

# EXCEL

AUTUMN 2020



## RGSW

### New Performing Arts Centre Opening

'Les Misérables' astonishes audiences

**Remote Learning at the RGS Worcester Family of Schools**  
The 'lockdown' experience  
(pages 4 to 8)

#worcesterisgreen



**RGS WORCESTER**

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# HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT GETS THE GREEN LIGHT



We are delighted that Worcester City Council Planning Committee unanimously approved planning permission for the new Hockey facility at Perdiswell. This is the result of seven years of work by Worcester Hockey Club and RGS Worcester, working with Worcester City Council. The project involves building a facility to include two international standard water-based Hockey pitches, two grass Football pitches, changing facilities and on-site parking.

We hope to create a Hockey facility of which Worcester is proud that will give hundreds of boys and girls from local schools the opportunity to enjoy playing this sport. Thank you to parents, prospective parents, alumni, local primary schools, Worcester Hockey Club members and friends who were able to contribute so positively to the Consultation process.



## HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION

It has, of course, been the most extraordinary year for everyone as we faced the national crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus resulting in schools across the UK being closed for a significant period of time. We were pleased that our Digital Learning Programme came into its own with RGS pupils being taught remotely using the technology that we have been developing in our Schools for several years. Apple asked us to demonstrate our Teaching and Learning as an example of best practice globally which is really impressive for RGS.



This Excel magazine is a bumper edition since we chose not to publish during the crisis and so we have news and events covering a longer period of time than usual. We look back at the Grand Opening of the Performing Arts Centre at RGS Worcester with the spectacular performances of 'Les Misérables' as well as featuring key events and experiences of the pupils at all four RGS Worcester Schools. The magazine also features our experiences of Teaching and Learning remotely during lockdown and the work done to support the national effort during the crisis. RGS was able to support Key Workers such as Doctors and Nurses by providing supervision for their children through both term time and holiday periods so they could go to work on the frontline. We gave our goggles from our Science and other departments to the NHS to provide protection, our Textiles Department produced over 120 scrubs and 50 scrubs bags and our Design Technology department worked with local branches of the NHS to develop and manufacture face visors that were then used by medical teams across the Midlands.

It is in times of crisis that we learn the strength of our community and the support shown by parents and alumni was uplifting for all of the staff. Our alumni gave donations to our Hardship Fund to support those parents most affected by the crisis. We were particularly impressed by all of our pupils who followed hygiene instructions when we were in school and showed great resilience at a time of great uncertainty and anxiety. Our Public Exam year groups in Year Eleven and the Upper Sixth had the added concern about their grades which were assessed by the Examination Boards from evidence provided by schools. My thanks to all of the staff for their hard work in assembling this information and congratulations to the students for achieving their University places and other courses, despite the crisis and national furore over the Exams awarding process.

We are delighted to welcome record numbers of pupils to our schools and to see them back in school. The lasting message of this crisis for me is the extraordinary team effort from our RGS community and for that I would like to thank everyone.

John Pitt - Headmaster, RGS Worcester



*Exciting project ahead for RGS Worcester*



## REMOTE LEARNING DURING NATIONAL 'LOCKDOWN'

COVID-19 challenged us all to think outside the box and reinvent our everyday routines and, when schools were forced to close nationally, at RGS we moved seamlessly to a full timetable of remote teaching and learning. As an Apple Distinguished School, the only one in the area, and a truly digitally focused school with teachers and pupils already adept at using the technology, we were able to make this transition swiftly and effectively.

Our planning and set up meant, from the first day of school closures, we provided our pupils with virtual teaching that followed their usual lesson timetable, with a structure that reflected a typical school day. Clear guidance gave a successful process to follow, creating a learning atmosphere that was very positive and engaging for the pupils.

We were resourceful in finding ways to engage with our pupils across all subjects and age groups, bringing to life topics through innovative content, inspiring learning in unique ways. French lessons were delivered through song and Geography was brought to life through 'teleporting' online to the four corners of the earth.

Upper Sixth Form students received a blended learning programme called 'Upskill' with remote courses in independent learning, life skills and personal finance. Our remote learning 'bridging' courses gave our Year Eleven students an introduction to A Level and BTEC courses in preparation for the Lower Sixth Form.

We engaged with next year's Year Seven pupils with virtual assemblies and tutorial sessions, allowing them to 'meet' other tutees, Tutors, their Head of Year, the Head of Lower School and our Director of Innovation.

Our virtual Parents' Evenings were a huge success and we will be considering how to carry this forward in the future.

Remote Learning kept our pupils and community connected and socially interacting, giving them a positive experience despite 'lockdown'. Our final assemblies across all schools brought us together for our virtual learning finale and demonstrated a new found sense of emotional support and fun in education, as teachers played a socially-distanced 'thinking' football match and the Headmaster did his best impression of Hugh Grant 'dancing down the stairs' in the Whiteladies building.

During this period, we gave comprehensive wrap around Pastoral care, including Learning Development drop-in sessions, one to one discussion with pupils, support and guidance for parents and group relaxation coaching on Google Meet.

## PARENTS' SUPPORT

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

*"I just wanted to express how pleased we are with how the digital home learning is working. One of the main reasons we moved our daughters to RGS was due to the school's engagement with digital learning and modern technology. Having structured lessons and a continuation of work has been of great benefit to both them (and us as parents!)."*

