

RCGS

DODDERHILL



INDIVIDUAL. AMBITIOUS. EMPOWERING.



A beautiful country setting with small class sizes, a forest school and exceptional care for every pupil.

Prep School for boys and girls aged 2-11 years

Senior School for girls aged 11-16 years

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“Charming, wholesome and uncomplicated, this is a small school that thinks big.”
The Good Schools Guide

WELCOME

When we look for a school for our children we have to look beyond the outstanding facilities, the tranquil forest school, and the opportunities to excel at a wide range of subjects and after school activities. We look beyond the impressive examination results and links to The RGS Family of Schools which give the benefits of a larger school. We have to go to the most important thing: the feeling.

We choose RGS Dodderhill because, when we visit the School, there is a palpable sense that every child is seen, known and understood for who they are. This is a feeling for every pupil, whether they are sporty, academically talented, interested in the arts or have a love of reading, whoever they are they are celebrated. It is also a feeling for families who walk out of their cars and into a community centred on kindness and an excitement to be coming to school each day.

Although every pupil is required to do their best and achieve their full potential academically, we care about much more than exam results. At RGS Dodderhill, we focus on strong values and kindness to ourselves and

each other: we hold the door open for each other and smile to greet one another every morning. Alongside empathy and kindness, we look to develop soft skills such as teamwork and creativity through our bespoke curriculum and outstanding Co-curricular programme. Our girls and boys leave us ready to be the polite and courageous adults our ever-changing world is in need of.

Working closely within The Family of Schools allows RGS Dodderhill to share the greater resources of a bigger school. For example, pupils here take part in the award winning RGS Careers programme, share outstanding facilities including Worcester International Hockey Centre, performing in a massed choral event annually at Worcester Cathedral and singing major contemporary works within The Family of Schools. Also, our pupils have the security of moving into the RGS Worcester Senior School (Boys) or Sixth Form (Girls), if this is right for them.

The feeling of our School cannot be written in a prospectus. We would love to welcome you to our stunning site, so that you can meet our current pupils and staff, soak up the atmosphere and see for yourself the difference this School will make to your child.

Tom Banyard, Headmaster

ACADEMIC

We believe that academic success comes from having personalised help and support for every pupil. We do this through keeping our class sizes small and because we have a community where every child is known as an individual. We are ambitious for every pupil and we empower them to give their best in every subject. At RGS Dodderhill, we foster a spirit of 'I can'. Every pupil is on their own journey to success, focusing on their own progress and developing a growth mindset, so that they can commit without the fear of failure or comparison to others. We are blessed with outstanding, dedicated staff, who go out of their way to ensure that everyone is able to meet their potential. This allows us to host clinics and intervention groups where we feel pupils require that extra layer of assistance to reach their goals.

The academic results at the School speak for themselves. Pupils make exceptional progress, which leads to GCSE examination results being well above the national average. Our pupils regularly achieve Scholarships in a variety of subjects and leave with both strong exam results and the tools needed to be successful in their next stage.

We have invested heavily in our curriculum and teaching resources and we are proud to offer a broad and rich curriculum, so that pupils can follow their interests through the 16 subjects offered at GCSE. We offer the Additional Maths Qualification for gifted mathematicians, a double Art option with Graphic Communication and Art masterclasses for our most talented artists, sports leadership, and an extensive range of musical opportunities including ABRSM and Trinity exam board success often exceeding Grade 8. These run alongside a variety of extension and enrichment activities that form our Gifted and Talented Programme. We have exceptional support for pupils that find a subject difficult.

Whatever level our pupils are at, you can be assured that they will be challenged, guided and developed. We achieve this because pupils at our School have outstanding attitudes to learning. Behaviour is excellent. Pupils and teachers build honest and open relationships where they feel able to ask for help and able to be stretched. Our recent Ofsted inspection said that "Pupils enjoy coming to school [and] are highly motivated...When pupils find work difficult, they persevere. They do not give up," and "lessons are free from disruption".

"Small classes 'mean every child is genuinely known,' said a parent. 'If you put your hand up to ask for help, the teacher is there within five seconds, not 10 minutes like in my old school,' said a pupil."
The Good Schools Guide



CREATIVITY

The 'creative' subjects are for every pupil at RGS Dodderhill. Whilst some pupils will be stretched to become outstanding musicians, artists or actors, we focus on participation for all, just as much as designing pathways for those who are gifted and talented. At our School everyone has the opportunity to explore their creativity and to do so in whichever field they choose, at whichever level they are currently working at. This is a key part of developing well-rounded and successful young adults.

