

RGS WORCESTER EXCEL

Spring 2019



New Performing Arts Centre Opens

RGS amongst best Schools in Country

RGS Welcomes Dodderhill to the Family of Schools

#worcesterisgreen



RGS
WORCESTER



- p3 Dodderhill Merger
- p4 RGS Named Amongst Best Schools in the Country
- p5 Debating Champions Cross Country Success
- p6 Performing Arts Centre Opens
- p7 The Crucible
- p8 Mad for Motocross European Judo

- p9 RGS Wins Modus Cup
- p10 Maths Olympiad Holocaust Literature
- p11 Phantom Fever
- p12 RGS Alumnus National Poet of Australia
- p13 RGS Celebrates 150 Years on The Tything
- p14 Outreach Events
- p15 The Challenge Cup
- p16 RGS Girls in Hockey and Netball National Finals
- p17 Superball 2019

- RGS Springfield
- p18 Annie Junior
- p19 Healthy Mind and Body Tennis for Kids
- RGS The Grange
- p20 Chamber Choir Science Fair
- p21 Digital Leaders
- p22 RGS At A Glance
- p23 The four RGS schools

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HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION

The RGS family of schools has increased to four schools since the last edition of Excel magazine, with Dodderhill Independent Girls joining us and the girls there enjoying all that an RGS education has to offer. We are delighted to welcome the pupils, staff, parents and alumnae into the RGS family.

With victories in the Modus Cup 1st XV Rugby match at Sixways stadium, and in 'Superball' at the University of Worcester Arena, together with a 1-1 Draw in The Challenge Cup 1st XI Football match, RGS has more than held its own against local rivals in Sport. It has been superb to see the Girls' Hockey and Netball teams reach three National Finals for the first time in RGS history, and opponents now fear playing against RGS in any competition. Most importantly, we have fielded more teams and played more fixtures in the last two terms than ever before, demonstrating our commitment to 'Sport for all'.

There is much to celebrate recently with success on a National scale in several areas of school life, including on the academic front in Mathematics, in Sport and in Debating. It has been wonderful to see the pupils continue to raise their sights and aim to be the very best they can be. It was also encouraging to see RGS endorsed as 'amongst the best schools in the country'.

The Prep Schools have enjoyed so many opportunities these past two terms and a few aspects have been highlighted here. The breadth of an RGS Springfield or RGS The Grange education is exceptional and it is always lovely to see such happy, successful children.

We have taken full advantage of our new Performing Arts Centre becoming available and have seen our first production which was 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller performed by our student-led DIY Theatre Company. Before that, we enjoyed a truly awe-inspiring run of performances of 'Phantom of the Opera' in Perrins Hall. I described the performances as breath-taking and magical when I stood up on the final night. The musicians have also demonstrated their prowess by winning awards at the Worcester Competitive Arts Festival and performing a number of concerts at school and in Worcester Cathedral.

The dedication of the teachers and support staff, the support of parents, the commitment of alumni to their school, and above all the determination of our pupils makes the RGS community a very special one. It has been wonderful to see the girls and boys aspire to great heights. It has been even more wonderful to see the older ones support the younger ones, the girls and boys support one another and the pupils, parents and staff working together.

With record numbers of pupils joining the Senior School in September, a new school joining our family, and success at all levels across our Prep Schools and the Senior School, the future is bright.... the future is green!

John Pitt, Headmaster, RGS Worcester



RGS WELCOMES DODDERHILL TO THE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

RGS was very pleased to announce the merger with Dodderhill Independent Girls in March. The following article appeared in the Worcester News: WORCESTER'S Royal Grammar School is merging with a Droitwich-based independent school for girls.

Dodderhill will remain at its seven-acre estate in Droitwich Spa and continue as a self-financing, girls-only school, but it will share educational initiatives, resources and facilities with the other three schools in the RGS group.

The schools already collaborate in areas such as music, art, dance, textiles and digital learning. Each year, many Dodderhill girls go on to the Sixth Form at RGS. Dodderhill head Cate Mawston, said: "We are delighted to join the RGS Worcester family of schools - this is a natural development in our relationship.

This partnership will enable us to continue to build on our strengths as a small school, by sharing the expertise and facilities of a larger school. For example, our girls can use the full-size all-weather sports pitches, hold events at the performing arts centre, take part in joint musical productions and tours and benefit from an award-winning careers programme".

Mrs Mawston will have day-to-day responsibility for the running of Dodderhill and will become a member of the RGS Worcester Strategy Group.

Mr Quentin Poole, chairman of the RGS Governors, said: "We look forward to getting to know the Dodderhill community and offering the girls, their parents and staff, the security, stability and opportunities of being a valued member of our group of schools. Our partnership will retain all that makes Dodderhill unique, impressive and appealing as a highly attractive school providing an excellent all-round education for girls in Droitwich and the wider region."

“ RGS IS LOOKING FORWARD TO COLLABORATING WITH DODDERHILL, WHERE WE CAN SHARE EXPERTISE, RESOURCES AND FACILITIES TO PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION FOR PUPILS WITHIN OUR FAMILY OF SCHOOLS. ”



RGS Headmaster, John Pitt, said: "This is a unique opportunity for Dodderhill and RGS to work together and I am excited about what the future holds for our community of more than 1,400 pupils across four schools. Both schools are known as centres of excellence and girls from Dodderhill already join our co-educational Sixth Form of around 200 students and achieve exceptional results. There will be new opportunities to enhance our already strong links".



RGS AMONGST “BEST SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY”



The schools comparison website has given RGS Worcester the highest 5-Star rating.

The website is designed to help parents identify the best schools in their local area and grades schools based on academic performance, pupil satisfaction, and the reading and maths ability of pupils amongst other statistics. A total of 34,000 schools across the country were graded as part of the rankings.

At A Level, RGS came in higher than all other local schools in terms of the progress pupils made between Key Stage 4 (GCSE) and Key Stage 5 (A Level). RGS Worcester achieved a positive Value-Added Progress mark of 0.2. This demonstrates that the staff and pupils have made the move to the new reformed A Levels very successfully.

Headmaster John Pitt, commented, “It is always encouraging to receive a top rating and have the hard work of the pupils and staff recognised. For RGS to be identified as amongst the best schools in the country is excellent.”