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

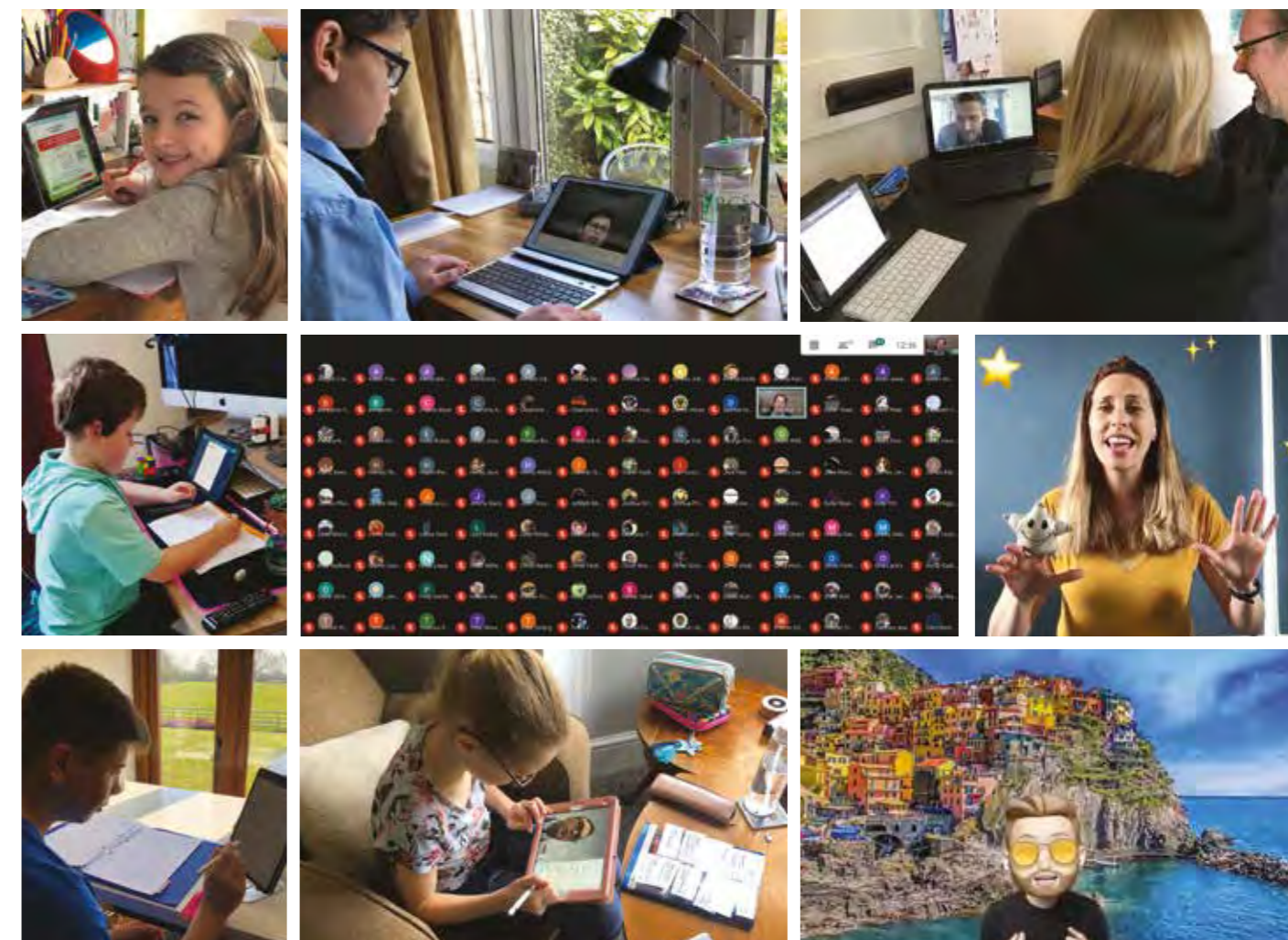
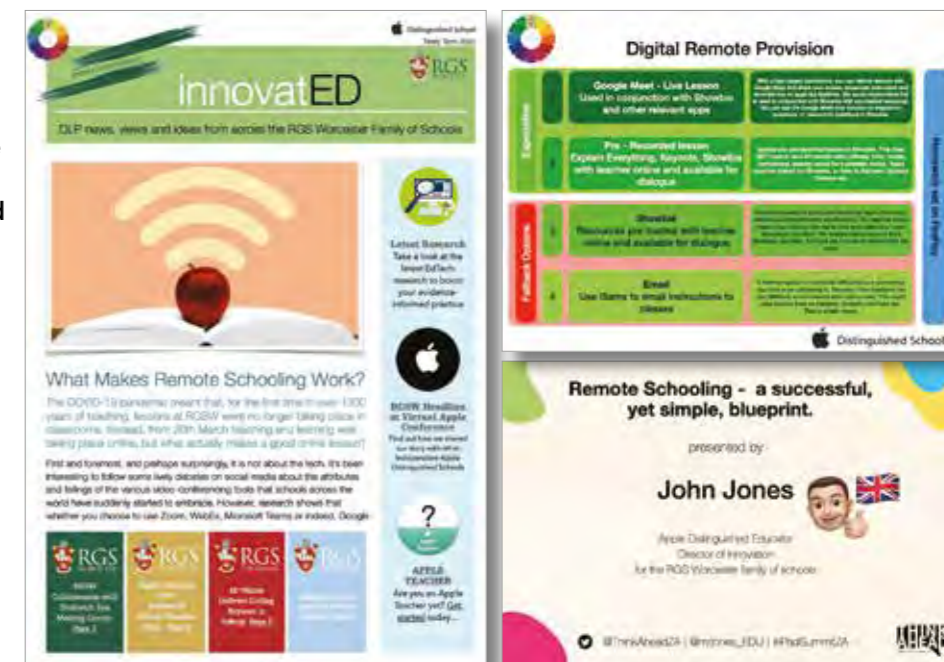


## SHARING OUR EXPERIENCE

To bolster our education community and share our knowledge, we released a blog that detailed how we set up our virtual learning. As part of our knowledge sharing, we produced a publication called innovatED offering updates on our Digital Learning Programme on Apple iBooks. On top of this, we created a more comprehensive book showing how we successfully used Apple technology to redefine learning also available on Apple iBooks.

In recognition of how successfully we adjusted our teaching model to overcome the national 'lockdown', tech giants Apple asked us to present at the Apple Distinguished Schools Virtual Conference in May 2020 to showcase our best practices and solutions to educational leaders across the globe. We presented our outstanding Academic programme, the incredible Co-curricular activities and Pastoral care which continued daily. We showcased the excellent teaching delivering exciting lessons which all our pupils were able to enjoy.

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





## CO-CURRICULAR

Our focus was not only on Academic excellence; we ensured our pupils had a fully enriched school life through Co-curricular activities. Our artistic pursuits were wide-ranging with challenges that covered painting, drawing, photography, poetry and dance. There were many Google Meet club activities, including Cooking, Book Club, Textiles Club and the Literary Society.

In Textiles, we participated in Young Fashion Designer UK, completed remotely, with our pupils leading in several age groups and performing extremely well in this national competition.

Our debaters took part in the virtual ICYD Finals organised by the Oxford Union, and with worldwide participation and stiff competition, we received very positive feedback from the judges.

Our House system thrived even under these circumstances and went virtual. Houses completed competitions that included photography, Lego builders, a Maths challenge and film making.



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

## SPORTS

Unable to play our usual matches we set tasks that would build strength and agility for future fixtures. We covered every aspect of Physical Education including virtual Rowing, HIIT workouts, Athletic lessons, acceleration sessions, aerobic sessions, yoga and daily motivation content covering skills, performance and technique. For our more professionally focused athletes, our CoachNow app gave access to technical training advice.

