

Autumn 2021



The RGS Worcester Family of Schools

Leading Independent schools in Worcestershire.

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



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

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Thank you to the editorial team: Emma Horrocks (Editor), Su Savage (Designer)

HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION

The pages of Excel magazine show the incredible ability of our pupils at each of the RGS Schools to raise a smile and achieve at an exceptional level in spite of the many challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic has thrown at us all. The indomitable spirit of the RGS community is very evident in the articles and stories here, which cover such a wide range of activities and experiences enjoyed by the





supporting our pupils and their families and providing complete continuity of education. The outcomes are exceptional achievements, including in Public Exam Results - and very well done to the Year Eleven pupils at RGS Dodderhill and RGS Worcester and to those sitting A Levels and BTECs at RGS Worcester. With more subject choices available than any other school in the area, the pupils have played to their strengths and done extremely well in a very challenging time. Above all, we have children and young adults who are happy and successful, who are supported and encouraged to give their best in all that they do - and they do so much!

We have the excitement of a new Hockey Centre opening shortly in Perdiswell which may well be used as a training venue for the Commonwealth Games. We have received Awards for our Digital Learning and our response to the pandemic. and we have learned to do things differently, providing opportunities for our pupils in new, innovative ways. Our Schools look better than ever with facilities to rival the very best independent schools, and we are emerging from the pandemic quietly confident that what we do makes a real difference for each and every child in our

Thank you to the whole RGS community: to pupils, teachers, parents, alumni and friends, for your support and encouragement. I hope that this Excel magazine demonstrates the excitement and enjoyment of our pupils as they develop and grow, showing those characteristics of teamwork, leadership, resilience and support for one another and their community, so important for our future world.

Executive Head of the RGS Worcester Family of Schools



WORCESTER BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL SPORTING FUTURE

WORCESTER INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY CENTRE

With the date for completion fast approaching, anticipation is building at RGS for when pupils start using the new Worcester International Hockey Centre in Perdiswell. This inspiring facility is a partnership between RGS and Worcester Hockey Club, with full support from Worcester City Council. The Centre will provide a first-class Hockey venue that will benefit both RGS pupils and the local community.



RGS parents, pupils, alumni and local business have shown their support for the project by 'sponsoring a brick or stone' to raise funds and contribute to the development of this exciting new facility.



photo by Paul Savage Photography

"REDEFINING OUTSTANDING EDUCATION":



RGS WORCESTER'S DIGITAL LEARNING PROGRAMME GOES GLOBAL

The RGS Digital Learning Programme (DLP) is fast becoming a much-admired global benchmark for the use of technology in education worldwide. The DLP provided the RGS Worcester Family of Schools with the agility to deliver effective remote learning to pupils from day one of lockdown. The DLP has emphasised our reputation as a hub of excellence in digital innovation in education.

Our team of expert educators across the RGS Family of Schools has been invited to share the RGS story and the outstanding practice taking place in our classrooms at an array of prestigious, global events this year including:

- Think Ahead iPad Education Summit
- Showbie Learning RedefinED Virtual Conference
- Apple Distinguished Schools Accessibility Festival
- The 'EdTech Vision 2025' report RGS was the only independent school included in this report for the Education Select Committee in Parliament.
- Independent Schools Council (ISC) Digital Strategy Conference

RGS WELCOMES ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INNOVATOR TO TRAINING EVENT

RGS is also an Apple Regional Training Centre, sharing expertise and best practice of technology in education, not only to RGS staff, but to the wider education community and therefore ultimately benefit as many children as possible, locally, nationally and even internationally.

A recent Apple Regional Training Centre (RTC) event, RGS welcomed Priya Lakhani OBE, Founder and CEO of Century Tech - an award-winning Al education technology company, that each of our four schools are currently trialling.

RGS Director of Innovation, John Jones commented: "It was incredible to hear about the possibilities afforded by Al in Education from someone with the knowledge and passion of Priya Lakhani. She created Century Tech to disrupt and improve education and we are proud to be involved in utilising a technology that shows so much promise".

"I was honoured to be asked by RGS Worcester, an incredibly innovative and exciting school, to share my insights on artificial intelligence and education. Al is having a transformative effect on education, from improving the way that children learn to making teacher's lives easier and more productive. Leading schools like RGS Worcester are seizing on the benefits of this technology to offer an even more outstanding education."

Priya Lakhani OBE, Founder CEO of CENTURY Tech

The RGS Worcester Family of Schools are Apple Distinguished Schools out of only 535 schools worldwide!





BEST USE OF TECHNOLOGY! CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS FINALIST

The RGS Worcester Family of Schools was proud to be shortlisted for the 2021 Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber Business Awards in the 'Best Use of Technology' category, winning a Highly Commended accolade. This award celebrates the RGS Schools' achievements in Remote Learning, the strength of IT infrastructure and the overall success of the RGS Digital Learning Programme, providing continuity of education for pupils. RGS won the Chamber Business Award for Technology and the Award for Careers provision in recent years.





NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY AWARD

The RGS Worcester Family of Schools have been recognised for our commitment to providing safe remote education, achieving National Online Safety - Safe Remote Education Accreditation from NOS. NOS is a multi-award-winning digital training provider with extensive resources in online safety, developed in line with the Department of Education's requirements.

RGSW takes pride in being at the forefront of online safeguarding for children and young people, and this achievement demonstrates commitment to providing high quality remote education, keeping children and young people safe online and supporting pupil wellbeing.





'OUTSTANDING RESPONSE TO COVID-19': INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE YEAR FINALIST

The RGS Worcester Family of Schools is delighted to have been selected as a Finalist for the Independent Schools of the Year Awards, in the 'Outstanding response to Covid-19' category. The awards are run by Independent School Parent magazine and RGS joins other prestigious schools to become one of only eight top Independent Schools in the country, selected from over 700 nominations.

Headmaster, John Pitt, said "We are very pleased that all the hard work of our staff and the commitment of our pupils and parents have been recognised in this way. We have been developing the use of technology in education, when it makes a difference to learning, for some time now. As a consequence, we were able to switch straight to a full remote learning programme when it was needed during this pandemic.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF

THE YEAR 2021

We have also been able to share and develop the use of technology with our partner schools in the state and independent sectors, so that everyone has benefited from our status as an Apple Distinguished School. To be selected as a national Finalist is very special."

The Award winner will be announced later this term. Regardless of the outcome, this represents a superb RGS team effort.



THE BEST SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD

RGS Worcester recently welcomed a representative from 'The Good Schools Guide'. The 'last words' of the review sum up RGS wonderfully:

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

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE



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

SCHOOL LIFE CONTINUES...

SILENCE

Examinations in progress

Thank you

With the school motto 'Respice et Prospice' translating as 'Cherish the past, look to the future', RGS has always been at the forefront of change and ready to tackle whatever challenges manifest.

Over what can only be described as an extraordinary year, the RGS School community responded to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and achieved incredible outcomes through the resilience and determination of pupils and staff and the support of RGS families.

During periods of lockdown, the RGS Digital Learning Programme enabled the shift to online lessons swiftly and confidently. In one term alone, RGS Worcester teaching staff delivered 5,461,280 hours of remote lessons, along with over 1,000 GCSE and 300 A Level Mock Exams set, invigilated, marked and feedback given.

The Mass Testing programme saw a rallying of the non-teaching staff and parent volunteers to achieve what seemed a logistical impossibility – to test all Senior pupils before their return to school in March 2021, helping to maintain a safe learning environment for all.

Pupils embraced the opportunity to be back at school and return to the routine of school life. There was a lovely atmosphere in school as friendships were re-established. This term, with fewer restrictions, school life has seen a return of the wonderful opportunities available to all RGS pupils.



CODE CLUB CREATES A NEW REALITY

The Lower School Code Club have been having fun this term, using their iPads to create their own 3D landscapes, using virtual and augmented reality systems. Affiliated with the national Code Club initiative through the Raspberry Pi Foundation, the Club has nurtured pupils' interest in learning how to develop skills in computer programming, using industry standard techniques and software.

MRS NICHOLLS AND HER KITCHEN **ADVENTURERS**

Although back at school, Mrs Nicholls' weekly, virtual Cookery Club continued and remained a highlight of the week for many pupils (and their families too!).

From sausage pasta and homemade flatbreads to full roast dinners, RGS pupils as budding chefs gained confidence in the kitchen and acquired essential cooking skills.

Feedback from pupils says it all:

"I love coming home and cooking dinner for the family. I've learnt how to cook everything from lamb to fish to onii it's given me skills that will be necessary later in life:)"

which tasted amazing."

"Cooking club is amazing. I loved cooking every Thursday with Mrs Nicholls and the other pupils, trying new recipes, all o



CHECK-MATE: CAMERON QUALIFIES IN CHESS TERAFINAL

Congratulations to Year Seven pupil, Cameron Henry, who has qualified for the Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge Terafinal.

This is the second time that Cameron has received a place in the Terafinal of this elite national chess tournament. representing Worcestershire in the under 12 category.

Headmaster, John Pitt, said: "Cameron has showcased tremendous skill and consistent achievements with his chess and is rightly rated as one of the best players in the UK in his age group. Very well done and good luck."

Cameron was interviewed on BBC Hereford and Worcester's Drive Time show as well as being featured in the local press.

WORCESTER COMPETITIVE ARTS FESTIVAL 2021

2021 was the 70th Anniversary for the annual Worcester Competitive Arts Festival and in this celebratory year, the event was held virtually. The festival celebrates performance in its many forms: poetry, drama, choral, singing, speech, music, aiming to give amateur musicians and actors in Worcestershire and beyond, an opportunity to demonstrate skills in a friendly and supportive environment. In previous years, RGS Worcester has always been pleased to host the event in school.