DEBATING NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



The Oxford Union Four



National Debaters Felix Haynes and Amber Warner-Warr

Debating at the Oxford Union

This year, the RGS Worcester Debating Society, sponsored by SME Solicitors, achieved something unique in our history so far. Not only did we become champions at both Nottingham and Warwick Schools competitions but we were able to qualify two pairs to both Oxford and Cambridge Finals Days. This is a huge achievement as it would be more usual to qualify for only one of these competitions or, maximum, to qualify with only one pair. It is real sign of the depth of talent in the Society that four students from our school were due to travel to Oxford on 9 March to take on some of the best school debaters in the world.

However, for one pair, disaster struck even before the event with Felix Haynes ill and unable to compete at Finals Day. Amber Warner-Warr still came along and did a magnificent job of working with and coaching our remaining pair, Josh Warner and Sam Churchill – but all hopes of success rested now with them. 116 teams from across the UK and the world were invited to Oxford with qualifiers from, for example, Ireland, Canada and Holland, jostling for success with English schools such as Westminster, Eton and Wellington. This was going to be a challenging day...

Feeling their way in the competition, Sam and Josh came fourth in their first debate on legalising the sale and purchase of human organs. With each debate between four teams, the only way was up! However, they quickly got into their stride, taking two seconds and a first in their next three debates, winning on a tricky motion that 'this house regrets the narrative of 'the one''. This left them 47th in the whole competition, an amazing achievement considering that there were over 850 teams globally who initially entered.

At the end of March, Amber and Felix, with Gemma Collins and Alex Edwards, were in action for the final time at Durham Schools, the last of the 'big three' competitions with Oxford and Cambridge. In April, Kasia Czyrko and Katy Marsh in Year Ten head to Cambridge for the Finals Day of the International Competition for Young Debaters. It has already been a superb debating season with National success in two major competitions – and we still have a couple of throws left of the dice...



CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

In December, RGS took part in the District Schools' Cross Country competition held at RGS The Grange. The event was most successful in recent times for RGS, with several pupils qualifying to run for Worcester District in the next round - a tremendous achievement. The Year Seven boys were particularly impressive, with Harvey Shaw winning the race, Jimmy Barry coming third, Oliver Shelton fourth and Tristan Dawes in fifth! Year Nine pupil, Alice Atkinson, and Year Ten pupil, James Rolinson, came third in their respective races. Well done to all those who ran on a wet and cold afternoon!

NEW PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE Now Open !



“It was always the intention of the School to build a Performing Arts Centre and it is wonderful that the project has been delivered to such a high standard.” John Pitt, Headmaster

The brand new facility at RGS welcomes visitors into a light and airy foyer upon entering this modern and well-equipped centre. The new building offers tiered seating for 190 people, two Drama studio spaces, one with green screen facility, and new facilities for the actors including a Green Room space for performers to prepare. The Godfrey Brown Theatre includes new state-of-the-art lighting and sound equipment to support future productions.

Mrs Jilly Witcomb, Head of Drama, said; “I am delighted to have the new Performing Arts Centre available. It is an amazing venue and we are very privileged to have such a lovely facility at RGS. The students and the teachers are very much looking forward to the future and using the Centre to its full advantage. A huge ‘thank-you’ to all who have been involved in turning what we first designed on a piece of paper into a reality.”

John Pitt, Headmaster, commented, “We are thrilled to have the Performing Arts Centre which will encourage our Arts programme to continue to thrive at RGS. I am extremely pleased with the final facility and look forward to seeing our Performing Arts in the future.”

The Centre has now been used for its first production of ‘The Crucible’ by Arthur Miller.

“ A modern and well-equipped centre ”



“ A light and airy foyer ”

The witch hunt of worcester !

DIY Drama stages an ambitious production of Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible' in the newly opened Performing Arts Centre.



The impressive new Performing Arts Centre held its first production and all the signs are that this will be an exciting and fitting home for Drama at RGS long into the future. The intimate atmosphere of the old Godfrey Brown Theatre remains, but this new space certainly provides an enhanced theatrical experience for the audience and actors alike.

To usher in this new era, the RGS DIY Company gave an expectant and eager audience Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible'. The dramatic world of the play is alien and strange; the Puritan community it depicts veers between devout piety, religious mania and ruthless, malicious persecution. This young DIY cast faced a great challenge in entering the psychological and religious dimensions Miller explores but they did so with emotional maturity and dramatic sensitivity.

The results were often compelling, especially in a taut second-half which had pace and a sense of growing febrile intensity and darkening frenzy. Alex Edwards, Upper Sixth, was powerful as John Proctor: he captured Proctor's uncompromising torment and was convincing as a figure who martyrs himself to truth. To see Alex take on such a role as this so successfully in his last RGS production, was a fitting adieu from someone who has been a stalwart of RGS Drama for many years. The scenes between Proctor and his wife Elizabeth (played by Frances Broadbent, Lower Sixth) were full of pathos. Darcey Chambers, Year Eleven, was particularly impressive as Mary Warren, a role she played with great intensity and commitment. Mia Shaw, Lower Sixth, tackled the role of Abigail Williams with a similarly effective sense of emotional torment. The cast was strong throughout and handled Miller's tricky dialogue well. This aspect of the play demands sure-footed judgement given the way Miller employs archaic diction and phrasing. Again, the challenge was well-met. Particular mention should be made of Tazmin Barnes, Lower Sixth, in the role of Miller himself, and also Martyn Forrester, Upper Sixth, who stood in as Reverend Parris at less than a week's notice, due to illness in the cast. The clever device of having him pore over his Bible, as if searching for truth and guidance in its pages, was remarkably effective, and it enabled him to command the role very effectively, despite such limited rehearsal time.

The tableaux and physical scenes, with the recurring motif of warning fingers held to hushed lips, lent the performance cohesion and rhythm. Particularly arresting was the decision to stage the opening of the trial in the theatre foyer as the audience headed back to their seats after the interval. This was just the sort of innovative and immersive device this new theatrical space can offer and it was very, very effective. It gave the second-half a momentum that never faltered.





MAD FOR MOTOCROSS

Year Ten pupil, Matt Tolley, tells of his proudest moment of 2018; breaking the top ten in Motocross at the Weston Beach Race.

“I have been racing Motocross for over a year for a team called IDS Racing based in Evesham. I raced in the Weston Beach Race 2018, the toughest annual Motocross race in the UK. The event took place on the deep sand of Weston-super-Mare beach with man-made dunes as high as 15m and a long straight of 2km.

On the first day, I took part in a media and tuition day from four-time Motocross World Champion, Dave Thorpe. This started with an hour of media filming and interviews for local television and radio, followed by an hour and a half of riding and training in preparation for the upcoming 90-minute race. The prestigious adult solo race commenced on a Sunday afternoon, and featured over 1000 riders, including professionals from all around Europe.