Joe Denly, Kent and England cricketer, inspired our budding cricketers to perform 'Keepie Uppies' with a golf ball on the side of a bat.

Sports Day went virtual, working in conjunction with the Youth Sport Trust and Sky Sports, with our pupils perfecting their skills in sprinting, shot put, discus, long jump and the javelin.



“ I must say that I think our daughter's experience has been pretty much seamless and it's a real testament to the School's preparation and the teachers' flexibility in trying times to work this way. It's extremely impressive, especially when I compare it to other schools, even independent ones. ”

## MUSIC

Our 'Out of Africa' Choral Concert, originally to be performed in Worcester Cathedral, brought together pupils of all ages from all of our Schools in harmony remotely and was a testament to the musical talents we foster.

We performed many virtual concerts including a rendition of Bernstein's 'Mambo' by RGS The Grange, 'Rainbow Connection' by RGS Springfield, Tchaikovsky's 'Russian Dance' and Tallis' 'If Ye Love Me' by RGS Worcester and 'We'll Meet Again' by RGS Dodderhill alumnae.

We continued with individual Music lessons and our tea-time concerts produced some exceptional performances online from our talented musicians.



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



WE GREATLY APPRECIATED THE FEEDBACK AND CONTINUING SUPPORT WE RECEIVED FROM PARENTS. IT MADE THE CHALLENGES FACED AND THE MANY NEW EXPERIENCES ALL THE MORE VALUABLE AND SUCCESSFUL.

**“** With one child at RGS Worcester and two at RGS The Grange, I've been delighted to see how easily they have been able to cope with the transition to working from home, as well as how productive they are being with their time. When I compare this to the stories I'm hearing from my team at work, relating to the experiences that they and their children are having around the country, the disparity is marked. It seems that no school has prepared as well as RGS Worcester, so I wanted to pass on my congratulations and thanks.

The School has really come into its own in these last few weeks and all concerned should be very proud of themselves as the transition to remote schooling has been seamless. I am worried about many things at the moment but one thing I am not worried about is my children's schooling.

For our daughter to make a throw away comment that "nothing much has changed" is tribute - not just to the Digital Learning Platform, but to the talented and dedicated staff who support it and the teachers who are producing engaging lessons that vary in format and delivery.

We would like to feedback in the strongest possible terms that the current remote teaching provision that our son is receiving is superb and totally appropriate for an Upper Sixth Form student.

I would just like to say a huge thank you for the manner in which you appear to have seamlessly switched to a very well orchestrated digital learning programme.

We just wanted to say a huge 'Thank You' to all of you for your hard work in making digital learning such a success in our household.

The home learning has been brilliant, dare I say it our daughter has been really enjoying it, thank you for all the effort that has gone into this and keep up the good work.

Huge thanks to RGS Worcester for the seamless switch to home schooling with no issues. Teachers are all very positive and motivational.

We are in self isolation and both children are already involved in the remote set up at RGS Springfield and RGS Worcester. Really impressed with how it is working and how they are involved in the lessons.

This week I have seen, at first hand, the excellent home working programme come into force, from both RGS Worcester and RGS The Grange. I think it is absolutely fantastic what has been set up in such a short space of time.

The online learning provided for our son has been absolutely outstanding! We are extremely grateful as hours of work must have gone into preparing these lessons and resources as well as providing feedback.

Thanks for producing such engaging content listened to not only by the kids as I'm sure I'm not the only parent drawn in. However, these strange days are giving me an insight into the excellent teaching at RGS, keep it up.

I just wanted to congratulate you on your remote learning. Schooling here has continued and lessons seem to be taught as if our son was in the classroom himself!

Please can you pass on to all teachers how impressed we have been with the superb remote learning provision everyone is providing for our children.

I just wanted to say how much we appreciate all your hard work behind the scenes preparing all these lovely lessons for our children and for all the daily encouragement and positive feedback you are sending through. They are extremely lucky and so are the parents!

**”**



## EQUALITY IN EDUCATION

The dreadful incident of the unlawful killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, USA, and the 'Black Lives Matter' movement, reminded us all to be constantly alert to prevent any form of racism or attacks on basic human rights and the fundamental importance of Equality.

The RGS Worcester Family of Schools are committed to tackling any form of inequality, including racism, and raising awareness in our entire community for constant vigilance and action. Education provides the ideal platform to dispel ignorance, to develop awareness and inclusivity and to tackle, as individuals and a community, this continual threat. Our pupils are given a grounding in their responsibility, both in words and actions, to contribute positively as global citizens in the ongoing battle to protect and improve equality.

They are taught about the prejudice and discrimination that all demographic strata of society can be subjected to, including gender, sexuality, religion, race, age, disability, class and appearance, the ways in which these can manifest themselves and the effects. They are taught the subtle reasons why people may hold prejudices or be discriminatory and given an understanding that they themselves are part of the solution.

We actively promote opportunities for all pupils to embrace their individual and group identity and learn about serving the community, both within our schools and in the wider context. They begin to understand the need for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged in all areas of life. We teach them the fragile nature of human rights and the role of the individual, of protest, of public and private institutions, and that of charities, in protecting them.

In order to raise their awareness, within the appropriate age groups and with sensitivity, we teach them about past injustices. We cover human rights infringements, including but not exclusively, the atrocities committed by the British Empire and those of the Vietnam war. More recent historical events include France's decision to ban the Burqa in public in 2010, the formation of the BLM movement in 2013 and the global feminist movement since the Suffragettes.

As an independent school we have more freedom within our Curriculum, however the National Curriculum, in part, dictates what additional topics we have time to teach. Our newly formed Working Group will be petitioning the Government to request our National Curriculum is updated with a wider world perspective so that our pupils can gain a greater global understanding of Equality and Human Rights.

Everything we do within the RGS Worcester Family of Schools is underpinned by respect and the acceptance and tolerance of all people, and we will continue to ensure that equality remains a key priority across all aspects of RGS education. We will not become complacent, but continue to question, review and enhance our school life through internal review processes, compliance inspections and interviews with our pupils.

STATEMENT ABOUT EQUALITY FROM THE RGS WORCESTER FAMILY OF SCHOOLS, JUNE 2020.





## COMMUNITY

We answered the national call for protective clothing (PPE), supporting our Worcestershire community. The RGS Worcester Family of Schools produced 2,500 face visors, 120 sets of scrubs, 50 scrubs bags and gave 338 sets of goggles to the NHS Worcestershire Acute Hospitals.