Several talented RGS Worcester pupils entered this year's competition and achieved excellent results in a number of categories. Congratulations to RGS pupils Sasha Penlington and Kieran Lilley who were awarded the William Lewis Salver and the Rotary Young Performer Trophy respectively. Well



GREEN FINGERS AT RGS WORCESTER

Members of the RGS Gardening Club would have normally been designing and building a garden for the RHS Malvern Show during the Summer term. But, with the event sadly not going ahead this year, the young horticulturists channelled their gardening skills to create hanging baskets to be displayed outside the Headmaster's office in Whiteladies, taking the theme of 'Celebration'. Their creations were featured in the Worcester News.







GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS VISIT BISHOPS WOOD

After months of restrictions, it was fabulous to see students back doing proper field work once again during an off-site trip to the field centre at nearby Bishops Wood. The Lower Sixth Geography students gained valuable practical experience to enhance their classroom learning, with the opportunity to collect data, investigate and practise sampling techniques, all in preparation for their A Level coursework.





DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD - SILVER Expedition

Over three days in the Trinity term, a group of 24 adventurous Year Eleven pupils completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award qualifying expedition in the Malvern Hills. The expedition this year was slightly different due to Covid-19 restrictions, with the groups not able to camp overnight, but not to be hampered, pupils were still able to practise their camperaft skills in a campsite just north of Ledbury.

In total, each team walked between 50 to 55km, climbing the Malvern Hills in some challenging weather conditions, especially on Sunday where low clouds made navigation very testing. Fortunately, the weather cleared on the final day, allowing the teams to enjoy the sunshine and some amazing views over Herefordshire!

All five teams demonstrated resilience and teamwork, and remained positive throughout. Well done to everyone who participated, including Bronze and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award teams who took on similar challenges and expeditions.

COMBINED CADET FORCE IS BACK IN ACTION

Pupils welcomed the return of face-to-face training for the Combined Cadet Force at RGS Worcester with energy and enthusiasm. It was great to see the Cadets back in action in the three Sections, developing leadership and teamwork skills and demonstrating grit, adaptability, initiative and tenacity.

The RAF Section continued their work on the principles of flight, the Army revisited skills-at-arms training and cooking in the field and the Royal Navy developed communication skills and semaphore.

The CCF contingent offers pupils a broad range of challenging, exciting, adventurous and educational activities and aims to enable the development of personal responsibility, leadership and self-discipline.



COLOUR SERGEANT SMITH IS SELECTED FOR SANDHURST

Many congratulations to Upper Sixth student, CCF Colour Sergeant Charlotte Smith, who has been offered a place at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst after passing the selection process. Charli is planning to take a Gap Year before going to University to read Medicine, and then join Sandhurst in due course. Charli said: "I have been a member of the CCF since joining RGS in Year Ten. I really enjoy all aspects of CCF and it has sparked my interest in the Army. Alongside this, I love science and wish to have a career in medicine and so realised I could combine the two - so I applied for the Army Officer Scholarship Scheme. I am delighted to have been selected for training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, which is an opportunity I can take up once I graduate." Charli follows a strong tradition of pupils taking a career path in the Armed Services.





ONE IN A HUNDRED: MISS BROOKES JOINS BIRMINGHAM PHOENIX

Head of Girls' Cricket, Thea Brookes had an exciting and energetic summer this year, playing in The Hundred Cricket tournament as part of the Birmingham Phoenix Women's team. Thea joined a strong team of the region's best players, alongside some of the best overseas players to create a world-class dream-team in women's cricket.

The Hundred was a new cricket competition which comprises 100 balls, and featured eight brand new city-based Women's and Men's teams. Competing over five weeks over the summer, the games had many of us on the edge of our seats and were broadcast on the BBC and Sky Sports.

Thea explains "Playing in The Hundred has been a great experience which has enhanced and showcased the best of women and men's cricket. It has been such a privilege to play alongside some of the world's best cricketers and in front of crowds of up to 17,000 spectators! A highlight of the tournament was being surrounded by an array of international cricketers who I have idolised throughout my career. It has been a privilege to be a part of something special that will inspire the next generation of cricketers. Stadiums were full of families that were able to experience a new style of cricket, and be entertained by live music, fireworks and flames!" Birmingham Phoenix gained momentum during the competition with a run of wins which led them to the semi-finals, narrowingly losing to the overall tournament winners, Oval Invincibles. Thea adds: "I am now looking forward to sharing my experience with pupils and encouraging Girls' Cricket at RGS Worcester."



SUMMER OF NETBALL



RGS Worcester Head of Netball, Ellie Gibbons, has had a busy summer of netball coaching with Jersey Netball and Team Jets - the former club of England Captain Serena Guthrie. The six day camp, delivered in partnership with Netu Fitness, provided the girls with an insight into what it takes to reach the top level of netball in the UK. Ellie said: "It's been great to be able to coach these young netball players with a 'circular fitness concept', which includes the many aspects of fitness that modern netball encompasses; strength, endurance, skills, agility, nutrition and well-being. I can't wait to get back to RGS Worcester and share this good practice with our pupils and school teams!"

Alongside netball coaching, Ellie continues to play professional level Netball in the Superleague, and has just signed for her third season of play. We look forward to celebrating her achievements and expertise at RGS Worcester this coming year.

