



RGS



Our Review

2023-24

Contents





Welcome	4
Head Prefect Reflections	6
Our Values	8
Junior School	10
Senior School	28
Results	62
Prizes	64
Leavers	66
Class of 2024	68
Old Novos	70
Events	72
Archive	76
Social Impact	78
School Photo Gallery	80
Staff & Governors	84

Headmaster's Welcome





It is with immense pride that I present this review of the Royal Grammar School Newcastle (RGS)'s academic year, which concluded in July 2024.

This has been a year marked by exceptional achievements across every facet of school life, and I am deeply proud of our students, staff and wider community for their contribution to making the past year such a resounding success. It was also a year in which we were awarded Independent School of the Year for the whole of the UK. While this accolade is tremendous, it really is not news to us that there is immense talent in the North East and our young people and school deserve national recognition.

Academically, our students continue to set a high standard, consistently achieving outstanding results that reflect both their talent and dedication. The 2024, record-breaking exam results were a testament to the commitment and resilience shown by our students, with notable successes across all disciplines. The depth of academic inquiry demonstrated by those completing their A-levels and GCSEs is a reflection not only of their personal ambition but also of the dedication of our teaching staff.

However, at the RGS, we are committed to the belief that education extends far beyond the classroom. This year, our pastoral care system has continued to ensure that each student is supported holistically, with their mental well-being and personal growth receiving as much attention as their academic progress. Our peer mentoring programme has continued to empower students to take responsibility for one another, further consolidating our strong, empathetic school community where every child feels valued and supported.

Our co-curricular achievements this year have been nothing short of exceptional. The performing arts department has once again set the standard with a range of productions that have captivated audiences, showcasing the breadth of talent within our school. From our musicals and plays to the music ensembles and choirs that have performed locally, nationally and even internationally, our students have demonstrated creativity, discipline, and a flair for performance. Sport continues to be a cornerstone of life at the RGS, with our teams achieving national success. Our sports programme not only develops physical prowess but also instils in our students the values of teamwork, perseverance, and leadership.

Beyond our own school gates, the Royal Grammar School remains deeply committed to making a positive impact in the wider region. We have strengthened our partnerships with local primary schools, providing mentorship opportunities and sharing resources to support education across the region. Our charitable initiatives have once again raised significant sums for local causes, with students volunteering countless hours to support both environmental projects and social initiatives aimed at tackling inequality. Through outreach programmes, including tutoring, leadership workshops, and community service, our students have developed a strong sense of responsibility and civic duty that I hope will continue to guide them in the years to come.

As we reflect on the year that has passed, we look forward to our Quincentenary celebrations with optimism and enthusiasm to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. I am confident that our community will continue to thrive, guided by the same values of excellence, integrity, and kindness that are the foundation of the Royal Grammar School.

Mr Geoffrey Stanford
Headmaster, Royal Grammar School Newcastle

Head Prefect Reflections

On ending their time at RGS, 2023–24 Head Prefects share emotional yet eloquent reflections of their time at RGS.



Imogen

I only had the privilege of attending RGS for Sixth Form, however, in such a short time it has come to hold a very special place in my heart.

It is not only sporting accolades and opportunities that add value to the school but also the incredible performances on the stage; it's clear how widespread and diverse the talent here is. One of my favourite things about RGS, is the way that everyone seems to have found their place.

The teachers all have a genuine investment in helping students to be the very best we can be, and their endless willingness to provide support in any way at all is what makes this school amazing.

There is something about the RGS environment that makes each of us feel like we really can do anything we like, be whoever we want to be and pursue whatever it is that excites us. This feeling is, I believe a rather unique one, and I urge all students to cling to and value it.



Henry

As my ninth year at RGS comes to an end, I'd like to share some lessons from my time at the school which I'll take with me into my further academic career.

Always say yes. If I have any regrets from my time at the RGS (of which there are very few) it's for things which I haven't done, rather than for the things I have done. This school gives you so many opportunities, many of which only pass you once, so grab them while you can.

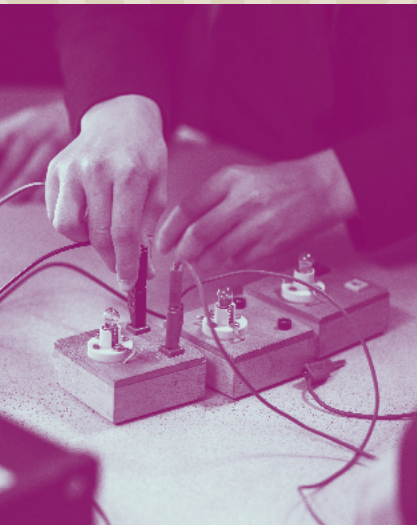
Never give up. The reality is that everyone will fail at something in life, for me an example was narrowly missing out on the F1 in Schools National Finals. Looking back, this setback was critical, had we given up, not wanting to risk failing again, then we never would have made it to the next two national finals.

Always be kind. In the words of Maya Angelou, 'people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel'. You never know the impact that what may seem like a tiny act of kindness will have on someone.

We are lucky. Whether or not you are the smartest or the fastest or the most musically talented, you are lucky to have the skills you have. Embrace your talents, seize all of the endless opportunities at RGS and the people you meet, make it count.

Our Values





Sense of Belonging

We value a strong sense of community and heritage, rooted in Newcastle for over 500 years. Respect, open-mindedness, and unity define us. We're connected globally and locally, working with our Tyneside neighbours to foster collaboration and citizenship. Belonging is about embracing our shared history and looking ahead together.



Love for Learning

Our passion for learning goes beyond academics. We encourage curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking, allowing learning to happen in unexpected ways. Challenges are part of the process, and we support one another through them. Love for learning here is about growth, joy, and the beginning of a lifelong journey.



Belief in Each Other

Trust and support form the core of this value. We believe in each other, celebrating achievements, lifting each other up, and building confidence. Together, we push through difficulties, knowing that success comes from teamwork and mutual care. Well-being and encouragement fuel our collective strength.



Ambition to Succeed

Our ambition drives us to innovate and grow. We take risks, adapt, and evolve with support from our community. Success is personal and looks different for everyone, but we challenge ourselves to reach our potential. Through ambition, we push boundaries and embrace the future with excitement.



Junior School





It's been another incredible 12 months at the Royal Grammar School Newcastle's Junior School! It has been a year full of fun, growth, and adventure, and I am delighted to celebrate the amazing achievements of our young "superheroes". Whether they were building, exploring, creating, or discovering, our students demonstrated the true "superpowers" that we hold dear in the Junior School: being *strong*, *able*, *calm*, and *kind*.

Strength in the RGS Junior School isn't just about physical ability—it's about resilience and individuality. This year, our students faced challenges with determination and bravery. Whether solving tricky problems in maths, tackling new sports on the field, or bravely delivering their first speech in front of their classmates, they have shown that strength comes from a willingness to keep trying, even when the going gets tough.

RGS Junior School students have also amazed us with their *ability*—showing off their creativity, intelligence, and curiosity at every turn and going all out to be responsible for themselves. From brilliant science experiments that had everyone gasping in wonder, to creative writing pieces filled with imagination and flair, the children have embraced every opportunity to learn and grow. Their enthusiasm for new subjects and skills is a joy to witness, and it's this energy that keeps our classrooms buzzing!

Calmness is another important power, especially in a busy school like ours. The children have learned how to pause, reflect, and approach tasks thoughtfully, showing impressive self-control and emotional awareness. In their mindfulness sessions, they've developed the tools to manage difficult moments, stay focused, and be their best selves even during the most exciting days.

Finally, *kindness* is the superpower that shines brightest at RGS Junior School. Whether it's helping a friend who's fallen in the playground, volunteering for a classroom task, or welcoming a new student, our children have shown compassion in everything they do. I couldn't be more proud of how they've built such a caring and supportive community.

It's been a wonderful year, and I'm excited to see what new adventures await in the next one!

James Miller,
Head of Royal Grammar School
Newcastle Junior School



Calm



Drop Everything & Read

Spiderman made an appearance on RGS's rooftop for #WorldBookDay, welcoming Junior School students as they all arrived in their pyjamas, each with a book for 'Drop Everything and Read'.

Everyone across the Junior and Senior Schools took 20 minutes to focus solely on reading a book of their choice, for the joy of reading.



Greek Day

Year 4 enjoyed a day of activities including creating a Medusa head, tasting food as well as making clay Greek vases and temples. Students created some fantastic masterpieces throughout the day, whilst immersing themselves in the culture of Ancient Greece.





Year 6 London Trip

Students enjoyed sharing some of the best bits of the annual Year 6 trip to London:

"I really enjoyed the boat trip and seeing the landmarks but also hanging out with Keren on the bus."

– Ellie D

"I loved London; My favourite bit was either Madame Tussauds or the River Boat Cruise, but I absolutely loved watching Frozen at the Theatre Royal!"

– Jamaima Q

"I loved Madame Tussauds because I saw Cristiano Ronaldo."

– Oritsé W

"I liked going to St. James Park and seeing all the birds."

– Cassius E

"I loved the food at Frankie and Benny's and loved watching Frozen!"

– Charles A

"The experience was AMAZING! I especially liked going to Madame Tussauds."

– Ambika V

"I loved watching Frozen and going to Madame Tussauds and taking pictures with different celebrities."

– Maryam A

Friday Cafés

We recognised each term's 'Guest Superpower' with a different theme during the famous 'RGS Friday Café's. This included a celebration of 'Love' during the week of Valentine's Day where musical pieces were interspersed with a short Shakespearean drama showcase; all families left feeling the RGS love.

A number of our young, brave and talented musicians played a variety of instruments, some at their first ever live performance with an audience of very proud families.



Storm the Therapy Dog

Storm, the RGS therapy dog, enjoyed her weekly visits to the Junior School as much as the children delighted in petting and fussing over her!





Lego Learning

Year 3 explored cause and effect models in computing, after seeing a real-world example of a cat flap.

They spent the lesson playfully exploring with Lego to solve code and the problems they were presented with. A very interactive session with lots of hands-on learning!

Parliament Assembly & Workshop

In a general election year, we thought there could not be a better time for our students to learn more about British democracy, with an assembly and workshop, where our children got to thoughtfully practice making a persuasive argument:

“I really liked the parliamentary workshop and particularly enjoyed the big debate at the end. I learned that in parliament there are two main parties: conservative and labour.”

– Anaya, 6L

“I thoroughly enjoyed Gillian coming into school. In assembly, she spoke to us about democracy, how UK laws are passed and where we can get our voices heard through local MPs. We all learned interesting skills and techniques and having debates (like they do in the House of Commons) was fun and exciting.”

– Tristan, 6W

“I liked learning about the House of Lords and the House of Commons where they make laws. My favourite part was when the Year 6 children acted at the front.”

– Vivienne, 3T

“

World Poetry Day & Shakespeare Week

Year 5 celebrated World Poetry Day and Shakespeare Week by looking at Shakespeare's ‘Sonnet 27’. They used their word detecting skills and investigated the meaning behind Shakespeare's vocabulary and learned about the ‘iambic pentameter’.

The students discovered that Shakespeare struggled with switching his mind off at bedtime even though his body was physically tired! Perhaps he wrote his Sonnet to help him find some calm.

Newcastle University Maths Challenge

George C, Yannick H and Krishiv S were calm in the face of what could have been an overwhelming challenge, participating in the Newcastle University Maths Challenge Awards. The boys had a great time and enjoyed receiving recognition for their excellent solutions to the challenge. What an amazing experience to remember, knowing they can conquer any new challenge no matter how big it may seem!



Spring Concert

Our Junior School musicians once again brought the house down! Our annual Spring Concert showcased a variety of fantastic ensembles, the culmination of dedicated rehearsals, from our orchestra and choirs, to brass and string groups.

This joyous event gave our young students an opportunity to take to the stage, which really brought out the best of their superpowers.

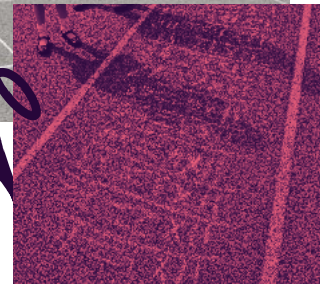


Able



Maths in the Sunlight!

Our young mathematicians enjoyed a mathletes session in the sun. The combination of times table recall, and sport really enthused the students.



Sustainable Art

Year 5 students took inspiration from Matt Rugg's work at the Hatton Art Gallery during their annual Art Day, embodying the *Able* value of creativity. Students then applied this inspiration to their own "Save the Planet" themed collages, using recycled materials. This project, in partnership with Art4, allowed our young artists to explore their abilities while promoting sustainability and environmental awareness—important elements of RGS's ethos of responsible citizenship.





Art Bytes Competition Winners

Miranda, Sophier and Jack were super proud of progressing to the national Art Bytes competition with fantastic pieces they worked hard to produce. What a thrill to see their masterpieces on display!

RGS Juniors are ABLE!

Two fabulous nights showcased the wonderful musical enthusiasm and talent we have in the Junior School, as well as demonstrating our love of coming together and having fun.

The final rendition of 'Eye of the Tiger' really raised the roof! Whilst there were winners for each category, each and every child made incredible progress in their singing and performance skills whilst preparing for these events.

Soloists

Maya S, Year 3

Tom T, Year 4

Miranda Z, Year 5

James B, Year 6

Year 3/4 House Choir

Collingwood

Year 5/6 House Choir

Eldon

Year 3/4 Small Vocal Groups

Collingwood

Year 3/4 Overall Winner

Collingwood

Year 5/6 Small Vocal Groups

Collingwood

Year 5/6 Overall Winner

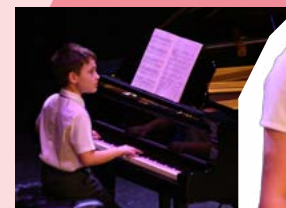
Collingwood



Strictly Able

Well done to Eldon who won the Junior School House Dance! Across two nights of performances, every student showcased their growth in dancing and stage presence.

Events like these exemplify our *Able* and *Calm* values, as students challenge themselves to perform while maintaining composure and celebrating the joy of music and movement – much like our team of staff who had also rehearsed an impressive routine!



Outdoor Education: cultivating real-world experiences

Outdoor learning is fundamental to our educational philosophy, aligning with our commitment to real-world experiences that enhance academic knowledge. Year 6's residential trip exemplified this, as students enjoyed the countryside while developing friendships and life-enhancing skills such as resilience and teamwork. The trip fostered not only outdoor adventure but also independence and personal growth – an experience that will remain with them for years to come.

Meanwhile, Year 3 had their first RGS residential trip similarly focused on nurturing independence, problem-solving, and creativity. They enjoyed catapult making, arts and crafts, shelter building, bushcraft skills, and communicating with walkie-talkies. The trip really boosted their independence and resilience, students showcased their *Able* superpower by working collaboratively and thinking critically, while developing their sense of responsibility.



Year 6 Art and Technology Day

Year 6's Art and Technology Day was a wonderful example of RGS Junior School's ethos of nurturing creativity and problem-solving. The children spent time with a very talented visiting artist, Julia Patton, and took part in a 'save the planet' themed workshop. Each student made a recycled rainforest bird card which was then sold at the RGS fair. Year 6 children also worked with RGS Robotics Teacher Dr Bunce, in a robot themed workshop, learning how to programme iPads to direct spheros to travel along a set route, showcasing how technology and art can intersect in meaningful, impactful ways.



Young Programmers: problem solving in action

Year 4 students showcased their *Able* superpowers throughout the year in computing lessons, honing their programming skills through hands-on problem-solving with LEDs, inputs/outputs, and coding sequences.

In small groups, they embodied the RGS ethos of perseverance, debugging code with determination and calmness, which prepared them for more complex challenges ahead.



Magical Mathematicians

Year 6 students harnessed their *Able* superpowers during the UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge. They demonstrated intellectual resilience as they tackled maths problems well beyond their age group. We are especially proud of **George C** who was invited to take part in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad. In addition, **Bruce L**, **Oorja C** and **James B** were all invited to take part in the Kangaroo follow on challenge. RGS Junior School celebrates not only academic achievement but also the courage and perseverance it takes to tackle new challenges.

5C and 5B investigated volume in maths, working out the best volume container for 279 pieces of popcorn, having been given 10 pieces to work from. They planned, designed and problem solved using lots of maths until it was time to test their calculations, and celebrate their success with a snack!

Meanwhile, Year 3 students got creative learning maths too. It was great to see so many children enjoying themselves and competing both athletically and mathematically in the inaugural Mile to Maths event. Our friends at Dame Allan's School made the trip across the Town Moor and we managed to dodge the showers to enjoy an Olympic themed event. All the children collaborated with new friends and completed a run, throw and jump event whilst practising their mathematics.

Pi Day !

Pi Day was an explosion of creativity for our Year 5 and 6 students, who engaged in activities inspired by the mathematical constant. Year 6 created circular art inspired by Kandinsky, while Year 5 constructed city skylines using the digits of Pi.

Their enthusiasm and willingness to stretch their imagination perfectly encapsulated the *Able* spirit. The day was a reminder of how maths, much like art, can foster creativity and innovation.



*“Their enthusiasm and willingness to stretch their imagination perfectly encapsulated the *Able* spirit.”*

Kind



Spreading Joy

To recognise Children's Mental Health Week RGS Junior School had an assembly focusing on how children could use their voice to create change, big or small. Students completed a handwritten gratitude letter to someone of their choice. Friends, family and many members of staff received a hand delivered letter which brightened their day.

Meanwhile, RGS Senior School students made friendship bracelets to think about how connecting with others can help positive mental health and a pop-up cinema showing 'The Emoji Film' allowed students to think about how taking thoughtful risks can help find out just what they are capable of.

Souji

Mr Miller issued each class with access to a carpet sweeper in recognition of 'souji' the Japanese concept of cleaning their own school. This initiative encourages personal responsibility and respect for shared spaces, cultivating a culture of care for one another and their surroundings.

Junior School students have enjoyed the responsibility of taking some time to tidy up any mess they have made, out of respect to those who do clean the school.





Art Takeover!

Our super able artist **Rae O-S** taught fellow students how to draw cartoon and realistic horses at one of our many clubs, 'Art Factory Takeover'. Horses are probably one of the hardest animals to draw but Rae explained it all in small steps!

Leading another session, **Celine G** shared her love of making fortune tellers. **Joseph M-R** may be in Year 3 but he channelled his inner teacher and taught everyone the wonders of origami, by the end of the session everyone had learnt how to make a paper boat and tank!

Online Safety at Home

Three of our Year 4 students, **Chrissy P**, **Hetty T** and **Matilda A** produced a most informative Online Safety at Home booklet. Not only is it very accurate, but funny too with some fantastic illustrations.



Ali's Ultimate Map

Sharing more knowledge, **Alessandro B** from Year 5 worked very hard to create an absolutely brilliant world map. His work is incredibly detailed and accurate, and very much appreciated by his classmates.

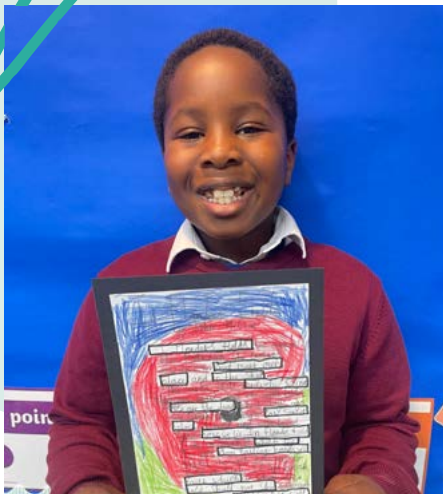


Inspiring Stories

Junior School students were lucky to have a visit from popular author Annabel Steadman who has spoken to audiences all over the world about her award winning 'Skandar' series of books. Our inspiring guest author shared her journey to where she is now and how she comes up with her story ideas, before capturing the children's imaginations in a group activity.