I raced in the 11-15 age group youth race consisting of 100 experienced riders on 85cc bikes which can reach speeds exceeding 70mph. The race was extremely tough because the treacherous dunes required advanced skill and a high fitness level to negotiate. I had to maintain physical and mental composure for what felt like the longest 90 minutes of my life.

I finished in 9th place amongst the best riders in Britain which was an impressive feat, breaking the top ten. This was my fifth time competing in this event and one of my most commendable finishes yet. Despite aching for days afterwards, I really look forward to doing it again and hope to gain a top three position.”

EUROPEAN JUDO SILVER MEDAL

In late 2018, Loïc Keasey, Year Nine, competed in his first European Judo tournament in Holland which attracted competitors from Holland, Belgium, Germany and England.

Loïc was required to fight in an Under 16 age category and duly won all of his fights by ‘ippon’ (maximum score) thus winning Gold. Loïc’s performances were commented upon by a Dutch National Judo coach who advised that he fought with a “controlled intensity, high-level technical competency and intelligence far beyond his age.”

Due to his success, Loïc subsequently competed in a second tournament, where again he fought in the Under 16 age category. He won every fight by ippon en route to the final, where despite a valiant effort and fiercely competitive fight lost to a Dutch opponent, who had a considerable size advantage over Loïc. In addition to his Silver medal, Loïc was awarded throw of the competition for launching an opponent airborne with an ippon seoi nage (one-armed shoulder throw).



TWO GOLD MEDALS IN ONE DAY

Loïc also achieved the almost unthinkable. Competing in two National tournaments, over 100 miles apart, in the same day, and winning both!

In his first tournament, he fought in the National HMC Independent Schools Judo Tournament, at High Wycombe Judo Centre. Loïc won all of his fights by ippon (maximum score), thus becoming the 2019 champion in his weight category. Following this success, he was subsequently asked if he would like to fight in the weight category above his, to help him to gain experience, which he agreed to do. To everyone’s delight, he again won all of the fights by ippon.

Upon receiving his Gold medal, Loïc then travelled over 100 miles to enter the English Pre-Cadet and Cadet Open in Walsall. He repeated his earlier success and won the Gold medal, once again winning all of his fights by ippon. Becoming National Champion twice in one day is a remarkable achievement.

SIXWAYS IS GREEN

One team, one dream

RGS WINS 31-13

The atmosphere was electric at Sixways Stadium on a chilly October evening as RGS took on King's School in the highly coveted Modus Challenge Cup match. In 2017 RGS won the fixture 13 – 10 and the 2018 team were determined to retain the trophy.

The Worcester News reported on the match "In a closely-fought opening period King's School fly-half Ethan Summerwill opened the scoring on 23 minutes with a penalty after Matthews was caught offside when intercepting a pass. Moments later Mann missed from the tee only to make amends with the first try for RGS. The centre demonstrated great strength to power over the try-line on the half hour mark which he converted.

A barnstorming run from loosehead prop Myren Madden then resulted in Matthews going over from close range to give RGS a 12-3 lead at half-time.

The try of the match came moments into the second period when Seth Lewis, Thomas Matthews and Benn Llewellyn combined with skilful handling before releasing Chamberlain who sprinted through to score. Mann added the extras. King's School hit back with a superb solo score from Charles Clark who exploited space out wide only to see his side then suffer a double blow.

After Willem Humphreys received a yellow card for a deliberate knock-on Llewellyn went over in the corner and Mann slotted the conversion to make it 26-8.

Despite being down to 14 men King's School refused to give in and responded with their second try when the impressive Clark showed great awareness to flick the ball over his head to George Hale who finished with ease.

But with James Aikman, Matthews and Lewis linking up well in attack and Jacob Murray and Jacob Dyson carrying hard RGS soon ensured victory. With a few minutes left Joe Corlett fed Neale who touched down in the corner to condemn their rivals to a second straight defeat in the annual fixture."

The trophy was secured with a final score of RGS 31 – King's 13, a record winning margin for RGS in the Modus era of the fixture.

The support from the crowds of RGS pupils, parents, staff and alumni cannot be underestimated, as the team were undoubtedly buoyed by the chants and cheers that echoed around the Sixways Stadium. Worcester is well and truly Green!





MATHS OLYMPIAD

Amy is a cut above the rest

Amy Rogers, Upper Sixth, has been named a 'Mathematician extraordinaire' by the Head of Mathematics, Mr Robert Gibson.

Amy has achieved a total of: seven Golds, seven Merits, six Distinctions, has qualified for the 'follow-on' rounds in the competition every year and qualified for the national training camp in Year Ten.

Amy said; "Maths has always come easily to me. Obviously, as you get older it becomes tricky but I really enjoy it, trying several different approaches to find what might work. I have five University offers to study Maths further, but I'm not sure where I'll go as yet."

Robert Gibson, Head of Mathematics, commented, "Amy has made a huge contribution to Mathematics at the School and has demonstrated again and again in national competitions that she is amongst the strongest mathematicians in the UK."

Amy comfortably achieved a Merit, which is the highest award possible, in the International Senior Kangaroo Maths competition. Amy, who has always been central to any team events since she joined the School in Year Eight, was invited to participate in the British Maths Olympiad, a competition between the top five hundred brightest mathematical minds in the country.

Her record of mathematical success during her time at the School is extremely impressive. Since Year Eight,

HOLOCAUST LITERATURE DONATION

Education and remembrance are the only cures for hatred and bigotry

A wonderful collection of books has been donated to the Philip Sawyer Library at RGS Worcester by a local resident who has a keen interest in the Holocaust and the Second World War.

Mr Garnett Alderson, who lives in the St Oswald's Almshouses next door to the School, immediately thought of RGS when he decided to donate his personal collection of books, which are all on the subject of the Holocaust and recount first-hand experiences of the atrocities committed by the Nazi regime under Hitler.

As a Christian Jew, Mr Alderson has long been fascinated by the Holocaust and has amassed a large collection of fiction and non-fiction books around this subject. He has strong views on the stories being kept alive and felt that by donating the books to the School, he would be able to achieve this. He is extremely keen that pupils at RGS are able to read these accounts in order to learn from the mistakes of the past.



Respice et Prospice

'Remember the Past
and Look to the Future'

[RGS Worcester's school motto]



PHANTOM FEVER



Perrins Hall was the scene of a magical metamorphosis, as it was transformed into Belle Époque Paris for 'The Phantom of the Opera' in which a very talented and gifted RGS cast triumphed in spectacular style.

