second out of over 60 teams in the 'Contribution to Business' category at the final assessment day where they presented their findings to a panel of engineers.

For the last eight months the team have been working with a mentor from Worcester Bosch to develop greener packaging for their boilers. After researching a variety of materials including mushroom packaging, sawdust and cotton, the RGS team produced a decision matrix to identify two materials for further testing. They found Hexacomb Cardboard performed as well as expanded polystyrene (which is currently used) in drop tests but had significantly less environmental impact.

It was only at the assessment day that the team of five Lower Sixth pupils realised how relevant, well thought out and clearly reported and presented their choice of project had been.



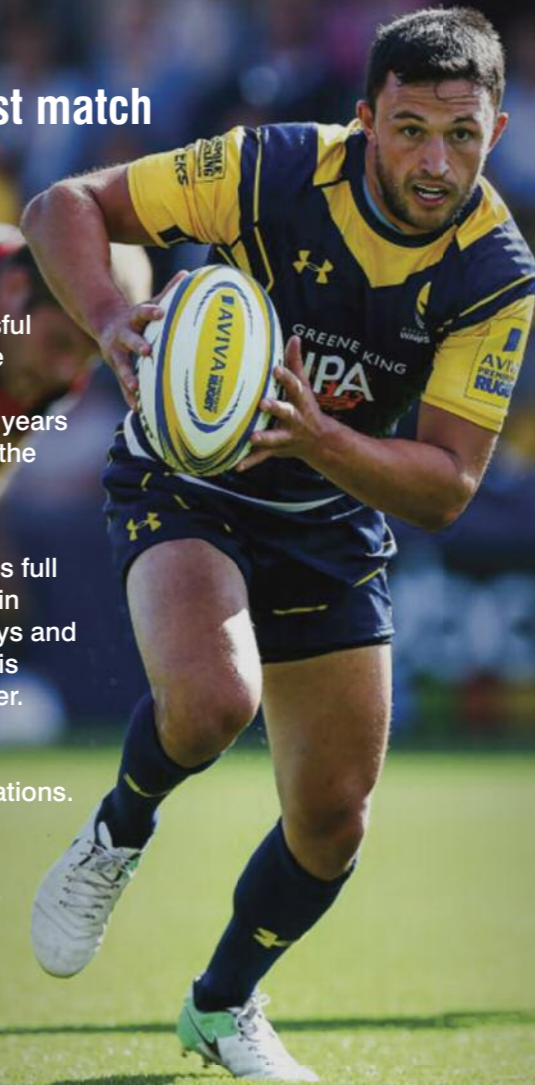
## Alumni News

### Former Pupil Jonny Arr's last match for the Worcester Warriors

Worcester Warrior, Jonny Arr, first joined RGS Worcester in 1998, as a nine-year old boy. He was a pupil at the RGS The Grange for two years before continuing his successful school career, culminating in securing three A Levels at 'A' grade in the Sixth Form. He played for the 1st XV at school for three years and was selected to tour New Zealand and the Cook Islands in 2004.

Jonny was offered a professional contract immediately on leaving school and made his full first-team debut for the Worcester Warriors in 2007. He has become a key figure at Sixways and has played more rugby matches (218) for his hometown club than any other current player. He won international honours when he was selected for the England Under 20 side that achieved the Grand Slam in the 2008 Six Nations.

Jonny maintains a close connection to the School, currently being a Trustee on the RGS Worcester and Alice Ottley School Foundation Committee and in July 2019 was the Guest of Honour at the annual RGS The Grange Speech Day.



He played his final match for the Warriors on 18 May against Saracens and helped his side win. It was a 'fairytale ending' and Jonny departs as a true legend of the club.

We wish him the best of luck as he continues his Rugby career at Birmingham Moseley.



### Former Pupil wins Silver Shears Award

We were delighted to hear that alumnus Edward Jones, (2014-16), has recently been awarded the prestigious Silver Shears Award from the Merchant Taylors' Company. In front of an audience from the City, fashion, tailoring and education worlds, Edward exhibited his winning outfit at the gala catwalk show at Merchant Taylors' Hall.