It was a thrill to also welcome Jenny Pearson, author of Operation Nativity, The Incredible Record Smashers and The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates.

Students were amazed when Jennifer Killick visited to unveil the cover of her latest book in the Dread Wood Series, 'Terror Tower'! What a thrill for our students to be the first readers to see it!



Remembering D-Day

Year 3 went back in time to D-Day to mark the 80th anniversary of this important historical event.

One student, **Joseph M-R**, shared some of his family history showing a photo of his Great-Great Uncle Eddie who was there on the beaches of Normandy on that momentous day. He was part of the 50th Northumbrian Division that landed on Gold beach 80 years ago. Students wrote a moving, class poem about what they learnt.



Please, Sir, I Want Some More...

Our incredible Year 6 pupils dazzled both on stage and behind the scenes in the spectacular musical *'Oliver!'*.

The audience's thunderous applause was a fitting tribute to the tremendous effort and dedication exhibited throughout our rehearsal period.



Strong

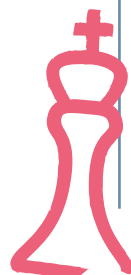


Just Keep Swimming

Year 6 swam with style and stamina in the IAPS Swimming Gala against St Peter's, Boothams and Dame Allan's in our RGS pool. Students demonstrated their strong and able superpowers, taking part in not one, but two national finals within a week!

They travelled to London to swim in the Olympic pool as part of the IAPS Finals. Everyone was amazing and they worked hard to improve their qualifying times in the relays. Two notable performances were from **William P** and **Yannick H**, who both swam in individual races, finishing 13th and 6th respectively. **Amelie** also took part in the para-event, which was inspiring to watch. The following Saturday, four boys in Year 5 and Year 6 went to Sheffield, this time to swim in the ESSA National Primary Championships, finishing 5th overall in the medley, and 14th in the freestyle relay.

Chess Megafinal !



RGS Junior School pupils participating in our local Chess Megafinal all did an outstanding job! **Ethan R** won the Under 12 tournament and **James P** closely secured second place. **Ellie D** won the trophy for the best Under 11 girl. **Duc D** was joint winner of the under 8 section, and **Sophie C** won the trophy for best girl. All had a 'mega' time!

My Mistakes Teach Me

One of our proudest moments of the year may be Year 4 **Arianna C**'s poster 'My mistakes teach me'. We can't agree more, well done for sharing the 'Strong' Superpower. We are resilient. We are RGS.



RGS Chess Club Tournaments

Students flexed their chess braincells at our annual chess tournaments, playing one game a week for seven weeks.

Ethan L won the Monday Year 3 tournament with an unbeaten record! **Anya J, Kabir, Hugo, Celine** and **Raymon** all performed very well. The Friday Year 3 tournament trophy was awarded to **Matthew M, Duc D** was clear second with **Sophie** and **Tim O** showing great resilience.

The Year 4 tournament was won by **Hugh P** with a perfect 7/7. **Orlando W** and **Ajooni G** were joint second, **Charlie J** and **Allan** both gave strong performances.

Terrence S won the Year 5 tournament, **Albert G** was outright second and **Kush P, Ishaan P** and **Avi C** all shared joint third place. **James** and **Jamie B** were both committed participants.

The Year 6 tournament was won by **James P** with an unbeaten series of games. **Bruce L** and **Ethan R**, took second place. **James T, Yogam V, Ethan J, Miguel C, Yannick H, Krish A, Kai D, Aayur** and **Oliver** should all be super proud of their calm and steady performances.

Where Did You Get That (Christmas!) Hat?

Our now legendary RGS Junior School Christmas hat competition was another festive success! We were truly amazed by the children's artistic skills and creativity as giant snowmen, full nativity scenes, pigs in blankets and igloos galore appeared in our hat parade. The Junior School art teachers all had the very tricky job of judging the hats and after much deliberation chose:

Year 3

Katy B, 3D

Year 6

Bea W, 6L

Year 4

Rocco R, 4LW

Staff entries

Miss Whitney

Year 5

Henry M, 5C



Shooting Hoops

Our sports halls were taken over by a Year 6 Basketball tournament, as we welcomed 10 local schools to play against each other.



Year 3 Healthy Smoothies!

Our students in Year 3 had a BERRY good time in Design Technology lessons in the RGS teaching kitchen making their delicious fruit smoothies!

From taste-testing pineapple to kiwi, passion fruit to dragon fruit, to planning and designing their healthy drink, they went BANANAS for their very own delicious mocktails.



Gymnastics

Our Year 3 & Year 4 mixed team became County Champions, with the Year 5 & Year 6 team being placed second. All gymnasts were amazing and performed to a high standard within a field of 111 gymnasts from across the county.

Well done to everyone who took part:

Year 3 & 4 Team

Elena C (3T), **Yasmin E** (3T), **Noah J** (4MH), **Ava L** (4MH), **George S** (4MH) and **Cecily S** (4LW)

Year 5 & 6 Team

Sophia S (6L), **James B** (6B), **William P** (6B), **Jason L** (5B), **Anaya K** (6L) and **Mohitha B** (6W)

Open Competition

Hollie L (5C), **Imogen H** (5M), **Millie M** (6B) and **Freya S** (6B)

RGS Junior School's under 11 boys ten went on to succeed at the Floor and Vault British Gymnastics National Championships, being crowned NATIONAL CHAMPIONS! Is there nothing our amazing students can't achieve?!



The Great Outdoors!

Year 4's residential trip to Patterdale Hall this Spring was a big adventure for our students. Keen explorer, **Cecily S**, reported back on her highlights from the trip:

“When we arrived I felt so excited because it was huge, I could see children doing lots of different fun activities in the forest. I couldn't wait to get started!”

“Our first activity was canoeing on Ullswater, the lake was much bigger than I expected – you couldn't even see the other side! We attached two canoes together side by side with a plank of wood to make it more sturdy, then learnt to paddle and turn.

“We all had a delicious dinner together and then had to work in teams to clear up. Once it had gone dark we took our torches outside for a night time treasure hunt. Next we did archery which I loved and managed to hit the target. TOP TIP: don't pull the bow too far back but just pull it to the top of your smile.

“Our final activity was bush craft where we made habitats for small animals and learnt how to make fire to bake our homemade bread.”



A remarkable year of achievement and growth

In every activity, trip, and lesson, RGS Junior School students have demonstrated what it means to be *Able, Calm, Kind, and Strong*. Whether creating art, solving mathematical puzzles, building shelters, or swimming in national competitions, the students have showcased their talents while embracing the school's core values.

This year has not only been a celebration of academic success and creative exploration but also one of personal growth, friendship, and responsibility. At RGS Junior School, we are proud to nurture the well-rounded individuals who will go on to shape the future with confidence and compassion.



Senior School





21

Sense of Belonging



Roll of Honour

We were proud to unveil two new plaques on our Memorial Organ for Remembrance Day. They contain the names of 17 Old Novocastrians who were not previously commemorated on our Roll of Honour. For the first time this includes two individuals who died on active military service since 1945. We also launched our new digital Roll of Honour, available to search on the RGS Archives Catalogue. For the first time this contains information on those names from the Second World War Roll. We are incredibly grateful to our Old Novo community for all the help and support they have given to this project, it means so much to the school.



RGS Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: RGS culture week

A group of passionate pupils formed the student EDI Committee at RGS, with the vision of educating and empowering their peers on the importance of equality and equity, diversity and inclusion in society.

The students and staff organised a week-long, vibrant celebration of the range of world cultures here at RGS, celebrating our community's diverse backgrounds and ethnicity. Staff and students alike were blown away by the participation throughout the whole week.

Kicking the week off with stalls, from saree draping to calligraphy in different languages as well as the outdoor game Kho, which was played in PE lessons later in the week following students' request.

The movie screening piqued the interest of many and the cultural food menu throughout the week in the dining hall excited students each day as they tried new flavours from around the world.

The dance show towards the end of the week was a big hit, with a bustling crowd of students supporting the amazing dancers with styles from different nations, including a group from the Junior School. Friday saw a traditional Agora Gig, but with a cultural twist, with music from Colombia, Sudan and India being performed; including a performance by our school's Ceilidh Band.

Friday also saw the cultural non-uniform day, creating a lively, colourful atmosphere as students showed their pride for their culture, with many students sharing clothes with their friends, allowing everyone to take part and share in the excitement.

The support shown by the student body of these performances highlighted the success of the week and the impact it had on everyone involved.



RGS Therapy Dog

As part of #MentalHealthAwarenessWeek we introduced the latest member of RGS, our school therapy dog, Storm. Pets As Therapy (PAT) is a national charity that enhances the health and wellbeing of thousands of people in communities across the UK.

All pets who are enrolled in the scheme are temperament-assessed and are accompanied by a qualified volunteer. Storm spent time with staff and students in both our Junior and Senior Schools on a weekly basis. Our students have quickly fallen in love with Storm, who provides companionship, encourages positive social behaviours, enhances self-esteem, motivates speech and inspires school children to have fun.

RGS Rewards!

We launched the first of our 'Rewards' House assemblies, as a celebration of our school values! Each of the four Houses came together to fill different locations across the school, to recognise the top student, per year group and per House, who had accrued the most merits for each of the school's four values:

Sense of Belonging **Belief in Each Other**

Love for Learning **Ambition to Succeed**

Students with the most merits appeared on a wheel of fortune, with the final lucky winners securing coveted prizes including early lunch passes, chocolates, and a (surprisingly) popular broccoli!

#NeurodiversityCelebrationWeek

In a highlight of our neurodiversity celebration week, Alex Partridge, founder of Unilad, Ladbible and the chart-topping ADHD Chatter podcast, captivated RGS Senior School students in an extended assembly.

Alex shared his journey to being diagnosed with autism and ADHD. He gave insights into his early experiences of anxiety at school and dealing with over-stimulation, as well as his helpful revelation that 'masking' to hide who he really was affected his self-esteem and consumed his energy.

"A day spent trying to not be yourself is a day wasted, just be yourself!"

Despite many years wondering why he was different and trying not to focus on the negative stereotypes attached to neurodivergence, Alex has since found comfort in the validation of his diagnosis. Learning to refocus on his vast number of individual strengths, from resilience to spotting patterns which others miss, spring boarded his creative career including launching the chart-topping podcast 'ADHD Chatter'.

"The moment I stopped trying to fit in, was the exact moment I started to thrive."

Alex went on to a small session with a select group of students, to explain how he now manages his personal organisation to maximise productivity, giving real-life hacks which he may have previously felt ashamed to reveal. Everyone left with a better understanding of themselves and others, and the message that our community thrives when we have different types of thinkers.



Connecting with RGS History

The annual RGS Founder's Service at Newcastle Cathedral connects Year 7 students with the nearly 500 year history of the RGS. For a largely secular school, where we celebrate the diversity of those of all faiths and none, whatever personal faith our students may or may not have, it's important to be able to engage with, to understand and to be tolerant of the faiths of others.

A member of the congregation emailed afterwards:

"The Founder's Service was absolutely incredible. All the symphonia, brass ensemble and intermediate choir all joined together to create an amazing performance in front of all of Year 7 and several classmates. The Headmaster and many others made speeches about the RGS's history and how it was formed. And then there were points when we played songs such as jubilee deo canon which the Intermediate choir sung to. All the music was played spot on even though some of it was complex. All the music was beautiful, and all the audience was entranced by the whole thing. I think the whole thing was a complete success and we should do things like it again."



Olympic Endeavour

In July the RGS community came together to celebrate Old Novo Kate Waugh's tremendous Olympic debut as she finished 15th in the women's Triathlon. Thank you to everyone who joined us to watch the race unfold live from the 2024 Paris Olympic alongside Kate's friends, former teachers, and fellow Old Novos.

There was an electric atmosphere in the Agora as Kate crossed the finish line and cheers from the crowd as her Team GB team mates Beth Potter won Bronze, and Georgia Taylor-Brown finished 5th.

It was great to welcome BBC Radio Newcastle, BBC Look North, ITV Tyne Tees and Hits Radio North East to the school to capture the atmosphere and speak to Angela Ponton, Director of Sports at RGS, about her memories of Kate as a dedicated and determined student.

We are immensely proud of Kate, who is a truly inspirational Novo for our students – especially those who want to follow in her footsteps.

Holocaust Memorial Assembly

To recognise Holocaust Memorial Day we welcomed Deanna Van der Velde to share the story of how the freedom and rights of her family in the 1930s, along with thousands of other Jews, were gradually taken away from them. Students listened intently to her description of how citizenship was stripped, businesses were boycotted and lives were torn apart, as Deanna encouraged our students to think about the experience of Jewish children in Germany during the Second World War. Joining us as Mother of two Old Novocastrians and whose parents married at the Jewish Synagogue just down the road from RGS on Eskdale Terrace, this gave a relatable perspective from within our community as to the scale of the impact and the fragility of freedom.

Swimwear for All

Our latest initiative has been reviewing our swimwear provision to ensure swimming is as accessible as possible to all students.

New items have been added to our sports kit list, stating that burkinis and hijabs are a recognised part of our uniform alongside swimming costumes, trunks, shorts and triathlon suits.

Similarly, we have introduced RGS 'SoulCaps' for students who need to keep afro-textured hair (and other hair with volume) dry. These additions are in keeping with our gender-neutral uniform, catering for different preferences and celebrating different cultures in our school community.

International Women's Day

From Stowell's House assembly, capturing inspiring female figures in our students' lives, to an International Women's Day (IWD) themed Agora Gig, we celebrated this most important of international days. Students also wrote personal poems and filmed a video for their peers. There was a powerful message delivered in assembly, by one of the first cohort of girls to walk through the Eskdale Terrace school, when the school became co-educational back in 2001. Helena Strettle-Davis shared her RGS experience and beyond:

"I didn't appreciate how much the next two years in RGS Sixth Form would shape my entire life. Crucially, how my experiences, as a minority at that time, would set me up for a world of work in ways I could not imagine. As individuals, it is vital we recognise and confront inequality, to create a world where acceptance and empathy triumph over division. So here at school, and in any walk of life, be a cheerleader for anyone you see on the outside."

"Welcome them in. Celebrate their difference. Let's make being unique, or, otherness, the norm here."

Agora Gigs

The termly Agora Gig displayed a wide variety of music and skills ranging from solo pieces to band performances. At every gig, a crowd gathers in the Agora to listen to our brave musicians get on stage and perform the piece of their choice. This year, we have had several genres of music as well including pop, rock, classical and even musical numbers. A highlight of this series would be the Culture Day Agora Gig where we had music and dances from several different countries representing the wide variety of culture in the RGS. Whether you are joining the crowd or just passing by, these gigs are always there to provide a bit of entertainment and joy as music is something we all love. These performances provide an opportunity for anyone to perform in an informal setting and next year, we hope to see even more new talents emerge!

Senior School House Music

After weeks of rehearsals and heated soloist competitions, Senior House Music landed. Incredibly talented musicians from all four houses: Eldon, Stowell, Collingwood and Horsley competed in three unique parts of the competition – House solos, ensembles and finally House shout.

The House soloists were first, and the talent was unfathomable! In the Year 7 and 8 category, Eldon house won, in the year 9 and 10 category, Eldon house won a second time and in the Year 11 to 13 category, Collingwood house won. There was an amazing, diverse range of musical genres displayed by the soloists, which the crowd loved!

Up next was the House Ensemble – each group performed unbelievably, with Stowell's Ensemble winning with a fantastic rendition of Counting Stars by OneRepublic. To conclude an amazing evening, we had the renowned House Shout, in which performers from all year groups across the school come together and sing a song for their House. Eldon won the house shout with an incredibly engaging rendition of 'I want you back' by Jackson 5.

Overall, Eldon won the competition, however, I think it's safe to say all who were involved will definitely be performing next year!



Spring Concert

The Spring Concert yet again exceeded expectations. The evening started with the Senior Wind Band warming up the crowd with two excellent Mexican inspired pieces, which set the fast-paced concert into action. The guitar ensemble continued the Mexican/Spanish theme with a four-piece display of excellent dexterity and timing, and the Ceilidh band brought us back to the British Isles with an excellent stringed instrument display (and the Northumbrian pipes thrown in for good measure!).

The blast from the past element of the performance was provided by the Brass ensemble, with performances of 'Oom Pah Pah' (from Oliver) and 'Imagine' by John Lennon. The intermediate and senior function bands were excellent as always, adding a more modern dimension to the show, with performances of 'Valerie' (by Amy Winehouse), 'Rolling in the Deep' (Adele) and 'Butter' (BTS).

However, the star performance of the night was the Barden Fellas, a senior acapella group, that blew the audience away with a beautifully harmonic sea shanty medley. Thanks to all the staff and students who made this possible, with particular mention to the Upper Sixth students for whom this was their last ensemble performance. We are looking forward to next year!

Behind the Scenes

The Senior School musical was a spectacular! 'Anastacia' combined dance, drama and music. An upper Senior School cast transported its audience from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s. As with every production at RGS, the intention is always to provide an opportunity for all students to explore their interests and skills. Fantastic shows like this wouldn't happen without all the tireless work behind the scenes, so a shout out to our stage crew, wardrobe assistants, set designers and pit musicians who helped bring the vision to life through realistic costumes, dramatic lighting, captivating sound and theatrical stage scenery.





RGS' Big Festive Sing

As always RGS radiates the warmth of our school community through our annual singing Christmas card, however this year had an even extra special dynamic...

The mighty 'Kat's Chorus' (led by the formidable Mrs Clappison) spread its wings beyond the RGS school gates in this year's unique Christmas collaboration. A partnership which has blossomed over a number of years between RGS and nine primary schools in the west of Newcastle (the Outer West Learning Trust), sparked the genesis of the 2023 Big Festive Sing.

Earlier this year RGS music teachers delivered workshops to 1,500 children in the west Newcastle partnership schools on the theme of the song, 'Best Day of My Life'. Interesting conversations around what the best day of their lives would be were explored and a common theme emerged: music and its power to uplift, football – and more specifically Newcastle United – and the sense of belonging in our great city. This led to there being only one location suitable to fulfil the brief – St James' Park!

RGS believes great things are possible when schools work together for the greater good of the region, through sharing moments of joy, inspiration and innovation. Our collective efforts were nationally recognised when RGS won the national 'Independent School of the Year' in particular recognition for our outstanding educational partnerships. This accolade was a driving catalyst to produce this year's video as one which represents our integral, wider community; including our commercial partners who provide essential funds to support these important projects and programmes which benefits young people across the North East.



Choir and Orchestra Paris Tour

Over 60 RGS musicians explored the fine delicacies of Bruges en route to Paris, for their Choir and Orchestra Paris Tour.

Students performed at the Charles Foix Hospital, after an introductory student speech in French, where they showcased a collection of music ranging from Elvis to ABBA. The concert featured some exceptional soloists and a group performance from the chamber choir of 'Wannabe'.

The musicians then enjoyed a Parisian day out, immersing themselves in the sites, with views of the Eiffel tower and the Sacré-Cœur; followed by a cruise down the river Seine where they saw Notre Dame and the Musée d'Orsay.

Next, a crowd of 400 at the Jardin du Luxembourg were impressed by a superb performance from all, but a particular favourite was 'Dancing Queen' in which the public asked for an encore.

On the penultimate day of the trip, the group performed several pieces in Disneyland including, 'Havanna' and 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough'.

A final day in the park concluded ten fabulous ensemble performances on tour.