On an evening of such magnificent singing and musicianship, there were highlights in almost every scene. Yet, it was noticeable that the standard of ensemble singing stood out. There was real conviction and character in each and every chorus. This is a rich period for choral singing at RGS and there were moments when the chorus would not have sounded out of place on a professional stage, in particular the Masquerade piece. The orchestra beautifully accompanied and guided these moments and it was impressive to see many RGS pupils playing in the band, including some from the Lower School. None of the challenging Lloyd-Webber score was too much for an exceptional group of players and the advantage of using Perrins Hall was that the full power of the School's organ, played by former pupil Ellie Morgan, could be unleashed.

In what must be one of the all-time RGS musical highlights, Beth Rabjohn undoubtedly gave us one of the most memorable, assured and magical performances there has perhaps ever been at the School. It is one thing to sing this demanding part with such accuracy and assurance; it is another to do so with such thoughtful characterisation and vocal maturity. The tenderness and pathos of her final trio with the Phantom and Raoul, played by Benedict Lowe, in their final struggle as rivals for Christine, was sung with tormented passion by all three singers. It was a remarkable ending.

Bertie Pryke's anguished portrayal of the Phantom was palpable from the beginning and his dominance and control over Christine worked beautifully against the innocent and pure portrayal by Beth. When alone on stage, Bertie demonstrated the Phantom's despondent and desperate nature, allowing his voice to rise to moving crescendos at his most tortured moments.

The quality of make-up, hair and costume matched the performances on stage. The sumptuous colours and fabrics of the opera house attire really did play a huge part in the visual vibrancy of the performance and helped transport the audiences to the opulent world of a Parisian opera house.

It is safe to say that every pupil wowed and stunned in their individual performances. The talent exhibited by the Senior School students is nothing short of extraordinary and it is a testament to the Creative Arts staff and students that a performance such as this was performed with such professionalism.

As a piece that combined so many elements - wonderful singing, impressive musicianship, superb dancing and both tragic and comic acting - this was an extraordinary spectacle. With the new Performing Arts Centre now open, Music and Drama at RGS has a very special future ahead.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY HONOUR FOR RGS ALUMNUS

RGS pupils who recently embarked upon an English Department exploration of literary 'greats' in London were especially pleased to be able to pay tribute to a former pupil of their school when visiting Westminster Abbey.

In Poets' Corner, surrounded by the graves and memorial stones of England's greatest writers – Shakespeare, Chaucer, Dickens, Wordsworth – was an impressive memorial bust of Adam Lindsay Gordon (RGS 1852-53), widely acclaimed as the original National Poet of Australia.

Gordon arrived at RGS Worcester in 1852 to complete his education. Unfortunately, a dispute over a horse race on Pitchcroft in 1853 resulted in his father paying Gordon's passage for him to take up a post with the Australian Mounted Police.

During the early years in Australia he spent considerable time riding around the Bush where he encountered 'swagmen' and other hardy pioneers. This period was to influence greatly his later poetry. However, he was a restless, sometimes wild figure and after a few years he left the police to become a horse-breaker.

He continued to build his reputation as a fearless steeple-chaser who was renowned as much for his horsemanship and skills as a jockey, as he was for his poetry at this stage. In 1865 he performed an amazing and death-defying leap across part of Blue Lake in South Australia. The feat was thought to be impossible and a commemorative obelisk to 'Gordon's Leap' is still to be found at the site today. That same year, Gordon moved into politics for a brief period, becoming a member of the South Australian Assembly but he soon quit to focus on his poetry.

His collection of poems 'Bush Ballads and Galloping Rhymes', was published in 1870 and it is now considered to be one of the most important collections of nineteenth-century Australian poetry.

Today we celebrate Gordon's time at RGS with the Sixth Form Centre named after him and a plaque outside Perrins Hall. In 2020, Australia will be marking the 150th anniversary of the death of one of their greatest poets – a former RGS pupil!

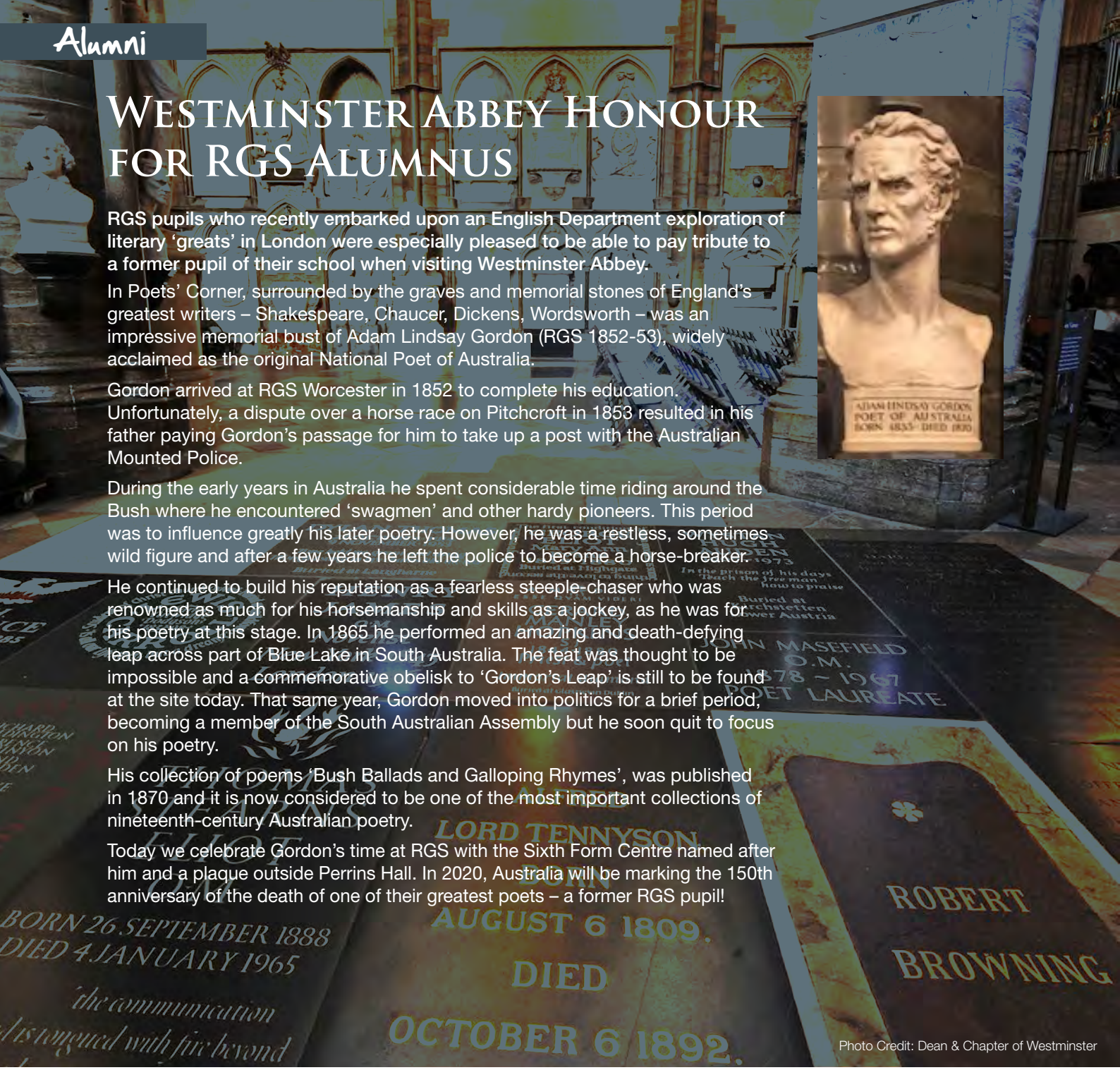
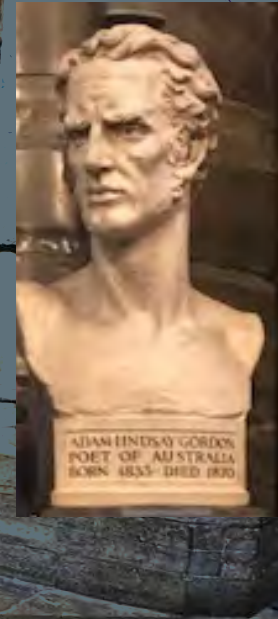