We went on to support Onside Advocacy with PPE. This Worcestershire and Herefordshire based charity supports vulnerable people disadvantaged by disability, mental ill-health and learning difficulties.

We were grateful for the positive feedback from those we supported and the article in the Worcester News acknowledging our endeavours.

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

Alistair McMinn, RGS Alumni.

We donated 20 iPads to the Droitwich Spa Meeting Centre. They support people with dementia and their families, and the technology helps them adjust to their changing situation as a result of this illness, providing emotional benefits through music, photographs and films.

On the front line, our Upper Sixth student Lottie Jones got involved in community volunteering at Worcestershire Royal Hospital, checking patients' temperatures at the door to protect the Amber zone from infection.

RGS The Grange hosted the Worcester Community Trust Fun Run, a charity based in Worcester that manages six community hubs and ten projects that offer support to vulnerable or disadvantaged people.

## SUPPORT FOR KEY WORKERS

Having the opportunity to support Key Workers by caring for their children was an honour for the RGS Worcester Family of Schools. We opened RGS The Grange and welcomed Key Workers' children of all ages into an environment of support and care throughout the period of 'lockdown' including during the holiday periods.

## FUNDRAISING

During 'lockdown' over £5,000 was raised for charitable causes by pupils and staff at the RGS Worcester Family of Schools. Some highlights saw Madame Cantin, French Teacher at RGS The Grange, run 100 miles raising £700 for NHS charities. Dr Andrew, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Assistant Head (Pastoral), completed her 26k cross-trainer challenge raising £1,896 for CLIC Sargent, a charity that supports young cancer patients.

Mrs Sullivan, Head of Rowing, completed a 26k row raising £1,192 in support of The Myriad Centre, a charity which offers tailored, person-centred support programmes for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

Our Hockey teams ran 900km over 14 days, raised £1,255, to support Worcestershire Acute Hospitals, and were thrilled to get a mention on the England Hockey website.



Kate Harvey, CEO of Onside Advocacy, said:  
*"A really heartfelt thankyou to RGS for your fantastic donation of PPE visors to Onside. We work with some of the most vulnerable and isolated people in the county who have been particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 crisis. This equipment will be a huge boost in our efforts to get out and make more direct contact with people who need our help and who are desperate to have face to face support."*





## EXAM RESULTS: A LEVEL, BTEC AND GCSE SUCCESS

RGS Worcester's Public Exam results were the best in Worcester and RGS featured as the top performing independent school locally in The Sunday Times' *Parent Power* league tables. When Public Examinations were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the pupils' results were very strong, based as they were initially upon an algorithm from the school's past performance.

The decision was then made by the Government to use Centre Assessed Grades, which raised the RGS students' grades still further. As a consequence, the vast majority of RGS pupils achieved their first-choice University places. The A Level, BTEC and GCSE results were extremely impressive, based upon the pupils' hard work during their courses.

The pupils enjoyed coming back in to RGS for the Results Days in August and were photographed, social-distancing in the sunshine.

### A LEVEL & BTEC: RECORD RESULTS FOR THE UPPER SIXTH FORM

At A Level, one quarter of grades were the top A\* grade and 11 students achieved 3 or more A\* grades. 57% of all grades were at A\*/A and 29 students achieved 3 or more A\*/A grades. 87% of all grades were A\* - B. In the BTEC (National Diploma in Sport), 100% of all grades were awarded a Distinction or Merit.

Some of our headline performers in the Upper Sixth were:

Jemma Moseley achieved 3A\* and 1A grades at A Level whilst also being Head Girl, playing Netball and Hockey for the RGS teams that reached the National Finals and singing in the Chamber Choir. Jemma is going on to read Mathematics at Nottingham University.

Head Boy, Alexander Owen, was awarded 3A\* grades while also being a Debating champion, a lead in 'Les Misérables' and Rowing for the School. Alex was awarded a Rank Foundation Scholarship for the Sixth Form at RGS.

George Garrity (pictured top right) achieved 3A\* grades at A Level and took up his place to read History at Cambridge University.

Tazmin Barnes (pictured top left) released her single, 'Tokyo After Dark' two weeks before Results Day and featured on BBC Music Introducing Artist of the Week. Tazmin achieved 3 A\*/A grades and her place at Exeter University where she will study Liberal Arts while continuing her music career.

Twins Nicholas and Elizabeth Fearon (pictured to the right) achieved 6 A\* grades between them. Elizabeth has chosen to study Medicine and Nicholas is studying English at Durham University.



### GCSE: RGS PUPILS ARE READY FOR THE NEXT CHALLENGE

The Year Eleven pupils were delighted with their GCSE results. 3 pupils achieved a maximum of all 9 grades and a further 11 pupils achieved all 9 and 8 grades. 42% of all grades were 9 or 8. 29 pupils achieved all 9-7 grades and 53 pupils achieved 9-7 grades in at least 8 subjects. Two-thirds of all grades were 9-7 (the equivalent of an A grade at GCSE previously).

With such impressive results, the RGS Year Eleven pupils were more than ready to start their A Level and BTEC courses this September and they were very well prepared having already completed 'bridging' courses in the Trinity term which has given them a 'head-start' for the Sixth Form.

Headmaster, John Pitt, commented, "It has been such a 'roller-coaster ride' for everyone who was due to sit Public Examinations in 2020 and the pupils can now hold their heads high and be pleased to have achieved their A Levels, BTEC qualifications and GCSEs at a very high level. The pupils have worked extremely hard and the teachers have been very committed in supporting them, including during 'lockdown', and so we should congratulate everyone for their many achievements."





## DEBATING

### STORMING WINDSOR CASTLE

Zain Baig, Lower Sixth, won the Worcestershire heat of the Historical Association Great Debate, a public speaking competition for students aged 16-19.

Zain produced a superb speech that explored whether the Crusades could be justified against modern views on regime change and atrocities of war. Professor Maggie Andrews of the University of Worcester and Dan Parnell, Education Officer at Worcester Cathedral, formed the judging panel and eventually chose Zain to progress to the National Finals at Windsor Castle.



Elizabeth McCabe, Year Eleven, produced a fascinating review of the suffragettes, looking at the way that they are still often shown simply as heroes who won women the vote. She pointed out that many of their actions were very violent and that historians should consider a more nuanced approach.