Economics Tour to London

Year 13 students embarked on the annual Economics trip to London in February, an incredible tradition which has run for over 60 years. Our students were briefed by some of the City's top economists, before being generously hosted at the Houses of Parliament by Old Novo Lord Timothy Kirkhope.

During a special reception the students got to network and seek the wise counsel of our formidable community of ONs with a passion for the City.



House Debating, and Lawyers' Networking Event

We were thrilled to welcome Old Novo Sir Max Hill KC, back to school to judge House Debating, one of RGS's longest standing co-curricular clubs now led by Dr Scott Matthews.

After fierce competition from our outstanding orators, Sir Max awarded the new 'Hill' House Debating Trophy to Collingwood!

Later we were joined by ONs and RGS parents who have studied and/or work in law, to a networking event. RGS students really appreciated your wise counsel on their own career plans.



The Bottom Line

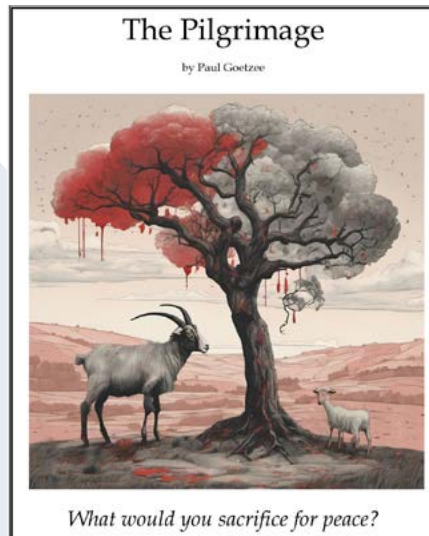
In August Headteacher, Geoffrey Stanford featured on BBC Radio 4's 'The Bottom Line' podcast, exploring the business and economics of independent schools.

Geoffrey joined presenter Evan Davis and a panel of independent school leaders who represented just some of the very broad types of schools which make up the independent sector.

Mr Stanford contributed to a passionate conversation highlighting the charitable purpose of independent schools like RGS Newcastle. Geoffrey explained our focus on keeping school fees as accessible as possible, acknowledging the hard work and sacrifices many of our parents make to choose independent education.

He also spoke about our 90 philanthropically-funded bursary students, the extent of our partnership work with over 100 schools and 10,000 children across the North East, and our STEM teacher training program.

The panel discussed the dedication of teachers in both independent and public sectors, emphasising their commitment to changing lives through education by taking a holistic approach that empowers children to flourish beyond the school gates.



The Pilgrimage

RGS's students delivered an exceptional performance of Paul Goetzee's 'The Pilgrimage', a thought-provoking and engaging play that captivated the audience with its emotional depth and powerful storytelling. The production, which took place in the Agora, showcased the impressive talent of the cast, who brought to life the journey of a group of pilgrims on a symbolic and literal quest for meaning, faith, and self-discovery.

Year 12 Second Person Narratives

RGS Year 12 students took a bow after the success of their latest production, 'Second Person Narrative', an exploration of the beautiful and multidimensional life of women.

After taking to the stage herself, **Izzy G** shared her take on the play:

"Second Person Narrative was structured around several vignettes which hang together to create the narrative of a woman's life from cradle to grave. This woman, You (played by **Silvia M**), is not particularly remarkable as far as protagonists go. She does not have superpowers, had a normal upbringing, and didn't invent the cure to cancer. Rather, the play's purpose seems to be to highlight the struggles of modern womanhood and celebrate relative mediocrity.

"It was an absolute joy to be a part of, but it wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of the entire Performing Arts team behind the scenes, as well as the ushers on the night."

Matthew Bourne Dance Company Inspires at RGS

Students from Year 6 to Year 13 had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage with renowned industry professionals from Sir Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, who captured imaginations through dance workshops collaborating with his most esteemed artists.

They explored dance technique, repertoire from the show *Edward Scissorhands* and engaged in creative tasks, guiding them through various stages of artistic development. It was an inspiring and transformative experience, nurturing creativity and honing skills by embodying characters from the show, entering into a world of creative exploration.



Love for Learning





Love for Learning

At RGS Newcastle, a love for learning is demonstrated through a diverse array of hands-on experiences that extend far beyond the classroom. Students are given the chance to actively engage with their subjects, whether it's through exploring the River Derwent on a geography field trip, debating political policies with local Parliamentary candidates or diving deep into the history of World War I during a poignant battlefield visit. These immersive activities inspire curiosity and foster a passion for knowledge, allowing students to apply theory to real-world situations.

Our commitment to expanding horizons is a priority. This year Biology students engaged with nature firsthand at the Farne Islands, while Year 12 students learned about environmental history at Newcastle University. Whether it's visiting Newcastle Crown Court for a lesson in the legal system or exploring the publishing industry with professionals from New Writing North, these real-world connections not only deepen understanding but also build critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

This year we also used learning opportunities to foster creativity and collaboration, with students participating in activities like Dungeons & Dragons to build teamwork and imagination, or engaging in Scalextric engineering challenges that showcase innovation and technical skills. All these activities underscore our dedication to nurturing well-rounded individuals with a lifelong love of learning, preparing students for a successful future, both academically and in their personal lives. We hope you enjoy seeing what we got up to in the year!

Learning through Languages: a cultural journey at the Hancock Museum

Year 7 students had an exciting day at the Hancock Museum, exploring both Ancient and Modern Languages. **William G** shared his experience:

"I was really excited for this trip because I love learning about different languages, and I believe the best way to truly understand them is to experience their culture firsthand.

"Throughout the day, each class rotated through a series of engaging activities, including German worksheets, a word-collecting trail, and cracking the code of Egyptian hieroglyphics.

"One of the highlights was going upstairs to identify animals based on their German names, which helped us learn about word endings and proper tenses in a fun way."

"The final challenge was translating tough Latin inscriptions from Hadrian's Wall. It was exciting to realise we already knew more vocabulary than we expected from our Latin lessons!

"By the end of the day, we were exhausted, but we had learned so much and had an amazing time!"

This hands-on experience not only deepened students' understanding of languages but also highlighted how culture and history are intertwined with language learning.

Bringing History to Life: the story of Thomas Becket

Year 7 students dove into the fascinating history of Thomas Becket and his tumultuous relationship with Henry II for their latest History project. After conducting thorough research, four groups wrote and performed their own plays, creatively showcasing what they had learned.

Students embraced the chance to get into character, bringing historical figures to life in a fun and engaging way. This dynamic approach not only deepened their understanding of the topic but also added an exciting, hands-on element to their learning experience. The performances highlighted the power of storytelling in making history memorable and engaging.



Battlefields Trip: a journey through history and its lasting impact

The Year 10 Battlefields Trip provided students with a profound opportunity to explore the key sites of World War I, gaining firsthand insight into how history has shaped the world today. The journey began with an overnight ferry, leading to an immersive exploration of the Ypres Salient. Highlights included visits to Tyne Cot Cemetery, Langemark, the Cloth Hall Museum, and the deeply moving Menin Gate, where students witnessed the Last Post ceremony – a powerful reflection on the sacrifice of past generations.

The second day brought the group to the Somme battlefields, where they visited iconic sites such as Newfoundland Park, the Thiepval Memorial, and Notre Dame de Lorette Cemetery. These visits allowed students to reflect on the enormous scale of the war and its human cost, fostering a deeper understanding of its impact.

The final day was spent exploring Ypres, giving students time to contemplate how these historic events continue to influence today's world.

Exploring Environmental History at Newcastle University

A group of Year 12 students visited Newcastle University for a History Discovery Day, hosted in the stunning Armstrong Building, named after Old Novocastrian Lord William Armstrong. The event offered students a firsthand look at what it's like to study History at university, with engaging lectures and seminars led by expert faculty.

The day's theme, "Historical Perspectives on Humanity and Nature," focused on the vital role of environmental history across different periods. Students explored fascinating topics such as the links between disease, environmental factors, and early 20th-century tuberculosis treatments, as well as the evolving politics of environmentalism inside and outside Parliament. This enriching experience deepened students' understanding of how history shapes our relationship with the natural world.

Hustings at RGS: shaping critical thinkers and future voters



Students at RGS were given a unique opportunity to dive deep into the UK political system by directly engaging with Newcastle North's Parliamentary candidates ahead of the general election. A group of Year 10 and Year 12 students participated in a lively hustings event, held in the Miller Theatre, where four of the seven local candidates presented their party's vision and policies.

This event was not just about listening – it was a chance for students to sharpen their critical thinking skills. The candidates fielded challenging, pre-submitted questions from a Year 12 host, offering students the chance to compare party stances on important issues. While none of the students in attendance were yet of voting age, many were particularly interested in Labour's proposal to lower the voting age to 16. The event sparked thoughtful discussions on how political parties can better engage younger generations and left students better equipped to navigate and evaluate political discourse. This hands-on experience of democracy in action provided invaluable insights into the political landscape, encouraging the students to become informed, active citizens.

Unveiling the Secrets of the River Derwent: a dynamic fieldwork adventure

As part of their GCSE course, students embarked on an exciting Geography Physical Fieldwork trip to the River Derwent. Over several days, four classes explored three diverse sites along the river, immersing themselves in hands-on data collection.

From measuring the river's width and depth to gauging its velocity and examining the bedload, students became real-life river detectives. Back in the classroom, they analysed their findings, uncovering fascinating insights into how the river's characteristics transform as it journeys downstream. This adventure brought the textbook to life, turning theory into thrilling exploration!



Budding Biologists: bringing learning to life beyond the classroom

Year 10 biologists stepped beyond the classroom to explore the stunning natural beauty of the Farne Islands, taking full advantage of the rich Northumbrian landscape right on our doorstep. This immersive field trip brought textbook biology to life as students witnessed the remarkable biodiversity of bird and seal species in their natural habitats.

From puffins to grey seals, the experience offered a unique, hands-on opportunity to study ecosystems up close. Blessed with perfect weather, the trip allowed students to deepen their understanding of wildlife and ecology in a way that no classroom lesson could match, making the wonders of biology both tangible and unforgettable.



EconSoc

The RGS Economics Society (EconSoc) continued to thrive under the outstanding student leadership of **Jacob C** and **Kunjal G**. The active society was buzzing with insightful talks and unrivalled access to prominent economics experts, providing students with valuable knowledge and context to help them prepare for their A-Level exams. These guest speakers, each an expert in their field, have shared their experiences, discussed macro and microeconomic concepts, and explained the real-world applications of economics across various industries.

Rajat Samal, *Global Operations Director at Tfp & Tfp Hydrogen*, kicked off with a talk on the economics of operations. He delved into the different stages of production – from suppliers to manufacturing to customers – highlighting the costs involved and demonstrating the practical applications of microeconomics in business operations.

Old Novo Nicholas Fawcett, *Director at BlackRock Investment Institute*, brought his expertise in global financial markets to the table. His career insights, including his time at Goldman Sachs and the Bank of England, offered students a deep dive into financial economics and investment strategies.

Sofia De Martin, *from the Centre for Economics and Business Research*, discussed how economists measure the economic costs of social issues such as women's health and minority representation. Her talk helped students grasp the broader societal impacts of economic policy and the role of social economics.



Old Novo Dr Amrit Ray, *former head of R&D at Pfizer*, shared his extensive experience in private equity and healthcare economics. His perspective on the role of innovation in economic growth provided a comprehensive look at the intersection of health economics and business.

Claus Vistesén, *Chief Eurozone Economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics*, provided an in-depth analysis of Brexit and the Eurozone. By discussing global shocks and policy responses in the UK and Eurozone, he helped students understand the intersection of macroeconomics, policy-making, and regional economic integration.

Geoff Riley, *Former Head of Economics at RGS Newcastle and Eton*, and co-founder of tutor2u, visited twice to speak about UK macroeconomic trends and policies, particularly in the context of the upcoming elections. His talk offered students insight into the broader economic landscape and how policy changes can influence national and international economic conditions.

Nicola Coleman, *Audit Partner at UNW*, gave an engaging talk about accountancy and the critical role of auditing in the UK economy. She provided valuable insights into career paths within accountancy, helping students understand its connection to both micro and macroeconomic theory.

Richard Hutton, *Chief Financial Officer at Greggs*, discussed macroeconomic trends such as high inflation and their impact on business operations. His insights into how inflation affects Greggs' sales and costs were particularly useful for students understanding the challenges businesses face in a volatile economic environment.

Dr Natalia Blagburn, *Venture Capital Investor at Mercia Asset Management*, shared her experiences in venture capital, explaining the economic principles behind nurturing growing companies, making investments, and fostering successful exits. Her talk gave students a unique perspective on the financial sector and investment strategies.

Old Novo Pia Gupta, *now studying at King's College London*, spoke on the 2024 macroeconomic outlook, summarizing key events from 2023. Her analysis of critical indicators and real-world case studies gave students practical tools for tackling their exams.

Vinay Sagar, *a Durham University undergraduate*, shared insights into behavioural and experimental economics, giving students a glimpse into how psychological factors influence economic decision-making and markets.

Mohammad Jamei, *Director of Economic Policy at CBI*, discussed his diverse career path and the role of economics in policy development. His talk offered students a broader view of the different career avenues available with a background in economics.

Geoff Westmoreland and **James Pomeroy**, *Senior Economists from HSBC*, provided insights into corporate banking and a global economic update. Their session helped students understand the practical challenges businesses face and the macroeconomic forces that shape financial decisions.

Old Novo Gianfranco Rosolia, *current Apple Inc. executive*, shared his experiences working at a tech giant, offering a unique perspective on innovation and global business strategy in the context of economics.

Oliver Millican, *Chairman of Bute Energy*, gave a joint talk with EngSoc about energy economics, highlighting the role of energy in economic development and policy.

Edoardo Palombo, *an economist at Deloitte with a PhD in Economics*, gave a talk on the latest economic research and methodologies, equipping students with analytical tools for their exams.

Josie Anderson, *Managing Economist at CEBR*, discussed her career journey and what it's like to work as an economist, providing students with a personal perspective on pursuing a career in economics.

These sessions not only offered real-world insights into economics, but also provided students with crucial context for their A-Level exams, helping them understand how economic theory applies to current events and global trends.

Dungeons & Dragons

Students share their experience of D&D club, supported by the renowned Dungeon Master (DM) and Old Novo Chris Hately, where they ran a detailed campaign full of thrilling adventures and unnerving monsters:

“Each and every time he runs D&D with us his storytelling, world building and imagination as a DM just adds to the experience of playing with him. Our hearts are still racing at the thought of four creatures (two of which being an efreeti and fire elemental) grappling the avatar of a god!”

Editor’s note – We had to look this up! Efreeti are powerful, intelligent fire genies capable of magic and wish-granting. Fire Elementals are primal, elemental beings made of fire, embodying destruction and chaos. Both creatures can be major threats or interesting allies, depending on the story being told in the game!

Scalextrics

We took two teams from Year 8 and Year 9 to the ‘Scalextrics 4 Schools’ final at Silverstone, where our Team Velocity won best engineered car and **Edison W** won racer of the year.

Students worked on the car for the whole year as part of RGS’s Scalextric co-curricular club. Below are some of their highlights from the experience:

“We stuck to our roles and played an important role in the success of our team. During the competition, the judges were very pleased with our engineering used in the car from seeing our pit display and our portfolio.

“We learnt a lot from different teams including different approaches to making our car and even some racing tips. One of the best parts of the trip was getting pointers from some professionals and of course seeing Silverstone.”



Project Art: a creative journey at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art

A group of students from across Senior School who are passionate about the creative arts, were selected to visit the ‘Project Art’ exhibition at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, ahead of its move to Copenhagen. The programme manager led an insightful tour, explaining the vision behind the exhibition, which showcases the work of a collective of neurodiverse artists.

After the tour, students had the opportunity to collaborate on a giant canvas, immersing themselves in the vibrant project space. Inspired by their surroundings and each other, they created their own unique pieces, blending creativity and teamwork in this inspiring, hands-on artistic experience.



Digital Solutions: exploring technology's impact with Lancaster University

Year 10, 12, and 13 RGS Computer Science students were visited by experts from Lancaster University, who shared valuable insights into the advantages and disadvantages of technology. The session sparked discussions on how to effectively implement digital solutions and the broader societal implications of creative digital innovations.

This visit complemented the students' curriculum, connecting with key topics in GCSE and A-Level studies, such as the impact of technology, data protection risks, and the consequences of tech use. Students also explored how to streamline workflows and improve efficiency, gaining a deeper understanding of the real-world challenges and opportunities in the digital landscape.



Careers in Publishing: insights from industry experts

We were thrilled to welcome representatives from New Writing North and Hachette Books to speak with our Year 10 and Year 12 students about the diverse opportunities in publishing. Author Daniel Tawse shared their journey from drama to creative writing, offering insights into the challenges of promoting and editing multiple books simultaneously. Publisher Isobel Freyley discussed their own career path since leaving school, highlighting the variety of roles available within the publishing industry.

Students engaged in a lively Q&A session, asking about the qualifications and skills required to pursue careers in writing and publishing. The event provided invaluable guidance for aspiring authors and industry professionals alike.

Insight into the Legal System

Our Forensic Psychology Complementary Studies class visited Newcastle Crown Court to gain a deeper understanding of the legal system in England and how criminal cases are handled at the Crown Court level.

Some Year 12 students shared their reflections on the visit:

"We had the chance to speak with the lead detective on a case that had been ongoing for over four years! It was fascinating to learn about legal protocols and how the courtroom operates."

– Isobel B



"I gained new insights into the structure of a trial and aspects of the legal system I wasn't previously aware of. Witnessing a live trial was an invaluable learning experience in a real-world setting."

– Esha R

"Our group observed two very different cases, each offering unique perspectives on the justice system. It was an eye-opening, thought-provoking experience."

– Alex N

This visit brought the complexities of the legal system to life, giving students firsthand exposure to the inner workings of criminal trials.

Complementary Studies: developing essential skills for the future

At RGS all Year 12 students participate in RGS's Complementary Studies Programme, a dynamic Sixth Form course designed to enhance service, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. The programme focused not only on academic knowledge but also on developing vital soft skills.

This year, one session, led by Mr Stanford, explored negotiation techniques, encouraging students to reflect on different conflict responses and consider key factors like risk tolerance and differing values in outcomes. A practical component of the programme involved hands-on learning with an introduction to car mechanics, equipping students with valuable life skills that will serve them well in the future.

This blend of theoretical and practical learning helped students build a diverse skill set that prepares them for both personal and professional challenges ahead.

Co-Curricular Fair!

At RGS, co-curricular activities are an integral part of school life, offering much more than just the chance to learn a new skill – they help foster personal growth, build confidence, and create lasting connections. With such a wide range of options available, there truly is something for everyone, whether students are looking to develop their creativity, explore new interests, or challenge themselves in new ways.

September 2023 saw the launch of another packed co-curricular programme, showcased in a lunchtime fair. The event was a hive of excitement, with both new and current students eagerly exploring possible interests. From sports teams and music ensembles to debating societies and coding clubs, the event showcased the vibrant co-curricular life that RGS is known for. Students were able to meet like-minded peers, discover hidden talents, and learn how these activities complement and enrich their academic experience.

At RGS, co-curricular involvement isn't just about staying busy – it's about broadening horizons, nurturing passions, and learning essential life skills that extend well beyond the classroom. Whether students are stepping into a leadership role, building teamwork through sports, or immersing themselves in creative arts, there's no limit to the possibilities that await them.