Photo Credit: Dean & Chapter of Westminster

RGS STAFF RETAIN NETBALL TROPHY



RGS staff combined forces across departments to form a Netball team to compete in the Worcestershire Workplace Challenge. This annual event is organised by the County Sports Partnership Network, a nationwide network of 43 County Sports Partnerships committed to 'transforming lives through sport and physical activity'.

The mixed team of six female and two male teachers from RGS played against teams from the University of Worcester, Oasis Academy and Whittington Primary, before playing Dines Green Primary School in the Final, which they won 8 -1.

This is the second year that RGS has won the Workplace Challenge and so the team retains the trophy.

Well done to: Miss Pollard, Miss George, Mr Shorrocks, Mrs Witcomb, Mr Bayliss, Miss Bennett, Mrs Briggs, and Mrs Atkins.

ALUMNI RETURN FOR A VERY DIFFERENT SCHOOL DINNER

2018 marked 150 years of RGS Worcester occupying its spacious campus on The Tything after its move from a cramped building in the city centre. To celebrate this significant milestone in its 1,300 year history the School decided to experiment with a rather unusual dinner.

Past School Captains were invited on behalf of their classmates. On the night, forty different year groups were represented with alumni even flying in from Spain, the USA and Australia, such was the draw for this very special RGS event.

The Headmaster, in gown and mortar board, rang the old handbell to bring the diners into Perrins Hall from 'break time'. They took their seats not realising what was coming or how they would be working for their dinner.

The challenge was how to celebrate education over a dinner? The answer, like the best things in life, was simple: have each aspect of the food and drink represent school subjects! The Grace delivered in Latin started proceedings.

Modern Foreign Languages were well received throughout the evening with wines from France, Italy and Germany complementing the wonderful food. This was courtesy of a generous gift from one Captain who was 'stuck in the Caribbean' but who wished his old school well from afar.

The starter tested Geography knowledge with ingredients sourced from around the world while Maths and English were also fashioned into interesting main courses. The highlights were undoubtedly Science and Art respectively: Science saw diners donning goggles before mixing ingredients in test-tubes then into beakers to spark chemical reactions that produced a delicious smoking green (obviously) drink; Art involved each table being set the task of recreating the perfect dessert from a 'still life' with a range of ingredients – results varied significantly in presentation but all tasted superb! Tim Curtis, former RGS School Captain and Director of Sport and English teacher, as well as Worcestershire and England cricketer, gave a speech about friendships and the part the school plays in its surrounding community.

The Headmaster celebrated the History of the School in a light-hearted address that did emphasise the importance and value of RGS enjoying such a supportive relationship with its diverse and fascinating alumni community. However, Mr Pitt did insist that anyone present who had escaped sanction for past misdemeanours would serve Saturday morning Detention. Happily, for all concerned, detention turned out to be an entertaining tour of the School that rounded off a very memorable gathering.



OUTREACH: REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

Since September we have hosted sixteen Outreach Events at RGSW for 620 pupils from twenty-seven local Primary and Senior schools and have attended 17 external events with local schools. Details of three of the events we have hosted are below:



Language and Culture Morning

In November, we welcomed pupils from three local primary schools - Perdiswell Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and St George's C of E Primary School - into RGSW for a Language and Culture morning.

The pupils spent their time in 'taster' Modern Foreign Language (MFL) lessons, where they had the opportunity to experience what our French, German and Spanish lessons are like here at RGS. They learnt, and used, vocabulary from a variety of different topics, including greetings, pets and rooms around the house. Tasks included conversation practice, vocabulary match-up and lots of choral repetition. Pupils also enjoyed some European snacks during their break, which were almost as popular as the lessons themselves.

The MFL staff enjoyed welcoming these pupils into our MFL department and the sessions continue our popular tradition of assisting local primary schools with their MFL curriculum.



Inaugural Dance Festival

On Valentine's Day, we welcomed sixty-five pupils from local schools and students from the University of Worcester to our first Outreach Dance Festival.

This was an opportunity to give local pupils from Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College, Christopher Whitehead Language College, Dodderhill School, King's School and Nunnery Wood High School, the chance to show off their talents and dance pieces.

Pupils aged from Year Seven took part, and the performances covered themes as wide-ranging as the use of water, depression and anxiety, and women's rights. The standard of the performances was impressive and there were a variety of styles on display. Pupils performed solo and in large groups. RGS pupils Bella Gray, Year Seven, in particular, performed with poise and confidence, and she definitely drew the loudest cheer of the afternoon, with specific praise from the University of Worcester Dance undergraduates.