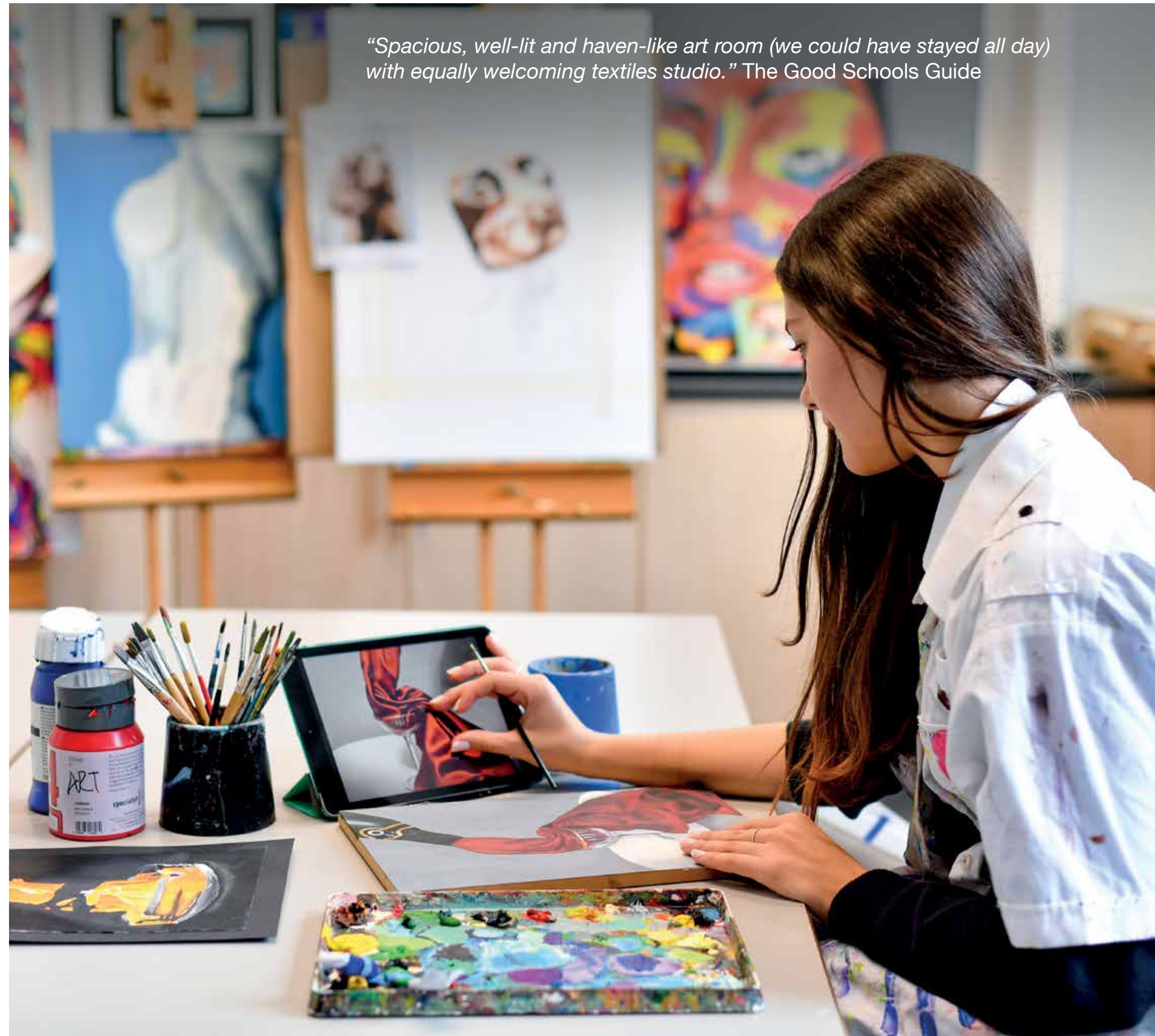
Music, Art and Drama can provide important opportunities for pupils to express themselves, to learn in a different way and to foster their ability to invent and create things for themselves. As well as this, performing or displaying pieces of artwork can develop confidence and self-esteem.

