



RGS  
WORCESTER



## HEAD OF ENGLISH

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*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 230 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.

## 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, Theatre, 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 five bookable computer rooms. Each member of staff has the use of a laptop computer and iPad.

The Governors have invested about £10 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 very 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.

## 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.

Virtually all Sixth Form leavers move on to Higher Education with the majority gaining places at Russell Group Universities, including a number to Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Each year a small number go to drama school, specialist music colleges or art school.

RGS launched an innovative Digital Learning Programme in September 2014, which has introduced full use of iPads in all year groups across the Senior School. The Programme is an important part of the School's focus on Teaching and Learning.

## 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 six 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.

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. 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 February, 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 are available at 11+, 13+ and 16+, and means-tested Bursaries at 11+ and 13+. Art, Music and Sports Scholarships are also available at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

## The English Department

There are nine members of the English Department, including the Second in the English Department and the Head of Drama, who has overall responsibility for academic and extra-curricular Drama. The English Department is housed in a suite of rooms within the main School and classrooms are well-equipped with audio-visual facilities and extensive access to the School's computer network. There is a spacious departmental office containing a wide range of resources and teaching materials. The Godfrey Brown Theatre is the venue for the School's dramatic productions: plans for the re-development of this space have been drawn up and are awaiting confirmation. Recent productions have included "Fame", "Guys and Dolls", "Romeo and Juliet" and "Alice in Wonderland": the aspiration is to provide each year group with the opportunity to participate in a production annually.



The Lower School curriculum in English provides opportunities for the development of accurate, fluent writing skills and includes a wide range of reading for whole-class and individual use. In Years Seven and Eight pupils have a fortnightly reading lesson in the Library and a Reading Passport Scheme is in place to facilitate the development of pupils' individual reading skills and tastes. A Lower School Book Club meets weekly at lunchtimes in the Library. Pupils are encouraged to become independent and reflective learners. It is envisaged that the recent appointment of a new Head Librarian will facilitate further opportunities to increase whole school literacy provision.



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Pupils are taught in sets in English from Year Nine onwards. All pupils are currently entered for English Language and English Literature at GCSE and the Department follows the OCR Specifications for the reformed GCSEs, which will be examined for the first time in 2017. In the Sixth Form, students also follow the OCR syllabus in English Literature, which, in the specifications for the new reformed A Level, is assessed by both examination and a small percentage of coursework. English is a popular subject at this level, and the teaching in Sixth Form classes is shared between two teachers. A number of students proceed to university studies in English, including Oxbridge entry. The Literary Society provides many enrichment opportunities including theatre visits, study days and visiting speakers. There is scope to contribute to the enrichment of the curriculum at all levels.

Drama is taught as a compulsory timetabled subject in Years Seven and Eight, and in Year Nine it is offered as an option. At GCSE, Drama is a popular option and the AQA Specification in Drama is followed. In the Sixth Form students follow the AQA Specification in Theatre Studies. Many students are successful in gaining entry to prestigious Drama Schools and subsequently pursuing careers in the Theatre.

## The Position

Candidates for this appointment should have a good first degree in English, and should demonstrate a wide-ranging subject knowledge. We seek to appoint an outstanding teacher who is able to inspire in our pupils a love of the subject through dynamic classroom practice. The successful applicant will be capable of challenging the most able at the highest level whilst catering for the needs of those whose skills are still evolving. Candidates should also have the capacity to offer strong and clear academic leadership of a key subject area, whilst having the organisational and administrative skills to run a large department efficiently. Effective management skills are essential, and candidates will need to show that they have the personal qualities to inspire a diverse and experienced team of staff to maintain a consistent approach to the teaching of the subject. The Head of English is a member of the Curriculum Committee which drives academic development in the School. All RGS staff are fully committed to the life of the School, and are expected to have a pastoral role and to contribute to extra-curricular activities.

## Process of Application - Closing Date: 23 January 2017 by 9.00am



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](mailto: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 at interview and will reflect the importance of this post. RGS is a member of the Teachers' Pension Scheme and benefits include free private health insurance. Fee remission for children of teachers at RGS Worcester is available for both the Prep Schools and the Senior School.

Candidates wishing to discuss the post are welcome to e-mail the Headmaster, ([headmaster@rgsw.org.uk](mailto:headmaster@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.