Learning through Acting: exploring 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'

Year 8 students recently explored 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' in English, delving into the life of Christopher, the protagonist who experiences traits of Asperger's Syndrome. Students gained a deeper understanding of Christopher's challenges, such as sensitivity to physical touch, loud crowds, and sudden changes, by discussing his unique perspective.

In small groups, students were given creative freedom to script and perform short dramas that highlighted Christopher's daily obstacles and experiences. From Newcastle to Tokyo, they set the scene in various locations, adding new characters and storylines to explore the complexities of Christopher's world.

This hands-on, interactive learning not only brought the novel to life but also raised awareness about how to support peers who may experience similar challenges, fostering empathy and understanding among students.

Belief in Each Other





Year 8 Girls Celebrate Women in STEM

A group of Year 8 girls from RGS, along with students from local schools including Benfield, Consett Academy, Kepier, Kenton, Kings Priory, Sacred Heart, and Westfield, gathered to celebrate the achievements of women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The event, inspired by Ada Lovelace – the first computer programmer – offered a unique opportunity to hear from women who have carved successful careers in these fields.

The day featured a series of insightful talks from a diverse group of professionals:

Janet Onyia, from *Opencast Software*, shared her journey, highlighting the wide range of opportunities in STEM, from designing graphics for the Barbie movie to developing cutting-edge technology used in sports and exercise to monitor posture and movement.

Old Novo Emilia Ward, *Senior Value Communications Writer in pharmaceuticals*, spoke about her role in getting one of the Covid vaccines approved and how she integrates her background in English literature into the world of STEM.

Emma Henderson and **Leanne Dee**, from *TSG*, discussed their transitions into STEM careers, showcasing how diverse career paths can lead to fulfilling roles in the field, even from seemingly unrelated industries.

Lonie Sebagh, currently on the *SCITT programme with our Maths department*, shared her experience working in cybersecurity and as a coding instructor for Code First Girls, illustrating the various ways to enter STEM careers.

The event provided invaluable industry insights and inspiration, empowering students to see the vast potential of STEM careers and the diverse pathways to success within these fields.





The Art and Science of Drawing

Year 8 and Year 9 Art students explored the world of Product Design in a hands-on workshop led by Old Novo Richard Malcom, Senior Lecturer at Nottingham Trent University. With 20 years of industry experience designing everything from power tools to headphones, hearing aids, and fire service equipment, Richard brought a wealth of knowledge back to the RGS Art Department – where his journey first began.

The day started with the seemingly simple task of drawing a cuboid, but soon evolved into the greater challenge of designing a sports trainer. To their surprise, students were prohibited from using rulers – forcing them to draw straight lines freehand and estimate angles rather than measure them precisely. The exercise demonstrated how creativity and design can thrive even with the most basic of shapes, and the students learned firsthand the precision and imagination required in the world of product design.

Linguistic Triumph

Six teams of Year 9 linguists and code-breakers from RGS took part in the prestigious GCHQ National Language Competition, facing a series of challenges that tested their skills in both European languages and less commonly taught dialects, as well as even invented languages. Throughout the competition, students “captured flags” to earn points, all while climbing the ranks on a national leaderboard.

Thanks to their dedication and teamwork, one of our teams amassed an impressive 8,865 points, securing victory as regional champions. The competition saw participation from over 500 schools across the UK, with students devoting several hours of their co-curricular time to cracking codes and solving language-based puzzles. This remarkable achievement highlights not only the linguistic talent at RGS but also the commitment and problem-solving abilities of our students.

Hakuna Matata

In December, the RGS Miller Theatre was transformed into a breathtaking jungle of vibrant colours and captivating performances for the much-anticipated Year 7 and Year 8 production of *The Lion King Junior*. The stage was brought to life with a stunning set that mimicked the African savannah, complete with lush trees, dramatic lighting, and impressive visual effects. The energetic and passionate performances of 77 talented students filled the theatre, each bringing beloved characters to life with creativity and enthusiasm.

The production featured double casts for the principal characters, giving even more students the opportunity to shine in key roles. From Simba's growth into a wise leader to Timon and Pumbaa's comic antics, each cast member embraced their role with confidence and heart. Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of staff and students worked tirelessly to make the magic happen. Seamless costume changes, expertly crafted props, and impressive choreography all came together to create a professional-level show.

The event was a true testament to the spirit of collaboration, with students not only showcasing their acting skills but also contributing to set design, lighting, sound, and stage management. The hard work and dedication of everyone involved made *The Lion King Junior* a ‘roaring’ success, leaving audiences in awe and celebrating the immense talent within our school community.

It was an unforgettable experience that demonstrated the power of teamwork and creativity, highlighting the students' growth and commitment throughout the entire production process.



Leading with Languages

In June 2024, the Modern Languages Faculty at RGS proudly received the prestigious International School Award from the British Council, recognising our outstanding commitment to international education. This award honours schools that demonstrate excellence in fostering global connections through activities such as partnerships with overseas schools, participation in regional, national and international events, and a strong focus on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives within the school.

At RGS, we place a significant emphasis on integrating an international dimension into our curriculum, ensuring that students develop the cultural understanding and global competencies necessary to thrive as global citizens. This award is a testament to our ongoing dedication to broadening our students' horizons and preparing them for a future in an interconnected world.



Big Play Day

Big Play Day was a magical experience, bringing together talented musicians from Year 5 to Year 13 for a memorable event. Students spent the entire day off timetable, rehearsing in sections before uniting for a final performance in front of parents. The grand finale featured the entire orchestra performing Juba Dance by Florence Price, showcasing their teamwork and skill.

Students received their music only on the morning of the concert, which challenged them to quickly learn and collaborate. The day helped develop valuable skills, such as sight-reading, coordination, and team collaboration, with everyone rising to the occasion.

Now set to be an annual tradition, Big Play Day highlighted the talent, enthusiasm, and collaborative spirit of RGS students, leaving a lasting impression on all involved.



Making Memories and Forging Friendships

The annual RGS Year 7 camp was once again a five-day adventure full of unforgettable moments and new friendships.

Lola W, a Sixth Form camp helper, shares her reflections on the week:

“Each day was filled with exciting activities that pushed us to our limits and brought us closer together as a team.”

“We spent an afternoon sailing on the tranquil lake, learning how to navigate and collaborate to steer the boats. Raft building was a real highlight – our team worked hard to create rafts, and we had a blast testing them out. We cheered when they stayed afloat and laughed when they sank!

“The high ropes course was an exhilarating challenge. Climbing to great heights was nerve-wracking for some, but it was amazing to witness everyone encouraging each other and facing their fears together. One of the most memorable experiences was the bivi, where we camped out under the stars. Sleeping outdoors and waking up to the sounds of nature was truly magical.

“As a Year 12 helper, I particularly enjoyed the leadership role, guiding the younger students through activities and seeing their confidence grow throughout the week. The camp wasn't just about the activities – it was about building connections and making memories that will last a lifetime.

“Whether we were splashing in the lake, cheering each other on, or sharing stories around the campfire, Year 7 camp was the perfect blend of adventure, teamwork, and friendship.”

Sport at RGS

This year, our students showed remarkable dedication both on and off the pitch. Their enthusiasm and commitment to practice and matches – no matter the time or weather – have been truly inspiring. Supported by dedicated staff and coaches, along with invaluable help from parents, we've successfully played 600 fixtures and fielded 124 teams across various sports. Here are just some of the many highlights.



National Glory for RGS Gymnastics!

RGS Newcastle gymnastics has been nothing short of extraordinary this year, with our gymnasts achieving exceptional results across various regional and national competitions. Their passion, dedication, and teamwork have firmly placed RGS Newcastle as a powerhouse in school gymnastics.

One of the most significant accomplishments of the year came at the British Schools Floor, Vault, and Trio National Gymnastics Championships. Our U13 Boys were crowned British Champions, while our U16 Boys also secured British Championship titles in their respective category. Not to be outdone, our U11 Boys showed incredible skill, finishing second in the regional plate and fifth overall. Meanwhile, our girls' and mixed teams in the U13 and U16 categories delivered stellar performances, further cementing RGS Newcastle's reputation for excellence.

In addition to this outstanding national success, our teams achieved even more triumphs. We were proud to be named HMC Champions and City Champions earlier in the year. These victories laid the foundation for a series of excellent performances in the coming months.

The highlight of our gymnasts' achievements came during the British Floor and Vault National Championships, where our students showcased their remarkable abilities. The U14 Boys brought home silver medals, the U19 Boys claimed bronze, and, in a truly incredible achievement, our U11 Boys were crowned National Champions in Floor and Vault, securing a place in RGS Newcastle's history.

From national victories to regional triumphs, the 2023-24 gymnastics season at RGS Newcastle has been one of unparalleled success and pride. We look forward to continuing this momentum and supporting our gymnasts as they strive for even greater achievements in the future.

Building Resilience through Rugby

The year was a journey of development in rugby, with significant achievements and valuable lessons learned along the way. Our teams faced challenges head-on, and though not all matches ended in victory, each experience reinforced the values of resilience, character, and teamwork that define our rugby community.

The season was particularly successful in the 7s format, with notable performances that demonstrated both skill and determination. The U13s set the tone early by winning the prestigious St Peter's Festival during the Spring Term. Building on that momentum, our teams had a brilliant week at the Rosslyn Park National 7s, showcasing exceptional talent and grit.

The U14s were placed in a tough group but rose to the challenge, defeating all three teams to progress to the elimination rounds. They then faced Ysgol Calon Cymru, where they played their best match of the day to qualify for the cup competition. Despite narrowly missing out on the quarter-finals after a fierce battle with Millfield, the U14s demonstrated immense potential and sportsmanship both on and off the pitch.

The U16s started strong with a dominant 55-7 win over Rougemont, but despite their best efforts, a loss to QEGS ended their hopes of progressing. They finished the competition on a positive note with a strong performance against Loughborough Grammar.

The U18s had a mixed bag of results, with a narrow loss, a draw, and a fantastic 28-7 win. The Y13s, who have contributed so much to the rugby program, leave a lasting legacy, and we wish them the very best in their future rugby endeavours.

While there were setbacks, particularly in some of the more competitive fixtures, the season has been incredibly character-building. The lessons from both the wins and losses have been invaluable, teaching our students the importance of resilience, teamwork, and continually striving to improve. The 2023-24 season has truly set the stage for the future, and we look forward to seeing our players continue to grow and succeed in the years to come.

RGS Newcastle Football – fierce fortitude

The 2023-24 football season at RGS Newcastle was marked by impressive performances, individual growth, and strong team spirit across all age groups. While some teams faced tough competition, their resilience and determination were evident in every match.

The girls' football teams showcased resilience and growth throughout the year. The UI2s improved their skills and ended their season on a high with a 3-0 win over Excelsior, while the UI3s had a thrilling run in the City Cup, reaching the final but narrowly missing out. The UI4s battled hard against older teams, finishing their season with a well-earned victory against Benfield.

For the boys, the UI2s showed determination, finishing their season strong with a 6-0 win against Gosforth Central. The UI3s made it to the ISFA Cup round of 16 and pulled off an exciting penalty shootout win against Cheadle Hulme, though they were knocked out by Manchester Grammar. The UI4s had a great run, with a six-game winning streak and 41 goals scored, but were edged out by Benfield in the cup final.

Our UI5 and UI6 teams had particularly successful campaigns, with both squads showing exceptional skill and commitment. The UI5s reached the finals of the regional cup competition, where they demonstrated

excellent teamwork and strategy, ultimately finishing as runners-up. The UI6s also made an impact in their respective league, securing important wins and finishing in the upper half of the table.

The senior teams had a challenging season but showed remarkable improvement. The UI8s, in particular, faced tough opposition in the National Cup, where they battled their way to the later rounds, gaining invaluable experience along the way. Despite not progressing further, the team's resilience and effort on the field were a testament to their commitment to the sport.

The season also saw notable individual achievements, with several players earning recognition for their skills and leadership. The school's football program continued to emphasize the development of well-rounded players, focusing on both technical ability and character building.

Off the pitch, the football community came together, with students, parents, and staff showing tremendous support. The sense of camaraderie and team spirit was evident in every fixture, making this a season of both growth and pride for RGS Newcastle. The team's ongoing development and determination ensure that the future of football at RGS Newcastle looks bright.

Hockey Development and Triumph

The 2023-24 hockey season at RGS Newcastle was marked by outstanding achievements and memorable performances across all teams, with the UI3 Girls' team delivering an exceptional highlight.

A standout moment came when the UI3 Girls' Hockey team secured bronze at the National Finals, a testament to their tireless effort and determination throughout the season. After winning two games and narrowly losing to the eventual champions, the team dominated the bronze medal match with an impressive 5-0 victory. This incredible performance showcased the team's resilience, skill, and unity. We are incredibly proud of their success and grateful to the RGS families who travelled to support and share in this fantastic achievement.

The Senior Girls' Hockey team also enjoyed a successful season, with solid performances in regional tournaments, pushing themselves in every match. Their hard work and commitment continued to show through as they reached the later stages of their competitions.

The UI5 Girls' Hockey team had another strong year, securing victories in regional fixtures and building on their collective growth as a team. Their improving tactics and communication helped them stand out on the field, setting a strong foundation for future seasons.

Impressive performances from other age groups, highlighted the strength of the hockey program at RGS Newcastle. The teams' spirit, camaraderie, and relentless pursuit of excellence have set the stage for an exciting future in the sport, and success in the years to come.





Celebrating Dance

This year Dance at RGS truly arrived! The year saw us celebrate the exceptional talents and diversity of our dancers across all year groups. We saw remarkable progress, from vibrant whole-school performances to the debut of the Boundless Boys Dance Company.

Our students have participated in workshops with prestigious companies, such as Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, and collaborated with institutions like the Phoenix Dance Theatre. A new, Annual Dance Show was an opportunity for every year group to perform, while our Year 8 dancers particularly shone at Jazz Night, showcasing the skill and dedication of our young performers. We're excited for the future of Dance at RGS!



Cricket at RGS

The Senior Cricket Team demonstrated resilience and skill throughout the season, securing several exciting wins in key regional competitions. Their tactical prowess and ability to perform under pressure saw them advance to the later stages of tournaments, where their teamwork and dedication shone through.

The U15 and U14 cricket squads had a standout moment this year with their tour to Dubai for the ARCH Cricket Cup 2024 over Easter. The trip provided a unique experience, combining the thrill of competitive cricket with unforgettable cultural and leisure activities. The teams kicked off their adventure with a training session at the world-class Sevens facility in the Dubai desert, setting them up for an action-packed five days of matches. Beyond the cricket, the squad enjoyed excursions to iconic landmarks, including the YAS Marina Grand Prix Circuit, Waterworld, and the stunning fountain show at the Burj Khalifa. This tour was a memorable experience for all involved, offering both personal and team development in an exciting and vibrant setting.

Back on home turf, our U13 cricket team continued to impress, demonstrating strong performances with both bat and ball. Their adaptability in various match conditions and team-first mentality contributed to their competitiveness throughout the season, showcasing the depth of cricketing talent at RGS Newcastle.

In addition to these highlights, friendly fixtures and local competitions allowed our cricketers to test their skills against schools with strong cricketing traditions. These experiences helped build team cohesion and provided valuable opportunities for individual players to shine. The camaraderie fostered during these matches helped lay a solid foundation for future success.

Off the pitch, RGS Newcastle has focused on creating a cricketing culture that emphasizes development, teamwork, and enjoyment. Coaching sessions, skill-building workshops, and team-building activities played a crucial role in helping players at all levels grow and improve.

Looking ahead, the progress made during 2023-24 sets a strong foundation for even greater achievements in the seasons to come. With promising young talent emerging, and a wealth of experience gained from both local and international competitions, RGS Newcastle's cricket program is poised for even more success in the future.

Badminton Brilliance

Our KS3 and KS4 girls' badminton teams competed fiercely in the regional round of the schools' competition. The KS3 team excelled, securing a well-deserved victory and qualifying for the National Finals! Meanwhile, the KS4 team finished as runners-up, narrowly missing out on a National Finals spot after a series of intense and hard-fought matches against strong opponents. Both teams showed incredible determination and skill throughout the competition.

Netball Glory and Team Spirit

The 2023-24 RGS Newcastle Senior Netball team had an impressive season, finishing third in their regional qualifying tournament at Sport Central, Northumbria University, just missing out on a Nationals spot. Their performance earned them a well-deserved bronze medal.

The U15 Netball and U13 Netball teams embarked on a competitive weekend tour in the Midlands, facing teams including Oakham, Oundle, Kimbolton, Beeston, and Market Harborough. The fixtures resulted in some outstanding scores and valuable experience for all involved.

One of the standout moments was the U12A Netball squad's fantastic 27-20 win over Woodhouse Grove in the 'Sisters in Sport' National Plate Quarter Final. The team's performance was supported by an enthusiastic group of RGS supporters, demonstrating true #beliefineachother.

In between their matches, the students enjoyed team-building activities, including bowling and other games, strengthening their camaraderie. One player reflected on the tour: "We played against great teams from far away and had an amazing experience interacting with different schools. The breakfast was incredible, and we had a blast on the bus ride home!"

It was a season marked by strong team spirit, memorable victories, and significant personal and collective growth.

Ambition to Succeed



Aspiring Chemists: RGS shines at the UK Chemistry Olympiad

RGS students delivered an outstanding performance in the prestigious UK Chemistry Olympiad, securing a remarkable 3 Gold, 7 Silver, and 15 Bronze awards. These results not only reflect the students' exceptional knowledge and problem-solving abilities but also their dedication to mastering the complexities of chemistry at a national level.

The three Gold award winners – **Pablo S**, **Rachel C**, and **Daniel R** – achieved scores in the top 8% nationally, an incredible achievement that places them among the best young chemists in the country. Their success highlights not just their academic talent but also their passion for chemistry and ability to thrive under challenging conditions.

In addition to the Gold winners, the 7 Silver and 15 Bronze awards further demonstrate the breadth of talent within our school. Each student's hard work and commitment to their studies were instrumental in helping them achieve such impressive results. The UK Chemistry Olympiad is a truly challenging competition, and the students' performance is a testament to the excellence fostered within the RGS science department.

We are incredibly proud of all our aspiring chemists and look forward to seeing where their passion for science takes them next!



RGS's National Accolade

We were thrilled to be named the UK Independent School of the Year 2023 at the prestigious Independent School Parent Awards in London. Recognised first as the winner of the Outstanding Educational Partnerships category for our impactful programmes across the North East, RGS was both honoured and overwhelmed to also receive the coveted overall Independent School of the Year award. This remarkable achievement celebrates our commitment to excellence in education, standing out among 700 nominations from some of the most renowned independent schools in the UK.

VEX Robotics 2023: a year of innovation and achievement!

In the 2023 VEX Over Under competition, five RGS teams, with varying levels of experience but equal enthusiasm, showcased their skills and innovation. Team 39457B triumphed as Tournament Champions and advanced directly to the National Finals, while Team 39475D earned the Judges Award for their thorough research and well-documented portfolio. Team 39475C won the Skills Award for their outstanding solo performance, thanks to a highly effective catapult design. Team 39475G performed well but fell short of advancing to the later rounds, and Team 39475H impressed with their functional yet visually appealing robot design, featuring a clever face constructed from robot parts.

The competition tasks included designing, building, and operating robots, as well as documenting the entire process in a portfolio. Students drew from various subjects, including art, computer science, and engineering, and collaborated effectively, combining their strengths to solve problems. Their preparation, spanning a month of intense work, involved adapting to a new game each season and testing various mechanisms under tight time constraints. Despite limited practice time on the game field, the teams demonstrated exceptional teamwork and adaptability, learning from both successes and setbacks.