RGS Dodderhill has outstanding facilities to help develop and nurture creativity in all of our pupils. Our dedicated Music facility provides an excellent area for learning a wide range of instruments, while our pupils benefit from specialist facilities in Cooking, Art and Textiles. Our Choirs are award winning, and embark on regular and ambitious European tours, performing in some of the most prestigious venues in France and Spain.

We have recently added Drama to the curriculum to further support the students. Each year the School puts on several productions, including Nativity Plays, Prep and Senior productions, as well as whole school plays, and all pupils of the School are encouraged to be involved on stage and back stage, as well as performing in the orchestra alongside the Director of Music.

Art and Textiles classrooms are always busy and vibrant. These areas give our pupils the opportunity to experiment with different media and develop their own style. These subjects are very popular at GCSE and the pupils enjoy considerable success.

"Spacious, well-lit and haven-like art room (we could have stayed all day) with equally welcoming textiles studio." The Good Schools Guide





"I cannot praise the School, the staff and the setting enough. My son is so happy here and has previously attended other settings but none are comparable."
Parent review on daynurseries.co.uk

NURSERY AND RECEPTION

RGS Dodderhill Nursery and Reception provides a very special start to your child's education. We welcome boys and girls from the age of 2 and provide a stimulating environment in which every child can play, laugh and learn.

Early Years is the most magical start to your child's journey through RGS Dodderhill. Our youngest pupils benefit from purpose built indoor and outdoor learning spaces, fully equipped to ensure they are gaining the skills that set them up for success higher up the School. As well as our purpose-built classrooms, the children take full advantage of our seven acre site, enjoying our Adventure Playground, Forest School, Sports Hall and Music facilities on a weekly basis. Specialist teachers in PE, Forest School, French and Spanish provide additional opportunities that enrich the curriculum.

We take a truly play-based approach to the Early Years and children are introduced to the formal skills of reading and writing when they are ready. Through the outstanding ratio of adults to children and the beautiful learning environment, we can lay the foundations needed for success. There is little wonder why our Nursery is over-subscribed and why our children flourish when they transition to the Prep section of our School.

Our Early Years setting offers outstanding holiday provision, so that our children can enjoy our School all year round.

PREP

As our pupils join Prep, the emphasis is firmly on ensuring the happiness and well-being of every individual, and nurturing their unique talents. Through small class sizes, a broad and dynamic curriculum, and high academic ambitions, we seek to empower each pupil to develop confidence, emotional resilience and intellectual curiosity, essential for the development of a lifelong love of learning.

Pupils benefit from subject specialist teachers in the areas of Music, PE, French, Spanish, IT, Science, Cookery, Art, Textiles and Forest School. We are also passionate about digital literacy skills, with digital learning woven into the curriculum. As an Apple Distinguished School we embed the use of iPads into all areas of learning, maintaining a blended approach that combines cutting-edge technology with the best of traditional teaching. For example, while computing skills will be needed in the future, so will traditional literacy and oracy, so we make sure that our pupils have the opportunity to read aloud every day with our staff.

The later years of the Prep section is the time for challenge and academic growth and our pupils are stretched and supported to achieve across a wide range of academic areas. From Year Five we introduce a second Modern Foreign Language and we are particularly proud of our strengths in the Arts, Music and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects.

Our comprehensive range of Co-curricular activities means that all pupils are able to pursue their interests and to find new ones along the way. Our Lunchtime and After School Clubs include everything from Sailing to Wild Reading, Badminton to Orchestra. Pupils are encouraged to try activities that they may have never considered and when individuals excel, we are proud to support their development and participation at both national and international level.

“Small class sizes, the fact every child gets to read one-to-one with staff every day and specialist teaching in Art, History, Music, French and Modern Foreign Languages. Having a Prep School and a Senior School on site also gives pupils extra resources which is a big plus.”

Muddy Stiletto



“Strong work ethic comes with the territory - routines are embedded, aspirations are a given and pupils seem determined to do well.”

The Good Schools Guide



SENIOR

Why choose a girls only environment for your daughter in the Senior School? The pre-teen and early teenage years have always been challenging for young people. With technology and the rapidly changing modern world, our young adults have never needed more help navigating this journey. In a girls only environment with a small, close-knit community, we are proud to be able to offer incredible support to our pupils. This leads to more girls participating in Sport and Science, two areas which see a significant drop off in co-educational environments during these years. At our School girls thrive in STEM. More than this, having outstanding Pastoral Care and support can remove a lot of pressure and anxiety and allow our pupils to commit themselves fully, knowing that they will be supported every step of the way.