## How to find us

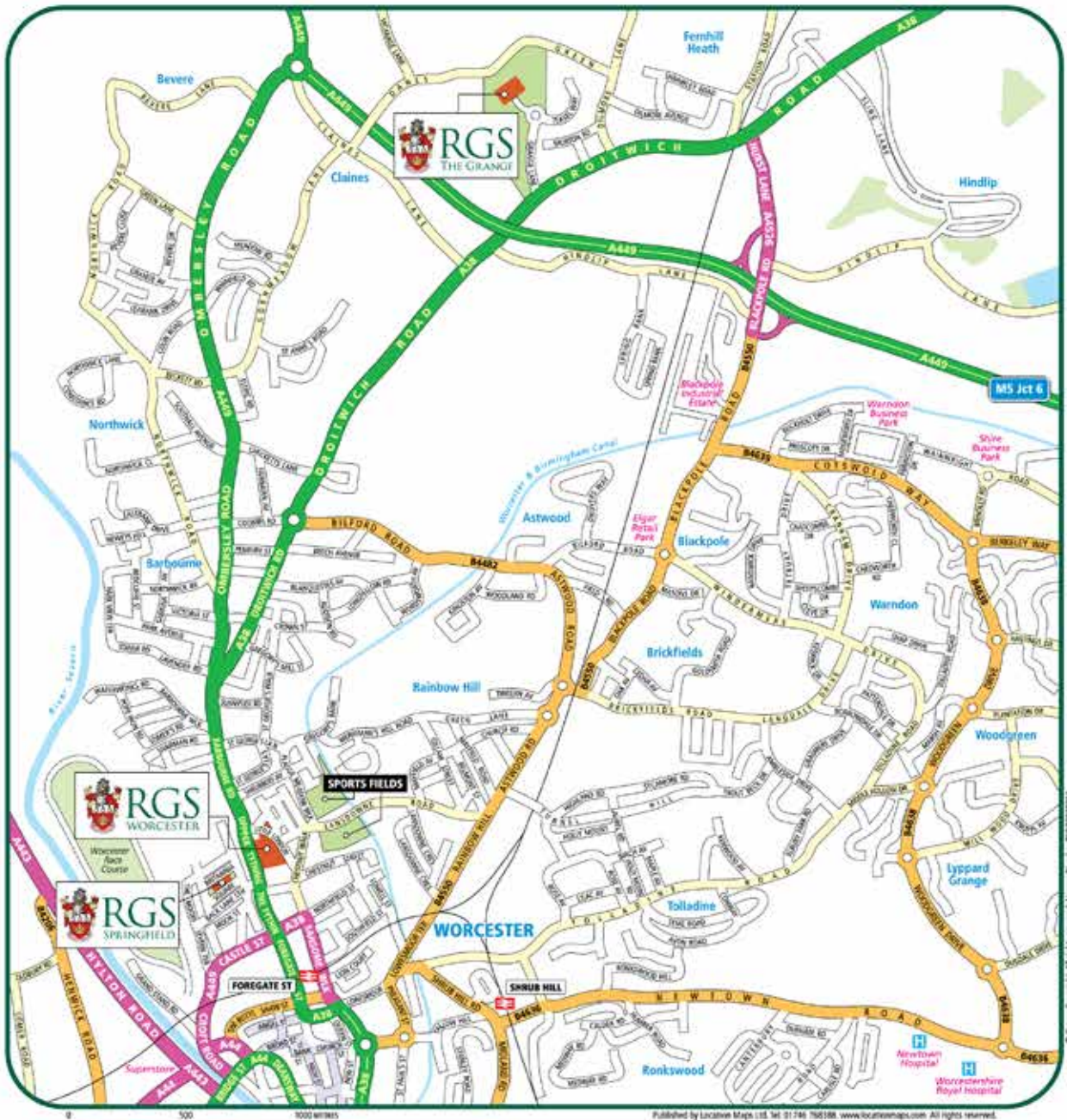
### By Road:

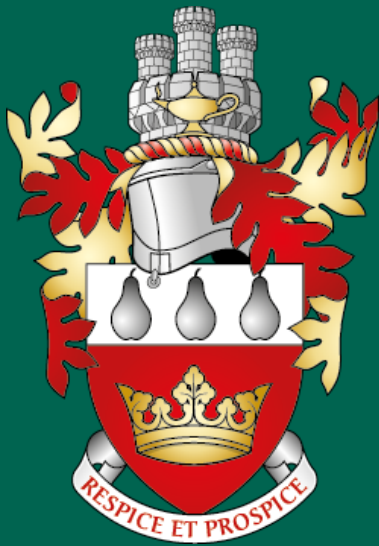
The most direct route is via the M5. Leave at Junction 6 and join the A449. Travel through the first intersection until you reach a roundabout. Take the second exit into Ombersley Road, A449. Travel for 2 miles on this road which leads into Barbourne Road and then Upper Tything, A38. The entrance to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

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