REACH FOR THE STARS! RGS IS HOME TO NOVA NETBALL ACADEMY

RGS Worcester continues its commitment to nurture the next generation of netball players by becoming the home of the Severn Stars Under 17 Nova Academy. The academy, in partnership with Severn Stars, is a joint franchise between the University of Worcester and University of Gloucestershire and aims to engage with and develop a pool of young talent in the local area, The Nova Academy provides talented Under 17 players with weekly training sessions, strength and conditioning programmes and provision, high level technical training, as well as sports therapy and off-court support.

Severn Stars' Director and Co-founder, Dr. Anita Navin, commented: "We are really thrilled to see the Nova Academy programme extend to new partners. RGS Worcester demonstrates a strong passion and commitment to sports performance and netball. We are sure this new Nova Academy will help develop the next netballing stars".

Gareth Roots, Director of Sport at RGS Worcester said:

"At RGS Worcester, we pride ourselves on identifying and empowering every pupil to fulfil their sporting potential. Establishing positive links with outside agencies, such as Severn Stars, is an integral part of this development as it will give our netball talent the opportunity to build their expertise and be exposed to the next level of the game. We are delighted to become a Nova Academy and with our existing coaching team, alongside our Head of Netball, Ellie Gibbons, who is also Severn Stars Nova Academy Head Coach, we are confident that RGS has a fantastic structure in place to support our athletes."



STUDENTS SET FOR BRIGHT FUTURES:

A LEVEL AND BTEC EXAM SUCCESS

At RGS Worcester, we were delighted to see the pupils achieve such impressive examination results again this year. As we welcomed them into school on results day, there were smiles all round as the students celebrated.

Close to one third of A Level Grades achieved by RGS Sixth Form students were at A*, with 92% of Grades awarded at A*, A or B Grades. 12 pupils achieved the superb results of three or four A* Grades at A Level. In the BTEC, all Grades were Distinction Stars, Distinctions or Merits, with 75% achieving the top Grades.

Amongst the students celebrating were Will Osborne who achieved four A* Grades at A Level and secured a place to read Mathematics at Oxford University. Will is a national fencer, ranked 22nd in the whole country.

Liam Leonard also achieved four A* Grades and a place to read Chemistry at Oxford University. Liam is one of the very best musicians in Worcestershire; he is a Grade 8 Double Bass and Diploma pianist, who won the Bromsgrove Music Festival in 2019. Fellow exceptional Diploma pianist, Megan Wang (main picture) achieved three A* Grades and a Scholarship to Imperial College London to read Mechanical Engineering.

Gurjivan Sohal joined RGS Worcester for Year 13 in order to improve his A Level Grades and achieved two A* and one A Grade and has accepted a place to read Medicine at Keele University.

Ben Sutton who played Cricket for the England Disability team in the World Series before the pandemic achieved A*, A and B Grades and is looking forward to studying Mechanical Engineering at Loughborough University, while continuing his cricket.

In the BTEC, Distinction star Grades were achieved by Lottie Atkinson, Olivia Fletcher, Elodie Vinson and Flynn Vries. Olivia Fletcher also achieved a CTEC Distinction star in Business.



Headmaster, John Pitt, said, "With Digital Learning firmly established at RGS before the pandemic, we were able to keep teaching right through and the students achieved superb results. This Year group built on their excellent GCSE results pre-pandemic, and are now ready for the next stage in their lives. They have done exceptionally well in coping and excelling academically during such a difficult two years of Covid. I would like to congratulate the students and the teachers for excellent results to match their hard work and commitment during the most challenging time. We are very proud of all they have achieved."



SUPERB GCSE RESULTS:

CONGRATULATIONS TO PUPILS FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK



Year Eleven pupils celebrated their GCSE results at RGS Worcester with a mixture of relief and pride that they have achieved results at a high level.

Three pupils achieved the highest Grade 9 in all of their GCSE courses, 16 pupils achieved all 9-8 grades, and 59 pupils achieved 9-7 in at least 8 subjects. These are superb results and amongst those celebrating were:

Ellie Allen, Tobey Butler, Eleanor Fawcett, Samuel Hewitt, Katie Kimberlee, Maisy McRobert, Ellie Nicholls, Emma Pickersgill, Jack Pitt, Ben Sears, Kitty Smith, Rayyan Styles, Hebe Walsh and Ben Weller who all achieved eight, nine or ten GCSEs at the top Grade 9.

England Under 18 Hockey player, Alice Atkinson achieved all 9-7 grades with seven at Grade 9. Alice is a superb sportsperson who represented RGS at the nationals in Hockey and Netball.

Musician Tobey Butler achieved ten GCSEs with nine at Grade 9 and one at Grade 8. Tobey is a Music Scholar, with Grade 7 in Piano and Violin and sings for the School.

Star of stage and music, Ben Sears achieved eleven GCSEs with eight at Grade 9 and three at Grade 8. Ben is a member of the junior English Symphony Orchestra, the Worcester Operatic and Dramatic Society and volunteers at the Academy of Theatre Arts.