Choice is important and we are proud to offer 16 subjects at GCSE to allow every pupil to follow their passions. The highly experienced and qualified staff support girls that find some areas of the curriculum more challenging, whilst also extending those who are most able within the Gifted and Talented Programme. This is one of the reasons that we consistently see top grades in our GCSE results. We are proud to receive excellent feedback from the destinations our pupils progress to, who consistently praise RGS Dodderhill pupils for their confidence, empathy and resilience.

Alongside the high academic standards we set in the Senior Section, it is our aim to develop well-rounded and balanced young women who will achieve their full potential in all areas. An experienced team of tutors who know the girls well and look after their day to day needs are the first point of contact for parents. We run a comprehensive Form Tutor system with a robust and caring mentoring system, which gives pupils and parents a direct point of contact within school, as well as a new Pastoral Hub offering pupils a safe haven of tranquillity to offload and regroup with the Pastoral lead at varying points of the School day.

CLUBS AND WRAP AROUND CARE

As part of our commitment to developing confident, well-rounded pupils, we offer a diverse range of Co-curricular activities in which pupils are actively encouraged to participate. Each term there is a long list of activities on offer for pupils from Reception to Year Eleven to reflect the interests and skills of all pupils. In the Senior School, we actively encourage girls to build their resilience by opting to try new things on a termly basis and entice girls to venture outside of their comfort zone. Clubs throughout the School include: Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Choir, Chamber Choir, LAMDA, Debating, Coding, Orchestra, Strings, Musical Theatre, Gardening, Environmental Club, Additional Maths (FSMQ), Geography Club, History Club, Sailing, Netball, Cross Country, Tennis, Rounders, Hockey, Athletics, Mini United Nations, Horse riding and Dance. We review these every year so, if your child has an idea for a new club we will always do our best to accommodate it.

Wrap around care from 7.45am to 6.00pm is included within our fees. Before and After School Care, along with Homework Club, supervised by teaching staff, are popular choices for the pupils and allow for private study under the supervision of staff. A culture of study, and pride in homework is created with pupils enjoying the collaboration and sharing ideas after school. This, in conjunction with our extensive Co-curricular provision, allows pupils to thrive and grow, developing their independence.

“The School goes beyond the expected. There is an impressive range of Co-curricular activities, of the highest quality. They allow pupils to develop their talents and excel. Pupils appreciate these opportunities and make excellent use of them.”
Ofsted



*“Plenty going on here for the sporty-minded.
There is an impressive, fully equipped and
full-size sports hall, along with a good-sized
playing field and a netball court.”*
Muddy Stiletto



SPORT

All of our pupils play sports or commit to physical activity as part of our focus on healthy lifestyles. Not only is sport important for our bodies, but it is important for mental well-being and the development of essential skills such as teamwork and negotiation. What is more, Sport at RGS Dodderhill allows pupils to learn to win without arrogance and learn from mistakes in a supportive environment. We are also committed to giving as many pupils as possible opportunities to represent their School and we regularly qualify for national level competitions in many of the sports we offer. Whilst there are pathways for our talented sportspeople, every pupil will build confidence and friendships through sport and competition.

Sport is taught by specialist teachers to all pupils from Nursery onwards. Initially, core skills are the focus and there is a general introduction to all disciplines. Swimming is offered to all pupils up to Year Six to ensure they are proficient in the water. Fun sporting activities are also offered for those wishing to participate at a more recreational level in areas such as Dance and Keep Fit. Our annual Sports Day and termly House Sport competitions are a firm favourite with all pupils.

We also run a regular ski trip to Europe and our Cycling tour of Croatia is a popular trip for Senior pupils.

“As with all four RGS schools, Pastoral Care is the bedrock, intrinsic to everything.”
The Good Schools Guide



PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is essentially how we ensure that every pupil is known, cared for and supported to grow to their full potential. We pride ourselves on the outstanding Pastoral Care we offer all our pupils. At RGS Dodderhill, we have a strong sense of community where pupils, teachers and parents are respectful and supportive of each other and this creates an environment where pupils can take risks and commit to trying their best in every area of school life. Pupils regularly take part in Form assemblies, giving them the chance to speak in public on a wide range of topical issues which in turn, builds confidence. We meet and greet families in the morning at the School gate to start the day with a smile and to resolve any difficulties before the School day begins. Through this approach, our pupils become resilient, caring, and empathetic leaders and team mates who have the inner strength to persevere when faced with challenges. At RGS Dodderhill, we have a strong growth mindset focus, and our habits of learning are modelled by our Year 11 Leadership Team. Pupil personal growth is so important to us, and girls thrive in our *small but mighty* environment.