Edward, who was awarded an RGS Textiles Scholarship, notably gained full marks for his A-Level in Textiles and for his Extended Project Qualification in Vintage Fashion. During his time at RGS he won the Young Fashion Designer UK award at AS Level and had the opportunity to exhibit his work on the catwalk at The Fashion, Embroidery and Stitch Show at The NEC and at The Midlands Fashion Awards.

We are extremely proud of all that Edward has achieved and we wish him well for his bright future ahead.





## Annual Boat Race sees former Pupil Rowing

Former RGS Worcester Head Boy, Ben Thomson, took part in the annual Boat Races between Oxford and Cambridge Universities in April 2019, rowing in the Oxford Isis boat.

Ben learnt to row at RGS Worcester under the direction of Head of Rowing Mrs Jane Sullivan and represented the School as stroke man of the top RGS quad racing at National Schools' Regatta and the Schools' Head of the River in 2017 when he was in the Upper Sixth.

The Boat Race, raced over the 6.8k course from Putney to Mortlake, is one of the oldest sporting fixtures in the world – first raced in 1829 – and is watched by an estimated 250,000 people on the river side and 15 million people on television.



## RGS Alumnus recognised in Concorde's 50th Anniversary

2019 marked the 50th anniversary of the launch of Concorde and former pupil Michael George Wilde, was one of six Anglo-French engineers to be involved in the plans for Concorde, which he worked on as Chief Aerodynamicist.

Born in Worcestershire, Michael attended RGS from 1935 to 1942. The Headmaster John Pitt, was interviewed on BBC Radio as part of the commemoration for this event.



## Enzo 'Two Bagels'



In the latest Warburton's advert with Robert DeNiro, Mob henchman, 'Tony Two Bagels' is better known to the RGS community as Enzo Nicoli - passionate pupil actor and useful strike bowler. Enzo attended RGS Worcester from 1969 to 1977 and his speech at the Alumni dinner, a few years ago, which started with Enzo singing in Italian, was a true highlight in Perrins Hall.

## RGS Dodderhill

### New Headmistress

Mrs Sarah Atkinson has been appointed as the new Headmistress of RGS Dodderhill. Mrs Atkinson was the Deputy Head Academic at RGS The Grange and was chosen from a strong field of candidates from across the four RGS schools.

Mrs Atkinson herself attended North London Collegiate School, an all-girls school, and has taught at a number of schools in the independent sector. Sarah Atkinson said, "I am delighted to be appointed Head of RGS Dodderhill and to have the honour of leading such a wonderful school. I have been particularly impressed by the commitment of the pupils to their school and the dedication of staff, as well as the excellent facilities. I look forward to working with the whole school community and making sure that everyone knows what a fantastic girls' school we have in Droitwich."



### Natasha Devon visit

The RGS Dodderhill community was inspired by the visit of acclaimed author and campaigner for improving mental health, Natasha Devon. Natasha spent time with pupils and parents and the feedback from everyone was universally enthusiastic.

Natasha pitched her presentation perfectly for an all-girls audience, sharing her insights into gender bias and unrealistic images of women in social media and marketing materials. She ensured that the girls remained fully engaged through her talk by using a range of media, including extracts from adverts and television programmes. The visit by Natasha was sponsored by the RGS Dodderhill PTA, 'The Friends of Dodderhill'.



### 'Gotta Sing'

Last June, two choirs attended a concert called 'Redditch Gotta Sing' which provided an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the unique blend of girls' voices that we have at RGS Dodderhill.

The Juniors started off with a 15 minute set of partner songs and impressed the audience with their grasp of two part harmony. The Senior girls, up to age 15, showed off their acappella vocals. The event also gave several soloists the opportunity to perform and all are to be congratulated for their impressive performances.





## RGS Dodderhill pupils join the other RGS schools in Worcester Cathedral

For the first time, RGS Dodderhill pupils participated in the annual RGSW Commemoration Service held in Worcester Cathedral. The Chair of Governors, Mr Quentin Poole, delivered the address which reflected on the length of our community's existence from the founding of the School in 685 by Bishop Bosel, to 1265 when Walter de Cantelupe sent four chaplains to teach in the City, from the School receiving its first Royal Charter from Queen Elizabeth I to its second from Queen Victoria in 1869. As illustrious as our past is, Mr Poole also asked us to consider how exciting the community's future is looking as well. RGS Dodderhill's Chamber Choir performed a beautiful piece entitled 'Steal Away', composed by Caroline Vinson, Director of Music.