As the competition season progressed, RGS's robotics teams confidently interacted with judges, sharing their team roles, lessons learned, and the methods they used to stay connected and efficient despite their busy schedules. With regional competitions ahead in December, the teams are refining their strategies and designs in hopes of advancing to the National Finals.

In a thrilling first for RGS, four teams, made up of 21 students from Year 10, Year 11, and Year 12, qualified for the VEX Robotics National Finals. Competing alongside nearly 60 schools, they put their robots to the test in a series of timed challenges and alliance-based tasks. The teams developed their robots, refined their tactics, and tackled both technical and strategic aspects of the competition, with some students even taking on multiple roles, from coding to construction and documentation.

Reflecting on their experience, the teams celebrated their growth and achievements. **Tanish K**, from Team 39457B, shared, "Our goal was to showcase the dedication and innovation we put into our robot design. Beating the #1 and #2 ranked teams in qualifying matches and placing in the top 8% was a huge accomplishment."

Emil B, also from Team 39457B, added, "After finishing Day 1 with a low ranking, we worked late into the night to upgrade our robot. Our hard work paid off, and we saw significant improvements." **Nina L**, from Team 39475D, remarked, "It was our first time at this event, and even though we didn't perform as we hoped, we learned invaluable skills that will help us in robotics and beyond."

The competition not only tested their technical skills but also fostered valuable life lessons, including teamwork, resilience, and creative problem-solving. As the teams continue to develop their robots and strategies, they are already looking ahead to future competitions with renewed enthusiasm and confidence.



Private View: celebrating artistic talent

The Private View exhibition was an inspiring event that showcased the incredible talent of our Art exam students. Peers, families, and teachers were invited to explore a diverse range of pieces, each reflecting the students' unique creativity and vision.

The exhibition was a celebration of artistic expression, with guests engaging in insightful conversations with the students about the inspiration behind their work and the creative process involved. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to share their journey and for visitors to appreciate the depth of thought and skill behind each piece.



Inspired by Life of Pi

Our Year 7 students visited the Life of Pi production at Newcastle Theatre Royal to enrich their English studies. The trip provided an exciting opportunity to experience the live dramatisation of the novel, sparking inspiration for their classroom work.

As part of their current curriculum, students are exploring the differences between the conventions of drama and novels. Following the performance, they will engage in both analytical and creative writing tasks based on the script, deepening their understanding of how stories transform across mediums.

This is Creative Enterprise: a fashion experience at Northumbria University

A select group of Year 9 and Year 12 art students were given an exclusive opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of fashion at Northumbria University's renowned Fashion Department. Invited to go behind the scenes, they discovered the creative processes that happen long before garments make their way to the catwalk.

A guided tour, led by current fashion students, showcased a wide range of essential crafts and skills, from knitting and screen printing to photography, bookbinding, and fashion marketing. Students also gained insight into the roles of communication and journalism within the fashion industry. This hands-on experience provided our students with a real taste of the diverse and dynamic career opportunities awaiting them in the world of fashion.

Students in the City: a successful 2024 RGS economics tour

The 2024 RGS Economics Tour was an incredible success, providing our students with invaluable insights into the world of economics. They were briefed by some of the City's leading economists, gaining first-hand knowledge of the economic landscape. The tour continued with a special visit to the Houses of Parliament, where students were graciously hosted by Old Novo Lord Timothy Kirkhope.

At a unique reception, students had the opportunity to network with and seek advice from a distinguished group of Old Novos, all of whom share a passion for economics and the City. This experience not only broadened their understanding but also gave them a glimpse into the exciting career opportunities that await in the world of finance and policy.



Prototypes and Portfolio: showcasing innovation at the EDT exhibition

The EDT Exhibition featured an impressive array of innovative work from our exam students, highlighting their creativity and technical skills through exceptional prototypes and portfolio projects. Peers, families, and teachers had the opportunity to explore these groundbreaking designs, offering valuable feedback on functionality and user-friendliness.

The event was a celebration of student ingenuity, with each project sparking thoughtful discussions and showcasing the high level of craftsmanship and problem-solving abilities developed throughout the course.



Specialised Support for Future Medics: MMI practice at RGS

Thirty one of our Upper Sixth Form students, including 6 talented individuals invited from our Partnership schools, participated in practice Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI), a unique opportunity designed to simulate the rigorous interview process they may face when applying to Medicine, Dentistry, or Veterinary programmes.

RGS is one of the few schools nationwide to offer this specialised support, equipping students with the essential skills and experience needed to excel in their interviews. During the MMI, students rotate through a series of stations, each focusing on different aspects of the interview process. These stations include role plays, numeracy tasks, and in-depth interviews on topics such as medical ethics, professional conduct, personal qualities, and motivation to pursue their chosen career.

Immediately following the event, our internal team of interviewers provides detailed verbal feedback to each student, pinpointing their strengths and areas for further improvement. While the day is intense, it offers invaluable experience, helping students refine their interview techniques and build the confidence needed to succeed in highly competitive medical, dental, and veterinary interviews.



Youth Parliament: RGS students lead the way

RGS proudly served as a Voting Centre for the Youth Parliament Elections in Newcastle, where 60 candidates vied for a position, including three from RGS. **Ayesha P**, from Year 11, was elected at the Newcastle Civic Centre – an outstanding achievement. She shared part of her manifesto with us:

“I would make a great youth councillor because I am enthusiastic, love working with others, and want to create a space where ALL voices are heard.”

“Through my experiences in team sports, army cadets, and debating, I have learned the importance of collaboration and that both listening and leading are essential skills.”

Chirag H from Year 8 and **Maggie L** from Year 10 were also candidates, and we are equally proud of their courage in stepping forward and representing their peers. Their involvement in this democratic process reflects the strong leadership and commitment to positive change fostered at RGS.



RGS Profit for Purpose & Winterwonderland: a celebration of entrepreneurship & charity

In an inspiring display of creativity and philanthropy, RGS Year 8 students took part in the Profit for Purpose initiative, where they pitched innovative fundraising ideas to a panel of “RGS Dragons.” A total of 33 groups presented their plans, from cake sales, to fundraising games, to bauble crafts. All teams successfully secured ‘investment’ to bring their ideas to life, with the RGS Dragons offering valuable business insight and feedback. The project not only showcased students’ entrepreneurial skills but also highlighted the importance of using business for social good.

Following the pitches, students brought their ideas to life at their fundraising stalls, which ran at RGS’s magical Winterwonderland. This annual event, organized by RGS students, transformed the school grounds into a festive hub, featuring a Christmas market, Art of Hope display, games, and seasonal attractions.

The Winterwonderland served as both a celebration of the start of the holiday season and a reminder of the school’s commitment to community service, providing students with hands-on experience in organizing large-scale charitable events.

Together, these projects exemplified the school’s commitment to fostering both entrepreneurial spirit and a strong sense of social responsibility among our students.



Club La Santa: a spring sports adventure

Over the Easter break, 50 of RGS's top athletes travelled to Club La Santa in Lanzarote, a renowned world-class resort for exercise and wellness, for an exhilarating multi-sports camp.

The itinerary was packed with exciting activities, making full use of the resort's outstanding facilities. Athletes had the opportunity to engage in a range of sports, from intense beach volleyball tournaments to thrilling paddleboard adventures, all in a vibrant new climate. It was an action-packed few days filled with teamwork, challenges, and unforgettable experiences, as students bonded and created lasting memories with their peers.

Futbol Lingo: inspiring future linguists through football

Thirty Year 7 to 9 students participated in the Futbol Lingo webinar, where football was used as a dynamic tool to inspire a new generation of linguists. The session highlighted the importance of speaking multiple languages and showcased how language skills can have a profound impact both on and off the field.

In addition, our Modern Languages department took Year 10 students to Northumbria University for an engaging in-person session. The day included a Spanish-language training session, followed by a lively speaking activity where students had to persuade a panel on which country should host the World Cup. These experiences helped students see the real-world value of language learning while having fun and engaging in global issues.



Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions: a test of resilience and skill

Our Year 11 students put their navigation skills to the test during their Duke of Edinburgh expedition. With guidance from our dedicated DofE staff, they learned not only what to expect but also how to adapt to the unexpected.

From self-guided hikes to outdoor cooking and camping, many students stepped out of their comfort zone and embraced challenges along the way. They mastered practical skills like the countryside code and packing essentials, while also developing resilience, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities. Throughout the journey, they handled every obstacle with determination, making it an unforgettable experience.



RGS Combined Cadet Force

The 2023/24 year proved to be another action-packed one for the RGS Newcastle CCF. It was bittersweet, however, as the Contingent bid farewell to WO2 Rob O'Hagan after an incredible 20 years as the SSI. His departure marked the end of an era, but SSgt Dobson stepped up to take the reins, continuing the high standards set by his predecessor.

Recruitment was buoyant, with 70 new cadets joining from Year 9, ensuring the overall numbers remained strong at over 200 cadets. This growth allowed the CCF to continue its normal training and activities, as well as achieve some exceptional milestones throughout the year.

One of the standout moments was the Contingent's participation in the Tri-Service Remembrance Sunday Parade in Newcastle. In addition, the cadets triumphed once again, winning the Cadet Tri-Service Climbing Competition, further cementing their competitive edge. Over the Easter holidays, the cadets enjoyed a fantastic time in the Lake District, taking part in a variety of adventurous training activities.

The Royal Navy Section had a busy year, with cadets attending camps and courses across the country. A highlight was their visit to HMS Raleigh, the Royal Navy's largest training establishment, where they took part in damage recovery and firefighting training, tackled the obstacle course, and met cadets from other schools. Earlier in the year, cadets had the opportunity to participate in offshore sailing and adventurous training in Portsmouth, dinghy sailing at Jupiter Point as part of the HMS Raleigh Summer Camp, and leadership training and powerboating at Britannia Royal Naval College Summer Camp. In October, five cadets joined the Trafalgar Day celebrations at Newcastle Cathedral before attending the Toast to the Admiral in Tynemouth.

The Army Section also had a successful year, with the Summer Camp at Driffield receiving glowing reports about the cadets' behaviour and engagement. Although the weather was unkind, causing the cancellation of at least one training weekend, exercise 'Fresh Start' provided a welcome return to proper field training, which cadets thoroughly enjoyed.

The RAF Section had a fantastic year, with several cadets taking to the skies. Some had the opportunity to fly with 11 AEF Squadron at RAF Leeming, while others experienced gliding with 645 VGS at RAF Topcliffe. The section also enjoyed a visit to RAF Leeming, kindly arranged by Old Novo Jack Homewood, where they learned about the support provided by Babcock. This year's camp took place at RAF Valley, home of fast jet training for both the RAF and the Fleet Air Arm. A number of cadets who attended are now seriously considering a future with the RAF.

Overall, the 2023-24 year was filled with achievements, camaraderie, and adventure, further enriching the CCF experience for all involved.



GCSE

Cohort



148 total students

All Subject Grades

44.3%
of grades achieved
were grade 9

70%
of grades achieved
were grade 8–9

85.6%
of grades achieved
were grade 7–9

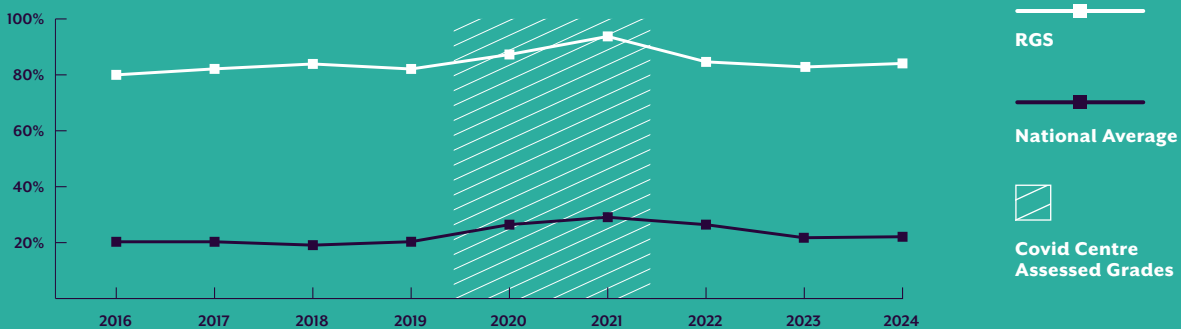
Main Highlights

Top 1%
of schools nationally
for 'Added Value'

15
Students achieved
all grade 9s

57
of the cohort achieved an
impressive set of 11 GCSEs

% of GCSE students who achieved 7–9 (A*–A)



A-Level

Cohort



162 total students

Main Highlights

91%
of grades achieved
were A*–B

The national average was 54%

70%
of grades achieved
were A*–A

The national average was 28%

37%
of grades achieved were A*

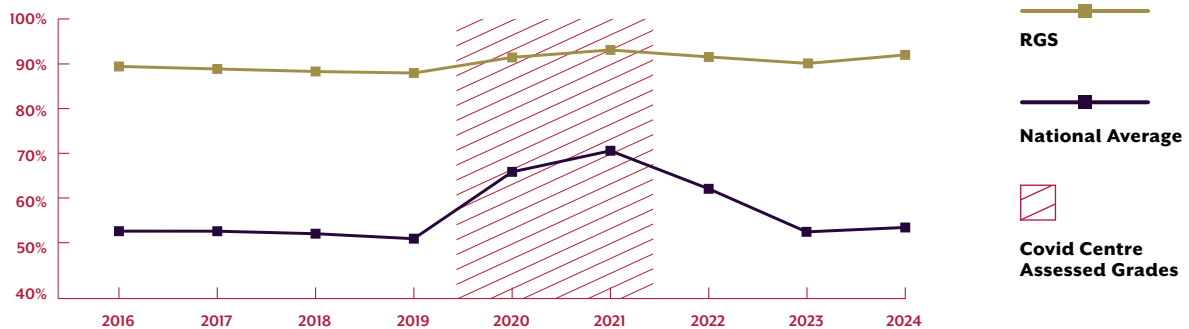
The national average was 9%

EPQ

Nearly
62%
Grade A*–A

61 students completed an
Extended Project Qualification

% of A-Level grades at A*–B





Year 7 Prizes

Rose Appiah-Metcalf, Art
Annabelle Zhou, Biology
Emma Barabino, Chemistry
Henry Saharia, Computer Science
Ivor Bains Lewis, Drama
Aditi Singiseti, Engineering,
 Design and Technology
Elisa Tan, English
Lukas Soteropoulos, Geography
Amy Ye, German
Yash Narula, History
Jinan Chen, Latin
Dian He, Maths
Guru Balasubramaniam, Music
Selena French, Physics

Year 8 Prizes

Bethany Cottee, Art
Sisi Zhao, Biology
Jack Dong, Chemistry
Leo Beeton, Computer Science
Leander Scott, Drama
Emma Bates, Engineering,
 Design and Technology
Eliot Calderon-Deevy, English
Emma Blackburn, French
Alice Cabbage, Geography
Naomi Rajan, German
Isabella Quigley, History
Mia Trott, Latin
Kaiyuan Kou, Maths
Shuquan Gan, Music
Edward Perry, Physics
Ellie Al-Jumaili, Project
Isla Barrass, Project
Adam Tufail, Project
Kevin Wu, Project
Tanida Prapunwong, Spanish

Year 9 Prizes

Nandini Menon, Ancient History
Milo Hickleton, Art
Edison Wang, Biology
Lola Clappison, Chemistry
Viktoria Sileris, Computer Science
George Toumi, Design Engineering
Sophie Iliasova, Drama
Anya Joseph, English
Meenu Nair, French
Abena Oppong, Geography
Myleene Teo, German
Archit Upadhye, Greek
Helen Li, History
Daniel Wang, Latin

Sam Birkett, Maths
Ruiqi Guo, Music
Fraser Hall, Physics
George Ponton, Product Design
Georgina Hamilton, Project
Hemadri Pakhira, Spanish

Year 10 Prizes

Isabel Yates, Ancient History
Maggie Lu, Art
Bobbie Doe, Biology
Joshua Davies, Chemistry
Johan Haniffa, Computer Science
Daniel Johnson, Design Engineering
Imogen Longstaff, Drama
Thomas Barabino, Economics
Rebecca Evans, English Language
Ann Olsen-Gallacher, English Literature
Charlie Ball, French
Lara Savic, Geography
Jasmine Guan, German
Tim Xie, Greek

Amelie Tones, History
Aayush Pandya, Latin
Faheel Naveed, Maths
Richa Kocherlakota, Music
Aadi Manjith, Physics
Priyanka Gupta, Product Design
Avantika Aradhyula, Spanish

Year 11 Prizes

James Quinton, Ancient History
Edith Miller, Art
Bital Kazi, Biology
Hana Dennison, Chemistry
Sarah Hu, Computer Science
Eleanor Irving, Design Engineering
Duncan Robb, Drama
Felicity Mendelow, Trevor Fenwick
 Economics
Hannah Zheng, English Language
Suyash Dhull, English Literature
Eva Jones, French
Chalida Prapunwong, Geography
Basma Gharib, German
Tom Aldridge, Greek
Annabelle Brookes, History
Nisna Malviya, Latin
David Baker, Maths
Alissa Lietz, Music
Aditi Kamanahalli, Physics
Helen Chen, Product Design
Emmanuel Horsman Elphick, Spanish

Lower Sixth Prizes

Ellen Chen, Ancient History
Silvia Mosquera, Art
Alexia Ward, Biology
Rachel Chang, Chemistry

Lara Elliott, Computer Science
Emil Brunsnes, Design Engineering
Rishi Matla, Drama and Theatre
Saakshi Santosh, Economics
Izzy Goldberg, English Literature
Nylah Thompson, Film Studies
Hugo Green, French
Holly Brooks, Geography
Hugo Goodall, German
Esther Kim, Greek
Evie Tones, History
Rory Scott, Latin
Peter van Orsouw, Maths
Shaarav Baranwal, Further Maths
Lily Gillespie, Music
Joseph Ashman, Philosophy
Daniel Read, Physics
Abbey Cain, Politics
Ishika Puri, Product Design
Mina Mohammed, Psychology
Isobel Barreto, Spanish
Michaela Smith, Sports Studies

Upper Sixth Prizes

Isabella Brown, Stanier Prize for Service
 and Classical Civilisation
Aliyah Bruce, Trevor Fenwick Politics
William Butterworth, Design Engineering
Jessica Cottee, Geography
Gregor Davies, Dennison Prize for
 Outstanding Service
Imogen Davies, Collingwood Prize for
 Service to the Community
Bede Doe, Kishore Prize for an Intending
 Medical Student, Stanier Prize for Service
 and Biology
Anna Dorman, Psychology
Gina Elliott, Physics
Kunjai Gopani, Dennison Prize for
 Outstanding Service
Chloe Green, Joseph Petty Prize for an
 Intending Law Student
Lexie Haig, The Ellen Barton Trophy for
 Outstanding Contribution to Girls Games
Olivia Harper, Bewick Art
Aliza Hassan, Stanier Prize for Service
Hector Hoult, Dennison Prize for
 Outstanding Service
Isla Hutton-Stott, Ancient History
Seanan Kale, Stanier Prize for Service
 and Coates Head Prefects'
Eloise Lamb, Dennison Prize for
 Outstanding Service and Art
Gargi Mannikar, Stanier Prize for Service
Lydia Mitchell, English Literature
Ashni Nair, Harding Prize for Service to
 the Community
Ruby Naylor, Latin
James O'Connell Nash, Film Studies
Ben Osborne, Philosophy
William Ponton, Sports Studies