We hosted the Festival in the Performing Arts Centre, which really added to the occasion: the lights, the music and the staging gave pupils a real sense of performance.

The finale of the afternoon was a performance from the University of Worcester Dance Tour. Their grace and athleticism were breath-taking and inspiring to the younger attendees.

Hockey Skills Share

In February, RGS hosted three local primary schools for a skill sharing Hockey session.

It was a fantastic afternoon of Hockey on the Senior School AstroTurf with the pupils from Cherry Orchard Primary School, Claines CE Primary, and St George's C of E Primary School. They really enjoyed improving their basic skills with fun games and all made excellent progress. We hope that the session has helped the pupils to develop a love for the game of Hockey either at their schools or at a local club.

One of the teachers who attended commented that "it was good to feel part of a sporting community", another added that "they enjoyed seeing how much their pupils gained, not only in new skills but also in confidence." The teachers all agreed that they had learned some new teaching skills that they could take back to share with their school.





THE CHALLENGE CUP

RGS spirit shines through

With record numbers in support, RGS took on King's School once again in the annual Challenge Cup fixture at Sixways Stadium.

The opening ten minutes was tightly contested, both teams making their presence felt with hard fought challenges and determination. However, the game soon settled down and RGS found their rhythm, with captain Seth Lewis, Upper Sixth, instrumental in the middle of the pitch.

RGS looked solid at the back with Sam Chamberlain, Lower Sixth, and Phil Derbyshire, Year Eleven, calm under pressure, trying to play the ball from the back and create opportunities down the flanks. It wasn't long before Seb Thompson, Year Eleven, made a darting run down the left and crossed for Sam Healey, Upper Sixth, to score and give RGS the lead.

In the second half, RGS started well again and had further opportunities to extend their lead but could not convert. They were made to pay half way through the second half as King's School equalised against the run of play. Both teams had chances thereafter but could not find the back of the net, with the game finishing in an entertaining 1-1 draw.

The trophy will be shared this year as a result of the draw, so the Cup will sit nicely next to the Modus Cup and the University of Worcester 'Superball' Trophy in the RGS cabinet from September. The match was played in great spirit, epitomised by the sportsmanship displayed by both teams after the game as they celebrated together.

All players and coaches would like to extend their gratitude to the superb support provided by the RGS Worcester spectators. Well done to the team for delivering a really exciting match played in excellent spirit and thank you to Mr Leeds, Head of Football.





NETBALL NATIONAL FINALS

RGS qualifies for the England Netball National Schools Tournament for the first time.

In March 2019, the 'Girls in Green' made RGS Worcester sporting history as both the Under 14 and Under 19 squads competed in The England Netball National Schools Tournament at Stanborough School, which is the biggest schools competition in the Netball calendar.

The competition consists of three age groups; Under 14, Under 16 and Under 19, and commences at either an Area or County Round, with schools finishing as winners progressing through to the Regional round of the competition. The winners from each of the nine regions compete in the National Finals which take place in March every year.

At the Nationals, the RGS teams were competitive, winning 5 matches: the Under 14s beat Newcastle (14-3), The Priory Academy LSST (13-4), Godolphin and Latymer School (8-5), and the Under 19s won against Yarm School (14-5) and Hartpury College (13-7).

The Under 14s finished 13th and the Under 19s finished 15th in the Country. This was a fantastic effort from the pupils in both teams, who represented RGS with pride at National Level.

HOCKEY NATIONAL FINALS



The Under 14 Hockey team reached the National Finals this year

The team attended the Midlands Regional Hockey final, after winning the County and Regional zone tournaments. Finishing in the top two at the Regional Finals provided qualification for the National Finals. This was the first time this had been done in the eleven-a-side competition, although it was the second National Final for this age group as they competed in the seven-a-side tournament last season.

The National Finals were held at Lee Valley Stadium, Olympic Park, London. It was, of course, where their Hockey coach Sally Walton won a Bronze medal in the London 2012 Olympics.

The team finished third in their pool and equal fifth in the country, beating Norwich School 1-0 in their final match.

RGSW WINS 'SUPERBALL' FOR FOURTH TIME



The RGS Worcester squad:
Emma Brinkley (Captain),
Hannah Middleton (Vice Captain),
Jemma Moseley (Vice Captain),
Beth Hill, Evie Beardsley, Alexandria Smith,
Izzy Nott, Issy Dipple, Lizzie Rhoden,
Emily Seymour-Perry, Lottie Atkinson,
Georgia Padbury, Sophie Thompson



Over eight hundred RGS Worcester spectators watched their 'Girls in Green' lift the University of Worcester Superball trophy for the fourth time in the five-year history of the event.

The annual Netball fixture at the University of Worcester Arena ended 54 – 46 to RGS Worcester.

The players competed in a brilliant first quarter where both teams displayed skill, dynamism and commitment, with King's School taking the edge one goal up at the end of the first quarter 12-13.

In the second quarter the RGS team changed Lottie Atkinson to Goal Shooter and moved Jemma Moseley to Centre, with Emily Seymour-Perry to Wing Defence. After going down by 5, the RGS girls demonstrated outstanding resilience and strength with some great individual contributions from all of the team members to bring it back to a draw for the quarter score. The half time score was 24-25 to King's.

After half time, the RGS team increased the tempo, improved their precision and showed their strength to win the quarter 15-7, taking the lead as they entered the last quarter 39-32.

In the final quarter, RGS demonstrated fast-flowing netball, uncompromising defending and pin-sharp shooting. The passion and relentlessness of the team was impressive and the pace of attack was too much for King's to contain as RGS Worcester completed the match with a 54-46 victory and, in doing so, achieved the highest score of any team in the history of the competition.

Supporters witnessed a fantastic event to celebrate the success of girls' sport. Professor Green, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University presented the trophy and, when RGS Worcester Captain, Emma Brinkley, lifted the University of Worcester trophy the applause around the Arena was tremendous.

Head of Netball at RGS, Emma Pollard said "Supporters have witnessed a superb match this afternoon. Both sides showed skill, dynamism and commitment, which I am sure will have converted many novice Netball spectators to the game. It was absolutely wonderful to see the team setting such a fine example for women's sport on Mother's Day and 'Superball' has also raised a significant amount of money for Cancer Research UK."

Headmaster of RGS Worcester, John Pitt, commented, "This was an extremely enjoyable event with Netball played at the highest level. The girls have had a superb season, reaching the National Finals for the first time, and now crowning the season as 'Superball' Champions again. It is difficult to imagine a school Netball match anywhere in the country attracting well over 1,000 spectators and my thanks to the University for supporting this event. Well done to both teams and sets of coaches for staging another great exhibition of girls' sport in Worcester."