Mr Poole's core message however, was that of gratitude. On a day when we show our gratitude for the School's founders, we were rightly asked to consider how fortunate we are to be the current custodians of RGS's central aim: education.

Mr Poole highlighted that an RGS education is individualised, allowing each pupil to be the best that they each can be. Perhaps the best representation of what our community is all about, and where our success stems from, came from the RGS Chamber Choir and accompanying strings with their rendition of Pharrell Williams' 'Happy'.



RGS Dodderhill girls celebrated another year of super GCSE results



The 23 girls achieved a commendable 92% of all exams being awarded a pass at grade 4 and above. The marks in English Language, Literature, Geography, Art and the separate Sciences courses achieved 100% of passes with many achieving the highest grades of level 7 and above. Overall, 94% of the girls achieved a level 4 and above in at least 5 subjects.

Head Girl, Alice Ryan, proved that she has the multi-tasking skills to take her career in a variety of directions as she performed in leading roles in plays, in and out of school, whilst achieving top grades 9 to 7 (previously A\*/A) in all of her GCSEs.

Twins Anya and Ischia Turk celebrated an outstanding set of results with the top grade 9 in Maths, Biology and Chemistry. Anya also achieved top marks in Physics, Geography and Art with an exceptional grade A in the Further Maths examination.

All staff are very proud of this fabulous group of young women who have shown the determination and resilience which will stand them in good stead for future success.

The girls will now move to study at a wide range of Sixth Forms, with many students starting at RGS Worcester in the Sixth Form.





## RGS Springfield is Alive with the Sound of Music

Encouraging children to discover more about the professional world of music has been a focus this term at RGS Springfield and this has come in the form of our Inspire Concert series.

It began with a trip to Birmingham to see a performance from the Welsh National Opera (WNO). In May, the children in Years Five and Six participated in a workshop with Davina Brownrigg, a Vocal Animateur from the WNO. The children learnt the chorus from the Toreador Song from Carmen's opera Bizet as well as exploring their singing voices.



Our next concert was a Sheku Kanneh-Mason Recital at Birmingham Town Hall. Sheku was the cellist who won the BBC Young Musician of the Year 2016 and more recently performed at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Some of our children took part in a media film about their responses to seeing the performance too.

As well as trips to see musicians, we have been lucky to have been visited by six young musicians from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. The musicians came to talk to the children in Key Stage 2 about their musical journeys and there were opportunities for the children to ask them lots of questions.

At RGS Springfield we have many children learning musical instruments and enjoying performing together. Seeing the pleasure music can give to both performers and audiences will hopefully ensure our musical school continues to thrive.



British Science Week at RGS Springfield saw the children from Nursery to Year Six participate in a CSI themed Science Day, dressed as Scientists! The children took part in different age-appropriate workshops including fingerprinting, shoe-printing and even blood splatters! The children learnt all about DNA and how everybody's fingerprint is unique to them. Even the Nursery children enjoyed taking their own fingerprints and looking at the patterns using a magnifying glass.



We concluded Science Week when we held our first Science Fair. The children had been tasked with either inventing something that would help the environment, or choosing to be educators and teach people about an environmental issue. Children from Reception up to Year Six entered and entries included a hot compostor, a 'Particulate Gobbler', a biodegradable lunchbox and informative displays about recycling, plastics and palm oil, to name just a few.



The children worked hard on their projects and enjoyed the challenge of working on them independently or within a team. It was lovely to see so many children enthusiastic about Science at RGS Springfield.





# RGS The Grange

## Unique Opportunities Available



At RGS The Grange we take great delight in giving all pupils from Year Two to Year Six the opportunity to go on an outdoor education residential trip each year. At a time when more and more parents reminisce about the freedom they had as children with the outdoors, here at RGS The Grange we are ensuring that all our children are provided with the opportunities required to nurture and develop qualities that can only be gained by such experiences.

The diverse and high quality residential trips on offer mean teachers can create experiences that enhance pupils' classroom learning, adding opportunities pupils may not otherwise have. This promotes the importance of allowing children to connect with the outdoor world, and the powerful and inspirational lessons to be learned by getting children outside with their peers and teachers.