Joe Prescott, Dennison Prize for
 Outstanding Service
Daniel Rehimbek, Stanier Prize for
 Service and The John Elders Senior Boys
 Games Player of the Year
Heston Reid, Trevor Fenwick Economics
Navya Saranga, Harding Prize for Service
 to the Community
Pablo Shenton-Pareja, Chemistry
 Celia Talks, EPQ
Daniel Thompson, Greek
Parul Tiwari, Zaamin Hussain Prize for an
 Intending Medical Student
Dhruv Varier, German
Anya Vedhara, Spanish
Olya Volianyk, Computer Science
Oliver Wall, French and Music
 Performance
Daisy Warne, Dennison Prize for
 Outstanding Service and Product Design
Alex Wride, History
Henry Young, Collingwood Prize for
 Service to the Community
Xuehan Zhang, Maths
Amy Zheng, The Bill Gibson Prize for
 Outstanding Mathematician in Upper
 Sixth and Further Maths

Rutherford Prizes

Amrit Jagpal, Year 7
Sophia Crosby, Year 7
Saja Ali, Year 7
George Menne, Year 7
Lydia Toumi, Year 7
Leisha Mukhija, Year 7
Daylan Deen-Williams, Year 8
AJ Paul, Year 8
Constance Barber, Year 8
Hansika Mada, Year 8
Thomas Cowie, Year 8
Aryan Singh, Year 8
Olivia Williams, Year 9
Sama Mohammed, Year 9
Iona MacFarlane, Year 9
Clara Lingam, Year 9
Tom Richardson, Year 9
Abhi Karki, Year 9
Millie Moat, Year 10
Milly Longville, Year 10
Alexa Hamilton, Year 10
Indra Shah, Year 10
Sofia Walker, Year 10
Lina Alfahad, Year 10
Tamsin Hutton-Stott, Year 11
Tanvi Narula, Year 11
Matt Green, Year 11
Jesdina Daniel, Year 11
Meghna Mukesh, Year 11
Nye Pritchard, Year 11
Cara Lee, Year 12

Sophia Young, Year 12
 Zuhair Abdullah, Year 12
 Lily Hutchinson, Year 12
 Lola Watkins, Year 12
 Oscar Thomas, Year 12
 Ava Perkins, Year 12
 Nitya Singh, Year 12
 Will Kelly, Year 12
 Anushka Taribagil, Year 12
 Toby Aberdeen, Year 13
 Shreya Gellia, Year 13
 Robert Gold, Year 13
 Charlotte Graham, Year 13
 Aidan Lord, Year 13
 Katie Page, Year 13
 Abbie Rafi, Year 13
 Thomas Williams, Year 13
 Harry Wilson, Year 13
 Ana Zheng, Year 13

Headmaster's Prizes

Lex Clark, Year 7
 Peiqi Guo, Year 7
 Aditya Jadhav, Year 7
 Alexander Mohammed, Year 7
 Arnab Raghavendra, Year 7
 Zac Rayner, Year 7
 Kate Tuckett, Year 7
 Murphy Zhang, Year 7
 Eva Olsen-Gallacher, Year 8
 Noah Patterson, Year 8
 Matilda Pike, Year 8
 Jessica Gould, Year 8
 Karina Aggarwal, Year 8
 Anna Arvind, Year 8
 Luca Black, Year 8
 Zain Shah, Year 8
 Faraaz Ahmed, Year 9
 Poppy Black, Year 9
 Dexter Brissenden-Lang, Year 9
 Phoebe Spyridopoulos, Year 9
 Harry Watson, Year 9
 Josh White, Year 9
 James Muir, Year 10
 Kathy Kou, Year 10
 Hamish Stuart, Year 10
 Josiah McQueen, Year 10
 Alfie Davidson, Year 10
 Anay Pathak, Year 10
 Hannah Kilburn, Year 10
 Max Beeton, Year 10
 Darcey Edwards, Year 11
 Elena Baggett, Year 11
 Anika Csudae, Year 11
 Nina Ducker, Year 11
 Beth Hill, Year 11
 Charles Marshall, Year 11
 Ewan McQueen, Year 11

Mia Narkhede, Year 11
 Ayesha Premchand, Year 11
 Julian Spyridopoulos, Year 11
 Haaris Ghafoor, Year 12
 Leo Hu, Year 12
 Celia Leung, Year 12
 Jake Moir, Year 12
 Lewis Reilly, Year 12
 Annanya Thumbarathy, Year 12
 Frazer Wang-Tonge, Year 12
 Luke Wintrip, Year 12
 Jane Cheng, Year 13
 Abdulaziz Issa, Year 13
 Lucas Jessop, Year 13
 Rob Jones, Year 13
 Sia Sehgal, Year 13
 Olivia Sharp, Year 13
 Imogen Stobart, Year 13
 Kaavya Suresh Babu, Year 13

Academic Engagement

Oliver Barnes, Year 7
 Aodhan Degenaar, Year 7
 Sam Gardner, Year 7
 Jake Jenkins, Year 7
 Adi Khanna, Year 7
 Winnie Li, Year 7
 Isobel Pointon, Year 7
 Vivienne Poon, Year 7
 Ioanna Proukaki, Year 7
 Maun Vyas, Year 7
 Veronica Fang, Year 8
 Kaiah Banerjee, Year 8
 James Townshend, Year 8
 Giulian Fabrizi, Year 8
 Khaleel Ishaq, Year 8
 Jude Kidd, Year 8
 Tristan Stanford, Year 8
 Brian Liu, Year 8
 Aryan Kalluri, Year 8
 Angellina Daniel, Year 8
 Zaki Alam, Year 9
 Iris Bains Lewis, Year 9
 Atharva Bhavsar, Year 9
 Jinfan Chen, Year 9
 Akhil de Alwis, Year 9
 Kevin Kossinhala Vithanage, Year 9
 Araav Dixit Sharma, Year 9
 Phe Twemlow, Year 9
 Lyège Payne, Year 10
 Zoya Usman, Year 10
 Twisha Devalia, Year 10
 Seyona Kale, Year 10
 Dingyi Ma, Year 10
 Chinmayi Achutha Kumar, Year 10
 Prachi Arora, Year 10
 Raphael Horsman-Elphick, Year 10
 Orran Laing, Year 10

Olivia Lucherini, Year 10
 Misheel Mendbayar, Year 10
 Jessica Searby, Year 10
 Sarrah Khushnood, Year 11
 Oliver Clark, Year 11
 Janice Kuang, Year 11
 Hannah Cutler, Year 11
 Hazel Downie, Year 11
 Tanish Kadarapura, Year 11
 Joseph Powell, Year 11
 Maria Shenton-Pareja, Year 11
 Krishnan Balaraj, Year 11
 Imogen Stanley, Year 11
 Rosa Baruch Harrison, Year 12
 Flo Elliot, Year 12
 Claudia Ilderton, Year 12
 Parth Jha, Year 12
 Advik Nair, Year 12
 Ben Rowley, Year 12
 Gianna Tsang, Year 12
 Rachel Tsang, Year 12
 Elliot Woods, Year 12
 Abigail Wright, Year 12
 Rayan Ahmed, Year 13
 Charlotte Binns, Year 13
 James Booth, Year 13
 Ellie Donoghue, Year 13
 Josh Eapen, Year 13
 Lachlan Ewart, Year 13
 Katherine Johnson, Year 13
 Duncan Seller, Year 13
 Honor Stobart, Year 13
 Weiming Xu, Year 13

Sir John McNee

Samy Adel
 Moonis Ahmad Virk
 David Baker
 Aarav Bhatnagar
 Helen Chen
 Hana Dennison
 Suyash Dhull
 Basma Gharib
 Aditi Kamanahalli
 Alissa Lietz
 Nisna Malviya
 Chalida Prapunwong
 Callum Reid
 Tarka Stanford

Love of Learning

Aaron Cheung, Year 7
 Lily Logan, Year 8
 Will Bates, Year 9
 Shuwen Kwa, Year 10
 Eleanor Irving, Year 11
 Tony Gao, Year 12
 Jacob Colbeck, Year 13

Able

Eleanor Booth, Year 3
 Jude Irving, Year 4
 Alessandro Black, Year 5
 Oorja Chakraborty, Year 6

Sense of Belonging

Emily Ponton, Year 7
 Scarlett French, Year 8
 Ojas Sehgal, Year 9
 Nicholas Ojomakre, Year 10
 Hannah Cutler, Year 11
 Will Rowe, Year 12
 Jai Premchand, Year 13

Calm

Matthew Pattman, Year 3
 Rohan Alagar, Year 4
 Ishaan Puri, Year 5
 William Cowie, Year 6

Ambition to Succeed

Clara Candal-Bescansa, Year 7
 Ena Connor-Ruiz, Year 8
 Maggie Copland, Year 9
 Henry Rewcastle, Year 10
 Maria Shenton-Pareja, Year 11
 Amali Morgan, Year 12
 Laura Cottee, Year 13

Strong

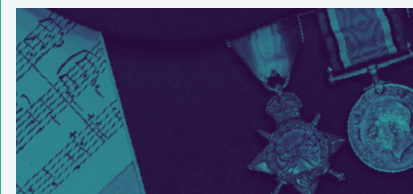
Aaron Gopal, Year 3
 Noah Joll, Year 4
 James Nolan, Year 5
 Ava Coulbeck, Year 6

Belief in Each Other

Harry Coleman, Year 7
 Eric Schwalbe, Year 8
 Coco Hu, Year 9
 Emily Fitzpatrick, Year 10
 Hannah Zheng, Year 11
 Esha Raja, Year 12
 Charlie Potts, Year 13

Kind

Raymon Ranaie, Year 3
 Thomas Melville, Year 4
 Krish Bedi, Year 5
 Siddharth Balaji, Year 6



Leavers

2021 Leavers Update

Lucy Conroy, Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts, Musical Theatre, 2024
Alex Doolan, Gap year, Application to university 2025
Matthew Edington, Northumbria University, Newcastle, Architecture, 2024
Milo Robson, University of Manchester, Mathematics, 2024

2022 Leavers Update

Ella Parvin, Durham University, Sociology with Foundation, 2024

2023 Leavers Update

Zaina Ahmed, Newcastle University, Medicine and Surgery, 2024
Sofia Busby, University of Bath, Pharmacy, 2024
Thomas Cressey, University of Bath, Economics with professional placement or study abroad, 2024
William Emmerson, University of Leeds, Geography, 2024
William Forster, University of Liverpool, Chemical Sciences (Foundation) (1+3), 2024
Kirstin Greatorex, University of Exeter, Business and Management with Industrial Experience, 2024
Sophie Holmes, Applying for degree apprenticeships, Business Management, 2025
Nicholas Johnston, University of York, History, 2024
Thomas Karlsen, UCL (University College London), History, 2024
Tiger Li, University of Oxford, Somerville College, Philosophy, Politics and Economics, 2024
Maeve Lindsay, University of Glasgow, Psychology, 2024
Adam Lobacz, Gap year, Application to university 2025
Lydia Mitchell, University of Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, English, 2024
Tanya Patel, Newcastle University, Medicine and Surgery, 2024
Liam Reilly, Durham University, History, 2024
Ruby-Anne Reynolds, Manchester Metropolitan University, Fashion, 2024
Mia Rouse, University of Birmingham, Nursing (Mental Health), 2024
Ansh Saggarr, University of Liverpool, Urban Planning, 2024
Grace Stobart, Newcastle University, English Literature, 2024
Aryan Ullal, UCL (University College London), Medicine (6 years), 2024
Jacob Weech, University of Nottingham, Economics, 2024

Sarah White, University of Liverpool, Law, 2024
Josephine Winskell, The University of Edinburgh, Business Management, 2024
Lucy Wright, University of the Arts London, Product and Industrial Design, 2024

2024 Leavers

Toby Aberdeen, Newcastle University, Sport and Exercise Science, 2024
Raisa Ahmed, University of East Anglia UEA, Medicine, 2024
Rayan Ahmed, Northumbria University, Newcastle, Law/MLaw, 2024
Charles Baggett, Newcastle University, Economics and Business Management, 2024
Jacob Beard, University of Bristol, Economics, 2024
Jessica Berry, Newcastle University, Medicine and Surgery, 2024
Charlotte Binns, Gap year, Application to university 2025
James Booth, The University of Edinburgh, Mathematics, 2024
Isabella Brown, The University of Edinburgh, English Literature, 2024
Aliyah Bruce, The University of Edinburgh, Business with Marketing, 2024
Charlie Burton, University of Sunderland, Biochemistry, 2024
Hassan Butt, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, Accounting & Finance, 2024
William Butterworth, University of Bristol, Mechanical Engineering, 2024
Oisin Caffery, University of Leeds, Politics, 2024
Adam Carey, University of York, Computer Science, 2024
Andrew Chaddha, University of Liverpool, Law, 2024
Samantha Chakkoria, Lancaster University, Psychology, 2024
Harry Chapman, Durham University, Mathematics (3 years), 2024
Yike Cheng, Imperial College London, Physics, 2024
Nusyba Chowdhury, Gap year, Application to university 2025
Olivia Clarke, King's College London, University of London, Law, 2024
Jacob Colbeck, University of Bristol, Mathematics with Statistics, 2024
Jessica Combe, Gap year, Application to university 2025
Jessica Cottee, University of Oxford, Geography, 2024
Laura Cottee, Durham University, Biological Sciences, 2024

Samuel Davidson, Manchester Metropolitan University, Mathematics with Foundation Year, 2024
Gregor Davies, University of Nottingham, Philosophy, Politics and Economics, 2024
Imogen Davies, The University of Edinburgh, History of Art, 2024
Ollie Davison, University of Bristol, Chemistry with Study Abroad, 2024
Tara Davison, Manchester Metropolitan University, Textiles in Practice, 2024
Bede Doe, University of Cambridge, Downing College, Medicine, 2024
Ellie Donoghue, The University of Edinburgh, Global Law, 2024
Anna Dorman, University of Liverpool, Veterinary Science, 2024
Heather Downie, Gap year, Application to university 2025
Antonia Dumitrascu-Podogrocki, Newcastle University, Business, Accounting and Finance (with Work Placements), 2024
Matthew Dunn, University of Glasgow, English Literature, 2024
Josh Eapen, The University of Edinburgh, Medicinal and Biological Chemistry, 2024
Freya Edwards, JCT 600 (Porsche Centre), Sales management training, 2024
Gina Elliott, Durham University, Physics, 2024
Lachlan Ewart, University of Warwick, Mathematics, 2024
William Exley, Durham University, Physics, 2024
Sophie Feenan, University of Leicester (after gap year), Medicine, 2025
Otalía Frankel, Keele University (after gap year), Medicine, 2025
Shreya Gellia, University of Manchester, Medicine, 2024
Alvina Gill, Birmingham City University, Law with a Foundation Year, 2024
Robert Gold, Newcastle University, Mechanical Engineering, 2024
Kunjai Gopani, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, Management, 2024
Charlotte Graham, University of Exeter, Sport and Exercise Medical Sciences with Professional Training Year, 2024
Chloe Green, Lancaster University, Law, 2024
Tara Gupta, University of Bristol, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, 2024
Cosmo Gurteen, Application to New Zealand Universities, 2025
Giya Gururaj, University of Leeds, Psychology, 2024
Lexie Haig, Iowa University, USA, Political Sciences, 2024

Nivedita Harikumar, Gap year, Application to university 2025
Olivia Harper, JCA | London Fashion Academy, Fashion: Design, Branding & Entrepreneurship, 2024
Aliza Hassan, Newcastle University, Dentistry, 2024
Jessica Hegarty, University of Liverpool, English Literature, 2024
Vibha Hemanth, Newcastle University, Medicine and Surgery, 2024
Cassandra Hill, University of Warwick, Psychology with Linguistics, 2024
Hector Hoult, University of Bristol (after gap year), Mechanical Engineering, 2025
Isla Hutton-Stott, University of Liverpool, Egyptology, 2024
Lilia Immanuel, University of Nottingham, Management with a Placement Year, 2024
Abdulaziz Issa, University of East Anglia UEA, Medicine, 2024
Thomas Jepson, Gap year, Application to university 2025
Lucas Jessop, University of Nottingham, Economics, 2024
Katherine Johnson, University of Birmingham, Chemical Engineering, 2024
Alexander Jones, Newcastle University, Geography, 2024
Rob Jones, Durham University, Geography, 2024
Grace Joyce, University of Birmingham, Computer Science, 2024
Maria Kajrowicz, Gap year, Application to university 2025
Seanan Kale, University of Leeds, Law, 2024
Aishani Kaura, University of Exeter, History, 2024
Christopher Kelly, Northumbria University, Newcastle, Sport Coaching, 2024
Olivia Kilburn, Leeds Beckett University, Media, Communication, Cultures, 2024
Eloise Lamb, The University of Edinburgh, Geography, 2024
Ellen Land, University of Bath, Architecture with Professional Placement, 2024
Kirsty Lee, Gap year, Application to university 2025
Xingyan Liu, UCL (University College London), Computer Science, 2024
Aidan Lord, Gap year, Application to university 2025
Ellen Lowrie, Queen's University Belfast, International Relations and Politics, 2024
Anqi Lu, University of Leeds, Medicine, 2024



Georgina Mabbott, University of Glasgow (after gap year), Veterinary Medicine, 2025

Eve MacEwan, Newcastle College, Art Foundation Diploma, 2024

Edward Mackay, Newcastle University, Business Management, 2024

Shakir Maglad, University of Liverpool, Medicine, 2024

Gargi Mannikar, Queen's University Belfast, Medicine, 2024

Daniel McLeod, University of Liverpool, Mechanical Engineering, 2024

Madeleine McManus, University of Liverpool, History, 2024

Rahaf Medani, University of Dundee, Medicine, 2024

Arav Mehlawat, Newcastle University, Computer Science with Industrial Placement, 2024

Annika Mitchell, University of Sunderland, Biopharmaceutical Science with Integrated Foundation Year, 2024

Ashni Nair, University of Sunderland, Biomedical Science, 2024

Rohan Narayanan, University of Manchester, Computer Science, 2024

Siddharth Nayar, University of Bristol (after gap year), Computer Science, 2025

Ruby Naylor, Durham University (after gap year), Classics, 2025

Amber Nicholson, University of Leeds, Psychology, 2024

Wasseem Nojib, University of Leeds, Physics, 2024

James O'Connell Nash, University of Warwick, Film Studies, 2024

Praise Okpoji, Bournemouth University, Adult Nursing (with Foundation Year), 2024

Ben Osborne, University of Leeds, Advanced Psychology, 2024

Tegan Oxley, Lancaster University, Geography, 2024

Katie Page, University of Exeter, Politics and International Relations, 2024

Dylan Parr, University of Leeds, Zoology, 2024

Harvey Pierson, University of Birmingham, Psychology, 2024

William Ponton, New Zealand, Rugby Union, 2024

Charlie Potts, University of Sheffield, Aerospace Engineering, 2024

Jai Premchand, Duke University, North Carolina, USA, 2024

Joseph Prescott, Newcastle University, Geography, 2024

Abbie Rafi, University of Leeds, Accounting and Finance, 2024

Benjamin Rahmani, The University of Edinburgh, Mathematics, 2024

Srilekha Ratneswaran, Newcastle University, Law, 2024

Matthew Rees, Gap year, Application to university 2025

Daniel Rehimbek, Durham University, Finance, 2024

Heston Reid, Gap year, Application to university 2025

James Reid, University of York, Politics, 2024

Ben Robinson, University of Cambridge, Robinson College, Architecture, 2024

James Robson, Northumbria University, Newcastle, Networks and Cyber Security, 2024

Yusuf Rouf, Newcastle University, Computer Science, 2024

Izhaan Salam, University of Manchester, Computer Science and Mathematics, 2024

Navya Saranga, Gap year, Application to university 2025

Benjamin Sebastian, Northumbria University, Newcastle, Foundation year in Law, 2024