### IMPRESSIVE PROSPECTS - OXBRIDGE ENTRANCE AND APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

George Garrity has successfully gained a well-deserved place at Peterhouse College, Cambridge, to read History. He has managed to push Academic boundaries while making the most of Co-Curricular opportunities including the lead in the School's production of 'Les Misérables'. George leaves RGS with 3 A\* grades at A Level.

Tristan Robinson went through the rigorous Ernst & Young Apprenticeship application process and secured a place with an A Level 7 ICAEW/ACA Apprenticeship and a full-time job at Ernst & Young Transactions and Restructuring in Manchester.



### OXFORD DEBATING COMPETITION

Our Middle School debaters, sponsored by SME Solicitors, met for the Regional Round of the International Competition for Young debaters at Oxford University (ICYD). Despite strong competition and skilled opponents Rayyan Styles and Tobey Butler, Year Ten, and Callum Lockett and Oscar Haynes, Year Nine, stood out for their strong speaking skills and rational approach. Rayyan and Tobey won the day's competition, becoming the Oxford Regional Champions.

Callum Lockett and Oscar Haynes competed at the Finals Day against teams from across the UK and the world, including champions from India, Canada and Ireland. The competition, organised by the Oxford Union, was completed remotely.



# TECHNOLOGY

## RGS WORCESTER A GLOBAL HUB OF EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

Before 'lockdown' we attended the BETT Show 2020, the World's Largest Educational Technology Show where the global education community come together to find inspiration and discuss the future of education.



It gave our 'Digital Leaders' from RGS The Grange, RGS Springfield, RGS Dodderhill and RGS Worcester the opportunity to develop new skills, increase their knowledge base and explore the possibilities of technological advances, for instance, Augmented Reality.

Mr Jones (Director of Innovation) and Mr Warne (Head of Computing and IT at RGS The Grange) presented how RGS has successfully adopted and integrated Digital Learning into our School culture, recognition of our

growing reputation as a global hub of educational innovation.

It was interesting to see that we already have in place many of the innovations on show.

Mr Webster (Head of Computing and IT at RGS Worcester) said, "These are exciting times as we continue to be at the forefront of Digital Learning and prepare our students for the future."

### APPLE DISTINGUISHED

RGS celebrated becoming one of only 32 Schools in the UK and the only School in the Worcestershire area, to be recognised as an Apple Distinguished School. RGS Springfield, RGS Dodderhill, RGS The Grange and RGS Worcester all received the much-coveted accolade for their innovative and meaningful approach to teaching and learning through the use of Apple technology.

To obtain this recognition, each school must have successfully embedded Apple technology into everyday school life to inspire creativity, collaboration and critical thinking. Apple Schools need to showcase the impact that innovative uses of technology have had upon learning, teaching and the school environment.

The technology assists our pupils in the process of learning by encouraging independent thinking as well as strengthening the approach to feedback between teachers and pupils. It is a highly important aspect of preparing our pupils for the digital, global workplace.

### EVERYONE CAN CODE

We were very proud to have Matt Warne represent RGSW at the #EveryoneCanCode Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, an event that brings together educators from around the world for a day of unique learning experiences with international leaders in technology. Matt shared the RGS journey to demonstrate how to help children grow and learn inside and outside the classroom with methods that we have tried and tested with great success.

His presentations focused on how to guide students to become global, digital citizens demonstrating not only how to bring this to life for Academic subjects, but also how to implement iPads into Physical Education and other areas of school life.





# OPENING OF PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

## GALA OPENING AND LES MISÉRABLES

RGS Worcester was exceedingly proud to open the doors of its new Performing Arts Centre, a space with facilities that rival a commercial theatre, from the grand foyer to the professional stage.

A Grand Opening was performed by Mrs Rosemary Ham, former Chair of Governors of RGS Worcester and now Vice-Chair of Governors.

Mrs Ham is former English and Drama teacher and Head of Department from The Alice Ottley School. A plaque to mark the occasion was unveiled by Mrs Ham and the current Chair of Governors, Mr Quentin Poole. The Gala Night was attended by local dignitaries, parents, alumni, friends and former pupils.

### 'CUTTING THE RIBBON'

Mrs Rosemary Ham performs the opening of the new Performing Arts Centre pictured with the Headmaster and Mr Quentin Poole.





## LES MISÉRABLES

The scene was set for the iconic 'Les Misérables' with impressively domineering and ingenious stage sets and attention to detail seen in the costumes, hair and makeup. The stage was brought to life by the exquisite performances of all RGS actors. One could not fail to notice the talented renditions of well-known characters, from the sublimely anguished portrayal of lead character Jean Valjean by George Garrity, Upper Sixth, the stunning delivery of Javert's forceful and menacing character by Cameron Taylor, Lower Sixth, to the pain and vulnerability of Fantine's character by Isabella Hulbert, Year Eleven. The orchestra and members of the chorus were a harmonious and powerful force on stage.





The talent exhibited by every student from Year Eight to the Upper Sixth was nothing short of extraordinary, demonstrated by the full house standing ovation, unheard of in the history of school productions.

What makes this performance so memorable is the sheer number of talented voices at RGS.





## SPORT

### HOCKEY INDOOR NATIONAL FINALS



Our Under 16 and Under 18 Hockey teams not only achieved a place in the England National Hockey Finals, setting them against the top ten schools in the country but two of our teams qualified. This was an accomplishment only attained by two other schools. The teams' dedication and commitment have been outstanding.



## CHALLENGE CUP

This annual fixture was played at Sixways Stadium again this year and attracted a crowd of over 1,000 people.

The match ebbed and flowed and both sides performed at a high level. It was a superb experience for the senior players to play football at the national stadium and home of the Worcester Warriors.







## WORLD ROWING REGATTA

Abigail Whiteley, Year Eleven, competed in the 'World Rowing Masters Regatta' held at Lake Velence in Budapest, Hungary, the biggest and busiest annual Rowing event attended by crews from all over the world.

Abigail competed in two 'eights' events and three 'coxed fours' events as part of the Worcester Rowing Club Masters Squad. Her most notable result was a 3rd in the Masters C 'coxed four' event, narrowly losing to a crew containing members of the Argentinian squad that competed in the 2004 Olympics.

## COMMONWEALTH JUDO SILVER MEDAL

Loïc Keasey, Year Ten, represented RGS Worcester at the National HMC Independent School Judo Tournament and won the Gold medal for the third year in a row. Loïc has also managed to combine his Judo with his RGS Rugby, quite a hard challenge in normal circumstances but as he is part of our Elite Athlete Development Programme, he is given a substantial amount of support, especially by Mr Simon McGarry-Cross, Head of Rugby and now Coach at the Welsh Dragons.



