



RGS

WORCESTER



“The respectful relationship between staff and students is reflective of an academic potential that promises to produce”
- The Good Schools Guide 2017

HEAD OF BIOLOGY

*Cherishing the past,
looking to the future*

Independent Day School
Boys and Girls
Aged 2 - 18 years

RGS Worcester

Introduction

The Royal Grammar School, Worcester is one of the leading independent co-educational day schools in the West Midlands. RGS Senior School has approximately 800 pupils aged 11 - 18 years, including a Sixth Form of over 200 students. There are a further 450 pupils aged 2 - 11 years in the two RGS Preparatory Schools, RGS The Grange (two miles north of Worcester City Centre in the village of Claines), and RGS Springfield (a two minute walk from the Senior School in Britannia Square). The Headmaster of the Senior School is a member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC), and the two Prep School Heads are both members of the IAPS.



History

RGS was founded some time before 1291 and lays claim to being the sixth oldest school in the world. The School has a rich history: RGS received its Elizabethan Charter in 1561 and was granted its 'Royal' title by Queen Victoria in 1869. From 1950 until 1983, the School was administered by Worcestershire LEA as a voluntary aided grammar school and the School reverted to independence in 1983. RGS became co-educational in 2002 and merged with the neighbouring girls' school, The Alice Ottley School, in 2007. The Senior School is now close to 50:50 boy: girl.

Facilities

RGS Worcester is situated a few minutes' walk from the centre of the City of Worcester and is convenient for rail and bus stations. The School's older buildings are mostly pre-20th Century and five of them have been listed by English Heritage, the most notable being Britannia House, built in 1730, and the ruins of a Cistercian nunnery known as Whiteladies, dating from c.1240.

The School has superb facilities, which include a refurbished Science Block, Language Laboratory, Library, Fitness Centre, two Sports Halls, Dance Studio, Lecture Theatre, Art Block, Design Centre, Performing Arts Centre, a full-size floodlit all-weather pitch and several pavilions. Some of the playing fields are close by in the city centre and there are 50 acres of grounds at RGS The Grange. The School has use of the local swimming pool and shares a Boathouse with Worcester Rowing Club on the nearby River Severn. All classrooms are equipped with IT facilities and there are four bookable computer rooms. Each member of staff has the use of a laptop computer and iPad.

The Governors have invested about £14 million in facilities over the last seven years.

Location

RGS Worcester is located in the northern part of Worcester and is easily accessible from the City as well as surrounding towns and villages. House prices in the area are extremely attractive compared to other cities and are equally favourable both as a first-time buyer looking for a flat or small house and those seeking a family home. There is also a strong rental market. For those looking to move out of London, Worcester offers considerable property opportunity.

Worcester is a vibrant and beautiful city overlooking the banks of the River Severn. The extraordinary Cathedral reveals the great history and tradition of the City and sits alongside modern shopping and leisure facilities. Worcester boasts extensive cultural activities and sporting life including the Worcestershire County Cricket Club ground in the centre of the City and Worcester Warriors' Sixways Stadium a few minutes drive away from the School.

The surrounding area offers the outdoors life with the Malvern Hills and many other locations for walking, cycling, canoeing, rowing and other outdoor pursuits. A few minutes out of Worcester, visitors find themselves in rural villages and surrounding countryside. With its excellent transport links to Birmingham and London, Worcester offers something for everyone and is certainly an extremely attractive place to work and live.

School Aims

The aims of the School are to reach a high level of academic achievement, to be a caring and civilised society within a well-disciplined environment and, by placing emphasis on a wide range of sporting, cultural and other activities, to extend pupils in as many ways as possible. Overall, the aim is to offer a balanced and challenging education, which will stand pupils in good stead in their future careers and within the community at large. Our School film ‘Worcester is green’ (available on our website www.rgs.org.uk, perhaps gives a flavour of our pupil-centred approach).