Sia Sehgal, Gap year, Application to university 2025

Duncan Seller, Durham University, Theoretical Physics, 2024

Siya Sharma, King's College London, University of London, Social Sciences, 2024

Tanisha Sharma, Imperial College London, Medicine, 2024

Olivia Sharp, University of the Arts London, Fashion Marketing, 2024

Pablo Shenton Pareja, University of Oxford, Christ Church, Chemistry, 2024

Maxwell Shield, University of Leeds, Politics, 2024

Shifa Siddiqui, Newcastle University, Architecture, 2024

Eshaan Singh, University of Southampton, Accounting and Finance with Placement Year, 2024

Sophie Somerville Roberts, UCL (University College London), Politics and International Relations, 2024

Honor Stobart, University of Nottingham, Finance, Accounting and Management, 2024

Imogen Stobart, Gap year, Application to university 2025

Kaavya Suresh Babu, University of Nottingham (after gap year), Medicine, 2025

Celia Talks, Durham University, Biological Sciences, 2024

Dhiren Thanacoody, The University of Edinburgh, History and Economics, 2024

Chloe Thompson, University of Liverpool, Business Management, 2024

Daniel Thompson, Newcastle University, Pharmacy, 2024

Parul Tiwari, The University of Edinburgh, Medicine, 2024

Nehan Udawatte, The University of Edinburgh, Philosophy and Theology, 2024

Dhruv Varier, The University of Edinburgh, Computer Science, 2024

Anya Vedhara, University of Bristol, Law and Spanish, 2024

Olha Volianyk, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Computer Sciences, 2024

Oliver Wall, University of Cambridge, King's College, Modern and Medieval Languages, 2024

Benjamin Wang, UCL (University College London), Mathematics, 2024

Daisy Warne, University of Westminster, London, Film, 2024

Alexander Weir, University of Glasgow, Business and Management (SocSci), 2024

Ruairi Welby, University of St Andrews, Geography, 2024

Abigail Westerby, Newcastle University, Mathematics, 2024

Jack White, University of Bristol (after gap year), Economics and Finance, 2025

Lewis White, University of Leeds, Mechanical Engineering, 2024

Thomas Williams, University of York, Physics, 2024

Ben Wilson, University of St Andrews, Economics and Management, 2024

Harry Wilson, Leeds Beckett University, Landscape Architecture & Design, 2024

Alexander Wride, University of Oxford, Lady Margaret Hall, History, 2024

Esmay Wright, Gap year, Application to university 2025

Weiming Xu, University of Manchester, Computer Science, 2024

Henry Young, Gap year, Application to university 2025

Xuehan Zhang, University of Manchester, Medicine, 2024

Amy Zheng, University of Cambridge, Clare College, Mathematics, 2024

Xi Zheng, Northumbria University, Newcastle, Applied Sciences Foundation Year, 2024

Felicia Zhou, Trinity College, Dublin/ Columbia University, USA, Dual programme, 2024

Louie Zuch, Manchester Metropolitan University (after gap year), Product Design, 2025

Class of 2024



Each year, our Year 13 leavers enjoy a wonderful rite of passage departing the school, no more so than the celebrations enjoyed by the Class of 2024.

This year's leavers included students who had joined for their two years of Sixth Form at RGS, through to students who had been with us for eleven years, since Junior School. Whatever their tenure, each individual in the Class of 2024 will be greatly missed but our sorrow is bittersweet, as we watched with pride as this latest generation of Old Novos spread their wings.



Leavers' Breakfast

The Class of 2024 Leavers' Breakfast was a fantastic celebration held in the RGS marquee, the morning of our annual RGS Festival. The breakfast was a wonderful way for our latest cohort of Old Novocastrians, along with their parents, to say (a temporary) farewell to each other and the RGS teachers.

Leavers' Dinner

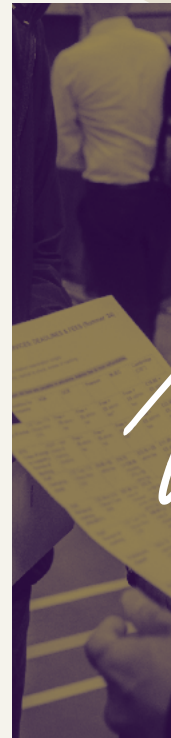
Straight after the completion of A-Level exams, Year 13 students strut their stuff at a glamorous ball at Newcastle's Discovery Museum. It was a fitting celebration of the end of significant academic focus, and the start of a summer of fun. The RGS Staff Band serenaded the guests, and were joined on stage by other students, which is a real tribute to the collegiality of our community.



Leavers' Concert

Our 2024 Leavers' Concert was a final opportunity for our Year 13 musicians to take to the Miller Theatre stage and perform for a live audience and celebrate their exceptional musical talent before their exams started.

Donning black tie, and with the support of their music teachers, this event proved to be a real tearjerker. Parents were treated to an eclectic mix of soloists and ensemble groups, including accompanied voice, acappella and a range of instruments, playing classical, pop and musical numbers. There were even original compositions and arrangements. The concert ended fittingly with a beautiful performance of 'For Good' from Wicked.



Prefects' Dinner

Before handing over their leadership responsibilities, our departing Year 13 Prefects enjoyed a lavish black tie dinner. As a thank you for their service, students were served dinner by their teachers.



A-Level Results' Day

Year 13 needn't have been nervous as they entered the school for the very last day, this time to collect their A-Level results. The cohort achieved stunning, and record-breaking results for the RGS, a product of their dedication and our teachers' commitment to them. Congratulations!

Old Novos



Newcastle ON Dinner

In October 2023 we had the honour of welcoming over 130 Old Novocastrians back through the gates of RGS, for the 97th annual Newcastle ON Dinner and a special extended reunion weekend. The black tie dinner was a joyful evening of happiness and nostalgia, bringing together those who left RGS as recently as 10 years ago, along with those who left the school nearly 60 years ago.

Author of 'The Northumbrians', Dan Jackson, brought humour and history in his captivating address and the school roof was rapturously raised with a closing rendition of the School Song. The reminiscing continued throughout the weekend for those ONs enjoying commemorative tours of the school, delving into the RGS Archives to spot a few familiar faces and finishing with a traditional RGS school lunch. It was a joy to see so many friendships rekindled and celebrated back in the place where they were first formed.



Steps back in time

Old Novocastrians and members of the wider RGS community enjoyed the annual RGS History Walk. Expertly led by David Goldwater (ON 51-62), the walk offered attendees an exciting insight into the school's historic sites across Newcastle city centre, plus the opportunity to view the 1600 Royal Charter at the Discovery Museum. The event ended at Eskdale Terrace with an archive display celebrating our rich history and a much-needed afternoon tea.



London ON Dinner

Over 150 Old Novos from across the generations came together at the prestigious Royal Automobile Club in March 2024 to reconnect, reminisce and celebrate a shared passion for the RGS in a spectacular, joyful evening.

Those who left RGS over 65 years ago swapped stories with Year 13 Senior Prefects. Old Novo and Global CEO of Sony Interactive Entertainment Jim Ryan captivated the room with stories of his journey from Eskdale Terrace to the Sony Boardroom.



RGS Events



2023–2024 was another year of wonderful events, to welcome new children and parents to our network, extend the strength of our community, and celebrate our school's values.

Through the year's events, current students and their parents, Old Novocastrians and their parents, current and former staff all enjoyed camaraderie and companionship, access to our network of like-minded individuals, possibilities to continue learning or even simply the comfort of nostalgia.

“RGS is more than a school. It's a way of life. It's a community. It's a family.”

– RGS parent



Celebrating Co-Education

This year we installed a beautiful new stained glass window, unveiled on International Women's Day, in an event celebrating the introduction of co-education to the school.

Attendees included some of the first girls who joined the school over 20 years ago, it was lovely to welcome them back. The window design was inspired by student artwork and key themes of diversity, inclusion and togetherness. Symbolism from the history of the school is represented alongside our present – a phenomenal level of artistry and skill has gone into it, with thanks to local artist Maralyn O'Keefe.



RGS Gives

Members from all corners of our school community gathered at our Philanthropy Dinner to celebrate the eclectic diversity of RGS, in a bid to drum up continued support for RGS Bursaries and RGS Partnerships.

Students showcased their creative ability through a range of musical, artistic and dramatic pieces which interspersed the formal dinner and conversations about guests' shared ambition for social mobility in the North East.



RGS Festival

Here at RGS, we certainly try to embrace work AND play with our students, no more so than at our RGS Festival!

It was fantastic to welcome over 1,000 students, parents, Old Novos, staff and everyone else from our amazing school community for the weekend. 2023–24's event was a colour-injected, soul-filling and family friendly festival extravaganza, a glorious culmination of another academic year.

RGS Garden Party

The 2023–24 RGS Garden Party was once again a fabulous, relaxed night of celebration for RGS parents and Old Novos, this year at The Biscuit Factory.

Guests enjoyed acoustic performances from our talented students inside the spectacular and brand new Garden Room, followed by a mouth-watering supper served by our fabulous Senior Prefects. Dancing was then led by RGS's resident DJ Mr James Miller.

RGS Golf Day

This year RGS held its inaugural Golf day, a wonderful event welcoming Old Novos, along with former and current RGS parents to the prestigious Close House golf course.

Guests gathered for breakfast with panoramic views over the beautiful courses, after which they made their way around the Lee Westwood Filley course. To conclude the day guests refueled with a hearty two-course meal and prizes were awarded.



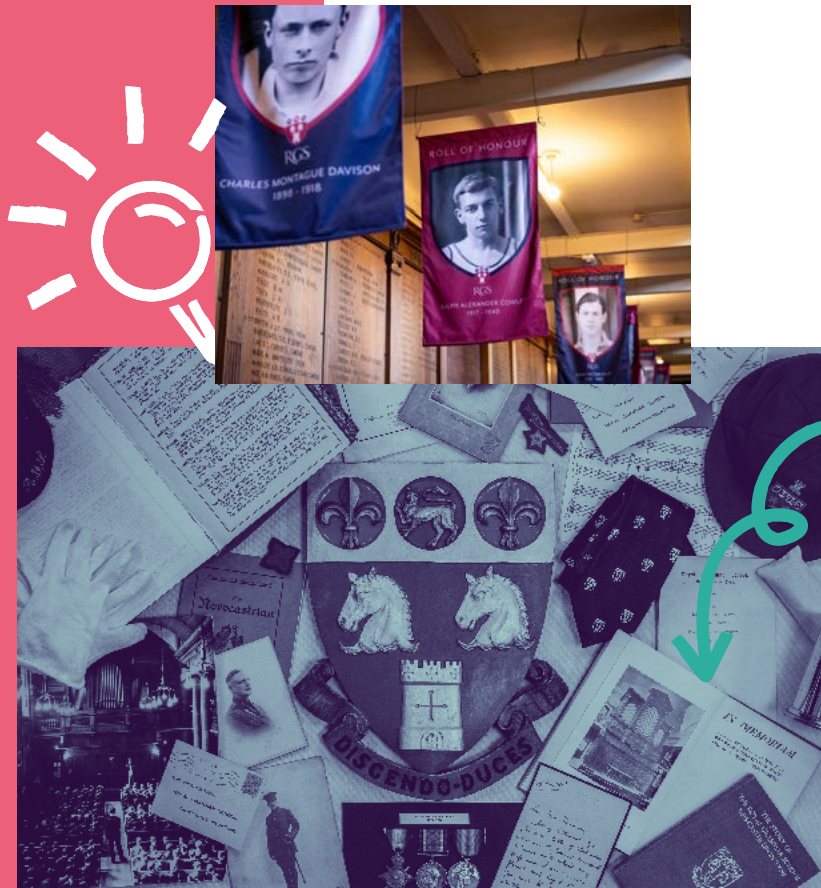
New Parents Connect

We welcomed all our new parents to our annual start of term curry night, for an opportunity to meet our friendly Senior Leadership Team and fellow new families over some tasty cuisine.

In 2023–24 many new students embarked on what we know will be a fantastic journey both in their time at school, and life beyond RGS as Old Novocastrians. Like thousands of Old Novos before them, we are sure they will each make their own indelible mark on the world!

Archive





We also celebrated the enduring legacy of NOVO magazine, an RGS student-led publication that dates back to 1885! A new vinyl wall display was installed in school, showcasing the striking magazine covers over time.

A wonderful annual event run by the RGS Junior School is the Year 6 WWII Day in May. In between visits to Victoria Tunnel and other activities, students visited the Archives to view some original documents and objects. They learnt all about the experience of RGS students who were evacuated to Penrith during WWII.

Students used the archives in some really creative ways this year. One Year 7 English class were given a selection of archive items to inspire some fantastic creative writing. Year 12 Drama students took the archives as inspiration for their Devising Performance coursework, producing a fantastic drama piece. A letter from the archive was the source for a Drama Club project earlier in the year too. Finally, Junior HistSoc students have spent months researching and creating some brilliant posters all about different aspects of school history, which went on display in the Main Hall.

It's been another busy and exciting year in the RGS Archives, using our wonderful collections to bring to life the history of the school.

Our collections have grown – we took in 56 new donations of material to the Archive, 25 of which from Old Novocastrians. This included a route map and film from the May 1990 RGS & Barnardos Roman Run. This was a charity run pitching a team of Old Novos against RGS staff, running from Westminster to Gateshead International Stadium!

A highlight was our extra-special Remembrance Service in November 2023. With help from Old Novocastrian David Goldwater, we researched and produced a new Roll of Honour for 17 – previously unsung – Old Novos who fell during WWI, WWII and Old Novos who died on active military service post-1945. Two beautiful new hand-carved wooden plaques were unveiled on Remembrance Day, installed on our 100-year-old Memorial Organ.



Social Impact



The foundations of our sense of social responsibility belong in our 500 year-old history; Thomas Horsley, the original settler of RGS pledged his legacy in 1525 to create the city's first learning institution.

Half a millennium later, and on the 'eve' of our Quincentenary, in 2023-24 the school's ambition of social impact remains front and centre to everything we do. We believe in the infinite potential of our region and are driven to raise the attainment and aspiration of young people from across the North East.

We believe in inspiring young people and equipping them to make a positive contribution to society. We promote excellence and are committed to raising aspiration and attainment across the North East. By inspiring and nurturing hearts and minds, we can give those around us the freedom to create and shape their own futures.

We aim to reach young people of the north, regardless of background and circumstance: from Carlisle to Stockton-upon Tees, to Berwick-upon-Tweed and back to our heartland in the city of Newcastle.

We work alongside teachers from all institutions interested in curriculum innovation, collegiality and sharing methodologies; and any parent wanting to explore a range of exciting opportunities for their children.

We collaborate with further and higher education, and businesses wishing to invest in the education and training of young people in this region.

We galvanise the RGS community to give back to the North East region, to support this ambition.

We believe together we can do more.

In the 2023–24 academic year:

RGS Bursaries

85 students at RGS

attended on transformational means-tested RGS Bursary

93.78% average bursary

awarded, focussing our finite funds where we can make the most difference

446 bursary students

supported since RGS Bursaries were established in 2002

193 donors gifted

an incredible £1.2m in the year

RGS School

1,323 students

attended RGS, which would have otherwise cost the taxpayer an annual c£10m if educated in the state system

Over

400 RGS students

regularly volunteered a total of 4,000 hours in our local community

17 members of staff

are Governors at local schools and 2 are Director/Trustee positions

42 local community groups

and organisations accessed RGS buildings and facilities for their events and activities

RGS Partnerships

Over

10,000 individual students

in local state schools benefitted from 7,500 of RGS partnership activities

105 different schools

across the region were involved in RGS Partnerships activities

Over

500 teachers

received training or collaborated on curriculum development

Over

50 RGS Partnerships projects

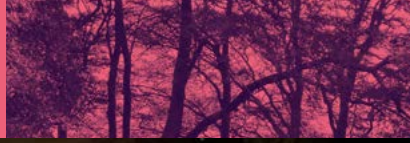
have taken place across Maths, Physics, Engineering, Robotics, Computer Science, Sport, Languages, Classics, Debating, UCAS Mentoring and much more.



Scan here to find out more about RGS's social impact:

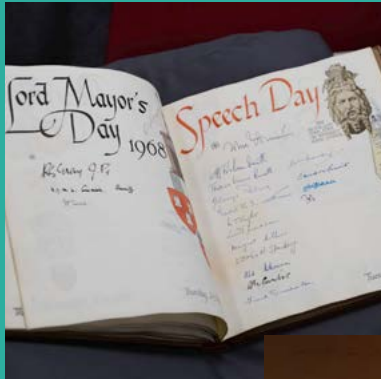


Junior School





Senior School





Staff List

Senior Leadership Team

Headmaster

Mr G Stanford, MA, MBA, FRGS, St Hugh's College, Oxford

Deputy Head

Mr T E Keenan, BSc, Bradford, MSc, Northumbria, PGCE

Deputy Head (Academic)

Mr C Quayle, Durham BA, PGCE, Med

Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Miss S J Longville, BA, Newcastle, PGCE

Deputy Head (Co-Curriculum)

Mr A McBride, BA (Hons), Durham, MEd, Northumbria, PGCE, Northumbria

Head of Junior School

Mr J N Miller, BA, Northumbria

Head of Sixth Form

Mrs N McGough, MSc, Imperial College, PGCE, MRes

Director of Finance & Operations

Mrs R Amey, MEng (Chemical Engineering), Nottingham, ACMA

Director of External Relations

Mrs S Beck, MSc (Marketing and Fundraising), Southbank, London, MCIOf(Cert)

Director of Partnerships

Mr J A Smith, BSc, Edinburgh, MEd, Newcastle, PGCE

Senior School

Art

MR G P MASON, BA, MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN, MA, NORTHUMBRIA, PGCE

Miss H C Bray, BA, MA, Northumbria, PGCE

Mrs C Egan-Fowler, BEd, Notre Dame College, Liverpool University, MA, Northumbria

Miss R Harvey, MFA, Newcastle, BA, Cumbria

Mrs K Nowicki, (Head of Year 12) BA, London Metropolitan, PGCE

Biology

MR P J HEATH, (HEAD OF SCIENCE AND EDT), BSc, SHEFFIELD, PGCE

Mrs L Astley, BSc, Durham, PGCE

Dr M H Bell, BSc, Aston, PhD, Aberystwyth, PGCE

Miss S Bunting, BSc, Queens University, Queen's University Belfast, PGCE

Mr S Hall, BSc, Newcastle, PGCE

Mrs S F Hutchinson, BSc, Edinburgh, PGCE

Dr C J Murgatroyd, (Head of Year 7) BSc, Sunderland, DPhil, Newcastle, PGCE

Mr O Pusey (BSc Wales, PGCE Newcastle, QTS)

Mr L Shepherd, MA, Homerton College, Cambridge, PGCE

Careers and Higher Education

MR M G DOWNIE, BA, LANCASTER, PGCE

Miss B Milburn, (Assistant Head of Careers), BSc, Imperial College London, MA, Northumbria, PGCE

Dr M B A Read, (North American Universities Coordinator), BA, MA, Balliol College, Oxford, BA, Open University, MPhil, Darwin College, Cambridge, PhD, King's College, London

Mrs C Towns, (Careers Coordinator, non-medical), Staatsexamen, Albert-Ludwigs-Universitat Freiburg, GTP