## DON'T FENCE ME IN

At the BYC Regional Épée competition our fencers were very impressive and seven of our nine fencers qualified for the National Finals.

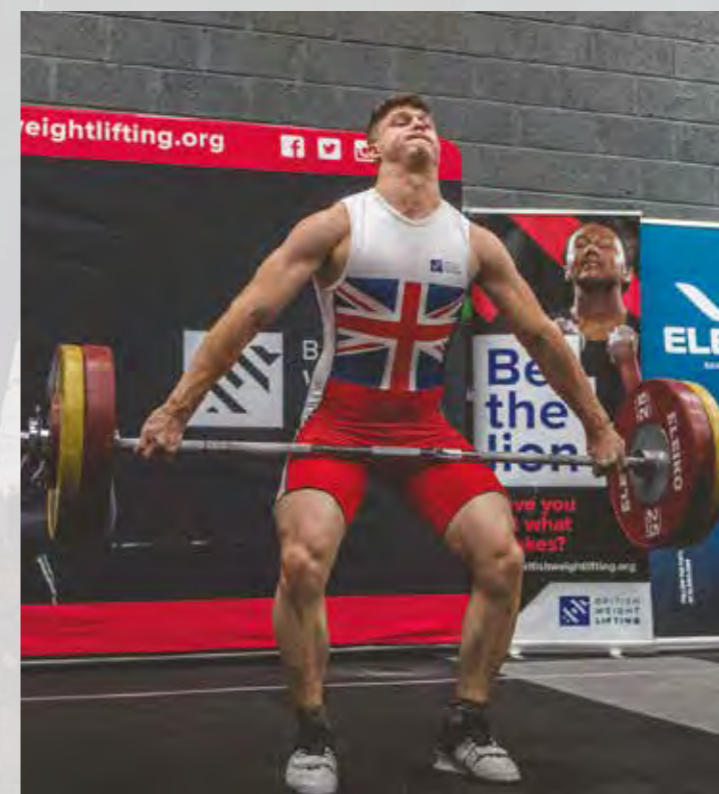
We are extremely proud of all of our fencers but, particular mention should go to Joseph Kington, Year Seven, for his Gold medal, Tom Ehlers, Lower Sixth, for his Silver medal and Will Fallows, Year Eleven, for his Bronze medal.



## A STROKE OF SUCCESS

The RGS rowers came away with two Gold, three Silver and one Bronze medals from the Wycliffe Small Boats Head trail race, a competition that attracts a high level of competition from around the region.

The Junior 15 Girls coxed quad celebrated winning Gold at the annual Head of the Severn River Race organised by the University of Worcester. The crew of Year Ten rowers, Lucy Smith, Menna Sutton, Maddison Brown and Rhiannon Griffiths, coxed by Alexa Pinches, raced the 4.5km in a time of 17:13 minutes, ahead of King's School, Worcester and Worcester Rowing Club.



## GREAT BRITISH WEIGHTLIFTING REPRESENTATIVE

Myren Madden, Upper Sixth, was selected to represent Great Britain for the second time, at the EWF European Youth Championships which was held in Israel last December and came 11th. He then went on to represent Great Britain at the World Championships in the USA in March, placing him 10th in the world.

Myren has been awarded a place on the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS), awarded by Sport England in partnership with talented athletes, education institutions and the Sport England Talent Programme. It allows athletes in education to get the best from their sporting and academic careers together.

Myren was part of the RGS Elite Athlete Development Programme supporting him in his Rugby and Weightlifting aspirations.





## LAND ROVER 4 X 4 CHALLENGE

Rayyan Styles, Jack Pitt, Jack Smith, Ben Atkins, Joe Whitbread and Felix Silvey (pictured), aka 'Team Zenith', entered the 2019-2020 Land Rover 4 x 4 Challenge.

With a near-perfect Track Assessment and a superb Trailer Tow performance the team gained the Best Track Performance trophy for their 'Professional Class' entry and received the trophy for the 'Best Engineered Vehicle'.

The judges were so impressed that once again RGS Worcester succeeded in reaching the National Final of the Land Rover 4 x 4 in Schools Technology Challenge, which was unfortunately cancelled because of COVID-19.



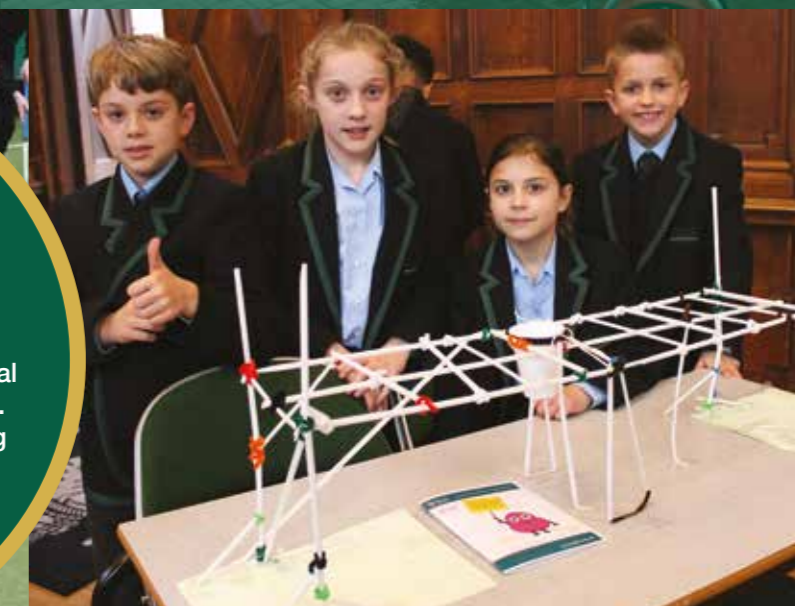
As part of RGS Worcester's ongoing community support, we have fostered a long-term relationship with the British Transport and West Mercia Police, allowing them access over the summer months for vital dog training sessions using the RGS Worcester site.



Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS) conducted a live training exercise at RGS Worcester. The exercise aimed to conduct firefighting and breathing apparatus training.



In the last year, we have held 46 Outreach events attended by 51 local state schools and over 1200 pupils. We have thoroughly enjoyed having everyone visit the RGS Worcester Schools and take part in activities to support their learning.



## CELLULAR ART

As part of RGS Worcester's ongoing Outreach programme, we were delighted to host six local schools for a celebration of Art in 'The Big Draw' Festival. Sixty enthusiastic and creative pupils were welcomed to create artwork around the theme 'Cells' on a 1.5m cardboard circle.

