

SOME THOUGHT REQUIRED...

FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE 2



Welcome to the second issue of the new RGS 6th form newsletter. This month, we look forward to the next sporting performance from the 1st XV and also gain a personal insight into joining the 6th form as a new student. In addition we reveal Mr Demir's thoughts on life as well as showcasing some of Mr Bruce's amusingly unusual wishes.

Henry Exley – Editor

EDUCATION IN BRITAIN

The sixth form as a collective are anxiously counting the weeks until our AS or A levels are thrust upon us. For the majority, our future depends on these grades, whether we hope for a place at university, to travel, or possibly, for the first time to get a full-time job. Many people would have you believe that student success in these exams relies solely on personal grit, determination and raw talent. Clearly, these are truly essential for success, but they don't make up the complete picture. Things completely outside many students' control can affect their results and therefore their future.

A student's success can be shaped, depending on where they grow up within the UK; whether there is a silent space to study on their own; if they must maintain a job to help support themselves, or how well-funded their school is. England does not have an educational system that is serious about realising the potential of all students. Those from lower socio-economic areas in the UK that claim free school meals or are receiving pupil premium are 27% less likely to achieve five or more GCSEs. Clearly this shows that the poorer the student in the UK, the less opportunity there is for advancement in the future. Furthermore, consider those students who, after receiving their A level, will be heading off to university. With the Government's removal of maintenance grants in 2016, and the raise of tuition fees above £9,000, student debt is rapidly rising. Those starting next year will graduate with around £50,000 of debt; for many people this is simply unaffordable, those who are smart yet poor will be missing out on the chance of university.

Education is a spindly web. Complications caused by a poor start in life cannot always be fully compensated for later, and every step of a person's education will affect the next. Education is essential for later life; it is a necessity if you wish to progress in the future. The government under funding and under providing education in areas where it is most needed. Whatever the cost of our education to the government, the price is low compared to an ignorant nation.

Caspian Barker

SPORT NEWS

Triumph for the 1st XV

Huge congratulations to the 1st XV rugby team for beating Sir William Borlase's Grammar School, 25-17, reaching the semi finals of the Schools Vase national competition. The semi final is to be held on Saturday 3rd March at Allianz Park, where they will face Wirral Grammar School, all supporters are greatly appreciated. We wish you the best of luck.

Millie Simenacz



Ripon Grammar U18 Rugby 2017/2018

THE THOUGHTS OF MR DEMIR

Please could you tell me a fun fact about yourself?

A: I can't think of anything fun at all about me! I taught myself Makaton by watching hours of Mr Tumble on kids TV, does that count? I have kids by the way!

What is a pet hate of yours?

A: I have a list: selfish drivers, slow drivers, slow traffic lights, R & B music, people who get over excited about their pets (or kids), mobile phone obsessions, cats, pets in general and intolerance.

Are there any common misconceptions about your subject that you'd like to set the record straight on?

A: Not really

Please tell me your best/worst joke?

A: None of my favourite jokes would be appropriate for this interview, so here's a joke all the family can enjoy: Why do witches wear name tags? So you can tell which witch is which...

One of life's big questions to finish off: What is your opinion on the Queen?

A: As a republican I'm not in favour of having a constitutional monarchy as Head of State. She seems like a nice person though, I bet she'd be more interesting to interview than me.

George Vivian

FOCUS ON.....GEO SOCIETY

The Geo Society meets every Tuesday morning in the Lower Common room and is led by three budding geologists- meaning the discussions are very commonly centred on rocks and volcanoes. Recently, however, we decided to delve into the Christmas spirit and have a competition- Lower Sixth v Upper Sixth. This involved a variety of quizzes set by different people, which each team was able to score points in. It was hotly contested with the Lower Sixth winning the first round and resulting in it being a tie after the second. After that things got more creative- no we didn't do colouring in- it was our take of 'Pin the Tail on the Donkey' with 'Pin the Country on the Map'. Each team had five countries they had to pin onto a blank world map. Two points were awarded for being bang on, one point for a neighbouring country and minus three points for placing the country on the wrong continent. There was skill from both teams- correctly placing Czech Republic, Guyana and Vietnam but the Upper Sixth eventually claimed victory narrowly due to Suriname deciding to move to Africa. In the next few weeks we hope to delve deeper into both political and human geography to enrich our knowledge of both our A-Level course content and the wider world as a whole. To finish, we'd like to leave you with a sample of questions from our quizzes:



What is the capital city of Malta?

Which country's capital city has the longest official name?

Which city will host the 2018 Winter Olympic Games?

Valletta, Thailand (Bangkok's Official name is Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon Rattanakosin Mahinthara Yuthaya Mahadilok Phop Noppharat Ratchathani Burirom Udomratchaniwet Mahasathan Amon Piman Awatan Sathit Sakkathattiya Witsanukam Prasit), **Pyeongchang**

Katherine Dale

SANJAY'S VIEWS ON..... JOINING THE SIXTH FORM

When I first received my acceptance letter for Ripon Grammar, I was initially apprehensive because I'd heard all the talk about grammar schools being 'exam factories' which overlooked hobbies, a social life or anything even vaguely resembling fun in favour of churning out As and A stars. However, soon after I began I was pleased to find that it wasn't all academia and that the school has more than its fair share of talented artists and musicians. Now, when you're surrounded by such successful individuals you can respond in one of two ways; you can either be encouraged by their accomplishments to work towards your own goals, or, if you're anything like me, you can curl up into a ball and lament your own lack of musical talent – ignoring the fact that there's a perfectly good piano in your own home (barring the broken B flat, that is). Mind you, my lack of initiative is pretty much par for the course when my idea of a 'productive' weekend is tidying my room to the point that it looks as though it's merely been vandalised rather than as though World War Three has begun there.



Now, I've mentioned the abundance of talent among the students, but I can assure you that it hasn't gone to their heads (for the most part, anyway). They're willing to share their snacks! Oh, and they're also friendly and down-to-earth, but I've got my priorities straight; if you can name a more important criteria for a friend than their willingness to share popcorn with you after a long school day, then I'll eat my hat. Or preferably the popcorn.

Sanjay Kumeranderan

A-Level artwork, courtesy of Emily Wilson



Overheard in a department.....History Department

"I didn't develop my thumbs to be energetic enough"

"I wish I had a cupboard full of a flock of chickens, then I would never run out of eggs, unless I kill them"

Mr Bruce