Our small class sizes ensure fantastic individual care for all our pupils. Our experienced team works together to get to know every pupil, which adds to the family feel we have across the whole school. Every member of our staff is committed to Pastoral Care and this is at the heart of our practice. We also benefit from a Pastoral Lead, Form Tutors, and School Nurse, who support the children with expert care and advice whenever they need a helping hand. In addition we have a School Counsellor for those times where life can become more tricky and an extra layer of help may be required.

MOVING TO RGS WORCESTER

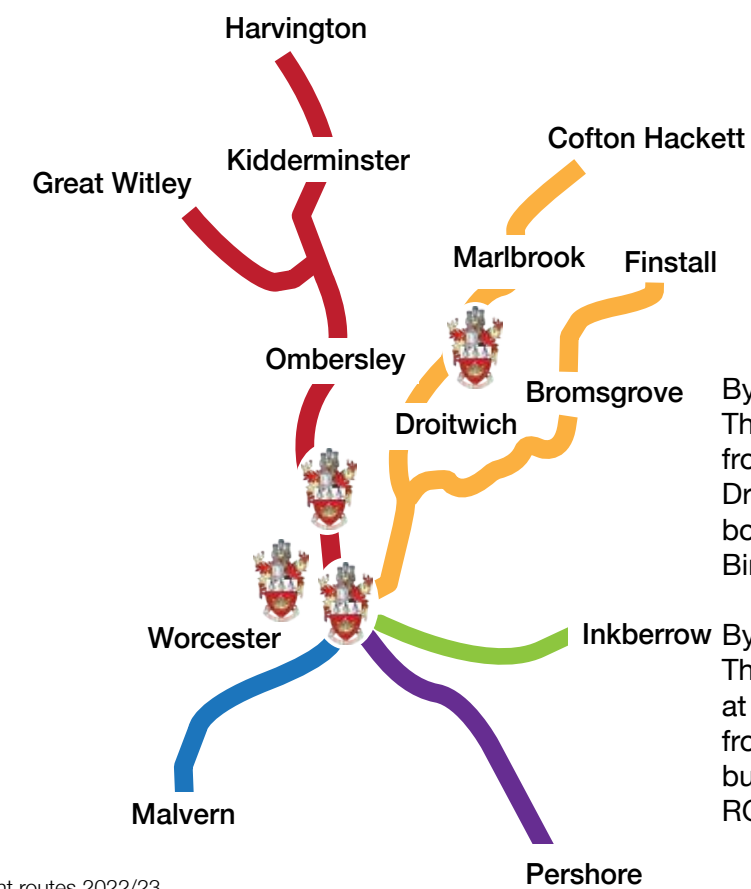
As part of the RGS Family of Schools, our pupils benefit from an extensive range of additional opportunities, but also the chance for a completely seamless transition to RGS Worcester at either Year Seven for the boys, or at Sixth Form for the girls.

There are many opportunities to visit RGS Worcester throughout their final year, along with a range of transition sessions for our pupils. In addition, the teachers and Key Stage leaders at both schools work very closely to identify the needs of each individual pupil ensuring that they are ready for their next step.

Opportunities at RGS Worcester are vast and pupils take a full and varied part in the School life, preparing them for the challenges of the modern world when they leave The RGS Family of Schools.

THE RGS WORCESTER FAMILY OF SCHOOLS TRANSPORT NETWORK

The RGS Worcester Family of Schools has a large transport network consisting of school buses run by RGS and staffed by school staff. These span throughout the West Midlands, and are available to all of our pupils across the four RGS Schools. Routes are monitored using a state-of-the-art transport app. In addition, we operate a regular shuttle service between our schools.



By car
The School is just 5 minutes from Junction 5 of the M5 and Droitwich Spa is situated on both main railway lines from Birmingham and Worcester.

By Train
The closest train station is located at Droitwich Spa, located 1 mile from our School. A school shuttle bus runs between the station and RGS Dodderhill.

Current routes 2022/23

CONTACT

RGS Dodderhill is situated on the outskirts of Droitwich Spa.

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