St George's C of E Primary School, St Barnabas C of E Primary School, Franche Primary School, Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School, Northwick Manor Primary School and Claines C of E Primary School all enjoyed a fun, relaxed and inspiring morning.





## DRAMA TO CORNWALL



The Drama trip to Cornwall was an extravaganza of theatrical inspiration as our A Level Drama students prepared for a performance of 'The Roses Of Eyam'. Participation in Redruth's 'The Writer's Block' reminded everyone to focus on developing a character rather than an elaborate plot. At the Minack Theatre, we stumbled on the stimulus for our devised piece, the story of Rowena Cade and her gardener, Billy Rawlings.

They visited Charlestown and, taking advantage of the beautiful location, the whole cohort staged 'The Parados' from 'Antigone' (one of their set texts). The harbour walls, which stood in for the gates of Thebes, provided fabulous acoustics. Despite some heckles from a few swimmers, the pupils did get a compliment as one said: "My daughter, who is a Drama teacher herself, would pay to have students as engaged as yours."

It's safe to say that they returned a much stronger cohort of A Level students, feeling enlightened and inspired.

## NANTES EXCHANGE

As part of our ongoing cultural programme, a group of Year Nine pupils flew to France to participate in the 32nd exchange with l'Externat des Enfants Nantais. The group participated in Physics, History and French lessons and had a unique insight into a day in school in France. To enhance their understanding of Nantes' history they visited the cathedral le Château des Ducs de Bretagne, popular places in Nantes, nearby towns and the local theme park with their host families. The trip enhanced the pupils' French comprehension through absorbing correct pronunciation in natural interactions.



## DAVID RICHMOND HEAD OF OFFICE FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

David Richmond, a former pupil of RGS Worcester (1981-85) was appointed to head up the Office for Veterans' Affairs (OVA). David is the UK's most senior officer injured in combat in Afghanistan and is a former Commanding Officer of 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. He also served in Iraq and went on to work as the Recovery Director at the Help for Heroes charity after leaving the Army. The new office will sit within the Cabinet Office and represents the government's commitment to ensure a world-class provision of life-long duty of veterans' care services in this country with a focus on mental health, employment and housing.



## SENIOR CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNER

George Beardmore proved his talents by winning the Worcestershire Senior Men's Cross-Country Championships, even though he is still eligible for the Under 20s competition. This was the first time George had competed in the Senior category at the County Championships. He led from the start and beat the second-place runner by 26 seconds.

George is studying at Loughborough University and, amidst coursework and exams, George finds the time and dedication to continue to put time into his running practice.



## DIANA AWARD'S ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

RGS Worcester hosted The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme, which saw mentors work with our pupils to change attitudes surrounding bullying.

We collaborated for the training with RGS Dodderhill, Bishop Perowne Church of England College, Tudor Grange Academy, The Chantry School, The Gregg School, Wigmore High School, John Henry Newman Catholic College and Colmers School and Sixth Form College. The programme has a strong peer-to-peer focus, with trainers giving young people the know-how and determination to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, to tackle bullying in their schools long after the training has finished. The Diana Award's anti-bullying work is recognised as world-class thanks to this sustainable approach.







## ATLANTIC MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Team Atlantic Ambition was made up of former RGS Worcester pupils from the Class of 2006, Ewan Bell, Jon Merotra, James Protherough and Ed Wilson taking on the 2019 Atlantic Challenge. With an official time of 39 days, 7 hours and 41 minutes, they arrived with a bang at Nelson's Dockyard, Antigua, a genuine lifetime achievement for the boys that will live long in the memory.

Their mission was to row 3,000 miles in the world's toughest race, allowing them to raise more than £109,000 for charities. If ever there was an example of RGS grit, friendship, dedication and teamwork this is it; the Challenge required them to be Resolute, Gracious, Selfless and Willing (RGSW).





## RGS DODDERHILL 'WE NEED TO TALK' FILM

RGS Dodderhill launched its own film 'We Need to Talk' which was shown in local cinemas and appears on the School's website. The pupils who starred in the film commented:

Fin: "I was excited about being the main character in the opening scene of the film. The first day was nerve-racking as I was worried about getting it wrong."

Annetta: "I was surprised at the amount of equipment the film crew used – a whole truckload. We got to know everyone over the week and became more comfortable with the process and equipment."

Evie: "It was amazing how long it took to make a 2-minute film. The crew were with us all week and

each scene was filmed about ten times. Every time you thought it had gone well we had to do it again just to be safe."

Fin: "It was a great experience and I am so proud of the final film. RGS Dodderhill is an amazing school and I think the film showed that. Remember if you like what you see in the film.....We need to talk!"

Mrs Atkinson: "As the new Headmistress at RGS Dodderhill, I was delighted to have the opportunity to create our own school film. We chose the final script because we felt it showcased the confidence and passion the girls here have for their school. RGS Dodderhill is something of a hidden 'gem' in Droitwich and not many people know we are here, so being able to shout about our first-class facilities and excellent opportunities and results was very exciting indeed."



## DOUBLE GRADE 8 SUCCESS

At RGS Dodderhill we focus on harnessing musical talent and providing our pupils with the support required to master their skills. Two of our students who have reaped the benefits are Rosie Greenwood and Amelia Wood.

Rosie Greenwood has achieved Grade 8 Musical Theatre, requiring a sophisticated level of musical appreciation and talent.

She is a high soprano in the Senior and Chamber Choir at RGS Dodderhill and in her spare time is a prolific songwriter.

Amelia Wood has received a Distinction in Grade 8 Flute which is an outstanding achievement. She is now preparing to sit the Grade 8 Violin. Amelia inspires many of our younger pupils and she plays with the Worcestershire Youth Strings and the Worcestershire Youth Orchestra.



## DODDERHILL GCSE RESULTS

After such a disrupted year, RGS Dodderhill pupils were delighted to achieve impressive GCSE examination results that demonstrated the high ability of the pupils and the excellent value-added achievements. Every pupil achieved their chosen Sixth Form place.



## EQUESTRIAN TRIUMPHS

Our newly formed RGS Dodderhill and RGS Worcester team triumphed in their first competition together, coming 1st in the Worcestershire County Showjumping Qualifiers and winning in the hotly contended 80cm Showjumping class and qualifying for the County Championships. The Dressage team came 2nd in the county, beating the team that won the year before.