Curriculum and Academic Life

Pupils follow a common curriculum in Years

Seven to Nine. Normally ten GCSE subjects are studied in Years Ten and Eleven, the option arrangements allowing a wide choice giving a balanced curriculum which does not prejudice subsequent career decisions. Most members of the Sixth Form study four subjects initially and then take three or four subjects to full A Level.

The majority of Sixth Form leavers move on to Higher Education with the majority gaining places at Russell Group Universities or top 25 ranked Universities, including a number to Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Each year a small number go to drama, music or art colleges. Some students opt for higher level Apprenticeships with companies such as Deloitte, the BBC and Jaguar Land Rover.

RGS launched an innovative Digital Learning Programme in September 2014, which has introduced full use of iPads across all year groups at the Senior School. The Programme is an important part of the School's focus on Teaching and Learning and has been recognised by Apple, leading to RGS being granted Apple Distinguished School status.

Pastoral Care

The strength of the pastoral care system and the pride pupils take in their school are distinctive features of RGS, as is the excellent spirit of co-operation between pupils, staff and parents. The Form Tutor is an important figure in each pupil's school life, and there are eight Heads of Year who act as team leaders. The work of the Heads of Year is overseen by three Heads of Section (Lower School, Middle School and Sixth Form) who report to the Assistant Head (Pastoral). Immense care is taken over pastoral problems, and communication between staff and parents is frequent and constructive.

Co-curricular Activities

RGS Worcester prides itself on its co-curricular provision. RGS Music is extremely strong with thirteen different ensembles, and over fifteen concerts each year, including performances in major venues locally and nationally. The breadth of the co-curricular Music provision is unusual with concerts ranging from informal 'tea-time' events to large orchestral and choral performances. The School theatre is currently being refurbished as part of a £3 million pound project.

In Drama there are opportunities both for musical theatre and serious drama. The School has its own theatre along with other performance spaces and both Music and Drama are part of a vibrant Creative Arts Faculty.

In Sport, nearly 20 different sports are offered and a 'sport for all' approach sits comfortably alongside pupils achieving Regional and National distinction. RGS is currently ranked in the top 40 schools nationally. An ambitious Athlete Development Programme encourages pupils to aim high in their sporting pursuits and a vibrant House system provides competition in a wide range of activities.

There are many other opportunities for pupils including a large Combined Cadet Force (Army, Navy and RAF Sections) and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme for pupils from Year Nine onwards. A wide range of Academic Clubs and Societies is available and all pupils are encouraged to participate fully to develop their interests and enjoy a well-rounded education.

Admission

Admission is by the School's own examination held in January, mainly at 11+, but also at 12+ and 13+. Pupils are also admitted into the Sixth Form on the basis of Assessments, GCSE results and school reports. Academic Scholarships and means-tested Bursaries are available at 11+, 13+ and 16+. Art, Drama, Music and Sports Scholarships are also available at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

The Science Faculty

The Science Faculty is located in the Dyson Perrins and Clock Blocks of the School. There are 13 laboratories. Each is designed to meet the separate needs of the particular subject with specialist ICT aids and extensive preparation rooms.

The Biology Department

The Biology Department occupies the first floor of Clock Block. There are four well-appointed laboratories and a large Prep Room. The Department forms part of an academically strong Science Faculty. In addition to the advertised position, there are five Biology teachers and two dedicated laboratory technicians. The Department is both well-resourced and financed.

Curriculum

The Science Faculty delivers an accelerated KS3 combined Science course during Years Seven and Eight. From Year Nine onwards, subject specialists teach the Separate Sciences. At the end of Year Nine, the choice between the Separate Sciences programme of study and the Combined Science programme of study is made. Currently, the majority of the cohort follows the Separate Sciences programme of study. We have four sets undertaking separate Sciences in Year Eleven and three undertaking Combined Science. Years Ten and Eleven are streamed into two ability bands. For GCSE, the AQA Specification is delivered.