ANNIE JUNIOR

The Creative Arts Club has been busy rehearsing since September and on two evenings at the end of February it was their chance to shine and share their talents in this fantastic performance. To watch the children give their all with enthusiasm and gusto was a joy to see in this production of 'Annie Junior'.

The musical is a stage adaptation of the story "Little Orphan Annie" and her journey from orphanage to adoption by the billionaire Oliver Warbucks.

The role of Annie was performed superbly by Keira who won the heart of Oliver Warbucks, played by Ali, and Grace Farrell, played by Kitty, despite the protestations of Miss Hannigan, played by Olivia. The orphans, servants and other characters demonstrated a real joy of performing singing, dancing and acting.



HEALTHY MIND AND BODY

On a lovely bright crisp day, all of the pupils and staff at RGS Springfield took part in our Healthy Mind and Body Day. It was a fun-filled and action packed day from start to finish.

We went straight into a whole school cheerleading warm up to start our day. Staff and children jumped and shimmied around the AstroTurf, some shaking green pom-poms led by the very capable Miss Edwards. Following this the children were split into mixed age groups and took part in circuits. Everyone joined in and felt sufficiently warmed up.

Over the course of the day children took part in workshops on Zen Colouring, Sugar Detectives, Meditation, Cardio Tennis, Yoga, Mindfulness, Smoothie making (run by our caterers Holroyd Howe) and Kandinsky-style heart art. Most workshops were run by members of staff who were able to share their expertise and passion for various activities.

The day finished with the children making a pledge as to how they would move forward and make a change in their life as a result of taking part in the day. It was interesting as they came up with so many varied ideas. Here are a few...

"I will do more yoga" Matilda, Year One

"I will try and eat less sugar" Florry, Year Four

"I am going to try to meditate once a week" Ali, Year Six



TENNIS FOR KIDS

In the Trinity term we were very lucky to have the opportunity to deliver a Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) 'Tennis for Kids' Introductory Course on site at RGS Springfield. As a Level 3 qualified and accredited LTA coach, Miss Edwards was accepted onto a course to deliver the programme. This would normally take place at a Tennis Club not at a School venue so an exciting 'first' for us.

After two previous successful years, the LTA planned to continue the programme as the legacy of Great Britain winning the Davis Cup, with the aim of getting 50,000 children to pick up a tennis racket in the next 12 months alone.

The course was for six weeks and at the end the children received a Great Britain Tennis t-shirt and their very own limited edition Babolat racket to continue their tennis journey. During the sixth and final session of 'Tennis for Kids', family members were invited to come and join in the activities.

Great family fun was had by all and a few budding stars in the making were spotted!

The children certainly enjoyed the Tennis course and we were delighted to offer two more courses in the Michaelmas term and a follow-on Mini-Tennis group session in the Lent term. 'She Rallies' is another exciting Tennis event coming soon to RGS Springfield. The initiative, designed by Judy Murray, with a goal of empowering and expanding the number of women and girls coaching and playing tennis across the UK, is supported by the LTA. The initiative has 4 strands including fun events and competitions along with coaching sessions.

Miss Edwards had the pleasure of meeting Judy Murray and was truly inspired as to how we can encourage females of all ages to enjoy sport. We are looking forward to our first 'She Rallies' event together in April.



CHAMBER CHOIR SINGING OUT FOR CHILDREN'S CHARITY



RGS The Grange Chamber Choir, who won Worcester Competitive Arts Festival Choral Category in March 2018, was thrilled to have the opportunity to compete in the Final of the Barnardo's National Choral Competition in London.

The Choir, comprised of 50 pupils from Years Five and Six, sang in front of an audience of more than 2,000 people. Head of Music, Mrs Keetley-Smith, said: "I am extremely proud of the dedication, hard work and talent of our children and their success in reaching the final of 'The Barnardo's National Choral Competition'. The standard for the competition was extremely high and to be selected as one of the top eighteen junior schools in the country is testament to the excellent Music provision we are able to offer at RGS The Grange."

The Choir sang their two audition pieces during the morning, then gave an impromptu performance alongside the River Thames attracting many local passers-by. During the evening concert they performed 'Journey to the Past' arranged by Audrey Snyder and joined in with 'Barnardo's' and 'World in Union' massed choir songs, concluding a rousing and uplifting evening of entertainment, whilst importantly raising thousands of pounds for Barnardo's Charity.

HANDS-ON SCIENCE FOR BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

The pupils at RGS The Grange immersed themselves in 'All Things Science' to celebrate British Science Week 2019, including the 4th Annual RGS The Grange Science Fair.

The 'hands-on' fun began with some spectacular workshops where all children from Reception to Year Six delved deeper into a variety of topics, from rockets, to dissecting lamb hearts. All children from Years Three to Six were required to produce a project over the course of the Lent term, with Years One and Two being optional. Each year there is a specific theme for the children to focus on, this year the topic was 'Life in the Future'.

As the projects began to find their way in to school it was obvious that the children had spent an incredible amount of time and effort on their creations. There were some fantastic ideas about how our lives would change in the future, ranging from projects from existing ideas like Elon Musk's Hyperloop transport system, to how technology in our houses will help us make healthier choices and keep us fully fit. From the class entries, finalists were chosen to be judged in the Main Hall as part of the RGS The Grange Science Fair.