Residential trips are about developing positive relationships and experiences and which child would not wish to experience these:

- Year Two - PGL trip in Ross on Wye for 2 nights
- Year Three - Mill on the Brue, Somerset for 2 nights
- Year Four - Bushcraft, Oxfordshire for 3 nights
- Year Five - Edale, Peak District for 3 nights
- Year Six - Stella Maris, France for 4 nights

The residential trips feature highly on each child's 'best memories' as part of the RGS The Grange experience.



## Girls' Cricket



Girls' Cricket at RGS The Grange has been rolled out across all year groups from Years Three to Six this year. The girls' progress has been remarkable. Whilst many of the skills they have learnt on the rounders pitch over the years are transferable they have also had to hone their bowling skills and learn the complex rules of cricket.

Despite the girls' dedication and enthusiasm, the inclement weather has meant that they have played fewer matches than anticipated, but each week, they have learnt a new rule and more about the etiquette of cricket. From clapping the opposition off the pitch to calling "how's that?" when a potential wicket is taken, the girls have embraced it all. Their never-ending enthusiasm and enjoyment of the game has been key to their success this season.

From a coaching point of view, the possibilities that cricket brings are endless. From the numerous coaching games such as pavilion cricket and four wicket cricket, to specific skills and drills in batting, bowling and fielding, which all allow for maximum participation for all children regardless of their ability. We can wholeheartedly say "we love cricket" at RGS The Grange and we are extremely excited about the future of girls' cricket!

## Winners of the Arts Council Trophy for Drama



Congratulations to the LAMDA Drama pupils at RGS The Grange who were awarded 'The Arts Council Trophy for Drama' at the annual Worcester Competitive Arts Festival held at RGS Worcester. Rosemary Hopkins, chair of Worcester Competitive Arts Festival committee, commented: "All pupils did extremely well and I think deservedly the trophy is for all of them to give them encouragement to carry on, gain more confidence and self-assurance."

The trophy was awarded at the Festival Concert where the various gold medal winners in Drama and Music performed their winning pieces.

## Let's Play Ball with Sphero

In June, Sphero sent two members of their media team from Boulder, Colorado, USA to RGS The Grange to shoot their UK marketing video. The School has been using Sphero robots within Computing lessons to improve understanding of logical thought and algorithmic thinking. The day started with a game of Sphero Golf. The idea is to code the Sphero Bolt from the tee, through a range of obstacles and finally onto the green to putt into the hole. Pupils in Year Six demonstrated their skills by tackling the Great Grange Maze which included ramps, tunnels and even the HMS Grange boat that pupils were aiming to fly their Sphero robots onto from a ramp and power through the water to the sensor activated buzzer on the finish line.







**RGS Worcester**  
Fully co-educational  
11 - 18 years



- Independent Day School
- 800 pupils
- Sixth oldest school in the world, originally founded 685 (first written reference appears in 1291)

Situated in Worcester City Centre  
Upper Tything, Worcester WR1 1HP  
01905 613391 office@rgsw.org.uk



**RGS Dodderhill**  
Girls Education  
4 - 16 years



- Independent Day School
- 150 pupils
- Founded in 1945, originally known as Whitford Hall
- Part of RGS Worcester since 2019

Situated in Droitwich Spa  
Crutch Lane, Droitwich Spa, Worcester WR9 0BE  
01905 778290 dodderhill@rgsw.org.uk



**RGS The Grange**  
Fully co-educational  
2 - 11 years



- Prep School
- 370 pupils
- Founded in 1996
- Part of RGS Worcester since 1996

Situated on the edge of Worcester in 50 acres of grounds  
Grange Lane, Claines, Worcester WR3 7RR  
01905 451205 grange@rgsw.org.uk



**RGS Springfield**  
Fully co-educational  
2 - 11 years



- Prep School
- 150 pupils
- Founded in 1953, originally as part of The Alice Ottley School
- Part of RGS Worcester since 2007

Situated in the City Centre of Worcester  
Britannia Square, Worcester WR1 3DL  
01905 24999 springfield@rgsw.org.uk

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