TWINS EXCEL

Twins Dan and Dave Varughese achieved 19 GCSEs between them with a superb 14 at Grade 9 and five at Grades 8 and 7. Twins Isaac and Lucas Pepper were also pleased with their 16 GCSEs, eight graded at 7. Ben and Emily Weller, also twins, achieved 19 GCSEs with 17 at Grade 7 and above.

John Pitt, Headmaster, said, "Well done to everyone and, as they enter the Sixth Form, this Year Eleven Year group will achieve great things. We really look forward to the next two years as we come out of the pandemic and we can see them enjoy so many opportunities here at RGS Worcester."

FUNDRAISING

RGS COMMUNITY: CHARITY FUNDRAISING THIS YEAR

Despite Covid restrictions and lockdowns, fundraising has continued and in excess of £14,000 has been raised at RGS Worcester this academic year, along with much fun enjoyed in the process. The generous RGS community has raised funds for many deserving charities including: BBC Children in Need, Comic Relief, Breast Cancer Now, Acorns Children's Hospice and The Myriad Centre.

Supporting charities is, of course, not just about raising money. The Lower School has donated boxes of food to Maggs Day Centre, Year Eight pupils sent 73 filled Christmas boxes to New Hope School, two van loads of food and toiletries were taken to Worcester Food Bank and iPads were donated to Franche Community Primary School.

Without the help and support of parents, pupils, teachers and support staff, none of the above would be possible. The RGS Worcester Family of Schools would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who was involved in doing so much for the wider community.



Pupils volunteer at Worcester Street Kitchen

RGS Sixth Form students have been volunteering at the Worcester Street Kitchen - a small community group who provide hot food and drinks to those in need in Worcester. As well as offering their time to Worcester Street Kitchen, the students also initiated support from the RGS community, calling for donations of toiletries and socks.



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNIT

RGS PUPILS SHOW GREAT COMPASSION FOR THEIR WIDER COMMUNITY, WITH MANY SETTING THEMSELVES PERSONAL TARGETS TO COMPLETE AMBITIOUS PHYSICAL CHALLENGES, WHILST FUNDRAISING ALONG THE WAY.



Sixth Form student Max Collins, challenged himself to run 300 miles in 30 consecutive days, raising money for the mental health charity YoungMinds. This charity provides invaluable support to children and young people. Max completed the challenge by running his final miles into the Quad at RGS Worcester, supported and greeted by his family, friends, teachers and the local press. The Worcester News reported on Max's achievement and he appeared on the BBC's Midlands Today.

Raising an impressive £4,000 for his chosen charity, Max explained "I feel it is vital in these unprecedented times to support children who are suffering from mental health issues as much as we can. I feel this will show people that anything is possible when you put your mind to it."

Photo: Courtesy of RGS Pupil, Tom Hislop



'39 STEPS CHALLENGE' FUNDRAISING FOR CHILDREN'S CANCER CHARITIES

Year Ten RGS Pupil Fionn, embarked on an incredible summer challenge - to climb 39 mountains in just five weeks. Fionn and his father Deane aimed to fulfil this ambition, just 16 months on from Fionn's diagnosis with a very rare and aggressive Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in March 2020. Following treatment, Fionn is doing remarkably well and enjoying being

back at school at RGS.

The '39 Steps Challenge' aimed to raise funds for the wonderful charities and hospital that helped support Fionn and his family; Cancer Research UK, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Teenage Cancer Trust and CLIC Sargent.

Fionn and his Dad completed their challenge to climb more than 25,400 metres during the summer - this is over 83,400 feet and is equivalent to climbing Mount Everest 2.8 times or Ben Nevis 19 times! They have raised over £11,600 for their chosen charities along the way.



BEST EVER YEAR FOR RGS DEBATING!

This academic year has been amazing for the RGS Debating Society, seeing them compete against many top Debating teams from across the country and reaching the final stages in regional, national and even international competitions. With the majority of competitive debates held online, RGS pupils have flourished, demonstrating great confidence and aptitude. At the end of term, RGS Debating Society members enjoyed a well-deserved barbecue event to celebrate the most successful year for RGS Debating ever.

RGS Debating Society achievements this academic year:

- Oxford University Schools Competition; Midlands round RGS took three of the six places available for Oxford Finals Day.
- Quarter-finalists at Oxford Finals Day; RGS qualified for the quarter-finals in 14th place in this international competition. The 16 top ranking pairs included five international teams from Hong Kong, Slovenia, Ireland, India and Canada as well as teams from St Paul's Girls School, Eton, Westminster and Dulwich College.
- Finals Day at Cambridge University; Lower Sixth Debating pairs qualified in first place, also achieving second and fourth rankings on the Speaker Table and third best speaker.
- Open finalists at Birmingham, Warwick, Manchester and Nottingham; RGS reached the final of every senior competition entered, also winning the Silver Final at Manchester and Bronze Final at Birmingham.
- Open Champions at Nottingham Schools; RGS took two places in the Final. RGS Lower Sixth pair were crowned Open Champions of Nottingham Schools 2021, a unanimous decision by the judges after "some stunning debating", according to the head judge.
- International Competition for Young Debaters; Young debaters from Year Ten competed in the regional round of the International Competition.
- Regional Final of the English-Speaking Union Mace;
 RGS qualified for the Regional Final of the oldest and largest debating competition for schools in England.
- Historical Association Great Debate; an RGS Sixth Form student qualified for the national finals of the Historical Association Great Debate.