At A Level the AQA specification is used. The recent uptake at Biology in the Lower Sixth has been very strong and, on average, forty Lower Sixth Form students study Biology each year. A significant number of pupils are also entered for the Biology Olympiad with notable success at Gold, Silver and Bronze levels. Each year a pleasing number of pupils choose to read Biology, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry and Physiotherapy at University and the Department has a strong record of sending pupils to Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group Universities.

Results

Results at both GCSE and A Level are strong and rank amongst the best in the School.

Biology Enrichment

The Department provides significant opportunities to extend pupils Biology knowledge from Anatomy Club to a Field Course at the end of the Lower Sixth Year.



The Position

The successful candidate is likely to have a Biology degree along with experience of teaching to A Level and Oxbridge Level. The successful candidate will be expected to look for opportunities for ways of extending pupils across the secondary age range and build upon the success of the Biology department in recent years. We seek to appoint a candidate with excellent communication, leadership and management skills and a genuine ability in, and passion for, Biology.

Process of Application - Closing Date: 27 November 2017 by 8.00am

A letter of application, completed application form and Curriculum Vitae with the names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of two referees should be forwarded to the Headmaster, Mr John Pitt (office@rgsw.org.uk). All candidates invited for interview will be required to prove their identity and their entitlement to work in the UK, and the person appointed will be subject to an enhanced DBS check, Prohibition Check, Right to Work in the UK and other checks specified by the Department for Education and Independent School's Inspectorate.

Details of the salary will be available after interview and will reflect the importance of this post. Alongside a wonderful working environment all RGS staff benefit from the following excellent staff benefits:

- Teacher Pension Scheme and highly attractive employer contribution rates for the Support Staff pension scheme
- Free lunches during term time
- Private Healthcare with the option to add a spouse or dependant at preferential rates
- Significantly reduced tuition fees
- Free Access to an Employee Assistance Programme provided by Health Assured
- Occupational sick pay

Candidates wishing to discuss the post are welcome to email the Head of Science, Dr Howard Smith (hss@rgsw.org.uk)



The Governors of RGS Worcester are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service. Safeguarding forms part of the interview process.