## SMASHING HOCKEY

RGS Dodderhill debuted at the Independent School Association (ISA) National Hockey Finals, hosted at the illustrious Lee Valley Hockey Centre. A loss in the Semi-Finals meant we were matched against Radnor House School for 3rd or 4th place. The girls played their best Hockey of the day but were unable to score the elusive winner and the match went to penalties. The match ended with a sudden-death shootout that led to a 1-0 win for RGS Dodderhill. The team proudly took home the Bronze medal.



### CHAMBER CHOIR AT BARNARDO'S NATIONAL CHOIR FINALS

Our journey to being a part of the National Finals of Barnardo's National Choir of the Year began in 2019, when our Chamber Choir was selected from over a hundred schools to perform in the competition at the Royal Festival Hall, London. Eighteen schools were chosen and the competition was strong. Everyone enjoyed the chance to listen to fantastic choirs from around the country and a particular highlight for us was singing 'Vois Sur Ton Chemin' acapella next to the River Thames.



### INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

RGS The Grange is proud to announce the achievement of an International School Award from the British Council, following our successful partnership Collège Notre Dame in Cysoing, France.

The British Council have praised RGS The Grange for embedding "an international perspective to the curriculum and ethos of the school," with activities

that are "stimulating and motivating for all with real engagement and enjoyment engendered and language skills greatly improved through real-life and meaningful communication."

This is just the beginning of our international adventure and we cannot wait to see where the next chapter will take us! Félicitations RGS The Grange!

### FIRST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY TO BE AWARDED AN ANTI-BULLYING BRONZE AWARD

RGS The Grange attained a prestigious Anti-Bullying Award in recognition of its work to provide a robust and comprehensive Anti-Bullying provision. The award given by The Anti-Bullying Quality Mark is a national scheme which measures how good schools are at preventing bullying. It challenges schools to set up effective and sustainable anti-bullying policies and strategies and make them part of their everyday life.

We pride ourselves on being a happy and caring school with a strong pastoral provision, wellbeing, safety and inclusion are a priority for all. We further develop this through training such as 'The Diana Award Organisation', teaching staff and pupils to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.



### 'GREAT OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS'

RGS The Grange recognises the importance of building robust foundations the minute your child enters our schools in order to give them the best preparation for life in line with our adage 'Great Oaks from Little Acorns'.

Our 'Little Acorns' can choose to begin their RGS journey whilst still a babe in arms through our ever-popular Acorns Toddler Group or at Nursery and Pre-School before moving into Reception. Whenever they join us they will be provided with an engaging and secure environment.

The foundations built in our Early Years Department result in confident and inquisitive acorns, who go on to thrive in Key Stage One and beyond.

RGS The Grange itself has grown from a little acorn to a great oak, evolving into a dynamic, and some might even say pioneering school, leading the way in its blended approach to digital learning and in its drive to address children's wellbeing. As the first independent school to be awarded a Bronze Anti-Bullying Quality Mark, we are constantly striving to ensure that our children feel respected and develop a strong moral code.



### THE IMPORTANCE OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION

At RGS Springfield we are lucky to have a dedicated Forest School within our beautiful grounds located in the city centre. Our specialist teachers are passionate about outdoor learning and use the area in every possible opportunity and, rain or shine, the children enjoy being outside communing with nature.

We mark the season changes in Forest School, whether it is picking apples to make a delicious crumble to our Early Years nativity performed with real donkeys under magical stars as the winter sun sets, a tradition that everyone looks forward to.

Our annual Forest School day sees us wood whittling, cooking and storytelling around a campfire.

Forest School brings real joy and learning to the children's lives, and research shows the tangible benefits of outdoor life on health and wellbeing.



### GLOBAL COMMUNICATION

Global communication, especially social media and email, have transformed the way we communicate and, although there are benefits, it has been the downfall of handwritten letters and cards. Many of our children have not felt the excitement of receiving an envelope or card in the post.

We decided to allow them to experience this joy by joining a scheme called Postcrossing. It enables people from all over the world to send and receive postcards giving an insight into their daily lives and their home towns. The children created illustrated postcards with Worcestershire scenes on the front and wrote about our city on the reverse.

In return, we had cards sent to us from Postcrossing users. Our first card came from Australia and the children used Google Earth to explore the area the card had originated from and began to create an eBooks to document the various locations. The project has made us wait for the postbag with excited anticipation.

### WHEELS IN MOTION

The Lent term started with much excitement after the arrival of several large boxes containing components for the Green Power kit car – the Year Six technology project was now underway.

After spending the first few weeks of the term building the chassis, constructing the axle and attaching it all together, the pupils and staff focused on the wiring for their electric car. After connecting the battery, turning the key and pressing the power button, they were all delighted to see that their hard work had paid off as the engine sprang to life and the drive wheel turned at great speed. This has been a fantastic team effort with all the class involved in the project.

The following week the car was lifted onto the AstroTurf for the first test drive. With squeals of excitement, the children took it in turns to take to the driving seat.

Whilst 'lockdown' rather put the brakes on the project with races cancelled, Year Six were not to be deterred. When they returned to school after the half-term break, they worked hard to refine the car and their driving skills. Through a series of driving challenges including a speed test, a slalom and a parking exam, they were able to gain an RGS Springfield Greenpower driving licence.

With the car now returned in pieces to its boxes, next year's class will hopefully have the chance to race it as well as build it.







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



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

Situated in Worcester City Centre, Upper Tything, Worcestershire WR1 1HP

**01905 613391 office@rgsw.org.uk**



**RGS Dodderhill**  
Girls Education  
2 - 16 years



- Independent Day School
- 150 pupils
- Nursery places for boys and girls from 2 years of age
- Founded in 1945, originally known as Whitford Hall
- Part of the RGS Worcester Family of Schools

Situated in Dodderhill Road, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire WR9 0BE

**01905 778290 dodderhill@rgsw.org.uk**



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



- Prep School
- 350 pupils
- Founded in 1996
- Part of the RGS Worcester Family of Schools

Situated on the edge of Worcester in 50 acres of grounds in Grange Lane, Claines, Worcester WR3 7RR

**01905 451205 grange@rgsw.org.uk**



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



- Prep School
- 110 pupils
- Founded in 1953, originally as part of The Alice Ottley School
- Part of the RGS Worcester Family of Schools

Situated in the City Centre, Britannia Square, Worcester WR1 3DL

**01905 24999 springfield@rgsw.org.uk**

The RGS Worcester Family of Schools - Choose your journey, better choices, great opportunities  
[www.rgsw.org.uk](http://www.rgsw.org.uk)

#worcesterisgreen