Congratulations to all of the RGS Debating Society members including the following articulate orators who gained ranked positions in Debating competitions this year: Zain Baig, Elizabeth McCabe, Kasia Czyrko, Ella Gibbs, Max Houchin, Georgia Lee, Ella Marsay-Jones, Katy Marsh, James Parkinson, James Preece, Charlie Raven, Oscar Savory, Kathryn Shaw, Emily Stanley.

Thank you to RGS Debating coach Ms Amber Warner-Warr and Head of Debating, Miss Jane Waller.







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RGS JOINS WORCESTER'S BIG PARADE

Supporting 'Worcester's Big Parade' - an art trail of beautifully decorated elephant sculptures on display throughout Worcester City in July, the RGS Worcester Art Department delivered our superbly decorated Baby Elephant 'Look To The Past And The Future' to the events team at St Richard's Hospice. The 'ele-baby' has been expertly decorated by the RGS Art Department, with the design a collaborative effort by pupils and based on a deconstruction of the coat of arms of Worcester and the School.



"Our thanks go to you and your wonderful staff and students. RGS is without doubt one of the most significant supporters of St Richard's Hospice and we are truly humbled by your continuous ongoing support. Hopefully your students realise how very special they are and the wonderful difference they have made to so many people's lives. Thank you for all your support, dedication and hard work in designing your ele-baby, he is simply stunning".

St Richard's Hospice

'BUGSY MALONE' HITS OUR SCREENS!

Over a year ago, pupils in Years Eight and Nine auditioned for the first Summer Musical - 'Bugsy Malone'. The show was planned as an all-action musical opportunity for younger cast members. Not to be deterred by the constraints of the national lockdown, rehearsals seamlessly moved online and the cast continued their work for the show. With the news that a performance in the School's Performing Arts Centre was unlikely, Musical Director, Miss Spencer and Director, Mr Morgan looked for an alternative plan... deciding to film and create the first RGS 'streamed' school production.

Following months of hard work, the School's Performing Arts Centre was filled with excitement, as cast members attended the premier of the final cut of 'Bugsy Malone: the film'. The production subsequently made its online premier to two, sellout, ticketed audiences of family and friends. Glowing reviews came in from far and wide, including the message below sent from grandparents in Australia.



"Please pass on our congratulations to the cast, crew and staff of Bugsy Malone. We set the alarm for 4.58am and sat up to watch the production. The play was excellent, very entertaining and everyone should feel very proud of their achievements"



After almost 18 months of cancellations and postponements due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Greenpower were finally able to get back into action this summer and start racing again.

After a very early start in School, the team of six intrepid Year Seven, and two Year Nine pupils, travelled to the iconic Goodwood circuit. On arrival the team went straight into the first of two practice sessions which were very useful to tweak the car setup and gain confidence in driving.

The team were thrilled to learn that their hard work had resulted in them finishing 3rd overall in this national competition. Each team member was awarded a medal and the team received a trophy. This is a fantastic achievement for the new team, especially after such a long time 'off the road'.



ENGINEERS SHORTLISTED FOR ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS

RGS student Adrian Fok was thrilled to be awarded an Arkwright Scholarship for the Sixth Form. The Arkwright Engineering Scholarships programme is the most prestigious scholarship scheme of its type in the UK, with only a handful awarded each year, to aspiring students wanting to pursue Engineering.

Each Scholarship is sponsored by a commercial company or professional institution. The support now available to Adrian is fantastic with valuable hands-on work experience offered, support for curriculum projects and a personal mentor to help him with career aspirations.

The RGS Design and Technology department continues to go from strength to strength, providing excellent opportunities and facilities for pupils, with a further five RGS pupils from Year Eleven securing final interviews for the Arkwright Scholarship programme for the Sixth Form next year.









With the annual Fashion Show not able to proceed this year, the RGS Worcester Textiles Department took the opportunity to produce its own filmed showreel, showcasing garments and final work by talented pupils from Years Nine to Upper Sixth. The designs were stylishly modelled by their creators, with the catwalk as the majestic backdrop of the RGS School grounds and gardens.





PASSION FOR FASHION - SUCCESS AT YOUNG FASHION DESIGNERS UK





The work of RGS Textiles pupils continues to impress judges at the Young Fashion Designer UK Competition, as pupils from all Year groups ranked high with their exciting garment designs. The YFDUK is a national competition, which focuses on enhancing the talent of students to showcase and promote the exceptional work achieved. Congratulations to Year Ten RGS pupil Teyah Farmer, who was awarded First Place with her sustainability inspired designs; a striking geometric print structured blazer design and upcycled patchwork cotton hoodie. Congratulations also to Year Eight pupils: Isabelle Fawcett - Second Place, Aeryn Egginton - Third Place, Abigail Haldane - Highly Commended and to Year Nine pupil Frankie Reed, also awarded Highly Commended.