How to find us

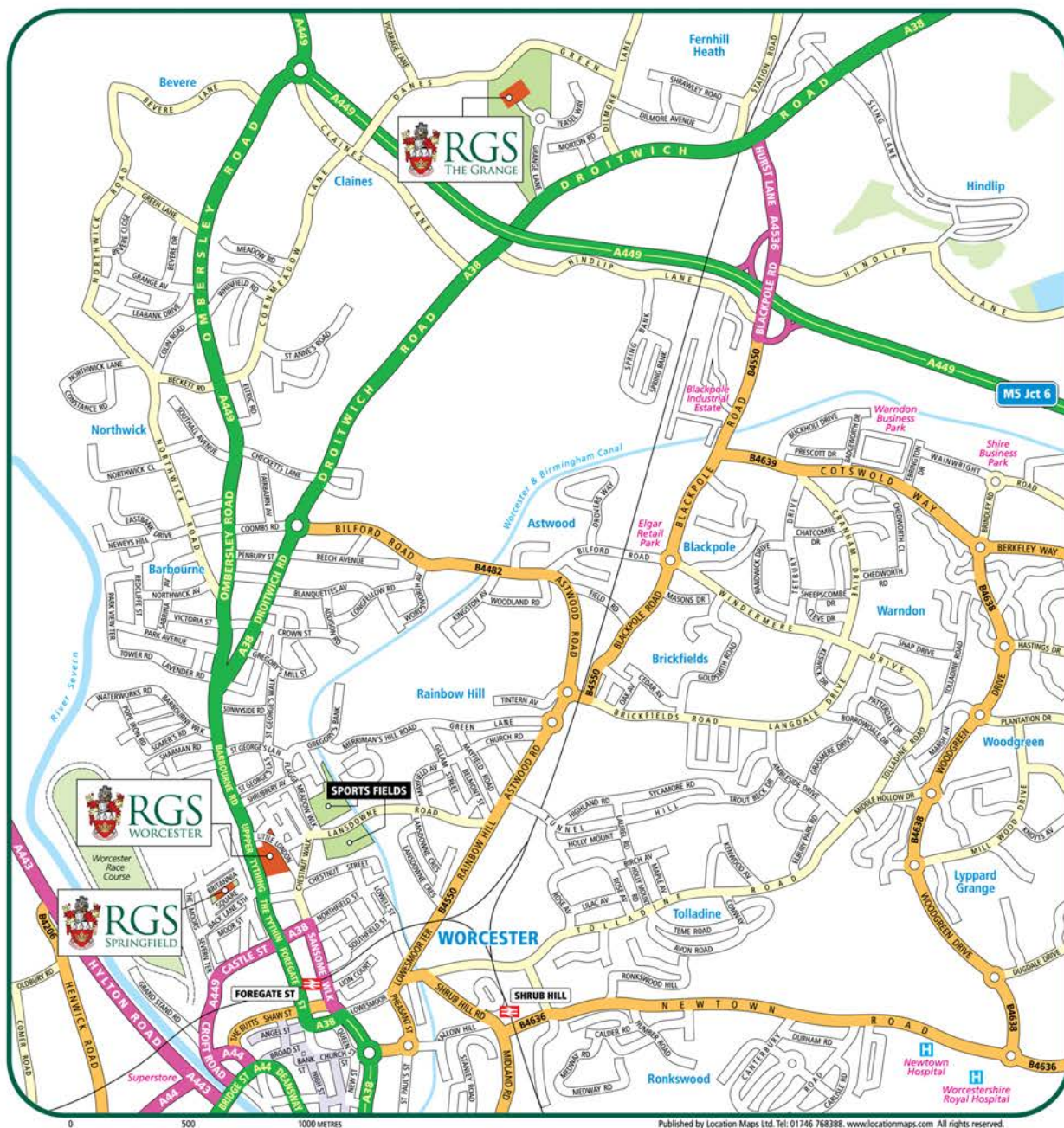
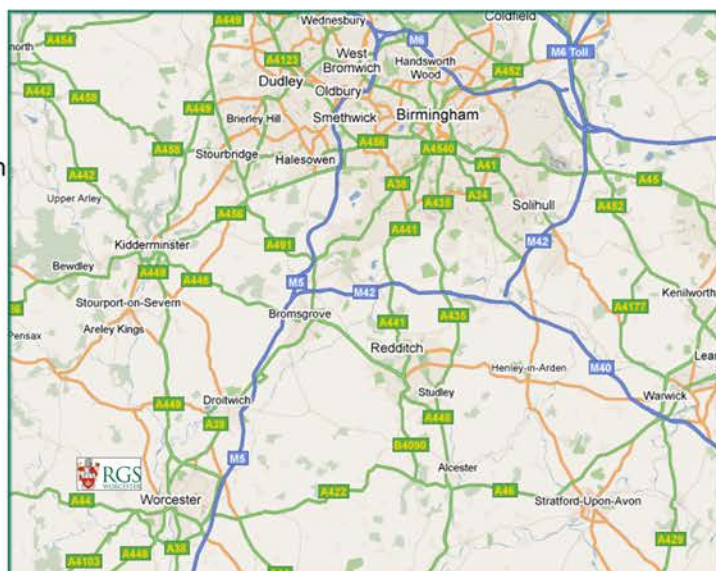
By Road:

The most direct route is via the M5. Leave at Junction 6 and join the A449. Travel through the first intersection until you reach a roundabout. Take the second exit into Ombersley Road, A449. Travel for 2 miles on this road which leads into Barbourne Road and then Upper Tything, A38. The entrance to RGS Worcester is on the left after the Little London turning.

By Rail:

The nearest mainline station is Worcester Foregate Street, which has a direct link to London Paddington and regular services to The West and West Midlands.

Exit the station and turn right. Keep to the right hand side pavement and follow the road out of Worcester for 5 minutes. RGS Worcester will be on your right hand side.





RGS

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