Chemistry

DR S NOLAN, MSCI, BRISTOL, PHD, BRISTOL, PGCE

Miss S Best, BSc, Newcastle, PGCE

Dr R Campbell, BSc, PhD Newcastle, PGCE

Mrs S L Coates, MChem, MSc, Durham, PGCE

Dr J L Greenhalgh, BSc, Northumbria, PhD, Newcastle, PGCE

Mrs C J Hutton-Stott, BSc, Open University, PGCE

Mr T Kelso, (Head of Year 10) BSc, Newcastle, PGCE

Mr D Osman, MChem, Durham, QTS

Dr A J Pulham, BA, Keble College, DPhil, Linacre College, Oxford

Dr E A Smith, BSc, PhD, Newcastle, PGCE

Mrs N Wright, (Head of Projects) BSc, MEd, Newcastle, PGCE

Classics

MRS Z HILL, BA, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, MA, QTS

Mr P Adams, BA Newcastle, MA Newcastle, PGCE

Dr L E Hope, PhD Toronto, MA Florida, BA Massachusetts Amherst

Mr S Robertson, MA Glasgow, MA York, PGCE Kings College London, Latin & Greek Open University, PhD Durham

Miss P L Whitworth, BA, Durham

Mr F Viti, Laurea in Lettere, Laurea Magistrale Universita di Pisa, PGCE

Cambridge, QTS

Digital Technology and Computer Science

MR C J WILDE, BA, NEWCASTLE, PGCE

Miss J Lynn, BSc, Edge Hill, PGCE

Mr M Moore, MEng, Newcastle, PGCE

Drama

MISS S G DAVISON, BA, WARWICK, PGCE

Mrs J Stirland-Brown, BA Sunderland

Mrs R A Shaw-Kew, BA, Bretton Hall College, University of Leeds

Economics

MR J D NEIL, BA, DURHAM, MPHIL, HUGHES HALL, CAMBRIDGE, PGCE

Miss K Archer, BA, University of York, Sheffield Hallam University PGCE

Mrs L E Davison, MA, BA, Newcastle, PGCE, QTS

Mr R C M Loxley, BSc (Econ), Birkbeck College, London, MEd, Newcastle, PGCE

Mr S O'Dwyer, BA, Bangor, PGCE, Nottingham

Mr M J Smalley, BA, Manchester, QTS

Engineering, Design & Technology

MR P M WARNE, MENG, ST AIDAN'S COLLEGE, DURHAM, PGCE

Dr S Bunce (Partnerships) BSc, Bradford, PhD, Newcastle, PGCE

Mr M Lowe, BA, Nottingham Trent

Mrs C A Pipes, BA, Northumbria, PGCE

Miss O Kenny, BA, Newcastle, MA, Sunderland, PHD, Sunderland, PGCE

English

MISS C SAVILLE, BA DURHAM, MST OXFORD, PGCE SUSSEX

Mrs H Chandy, BA, MA, St Andrews, PGCE

Mrs K J Keown, BA, Robinson College, Cambridge, PGCE

Mr A King, BA, MA, Newcastle, PGCE

Dr S C Masters, (Film Studies), BA, Newcastle Polytechnic, MA, Newcastle, PhD, Sunderland

Mrs S Moore, BA Polytechnic North London, MA London, QTS

Mrs L A Stadward, BA, MA, Northumbria, QTS

Mr B Watson, BA, Northumbria, PGCE, Durham

Food and Nutrition

Mrs M Aitchison, BSc, Northumbria, PCGE

Geography

MRS R J L LAWS, MA, DURHAM, PGCE

Ms S Buist, (Head of Digital Strategy), BA, Exeter, PGCE

Mr M G Downie, (Head of Careers & HE), BA, Lancaster, PGCE

Mrs K E Hammill, (Head of PSHE and Wellbeing), BA, Sheffield, QTS

Mrs R Leigh, (Head of EPQ) BA, MA, Newcastle, PGCE

Miss Z C Morrow, BSc, MA, Institute of Education, UCL, PGCE

Miss V Robinson, BA, University of York, Newcastle PGCE

Mr D A Wilson, BSc, King's College, London, PGCE

History

MR D TYREMAN, MA, LANCASTER, PGCE

Mrs L Crowley, MA, MLitt, Glasgow, QTS

Mr O L Edwards, MA, King's College, Cambridge, PGCE

Mr D C Greenhalgh, (Head of Year 8) BA (JtHons), MPhil, University of Wales, Bangor, MA, Aberystwyth, PGCE

Dr E S Matthews, MA, PhD, Lancaster, MSc, Stirling, PGCE

Mrs A J Palmer, MA, Dundee, PGCE

Mathematics

MR N HAMILTON, ME, OXFORD, PGCE

Dr J Argyle, BSc, Durham, MSc, Sheffield, PhD, Durham, PGCE, MEd, The Open University

Mr H M W Bingham, BA, Pembroke College, Cambridge, PGCE

Mr A Delvin, BSc, Bristol, MSc, Manchester, PGCE

Mr G D Dunn, BSc, Northumbria, PGCE

Mrs J Gwillim, BSc, Nottingham Trent, PGCE

Dr P M Heptinstall, BSc, PhD, Newcastle, PGCE

Mr D A Jardine, BSc, Strathclyde, PGCE

Mr T E Keenan, (Deputy Head), BSc, Bradford, MSc, Northumbria, PGCE

Mr A Pearson, BSc, MEd, Newcastle, PGCE

Mr H Rashid, BSc, MSc, Newcastle, PGCE

Mrs S Sharp, (Partnerships), BA, MA, Cambridge, PGCE

Mr A Snedden, BSc, Newcastle, PGCE

Miss R M Watterson, BSc, Edinburgh, PGCE

Miss Z Winn, MMath, Bath, PGCE

Modern Languages

MS K E SYKES, BA (DOUBLE HONS), BRADFORD, PGCE

Mr M S Bailie, (Head of Year 11), BA, Stirling, MA, Queen's University of Belfast, PGCE

Miss J Budd, (Head of Year 13) BA, Aberystwyth, PGCE

Miss S Demoulin, University of Mont Saint Aignan, France

Mrs C L Diaz-Crossley, BA, Jesus College, Cambridge, PGCE

Mr T Harman, (Head of French) BA, Newcastle, PGCE

Miss E L Hayes, BA, Newcastle, PGCE

Senora B Membrado-Dolz, (Head of Spanish)

Mr M Metcalf, (Head of Year 9) MA, MPhil, Trinity College, Cambridge, PGCE
Mrs C Towns, (Careers Coordinator, non-medical), Staatsexamen, Albert-Ludwigs-Universitat Freiburg, GTP
Mrs D Williams, (Head of German) BA, Durham, PGCE

Music

MR N. SMITH, BM, MM, NEWCASTLE, PGCE
Miss S L Bolt, BA, Newcastle, PGCE
Mrs K Clappison, (Head of Junior School Music), MA, Glasgow, PGCE

Learning Support

MRS L CATTLE, (HEAD OF LEARNING AND SUPPORT SENDCO), BA, DURHAM BA, NORTHUMBRIA PGCE, EDGE HILL UNIVERSITY PGCE SENDCO AWARD, QTS
Mrs M Laidler, HEFC Northumbria, BSc Sunderland, MA Sunderland
Mrs N Kyle, (Learning Support Assistant), BA, Durham, MSc, Northumbria, PGCE
Mrs S Huck, (Learning Support Assistant), BA, Reading, GCE Newcastle

Philosophy and Religion

DR M B A READ, BA, MA, BALLIOL COLLEGE, OXFORD, BA, OPEN UNIVERSITY, MPHIL, DARWIN COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, PHD, KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON

Physical Education

MRS A J PONTON, (DIRECTOR OF SPORT) BSC, LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES, PGCE
Mr A G Brown, BSc with QTS, Sheffield Hallam
Miss N Harkness, BSc, Northumbria, PGCE
Mrs J Andreasson, BSc, Manchester Metropolitan, PGCE, Durham
Mr J Conlon, Advanced Coaching Award (Level 3) RFU, QCF Level 3 Personal Training
Miss H Larsen, BSc, Loughborough
Mr J Leck, BSc, Bradford, PhD, Newcastle, PGCE
Miss A Lill, BSc, Northumbria, PGCE
Mr R V Mackay, BSc, Northumbria
Mr A E Watt, BA, Manchester Metropolitan
Mr J A Wood, BA, Manchester Metropolitan, PGCE Sunderland

Physics

DR R M HOUCHEIN, MSCI, PHD, DURHAM, QTS, DIPED
Mr J L Camm, BSc, Manchester, PGCE
Mrs N McGough, (Head of Sixth Form) MSc, Imperial College, PGCE, MRes
Mr S McMenzie, BSc, Manchester, PGCE

Miss B Milburn, (Careers Coordinator, medical), BSc, Imperial College London, MA, Northumbria, PGCE
Mr E T Rispin, (Head of Exams), BSc, Newcastle, PGCE
Mr T Williams, (Partnerships) BSc, Durham, PGCE

PSHE

MRS K E HAMMILL, BA, SHEFFIELD, QTS

Psychology

MISS K A JACQUES, BSC, NEWCASTLE
Mrs S Boyle, BSc, Sunderland, Staffordshire PGCE, QTS

Junior School

Headmaster

Mr J N Miller, BA, Northumbria

Deputy Junior School Head

Dr A J Spencer, BSc, PhD, Birmingham, PGCE

Assistant Junior School Head (Pastoral)

Mrs K Wall, BA, University College of Ripon & York St John, QTS

Assistant Junior School Head (Academic)

Mrs K Clappison, MA, Glasgow, PGCE

Staff

Mrs C Baker, BA, Northumbria
Miss H Close, BSc, Lancaster, MA, Sunderland, PGCE
Mr A Cragg, BA, Durham, QTS
Mrs C M Cree, BSc, Newcastle, PGCE
Mrs H Dean, BEd, Newcastle Polytechnic
Mrs L Hogg, BEd, Strathclyde
Mr T G Lloyd, BA, Nottingham, QTS
Mrs S J McCulloch, BA, Liverpool, PGCE
Mrs R Milligan, BA, Sheffield, PGCE
Miss M A Noble, BA, Hull, MA, Northumbria, PGCE
Mrs C O'Hanlon, BA, Newcastle, PGCE
Mrs L Smalley, BSc, University of Wales, Northumbria PGCE
Mrs R S Towers, (Head of Digital Technology and Computing) BA, Leeds, MEd, Newcastle
Ms A J Whitney, BA, Southampton, PGCE
Miss A Williamson, BA, PGCE Northumbria
Miss L R B Wood, BA, Newcastle, MA, Durham, QTS

Teaching Assistants

Mrs A Gilmore, CACHE Level 3
Mrs L M Johnston, STA, Northumbria, HLTA Level 4
Mrs H Sistrerson, BA, CACHE Level 3



Student Support Assistant

Miss R Embley, BSc Newcastle

After School Supervisors

Mr D Brown
Mrs C Colley
Mr L Emmerson
Mr S Hails

Operational Staff

Administration

Headmaster's Secretary:
Miss S Ellis
 PA to Deputy Head Team:
Mrs T Watkins, BA Bournemouth
 Exams Administrator:
Mrs J Armstrong
 Attendance & Cover Manager:
Miss A Davidson
 Compliance Officer & Clerk to the Governors:
Mrs C Black, BSc, Aston
 Procurement & Office Coordinator
Miss R Johnson
 Senior School Receptionist:
Mrs J Cross, **Miss R Stewart**
 Senior School Secretary:
Mrs J M Glendon
 Junior School Receptionist:
Mrs E Evans
 Junior School Secretaries:
Miss Noble, **Miss J Bryson**
 School Administrators:
Ms T Barden, BSc London, MSc Cranfield
Ms R McCabe
 Head of Admissions:
Mrs A Perry

External Affairs

Head of Development:
Miss E Flynn, BA Leeds Metropolitan with QTS

Marketing & Communications Manager:
Miss L Pringle, BA (Hons), Northumbria
Miss R Edmundson

Development Manager (Editorial):

Mrs J Lawrence, **Mrs C Briggs**

Development Manager (Digital):

Mrs H Strettle-Davis, BA Cambridge FCA

Archivist:

Ms L Piffero, BA, Sheffield, Masters of Archives and Record Management, Liverpool

External Affairs Administrator:

Mrs R Stewart, BA Manchester, PDip Westminster

Performing Arts Administrator:

Miss A Burns, BA MA, Newcastle

Head of Bursary Support:

Mrs J Browne, BA, Newcastle

Events

Events and Commercial Manager:

Mrs L Bennett, BA Leeds

Finance

Head of Finance:

Mrs A Findlay, BA, Northumbria, FCCA

Senior Finance Assistant:

Mrs S A McGregor

Finance Assistant:

Mrs M Keeler

Assistant Accountant:

Mrs R Barrett, BA Accounting (Hons), Northumbria

HR

Head of HR:

Mrs L Ledger, LLB, Leicester, LPC, College of Law, York

HR Advisor:

Mrs S Forster, BA Birmingham

HR Advisor:

Miss S Versteeg, BSc, Maastricht



Catering

Head of Catering Services:

Mr B T Bulch

Head Chef:

Mr C Scott

Assistant Chefs:

Miss L Docherty, Mr J Gray, Mr C Scott, Mr J Webb

Catering Assistants:

Mrs M Armstrong, Mrs N Campbell, Mrs A Crisp, Miss T Carr, Miss D Donaldson, Mrs L Dudding, Mrs G Gott, Mrs D Graham, Mrs L Hodgson, Miss S Knight, Miss C Ludbrook, Mrs T Newton, Miss J O'Dwyer, Miss C Stewart, Mrs L Storey, Mrs S Turnbull

Coaches

Chess:

Mr D Egleston

Climbing:

Mr J Chamberlain

Dance:

Miss S Condliffe, Miss K Oborka-Letman, MA Northumbria, BA Sunderland, BA Trinity Laban Conservatoire for Music and Dance

Fencing:

Mr I Aberdeen

Hockey:

Mr T Dudley

Rugby:

Mr J Benson, Mr T Turnbull, Mr J Hayes

Strength and Conditioning:

Mrs T Hamilton, Miss D Peart

Facilities

Head of Facilities and Estates:

Mr S G Lymn, MA, Durham

Domestic Manager:

Mrs J Gallagher, ABICsc

Domestic Supervisor:

Ms J Tullis

Domestics:

Mrs B Bowoade, Miss G Carter, Mrs S Charlton, Mr M Conroy, Mrs S Davison, Mr J Fothergill, Mr A Francis, Miss P Irving, Mrs S Redhead, Miss T Smith, Mr J Murtha, Miss E Munro, Mrs C Fairlamb, Miss L Conlin, Mrs L Clark, Mrs T Day, Mrs L Hodgson, Mr R Gonzalez-Rodríguez

Grounds Staff:

Mr D Payne, Mr J Rippon

Caretakers:

Mr O Gooding, Mr D Laffey, Mr C Sogorski

Caretaker Supervisor/
Facilities Co-ordinator:

Mr S Moran

Maintenance Staff:

Mr S Blanchflower

IT

Specialist in End User Computing:

Mr D Baker, BSc, Derby

Apprentice Network Engineer:

Mr D Leddy

IDT Administrator:

Miss J Chase

Data Assistant:

Miss C Balchin

IDT Co-Ordinator:

Mrs C Talbot-Jones

Library

Librarian:

Mrs C J Richardson, BA, Newcastle Polytechnic

Medical Staff

School Nurses:

Mrs M Thorniley-Walker, RGN, Mrs V Duns

School Medical Officer:

Dr R Pedlow

Outdoor Pursuits

Outdoor Pursuits Instructor:

Mr R O'Hagan, Mr Wayne Dobson

D of E:

Miss Z C Morrow

CCF Contingent Commander:

Mrs C J Hutton-Stott

Sports Centre

Sports Centre Supervisor:

Mr L Herbertson

Sports Centre Assistant:

Mr M Hume, Mr I Sprague

Graduate Sports Assistant:

Miss F Akerman, Mr T Harrop, MA York St John

Supervisory Assistants

Supervisory Assistants:

Miss R McCabe, Mrs A Bailey, Mrs L Roskilly

Technical Staff

Art Technician:

Miss R M Gibson, BA York

Head of Digital Media:

Mr M R Burton, BA, Northumbria

Technical Manager

(Performing Arts Centre):

Mr B Squire, BA, University of West London

Performing Arts Centre Technician:

Miss M Boyd, BA, Northumbria University

Senior Technician:

Mr P L Emerson, BA, Northumbria

EDT Technicians:

Mr A Barker

Science Technicians:

Mr G Bowman, BSc, Northumbria, Miss J English, Mr I Norris, BSc, MPhil, Newcastle, Mr C Robinson, Mr C Wheeler, BA Durham

Self-Employed Staff

Visiting Music Teachers

Dave Hignett, (Brass) BA (Hons), LGSM, PGCE

Peter Richardson, (Cello, Guitar and Bass) DRSM (performance)

Dov Goldberg, (Clarinet and Saxophone) GMus RNCM (hons), PPRNCM dist.

John Ferguson, (Classical Guitar)

Licentiate Trinity College London (LTCL)

Stephen Wall, (Drums)

Sarah Davie, (Flute) M.Mus (perf), BA, CPGS RSAMD

Mark Edwards, (Orchestral Percussion)

M.Mus / PGDip

Annie Ball, (Piano) Dip ABRSM, BMus M.Mus

Lada Khazanovych, (Piano)

Nicholas Nowicki, (Piano) M.Mus (perf) RNCM, BA (Hons) MISM

Andrew Soulsby, (Piano and Harpsicord)

B/Mus (Hons) Dip ABRSM, PGCE

Julia Jasinski, (Violin) L.T.C.L. (performers / teachers) A.R.A.M

Michael Walton, (Violin) B.Mus (R.C.M.), M.Mus

Katrina Conaty, (LAMDA) BA(Hons), ALAM

Timothy Burke, BA Oxford, ARCO Royal

College of Organists, PGDip Guildhall

School of Music and Drama

Cathy Geldard, (Ceilidh Band Coach)

Counsellors

Miss A E Jordan, BSc Newcastle, PGDip

Psychotherapy

Mrs E Thompson, Foundation Degree in Arts, Sunderland, BACP registered

School Therapy Dog

Storm

Governors

Mr A Fletcher (Chair)

Mrs S Green (Vice-Chair)

Mrs J Berry

Dr X Brock

Mr R H Fell

Mr J Fitzpatrick

Professor M Haniffa

Mr N McMinn

Mrs S Milligan

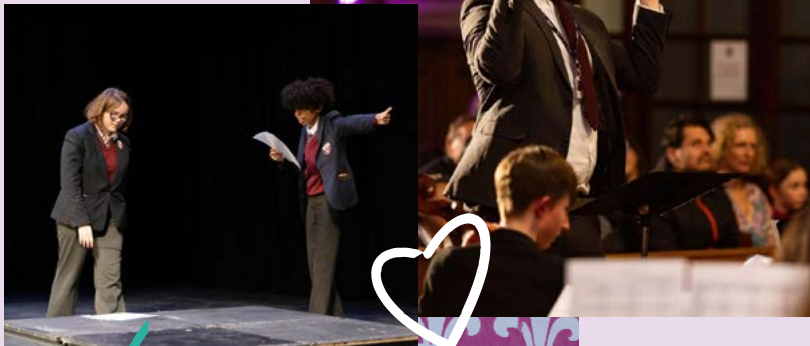
Mr M Robinson

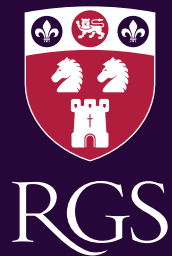
Mr R Sanghera

Councillor T Thorne

Mr S Vadhera

Mrs S Woodroffe





Royal Grammar School

Eskdale Terrace
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 4DX
0191 281 5711

Royal Grammar Junior School

Lambton Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 4DX
0191 281 8955

communications@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