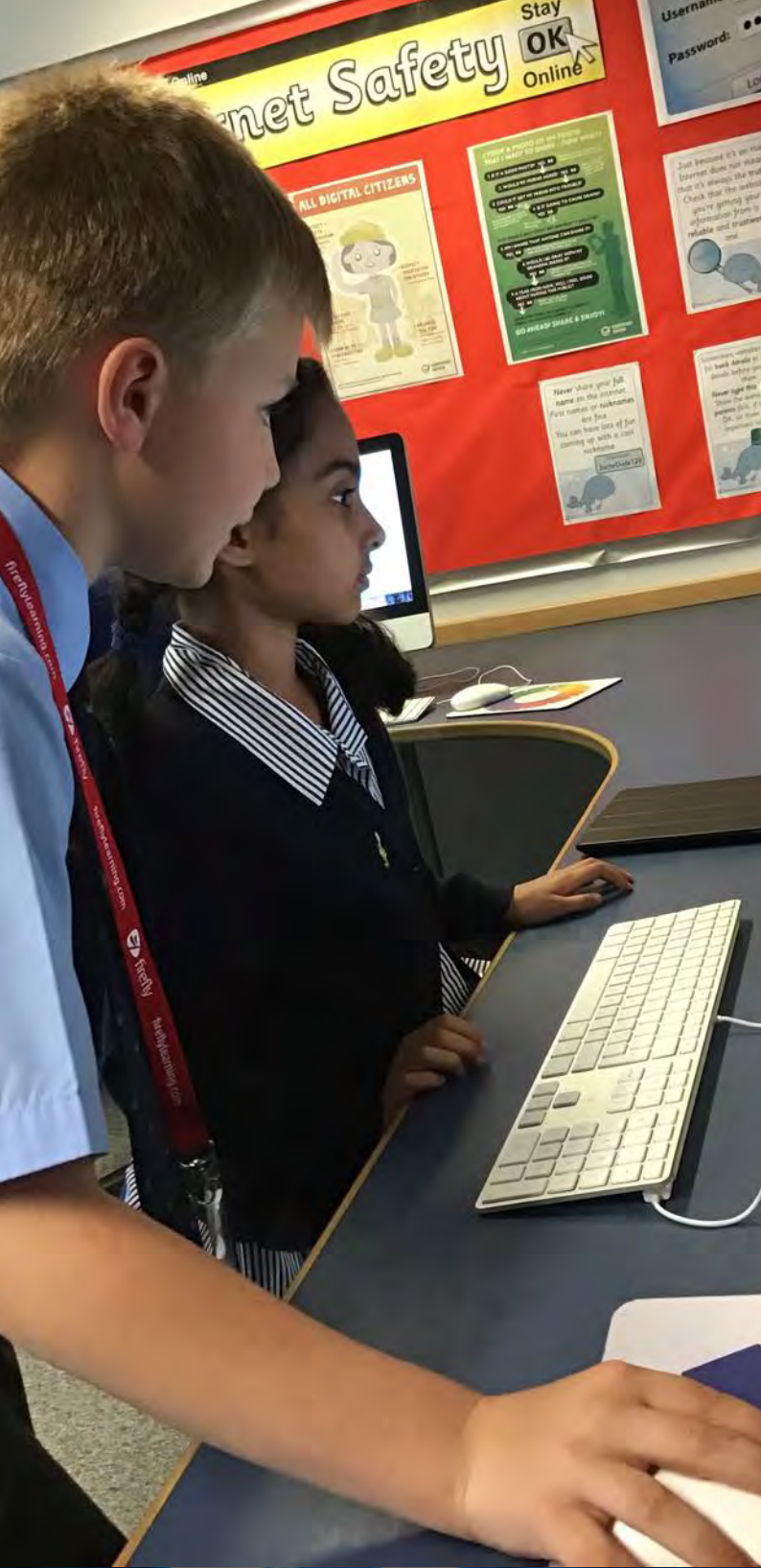
There was a real buzz throughout the School as everyone was left in awe at the work created by the children. Mr Stephen Flutter, who has been assisting with Year Six Science lessons this year, was left with the particularly daunting task of selecting the winners from each year group, and who would get the all-important House Points!



After much deliberation these were announced to a highly expectant audience the following week. The winners were:

- Year One – Ella with her 'Futuristic operating table'
- Year Two – Okinawa with her 'House in the future'
- Year Three – Holly with her 'House in the future'
- Year Four – Lily with her 'Futuristic bees'
- Year Five – Emily with her 'Hyperloop'
- Year Six – Hannah with her
'Future use and generation of bio-fuel'
- Best in Show – Connor with his 'House in the future'

A huge congratulations to all of the winning pupils, and thank you to Hands-On Science and Stephen Flutter for their tremendous effort in making the RGS The Grange Science Fair and our celebration of British Science Week 2019 a memorable and successful one.



NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL WORLD

Pupils from Year Four have been eager to take up the offer of the responsibility of becoming a Digital Leader within our School. The role of a Digital Leader is to help other pupils and teachers within the classroom.

The key roles for student Digital Leaders at RGS The Grange include:

- Supporting pupils with troubleshooting problems;
- Training younger pupils in the basics of using an iPad
- Delivering and raising awareness of online safety

Digital Leaders assist with our numerous Outreach events with local schools. Recently we welcomed Year Four pupils from Hindlip CE First School, St Peter's Catholic First School and Wychbold First School. The focus of the morning was to apply simple coding techniques to our bank of Sphero devices. We stood back and watched in delight as our Digital Leaders explained, modelled and inspired teachers and pupils alike. Earlier in the year our Digital Leaders were invited to a Computing Conference and took to the stage to explain to over one hundred teachers and leaders of IT why it is important to empower students. They shared the opportunities they have had this year and what impact it has had upon the School.

As testament to the leadership opportunities available at RGS The Grange a recent project which has gone from strength to strength is the 'Girls Can Code' Code Club. This project was launched by five inspiring Year Six pupils who wanted to give something back to the School. The idea was to set-up an exclusively girls-only club, as they felt this would benefit younger female members of the School.

Millie, Daya, Lily, Sophia and Rosie had the idea of launching their own club, as they wanted to encourage more girls to get involved and learn how to code. Rosie, who wants to be a Computer Scientist, said: "Code is part of my life. I like to Code, I do it as a hobby and it's fun!" The young ambassadors have all considered how they could use their coding experience in their future careers. The club has been a huge success and is a testament to the art of empowering pupils. They have learnt as much as the pupils they inspire within the sessions.





RGS
WORCESTER

RGS AT A GLANCE

Making the choice about your child's education is an important decision and we welcome you to come and visit our schools. This will give you the chance to meet our staff and you will gain a real sense of what makes an education at RGS Worcester special.

Parents choose RGS Worcester because of our welcoming atmosphere, strong academic profile, breadth of co-curricular opportunities and the unique environment.

Details of future Open Mornings along with up-to-date news stories are available on our website: www.rgsw.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you.

#worcesterisgreen



RGS Worcester
Fully co-educational
11 - 18 years



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

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

01905 613391 office@rgsw.org.uk

RGS Dodderhill
Girls Education
4 - 16 years



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

Situated in Droitwich Spa, Crutch Lane, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire WR9 0BE

01905 778290 dodderhill@rgsw.org.uk



RGS The Grange
Fully co-educational
2 - 11 years



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

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

01905 451205 grange@rgsw.org.uk

RGS Springfield
Fully co-educational
2 - 11 years



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

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

01905 24999 springfield@rgsw.org.uk

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www.rgsw.org.uk