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YEAR ELEVEN STUDENTS DELIGHTED WITH GCSE RESULTS

undertake Graphic Communication GCSE next summer.





Association (ISA) National Art Competition.

The ISA National Art Competition is held annually and open to all Independent schools in the country, with categories to cover different age groups and genres, from 2D art, to fashion and photography.

RGS Dodderhill pupils, Isabel, Florence, Elysia and Bella, each won the regional awards in their category – a huge accomplishment considering they were competing against many large independent schools in the Midlands. In the national final, Florence received 2nd place in the KS2 Textile Award, Elysia 2nd place in the KS4 Textile Award and Isabel achieved Highly Commended in the KS3 Drawing Award. Congratulations to all the winners.



BRONZE MEDALLISTS Duke of Edinburgh AWARD ACHIEVERS

Huge congratulations to the Year Ter pupils who completed their Bronze
Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. Despite blistering heat, everyone complete the walk from Martley to Great Witle using essential navigation skills learn in the after school training sessions





CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS AND FRIENDSH

YEAR ELEVEN PROM

Year Eleven RGS Dodderhill girls enjoyed a fabulous Prom evening, held in the picturesque school grounds. It was a lovely way to finish an extraordinary year by celebrating achievements, friendships and their time at School. We wish the girls well in the next exciting chapter of their education: many going on to the Sixth Form at RGS Worcester.





All of the girls immersed themselves in the various activities, supporting and working together, having fun, and forging friendships along the way.

WELCOMING BOYS FROM SEPTEMBER 2021

From September 2021, RGS Dodderhill is pleased to welcome boys to join the School from ages 2-11. RGS Dodderhill is a happy school with fantastic facilities, offering pupils an outstanding education in an inclusive and nurturing environment.



SP

ADDING IT UP FOR NSPCC - FUN WITH NUMBERS DAY

RGS Dodderhill enjoyed a 'fun with numbers' day whilst raising vital funds for the NSPCC charity. There were lots of giggles as pupils came to school dressed as numbers - there was even a dice and a calculator in attendance in Year Four! During the day, pupils completed a range of activities including a Maths challenge, a competitive game on 'Blooket' and 'Who wants to be a 'Mathionaire'.

INTERNATIONAL CAKE FINALIST

Congratulations to Year Seven pupil, Izzy who achieved a finalist place in the Cake International Competition with her beautiful rainbow cupcakes. The competition was worldwide, with entries from as far as Russia, the Ukraine and the Philippines and Izzy was one of only three finalists from the UK.





hola! Spanish songs in nursery

t's never too early to enjoy learning a new language. The children in the RGS Dodderhill Nursery have had fun developing their early anguage learning skills by singing the Spanish greetings song - ¡Hola, rolal; Oué tal?



FUN FOR ALL AT SPORTS DAY!

RGS The Grange Sports Day this year was a superb event, with families being able to share the joy of the pupils' endeavours, by watching a live-stream of the event. It was an exciting and inclusive day, with each child in school competing in six events with over 250 events being held during the day. There was even sports commentary from Mr Warne! The children were true ambassadors, and what may have looked like a 'party' on screen at times, was also a feast of endeavour, resilience, and commitment to earn points for their respective Houses.



THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

'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?

Academically robust, with masses of opportunities besides, this is excellent preparation for the senior school and has a warm family feel despite the large size.'







ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS GRATITUDE JARS

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors from across the School came together to help decorate 'Gratitude Jars'. Working in pairs, the cheerful and colourful jars were then taken back to classrooms, where each child was encouraged to write a note of what they are thankful for, popping it into the jar. By writing a 'thank you', the children took the time to think about other people and consider how helpful actions have affected them in a positive way.

RGS The Grange is proud to have been the first independent school in the country to be awarded an Anti-Bullying Bronze Award and continues in its commitment to provide a caring, friendly and safe environment for all pupils, to enable them to learn in a supportive atmosphere.



YEAR SIX APPLY FOR THEIR DREAM JOB!

In English this term, Year Six pupils have worked tirelessly to write letters of application for their dream jobs. It was extremely exciting for these to be posted to companies such as NASA, Disney World, The Savoy Hotel, various branches of the Police Force, as well as many more leading companies across the world. There was much elation in class when the aspirational applications began to receive replies...some even included gifts too!







BUSHCRAFT SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR YEAR FIVE

Year Five very much enjoyed their trip to Mill on the Brue Outdoor Activity Centre during the Trinity term, an opportunity to learn bushcraft skills and more! The school blog below, written by pupils, gives a glimpse into the highlights of the three-day adventure...

Day One: We've arrived and what a stunning environment we're in! Year Five's first challenge - make a fire! The children have learned how to create and maintain a fire in the wilderness. Afterwards, our tummies were rumbling, so we cooked some mouthwatering burgers. Tummies have been filled, tribes have been formed, dens have been built and the fun is just getting started! I wonder which tribes will be brave enough to stay in the dens tonight...

Day Two: Good morning all! We have had an INCREDIBLE night! Many of us, including all of the staff, slept in dens and under the stars: it was magical! We've had a stunning cooked breakfast and are set for the day. This morning, we have developed our knowledge and understanding of first aid whilst out in the wilderness. Who would have thought it, we needed to put our newly acquired skills into practice straight away - the teachers have been in an awful (staged) accident and are in need of first aid! Thankfully, the children are on hand to nurse them back to health. After our heroic acts of the day, our tummies began rumbling! We therefore learned how to fillet a salmon and cook it on an open fire. What an exciting day.

BOUNDLESS FUN AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Year Two enjoyed two days of adventure at Boundless Outdoors in Malvern. Taking part in many exciting new activities: bushcraft, orienteering, low ropes, night-line, king-swing, tunnels, archery and climbing - they had so much fun!

The children demonstrated many of the RGS The Grange learning characteristics and risk taking, resilience and collaboration seemed to be the resounding themes, as they embraced challenges and celebrated successes together.





NEW BALLS PLEASE! TENNIS AT RGS SPRINGFIELD



There have been opportunities for all Year groups at RGS Springfield to take part in the Lawn Tennis Association's Youth Start Tennis Clubs. Pupils have learnt essential ball skills and enjoyed fun activities. Their capabilities and enthusiasm for tennis have blossomed as the weeks have passed by.

Girls in Years Three to Six enjoyed a 'Girls, Set & Match' Team Challenge with Malvern St James, taking part in activities that tested their tennis skills. Everyone worked hard and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, especially as it was finished off with a special tennis ball shortbread baked by the kitchen team. What a treat!



YEAR SIX MOVE INTO TOP GEAR

Year Six pupils began proper driver training in their Greenpower Goblin kit car this term. With a course set, including a demanding slalom and a parking bay, all the pupils had the chance to test their driving skills. All of the drivers performed well behind the wheel and began to get a good feel for how best to control the RGS Springfield electric car.





NURSERY IN BLOOM

The children in the Nursery thoroughly enjoyed planting seeds. With a variety of flowers to choose from, poppies and sunflowers were definitely the most popular choice! The children then enjoyed watering and watching the plants with curiosity as they grew a little bigger each day.



GREEN FINGERED FUN



Gardening Club members have been busy this year digging, planting, weeding and watering. With much relish, they finally got to pick the fruits of their labours at the end of term.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT



This term, pupils in Year Six have been thinking about the food that we eat, and its journey from the ground to our plates. As part of their World War I topic, they planted food crops in the school garden, tending the plants, harvesting them and finally eating them in the form of pizza, cooked in the school pizza oven.



NUMBERS IN NATURE



Children from Dragonflies have been enjoying outdoor numeracy, building frames of ten with logs and sticks. Their topic has also been focusing on subitising - subitising is being able to instantly tell you 'how many' something is without counting. Dragonflies know that counting alone won't help them to be amazing mathematicians, but developing their incredible skills of subitising will.



TRANSPORTED BACK IN TIME

Year Five were very excited to visit Hartlebury Castle as part of their World War II topic. After crossing the threshold, they were instantly transported back to the 1940s and experienced life as evacuees, as well as looking at different roles that were needed during the War. After a lot of scrubbing, cleaning and dressing up, they agreed that they had a fantastic day - but were glad to get back to their own lives!





YEAR SIX RESIDENTIAL

To finish off the year and their time at RGS Springfield, Year Six had a wonderful time on their residential trip, exploring the beautiful Forest of Dean. They were ecstatic to spend two days packed with adventure and outdoor activities, highlights included rock climbing, canoeing and Pizza Express! Please enjoy an extract from the diary written by the pupils:

"After a miniature scavenger hunt around Beechenhurst and a quick lunch, we were off to rock climbing. Climbing at Yat Rock was amazing, but also challenging at times. There was a very flat section of rock but we persevered and two people were able to get to the next section. After a long day, we were lucky enough to go to Pizza Express for dinner. We were all starving and we were looking forward to the wonderful three course meal. Stories were shared with loads of smiles and laughs from everyone, it was a lovely experience. When we came back, we all sat around a crackling campfire under a cloudy night sky.

Amazingly, a family of deer, including a fawn, munched on grass on the other side of the field we were sitting in. The fawn was running around its parents and jumping into the hedge. It was a beautiful sight to see as the animals trusted us enough to be roaming in the same field as we were sitting in. After a night (with not much sleep) to finish off the trip we had the privilege to go canoeing on the River Wye, soaking up the idyllic views around us. We played a variety of fun games and were lucky enough to go for a swim after, which included sliding down the kayak shoot into the water. After another fantastic morning it was time to go back to Springfield. It is safe to say that on our way back we were all exhausted and everyone fell asleep in the minibus."





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

RGS Springfield Nursery Britannia Square, Worcester, Worcestershire WR1 3DL 01905 24999 RGS The Grange Nursery Grange Lane, Claines, Worcester, Worcestershire WR3 7RR 01905 451205 RGS Dodderhill Nursery Dodderhill Road, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire WR9 0BE 01905 778290